



Natura

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From failure in Copenhagen to a
Real Climate Deal



Cover Story

From failure in Copenhagen to a Real Climate Deal

Cover photo

WWF - Canon / Richard Stonehouse

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Editorial

The WWF International issued a Position Paper on Global Climate Policy during July 2009. In this document some important measures were suggested such as

- The global average temperatures rise needs to be restricted to less than 2° C above the pre-industrial levels. To achieve this, emphasis was laid down on developing a consensus on a science-based global carbon budget one hand and to reduce the global emissions to at least 80% below 1990 levels by 2050.

- commit to absolute emission reduction targets at least 40% below 1990 levels by 2020. They should also be bound to put in place Zero Carbon Action Plans (ZCAPs) for the 2050 horizon to achieve zero net emissions. The United States should commit to an economy-wide quantified emission reduction commitment.

- The developing nations based on drawing up Low Carbon Action Plans (LCAPs) Should develop Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs).

- WWF urged developed countries to commit to binding financial support of at least 160 US\$ billion per year by 2017, to support achieving the developing country mitigation, REDD and adaptation actions for a low-carbon and climate resilient future.

Other organizations elsewhere over the globe had similar expectations from CoP 15 that was held in Copenhagen, 7 – 18 December 2009. It provided a good opportunity for the leaders across the nations to show their commitment for the betterment of planet earth and to address the foreseeable disasters stemming from increasing global temperatures. Unfortunately, the expectations attached to this event were not met mainly because of the focus of leaders on country specific priorities rather than global vision.

COP 15 was a great hope for many nations especially those who are more vulnerable to the disasters emerging from climate change but their hopes simply turned to despair. In spite of the sheer disappointment that one feels from the Copenhagen Accord, still there is a hope of securing commitments for short and long-term financial support for establishing Copenhagen Green Climate Fund to climate change mitigation including REDD-plus, adaptation, capacity building and technology development and transfer. Now eyes are on the assessment of Copenhagen Accord that will take place in 2015.

Pakistan is vulnerable to many climatic disasters from GLOF, floods, glacier melt to cyclones. It also played an important role in these negotiations as part of G77. However, we still do not have our own policy on climate change. There is pressing need to develop National Appropriate Mitigation Action Plan before it gets too late since frequency and intensity of various events related to climatic disasters are increasing with every passing day.



WWF 'Climate Savers' Roundtable with US Business CEOs, Nytorv Square, COP15, Copenhagen, Denmark
WWF - Canon / Richard Stonehouse

From failure in Copenhagen to a Real Climate Deal

Christian Teriete

Today the biggest challenge of our time is climate change, and public support to protect the planet from dangerous climate change has never been greater than in the past few months.

People around the world including many businesses and governments want to deal with this challenge in the best possible way. However, WWF sees a lot of uncertainty to achieve this goal.

Ahead of the Copenhagen Climate Conference in December, there were huge expectations that countries could finally overcome the deadlock that had stalled international negotiations for years. Millions of people around the world participated in activities by WWF and other NGOs to express their demands for a fair, ambitious and binding New Climate Treaty.

They hoped that Copenhagen could come up with such a global deal. With no proper deal being agreed upon and many questions left unanswered, these people are now angry and confused. The situation is similar to being hit by a major disaster, where one wants to clean up the mess, but the chaos is really overwhelming, and one doesn't know where to start.

The question arises here as to how the situation got to this point? The world witnessed a historic conference including more than 100 Heads of States, and some 25 of them actually drafting a rushed deal from scratch, squeezed into a small room behind the scenes, after negotiators and ministers had failed to reach agreement during two years of UN talks and the first 10 days of Copenhagen.

It was a disaster to see some of the world's most powerful leaders including the US President, Barack Obama roll up their sleeves and work on all these thorny issues and not coming up to any conclusion. This historic moment however, did not result in a historic treaty, and at the end of Copenhagen the climate negotiations were in shambles.

The plenary of 192 UN member countries did not "endorse" the backroom deal dubbed "Copenhagen Accord". However, a mutual decision to "take note" of it was made. This raises many questions about the legal status of the document. It also defines how countries will deal with it and how it relates to the official negotiations that happened not in a secret backroom, but in public plenary sessions.

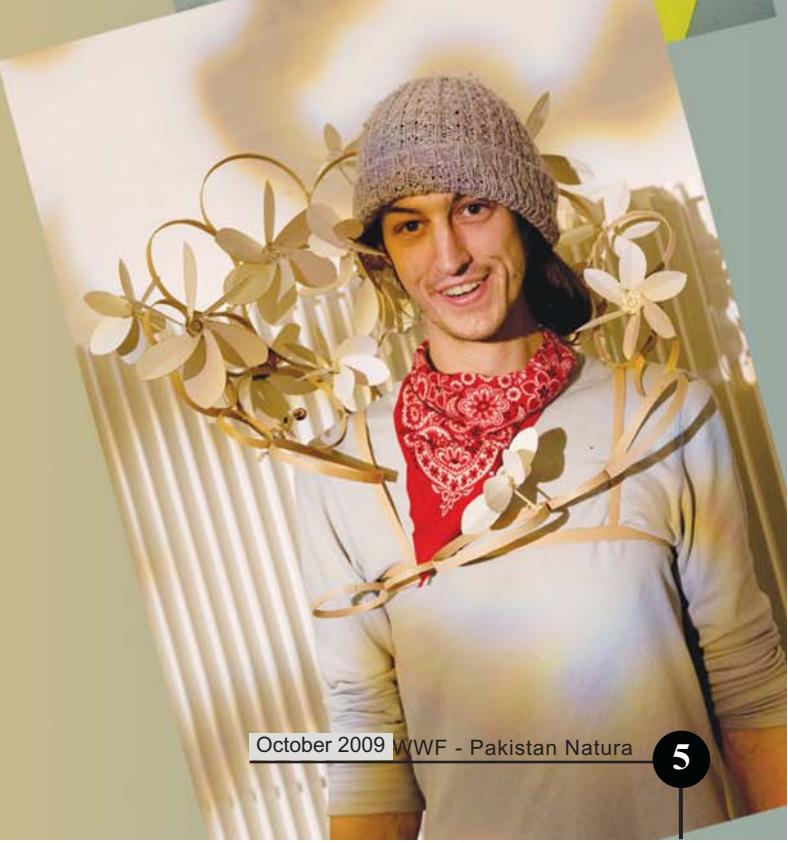
Any further delay in implementing clean energy solutions and in reducing the greenhouse gas emissions will have a devastating impact on both economies and ecosystems. The magnitude of this impact would cost millions of lives in underdeveloped countries.

