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Call to restore Indus Delta Meeting reviews water shortage in Sindh

OUR STAFF REPORTER

KARACHI - The eighth meeting of the Indus Eco-region Steering Committee (IESC) was held by the Planning & Development Department, Government of Sindh.

The Secretary Forest and Wildlife Mushtaque Memon presided over the meeting. Speaking on the occasion, he said that water scarcity was affecting the province in general and Indus Delta in particular.

- He said that the Delta was known for its red rice crop but now people were living in miserable conditions. The meeting decided to seek public opinion on declaring as to what may be titled as Sindh Animal and Sinh Bird.

Regional Director WWF Dr Ghulam Akbar briefed the meeting on background of Indus for All Programme being implemented at four sites including Keti Bunder, Keenjhar, Chotiari and Pai in partnership with key stakeholders.

The meeting was briefed about the major achievements of Indus for All Programme. The Programme Coordinator Nasir Ali Panhwar in his briefing to meeting said that periodic wildlife and habitat sur-

vey has been conducted in four sites including, while two consultative workshops were organized to seek input from stakeholders on the revision of Sindh wildlife ordinance 1972.

He informed that pen culture has been established at Keenjhar on experimental basis, while twenty household solar systems have been provided to communities of Keti Bunder and Keenjhar.

He said a fact-sheet on neem tree, which is the provincial tree, has been published.

Panhwar also informed that livelihood development plans are being implemented in collaboration with community and district government. Various initiatives such as milk chiller at Pai, Livestock vaccination in Chotiari and Pai, fisheries management training in Keti Budner and Keenjhar were held.

The meeting was informed that an exposure visit of journalists was organized to Sunderbans deltaic eco system. The significant environmental days such as wetlands day, water day and earth day were observed during the period.

Director NRM Indus for All Programme Rab Nawaz said that terms of reference of

Wetlands Management Authority and Keenjhar Coordination Committee have been developed for further discussion.

The Additional Secretary Livestock & Fisheries Department Abdul Waheed, DCO Sanghar Rasool Bux Samejo, Senior Chief Planning & Development Department Fazal Ahmed Nizamani, Additional Secretary Development Finance Rafeoo Shah, Waqar Phulphoto from Sindh EPA, Dr. Mumtaz Sohag GM SIDA, Tabasum Afzal from Shirkat Gah, Imran Shaikh from Irrigation and Power Department, Dr. Karim Bux Leghari EDO Agriculture

Shaheed Benazirabad, Shahryar Kazi of Coastal Development Authority, Dr. Altaf Abro Manager WWF Sindh, Manager Policy Khadija Zaheer, Manager M&E Shahid Panhwar and others attended the meeting.