



## 2nd Feb, World Wetlands Day



### Nature Walk

On the eve of World Wetlands Day 2<sup>nd</sup> February under the theme of this year *"Caring for Wetlands-an answer to climate change"*, Sangat Development Foundation, Indus For All Program, WWF Pakistan and Sindh Wildlife Department have organized a nature walk in order to celebrate the wetlands day at the site of Deh Akro-II, which is Ramsar site having 32 wetlands.

#### Our Contact



**SANGAT Development Foundation**  
**SDF**

Flat # 7, Sharif Building Market  
Road Nawabshah, Sindh,  
Tel & Fax: 92+ 244-362011

Email: [sangatsindh@gmail.com](mailto:sangatsindh@gmail.com),

The nature walk passed from different areas of Jamsahib town and concluded at press club.

The participants of the nature walk holding play cards and banners in their



hands inscribed different slogan and public messages for the protection and development of the wetlands.

While addressing the nature walk, Mr. Nisar A. Brohi, Director, Sangat Development Foundation said that wetlands are very important for the



survival of various species and also provide feeding grounds to the fauna.

Deh Akro-II wetlands are desert wetland complex and very unique in the world. These wetlands harbouring different species of fauna and flora, some are very rare in the world. Deh Akro-II is the largest crocodile sanctuary in South Asia, but unfortunately no proper attention has been paid for its protection and development.



He further said that during the last couple of years, the natural resources of Deh Akro-II have been degraded at large scale. The degradation caused due to the massive deforestation and over greasing of the plants and tress of the wetlands by the local community as well as outsiders in order to meet their daily fuel needs and some cases sell to kill the poverty. It has also largely been noticed that some wood mafias are involved in the deforestation in Deh Akro-II.

Deh Akro-II wetlands water has become saltish/salty water due to stoppage of fresh and sweet water from the Jamrao and Nara Canals which were used to be provide them in the past.

He further appealed to the concerned stake-

holders of the areas especially to the government departments and the local community to come forward and play their due role for the protection and development of the dying wetlands of Deh Akro-II, as the looming disaster could be

diverted and the remaining threatened habitats of vulnerable species to be made safe and secure and stop further their degradation.

He appealed to the local community to play their due role

for the rehabilitation of the wetlands and conservation of their biodiversity.

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While speaking on the occasion, Mr. Rauf Samoon, President of Press Club Jamsahib said that due to unawareness of the local community on the importance of wetlands and their biodiversity and apathy of the concerned departments have played havoc to the resources of the wetlands at Deh Akro-II Nawabshah.

He said that there is need of long term efforts for the community awareness in order to sensitize to the local community on the importance of the wetlands and their rapidly growing deterioration conditions of its remaining natural resources.

Dr. Muhammad Zaman Daunro, local social activist said that Deh Akro-II wetlands are unique desert wetlands complex in the

world. These wetlands have been rearing very unique species such as marsh crocodiles.

He further said that due to the massive deforestation from Deh Akro-II wetlands area has resulted into climate change which caused large scale depletion and degradation of the fauna and flora species of the area.

Mr. Qaimuddin Dahri, Inspector, Sindh Wildlife Department said that the department is making its all possible efforts for the protection and conservation of the biodiversity of the wetlands of Deh Akro-II, but there is need of community participation in the conservation

of the biodiversity. He further said that it is time that the local community and the department should collectively make efforts in

order to provide shelter to the endangered species of Deh Akro-II. Unless, the local community would not cooperate, we can not have desired results.

Mr. Ameer Hamza, Project Coordinator on Wetlands Program of Sangat Development Foundation said

that the wetland program has been launched with an objective to conserve the natural resources of the wetlands and work of the rehabilitation of the wetlands and their biodiversity in Deh Akro-II.

