

# PAKISTAN WILDLIFE NEWS

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Pakistan Wildlife News

Issue I, Volume 3

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## INTERNATIONAL THE NEWS

By Noor Aftab  
20 January, 2011

Growing environmental challenges have put enormous strain on relevant departments, which are racing against time to protect jovial and extremely sporty endangered blind Indus Dolphins from extinction in 900km long stretch of Indus River.

One can judge the rarity of the species with the 2009 official census, which revealed the dolphin population as only 900 between Guddu and Sukkur Barrage, while its population between Jinnah and Guddu Barrage was estimated at 400 in the year 2006.

Sindh Minister for Environment Sheikh Muhammad Afzal told this correspondent that approximately 1,100 specimens of this species now exist in a small fraction of their former range, the lower reaches of the Indus River in Pakistan. He said the population of this species started to decrease in the past because of various factors including poaching, fragmentation of habitat due to barrages, and dolphin **stranding in the irrigation canals**. "Till now no report indicated that any of the dolphins ever died due to water or any other kind of pollution. We take water samples from Indus River on quarterly basis and **make reports after thorough evaluation,**" he said.

In addition to efforts to conserve their habitat, staff members of World Wildlife Fund (WWF) also get involved in rescue missions when individual dolphins become trapped in canals. WWF also coordinated

the largest survey of the species ever in 2001 in collaboration with local partners. At the time of the first survey in 2001, blind dolphins, which are endemic to Pakistan and listed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as a 'most threatened' species, had a population of 1100.

**Pakistan's wildlife authorities and WWF during the survey assessed the population, behavioural changes and other relevant data for one of the most 'docile, rare and shy' Indus Blind Dolphin. Some 14 volunteers and professional biologists and scientists took part in the survey of a 1,500-km length of Indus River in Northwestern Punjab province, downstream to Sukkur Barrage in southern Sindh province.**

World Heritage Nomination in its report after the survey stated that the last inventory (2001) by WWF and the Sindh government indicated that there were still 950 blind dolphins in the Indus River.

Sheikh Muhammad Afzal said there has been no plan for conservation of Indus dolphins until 1972, but despite initiation of efforts to protect this specie some key factors have been continuously affecting the population of dolphins including development pressure (agriculture, water supply, industry and fishery), environmental pressure (pollution and climate change) and natural disasters (flooding and climate change).

The dolphins, whose local name is 'Bhulan', thrived in the muddy waters of the Indus until the 1930s when the British rulers built a number of barrages, or cross-river constructions, to store water for

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### Cont: Blind Indus Dolphin

irrigation of agricultural lands. This split the dolphins' population into small groups, degraded their habitat and impeded migration. By 1970s dolphins' concentration was mainly reduced between Sukkur Barrage and Guddu Barrage on Sindh-Punjab border.

The Sindh government declared the area between these two barrages as the Indus River Dolphin Reserve in 1974. These dolphins, measuring between 1.5 and 2.5 meters in length and weighing a maximum of 90 kg, do not have a crystalline eye lens and so are blind. They navigate underwater entirely by a sophisticated 'echolocation system.' The physical touch gives them important information about their surroundings and helps them find food. An environmental group, the Adventure Foundation of Pakistan, is working with the UN to give people an economic incentive to protect this endangered species. The Foundation, which is aided through a UNDP project financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), is also studying the possibility of moving the blind dolphins to another part of the Indus or to nearby rivers.

The WWF and Pakistani wildlife department officials are encouraging the local fishermen to opt for other means of livelihood to save the remaining population of the precious dolphins. They have managed to convince a large number of fishermen who now run 'dolphin safaris' in waters where they once used to fish, for local and foreign tourists.

Sindh Minister for Environment Sheikh Muhammad Afzal said a project titled 'Protection and Conservation of Blind Indus Dolphin' was approved by the Sindh government with the total cost of Rs92 million. The duration of the project was three years from 2009 to 2012 and it is under execution since April 2010. He said many centres have been established for conservation of blind Indus dolphins in Indus River from Sukkur to Guddu and from Guddu to Kotri. "After recent devastating floods we have been continuously taking water samples from Indus River and now four new samples have been sent to laboratories to check quality of water," he said.

## Environmental degradation: Making roads, destroying natural habitat

THE EXPRESS  
**TRIBUNE**  
WITH THE International Herald Tribune

By Roshan Mughal  
21, January 2011

**MUZAFFARABAD:** The number of landslides on the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad road in the past two years has increased by about six folds. Compared to 35 landslides reported in 2008, there were more than 200 landslides on the road in 2010.

The main reason cited for the increased occurrence of landslides is the unabated use of blasts by the companies working on the road's expansion, even though the original project proposal had minimal provision for them.

Moreover, the construction companies tasked with rebuilding of the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad road up to Chakothi in Jhelum and the Neelum Valley road from Muzaffarabad to Aathmuqam have been dumping mud and rocks into the Neelum and Jhelum rivers, instead of moving them to suitable sites.



Pakistan Army's subsidiary Frontier Works Organisation (FWO) is building the 50-km Srinagar- Muzaffarabad road under the supervision of National Highway Authority. Locals allege that millions of rupees allocated in the PC1 of the project for safe disposal of waste rocks and mud have been siphoned off elsewhere.

China Xinjiang Beixin (CXB), the construction company which is widening the Neelum Valley road, has also been accused of dumping mud and rocks into the Neelum River. The funds allocated for the safe disposal of debris were used elsewhere, people familiar with the project alleged.

This "massive" dumping of rocks and mud into rivers, according to

Continued...

### Cont: Environmental degradation

environmental experts, has badly affected the flora and fauna along the riverbank and in the river.

Even though the use of explosives was extremely restricted in the original proposals of the two projects, it has been reported time and again that the two construction companies have been employing explosives to move rock.

Experts believe that these improper construction methods have destabilised slopes along the roads and riverbanks. The landslides, in turn, deposit huge amounts of silt in the two rivers and Mangla Dam (which is fed by Neelum and Jhelum rivers).

Even though AJK has strong laws for environment protection, enforcing them is near impossible for Azad Jammu and Kashmir-Environmental Protection Agency (AJK-EPA) as the agency has neither the staff nor tribunals to enforce them, according to Deputy Director Muhammad Shafiq Abbasi.

**“We have a staff of 15 field employees – the Director General, three deputy directors and clerical staff. We just do not have the ability to enforce environmental laws,” Abbasi told *The Express Tribune*.**

He added that there was a plan for environmental tribunals to be set

up under the law adopted by the legislative assembly seven years ago. **“So far there are no tribunals or legal mechanisms for the enforcement of environmental bylaws,” he said.**

AJK-EPA took action once last year when the then Director General, Raja Abbas Khan, raided some sites along the Muzaffarabad-Chakothi-Srinagar road where debris was being dumped into Jhelum River by FWO. He also had some FWO construction machinery confiscated. But everything was undone once the environmental agency succumbed to pressure and stepped back after FWO claimed they were under pressure from the top brass to dispose of rubble quickly because of the **road’s military significance.**

Ironically, according to Abbasi, no non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working for environment conservation took notice of the rubble falling into the rivers, nor were any concerns shown by the local communities.

The NGOs dealing with sustainable development also seem indifferent to the environmental degradation in the wake of the construction companies’ activities, he said.

As for AJK-EPA, there was not much that it could do. In Abbasi’s words: **“EPA is a toothless body with big guns but no ammunition or man-**

taken by the Ministry of Environment.

Afridi was of the view for immediate measures on this core issue. He also thanked Italian government for raising this issue specially vulnerability of Pakistan at International level. Environment Minister also assured all possible cooperation and coordination on behalf of his Ministry.

**On this occasion, issues about two day conference on “Pakistan beyond the Emergency” scheduled to be held on January 26-27, 2011 at Villa Celimontana in Rome, also came under discussion in which Federal Minister for Environment Hameed Ullah Jan Afridi is invited.**

This conference will focus on environmental issues such as climate change, pollution, energy, environmental risk and industrial development. The main objective of the Conference is to share and examine the results of the Italian initiatives in Pakistan.

Italian Ambassador Vincenzo Prati said Pakistan is an old friend of Italy and government of Italy gives high importance to the relations. He said that environmental issues need special concentration. However, Global community has to take immediate initiatives for Pakistan in this regard.

## Environmental degradation needs immediate attention: Afridi

By APP

17, January 2011

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Environment Hameed Ullah Jan Afridi has said that environmental degradation is a global issue which needs immediate attention of international agencies. Talking to Ambassador of Italy in Pakistan Vincenzo Prati who called on him here on Monday, he highlighted climate change impact on Pakistan and said that it is highly among the countries of the world due to climate change and global warming.

He said that Pakistan is taking all possible steps to face this challenge despite financial constraints.

He expressed his will to share information and technology to meet the overwhelming impact of environmental degradation. He also briefed the Ambassador about the projects and initiatives

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### Cont: Environmental degradation needs immediate attention

He briefed about the projects that are being initiated in Pakistan.

He said Pakistan is the most important country in this region and Italian government wants to provide all possible assistance to mitigate environmental problems of Pakistan.

He was also briefed about the projects in Marble, Labour and Manpower, Fruit Processing, Fashion Designing sectors of Pakistan.

He said that there is big scope of investment in Pakistan and Italy desires to avail this opportunity.

## Challenges of climate change highlighted

### INTERNATIONAL THE NEWS

16. January 2011

Representatives of different government and non-government organizations, academia, legal experts and personalities from all walks of life discussed issues related to climate change which Pakistan faced or will face in the near future.

The meeting was held under a joint collaboration of the Environment Protection Department Punjab with the Ministry of Environment and UN ONE joint programme on National Climate Change Policy Draft on Saturday. Environment Secretary Sajjad Saleem Hotiana was the chairman of the meeting. Director General Dr. Shahgufta Shahjahan welcomed all the guests and gave her brief note on Climate Change Policy. Director General of PHA Abdul Jabbar was also present.

Environment Secretary Sajjad Saleem Hotiana gave his brief opinion on Climate Change Policy and discussed the issues like global warming, drought, melting glaciers, floods, tsunami and also discussed how to save our resources through adaptation and mitigation to climate change. He also said that human interaction with environment, while fulfilling the needs of life and performing social duties and rapidly increasing global and local environmental issues, had developed a need to start individual as well as collaborative efforts to protect life on this planet.

He also added that in the Punjab, Environment Protection Department had started introducing solar energy. Moreover, efficient mass transport system is being introduced to reduce the reliance of citizens on individual vehicles.

Director General Dr. Shagufta Shahjahan said the Government of Pakistan had developed a draft policy on Climate Change at a time when Pakistan was facing challenges posed by climate change. Though Pakistan is lesser contributor to greenhouse gas emissions yet will be hit severely due to global warming, resulting in increase in sea level, melting glaciers and change in weather patterns. It is need of the hour to

develop a policy and strategy to cope with these challenges. She also added that the Government of Punjab was committed to initiating, leading and implementing all policies that could help save this earth and environment.

National Programme Coordinator for UN Joint Programme for Environment Saleem Ullah Khan gave his brief opinion on the knowledge and issue regarding adaptation and mitigation related to main issues like drought, floods and global warming. Assistant Country Head and Incharge of Environment of UNDP Abdul Qadir also gave his opinion on the issue of adaptation and their policy measures and also said that it should promote public awareness campaigns to create awareness among the public regarding importance of these issues and their role in protecting our climate.

The experts from different organisations like Forestry, Transport, WAPDA and professors from Education Sectors like UET, Lahore College University for Women, Kinnaird College and Punjab University gave their views and comments on the draft and said that with minor amendments in this draft through public awareness and legislative framework, the government should take these issues seriously and take action on it.

As per draft of the National Climate Change Policy, the goal of this policy is to ensure that climate change is mainstreamed in the economically important and vulnerable sectors of the economy and to steer Pakistan towards low carbon growth.

