



FACTSHEET

PK

2014

Climate Change Adaptation

Elevated Platforms: Local Solution to Adapt Climate Change



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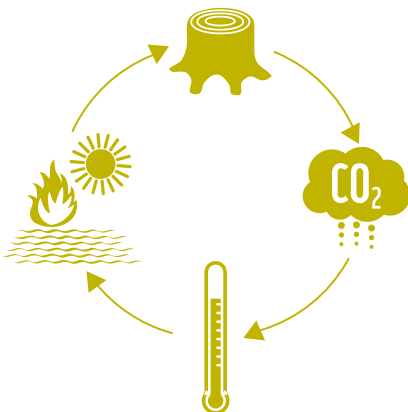
Donor: European Commission

Duration: January 2011 – December 2015

Project Title: Building Capacity on Climate Change Adaptation in Coastal Areas of Pakistan (CCAP).

Pakistan barely contributes to global carbon emissions but is one of the top 10 countries adversely affected by it. According to the Global Climate Risk Index 2014 developed by the German Watch Institute, Pakistan is ranked number three after Haiti and the Philippines among countries most affected by climate change. This ranking, along with three consecutive years of flood related devastation in Sindh (2009, 2010, 2011) and recent floods in Punjab (2014), changes in monsoon patterns, and the lack of coastal resilience to cyclones (Phet 2011, Yemyin 2007) and storm surges, provides evidence of Pakistan’s increasing vulnerability to climate change. Coastal communities, in this context, are particularly vulnerable as they are exposed to storm surges, cyclones, sea level rise and sea level intrusion and livelihood disturbances such as reduced fish stocks, loss of cultivable coastal farmland, and unsafe sea due to extreme weather events. This goes to show that the ecologically vulnerable areas of Pakistan, particularly the coastal belt, are greatly affected by this global phenomenon.

The creeks in the coastal belt of Sindh, especially in Thatta district, confront serious threats of sea level rise and tidal flooding. At present, the frequency and level of high tides has increased, damaging houses constructed on mud flats. In order to address these issues, WWF-Pakistan under its CCAP project has constructed 20 elevated homes in Hajamro Creek, Thatta district. The intervention aims to set an adaptation model and promote the idea of adaptation by increasing the awareness level of communities on coastal climate change impacts. After completion and erection of elevated homes, beneficiaries of this intervention have experienced intense events of cyclones, storm surges, tidal flooding, and sea level rise and have already reported the benefits, which include safe and dry storage of assets (e.g., personal ones such as electrical appliances, and productive ones such as fishing nets) and keeping children, disabled and senior members of households away from harm.



Objectives:

1. Mitigate the adverse impacts of sea level rise, tidal flooding and other extreme events;
2. Minimise risk to loss of life and property in creeks; and,
3. Create awareness among coastal communities through adaptation measures.

Updates and Achievements:

Frequent extreme weather events have become a regular phenomenon in the coastal belt of Thatta. Huts constructed on mud flats in creeks are typically neither resilient to such rises in water levels, or to strong winds and are often washed away. To reduce that risk, the CCAP project has established 20 elevated platforms in Siddique Dablo village, Hajamro Creek in Keti Bunder, Thatta. These elevated houses minimize the risk of loss of life and property from such extreme events by improving the resilience level of the fisher communities. The total estimated number of beneficiaries of this pilot intervention is 120 while the estimated figure calculation assumes an average household size of 6 members.

This intervention has proven beneficial. During tidal flooding and sea level surges due to Cyclone Nanuak and other such events, families using elevated platforms remained safe and household assets were undamaged.

To help the process of involving the policy and regulatory level, a workshop was held in December 2014 that invited stakeholders relevant to up-scaling and out-scaling elevated homes. Participants pledged to: a) to make government funds and logistical support available (as offered by Thatta's District Government); b) to review design features for durability and safety and identify differentiated needs of individual households (offered by the Aga Khan Planning and Building Society); c) to review business models for the financial sustainability of meeting construction costs in the absence of donor grants (the Lahore University of Management Sciences and the Community Health Sciences department, Aga Khan University have both already helped with out-scaling to Shah Bunder and outlining case studies; and, d) to sign agreements with the Sindh-based complex of disaster and relief agencies whose attention and awareness would also focus on the community's hard-earned assets such as crab-fattening ponds and elevated homes.

Recommendations:

1. Up/out-scale this intervention at the government level by engaging concerned departments, but also community-based organizations in Ghora Bari and Shah Bunder (Thatta) and Badin, besides Gawadar district, as well as specialized stakeholder partners such as the Aga Khan University's Community Health Sciences Department, the Aga Khan Planning and Building Services, and Oxfam Novib;
2. Submit a draft PC-1 to the Government of Sindh for up/out-scaling of this intervention;
3. Replicate this adaptation effort by developing capacity of coastal communities through partnership with other organizations;
4. Widely disseminate, especially at the village level, a business model that uses crab-fattening pond savings to procure construction materials;
5. Identify other vulnerable areas in the coastal belt of Pakistan and provide this facility; and,
6. Seek funds from donor agencies and utilize them in constructing more raised platforms.



WWF-Pakistan Climate Change Goal

To enable a nationwide climate change adaptation programme to reduce the consequence of climate change on ecosystems and biodiversity of Pakistan, and to promote sustainable development in the country.



Why we are here:

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

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