



# QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2023

## RECHARGE PAKISTAN AT COP28

In a historic announcement at the COP28 summit in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, announced 'Recharge Pakistan' at the official Pakistan pavilion — a seven year, \$77.8 million initiative to use nature to help adapt to climate change. Recharge Pakistan will be a big step for Pakistan to protect itself from the effects of climate change.

Separately, at the WWF pavilion at COP, a panel discussion featuring representatives from WWF-US, WWF-Pakistan, Green Climate Fund (GCF), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the Coca Cola Foundation (TCCF) explored the vision behind Recharge Pakistan, the largest adaptation grant by GCF for Pakistan. To watch the panel talk, [click here](#).

Recharge Pakistan has unlocked a total of \$77.8 million in grants – with \$66 million from the Green Climate Fund (GCF); \$5 million from USAID; \$5 million from The Coca Cola Foundation, and \$1.8 million from WWF-Pakistan. It is a flagship project of the Government of Pakistan's Living Indus Initiative, which aims at reducing flooding and drought impacts. Under the Living Indus framework, this project will not only benefit millions of Pakistanis but will also serve as a model for climate innovation at a global scale. It will use nature-based solutions and help ecosystems adapt. It will also improve the health of the Indus Basin, making it more resilient against climate change, and protect the vulnerable people in that area. To read more about Recharge Pakistan and what it means in the long term for Pakistan read the article [here](#).



Join us at COP28 • Livestream: [youtube.com/wwfclimate](https://youtube.com/wwfclimate)

#Panda Hub

## Recharge Pakistan: Nature-based Solutions for Climate Resilience

10 December | 18:30 GST

### Speakers:

**Asif Hyder Shah**, Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change (Pakistan) • **Bapon Fakhruddin**, Water Sector Lead, Green Climate Fund • **Dina Esposito**, Assistant to the Administrator, USAID • **Carter Roberts**, President and CEO, WWF-US • **Saadia Madsbjerg**, President, The Coca-Cola Foundation • **Hammad Naqi Khan**, Director General, WWF-Pakistan



# CLOSING THE LOOP

## WWF-PAKISTAN HOSTS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND SUSTAINABLE APPROACHES IN TEXTILE AND LEATHER

With the support of the European Union, WWF-Pakistan in collaboration with the International Labour Organisation (ILO), hosted a two-day international conference titled "Sustainable Textile and Leather Supply Chains-Closing the Loop". The conference provided a forum for stakeholders in Pakistan's textile and leather sectors to discuss the adoption of circular and sustainable practices, aligning with environmental requirements for Pakistan's GSP+ status.



## SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE VISITS WWF-PAKISTAN'S WETLAND CENTRE

Members of the Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change visited WWF-Pakistan's Wetland Centre in Karachi, where they were provided with an insightful briefing on the joint mangrove conservation initiatives of WWF-Pakistan and the Sindh Forest Department. The mangrove forest cover that was reduced to less than 86,000 hectares in 2005 has now grown to approximately 240,000 hectares in 2024, owing to joint efforts by the stakeholders. This remarkable expansion includes more than 16,000 hectares of mangrove plantation established by WWF-Pakistan alone under various projects in the last two decades. To read more about the visit click below.

[CLICK HERE](#)



## BHULAN GOES INTERNATIONAL! BBC COVERS THE INDUS RIVER DOLPHIN IN 'PLANET EARTH 3'

Our very own 'Queen of the Indus', the Indus river dolphin, was featured on BBC's Planet Earth 3. To mark this momentous occasion, WWF-Pakistan collaborated with MAATI TV for an interview with Global River Dolphin expert, Dr Uzma Khan, as she discussed the dolphin, WWF's conservation efforts, the significance of BBC's coverage of the Indus river dolphin, and her own personal journey around this celebrated species. Click below to watch the interview.