**The guiding principles of the policy include 'enhancing the capacity to address climate change; contributing towards meeting national economic growth objectives, promoting conservation of resources and long-term sustainability, strengthening multi-sectoral and interdisciplinary linkages, promoting use of appropriate technology, particularly addressing needs of poor and vulnerable.**

**The main objectives of Pakistan's climate change policy are to assist the government in pursuing the paramount goal of sustained eco-**

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## Cont: Challenges of climate change highlighted

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conomic growth by appropriately addressing the challenges posed by the threat of climate change;

Integrate climate change policy with other interrelated national policies.

As science of mitigation and adaptation to climate change involve many aspects of other social and economic sectors;

Place equal emphasis on both mitigation and adaptation, as these are integral parts of the strategy to cope with climate change;

**Minimise the risks to the country's population and national economy,** arising from expected increase in frequency and intensity of extreme events like floods, droughts and tropical storms;

Contribute to international effort to check climate change by **controlling Pakistan's own GHG emissions to the maximum extent feasible** by shifting to Low Carbon Economy without compromising the energy needs for the country's socio-economic development or on the country's energy security considerations;

Foster the strengthening of inter-ministerial decision making and coordination mechanism on climate change;

Improve knowledge and understanding of, and conduct systematic research and observation on climate change issues;

Make full use of the new developments in science & technology to address effectively, both the mitigation and adaptation aspects of climate change;

Foster capacity building of climate change relevant government organisations and other stakeholders at national and provincial level;

Ensure water security, food security and energy security of the country in the face of challenges posed by climate change, by devising and implementing appropriate adaptation measures in the respective sectors;

Facilitate the government in making effective use of the opportunities, particularly financial, available internationally;

Facilitate in developing a mechanism that will enhance the understanding and awareness of climate change issues among all relevant stakeholders, including national planners and policymakers and the general public;

Foster the development of appropriate economic incentive to encourage public and private sector investment in adaptation measures.

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## PTA demands ban on livestock export

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### Business Recorder

By NH Zuberi  
19 January 2011

KARACHI: Chairman, Pakistan Tanners Association (South Zone), Dr Aziz Ahmed has urged the government to impose ban on export of livestock to overcome shortage of meat and hides in the country. Talking to Business Recorder, he said smuggling of live animals has increased manifold under the cover of export for Pakistan to Iran and Afghanistan.

He said that government of Pakistan allowed export of 300,000 animals per year whereas actual figure is fourfold higher than this. He expressed fear that prices of mutton will increase to rupees 850 per kg and beef Rs 500 per kg or above if smuggling and export of live animals continues. Currently, beef is being sold at Rs 300 and mutton at Rs 500 per kg, he said.

Replying to a question, he said that price of mutton is Rs 1,200 to Rs 1,400 per kg in India and Afghanistan which provides good incentive

for smugglers to mint money. He further said the prevailing shortage of hides has increased prices of goat skin from Rs 300 to Rs 600 and cattle from Rs 1,800 to Rs 3,600. Dr Aziz said that export of live animals is depriving Pakistan of precious foreign exchange, which could be in the shape of value-added goods. People are also being deprived of protein, which they get by consuming meat. At present, protein consumption in Pakistan is 180 per head whereas international standard is 230 per head, he maintained.

He pointed out that a number of countries in the world have imposed ban on export of certain commodity to meet the local requirement, adding that Pakistan should adopt a similar policy. Livestock is fast depleting in the country and new breed takes around three to five years to become mature.

Replying to a question, PTA (SZ) chairman said that Pakistan hopefully would cross leather and leather goods export target of one billion dollars this year. "Achieving this figure is not due to increase in exports but will be due to increase of leather and leather products prices in the international market".

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Snow leopards are so cryptic in nature and reside in one of the harshest and inaccessible milieus of our planet that encountering with snow leopard in the wild is like a dream. This elusive nature of snow leopard led one of the eminent wildlife biologists of the world to attribute this as “Imperiled Phantom”.

A total of 643 photographs including a group of 3 snow leopards (probably 2 sub adults with a mother) were photographed during an intensive camera trapping session of 560 nights in KNP during Nov-Dec. 2010, conducted by the Snow Leopard Foundation, Pakistan in collaboration with the Directorate of KNP and Gilgit-Baltistan Forest and Wildlife Department. The cameras captured many other wild species as well.

The Snow Leopard Foundation (SLF) is a non-profit organization dedicated to conserve viable populations of snow leopards and other wild carnivores as an integral part of landscapes across Pakistan, while improving the socio-economic condition of the people who share the fragile mountain ecosystem with the wildlife. The SLF works in partnership with the Snow Leopard Trust and Panthera, the two leading international wild cat conservation organizations, and operates in three core

sectors: research and monitoring, community based conservation programs, and conservation education and awareness. It has pioneered state-of-the-art research tools in Pakistan and operating in Gilgit-Baltistan, Khybger Pakhtunkhaw, and Azad Jamu and Kashmir.

The current study was undertaken in KNP from November, 23 to December 31, 2010 and was aimed at assessing the status of snow leopard as well as other carnivores, their key prey species, and human-carnivore conflict. The study also tested affect of different kinds of baits on camera trapping success.

In addition to camera trapping, more than 1400 km<sup>2</sup> area was scanned during occupancy surveys and 150 fecal samples were collected for genetic analysis. The study provided a rare learning opportunity to the staff of the Wildlife Department, and students from national and international universities, who were engaged.

Once data analysis is completed, the study will provide more reliable estimates of snow leopard in the park besides highlighting existing management/monitoring limitations and ultimately help better manage the park resources in the longer run.

Panthera provided financial support for this study.

## Pakistan importing used vaccines

21, January 2011

Lahore: PAKISTAN is importing 90 percent livestock and human used vaccines from aboard and only 10 percent producing locally despite the fact that the university has state-of-the-art facilities and out-

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**Cont: Pakistan importing used vaccines**


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standing expertise to overcome the huge volume of import.

This was stated by University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (UVAS) Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Muhammad Nawaz while addressing a certificate distribution ceremony titled **Practical Approach to Production and Evaluation of Poultry Vaccine on Commercial Bases**, **Evaluation of antiviral & cytotoxic activity of different herbal extract in-vitro cell culture** and **Quantitative detection of antibiotics in broiler meat on HPLC** held at conference hall on Thursday organized by UVAS-Quality Operation Laboratory (QOL).

Director QOL Dr Atif Hanif, Dr Shafaqat Fatima Rehmani, Dr Imran Altaf, Dr Yasin Tipu, Dr Kashif Nauman and Dr Ijaz also highlighted the importance of such hands-on training workshop. They said the devel-

oping technologies needed such training to develop the professional skill and generate practical knowledge.

**Prof Dr Muhammad Nawaz said "Pakistan is importing preventive, diagnostic and therapeutic vaccines for animals and humans worth billions of dollars and only the poultry import is nearly Rs six billion per annum". Dilating on the vaccine import, he added that knowledge could be used to produce such preventive vaccines.** He explained that viral and contagious disease related drugs were too costly and caused side effects.

Dr Nawaz advised the students to exercise professionalism and good practices in their respective fields otherwise you could not achieve better place in the world. This thing will develop the leadership quality and good personality.

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## Felling of mangroves in coastal villages worries locals

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### INTERNATIONAL THE NEWS

By Jan Khaskheli

12 January, 2011

Unchecked felling of mangroves for reclamation of beach lands near the coastal villages of Kakapir, Younisabad and an island Hamlet, Shamspir, may deprive picnickers of the scenic beauty they come to see on weekends and holidays. The move has also exposed fishermen of several villages to a tough situation as 300 fishing boats use to anchor at the site. The community people blame the area influential and land grabbers, who are enjoying backing of ruling party leaders and justify their land grabbing.

Khuda Ganj Shad, a coastal area activist, says that fishermen from villages near the Hawkesbay mostly bring their boats for maintenance and net repairing near mangroves during the two-month official ban on fishing in June and July. The site which the fishermen usually use inside mangroves is safe during the high tides as compared to the Karachi Fish Harbour, where they have to pay charges. Similarly, he said, during the winter season they also anchor their fishing vessels near mangroves to avoid any effects.

He said the unchecked cutting of mangroves may affect these boat owners, who see no better place for anchoring their boats. **Kakapir jetty also attracts fishermen's boats from neighbouring villages for landing their catch.**

**A Pakistan Fisherfolk's Forum (PFF) spokesman said that they had assessed the situation and collected information, which reveals that**



the area, which once was attractive for local and migratory birds and providing scenic beauty to the picnickers, is now being destroyed by earth filling.

He said that they had already invited stakeholders including the community, officials of the UNDP, the Small Grants Programme, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), WWF-Pakistan and other organisations at a consultative meeting to design a joint and effective strategy to protect the mangroves, which are considered a shield against sea storms, cyclones and effects of high tides.

**"We want the stakeholders to realize the importance of mangroves and the impacts of cyclones in the absence of mangrove shields.**

When the other Asian countries, affected by cyclone are trying to plant mangroves along the beaches of their respective countries, we

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Cont: Felling of mangroves in coastal villages worries locals **are losing this natural cover, violating the laws,"** said Sami Memon, spokesman for Pakistan Fisherfolk's Forum (PFF).

He said that the recent cyclone showed that Karachi and other coastal areas are prone to disasters. Protecting and rehabilitation of mangroves forests is the only way out to avert impacts of such disasters in the future.

Abdul Ghani, a community activist, whose organisation has implemented the UNDP-GEF Project of building watchtowers and sitting sheds inside the mangroves forest said that if cutting of mangroves is not stopped, the influential persons may engulf the watchtowers and wooden sitting sheds through land reclamation and there will be no place for floating huts.

He said they are convincing the community people to avoid cutting these valuable trees and keep a close eye on people who are going on the rampage to take over the land for running their businesses. The move has been started recently, in which alleged land grabbers have cleaned more than 27 acres of land only near Kakapir village. Now we are seeing our

future bleak, as other land grabbers and outsiders will follow their lead in the area, he added.

A government official, who after receiving information visited the area to assess the situation and finalised the report, stated that the flags of the ruling party have been installed at the encroached places. Sharing his findings, he said, the influential people of the area are behind the game, destroying the natural beauty. He said releasing of toxic waste from the neighbouring areas was another problem, which will also affect the growth of remaining mangrove plants.

**Director, Fishermen's Cooperative Society (FCS) and an area influential** Haji Younus giving his reaction said that the people involved in cutting mangroves are outsiders.

However, he denied any encroachment, land reclamation on the site. **"We are the owners and protectors of this land, including mangroves.** I have already conveyed the mangroves cutting issue to the Karachi Port Trust (KPT) officials and made them a request to stop this illegal move and take action against responsible persons involved in cleaning sea plants," he added.

## Veterinary hospitals to remain closed in protest

### INTERNATIONAL THE NEWS

By Qadeer Tanoli  
21 January, 2011

All the veterinary hospitals across Sindh remained closed on Thursday to express solidarity with jobless veterinary doctors and representatives of Pakistan Veterinary Medical Association (PVMA) have expressed their determination to continue their hunger strike at the Karachi Press Club (KPC) till their demands are met.

On the second consecutive day, three key office-bearers of PVMA continued to sit at the hunger strike camp at the KPC to mark their protest against unjust treatment of authorities concerned towards veterinary doctors.

The President, PVMA, Dr Bakhshal Thalho, who himself is observing hunger strike at the KPC, told this correspondent that all the veterinary hospitals of the government would remain close till their demands were met.

He said that the unfair behavior of authorities concerned towards the

veterinary doctors of Sindh Province could be gauged from the fact that there were around 3000 veterinary doctors in the Punjab and all of them were employed. Likewise, he said, all 633 doctors of Balochistan had jobs in different capacities and all 380 veterinary doctors in Khyber-Pukhtoonkhwa had jobs. **"Is it not absolutely unfair to Sindh's veterinary doctors that out of a total of 2500 Vets, only 380 are employed!"** he said.

