



KEEP EARTH & ENVIRONMENT PURE FOR FUTURE

e-tALK!

NEWSLETTER

Shah Latif University
Botanical Garden
& Herbarium



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International Year of Forests (IYF) 2011

The United Nations General Assembly declared 2011 as the International Year of Forests to raise awareness on sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.

The International Year of Forests 2011 (Forests 2011) logo is designed to convey the theme of "Forests for People" celebrating the central role of people in the sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of our world's forests.

Jan McAlpine is Director of the United Nations Division on Forests and head of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) Secretariat, based at UN Headquarters in New York. The UNFF is a body in the United Nations made up of all 192 countries in the United Nations. It addresses all aspects of forests – from complete protection on one end of the spectrum to sustainable use on the other end, and everything in-between, including people, climate change, soils, water and biodiversity, among other issues. Ms. McAlpine was appointed by the Secretary-General in November 2008 to head the Secretariat.



Calotropis procera (Aiton) R.Br.

SLUBGH Team

Dr Raza Bhatti,
Director

Miss Shireen Akhtar Soomro,
Lecturer-Cum-Keeper

Mr. Shakeel Ahmed Khaskheli,
Artist

Mr. Arslan Ahmed Larik,
I.T

Mr. Rashid Hussain Amur,
Horticulture Officer

JOINT VENTURE IYF 2011: CBC-Sindh Forest & Office of the IG Forest-MoF, Govt. Pakistan.

The Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation (CBC) convened a meeting regarding celebrations of IYF 2010 on 19th, November 2010. Dr. Raza Bhatti, Director CBC, Chief Conservator Forest Sindh Mir Nadir Ali Talpur and DFO Direction Mr Niaz Ahmad Khaskheli. It aims to celebrate the international year of forest while involving diverse communities across the Sindh. In this regard, the Chief Conservator Forest Sindh has scheduled meeting with the forest officers on 4th December 2010 at Centre for Biodiversity & Conservation, Shah Abdul Latif University to prepare comprehensive programme for 2011.



IYB 2010 celebrated at Institute of Pure & Applied Biology B.Z University, Multan (24-11-2010)

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Congratulations to Director, CBC from CBC Staff for getting Best Teacher Award for 2009 from Higher Education Commission, Islamabad

Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation (CBC), Comments are welcome

Email us at botherbgard@yahoo.com, botherbgarden@salu.edu.pk

Website: <http://bgarden.salu.edu.pk> or Call +92-243-9280350 Designed & Compiled by: Arslan Ahmed (I.T. Assistant), Photo & Illustrations Credit: Shakeel Ahmed (Artist), E-mail: ailarik@yahoo.com



2010 International Year of Biodiversity

Pakistan Science Foundation awards its first ever Dr. Z. A Hashmi R&D Gold Medal on World Science Day

November 10 is marked internationally as World Science Day for Peace and Development. In this regard, Pakistan Science Foundation being a leading organization engaged in the promotion of science and technology celebrated "World Science Day for Peace and Development". Federal Minister for Science and Technology Senator Azam Khan Swati was chief guest of the occasion. On this event, Dr. Z. A Hashmi R&D Gold Medal along with cash prize of 100,000/- was also awarded to the two eminent scientists of Pakistan. Dr. Z. A Hashmi R&D Gold Medal for the year 2006 was conferred to Dr. Aly Khan by virtue of his outstanding contribution in socio economic development of the country through PSF funded projects. He is declared as the most productive principal investigator for the period of 1995-2005. The gold medal for the year 2007 was conferred to Prof. Dr. Muhammad Zakauallah, he is declared as the most productive principal investigator for the year 1996 to 2006.

Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Senator Azam Khan Swati, in his address congratulated the medal winners. He said that the presence of Dr. Ishfaq Ahmed elated him with joy as such dignitaries are pride of the nation.

He urged scientific organizations to adopt the principle of honesty in all dealings, as this is some thing that all of us are accountable on the judgment day. He also said that light that promoting true scientific culture will produce the eminent scientists in every corner of the country.

