

CLIMATE BULLETIN

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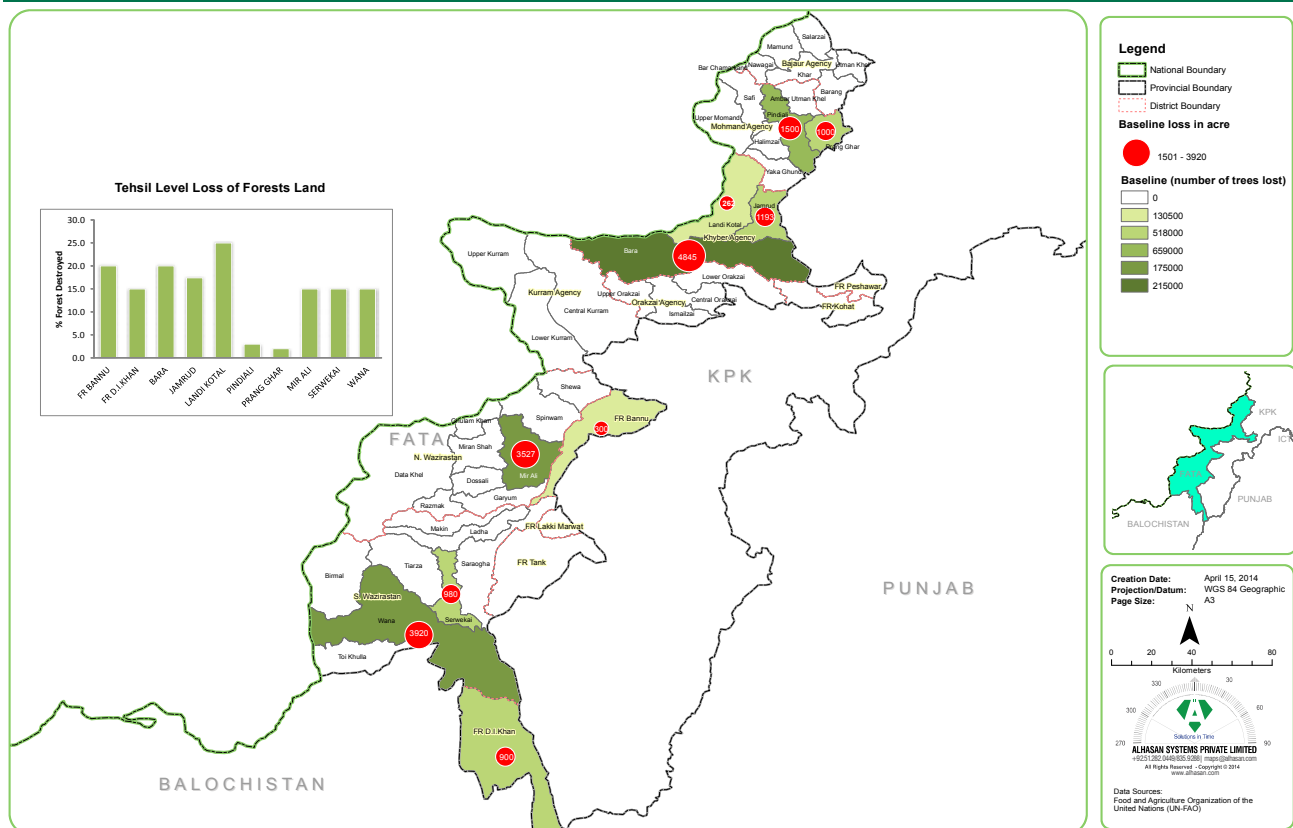
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FATA - FOREST AREA DAMAGE IN FLOOD 2010-2011



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NEWS HEADLINES

Separate cell to tackle serious impact of climate change in KP

Statesman, April 28, 2014

Call for early adoption of steps to avoid adverse impact of climate change

Statesman April 26, 2014

Tremors jolt parts of Punjab

*From Web Edition/The news
April 25, 2014 - Updated*

DETAILS

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government, while realizing serious impacts of climate change which are likely to be felt most severely because of resources constraints, has decided to set up a Climate Change Cell to tackle these issues at the provincial level. "The Climate Change Cell will prepare an appropriate response action plans for adaptation to the abnormal climate change occurring in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa," informed Director General Environment Protection Agency KP, Dr. Muhammad Bashir. The project titled as 'Establishment of Climate Change Cell for Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAS) in EPA, Environment Department' has been approved by provincial government. The total cost of the project is estimated Rs. 18.153 million and will complete its policy making within a three years period, Dr. Bashir added. Talking to APP, he said, presently there is no specific institution or department which could work to align the present and future development needs of the province with national and global trends in rapidly changing climatic conditions. Therefore, the Environment Department being a custodian of environment and climatic issues, proposed to establish a Climate Change and MEAs Cell in order to tackle these issues at the provincial level. DG EPA said analysis of the past depicts that our climatic conditions are rapidly changing. The rate of change and the nature of the resulting impacts vary over time and across the country, affecting all aspects of our life. Future changes in climate of the magnitude projected by most global climate models would cause a major impact on our water resources and subsequently affect food supply, health, industry, transportation and ecosystem sustainability, he continued. Dr. Bashir went on to say that problems are most likely to arise in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province which is vulnerable to natural disasters and where resources is already under stress and will be further exacerbated by changes in supply or demand associated with water resources. Previous record and projections by Global and Regional Climate Models indicates that extreme events like drought and flooding would become more frequent and of greater magnitude in different parts of the country. These extreme events would place extra stress on existing infrastructure and institutions with potentially major economic, social and environmental consequences. In order to tackle with these threats, the Climate Change Cell is being set up the province to establish an appropriate institutional mechanism to coordinate and monitor on water resources, food, agriculture, environment, biodiversity, health and energy. The Climate Change cell will be later on upgraded to the directorate gradually through submission of case to Finance department as directed by Chief Secretary and Additional Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Dr. Bashir informed that after approval of the project, recruitment of staff process is in progress after which formal implementation will start.

PESHAWAR: Environmentalist call for timely preparation for adaptation to climate change which if ignored is likely to exert adverse impacts on productive resources and further destabilize the country by causing natural disasters. Climate Change is damaging each and every sector including agriculture, forest, water resources, livestock, fisheries and is causing natural disasters by increasing the frequency of flash floods in mountainous areas of the country, says Mian Shafiq, Deputy Conservator Wildlife Climate Change Division. Defining Climate Change, he said, it is an outcome of excessive consumption and industrialization which is severely affecting the underdeveloped and developing countries. Talking to APP, Mian Shafiq said Climate change is fast becoming a reality and desperately needs timely adaptation measures. It holds a strong and sometimes threatening impact on our forests not to forget all other natural resources as well for which adaptation measures are extremely necessary. The effects of climate change on agriculture and other natural resources may vary across the diverse agro-ecological regions. In the dry western mountainous areas, the increase in temperatures could enhance the process of de-glaciations by affecting our water resources on which the country depends for agriculture and energy production. The major human induced factors causing environmental degradation in the mountainous areas are: mismanagement / overexploitation of natural resources, deforestation and unsustainable agricultural practices (cultivation on steep slopes and forest encroachment for agriculture land). Green House Gases (GHGs) like CO₂, Methane, N₂O, Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) exist naturally in the atmosphere that form a blanket surrounding the earth and keeps the earth warmer. Without these gases the earth's atmosphere could have been -15 °C and life on earth would have not been possible. However, the concentration of these GHGs is increasing mainly due to the unsustainable human activities (fossil fuel burning, depletion of sinks like forests etc.) and enhancing the Green House Effect causing rise in global temperatures of the earth. According to Global Climate Risk Index (CRI) 2014 by German Watch Institute, Pakistan is ranked number three after Haiti and the Philippines as countries most affected by climate change. Analysis of the Pakistan Meteorological data (1960 to 2010) indicated that the area weighted temperature during 1960 to 2010 has increased. The last two decades were the warmest whereas the year 2010 was observed as the warmest year on record since 1880, even more than the years 1998 and 2005. Though the current summer weather pattern is not harmful for the farming community, delay in monsoon or decrease in monsoon rainfall could negatively affect the cropping pattern in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

LAHORE: Light earthquake jolts were recorded in several cities of Punjab including Lahore on Friday morning, Geo News reported. According to the Meteorological Department, the epicenter of the quake was near Pakistan-Afghanistan border in Parachinar area and was 210km below the surface area. The recorded intensity of the quake was 3.4 on the Richter

Noise pollution causing behavioral problems

Statesman, April 24, 2014

Earth Day observed amid rising pollution

The News, April 23, 2014

scale. No loss of life or damage was reported due to the shocks.

PESHAWAR: Secretary Environment Anwar Rasheed has said that noise pollution in metropolitan cities was creating behavioral problems in the country.

Talking to a private news channel, he said that major cities such as Rawalpindi, Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar, Gujranwala and Faisalabad have exceeded the prescribed limit of decibels (db) to alarming levels. He said that average noise values recorded in different cities was Karachi 76 db, Islamabad 72.5 db, Peshawar 86 db, Faisalabad 70 db and Lahore 90 db. "According to WHO criteria, noise levels in residential area should be 45db, 55db in commercial areas and 65 in industrial areas, these are the maximum levels and yet in our major cities, the value is at least 10-d above WHO criteria," he informed.

Talking in the programme, Head of ENT Department of Services Hospital in Lahore Prof. Dr Muhammad Amjad said that noise in big cities above 80db is responsible for aggressive behavior. He said these values have reached alarming levels and causing widespread hearing defects, insomnia, indigestion, heartburn, ulcers, hypertension and psychological disorders. Dr Amjad said that the above mentioned facts highlighted the deleterious effects noise pollution poses on population at large. He said that excessive noise exposure during foetal life may result in high-frequency hearing loss in newborns. It can also cause tinnitus i.e. a ringing, roaring, buzzing, or clicking in the ears, he added. He warned that if these conditions go unchecked then they can damage memory and permanent deafness.

LAHORE: The Environment Protection Department (EPD), Punjab, observed Earth Day here Tuesday as all kinds of pollution, especially air and water, remained on rise throughout the province, causing serious problems for the citizens and environment. The department's policy makers remained busy making presentations and policy papers for higher authorities to tackle the grave concerns, instead of taking concrete steps on the ground leaving citizens at the mercy of environmental hazards. The lack of enforcement of environmental laws and rules to discourage to polluters has made the EPD a real toothless tiger, which today proposed establishment of "Green Force" to enforce environmental laws in the province. During the past several years, no practical move was launched to shift light and heavy industrial units established in various residential city localities i.e. Misri Shah, Baghbanpura, Moghalpura, Daroghewala, Bhagat Pura, Chah Miran, Shadbagh and others along the Bund Road and GT Road. All the industries in the area are adding pollution to the environment.

According to a recent survey, over 4000 industrial units have been operating in residential areas causing serious environmental hazards and threat to human life. Besides the residential areas, a good number of industrial and commercial ventures are operating around historical monuments i.e. Shalimar Garden, Lahore Fort and Badshahi Mosque. A good number of industrial units of manufacturing spurious motor oil were established in Badami Bagh while the Rim Market along the historical Lahore Fort is still a serious threat to the biggest archaeological site of the city. The point of concern is that a majority of the industries, especially those related with steel, are using used tyres and sub standard rubber products to keep their machines alive and releases pollutants like carbon monoxide, sulphur oxides and toxic metals, considered a major source of air pollution in the provincial capital. Small drives were launched against violators in the past. The problem of urban congestion in the provincial metropolis severely affected air and water quality while insufficient waste management skills of the City District Government Lahore (CDGL) added the already deteriorating atmospheric conditions. Though the Lahore Waste Management Company (LWMC) is doing a good job, there is a lot more to do, said environmental experts. High concentrations of pollutants such as carbon dioxide, nitrous oxides and sulphur in the air is seriously affecting the health of general public and ironically EPD's air monitoring vehicles and stations are out of order. Short-term and limited campaigns against smoke emitting vehicles and two stroke motorcycle rickshaws failed to improve the air quality. The department has no vision to reduce vehicular pollution from the provincial capital. Another issue of air quality in the city was the excessive presence of Suspended Particulate Matter (PM10) in the ambient air, environmental experts said, adding that major sources of the PM(10) in the city are unplanned industrial clusters, open burning of solid waste, brick kilns and natural dust. Experts claimed average PM10 concentration in Lahore exceeded three times the Japanese standard (200 ug/m3) and eight times the WHO guidelines (120 ug/m3). Unpaved roads and absence of green belts are the originators of Particulate Matter (PM10). Likewise, the Kot Lakhpat Industrial Area is also surrounded by residential colonies and residents of these localities are daily facing the air and other kinds of pollution of the industries. Another serious threat facing the nearby residents is the discharge of polluted water by the industries in local drains. Brandreth Road has become the hub of mechanical spare parts while the inner localities like Rehman Gallian, Landa Bazaar, Prem Gallian and Adda Crown have changed into the manufacturing areas of these spare parts. People have installed high temperature furnaces, steel rubbing and polishing and other related cottage industries in their homes. No serious drive was launched to curb the trend. Gulshan-e-Ravi, a purely residential locality, is also rapidly changing into a cottage industry zone. A large number of machinery-manufacturing units were established in various blocks of this locality, especially those close to the Bund Road. Motor workshops and heavy body vehicle manufacturing is another rapidly increasing industry in this locality. These industries are still working and no legal action has been taken for shifting them outside the city.

Anwar Rasheed, Provincial Secretary EPD, while talking with The News, said a consultative workshop was organized today in which all stake holders participated and proposed various

Students plant saplings to celebrate Earth Day

The News, April 23, 2014

Rain, hailstorm hit Thar, Khairpur

Dawn, April 22, 2014

World to face acute food shortage by 2050: US expert

Statesman, April 19, 2014

Flood damages houses in Kohat

Dawn, April 19, 2014

suggestions to the proposed amendments to environmental laws. He said this was the first time when stake holders i.e. Industrialists, Chambers, Environmentalists and Citizens were invited. He said there were unlimited issues and the department was gradually working on them. Over a question of enforcement of environmental laws, he said the department had proposed "Green Force" and a summary would be sent to the chief minister soon. Over shifting of industries, he said this was a very difficult task because when industries were established there was no residential area around them but now situation was the opposite. He said the department had directed such industries to follow all environmental laws and strict monitoring was being done. "We are making a proper database and geo mapping of the environmental situation of the province after which we will be able to have precise information of a particular area," he said. It will help in making future policies as well as to enforce environmental laws, he added.

KARACHI: Enthusiastic students of The Citizens Foundation School (Saeedabad Campus I) planted saplings to celebrate Earth Day on Tuesday. Each young tree was tagged with the name of the pupil who planted it to give them a sense of ownership. Their faces glowed as their teachers watched them plant the saplings. The event was organised by ICI-TCF Environmental Club. The concept of the plantation drive was conceived by Rahat Rafiq, assistant brand manager at ICI Pakistan. He coined the slogan "Every Day is Earth Day 2014".

The 315 students in the morning shift of the campus planted the Conocarpus and Ficus aurea (golden fig) saplings, watered them and then clapped unanimously with joy. ICI Pakistan CSR Coordinator and Public Relations Manager Abdul Ghani asked the pupils: "Roz kya karna hai? (What do you have to do every day?)" The children replied in unison: "Paani dena hai! (We have to water the plants!)" The students vowed to take care of the saplings they had planted and also sang the national anthem. "We have planted these saplings to keep the environment clean. Pakistan Zindabad! (Long Live Pakistan!)" The plantation endeavour is a pilot project. TCF Area Manager for Baldia, Saleem Multanwala, said: "We need teamwork. Even when I am at home, I enjoy gardening, and my children support me. Gardening is such a healthy pursuit. It brings peace of mind." Multanwala said that there were more than 1,000 TCF schools across Pakistan, which made them one of the largest school systems in the country. "It is entirely funded by our own people," he said. "Gardening is the road to salvation; more so when we are witnessing so much violence and lawlessness." He pointed out that the police department had generously provided the TCF with pieces of land to establish schools across the country.

