



# Event Report

## World Environment Day

07 June 2011



INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE



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## World Environment Day:

World Environment Day is a day that stimulates awareness about the environment and enhances political attention and public action. This day is celebrated on 5th June as per the recommendation of United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held from 5–16 June 1972. The first World Environment Day was celebrated on June 05, 1973. World Environment Day is hosted every year by a different city with a different theme and this year it was celebrated in New Delhi, India. Theme for this year is “Forests-Nature at your service”

Forests cover one third of the earth’s landmass, performing vital functions and services around the world which make our planet alive with possibilities. In fact, 1.6 billion people depend on forests for their livelihoods. They play a key role in our battle against climate change, releasing oxygen into the atmosphere while storing carbon dioxide.

IUCN, through its programme Balochistan Partnerships for Sustainable Development (BPSD) celebrates the day every year in collaboration with its partner organizations. The Manager Balochistan Programme met with the Secretary Environment to discuss the arrangements and a follow-up meeting of 15 partner organizations was called to plan the event and it was mutually decided to hold this event on June 07, 2011.

The World Environment Day celebrated in Quetta at Boys Scouts Hall. A mega event jointly organized by Environment Department government of Balochistan, **International Union for Conservation of Nature(IUCN), UN-Habitat, Concern, SUSG, SAAD, University of Balochistan, Girls Guide Association, Boys Scouts Association and Environmental Protection Agency Balochistan.**

Debate and Model display competition was organized and different schools Government/ private participated in the event. More than 350 students, Academia members, Government deignatories, officials, Civil Society representatives ,media persons and community members participated in the event.

**Director General EPA Mr. Abdullah Jan** welcomed the all participants.

Addressing the seminar Secretary Environment Government of Balochistan Dr. Saqib Aziz said that as the day has been officially declared by United Nations in 1992 in its conference on Environment and Development and whereas our country Pakistan is signatory not only to this declaration but there are number of protocols which also have been signed and ratified by Pakistan. He expressed that in Balochistan with the technical assistance of IUCN Govt. of Balochistan has developed a long term planning tool with the name of Balochistan Conservation Strategy (BCS) and the main thrust was to facilitate and build the capacity of all beneficial and



*Dr.Saqib Aziz Secretary  
Environment Government of  
Balochistan*

stakeholders and advocate the masses to develop their natural and social systems in a befitting manner, however, unfortunately the same comprehensive document is only kept in racks as a show piece. He said that we have very good environmental policies, legislation and rules laid down with us but the implementation is a big question. He emphasized that the environmental degradation cannot only be controlled by the government, the private and civil society organizations should also come forward and play their role.

**Mr. Zabardast Khan Bangash, Manager IUCN Balochistan** made a presentation on “Effects of Climate Change on Forest Resources” said that the forests play a vital role in providing ecosystem services to the people and also regulate the environments. However with the beginning of industrial era when population increased at a rapid speed and urbanization expanded everywhere the increase in population, the entire world needed food so the agricultural production and consumption also increased.



Mr. Zabardast Khan Bangash during Presentation

As result of this industrial and agricultural development the forests were cut down at a very rapid pace and large areas of forest cover become degraded or changed into agricultural lands. He further expressed that if we look at the Earth's environment, Allah has made and devised it very beautiful and balanced and so when humans try to dis-balance the nature or environment, the nature will reply in the same manner. He explained that forests influence climate change mainly by affecting the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

When forests grow, carbon is removed from the atmosphere and absorbed in wood, leaves and soil. Because forests can absorb and store carbon over an extended period of time, they are considered “carbon sinks”. This carbon remains stored in the forest ecosystem, but can be released into the atmosphere when forests are burned. Overall, the world's forest ecosystems are estimated to store more carbon than the entire atmosphere. He showed graphical data of effects of carbon on ecosystem and factors affecting the forests. He stressed upon the youth to come forward, equip themselves with knowledge and do practically for the environment. He also requested the new generation to plant a tree at least once in a year in their houses. He further requested the policy makers to allocate more resources to increase forest area in Pakistan.

### **Debate Competition:**

Debate competition started among ten students from different schools who prepared their speeches on the environmental issues.