He lauded the efforts of Dr. Ishfaq Ahmed to mark this important day. He also said that Government, to pay necessary attention to science & technology for the prosperity and bright future of the country. He also stressed the importance of biodiversity and shared his experiences of disseminating biodiversity information amongst the youth of Pakistan.

Dr. G. Raza Bhatti is appointed as focal person for coordinating different activities related to the International Year of Biodiversity. He also delivered a thought provoking talk on issues of Biodiversity on this occasion.

According to him the recent floods are because of the alterations made in the environment by the human interventions.

Dr. Ishfaq Ahmed Advisor N.I, H.I, S.I, Advisor, Planning Commission, congratulated PSF for organizing the "World Science Day". World Science Day is celebrated internationally on the suggestion of



Dr. Ashfaq Ahmed as he wrote letter to the then secretary General of UN Kofi Anan to celebrate such a day. On his recommendation world science is celebrated through out the world. Dr. Ishfaq Ahmed also urged the importance of biodiversity and highlighted the steps later by their organization for the promotion of biodiversity.

Chairman PSF, Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro in his address highlighted the PSF efforts to celebrate the international year of Biodiversity. He said that all sub-centres of PASTIC and provincial units of PSF Science Caravan are commemorating the World Science Day by organizing science exhibitions and setting up stalls for provision of PASTIC Services to researchers in their respective areas. With reference to International Year of Biodiversity, PSF has organized a number of activities as follows:

Topic for PSF's 20th Annual Intra and Inter Board Science Poster Competitions 2010 is "Biodiversity of Pakistan".

Pakistan Museum of Natural History of the Foundation organized week-long activities in May 2010. These included: A training workshop on "Nature through Art", a workshop on "Understanding Nature" for Media persons, A Quiz Competition on Biodiversity for students and An Art Exhibition on Biodiversity. A number of Lectures by the Chairman PSF, DG PMNH and other scientists at various forums.

But the mega event on Biodiversity by the Foundation will be the International Travelling Expo on Biodiversity from January till March 2011 with the support of Embassy of France. The Expo will Insha Allah begin on 14th January in Islamabad and after travelling to Abbottabad, Faisalabad and Khairpur will end in Quetta on 31st March 2011.

Views of Foreigner on Food Security and Community Awareness in Sindh

By Caron Rawnsley, Environmental Activist.

Sindh has been the bread basket of this region for millions of people. The fertile sedimentary soils and vast water networks of the irrigation systems meant that most people ate well and the population has actually increased in the Indus region five fold since the partition mainly due to an ideal climate, enormous fertility and liberal water supplies of the region.

As we enter this new century, globalization has deranged and essentially inflated both the cost and productivity of cash crops at the expense of the food security of women and children within rural communities. Schools are full of under nourished young children, not able to study with enthusiasm due to incipient malnutrition hunger now stalks this fair and bountiful land and it is my view when I speak to Doctors that lowered nutrition is affecting perhaps 60% of the female and child population, just as illiteracy has and continues to affect the welfare and development of millions.

Women who remain illiterate fail to obtain basic financial support of the authorities, of charitable institutions or even Zakat money, they have the largest family numbers, little or no family planning and the least options to provide for their children. It is the children of such of women who are at risk in this developing scenario.

Famine is a reality that casts a dark and somber shadow across the history of the sub continent. Under the British there were many routine famines, exacting a terrible human toll in terms of deaths and misery and damaged lives. It is I think now recognized that famine often appears out of nowhere without warning from Government or even preventative institutions such as NGOs and the Media. Korea experienced the silent famine recently when up to 300,000 children may have died and where the main victims were children due to the Government giving surplus food to the military rather than their own people. Ethiopia underwent a horrific famine some 20 years back which quietly destroyed the lives of millions, it was only recognized that a famine was taking place when a lone foreign press Photographer published pictures of the situation in huge refugee camps of the starving displaced peoples that the outside world reacted to this disaster.

Most famines in my view can be traced to mis government, to policies actually intended to harm or displace their own population, this was certainly the case during the great Irish famine of 1845, in which over 1 million died and 2 millions fled or died from disease in the after math.