UMERKOT: Rain and hailstorm hit Umerkot, Chhore and Mithi, the first pre-monsoon showers in the drought-stricken Thar desert, and Khairpur on Monday. While the rain turned the weather pleasant in desert areas, it also damaged the standing wheat crop and the harvested grain lying in fields. Light showers, accompanied by strong winds and hailstones, hit a few villages in Nagarparkar and Islamkot talukas on Saturday evening as well as on Sunday night, uprooting scores of trees and damaging thatched houses. The hailstones caused death of scores of goats, peacocks and other birds in Piluro, Lunio Sama, Gori, Murid Taar, Libo, Siranghu, Dhinkario, Hothi jo Taar and other villages. "The rainfall is untimely yet it is hoped it will help the grass grow which is much needed for starving cattle during this drought spell," said a grower. Rain and rainstorm lashed Nara taluka area for more than an hour. The villages of Qadir Wari area, Jummo Tarr and desert area of the taluka were hit by the rain and hailstones. A drizzle continued in the areas till the filing of this report.

WASHINGTON: In a shocking report, a top scientist from the US Agency for International Development has warned that the world is less than 40 years away from a food shortage that would have serious implications for people and governments. "For the first time in human history, food production would be limited on a global scale by the availability of land, water and energy," said Fred Davies, senior science advisor for the agency's bureau of food security. "Food issues could become as politically destabilising by 2050 as energy issues are today," he told a gathering at the North American agricultural journalists' meeting in Washington, DC, this week.

According to Davies, the world population would increase 30 percent to nine billion people by mid-century. That would call for a 70 per cent increase in food to meet demand. Agricultural productivity, food security, food safety, the environment, health, nutrition and obesity - they are all interconnected. One in eight people worldwide already suffers from chronic undernourishment and 75 per cent of the world's chronically poor are in the mid-income nations such as China, India, Brazil and the Philippines. "But resource limitations would constrain global food systems. The increases currently projected for crop production from biotechnology, genetics, agronomics and horticulture would not be sufficient to meet food demand," he emphasised. Davies said the ability to discover ways to keep pace with food demand have been curtailed by cutbacks in spending on research. "The US agricultural productivity has averaged less than 1.2 per cent per year between 1990 and 2007," he said. When new technologies are developed, they often do not reach the small-scale farmer worldwide. "More efficient technologies and crops need to be developed. Equally important are better ways for applying these technologies locally for farmers," Davies said. - IANS

KOHAT: The rains continuing in Hangu and Orakzai Agency for five days have flooded the Kohat Toi natural stream and thus, inundating dozens of houses in Hafizabad area in Kohat. Kohat Toi originates in Orakzai Agency. The rain water damaged the people's belongings

'World must act quickly to reverse buildup of heat-trapping gases'

Statesman, April 18, 2014

Experts stress women's role in poverty alleviation

Dawn, April 18, 2014

KP to increase forest area by 30,000 hectares

Statesman, April 17, 2014

Policy draft mandatory to tackle shrinking food resources issues

Statesman, April 17, 2014

and forced residents to move out. According to locals, a former MNA had occupied Kohat Toi section in Hafizabad area before selling plots on it. Also, cultivation of orchards in its way shortened the natural stream's width. They, however, insisted their repeated requests to the administration for crackdown on encroachers fell on deaf ears. The stream bursts its banks every year and flooding nearby areas. The local residents demanded strict action against illegal sellers and buyers of land on the course of stream to ensure smooth flow of water. They complained that no official or volunteers came to their help and therefore, they had to vacate houses on their own.

PESHAWAR: The cost of keeping global warming in check is "relatively modest," but only if the world acts quickly to reverse the buildup of heat-trapping gases in the atmosphere, the head of the U.N.'s expert panel Rajendra Pachauri on climate change said. Such gases, mainly CO₂ from the burning of fossil fuels, rose on average by 2.2 percent a year in 2000-2010, driven by the use of coal in the power sector, officials said as they launched the Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change's report on measures to fight global warming, Fox News Reported. Without additional measures to contain emissions, global temperatures will rise about 5 degrees to 7 degrees Fahrenheit by 2100 compared to current levels, the panel said. "The longer we delay the higher would be the cost," IPCC chairman Rajendra Pachauri said after the panel's weeklong session in Berlin. "But despite that, the point I'm making is that even now, the cost is not something that's going to bring about a major disruption of economic systems. It's well within our reach." The IPCC, an international body assessing climate science, projected that shifting the energy system from fossil fuels to zero- or low-carbon sources including wind and solar power would reduce consumption growth by about 0.06 percentage points per year, adding that that didn't take into account the economic benefits of reduced climate change. "The loss in consumption is relatively modest," Pachauri said. The IPCC said the shift would entail a near-quadrupling of low-carbon energy - which in the panel's projections included renewable sources as well as nuclear power and fossil fuel-fired plants equipped with technologies to capture some of the emissions. US Secretary of State John Kerry called it a global economic opportunity. - APP

ISLAMABAD: Speakers at a conference here on Thursday stressed the role of women in alleviating poverty in the country. In Pakistan, only 26 per cent women are participating in economic activities. Out of these, 70 per cent are engaged in the agriculture sector. However, 31 per cent of the women do not get any financial incentives. The South Asian regional conference on 'Women, work and poverty' was organised by the Social Policy and Development Centre (SPDC) at a local hotel.

Speaking on the occasion, Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal said the role of women was very important for the development of the country. "Though Pakistan is among the middle income countries, whenever social indicators are discussed the country is placed in the list of Third World nations. There are issues of education, malnutrition and financial conditions," he said. "We do not have abundance of resources, so we need to priorities in which sector we should invest. Pakistan invested in higher education for seven years and produced over 7,000 PhDs without any vision due to which there is less productivity," he said. He said Pakistan generated most of its revenue by exporting textile products but out of the 7,000 PhDs even 15 were not sent to do specialise in the textile sector. He said a national research conference would be held at the Higher Education Commission (HEC) to discuss what kind of research work should be carried out in the country.

Talking to mediapersons, Mr Iqbal said the Ministry of Finance had started preparing the new budget which would be 'economy friendly'. In the past, he added, investment of billions of dollars came to the country but due to the lack of vision the funds could not be utilised positively. Norwegian Ambassador Cecilie Landsverk said economy can only improve if the potentials of all members of society were used. Giving the example of her country, Ms Landsverk said 50 years back there was a concept that only man should work but now seven out of 10 women worked in Norway. She said 50 per cent leadership should be women in Pakistan because only that was how social indicators would start increasing. Member board of directors SPDC Saba Gul Khattak said it takes 10 to 15 years to transform an idea into a policy. "Through the conference, ideas will be given to the government. Projects like Benazir Income Support Programme cannot eliminate poverty. In Pakistan, poverty can only be eliminated if causes of poverty are rooted out," she said.

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government is planning to increase forest area in the province by 30,000 hectares and improve tree cover in 25,000 hectares of existing forests per annum under the Green Growth Initiative. This was expressed by Senior Researcher, Department of Geography, University of Zurich Dr. Urs Geiser at the launch of book organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI).

KARACHI: Protecting food resources and resolving trans-boundary issue related to the marine waters dominated the debate over sustainable fisheries policy, as the participants warned that since the food resources are shrinking fast, there is need to have a policy draft to avoid the loss to natural assets. This was discussed at a two-day provincial workshop on Wednesday with participation of fishermen community activists hailing from inland and marine waters, farmers, environmentalists, government officials and civil society leaders held at a local hotel. The participants gave valuable input regarding the sustainability of fish, food and water resources, saying the seafood is main component and presently small scale fishermen are facing hardships to even feed their kids as per their needs. The event was

UN weather agency warns of 'El Nino' this year

The Nation/AFP, April 16, 2014

Mangroves suffer as less water released from Punjab, PA told

Dawn, April 15, 2014

organized by Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum (PFF), which produced valuable points to sensitize the government to adopt the draft of fisheries policy, keeping in mind the concerns raised by the community, environmentalists. Aly Ercelan led the discussion with sharing findings of the draft, designed by the PFF under the guidelines set by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). He expressed the hope that the debate at community level and contribution of the stakeholders may help the government to adopt and ensure its implementation to protect the fish stocks at marine and inland waters, which are declining fast and even the fishermen themselves are vulnerable to face hardships in terms of food availability. Mohammed Moizam Khan of WWF Pakistan, Shujauddin Qureshi of PILER, Rahima Panhwar of SPO, Shah Jehan Baloch of ActionAid Pakistan, Dr Mohammed Wasim of Oxfam-GB, PFF Chairperson Mohammed Ali Shah, Ghulam Mujtaba Wadhar, Additional Secretary Sindh Inland Fisheries, Mustafa Gurgaiz, Sindhi folklore writer Ishaq Mangrio, Mahesh Kumar and others took part in the discussion.

Saeed Baloch gave introductory speech with sharing objectives and the learning how the small scale fishermen are vulnerable because of unavailability of policy to protect their right to life and livelihoods. The workshop also initiated group work to collect recommendations, covering broader aspect of food, natural resources, use of risk-free fishing nets and boats in the waters. The draft pointed out that the policies will promote food sovereignty in a decent living for fishers in the context of national food security. The government was advised to address occupational health issues and unfair working conditions by ensuring that the necessary legislation is in place and is implemented in accordance with the relevant conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO). Government should promote investment in appropriate infrastructures and capacity development programmes that enable the small-scale postharvest sector to produce quality products, both for local markets and export. There are a number of departments, including Sindh Fisheries Department, Marine Fisheries Department, Inland Fisheries, Forest Department, Mercantile Department, Custom, Pakistan Coast Guard, Pakistan Navy, Maritime Security Agency, Karachi Port Trust, Karachi Fish Harbour Authority, Korangi Fish Harbour Authority and Fishermen Cooperative Society, which have showed failure in one or the other way to protect the fish stock through proper management. Another aspect of weaker systems in fisheries is the poor the implementation of whatever rules exist to manage the sector. The discussion pointed out that the fisheries department is still being run under the Sindh Fisheries Ordinance of 1980 with no clear division of responsibilities among the above mentioned departments, having no road map for the improvement and development of fisheries and fishers and no sustainability inbuilt. There is a dire need for a paradigm shift in the way fisheries should be regulated and managed. Clear policy in the sector would help in the sustainability of the fish resources and improvement of the livelihood of fishers as well, the draft mentioned. The workshop aimed to review critically the recommendations of the district level workshops on the fisheries policy held previously to present the policy draft to the high level authorities and experts to get their inputs.

GENEVA: The UN weather agency Tuesday warned there was a good chance of an 'El Nino' climate phenomenon in the Pacific Ocean this year, bringing droughts and heavy rainfall to the rest of the world. The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) said its modelling suggested a 'fairly large potential for an El Nino, most likely by the end of the second quarter of 2014.' 'If an El Nino event develops ... it will influence temperatures and precipitation and contribute to droughts or heavy rainfall in different regions of the world,' WMO chief Michel Jarraud said in a statement. The El Nino phenomenon occurs every two to seven years, when the prevailing trade winds that circulate surface water in the tropical Pacific start to weaken. WMO pointed out Tuesday that since February, trade winds had weakened and there had been a significant warming of the waters below the surface in the central Pacific. 'While there is no guarantee this situation will lead to an El Nino event, the longer the trade winds remain weakened, and sub-surface temperatures stay significantly warmer than average, the higher the likelihood,' it said. Two thirds of climate models predicted that the phenomenon would begin sometime between June and August, with a few suggesting it could start as early as May, and the remainder predicting no El Nino this year, it said. The last El Nino occurred between June 2009 and May 2010. It is often followed by a return swing of the pendulum with La Nina, which is characterised by unusually cool ocean surface temperatures in the central and eastern tropical Pacific. Scientists, who closely monitor the two climate patterns, say that while they are not caused by climate change, rising ocean temperatures caused by global warming may affect their intensity and frequency. 'El Nino has an important warming effect on global average temperatures,' Jarraud cautioned, stressing that combined with human-induced warming from greenhouse gases such events had 'the potential to cause a dramatic rise in global mean temperature.'

KARACHI: Sindh does not get its due share in Indus waters most of the time owing to which the province in general and mangrove forests in the Indus delta region in particular have been suffering during the past couple of decades, said parliamentary secretary (PS) for the forest and wildlife department Nasir Shah on Monday. He was responding to questions asked by legislators during the Sindh Assembly's question hour — which pertained to the forest and wildlife department. Mr Shah was answering questions asked by Pakistan Muslim League -Functional legislator Nusrat Sehar Abbasi in the absence of forest and wildlife minister Gayan Chand, who attends the assembly most of the time but never comes to it when the question hour pertains to his department. Explaining the regular short supply of water to Sindh, the PS said that there were a few flood canals in Punjab which were

supposed to be opened during floods only, but it had been seen and reported regularly that those canals remained open even during the water shortage period which subsequently resulted in Sindh getting lesser water than its due share. Sindh keeps raising the issue with the federal government as well as with the Punjab government at all relevant forums, but the situation remains the same most of the time. Answering another of her questions that what the PPP, which ruled not only in the province but the federation also, had done during its last tenure, 2008- 2013, the PS said that once when it was reported that those canals were opened during a water shortage period the then president Asif Ali Zardari ordered immediate closure of the canals and they were closed within eight hours. But normally those canals remained open and the province got less water. Replying to another of her questions that what the government/ legislators could do to get due water for Sindh, he urged the legislators to join hands with the government so that a consensus resolution could be passed by this assembly and sent to the federal government and other relevant forums informing them of the water shortage being faced by Sindh so that they could help secure the due water share for the province.

Gugal trees' destruction

Responding to another of her questions, regarding the destruction of the highly rare Gugal trees in the Thar desert in 2011, Mr Shah said after the matter was reported in February 2011 over 30 people, including some influential men, were caught and booked under Section 68 (a) of the Forest Act 1927 and a fine of Rs43,500 was recovered from them. Responding to a question by Muttahida Qaumi Movement legislator the names of the influential people mentioned by the PS, in the written reply Mr Shah said that he could not reveal the names on the floor of the house as many members might not like it. While many legislators demanded that the names be declared, some of them were not keen on pressing for the disclosure. So when no consensus could be obtained, Ms Raza said those legislators who wanted to know the names could see Mr Shah in his office and the names would be disclosed to them. MQM legislator Sumeta Syed said the written reply said that Section 144 was already implemented when the trees were being destructed while the PS replying to the other question had said that it was imposed later, so which one of the statements was correct. The PS said Section 144 was imposed later, and it had been misprinted in the reply. PPP legislator from Tharparkar Khatumal said the local administration, forest department officials and local influential people were jointly involved in the destruction of the highly rare Gugal trees. He said that gum, which fetched high price in the market, was extracted from the Gugal plants through artificial methods by injecting poisonous chemical and after the chemical based extraction, the plant gradually died down. Mr Shah said that some of the measures adopted by the department for Gugal protection were that 50 acres under Gugal plantation had been fenced; and cuttings had been planted on other 30 acres, while Gugal saplings were being raised on 30 other acres. Those efforts had resulted in large-scale germination of Gugal plants which were now under proper protection. Responding to another question by Ms Abbasi, regarding aerial seeding done on and around the Gorakh Hills, he said neither any aerial seeding had been carried out around the Gorakh Hills nor such a plan was under consideration. PML-N legislator Irfan Marwat said aerial seeding was carried out for three consecutive years in the Galiyat area between Abbottabad and Murree owing to which that region had become lush green. That success story should be followed in the Gorakh Hills also to make it more attractive for tourists. When a large number of legislators demanded that such an activity be planned, he said the proposal would be considered by the department. Responding to another question regarding development of facilities at the Gorakh Hills, he said a rest house, restaurants, etc had been set up there and water and electricity had also been provided. The road had been constructed but being in the hilly area parts of it were washed away during rains and flash floods. The work was also in progress to get it ready also. Sardar Ahmed, Bilquis Mukhtar and Mohammad Hussain Syed of the MQM and ministers Nisar Khuhro and Dr Sikandar Mandhro also took part in it.

