

CLIMATE BULLETIN



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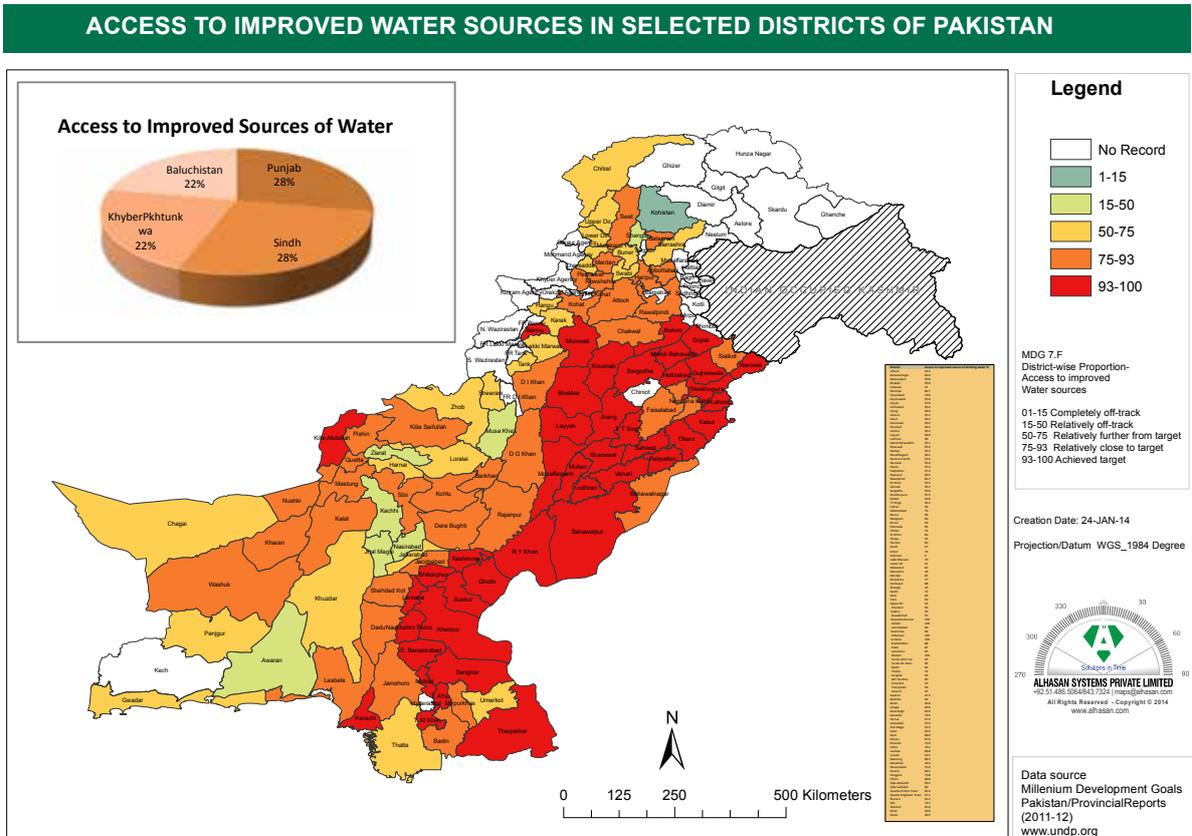
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Construction of road, restaurant could be detrimental to water quality

Express tribune
 December 30, 2013

EPA issues notices to over 200 factories

Daily Dawn
 December 29, 2013

LAHORE: World Wide Fund for Nature-Pakistan signed an MoU with Supreme Education School System to register it as one of its Green School. The MoU was signed by Sania Rauf Khan, Manager Corporate Relations WWF-Pakistan and Muhammad Yasser, Managing Director, Supreme Education System. Speaking at the occasion, Sania Rauf emphasized on how WWF-Pakistan is empowering the youth of Pakistan to become a part of the solution and to play their role towards nature conservation and protection of the environment. Yasser expressed his pleasure over partnership and said that this initiative is a step towards a more environmentally conscious generation.

The Green School Programme is a structured environmental education and awareness campaign that engages the students in year around events, activities and skill development workshops. The partnership between WWF-Pakistan and SESS aims to make the students more environmentally aware and conscious through WWF-Pakistan's Green School Annual Programme. Through this partnership about 700 students of the school will get an opportunity to participate in various WWF events and activities. All the leading school systems of Pakistan are a part of this programme with about 50 school campuses currently registered as WWF-Pakistan's Green Schools.

ISLAMABAD: Ignoring the reservations of environmentalists and overlooking real material needs such as adequate supply of potable water, affordable housing and development of the capital, city managers continue to plan recreational ventures in the proximity of Rawal Dam.

In a recent development, the Punjab Government Small Dams Department has granted a no-objection certificate (NOC) to the Capital Development Authority (CDA) for the construction of a road and a restaurant along the reservoir's bank. The recreational project involves the construction of the two-kilometer long Corniche Road along the south side of Rawal Dam, and a restaurant with an on-site parking lot the road's endpoint.

When The Express Ribune contacted CDA Planning Member Waseem Ahmed Khan, he confirmed the development, saying that the Small Dams Department, which owns the land for the intended project, had granted an NOC to the CDA. "The project was initiated by former CDA chairman Nadeem Hassan Asif on the directions of a political bigwig from Punjab who is affiliated with the ruling party," according to an official at the planning wing of the authority who requested anonymity. Not accounting for the adverse impacts on the quality of water being supplied from the reservoir to Rawalpindi, the authority is working on the project on a fast track basis, he added. "After obtaining the NOC, the planning wing's land survey department completed the land survey and submitted its report with the planning wing chief. Now, the project is at an advanced planning stage," the official said. He also informed that upon completion of the project's planning and design, it will be handed over to the Engineering Wing for execution.

The official, who was well-aware of the project's details, said that the 25-foot wide road will commence from the area adjacent to the navy camp at Rawal Dam facing Murree Road and culminate in the area across Islamabad Club, where a restaurant is to be constructed on the dam's bank. A report of the Environment Ministry states that Rawal Lake has been subjected to pollution from a number of sources including recreational facilities, human settlements, poultry waste, recreational activities, agricultural activities, deforestation, erosion and sedimentation for the past few years.

During hearings of the Rawal Dam contamination case at the Supreme Court in 2011, environmentalists had briefly informed the court about how recreational facilities developed at Lake View Park had added to the water reservoir's contamination. Dr Jawad Chishti, an environmentalist, expressed his displeasure over the issuance of NOC for the project by the Small Dam department. "Pakistan is a signatory to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. The Punjab government committed a grave violation of that agreement by issuing the NOC," said Chishti. He added that under the garb of recreational facilities, the civic body was serving the commercial interests of some powerful private parties. When the CDA planning member was asked about the project's progress, he said that the new chairman of the authority will be briefed about the intricacies within the upcoming days, and a future course of action shall be decided in line with his directions.

FAISALABAD: The Environment Protection Agency, Punjab, has issued notices to over 200 factories of Faisalabad, most of them the textile processing units, asking them to install waste water treatment plants otherwise their units will be sealed. Notices have been issued after a resolution was adopted by the Punjab Assembly on Dec 3 last. Faisalabad MPA Ehsan Riaz Fattiana had moved the resolution stating: "Thousands of people have died after contracting fatal diseases as at least 144 industrial units are polluting Samundri drain water in Faisalabad district. Either these units should be closed or treatment plants to treat toxic water should be installed." The house passed the resolution unanimously and the environment department has issued notices to processing units. The situation has panicked processing mills' owners who say it is not the ripe time to issue such notices to the industry already facing power and gas suspension crisis. At a meeting of the All Pakistan Textile Processing Mills Association (APTPMA), regional chairman Khalid Habib said the textile sector had witnessed a decline in its production and export during the last one decade. In given circumstances, he said notices to processing units were unwise because they could not bear the financial burden of expensive plants. The environment department is well-aware of the entire situation and officials also know

Nature clubs set up in schools

Daily Dawn
December 29, 2013

Foreign-funded environment projects in doldrums

Daily Dawn
December 25, 2013

that processing units have no place to install treatment plants, he said.

Criticising the MPAs, he said: "The parliamentarians are not aware of the reality and they have adopted the resolution without taking into account the ground situation." He claimed about 90 per cent effluent of processing units was being discharged to disposal stations after making it fit for consumption. The processing units were already paying double fee -- pumping out the effluent and ground water extraction -- to Wasa, and now another pressure to install treatment plants was unjustified, he said.

A couple of months ago, the District Officer (Environment) had conducted a survey and detected that a number of textile and other units had been discharging their effluent into the Madoana drain, Samundri. In the assembly session, the minister responding to the query of Riaz Fattiana admitted that more than 125 factories were discharging their untreated effluent into the Madoana drain. Mr Habib revealed that not only millers but Wasa was also releasing its 1/3 waste water into the same drain. The water of Khurrianwala is also being discharged into the same drain. He said the drain fell into the River Ravi after passing through Mamonkanjan and Dijkot.

Sources said dozens of villages in Mamonkanjan, Dijkot, Khurrianwala, Sattiana and Samundri were unable to consume ground water as not only a number of factories but also the state-run Wasa were discharging untreated effluent into Madoana-Samundri drain for years. District Officer (Environment) Mian Muhammad Nawaz said notices had been issued to factories by the EPA, Lahore, after finding them involved in discharging their effluent without treatment.

LAKKI MARWAT: The wildlife department, Bannu division, on Saturday organized a workshop to enhance capacity of teachers in wildlife conservation and nature club management.

Speaking on the occasion, wildlife officials said the provincial government had set up 200 nature clubs in state-run and private schools to engage teachers and students in conserving and promoting wildlife and environment. They said 20 nature clubs had been established in Bannu division with nine in Lakki schools. They sought cooperation of teachers and students in conserving wildlife and protecting environment.

ISLAMABAD: Several foreign funded projects related to the conservation of environment in Pakistan have failed due to the Climate Change Division's (CCD's) 'lack of commitment to deliver', sources told Dawn. Senior officials in the division said CCD had shown an "extremely poor response" in joining the efforts of donor organisations in implementing the climate change projects. These projects include the Unicef-funded Water Environment and Sanitation (WES) project that has been consuming Rs10 million every year for the past decade. Similarly, the \$6.2 million five-year UN project regarding environment conservation initiatives has also failed to deliver. Official documents show a list of other such projects, some of which are provided below.

NEIMS

The \$2.1 million National Environmental Information Management System (NEIMS) had been launched in 2008 in collaboration with UNDP. The five-year project funded by Government of Netherlands aimed at collecting environmental data in Pakistan to be used later for policy making. However, the project could not be delivered and the necessary machinery remains dumped in storerooms for the past five years.

"The project was closed in November this year as the capacity of the technical staff could not be developed," a senior official in CCD commented.

EMS

Similarly, the Rs1.2 billion Environment Monitoring System (EMS), which was being funded by the Government of Japan, has been shut for a year due to shortage of funds.

EMS was an initiative of the Pakistan Environment Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) which suffered several setbacks as even trained experts had to go without salaries for a year. The programme was initiated to assess the quality of air and water in major cities of Pakistan, and the data was to be used in preventing further degradation of the environment. "India has successfully implemented EMS and its data can easily be accessed online," the senior official said.

GLOF

Although the \$4.1 million Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF), funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), is an ongoing endeavour, some of its components are in need of improvement. An official in CCD said the four-year GLOF programme was initiated in 2011 and was Pakistan's first project which focused on mitigating the risk of glacial lakes bursting open. He said protective channels needed to be built to divert floodwater and community awareness needed to be improved to make the project a success. Meanwhile, UNDP assistant country director Gulnizam Jami said the picture was not so bleak. He said the environmental problems of Pakistan were vast and a single environment ministry could not possibly handle these alone. Similarly, CCD Secretary Raja Hassan Abbas said his office had been pushing the government to start the projects on a permanent basis. "Problems increased after the devolution as responsibilities were shifted to the provinces," said Raja Hassan Abbas. However, it seems the responsibilities of the division are becoming increasingly difficult, especially after the government sent a notification last week ceased the functions of the Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change, which was dismantled with immediate effect.

LDA's housing plans threaten Sandpit backwater ecology

Daily Dawn
December 24, 2013

KARACHI: Already devastated due to the continued flow of untreated hazardous waste, the ecologically important zone of Hawkesbay/Sandpit backwater is set to be hit by another man-made disaster; this time by Lyari Development Authority (LDA), sources told Dawn. The LDA, they said, was building different housing schemes along the coast and planned to drain out sewage from these colonies into the Hawkesbay/Sandpit backwater. Trenches had been dug, though the authority had not obtained permission from the Karachi Port Trust, the owner of the backwater area, for waste discharge. The Sindh Environmental Protection Agency (Sepa) was also not on board, they added. The ecology of the backwater area, the sources said, was also under constant threat from the land mafia which was reclaiming and selling land. These issues, according to the sources, were raised at a meeting held at the commissioner office more than two months ago. The meeting was called to attend to the Sindh High Court's concern over illegal land reclamation and encroachment in the coastal belt. Officials from Sepa, KPT and the LDA had attended the meeting.

Speaking to Dawn, a Sepa official on condition of anonymity said that the matter was in the knowledge of the agency and an expert had been asked to visit the area. "The LDA has never sought permission from the agency for any of its housing schemes, which is mandatory under the law. One of our officials had attended the meeting at the commissioner office and would look into the case," he said.

A KPT spokesperson also confirmed that such an 'illegal development' was in progress. "The LDA has neither taken KPT's permission for sewage disposal into the backwater nor it would be granted any if they asked for. We have come to know that trenches have been dug and required action would be taken when the time comes," the official briefly commented.

No LDA official was available for comments. The area, comprising coastal wetlands, shallow tidal lagoons, inter-tidal mudflats, salt pans, estuaries, saline pond, mangrove swamps and sandy beach, once had an immense diversity in flora and fauna. It was home to hundreds of bird species, many of whom lived on different fish, which was then found in plenty here. "The area has significant ecological and biodiversity value. Mangrove forests provide good feeding, sheltering and breeding ground for many bird species. The mangrove forest at Sandpit is equally important as it provides a representative wetland ecosystem close to the city. During the five years (from 2000-2004), 114 species of birds belonging to 14 orders and 38 families were recorded here," said a study (Observations on the Birds of Sandpit/Hawkesbay Coastal Wetland Complex, Karachi coast) published by World Wide Fund for Nature-Pakistan (WWF-P). The place, however, gradually degraded on account of discharge of sewage that continues till today. The ecological devastation of the area, the only place in Karachi where one could find large groups of birds (especially in winter), has also affected livelihoods of poor inhabitants who have now stopped fishing in the area as levels of pollution have reached a point where only a few non-commercial hardy fishes could sustain life.

The issue of increasing pollution was also highlighted in the 2004 study. "The estuary of Lyari River along with other parts of the backwater has been extensively damaged by the pollution of Lyari River. As a consequence, biodiversity is very limited here. Even the benthic deposits may also contain high level of toxic materials," it said. Ironically, the government has never paid any heed to the repeated calls from environmentalists to award protection status to the area, which they believed could be developed into an excellent place for eco-tourism. "The government has been urged several times to declare the entire Sandpit/Hawkesbay area (including the turtle nesting grounds) a nature reserve where the state needs to regulate human interference. It's painful that now another plan is in the offing and that, too, not by any private organisation but a public sector department to destroy what little biodiversity is left in the backwater," said deputy director general WWF-P Dr Ejaz Ahmad. Once domestic sewage would start flowing from coastal housing projects into the backwater, small in-house factories would also appear and it would be difficult to stop the ecosystem from complete collapse, he pointed out.

To a question as to why the area couldn't be awarded a protected status, Dr Ahmad explained that one major reason was the divided land ownership. "The KPT, city government and the cantonment boards owned the land. The KPT had once shown interest in the ecotourism plan but that interest could never materialised," he explained. Jahangir Durrane, one of the researchers of the 2004 study currently working as a consultant with WWF-P at its wetland centre at Sandpit, said that fish mortality were often noticed in the area and, though, increasing pollution had brought a 60 per cent decline in bird visitors, a small population of them still arrived in the backwater in winters. "They do come but for a short period and move to the other side of the border. This means there is still a hope of bringing those back who have stopped visiting us only if we start rehabilitating the ecosystem of this once birds' paradise," he said.

FAISALABAD: The district government has allocated Rs100 million for plantation and Rs50 million for preserving cultural heritage of the city. DCO Noorul Amin Mengal said this while talking to University of Agriculture Faisalabad Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Iqbal Ahmad during a visit to a chrysanthemum exhibition arranged by the university in front of Iqbal Auditorium on Sunday. The DCO said hundreds of locations had been selected in the city for beautification through tree and flowers plantation and landscaping. He said the beautification project was being carried out under a public-private partnership in which investors from the textile industry would be encouraged to play their role. He said the city district government was also mapping out a comprehensive strategy to make Faisalabad lush green on the lines of Lahore. He said the city had huge potential that would be explored. Mengal said the district administration would provide internships to UAF horticulture students for their help in beautification of the city. The UAF VC

Rs.100m allocated to beautify Faisalabad

Daily Dawn
December 23, 2013

Pindi taps providing water, and much more; WASA supply contaminated with sewage

December 22, 2013

said the university's experts of in floriculture and landscape were providing consultancy to the government and private organisations for beautification of different cities. He said the UAF had set up 'Rosa Lab' containing essential oil plant to extract flower scents for perfumes and promote the technology across the country.

RAWALPINDI: Though it might still be a few years before Pakistan face an acute water shortage, residents of numerous localities in Rawalpindi remain deprived of clean water as rusty, broken water pipes end are letting raw sewage contaminate mixed with clean drinking water. A survey conducted by The Express Tribune on Tuesday revealed that the concerned authorities have not replaced the lines for over is years despite being aware of the situation. "The water we are getting stinks and creates a yellowish lather when boiled due to the contaminants in it," said Muhammad Khaqan, a resident of Dhok Chiraghdin, who further revealed that even the taste and color of the water is different from the water they get in their village. The water provided to residents of localities includ ing Dhok Chiraghdin, Dhok Mangtal, Pirwadhai, Farooqia Mohalla, Fauji Colony, and Boring Road have the same attributes. The situation is even worse in areas near Nullah Leh and its arteries. "Two of my children are suffering from Hepatitis B due to the contaminated water. Doctors suggested we either extensively boil the water or shift to mineral water," said Hammad Azhar, a resident of Dhok Chiraghdin.

People also informed The Express Tribune that many a times, the issue has been brought to the knowledge of Water and Sanitation Authority (WASA) but so far, no action has been taken. They also complained that the watered, if stored, gets infested with worms within two to three third days. "Look at the worms, I filled the can yesterday and it has already turned yellow," said Muhammad Asif, a resident of Dhok Mangtal, while showing the water he stored in a can at his house.

When asked, Dr.Ahmad Zeb of Holy Family Hospital said; such water can cause serious skin diseases, hepatitis B and C, and even cancer due to a high amount of sulphur in it. He added that lab tests found a high amount of toxic chemicals in the water besides disease-causing germs, which led doctors to declare it unfit for drinking.

It was also learnt that WASA had disconnected water connections in various areas due to non-payment of bills and people there were getting water through illegal connections - an action that leads to cracks in the main line. These cracks then result in the mixing of dean water and sewage, as most of the pipes in these areas run parallel. "Most of the lines have been disconnected due to non-payment of bills, but the residents illegally installed their own pipes, due to which the main supply line has broken," said a WASA official requesting anonymity. He said all complaints are addressed immediately after identification, and the re-placement of lines inside houses was the responsibility of the homeowner. WASA Director General Raja Shaukat said the Punjab government had approved a Rs. 50 million gastro package under its Annual Development Programme, of which "we have spent Rs. 20 million on replacing pipes and other such projects". When asked about the localities in which the money was been spent, he said he had been removed by the interim government and did not know the details. However, he said, "WASA had made a further demand of Rs30 million to replace old and rusty pipes with new ones, which will be placed away from the sewage lines".

KARACHI: A 5.6-magnitude earthquake hit south Pakistan early on Friday, seismologists said. The quake struck at 00:28 am local time at the relatively shallow depth of five kilometres, 32 kilometres west of Warah in Sindh, the US Geological Survey (USGS) said. In an initial assessment, the USGS said there was a low likelihood of casualties and damage. Pakistan was hit by a 7.6-magnitude earthquake on October 8, 2005, that killed more than 73,000 people and left about 3.5 million homeless, mainly in Azad Kashmir and parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif has directed the departments concerned to expedite the Saaf Pani (clean water) project on which the government is spending billions of rupees. Seeking early completion of the project, the chief minister has also required the departments for evolving a mechanism involving the community, for effective monitoring and maintenance of the supply of clean water to the masses. He was presiding over a meeting held to review progress of Project on Wednesday. Shahbaz Sharif said that the Punjab government would ensure provision of potable water in every district of the province under a phased programme which also envisages installation of water filtration plants throughout the province.

