In 2018, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the government of Australia to strengthen cooperation between the two countries on urban water resource management. Under the scope of this MOU, Australian best practices on Water Sensitive Cities (WSCs) are to be introduced in Pakistan through a four year (2021-2025) Australian Aid funded project titled ‘Australia-Pakistan Water Security Initiative (APWASI)’.

**Project Partners**

WWF-Pakistan is the main implementing partner of the project and the International Water Management Institute-Pakistan (IWMI) and Hydrology and Risk Consulting-Australia (HARC) are the collaborating partners.

**Vision**

The project envisions to improve water security, liveability and climate resilience in Pakistan by:

1. Improving access to safe water and sanitation services for two targeted disadvantaged communities in Islamabad and Rawalpindi;
2. Ensuring community resilience to climate change and other water related shocks; and
3. Building capacity of key stakeholders on urban water management, as well as sensitizing local communities about water use and conservation.
Demonstration Sites

Farash Town, Islamabad and James Town, Rawalpindi are the two disadvantaged communities in the twin cities where relevant interventions from the Water Sensitive Cities suite are being implemented.

Water Sensitive Cities Approach

WSCs is a nature-based approach that focuses on holistic management of the integrated water cycle in order to make cities liveable, resilient, sustainable, and productive. This approach advocates the adoption and promotion of sustainable urban water management solutions such as raingardens, permeable pavements, recharge zones, rain-water harvesting etc.

WSCs approach nestles around the idea of inclusive development where community integration is at the heart of the entire process. Correspondingly, APWASI is a people-centered and people powered project which is committed to ensuring the rights of the communities with a particular focus on women and children. The project employs an extensive community engagement strategy where communities are educated and empowered in such a manner that they not only readily identify their local challenges but also take action towards their sustainable solutions.

For more information contact:
Farah Nadeem, Specialist Liaison and Engagement, APWASI at fanadeem@wwf.org.pk or Syed Shujja Haider Rizvi, Project Manager, APWASI at shrizvi@wwf.org.pk