Global warming, not due to natural factors, say experts

Statesman/APP, April 15, 2014

PESHAWAR: An analysis of temperature data since 1500 rules out the possibility that global warming in the industrial era is just a natural fluctuation in the earth's climate. The study, by McGill University physics professor Shaun Lovejoy, represents a new approach to the question of whether global warming in the industrial era has been caused largely by man-made emissions from the burning of fossil fuels, the study is published online in the journal *Climate Dynamics*. Rather than using complex computer models to estimate the effects of greenhouse-gas emissions, Lovejoy examines historical data to assess the competing hypothesis: that warming over the past century is due to natural long-term variations in temperature. "This study will be a blow to any remaining climate-change deniers," Lovejoy said. "Their two most convincing arguments - that the warming is natural in origin, and that the computer models are wrong - are either directly contradicted by this analysis, or simply do not apply to it," he said. Lovejoy's study applies statistical methodology to determine the probability that global warming since 1880 is due to natural variability. His conclusion: the natural-warming hypothesis may be ruled out "with confidence levels great than 99 percent, and most likely greater than 99.9 percent." To assess the natural variability before much human interference, the new study uses "multi-proxy climate reconstructions" developed by scientists in recent years to estimate historical temperatures, as well as fluctuation-analysis techniques from nonlinear geophysics. The climate reconstructions take into account a variety of gauges found in nature, such as tree rings, ice cores, and lake sediments. And the fluctuation-analysis techniques make it possible to

Tharparkar's master plan preparation ordered

Dawn, April 14, 2014

understand the temperature variations over wide ranges of time scales.

KARACHI: Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah has directed the authorities concerned to prepare a master plan for the infrastructure development of Tharparkar district with the provision of health, education, communication and employment facilities for the district. He was presiding over a meeting at Chief Minister House to discuss the modalities for setting up a Tharparkar development authority for a long-term and sustainable development for Tharparkar. The meeting also discussed a short-term strategy to address the miseries of the drought-hit people. The CM directed the officials concerned that planning must be made keeping in view the existing geographical, environmental and ecological condition of the area. He added that his government intended to lay the foundation of such a development infrastructure work which would even force the future governments to continue for the poor people of Tharparkar district. The chief minister recalled that it was the PPP which had got vacated the desert area then occupied by the Indian army. The PPP, later on, had constituted the Sindh Arid Zone Development Authority to improve the living standard of the dwellers but the successive government disbanded the scheme causing irreparable loss to the poor people of Tharparkar. Mr Shah said that in addition to long-term and sustainable development, his government was intending to continue relief to the drought-affected people of Tharparkar under a short-term strategy. He said that in the first phase of the relief programme, 120,000 wheat bags had been distributed among more than 253,000 families. Besides, he said, the relief goods comprising ration packets arranged by different organisations and NGOs had also been provided to the people of Tharparkar. Recalling the importance of clean drinking water for the survival of the people and their health, the chief minister said that the Sindh government had planned to install 150 reverse osmosis plants in addition to the 80 RO plants already functioning in the district. He said the Sindh government would give enhanced salaries to the doctors stationed in Tharparkar and it had appointed 57 new doctors. He said that those who got admission to medical colleges on the domicile of Tharparkar would be bound to serve in the district for at least three years after becoming doctor. Some elected representatives of Tharparkar were also present at the meeting and they shared their proposals for the short-term planning for the welfare and uplift of the people of the area.

The person in charge of relief activities in the drought-affected areas, Taj Haider, gave a detailed briefing to the participants in the meeting, informing them that wheat and other relief goods provided by the provincial government were distributed in a transparent manner without any discrimination. Emphasising the dire need to develop a master plan for the development of Tharparkar, he said that though subsoil water in the areas was brackish, it could be utilised for irrigation as it was being used in the desert areas of the neighbouring country. Mr. Haider urged the planners to evolve a system to promote handicrafts, livestock, fodder for animals, dairies and meat farming, slaughter houses, agriculture, creation of jobs at the local level, installation of solar-based RO plants and income generating opportunities in Tharparkar.

Climate panel says emissions rising, avoids blame

Statesman /AP, April 14, 2014

BERLIN: The U.N.'s expert panel on climate change on Sunday highlighted the disconnect between international goals to fight global warming and what is being done to attain them. Emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases must drop by 40-70 percent by 2050 to keep the global temperature rise below the 2-degree C (3.6-degree F) cap set in U.N. climate talks, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change said. The opposite is happening now. On average global emissions rose by 2.2 percent - or 1 gigaton - a year between 2000 and 2010, outpacing growth in previous decades to reach "unprecedented levels" despite some efforts to contain them, the IPCC said. "There is a clear message from science: To avoid dangerous interference with the climate system, we need to move away from business as usual," said Ottmar Edenhofer, one of three co-chairs of the IPCC working group looking at ways to fight climate change.

Climate change devastating all arid areas of Sindh

Statesman, April 14, 2014

KARACHI: Climate change is devastating all arid areas of Sindh including Chahcro, Kohistan, Kachho, Nara region, Achro Thar and Tharparkar and is causing reduction in rains, drinking water, grasing fields and livestock. Fluoride contamination of underground water sources in Chachro and other area of Thar desert has led to grave health problems, while drinking water in other arid areas of the province is also harmful to health, said Executive Director Society for Environmental Actions, Re-Construction and Humanitarian response (SEARCH) Pakistan in an interview to PPI on Sunday.

Exposure to excessive consumption of fluoride over a lifetime may lead to increased likelihood of bone fractures in adults, and may result in effects on bone leading to pain and tenderness, he said. Jamali said children aged 8 years and younger exposed to excessive amounts of fluoride have an increased chance of developing pits in the tooth enamel, along with a range of cosmetic effects to teeth. Kohistan, Kachho, Nara, Achro Thar and Tharparkar are badly hit by climate change. As a result, the people of these areas are passing life in miserable condition. The lack of government interest in resolving the issues of these people is strongly deplorable, Jamali said.

The lives of people in arid areas had been affected by changing ground water quality, degradation of soil, range lands and deaths in livestock. The government needs to install water filter plants to ensure safe drinking water to the people of these deprived areas, he said. SEARCH chief said that all the successive governments had failed to provide incentives to the people of arid areas and had left these people to face threats of droughts and other calamities caused by climate change. He said that present Sindh government had

Forests termed a must to overcome pollution

Statesman, April 12, 2014

Risks to coastal communities by climate change highlighted

Dawn, April 11, 2014

done no significant work on environment conservation and development. Sindh is running without environment policy which is a great loss. This shows how government is efficient. The rulers and bureaucracy seem to be in deep sleep as Sindh is facing huge losses due to environment pollutions and droughts. Droughts come almost yearly or after two or three years in Thar but the actual need is to ensure constant and smooth relief and facilities to the people of Thar. The government is responsible to provide relief to the people affected by natural calamities in arid areas of Sindh. Forest and other environmental departments have closed their eyes from arid areas as a result, the range lands are under heavy stress due to overgrazing and lack of water. He said: It has been observed from complaints of people that local government officials are involved in corruption and there is no monitoring and no participation from locals pertaining to relief funds. The climate change has also hit Chachro taluka of district Tharparkar. The land of this taluka is sandy with sand dunes. It is the dry area with less vegetation. Communities are mostly dependent on livestock and rain agriculture. Jamali informed Sindh is the southeastern province of Pakistan, which is spread over 140,914 sq kilometers. Sindh province can be divided longitudinally in three distinct sections of almost equal size. The western part is a hilly tract known as Kohistan. The central portion is a fertile valley irrigated by the River Indus while in the Eastern lays the desert section. Thar region is the largest desert area of Sindh with sub-Saharan conditions. It extends from the coastal area of the Runn and Kutch along the southern border with India to Sukkur covering an area of 19000 square kilometers. Kohistan area starts from the north of Karachi and moves along to Balochistan. The total area of this region is about 13,000 square kilometers, Jamali informed.

LAHORE: Forests and trees are not only must to overcome the pollution & environmental issues but their role is also significant in economic development. Situation in Pakistan is not encouraging as far as forestry area is concerned. These views were expressed by the Member National Assembly & PML-N Lahore President Muhammad Pervez Malik while inaugurating of Lahore Waste Management Company Plantation Campaign. Chairman Lahore Waste Management Company Khawaja Ahmed Hassan, Members Punjab Assembly Chaudhry Shahbaz, Ghazali Butt, MNA Meher Ishtiaq, students, traders and a large number of people from various walks of life were present on the occasion. Pervez Malik said that forests and trees act as shield against climate changes and also provide us clean air and water besides maintaining good environment. He said that a large number of countries were controlling climate changes by increasing forestry area but situation in Pakistan is quite different. He said that trees were being cut, particularly in northern areas for fueling purpose, resultantly various biodiversities, climate change and other environmental issues were arising. Pervez Malik said that forests were equally important for the economic safety of the country as round wood production, wood processing and the pulp and paper industries account for nearly 1 per cent of global gross domestic product.

KARACHI: Highlighting serious risks to coastal communities due to climate change, a position paper launched on Thursday at a local hotel calls upon the government to immediately start mapping of coastal land, determine zones of risk, exposure and vulnerability and link mapping with profiling of the people and assets in the 'risk zones' for formulating policies and frameworks for resilience building. It identifies Thatta and Badin as two major hazard-prone districts of Sindh while Karachi as an area that posed the most critical challenge in terms of building coastal resilience. The paper, Building Resilience Framework for Pakistan's Coastal Areas, has been prepared by the Friends of Indus Forum (FIF). The World Wide Fund for Nature-Pakistan (WWF-P) under its climate change adaptation project had collaborated in the paper's launch. The paper cites findings of the 2010 report of the Task Force Report on Climate Change prepared by the Planning Commission of Pakistan and says that the coastal areas are vulnerable for two reasons: rise in sea level and increased frequency and intensity of tropical cyclones. On the former phenomenon, it refers to the studies conducted by the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) and points out that the sea level along the coast of Pakistan has been rising approximately at 1.2 mm per year, in agreement with the average global rise of 1.5 mm per year since 1960. "There are concerns that coastal zones and marine ecosystems, in particular the Indus delta, could be damaged from increased saline water intrusion due to sea level rise and increased storm events. The NIO research indicates that ground subsidence rates in the Indus deltaic region due to lock of sediment flux and excessive ground water extraction are probably in the range 2-4 mm per year. "Ground subsidence has already resulted in the seawater intrusion upstream of the delta extending up to 80km in the coastal areas of Thatta, Hyderabad and Badin districts," it says. The paper provides a timeline of major disasters in recent years, including the cyclone in 1964/65, heavy rainfall in 1973, floods during 1988, torrential rainfall in 1994, the cyclone in 1999, an earthquake in 2001 and floods in 2003. "The most critical challenge posed in terms of coastal resilience for Pakistan can be found within the teeming megacity of Karachi. The commercial and industrial hub of Pakistan with a population estimated to be in the region of about 20m, Karachi exhibits significant 'vulnerabilities' both in terms of 'people' and 'assets'. "As for communities located in the immediate risk zone, the most significant human settlements both in terms of their exposure and vulnerability are the fishing communities residing in villages dotted along the Karachi coast," it says, adding that a key area of concern for Karachi city planners could be the major residential, business and recreation areas being constructed along the waterfront land. On impediments to resilience building, the paper says that currently no umbrella legislation exists, which protects coastal and marine resources in general or any specific area of ecological significance. "Besides, there is no effective

Pollution killing 10m people annually, Salu moot told

Dawn, April 11, 2014

Pakistan vulnerable to climate change, natural disasters

Dawn, April 10, 2014

Global warming could be accelerated by permafrost thawing

Statesman, April 09, 2014

'institutional and legislative space' for coordination and decision making among the various coastal and land-based agencies. There are serious inadequacies in research documentation, accurately profiling the 'communities' and 'state of the coastal ecosystems,' said Farhan Anwar, author of the report, while giving a presentation on his work.

According to Mr Anwar, coastal erosion, degradation of coastal and marine ecosystems and habitats, declining water quality, pollution, over-exploitation of coastal resources and low level of institutional and legislative capability for integrated coastal area management are some major issues being faced along Balochistan coast. Earlier sharing his views, MPA Haji Shafi Jamot opposed the selling of coastal land and islands for any commercial venture and urged the government to withdraw the Zulfikarabad project. Minister for Environment and Coastal Development Dr Sikander Mandhro, Mohammad Ali Shah of Pakistan Fishers Forum, MPA Haji Shafi Jamot, Ali Dehlavi of WWF-P, Ghulam Qadir Shah of International Union for Conservation of Nature, Nasir Ali Panhwar of FIF and Naseer Memon of Strengthening Participatory Organisation also spoke.

KHAIRPUR: Experts at an international conference on 'Environmental issues of Sindh and its remedies' noted with concern that environmental pollution kills more than 10 million people every year in the world.

Speaking on the second day of the two-day conference held at the Shah Abdul Latif University on Thursday, they said water insecurities are among five societal risks that the world is facing today. There have been increasing concerns on toxic elements containment in vegetables, which adversely affects the human body, they said. The experts who presented their research papers on Thursday included Prof Dr Fayyaz Ahmed Memon (UK), Prof Dr Asadullah Kazi (Isra University, Hyderabad), Prof Dr Mohammad Mashroof Akhter (University of Punjab, Lahore), Prof Dr Shahabuddin Memon (University of Sindh), Dr Farman Ali Shah, Dr Saeed Ahmed Bablani, Prof Dr Mohammad Yar Khuhawar, Dr Abdul Qayoom Jakhrani (Quaid-i-Azam University, Nawabshah), Dr Amanullah Murree (NED University, Karachi), Prof Dr Safia Ahmed (Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad) and Prof Dr Mamtaz Ali Mahar. Highlighting the issue of sea intrusion and its devastating effects on the Indus delta, the experts said that the coastal aquifer system had been polluted due to mixing of seawater and freshwater on a large scale. This has also increased salinity in the coastal areas of Sindh. There has been a devastating effect of recent environmental changes in Sindh that had triggered floods and then caused a drought, on the provincial economy. They also highlighted effect of seepage through river/canal embankments and called for effectively controlling it. Seepage and overtopping led to various environmental issues, including rise in water table, water-logging, salinity and mosquito breeding etc. The experts also described disposal of effluents from sugar mills into waterways as a major environmental issue linked to spread of various diseases.

GILGIT: The Global Climate Risk Index 1993-2012 has ranked Pakistan as the 12th most affected by extreme weather events. This information was shared during the two-day Climate Change Adaptation Conference held here on Wednesday, says a press release. The conference was organised by the Focus Humanitarian Assistance programme in collaboration with Karakoram International University (KIU) to discuss the impact of global warming and ways to decrease risks at community and institutional levels.

According to one of the speakers, Pakistan was highly vulnerable to climate change and large floods, drought and biodiversity loss was expected in future. Assistant Professor, KIU, Dr Shaukat Ali said the mean annual temperature increase recorded in Pakistan from 1960 to 2007 was higher than the rate observed globally. "This temperature increase will result in more heat waves and will also affect the country's water demand. More than 40 per cent of the population in Pakistan is at risk of natural disasters such as droughts, floods and cyclones," he added. Geologist Niaz Ali stated that in the past four years, Pakistan had endured two of the deadliest avalanches the world has ever seen. "Pakistan has witnessed a 0.76°C rise in temperature during the last 40 years, but what is even more disturbing is the fact that the mountainous areas of Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral have seen an increase of 1.5°C during the same time period," he said. He linked the deadly avalanches to the rise in temperatures in the northern areas and warned that the late spell of snowfall coupled with increased temperatures might increase the chance of an avalanche in northern Pakistan. Chairperson Focus Pakistan, Khadija Jamal Shaban said: "The impact of climate change is far wider and deeper than that being discussed. It impacts every sector and therefore a strong national policy to guide climate change adaptation is very critical."

PESHAWAR: Researchers have found new evidence that permafrost thawing is releasing large quantities of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere via plants, which could accelerate warming trends. Suzanne Hodgkins, the lead author on the paper and a doctoral student in chemical oceanography at Florida State, said they've known for a while now that permafrost is thawing, asserting what they've found is that the associated changes in plant community composition in the polar regions could lead to way more carbon being released into the atmosphere as methane said the research published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Permafrost is soil that is frozen year round and is typically located in polar regions. As the world has gotten slightly warmer, that permafrost is thawing and decomposing, which is producing increased amounts of methane. Relative to carbon dioxide, methane has a disproportionately large global warming potential. Methane is 33 times more effective at warming the Earth on a mass basis and a century time scale relative to carbon dioxide. As the plants break down, they are releasing carbon into the atmosphere.

