



Deh Akro-II

Monthly Newsletter

# Wetlands Watch

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Lives & Livelihood

# Deh Akro-II Wetlands

## Lives & Livelihood

### Part-I



Meanwhile, the livestock has largely degraded to the herbs and shrubs of the wetlands. With this also the local community is engaged cutting of wetlands tress as wood for fuel and also to meet their other necessities.

also supports a small population 500-600 of marsh crocodiles. It is an important feeding and spawning ground for several indigenous fish species. The desert is characterised by sand dunes with well developed herbs/shrubs and trees. The agricultural land comprises patches of irrigated agricultural fields lying adjacent to the desert. Deh Akro-II wetland fauna includes waterbirds, crocodiles, otters and fish. In 1988, the wetland was declared a Wildlife Sanctuary. Its total area is 20,500 ha.

The majority of the local communities living on the sides of the wetlands are poor and de-

**Deh Akro-II** desert wetland is located in district Shaheed Benazirabad (Nawabshah), Sindh, Pakistan. The sanctuary is 46 km northeast of Nawabshah City. It is a natural wetland comprising 32 lakes and a complex of four major habitats types, desert, wetland, marsh and agricultural lands. The wetland complex has a unique example of desert wetland ecosystem that hosts a variety of rare and endangered wildlife species. Deh Akro-II wetland supports more than 18 species of mammals, 16 species of reptiles, 14 species of fish, and 101 species of birds and regularly supports over 20,000 waterbirds. This site



pending on herd rearing and other livestock in order to meet their daily livelihood means. However, due to lack of awareness and also educational facilities in the area, the local communities mostly engaged their children in the shepherding in this desert area, which has played havoc with the lives and career of the children.

Meanwhile, the livestock has largely degraded to the herbs and shrubs of the wetlands. With this also the local community is

engaged cutting of wetlands tress as wood for fuel and also to meet their other necessities.

There is need of comprehensive and long term conservation policy for Deh Akro-II wetlands and their biodiversity, through which the local communities should be provided alternative livelihood resources, as the natural natures of the wetlands should be made safe and secure.



## Meeting with Journalists at Press Club Jamsahib

The project team led by Director, Sangat Development Foundation held meeting with local journalists at Jamsahib Press Club and briefed them in detail regarding the project interventions and issues and challenges of Deh Akro-II wetlands. The



president of press club expressed his full commitment to the cause undertaken by the Sangat with the support of Indus for all program, WWF, Pakistan and cooperation of Sindh Wildlife Department, Government of Sindh.

# Nature Walk Wetlands Day

## Caring for Wetlands (an Answer to Climate Change)



On the eve of World Wetlands Day 2<sup>nd</sup> February under the theme of this year “*Caring for Wetlands-an answer to climate change*” a nature walk in order to celebrate the wetlands day at the site of Deh Akro-II, which is Ramsar site having 32 wetlands.

The nature walk passed from different areas of Jamsahib town and concluded at press club.

The participants of the nature walk holding play cards and banners in their hands inscribed different slogan and public messages for the protection and development of the wetlands.

The speakers said these wetlands harbouring different species of fauna and flora; some are

very rare in the world. Deh Akro-II is the largest crocodile sanctuary in South Asia, but unfortunately no proper attention has been paid for its protection and development.

They further said that due to the massive deforestation from Deh Akro-II wetlands area, has resulted into climate change which caused large scale depletion and degradation of the fauna and flora species of the area.

They further warned to the concerned stakeholders of the areas especially to the government departments and the local community to come forward and play their due role for the protection and development of the dying wetlands of Deh Akro-II, as the looming disaster could be diverted and the remaining threatened habitats of vulnerable species to be made safe and secure and stop their degradation.

They also appealed to the local community to play their due role for the rehabilitation of the wetlands and conservation of their biodiversity.

The rally was addressed by Mr. Nisar A. Brohi, Rauf Samoon, President of Press Club Jamsahib, Dr. Zaman Daunro Social Activist, Mr. Ameer Hamza, Project Coordinator on Wetlands Program of Sangat Development Foundation and others.





