



WWF-Pakistan's Freshwater Programme

Impact (2017-22)

WWF's global freshwater strategy aims to deliver on two important goals:



Healthy habitats and species:

By 2030, protection of freshwater habitats has doubled and good management and restoration of freshwater habitats has stabilised freshwater species populations.

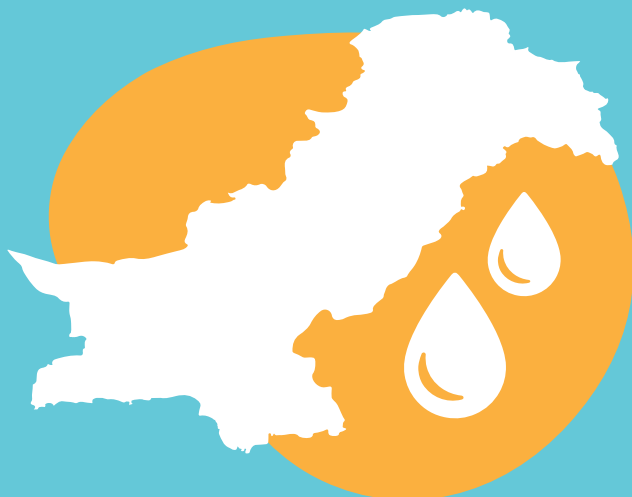


Clean flowing rivers:

By 2030, the river flows and quality of the most important ecosystems are maintained or restored.

WWF-Pakistan is committed to achieve the above goals by working in the following priority areas:

- Integrated watershed management
- Water replenishment (recharge wells, rainwater harvesting system, ablution water reuse system, etc.)
- Promoting water stewardship among businesses through different tools (Smart Environmental Management Practices, Alliance for Water Stewardship and Water Risk Filter)
- Conserving the habitats and species (Indus River Dolphin, Flyways)
- Floodplain management
- Wetlands conservation and management
- Reviving and conserving the water resources in the Indus Delta
- Environmental resource management in businesses to reduce pollution load entering into water bodies and associated environmental footprint
- Awareness, capacity building and sensitization of stakeholders involved in water governance and management



Between 2017 and 2022, we achieved the following results at the policy level:

- Developed multi-stakeholder platforms of city-wide partnerships in Lahore, Faisalabad, Sialkot, Karachi, Rawalpindi and Islamabad.
- Developed Cleaner Production Policy for Sindh province in collaboration with the Sindh Environmental Protection Agency.
- Worked as a knowledge partner in an Asian Development Bank supported project on revitalization of River Ravi.
- Contributed in envisioning the Punjab Water Act 2019.
- Supported the Punjab Irrigation Department in developing surface water classification.

On-ground interventions:

Installed

257 rainwater harvesting systems
32 drinking water filtration plants
19 ablution water reuse systems
16 recharge wells
19,822 m² of floating treatment wetlands
Three canal regulatory gates

Assisted 25 textile and leather SMEs for water efficiency improvement
Laser land levelling of 1,050 hectares of area
Lined 6242.5 m of canals
Improved 9,074 m of earthen water courses
Promoted sowing of cotton over 305 hectares of bed and furrow
Promoted sowing of wheat over 560 hectares of ridges
Improved 50 canal outlets
Planted 9,000 trees



The impact till now:



Water reused
61,843m³



Water conserved
5,499,235m³



Water replenished
204,237m³



Wastewater treated
209,821m³



Drinking water provided
820,585m³



Number of direct and indirect
beneficiaries= 829,913 people



Harvested rainwater was used by
500 flood victims

Conservation of Indus River Dolphin in Pakistan

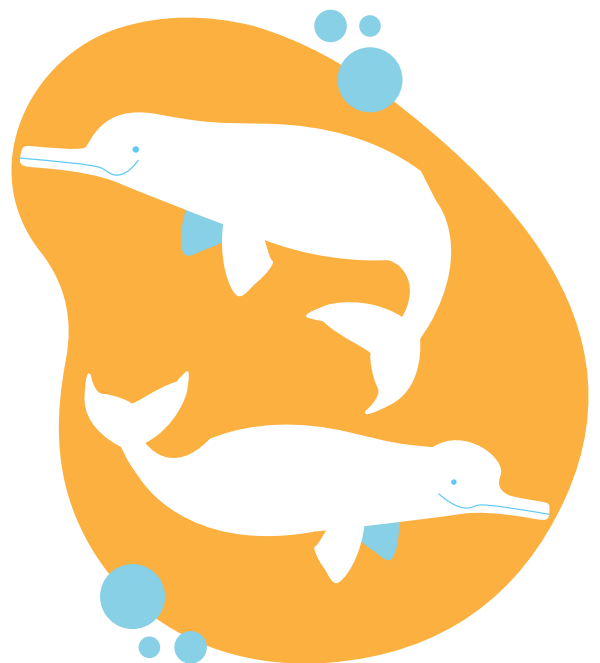
The research established the Indus River Dolphin (*Platanista minor*) a separate species providing a huge opportunity to further strengthen conservation efforts of this endemic species. Previously it was thought to be a subspecies of the Ganges dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*).

The 2017 estimation of Indus River dolphin population abundance indicated a count of 1,987 individuals, which is nearly double the number estimated in 2001.

Coordinated efforts of dolphin rescues and safe releases contributed to the rescue of 59 dolphins (2017-22), bringing the total number of rescued dolphins to 185.

Also, WWF-Pakistan has piloted technology-based solutions called 'pingers', which are acoustic deterrents, to reduce dolphin bycatch in fishing nets and their entrapment in irrigation canals and shallow water bodies.

In 2022, Pakistan became the first country in Asia to deploy satellite tags on three rescued Indus River dolphins, which helped determine their use of various river features such as confluences, side channels, and the main channel.



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