

National Conference on Mangroves Ecosystem in Pakistan: Sharing of Experience with Policy Makers

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Mangroves Ecosystem in Pakistan

Sharing of Experiences with Policy Makers

March 8-9, 2012
at Hotel PC Karachi Pakistan

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Mangroves are a diverse group of forests that can live in waterlogged saline soils subjected to regular flooding. They are highly specialized plants that have developed unusual adaptations to the unique environmental conditions in which they are found. The trees have high salt tolerance; possess aerial roots to collect oxygen. Once established, mangrove roots provide an oyster habitat and slow water flow, thereby enhancing sediment deposition in areas where it is already occurring. Mangroves protect coastal areas from erosion, storm surge (especially during hurricanes), and tsunamis.

Pakistan once had the world's sixth largest mangrove forest in the Indus Delta, covering 345,000 hectares of land, but after a rapid reduction, its position dropped to 35th in the world. This rapid reduction has a variety of reasons associated with a range of stakeholders in the downstream as well as upstream. Based on these learning **"Mangroves For Future"** (MFF) programme was initiated by IUCN for conservation and rehabilitation of mangroves in various countries. Pakistan is one of these

It is shocking to know that Pakistan once had 6.5 lac hectares of area under mangroves forest that is only 47,000 hectares left.

countries.

A national conference is organized to highlight the great value of Mangroves Forests, commonly known as coastal forests or swamp forests.

This conference is organized by **Human Resource Development Network (HRDN)** in collaboration with Mangroves for Future (MFF) Programme of IUCN.

The conference is expected to achieve the following outputs;

- Increased awareness among 100 key stakeholders in Pakistan about mangroves, their importance, conservation, restoration and sustainable management.
- At least 20% of the participating organizations

incorporate environment as their cross cutting theme.

Inaugural session:

Ms Fauzia Malik Executive Director HRDN greeted the guest speakers and participants of the conference, later she invited **Mr. Roomi Saeed Hayat**, Chairperson and Founder of HRDN to open the forum with his welcome address.



Mr. Roomi Saeed Hayat, highlighted the aim of holding the Mangroves conference to initiate a dialogue between urban planners and environmentalists; we need to understand that a strong link exists between the development and environment. For sustainable development it is necessary that both agendas are taken along.



He further added that by saving mangroves we are stabilizing the interdependence, we are adding to the chances of a sustainable supply of forestry products for cities and for the poor of rural community who depends on the mangrove forests. In



doing so, and with the right government policies in place, we can also go a long way towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Mr. Hayat ended up with the hope that it's about time that we all come forward to make mangrove a fulfilled potential not a lost opportunity.

Proceedings of the Conference: Status of Mangroves Forest in Pakistan

Mr. Riaz Ahmed Wagan, Conservator Forest Coastal In his presentation, Conservator Forests, Sindh Forest Department, Riaz Waggan gave an overview of the mangroves along the Sindh and Balochistan coast, and how over the years the area of mangroves has reduced.



It was only in 2010 that the Sindh Board of Revenue, which has property, rights to 260,000 hectares of mangroves, and the 2,474 hectares run by the Karachi Port Trust were officially given protected status, said Wagan.

Further he awfully mentioned the inevitable threats

which Mangroves are confronting for many years:

- Oil-spill and leakages
- Cutting for fuel-wood and fodder
- Land Reclamation (Urbanization)
- Cutting of Mangroves for Encroachment

In the end he shared the Future Conservation plan of SFD, We have now given the areas protected status but that is not the end of it,” said Wagan. “Even though we don’t have money for it, we are trying to protect them.”

Mangroves Status on GIS

Umair Shahid of WWF Pakistan



Khober Creek, keti Bunder Rhizophora (2011)



Mangrove Plantations in Keti BundeR 2008:



Umair Shahid of WWF gave a visual presentation of the damaging effects of sea intrusion in Thatta district, and the loss of land to the sea, with special mention of Keti Bunder, and urged for immediate action to combat the loss of habitat and livelihood in that area.