FAISALABAD: Increasing population worldwide, particularly in Pakistan, has caused deterioration of the environment and challenges of food and water security, speakers at a seminar on Integrated Flood Management said on Tuesday. The seminar was held at the New Senate Hall by the Water Management Research Centre of the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad. It was chaired by Vice-Chancellor Iqrar Ahmad Khan. Dr. Khan said 43 per cent of the world's population lived in urban centers urbanization was also on the rise in Asia. By 2020, half of Asia's population would be living in cities, he said. "We need to take emergency measures to provide water facilities for cities and create awareness about rational use of water" said Dr. Khan. Pakistan is barely above the ,000 cubic meters per capita benchmark for water scarcity, he said. This would worsen in the coming years if immediate steps were not taken. Dr. Khan also suggested increasing the water storage capacity to tackle floods.

UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Science Bureau Deputy Director Dr. Shahbaz Khan spoke about the need to priorities water scarcity issues. "Water security is a prerequisite for development," he said, the government must strive for an effective trans-border groundwater

5.6-magnitude earthquake hits Sindh

The Nation
December 21, 2013

CM seeks early completion of Saaf Pani project

The Nation
December 19, 2013

Water security `Water scarcity has put survival on jeopardy' Seminar speakers call for new storage projects

Express Tribune
December 18, 2013

WASA sends maps, data to Turkish experts

Daily Dawn
December 16, 2013

Use of technology a must

The Nation
December 15, 2013

mechanism. He said water security was a major issue for the world. "Glacial melt has been increasing rapidly due to global warming. That causes flash floods each year," said Dr. Shahbaz Khan. He said the 193 member UNESCO had made water security its top priority. It is a matter of survival for any country. The rise in global average temperature has already begun affecting agricultural productivity in the region, said Dr. Shahbaz Khan. "As the world's population increases the need to save water becomes more crucial," he said. WMRC Director Allah Bukhsh said water is the most precious resource on Earth. The depletion of water resources has placed survival in jeopardy. "We need to sensitize people about the issue and take stringent measures to store more water," he said.

Dr. Tadashige Yoshida from Japan and Dr Kazauki Yoshida from Paris highlighted features of the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). The IWRM promotes coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources to maximize economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of ecosystems and the environment. Dr. Tariq from Australia also called for steps to tackle water scarcity and environmental issues.

LAHORE: The Water and Sanitation Agency has sent necessary maps/drawings and data of the existing water and sanitation system to Turkish experts who had visited Lahore in September to identify areas of improvement for replicating Istanbul's water and sanitation model. The Wasa administration took the step in light of a recent agreement between the Punjab government and ISKI, a subsidiary of the Istanbul metropolitan municipality. Prior to the agreement, a delegation headed by former Lahore commissioner Imdadullah Bosal and comprising senior Wasa and government officials had paid a visit to Istanbul a couple of months ago to study the state-of-the-art system of the ISKI to ensure a trouble-free civic life, particularly during the rainy season. "Wasa has sent maps, drawings and required data to ISKI people and now they are studying the information," a senior Punjab government official, who visited Turkey along with other members from Pakistan, told Dawn on Sunday. He said ISKI officials were studying various short- and long-term proposals Wasa had discussed with them during their visit to Lahore and deliberating their viability according to Lahore's weather and existing system.

The official, who preferred anonymity, said after studying the proposals the experts would prepare their action plan besides paying another detailed visit to Lahore to share the plan with Wasa and other senior officials concerned of the Punjab government. And if both parties agreed they would share it with the CM for final approval to launch the necessary civil/construction work required to replicate Istanbul's sanitation model. When asked about a discussion on the issue during an upcoming visit of the Turkish premier to Lahore, the official said he did not know about the agenda but expected a discussion because of its importance.

Wasa Managing Director Dr Javaid Iqbal said the government desired to execute such a huge project in Lahore in collaboration with Turkey, and they were waiting for the experts to visit again so they could proceed. "We hope they will come in the coming months after studying the data we provided to them," he added.

During their visit to Lahore, the Turkish experts -- Mehmet Aygun, Fatih Yildiz and Dr Ibrahim Karali -- had suggested Wasa specify nullahs to drain domestic sewage and rainwater separately so they did not choke during rains. They had also sought construction of new nullahs (if required) to meet the requirement besides urging WASA not to rely on combined sewerage system (both domestic sewerage and rainwater) it had been running in Lahore since long. They had also asked WASA to install water treatment plants in the city, saying waste water in developed countries was always treated and used for irrigating lands rather than diverting it into rivers. They also stressed on educating people to dispose of their domestic waste properly rather than letting it flow on roads and streets.

ISLAMABAD: Speakers at the launching ceremony of World Disasters Report 2013 highlighted the use of technology in increasing resilience of disaster prone communities. The World Disasters Report was jointly launched by Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) and International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). Speaking on the occasion, PRCS Managing Body Member Mian Muhammad Javed who was the chief guest of the ceremony said, "This occasion has served to inform us and remind us of the vital role technology plays in so many aspects of humanitarian work. The depth of information and examples provided in this year's World Disasters Report, as was also highlighted by other speakers, is commendable." PRCS supports the notion that the government and other humanitarian agencies must fully commit to and invest in developing the tools, policies and strategies to improve dialogue with disaster-affected communities. But such humanitarian technology and the use of information must remain ethical and focused on principles of humanity and humanitarian imperative.

PRCS Secretary General Dr Mahboob Sardar in his welcome address said that examines the potential of technology to improve humanitarian operations and increase people's resilience to disasters. "It also looks at the risks and unintended consequences of this influx of technology and provides recommendations on how we can maximise the opportunities, while minimising the risks." The PRCS being the leading humanitarian organization of the country has already equipped itself with mobile SMS service, radio wireless communication system, email service SAP system and a user friendly website. The other projects in pipeline are Video Conferencing and Disaster Data Bank. He said the PRCS welcomes any technological advancement in humanitarian service that can help mitigate the suffering of the vulnerable and bring more transparency and accountability. What matters is not technology, but how we use it. The report

Steps urged to halt pollution flowing into Sindh

Daily Dawn
December 15, 2013

Sindh wakes up to drought danger

The Nation
December 14, 2013

also highlights the use of technologies such as mobile phones, social media satellite imagery and web that are creating new ways for disaster affected communities to organise, coordinate and respond to their own problems, and enabling people centred humanitarian action.

IFRC Head of Pakistan Delegation Karen Bjornestad said this year's report also tells us that technology is proving to be a tool of empowerment and resilience for such communities. In addition, it alerts us to the fact that the evolution of technology is faster than the humanitarian sector's ability to deliver and we, as humanitarians, need to keep up. At the same time however, we are reminded to strike a balance between updating ourselves on technology just for the sake of doing so and applying it thoughtfully so that our ability as humanitarians to reach out to vulnerable communities is truly enhanced. The report also raises awareness of the importance of ethical application and use of technology in the humanitarian sector. Others who spoke on the occasion include Brig Kamran Zia, Member (Operations), National Disaster Management Authority, and Timo Pakkala, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator.

KARACHI: Experts on Saturday demanded that the government devise a mechanism to curb pollution being generated by other provinces and released into Sindh, contaminating the soil and harming the marine environment here. Speaking at the meeting organised to get input from civil society on the proposed environmental law by the Strengthening Participatory Organisation, they said municipal sewage, industrial effluents, as well as chemically infested agricultural runoffs generated in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were discharged into rivers and drains that found their way into Sindh and finally into the sea.

Sindh Environment Minister Dr Sikander Mandhro said the province might be taking longer to formulate laws following the 18th amendment, but it was owing to following the due process, which included getting inputs from the stakeholders, so that new laws helped solve the problems. He said Sindh could also have formulated 35 laws as had been done by Punjab, but there only names had been changed from the federal government to the Punjab government and the rest of the laws were the same. That process was not being followed here. He said earlier such consultations with different stakeholders had been organised and more such consultation would be held so that using collective intelligence comprehensive laws could be formulated. He also urged the participants to send their suggestions regarding the proposed law to the Sindh Environmental Protection Agency (Sepa) so that they could be reviewed and included in it.

Mohammad Ali Shah of the Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum said that pollution generated in Punjab was thrown into rivers which entered Sindh and it not only affected the fisheries but also damaged agricultural lands. He called for devising some mechanism so that such unchecked entry of pollution into Sindh could be halted. Ismail Kumbhar of the Agriculture University Tando Jam suggested efforts be made to encourage the use of organic fertilisers as well as natural pesticides/ plants etc rather than using the widely advertised chemical inputs in agriculture which affected soil and was being gradually phased out in the developed countries.

Dr Noman Ahmed of the NED university said that specific provisions be made to counter the electronic waste that was increasing in volume with every passing day and would continue to increase and harm the environment if not checked. Murtaza Dharejo suggested that the proposed law be translated and printed in local languages so that the common people understood it and gave their suggestions on it. Zubair Abro said public participation be included in the Initial Environmental Examination process so that the people had some knowledge of the issue.

Ayaz Ghumro said laws were made but rarely implemented. He demanded that some provisions be made so that the people/ civil society representatives could oversee the implementation process. He said penalties not be imposed on polluters as it allowed them to continue their activities. He said it was crime against humanity and polluting activities be immediately stopped and drastic actions taken against the polluters. Aftab Bhatti said comprehensive provisions be made against waste generated at the ports from ships and ship-breaking activities.

Earlier, Sepa director general Naeem Mughal gave a brief introduction to the proposed environmental law and said efforts had been taken to plug leakages in the old law. He said now action would be taken against the heads of polluting organisations, whether private enterprises or government organisations like local bodies, which were among the biggest polluters. Naseer Memon, Nasir Panhwar, Waqar Phupoto, Shahid Hussain, Mujtaba Baig, Altaf Shaikh, Tahir Hasnain, Sikander Brohi, Javed Akhtar, Asadullah Kazi, Elahi Bakhsh, Qazi Ather and others also spoke.

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah has constituted a committee headed by Minister for Food Mehtab Dahar with Revenue, Relief and Food department representatives to ascertain relief with reference to the gravity of drought and to ensure supply of wheat to the people of Tharparkar district at 50% concession rate within a week. The CM directed relief department to provide outstanding Rs 400 million to the provincial food department and ordered Secretary Finance to arrange additional amount to meet requirements recommended by the committee. The CM told the members of committee to prepare a schedule of wheat distribution with consultation of Local MNAs and MPAs. He warned that people involved in stealing privileges of poor famine affected people will be dealt harshly. He said that PPP being the party of poor will safeguard the rights of people. He said that since 1971 PPP had been serving people of Tharparkar and still striving hard to convert poverty hit area in to prosperous area and hopefully within few years many avenues of income and employment would be available to the

Mountain Day marked in GB

The Nation
 December 14, 2013

Pakistan, India need unique disaster management

The Nation
 December 14, 2013

people of Tharparkar by successful implementation of Thar Coal power projects.

Chief Minister Sindh Syed Qaim Ali Shah while taking strict notice of reports about illegal transportation of wheat outside the province directed Chief Secretary Sindh for extending section 144 to put ban on transportation. He directed that Sindh Police, Rangers and provincial food department to put strict vigilance on smuggling of wheat especially Hub, Jacobabad and ShaddadKot. The Chief Minister Sindh also tasked the committee make their recommendation for next target of wheat procurement and also to re-visit support price of the wheat production. He said that Sindh Government wants to give incentives and relief to the farmer community. He said that due to growers friendly policies we made the province self sufficient specially in wheat production, but because of ineffective policy of last caretaker government, wheat procurement target was not achieved.

The Sindh Minister for food Mehtab Dahar while briefing the meeting said that about 6000 tons of wheat has been made available to meet the requirement of immediate nature upto March 2014 at Tharparkar District. He said that after ascertaining the gravity of famine in the Tharparkar, his department would be ready to increase the supply as per recommendation of the committee. He said that at present per month distribution of 1, 80,000 tons among the flour mills being made per month regularly. He said that he has made such strategy that could maintain the demand & supply of wheat up to coming crop in 2014.

LAHORE: World Wide Fund for Nature-Pakistan (WWF-Pakistan) along with GB Tourism Department, Social Economic and Environmental Development (SEED) Project for the Central Karakoram National Park (CKNP) and Serena Hotel Gilgit, joined hands to celebrate International Mountains Day in Gilgit by organising a seminar on "Mountains: key for sustainable future" attended by people from different walks of life including academia, government departments, civil society organisation and media. The United Nations General Assembly has declared 11th December as the International Mountain Day to raise awareness on importance of mountains to life. Experts in the seminar highlighted numerous functions and services of mountain ecosystems of the world in general and of Gilgit-Baltistan – the home of mountains – in particular.

Sadia Danish, Information Minister and Advisor to the Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan on Tourism, Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs attended the occasion as Chief Guest and applauded efforts of organisations and individuals for showcasing significance to its inhabitant for providing life sustaining goods and services. "The world mountainous ranges, spread over 24% of the earth's surface and supporting about 26% of the global population, are facing ecological destruction creating serious implications for the local communities, most of which are poorest and highly vulnerable people in the world", says Dr Babar Khan, Senior Manager Conservation Gilgit-Baltistan, WWF-Pakistan. He added that the mountainous landscapes of GB are the primary watersheds of Indus River and almost 75% of water into Indus River System is contributed by its tributaries including Shango, Shyok, Shigar, Hunza, Ghizer, Astore, emanating from the northern mountains.

Hasan Sadpara, a renowned mountaineer whose claim of fame is to be the fastest climber on Everest (8848m) by summiting the peak in four days without using supplementary oxygen, shared his experience of mountaineering highlighted various issues that he faces while promoting mountaineering in Gilgit-Baltistan. He aimed to transfer his skills to the youth of Gilgit-Baltistan through establishing a mountaineering school in Skardu and Advisor tourism assured him to benefit from his rich experiences for promotion of high-altitude hiking and climbing in Gilgit-Baltistan. "Tourism sector of Gilgit-Baltistan in the presence of the highest concentration of peaks such as K-2, Gaserbrum-I, Gasherbrum-II, Broad Peak and Nanga Parbat possesses huge potential for economic upliftment, not only in Gilgit-Baltistan but entire Pakistan" said by Akhter Hussain Rizvi, Secretary Tourism, Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs of Gilgit-Baltistan. For this purpose "the tourism department, though newly established in Gilgit-Baltistan in 2006 has taken important steps like developing tourism policy for the region", he added.

The Deputy Director Tourism Yassir Hussain shared possible initiatives for promotion of tourism in Gilgit-Baltistan such as improving road access by developing alternative of Karakoram Highway; operations of all-weather domestic flights; international transit flights and establishing proper tourism facilities. He emphasized to brand Gilgit-Baltistan as the "Jewel of Pakistan" to portray the natural beauty of this area. Asghar Khan, Assistant Director, Serena Hotels shared the initiatives of Serena Hotel Chains in promoting responsible tourism in Gilgit-Baltistan. He mentioned community development projects undertaken by Shigar and Khaplu Fort Residencies managed by Serena Hotels.

ISLAMABAD: Experts on Friday unanimously urged both Pakistan and India to adopt a unique approach on national disaster management to amicably deal with extreme climate events and establish robust emergency food reserves and financing capacity for rapid humanitarian responses to vulnerable populace. Experts, on second day of the plenary session titled "India-Pakistan Dialogue on Climate Change and Energy" organised by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and Heinrich Boll Stiftung (HBS) which was held here in a private hotel, were of the opinion that India and Pakistan are in dire need to develop a research agenda. They unanimously said this while speaking on their turn. They said both countries must adopt a unique approach to cope with national disaster management following the extreme climate events. They also urged that both neighbouring should also establish robust emergency food reserves along with a financing capacity that can deliver rapid humanitarian responses to vulnerable populations threatened by the climate change. This dialogue between India &

Autonomous water, sanitation body for Peshawar soon

Daily Dawn
December 13, 2013

WWF up to discover marine life

The Nation
December 13, 2013

Pakistan will forge ways to cooperate and collaborate in critical areas, experts observed.

In the session Food Security: India Perspective, Ram Kishan Regional Emergency Manager South Asia, said that unfortunately, climate change increased migration and in the result, displacement of agricultural producers has implications for national food security. In this regard, an international mechanism is needed to address loss and damage and slow onset impacts on agriculture. Pervaiz Amir, Senior Economist, ASIANICS discussed the impact of climate change on agricultural productivity and energy security in Pakistan.

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government will utilise Rs1.13 billion on establishing the first autonomous civic body of the country in Peshawar for providing water and sanitation services to people in urban areas. The new body, Water and Sanitation Services Peshawar (WSSP), would be a public limited company owned by the government, according to sources. The proposed company will be responsible to provide services of water supply, solid waste management and sewerage and drainage in the urban areas, they said.

The registration of the proposed civic body was in progress, under the Companies Ordinance 1984, with the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan. When contacted, Provincial Minister for Local Government and Rural Development Department Inayatullah Khan told Dawn that the proposed body would be formed soon. "We will try to accelerate efforts and hold official meetings for formation of the civic body," the minister said. All the sanitation staff currently working in the Municipal Corporation Peshawar (MCP) would join the company on deputation with job protection to them like other government employees, he said.

Once operationalised the MCP would become the first municipal corporation in Pakistan to have urban water and sanitation service delivered by a fully autonomous and professionally managed corporate government utility, sources said. They said that Karachi, Lahore, Faisalabad, Multan, Gujranwala, Rawalpindi and Quetta had semi-autonomous agencies providing civic services. The proposed civic body would cover the urban areas in MCP and Peshawar Development Authority (PDA), they said. It would also coordinate with the Cantonment Board Peshawar for providing services in some areas in cantonment. The sources said that initially the WSSP would provide services to the existing estimated 1.6 million population of urban union councils. They said that the 33 peri-urban union councils having estimated population of 1.15 million would be included gradually at a later stage though such areas would remain part of the planning. They said that the WSSP company had been designed as an integrated organisation with key functions of planning, designing, construction and policy matters at the head office, while its operations would be decentralised to the zonal level.

The major procurement of machinery and equipment and promotions of employees, their inter-zonal transfer and behaviours change communication programmes etc would be done at the head office level, they said. The sources said that the city and peri-urban areas had been divided into four zones. The zonal offices would be responsible for the quality of services, complaint redressal, repairs, operations of machinery and vehicles and revenue collection. Every zone would have at least one peripheral customer care centre, in addition to the one at the zonal office. The existing 3,700 sanitation staff would work in the proposed WSSP on deputation without any layoffs. However, since there is hardly any managerial or professional staff available with the existing civic bodies, the same would be hired afresh on market based salaries to be organised into a modern organisational structure on performance based contracts.

As the current services were being subsidised by the MCP, PDA and CBP to the extent of Rs925 million annually, it has been proposed that the WSSP would continue with the subsidy for at least three years, they said. The proposed company would improve revenue collection by reducing the gap between the billing and collection, they said.

LAHORE: The coastline of Pakistan abounds in diverse marine life and rare species such as whale sharks, dolphins, turtles and other marine life have been reported in these waters and to explore it, WWF-Pakistan is conducting a sailing expedition from Dubai to Karachi between December 13 to 25. According to spokesman for WWF, it aims to highlight unique marine ecology of the region and record sightings of significant marine wildlife. The expedition will stop at Gwadar on its way to Karachi. The expedition will be led by Khalid Mahmood, President WWF-Pakistan along with four other members including French and Italian sailors. Crew members would mainly focus on recording humpback whale and whale sharks. It has been reported that a sub-population of humpback whale resides in the Arabian Sea, therefore, it is important to collect further data and highlight the need for its conservation. According to Mohammad Moazzam Khan, Technical Advisor Marine Fisheries, WWF-Pakistan, a large population of the whale shark is present in these waters, and often gets entangled in fishermen's nets. He also said that due to awareness campaigns and training by WWF-Pakistan, fishermen have successfully released a number of whale sharks during the current year. 'Last year school of around 4,000 – 5,000 spinner dolphins were sighted on the Pakistani coastline near Gunz, Balochistan which indicates the richness of marine life that supports such a large population of top predators like dolphins,' he added.

WWF-Pakistan in collaboration with WWF-Environment and Wildlife Society, UAE and Oman Whale and Dolphin Research Group (OWDRG) of Oman and other neighbouring countries plans to launch an initiative to assist conservation of the humpback whale in these waters. The sub-population of this animal in the Arabian Sea seems to be isolated from other global populations, and is listed as "endangered" by the IUCN. The population of these whales is estimated between 250 to 400 individuals.

