



FACTSHEET

PK

2014

Coastal and Marine Areas

Supporting Small Scale Fisheries Livelihoods of the Coastal Communities of Pakistan



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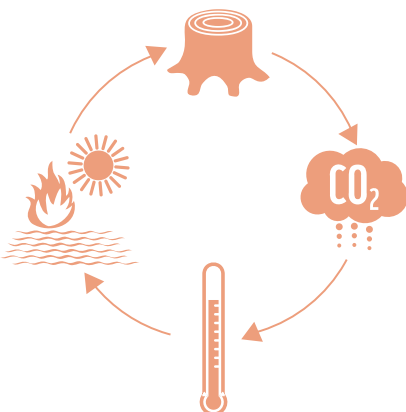
Source of Funding: Indus for All Programme, Barclays Initiative, Smart Fishing Initiative

Duration: July 2010 – Present

The Indus Delta comprises an area of 600,000 hectares (ha) and contains 17 major and minor creeks along with extensive mudflats, which form part of the system. These areas are inhabited by fisher communities residing in inland and creek areas. Historically, fishers of the Indus Delta relied on agriculture to meet their subsistence needs; however, due to continuous sea intrusion and erosion, farmers quickly turned to fishing. According to a recent assessment of Keti Bunder and Kharo Chan (WWF-Pakistan, 2007 and 2011), a majority of the population now depends on fishing (upwards of 90 per cent).

Fishermen living in creek areas have a weak social and economic set-up and lack education, access to safe drinking water and electricity. They rely on handline gears for boats ranging from a size of 8 – 12 feet, whereas boats greater than 12 feet use trawls, boat seine, and estuarine set-bag nets with a very small mesh size. Catch comprises of sardines, anchovies, ribbonfish, mullets, mackerel, barramundi, travelly, barracuda, rays and sharks as well as occasional catches of sailfish, marlins and Japanese meagre. However, it varies greatly from season to season and does not fetch a good price due to the cycle of poverty binding fishers. Post-harvest losses incurred in the supply chain inhibit improvements in socio-economic conditions of fishers.

In order to address these problems several initiatives have been undertaken by WWF-Pakistan to increase awareness, improve the supply and cold chain (i.e. post-harvest losses) of catch. As a result outreach to fisher communities has increased and strategies developed to improve socio-economic conditions. The project includes a series of rights-based initiatives such as exchange of estuarine set-bag nets with cold storage tanks (insulated plastic containers), alternate livelihood opportunities or additional support in the form of crab farming (which



serves as a bank and has the potential to extract PKR 200,000 per harvest), training on repair of boat engines, provision of sails to reduce fuel consumption and smart initiatives such as development of dried and salted fish products.

How is this Helpful?

In order to address social, economic and environmental issues, replicable pilot schemes were developed to address unsustainable fishing practices. Post-implementation assessment revealed that a household benefitted from the intervention on an average of PKR 3,000 to 5,000 per month. This means all incentives provided under the project catered for an increase in monthly income which was closely associated with improvement in quality of fish and reducing post-harvest losses. This also allowed fishers to sell their catch at a 15 per cent increase in rate of selling.

Project Objectives

- Develop and implement a series of interventions with a participatory approach to sustainable use of marine resources;
- Improve socio-economic conditions among fisher households in creek areas of Pakistan;
- Develop alternate livelihoods through value addition in the supply and cold chain.

What We Have Achieved So Far?

The project aimed at a rights-based management technique and provided a win-win situation for both the community and the environment. The significant success of this initiative, measured through a simple economic analysis of beneficiaries, allowed it to become a benchmark for others to follow. It is foreseen that gillnet operations can be terminated through such ingenuities, similar to the smaller mesh sized net operations, while keeping the vested interest of fishers in mind. It is the right time to replicate such activities and enable change through activities in fisher communities residing on the coast of Pakistan.

Next steps




Although replication of this project is a success it is to set-up rights for fishers in fishing activities. As such initiatives are important in reducing vulnerabilities among creek communities, it is imperative to seek improvements in fishing gears on a large scale with a focus on markets for commercial fish species. In this regard, the following are priority initiatives:

1. Upscale awareness and outreach on the success of the small scale fisheries programme
2. Replicate the success of trade-off initiatives
3. Continue to set rights and allocation on the basis of efforts
4. Improve markets and access of fishers to markets to reduce the role of middlemen
5. Develop fisheries improvement projects for market oriented fisheries products
6. Improve traceability and transparency in fishing operations
7. Implement labour guidelines among fisher communities
8. Ensure right to education for fishermen



WWF-Pakistan Marine Goal

To conserve marine biodiversity of Pakistan through multi-stakeholders participatory approach.

	<p>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.</p>
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