WWF has analyzed the Copenhagen outcome, to get a better idea to determine how and where to begin work and efforts. There are three main elements to the Copenhagen outcome. Firstly, the political statement dubbed "Copenhagen Accord", secondly, a draft containing detailed negotiating texts under the two main working groups of the UN climate process and lastly, a mandate to continue negotiations in these two groups for one year.

The Copenhagen Accord doesn't even come close to the fair, ambitious and binding deal that WWF and millions globally have been calling for. However, if governments



WWF - Canon / Richard Stonehouse





WWF - Canon / Richard Stonehouse



build on its good aspects and start further meaningful negotiations, it could become one of the stepping stones towards a fair, ambitious and binding deal.

WWF's expectations and the planet's requirements for such a deal have not changed. Essential requirements are that it leads to a decline in global greenhouse gas emissions and brings global warming to well below 2 degrees C before 2017.

It also has to ensure the adaptation of certain protective measures especially for those who are affected by the unavoidable present and future impacts of climate change. The "Copenhagen Accord" could deliver key criteria on these matters, if some of the good ideas included in the document were seriously strengthened by governments.

There are, for example, empty appendices to the Copenhagen Accord, where countries can fill in their most ambitious actions and targets to cut emissions. As a first step in re-establishing trust in the negotiations, WWF suggests that all countries, except the least developed and small island developing states should submit their numbers by the 31st of January.

The "Copenhagen Accord" also mandates several new actions and instruments, including a new fund for adaptation and mitigation in developing countries, a high level body informing the work on finance, including efforts to combat deforestation and enhance technology cooperation. Turning these ambitions into real actions should be a priority and will also help to rebuild trust.

Many have chosen to blame Copenhagen's weak outcome on the UN climate process , referring to the complexity of resolving such politically charged yet technical issues through it's forum. However, WWF was of the view that the failure was not due to the UN process, but due to the lack of political will among some leaders to make real progress.

"Copenhagen Accord" aims at developing a transparent process with ambitions and real implementations that will break through some

political deadlocks. Countries should focus on maximizing results from alternative negotiating forums like the G8 or G20 to provide the UN climate process renewed authority to complete the deal.

Negotiations in the two UN working groups produced draft texts that will be carried forward at resumed talks in 2010. There are still many problems with these drafts. However, on most topics like technology cooperation, or stopping deforestation these drafts contain significant options needed to create an effective agreement.

A strengthened “Copenhagen Accord” can boost the work on these drafts, but political leaders must stay personally engaged and assume full responsibility for the success of continued talks. WWF contemplates it would be a good idea to give their negotiators innovative mandates to ensure that the difficult issues are overcome.

No one is satisfied with the “Copenhagen Accord” as it stands. It is only useful if it helps bridge the gap between the current situation and a New Climate Treaty that is effective enough to prevent dangerous climate chaos. That’s what the world needs and what WWF has been and continues to fight toward achieving.

"Battle Of The Drafts"/www.BiggerPicture.dk/Wietske TerVeld /WWF



Guiness World Record broken by Pakistan



Nasir Iqbal Malik

Mangroves

Planting Mangroves / Nasir Iqbal Malik

Mangroves are trees which grow in inter tidal zones of tropical and sub tropical areas, river deltas and along the coasts. There are about 15.9 million hectares of mangrove forests all around the world. They are all of great economic and environmental importance. Mangrove forests of Pakistan are some 62392 hectares in the Indus Delta and over 4443 hectares in Miani Hor, Kalmat Khor and Gwadar Bay areas and 420 hectares in Sandspit.

Over the last few years, the mangrove forests of Pakistan have been subject to over exploitation and huge population pressures and have begun to decline quantity as well as quality. The local communities in Pakistan use the mangrove forests for their personal needs by cutting down these trees without replanting them. The

problem was compounded when those that were left started dying due to lack of freshwater flow from the Indus River water.

Presently, there are only four species of Mangrove trees left and they too are disappearing fast.

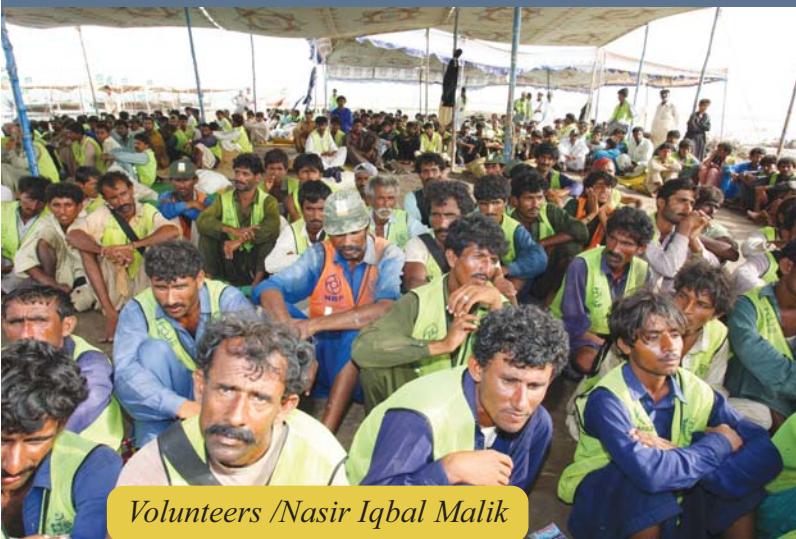
The depletion of Mangrove forests raised serious concerns for WWF - Pakistan and their Wetland Programme in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Sindh Forest Department decided to hold a Tree Plantation Day at Keti Bundar, Sindh.

The aim was to plant Mangrove trees on more than 300 hectares of Khedewari Island. On July 15, the day for Tree Plantation 300 volunteers got together for the cause. It was a great sight to see so many people turning up for the cause. Although, planting Mangrove tree was quite a demanding job but the volunteers did it with great zest.

