

Mangroves to be planted on 25-hectare coastline

KARACHI, Sept 25: Mangroves would be planted over 25 hectares along the Karachi coast for which an agreement has been signed by the IUCN and a commercial bank.

Under the agreement, the IUCN-Pakistan will raise a mangroves plantation of over 25 hectares along the Karachi coast.

The area selected for plantation is densely populated and it was noted that over a period of 60 years, the selected coastal strip had degraded due to over-exploitation, pollution and neglect.

Besides creating a green belt, the plantation will also constitute a barrier to protect coastal communities from natural calamities and enhance fisheries potential in the immediate vicinity, according to Shah Murad Aliani of the IUCN-P.

The organisation began its efforts to restore degraded mangroves forests in Pakistan in the early '90s and these efforts are under way. For several years, restoration of mangroves forests had been carried out in Sindh and

Balochistan and over 30,000 hectares has already been restored and restocked. Under this afforestation programme many exotic and indigenous species have been replanted on an experimental basis throughout the coast.

This first initiative by the bank with IUCN-Pakistan focuses on mangrove plantation for ecosystem restoration and job opportunities for the local population, including the flood-affected people from Keti Bunder and Kharo Chhan areas.

This agreement manifests the two stakeholders' interest in environmental sustainability and the agreement has set a standard for the private sector to follow in order to recognise the value of ecosystems in coastal infrastructure, representatives of the IUCN and the bank agreed.

The role of IUCN's business and biodiversity programme is to influence the private sector in realising their responsibility towards environment, ecosystem values and sustainable development, it was stated.—APP

Mangroves to be planted along Karachi coast

Karachi

Mangroves would be planted over 25 hectares along the Karachi coast. An agreement to this effect was signed between two private organisations here on Saturday.

The area selected for plantation is densely populated and highly degraded.

It was pointed out that over a period of 60 years the selected coastal strip had degraded due to over exploitation, pollution and neglect.

Besides creating a green belt, the plantation will also constitute a barrier to protect

communities from coastal calamities as well as enhance fisheries potential in the immediate vicinity.

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