KP to issue licenses for exploration of natural resources

Dawn, April 08, 2014

Govt to establish hydrogen and fuel cell center

Statesman, April 08, 2014

Sea erosion hits town in Gwadar

Dawn, April 07, 2014

Climate change dwindles women's livelihood in Sindh

Statesman, April 07, 2014

Technology to fight poverty: USAID

Statesman, April 06, 2014

And if the permafrost melts entirely, there would be five times the amount of carbon in the atmosphere than there is now, said Jeff Chanton, the John Widmer Winchester Professor of Oceanography at Florida State.

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has decided to award licences through bidding for exploration of natural resources. The winning bidders would be awarded licences for 30 years at a proposed fee of \$100,000 per licence and they would be responsible for all expenditures and risks, said a handout. The decision was taken in a meeting presided over by Chief Minister Pervez Khattak here on Monday. The meeting discussed matters regarding prevention of illegal mining as well as exploration and development of minerals resources. The chief minister said that the province had the largest mineral resources of the world. He alleged that the previous government distributed the contracts of those precious minerals among their blue-eyed people. He said that the available metals and minerals would be utilised in the best interest of people according to international standard. The meeting discussed matters pertaining to mining and developing mineral resources. The meeting was told that prospective mineral blocks identified on the basis of reliable past exploration, carried out with the assistance of Australia in Chitral were open for bidding. Mr Khattak was told that according to his directives a draft Mining and Mineral Development Bill was being prepared, which would be reviewed by an international consultant and would be presented for legislation by the end of next month. Similarly, all leases, contracts and auctions of mining would be advertised at world pattern in large-scale and in shape of blocks. Besides the departments concerned, experts and administration, the tendering will be carried out in the presence of media to ensure transparency. The chief minister was told that big hurdles in mineral development were illegal mining, non-registration of FIR by police, use of influence and getting consecutive stay orders from courts. The chief minister directed police to register FIR on complaints of illegal mining and said that those creating hurdles in that connection should also be arrested forthwith and sent to lock-up.

ISLAMABAD: Plan is on cards to establish National Centre for 'Hydrogen and Fuel Cell', shortly, another promising renewable energy technology that offer prospects for a low carbon economy. The deployment of 'Fuel Cells' offers promise for a truly sustainable economic development with minimal environmental consequences and can be used at homes, in grocery stores, warehouses, commercial and industrial buildings. The Fuel cells are widely regarded as the key means for converting hydrogen to energy and have a clear enabling role in realising aspirations for a hydrogen economy, official sources told APP, here on Monday. The 'hydrogen economy' concept covers a range of ideas where hydrogen plays a major role in clean energy systems of the future, he added. "The ability to operate fuel cells with fuels ranging from fossil fuels, through biomass-based fuels to renewable sources means that they could support all steps in the transition to a hydrogen economy based predominantly on renewable energy sources". Official said there is practically no limit on deployment of Fuel Cells on technical grounds. The use of Alkaline Fuel Cells (AFC), Phosphoric Acid Fuel Cells (PAFC), Proton Exchange Membrane Cells/Polymer Electrolyte Fuel Cells (PEM), Solid Oxide Fuel Cells (SOFC), Molten Carbonate Fuel Cells (MCFC), range in efficiency between 55-60%, he added. Official said it is increasingly been used worldwide as diverse applications in space programs, power generation and transport.

GWADAR: Several houses and a school building have been washed away by erosion caused by the sea in Peshkan, a small coastal town in Gwadar district, local people said. The erosion started two years ago and its intensity has been increasing since, posing a threat to the town itself. Local fishermen say erosion becomes more dangerous in summer. They alleged that the slow pace of work on a jetty in Peshkan had caused erosion which had swallowed up a big portion of the building of a government school and several houses. The jetty is under construction for seven years. The fishermen accused the authorities and the contractor of delaying the construction work deliberately. They also said the construction of a road in Peshkan could also not be completed during the past seven years because of negligence of the authorities and the contractor company. The fishermen urged Chief Minister Dr Abdul Malik Baloch to construct an embankment around the Peshkan town.

KARACHI: Climate change is shrinking women's livelihood resources and affecting their health in rural Sindh. Due to climate change implications, sowing of cotton crop and forest cover have decreased to a larger level in Sindh province, causing heavy loss to the income of women who used to generate it from picking up cotton crop and selling milk & butter received from cattle depending mostly on forests. Women working in crop fields are hit by skin, respiratory and other infectious diseases, says Ghous Bux Pirzado, renowned environment researcher and Program Officer, Environment and Livelihood, Shirkat Gah, while referring to a research conducted by his organization entitled Climate Change and Women: A Study in Selected Sites in Rural Sindh, Pakistan, here on Sunday. Past natural disasters has showed that women were worst suffers. During 2010 floods, a total of 713,000 women with age range of 15-49 years and 133,000 pregnant women were affected, while rain induced floods during 2011 in Sindh also affected 3,615,203 women, he said. Ghous said that due to climate change, grain and cotton crops had been replaced by bananas, sugarcane and other commercial crops in Sindh as a result, women have been deprived of labor facility because new crops need low labor of men.

PESHAWAR: The USAID has plans to end extreme poverty by 2030, and it wants to use technology and science to make it happen, The daily Times reported. Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) will

Call for proper mechanism to deal with urban disaster challenges

Statesman, April 06, 2014

Badin coal field: Geological Survey of Pakistan approves plan

The Express tribune, April 05, 2014

announce Thursday a new high-tech program to fight poverty across the globe. The program, called the U.S. Global Development Lab, is a partnership between USAID and 31 universities, corporations and foundations that will support and develop solutions to global problems using science and technology. Its goal is to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030. For USAID administrator Dr. Rajiv Shah, the project has been a long time coming.

Since taking the helm at USAID-and before, when he served as undersecretary for the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Shah has worked to develop solutions to solve the world's problems through science, often alongside Clinton. Shah was at the USDA finding ways to improve agriculture through science while Secretary Clinton was constructing a global food initiative. Shah says he proposed marrying the efforts to take a meaningful job at ending world hunger. "I said, look, if we could get and invent new seeds, new mobile technology and open new data centers to help farmers connect their crop prices and understand weather variability we can do something transformational against hunger," says Shah. "And not just reach a small percentage of the people that are hungry with food." By using a strategy based in science and technology to approach the myriad issues faced by poor communities across the globe, Shah says America can lead the effort to end poverty. Any change, however, won't happen overnight. The USAID has spent the past four years cutting programs and reallocating funds so the Lab would have the resources necessary to launch.

In 2008, the USAID spent only \$127 million on scientific developments. In 2013, they spent closer to \$800 million. They're expecting as much as \$30 billion in individual investment over the course of the project with the help of their partners, including The University of California at Berkeley, Coca-Cola, and the Gates Foundation. Those partners are developing products that marry cost-effective strategies with science and technology, often creating simple strategies to tackle problems ranging from hunger to disease to literacy in the process. A group of Stanford University graduates are shopping a low-cost, environmentally friendly home lighting product that set out to reach 22 million people in Africa who currently rely on kerosene lamps to light their homes at night.

USAID partners at Berkeley created a mobile application that can detect water borne diseases using an iPhone camera and parts built from a 3-D printer. And by working together, USAID hopes the solutions will reach a higher number of people at a faster pace. "We see this as a transformation in how you do development," said Lona Stoll of USAID. "By tapping into things that really make America what it is, which is our entrepreneurial spirit, our scientific expertise, and our real commitment to help people, you have a real ability to accelerate our impact."

KARACHI: Commissioner Karachi Shoaib Ahmed Siddiqui on Saturday urged the all stockholder working of public welfare to work jointly to avert natural disasters in future. He expressed these views while addressing a seminar on Humanitarian Challenges in Urban Disaster organized by Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) Sindh with collaboration of International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) at local hotel.

The seminar addresses three key themes, the Response-efforts to improve relief and recovery practice; the Resilience-building the capacity of a system, community or society potentially exposed to hazards to adapt; and the Transformation - fundamental change that results in the substantial reduction of a populations vulnerability. Shoaib Siddiqui said all the district level officers should enhance their coordination with PRCS. He said PRCS training institutions must engage other departments for necessary first aid training and rescue training to handle natural urban disasters. He said PRCS is a humanitarian organization dedicated to improving lives of vulnerable segments of the society. He applauded the services PRCS for humanity in Pakistan.

Director Operation, Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), Akhlaq Ahmed Qureshi said urban population is increasing day by day in Pakistan in cities like Karachi, Lahore, Faisalabad and Islamabad, but unfortunately no planning has been made resolve the issues emerging in cities with the increase of population. He said no any mechanism has been introduced in the country to deal the urban disasters and its related challenges. He said there are different types of disasters like environmental, natural and man-made. PRCS Sindh Honorary Treasurer Sheikh Jalaluddin said that urban disasters are on the increase, with rapid urbanization causing more people to live in places vulnerable to hazards such as flood, earthquake and tsunami. Provincial Secretary of PRCS Sindh Kanwar Waseem said the field of disaster management is ongoing through a phase of transformation in the whole world.

ISLAMABAD: The Geological Survey of Pakistan (GSP) has approved a plan to explore coal resources for the Badin Coal Field and its adjoining areas of Southern Sindh (Thar), which would be completed by 2016 at a total cost of Rs170 million. The GSP is also engaged in the exploration of tertiary coal in Central Salt Range, Punjab, costing Rs43.350 million, over a three-year implementation period (2013-16). These projects will help establish additional coal reserves to meet the growing domestic energy demand and develop coal fields in order to increase power generation. "Exploration of mineral and coal resources is undertaken as a regular activity by the concerned federal and provincial organisations within their domains through private sector investment as well as public funding," official sources told the media. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources has done extensive work, contributing to discoveries of all major coal fields in the country, he added. Besides sponsoring coal exploration and development projects through government funding, the provincial governments have granted many coal prospecting and

S. Asia should spend more to serve its growing population: report

Dawn, April 04, 2014

Climate Change Division working on two GLOF projects in Chitral, GB

Statesman, April 04, 2014

Aquaculture may help ward off food insecurity

Dawn, April 03, 2014

Climate change boosts conflict risk, floods, hunger: UN

Statesman/ AFP, April 01, 2014

exploration licences in private and public sectors, investing their own resources for the requisite exploration work.

ISLAMABAD: South Asia should spend as much as \$2.5 trillion on infrastructure by 2020 to bring its power grids, roads and water supplies up to the standard required to serve its growing population, said a World Bank report on Wednesday. "If South Asia hopes to meet its development goals and not risk slowing down — or even halting — growth, poverty alleviation and shared prosperity... it is essential to make closing its huge infrastructure gap a priority," the report said in probably the first analysis of the region's infrastructure needs. The report, entitled "Reducing poverty by closing South Asia's infrastructure gap", says that "infrastructure deficiencies in South Asia are enormous, and a mix of investment in infrastructure stock and implementing supportive reforms will enable the region to close its infrastructure gap". Pakistan should invest \$165 billion over ten years in improving infrastructure in transport, electricity, water and sanitation, solid waste, telecom and irrigation sectors, according to the report. For the required investment in electricity sector of up to \$96bn, Pakistan should generate funds through government-private sector partnership, the report said. The average share of Pakistan in the total infrastructural investment in South Asia is only 12 per cent compared to 79 per cent by India, the report says.

CHITRAL: Pakistan Climate Change Division in collaboration with UNDP and Adaption fund is working on two GLOF (Glacier Lake Outburst Floods) projects in Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral. The project costing seven point six million dollars will continue up to April 2015 aiming at developing human and technical capacity of public institutions to understand GLOF risks for vulnerable community.

Talking to Radio Pakistan, Field Manager GLOF Syed Zahid Hussain said that the project will help in reducing risks and vulnerabilities from Glacier lakes outburst flood in Northern Areas. He said Glaciers in Pakistan are reducing at a rate of almost forty and sixty meters per decade. Northern Pakistan is home to 5218 Glaciers, 2420 glacial lakes out of which 52 lakes have been classified as potentially dangerous.

LAHORE: Governor Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar has said the food security is becoming a serious threat worldwide owing to ever-increasing population and added that aquaculture, a fast growing sector of agriculture across the globe, potential needs to be exploited. The governor was speaking at the inaugural session of first Feeding Pakistan Aquaculture Conference organised by the University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences in collaboration with the World Initiative for Soy in Human Health (WISHH), American Soybean Association (ASA) and Kansas State University at a local hotel on Wednesday. He said the government was promoting fish farming as well as other agriculture sectors alongside encouraging the use of modern technology. He also asked the scientists to conduct research and develop better seeds and pesticides to get bumper produce. Mr Sarwar said the growth in the fish sector would benefit people in the form of a larger food supply and improved food security. He said the government was offering lucrative facilities as well as imparting modern training to farmers in a bid to promote fish farming. He said that tilapia was the second largest fish grown after carp across the world while oceans, rivers, lakes and dams were still the major source of fish. He said Pakistan was earning some \$200 million from sea food, which could be multiplied with better research, competence and equipment. The governor deplored that most industries were throwing their effluents in natural waters, causing contamination and devastating fish production potential. The governor called for joint efforts to check water contamination, which was not only posing environmental issues but also becoming a major global problem and causing various fatal diseases.

Stating that the availability of clean potable water was getting scarce and polluted water was raising the incidence of diseases among masses, he said the government was making all-out efforts to ensure clean drinking water for masses in the province. UVAS Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Talat Naseer Pasha said aquaculture in Pakistan was being neglected for the past many decades despite having natural resources in abundance. Stating that aquaculture was in its infancy in the country, he said the UVAS in collaboration with American Soybean Association, USDA and FAO was making concerted efforts for the growth and development of fisheries and aquaculture sector. Prof Pasha said the UVAS had established Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture to meet the changing needs of the country through teaching, research, services and technology development. He said various university initiatives had opened a new arena of fisheries and aquaculture with a lot of opportunities in public and private sector. He called for enhancing collaboration among teaching, research and development institutions, stakeholders and service providers for the development of aquaculture sector in Pakistan. ASA/WISHH country representative Dr RSN Janjua, World Aquaculture Society President Dr Michael Schwarz and FAO Pakistan country representative Patrick Evans also spoke on the occasion. Later in technical session, experts deliberated on various aspects of the aquaculture. The conference will continue on Thursday (today).

YOKOHAMA: Soaring carbon emissions will amplify the risk of conflict, hunger, floods and mass migration this century, the UN's expert panel said Monday in a landmark report on the impact of climate change. Left unchecked, greenhouse gas emissions may cost trillions of dollars in damage to property and ecosystems, and in bills for shoring up climate defences, it said, adding the impact would increase with every additional degree that temperatures rise. "Increasing magnitudes of warming increase the likelihood of severe, pervasive, and

CO2 emissions increasing at alarming rate in country
Statesman, April 01, 2014

irreversible impacts," a summary said, in a stark message to policymakers. The report is the second chapter of the fifth assessment by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), set up in 1988 to provide neutral, science-based guidance to governments. The last overview, published in 2007, unleashed a wave of political action that at one point appeared set to forge a worldwide treaty on climate change in Copenhagen in 2009. But a global consensus failed to emerge as the developing world and developed world squabbled, with big polluters like China insisting it was up to rich countries to take the lead, arguing they could not be expected to sacrifice growth. And in the United States, President Barack Obama's attempts at passing climate change legislation have been stymied in Congress, where some Republicans remain unconvinced of the scientific case for warming and argue that mitigation efforts are an unnecessary block on economic growth. The new document, unveiled in Yokohama after a five-day meeting, gives the starkest warning yet by the IPCC of extreme consequences from climate change, and delves into greater detail than ever before into the impact at regional level. It builds on previous IPCC forecasts that global temperatures will rise 0.3-4.8 degrees Celsius (0.5-8.6 degrees Fahrenheit) this century, on top of roughly 0.7 Celsius since the Industrial Revolution. Seas are forecast to rise by 26-82 centimetres (10-32 inches) by 2100. Warming of around two degrees Celsius over pre-industrial times may cost 0.2-2.0 percent of global annual income, said the new report. UN members have pledged to hammer out a global pact by the end of 2015 to limit warming to 2 C above pre-industrial levels.