Volunteers that took part in the event included school children, dignitaries, people from the media and the fishing communities . Other dignitaries present on the occasion were Mr. Hameedullah Jan Afridi,



Won Guinness World Record Award / Nasir Iqbal Malik



Volunteers /Nasir Iqbal Malik



Federal Minister for Environment; Ms. Marvi Memon, Member National Assembly; Ms. Sassui Palejo, Sindh Minister for Culture and Tourism; Mr. Kamran Lashari, Federal Secretary Environment; Dr. Iqbal Sial, Inspector General Forests; and Mr. Tahir Qureshi from the World Conservation Union.

Previously, India had a record of planting 447,874 saplings in a specific period of time. Adil Ahmed, from the Guinness Book of World Records with his team counted the planted saplings and it was announced that Pakistan had broken the record by planting 541,176 mangrove saplings. What an achievement!

The Tree Plantation Day was a great success for Pakistan, firstly because it had made a new record in the Guinness Book of World Records and secondly it had planted saplings in an area which was very much degraded by sea intrusion.

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Wings



Clipped Wings

Blue & yellow Macaw -Roger Leguen / WWF – Canon

An exposé into the bird trade in
Pakistan

Nicole Isaacs

Birds are probably the most magnificent of nature's creations. The number of bird species and subspecies is yet to be accurately defined as they are still being discovered almost everyday.

Birds have mesmerized human beings since the dawn of times. Inspiration and envy of their ability to fly made Man invent the aero-plane. Even today many laws of physics and speed are based on the anatomy of birds. We learnt that a bird can float on water because its body is a hollow cavity, based on this we designed boats and set sail across the globe. We learnt that it was the unique body shape of birds that allowed Eagles to plummet at great speeds and catch prey on the ground, we used this knowledge to design fast cars and air-crafts. Seeing that this



Macaw parrot / Andre Bartschi / WWF – Canon

knowledge was so beneficial we began to study and observe birds carefully and have to date learnt many things from them, thus improving our lives in major ways.

Until the past decade or so it was merely the “science world”, maybe 2% of the entire world population that benefitted from capturing and killing of birds for “scientific advances.”

Today, approximately 735 species of birds are on the extinct or endangered list and this number increases day by day. The reason for this is that the remaining 98% of the entire world population learnt the biggest benefit that they could gain from birds- ‘the bird trade’, which brings in good money.

In Pakistan, the bird trade is a booming business. It started off with the species which were locally available. Sparrows, Indian Ring- Neck Parrots and Eagles were captured, caged and sold by the dozen. In the already domesticated species market, general poultry, pheasants, fowls and peacocks were being focused upon. With the check on wildlife trade being more or less non-existent several exotic species were smuggled such as Amazon Macaw Parrots, African Grey Parrots, Cockatoos and a few other Psittacines

(parrot) subspecies. Parrots and Psittacines are the most prized in the bird trade. This is because of their ability to imitate human speech, and their colorful plumage. Throughout Pakistan, parrots are at the top of the trade list.

Major cities of Pakistan namely Lahore, Karachi and Islamabad/Rawalpindi are the bird trade markets. Rare and exotic species are bred and sold at high prices. Birds are trapped by baiting them with food covered by glue drenched nets, when the birds land to eat they get glued to the nets. Chicks are stolen from nests. The wings of wild birds are cut and they are said to be tamed as they don’t fly away.

Although birds reproduce naturally in Spring and Summer (April to mid June,) the remaining nine months of the year they are made to undergo artificial stimulus breeding. This phenomenon involves keeping birds in rooms designed in such a way where the atmosphere, heat and humidity are controlled, food is made available and spring-like conditions are maintained. This makes the birds perceive it to be spring all year round, which leads to their natural instincts to breed and lay clutches all year round. The phenomenon enables the bird trade to run smoothly and lucratively the whole year. Breeding



Sulphur-crested cockatoo / Rob Webster / WWF

birds in this manner, letting exotic bird trade take place openly with no check or balance is the number one reason why diseases spread from country to country as many infected birds get through without health or virus screening.

This method has been instrumental in breeding and developing a separate market for large parrots namely Macaws, African Greys, Sulphur Crested and Molocun Cockatoos, Cockatiels, Rosella and Alexandrine Parakeets. These birds are dropping fast in numbers in the wild but in Pakistan their trade continues head strong. The bigger the parrot, the higher the price.

Macaws are sold for around Rs.1 lac or more. Rosella and Alexandrine parakeets are priced between Rs. 10,000 and Rs.20,000. In Karachi, breeding of these species is done at a private bird farm named SM Farm. The website , contacts and visitation details of the farm are given openly online yet nothing is done to stop them. In Jehlum, there is another bird farm spread over a kanal and is known to have 50 pairs of Breeding Macaw Parrots. Contacts and location of this farm can also be found openly through the breeder chain yet they still function with no check of remand. Details of various other farms and breeders can be found on a locally run website . Here everyday new additions for the sale and purchase of exotic wild birds are added. It allows breeders and farm owners to link up with consumers and continue this trade out in the open. Other than that a little under the table bribe can help a common man obtain almost any kind of bird adult or chick in any of the open markets such as Tollington Market in Lahore, Empress Market in Karachi and The Birds Market in Rawalpindi.

Following in the footsteps of the drug trafficking in Pakistan, the illegal bird trade is a very profitable black market. Even though drugs are banned, but the bird trade is semi legal. These breeders get away by the mere fact that they are able to produce licenses for keeping exotic birds. The level of corruption towards birds and wildlife protection is so high that one can obtain these licenses a dime a dozen sitting at home. News is fast spreading that this legalizing process is so easy in Pakistan that many foreign bird launderers conduct business with and through Pakistan local markets.

With conservation and security check being virtually non existent, the future of many rare and beautiful birds and parrot species seem very grim. If The Bird's Market in Pakistan keep running in full swing as it is today, Pakistan could be one major card holder in causing the Macaw and Rosella species going extinct. Action needs to be taken. Conservation organisation like WWF - Pakistan needs to be supportive in their efforts to reach consumers of this trade. Only when the customer's demand ends will this bird trade stop.