This, he said, was despite the fact that there was a total of 975 major or small veterinary hospitals in Sindh.

He said that the government system of veterinary hospitals had collapsed in Sindh due to carelessness of the government and majority of these hospitals had been encroached upon and were being used as leisure haunts of the Waders, or as warehouses, or other miscellaneous uses.

According to Thalho recently a veterinary hospital in Nawabshah which was constructed in 1916 was demolished and in its place Darul-Aman was being constructed.

Likewise, he said, in Tando Muhammad Khan, a 100 years old veterinary hospital was demolished and the staff of the hospital had been allotted a room measuring only 10X10 yards.

**"This is internationally adopted standard that there should be one veterinary doctor to 12,000 animals.** In India there is one vet doctor

Continued...

## Cont: Veterinary hospitals to remain closed in protest

to every 15,000 animals whereas in Sindh there is only one doctor to **125,000 animals,” Thalho added.**

He said that things were not just limited to joblessness of the Vets as those employed in some government organisation had no system of promotion during their service career. He said generally a Vet hired in grade 17 in Sindh is retired in the same scale after serving 25 years.

In contrast, he said, other provinces had a proper promotion system for Vets doctors.

He said sometime an employee of junior cadre was made responsible to make annual confidential report of senior Vets.

He said sometime back a five-day token hunger strike was observed in Hyderabad and a prolonged rally was also taken out in this reference. He said three days back they also staged a protest demonstration in front of Sindh Assembly but no authority paid any attention.

He said veterinary doctors also have support of some political parties including the Communist Party of Pakistan, Labour Party of Pakistan, Sindh Tarraqi Pasand Party, and some others for their just cause.

He said today (Friday) all the veterinary doctors would demonstrate on a large scale at the KPC and later on they could also plan a **strategy to assemble before the Chief Minister’s House.**

## Colors Of Life

### Spooftimes.com

By Ayesha Shah

20 January, 2011

Huge dark mountains with tall green trees give peace to mind. Aqua green and blue oceans and surf waves give coolness to the eyes. The chirping of birds seems like sweet songs in the air. The beauty of animals when they walk and make noises and their natural habitats. The scorching morning heat of desert and the cool nights on the oasis. The rainbow in the sky after the rain, the falling of leaves in autumn, the cool winter snowfall and the cool breeze and seawater in the summer. Have you seen these colors of life? If you **haven’t then surely you haven’t seen the world till now.** Traveling is the best part of **one’s life. Searching and exploring the nature and colors of life is fun and exciting.**



Our country Pakistan is blessed with all the colors and almost **everything but we haven’t explored them yet that’s why we say let’s go** abroad to enjoy our vacations. Try going on a Pakistan tour. Surely you will love this heaven on earth and would never want to go out elsewhere. Travel by land, train is the best option, so that you can the blessings and the heaven on earth. Sindh has the coastal areas. Gadani beach and Gawadar port are the best places to enjoy the seaside. Gadani and Gawadar both have got small Rocky Mountains with aqua green and clean beach where we can do fishing or collect different kinds of shells which is the most fun part. There are other beaches as

well.

In Balochistan we explore the beautiful areas like Hanna and Ziarat. Hanna is a very nice place with mountains all around and a lake in between in which we do boating and other boating activities. Ziarat is a very peaceful place with heavy dark clouds, which always have blinking thunder lightening, at nighttime. We can also visit the resting place of our father of the nation Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah. The house is nicely built with great woodwork. It has a nice garden full of colorful flowers.

In Punjab we have loads of places to visit. First of all Murree and Abbotabad **which heavenly places full of mountains and greenery. There’s a** clean environment and we can feel sweet breeze and music in the air. Punjab has got all four seasons for its people to enjoy. There are loads

**of zoo’s, fun lands, variety of fruits that are quite big** in size as compared to those sold in Karachi, clean huge roads, biggest mosques like Faisal Masjid in Islamabad and Badshahi Masjid in Lahore. Lahore has got loads of historical sites those built in times of the Mughals Empire like the Tomb of Jahangir, Delhi Gate, river Jehlum, etc. Punjab also has the great Cholistan Deserts with ancient historical tombs and buildings.

Northern areas are a pure heaven with people who are like angels. The whole region is like a dream world where still traditional styles are going on. Areas like Swat, Kalam, Kashmir, Muzaffarabad, Naran, Hunza, etc are places full of peace heavenly occupied by mountains, trees full of different kinds of fruits, farms, forests, lakes and river, valleys and snow. The children in the villages look like angels because of their beautiful colored eyes, pink cheeks and fair complex making them look like apples. You can only see the heaven when you visit these places. Feel the heaven and see the colors of life in your own beloved country PAKISTAN!



## An Extension lecture on Ecosystem we live in



By MR Z. B .Mirza  
15 January, 2011

MR. Z.B Mirza a renowned biologist and a naturalist delivered an extensively and informative extension lecture at Bio-resource Research Center Islamabad on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

MR. Mirza at the very outset informed that due to unchecked rein in human population and merciless exploitation of natural resources our ecosystems have been adversely affected.

Water the most important natural resource upon which the life is dependant, he said, is reducing with the passage of time and becoming insufficient in quantity and quality as required for agriculture, drinking and other purposes. He emphasized that water and forests are interdependent. Ironically our country bears 4.5% of our land as vegetated whereas at least 25% of the land needs to be under tree cover for being economically sound.

Natural phenomenon under the hydrological cycle is that the more the

forests the more the precipitation. As a result of ruthless deforestation, precipitation is reduced and has become irregular, temperature is increased, glaciers are melting, fast, sea level is rising, summers have become long and winters short and overall the biota is adversely affected, besides spread of diseases.

Interaction of living beings under a set of natural conditions (ecosystem) is largely disturbed. In the high mountain region population of precious wildlife like Markhor, Himalayan Ibex and Snow Leopard has reached the endangered status. Soil erosion due to deforestation and strong wind has alarmingly increased. As a result our dams have been silted up rendering people of Pakistan to face severe energy crises. Besides at places water logging is caused and the water table is lowered leading to desertification.

During narration, MR. Mirza said that there are 6000 plants, 176 mammals, 666 birds, 576 marine fish, 364 fresh water fish and 5000 insect species recorded in the country. All these living beings depend upon one another in a natural food chain. For instance Snow leopard thrives upon Himalayan Ibex.

In the end MR. Mirza laid emphasis upon population management and conservation of natural resources on sustainable basis for our future generation.

All the staff of BRC benefited from the Valuable deliberation of MR. Mirza on conservation of nature resource. Dr. Afsar Mian, Chairman BRC, DR Fakhar-e-Abbas Managing Director BRC, MR. G.R. Channa Director BRC and students of Institute of Natural and Management Sciences were also present during the presentation.



## Workshop on “Reducing Emission of carbon from deforestation and forest degradation” REDD



*21 January, 2011*

Emission of carbon from deforestation and forest degradation in Developing Countries severely poses adverse effect on climate. Hence to counter this catastrophe a mechanism of “Reducing Emission of carbon from deforestation and forest degradation” (REDD) was finalized in the meeting of conference of Parties, since Pakistan is a member of COP, it is obligatory to fulfill the commitment.

Well known fact is that tree is good absorbent of carbon from atmosphere. Carbon accumulates in the atmosphere which is produced through sources like industries & transportation etc.

17- 20% of the total carbon in the atmosphere would have been absorbed by the forests, had been over the required land percentage of

the country. Therefore REDD converges all attentions on increasing the tree/vegetative cover to stock carbon to the maximum reducing the same from atmosphere.

REDD in return provides to market the carbon stocks and to earn handsome foreign exchange for conserving biodiversity and poverty reduction.

Eventually with deep interest of IG forest, Syed Mahmood Nasir, Ministry of Environment, a brain storming meeting was held in the office of Bio-resource Research Center Islamabad (BRC) on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2011 where methodology to implement REDD mechanism was discussed at length.

Besides a number valuable inputs from participants, IGF emphasized that the causes of forest degradation like drivers of tree cutting, management of legal aspects may thoroughly be studies for successful implementation in the field.

He reiterated with concern that REDD was an exquisite opportunity to conserve forests and ultimately a significant tool for poverty reduction, which must be thoroughly implemented.

Former member CDA, Mr. Mazhar, Dig forest Mr. Abdul Munaf Qainkhani, DIG forest Dr. Jahangir Shahzeb, MR. Kanwar javed Country Coordinator SDPI, Mr. Faiz Ali Country Director MACP, DR. Fakhar-e- Abbas MD, BRC and Dr. Afsar Mian Chairman BRC also participated in the meeting.

## Govt to promote environment friendly activities

**Daily Times**  
Your right to know A new voice for a new Pakistan

### Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Environment Hameedullah Jan Afridi on Friday said that on New Year's eve, every citizen should help Pakistan become green and clean by planting saplings in every nook and corner of the country.

In his New Year's message, Afridi said that the increasing quantity of

carbon in the air was creating an alarming situation and if we did not pay any attention to tackle the environmental issues, we would have to face the severe consequences in the near future.

He said that environmental degradation posed serious threats for all living organisms and that we were facing a scarcity of water, food, electricity and other sources of energy due to the changing weather conditions. He said if we were to attain the glory of progress and success in the comity of nations, we would have to start by bringing positive changes in our behaviours.

## Protecting Pakistan Crops with Innovation

**Justmeans**  
Business. Better.™

20 January, 2011

Dates, a palm fruit, face an acute challenge against natural disasters in Pakistan. Pakistan is the fourth largest date producer in the world. Traditionally, the trees are covered with date leaf mats to save them from rain during the monsoon season that coincides with the ripening season. Rain damages 70% of the crops, which threatens the livelihood of local farming communities.

Addressing these concerns, DuPont™ Tyvek® paper, a water-resistant and lightweight barrier, helps date crops to ripen. Protecting against

rain and dust storms, Tyvek® paper allows ventilation by absorbing heat and providing uniform maturity. The results are early ripening with improved size and quality, enabling farmers to reap good profits.

**"We are capitalizing on growth opportunities in Pakistan by sharply focusing on innovation pipelines that address the increasing demand for food productivity megatrend,"** said Kashif Karim, business development manager, DuPont Protection Technologies. **"We are committed to meeting local needs to be closer to our customers."**

In 2009, the Pakistani governmental institutions supported the introduction of Tyvek® paper. Today, Tyvek® plays a key role in contributing to the economic development of the country by supplying 350,000 bags for dates. In addition, DuPont supports research efforts in collaboration with one of the leading universities in Pakistan, Shah Abdul Lateef Bhitai University, and the Date Palm Research Institute in Khairpur. The research will include tests on increased production of varieties, as well as size and quality improvement and the impact on environment

## Korean ambassador calls on environment minister

**Daily Times**  
Your right to know A new voice for a new Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Korean Ambassador Choong Joo Choi called on Federal Minister for Environment Hameedullah Jan Afridi in his office on Thursday and discussed matters of mutual interest especially relating to environment sector.

The federal minister said Pakistan gives due importance to environmental issues adding that global warming and climate change were major threats to the whole world. Briefing the ambassador about initiatives taken by the ministry, he said that solid waste management, energy crunch, forestry and water management were some of the areas needed special concentration.

He underlined that the ministry was utilising all the available resources to meet the challenges of environmental degradation. He stressed upon the need of improving mutual collaboration between Korea and Pakistan in environment sector. He desired a MoU between the two countries in this regard. Choong Joo Choi said Korea valued its relations with Pakistan adding both the countries were enjoying close relations.

**He lauded Pakistan's role at national and international level to highlight issues of global warming and climate change.** He said that Korea would host the 18th conference of parties (CoP-18) on climate change which would boost the spirit of world countries against environmental threats. The ambassador also expressed his interest in CDM projects and water management issues.

