



FINAL REPORT
**Conservation and Rehabilitation of
Elum Valley Forest Project.**

(February 2005 – May 2007)



A joint collaboration of

EU UNDP SGP- PTF, SEARCA

and

Environmental Protection Society (EPS)

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INTRODUCTION

I The Collaborating Partners

I.I Environmental Protection Society (EPS) Swat

Environmental Protection Society (EPS) is a non-governmental organization (NGO). Founded in 1991, EPS was registered in 1994 under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. Presently its main activities and projects are concentrated in District Swat and Shangla but it has extended some of its activities specially trainings and technical facilities to the districts of Upper & Lower Dir, Buner, and Malakand. It has therefore developed good working relations with most of the organizations and departments of these areas and Donors. It is a non-profit and non-ethnic organization concerned with the physical, social and cultural environment of the region. The Mission of EPS is to address issues of poverty and environmental degradation in this rejoin through Research, Advocacy, Awareness Raising, Social Mobilization, Human and Institutional Development and Service Delivery by adopting a conflict-free and culturally viable approach with a blend of professionalism and voluntary zeal. Pakistan Center for Philanthropy (PCP) has recently accredited the Society and the NGO Section/DESA has also recommended the case of EPS for consultative status to United Nation Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

I.II United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

The UNDP is the United Nations' global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. UNDP is on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national challenges. As these countries develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and its wide range of partners.

I.III European Union

The European Union (EU) comprises fifteen European countries committed to work and act together towards ever increasing integration in many different fields, such as economics, common foreign and security generally in all areas where joint action is deemed more efficient than fifteen individual actions.

I.IV SEARCA

The Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) is an institution committed to strengthening institutional capacity in sustainable agriculture to attain food security in Southeast Asia through human resource development, research, knowledge exchange and policy support. SEARCA seeks to transform ideas and technologies generated from programs and research into strategies and actions, not only to promote sustainable agriculture and natural resources management as approach but as a way to improve the quality of life in the region.

II Elum valley- The Project Area

Elum valley is located in the south of district Swat with a population of approximately 6159 persons and consisted of 19 Small villages/ hamlets with an

average household size of 10.37. The north and west watershed of Mount Elum shape the project area. On north facing slope thirteen villages/hamlets and on the west six villages fall in the project area.

Elum was one of the beautiful valleys of Swat, where several best scenic sites exist. Elum is the highest mountain, about nine thousand & two hundred feet, of Hindu Raj range in the south of District Swat and the valley is named after it. Valley has some unique features. It is the nearest valley to the District Headquarter Saidu-Sharif. It was rich in terms of Wildlife species like Grey Goral & Monal Pheasant (the most beautiful Pheasant in the World). Several tracks in the valley are available to ramblers. A number of places with plenty of crystal clear water in the valley have the potential to provide recreation, rest areas & campaigning sites to the tourists. Elum valley has not only unique topographic places but has archaeological and historical importance. Ram Takht of Maha Raja Ram Chander Jee, who spent 3 years of his Baan boos, has still great importance in mind of Sikhs & Hindus. However, with the passage of time it loses its glory, because of unwise use of natural resources.

III CARE Project

Elum Valley Swat was once rich in terms of natural resources. But since the last few decades (1970) the natural resources in the area are exceedingly remained under pressure. The excessive and unsustainable use of these resources reached to the disturbing stage. EPS planned CARE forest project, launched in Elum Valley in collaboration with EU UNDP SGP-PTF and SEARCA with a financial allocation of more than six million. The over all objective of the project was to promote optimal utilization of forest resources and contain depletion in the targeted area. Activities of the project started in February 2005 with emphasis on social mobilization, awareness raising regarding conservation of the existing forests. Beside forest, the project addressed the issues relating to wildlife conservation, eco-tourism and entrepreneurship development. The protection of regeneration and plantation of new saplings were also designed in the project agenda.

IV Approach

The theme of the Project was forest resources management in Elum Valley. It was participatory project. For this essential & difficult task all stakeholders, especially the community and line departments especially the Forest and Wildlife Department were actively involved through out project cycle. The community's support was considered crucial for successes from the day first. Community was mobilized for collective interests. Their income was substituted through initiation of alternate potential activities in their areas. These income generation activities not only improved their livelihood condition but also provided great support in sensitization of the forest related issues. They are agreed to protect the plantation & regeneration in their respective areas. The Functional TGOs & WPCs and JFMC so formed by the project and linked with concerned line agencies will further carry out these activities for rehabilitation of natural resources in Elum valley.