Colourful captive Black-Capped Lory -Brent Stirton / Getty Images/ WWF



Caged Macaw / Rob Webster / WWF





trout

Live Reeffish including groupers - Jurgen Freund / WWF - Canon

Brown Trout in Pakistan

Maira Zaheer

Pakistan is a country blessed with most of the world's precious resources, one such resource is the fish. The total coastal area of Pakistan is 1,050 kilometers, of which Sindh province has a shoreline of 350 kilometers. The coastal waters of Pakistan are bestowed with a variety of fish and shrimp. The commercially important marine fishery resources of Pakistan comprise about 350 different species. Some 240 are demersal fish (living at or near the bottom of the sea), 50 are small pelagic (living in the open ocean), 10 are medium sized pelagic



and 18 are large pelagic fish. In addition to this, there are 15 species of shrimps, 12 of Squid/Cuttlefish/Octopus and 5 species of Lobsters. Fish population is highly dependent upon the characteristics of their aquatic habitat which supports all their biological functions. Many types of fish undertake migrations on a regular basis, on time scales ranging from daily to annual, and with distance ranging from a few meters to thousands of kilometers. The purpose usually relates to either feeding or breeding; in some cases the reason for migration is still unknown. There are about 8,000 species of fish which live in freshwater and a further 12,000 which live in the sea; and there are about 120 species which move regularly between freshwater and saltwater. As the glacier laden mountains give way to the blistering subcontinent heat, the months from May to September provide one of the best freshwater brown trout fisheries in the world.

In freshwater, brown trouts as a rule, are more heavily spotted. The brown trout has dark spots on the dorsal and adipose fins and vague spots on the tail, though nothing like the prominent radiating spots on the tail of the rainbow trout. It resembles its relative, the Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*). Brown trout has black spots on the back, upper sides, and on the gill cover, and sometimes has red spots. In freshwater especially near spawning time, this species is bronze to dark brown in general coloration, with black and (usually) red spots on the body and head. In saltwater, brown trout tends to become silvery with fewer black spots and no red spots. It is one of the world's most widely

distributed and highly esteemed freshwater fish. It is a prime target of fly fishermen and one of the most difficult of trouts to catch by any angling method. Often found in fast-flowing streams of mountainous and sub-mountainous regions and sometimes even valleys, Trouts feed on benthic invertebrates, insect larvae, aerial insects (in rivers) and mollusks. Moreover, adult trout consume fish and frogs.

The eggs of trout were brought over in ships more than a century ago and have thrived in northern Pakistan's rich rivers and deep crystal clear lakes. Here the story of brown trout is much the same as that of the rainbow trout in New Zealand.

The Indus River and its tributaries, a lifeline for Pakistan, running from the highest mountain ranges in the world, the Himalayas, down to the vast Arabian Sea are a rich haven for these fish. While rivers provide lighter tackle fun, the hidden lakes are the true treasures.

These fish are edible and highly in demand at restaurants. Freshwater fish are a valuable stock in the ponds, lakes and streams of Pakistan. There is a lot more information that can be found regarding brown trout & freshwater fish specifically for Pakistan on the first ever Pakistan Game Fish Association website: www.pfga.org

Pakistan's Environmental Treasures

Treasures

White - Headed duck - Sanchez & Lope / WWF - Canon

Ishrat Saleem

The vast geographic expanse of Pakistan is host to a wide variety of flora and fauna. One would wish that extensive as well as intensive research was done on each species of animals, birds, insects and plants of Pakistan and there were sufficient facilities for the conservation of nature. Unfortunately, zoology and botany are the least sought after educational fields because the market here does not offer good incentives in the form of well-paid jobs and opportunities for professional development. As for the environmental sciences, it is only recently that this discipline found a place in the academic curricula of public sector universities. It is no wonder, then, that there is very little awareness among the general public about the need for conserving the environment.

There are a number of animals and birds that are going extinct due to direct and indirect consequences of human activities. One must give credit to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Community Based Organisations

(CBOs), which are working in collaboration with international agencies and government departments to save the endangered species.

Several ungulates existing in the wild in different parts of Pakistan are endangered. At one time, the population of Afghan urial and Suleman markhor (*Capra falconeri jerdoni*), inhabiting the Torghar area of Balochistan, was considerably reduced due to an influx of automatic weaponry during the Afghan war, which led to excessive hunting. The endemic Chiltan markhor (*Capra falconeri chitalensis*), once abundant in its natural habitat, is now found in Balochistan's Hazarganji-Chiltan National Park only. Marco Polo sheep (*Ovis ammon polii*) populates areas around the Pamir Mountain Range at the altitude of 3500-5000 metres above the sea level. Taking their name from the legendary traveller Marco Polo, this sub-species of sheep is known for its extraordinary long horns. A Marco Polo sheep boasts of having the longest horns (191 centimetres/75 inches) ever found on a sheep in the world. In Pakistan, Marco Polo sheep are found mostly in the vicinity of Khunjerab National Park in the Northern Areas.

Punjab urial (*Ovis vignei punjabiensis*) and Musk deer are two other ungulates facing the threat of extinction. The Punjab urial is endemic to northern Punjab and has been classified as endangered in the IUCN Red Data Book for mammals since 2003. Due to unsustainable subsistence and recreational hunting, lamb capture, habitat alteration, exploitation of mineral reserves and disease, its population has been greatly reduced. Musk deer used to inhabit the Machiara and Neelum valleys in Azad Kashmir, Palas valley in Kohistan district of NWFP and Gilgit. As their name suggests, Musk deer have a gland in

their abdomen containing musk, which is sold for use in perfumes. People have killed these animals so consistently to obtain the gland that now it is extremely rare to find a Musk deer.

Aquatic animals too have borne the brunt of human actions. Indus river dolphin (*Platanista minor*) has been declared the second most endangered species of freshwater dolphin by IUCN. A close relative of Ganges river dolphin, this aquatic mammal lost its numbers due to building of dams and barrages on the Indus River at several points. These constructions work as nearly insurmountable barriers for the dolphin, thus constricting its natural habitat to only a portion of river. Lack of knowledge among local population about the need for saving this species coupled with inaction on the part of officials further contributed to its decimation. World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) has done valuable work for the conservation of this species by coordinating surveys, rescue of stranded dolphin in adjoining canals and arranging training workshops at various institutions regarding nature conservation. Similarly, in the coastal areas of Pakistan, the population of Green turtle and Olive Ridley turtle has declined due to their killing for turtle skin, shell, medicines and cosmetics, and the destruction of their eggs by predators.