Secretary Environment Khawaja Muhammad Naeem, Additional Secretary Kamran Ali Qureshi, DG (Environment), Jawed Ali Khan and IG (Forest) Syed Nasir Mehmood were also present.

# Environment is global issue and Pakistan is most vulnerable country due to global warming: Afridi

03 January, 2011

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Environment Hameed Ullah Jan Afridi has said that biodiversity is the beauty of this planet, increasing emissions in the air posing great threat to biodiversity and eco system.

He stated this while addressing in the prize distribution ceremony of International Biodiversity Conference of Shah Abdul Latif University Khairpur. The Minister said that Ministry of Environment has chalked out an ambitious plan of activities by associating students, teachers, representatives of civil society and intellectuals for creating awareness among the masses about the degradation of environment.

He appreciated the intellectual support and contribution of Shah Abdul Latif University for organizing various important events to highlight the issues relating to environment.

Hameed Ullah Jan Afridi asked the participants of the conference that they should continue such type of activities in their respective institutions and involve maximum number of people from cross sections of society in their programmes for sensitizing masses about hazards of environmental degradation.

Federal Minister Environment said that environment is a global issue and Pakistan is most vulnerable country due to global warming and climate change process.

He said we have to develop our skills and institutions for disaster management and it is necessary to initiate measures for capacity building and efficiency in respective fields.

He also asked students to come forward and join hands to work for the cause of environment and promote this spirit in all the youngsters.

## Pollution monitoring system faces financial problems

INTERNATIONAL  
**THE NEWS**

*By Noor Aftab*  
03 January, 2011

A state-of-the-art system installed to monitor environmental pollution with the help of financial assistance worth Rs660 million by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is no more showing any results as last air quality index was released some five months ago, mainly due to severe financial problems being faced to run this system.

The official data showed that last air quality index was released on July 19, 2010, after which Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) was not able to do so because required funds were not available for this purpose.

The sources said at first experts from JICA offered their technical assistance to run this system and local experts were supposed to take responsibilities in 2008 but it is yet to happen after passage of two years.

One of the officials who requested anonymity said seven fixed and three mobile laboratories have been working for last one year but

non-provision of funds for quite sometime had made it difficult to even give monthly salaries to staff members and pay bills of petrol and diesel.

The sources said former director of Pak-EPA repeatedly approached the high officials of the Ministry of Environment and showed his concerns over state of affairs but their careless attitude forced him to go on a long leave.

It is also pertinent to mention here that national annual environmental analysis was released some thirteen years ago and now relevant departments apparently feel no need for it even in the face of highly critical environmental challenges.

The data stated that the Ministry of Environment signed an agreement with JICA to develop a system to monitor environmental pollution for which the ministry had to provide only Rs80 million. JICA agreed not only to provide remaining Rs580 million but also impart training to officials of the ministry.

The agreement was aimed at strengthening the technical capacities of Pak-EPA and Provincial EPAs for effective environmental monitoring of air and water and formation of monitoring plans, analysis and qual-

Continued...

Cot: Pollution monitoring system faces financial problems

ity.

Pak-EPA established Central Laboratory for Environmental Analysis (CLEAN) in its premises at Islamabad comprising three sections including analytical, field measurement and sampling. CLEAN was equipped with modern computerised analytical equipment having facilities for analysing pollutants in air, water and soil beside toxicity levels in food-stuffs and other products.

Asadullah Faiz, acting director general of Pak-EPA, told this correspondent that they proposed the government to allocate Rs100 million for their annual budget but only Rs18 million were approved for 2010-11 due to which they have been facing financial problems for quite some time.

He said it had become difficult to pay salaries to their employees but now they have managed to run the affairs and all the employees are **now being given monthly salaries on time.** "Though it is quite hard to manage affairs in limited budget but still we are trying our best and **doing our work in efficient way,"** he said.

Asadullah said Rs3.7 million was allocated for second quarter of fiscal **budget and they have so far received only Rs1.7 million, hoping "the situation will get better when remaining funds would be made available to them."**

To a question he said Japanese technical experts are facing some difficulties in their free movement in Balochistan due to which problems are being faced in online communication while disseminating research reports and analysis.

## Karachi project: LNG terminal poses health hazard

THE EXPRESS  
**TRIBUNE**  
WITH THE International Herald Tribune

04 January, 2011

ISLAMABAD: Alarm bells are ringing in Islamabad over a \$160 million dollar project to develop a floating Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal adjacent to Karachi.

As the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra) starts public hearing on the project from Tuesday, certain officials feel that safety measures for such a project would need to be extra tight. The hearing seeks to give formal approval to Pakistan Gasport Limited (PGL) to set up the LNG terminal.

This multi-million-dollar deal was approved in 2007. Ogra granted a provisional licence to PGL on May 14, 2009, to complete the formalities for importing LNG. The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) also immediately gave its ex-post facto approval to the implementation agreement.

After three years, the project is being launched and Ogra has announced that it will conduct a public hearing today. However, Ogra has advertised the announcement about the hearing in only one English newspaper. An official said that this could be an attempt to avoid public debate on this sensitive project as the paper in which the advertisement appeared was not widely read in Karachi. He said that many people in Karachi would be unaware that their fate was being



decided in Islamabad at a public hearing.

Meanwhile, Shehri-CBE's report on the project clearly warns that "potential hazards during the passage of LNG tankers along the Phitti Creek, degasification of LNG in the middle of the creek and storage of LPG on the public beach near Chashma, Khasheli, Haji Ayub and Ali Brohi goths have not been carefully investigated.

The proximity of residential, commercial and industrial facilities to the proposed location of the re-gasification plant and [the premises for] LPG storage has been deliberately downplayed in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report.

Only minor goths are stated as being within a 13-kilometre radius. However the map shows that the entire Korangi area, a large section of Malir, Jinnah International Airport, DHA Golf Club and a large number of people would fall within 12 kilometres of the proposed LNG terminal.

Continued...

## Cont: Karachi project: LNG terminal poses health hazard

Experts said that the LNG terminal needs to be established many kilometres away from Karachi's populated areas and that PGL needs to be obliged to take out comprehensive insurance to cover the extensive cost of any accident and be willing to pay the government for the cost of the added security and precautions that will need to be taken.

According to information available with *The Express Tribune* Ogra issued a notice to consider PGL's application to undertake regulated activities related to LNG at Port Qasim, Karachi. This notice states that PGL (the applicant) filed a petition with Ogra on June 8, 2010, under Rule 4 of the Oil & Gas Regulatory Authority (LNG) Rules 2007. In the petition, they applied to undertake the following regulated activities at Port Qasim, Karachi: Construction of an LNG-receiving terminal, construction of an LNG-receiving and re-gasification facility including LNG unloading, marine facility, LNG storage facility, vapourisation and RLNG send-out facility.

Government sources say no discussion in Pakistan has so far taken place in civil society about the negative impact of having an LNG terminal located near Karachi. However, a report will be submitted during Ogra's public hearing about how LNG plants have caused human fatalities.

A report by Tim Riley Law.com says that LNG is transported overseas to the location through LNG tankers. This is where the major danger lies, the report says. LNG tankers are quite large and a typical LNG tanker holds more than 33 million gallons of LNG, which equals 20 billion gallons of natural gas.

Karachi-based NGO Shehri-Citizens For a Better Environment (CBE), in its report carried by Alexander's Gas and Oil Connections, has clearly warned that "if PGL's LNG project is rammed through as per [the] existing arrangement, it has the potential to cause a debacle in Karachi, the size of which will make the Bhopal catastrophe in India or 9/11 tragedy in the US seem insignificant".

Officials cite the catastrophic explosion at an LNG facility in Algeria in 2004. Initially, it was claimed that the Algerian plant was outdated but later, it was learnt that the plant had undergone modernisation just five years ago by former US vice-president Dick Cheney's former company Halliburton.

In 2003, an explosion in south-west China was even more disastrous. Another LNG disaster took place long ago in 1944 in Cleveland, US.

But an official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that larger disasters could take place as newer LNG tankers are built to contain 20 times more gas than the volume that burnt in the Cleveland disaster.

## Water Footprint May Be Next Big Environmental Value Question



by Joseph Robertson  
04 January, 2011

Andrew Winston, in a blog for the Harvard Business Review has asked a stunning and vital question: Is water the next carbon? Of course, the tongue-in-cheek irony is the suggestion that these are trends like any other, when they are in fact issues that determine how we interact with the underlying value structure of the global environment. The carbon footprint concept allows for assessment of whether we are over-using energy; the water footprint concept may help to show whether we are depleting the most vital natural resource for life, other than air.

Three decades ago, R. Buckminster Fuller suggested, in the introduction to his book *Critical Path*, "a world-around uniform costing and pricing system for all goods and services based realistically on the time-energy metabolic accounting system of Universe". He further projected that this "common energy-value system" would make it possible to value all human activity "in kilowatt-hours, watt-hours and watt-seconds of work".

Instead of measuring value by dollars and cents or pounds sterling or pesos, he suggested, a time-energy metabolic accounting system would allow for accurately "costing the production of the complex of metabolic involvements per each function or item". What exactly was Fuller getting at? Fuller was describing one of the basic problems of conventional economics: following the flow of money from place to place and from moment to moment, economics has long studied artificial valuations, ignoring the possibility of actually assessing the value of natural resources and ecosystem services.

He cites, for example, the work of oil geologist, François de Chardenèdes, who examined the geological processes that result in the compression of biomass into petroleum, over millions of years, and found that recreating the bio-intensity, the breakdown, the sedimentary processes, the intense pressures, and the time-scales, would cost

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## Cont:Water Footprint May Be Next.....

well over \$1 million *per gallon* of petroleum. So nature spends \$1 million to produce what we burn for a few hundred pennies.

To get back to the carbon question, just one gallon of gasoline, of the variety commonly in use in the United States, produces fully 19.4 pounds of carbon-dioxide emissions. The impact of each gallon of gasoline on the wider environment might be better understood, if we considered the actual natural value of the substance we are burning, its metabolic interconnectedness to other substances and facets of the environment.

Now, is water the next carbon, the thing we need to learn to monitor and not to over-exploit? Water scarcity is rapidly becoming the environmental hallmark of the 21st century, with major rivers running dry for part of the year —rivers like the Nile and the Colorado— and clean drinking water for human consumption being depleted by industrial and agricultural uses, so that its availability per capita is actually falling around the world.

The Carbon Disclosure Project, **rated by Harvard Business Review “the most powerful green NGO you’ve never heard of”, has actually now** initiated its first Water Disclosure report, and the findings are instructive, to say the least. The report finds water constraints are now a major concern in corporate boardrooms across the planet.

Among the findings:

- Water has climbed high on the corporate agenda. 67% of responding companies report that responsibility for water-related issues lies at the Board or Executive Committee level, while 89% have developed specific water policies, strategies, and plans. Encouragingly, 60% have set water-related performance targets.
- Water is a current, not a future, corporate issue. The immediacy of water as a corporate issue was highlighted by the timescales associated with water-related risks, with more than half of the risks identified across all categories (physical, regulatory and ‘other’) being classified as either current or near-term (1-5 years), and 39% of companies already having experienced detrimental impacts. These impacts fall into the broad categories of disruption to operations from drought or flooding (in one case resulting in \$100 million in remediation costs), declining water quality necessitating costly on-site pre-treatment, increases in water prices, and fines and litigation relating to pollution incidents.
- The major floods in China and Pakistan have together resulted in almost \$100 billion in damage to date.

- Environmental fallout is putting pressure on business through water system health and security. Shares in the Zijin Mining Group were suspended from trading on the Hong Kong stock exchange on October 4th 2010 in advance of disclosure of the penalties and clean-up costs associated with the 2.4 million gallon acid spill into the Ting river in July 2010. The Ajka aluminium waste spill in Hungary has now reached the Danube, having extinguished all life from the Marcal river.