Six countries to form alliance on climate change

Daily Dawn
 December 13, 2013

Environment: 'Six per cent pesticide samples found unfit for use'

Express tribune
 December 11, 2013

Rab Nawaz, Regional Director, WWF-Pakistan commented that this new initiative will help in conducting surveys to obtain more accurate information about distribution, movement, breeding and feeding of the whales. The effort will aim to develop a collaborative trans-boundary plan for the conservation of this important species, he added.

KARACHI: Experts representing six regional countries agreed to forge an alliance on climate change issues at a three-day conference, which concluded in a hotel here on Thursday. The conference was organised by the World Wide Fund for Nature-Pakistan under the European Commission-funded Climate Change Adaptation Project. Sharing challenges posed by changing climatic conditions in their respective country, experts representing Iran, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Nepal and Pakistan said that floods, heavy rainfalls, cyclones and other calamities related to unusual weather pattern had become a common phenomenon in the region and that they could learn from one another's experiences. Incorporation of local knowledge into scientific data to mitigate the intensity of disasters, better management of natural resources and enhancing knowledge of local communities was a need of the hour, they said.

Informing the audience about the climate change issues communities are facing in Keti Bunder and Kharo, programme sociologist of the WWF-P Shahzadi Tunio said the two coastal towns had gone through drastic ecological changes. "The towns consist of about 4,000 households, spread over 60 settlements. Of them, 28 have been submerged by the intruding sea over the last 40 years," she said, adding that adaptation plans would help communities better cope with changing weather patterns. Highlighting concerns regarding climate change, programme officer of the WWF-Nepal Ramesh Adhikari said the people had been experiencing droughts and floods in different parts of the country. "Glaciers are melting and people are facing water and food security issues. These challenges forced the government to launch awareness programmes on water conservation whose results are now visible as people have started conserving and making a judicious use of water," he said. He underlined the importance of community participation in tackling climate change issues and said that adaptation plans could only be successful if they were sustainable and owned by the communities where they would be implemented.

Dr Hossain Negarestan of the Iranian Fisheries Research Organisation said that Pakistan, Iran, Bangladesh, Nepal and the Maldives had a similar monsoon pattern and were, therefore, experiencing almost similar effects of climate change. Evaluation and monitoring of adaptation plans on a regular basis could prove successful, he said.

Senior director of the WWF-P Dr Ejaz Ahmed said that disaster risk reduction plans would help minimise human loss, livelihood and assets. He also said that the participation of government departments in research efforts regarding climate change impacts should be enhanced. Besides, he said, government officials needed to be educated and trained on climate change issues. "Introduction of sustainable agriculture and fisheries, water management, establishment of raised platforms and provision of early warning system facilities at Keti Bunder and Kharo Chann would help communities survive and improve quality of their life," he said.

Regional director of the WWF-P Rab Nawaz said that effective regional collaboration could play a pivotal role in addressing climate change issues. Coastal communities in Pakistan, he said, had been suffering badly; there was a drastic reduction in river water supplies because of upstream diversions and, then, there was intrusion of seawater which was threatening people's lives and infrastructure. "It is said that one man's disaster becomes another man's opportunity. This seems to be quite true in the case of these impoverished coastal towns, where different organisations are making a lot of money out of these disasters and exploiting local communities," he said.

Giving his remarks, president of the Global Climate Adaptation Partnership Thomas E. Downing said that active participation of different stakeholders could mitigate climate change impacts and in that connection his organisation was working with regional partners to design a comprehensive action plan. It was the right time for climate change experts in Pakistan to support vulnerable communities in the coastal areas of the country, he said. During the programme, experts from six countries presented their suggestions on climate change adaptation plans.

MULTAN: Around 6.37 per cent pesticide samples in Bahawalpur and 4.8 per cent in Multan have been found unfit for use so far in 2013, an Agriculture Department press release said on Tuesday. Dr Naseem Ahmad, in charge of pesticides quality control laboratory in Bahawalpur, was quoted as saying that these pesticides cost Rs50,000 to Rs60,000 to the Punjab government and was a waste of money. He said 833 pesticide samples were tested at the Bahawalpur laboratory since July 2013. Of these, he said, 53 were found to be unfit. He said 23 of these samples had been collected during raids. Nineteen of these were found unfit. The rest had been collected randomly. Between July 2012 and July 2013, he said, 50 out of 1,511 pesticide samples tested had been declared unfit for use.

According to Naveed Asmat Kahloon, the assistant director of agriculture information in Multan, adulteration was detected in 4.80 per cent of the samples collected since July 2013. He said a crackdown against pesticides adulterators would be launched on the orders of the agriculture minister. He said a reference laboratory had been set up at Kala Shah Kaku, which would start functioning soon. He stressed a need to set up a provincial level control centre to check adulteration.

Call for steps to 'reverse' climate change

Daily Dawn
December 11, 2013

KARACHI: As adaptation measures are not enough to address concerns related to climate change, which seems to turn graver in years ahead, there is a need to penalise the major contributors to greenhouse gas emissions so that they speed up the process to bring down the emissions level, said Dr Hossein Negarestan of the Iranian Fisheries Research Organisation at a conference on Tuesday. The three-day regional moot, which began here at a hotel, has been organised by World Wide Fund for Nature-Pakistan under the European Commission-funded Climate Change Adaptation Project.

On the challenges of climate change being faced by Iran, Dr Negarestan said some areas were facing continuing episode of drought for the past many others, while a few other areas got flooded due to heavy rains. "Drought is getting worse. Some lakes have dried out and there are areas facing persistent shortage of water," he said while referring to scientific predictions according to which the country would receive less amount of rainfall in coming years.

In this regard, he also mentioned the 2007 cyclone that caused widespread damages in Chabahar and Bandar Abbas areas in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman. What had added to the fishermen's woes, according to Dr Negarestan, was the declining catch of sprat (a sardine-like fish) in recent years due to the presences of some biological invasive species that had appeared in the Caspian Sea. The invasive species, he said, had eaten up all the zooplanktons, resulting in shortage of food for other species. "The sprat catch has dropped from 95,000 metric tonnes in 1999 to about 20,000MT today. "We don't know whether climate change has made the sea vulnerable to pests or there are some other reasons for that," he added. Talking about another unusual phenomenon with respect to climate change, he said the Persian Gulf experienced the red tide phenomenon, which normally lasts for a couple of days, for nine months in 2008-09 with the result that tonnes of wild fish died for want of oxygen. Sharing his own assessment on climate change, he said he believed that it would become very dangerous and adaptation measures were 'a bit too late' and 'inadequate'. "We need to reverse the process else we cannot stop the tree from falling in the middle," he observed.

Maldives

Mohammad Asif representing the Environment Ministry of the Maldives said that the changing climate conditions posed a great challenge to his country because of its specific geographical conditions. The communities living on all the 196 islands constituting the Maldives had reported erosion of land and infrastructure, he said. Unpredictable weather patterns, he said, were badly affecting tourism, the backbone of the country's economy. "This is happening because of the continuous rise in the sea level," he added.

Sri Lanka

Asoka Ajantha representing Practical Action, a non-governmental organisation currently helping coastal communities in Sri Lanka, said his country was vulnerable to climate change. It was causing increasing number of floods/cyclones, droughts and salinity in coastal areas, he added. "There are plans to build a disaster resilient city. Farmers are being provided with seeds varieties that can resist saline and drought conditions while our organisation in partnership with the government is working on a hydrological modelling to develop strategies for emerging issues," he said in reply to a question.

Bangladesh

Mowdudur Rahman of the Bangladesh-based Centre for Coastal Environmental Conservation, an NGO, said Bangladesh was a high-risk country facing many issues due to climate change, the foremost being the increasing frequency of floods and cyclones. The Sunderbans delta resource harvesters had been the worst sufferers.

Experts from Pakistan said the coastal communities were most vulnerable to climate change that included variation in temperature and precipitation patterns, sea level rise, loss of habitat and water scarcity. "The WWF-P is developing two union council level plans that would help coastal communities to adapt to the impacts of climate change," said Rab Nawaz, regional director for the WWF-P. He called for sharing the lessons being learnt and best practices being implemented by regional partners so as to benefit from them.

ISLAMABAD: Speakers at the launching ceremony of the World Disasters Report 2013 stressed upon the use of technology for increasing resilience of disaster prone communities. The report was jointly prepared by the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and launched at a local hotel on Tuesday. It explored various methods by which information and communication technologies assisted governments and civil organisations to recover and rebuild disaster-affected areas. The report also highlighted the use of mobile phones, social media satellite imagery and web which provided communities with better approaches to organise, coordinate and respond to their own problems.

Addressing participants on the occasion, PRCS Managing Body Member Mian Mohammad Javed said the government and other humanitarian agencies must commit to and invest in developing the tools, policies and strategies to improve dialogue with disaster-affected communities. PRCS Secretary General Dr Mahboob Sardar said technology had the potential to improve humanitarian operations in affected areas and increase people's resilience to disasters. IFRC Head of Pakistan Karen Bjornestad said, "This year's report also tells us that technology is proving to be a tool of empowerment and resilience for affected communities." Karen Bjornestad

Technology can be used to increase resilience after disaster: Report

Daily Dawn
December 11, 2013

Hospital waste forms a lethal mixture

Daily Dawn
December 9, 2013

Environmentalists reject planned nuclear power plant

Daily Dawn
December 6, 2013

said the evolution of technology was faster than the humanitarian sector's ability to deliver, and humanitarians had to keep up with the technological advancements.

ISLAMABAD: Government environmentalists are worried that more and more hospital waste is getting mixed with the municipal waste in Islamabad and Rawalpindi. Officials at the Climate Change Division in the Federal Secretariat consider the mix lethal for the environment of the twin cities and the health of the nearly six million people living in them. "Even more alarming is the fact that we have no data how much hospital waste is being produced by the healthcare facilities, what to say of the infectious part of it," confided one official.

Normally 0.25 per cent of the three to four kilogramme of waste that an occupied hospital bed produces daily happens to be infectious waste. Private hospitals have sprung up in commercial and residential areas of Islamabad without approval of the Pakistan Environment Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) on how to handle and manage hospital and particularly infectious waste, lamented the source. Standard operating procedures require hospital managements to segregate and incinerate their waste, instead of disposing it all as municipal waste, which ends up at landfill sites of the Capital Development Authority (CDA). "That unlawful practice could especially contaminate the aquifers," said the source. However, only two units in the twin cities - the Shifa International and the National Cleaner Production Centre (NCPC), an allied body of Attock Refinery - have operational incinerators.

A member of the NCPC said few private hospitals were utilising its incinerating facility. He declined to name them, or say how much hospital waste it destroyed every month. "Disposal of hospital waste, and its infectious content, has always been a neglected area," Director-General Pak-EPA, Asif Shuja, told Dawn.

After the Senate Standing Committee on Environment expressed concern over hospital waste being mixed with municipal waste, the Pak-EPA launched a survey to find out how many new hospitals and labs had sprung up in the twin cities and if they were properly segregating and disposing of their waste. Nonetheless, the Climate Change Division environmentalists did not think the survey was "thorough enough". They believed many private hospitals and labs had been "missed or ignored". "There is a law in place. A procedure needs to be developed now under the Hospital Waste Management Rules 2005, on how hospital and laboratory waste should be segregated and disposed of," said one of them. However, hospital administrations and medical personnel, particularly in the public sector, largely ignore their responsibilities of handling and managing hospital waste properly.

Drafted by the Ministry of Environment, the Hospital Waste Management Rules 2005 lays down a clear hospital waste plan. It talks about how to collect, segregate, store, transport and dispose of the waste. It also spells out responsibilities of heads of departments, units, physicians and medical staff connected with the whole process.

Assistant Registrar, Pakistan Medical and Dental Council, Sitara Hassan, conceded that most medical institutions are ignorant of the criteria laid down for hospital waste disposal. "Hospital waste management is taught under the headings Community Medicine and Preventive Healthcare, where it is touched in a chapter," she said. "Nobody bothers to study the subject deeper - except those who want to specialise in the two fields." She emphasised improved monitoring to ensure procedures are followed on disposing of hospital waste.

Secretary, Ministry of Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, Imtiaz Inayat Elahi, agreed that it was a weak area. "But a law to address this huge problem in the private and public sector health units is almost ready," he said. "It is being addressed because environment is being degraded. A mechanism will soon be in place to bound hospitals and laboratories to destroy their waste instead of mixing it with normal municipal waste," said Imtiaz Inayat Elahi.

But environmentalists argue that what is needed is to implement the existing Hospital Waste Management Rules 2005 rather than framing a new law. "Little has been done by way of implementation since the promulgation of the Environment Protection Act 1997. That shows the seriousness of all sides to protect our environment," said one environmentalist. "They (the Pak-EPA and the Division) spring into action only when the Supreme Court or the parliamentary committees take notice of an issue," he noted.

ISLAMABAD: Experts and environmentalists expressed grave concern over the prime minister's decision to establish nuclear power plants to meet the energy crisis, and termed these hazardous and inefficient. The government is considering building a 1,100MW nuclear power plant with the help of China to meet the energy shortage. Environmentalist Dr Jawad Chishtie said Pakistan should go for cheap energy by seriously adopting energy sources that countries such as Germany, Spain, UK, US or France have adopted. "Solar energy is a completely viable option as Pakistan receives a lot of sunlight and the cost of solar panels has dramatically decreased," he said.

Citing the Chernobyl disaster in Ukraine and Fukushima disaster in Japan, Dr Chishtie said an estimated 220,000 people were displaced from their homes. In addition, 4,440 square kilometers of agricultural land and 6,820 square kilometers of forests in Belarus and Ukraine became unusable following the radioactive fallout from the accident. "In Fukushima, the disaster resulted in massive radioactive contamination of the Japanese mainland. In November 2011, the Japanese Science Ministry reported that long-lived radioactive cesium had contaminated 11,580 square miles (30,000 sq km) of land," he said. Similarly the chairperson of Subh-e-Nau (an Islamabad-based environment institute) Shahida Kausar Farooq said nuclear waste was an

'Regional cooperation imperative to solve effects of climate change'

Daily Dawn
December 6, 2013

important problem for which the world had not found any remedy so far. "At average, a nuclear power reactor core has about 16 billion curies (a unit of radioactivity) at its core, which is equivalent to the radioactivity of 1,000 Hiroshima bombs," she said.

Dr Farrukh of the Institute of Space and Technology negated the idea of nuclear energy being a cheap energy source. He said the failure rate for nuclear projects was very high (well above 50 per cent) while security and safety required a lot of funds. "Even larger economies are moving away from nuclear energy and are adopting renewable energy sources. China, Japan and Germany are following this trend and have generated more electricity from renewable energy sources than from nuclear ones," he said. Dr Farrukh maintained that Pakistan had a high potential for producing electricity through solar, wind, hydel and biomass sources. "We have the capacity of generating 50,000MW from wind energy and 350MW from hydropower energy. All this is within the country's reach," he said.

ISLAMABAD: Common problems of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc), including the challenges due to climate change, can be effectively tackled only through unhampered collaboration and cooperation at the regional level. This was stated by Federal Minister for Science and Technology Zahid Hamid as chief guest at the concluding ceremony of the three-day 13th Governing Council of South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP). The programme also included the fifth Inter-governmental Ministerial meeting of South Asia Seas Programme (SASP), and called for a collaborative approach to overcome regional challenges of climate change. Mr Hamid said regional efforts needed to focus on a range of response options to address challenges of environmental degradation and natural calamities such as floods which occurred due to climate change.

The federal minister said he hoped the three-day sessions had been fruitful and productive, and would help boost regional cooperation among Saarc member countries for sustainable development. He added that regional cooperation would help tackle common natural disasters such as floods, forest fires, cyclones, typhoons, rise in sea-level, droughts and depleting water resources. However, the minister's claim that the country was actively developing capabilities to cope with environmental challenges and effects of climate change were contrary to the practical efforts being taken especially after the 18th Amendment three years ago. He claimed that Pakistan had adopted a number of policy measures in this regard such as the National Environment Policy, National Climate Change Policy and the draft National Sustainable Development Strategy.

Director General SACEP Anura Jayatilake said the programme was the first inter-governmental forum in the past 32 years (since 1981) in which all South Asian countries came together to support its initiatives. He said, "Collective viable approaches to cope with environmental challenges can reduce the negative impacts on the lives of millions of people in the region."

Meanwhile, addressing participants of SASP held later in the day, Secretary Climate Change Division Raja Hasan Abbas said the high-level meetings of SACEP had provided a unique opportunity to hold productive discussions related to environmental issues. The previous three days witnessed meetings between ministers and officials, networking and discussions over environmental challenges on various subjects such as National Biodiversity Strategy, Promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production in South Asia.

Similarly, control of air pollution, waste management, conservation of wetlands, coastal biodiversity, ocean governance and commitments made by the Governing Council were also discussed. Joint Secretary Ministry of Earth Sciences India, Shri Anand Singh Khaki, in his address said SACEP and SASP had witnessed immense progress. "Commitments of member countries to develop SACEP and its associated programmes in a proactive manner would lead South Asia to a climate and environment-conscious region," he said.

Similarly, Sri Lankan minister for environment Susil Premajayantha said "Protection and management of regional environment is of paramount importance for all Saarc countries. There is no doubt that these countries face many environmental challenges, but SACEP is committed to viable programmes and contingency plans to deal with natural disasters which occur due to climate change."

Call for steps to combat effects of climate change

Daily Dawn
December 5, 2013

ISLAMABAD: The two-day South Asian Environmental Assessment Conference, which commenced here on Wednesday, called for effective steps to combat the adverse effects of rapid climate change. The conference was attended by a wide range of national and international experts in the field of environmental impact assessment (EIA), and was jointly organised by the Government of Pakistan and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The theme of the conference was 'Raising the Bar of Regional Cooperation' and pushed forward the concept of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) which built environmental evaluation into a nation's policy and programmes. Experts called for a shift from solely focusing on the EIA of individual projects to the idea of SEA. The concept is particularly applicable to Pakistan where issues of environment degradation and climate change are not a priority, they said.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony as chief guest, Adviser to the PM on National Security and Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz said the most important challenge was to strike a balance between rapid development and environmental integrity. "We are party to many international treaties and conventions for the protection of environment. To implement these treaties and conventions, we have enacted appropriate legislations and established several institutions ranging from basic research to applied technologies," Sartaj Aziz claimed. Participants were told that environmental

Sewage water to be treated at three sites in Islamabad

Daily Dawn
 December 4, 2013

Improving environment: Clean up operation in Walled City commences

Express tribune
 December 3, 2013

assessment (EIA) of projects integrated environmental considerations into the earliest stages of policy, plan and programme development. Similarly, SEA helped ensure environmental considerations played an effective role in policy development. It called for integrating principles of sustainable development into a country's policies and programmes, the speakers said.

The Strategic Country Environmental Assessment Report of 2007 estimated that environmental degradation was costing Pakistan's economy 6 per cent of the GDP (Rs365 billion per year), and this figure is likely to have increased since then. This cost was recognised by the sustainable development approaches which ensured that interests of economy, society and environment were all taken into consideration.

IUCN Regional Director Asia Aban Marker Kabraji said, "SEA is evolving rapidly as the world responds to escalating challenges relating to use of natural resources and development planning. The conference represents an important initiative in helping the region stay ahead of the curve using the best techniques and science available." He added that although the region was geographically divided, its issues –especially environmental challenges of climate and pollution – were shared. "Despite the differences, it is clear that the region's survival depends on a common approach," he said.

The conference also included technical sessions and a poster competition in which students from different art schools depicted the concept of environmental degradation. Secretary Climate Change Division Raja Hasan Abbas observed that Pakistan was witnessing a rise in climate-induced catastrophes. "In the past 40 years, there have been 1,300 disasters in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Sarc) region in which a million people died and another 2.4 billion were affected. In 2011 alone, approximately 90 per cent of the \$270 billion global economic loss due to such catastrophes occurred in South Asia," he said. He added that SEA was currently not a legal requirement in Pakistan but steps were underway as it was increasingly becoming a necessity in the wake of adverse effects of climatic change.

ISLAMABAD: The National Institute of Bio-remediation (NIB) has developed sewage treatment facilities which would be used to clean waste water at three prime locations of the federal capital. NIB, which is part of the National Agricultural Research Centre, will be able to make the sewage water clear and odourless. Bioremediation uses biological methods to treat sewage water, organic matter and contaminated soil. In this regard, NIB is currently finalising an agreement with the Capital Development Authority (CDA) to develop three sites at Rose and Jasmine Garden, F-9 Fatima Jinnah Park and Zero-point to remediate waste water. The waste water channels at these sites have become a source of pollution threatening the environment.