Detail of Students and school is given below:

<b>S #</b>	<b>Name of Schools</b>	<b>Name of Students</b>
1	Govt Boys Shafiq Ahmad Shaheed School	Naseebullah
2	Tameer-e-Nasl-e-nau High School	Suman Zaidi
3	Govt Girls Middle School Killi Bilal	Gul Saba
4	Govt Girls Primary School Risaaldar	Mahnoor Alam
5	Govt Girls High School Lady Sundeman	Rizwana
6	Govt boys sardar Essa Khan High school	Arif Hussain
7	Quetta Residential High School	Amal Khan
8	New Morning star high school	Rafiullah
9	Govt Girls Chushma Khudo High School	Zahida Khan
10	Govt special boys high school	Asadullah

### **Following Schools Participated in Arts and Crafts Model competition**

- Government Girls High School Hazara Town
- Govt Girls High School Railway Colony,
- Tameer-e-Nasl-e-nau High School
- Quetta Residential high School

Mr. Zahoor Ahmed Bazai, Director Trainings University of Balochistan in his speech said that the day officially has been designated and celebrated on June 5<sup>th</sup>, however due to weekend holidays we are celebrating the vent today with the purpose to make people aware about the environmental issues being faced by the human race. He said that we are not aware of the importance of the forests and other natural resources for example a tree generates enough Oxygen for 36 people, and a healthy tree of Mangrove absorbs about 4.5 tons of Carbon Dioxide per year. He said that the youth are the ambassadors of the environment and they can disseminate the message of environmental protection and improvement in a very efficient and quick way.

Mr. Khalil Ahmed of UN-Habitat made a presentation on the current and future plans of his organization and said that we are seriously working and addressing the environmental issues of Balochistan at grass root level.

During the event Arts & Crafts Model Exhibition and Debate competition were also held among the students of ten schools of Quetta, the objective of the activity was to motivate the youth and students to come forward as a pressure group for environmental protection and safeguard.

At the end the Chief Guest Mir Asghar Rind, Provincial Minister for Environments distributed awards, shields and certificates among winners and the event organizers.

**Mir Asghar Rind, Minister for Environment government of Balochistan** was the chief guest.

Addressing the seminar he expressed that the day is being celebrated throughout the world by the nations with the aim to increase the awareness level of human being towards environment and natural resources. He said that due to this day we are all together here for the protection of our environment. He said that area wise Balochistan is half of the country and it has been gifted with a diverse nature from Almighty Allah. It has unique ecosystem with 750 km long coast, marine life, beautiful mountains, deserts, range lands, forests, flora and fauna, plains and every kind of warmer and colder weathers, but unfortunately we are not taking care of these and degrading our this beautiful nature. The main factors and hardships in environmental protection are lack of awareness, lack of resources, and lack of information sharing and behavior change. He added that though we are not against development but the development should be environment friendly and for our new generations. He emphasized that despite the availability of high value natural resources this province is getting insufficient financial resources from Federal government and is unable to overcome the environmental degradation issues within the available resources. Hence at this forum we request the Federal government to allocate reasonable funding for environment sector in Balochistan. He described his views that it is very good that all main stakeholders are here and a large number of students are participating in the vent. This kind of events and seminar should be replicated in the rest of Balochistan so that the entire communities of this province may become aware of the importance of environment and natural resources. He thanked all the organizing partners for managing such a successful event.



Chief Guest Minister Environment Mr. Asghar Rind addressing the Seminar



## **Jury Results for Debate Competition**

Jury members announced the results of the Arts & Crafts Models and Debate competitions, which are as below:

1<sup>st</sup> position

Zahida Khan	Govt Girls Chashma Khudo High School
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2<sup>nd</sup> Position

Suman Zaidi	Tameer-e-Nasl-e-nau High School
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3<sup>rd</sup> Position

Arif Hussain	Govt boys sardar Essa Khan High school
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## **Jury Results for Arts & Crafts Model competition**

1<sup>st</sup> position: Railway Girls High School,

2<sup>nd</sup> Position: Hazara Town Girls High School

3<sup>rd</sup> Position: Quetta residential Boys High School.

Mrs. Ishrat Aliani, Chairperson Girls Guide Association Balochistan thanked all the participants.

The participants and students were provided lunch and refreshment at the end.

**Pictures of the Event:**