- Climate destabilization, drought are depleting needed water resources. Widespread drought conditions in China, Argentina, Russia and New Zealand have hurt profits in the agricultural and hydroelectric sectors. The business impacts of water issues are becoming increasingly evident.

The CDP Water Disclosure report is available in full, for download in pdf form. It may prove to be a breakthrough in the process of building a new global economic survey, that looks not only at currency and artificial wealth valuations, but more precisely at natural time-energy flows, and the availability of underlying resources, like water, air, land, energy, and yes, even time.

Mr. Winston adds that CDP WD is not the only such report to be released recently. He names the following as well:

- Murky Waters: Corporate Reporting on Water Risk (Ceres)
- The Ripple Effect: Water Risk in the Municipal Bond Market (Ceres)
- Water Futures (SAB Miller)
- Charting our Water Future (2030 Water Resources Group)

The lessons to be learned from these reports and from similar/complementary research are that as demand for fresh water is on the rise, the quality of available supplies is deteriorating; the destabilization of global climate patterns is seriously disrupting natural water replenishment services; the monetary valuation of water is wildly off-base, and further complicated by the basic human right to life-sustaining clean water; the industrial economy (including agriculture) has been designed around a misuse of water resources.

Even as efforts to put a price on carbon dioxide emissions continue to heat up, over the coming years, the decade of 2010-2020 will be **crucial for the future fortunes of much of the world’s human population**, according to how we choose to manage and protect global fresh water resources.

If overconsumption continues to be the norm, the economic, political and biological impacts may be unrecoverably devastating in many parts of the world.

## World will have to work together for a low carbon future: Masood Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Ambassador to China, Masood Khan has said the whole world will have to work together for a low carbon future and create conditions to make the villages, towns and cities more energy efficient, says a press release received here on Thursday.

The Ambassador was addressing the 2011 Global Urban Development Forum here on Thursday. The theme of the Forum was New Energy, New Technology, Smart City and Sustainable Development. It was attended by former US Vice President, Al Gore and former President of Bolivia Jorge Quiroga among other dignitaries.

Masood Khan said that the consensus at the Climate Change Conference in Cancun last month should herald a new era of common but differentiated responsibility to develop effective strategies to fight the deadly impact of climate change on our globe.

He said we can do only if we transcend traditional negotiating fault lines and work together to achieve the aims of mitigation, adaptation, transfer of technology and financial support. Cancun has put the international community on that track. We are happy that at Cancun decisions were taken to help developing nations protect their vulnerable geographies and to facilitate clean energy technology transfer. The decisions at Cancun have also injected optimism into multilateral diplomacy.

He said we believe that the best way to develop and use clean energy, reduce deforestation, and prepare our populations to face the

adverse impact of climate change is to create smart cities. China, he said, has started doing that in a very impressive manner. We want to congratulate the Chinese Government, industry, and all actors of civil society for taking a series of measures to craft a vision for environment-friendly eco cities or green towns.

"I have lived in Beijing for more than two years. What has impressed me most is the level of awareness about environment that has gone up in all segments of society. Party and government officials, corporate leaders, academics, media persons as well as activists take environment seriously and pursue eco-friendly regimens passionately.

He said Chinese citizens are playing a direct role in dealing with global warming. Green has started to dominate the industrial and commercial landscape and urban skylines, he mentioned.

Ambassador Masood Khan said we are looking with keen interest at how China is harnessing its high-tech industries which encompass new energy, electric vehicles, information technology, and bio-technology to create sustainable designs for smart cities. New eco cities would create new models for sustainable and efficient use of resources. I am sure that **China's successful experiments in embedding green spaces into cities**, building more compact cities would be replicated elsewhere.

He said Shanghai Expo 2010 - with its theme Better City; Better Life - has given glimpses of what future cities should look like. The Expo has also motivated all nations of the world to think creatively about future cities. In Pakistan, Ambassador Khan said, we are acutely aware of the devastating effects of climate change. Pakistan is one of the lowest emitters of greenhouse gas emissions, yet we bear the brunt of climate change in **the form of glacial melting, floods, and droughts. Last year's floods were the most massive and the most destructive in the past eight decades in our history.** Some twenty million people were affected by these floods in an area of 160,000 square kilometers, he mentioned.

## Engineers urged to protect environment

INTERNATIONAL  
**THE NEWS**

By M. Waqar Bhatti  
04 January, 2011

Speakers at a seminar on Monday urged engineers associated with development projects to play their due role in conservation of environment by following the relevant laws, practices and ethics.

**"Undoubtedly, engineers were responsible for the loss of thousands of lives and properties during the recent natural disasters, including the 2005 earthquake, the destruction caused by rains in 2007 and the flood devastation in 2010. Engineers should decline to be associated with such projects which ignore environmental issues,"** said social worker and environmentalist Roland DeSouza while addressing the seminar.

The seminar on 'Engineers and the Environment' was organised by the Institution of Engineers Pakistan (IEP) Karachi Centre on its premises to create awareness among its members about environmental issues and their responsibilities.

Roland DeSouza, himself an engineer by profession and an active mem-

Continued...

## Cont: Engineers urged to protect environment

ber of Shehri-CBE, highlighted the issues of global environmental degradation due to excessive use of natural resources, growing population and unplanned development.

Citing reports of various international organisations, DeSouza claimed that most environmental deterioration had occurred in the world over the past 250 years since the industrial revolution. He claimed that the engineering community was mainly responsible for this deterioration.

**“Most of the countries are faced with environmental issues due to one or the other reason such as deforestation and habitat destruction, erosion of land, salinity, fertility losses, water management issues, over-hunting and fishing, population growth etc. But unfortunately, Pakistan is faced with all these collapse factors at one time.”**

Citing experts, he said environmental degradation may result in reduced agricultural output, food scarcity, mass migrations, health problems and extreme weather and water changes. **“That’s what happening in Pakistan today,”** he observed.

De Souza showed in his graphs that world’s population had increased to 6.9 billion from a few hundred millions and that was causing an unprecedented load on the natural resources.

He said engineers could play a great role in improving the environmental situation by carrying out environmental evaluations and studies of their projects. **“They should take steps to conserve energy, reduce the use of non-renewable resources and reduce waste by using environment-friendly policies.”**

Similarly, he added, the engineers should also be aware of the country’s environmental laws that include Pakistan Environmental Protection Act (PEPA) 1997, Environmental Tribunal Rules 1999 and other procedures like Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

He opined that both IEE and EIA that cover agriculture, manufacturing, construction and development sectors needed immediate revision. He also advised engineers and the public to participate in public hearings conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Secretary Environment Mir Hussain Ali, who was invited as a panellist at the seminar, said the government was planning to introduce environment as a subject at schools to emphasise its importance.

He deplored that municipal authorities and other state institutions were not performing their responsibilities in accordance with the environmental laws. **“Besides, the Environment Department is facing a shortage of manpower that is hampering its performance.”**

Renowned columnist Ardeshir Cowasjee, who was the chief guest, said the government seemed to be shockingly disinterested in environmental issues, urging the public to act on their own to save the environment.

**Endorsing Roland DeSouza’s arguments, Cowasjee said engineers had steadily increased the standard of life at the cost of environment.** He urged them to help rectify the damage they had caused to the world

## Ecological assessment in doldrums as SWD officials transferred

### INTERNATIONAL THE NEWS

By Jan Khaskheli  
04 January, 2011

Karachi: The Sindh Wildlife Department (SWD) suspended a valuable task of assessing wildlife and its habitat losses after the recent reshuffling of its officials on key posts in the department, The News has learnt.

The task of wildlife assessment was assigned to the officials to ascertain the damage caused to the wild animals and forests during the recent floods. Sources said that the SWD officials, who were assigned this task, were transferred, leaving the entire process in the doldrums.

Sources said that the SWD officials were carrying-out a comprehensive assessment of ecological loss by the recent flood and had started collecting data of habitat loss in the Riverine Forest area, but they were issued transfer orders. These transfers hampered the working of the entire process, especially issues related to the queries regarding updates on water recession in many areas, recharged fresh water bodies and forest rehabilitation. On the other hand, the government authorities claimed to have initiated seed sowing process for the rehabilitation of forests, which is a major habitat of threatened and valuable species like Indus Dolphin, Hog Deer, fresh water turtles, black and brown partridges, wild boar, hare, reptiles and small mammals.

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Cont: **Ecological assessment in doldrums as .....**

Dr Fahmeeda Firdous, Incharge of the SWD, said that they were facing a lack of funds in order to continue all the schemes, including the rehabilitation of species. She said that a major scheme 'Rehabilitation of native waterfowls and hog deer in the Hazari Forest, Thatta, which was initiated by the SWD, was also affected by the floods.

She added that due to the shortage of funds, various projects were being delayed and the work on schemes might take more time to be completed.

She said that many species, which shifted to other areas due to flood water, have now started returning after the receding water and

breeding had been reported in different areas.

In this regard, WWF-Pakistan also announced initiating an assessment in collaboration with the SWD to collect the exact data regarding habitat loss and saving the endangered species.

WWF Indus for All Programme Coordinator, Nasir Panhwar, stated that their team pointed out four sites including Khaibrani Forest, Nara Valley, Kharo Chhan and Manchhar Lake neighbourhoods to assess the status of the wildlife. He said that they were compiling data regarding the habitat loss with recommendations of protecting the remaining wild species.

However, there was no accurate finding regarding the loss of the indigenous Indus Dolphin (Blind Dolphin), as reports suggested that the flood water pushed them into the canals and breached parts of the river.

## MDGs missed target in Asia



By *Tariq Khattak*  
*January, 2011*

Islamabad: Pakistan is facing challenges in meeting Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). High population rates, changing demographic patterns, ageing populations, human activities and their impacts on environment and climate have been critical concerns of international community.

Pakistan has the seventh highest prevalence rate of Diabetes, stated Nancy D Lewis of East-West Centre, USA at the special lecture on "Globalization and health in South Asia" organized by SDPI here on Tuesday.

Dr Abid Q. Suleri, Executive Director, SDPI conducted the proceedings and underlined the need for efficient track II diplomacy among nations to effectively deal with the growing economic and social challenges across globe. "Millennium Development Goal us missed target in South Asia" he added.

Dr Nancy shared her experiences of South Asia and talked on various aspects of concern including Asia's population issues, environmental challenges, globalization and Asia's health. Citing some key figures of global and Asian health situation, she underlined that a safer future was both a collective aspiration and a mutual responsibility.

She was of the view that there was a dire need of awareness among masses and sensitization among policy-makers that there was a basic standard of living which has to be addressed through policies and their implementation especially social policies.

Speaking of the multiple dimensions of global health, she said that global health was one of the most critical among Millennium Development Goals as there was a fertility decline and unprecedented urbanization, rising maternal and infant mortality rates.

Talking of Pakistan's water challenges and their implications on populations, she said that approximately 20-50% deaths of children under the age of 5 were due to waterborne diseases.

Highlighting gender equality in the MDG, she said that the 'Triple Burden of Disease' and agricultural practices, livelihood patterns and large population were some of the triggering factors of emerging infectious diseases in Asia Pacific and surrounding regions.

She said that the replacement level of Pakistan was high than many other countries in the region.

She said the fertility rate was above the replacement level in Pakistan. Whereas trends in urbanization in South Asia, currently over fifty percent, were now showing upward trends.

"Considerable populations are living a critical quality of life particularly with regards to health challenges," she went on saying. She said that Karachi was among the mega cities at risk with regards to environmental pollution and livelihood standards that can have drastic implications on the health of the population.