Bird species have not been left behind in this trend. Migratory birds of NWFP, Marbled Teal duck, White-headed duck, Cheer pheasant, several species of cranes and Western Tragopan have been noticed by organisations working on environmental issues for their increasing rarity. Excessive hunting and destruction of natural habitat of these species have been largely responsible for their declining numbers. The population of White-Backed vulture is fast



Green Sea Turtle / Jurgen Freund / WWF – Canon



Snow leopard & cub / David Lawson / WWF - UK

reducing as a result of visceral gout. The decline is so rapid that if emergency measures are not taken, the species will become extinct in as little as five years.

The story of Pakistan's species going extinct does not end here. Two other species are also on the verge of extinction; both have been placed on the Red List of Threatened Species. The first one is the Snow leopard. The population of Snow leopards in Pakistan is about 300 out of the 4000-7,000 of its total remaining numbers. Native of the mountain ranges of Central Asia, Snow leopards are at the risk of being killed by Graziers in Pakistan. The other one is Balochistan bear, a sub-species of Asiatic black bear. Surveys by World Wide Fund for Nature in the Pub Range of Balochistan indicated the presence of very few of these animals. If hunting and loss of

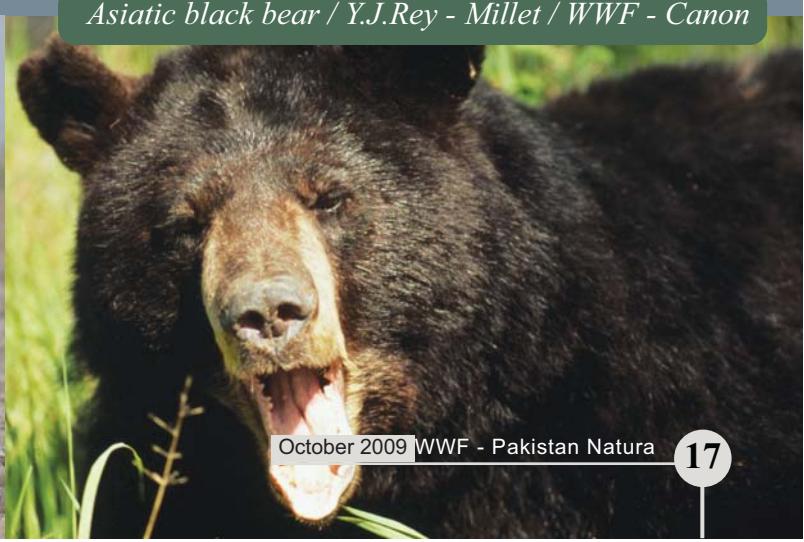
natural habitats are not ceased, this animal may become totally extinct here. Recently, there have been indications of the presence of another carnivorous animal long thought to be extinct in Pakistan – Asiatic cheetah. The decline of these species has been caused by lack of awareness and conservation efforts as much as the direct or indirect consequences of human activities.

The good news on the conservation front is that viable population levels of Woolly Flying squirrel endemic to the Northern Areas of Pakistan have been discovered. This is a unique species and was once thought to be completely extinct. With more research on its habitat and awareness among local communities, this species can be successfully sustained.

White-backed vulture/ WWF - Pakistan / Munir Virani/ The Peregrine Fund / WWF - Canon



Asiatic black bear / Y.J.Rey - Millet / WWF - Canon



Natural Habitat can be restored



Community Base Income Generation through the use of Reed - Jehangir Durani / WWF - Pakistan

Zahid Jalbani

Keenjhar Lake is one of the Indus for All Programme's priority sites comprising of 39 villages. Almost all these villages have participated in the



Aerial view of the “no cutting zone” - Jehangir Durani / WWF - Pakistan

social mobilization process. Nine Community Based Organisations (CBO) have been formed all sharing the same vision and objective of sustainable natural resource management.

Jhole Maari Welfare and Development Organisation, near Chull site, has taken many initiatives in the area and is actively working on the environmental issues of Keenjhar Lake.

“Our CBO has a lot of capacity to work on different developmental (environmental and natural resources) issues of the lake because we are associated with the ‘Teachers Association’. By profession two of our CBO members are teachers”, shared the president of the CBO Mr. Abdul Rauf.

One of the governing body members of the CBO, Mr. Abdul Qadir further informed that different birds, plants and animals species of Keenjhar Lake are under severe threat, specially the migratory birds. These birds are from the colder areas of the Siberian regions and are being killed by the local hunters.

A member of the CBO informed that previously the community had no idea about the conservation of natural resources until their interaction with the **Indus for All Programme** team. Through formal meetings and participation in different activities they have begun to realize that natural resources are their property which they should collaboratively and collectively look after.



Dense patches of reeds at Jhole Maari - Jehangir Durani / WWF - Pakistan

(NRM) Coordinator for Indus for All Programme, further added,

“We were living a very happy life at Manchar Lake but suddenly the lake water became brackish and all resources like fish perished. We migrated here 10 years ago and now our community (Dhandhai) is totally dependent on fish and Typha. We are thankful to our CBO for making us realize the importance and conservation of natural resources. Yes we are cutting Typha, but at the same time we have declared a ‘no cutting zone’ in the area of about 2 square kilometres where no one is allowed to cut Typha”.

At Keenjhar the breeding season for water birds starts from May. After the declaration of the “no cutting zone” the community observed a large number of water birds nesting sites, many with chicks. It was also noted that some species of fish such as ‘Snake-head’ have multiplied in numbers during this season.

When the community was asked why they had begun working on these initiatives, they told us that the CBO has learnt from the **Indus for All Programme** about the importance of conserving natural resources. The community also appreciated the efforts of the Programme to install solar units, which provides



Interaction with communities during field visit - Zulfiqar Ali/ WWF - Pakistan

the village with electricity at night. This also meant that they save money which was previously used for kerosene lanterns.

“Abundant cutting of Typha has degraded bird habitats. Realizing this, the Jhole Maari Welfare and Development Organisation has taken an initiative to declare a “no cutting zone” by conducting a series of meetings with the communities of different villages as well as influential people of the area for the restoration of nesting sites of birds and fish” said Azam Jakhrro during an interaction with another young member of the same CBO.

Abdul Qadir informed the programme team that they have got very good results by adopting this step. A protected habitat was provided to the water birds for nesting, staging and breeding purpose as well as for their survival. Now the birds were having no

disturbance in the Jhole Maari ‘no cutting zone’.