Shahid said that technology is a tool that needs to be more integrated into the conservation effort. In some areas, Shahid says that they have tracked the shifting of sand dunes further into mangrove territory, which is, in essence, a desertification of the mangroves.

Another one of the major risks to mangroves is the intrusion of the sea which erodes them.

What we need policy for

There is a need to enhance resistance and resilience to environmental changes and determine how the mangroves will adapt to the climate change - steps to way forward.

Opportunities in Mangrove Conservation

Syed Ghulam Qadir Shah NRM Coordinator IUCN Pakistan Natural Resource Manager at the IUCN



Mangroves found in 124 countries of the World

presented the causes and effects of the degradation of the coastal ecosystem. He gave the example that where at one time there were eight species of mangroves, now there are only four. He also elaborated on the loss to the GDP, through health costs as well as loss of marine resources.

The IUCN's Ghulam Qadir Shah said that 15 per cent of Sindh's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is lost due to environmental degradation, according to a World Bank study. And from this, up to 1.1 per cent is directly due to the degradation of the mangroves.

Shah stressed that the country is losing out on cashing in on carbon credits because of reduction in carbon emissions which can be traded in for cash internationally. He estimated the opportunity cost for one hectare of mangroves to be worth 8,290 dollars per year.



The study shows that there has been a 40 per cent reduction in fisheries over the last ten years.

Mangrove Species in Pakistan



Avicennia marina (Timur)



Rhizophora mucronata (Kumri)



Ceriops tagal (Kiriri)



Aegiceras corniculatum (Chaenr)

Contribution of Private Sector under Corporate Social Responsibility

Tahir Javed, Senior Vice President Engro Corporation & in-charge of CSR, Engro Foundation



SVP CSR programme at Engro Foundation spoke about the importance of doing business responsibly, because corporate bodies cannot afford reputation loss or legal and punitive action that can result from environmentally unfriendly acts. Javed said that we believe in 3Ps.

Profit

Economic growth
Job creation
Investment

People

Human Development
Ethics
Citizenship

Planet

Climate & Environment
Emissions

Javed concluded that We believe that a successful business creates much bigger economic impact & value in the community which dwarfs any philanthropic contribution. Hence at Engro, sustainable business development is to be anchored in commitment to engage with key stakeholders in the community & society.

MFF-A Regional Perspective of Coastal Conservation

Dr. Steen Christensen Regional Coordinator MFF



Dr. Steen Christensen The Coordinator Mangroves for the Future programme, who was in Pakistan especially in connection with this attempt to raise awareness about the mangroves. He presented the regional overview of how the importance of the mangroves was realized in the aftermath of the 2005 tsunami, lessons must be learnt from tsunami and other disasters where devastation could have been lot less if mangroves were not deforested from concerned locations. He gave examples of other parts of South East Asia where livelihood of substitution had been promoted to rehabilitate the ecosystems.



Mr. Christensen further said that all projects have to take into account the livelihoods of the local communities. Mangroves in Pakistan help sustain over a hundred thousand people in Pakistan.

Mangroves - A Forest for life

Mr. Javed Jabbar, Vice President of IUCN Global and Regional Councilor IUCN- Asia



Javed Jabbar, who is a global vice president for the International Union for Conservation of Nature, gave an impassioned talk on the event that broke the monotonous barrage of statistics. One day an industrialist was sitting at a country club located near the mangroves. He looked out and a thought came to his head.

“Why don’t you cut that jungle so you can get a straight clear view of the harbour,” he asked one of the managers.

This was one of the stories Javed Jabbar told at the opening of a two-day conference. He spoke about the importance of awareness rising about the mangroves at all levels, from school children to the industrial sector.

Talking about his organization, Mr Jabbar said that 12, 000 scientist were working under the umbrella of International Union for Conversation of Nature (IUCN), adding that it was the only forum

where government, private and corporate institution meet to work for the issue. He said that Pakistan has the opportunity to set an example for the world, saying that the strategies made in our country were being implemented in other countries but unfortunately, they could not put into action in Pakistan.