## Uphill struggle to preserve cultural heritage of mountains stressed

**Daily Times**  
Your right to know A new voice for a new Pakistan

January, 2011

LAHORE: Government College University (GCU) Lahore and the World Wide Fund for Nature–Pakistan (WWF-Pakistan) have joined hands for environmental awareness and nature conservation. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed in this regard by GCU Vice Chancellor Prof Khalid Aftab and WWF-Pakistan Director General Ali Hasan Habib on Monday at the GCU Syndicate Committee Room.

The WWF-Pakistan, under the agreement, would also provide internships, jobs and volunteer work to GCU undergraduate and postgraduate students in its various environmental and nature conservation projects. The GCU career guidance and placement officer would recommend students twice a year for the three-month WWF-Pakistan volunteer programmes. Besides, the WWF-Pakistan would also offer jobs and internships to deserving Ravians. The GCU and WWF-Pakistan would also jointly explore and work on the nature conservation projects.

Addressing the ceremony, Prof Aftab said that the environmental education plays a vital role in fostering a sense of individual responsibility towards nature, and the WWF's collaboration with educational institutions would prove a vital step in creating a new generation of environmentally conscious individuals.

Prof Aftab said working with WWF would enable the university students to generate an insight into the overall challenges to the eco-dynamics. "Besides, it would also enhance career and education prospects of the students," he added.

WWF-Pakistan Director General Ali Hasan Habib said that WWF has been working in Pakistan for the last 40 years to conserve nature and the ecological process. He said the organisation has successfully executed several nature conservation projects with the GCU's Pakistan Botanic Gardens Networks Secretariat and Sustainable Development Study Centre and appreciates the university's continual commitment to keeping issues of conservation at the forefront of its students' minds.

Habib said that WWF-Pakistan was concentrating on its membership campaign these days, so that these members could become their force against the anti-environment steps being taken by various corporate sectors. He said than 25 percent population of Netherlands were members of the WWF-Netherlands.

## Pakistan's water experts to salvage Central Asian States from water woes

INTERNATIONAL  
**THE NEWS**

By Khalid Mustafa  
12 January, 2011

Islamabad: In a positive and unique development, Pakistan's water experts will provide resolution of the water woes the Central Asian States are facing since long because of the fast shrinking Aral Sea.

Sustainable Development Policy Institute [SDPI], Islamabad to this has established working group on saving Aral Sea which will focus only on Tran- boundary-water management, environmental, economic and

energy issues of Central Asia.

The working group will comprise water, energy and environmental experts, eminent politicians and media personnel of Pakistan.

A premier think tank in Pakistan, SDPI acts as both a generator of original research on sustainable development issues and as an information resource for concerned individuals and institutions.

SDPI's function is thus two-fold: an advisory role fulfilled through research, policy advice and advocacy; and an enabling role realized through providing other individuals and organizations with resource materials and training.

The mandate of the working group is to evaluate the shrinking of the Aral Sea, a phenomenon to have simultaneous impacts on the region's economic and environmental stability. The ecological consequences of the shrinking Aral Sea will not respect any political boundaries and are bound to adversely affect the region.

Continued...

### Cont: Pakistan's water experts to salvage .....

The working group thus will strive to critically review and assess the current environmental and water governance dynamics of the Aral Sea Basin to formulate an unbiased, independent, non-political expert recommendation to all central Asian and other stakeholder countries.

Invoking the issue of Aral Sea is an endeavor to highlight the need for equitable distribution of water resources based on international laws and best practices. Embracing the benefits of shared water resources must not undermine regional harmony and seek to promote environmentally sound practices in shared water management. SDPI has done extensive work on shared water management has been notable in the South Asian region where exhaustive studies have been undertaken.

Additionally, the urgent need to rehabilitate/refill the Aral Sea is crucial for the stabilization of the regional and global climate in addition to maintaining peace and security in Central Asia. SDPI's drive is in line with the global initiative undertaken to reduce sea level-rise, which is one of the most severe threats being posed by climate change. SDPI will provide innovative, win-win solution to refill the

Aral Sea which will considerably diffuse the increase in global sea levels. In pursuit of this task, a special unit has been created within SDPI being led by Arshad H Abbasi.

The need for a working group on the subject was also reinforced after the devastating flood in Pakistan when westerly weather system collided with the monsoon weather system during the last week of July 2010 causing unprecedented flash floods in Pakistan. The technical part of the Working Group will make assessments of the state of environment in central Asia and plausible impacts on climate of Pakistan and region as a whole. The formation of working group also reflects the pursuit of the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), a strategic methodology to achieve a substantial reduction in hydrological disasters.

The working group will also examine the glaciers of central Asia- the Glacial melting in Central Asia poses severe environmental and security risks for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. Glaciers presently contribute up to 70% of the water flow in the major river systems of the region during hot, dry summers. It is predicted that between 64% and 95% of the glacial area over large parts of Central Asia will be lost as a result of melting by 2100.

## Traffic pollution: By 2030 twin cities will be in a mess if we don't say 'bus'



13 January, 2011

ISLAMABAD: If Islamabad and Rawalpindi continue at the same rate, in 20 years the twin cities will have about 34 million vehicles that will pump out 24 million tonnes of Nitrogen oxides alone in pollution.

These predictions were made by a team of researchers, Rabia Shabbir and Sheikh Saeed Ahmad, of the department of Environmental Sciences at Fatima Jinnah Women University, Rawalpindi. Their study was published in May 2010 in the journal Energy and was titled 'Monitoring urban transport air pollution and energy demand in Rawalpindi and Islamabad using [the] leap model'.

"When we looked at what our situation would be in 20 to 25 years, we were astonished to see that Pakistan would have nothing left,

not in the energy sector nor in the environment," said Ahmad while talking to *The Express Tribune*. "Our energy policy needs to be revised when it comes to coal, fossil fuels, alternative energy." While wind and atomic energy projects exist on paper, very little has actually started working.

The duo did, however, focus on solutions. For example, in two decades, if we don't make a change somewhere, the twin cities will be using 120 million litres of petrol. Shabbir and Ahmad estimated, however, that this could be kept to 89 million litres if we switched to using more buses. Only 18 million tonnes of the polluting Nitrogen oxides would be emitted then.

The team took government data from the year 2000 and used LEAP (the Long-Range Energy Alternatives Planning System) model to estimate total demand for fuel and vehicular emissions up till the year 2030. LEAP has been successfully used for similar projects in 150 countries.

They also collected data on three pollutants: Nitrogen oxides, particulate matter and Sulfur dioxide. The scenario that emerged was grim. In 2000, Rawalpindi had more registered vehicles (115,700) than Islamabad (11,400). Combined, they used 362,600 liters of energy and produced 93,620 tonnes of pollution.

The forecasts factored in that Islamabad and Rawalpindi have about

Continued...

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**Cont: Traffic Pollution.....**


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1.9 million people and the population grows about four times more than other cities each year. According to the researchers, as cities burgeon and strain at their seams, haphazard growth of homes and offices means that people make more and more trips per person to get around.

Shabbir and Ahmad then came up with three different scenarios to study the impact of different policies that would bring down the use of fuel and pollution. Either the government and residents and businesses of the two cities could continue at the same rate. Or they could work together to get vehicles off the roads and use more public transport. They could also switch from petrol to using natural gas. In some respects, this has been slowly happening.

**The growth of the CNG business in Pakistan is “impressive” and we have become the leading user of the gas in Asia and the third largest in the world after Argentina and Brazil.**

Even if any of the three options are used, the team found that they would bring the need for fuel and pollution down by a minimum of 15 per cent. Either we have less cars on the road, switch to natural gas or go for public transport. The numbers showed that using more public transport would have the most impact.

**The government’s challenge now is to restrain private transport (cars and motorcycles) and persuade people to use public transport, especially buses, as more people can fit in them.**

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## Thousand years old cultural heritage - pride for Pakistan

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APP

15 January, 2011

ISLAMABAD, Jan 15 (APP): Pakistan has every reason to be proud of the thousands of years old cultural heritage, said the Ambassador of Pakistan to Japan, Noor Muhammad Jadmani on Saturday. Excavation from Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa suggests that Indus valley civilization was developed like Nile or Euphrates in many aspects, he said while addressing 71 members of NHK culture centers from Yokohama and Higarigaok cities who visited Embassy of Pakistan in Japan, said a message received here. Pakistan is a cradle of civilizations and traces its history back to at least 2500 years, when highly developed civilizations like

The number of motor vehicles in Pakistan doubled from 2.7 million in 1990 to 5.5 million in 2005. In fact, road traffic has outstripped the economy. A decade ago, about 135 million people lived in Pakistan with roughly a third living in cities.

Dr Abid Qayyum Sulehri of the Sustainable Development Policy Institute also pitched a mass transit system. **“It is the right time to work on long-term projects to overcome the worst economic crisis in the history of the country,” he said.**

In Singapore and Shanghai, for example, the government has capped on the numbers of vehicles that can register annually. The problem in Pakistan is that while new cars keep coming onto the roads, the rest of the vehicle fleet is old and broken down. As a result roads are worn down and there are serious levels of air and noise pollution.

Zafarullah Khan of the Centre for Civic Education, Pakistan, points out **that the existing public transport system needs to be improved. “The government could not even ensure transport for schools which is why the private use of vehicles has increased the consumption of fuel,” he said.**

Fatima Jinnah Women University decided to undertake this study for **the benefit of policymakers. An indication of the government’s willingness to change became apparent to Shabbir and Ahmad who found that government agencies were not happy to give them data. “Perhaps if we got the actual data the real situation would have been even more alarming,” Ahmad remarked wryly.**

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Indus and Gandhara flourished here.

Archaeological finds indicate that buildings structures of the Mohenjo-Daro have deep similarities with ancient cities in Egypt and Iraq, he added.

The Ambassador called upon the people of Japan to visit Pakistan where they can find the best Buddha sculptures preserved in Taxila, Peshawar and Lahore museums.

**“Pakistan is paradise for culture tourists, particularly those who have interest in ancient civilizations,” he said. Though Pakistan also received a large number of adventure tourists from all over the world, he added.**

The Ambassador told the audience that Pakistan has been playing a lead role in war against terrorism and was a frontline state against militancy, which has badly affected our economy. Today our country has faced with energy deficiency, unemployment and rising poverty.

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Cont: **Thousand years old cultural heritage.....**

**“In this respect we look towards our Japanese friends to help us through investing in Pakistan and supplement our efforts to strengthen our economy and generate jobs. My appeal was to the corporate sector of Japan to utilize Pakistan’s economic potential,”** the Ambassador said.

He said that no other country in Asia enjoys such an important geographic location as does Pakistan. It is a gateway to Central Asia and has geographic proximity to Middle East and Africa.

## Indus River Basin: a laboratory for developing civilizations

**THE EXPRESS**  
**TRIBUNE**  
WITH THE International Herald Tribune

15 January, 2011

ISLAMABAD: Indus River Basin, which boasts of one of the largest irrigation systems in the world, can be seen as a laboratory for development of civilisations. **“It sustains households, trade and the economy in general and will continue to do so in the future,”** said Dr James Wescoat, a renowned US scholar.



He was speaking at the ‘Indus Basin Research in Pakistan and the US’ on Friday. The talk was part of a workshop on ‘Emerging Issues and Opportunities’ held at the office of United States Educational Foundation in Pakistan (USEFP). It was attended by USEFP Executive Director Rita Akhtar and repre-

Pakistan offer tremendous opportunities for the Japanese entrepreneurs who could market their products not only in Pakistan but can easily market them in Central Asia, Middle East and Africa.

Later, the Deputy Chief of Mission (D.C.M.), **Imtiaz Ahmad, gave a detail briefing on Pakistan’s culture.** Documentary films of the archaeological sites, historic buildings and Buddha sculptures of various periods were shown to the members of NHK culture centers.

representatives of civil society working in the Water Resource Management. Dr Wescoat is a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT, USA) who earned his PhD in water resources geography at the University of Chicago. His research focuses on water systems in South Asia and the United States.

