

Environmental Rehabilitation for NWFP and Punjab Northern Pakistan

June 2009



Location: The project took place in Northern Pakistan's North West Frontier Province (NWFP) in Galiat and Kohistan, as well as in Punjab, in Murree and Kotli Sattian.

Project: "Environmental Rehabilitation for NWFP and Punjab" was a seven-year EU-funded project, which ended in 2003 and was a result of a multi-agency collaboration between the Pakistan Department of Environment and Departments of Forestry, Fisheries and Tourism and IUCN-Pakistan. The main goal of the project was to halt and reverse the processes of environmental degradation through integrated measures of rehabilitation/conservation of natural resources and sustainable socio-economic

development with active participation of the local communities.

Threats: The main threats to this mountainous area include deforestation with heavy pressure on vegetative cover through grazing and fuel wood, widespread forest fires, soil erosion, landslides, water scarcity, poverty and gender exclusion in decision-making processes for natural resources management.

Objectives: Develop and strengthen local capabilities for sustainable resource management and utilization, halt current degradation of watersheds and repair damage to

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION CASE STUDY

natural resources, notably for slope stabilization to reduce the occurrence of landslides and through the building of check dams to reduce flash flooding. The project sought a balance between economic growth, conservation and disaster risk reduction.

Results: The project led to the plantation of trees on 45,000 hectares, the formation of 925 male and female informal social institutions to organise local development initiatives, training of 800 village extension workers, hundreds of check dams for soil conservation and flood control, locally-adapted soil conservation measures, and water harvesting and management.

Why it worked: Successful awareness-raising campaign on natural resources management, strong multi-agency collaboration, human resources development and planning and an exit strategy providing for long-term disaster risk reduction and environmental management.

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