# Tree Plantation on Valentine Day

On the eve of valentine day, 14<sup>th</sup> February 2010, seminar on the importance of the trees to preserve and sustain the eco system and also plantation on the wetlands and plants distribution among the villagers of Faiz Muhammad Pahnwar on the site of Chhuchh Wetland Deh Akro-II, Nawabshah was organized by Sangat Development Foundation with Support of Indus for all Program, WWF Pakistan.

The speakers said that due to have no proper and effective supervision on the wetlands and their biodiversity, the wetlands have lost their beauty and become vulnerable spots for the fauna and flora of the area. If special and speedy efforts would not be taken for the development and rehabilitation of Deh Akro-II wetlands, the wetlands complex of more than 34 wetlands would be finished once for all.

They said that Sangat Development Foundation and WWF Pakistan are the first organizations working for the rehabilitation of the wetlands of the area, which were always ignored in the past. They appreciated the efforts of the both organization and offered his full support and

cooperation for rehabilitation of the wetlands of the area.

They appreciated the efforts of Wetlands Protection Committees (WPC) efforts for the protection of the natural resources of the wetlands and their role in making all possible efforts to stop cutting and over greasing of the trees of the area, which are sole habitats for the endangered species of wetlands in Deh Akro-II.

They also showed them of concerns that once Deh Akro-II was welcoming spot of the migratory birds, but today it has become very dangers place for the vulnerable birds and animal species, because there has been no check on the illegal hunting in the area.

They appealed to the local community to come forward and own the wetlands and their biodiversity and work for the conservation as well as protection of the remaining fauna and flora of the area.

The program was addressed by Captain Tahseen, Mr. Faiz Panhwar, Mr. Nisar A. Brohi, Mr. Ameer Hamza and others.

Membership &  
Networking



We are very delighted to share that Sangat Development Foundation has been awarded membership of (WWN). The World Wetland Network (WWN) is an international group of wetland NGOs formed at the Ramsar COP10 in South Korea, in 2008. WWN aims to support wetland NGO's to engage more fully in international wetland conservation efforts, to recognise and support their role, and to raise awareness of international wetland threats.



## Bio-cultural activity with Indigenous Community of Deh Akro-II Wetlands

On the eve of International Mother Language Day, 21<sup>st</sup> February 2010, Sangat Development Foundation organized bio-cultural activity with indigenous community of the wetlands on Chhuchh wetland in Deh Akro-II.

The speakers said that it is good omen to introduce community based wetlands management project in Deh Akro-II wetlands complex in order to encourage the local communities of the area to adopt the wetlands and work for the biodiversity conservation. However, there are multidimensional threats to the wetlands biodiversity, which required sustainable approach to deal with and bring back the glamour and vanity to the wetlands of Deh Akro-II Nawabshah. The wetlands are unprotected though they support rare, vulnerable and endangered wildlife species. The main threats to biodiversity are overgrazing on adjacent, use of poison for fishing, use of pesticides, herbicides and inorganic fertilisers on agricultural land, water pollution,

proliferation of alien invasive species, hunting, excessive collection of fuel wood, fodder as well as sell.

They said that with creating awareness on the importance of the wetlands, their biodiversity and conservation strategy, it is also imperative to develop the understanding, knowledge and skills of the local community with regard to properly managing the wetlands.

They further said that full and effective participation of the local community should be ensured, and make them realize to play their due role for the protection and conservation of biodiversity of the wetlands for the wildlife and people.

They also appealed to the local, national and international stakeholders should come forward to save the wetlands.

The program was addressed by Mr. Salih Billo, Senior Journalist and editor, Sindh Green Newspaper, Mr. Usama Anwer, Site Manager, WWF, Pakistan, Mr. Nisar A. Brohi, Mr. Munawar Siraj, Writer and Journalist, Mr. Sarang Sindhu, Broadcaster and Ameer Hamza, Project Coordinator on Wetlands Program, Sangat Development Foundation Nawabshah.

**In the last of the program, the local singers and *Sooahrs* presented the songs and *Beet/Dour/Story Telling* items to project the importance of wetlands of Deh Akro-II.**

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