Jabbar ended while laying great emphasis on the importance of all stakeholders, local, national, regional as well as global into policy formulation for Mangroves conservation.

Remarks by Dr. Zafar Iqbal Qadir

Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)



Chairman NDMA, Dr. Zafar Iqbal Qadir spoke about the role of mangroves in disaster risk reduction in the face of natural disasters, as well as the source of livelihood for the communities living there as coastal communities are totally depend on the mangroves therefore they utilize the natural re-



“Mangroves are the jewelry of the ocean. I am very fortunate to be living in such a city which is blessed with this beautiful treasure”.

Mangroves act as bio-shield from storms and other sea related disasters, adding that Pakistan is among the 14 top disaster prone countries of the world.

source as fuel. He said that NDMA financially supports such communities so that this national treasure can be saved. While highlighting NDMA role for mangroves conservation he put an account that NDMA has supported plantation of mangroves on hundreds of hectares and awareness programs for locals and visitors are in process.

He laid stress on the collection of authentic data about the mangroves, and suggested upon the setting up of a center of excellence at a universities dedicated to the socio-economic and ecological aspects of the mangroves.

Remarks by Ms Aban Marker Kabraji, IUCN Regional Director

IUCN Regional Director Asia, Aban Marker Kabraji, who is also the co-chair of the steering committee of the Mangroves For the Future. She pointed out that it was interesting that this conference was being held on International Women's Day, as gender is a very important component of MFF. She stressed that Pakistan, where a large number of women are involved in livelihood activities directly related to the coastal ecosystems.

Screening of Documentaries:

Two documentaries based on Mangroves conservation were also screened at the event.

Documentary "Mangroves – The Defenders of the Coast" MFF- India

Documentary – "Sentries of the Coast" – MFF- Pakistan

Vote of Thanks

Syed Mahmood Nasir, Inspector General Forest



At the end of conference, Mr. Syed Mahmood Nasir, Inspector General Forest paid gratitude to all those partners who contributed in making it such a wonderful informative event. He appreciated HRDN for initiating and making it a wider agenda for everyone, beyond the conservationists only. "I am highly thankful to Mangroves for the Future Programme for the support in driving this highly important initiative, added Nasir.

At the end of moot attendees were invited towards Declaration board in order affirm their contribution for the conservation of Mangroves.

Shields were distributed to the Guest speakers and the contributors who made this a event a success.





Conference Moments



Field Trip for Mangroves plantation:

On March 9, 80 members of the Human Resources Development Network (HRDN) along with the officials of Sindh forest department planted 300 mangrove saplings on a mud flat in Jhari creek about 1.5 nautical miles from the Korangi Fish Harbour. This activity was part of an awareness campaign undertaken by HRDN with the support Mangroves For the Future, a regional initiative for the conservation and rehabilitation of the coastal ecosystems.





Media Debriefing:

Rafi ul Haq, National Coordinator, Pakistan, of the MFF led the plantation drive and explained to them how the artificial plantation process works to increase the covered area of the mangroves to increase the bio shield against natural disasters.

He especially appreciated the contribution of Pakistan Navy, the only Force in the entire MFF region that is a member of the National Coordinating Body. Capt. Fayyaz Malik and his men were on hand with their hovercrafts to facilitate the plantation activity.

In Media Debriefing session Mr. Rafi-ul-Haq and Fauzia Malik, Director of HRDN paid a high gratitude to MFF and the Sindh Forest department for providing awareness about the mangroves to its members, and proposed that this plantation be made an annual activity. This would be supplemented by the earlier announced declaration of extending the awareness to 1 million people within a year.



Interesting facts about Mangroves

Mangroves acts as breeding ground for shrimps, fish and crabs

- 100 Kg of fish
- 15 Kg of crab meat
- 200 Kg of mollusks and
- 40 Kg of sea cucumbers
- 25 Kg of Shrimps

One ha of properly managed mangroves can yield annually

Scale of devastation is alarmingly high with an estimated rate of erosion is 1.5' per day

WWF – Pakistan protects a 40 hectare dense patch of Aegiceras corniculatam in Haddanwari creek

Pakistan listed among 14 most vulnerable countries prone to natural disasters.