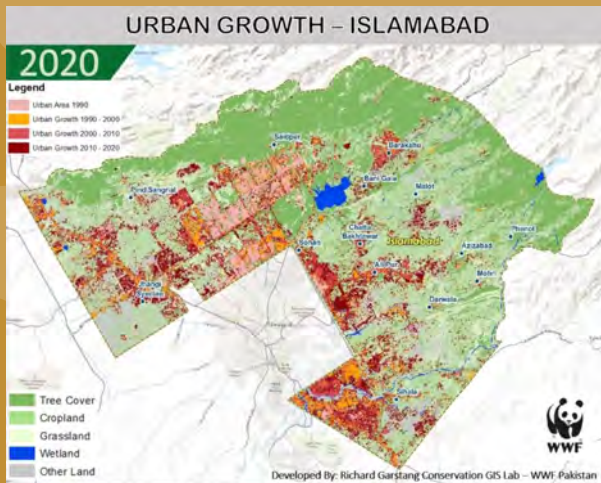
[CLICK HERE](#)





# WWF-PAKISTAN'S GIS LAB REVEALS STARTLING URBAN EXPANSION

WWF-Pakistan's Richard Garstang Conservation GIS Lab recently developed animated maps for Islamabad and Lahore detailing the alarming rate of urban expansion in the two cities between 1990 and 2020, highlighting the loss of green cover. The compelling visualisations have been shared on WWF-Pakistan's social media platforms, sparking a necessary debate on the growing urban sprawl in **Lahore** and **Islamabad**. To carry the conversation further at a national level, a detailed article was published in Dawn's PRISM. To read the article [click here](#).



## WWF-PAKISTAN AND CITIZENS ARCHIVE OF PAKISTAN COME TOGETHER FOR WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

WWF-Pakistan in collaboration with the Citizens Archive of Pakistan celebrated Wildlife Week at the National History Museum, Lahore. This included an exclusive screening of WWF-Pakistan's docu-series, 'Wildlife Diaries of Pakistan'. Over 1,000 visitors, including students from local schools and colleges attended the screenings. To watch the latest episode of the series on our YouTube channel click below.

[CLICK HERE](#)





# BUILDING LASTING CHANGE

- As part of the Water Resource Accountability in Pakistan (WRAP) programme, we installed a rainwater harvesting pond in Najafpur, benefiting 26,895 residents. The pond manages flash floods, ensuring sustainable agriculture and wildlife preservation while promoting community resilience.
- A series of 12 loose boulder check dams have been constructed in Mansehra under the WRAP project. These are designed to slow down water flow, mitigate erosion, and safeguard land, crops, and communication infrastructure. This intervention directly benefits 115 households (approximately 977 individuals) and contributes to the reduction of sedimentation in the Siran River, thereby increasing the water storage capacity of Tarbela Dam.
- In Kohistan, Mansehra, and Haripur district, a collaborative initiative between local agriculture departments and farmers successfully cultivated less water-intensive varieties of wheat, peas, mustard, and lentils across a total of 35 hectares of land. Engaging a total of 83 farmers, this effort, supported under the WRAP project, aimed to promote sustainable agricultural practices and conserve water resources. The participating farmers received seeds, land preparation materials, and comprehensive training to ensure the successful cultivation of these crops.
- In a comprehensive effort to integrate Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) into development plans, the WRAP team has conducted meetings with KP's Planning and Development Department's Sustainable Development Unit (SDU), Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E), and the Climate Change Cell. Simultaneously, under the WRAP project, WWF-Pakistan collaborated with the Planning and Development Departments of Gilgit-Baltistan to organize an orientation session on NbS for government officials.





# CLIMATE CHANGE AGENDA SETTING

- Under the Pakistan Regenerative Agriculture Landscape Collaboration, orientation sessions were conducted with Punjab and Balochistan Government officials, participants from the textile sector, and the food and beverage sector.
- As part of the Third National Communication on Climate Change under the UNFCCC, WWF-Pakistan has conducted surveys under the Thematic Working Group “Gender Equality & Women’s Empowerment on Climate Change Issues”. The WWF team has surveyed 100+ women from climate change-impacted communities in Hassanabad and Passu areas of Gilgit Baltistan, and Keti Bunder, Mithi, Islamkot and Nagarparkar, in Sindh.
- WWF-Pakistan in collaboration with SAMA ^Verte supported the Ministry of Climate Change in organizing the Pakistan Cooling Action Plan (PCAP) Donor Roundtable Conference. Representatives from donor agencies, including the World Bank, European Union Delegation to Pakistan, Asian Development Bank and Japan International Cooperation Agency, were informed about key priority actions proposed in the newly developed PCAP and potential partnerships were identified to overcome financial and technical challenges in the effective implementation of the plan.