Director NIB Dr Yousuf Riaz told Dawn that the waste water nullah in Rose and Jasmine Garden will undergo bioremediation by April next. He said treating 400 gallons of waste water required only 1 rupee, making the treatment extremely cost effective. He added that the bioremediation units established at NARC have the capacity of treating 700,000 gallons per day and supplement irrigation potential for 450 acres of land. He said similar facilities were developed at three locations in NARC which had reclaimed 3.0cusec of water for irrigation while a facility in Chak Shahzad was treating 1.5cusec of waste water making it available for irrigation. He added that two facilities had been developed at the Quaid-e-Azam University and one at National University of Science and Technology (Nust) to treat sewage water. "The facilities at QAU and Nust will help students and teachers carry out further research in collaboration with NIB," he maintained. Mr Riaz said 67 sites all over the country had been selected for bioremediation and a campaign would be launched this week to create awareness among people about the project.

LAHORE: The Walled City of Lahore (WCLA), in collaboration with Waste Busters and Bulleh Shah Packages, launched the Clean Walled City Project on Monday. Waste Busters CEO Asif Farooqi said, "We have been running a similar project in Green Town for two years." He said that the project was simple and easy to understand. "All we want is to keep the Walled City clean and make the masses aware of its importance."

The Lahore Waste Management Company's staff and Waste Busters' workers will clean 57 streets from Delhi Gate to Chowk Kotwali each morning. They will collect garbage from all houses and shops at 10am, said Farooqi. Waste Busters will provide a box made from recycled paper to all houses and shops for them to trash waste paper in, he said. "Our staff will collect waste paper from these boxes," he said. Farooqi said each household would pay the workers Rs100 per month. He said the amount had been agreed upon by residents of the area. "We cannot manage this herculean task without help from residents in the area," he said.

Global Perspective and Sustainability Director Ambreen Waheed said, "The boxes for people to collect waste paper in have been made from recycled agricultural and paper waste. We believe that everything should be recycled." She said the boxes were durable. She said the waste paper collected from the Walled City would be recycled to produce more boxes. "The youth can play an effective role in making this project a success," Waheed said, "We hope that students join us in the effort." She said they wanted to make students aware of the importance of keeping the city clean, as "it is our social responsibility".

Actor Faryal Ali Gauhar said, "The term cultural heritage does not only extend to buildings but also refers to how we deal with traditions, our way of living and world view." Walled City of Lahore Authority Director Kamran Lashari said the big difference between people in the West and here was that they loved and respected their cultural heritage. "We need to change our mindsets and realise that it is our responsibility to preserve the streets, houses and buildings in the city," he said. Residents of the Walled City must support the project, he said. He requested

Karachi, Gwadar facing tsunami threat: geologist

Dawn

December 2, 2013

the students present on the occasion to help mobilise teams to create awareness about the issue.

WCLA Deputy Director Tania Qureshi said, "The Royal Trail project will be completed soon. We need to bring about a behavioural change regarding cleanliness among the residents of the area so we can keep it clean." She said she hoped that they would soon present a clean and an environment friendly Walled City to tourists. Students from several schools distributed pamphlets to people in Delhi Gate to raise awareness.

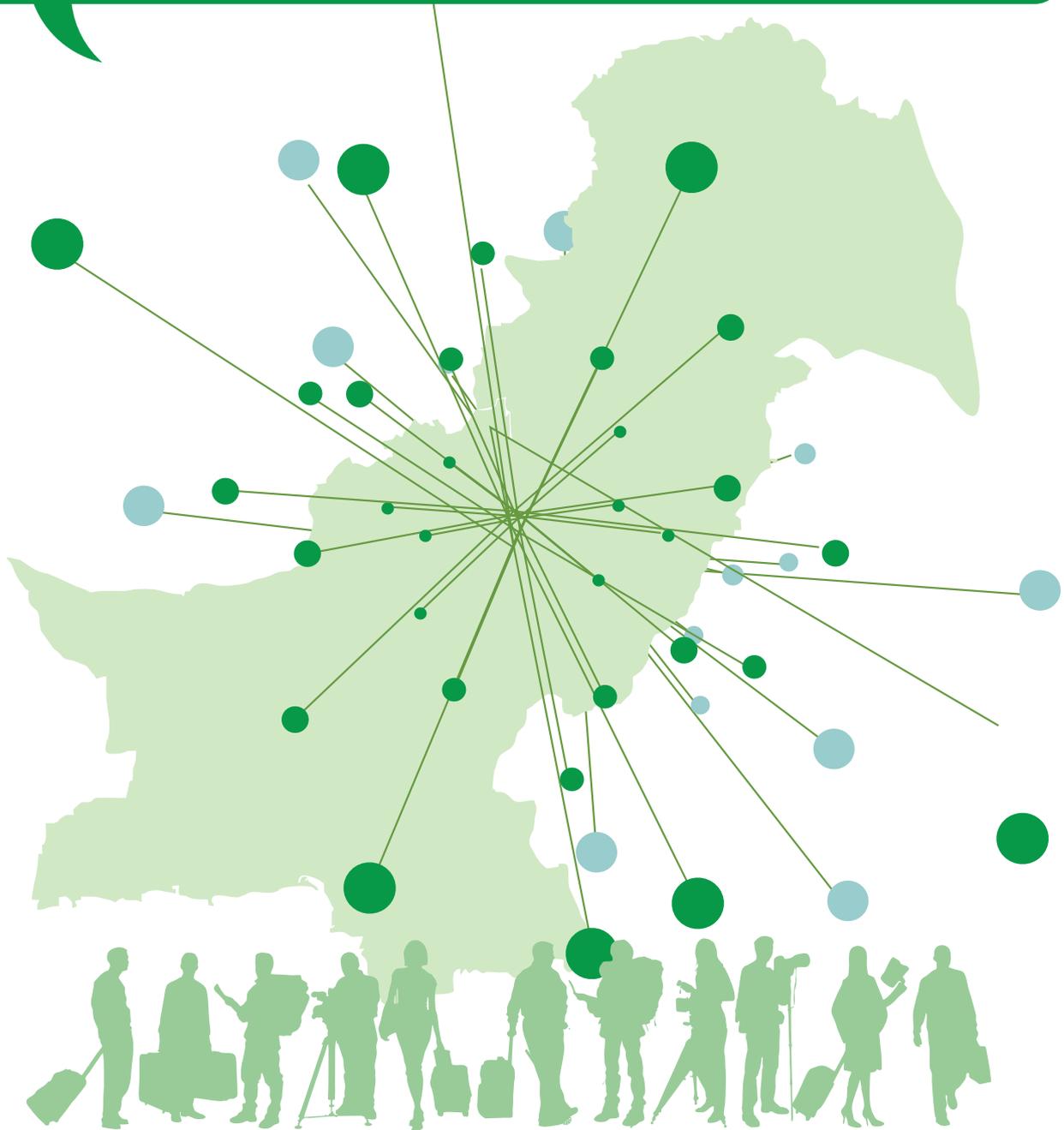
QUETTA: A senior geologist has warned that Karachi and some fast growing cities of Makran division, including Gwadar, Pasni and Ormara, are facing the threat of tsunami and can experience inundation because of it. Talking to Dawn, Dr Din Mohammad Kakar of the University of Balochistan's geology department said the situation required urgent attention. Prof Kakar, who along with some European scientists and archaeologists conducted research on earthquakes and tsunami in Balochistan, said a recent study had indicated that Karachi, the commercial hub of the country, and some coastal towns of Balochistan were vulnerable to tsunami because they were too close to a tsunami source known as Makran Subduction Zone. He said the coastal areas of Oman, India and Iran were also facing a similar threat. Prof Kakar said a team comprising scientists from Pakistan, India, Iran, Oman and the United States launched the study funded by the United Nations. Under the study, he said, the team members interviewed a number of people of Makran and Sindh coastal areas, including some elderly people who witnessed a tsunami in Makran in the 1940s.

For the study the scientists got clues from newspaper reports, administrative documents, census data, ships' logs, aerial photographs, intelligence reports and personal accounts of people living in these coastal areas for generations. The areas visited by the team members included Gwadar, Pasni, Kalamat, Ormara, Daam Sonmiani and Karachi. The team members also visited some coastal areas of Oman, Iran and India for the hunt of archival documents. They interviewed some people also there.

Dr Kakar said the study helped in understanding the level of destruction the 1945's tsunami caused to Makran and other coastal areas. Talking about the history of tsunami in the Makran coastal region, he said, an earthquake of 8.1-magnitude that struck Makran on Nov 28, 1945, formed a giant fault extending west from the Strait of Hormuz in Iran to east, Lasbela near Karachi, with the length of about 900km.

"The shaking caused buildings to collapse and followed by a tsunami that flooded the Makran coastal region. The flood reached as far as Oman, Iran and India," he said. Small villages were washed away by the tsunami in areas, including Pasni, Ormara, Kalamat and Gwadar. He observed that people in Karachi and Makran were not aware of tsunami's history in the region and its potential threat to their areas. Prof Kakar said large-scale destructions by recent catastrophic tsunamis, including those of 2004 in Indonesia, 2010 in Chile, 2010 in Sumatra and 2011 in Japan had raised awareness about the hazards of tsunami. He said the history of tsunami in Makran coastal region indicated that the region was vulnerable to tsunamis generated by multiple sources, such as earthquakes off coast and submarines landslides. He said in case of a tsunami the inundation could be 20-30 metres high with run-up to 1-5km in the Makran low land coastal region which would not be less than those of tsunami that hit Indonesia in 2004.

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ENVIRONMENT & RELATED REGULATORIES/AGENCIES FRAMEWORKS NEWS
Seminar on “Reliable flood forecasting- a challenge for data, models or forecaster skills.”

(Organized jointly by the Pakistan Meteorological Department, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and UNESCO)

Lahore-December 19, 2013

LAHORE: Scientists, hydrological modelers, meteorologists and decision makers from home and abroad met here on Wednesday to discuss how to help Pakistan properly forecast floods and adopt preventive measures. They gathered at a seminar organized jointly by the Pakistan Meteorological Department, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and UNESCO here at a local hotel. The seminar’s topic was “Reliable flood forecasting -- a challenge for data, models or forecaster skills.” UNESCO and JICA are guiding and financially assisting Pakistan to improve its flood forecasting system after the super floods in the Indus in 2010. The seminar was held to review the achievements so far and suggest further improvements.

National Disaster Management Authority chairman Maj Gen Muhammad Saeed Aleem said the project had started giving results. The new model of forecasting adopted by the Met Department greatly helped in monitoring floods and reducing losses to human life and property in monsoon this year. He said his organisation had made a 10-year \$1,040 million long-term plan comprising 118 projects to prevent and manage disasters, and develop an accurate flood warning system. Out of this, \$700 million would be spent on a modernised and effective national flood programme. This included installation of new weather radars, new Met offices and new weather and flood forecasting models. He said the country had so far been monitoring river floods. There was a need to develop a system to forecast hill torrents and urban flooding so as to minimise damage to human life or property and avoid inconvenience to urban population. There should be small radars for all cities for accurate weather forecasting for them. He said disaster management in the earthquake-hit Awaran was quick and better despite its remoteness and absence of any local support system. It was much better than the work during earthquake disaster in 2005 because “we were not prepared for it at that time.”

In his welcome address, PMD Director General Arif Mahmood said the seminar related \$3.2 million project was made by Unesco to develop a latest forecasting model, to establish media centres in Islamabad and Lahore to timely convey extreme weather reports to people and to develop human resource of his department. He said the project was being funded by Jica and the new forecasting model greatly helped the PMD accurately forecast monsoon rains and monitor the river flood flows this year. Five officials had obtained one-year flood-related degrees from Japan and more were going there for the same purpose.

Mr Mahmood, who has been elected as the World Meteorological Organization’s vice president, said the seminar was held to suggest further improvements in the system. Unesco’s Deputy Director of its Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, Indonesia, Dr Shahbaz Khan, who is also the project leader, introduced its various aspects. Punjab Irrigation Secretary Zahid Saeed, Flood Forecasting Division chief Riaz Khan and Japanese experts Mr Iwami, Ms Rio Tanabe and Mr Azegami also spoke. Later, a number of experts from Pakistan and Japan read papers on different challenges to flood forecasting and early warning system.

Sensitization seminar on the transport sector and its environmental impacts

(Organised under the Pakistan Sustainable Transport Project)

PC-hotel/ KARACHI: December 24, 2013

KARACHI: A multi-model and integrated transport system is needed in big cities like Karachi as relying on a single mode of transport is not feasible, stressed experts on Monday. A sensitization seminar on the transport sector and its environmental impacts was organised under the Pakistan Sustainable Transport Project (Pakstran) at the Pearl Continental hotel. The seminar aimed to engage the media and enable them to report on the social, developmental and environmental issues related to the transport sector in the country.

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) country-representative Mahmood Akhtar Cheema said the IUCN, a partner in the Pakstran project, has initiated several activities to raise awareness about the issues related to the transport sector in Pakistan. “The media can play an important role in the education of the people on the benefits of sustainable transportation.” Cheema was of the view that better awareness about sustainable transport will pave the way for planning and development decisions regarding urban transport concepts. “The focus is only on two cities – Karachi and Lahore,” he said.

Pakstran project-manager Dr Saleem Janjua said the objective of the project was to conserve energy, reduce emission and improve urban development. “The tool of awareness has been made an integral part of Pakstran and it is expected that the effective involvement of the media would help promote understanding about the sustainable concepts related to urban transport sector,” he maintained. Dr Janjua was of the view that the focus of awareness activities would be towards a gradual change in behaviour in order to cause a shift towards a sustainable mode of transportation.

Muhammad Aqibuddin, a specialist in the subject, stressed on the need of having an integrated transport system for cities like Karachi and Lahore so as to catalyse and harness economic growth and deflate social pressures.

Dr Raza Mehdi of the NED University of Engineering and Technology, mentioned that road transport is the largest source of air pollution in the country. “We should learn from the experiences of other countries. We have to see what environment friendly and user-friendly possibilities could work,” said Mehdi. He said that Karachi is a large city, adding that a multi-model solution is required.

Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA), with the approval of the Ministry of Climate Change and after obtaining consent of the Law and Justice Division, notified a

Regulation Prohibiting Manufacture, Import,

Sale And Use Of Non-Degradable Plastic Bags And Other Plastic Products

(Pak-EPA, MOCC: press brief/Pak-EPA news)

Govt asked to involve media to present stronger climate case to world:

A one day discussion on climate change titled "Towards a constructive media coverage of climate change, post COP19 media briefing"

(LEADS Pakistan) Dec19,2013

Funding Boost for Forests and Climate Protection:

Global partnership to protect tropical forests expanded with eight new countries.

News;PRESS RELEASE

(World Bank)December 16, 2013

Regulation prohibiting manufacture, import, sale and use of non-degradable plastic bags and other plastic products in the limits of Islamabad Capital Territory, effective from April.

- This landmark step taken by the Ministry of Climate Change will have long term benefits to control spread of waste plastic bags and enable exporters to comply with the environment-friendly packaging demanded in the international market. Many countries in Asia, Europe and America have successfully controlled plastic waste by introducing oxo-biodegradable plastic technology. The technology is simple which neither needs alteration in machinery nor in the process. A small quantity of olefin based additive (1-3%) is mixed with the raw material (granules) to develop biodegradable properties in plastic. Plastic bags made with this technology if left in open air or water absorb oxygen

ISLAMABAD: A one day discussion on climate change titled "Towards a constructive media coverage of climate change, post COP19 media briefing" was held here in the capital on Thursday, where climate change experts stressed that in order to make Pakistan's climate case stronger, Government should involve media to raise their knowledge to report these issues on a regular basis. The discussion was organized by LEAD Pakistan in collaboration with Heinrich Böll Stiftung (HBS) and was chaired by Deputy Secretary Climate Change Division Sajjad Haider Yaldrum along with IG Forest Syed Nasir Mehmood, Ex DG Environment and Climate Change Jawed Ali Khan, DIF Forest Abdul Munaf, CEO LEAD Pakistan Ali Tauqeer Sheikh, Country Director HBS Britta Petersen and Advisor LEAD Pakistan on climate Change Qamar Zaman Chaudhry. Journalists from different media houses from all four provinces attended the discussion. Speaking to the journalists Yaldrum of Climate change Division said that there are serious communication gaps between media, stakeholders and policy makers. He said that there are also capacity issues as those who write are not capable enough of writing on climate change issues. "Media needs sensitization and training to translate the issue of climate change in a language that is easy to understand for a common person." he added. He said that climate change is not just a challenge but it is also an opportunity. "Pakistan has history of missing all the opportunities because we always started late and never prepared ourselves to address this issue." he underlined. IG Forest Syed Mehmood Nasir said that major reason why majority of our population is unaware about climate change issues is because only English media is covering these issues while neither anyone from civil society is interested to make documents in Urdu language nor Urdu media is interested to cover these issues. He said that the discussions like today are contributing towards increasing knowledge of journalists about these issues. CEO LEAD Pakistan Ali Sheikh said that social media and SMS have provided us the opportunity to reach millions of people coming from all the classes. "Opportunities are there we need to avail them, we need to forge partnership and establish linkages with journalists" he added. Former DG Met and Advisor LEAD Pakistan on Climate Change Qamar Chaudhry said that media is the most effecting tool for communication and same is for climate change but we cannot blame only media for not covering climate change.

He said we need to use the language which is understandable for policy makers and media. He said media should play its role in bridging communication gap between policy makers and community by reaching to people as widely as possible and to inform common person about the challenges and opportunities of climate change. "Media should send the right message to the right people and in a language which they can understand while it is the duty of policy makers to provide the right information to media" he added.

DIG Forest Abdul Munaf advised journalist to use their pen to really trigger the change that can really make a big difference because this is a matter of survival for all of us. Journalist participating in the discussion complained the representatives of Climate Change Division for not updating media on the activities happening in the Division. They suggested that there should be a climate change spokesperson from the division who can support journalists in getting in touch with climate change experts. They also said that there are very few opportunities given to the journalists to understand the complexity of these issues and suggested more training and opportunities should be provided to them to enhance their knowledge and expertise on these issues.

GENEVA, Switzerland, December 16, 2013 – In a further boost for global efforts to combat climate change and tropical deforestation, Norway has pledged \$100 million to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), the World Bank administered facility that was set up to compensate developing countries for reductions in carbon dioxide emissions achieved by preserving their forests. "This latest support to the FCPF is a vote of confidence in an initiative that will show that tropical forests are worth far more alive than dead," said Rachel Kyte, World Bank Vice President for Sustainable Development. "Increasingly, the world recognizes that paying tropical countries for verified success in keeping their forests standing is critical to combating climate change."

The FCPF consists of two funds: The Readiness Fund (now at US\$360 million) provides grant financing to countries to develop their national strategies for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+), and put in place the systems and institutions for implementing these strategies. The Carbon Fund (US\$390 million) will provide payments upon verification that emissions have been reduced. The announcement by Norway of \$100 million to the readiness fund was made during the 16th FCPF Participants Committee meeting, which wrapped up yesterday in Geneva. "Protecting the world's remaining forests is one of the best ways to achieve effective emissions reductions and preserve biodiversity," said Tine Sundtoft, Minister of Climate and Environment in Norway. "I am pleased by the strong interest in joining the

SAEAC 2013 Concludes with Experts Calling for Strategic Approach to Environmental Assessment in Face of Climate Change:

International news release; 05 December 2013

(IUCN-Pakistan)

FCPF. The expansion is an important step forward, because forest preservation on a large scale will be difficult without building capacity in more countries.”

On another positive note, the UK also confirmed during the meeting that it stands ready to contribute further to the carbon fund. The financial boost to the readiness fund made it possible to select eight of the so called “candidate countries” into the FCPF. The countries - Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Fiji, Dominican Republic, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Togo – have been allocated readiness grants totaling \$30.4 million. “The Democratic Republic of Congo welcomes the additional funding announced by Norway and the UK,” said Vincent Kasulu, Secretary General of the Ministry of Environment of the Democratic Republic of Congo. “Being a pioneer of the REDD+ process in Africa, it is our hope that the additional contribution to the Carbon Fund will facilitate the selection of a variety of countries with different deforestation rates and different areas under forest cover into the portfolio of the Carbon Fund, thus allowing the Congo Basin countries to fully contribute to combating climate change.”

In advance of the committee meeting, a landmark decision was taken at the 8th meeting of the FCPF Carbon Fund Participants in Paris. After several days of intense negotiations, participants approved a set of rules, called the Methodological Framework, that guide the design and implementation of large-scale forest conservation and restoration programs. “Building on the momentum created at COP19 with the “Warsaw Agreement” on REDD+, the progress made in Geneva and last week’s breakthrough agreement in Paris creates new impetus to advance REDD+ processes at the national and global level,” said Ellysar Baroudy, FCPF Coordinator. “With a set of standards on how emission reductions resulting from forest conservation can be measured across diverse country contexts, the agreement gives the Carbon Fund a roadmap for implementation and opens up access to \$390 million to its Participants.”