Executive Summary

Environmental Protection Society since its inception in 1991 is struggling for rehabilitation of environment in this region. During project execution participatory approach was adopted right from situation analysis and planning till implementation and monitoring. Social mobilization was one of the initial activities and 10 Target Group Organizations, 3 Wildlife Protection Committees and a valley level Joint Forest Management Committee were formed. The project launched awareness campaign and sensitized all the stakeholders including the communities, line departments and individuals to help them in the cause of forest conservation. Different seminars and workshops were organized. Moreover, the project developed different types of promotion materials and documentary film.

The project adopted two-way strategy to protect the forest resources. On the one hand it launched aforestation campaign, raised nurseries and protected regeneration and on the other, worked on alternative means of livelihood to raise income of the local people and reduce pressure on forest resources

The project in different events planted more than 150,000 seedlings of forest trees and wild fruit. The communities were facilitated and they raised nurseries.

Beside scenic sites the project area has many historically important remains. The project organized visits of journalists to different scenic and religious remains to promote the area through newspapers and electronic media. The Ramtakht is a religious place for Hindu and Sikhs, situated on the top of mount Elum. Before the merger of Swat State they used to come for worship and held the Sawan Sangran Mela here. The project revived this mela. Moreover, the beautiful scenic sites and presence of historically important buildings and remains make Elum Valley an ideal place for eco and adventure tourists but they were unexplored and there was no trend of eco-tourism in the valley. The project developed a model sites in the region to introduce the trend of eco-tourism, improved 11 kilometers tracks to the spot, constructed 2 rest areas, established eco-camp and developed business plans on eco-tourism promotion. The project also developed web site for the promotion of tourism in the region. Similarly a national workshop was organized where stakeholders from all over the country participated and developed a three-year strategic plan for the promotion of tourism in the region.

Gender equity is the cross cutting theme of the project. To involve female of the area in development initiatives the project formed a female community organization and trained the female activists in different areas like embroidery, kitchen gardening and honey bees keeping.



Project Terminal Report

1. General Information

- 1.1 Project Title:** Conservation and Rehabilitation of Elum Valley (CARE)
- 1.2 Project Site/s:** Elum Valley, District Swat, NWFP, Pakistan
- 1.3 Project Partner:** Environmental Protection Society (EPS)
- 1.4 Address:** Saidu Sharif, 19200 District Swat NWFP, Pakistan
- 1.5 Contact Numbers:** Tel: +92-946-9240254
Fax: +92-946-721062
E-mail: info@eps-swat.org
Website: www.eps-swat.org
- 1.6 Contact Persons:** Akbar Zeb - Executive Director
- 1.7 Total Amount Approved:** **PKR 5.441 M** **Date Approved:** Feb. 2005
- 1.8 Revised Budget:** **PKR 6.041M**
- 1.9 Total Amount Received:** **PKR 5.441M**
- 1.10 Project Duration:** 2Years & 4Months
- 1.11 Project Start-up:** February 2005
- 1.12 Target Completion Date:** September 2006
- 1.13 Actual Completion Date:** May 2007

Project Number: INT/01/G52/A/IG/71

Project Name: Conservation and Rehabilitation of Elum Valley (CARE)

Grant Recipient: Environmental Protection Society (EPS)

Project Director or Person responsible: Akbar Zeb - Executive Director

Grant Recipient Address: Darbar Saidu Sharif,19200 District Swat
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Website: www.eps-swat.org

Location of Project: Elum Valley District Swat, NWFP,
Pakistan.

Project Start and End Dates (as originally proposed):
February 01, 2005 to September30, 2006

Changes (if any) in Start or End Dates: February 01, 2005 to May 31, 2007

Period Covered by Report: February 2005 to May 2007

Disbursement Request	Local Currency	US\$ equivalent
SGP PTF Grant amount	6.041M	
SGP PTF Funds received to date for this grant	5.410M	
SGP PTF Funds spent to date	6.041M	
Funds balance	0.6M	
SGP PTF Grant disbursement requested	0.6M	
Note Rs 0.6M has been transferred from EPS account to CARE project account for execution of activities, which is to be disbursed to EPS.		