Indus water irrigation system irrigates 45 million acres of farm land. This area in turn produces wheat, rice, fruits, vegetables, sugarcane, maize and cotton in great quantity for local use as well as for export.

**“Its proper utilisation therefore is very important for the economic well-being of the country,”** he said, adding that the system comprised three

large dams, 85 small dams, 19 barrages, 12 inter-river link canals, 45 canal commands and 0.7 million tube wells.

Stressing the need for water conservation he said that water is a vital resource and there is a need to have an efficient system for its utilisation.

**“Water conservation can help in overcoming water shortage in the country. It provides for multiple needs of food, energy and environment,”** he added.

Earlier, USEFP Executive Director Rita Akhtar said, **“We hope that in addition to building linkages to improve water resource management in Pakistan, you will encourage your students and colleagues to apply for Fulbright scholars**

## Environment Ministry sponsoring six mega projects

13 January, 2011

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Environment is sponsoring as many as six mega projects at a total cost of Rs 12 billion in all provinces, AJK and Fata. According to written information provided to National Assembly Secretariat, the main objective of these projects is to enhance overall tree cover of country and provide necessary resources for intuition strengthening of provincial forest department.

Forestry is a provincial subject and concerned Forest Departments

manages their forests. Under Millennium Development Goals, Pakistan has committed to increase forest cover from 5.01 to 6 percent by 2015 ie more than one million of new forests are planned to be developed.

The Ministry of Environment is taking many steps to develop forests and improve environment in the country. The steps including National Forest Policy, National Forest Programme, National Tree Planning Day, Mangroves for the Future (MFF) and others are being taken for this purpose.



## Man involved in animal cruelty case says he made 'a foolish mistake'

**THE MIDDLETOWN PRESS**

By *JEFF MILL*  
19 January, 2011

CROWMELL – The man accused of hindering the investigation into the abandonment of two dogs said Wednesday he made “a foolish mistake.”

Akhtar Muhammad, a 64-year-old Pakistan native, said he acted out of misguided loyalty to a customer when he told police he did not know who abandoned the two dogs outside a West Street service station. **Muhammad said in fact he did know the man who left the dog, “but only as a customer for maybe one year.”**

The man – whom police identified as Shawn Horak, 40, of Glastonbury – then “**begged me to protect him because of his children,**” Muhammad said.

“I’ve never done anything like this in my life,” an anguished Muhammad

said.

(He says his name is Akhtar Muhammad; however, Cromwell Police said his driver’s license was issued in the name of Muhammad Akhtar.) Muhammad also said that he was the person who called police to report the dogs had been abandoned.

Police Chief Anthony J. Salvatore confirmed Wednesday afternoon that Muhammad had made the call to police at roughly 7 a.m.

**Animal Control Officer Cheryl Gagnon “was busy at the time doing something else, and so Mr. Muhammad was asked if he could bring the dogs inside where it was warm. But he said no he couldn’t, that he was afraid of them,” Salvatore said.**

An officer was dispatched to the service station and took possession of the dogs. “They were kept inside where it was warm until ACO Gagnon arrived and took over caring for them,” the chief added.

Muhammad also said he called police again later to check on the condition of the dogs, Toby and Sunny. However, Salvatore said there is no way to verify if such a call was made.

## Disease control: Swine flu vaccine not being used?

**THE EXPRESS**  
**TRIBUNE**  
WITH THE International Herald Tribune

By *Sehrish Wasif*  
22 January, 2011

ISLAMABAD: The anti-swine flu vaccine is not being used properly to control the disease in the country, according to health experts.

In March 2010, about 3.1 million doses of Monovalent Influenza were given to the Ministry of Health for distribution to the provinces. The vaccine was donated by the World Health Organization (WHO) and funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

“The vaccine reached the districts but Executive District Officers (EDOs) were not keen on using it,” said WHO Consultant Dr Arif Zaka. “An ef-



fective utilisation of the vaccine would have resulted in fewer cases of **swine flu in the country.”**

However, Manager National Influenza Control Programme Dr Baseer Khan Achakzai said the vaccine was sent to the provinces during the outbreak of the disease in August- September 2010 and was effec-

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### Cont: Disease control: Swine flu vaccine not being used?

tively employed by all concerned districts.

Five deaths from swine flu have so far been reported, two from Rawalpindi and one each from Islamabad, Sahiwal and Gujar Khan, according to the Ministry of Health.

A total of 169 from 281 blood samples received by the National Institute of Health between January 1 to 20 from across the country tested positive.

Holy Family Hospital received six patients since December 2010, of which one died while two tested positive, said In-charge Infection Control Committee Dr Javed Hayat. The deceased was identified as Saeeda from Gujar Khan. Four others showed symptoms of the disease.

Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences received three patients, out of whom one tested positive and passed away on Wednesday. **“Mansoor, from Attock, was too critical when brought to the hospital and was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit,”** said Senior

Physician Dr Rizwan Qazi.

On the other hand, Polyclinic Hospital Spokesperson Dr Sharif Astori and Benazir Bhutto Hospital Additional Medical Superintendent Dr Bashir Malik said the hospitals had so far not received any swine flu patients. Both doctors agreed that the only way to prevent infection is to improve personal hygiene, advising washing hands properly after using the wash-room or coming into physical contact with animals or infected patients. They also stressed the need to vaccinate family members of infected patients.

Speaking of Monovalent Influenza, Dr Achakzai said the vaccine is meant **for people who are prone to the disease. “This includes air hostesses, senior citizens, children and pregnant women,”** he said.

He added that one of the major reasons behind its outbreak in the country was the failure of thermal scanners installed at airports that are meant to check people for signs and symptoms of the flu. However, Islamabad Airport Health Officer Dr Irfan Tahir denied the malfunction of the scanners.

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## Polluting factory ordered to shut down production again

### INTERNATIONAL THE NEWS

23 January, 2011

The Sindh Environmental Protection Agency (Sepa) on Saturday once again directed Sindh Particles Board (SPB), Kotri, under Section 16(2) of Pakistan Environmental Protection Act, 1997, to stop production to save human health in the area and the environment from further damage.

In Environmental Protection Order (EPO) issued to the polluting factory today, the EPA, Sindh, said the environmental tribunal had rejected the appeal of the factory with costs, maintaining that the EPO had rightly been issued against Sindh Particle Board.

Therefore, the EPO stands upheld.

It may be recalled that Sindh Environmental Protection Agency had earlier issued the EPO under Section 16(2) of the Pakistan Environ-

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mental Protection Act, 1997, directing to immediately stop the production process of Sindh Particle Board located at Kotri vide office letter No. EPA/212/Tech/04/PSB-Kotri/2008 dated May 17, 2010.

Subsequently, M/S Sindh Particles Board preferred an appeal under Section 22 of the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act, 1997, before the Environmental Protection Tribunal, Karachi, appeal No 1/2010 being aggrieved by the decision of the EPA Sindh.

However, environmental tribunal found that EPO was rightly issued against the appellant mill and dismissed its appeal with costs.

Sepa officials said on the directives from Sindh Environment Minister Shaikh Muhammad Afzal, that the Sepa was conducting a rigorous monitoring campaign of all industrial zones of Sindh and cases of factories found involved in violation of environmental laws were being forwarded to Environmental Protection Tribunal for legal action.

In addition to directives issued to the Sindh Particles Board, Kotri for stopping its production immediately, Sepa also wrote a letter to the District Police Officer (DPO) Jamshoro to assist its staff in sealing the factory as it was causing environmental pollution in the area.



## Science-based dialogues vital to resolve riparian issues

**Daily Times**  
Your right to know A new voice for a new Pakistan

*January, 2011*

ISLAMABAD: The water experts on Tuesday developed consensus to build up mutual trust and science-based multi-stakeholder dialogues for understanding and resolving upper lower riparian issues and explore viable options.

This consensus was made at the opening session of a two-day consultative workshop that started on Tuesday at a local hotel.

**Considering water as lifeline for Pakistan's sustainable development** and steering it clear of political agendas and bias, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Pakistan undertook a study on the issues and options for the upper and lower riparian of the Indus River.

Based on this and several other studies, four policy briefs have been prepared, Indus Water Treaty and Managing Shared Water Resources for the Benefit of Basin States, Beyond Indus Water Treaty: Groundwater and Environmental Management, Towards Kabul Water Treaty: Managing Shared Water Resources, and Pakistan Water Apportionment Accord for Resolving Inter-provincial Water Conflicts. The workshop is to consult the relevant stakeholders on these policy briefs.

Presenting the policy briefs, Dr Shahid Ahmad, Member Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, gave a presentation on the draft policy briefs for discussion and feedback.

**"Small dams are important for the protection of the livelihoods,"** said Ahmad. He voiced his concerns over the practice of expanding irrigation system without considering efficient usage of water.

## Coping with climate change

**DAWN**COM

*By Ashfak Bokhari*

*24 January, 2011*



**"Neutral fact and science-based studies can be very useful in solving the regional water issues,"** said Ganesh Pangare, Coordinator, Regional Water and Wetlands Programme, IUCN Asia.

Pangare quoted various instances of the regional cooperation on the Nile, Mekong and Senegal rivers. He was of the view that since they had successful examples of regional cooperation, there was no need to **reinvent the wheel in Pakistan's case. He emphasised on the private sector's involvement in the dialogues.**

**"IUCN being a neutral convenor for the dialogues on the sustainable development issues has brought together experts to discuss what we have come up with so far and propose necessary amendments, improvements and additions to make these policy briefs more viable and closer to reality,"** said Shah Murad Aliani, Country Representative, IUCN Pakistan.

Water is a very complex issue and thus needs to have dynamic ways for solving this problem, said Jan Willem Cools, First Secretary (Environment & Water) and Deputy Head of Development Section of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands on this occasion. He emphasised on paradigm shift, solutions and champions for the cause in order to resolve water issues in Pakistan.

LAST summer, as torrential rains flooded Pakistan, a veteran intelligence analyst watched closely from his desk at CIA headquarters just outside Washington. For the analyst, who heads the agency's year-old Centre on Climate Change and National Security, the worst natural disaster in Pakistan's history was a warning.

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### Cont: Coping with climate change

“It has the exact same symptoms you would see for future climate change events, and we’re expecting to see more of them,” he said, according to a report in “Vancouver Sun.” He refused to identify himself. “We wanted to know the conditions that lead to a situation like the Pakistan flooding. What are the important things for water flows, food security .... radicalisation, disease and displaced people?” What Pakistan experienced last summer in terms of extreme weather and economic cost is currently being faced by four countries – Australia, Brazil, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. Floods have hit four Australian states since December and they look set to be the **costliest natural disaster ever in the country’s history. And the damage bill is still rising fast as record flooding continues to rage.**

On January 12, Pakistan was warned at a seminar in Islamabad, organised by Pakistan Water Partnership in collaboration with the Planning Commission, that the country, especially its Indus Basin, will face severe and frequent extreme weather events of both floods and draught in the near future. The problem is that Pakistan is not prepared enough, nor trying to prepare itself, to combat such events. In fact, it was also caught unaware in July last.

**The Global Change Impact Studies Centre (GCISC) and Pakistan’s Meteorological Department** have predicted more floods in the coming years as average temperature over the country is expected to increase in the range of 1.3-1.5 degrees Celsius by 2020.

Besides, the glaciers of three mountains, which feed Pakistani rivers, have been predicted to melt faster due to global warming, causing **abnormal increase in rivers’ water outflow.**

**In last year’s floods, the Indus River inundated an area of 100,000 square kilometres** while another 60,000 square kilometres was flooded by other rivers such

as the Kabul and the Swat, according to National Disaster Management Authority. **Pakistan’s greenhouse gas emissions were estimated to be at 309 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent in 2008.** The country contributes 0.8 per cent of the total global emissions, ranking 135 in per capita emissions.