The South Asian Environmental Assessment Conference (SAEAC13) concluded today with experts and delegates from South Asian and other countries calling for a structured approach to tackling climate change through strategic environmental impact assessment. The Conference was organized jointly by the Government of Pakistan and IUCN, and was attended by representatives of the government, civil society and the private sector. The conference came up with a declaration that emphasized engagement with the media, support the participation of a broad range of stakeholders particularly those that are directly affected by projects that require EIA, effective environmental assessment higher education and professional training; professional standard, and Review, reform, and effective enforcement of laws, rules and procedures related to environmental assessment. The two-day Conference is a major initiative of the National Impact Assessment Programme (NIAP) –a joint programme of the Government of Pakistan and IUCN that aims to contribute to sustainable development in Pakistan by strengthening EIAs and introducing the concept of SEA into Pakistan’s development planning process. The programme is being funded by Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (EKN) and technical assistance is being provided by the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment (NCEA).

Experts are now calling for a shift from solely looking at Environmental Impact Assessments on individual projects to the idea of Strategic Environmental Assessment which builds environmental assessment into a nation’s policy and programmes, and considers individual projects in the context of the country’s full development agenda, rather than on a case-by-case basis. EIA usually relates to environment assessments of the projects that aim to integrate environmental considerations into the earliest stages of policy, plan and programme development. EIA is one of several tools available for improving the way in which decisions are made in order to promote sustainable development outcomes. SEA helps ensure that environmental considerations play a more effective role in policy development. Because the linkages between environmental, social and economic factors are better understood and addressed, policies, plans and programmes have a greater likelihood to contribute to sustainable development.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Zahid Hamid, Minister for Science and Technology, underscored the need for focusing on climatic issues, and added, “This Conference has ignited considerable interest in the subject of environmental assessment, and today we are reaffirming our pledge to work more strategically and more responsibly towards shaping our future development.” He said that one of the key objectives of the Conference was to create the right enabling conditions for cross-fertilization. “And it has been heartening to see such a diverse group of professionals ranging from the academics to the private sector representatives, and from environmental professionals to government representatives.” The technical sessions, he observed, held as part of this Conference have brought out some very interesting conclusions. These conclusions should help South Asia pave the way for an initial strategy that can be refined as we move forward, he noted. The Program has helped bring leading international environmental professionals to Pakistan, as a result of which ‘we can expect that work on Impact Assessment in Pakistan will be based on international best practice,’ Mr. Hamid said.

Mr. Mahmood Akhtar Cheema, Country Representative of IUCN Pakistan, said that Pakistan was early in introducing mandatory Environmental Impact Assessment at a national level, “and we hope that we shall also be the ones with the support of the government to help introduce the Strategic Environmental Assessment at the policy level.” The last two days, Mr. Cheema continued, have given us all the opportunity to share experiences and learn from each other in the field, and to discuss with colleagues and partners from around the region.

The Conference concluded with a prize distribution ceremony for students of arts schools who had participated in a poster competition held on the sidelines, depicting environmental impact assessment. A technical session on the media was also chaired by Syed Talaat Hussain, a

To increase community resilience in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas, FATA Disaster Management Authority and UNDP establish consortium of local civil society organizations:

(UNDP-Pakistan): News/Press release

06 Dec 2013

Oxfam says that more needs to be done to help prepare people for disasters, as it marks its 40th year of working in Pakistan:

(Oxfam-Pakistan): 16 December 2013

renowned TV anchor and journalist, highlighting the role of media in environmental assessment.

Due to insecurity, large-scale displacement of populations throughout FATA has led to millions of people at one time or another living in camps and spontaneous settlements. As of September 2013, 169,517 families have returned to their places of origin while 175,552 families are still living in camps or host communities. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in partnership with the FATA Disaster Management Authority (FDMA) is helping to increase the resilience of the local communities and ensuring the sustainable return of crisis affected people to their homes.

To effectively mobilize the communities for development interventions, FDMA is working on building capacities of local civil society organizations (CSOs) and bringing them together in form of consortiums. While the networks of the CSOs and NGOs working in other regions of Pakistan are well established, such a CSO consortium does not exist for FATA. The consortium will comprise grassroots organizations that are already familiar with the local communities. The consortium will work together with the local communities and encourage stronger engagement with the people of FATA to build back in an effective manner.

Speaking at the capacity building workshop for the local CSOs based in FATA, Mr. Arshad Khan, Director General FATA Disaster Management Authority, said, "It is for the first time that around 16 local CSOs from various agencies of FATA have come together to discuss their common challenges. The rehabilitation and recovery efforts in FATA will not be possible without the support of local CSOs that understand the local dynamics of the region." He highlighted that UNDP is working hand in hand with FDMA to bring the local CSOs of FATA together and build their capacity on project design and implementation in a complex environment.

Mr. Marc-André Franche, Country Director UNDP in Pakistan, said, "To address the emerging challenges in FATA, it is important that all the stakeholders work together to identify the root causes of this crisis and develop local solutions that have a direct impact on the people of FATA. The local CSOs are crucial in efforts pertaining to peace building, conflict transformation and community development."

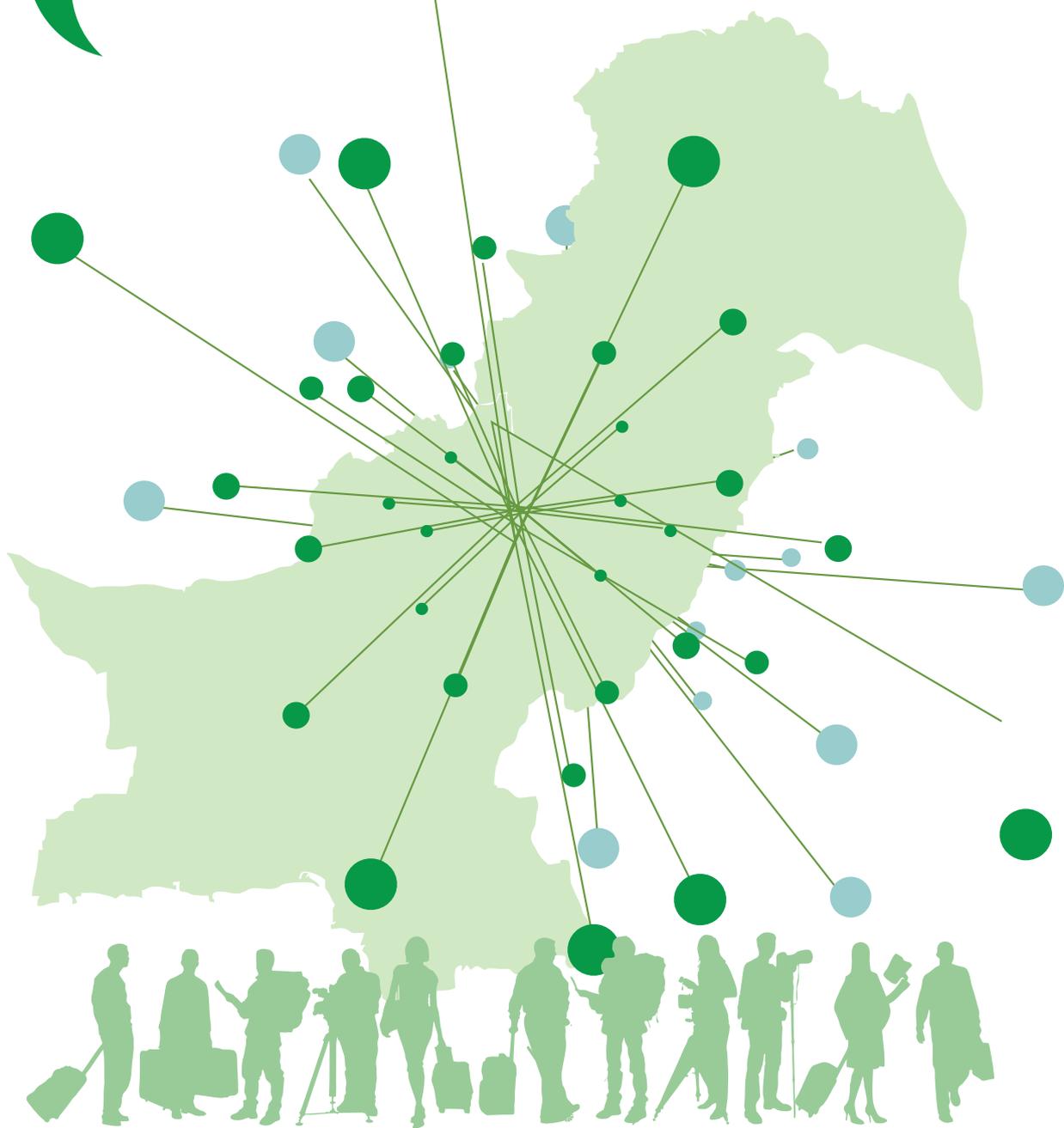
The three day training workshop for the local CSOs will build the institutional capacity of indigenous CSOs/NGOs on conflict analysis, project design and implementation for peace building interventions. This is expected to result in a consortium of partners that will use the social mobilization process to determine needs and help people to resolve their own issues.

"Oxfam will continue assisting the Pakistani people to make good use of the available human and natural resources to improve people's lives." Arif Jabbar Khan Country Director of Oxfam in Pakistan. Oxfam is calling for more investment to go into preparing people for floods and other disasters in Pakistan as it marks its 40th year of working in the country this week.

Since 2010, floods have ravaged the country and areas such as Sindh and Punjab have been continually hit, meaning that the same vulnerable people are affected time and time again with the urgent need of food, clean water and shelter. Country Director of Oxfam in Pakistan, Arif Jabbar Khan said: "In the past forty years, through our programs and working with others we have helped turn around people's lives. When the floods hit in 2010, good preparation ensured that over 200,000 people were evacuated to safety with rescue boats. These kinds of measures saved lives and more money needs to be invested in this type of early warning and preparation." Over the last four decades, Oxfam has helped pull millions of people out of poverty in the country. It has provided aid to about a million people after the 2005 Kashmir Earthquake. They also support people to find ways to make a living and ensure that they have access to food and education. Oxfam also supports women's groups so their voices are heard and helping girls' access education. Last year it helped over 2 million people.

Arif Jabbar Khan added: "Oxfam, with the help of its supporters, will continue assisting the Pakistani people to make good use of the available human and natural resources to improve people's lives, especially women, for the long-term. We also help strengthen local partners in the country so they can also carry out their important work. "

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CLIMATIC/ ENVIRONMENTAL PROFILE: CITY DISTRICT KARACHI

Environment

Surface Geology

Two synclinal valleys that are the Malir valley running from the north to southwest and the Lyari River valley running from the north to the south dominate the structural geology of Karachi. An anticlinal ridge known as Drigh road anticline separates these two synclinal valleys. Another anticlinal hilly range is called Manghopir range located in the northwest of the city. Intermittent streams and run off form monoclinal ridges, hogbacks and cuestas erode these folded structures. Scarp features are dominated in these structures. Generally angle of dip slopes are in between 30 to 70 degree. Strikes are mostly north to south and northwest to southwest. There are several strike slips faults, which indicate the past tectonic activity in the area. The Sona pass, the Mulri hill pass and several faults in the Manghopir and Orangi hills.

Cliffs, sea stacks, sandy beaches, sand bars and sand spits, swamps, mudflats and salt marshes dominate the coast of Karachi. Due to the hill torrents at the slope of hills, alluvial fans and bajada features form depositional surface while the low angle piedmont slopes represent the erosional surface. Weathering and mass wasting are two dominant geomorphic processes in the area are examples of strike slip faults. Dip-slip faults like normal faults, reverse fault etc. The outcrops in Karachi comprise different epochs of tertiary period and quaternary surface deposits. It comprises from Eocene to Pliocene rocks. The outcrops are exposed in different areas of the City belong to Pliocene locally called Manchhar formation, Miocene locally called Gaj formation and Oligocene locally called Nari formation. All rocks are sedimentary rocks belong to limestone, clays, shale and sandstone.

Torrential Rainfall and Surface Runoff

Rainfall in Karachi is low and highly variable. However, whenever torrential rain, falls, which usually is for short duration, the surface runoff intensifies. This is because the rate of water percolation into the soil is lower than the amount of rainwater that falls on the surface. Heavy showers take place in the city due to the effects of tropical storms, usually in June, which rarely hit the coastal areas. Usually these heavy shower cause flooding. On June 6, 2010, due to the tropical storm, Karachi received 130 mm rain within a day causing huge surface runoff. The Scatter Graph given below depicts a correlative effect between the rainfall and the surface runoff.

Surface Water Drainage

The drainage pattern of Karachi is dominated by dendritic. The surface drainage of Karachi City is divided in to four parts based upon surface runoff and streams' flow

- a. Malir River Basin
- b. Lyari River Basin,
- c. Budnai Basin,
- d. Coastal Basin

The Malir River basin and the Lyari River basin are the two main basins which contribute about 80 percent of the surface runoff. The Budnai basin and the coastal basin are minor basins. All basins collect surface runoff through hundreds of small and large channels which finally drain into sea. Karachi's network of drains is not designed to handle high intensity of rainfall. In addition, the drains get blocked or are covered up by encroachments. This happens, for example, when sewage lines are connected to the drainage networks and garbage is dumped in them. The encroachments and squatter settlements on the bed and along the banks of the Malir River have been a major cause of flooding in Karachi during heavy rainfalls.

Environmental Quality

According to the Asian Green City Index (2013), Karachi is the 7th least livable city in the world out of 140 and at the bottom of the 22-city's list of the Asian Green City index. The index compared environmental performance of 22 Asian cities in cooperation with "Economist Intelligence Unit", and rated Karachi as "well below average" on the basis of eight environmental categories (Air quality, Environmental governance, Energy & CO₂, Land use & buildings, Transport, Waste, Water, and Sanitation).

Air Pollution: Main sources of air polluting emissions in Karachi include old and ill-maintained motor vehicles, open burning of garbage at the landfill sites and uncontrolled industrial growth (e.g. steel mills, chemical and engineering works, oil refineries, ship

building yards, railroad yards, jute and textile factories, printing and publishing plants and food processing plants. Over 1,000 tons per day of uncollected solid waste finds its way directly or indirectly in to the sea, providing a constant source of marine pollution. Firewood, dung and solid wastes are still used as alternative sources of energy in certain parts of the city, particularly the villages and Katchi Abadis. Biomass is used by 17,000 households, or 2.01 percent, of dwellings in the city, according to the Bureau of Statistics.

Noise Pollution: Rapid urbanization is contributing towards the emission of noise due to traffic. Increase in the number of vehicles, traffic jams, defective vehicles, and poor roads, all contribute towards noise pollution. Although industrial estates have been demarcated away from the residential areas, the unplanned 'katchi abadis' not only leads to extemporaneous industrial activity but expose the residents to noise and air pollution. The most important non-industrial sources identified in Karachi are: vehicular traffic, loudspeakers, radio, TV, record players, construction work, rail and air traffic. The tolerable range of 60 to 70 dB(A) has been far exceeded and the average level is in the range of 75 to 85 dB(A).

Costal: The Karachi coastline, which stretches over 135 km, is facing severe pollution from industrial, port, municipal, and transportation activities in the area. Effluent from Malir and Lyari rivers is also a major contributor. The marine environment is being overwhelmed with pollutants discharged to the marine environment. A recent study found that some of the marine life was contaminated with lead. When consumed by humans through seafood, this has been linked to anemia, kidney failure, and brain damage. The coastline is heavily dependent on the mangrove forests that line the coast to maintain the marine environments ecological balance. The mangroves provide habitat for a complex and interdependent community of invertebrates, fish, birds, and reptiles. Mangroves protect the coast line from soil erosion and also minimize the disastrous impact of cyclones and tsunamis. They are an important habitat for fishes and shrimps. The Mangrove forest has plummeted from 600,000 hectares in 1930s to just 86,000 hectares in 2005 (Karachi Strategic Development Plan 2020/ Compiled-December 2007).

¹ ADB 2005a Karachi Mega Cities Preparation Project. August 2005. Asian Development Bank, Manila

² Dieter Schwela, Gary Haq and Mohammad Aqib Uddin (2009). A Strategic Approach for Air Pollution Reduction in Karachi

Oil Pollution: About 2,500 ships and 200 oil tankers visit the Karachi harbour through the Manora Channel annually and some 20 million tons of cargo is handled as a result. There is large scale shipping traffic at Port Qasim. The sources of oil pollution in Manora channel are bilges, washings from engine rooms of vessels, discharges and leaks from bunkering points, and leaks and small spills occurring during loading and unloading at the oil piers. Some of the oil is also carried to the channel through the Lyari river discharge. It is estimated that all the sources of oil pollution in the Karachi harbour collectively contribute about fifteen to twenty thousand tons of oil per year within the harbor and adjacent waters connected with it through the Manora channel. Oil pollution also occurs due to the National Oil Refinery and Pakistan Oil Refinery discharges into the Korangi Creek.

Apart from this, the Sindh coastline appears to be relatively free from oil pollution. Among the creeks of the Indus delta, Gizri Creek and Korangi Creek are most affected by oil pollution from the waste oil discharges of refineries, industries and municipal activities of sources located in the Korangi area. At Karachi, the Lyari River discharges considerable amounts of suspended matter into the Manora channel throughout the year. Part of this settles at the bottom and may be responsible for the chronic siltation problems the channel suffers, owing to which; it has to be dredged throughout the year.

Waste Water Discharge: It is estimated that approximately 362 million gallons per day (MGD) of sewage is generated in Karachi and the adjacent areas from domestic and industrial sources. Approximately, 60% are industrial effluents and 40% domestic discharges. The industrial wastewater and sewage are discharged into the two seasonal rivers: the Lyari River and the Malir River. These rivers act as main open sewers for liquid waste disposal from the city. The Lyari and Malir Rivers are thus contributing about 59% and 25% of the total pollution load of Karachi City respectively, while 15% of the pollution load is directly discharged into the adjacent open seacoast or discharged via Gizri, Korangi and Gharo Creeks.

The Lyari and Malir rivers, which have been converted into large open sewers, cause severe marine pollution along the coast and impact the harbor's marine environment. Further, solid waste dumping and hazardous industrial sewage aggravates the contamination of the Lyari River. The high levels of pollution flowing into the Lyari River and Malir River have created areas in the Karachi Fish Harbour and the Gizri Creek in which no marine or plant life can exist.

Solid Waste: Karachi city, that has a population of about 17 million, generates approximately 9,000 tons of domestic solid wastes per day. Approximately, 60 percent of this waste remains uncollected and is either burnt or deposited directly into storm drains or coastal rivers which ultimately transport it to the coastal waters. This is one of the major causes of the reduced aesthetic and recreational potential of the coastline. Components of waste, such as plastic bags, are known to damage mechanized fishing crafts and harm marine life. This problem is growing in magnitude and could increase further if the coastal areas are developed without planning for the effective management and disposal of solid waste.

There is a regular solid waste management system for Karachi City. Solid wastes such as garbage from domestic sources are collected by garbage collection vehicles and dumped in landfill sites. There is no arrangement for the disposal of hazardous solid waste except for the hazardous waste from hospitals. There are a few garbage / refuse collection sites within the city. It is taken away by vehicles (open trucks and specially designed garbage vehicles) to either the composting center or to the two designated dumping / landfill sites for refuse located in the outskirts of the city (Deh Jam Chakro landfill site near Surjani Town and Deh Gond Pass landfill site near Hub Chowki). It is estimated that hardly 1,200 tons of the domestic waste, out of a total of around 9,000 tons

generated by the city, is transported to the landfill sites of Jam Chakro and Gond Pass. The remainder is being dumped inside Karachi.