Project Co-financing Received (contribution of NGO/Community/other sources):

Source	Type (In-kind or Cash)	Amount	
		Local Currency	US\$ equivalent
10 TGOs	Labor, Inputs & Cash	400000	
3 WPCs	Labor, Inputs & cash	65000	
1 JFMC	Labor, Inputs & Cash	40000	
		505000	

Report submitted by:

Name: Saleem Khan
Title: Project team Leader/Coordinator
Signature: _____
Date: June30, 2007.

NARRATIVE REPORT

PREAMBLE:

This Project Terminal Report reflects the progress made during the project period (February 2005 to May 2007).

2. Project Background

2.1 Project Brief

Environmental Protection Society (EPS) entered in partnership with EU UNDP SGP-PTF and Launched Conservation and Rehabilitation of Elum Valley (CARE) Project in February 2005 in targeted villages of the valley that comprises of Swat & Buner districts, of NWFP in Pakistan.

The people living in forest surroundings are mostly dependent on natural resources. They cut forest trees and sell them to the timber smugglers on nominal rates to earn their living. Due to this illegal practice forest and the associated natural resources in the valley depleted very rapidly and livelihood condition of the people further aggravated. EPS appraisal team during situation analysis of the area observed the situation and, therefore, aimed the project for the revival of the situation and worked with community and other stakeholders on Conservation & Rehabilitation of ecosystem. The project tried and explored such alternative income generation activities which on one hand considerably substituted the prevailing erroneous practices natural resources depletion and on other improved the livelihood conditions of the local people. Initiatives such as Eco-tourism, Track Improvement, distribution of fuel-efficient stoves, social and skills enhancement training, demonstration plots of Fruit, vegetable & cereal crops, Energy Efficient Guest house etc taken for the benefits of the local communities greatly contributed to the conservation of forest. In addition to it the project also executed such activities that directly contributed to the promotion of forest and associated natural resources in valley. These activities include plantation campaign, nurseries establishment, protection of regeneration & Plantation sites etc. All these activities were executed in true letter and spirit with full involvement of communities, elected members and the concerned line departments in 10 hamlets/villages of Elum Valley.

Through out the project activities major focus was to convince the people to use right approach and to devise a system for sustainable use of the natural resources, particularly forest of the area. The project also built and enhanced the capacity of the local communities for self-management of their natural resources. Their indigenous knowledge was further polished and income increased through wise use of natural resources and other small scale enterprises.

Gender mainstreaming was the crosscutting theme of the project. The marginalized sector of the community, especially, women in few villages were encouraged to participate in the project activities and play their due role in the conservation of natural resources. They were briefed about the project and enabled to

articulate their own needs, and seek solutions on their own. They participated in some project activities mainly kitchen gardening & embroidery.

Community organizations were in placed. Strengthening of Target Group Organizations, Wildlife Protection Committees, JFMC & local institutions was done for the purpose to minimize their dependence on external assistance and enable them to carry out the on going activities initiated under this project.

2.2 Project Goal

Conservation & Rehabilitation of Elum Valley Natural resources (Forest and associated natural resources).

2.3 Specific Objectives

- Functional TGOs and WPCs in placed.
- Forest regeneration and rehabilitation promoted.
- Community's income increased through NTFPs & other sources
- Basic facilities for Eco-tourism available

3. Corner meetings Project objectives and expected outputs based on the agreed M & E plan and taking into consideration the following general themes:

3.1 Community Mobilization

3.1.1 Corner Meetings

The project first identified male and female activists in the project area and then held a series of corner meetings with the activists, influential people of the area and other community members. The project also held meetings with the elected members and concerned line department and successfully involved them in the project interventions.

In the meeting the project objectives were explained in detail and the community role in the conservation and protection of natural resources was highlighted during the meetings. During the meetings process of Target Group Organizations (TGOs) and Wildlife Protection Committees was discussed with the community members



In the very inception of the project during corner meetings, the project team realized that without religious leaders (Ulema) support it would be difficult to organize the community members and involve them in the planned initiatives of the

project. The project, therefore, held meetings with the ulamas of area and briefed them about the project. The ulamas gave a positive response and some of them then got membership in the TGOs formed by the project.

3.1.3 One-day workshop for Ulema

The project arranged a one day workshop for the ulamas of the region on August 11, 2005. Besides the ulama community activists, representatives of Forest Department and other line agencies and EPS members participated in the workshop. All the participants were briefed about the interventions planned under the project and the ulamas were asked to support the philosophy of the project in their addresses especially during Friday. The ulamas agreed to highlight the importance of protection and sustainable use of natural resources in light of Islamic ideology.