Security risk

The impact amplifies with every degree, and beyond 4 C could be disastrous, said the report. Climate change could drive turbulence and conflict, prompted by migration from newly uninhabitable areas and jockeying for water and food, it said. "There are many things that make people vulnerable, and when you combine a climate shock with these factors, you can have bad outcomes," said Chris Field, co-chair of the conference. "With high levels of warming that result from continued growth in greenhouse gas emissions, risks will be challenging to manage, and even serious, sustained investments in adaptation will face limits." Rainfall patterns will be disrupted, resulting in a significantly higher flood risk, especially for Europe and Asia, and magnified drought risks will add to water stress in arid, heavily populated areas, the report said. This, in turn, will have consequences for agriculture. Yields of staples such as wheat, rice and corn will be squeezed, just as demand will soar because of population growth, it predicts. The report says climate change will also have a ricochet effect on health, through the spread of mosquito- or water-borne diseases and heatwaves. Vulnerable plant and animal species, especially in fragile coral reefs and Arctic habitats, could be wiped out.

Denial is 'malpractice'

US Secretary of State John Kerry said the document sounded an alarm that could not be ignored. "Unless we act dramatically and quickly, science tells us our climate and our way of life are literally in jeopardy," he said. "Denial of the science is malpractice. "There are those who say we can't afford to act. But waiting is truly unaffordable. The costs of inaction are catastrophic," he added. The report said the danger could be substantially reduced, especially for those alive at the end of the century, if greenhouse gas emissions are cut swiftly. Even so, countries will have to shore up their defences, for instance, by making water supplies, coastal areas, homes and transport more climate-resilient. Many of the measures for adapting to climate change, reducing water wastage, planting parks to ease heat build-up in cities, and preventing people from settling in risky areas, are cheap and achievable, it said. The report was hailed by campaign groups as a call to arms for political leaders around the world.

PESHAWAR: Annual rate of deforestation in Pakistan ranges from 4-6 percent, while carbon dioxide emissions are increasing annually at the rate of 8-10 percent, which is an alarming trend. While the annual cost of restoring environment degraded as a result of this is up to US\$ 5.2 billion.

Ministry of Science and Technology will support the programmes and projects identified by experts for meeting the challenges of climate change through applications of science and technology, an official told APP. He said developing countries are the least responsible for climate change, contributing only 10 percent of annual global carbon dioxide emissions but they are the ones which are the most vulnerable to the environmental, social and economic impacts of climate change. Pakistan being a developing country is in a similar situation. It has the least contribution to global warming and is ranked at 135th position in carbon dioxide emissions, he said. "Yet, it is faced with severe climate changes and has been ranked 3rd in the list of most vulnerable countries to climate change". A recent report from World Bank has warned Pakistan of the existence of five major risks related to climate change including rise in sea level, glacial retreats, floods, higher average temperature and higher frequency of droughts. Climate Change Division is responsible for formulating national policies, plans, strategies and programmes with regard to disaster management including environmental protection, preservation, pollution, ecology, forestry, wildlife, biodiversity, climate change and desertification. Deterioration of climate is irreversibly harming Pakistan, as the glacier melt in the Himalayas is projected to increase flooding and affect water resources within the next two to three decades. This will be followed by decreased river flows over time as glaciers recede. The glacial melt will affect fresh water flows with dramatic adverse effects on biodiversity and livelihood with possible long term

implications on regional food security. Scientific studies showed that average global temperature has risen by about 1 degree Centigrade during the past century. This increase was mostly due to fossil fuel burning and deforestation. Global temperatures are projected to increase further between 1.4 degree Centigrade and 5.8 degree Centigrade by 2100 and to continue to rise long after. "It has become extremely important for the government to invest in sustainable agriculture and small scale farmers, promoting the use of drought resistant varieties, alternate farming practices and reduced cultivation of water intensive crops in the circumstances of water scarcity; and building dams and reservoirs for water storage and mitigating the chances of devastating floods we have experience during recent years", official concluded.

SPONSOR'S MESSAGE



HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTION'S IN CLIMATE SECTOR

Muslim Aid Pakistan

April 28, 2014

<http://muslimaid.org.pk/>

Hashoo Foundation

April 01, 2014

<http://www.hashoofoundation.org/>

Eco-Conservation Initiatives Pakistan

April, 2014

<http://eci-networks.org/>

UNDP-Pakistan

April 24, 2014

<http://www.pk.undp.org/>

FWAP-PAKISTAN

April 09, 2014

<http://www.ngoworldpk.com/>

Provision of Bio-Gas Plants in Sindh and Punjab

Introducing the less privileged and marginalized communities with essential and modern facilities of life and enhancing the use of alternate energy sources, Muslim Aid has launched an Rs.5.6M Bio-Gas Project in Sindh and Punjab. Through this project the flood-affected communities of 2010 have been provided with the facility of Bio-Gas at their homes in district Dadu and Mianwali. With the financial Support of Muslim Aid Headquarters a total number of 66 plants, 40 in Dadu and 26 in Mianwali have been installed respectively at both districts. This initiative of Muslim Aid will not only bring easiness to the lives of the women from deprived areas but will also save money of the inhabitants, they used to spend on traditional energy sources. Now they can use that money on Health and Education of their families.

Hashoo Foundation's Relief Operations in Tharparkar, Sindh.

Hashoo Foundation's relief activities for the drought affected population in Tharparkar, Sindh continue at an impressive pace. To date, Hashoo Foundation has successfully distributed food and water packages to 500 vulnerable families. Also, Hashoo Foundation's Medical Health Unit (MHU) is providing services to over 100 patients daily.

Hashoo Foundation's Relief Team was deployed from Islamabad on March 21, 2014 by the Patron-in-Chief, Hashoo Foundation, Mr. Sadruddin Hashwani. The team's aim was to provide emergency relief services to the following 3 Tehsils: Islamkot, Mitthi and Diplo in Tharparkar. Hashoo Foundation's Chairperson Ms. Sarah Hashwani, expressed deep sorrow regarding the tragic loss of lives in Tharparkar, that could have been prevented by better foresight and planning. She reaffirmed the commitment of the Patron-in-Chief, Mr. Sadruddin Hashwani to assist the people of Tharparkar in their hour of need.

Comprehensive reduction and elimination of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in Pakistan

Geographical Coverage :

Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, AJK and Gilgit-Baltistan

Timeframe : 5 Years

Donor / Sponsor : Global Environment Facility (GEF)

Objective of the Project :

Reducing human health and environmental risks by enhancing management capacities and disposal of POPs in Pakistan

Project Components:

Development and implementation of a Regulatory, Policy and enforcement system to reduce POPs releases.

Capacity building of local communities and public and private sector stakeholders to reduce exposure to and releases of POPs.

Updating of POPs inventories and assessment of POPs management options.

Collection, Transport and Disposal of PCBs and POPs Pesticides.

Monitoring and Evaluation.

International Development Partners visit Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to strengthen support for rule of law

A joint mission of international development partners visited Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province today. The mission to Swat, Buner and Peshawar provided development partners with an opportunity to engage with the communities, senior government officials and judicial staff to better understand the challenges for rule of law and to explore further opportunities for promoting peace and justice in the province. This is aligned with KP Government's Strategic Partnership Development Framework which spells out joint commitments between the Government and international partners in accordance with the province's development strategy. Rule of law is one of the priority components of the framework.

Development partners visited a model police station established by the Department for International Development (DFID) in Peshawar and inaugurated the refurbished civil courts in district Buner, supported by UNDP. They also visited the KP Judicial Academy and interacted with the female legal practitioners at the legal aid clinics.

ERRA, FWAP sign MoU to reconstruct six schools in Muzaffarabad

Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA) has signed memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Friends Welfare Association Pakistan (FWAP) to reconstruct six schools in Muzaffarabad (AJK) in ten months period.

The MoU was signed at ERRA headquarters. ERRA's Director Donors and Sponsor Lt. Col Farooq Shah and Executive Director (FWAP) Javed Iqbal inked the MoU in an impressive

UN-(CERF)

April 11, 2014

<http://www.unocha.org/cerf/>

ceremony, said a press release.

Addressing on the occasion Lt.Col Farooq Shah said that Kokkyo Naki Kodomotachi (KNK), a Tokyo based International Japanese Organisation will provide Rs.65.65 million for the construction of six schools in Muzaffarabad suburban area. Giving the details he said that with a cost of Rs.27.668 million a Government High School Mattai Muzaffarabad will be constructed.

UN humanitarian fund releases US\$9.5m for critical aid operations

The United Nations' Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has allocated US \$9.5 million (920 million Pakistani rupees) to help meet the needs of the more than 1 million people who remain displaced in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) in Pakistan due to insecurity. The funding comes at a crucial time, as significant humanitarian needs remain in KP and FATA, yet aid agencies have limited resources to meet those needs. "This money will save lives by ensuring that humanitarian organizations can continue to support the Government's efforts to help the most vulnerable men, women and children in KP and FATA," said Timo Pakkala, the UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in Pakistan.

According to office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs United Nations humanitarian fund (CERF), the funds will give life-saving food aid to 980,000 people; primary health care for 500,000 people; critical water, sanitation and hygiene services for 200,000 people; nutrition services for 65,000 people, including malnourished children; and emergency shelter and non-food items for 14,000 people. The UN estimates that some \$283 million are required to maintain essential humanitarian services in KP and FATA this year. So far, \$100 million have been received, leaving a considerable funding gap. "It is important to ensure that the basic humanitarian needs of displaced people and families returning to their homes in FATA continue to be met," Pakkala said.

Pakistan is the fourth-largest recipient of CERF funding globally at a total of \$177.7 million since 2007 and the sixth-largest in 2014, having received 6.22 per cent of the \$152.3 million allocated to date this year. The CERF is funded by voluntary contributions from UN Member States, non-governmental organizations, local governments, the private sector and individual donors. Since 2006, the CERF has allocated more than \$3.4 billion for humanitarian operations in 88 countries and territories.

The mission of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is to mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors.

CLIMATIC PROFILE: KURRAM AGENCY

Kurram Agency lays between 33.20 to 34.03 North latitudes and 69.50 to 70.45 East longitudes. The Agency takes its name from the river Kurram which passes through it. The headquarters of the agency is located at Parachinar. The agency is 115 kilometers long with a total area of 3,380 square kilometers.

The Agency is located in Federally Administered Tribal Area (FATA) and lies in northwest Pakistan on border of Afghanistan. It borders Afghanistan in the north and west. It is bounded in the east by Khyber and Orakzai Agency; district Hangu in the southeast and north Waziristan Agency in the south.

Kurram Agency at a Glance		
Area		3,380 sq.km
Population – 2013 Estimated		672,778
	Male	344,614 (51%)
	Female	328,164 (49%)
Sex Ratio (males per 100 females)		105
Population Density		199 per Sq.Km
	Urban Population	37,676 (6%)
	Rural Population	638,103 (94%)
Average Household Size		11
Literacy Ratio (10 +)		28.48%
	Male	36.27%
	Female	21.03%
Gender Parity Index (GPI)		0.58
Population 1998		448,310
Total Housing Units (1998)		41,372
Pacca Housing Units		23,257
	Housing Units having Electricity	36,757
	Housing Units having Piped Water	11,939
	Housing Units using Gas for Cooking	392
	Housing Units using Kerosene Oil	14,551
Average Annual Growth rate (1981-98)		2.5%
Nutrition		
	Underweight Children (Below 3SD)	17%
	Breast Feeding Practices	29%
	Children with Diarrhea	25%
	Immunization Children with BCG	63%
	Women with Tetanus Toxoid Injections	39%
Administrative Units		
	Tehsil	3
	Settlements	925

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Climate/Weather

The climate of Kurram agency varies at different altitudes and presents striking contrasts from sultry oppressive heat to bitter cold. Within a few hours journey, one can pass from a region where snow never falls to recesses where it never melts. The climatic condition of Kurram is high land type. Historically, the lowest temperature at Kurram was recorded -13.4°C on 29th January 2005 and the highest temperature 39.9°C on 27th June 2005.

Averagely, climate conditions everywhere are generally favourable. In January and February discomfort is experienced from snow, rain and chilli weather and sometime foggy, while from the middle of June to the middle of August, the temperature is moderate. For the rest of the year the climate is in every way excellent, and indeed ideal. Parachinar is ranked the fourth coldest location in Pakistan by the weather charts website "Climate-Charts" that uses data available from the World Meteorological Organization. Northern and western heights of the valley receive snow falls in winters. Much of the precipitations occur during spring and summer season. Autumn and winter are usually dry.

Physiography and Geology

The Kurram Agency is characterized by highly varied, complex geology and can be divided into three tectonic blocks. These from north to south are the Spin Ghar Block located in the north, the Samana Block in the middle and Kurram Waziristan Block in the south.

Most striking physiographic features of the Agency are the wide span of Parachinar Plain in the center and the towering Spin Ghar forming its boundry with Afghanistan in the north. The southern boundary of the plain is formed by the Mangal and Charmu hills. Its western side is bounded by the Mangal hills that extend from the north of the Peiwar Kotal to Kharlchi.

Physiographically, the upper Kurram can be divided into the following sub-divisions:

- I. The Spin Ghar (Safed Koh) Region
- II. The Tirah Range
- III. The Parachinar Valley
- IV. The Southern Mountain Region
- V. The Western Mountain Region

The most outstanding feature of the Kurram is the Spin Ghar, with highest peak of Sikaram Sar 4,728 meters height which forms a natural boundary and water shed with Afghanistan. Spin Ghar Range, (White Mountains) also called Safid Kuh/Safed Koh/Sufaid Koh and Morga Mountains, east west oriented mountain range forming a natural border between Pakistan and Afghanistan along the summit of range. It remains covered with snow throughout the years. South of the Peiwar Kotal the hills of the Mandher range rise gradually till they drop the south–west corner of the plateau at Kharlachi, the point where Kurram River enters the valley.

Lithological Units:

Based on the lithology, the Kurram Agency area can be divided into two geological domains. the northern domain, lying north of the Kurram River, consists of the Indian-Plate basement crystalline, and metamorphosed Precambrian and Paleozoic, and relatively unmetamorphosed Mesozoic rocks along with Indian shelf sedimenatry rocks as young as Miocene.

the southern domain lying south of the Kurram river consists entirely of western thrust sheets which are imbricated and thrust eastward on top of Indian Shelf sediments.

Ecological Resources

A part from the high mountains, the other important feature of the Kurram agency is the Kurram valley. The valley starts from Thall in Hangu district towards northwest upto Peiwar Kotal on Pak Afghan border. It can be divided into two parts i.e. the Lower Kurram and the Upper Kurram. The Lower Kurram extends from Thall in Hangu district to Sadda. It is narrow and hedged by low hills on either side of the Kurram River. After that the valley opens up into the Parachinar plateau which is a large oval shape plain sloping towards southeast. The Upper Kurram valley from Sadda to Peiwar Kotal is bounded by high mountain on all side. The Kurram River enters the agency in the west near Kharlachi from Afghanistan and runs in northwest to southeast direction and leaves the agency at Thall in the southeastern corner of the agency. Several hill torrents and Nullahs join Kurram River.

Minerals:

The most economic mineral in the agency is soapstone. The area of mineralization of soapstone lies in the eastern extreme of Koh-e-Safaid and makes the upper parts of Daradar valley. The soapstone associated with the dolomite is an important mineral commodity of the area. It may also be pointed that the dolomitic limestone formation is recrystallized and also embodies lithological variation; there is every chance of having marble and industrially feasible dolomitic deposit. Some marbalized horizons have been noted around Zuhra and Gandao area.

Rivers and Streams:

The Kurram River takes its origin in the junction of a number of small streams at no great distance above Kharlachi. From Kharlachi its junction with Kirman 19 kilometers downstream, it receives no further supply except from occasional float torents from Koh-e-Safaid, though an innumeralbe series of ravines cut into the plateau. For another 26 kilometers the only contribution to the river is rain drainage from the hills, but at Sadda it receives Khurmana. Beyond village Tangi (Lower Kurram) it receives no further supply .

Forests:

The forests of Koh-e-sufaid (tallest mountain of Kurram Agency) slopes are Himalayan in nature and are mesophytic . The area is very rich in flora and very little ethno botanical work has been done. Natural forests cover about 10.5% of its area while the forest department has planted about 5% area for reforestation. About 25% area is under agriculture and the rest 59.5% is wasteland. The total area of the Upper Kurram is 87,742 hectares (District Census Report, Kurram Agency 1999). The major forest type of the agency is dry sub-tropical forest and sub Alpine scrub forest. The dry sub tropical is found in the Southern parts while the other two types are found in the Northern parts of the study area. Kurram agency has a treasure of plant resources and diverse flora. However, sustainable use of these plants is necessary because ruthless use of these plants may cause the loss of valuable flora.

