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Making the Difference

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Investing in Tomorrow's Leaders

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Road to Sustainable Development: Joint Venture by IUCN Sarhad and LEAD Pakistan

The ultimate objective of SPCS is to secure the economic, social and ecological well being of the people of NWFP by following sustainable development principles. This goal cannot be achieved without enhancing the capacities of the individuals who are responsible for its preparation as well as its implementation.



The International Union for the Conservation of Nature-Pakistan (IUCNP) acquired the services of LEAD Pakistan to develop and conduct the SPCS IV Modular Training Program for the concerned stakeholders representing NWFP Government, academia, NGOs and civil society organizations. This capacity building program for SPCS partners, which consisted of three separate training modules tailored under the broad themes of environment and sustainable development. These modules covered environmental impact assessment, environmental economics, environmental law, integrated natural resource management and linkage between environment, poverty and development.

The program was an opportunity to extend basic knowledge and skills of the participants to effectively interact in redefining the future planning in a more cohesive, uniform and sustainable way keeping in view NWFP's socio economic and environmental situation. Mr Inayatullah Waseem, *Human Resource Development Officer, District Government Office, Abbotabad* and one of the participants of this training said that IUCN - LEAD's initiative has laid out a firm foundation for futuristic, forward looking and true leadership.

Enhancing the Biodiversity Knowledgebase : Proteus

Biodiversity is the wealth of poor and they depend entirely for their daily survival on commodities and services that are provided virtually free of charge by Mother Nature says Mr. Shafqat Kakakhel, Deputy Executive Director, UNEP while he was addressing the audience of Proteus launch ceremony on 15 December 2003 organized by LEAD Pakistan in Islamabad. Mr. Onder Yucer, Resident Representative of UNDP in Pakistan, chaired this ceremony.

Proteus is a global biodiversity database management project to develop an electronic biodiversity information service that would provide accessible and relevant biodiversity information for practitioners and decision makers to maximize the sustainability of development. Pakistan is in the forefront of this initiative whereby biodiversity data from here will be incorporated into the central database as a model case. LEAD Pakistan invited various stakeholders from media, NGOs, Government and donor sector to introduce them with the importance and best possible uses of Proteus. Proteus in Pakistan would prove to be effective and will provide help and momentum to efforts to conserve biodiversity and protect environment.

Mr. Onder Yucer said in his address that we have benefited from biodiversity but the difficulty is that our impact on species and ecosystems is no longer sustainable. We are gradually degrading and destroying the biodiversity resources upon which we have come to depend. Recognizing the importance of biodiversity to humankind is what the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre is all about. Our vision is of a wiser world.



Daughters of the soil...

In South Asia, women participate actively in all agricultural operations such as livestock management and crop production. But it is a reality that their role remains unappreciated and they receive the lowest compensation in this sector.

For agricultural activities, women work for **12 hours, 47 per cent** higher than men in Nepal and **70 per cent** higher in Sri Lanka. In India, women constitute one half of the labour in rice cultivation.

A study found that in the more developed district of Karnal, Haryana, women **received 12 rupees a day (0.2 US\$)** for weeding while men received **28 rupees (0.46 US\$)**. In the threshing season, women receive **20 - 25 rupees** in contrast with men who receive **40 - 60 rupees**. In Pakistan, women in rural areas are paid **59 per cent** of what men receive. Their counterparts in Bangladesh are fare better in the agricultural sector where they are paid **71 per cent** of what men are paid. This is in violation of the ILO Convention, ratified by Sri Lanka, India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan, advocating 'equal remuneration for men and women workers for equal value'.

The News, 6 January 2003

Effective Proposal Writing to Boost Capacity Building

Several donor agencies in Pakistan are willing to fund projects that are designed to meet an identified need, achieve the specific mandate of the donor organization and fulfill the criteria set up for providing financial support.

Many local NGOs and civil society organizations in Pakistan have the inability to develop proposals that are attractive enough for donors to invest, involve all concerned stakeholders, and address the problem at hand in an efficient and effective way. Mostly, project proposals are not well articulated and do not take into consideration various aspects and components that make it successful.

UNDP recognizes this capacity gap in NGOs and CBOs that are functioning at a small scale and they need technical assistance in developing project proposals. For UNDP-PDF (Project Development Facility) program, LEAD was contracted to do the profiling of the project areas where these CBOs wanted to work and also a capability assessment of these CBOs to write effective project proposal.

LEAD Pakistan conducted a combined training of these CBOs at the LEAD house in Islamabad and ensured that by the end of this three day training, these CBOs would have complete project proposals ready to be submitted to the UNDP. Under the UNDP project, six CBOs were short listed from Swabi, D.I.Khan and three from the coastal belt Karachi.

During the training the participants were not only helped by the LEAD trainers to write the project proposals but they were also shown how to use certain planning tools. These planning tools not only helped them clear their thoughts regarding the task at hand but also helped them in planning activities in their respective areas in the future.

Linking Energy, Ecosystem and Poverty – LEAD Third Regional Training Session (RTS)

The third RTS of LEAD cohort 10 was held in Karachi to address basic types and dominant energy trends at global, regional and local level such as energy pricing, policy and decision making institutions. The session was very interesting and helpful for the LEAD Associates to explore the relationship between energy, ecosystem and poverty by knowing about the basic concepts and conflicts between energy producers and resource conservationists. The Associates from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Jordan, Egypt and Thailand presented energy scenario of their respective countries.

The most interesting part of the session was the field visit of Keiti Bundar where participants observed the impacts of upstream hydel power projects on downstream coastal communities. A stakeholder dialogue was also part of this visit in which various community representatives were present. The Associates presented their findings in the form a case study in which they not only identified social, economic and ecological issues but also suggested a way forward.

Announcement

We are pleased to share that Mr Naseer Memon (**LEAD Fellow, Cohort 8**) has become member Board of Directors of a leading NGO of Pakistan SPO (Strengthening Participatory Organization). He is already a member of the General Body of SPO for the last four years.

LEAD Pakistan hopes that Mr Naseer's new assignment will help in enhancing the collaboration between the two organizations.

This issue can be viewed at LEAD website.

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Fellows and Associates can send us details of their achievements, job alterations, or any other news they wish to share with the LEAD Family. All contributions will be an asset to the bulletin. Write to us at: ldp@lead.org.pk