

## SCI-TECH

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### 120, 000 trees planted in Sindh

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**KARACHI: Local communities in Sindh planted 120,000 trees during the national plantation campaign observed across the country on August 18, 2009.**

The community plantation initiative was supported by the Indus for All Programme of WWF Pakistan in three districts of Sindh including Thatta, Shaheed Benazirabad (formerly Nawabshah) and Sanghar. More than 30 local NGOs and community-based organisations and ten schools took part in the campaign.

The programme's priority sites are located in these districts namely Keti Bunder and Keenjhar Lake in Thatta, Pai Forest in Shaheed Benazirabad and Chotiari Reservoir in Sanghar. These sites represent the significant ecosystems in the Indus ecoregion such as mangrove and riverine forests, freshwater and brackish lakes and rangelands.

The programme involves local communities to safeguard and improve the dwindling conditions of natural resources like forests, fisheries and wildlife species. By building their capacities and enhancing their participation in decision making, the campaign intends to make communities the stewards of their resources.

It also aims to inculcate a sense of ownership and self-reliance among the local communities so that their dependence on natural resources could be reduced and they could take actions on self-help basis.

An overwhelming response and participation by the local communities at the Programme's priority sites is an example of self-help development initiatives.

Schoolchildren and youth groups also took part in the campaign in which three schools of The Citizen Foundation (TCF) in Keti Bunder planted 2,000 Neem trees on their respective campuses and about 6,000 trees were planted by various private and government schools in Shaheed Benazirabad, Sanghar and Thatta.

In Keti Bunder, the communities planted 35,000 mangrove plants on about 32 acres of land in Hajamro Creek. The initiative, on one hand, would be helpful in stabilizing the coastline and on the

other it would be a source of livelihoods for the local communities.

Similarly, in District Thatta, communities of four different villages planted 10,000 trees of *Corymbium*, *Eucalyptus*, and *Neem* around Keenjhar Lake. This plantation would help clean the environment around Keenjhar Lake.

Meanwhile in Sanghar, 47,000 plants of *Acacia*, *Eucalyptus* and *Neem* were planted on 46 acres of land in 11 villages. In Shaheed Benazirabad 25,000 of *Acacia* and *Neem* were planted in Pai Forest with the help of local community-based organizations and schoolchildren.

Representatives of district governments and other stakeholders were present during the campaign and extended their support to the community organisations, who have also taken charge of looking after these plants. -PPI

<http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/news/sci-tech/18-120000-trees-planted-in-sindh-am-01>

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