WASTE MANAGEMENT	AMOUNT
Estimated Garbage 2005	9009.43 TPD
CDGK	80% Area (only 40% capacity)
DHA, CD, SITE.	20% Area
Vehicles	567
Cost of Disposal at Landfill	Rs. 92.00 per ton
Cost of Collection and Transportation	Rs. 294.00 per ton
Community Bin	4085 nos
Manpower	4170
Total Household waste generated	4500 TPD
Total city lifting capacity	1880 TPD/450 vehicles/3 trips

Source: Karachi Strategic Development Plan 2020

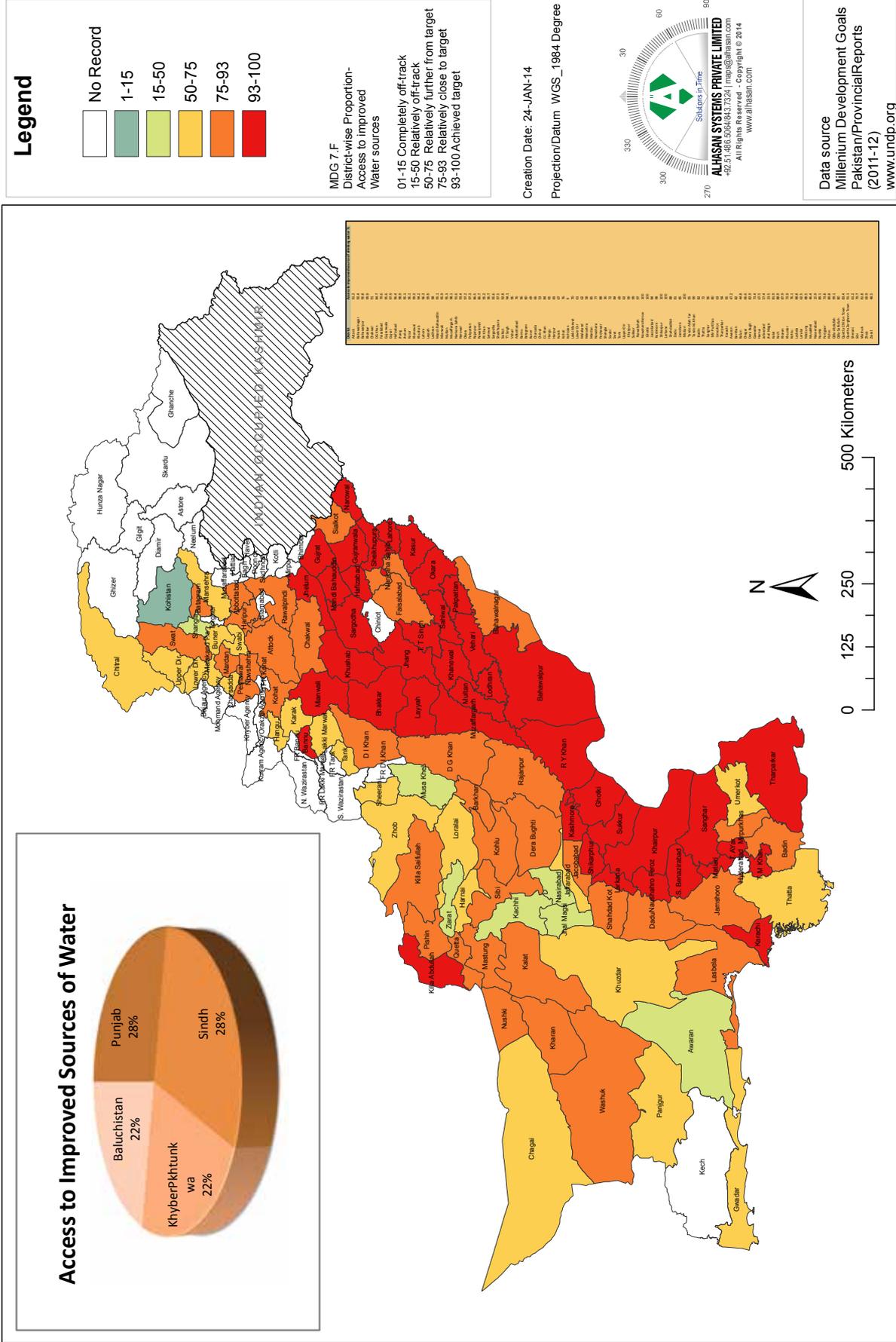
Port Operations: Significant pollution risks are associated with port construction and operations. Dredging is a major activity involving sediment transport, which is carried out constantly along the port area in Karachi. Dredging takes place during the development of new harbours and ports, for their extensions and to maintain the depth of channels, dock entrances and estuaries. Dredging is required annually for removing about 500,000 m³ of silt and sand, which gets deposited in the navigational channel of Karachi harbour during the monsoons. Debris and material removed by dredging operations are dumped about 50 nautical miles south of Manora breakwater wall or in the open sea. Dredging activities also take place in Port Qasim.

¹ Sewerage and Solid Waste Management

¹ Strategy for Industrial Waste Water and Pollution Control: Pakistan Business Review October 2010

http://www.iobm.edu.pk/PBR/1010/PBR_1010_601_Strategy%20for%20Industrial%20Waste.pdf Accessed on 28/12/2013

ACCESS TO IMPROVED WATER SOURCES IN SELECTED DISTRICTS OF PAKISTAN



The Great Game in the Arctic

By: **Arif Ansar** (chief analyst at PoliTact, a Washington-based futurist advisory firm)

(EIN-NEWS DESK) Saturday, 28 Dec 2013

Owing to global warming, it's a race for frozen treasures

"Throughout human history, mankind has raced to discover the next frontier. And time after time, discovery was swiftly followed by conflict. We cannot erase this history. But we can assure that history does not repeat itself in the Arctic."

—US Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel

Since China declared its new air defense identification zone over a chain of disputed islands in East China Sea, the region has been tense. Meanwhile, in Ukraine, the public protests continued as Senator McCain spoke to a rally there over the weekend suggesting why a European Union agreement would be better for the country. And an Uzbek delegation traveled to US last week to discuss the post 2014 security environment in the Central Asian region and concerns over the growing Russian pressure.

But no less significant events are also taking place in the Arctic, the new frontier. There, Canada and Russia seems to be squaring up in the world's most frigid and inhabitable corners. The slow moving Antarctic great game suddenly picked up pace with the announcement made on December 9 by the Canadian Foreign Minister, John Baird. He stated that the nation's scientists are preparing a submission to the UN for acquiring the North Pole and the Lomonosov Ridge – the undersea mountain range equally claimed by the Russian Federation. "What we want to do is claim the biggest geographic area possible for Canada," John Baird told reporters.

Putin responded swiftly declaring that in response to the Canadian assertion, Russia will be significantly increasing its military presence and will place two brigades in the region, reversing its previous policy. Speaking at the Defense Ministry Board, he thanked the Russian forces for completing the military base in Novosibirsk Islands, deeming it vital for the control of Arctic region. He added the formation of new military forces for the Arctic would be completed by 2014, including building of several airstrips. During the speech, Putin also laid out the other strategic considerations.

"Armed confrontations persist in some countries of the Middle East. The international forces' withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2014 may complicate the situation in that country and even create a sizable area of instability in the adjoining Central Asian states, which directly concerns the national interests of Russia, our security," Putin commented.

The situation has been building up gradually. Just last month, in November, the US announced its Arctic strategy by declaring it will assert its sovereignty "in and around Alaska." The US Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel had alarmed recently that while tensions are likely to escalate as a result of energy exploration, nations must work together to prevent potential conflicts. "Throughout human history, mankind has raced to discover the next frontier. And time after time, discovery was swiftly followed. 'Some experts claim the costs of exploiting the resources of Arctic are too high and this would prevent further degradation of the environment. Others assert technological breakthroughs can quickly change the equation.'

As a consequence of global warming, melting of giant glaciers continues in the Arctic region while exposing previously unreachable precious resources. This is causing the Arctic Council countries and other nations to post claims to various parts for exploration of energy resources while expanding their use of new waterways for military exercises and transit. According to US Geological Survey, 15 percent of the globe's undiscovered oil and 30 percent of its natural gas may lie in the polar region, beneath its melting icebergs.

The Arctic Council was created in 1996 with Canada, Russia, US, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Sweden, and Finland as its permanent members. With facilitation from the US, in May this year the nations of India, China, Italy, Japan, Singapore and South Korea were granted an observer status. While the Council was initially set up premised more on environmental issues and protecting indigenous people spread throughout the region, it is quickly morphing into one focused on political and economic priorities.

Consider this for example: the Indian observer status to the Council would not have been possible without the active support of Norway. In an interview given to NDTV, Norwegian Foreign Minister, Espen Barth Eide, stated, "India is playing an important role in climate discussions. The climate binds us together, whether you live in the Himalayas or here, the climate binds us and it is changing." Mr. Edie added that India and Norwegian cooperation will benefit not only in the arena of research but will also deepen economic relations. On the other hand, India's lead scientist at its Arctic research lab 'Himadri,' Manish Tewari commented, 'what happens here has a direct bearing on the monsoon and countries like India.'

Obviously, what alters the monsoon rains directly impacts Pakistan as well. Scientists have detected a correlation between the weather in the Arctic and the intensity of monsoons in South Asia, which in turn influences the agriculture produce. Moreover, the Indian scientist believes that melting of Arctic glaciers will result in rise of sea levels with the risk of flooding large parts of India. These are some of the reasons why track two water dialogue between Pakistan and India is so critical. According to the website of Pakistan's Institute of Oceanography, the nation maintains two summer research stations and one weather observatory in the Antarctica, and is planning to establish a permanent base. In the same NDTV interview referred above, Indian Foreign Minister Salman Khurshid dispelled the notion India was seeking to get involved in the Arctic Great Game because of its energy resources. As in Afghanistan, India, like other global powers, is increasingly extending its reach and getting adept at integrating environmental, political, and economic interests around the globe.

Some experts claim the costs of exploiting the resources of Arctic are too high and this would prevent further degradation of the environment. Others assert technological breakthroughs can quickly change the equation. Whatever the case, one thing is clear; exploration, industrial activity, and any military conflict in the Arctic, will lead to more climatic calamities around the globe.

Siachen: An environmental disaster in the making

K. IQBAL

(Daily The Nation: December 08, 2013)

Advisor to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz has pointed out that presence of Indian forces on Siachen Glacier is harmful to the environment. Pakistan is facing a water shortage and Indian forces are damaging the virgin snow of Siachen on a daily basis, which is one of the largest sources of Pakistani waters. Items of daily use disposed off by thousands of Indian soldiers are threatening the very existence of the glacier. Presence of Indian forces on Siachen is, indeed, a big issue and should be resolved as soon as possible. According to environmentalists, glacial retreat on Himalayas and Karakorum ranges has accelerated during the recent years because of human presence on the glaciers. Indian and Pakistani troops are face-to-face at Siachen for years in sub-freezing temperature, since Indian troops occupied the major portion of Siachen in 1980. Before this act of Indian aggression, the glacier was a demilitarized zone, scarcely visited by human beings. Pakistan had to move its troops to the glacier as a necessity to halt further advancement of Indian troops. Ever since Pakistan has pursued restoration of status quo ante. Demilitarization of Siachen would mitigate the water scarcity of both the countries. India and Pakistan are working on resolving their water issues. The two countries are doing this through multiple channels including Pakistan-India composite dialogue and Indus Water Commission. Planning Commission's 2025 Vision is also concentrating on water resources and is preparing a comprehensive sustainable development strategy while keeping the water scarcity of the country in view.

United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Poland from November 11-22 has concluded that: "We're being impacted by climate change right now. We have to fight sea level rise, we are looking at increases in the frequency and severity of storm events, so it's about survival...this is the most important decade facing mankind...What we do in the next seven years will affect generations to come."

Germanwatch presented its ninth annual Global Climate Risk Index at the onset of the Climate Summit in Warsaw. "The landfall of Hurricane Sandy in the US dominated international news in October 2012. Yet it was Haiti - the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere - that suffered the greatest losses from the same event," said Sönke Kreft, team leader for international climate policy at Germanwatch and co-author of the index. In the last two decades, the 10 most affected countries have without exception been developing nations, with Honduras, Myanmar and Haiti taking the brunt during the period 1993-2012. Haiti led the list of the three countries most affected by weather related catastrophes in 2012. The others were the Philippines and Pakistan.

The Germanwatch Climate Risk Index ranks countries according to relative and absolute number of human victims, and relative and absolute economic damage. The most recent available data from 2012 as well as for the 20-year-period 1993-2012 were taken into account for the preparation of this index. Results are really a wake-up call. The report also published a Climate Risk Index for 1993-2010, with Pakistan ranked as the 12th most affected country by climate-related events over the last two decades. The report also noted that Pakistan has been among the three most affected countries for three consecutive years. Pakistan, which had already suffered severe flooding in 2010 and 2011, was struck again by a rough monsoon season, in 2012 killing over 650 people. According to the report's assessment, the extreme weather calamities caused Pakistan losses worth 0.7% of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) over 20 years.

The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) has reported that this year is on course to be among the top 10 warmest years since modern records began in 1850. The first nine

months, January to September, tied with 2003 as the seventh warmest such periods on record, with a global land and ocean surface temperature of about 0.48°C (0.86°F) above the 1961–1990 average. All of the warmest years have been since 1998, and this year once again continues the underlying, long-term trend, the coldest years now are warmer than the hottest years before 1998. Climate has always changed, however, now the concern is that the change, both in terms of scale and linkages, is unprecedented. Therefore Climate Change has moved swiftly to the centre-stage of public concern. There is a great deal of intense debate on the subject, and a wide-range of literature is available including numerous government response plans and documents. The politico-security narratives of Climate Change increasingly frame our understanding of other global challenges—from poverty and health to the food-energy-water connects.

United Nations' Secretary General (UNSG) Mr Ban Ki-moon, addressed the "Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change"(IPCC) on September 27, 2013, as world's top climate scientists formally embraced an upper limit on greenhouse gases for the first time; thus establishing, at least, a glass ceiling beyond which humanity must stop injecting these gases into the atmosphere or face irreversible climatic changes. Ban Ki-moon, spoke to delegates at the meeting, via video link; he declared his intent to call a meeting of heads of state to push forward a climate change treaty. The last such meeting, in Copenhagen in 2009, ended in a stalemate, with a clear divide between the positions taken by the developed and the developing countries. UNSG called on the world's governments to listen to the IPCC's findings: "This new report will be essential for governments as they work to finalise an ambitious legal agreement on climate change in 2015. The heat is on. Now we must act."

Siachen and water disputes between India and Pakistan are parts of the overall Kashmir conflict. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's recent visit to Muzaffarabad served as an opportunity not only to highlight what should be the fundamental position of Pakistan on the core issue of Jammu and Kashmir but his meetings and utterances were also reassuring for Kashmiris who have been waging a relentless struggle to realize their right of self-determination. The stand enunciated by the Premier on Kashmir dispute is in line with the aspirations of both people of Kashmir and Pakistan. During his meeting with the APHC leadership, the Prime Minister expressed his dismay at the contradictory stance taken by the Indian government in addressing the issue of occupied Kashmir and added that it was his desire that the dispute is settled in accordance with the UN resolutions and wishes of Kashmiri people. He is perfectly right as India has always adopted an evasive attitude towards the issue and has failed to fulfil the categorical commitments made to the international community about grant of right of self-determination to people of Jammu and Kashmir through a UN supervised plebiscite. Disregarding its pledges, successive Indian governments have been taking steps to strengthen their illegal foothold on the occupied territory; occupation of Siachen was one such event. However, there have been variations in approach to the issue by the successive Pakistani governments as well – varying from apologetic to jingoistic. There were also times when Pakistan insisted that there should be progress in tandem on all issues forming composite dialogue including Kashmir but then there was talk of granting MFN status to India and entering into more trade without any progress on the issue of Kashmir. These contradictory approaches have caused harm to Kashmir cause. Hopefully the new government would continue to pursue for settlement of Kashmir dispute at all forums throughout its term of office. A beginning could be made by pursuing bilateral agreement on demilitarization of Siachen glacier.

Preparing for scarcity

SAKIB SHERANI

(Daily Dawn, December 27, 2013)

BARRING its formative years, generations of Pakistani policymakers have comfortably operated with one 'given' or constant: resource abundance. From vast tracts of fertile arable land to generous flows in its rivers, from reservoirs of natural gas to an enterprising and hardworking population, nature has been bountiful in its resource endowments to Pakistan.

Despite such abundance, Pakistan has utilised its resources poorly. From a combination of one the world's largest rivers (Indus, with an annual flow twice that of the Nile), and the biggest contiguous irrigation network in the world, instead of producing large exportable surpluses, the country runs up an ever-rising food import bill that is currently around \$5 billion.

Against a world average of over 50pc (India: 40 pc), Pakistan stores only 8pc of the water flowing in its rivers — allowing 92pc, or a mammoth 130 million acre feet (MAF), to flow into the sea each year. Similarly, against a hydel potential estimated at well over 40,000 MW, Pakistan produces a fraction, at 6,700 MW from its water resources. From its fertile soil, the country produces a variety of crops. However, in each case, the crop yields in Pakistan are between 20 to 40pc below world average. Hence, the average wheat production per hectare in Pakistan, at 2,787 kilogrammes (1,128 kg per acre), and the cotton yield at 769 kgs per hectare, are both substantially below the world average.

Pakistan is the fourth largest cotton grower in the world. However, from each ton of cotton produced, Pakistan earns approximately \$6,000, versus \$34,000 by China. Bangladesh, without cotton of its own (but with preferential market access). These are just some examples. The list of underutilisation and egregious mismanagement of resources goes on and on. In a testimony to its grossly inefficient use of factor endowments, in overall terms; Pakistan has been eking out a progressively lower rate of growth since the 1990s with deployment of a given resource envelope — from an already relatively low base.

Pakistan is not unique in how it runs its resources into the ground. In many senses, it displays the same characteristics that other 'resource-cursed' countries, particularly in Africa, do. While resource-rich countries are generally poor and underdeveloped, their politicians and bureaucrats are invariably super-rich and plushly comfortable.

According to a recent study by the McKinsey Global Institute, 69pc of people in extreme poverty are in resource-driven economies, while for 80pc of resource-rich countries, per capita income is below the world average — despite their factor endowment. Given an abundance of resources at its disposal, Pakistan could, decade after decade, arguably 'afford' to use them unwisely and inefficiently — in short, to waste them. However, a new reality has been slowly emerging since the 1.990s — the reality of a shrinking resource envelope.

A dangerous combination of a burgeoning population, natural resource depletion, the inability to tap available reserves due to inadequacy of fiscal resources, a lack of political, vision and bureaucratic competence and capacity, have produced the scarcities which Pakistanis are becoming familiar with: shortages of natural gas, electricity, water, fruits and vegetables, to name a few. Hence, per capita water availability has declined by around 84pc since 1951, while energy availability has fallen 8pc since 2008. The trend in the availability of these two basic resources at least is unlikely to change — climate change is likely to affect both the availability of fresh water resources as well as arable land. The lack of emphasis on building a modern, progressive tax edifice in Pakistan that encompasses its elites means that, progressively, the country will have fewer and fewer resources

to import energy while its demand will rise exponentially. The combination of an expanding population and constrained fiscal resources will also mean that increasingly, in the years ahead, Pakistan will also be facing tough trade-offs — as in importing energy versus food-grains. That this grim future should unfold is not inevitable or preordained, of course. Numerous examples can be drawn upon of countries that have been severely resource-constrained, but that have used this scarcity to their advantage — by becoming super-efficient in their use. Faced with an 'oil shock' following the Arab embargo in 1973, the US worked assiduously to reduce its dependence on oil — introducing measures ranging from speed limits on highways, the promotion of car pools and public transport, to the stipulation of 'standards' for fuel consumption in cars and mandatory energy audits in industry, among others.

Israel, faced with a harsh landscape and climate, poured resources into agronomy and food security, turning the Negev desert and parts of the Jordan Valley into its bread basket. It also invested heavily in developing its human and social capital, to provide avenues for growth and exports for the country in high technology. Similarly, relative to the needs of a modern industrial economy, Japan has been resource-starved since decades. However, this has not stopped its march to industrial prowess on the global stage. Singapore is yet another resource-constrained nation beating the odds with vision and commitment.

Countries that have developed even with severe resource constraints, however, have had one big advantage at their disposal — strong institutional frameworks. Out of all the developing resource challenges faced by Pakistan, the lack of strong institutions is perhaps the biggest 'scarcity' of all.