“We have planned to improve some more dimensions of the area in near future. Many water birds have been saved by taking such small initiatives at local level”, said Abdul Qadir.

CBO members have a clear vision regarding the sustainable management of the natural resources at local level as well as addressing different social issues. They are enjoying the alternate energy schemes (biogas, solar energy units), education for girls at village level only by adopting “self help” and, “participatory development approach”.

Every one is participating in this initiative because this is the step towards success which is due to the willingness of the community members.



Dead Fin-Whale at Gwadar / Nasir Iqbal Malik

Dead FinWhale found in East Bay, Gwadar

Nasir Iqbal Malik

T

here are thousands of different species in the world that we don't even know exist and of the many known species there are few that people in Pakistan have actually seen or know about.

This all changed, when an actual specimen for viewing was washed up by the tide on the Gwadar Shore. On September 19th, 2009 the body of a dead Fin whale was washed up at beach of East Bay Gwader. The whole specimen was seen stranded at evening time and its total length was 13.716 meters long from fluke (Tail) to snout. Technical observation by the experts from the Pakistan Wetlands Programme confirmed that this was a sub adult whale and suggested that the whale had possibly been injured from its fluke and head region. Further analysis concluded that these wounds were possibly due to its gills being caught up in the nets of a large boat or may be due to illness.

The sudden appearance of this creature sparked a whole new interest and enthusiasm towards learning about

whales in general and Fin whales in particular and as we dug deeper, we found out that the Fin whale is the second largest whale in the world. Known by several other names such as the Rorqual, the Finback or the Razorback, it is a suborder of the baleen whale family.

Fin whales have the capacity to grow to about 27 meters which is 88 feet in length at full maturity. They have long and slender bodies, which are of grayish brown color on top and dull pale color on the underside. At close range, the asymmetrical pigmentation of the lower jaw is diagnostic; the left lower lip being dark, the lower right being white. Fin whales rarely raise their tail flukes on diving. Fin whales are usually observed singly or in pairs, sometimes in small pods, and occasionally in large aggregations of upto 100 animals where food is plentiful. They are very fast swimmers and have been regularly recorded breaching and lunge-feeding. Fin whales are widely distributed throughout the world, but appear to be more common in sub-polar and cool temperate waters in the summer months, moving to warmer latitudes in the winter to mate and calve.

These whales thrive in areas where there is a good number of small schooling fish and squid. This whale is also heavily hunted for its meat and fat. There are various organisations including the International Whaling Commission (IWC) which has passed various regulations against the hunting of Fin whales.

There are twenty Cetacean species (whales and dolphins) recorded in Pakistan's marine waters of which more than twelve species are recorded from the coast of Balochistan. Balochistan coast has great potential for marine fishery and fishermen are currently using various fishing methods to catch maximum fish yield including long line, harpoon, cast net, trawlerling, (bottom and surface), gill net, and encircling nets and wire net fishing. Some of the fishing methods have adverse effects on the marine ecology as they may destroy the benthic flora and fauna (sea weed or sponges) corals, sponges, mollusks and cetaceans as well. It has been recorded that these unsustainable fishing methods are destroying cetaceans habitats and population especially dolphins and whales by accidental trapping. A number of stranded, injured or dead dolphins and whales have been observed on the coastline of Balochistan. Shark fishing is also one threat to

cetacean of Balochistan coast where fishermen use dolphin flesh as bait for shark fishing.

According to the International Standardized Guidelines, team members of the PWP-MCWC site office took full measurements, collected stomach materials and tissue samples to trace out the cause of death and identification of the species. The team also interviewed some indigenous fishermen about this incident and learned that they had observed this whale in their sea water from last week. Similarly, interviews also revealed that it may have been caught up in a gill net. The placing and types of wounds on the animal's body seemed that it was caught with the purpose of poaching. When whale hunters get a whale entangled in a gill net, they try to cut its tail and hit it on the head region to kill it first then cut it and separate the valuable parts from the waste. In an attempt to help spread awareness about this species and the threats to other cetaceans, the team members of PWP showed this stranded whale to the general public through the electronic and print media to highlight this issue to stop such victimization in future.

The Ministry of Environment's Pakistan Wetlands Programme, MCWC site office, conducted a broad research survey on stranded cetaceans and their threats. On the basis of this study, Pakistan Wetlands Programme is trying to develop a better management plan for conservation of dolphins and whales in the Balochistan coast.

Lack of awareness and information regarding the majestic wildlife on planet earth and specifically within our own country is the main cause behind many species to go extinct. The masses and especially the group of people who live, work and base their livelihoods in areas where wildlife thrives need to be educated to the best possible level in order to make Pakistan a conservation friendly country.

Measuring Fin-Whale / Nasir Iqbal Malik



Water & Civilizations



Creek Village in Keti Bunder-Ghulam Rasool / Indus for All Programme / WWF - Pakistan

Nasir Ali Panhwar

Water is an intrinsic part of most spiritual beliefs. Its uses and symbolism in religion are many and varied; its spiritual and healing properties are seen in rites and rituals; and its representations are as numerous as they are diverse. These different religious and cultural aspects of water reflect the vast array of civilizations that have made water the central element in their practices.

The essential ingredient to any viable civilization is access to water. Nearly all the great civilizations of the world flourished around water, which provided the key not only to supplying freshwater, but also to agriculture, trade, transport and defence. Such civilizations as the Indus Valley Civilization, Roman Empire, Egyptian Civilization, the Venetian Empire and the Omayyad Dynasty were all founded on their access to water, which provided their population with the means to both survive and expand.

History provides ample evidence of the influence of water on the growth of civilization, and forecasts for the future suggest that water will become even more important to human advancement in the future. In both the past and present, human progress has been conditional on advances in water science and their application through engineering and technology for the benefit of society. The relationship between water and people extend far beyond the value of the natural resources or the vital services of water. It includes a rich cultural heritage that has evolved over time, a heritage that is worthy of much greater attention by the wider river community concerned with the conservation and wise use of water resources.