Avicennia marina is the dominant species

Annual disappearance rate of mangroves =1-2%

Indus Delta Occupied 160,000 ha of Mangrove forest

Agenda

National Conference on Mangroves Ecosystem in Pakistan: Sharing of Experience with Policy Makers
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Sr.	Contents	Facilitation	Time
Day One – Part 1: Conference Day			
1	Registration		12:00 – 12:30pm
2	Lunch and Prayer with Media Interaction	Ms. Afia Salam	12:30 – 01:30pm
3	Recitation		01:30 – 01:35pm
4	Welcome Address – Mr. Roomi Saeed Hayat, Chairperson HRDN (10 min)	Ms. Fauzia Malik, Executive Director HRDN	01:35 – 01:45pm
5	Status of Mangroves Forest in Pakistan - Mr. Riaz Ahmed Wagan, Conservator Forest Coastal (20 mins)	Ms. Fauzia Malik	01:45 – 02:05pm
6	Mangroves Status on GIS - slideshow – Mr. Umair Shahid, WWF Pakistan (15 min)	Ms. Fauzia Malik	02:05 – 02:20pm
7	Documentary “Mangroves – The Defenders of the Coast” MFF- India (30 min)	Working tea	02:20 – 02:50pm
8	Contribution of Private Sector under Corporate Social Responsibility – Mr. Tahir Jawaaid, Senior Vice President Engro Corporation & in-charge of CSR, Engro Foundation (15 min)	Ms. Fauzia Malik	02:50 – 03:05pm
9	Opportunities in Mangrove Conservation – Syed Ghulam Qadir Shah, NRM Coordinator IUCN Pakistan (15 min)	Ms. Fauzia Malik	03:05 – 03:20pm
10	MFF-A Regional Perspective of Coastal Conservation - Dr. Steen Christensen, Regional Coordinator MFF (15 mins)	Ms. Fauzia Malik	03:20 – 03:35pm
11	Documentary – “Sentries of the Coast” – MFF- Pakistan (5 min)		03:35 – 03:40pm
12	“Mangroves - A Forest for life” – Mr. Javed Jabbar, Vice President of IUCN Global and Regional Councilor IUCN- Asia (15 min)	Ms. Fauzia Malik	03:40 – 03:55pm
13	Remarks by Dr. Zafar Iqbal Qadir, Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) (10 min)	Ms. Fauzia Malik	03:55 – 04:05pm
14	Remarks by Khawaja Muhammad Naeem – Secretary Federal Ombudsman (10 min)	Ms. Fauzia Malik	04:05 – 04:15pm
15	Remarks by Ms. Aban Marker Kabraji, Regional Director, Asia Regional Office - IUCN (10 min)	Ms. Fauzia Malik	04:15 – 04:25pm
16	Vote of Thanks – Syed Mahmood Nasir, Inspector General Forest (5 min)	Ms. Fauzia Malik	04:25 – 04:30pm

17	Conference Momentos		Ms. Fauzia Malik	04:30 – 04:45pm
18	Orientation to Field visit on March 9		Ms. Fauzia Malik, Mr. Rafi ul Haq	04:45 – 05:00pm
19	Group Photo		Cactus Digital	05:00 – 05:15pm
Part 3: Media Session / Press Briefing				
20	• Dr. Zafar Iqbal Qadir, Chairman NDMA, Islamabad • Mr. Javed Jabbar – Vice President IUCN Global & Regional Councilor IUCN Asia • Mr. Syed Mahmood Nasir, Inspector General Forest, Islamabad • Mr. Roomi Saeed Hayat, Chairperson, HRDN • Dr. Steen Christensen, Regional Coordinator MFF, Bangkok • Ms. Aban Marker Kabraji – IUCN Regional • Mr. Mahmood Akhtar Cheema, IUCN, Islamabad • Ms. Fauzia Malik, Executive Director, HRDN	Ms. Afia Salam	05:00 – 05:30pm	



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