سرخیاں

ماحولیاتی آلودگی

سوداخریدے سرطان نہیں

دسمبر 2013

تفصیلات

پابندی توڑنا ہمارے ہاں عام سی بات ہے، حکومت کالی پلاسٹ تھیلیوں پر مکمل پابندی جبکہ دیگر رنگوں کی انتہائی پتلی اور چھوٹی پلاسٹک کی تھیلیوں پر پانچ سال قبل پابندی عائد کر چکی ہے تاہم موثر عملدرآمدی قواعد و ضوابط نہ ہونے کے باعث مذکورہ پابندی کی کھلے بندوں خلاف ورزی جاری ہے، واضح رہے کہ کالی پلاسٹک کی تھیلیوں میں کارسینوجنک مادے ہوتے ہیں جنہیں چھونے والا جلد کے سرطان میں مبتلا ہو سکتا ہے اس کے علاوہ تمام رنگوں کی پلاسٹک تھیلیاں مکمل طور پر تلف نہیں کی جاسکتی ہیں اور زمینی آلودگی کا مستقل ذریعہ ہوتی ہیں۔ ماہرین کا کہنا ہے کہ پلاسٹک کی تھیلیوں کا استعمال مکمل طور پر ترک کرانے کے لیے ضروری ہے کہ عوام کو اس کا قریب ترین نعم البدل دیا جائے جو پلاسٹک کی تھیلیوں کی ہی طرح سستا اور سہل ہو، کپڑے کی تھیلیاں استعمال میں آسان تو ہوتی ہیں لیکن سستی نہیں ہوتی ہیں اور ایک ہی تھیلی کو بار بار استعمال کرنے کے لیے سنبھال کر رکھنا ہوتا ہے جبکہ کاغذ کی تھیلیاں پلاسٹک کی تھیلیوں کی طرح پائیدار نہیں ہوتی ہیں۔ ماحولیاتی ماہرین کے ایک اور گروپ کا ماننا ہے کہ پلاسٹک کی تھیلیاں ختم کرنے کا ایک ہی طریقہ ہے کہ عوام کو اس کے نقصانات سے مکمل طور پر آگاہ کیا جائے اور انہیں پلاسٹک کی تھیلیوں کا استعمال ترک کرنے پر آمادہ کیا جائے، اس کی دلیل یہ دی جاتی ہے کہ آج سے تیس سال قبل جب پلاسٹک کی تھیلیاں متعارف نہیں ہوئی تھیں اس وقت بھی تو لوگ کاغذ اور کپڑے کی تھیلیوں میں اشیاء و اجناس لاتے لے جاتے تھے۔ پلاسٹک کی تھیلیوں کے استعمال کی حوصلہ شکنی کے لیے ضرورت اس امر کی ہے کہ حکومت اور غیر سماجی تنظیمیں مستقل بنیادوں پر پلاسٹک کی تھیلیوں کے خلاف آگہی مہم چلائیں اور ساتھ ہی ساتھ ایسی پلاسٹک کی تھیلیاں جن پر پابندی عائد کی جا چکی ہے انہیں بنانے والوں کو بلا تفریق سخت سے سخت سزا دے کر انہیں دوسروں کے لیے نشان عبرت بنایا جائے

کوئٹہ—پاکستان کے جنوب مغربی صوبہ بلوچستان میں آنے والے شدید زلزلے کو تین ماہ گزرنے کے بعد بھی اس سے متاثرہ افراد کی پوری طرح بحالی ممکن نہیں ستمبر میں 7.6 شدت کے زلزلے سے صوبے کے چھ اضلاع متاثر ہوئے۔ ہو سکی ہے اور یہ لوگ سخت سرد موسم میں بھی خیموں میں زندگی بسر کرنے پر مجبور ہیں۔ تھے جن میں سب سے زیادہ نقصان آواران میں ہوا۔ اس زلزلے سے کم از کم چار سو افراد ہلاک اور اتنی ہی تعداد میں لوگ زخمی ہوئے جب کہ بڑے پیمانے پر ساتھ بڑھتی ہوئی سردی ان خیموں میں مقیم زلزلہ متاثرین کو مختلف بیماریوں میں مبتلا کر رہی ہے جس سے درجہ حرارت میں کمی کے امکانات منہدم ہو گئے تھے۔ ان کی مشکلات میں مزید اضافہ ہوتا جا رہا ہے۔ آواران کے ایک سرکاری اسپتال کی ڈاکٹر احتاجین نے وائس آف امریکہ کو بتایا کہ ان کے ہاں آنے والے مریضوں میں اکثریت خواتین اور بچوں کی ہے جو سخت سردی کی وجہ سے مختلف امراض کا شکار ہوتے ہیں۔ سب سے زیادہ بیماریاں جو دیکھنے میں آ رہی ہیں جن میں نمونیا، زلزلہ اور کھانسی وغیرہ ہیں خصوصاً بچوں اور خواتین میں اور حاملہ خواتین میں یہ بہت ہو رہی ہیں، خواتین ڈپریشن کا بھی شکار ہیں اور اس سے ان کا بلڈ پریشر بھی بہت بڑھ جاتا ہے۔ صوبائی حکومت کا کہنا ہے کہ وہ متاثرین زلزلہ کی امداد اور بحالی پر کام کر رہی ہے۔ صوبائی حکومت کے ترجمان جان محمد بلیدی نے وائس آف امریکہ کو بتایا کہ سرد موسم میں ان لوگوں کے لیے کھل، گرم کپڑے بھی مہیا کیے گئے تاکہ ان لوگوں پریشانی میں اضافہ نہ ہو۔ آبادی کے لحاظ سے ملک کے سب سے چھوٹے مگر رقبے کے لحاظ سے سب سے بڑے صوبے بلوچستان کے مرکزی شہر کوئٹہ سمیت متعدد شہر فالت زون پر واقع ہیں جہاں زیر زمین ہونے والی تبدیلی سے زلزلوں کے زیادہ خطرات لاحق ہوتے ہیں۔ کوئٹہ میں 1935ء میں آنے والے زلزلے میں لگ بھگ پچاس ہزار افراد ہلاک ہو گئے تھے جب کہ شہر پوری طرح تباہ ہو گیا تھا۔ حالیہ برسوں میں بھی بلوچستان کے مختلف علاقوں میں زلزلوں سے سینکڑوں افراد ہلاک ہو چکے ہیں۔ 2009ء میں شمالی ضلع زیارت میں آنے والے زلزلے سے 250 افراد ہلاک ہو گئے تھے۔

بلوچستان: شدید سردی سے متاثرین

زلزلہ کی مشکلات میں اضافہ

وان پاکستان

29 دسمبر 2013

کراچی: سارک ممالک میں ساحلی اور سمندری ماحول پر آب و ہوا (کلائمٹ چینج) میں تبدیلی کے اثرات پر ایک اہم ورکشاپ کراچی میں منعقد کی گئی۔ جمعرات کے روز تین روزہ اس ورکشاپ کا انعقاد وفاق کے زیر اہتمام کلائمٹ چینج ڈویژن، اور مالدیپ کے سارک کوئل ڈیپارٹمنٹ سیشن نے کیا تھا جس میں جس میں سمندری ماحول، ان کے وسائل اور خصوصاً وہاں موجود آبادیوں پر آب و ہوا میں تبدیلیوں کے اثرات اور ان کی روک تھام پر بحث کی گئی تھی۔ شرکانے بتایا کہ عالمی تپش (گلوبل وارمنگ) اور موسمیاتی تبدیلیوں کی وجہ سے والی گرین ہاؤس گیسوں میں سارک ممالک کا کردار بہت ہی کم ہے لیکن یہی دنیا کے وہ ممالک ہیں جو عالمی تپش اور ماحولیاتی تبدیلیوں سے سب سے زیادہ متاثر ہو رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ساحلوں کے کٹاؤ پر نظر رکھنے کیلئے مختلف ادارے آزادانہ طور پر کام کر رہے ہیں اور کوئی ایک بااختیار ادارہ نہیں جو ان مسائل پر نظر رکھے۔ انہوں نے میٹرو ووز کی کاشت پر زور دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ وہ ان تمام خطرات کیلئے ایک قدرتی رکاوٹ کا کام کرتے ہیں۔ ساتھ ہی ساحلی علاقوں میں نمکین ماحول میں اگنے والی فصلوں پر بھی زور دیا۔ اس کے علاوہ دریاؤں سے معمول کے تحت پانی کی بہاؤ کی تجویز دی تاکہ ڈیلٹا کو محفوظ رکھا جاسکے۔ ڈیلٹا ڈیلٹا پاکستان کے سمکٹی مشیر معظم خان نے کہا کہ کلائمٹ چینج سے سمندروں کا درجہ حرارت بڑھے گا، سمندروں کی سطح بلند ہوگی، سائیکلون کی شدت اور تعداد بڑھے گی، ہوائیں نمی کی مقدار بدلے گی اور عالمی طور پر ایل نیو میں تبدیلیاں پیدا ہونے سے چھلیوں کی بہتات اور فراہمی متاثر ہوگی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ بلوچستان کے ساحلوں سے انڈین میکر اور آئل سارڈینیا چھلیوں کا بیڑن بدل رہا ہے جو آب و ہوا میں تبدیلیوں کی وجہ سے ہوا ہے۔ انہوں نے چھلیوں کے ذخائر پر خصوصی توجہ پر زور دیا۔ اس موقع پر ایس سی زیڈ ایم سی مالدیپ کے اسماعیل نے کہا کہ سارک ممالک سمندری وسائل رکھتے ہیں اور سمندری سطح میں تبدیلی سے شدید متاثر ہوں گے۔ ان میں زیر زمین پانی کا معیار، لوہوں کا بیڑن، طوفان اور زمینی کٹاؤ شامل ہیں۔ نیشنل انسٹی ٹیوٹ آف اوشینوگرافی کی ڈاکٹر شمینہ قدوائی نے سمندری چھلیوں اور میٹنگرو و ماحولیاتی نظام پر بات کی۔ جبکہ ڈیپٹی انسپیکٹر جنرل جنگلات مناف قائم خانی، عرفان طارق، سندھ میں ماحولیات کے سیکریٹری بدر جمیل، ڈاکٹر نجم خورشید، فہیدہ فردوس، راحت جنیں اور دیگر نے بھی خطاب کیا۔ ورکشاپ کے اختتام پر شرکاء کو میٹنگرو و جنگلات کے دورے پر لے جایا جائے گا۔ ورکشاپ میں سارک ممالک کے ماہرین اور سائنسدان شریک ہیں جن میں مالدیپ سے فتح اللہ

کلائمٹ چینج پر سارک ممالک کا سہ روزہ

ورکشاپ

روزنامہ ڈان، اردو نیوز

28 دسمبر 2013

اسماعیل، محمد انیل، بنگلہ دیش سے شاہد العالم، اور سری لنکا سے کے ایچ سری پانتھ سواتا اور ڈی پی سی سواریا شامل ہیں۔

اسلام آباد۔ سی ڈی اے اور کنٹونمنٹ حکام کی جانب سے کوڑا کرکٹ اور غلاظت کی ڈیپنگ سیکر آئی بارہ میں کرنے اور بعد ازاں اسے جدید سائنسی طریقے سے تلف کرنے کی بجائے آگ لگا کر ماحول آلودہ کرنے پر شہریوں نے تشویش کا اظہار کیا ہے۔ شہریوں کا موقف ہے کہ اس سے سوشل سیکورٹی ہسپتال، برٹش ہومز، ویسٹرن، الہ آباد، ایچ بارہ کے تعلیمی اداروں سمیت لاتعداد افراد متاثر ہونے ہیں۔ وہ سانس کی بیماریوں کا شکار ہو رہے ہیں، جلدی امراض پھیل رہے ہیں، مبینوں نے مطالبہ کیا کہ آگ لگانے کا پرانا طریقہ ترک کر کے جدید طریقہ اختیار کیا جائے یا ڈیمسنگ شہر سے دور کی جائے۔

پاکستان کے مقابلے میں ہندوستان نے نہ صرف ماحولیات اور کلائمٹ چیلنج کے کئی منصوبے مکمل کئے ہیں بلکہ ان کی تفصیلات آن لائن موجود ہیں۔

اسلام آباد: پاکستان میں ماحولیاتی تحفظ کے کئی منصوبے اور ان کی فنڈنگ میں ناکامی ہوئی ہے جس کی اہم وجہ یہ ہے کہ کلائمٹ چیلنج ڈویژن (سی ڈی اے) کی جانب سے اس پر ضروری کارروائی نہیں کی گئی۔ مختلف ذرائع اور سینیئر آفیشلز نے ڈان اخبار کو بتایا کہ کلائمٹ چیلنج منصوبوں کیلئے رقم عطیہ کرنے والی اداروں پر سی ڈی ڈی کارڈ عمل انتہائی ناقص تھا اور ان منصوبوں کی تکمیل کیلئے دلچسپی کی کمی تھی۔ ان میں سے ایک یونیسیف کا وائز اینڈ منسٹریٹیشن (ڈیپلوی ای ایس) منصوبہ تھا جس کے تحت اگلے دس سال تک پاکستان کو ایک کروڑ ڈالر کی رقم ملنا تھی۔ اسی طرح اقوام متحدہ کی جانب سے ماحولیاتی تحفظ کے ایک منصوبے کے تحت 6.2 امریکی ڈالر اگلے پانچ سال تک پاکستان کو دینے جانے تھے اور یہ منصوبہ بھی ناکام ہوا۔ سی ڈی اے کے ایک سینیئر افسانے نے کہا کہ جب ان کا ادارہ اپنے ملازمین کو صاف پانی اور گندے پانی کی نکاسی کی مناسب سہولیات نہیں دے سکتا تو اس طرح پورے پاکستان کو یہ سہولیات فراہم کر سکتا ہے۔ آفیشل دستاویز میں ایسے دوسرے کئی منصوبے شامل ہیں جو متعلقہ ادارے کی سست روی یا غفلت کی وجہ سے ناکام ہوئے یا ترک کر دیئے گئے ان میں سے چند یہ ہیں۔

اکیس لاکھ امریکی ڈالر مالیت کا ایک منصوبہ ہے جس کے تحت یونائیٹڈ نیشن ڈویلپمنٹ پروگرام کے تعاون سے نیشنل اینوائزمنٹل انفارمیشن مینجمنٹ سسٹم (این ای آئی ایم ایس) قائم کرنا تھا۔

بالیڈ کے مالی تعاون سے پاکستان میں ماحولیاتی ڈیٹا کیلئے ایک پانچ سالہ منصوبہ بھی قابل ذکر ہے۔

پورے ملک کا یہ ڈیٹا بعد میں ماحولیاتی تحفظ اور پالیسی بنانے اور منصوبہ بندی کیلئے استعمال کیا جاتا تھا۔

یہ منصوبہ بھی شروع نہ کیا جا سکا اور اس کیلئے ملنے والی قیمتی سامان اور مشینز کی گزشتہ پانچ برسوں سے اسٹور میں پڑی پڑی مٹی کھا رہا ہے۔ یہ منصوبہ اس سال نومبر میں بند کر دیا گیا کیونکہ نہ ہی ٹیکنیکل اسٹاف کو تیار کیا گیا اور مطلوبہ نتائج بھی نہ مل سکے، سی ڈی اے کے ایک سینیئر آفیشل نے کہا۔ اسی افسرانے یہ بھی کہا کہ بالیڈ ہی کی جانب سے ایک اور پروجیکٹ فنڈ کیا جاتا تھا جو اب بند ہو چکا ہے۔ اس کا نام نیشنل اسپیکٹ اسیمنٹ پروگرام (این آئی اے پی) تھا۔ انہوں نے بتایا کہ یہ منصوبہ بھی پانچ سال پر محیط تھا اور اس کیلئے 351 ملین ڈالر کی رقم رکھی گئی تھی جس کا مقصد ملک میں ماحولیاتی اثرات کا جائزہ لینا تھا۔ اسی طرح حکومت جاپان کی جانب سے اربوں روپے کا ماحولیاتی مانیٹرنگ (ای ایم ایس) کا ایک پروگرام شروع کیا گیا تھا اور ایک سال ہوا اسے بھی فنڈ میں کمی کی وجہ سے ترک کر دیا گیا ہے۔ ان فنڈز کے تحت پروجیکٹ میں اعلیٰ ترین ٹیکنالوجی استعمال کرنا تھی۔ ای ایم ایس پاکستان کی ماحولیاتی تحفظ کی ایجنسی (ای پی اے) کا منصوبہ تھا اور ماضی میں کئی دھچکوں سے دوچار ہوا اور اس کے تربیت یافتہ اہلکاروں کو ایک سال تک تنخواہ نہیں ملی۔ اس پروگرام کا مقصد پاکستان کے بڑے شہروں میں ہوا اور پانی کی کوالٹی معلوم کرنا تھی۔ پھر اس ڈیٹا کو پاکستان کو مزید ماحولیاتی بگاڑ سے بچانے کیلئے استعمال کیا جاتا تھا۔ سینیئر آفیشل نے یہ بھی بتایا کہ اس کے برخلاف انڈین ماحولیاتی مانیٹرنگ کے تمام ایسے منصوبوں کو کامیابی سے مکمل کیا ہے جن کا تعلق ہوا اور پانی کی آلودگی سے ہے اور انٹرنیٹ کے ذریعے اس تک رسائی حاصل کی جاسکتی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ای پی اے اسے اس منصوبے کی تکمیل میں ناکام ہو چکی ہے حالانکہ اس کے پاس ضروری ٹیکنالوجی بھی تھی۔ تاہم گلشیر پراجیکٹ پر جھیل بننے اور اس سے سیلابی کیفیت پیدا ہونے سے وابستہ ایک منصوبے پر کام جاری ہے۔ اسے گلشیر لیک آؤٹ برسٹ فلڈ (جی ایل او ایف) کہا جاتا ہے۔ یہ منصوبہ دو ہزار گیارہ میں شروع کیا گیا تھا اور اب بھی جاری ہے تاہم اس کے بعض پہلوؤں کو بہتر بنانا ضروری ہے۔ انہوں نے جی ایل او ایف منصوبے کی اہمیت بیان کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ یہ پاکستان کا پہلا کلائمٹ چیلنج مٹی گیشن پروگرام ہے جس میں گرمی کی شدت کی وجہ سے گلشیر میں جھیلیں بن جاتی ہیں اور وہ سیلاب کی صورت حال پیدا کرتی ہیں۔ آفیشلز کے مطابق یہ منصوبہ کامیابی سے جاری ہے جس میں گلشیر زکا ڈیٹا لیا گیا ہے اور ایسے گلشیر زکا پر نظر رکھی جا رہی ہے۔ ضروری ہے کہ اس پانی کے گزرنے کا ایک محفوظ راستہ بنایا جائے تاکہ آبادیاں متاثر نہ ہوں اور ماحول کا تحفظ بھی ہو، انہوں نے کہا۔ یو این ڈی پی کے ڈائریکٹر گل جیم جامی نے کہا کہ صورت حال اتنی بھی بری نہیں ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ یو این ڈی پی کے بہت سے منصوبے کلائمٹ چیلنج ڈویژن کے اشتراک سے مکمل کئے گئے ہیں تاہم حکومت کی جانب سے مزید بہتری کی ضرورت ہے۔ تاہم دیگر آفیشلز کا کہنا ہے کہ پاکستان کے ماحولیاتی مسائل اتنے زیادہ ہیں کہ ایک وزارت کی اکیلی ان سب مسائل کو حل نہیں کر سکتی۔ پھر دو ہزار دس میں اٹھارہویں ترمیم کے بعد اختیارات صوبوں کو منتقل ہونے کے بعد اس میں مزید مشکلات آئی ہیں۔ سی ڈی اے کے سیکریٹری راجہ حسن عباس نے کہا کہ ان کا ادارہ حکومت پر زور ڈال رہا ہے کہ وہ دوبارہ ان منصوبوں کو شروع کرے تاکہ ماحول کو مستقل بنیادوں پر محفوظ بنایا جاسکے۔ راجہ حسن عباس نے بھی اختیارات صوبوں کو منتقل ہونے کو ان پروجیکٹ میں ایک اہم رکاوٹ قرار دیا۔ دوسری جانب چند ماہ قبل حکومت کی جانب ماحولیاتی وزارت کو ایک ڈویژن تک محدود کر دیا اور اس سے کام میں مشکلات پیش آ رہی ہیں

ہائڈرو پاور میں کوڑا کرکٹ چلائے جانے سے
گرد و نواح کی آبادیوں کے مبین پریشان
روزنامہ جنگ
27 دسمبر 2013
پاکستان میں کروڑوں ڈالر کے ماحولیاتی
منصوبے خطرے میں

ڈان اخبار اردو نیوز
25 دسمبر 2013

اسلام آباد: وزیر اعظم محمد نواز شریف کی جانب سے براہ راست نوٹس لیے جانے اور انکو اوری کے احکامات کے باوجود ابھی اسلام آباد میں سی ڈی اے کے زیر اہتمام چلنے والے واٹر فلٹریشن پلانٹس کی کارکردگی نہایت تشویشناک ہے کیونکہ 28 واٹر فلٹریشن پلانٹس میں سے 14 پانی انسانی صحت کے لیے غیر محفوظ ہے۔ سی ڈی اے کی سینئرل انجینئر لیبارٹری کی تیار کردہ تازہ ترین رپورٹ کے مطابق لیبارٹری کے عملے نے دارالحکومت کے مختلف مقامات پر نصب واٹر فلٹریشن پلانٹس کے نمونے حاصل کر کے انکا تجزیہ کرایا۔ 28 نمونوں میں سے 14 پلانٹس کا پانی غیر محفوظ پایا گیا۔ 28 واٹر فلٹریشن پلانٹس میں سے 14 کے ناکارہ پائے گئے۔ سی ڈی اے حکام نے بتایا کہ واٹر فلٹریشن پلانٹس کی مینینٹنس ایک نجی فرم کے پاس ہے جس نے تخمینہ سے 65 فیصد کم ریٹ پر ٹھیکہ لے لیا تھا تاہم شہریوں کا موقف ہے کہ سی ڈی اے سخت مانیٹرنگ کو یقینی بنائے