The extent and diversity of cultural heritage should not be underestimated, as there is enormous wealth and diversity of cultural heritage recorded in various forms of water resources including wetlands. It takes many

forms, from human made physical structures and artifacts, palaeontological records in sediments and peats and places of special religious significance to traditional water and land use management practices that have sustained human population and crafted unique wetland landscapes. Using many of the traditional techniques, people have used wetlands to extract salt, grow rice, make use of mangrove trees, harvest fish or cut reeds. These techniques have stood the test of time and they both sustain people and conserve wetlands. Since the dawn of civilization, people around the world have lived in close contact with wetlands and have used its natural resources. This close and longstanding relationship has resulted in the evolution of strong cultural links and structures that have developed from the social dynamics.

Water and wetlands have long shaped how people live their lives. The traditional links of people to their wetlands have determined customs and beliefs that still continue to influence the attitudes of contemporary local societies. However, in most parts of the world, these linkages have weakened as urbanization and technological advances have led to the widespread deterioration and loss of wetlands. Regrettably, there is still insufficient recognition by many decision makers and wetland managers of the important role that socio-cultural aspects can and should play in the sustainable management of wetlands and water resources.

The Indus Valley Civilization was predated by the first farming cultures in South Asia, which emerged

in the hills of what is now called Balochistan, to the west of the Indus Valley. The best-known site of this culture is Mehrgarh, established around 6500 BC. These early farmers domesticated wheat and a variety of animals, including cattle. Pottery was in use by around 5500 BC. The Indus civilization grew out of this culture's technological base, as well as its geographic expansion into the alluvial plains of what are now the provinces of Sindh and Punjab in contemporary Pakistan and Northern India.

To date, over 1,052 cities and settlements have been found, mainly in the general region of the Hakra-Ghaggar River and its tributaries. Among the settlements were the major urban centers of Harappa and Mohenjo-daro, as well as Lothal, Dholavira, Ganweriwala, Kalibanga, and Rakhigarhi.

There is some evidence indicative of another large river, now long dried up, running parallel and to the east of the Indus. The dried-up river beds overlap with the Hakra channel in Pakistan, and the seasonal Ghaggar River in India. Over 500 ancient sites belonging to the Indus Valley Civilization have been discovered along the Hakra-Ghaggar River and its tributaries

In contrast to this, only 90 to 96 of the over 800 known Indus Valley sites have been discovered on the Indus and its tributaries. A section of scholars claim that this was a major river during the third and fourth millennia BC, and propose that it may have been the Sarasvati River of the Rig Veda. Some of those who accept this hypothesis advocate designating the Indus Valley culture the "Sarasvati-Sindhu

Bird Landing-Ghulam Rasool / Indus for All Programme/ WWF - Pakistan





*A view of community life in a rural village in Sindh
-Ghulam Rasool/ Indus for All Programme*

Civilization", Sindhu being the ancient name of the Indus River.

A sophisticated and technologically advanced urban culture is evident in the Indus Valley civilization. The quality of municipal town planning suggests knowledge of urban planning and efficient municipal government which placed a high priority on hygiene. The streets of major cities such as Mohenjo-daro or Harappa were laid out in a perfect grid pattern, comparable to that of present day New York. The houses were protected from noise, odors, and thieves.

As seen in Harappa, Mohenjo-daro, and the recently discovered Rakhigarhi, this urban plan included the world's first urban sanitation systems. Within the city, individual homes or groups of homes obtained water from wells. From a room that appears to have been set aside for bathing, waste water was directed to covered drains, which lined the major streets. Houses opened only to inner courtyards and smaller lanes.

The renowned German scholar, Dr. Annemarie Schimmel has pointed out that Indus River has inspired poets from times immemorial. The indigenous poets, who wrote in Sindhi devoted many moving verses to the river and its dangers. Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai has described the strength of waves and the river's unpredictable behaviour. The imagery of the river, in its different aspects becomes quite outspoken in the poetry of Bhittai. He devoted two full chapters (sur) to the sea, that is, the sur Samundi and sur Srirag. In another sur dedicated to Sohni, he describes furor of the river. This chapter contains most impressive description of the river. Water is crucial for survival and prosperity; without

it, there would have no food to eat, no clothes to wear, no nature to admire and live within, and nothing to help human population remain healthy. But in many cultures, water is not only a part of life; it is the origin of life. Creation myths are stories that describe the beginning of humanity, earth, life and the universe, and water features prominently in a large number of them. In one Egyptian myth, a chaos of churning water, called the Nu, rose up and receded again. With each recession from the turbulence of the water a hill of land would emerge, giving birth to the first sunrise.

There are over 6,000 languages in the world, 96% of which are spoken by 4% of the global population. One language disappears on average every two weeks. Water is one thing that people all over need in order to live happy, healthy lives, and its

omnipresence in the world's languages testifies to this. Not only does every language have a word for water, but it also appears in hundreds of proverbs, metaphors and symbols, throughout the world. The use of the word 'water' in language shows the enormous breadth of ideas associated with the resource throughout the world and the even larger variety of ways in which water is valued in different cultures and civilizations.

Man-made structure along the river bank-Ghulam Rasool/ Indus for All



Boat in the river-Ghulam Rasool/ Indus for All Programme



WWF - Pakistan News Feed

FEJP Meeting held at WWF - Pakistan Head Office

FEJP (Forum of Environmental Journalists of Pakistan) meeting was held at WWF - Pakistan Head Office on 30th September 2009 at 3:00 pm. President FEJP, Mr. Shoaib Ahmed of "Dawn News" presided over the meeting. After a lot of discussion, the new President of FEJP was selected with the consent of all the FEJP members. The new President of FEJP is Raja Riaz of "Star Asia" and the new General Secretary of FEJP is Imran Ahmed Sheikh of "The News".

It was also discussed in the meeting that the previous FEJP list would be reviewed as both electronic and print media has been expanded. The new President with the newly appointed General Secretary seems motivated to expand and promote FEJP so that environmental concerns are given fair coverage so that the awareness level of the audience is increased.



Sanober Nathaniel
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JAXA Mini Project opening workshop at Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand

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The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) sponsored Mini Projects (Phase-I), a training and project formulation workshop which was held at Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Thailand from September 21 to October 15, 2009. Twenty participants from 11 Asian countries with their respective projects attended the workshop. Mr. Hassan Ali and Rashid Saleem from GIS Laboratory of WWF - Pakistan attended the workshop and presented their project's background and objectives. The workshop agenda included the exposure to GIS modeling and integration of optical and microwave remote sensing and use of SAR images for real-world applications. The participants formulated their respective project plans during this phase. They refined the project objectives, methodologies and identified the data requirements for accomplishing the project goals.

