

Media Update

29 March 2018

UNIDO

Press Release

Stakeholder consultation on agribusinesses in Gilgit-Baltistan

UNIDO with the collaboration of Department of Agriculture, Livestock & Fisheries of Gilgit Baltistan organized a stakeholder consultation under the project Agribusiness and Agro-Industries Department Assistance to Pakistan – Initiative for Gilgit and Baltistan funded by the ONE UN Fund on 28th March 2018 at UNIDO office in Islamabad. The workshop was opened by H.E. Barbar Aman Barbar, Secretary of Planning & Development, Government of Gilgit Baltistan who said that the government of Gilgit Baltistan is very keen on developing the local agriculture sector through the technical assistance of UNIDO. Participant from Department Agriculture and the Fisheries Department mobilized local farmers, traders and exporters to review the current situation in these sectors.

The participants including the progressive trout, cherry and apple farmers from Gilgit Baltistan, were found very committed to develop their value chain based on a holistic approach which will be developed by UNIDO. The interactive discussion and the participation of different stakeholders allowed to get a provided a deep insight to the problems which local farmers and traders are facing at the moment. They indicated the need of both short term and long term corrective measures, particularly related to productivity, packaging, branding and market linkages. Women farmers also made their voice heard by requesting UNIDO for further assistance in developing their productive and compliant capacities.

Ms. Nadia Aftab, UNIDO Country Representative highlighted the importance of UNIDO assistance to uplift the local agribusinesses in Gilgit-Baltistan through improving their productive capacities, compliance with requirements and linking them to markets. The initiative will reinforce sustainable livelihoods



in Gilgit Baltistan, also contributing towards the government's commitment to achieve the various SDGs including SDG1, SDG2 and SDG9.

The workshop was concluded with the agreement on setting a road map for the selected value chains in Gilgit Baltistan which UNIDO will work on in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, Planning and Development Department of Gilgit-Baltistan as well as stakeholders and women representative organizations.

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UNODC Press Release

MoU Signing between WWF-Pakistan and UNODC to Check Illegal Wildlife Trade

Islamabad, 29 March: WWF-Pakistan and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Thursday to work together through innovative means to curb illegal wildlife trade in Pakistan.

The collaboration will contribute towards enhancing capacities of relevant law enforcement agencies in particular Pakistan Customs, to acquaint them about the key aspects of illegal wildlife trade in order to enhance vigilance against wildlife trafficking. Both organizations will also launch joint awareness campaigns to raise awareness on this issue.

Rab Nawaz, Senior Director Programmes, WWF-Pakistan said that illegal wildlife trade is a persistent conservation challenge that could be managed through collaborative efforts. The illegal wildlife trade is recognised as translational organised crime due to its lucrative nature and organised criminal networks involved in operating the supply chain of illegal wildlife trade. According to him, this partnership with UNODC would set a benchmark to address the wildlife trafficking issue in the country and further strengthen the efforts to support capacity building of our trade monitoring and regulating



authorities. “Our previous work has helped unravel the scale of illegal wildlife trade across the country and species which are facing extinction as an outcome to it. We rely on the support of partners to highlight and take action against this organized crime,” he said. He further added that WWF-Pakistan has recently initiated a snow leopard conservation initiative focusing on adoption of zero-poaching frame-work to protect the species from poaching and illegal trade. This would include piloting of Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART), a technology based approach to support effective conservation of the species

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Cesar Guedes, Representative UNODC said, “Wildlife crime destabilizes ecosystems and alongside habitat destruction, poses a grave threat to endangered wildlife. It does, however, take a greater stretch of the imagination to see how illegal wildlife trade is not solely an environmental injustice, but also undermines state authority, fuels violent conflict and terrorism, impacts national and global security and socioeconomic development. Estimated to generate US\$20 billion annually, illegal wildlife trade is one of the largest global illegal activities.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) recognizes wildlife crime as the third largest transnational crime after drugs and human trafficking, which undermines state authority and socio-economic development. Illegal wildlife trade has a devastating impact on biodiversity and ecosystems.

Mr Guedes also said, “the World Wildlife Crime Report which was issued in 2016 represents the first global assessment of its kind. The report builds on information taken from World WISE: which-unveiled data platform, which contains over 164,000 seizures related to wildlife crime from 120 countries. One of the key observations that the database illustrates is the extreme diversity of this illegal activity: nearly 7,000 species are included in the seizures, yet no single one represents more than six per cent of the total, nor does a single country constitute the source of more than 15 per cent of the seized shipments.

Mr Guedes also said that benefiting with the expertise of WWF in educating frontline law enforcement officers will alert them on new risks and will enable them to identify and intercept wildlife that are being trafficked and we are happy to be able to contribute in stopping this trend through this initiative.

This partnership is also well-aligned with the objectives of the National Plan of Action developed by WWF-Pakistan in collaboration with the Ministry of Climate Change and the involvement of relevant stakeholders. The Action Plan

provides a road-map to combat illegal wildlife trade in Pakistan. WWF-Pakistan has a long history of working and addressing the issue of illegal wildlife trade. For the first time Pakistan the organization will initiate the first Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART), a technology based system to protect wildlife from poaching and illegal trade in the country.

The partnership between WWF-Pakistan and UNODC-WCO's Container Control Programme (CCP) aims to strengthen collaboration for effective management of illegal wildlife trade through effective coordination, knowledge and information sharing, and institutional capacity building, of the relevant law-enforcement agencies in Pakistan.

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Download Pic: <https://we.tl/e4YTlm7vhD>

About WWF-Pakistan: WWF-Pakistan was formed in 1970 to address the growing environmental and conservation issues in Pakistan that not only affected the flora and fauna, but were also affecting the human population. WWF-Pakistan is a non-profit organization, working to preserve, conserve and save our environment and natural resources. Today, WWF -Pakistan works through 26 offices with a team of almost 300 dedicated staff members. With its head office in Lahore, and five regional offices in major cities of Pakistan, it has project offices wherever there is a need and the potential to make a difference.

About UNODC Pakistan: UNODC has been working in Pakistan for over 35 years, in close collaboration with the Government of Pakistan (GOP) and civil society, with the purpose of addressing development challenges, specifically related to drugs and crime. For further information please visit UNODC website: <http://www.unodc.org/pakistan/en/index.html>

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