اسلام آباد کے 14 فلٹریشن پلانٹس کا پانی انسانی صحت کیلئے غیر محفوظ (یو وی لیسپ ناکارہ نکلے) وزیر اعظم کی طرف سے نوٹس لیے جانے اور انکو اوری کے باوجود پلانٹس کی کارکردگی میں بہتری نہ آسکی

روزنامہ جنگ

20 دسمبر 2013

کشن گنگا ڈیم پر عدالتی فیصلہ جزوی طور پر، پاکستان کے حق میں

دن پاکستان - اردو نیوز

22 دسمبر 2013

اسلام آباد: عالمی ثالثی عدالت نے بھارت کو کشن گنگا ڈیم کے لیے دریا کے پانی کا رخ موڑنے کی اجازت دیتے ہوئے اس بات کا پابند بنایا ہے کہ وہ دریائے نیلم میں پانی کے بہاؤ کو درکار سطح پر برقرار رکھے گا۔ بھارت متنازع علاقے کشمیر میں اپنی جانب کشن گنگا ڈیم تعمیر کر رہا ہے جس پر پاکستان نے اس کے ڈیزائن پر اعتراض کرتے ہوئے اسے 1960ء کے سندھ طاس معاہدے کی خلاف ورزی قرار دیتے ہوئے عالمی ثالثی عدالت سے رجوع کیا تھا۔ پاکستان کا یہ بھی موقف تھا کہ بھارت کی طرف سے دریا کے پانی کا رخ موڑنے سے اس کے ہاں دریائے نیلم میں پانی کے بہاؤ میں فرق پڑے گا جس سے یہ علاقہ خشک اور نیلم جہلم ہائیڈرو پاور پراجیکٹ کی پیداواری استعداد بھی متاثر ہوگی۔ دریائے نیلم کو بھارتی کشمیر میں کشن گنگا کے نام سے پکارا جاتا ہے۔ پاکستان کے انڈس واٹر کمیشنر مرزا آصف بیگ نے اتوار کو وائس آف امریکہ سے خصوصی گفتگو میں بتایا کہ عالمی ثالثی عدالت کا فیصلہ ”جزوی طور پر“ پاکستان کے حق میں ہے انھوں نے یہ فیصلہ کیا کہ بھارت کو پاکستان کے لیے پانی چھوڑنا پڑے گا 318 کیوسک یہ جزوی ریلیف ہے۔ اس سے ہمارے ماحولیات کو ریلیف ملے گا۔ 700 ملین یوٹس بجلی کا ہم پر فرق پڑتا تھا کشن گنگا کی وجہ سے نیلم جہلم ہائیڈرو پاور پراجیکٹ پر اس میں 150 ملین یوٹس عدالت کے فیصلے سے ہمارا نقصان کم ہو گیا ہے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ عالمی ثالثی عدالت کا فیصلہ نہ صرف کشن گنگا ڈیم پر لاگو ہو گا بلکہ مغربی دریاؤں کے پانیوں پر مستقبل میں کسی بھی طرح کی بھارتی پراجیکٹس بھی اس زمرے میں آئیں گے۔ اس فیصلے سے پاکستانی کشمیر میں زیر تکمیل بجلی کے منصوبے نیلم جہلم ہائیڈرو پاور پراجیکٹ پر پڑنے والے اثرات اور پانی کی کمی کو پورا کرنے کے بارے میں آصف بیگ کا کہنا تھا۔ اس کا علاج یہ ہے کہ جو مجوزہ کوہالہ ہائیڈرو پاور پراجیکٹ ہے اس کو بنالیں۔ تو اس میں کشن گنگا سے کوہ بھارتی جانب جانے کے بعد اس طرف آنے کا تو وہ کوہالہ سے گزرے گا تو جوہاں جو ہمارا نقصان ہوا ہے تقریباً 550 ملین یوٹس کا ہمیں اتنا ہی یہاں سے پورا ہو جائے گا۔ بھارتی کشمیر میں کشن گنگا ڈیم 2017ء میں مکمل ہونا ہے۔ پاکستان کے زیر انتظام کشمیر میں زیر تعمیر نیلم جہلم ہائیڈرو پاور پراجیکٹ کی تکمیل 2015ء کے اواخر تک متوقع ہے اور حکام کے بقول اس سے ملک کو نو سو میگا واٹ سے زائد بجلی حاصل ہو سکے گی۔

پاکستان: شدید دھند کے باعث

معمولات زندگی متاثر

دن پاکستان - اردو نیوز

19 دسمبر 2013

پاکستان کے صوبہ پنجاب اور خیبر پختونخواہ کے مختلف علاقے کئی روز سے صبح اور شام کے اوقات میں شدید دھند کی لپیٹ میں ہیں جس سے معمولات زندگی اور نقل و حرکت شدید متاثر ہو رہے ہیں۔ دھند کے باعث لاہور اور ملتان کے ہوائی اڈوں پر فلائٹ آپریشن متاثر ہونے کے علاوہ حالیہ دنوں میں کئی پروازیں منسوخ بھی کی جا چکی ہیں۔ جماعت کی صبح بھی لاہور کے علامہ اقبال انٹرنیشنل ایئر پورٹ پر پروازوں کی آمد و رفت تعطل کا شکار رہی جب کہ صبح دس بجے تک ملتان کا ہوائی اڈہ بھی بند رہا۔ وفاقی دارالحکومت اسلام آباد کو لاہور اور پشاور سے ملانے والی اہم شاہراہ موٹروے بھی دھند کے باعث صبح کے اوقات میں ٹریفک کے لیے بند رہی جب کہ گاڑیوں کو متبادل شاہراہ ”جی ٹی روڈ“ سے گزارا گیا۔ بعض مقامات پر حدنگاہ صفر ہے۔ اسی طرح پشاور کے ہوائی اڈے پر بھی پروازیں دھند کی وجہ سے متاثر ہوئی ہیں۔ ملتان کے علاوہ ملک کے بڑے صنعتی شہر فیصل آباد میں بھی شدید دھند کے باعث لاہور اور ملتان جانے والی سڑکوں پر گاڑیوں کو انتہائی محتاط انداز میں سفر کرنے کی ہدایت کی جا چکی ہے۔ بعض علاقوں میں دوپہر کے وقت تک دھند کم ہو جاتی ہے لیکن سرشام ہی اس کی شدت میں ایک بار پھر اضافہ ہو جاتا ہے۔ محکمہ موسمیات کے مطابق شدید دھند کا یہ سلسلہ آئندہ چند روز تک جاری رہنے کی پیش گوئی کی ہے۔

سلو پوائنٹنگ: کراچی میں

ایبوسیسوں کا شور

دن پاکستان - اردو نیوز

04 دسمبر 2013

کراچی: سڑکوں اور گلیوں میں بے ترتیب ٹریفک کے درمیان بھٹس کرنا سہ ماہی۔۔۔ سائرن، بزر اور ہارن بجاتی ایبوسیس کے مناظر کراچی میں عام ہیں۔ ان کی آوازوں سے جو شور پیدا ہوتا ہے اس میں کان پڑی آواز سنائی نہیں دیتی۔ اس پر رکشا، ٹیکسی، بس، وگن، موٹر سائیکل، کاریں، چنگ جی۔۔۔ کیا کچھ نہیں جو شور پیدا نہ کرتا ہو۔ اس شور میں ایبوسیس کی تیز رفتاری اور زور دار سائرن دلوں کو تو دہلا تاہی ہے ماحول میں زبردست شور کا سبب بھی ہے۔ شہریوں کا کہنا ہے کہ ایبوسیس کے سائرن سے یکدم وحشت بڑھ جاتی ہے۔ دن تو دن رات کی خاموشی میں بھی ایبوسیس کے سائرن سماعتوں پر انتہائی گراں گزرتے ہیں۔ شہریوں کا کہنا ہے کہ دہشت گردی اور زور و زبرستی لا قانونیت نے ایبوسیس کی افادیت کو بھی یکسر کم کر دیا ہے، یہی وجہ ہے کہ لوگ ایبوسیس کا شور سن کر جھنجھلائے لگے ہیں۔ شفقت نارتھ کراچی میں رہتے ہیں اور ہر روز انہیں تقریباً 20 کلومیٹر کا فاصلہ طے کر کے آئی آئی چندر بگر روڈ اپنے آفس جانا پڑتا ہے۔ گھر سے دفتر تک کے اس راستے پر بہت زیادہ رش ہوتا ہے۔ ان کا کہنا ہے کہ صبح اور شام آتے جاتے انہیں کم از کم 5 یا 6 ایبوسیس ضرور ملتی ہیں۔ وائس آف امریکہ سے اپنے خیالات کا اظہار کرتے ہوئے شفقت مزید کہتے ہیں، ’ایک تو سڑکوں پر پہلے ہی ٹریفک کا بہت زیادہ رش ہوتا ہے، ایسے میں اچانک پیچھے سے شور مچاتی ایبوسیس آجائے تو ماہر ڈرائیور کے بھی ہاتھ پاؤں پھول جاتے ہیں۔ پھر جب تک ایبوسیس کو راستہ ملے وہ مسلسل سائرن بجاتی رہتی ہے۔ یہ آواز سماعتوں پر ہتھوڑوں کی طرح برہتی ہے۔

ایک اور شہری حسنین کا کہنا ہے کہ، شہر کے حالات ایسے ہیں کہ ایبوسیسز لازمی ہو گئی ہیں، اب ان کے بغیر گزارہ نہیں۔ ہم دھماکوں اور نارنگٹ کلنگز سے لیکر ٹریفک حادثات تک ہر جگہ ایبوسیسز ہی بلائی جاتی ہیں۔ سرد خانوں سے گھروں تک اور گھروں سے اسپتالوں تک لیکن ان سے جو مسائل جنم لے رہے ہیں ان کا بھی تو کوئی حل ہونا چاہئے۔ ناؤن پلاننگ کے شعبے سے وابستہ ایک سرکاری عہدیدار اور ماحولیات پر گہری نظر رکھنے والے سلیم شیخ نے اس حوالے سے وی او اے کو بتایا، 'آج کے انسان کو بہت سی بیماریاں ترقی کی بدولت' ملی ہیں۔ ان میں شور بھی سرفہرست ہے۔ جدید تحقیق کہتی ہے کہ کراچی میں شور 'سلو پائزنگ' کا کام کر رہا ہے۔ ترقی پر تو پابندی ناممکن ہے لیکن شور سے بچنے اور اسے کم رکھنے کے لئے درست حکمت عملی کی ضروری ہے۔ ہماری عوام اور ہمارے ادارے دونوں شور سے بچنے کے حفاظتی اصولوں سے ناواقف ہیں، اس لئے ہمیں 'نواز پلویشن' کا احساس ہی نہیں۔ 'ڈیسی بل' شور کو ناپنے کی اکائی ہے۔ 85 ڈیسی بل کا شور مسلسل سننے رہنا انسانی صحت اور سماعت پر منفی اثرات مرتب کرتا ہے جبکہ ایبوسیسز کے سائرن، بزر اور ہارنز 85 ڈیسی بل سے زیادہ شور پیدا کرتے ہیں۔ گزشتہ کئی عشروں کے دوران دہشت گردی اور لا قانونیت کے ہر روز بڑھتے ہوئے واقعات سے شہر میں ایبوسیسز کی سطح اور کس کے گویا حال سے بچھ گئے ہیں۔ پہلے صرف ایچ ای ٹرسٹ یا گئے چنے اداروں کی ہی ایبوسیسز چلا کرتی تھیں مگر اب چھدی ٹرسٹ سمیت بے شمار ایبوسیسز سروس فراہم کرنے والے سرکاری اور غیر سرکاری ادارے قائم ہو گئے ہیں۔ شہر کا ہر چھوٹا بڑا ہو اسپتال ایبوسیسز سروس کا حامل ہے۔ کچھ سیاسی تنظیموں نے بھی فلاحی ادارے قائم کئے ہوئے ہیں جن کے باقاعدہ اور منظم ایبوسیسز نیٹ ورکس ہیں۔ شہریوں کی سماعت پر 'شور' عذاب بن کر، سلو پائزنگ کی صورت انہیں ان دیکھی بیماریوں میں مبتلا کر رہا ہے۔ دن رات بڑھتے ہوئے شور کے سبب شہریوں میں جھنجھلاہٹ، چڑچڑاپن، بہراپن، عضلہ پن، ہائپر ٹینشن، بلڈ پریشر، بے خوابی، ڈپریشن، بے چینی، طلاق نسیاں اور کام سے بیزارگی جیسی درجن بھر سے زائد بیماریاں آہستہ آہستہ عام ہو رہی ہیں۔ تدریجی شعبے سے وابستہ ڈاکٹر عنبر شعیب کا کہنا ہے، 'شور وہ خطرناک بیماری ہے جو حاملہ عورتوں کے ساتھ ساتھ ان کے ہونے والے بچوں کو بھی متاثر کرتی ہے'۔ ماہر نفسیات ڈاکٹر مبین کہتے ہیں، 'آمدورفت کے درجنوں ذرائع کے ساتھ ساتھ ایبوسیسز کے بے ہنگم شور نے بھی کراچی میں 'نوائس پلویشن' کی شرح میں خطرناک حد تک اضافہ کر دیا ہے۔ شہری متعدد ان دیکھی بیماریوں میں مبتلا ہو رہے ہیں اور ٹریفک مسائل بھی مزید سنگین ہو گئے ہیں۔

سمندری مخلوق کے تحفظ کے لیے جدوجہد کرنے والی جاپان کی ماحولیاتی تنظیم نے ماہی گیروں کے بین الاقوامی سمجھوتے کی خلاف ورزی کرتے ہوئے شکار کرنے کے عمل کی عکس بندی کی ہے۔ ماحولیاتی تنظیم کے اراکین نے پانچ جاپانی ماہی گیروں کے تعاقب کو جاری رکھا۔ تنظیم نے جاپانی ماہی گیروں کی جانب سے غیر قانونی طور پر وہیل مچھلیوں کے شکار کرتے ہوئے اس عمل کی فلم بندی کی تاکہ اس سے ثبوت کے طور پر پیش کیا جاسکے۔ تنظیم نے جاپانی ماہی گیروں کی جانب سے اس غیر قانونی شکار کو فلم بند کرتے ہوئے دنیا سے اس غیر قانونی شکار کے بارے میں آگاہی فراہم کرنے کا سلسلہ جاری رکھا ہوا ہے۔ سن 1946 کے سمجھوتے کی رو سے صرف وہیل مچھلیوں کا شکار صرف تحقیقات مقصد کے تحت ہی کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ جاپان اس سمجھوتے کی رو سے اپنے ماہی گیروں کو وہیل مچھلیوں کا شکار کرنے کی اجازت دیتا ہے۔ آسٹریلیا اور نیوزی لینڈ جاپان کے اس عمل کی شدت سے مخالفت کرتے چلے آ رہے ہیں۔ آسٹریلیا نے سن 1986 سے اب تک بین الاقوامی سمجھوتے کی آڑ میں دس ہزار سے زائد وہیل مچھلیوں کا شکار کرنے سے آگاہ کیا ہے۔

جاپان کی ماحولیاتی تنظیم کی جانب سے
وہیل مچھلیوں کے شکار پر رہی
اب تک دس ہزار وہیل مچھلیوں کا شکار
کیا جا چکا ہے
دسمبر 2013

CLIMATE/ ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORY

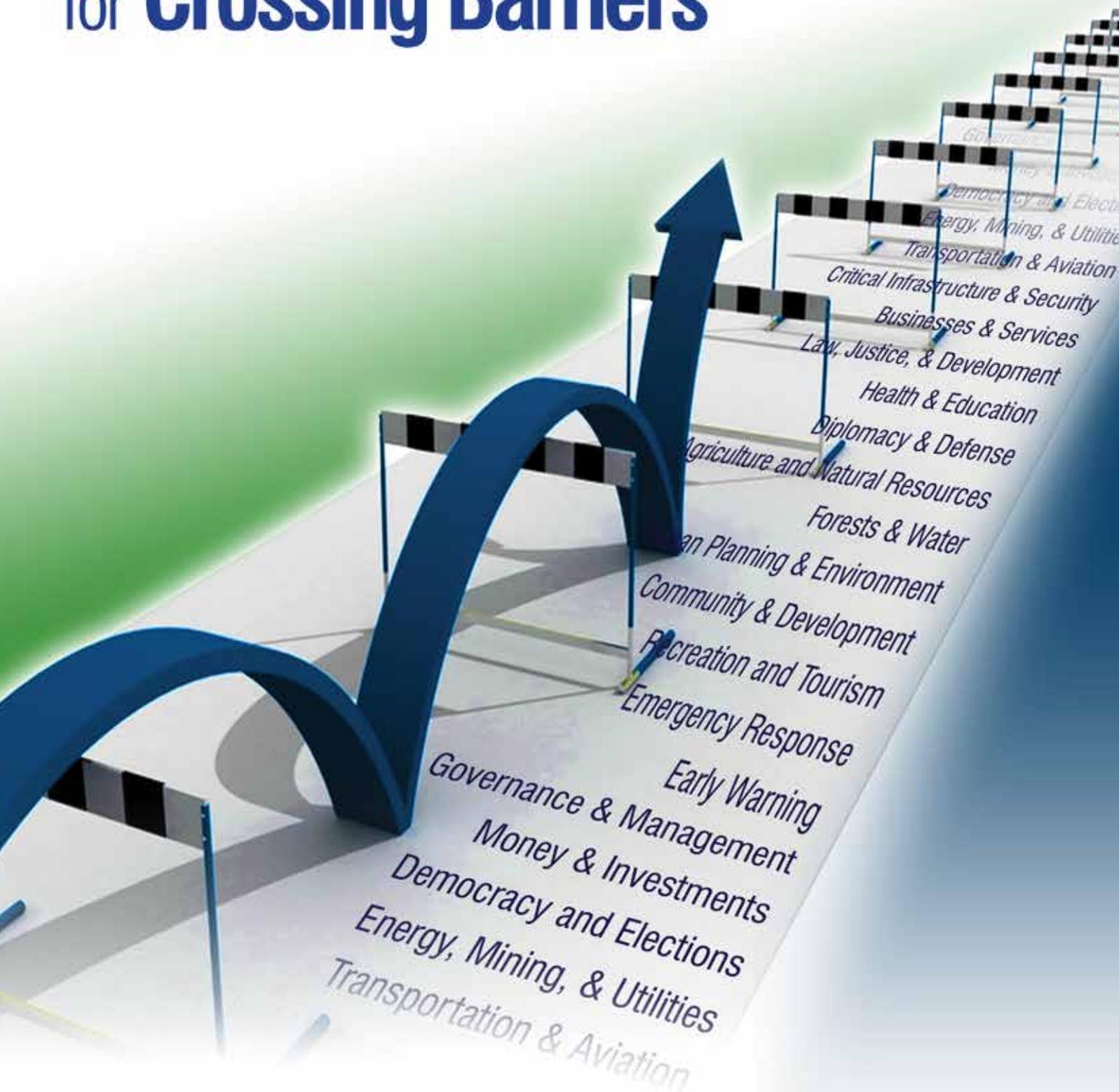
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<p>Pakistan Wetlands Programme WWF International NGO 0092-51-2114125-9 ,0092-51-2114130 House # 451, Street #2, Sector F-11/1 Islamabad www.pakistanwetlands.org</p>	<p>Sustainable Peace and Development Organization /SPADO Local NGO info@spado.org.pk 0092-51-2293658, 0092-51-2293659, 0092-51-8431702 Head office House No: 277, Street 6, F 10/3, Islamabad www.spado.org.pk</p>
<p>UN-HABITAT United Nations Human Settlements Programme International NGO 0092-51-835 7358,0092-51-835 7383 United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UN- HABITAT GPO Box 1980, Islamabad, Pakistan mailbox@unhabitat.org.pk www.unhabitat.org.pk</p>	<p>WORLD BANK-Pakistan International NGO Javaid afzal Senior Evnvironment Specialist jafzal@worldbank.org 0092-51- 9090000 Country Office :20-A Shahrah-e-Jamhuriat, G-5/1, Islamabad www.worldbank.org/en/country/pakistan</p>

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