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KURRAM AGENCY at a Glance

Total Housing Units 1998



Pacca Housing Units
23,257



Housing Units having Electricity
36,757



Housing Units having Piped Water
11,939



Housing Units using Gas for Cooking
392



Area

3,380 Sq. Km



Population
Estimated Population 2013
672,778



Administrative Units 2013

3

Tehsil Settlements



Literacy Rate (10 +)

Male 36.27%

Female 21.03%

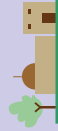
Average Annual Growth rate (1981 -98)



2.5%

Rural Population

638,103 (94 %)



Urban Population

37,676 (6 %)



Population Density

199 per Sq. Km



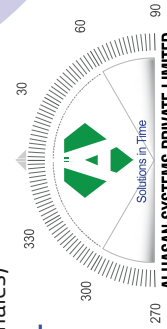
Male 344,614 (51%)

Female 328,164 (49%)

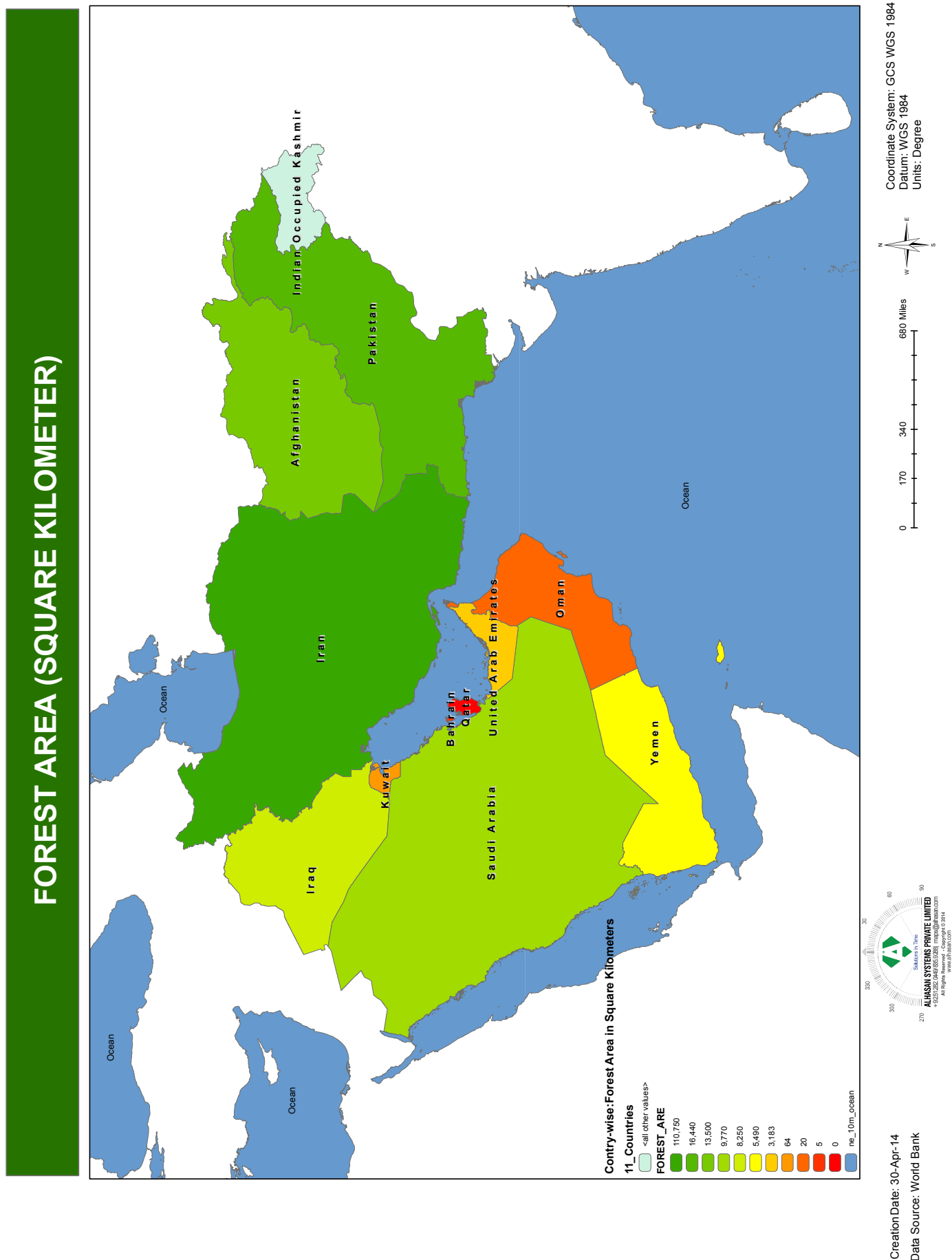
Average Household Size

11

Sex Ratio
(males per 100 females)



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Need for steps to fight climate change

Syed Muhammad Abubakar

STATESMAN; April 23, 2014

Climate change is an outcome of excessive consumption and industrialization which is severely affecting the underdeveloped and developing countries. According to the Global Climate Risk Index (CRI) 2014 by German Watch Institute, Pakistan is ranked number three, after Haiti and the Philippines, as countries most affected by climate change.

The Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has defined climate change as "a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods."

This reveals that humans are the main cause for it, as they through burning of fossil fuels and deforestation have affected the ecosystem. Climate change is a reality, affecting the life of millions in this world and with the affects bound to increase with passing time. Ecosystems are disturbed by abrupt weather patterns hence affecting agricultural output. Scientists claim that underdeveloped countries will be most affected and not just by agricultural output, rains and storms will affect millions in these countries.

High levels of greenhouse gases in atmosphere are attributed to industrialization era when carbon emissions which were released in the atmosphere and warmed the global atmosphere, led to the melting of glaciers and warming of oceans which has severely threatened marine life.

Although Pakistan, being a developing country, is a low contributor of greenhouse gases as its ranked on 135th on per capita basis regarding greenhouse gas emissions yet remains most affected by it. Recent floods of 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013 are the result of climate change which cost the government billions of dollars. 2012 flood only cost the government 6 billion dollars hence driving the economically unstable country further into poverty.

However, the developed western world is not entirely responsible for the situation as nations like ours with inappropriate planning and mismanagement have compounded the issue. Trees help in reducing carbon emissions as they store carbon but we have deforested our land which is leading to carbon emissions being released into the atmosphere hence warming our atmosphere. According to Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), deforestation in Pakistan is being carried out at an unprecedented rate of 2.1 per cent per annum which highlights that we are fueling this global issue. Pakistan has only 2.5 per cent of total forest cover, and if it continues we'll consume this natural heritage in a very short time.

Such issues have led to the average annual increase in temperature in Pakistan by 0.12 degree centigrade hence affecting the agricultural output.

Moreover, coastal areas of Pakistan are also witnessing the harsh impacts of climate change as mangroves which are also known as defense shield against natural calamities are chopped down mercilessly for domestic and commercial purposes.

This has made the entire 1050km coastline vulnerable to climate change impacts as intensity of storms, cyclones and floods has considerably increased.

This has also led to warming of sea causing sea intrusion, damaging agriculture and property. The annual rise in sea level in Pakistan is approx 1.1 mm creating immense problems for local communities.

The mountainous regions of Pakistan are adversely affected by climate change as above 4000m highest warming rate can be experienced (Karki et al., 2010). Increased temperatures are causing glacial melt leading to Glacier Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF) and river floods. This severely impacts mountain life as infrastructure, livestock and agriculture is affected.

Hence it can be said that climate change is becoming a serious water and food security issue in Pakistan which can further destabilize the country into economic unrest.

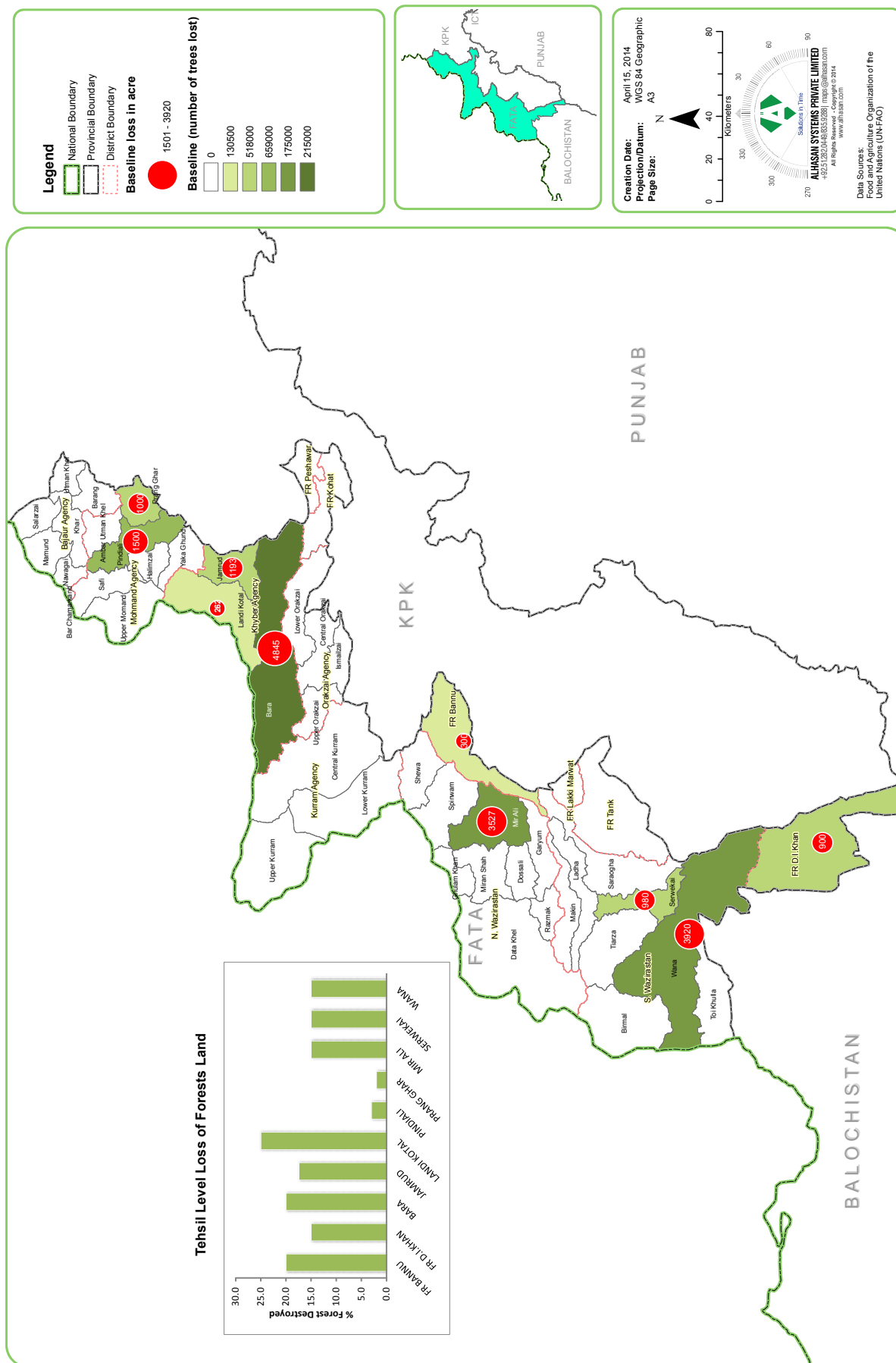
The government should allocate significant budget from GDP to counter climate change.

The 2012-2013 budget allocated only Rs. 135 million for climate change division and it has been further reduced to over 50 per cent to Rs. 58.8 million rupees in 2013-2014 budget which is insufficient in a disaster-hit country like Pakistan where floods and natural calamities cost the government billions of dollars.

Sincere efforts are required to effectively combat climate change so that losses can be reduced to minimum. A recent BBC survey on communicating the effects of climate change in Pakistan revealed that farmers are adapting to climate change despite being affected by it. This shows that people have a will to combat the crisis and become resilient to climate change so that agricultural output can be increased once again.

It can be hoped that with the passage of time people will have more awareness regarding climate change issues and government support will help in making Pakistan a better place to live.

FATA - FOREST AREA DAMAGE IN FLOOD 2010-2011



Earth Day

DR. AHMAD SAEED BHATTI

((The writer is ex-director NIAB, Faisalabad, former HEC professor, UAF, ex-professor of Environmental Sciences, GCUF, and former member of the New York Academy of Sciences, USA.))

The Nation: April 22, 2014

"Where does a wise man hide a leaf? In the forest. But what does he do if there is no forest? He grows a forest to hide it in."

—Gilbert Chesterton

Earth Day was founded in 1970 by Gaylord Nelson, a senator and naturalist to create awareness among the people about diverse environmental issues facing the earth. Some 20 million Americans from thousands of schools, colleges and civil society took part in the celebration. Denis Allen Hayes, 25, an enthusiast, hitchhiked around the globe to get first hand knowledge of the impact of industrial and agricultural revolutions on the environment. Earth Day, a domestic event back then, is now celebrated throughout the world, and led to the legislation of at least two highly important environmental acts in the US; the Clean Water Act and the Clean Air Act.

The steam engine developed by James Watt in the UK in 1776 paved the way for the Industrial revolution, while the "diffusion of giant dams, in turn, acted as a linchpin" for green revolution in the world. However, urbanization, population growth and increasing food needs throughout the world led to huge shifts of water from rural to urban areas- such as in China and parts of the US. Whereas at a run off level below 1700 cubic meters per person, food sufficiency becomes highly jeopardized, Pakistan subsists only at less than 1000 m³ water per person, a steadily decreasing figure. Pakistan has, therefore, been described aptly by the World Bank Report in 2008 as a water stressed (now "water scarce") country in the world. In Pakistan, the lack of public awareness and the marked political divide has thwarted all attempts to construct additional reservoirs to collect rain and flood waters, notwithstanding the denial of 33 MAF waters of the eastern rivers (and now the threat of diversions to the western rivers) by India under the Indus Water Treaty. Over and above, an injudicious ground water pumping over this period points to the marked dichotomy in management of resources in the country i.e. the lack of management of rain and flood waters and the bad management of fresh, ground waters (aquifers).

While US President Roosevelt built some 40,000 dams and planted 98 million saplings through CCC, a youth force, during years of great economic depression and environmental disaster known as the dust bowl, Pakistan has so far remained oblivious to the need of any legislation or policy framework to deal with its water resources. The upper riparian India has constructed 3200 dams, whereas Pakistan continues to face deluge and catastrophic inundations due to recurrent floods and torrential rains, and drought due to acute shortage of water reservoirs in the country. With its cultivable land highly degraded (> 60 %) and dwindling, the introduction of high input, green revolution crops in the country in the 60s and the injudicious ground water pumping for irrigation dealt a severe blow to the aquifers and the soil alike.

While pre-Industrial, atmospheric CO₂, a predominant green house gas was 281 ppm in the world, it rose to 381 ppm in 2005, and to 400 in recent years (c.f. Clive Chesterton, Australia). To thwart climate changes, the target of 350 ppm CO₂ proposed at the Copenhagen Summit was not ratified by the developed as well as the developing economies of the world.

Pakistan has now risen to 10th from 12th on the list of the countries most vulnerable to the impact of climate change, according to a recently published index.

While cutting back consumption of fossil fuels and planting trees, grasses etc., both in private and public places all year round would help roll back the emission of green house gases and restrain global warming, planting saplings indigenous to the region such as Pepal, Amaltas, Neem, Shisham, Citrus and Kikar, and grasses including *Leptochloa*, a thermophilic salt tolerant grass used to utilize salt affected soils using underground brackish water (a "NIAB approach") could be used to re-vegetate land and avert the loss of top soil.

In the US, China and Europe, most forests are new, and growing; some 3.8 billion young trees in US cities store ca.700 million tons of CO₂ and sequester twenty three million tons per annum. The amount, though insignificant quantitatively, is better locked into plant tissue than released into the atmosphere.