On January 15, a meeting of officials of environment department of Punjab and federal environment ministry and various stakeholders **was called to discuss Pakistan’s first national climate change policy**



draft, recently developed by the ministry.

It is a major step forward at a time when the country is already on the frontline facing severe climate challenges. How long it takes to finalise **the policy and implement its major objectives is anybody’s guess.**

The goal of the policy is to ensure that climate change is mainstreamed in the economically important and vulnerable sectors of the economy and, in fact, take the country towards low carbon economy. The main objectives are to integrate climate change policy with other interrelated national policies, place equal emphasis on both mitigation and adaptation, as these are integral parts of the strategy to cope with climate change; minimise the risks to the population and national economy, arising from expected increase in frequency and intensity of extreme weather events.

The floods in Australia have been blamed on the strongest ever-recorded La Nina weather phenomenon in the Pacific, which saw Australia record its third rainy year on record in 2010.

La Nina is a periodic climate pattern that results in the cooling of the sea temperatures of the tropical Pacific Ocean, which brings about more rainfall in the western Pacific, and less on the eastern Pacific side of South America.

It is the opposite of El Nino, which brings about more rainfall in the eastern Pacific and less in the western Pacific.

Not all the floods around the world are linked to La Nina. The British Meteorological Office says the floods in Australia and the Philippines are linked to La Nina, but not the extreme weather in Brazil and Sri Lanka. The heavy rainfall associated with La Nina is likely to last for about five

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## Cont: Coping with climate change

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years but it can also happen earlier. However, the floods in Sri Lanka have destroyed 21 per cent of its rice crop and there are fears of food inflation.

**On January 5, the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said** global food prices have reached their highest levels since their records began in 1990 and grains prices could climb further due to adverse weather patterns around the world.

Food inflation is now the main worry of many countries with memories still fresh of the 2008 food crisis, when soaring prices sparked riots in several countries.

On January 14, British economist Nicholas Stern, known worldwide for his great work on global warming, said that the price of fighting climate change is now

higher than what he estimated in a 2006 study that earned him a 400,000-euro BBVA Foundation award for measuring the economic

cost of climate change.

His advanced economic analysis quantified the impacts of climate change and provided "a unique basis" for decision-making, said the jury in the Frontiers of Science Award. It fundamentally changed the international climate change debate and stimulated action. The Stern Review, as his work is called, found world economic growth would contract by at least 20 per cent if no action is taken, while a switch to a low-emissions economy would cost about one per cent of global output a year.

**Stern said he would revise the figures. He said: "The cost of cutting back emissions is more than what we estimated, but that is because the consequences of climate change are already here. Emissions are rising rapidly, and the capacity of the ocean to absorb carbon is less than what we thought. Also, other effects, particularly the melting of the polar ice, seem to be happening much faster. We need to take more drastic steps, so the costs will inevitably be higher."**

Stern says, climate change economics is the next industrial revolution. The countries who invest now in this new growth market will gain the advantage

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# Countrywide tree plantation campaign from February 15

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## Business Recorder

*25 January, 2011*

ISLAMABAD (January 25, 2011) : Inter-Provincial Committee on Environment (IPCE) has fixed spring tree plantation target as 53.35 million saplings across the country, which would start from February 15. The committee fixed targets for the campaign after reviewing previous achievements.

The meeting of the committee was held, here on Monday, with Federal Minister for Environment, Hameedullah Jan Afridi in the chair and attended by Secretary Environment, Muhammad Naeem Khawaja, Inspector General Forests (IGF), Syed Nasir Mehmood and representatives of all provinces and concerned departments.

The meeting decided that 20 million saplings would be planted in Punjab, 8.5 million in Sindh, one million in Balochistan, five million in AJK and 8.7 million saplings in Fata would be planted during the campaign. Objectives of the campaign were also highlighted during the meeting wherein all provinces including Fata, AJK, Gilgit-Baltistan and other agencies indicated their targets for planting trees in 2011. Participants also gave proposals and recommendations for achieve the targets.

Speaking on the occasion, Hameedullah Afridi said that the objective of celebrating National Tree Plantation Day is to address deforestation and associated environmental problems being faced by the nation. He added that provincial/local governments will make necessary arrangements to make the campaign successful.

He observed that Pakistan is facing extreme environmental problems so concrete measures are needed to be taken, such as initiating different projects and plans. He urged that there is a dire need to increase forests in the country. He was of the view that forests are basically natural factories of observing carbon and releasing oxygen for the survival of all living things on earth. Likewise, they are playing vital role for preventing land-erosion, drought and flood situations.

Afridi stressed that environmental issues can not be ignored at all and they are committed to face this big challenge but support from all provinces and other agencies are required.

Expressing his views, secretary ministry of environment, Muhammad Naeem Khawaja appreciated the proposals and recommendations given by participants and assured them that their concerns would be given due consideration. He assured that full co-operation would be

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**Cont: Countrywide tree plantation campaign .....**

extended by the ministry, adding that to get results of the campaign 2011, involvement of all segments of society has to be ensured.

He further said that results can be achieved by inducing a culture and sense of ownership among the public for forest conservation

and trees plantation through an extensive but systematic and organised campaign by involving print and electronic media.

Earlier, the meeting was briefed in detail by the representatives of four provinces as well as Fata, AJK, Gilgit-Baltistan and other agencies about the progress of tree planting campaign 2010.

**'Water conservation is critical for survival of Pakistan'****Business Recorder**

25 January, 2011

LAHORE (January 26, 2011) : Lack of safe drinking water causes diarrhea in 500 million children below of age 5 in Asia, Africa and Latin America. In Pakistan there are 100 million cases of diarrhea annually said Chief Executive M/S Progressive Consulting Engineers, Inc USA Engineer Naeem Qureshi while delivering a lecture on "Water Sustainability through Conservation" organised by Pakistan Engineering Congress on Tuesday.

President Pakistan Engineering Congress Engineer Hussain Ahmed and Secretary PEC Engineer Chaudhry Ghulam Hussain were also present on the occasion. Engineer Qureshi said that about 20 to 40 percent of hospital beds are occupied with patients experiencing water related disease.

Eight percent of the total deaths were caused by water borne diseases. About one third of deaths in Pakistan were caused by water borne diseases. Qureshi said that water conservation is critical for the survival of Pakistan, as fresh water resources are very limited. He also said that demand of drinking water is increasing day by day while drinking water is decreasing. Presently about 60 to 70 percent of water is wasted in Pakistan due to leakage and wastage.

In New Delhi 20 million-gallon per day additional water become available after embarking on leak detection and water conservation measures. The population of Pakistan is increased by 24 percent in the last decade from 139 million in 2000 to 173 million in 2010. In Karachi above 50 % of water is lost due to leakage and illegal connections.

Qureshi said that Pakistan should take steps for the consummation of water and on the promotion of its effective use. Many areas of Pakistan are currently facing serious water shortages. The efficient use of water through water conservation will reduce the capital and operational costs leading to economic stability and growth. This will also result in the protection of the environment.

Qureshi said that by conducting a leak detection survey the leakage in the distribution system could be identified. This is done by attaching a listening device on two adjacent valves. He also said that conservation has to start with public education. This includes printed material to increase the awareness of water conservation. The awareness campaign should be started from schools in children.

He said that in order to increase the public awareness about water conservation steps like dissemination of information and installation of meter to record consumption. Other steps, which should be taken, are meter reading billing and collection and fiscal planning and operation train-

**UVAS AGL team acquires expertise to offer genetic testing service****Business Recorder**

27 January, 2011

LAHORE: The University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (UVAS)

Animal Genetics Lab (AGL) has completed a state of the art set up and optimised the testing techniques for clinical cytogenetic analysis to offer cytogenetic diagnostic/testing services to livestock industry, including livestock farms, breeders of farm livestock, equine and Ppet breeders.

These are fundamental tests for all animals to ascertain that they are free from any genetic defects at chromosomal level because any chro-

Continued...

**Cont: UVAS AGL team acquires.....**

mosomal abnormalities in livestock, equines and pets cause a significant number (10pc) of infertility, reproductive problems, spontaneous abortions and still births in these animals.

These problems ultimately cost in billions to the livestock and animal breeding industry in the country but remain unnoticed. In Pakistan the application of this very simple and basic genetic testing has been overlooked for long time and the hard work of AGL research team has successfully achieved expertise to offer this genetic testing service to public and private livestock, equine and pet breeders, farmers and keepers.

This lab has been established by the support of Higher Education Com-

mission (HEC) R & D Grant and Pakistan Science Foundation's NSLP initiatives. The Animal Genetics Lab (AGL) has released the results of its first applied cytogenetic study on four buffalo calves maintained at Dairy Training and Research Centre (DAT & RC) at the same campus. The Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Mohammad Nawaz and the Dean Faculty of Animal Production and Technology Professor Dr Talat Naseer Pasha hailed the efforts of whole AGL team and expressed their hope that AGL achieves excellence through its world class research on Animal Genetics using latest DNA analysis techniques such as next generation sequencing and discovering novel genetic variations determining superior genetic potential of dairy and meat animals for higher milk yield and meat production.

## Outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention

*Recalling* its decision 1/CP.13 (the Bali Action Plan), and decision 1/CP.15, *Seeking* to secure progress in a balanced manner, in the understanding that, through this decision, not all aspects of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention are concluded, and that nothing in this decision shall prejudice prospects for, or the content of, a legally-binding outcome in the future,

*Reaffirming* the commitment to enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention through long-term cooperative action, now, up to and beyond 2012, in order to achieve the ultimate objective of the Convention,

*Recalling* the principles, provisions and commitments set forth in the Convention, in particular its Articles 3 and 4,

*Recognizing* that climate change represents an urgent and potentially irreversible threat to human societies and the planet, and thus requires to be urgently addressed by all Parties,

*Affirming* the legitimate needs of developing country Parties for the achievement of sustained economic growth and the eradication of poverty, so as to be able to deal with climate change,

*Noting* resolution 10/4 of the United Nations Human Rights Council on human rights and climate change., which recognizes that the adverse effects of climate change have a range of direct and indirect implications for the effective enjoyment of human rights and that the effects of climate change will be felt most acutely by those segments of the population that are already vulnerable owing to geography, gender, age, indigenous or minority status and disability.

## Workshop on “Forest Carbon Stock Assessment for REDD

**Carbon Stock Assessment for REDD” starts on February 13 in federal capital.** The workshop is being organized by the Ministry of Environment in collaboration with its partners, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Bio-resource Research Center, Pakistan (BRC), WWF Pakistan and Sustainable Land Management Project (SLMP) under the Cancun Agreements for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD-plus).

The training workshop is aimed, to bring the state of the art of forest carbon assessment technology, forest inventorying, to the local forestry practitioners who shall be responsible to implement the REDD projects in Pakistan.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) estimates that

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**BIORESOURCE RESEARCH CENTRE**

ISLAMABAD: A 5-days national technical training workshop on “Forest

**Cont: workshop on "Forest Carbon Stock Assessment .....**

approximately 17 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions are the result of deforestation and resulting land use change.

The workshop is aimed to train the forestry stakeholders responsible to manage forests and implement REDD projects in Pakistan. During highly specialized training, targeting participants mainly coming from

the provincial forest departments and other specialized agencies working with forest carbon stock assessments and GIS such a group is not able to pay the training fee.

The training is being held with the financial support of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization ISESCO



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*BRC aims at emerging as a base of generating high-quality, research-based data on existing bio-resources of Pakistan, and its adjacent tracts: knowing their present status, exploitation patterns and future possible trends, along with monitoring changes in their status over the period of time. Centre aims to target all possible sectors of bio-resources, including, water, air, agriculture, forests, fisheries and wildlife resources, exploiting modern gadgets, like, remote sensing, Geographic Information System and molecular technique. Centre wants to properly study environmental problems in order to increase understanding the system controlling natural resources to develop a wiser management of such resources for the long term benefit of human race.*

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