News Feed

Promoting Indus Journalists Forum

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A one-day consultative workshop, organised by Indus for All Programme on Environmental Journalism was held on September 29, 2009 at Indus Hotel, Hyderabad. Ms. Sharneela Farooqi, Advisor to the Sindh Chief Minister, was the chief guest on the occasion. The goal of the workshop was to sensitize media in order to create a common understanding of environmental conservation in the Indus Ecoregion. A total of 28 journalists from Karachi, Hyderabad, Thatta, Sanghar and Shaheed Benazirabad (formerly Nawabshah), faculty and students of Mass Communication Department, University of Sindh and six staff members of the Indus for All Programme, attended the workshop. The office bearers of Indus Journalists Forum elected during the workshop were: Mr. Sohail Sangi, President, Mr. Ishaque Mangrio, Vice President, Mr. Akash Santorai, General Secretary, Mr. Jan Khaskehi, Joint Secretary, Mr. Imdad Soomro, Finance Secretary, Ms. Sabeen Fatima, Press Secretary and Ms. Ambreen Hisbani, Office Secretary. Moreover, an Executive Committee was also constituted including Mr. Aslam Memon, Mr. Amar Leghari, Mr. Qurban Keerio, Mr. Ismail Memon, Professor Dr. Ali Murtaza Dharejo, and two staff members of the Programme; Mr. Nasir Ali Panhwar and Ms. Badarunissa Tunio.

WORKSHOP on WATER POLICY REFORMS

The Freshwater and Toxics Programme (FTP) held three consecutive Workshops in the month of October in Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad on Recommendations for Water Policy Reforms. People from Government, Private sector, local and International NGOs, and Multilateral institutions took part in the debate that focussed on the major water issues pertaining to allocation, infrastructure and environmental flows. The process was facilitated by Mr. Hammad Naqi Khan, Director FTP, Mr. Ele Jaan Saaf, International water resource management consultant from Netherlands and Ali Hasnain Sayed, Manager Policy FTP. Our colleague Ms. Rebecca May from WWF-UK (Freshwater Programme) also attended the workshops.

Contact: Ali Hasnain Sayed
Email: ahsayed@wwf.org.pk

young Natura



گدھ کا شکوہ



دوپی کر جو مر چوپائے
اُس نے ہمارے گردے گلائے

آن واحد میں زمین پر آئے
اب تلک ہم اٹھ نہیں پائے

لے انسان! آنکھیں موند کے سوچ
کیا تھا اس میں ہمارا دوش

ہم اب بھی واپس آسکتے ہیں
فضاؤں کورنگیں بناسکتے ہیں

ناج کے تم کو دکھا سکتے ہیں
آنگن کو صبا بن سکتے ہیں

تمہاری ذرا سی کوشش سے
تیری عظمت پہ اتر سکتے ہیں

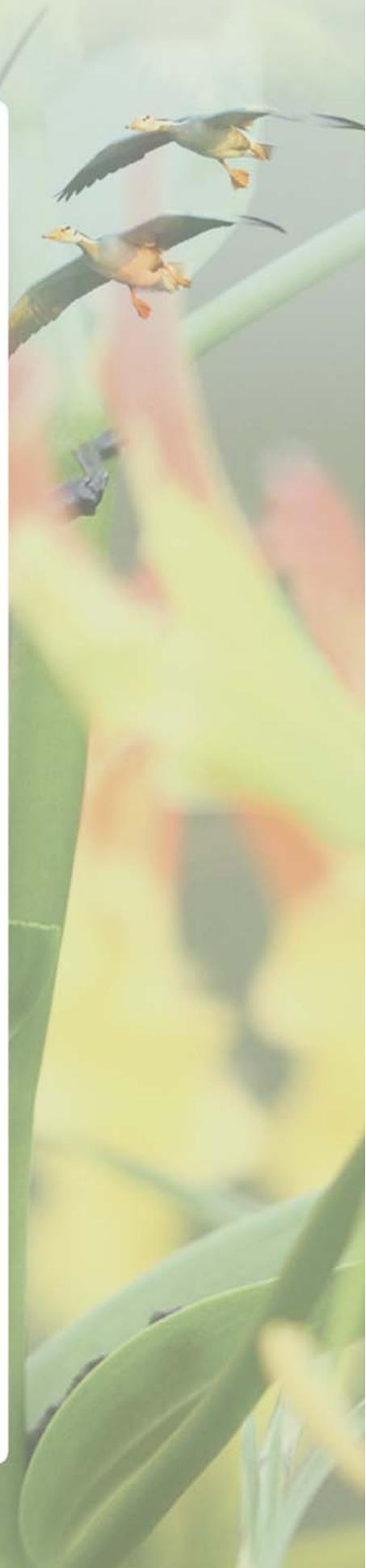
مناہل صفوان

اسلام آباد



Natura Art

Green-winged macaw or Red-and-green macaw (*Ara chloropterus*); Mato Grosso, Brazil (*Ara chloropterus*) Red-and-green macaw Mato Grosso, Brazil by Michel Gunther / WWF - Canon



جنگل بھی زندہ ہوں
 آنکھوں میں یہ رکھنا خواب
 کٹ جائیں نہ یہ جنگل
 مٹی کی قسم یا رو
 جینے کو نہ ہو گی ہوا
 یہ وقت نہ پھر آئے گا
 مٹی کی قسم یا رو
 کٹ جائیں نہ یہ جنگل
 یہ بچے ہوں گے کہاں
 پگڈنڈی کے رستے گاؤں
 کٹ جائیں نہ یہ جنگل
 مٹی کی قسم یا رو
 جھیلوں کی کہانی ہو
 آب گوں کا بسیرا ہو
 آج جیج کے ہم کہتے ہیں
 خوابوں کو پھر سے حیون میں
 جنگل بھی زندہ ہوں
 آنکھوں میں یہ رکھنا خواب
 مٹی کی قسم یا رو
 کٹ جائیں نہ یہ جنگل

(نظم: بتا صریح)

Coordinator, Awareness Raising & Communication
Pakistan Wetlands Programme



Our Mission:

WWF aims to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which human live in harmony with nature, by:

- conserving the world's biological diversity
- ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable
- promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption

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