In Pakistan, which has one of the highest rate of the felling of trees in the world, planting young and new saplings and trees is, undoubtedly the need of the hour. The significance of trees can be judged from their impact on the preservation of water sheds, prevention of floods, a counter against the perils of drought and the modulation of climate. Foresters have a saying: "the very best time to plant a tree like the best time to admit that energy is the master resource, is decades ago. The second best time is today." In Pakistan, with over 60 percent of its cultivable land degraded, the loss of top soil (desertification) by recurrent floods is an eye opener for the administrators, policy makers, politicians, educationists and civil society in the backdrop of excessive felling of trees and a 30 % loss in the storage capacity of its two reservoirs (Tarbella and Mangla) due to silting.

Under a program called "One student-one tree," and the monitoring of air for green house gases initiated by the author and his colleagues at the GCUF during 2010-2011, all the students planted a sapling each in their names at the campus and along some roads in the city as part of the curriculum, which was later emulated by all academic institutions in the country.

Legend: Percentage-wise Variation

Color	Percentage-wise Variation
Light Yellow	0.0
Yellow	18.7
Orange	19.5
Dark Orange	22.3
Red-Orange	25.0
Dark Red	36.0
Very Dark Red	45.2

11_Countries

Pop.bl prty In

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Creation Date: 30-Apr-14
Coordinate System: GCS WGS 1984
Datum: WGS 1984
Units: Degree

تفصیلات

کراچی (این این آئی) سندھ ہائی کورٹ نے حکومت سندھ کی جانب سے تھر میں قحط سالی سے متعلق تفکیک دیئے جانے والے جوڈیشل کمیشن کا نوٹی فکیشن معطل کرتے ہوئے اسے کام سے روک دیا۔

سرخیاں

سندھ ہائی کورٹ نے تھر میں قحط سے متعلق تفکیک دیئے گئے جوڈیشل کمیشن کا نوٹی فکیشن معطل کر کے کام سے روک دیا

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

30 اپریل 2014

لاہور اور گرد و نواح میں زلزلے کے جھٹکے

ساتھ ایشین نیوز ایجنسی (شمار)

26 اپریل 2014

لاہور (شمار نیوز) لاہور اور گرد و نواح میں زلزلے کے معمولی جھٹکے، مرکز افغانستان کا سرحدی علاقہ تھا۔ تفصیلات کے مطابق جمعہ کے روز لاہور اور گرد و نواح میں زلزلے کے معمولی جھٹکے محسوس کیے گئے ہیں جبکہ زلزلے کا مرکز افغانستان کا سرحدی علاقہ بتایا جاتا ہے۔ محکمہ موسمیات کے مطابق لاہور، شیخوپورہ، نکانہ صاحب، وار برٹن اور دیگر علاقوں میں تین اعشاریہ چار شدت کا زلزلہ ریکارڈ کیا گیا۔ زلزلہ پیا اداوارے کے مطابق زلزلے کا مرکز پاراچنار کے قریب افغانستان کا سرحدی علاقہ تھا۔ زلزلے کی گہرائی 210 کلومیٹر بتائی جا رہی ہے تاہم زلزلے کی شدت معمولی ہونے کی وجہ سے کسی جانی و مالی نقصان کی اطلاع نہیں ملی ہے زلزلے کے بعد عوام میں خوف و ہراس پھیل گیا اور لوگ کلمہ طیبہ کا ورد کرتے ہوئے گھروں سے باہر نکل آئے۔

بلوچستان: آواران میں بارش سے تباہی

بی بی سی اردو

23 اپریل 2014

کوئٹہ: بلوچستان کے ضلع آواران اور اس سے ملحقہ ضلع کچ کے بعض علاقوں میں گذشتہ سال ستمبر میں آنے والے زلزلے کے باعث 380 سے زائد افراد ہلاک، سینکڑوں زخمی اور مجموعی طور پر پونے دو لاکھ افراد متاثر ہوئے تھے۔ پاکستان کے صوبہ بلوچستان کے زلزلے سے متاثرہ علاقہ آواران میں ہونے والی حالیہ طوفانی بارش سے متاثرین کی مشکلات میں مزید اضافہ ہوا ہے اور بڑی تعداد میں مویشی ہلاک ہو گئے ہیں۔ آواران کے مقامی صحافی شیر خشتی نے فون پر بی بی سی کو بتایا کہ یہ بارشیں دو روز قبل زلزلے سے متاثرہ علاقوں میں ہوئیں۔ بلوچستان کے ضلع آواران اور اس سے ملحقہ ضلع کچ کے بعض علاقوں میں گذشتہ سال ستمبر میں آنے والے زلزلے کے باعث 380 سے زائد افراد ہلاک، سینکڑوں زخمی اور مجموعی طور پر پونے دو لاکھ افراد متاثر ہوئے تھے۔ زلزلے سے متاثرہ افراد کو فوری طور پر پناہ گاہوں کی فراہمی کے لیے سرکاری اعداد و شمار کے مطابق 35 ہزار کے لگ بھگ خیمے فراہم کیے گئے لیکن چھ ماہ سے زائد کا عرصہ گزرنے کے بعد بھی متاثرین کے لیے مکانات تعمیر نہیں کیے جاسکے۔ وزیر اعلیٰ بلوچستان کے ترجمان جان محمد بلیدی کے مطابق متاثرہ علاقوں میں گھروں کی تعمیر کا منصوبہ تیار ہے۔ انہوں نے بتایا کہ متاثرین کے گھروں کی تعمیر کا سلسلہ جلد شروع ہو جائے گا جس کے لیے صوبائی اور وفاقی حکومتوں نے اپنے اپنے حصے کی رقم مختص کر دی ہے۔ قدرتی آفات سے نمٹنے کے صوبائی ادارے پی ڈی ایم اے کے سربراہ ہاشم خان غلزنی نے بتایا کہ متاثرہ علاقوں میں 16 ہزار گھر تعمیر کیے جائیں گے جن کے لیے فنڈز کی منظوری دے دی گئی ہے۔ ہاشم غلزنی کا کہنا ہے کہ متاثرین خود اپنی گھروں کی تعمیر کریں گے اور اس سلسلے میں انہیں رقوم فراہم کی جائیں گی۔

دنیا بھر میں ار تھ ڈے منایا گیا

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

23 اپریل 2014

لاہور (خصوصی نامہ نگار) دنیا بھر کی طرح پاکستان میں بھی گذشتہ روز ار تھ ڈے (یوم ارض) کے طور پر منایا گیا۔ اس سال ار تھ ڈے کو سرسبز شہر (گرین سٹیٹ) کے عنوان سے منسوب کیا گیا تھا جس کا مقصد دنیا بھر میں موجود بڑے شہروں میں ماحولیاتی آلودگی کے نقصانات اور درختوں اور پودوں کی اہمیت کو اجاگر کرنا ہے۔

موسی تبدیلی کو روکنے کیلئے متبادل توانائی کا استعمال

ضروری: اقوام متحدہ

بی بی سی اردو

14 اپریل 2014

اس بات پر کوئی شک نہیں کہ توانائی کی صنعت میں بڑے پیمانے پر تبدیلی لانا ضروری ہے: رپورٹ اقوام متحدہ کی ایک رپورٹ میں کہا گیا ہے کہ موسمی تبدیلی کو روکنے کے لیے متبادل توانائی کی طرف راغب ہونے کی ضرورت ہے۔ یہ رپورٹ جرمنی کے شہر برلن میں اقوام متحدہ کی انٹر گورنمنٹل پینل آن کلیمٹ چینج (آئی پی سی سی) کی جانب سے تیار کی گئی ہے جس کو یہ کام سونپا گیا تھا کہ موسمیاتی تبدیلی اور اس کے اثرات پر ایک شفاف سائنسی رپورٹ مرتب کرے۔ یہ رپورٹ سائنس دانوں اور سرکاری اہلکاروں کے بیچ ایک ہفتے سے جاری گفتگو کے نتیجے میں جاری ہوئی ہے، جس میں اس بات کی توثیق ہوئی کہ متبادل توانائی کی جانب رج کرنا اب دنیا کے لیے ضروری ہے۔ کوئلے اور تیل کے استعمال کو کم کرنے کے لیے قدرتی گیس کا کردار خاصا اہم ہے۔ لیکن بحث اب اس بات پر ہے کہ اس توانائی کو مالی معاونت کون فراہم کرے گا۔ اس رپورٹ میں دنیا کی ایک ایسی صورت حال بیان کی گئی ہے جہاں کاربن کا اخراج تیزی سے بڑھ رہا ہے۔ آئی پی سی سی کے صدر نے برلن میں رپورٹ کی رونمائی پر ایک پریس کانفرنس میں کہا: ہمارے کاربن کی لائے کی کوششوں کا آغاز اب جلد ہو جانا چاہیے اور اس پر دنیا کے تمام ممالک کو شامل ہونا ہو گا۔ 1750 سے لے کر اب تک جتنی کاربن فضا میں پھیلانی گئی ہے اس میں سے آدھی پچھلے 40 برسوں میں پھیلانی گئی۔ اقوام متحدہ کی رپورٹ کے مطابق 2000 سے کوئلے کے استعمال میں اضافہ ہوا ہے جس سے دنیا بھر میں کاربن کے پھیلاؤ کو روکنے کے رجحان کو خطرہ لاحق ہو گیا ہے۔ رپورٹ کے مطابق خطرہ یہ بھی ہے کہ 2100 تک زمین کی سطح کے درجہ حرارت میں 3.7 اور 4.8 ڈگری سینٹی گریڈ کا اضافہ ہو سکتا ہے۔ یاد رہے کہ دو ڈگری سے زیادہ فرق خطرناک ثابت ہو سکتا ہے کیونکہ اس کے بعد موسمیاتی تبدیلی کے اثر واضح طور پر نمایاں ہو جاتے ہیں۔ تاہم رپورٹ میں

سائنس دانوں کا کہنا ہے کہ یہ صورت حال تبدیل کی جاسکتی ہے: اس بات پر کوئی شک نہیں کہ توانائی کی صنعت میں بڑے پیمانے پر تبدیلی لانا ضروری ہے۔

تھرپارکر (شہانہ میوز) خشک سالی سے دوچار تھرپارکر میں خوراک کی فراہمی کے علاوہ پینے کے پانی کی فراہمی اہم مسئلہ بن گیا ہے۔ اس مسئلے کے حل کے لیے غیر سرکاری تنظیموں نے اقدامات شروع کر دیے ہیں گزشتہ روز رحہ اسلامک ریلیف کے تحت ابتدائی طور پر تھری اور اسلام کوٹ میں پینے کے پانی کے دو کنوؤں کی کھدائی کا کام شروع ہو گیا ہے ان دو کنوؤں کے پانی سے 155 خاندان مستفید ہوں گے۔ رحہ اسلامک ریلیف فیڈ کے ذمہ داران کا کہنا ہے کہ دوسری علاقوں میں بھی کنوؤں کی کھدائی کا کام شروع کیا جائے گا۔ پانی کی کمی کی وجہ سے تھری خواتین کے مصائب مزید بڑھ رہے ہیں۔ دور دراز کے دیہات میں واقع کنوؤں میں نہ صرف پانی کی سطح گر گئی ہے بلکہ درجنوں کنوئیں خشک ہو چکے ہیں اس صورتحال سے اناج کے دانے دانے کو ترسنے والے کلین اب پانی کی بوند بوند کو بھی ترس رہے ہیں۔ دور دراز کے دیہی علاقوں میں پہلے ہی خوراک اور ادویات کی فراہمی سنگین مسئلہ بنی ہوئی ہے اور اب کنوؤں میں پانی کی سطح کے گرنے اور انکے خشک ہونے کی صورتحال مزید بگڑ رہی ہے۔ جہاں پانی موجود ہے وہاں انسان اور جانور ایک ہی جگہ سے پانی پیتے ہیں۔ قحط زدہ علاقوں میں کام کرنے والے ڈاکٹرز کا کہنا ہے کہ مسلسل گندراپانی پینے سے تھرپارکر کے لوگوں میں بیماریاں تیزی سے پھیل رہی ہیں۔ خاص طور پر ہر دوسرے شخص میں ہیپٹ کی بیماریاں عام ہیں جبکہ بچوں کی بڑی وجہ عورتوں کی غذائی قلت ہے۔

اسلام آباد (شہانہ میوز) قحط سالی کی وجہ سے صحرائے تھر میں لائیو سٹاک کا شعبہ سب سے زیادہ بری طرح متاثر ہوا ہے لیکن حکومت کے پاس اس آفت سے نمٹنے کے لیے کوئی منصوبہ موجود نہیں ہے۔ صورت حال کی سنگینی کا اس سے بھی اندازہ لگایا جاسکتا ہے کہ سرکاری ریکارڈ کے مطابق اس علاقہ میں 140 سے زیادہ وٹری مراکز موجود ہیں لیکن ان حالات میں بھی ان میں سے 102 بند یا غیر فعال پڑے ہوئے ہیں جس کی وجہ سے ہزاروں کی تعداد میں جانور مخصوص مہلک بیماریوں کا شکار ہو کر مر چکے ہیں۔ یہ انکشاف ایک غیر سرکاری تنظیم ہیومن اینیمل انٹرنیشنل (پوکے) کے پاکستان چیمپئن نے اپنی ایک سروے رپورٹ میں کیا ہے۔ یہ تنظیم دنیا کے 26 ممالک میں بحالی اور دیرپا بنیادوں پر ترقی کے لیے سرپرستکاری اور اس نے یہ سروے رپورٹ تھرپارکر کے تفصیلی دورے کے بعد تیار کی گئی ہے۔ رپورٹ میں حد اوتار کے ذریعہ بتایا گیا ہے کہ تھرپارکر میں 60 لاکھ سے زیادہ مویشی موجود ہیں اور وہ یہاں کی معیشت میں بڑھ کر ہڈی کی حیثیت رکھتے ہیں اور اگر انھیں بچایا نہ گیا تو قحط سے متاثرہ لوگوں کی مشکلات میں مزید اضافہ ہو جائے گا۔ سروے رپورٹ میں انکشاف کیا گیا ہے کہ بیماری کی حالیہ لہر کی وجہ سے صرف تھری، اسلام کوٹ اور ڈپلو میں اب تک 20 ہزار سے زیادہ جانور ہلاک ہو چکے ہیں جن میں گائے، بکریوں اور بھیڑوں کے علاوہ اونٹوں کی بھی ایک بہت بڑی تعداد شامل ہے۔ سندھ حکومت اپنے تمام تر دعوؤں کے برعکس اب تک 2 ہزار کے لگ بھگ دیہات میں سے 30 سے زیادہ دیہات میں جانوروں کی ویکسینیشن نہیں کر سکی ہے جس کی وجہ سے ہلاکتوں کی تعداد میں مسلسل اضافہ ہو رہا ہے۔ جانوروں کی ایک بڑی تعداد ایک مخصوص بھائی کھانے کی وجہ سے بھی ہلاک ہو رہی ہے جس کو کھاتے ہی ان کا جسم پھلنا شروع ہو جاتا ہے اور پھر چند گھنٹوں کے بعد وہ موت کے منہ میں چلے جاتے ہیں۔ اس بھائی کو تلف کر دینے کے لیے بھی کوئی اقدام نہیں اٹھایا جا رہا ہے۔ ہیومن اینیمل نے اپنی سروے رپورٹ میں یہ بھی انکشاف کیا ہے کہ تھر کے لوگ اپنے بیمار جانوروں کو اپنے پانے داموں بیچ رہے ہیں اور ہر ہفتہ ان کی اسلام کوٹ میں ایک بہت بڑی منڈی لگائی جا رہی ہے۔ ان بیمار جانوروں کو ایک مخصوص بافیا خرید کر کراچی حیدر آباد کے سلاٹر ہاؤسز پہنچا دیتا ہے جس کے بعد وہ ریستوران، ماکان اور عام افراد کے گھروں تک پہنچ جاتا ہے۔ سروے رپورٹ میں مزید بتایا گیا ہے کہ اس وقت تھر میں مویشیوں میں خوراک کی کمی اور ویکسینیشن کی ضرورت کے مسئلہ پر نجی تنظیموں کا کردار بھی نہ ہونے کے برابر ہے۔ ماضی قریب میں اس غفلت کی وجہ سے اس علاقہ میں موروں کی ایک بہت بڑی تعداد بھی ہلاک ہو گئی تھی لیکن حکومت نے اس سے بھی کوئی سبق نہ سیکھا اور صورت حال اب بھی جوں کی توں ہے۔ ہیومن اینیمل انٹرنیشنل کے کنٹری ڈائریکٹر نثار احمد نے سروے رپورٹ جاری کرتے ہوئے یقین دلایا ہے کہ ان کی تنظیم تھر میں مویشیوں کی بحالی کے لیے ایک بڑی ویکسینیشن مہم شروع کرنے والی ہے اور وہ اس کے علاوہ بھی اس علاقہ میں لائیو سٹاک شعبہ کی ترقی کے لیے اپنے بین الاقوامی ماہرین کے ساتھ مل کر ایک خصوصی پروگرام شروع کرے گی۔