## PARTNERING TO PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

- The Environment Education Programme team launched recycling awareness sessions in collaboration with Tetra Pak Pakistan. So far, over 2,600 students from schools in Lahore, Karachi, Faisalabad, Islamabad and Rawalpindi have participated and learnt about the 3Rs, sustainable packaging material, etc.
- WWF-Pakistan’s collaborations with AGP Limited, Friesland Campina, and Nestle Pakistan led to the planting of 3,400 saplings in Karachi and Khanewal. Hutchison Ports renewed its partnership with WWF-Pakistan for Rung Do Pakistan, committing to plant 100,000 saplings at Sonmiani and reaching the milestone of 300,000 plantations.







- Through employee engagement activities, we partnered with TPL REIT Management Company and Crescent Steel and Allied Products Limited. 25 employees of TPL and 55 employees of Crescent Steel and Allied Products Limited took part in several activities including the plantation of a total of 1,200 saplings.
- With the support of the Engro Foundation, three gillnet fishing vessels have been converted into bottom-set longline fishing operations. The vessels were inaugurated at Korangi Fish Harbour, Karachi with the aim to promote sustainable fishing in coastal waters and minimize the negative impact of gillnet fishing.
- With the support of the Engro Foundation, under the Carbon Offsetting Project, Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) has been completed on 128 hectares, accounting for a total of 379 hectares so far, and plantation has been conducted on 133 hectares.

## CONSERVING OUR WILDLIFE

- **Listen** to Hamera Aisha, Sr Manager Wildlife WWF-Pakistan, as she shares her insights on the 'Bhulan Dost Programme,' funded by the Darwin Initiative and the Engro Foundation. For a closer listen to the Indus river dolphin itself, [click here](#).
- WWF-Pakistan's Wildlife team has conducted comprehensive ecological surveys of the Deosai Wetlands Complex, Gasho Lake, and Naltar Wetlands Complex in Gilgit-Baltistan. These surveys include hydrology, flora, fish, amphibians and reptiles, birds, small and large mammals and GIS boundary demarcation studies to prepare the Ramsar Information sheets of these lakes.
- To mitigate human-wildlife conflict and improve snow leopard monitoring in the HKH landscape, two AI-based camera traps were deployed at Machiara National Park (AJK), and five cameras were deployed at Khyber Gojal (Gilgit Baltistan).
- WWF-Pakistan organized a comprehensive workshop for rangers of the Sindh Wildlife Department, aiming to provide training on the SMART Application. This application enables them to document and generate reports, contributing significantly to effective conservation measures in Sindh.
- Under the DARWIN Innovation supported project, second year trials for pingers have been initiated in Sindh, which will evaluate how dolphins respond to pingers, including whether they become habituated to them, their impact on fish catch, etc.





# YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

- Our latest youth engagement initiative is the Conservation Pathfinder workshop series, which concluded its second 'Mastering the Art of Storytelling,' workshop at Government College University, Lahore. It featured an interactive session led by Hamera Aisha, Senior Manager Wildlife Conservation WWF-Pakistan, and Risham Waseem, Director Maati TV and successfully attracted 103 participants eager to delve into the realm of digital storytelling.
- In the last quarter of the year, our Environmental Education Programme engaged over 1,000 students through environmental education sessions!
- With the technical support of WWF-Pakistan, Moawin Foundation has established nature clubs in its targeted schools in the Baltistan region and a special autumn plantation and cleanliness drive was conducted in Kharmang.