Enough said I think for us to ask more questions, to take much more seriously the food insecurity that millions are suffering in this region at the moment. Inflation of food prices is due to Government mismanagement and inaction almost certainly, to various cartels who hold special interest contracts on rice, sugar and oil and, it now appears that most vegetables and fruits prices are been manipulated in to scarcity by hoarding and manipulations of the market prices, through over taxation by Government with VAT, making

costs that are totally unacceptable to the poor.

There is a solution to the problem I believe that appears to be quite simple and this is to create community gardens under the auspices of NGOs and other spirited

organizations, where vegetables and fruits may be grown, the priority being for independent and economic nutrition for the most vulnerable elements in our population. NGOs may effectively encourage self help and in the process take under cultivation fertile areas which are at present often lying fallow and unused. For the benefit, of the whole community instead of a minority of land lords who will likely spend their money on luxury vehicles and so forth.

Bimji Ambedkar wrote the Indian constitution and walked many thousands of miles on the dusty roads of Raj India requesting land lords to supply vacant lands to indigenous Dalit people for their subsistence and to transform semi starving bands of landless in to cultivators. Who would no longer have to beg any one for their survival.

Let these thoughts of a simple foreigner be seen as a warning to those of us who care for the millions of young people who yearn to have a good and decent life. Free from hunger pre mature illness and disease.

My suggestion is to visit your local schools in your districts, ask the teachers and the children what they really want, let them respond to our queries by telling us their needs without intermediaries. Let us then respond to their replies by our activism and real life involvement. Light a candle for education by adopting your neighboring Schools, by giving trees to the young fixing the water supply to the latrines and mending the water faucets. An even painting a class room with white wash and contributing the black board or some chalk. Get involved. Meet the young as their patron and their friend. Tell them stories and befriend the next generation by kindness and the distribution of small treats. What you do today for these lovely children will Inshallah keep them and yourself warm in their memory for both you and them until the end of your days.



Blue Globe Award by the World Wetland Network

The Blue Globe Award announced by the World Wetland Network during a ceremony held in Nagoya, Japan, on October 26, 2010!

The World Wetland Globes are a series of awards which recognize and encourage best practice in wetland management.

They are supported by the Fundacion Biodiversidad and consist of Blue Globe Award for the best practice in wetland management, Green Globe Award for the best practice in the wetland restoration and Grey Globe Award for the wetlands under threat.

The Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve located in Romania was selected as the winner of the Blue Globe Award after a voting process carried out by wetland NGOs running from July to September 2010.



Dr. NELA MIAUTA Received Award

Around 500 wetland NGOs from all over the world cast over 400 votes for 133 wetlands located in several parts of the world.

The World Wetland Network is an international group of wetland NGOs formed at the Ramsar COP10 in South Korea, in 2008. WWN aims to support wetland NGO's to engage more fully in international wetland conservation efforts, to recognize and support their role and to raise awareness of threats to international wetlands.

The NGO International Wetland Awards scheme is designed to recognize the best and worst cases of management or mismanagement of internationally important wetlands, from the view point of civil society groups.

IC Biour-Life

2010
2010 International Year of Biodiversity

**BIODIVERSITY IS LIFE
BIODIVERSITY IS OUR LIFE**

Have you ever realized the value of variety of life on earth for mankind?

**International Conference on
"Biodiversity is Our Life" (IC Biour-life)**

To be held at
**Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur (Mir's)
Sindh-Pakistan**

Organized by
**Center for Biodiversity & Conservation (CBC)
On**

**29-31
December 2010**



Happy New Year & Merry Christmas



Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation (CBC), Comments are welcome
Email us at botherbgard@yahoo.com, botherbgarden@salu.edu.pk
Website: <http://bgarden.salu.edu.pk>, Call +92-243-9280350,
Designed & Compiled by: Arslan Ahmed (I.T. Assistant) E-mail: ailarik@yahoo.com,
Photos & Illustrations: Shakeel Ahmed (Artist)