کراچی (بی بی سی میوز) تھر کے ایڈیشنل سیشن جج اور امدادی کاموں کے نگران جج میاں فیاض ربانی نے قرار دیا ہے کہ بڑی تعداد میں ہلاکتوں کی وجہ خوراک کی کمی یا عدم دستیابی اور بارش نہ ہونے کے ساتھ ساتھ محکمہ صحت کی لاپرواہی، ڈاکٹروں اور طبی عملے کی غیر حاضری بھی ہے۔ سندھ ہائیکورٹ کے چیف جسٹس مقبول باقر نے تھر میں قحط سالی کے متعلق درخواست پر ایڈیشنل سیشن جج کو اپنی سفارشات پیش کرنے کی ہدایت دی تھی۔ ایڈیشنل سیشن جج میاں فیاض ربانی نے اپنی رپورٹ میں کہا ہے کہ بھوک اور قحط نے حاملہ خواتین اور بچوں کو بری طرح متاثر کیا ہے۔ رپورٹ میں کہا گیا ہے کہ سندھ کی حکومت جو گندم تقسیم کر رہی ہے وہ 50 کلوگرام فی خاندان ہے جن میں غیر شادی شدہ افراد شامل نہیں۔ یہاں سوال یہ پیدا ہوتا ہے کہ آیا یہ غیر شادی شدہ افراد کھانا نہیں کھاتے یا وہ متاثرین نہیں۔ انہوں نے سفارش کی ہے کہ مقررہ وقت کے اندر گندم، خوراک اور چارے کی منصافانہ تقسیم کی جائے۔ انہوں نے گزشتہ انتخابات کا حوالہ دیتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ ان انتخابات میں ضلع 15 پولنگ سٹیشنز قائم کئے گئے تھے جہاں تک ہر ووٹر کو رسائی تھی، ہر فرد کو ووٹ دینے کیلئے تمام تر سامان ان سٹیشنوں تک پہنچایا گیا تو پھر کیا وجہ ہے کہ امدادی سامان ہر جگہ نہیں پہنچ پایا۔ میاں فیاض ربانی نے مشورہ دیا ہے کہ گندم، خوراک اور چارے کی تقسیم کے لیے بھی وہی طریقہ کار اختیار کیا جائے جو انتخابات میں کیا گیا تھا

قحط زدہ علاقوں میں گندے پانی کے باعث تیزی

سے بیماریوں کا پھیلاؤ

ساوتھ ایشین میوز انجینی (شہانہ)

14 اپریل 2014

تھر میں جانور قحط سالی کی وجہ سے سب سے زیادہ

متاثر

ساوتھ ایشین میوز انجینی (شہانہ)

11 اپریل 2014

ہلاکتوں کی وجہ کم خوراک، خشک سالی، طبی

سہولتوں کی عدم فراہمی ہے: سیشن جج تھر

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

10 اپریل 2014

اور امدادی سامان کی تقسیم ووٹر لسٹ کی بنیاد پر ہو اور ہر شناختی کارڈ پر 50 کلو گرام گندم دی جائے۔ ایڈیشنل سیشن جج نے بتایا ہے کہ تھریس لوگوں کا گزر برسر مال مویشیوں پر ہے، اس لیے اس بات کو یقینی بنایا جائے کہ متعلقہ محکمہ ان جانوروں کی صحت اور مقررہ وقت پر ویکسین کرے۔ انہوں نے تھر میں بیمار یوں کی ایک بڑی وجہ وہاں موجود پانی کو قرار دیا ہے اور تجویز پیش کی ہے کہ اگر بڑے پیمانے پر متعلقہ محکمے پر یوس اوسوس پلانٹ لگائیں تو یہ مسئلہ حل ہو سکتا ہے۔ رپورٹ کے مطابق ضلعی ہسپتال اور تحصیل کے ہسپتالوں کی بار بار انسپشن کے دوران یہ بات سامنے آئی کہ ڈیپلو، چھا چھرو، اسلام کوٹ اور تنگ پور کر تحصیل ہسپتال اور ڈسپنسریاں مکمل طور پر فعال نہیں ہیں۔ ان کے مطابق وہاں بچوں اور خواتین کے امراض کے ماہرین کی تعیناتی نہیں ہو سکی ہے اور دور دراز کے علاقوں میں صحت کی کوئی سہولت دستیاب نہیں اور غریب متاثرین تحصیل اور ضلعی ہسپتال تک پہنچ نہیں سکتے۔ میاں فیاض ربانی نے سفارش کی ہے کہ ضلع کے دور دراز علاقوں میں صحت کے مسائل کے بارے میں آگاہی کیلئے محکمہ منصوبہ بندی اہم کردار ادا کر سکتا ہے، ماں اور بچے کو بیمار یوں سے بچانے کیلئے متعلقہ محکموں کو حفاظتی ٹیکوں کا پروگرام چلانا چاہیے۔ اسکے ساتھ تمام ڈسپنسریوں اور صحت مراکز کو فعال بنایا جائے اور وہاں ڈاکٹروں، سٹاف اور دیات کی موجودگی کو یقینی بنایا جائے۔

لاہور (یوزڈیک) ماہرین فلکیات نے پیش گوئی کی ہے کہ 15 اپریل سے آسمان پر حیرت انگیز طور پر مون اینپو کلپس کا آغاز ہونے والا ہے جس میں کرہ ارض، سورج اور مریخ ایک ہی لائن میں آجاتے ہیں جس کے نتیجے میں خون رنگ چاند نمودار ہوتا ہے۔ ذرائع ابلاغ کی ایک رپورٹ کے مطابق بعض لوگ خون رنگ چاند نمودار ہونے کے واقعہ کو دنیا کے خاتمہ اور حضرت عیسیٰ کے دوبارہ ظہور کی نشانی قرار دے رہے ہیں۔ دوسری جانب امریکی خلائی ادارے ناسا نے ”بلڈ ریڈ مون“ کے وقفے وقفے سے چار مرتبہ نمودار ہونے کا وقت قریب آنے کی تصدیق کی ہے جس کے مطابق رواں سال 15 اپریل اور 18 اکتوبر کو یہ دیکھا جائے گا۔ ناسا کے مطابق یہ منفرد واقعہ ایک ہفتہ تک جاری رہے گا جب تک مریخ اور زمین کا فیصلہ نوکر وڈ 20 لاکھ میل تک نہیں ہو جاتا۔ رپورٹ کے مطابق گزشتہ 500 سال میں مون اینپو کلپس تین بار وقوع پذیر ہوا ہے اور جب بھی نمودار ہوا دنیا میں مذہبی حوالے سے ڈرامائی تبدیلیاں دیکھی گئیں۔

کراچی (ثناء نیوز) ایڈووکیٹ جنرل سندھ نے تھر میں قتل کے باعث بچوں کی ہلاکتوں سے متعلق ڈی آئی جی حیدر آباد کی تحقیقاتی رپورٹ کو سندھ حکومت کو غیر مستحکم کرنے کی سازش قرار دے دیا۔ تھر میں ہلاکتوں سے متعلق از خود نوٹس کی چیف جسٹس سندھ ہائی کورٹ میں سربراہی میں 2 رکنی ڈویژنل بینچ نے سماعت کی جہاں ایڈووکیٹ جنرل سندھ، سیکریٹری خوراک، سیکریٹری صحت اور سیکریٹری فوڈ اینڈ ریلیف عدالت میں پیش ہوئے، دوران سماعت درخواست گزار کے وکیل فیصل صدیقی نے ڈی آئی جی حیدر آباد ثناء اللہ عباسی کی رپورٹ پر دلائل دیتے ہوئے بتایا کہ حکومت سندھ کو 29 ستمبر 2013 کو تھر کی صورت حال سے متعلق آگاہ کر دیا گیا تھا تاہم صوبائی حکومت نے رواں سال فروری میں صورتحال سے متعلق کوئی فلیشن جاری کیا لہذا 196 بچے ہلاک نہیں بلکہ ان کا قتل ہوا ہے۔ انہوں نے دلائل دیئے کہ 2012 اور 2013 میں اسی صورتحال کے باعث 140 اموات ہوئی تھیں جن کا کوئی پرسان حال نہیں ہے۔ اس موقع پر ایڈووکیٹ جنرل سندھ فتح اللہ ملک نے کہا کہ رپورٹ حکومت سندھ کو غیر مستحکم کرنے کی سازش لگتی ہے، متاثرہ علاقوں کی آڑ میں سیاسی کھیل کھیلا جا رہا ہے اور ریلیف کا بہانہ بنا کر حکومت کے خلاف سیاست کی جا رہی ہے، تھر میں ایسی کوئی صورتحال نہیں جو رپورٹ میں بتائی گئی ہے۔ انہوں نے عدالت سے درخواست کی سماعت ملتوی کی جائے کیونکہ اس معاملے پر سپریم کورٹ میں بھی سماعت کی جا رہی ہے، عدالت نے ایڈووکیٹ جنرل کا موقف سننے کے بعد کیس کی مزید سماعت 11 اپریل تک ملتوی کر دی۔

کراچی (ثناء نیوز) سندھ ہائی کورٹ کے حکم پر تھر پارک سے متعلق حکومت کی قائم کردہ فیکٹ فائنڈنگ کمیٹی نے رپورٹ تیار کر لی رپورٹ میں کہا گیا ہے کہ ریلیف، فنانس، صحت اور خوراک کے محکموں کی غفلت کے باعث تھر میں صورتحال خراب ہوئی۔ ڈی آئی جی ثناء اللہ عباسی کی سربراہی میں قائم کمیٹی نے اپنی رپورٹ مرتب کر لی ہے جس کا حکم سندھ ہائی کورٹ نے دیا تھا رپورٹ کے مطابق تھر کے تین میں سے دو مختیار کاروں نے ستمبر میں اپنی رپورٹ میں بتا دیا تھا کہ علاقہ میں قتل ہونے والا ہے جبکہ وزیر اعلیٰ سیکرٹریٹ میں تین ماہ سمری پڑے رہنے کے بعد 28 فروری 2014ء کو تھر پارک کو آفت زدہ قرار دیا گیا رپورٹ میں بتایا گیا ہے کہ سال 2012-13 کے دوران 141 اور 2013-14 کے دوران 196 بچے جاں بحق ہوئے رپورٹ میں مزید بتایا گیا ہے کہ تھر پارک میں ماہر ڈاکٹر ز کی 134 آسامیوں میں سے 37 آسامیاں خالی ہیں جبکہ جنرل ڈاکٹر ز کی 251 آسامیوں میں سے 163 آسامیاں خالی ہیں ضلعی انتظامیہ نے بچوں کی اموات کی بڑھتی ہوئی شرح پر بھی کوئی توجہ نہیں دی محکمہ ریلیف، محکمہ فنانس، صحت اور خوراک کی مجموعی غفلت کے باعث صورتحال پیدا ہوئی 13 ستمبر کو وزیر اعلیٰ کے حکم کے باوجود متعلقہ علاقوں میں خوراک کی ترسیل کے لیے فنڈ جاری کرنے کے حکم پر عمل نہیں ہو سکا۔

15 اپریل سے خون رنگ چاند نمودار ہو گا، عالمی

سطح پر تبدیلیوں کا امکان

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

10 اپریل 2014

تھر میں قتل کے باعث بچوں کی ہلاکتوں سے متعلق

مقدمے کی سماعت 11 اپریل تک ملتوی

سدا تھر ایشین نیوز ایجنسی (ثناء)

11 اپریل 2014

تھر پارک فیکٹ فائنڈنگ کمیٹی نے رپورٹ تیار کر لی

سدا تھر ایشین نیوز ایجنسی (ثناء)

05 اپریل 2014

CLIMATE DIRECTORY

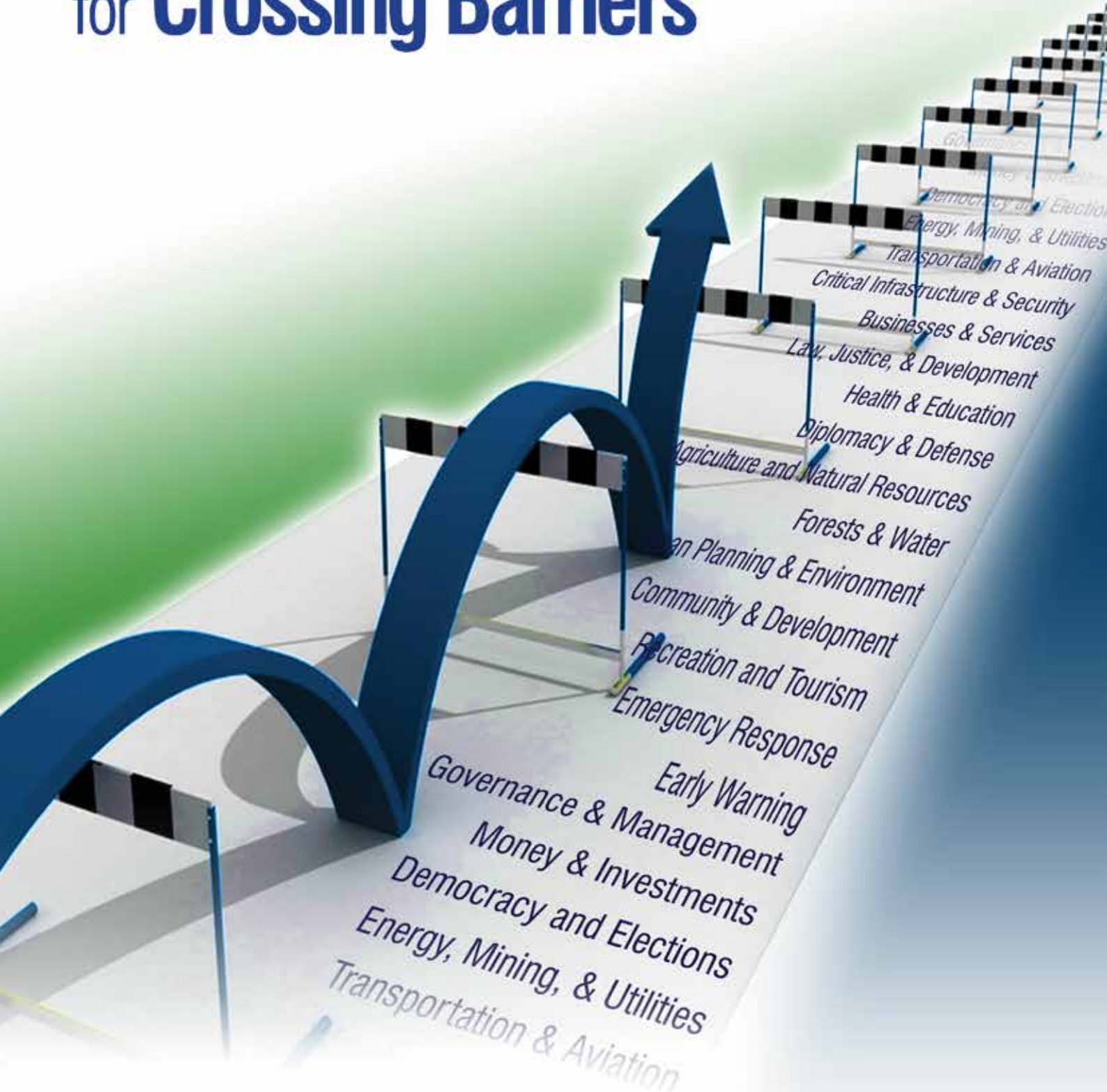
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