3.1.4 Community level meetings

After coner meeting in each village of the project area and ulamas willingness to support the project series of village level collective meetins were initiated in the area. In the meetings loose community organizations were formed and a participatory strategy for the groups strengthening and sustainable management of forest resources was discussed.



3.1.5 Formation of Target Group Organization

Participation of the local people in meetings and their interest encouraged the project staff to accelerate the process of community organization. The project through community level collective meetings replaced the lose groups in to a formal target groups.

The society in Elum valley as whole is quite traditional and conservative one but keeping in view the gender approach, the female were encouraged and motivated to organize themselves and take part in the development process. However, the progress in female TGOs formation remained slow and low. Due to the conducive

environment and the workable strategy adopted by the project 9 Male TGOs were formed against a target of 6 and 1 Female TGO formed against a target of 3.

Following is the name of the TGOs formed under CARE Project

- Falahi Committee Amlok Tall
- Islahi Committee Mohalla Sher khaney,
- Jangal Bachaow & Falahi Tanzeem Jowz
- Islahi & Falahi Committee Bara Mithra Pindai,
- Islahi Committee Kuza Mithrai Pindi a Muthrapendai,
- Falahi Tanzeem Marghuzar Chum
- Elum Taraqitee foundation, Elum Kalay
- Falahi Tanzeem Mashay
- Falahi Tanzeem Kadoona
- Female TGO in Miragai, Marghazar

3.1.6 Formation of wild life Protection Committees

Marghuzar is the central village of Elum Valley. The name was assigned to the village because it was abounded with precious birds and other animals. Due to lack of awareness besides the other precious natural resources the practice of illegal hunting was very common. The project focused on this area, conducted peasant survey to know about the prevailing situation. To protect the wildlife the project

involved the hunters along with other inhabitants of the area in the protection process by organizing them into Wildlife Protection Committees (WPCs) that were formed on the lines of TGOs. The project also linked these committees with the Wildlife Department to have sustainable outcome of the activity. The Project facilitated the formation of one WPCs each in Kadoona, Jowaz, and Elum villages.



3.1.7 Formation of JFMC

After the formation of TGOs and WPCs the need felt was to cluster all these organizations and form a valley level umbrella organization. The project organized a mass gathering where more than 60 persons from TGOs, WPCs, UC, Forest Department and



CARE-EPS staff participated. In the gathering information about the project was disseminated and idea of the clustering shared with the participants. The community members & other local elite appreciated the idea and decided to form valley level Joint Forest Management Committee with presentation of all the TGOs and WPCs of the valley. It was jointly decided that the JFMC would have formal structure and work for conservation as well as over all management of natural resources.

To form valley level JFMC another meeting was held in EPS office where besides the representatives of Elum Vally DFOs of Forest and Livestock also participated. In the meeting JFMC was formed and its structure conceived. The newly formed JFMC members took the oath.



3.2 Awareness Raising and Visibility of the Project (Information, Communication and Visibility Materials produced for the benefit of the Community and Other stakeholders)

3.2.1 Extension Materials

As a part of sensitization and awareness raising the project developed and published different types of promotion materials in English and Pukhto. These include poster, brochure, leaflet and Tourist Guide Map Elum valley. All the promotion materials contains information about the area project and different messages and distributed among the stakeholders at different occasions. The project also published a poems book of a local poet of Marghuzar which is totally related to forest & Environment. The title of the book is “ The Swat Khokolaw”. The book contains such poems which are helpful in sanitizing the people about the issues of environment and the alarming situation of forest in valley.

3.2.2 Awareness Raising Strategy Development

To develop a comprehensive strategy of awareness the project organized a one-day workshop on July 14, 2005 at EPS HRD hall. The workshop comprised of two sessions. In the first session the project team disseminated information about the project. A session of questions and answers was also carried out so that the participants may have a clear picture of the project interventions and the methodology of intervention. The participants took keen interest in the project activities.

Since then the participants were divided in two groups to conduct the second session of the workshop. One of the groups was assigned the task to set recommendations for different interventions to be undertaken for the awareness of all the stakeholders. The second group was asked to put forward recommendations

regarding the strategy for implementation. After accomplishing the assigned tasks the leaders of both the groups presented their recommendations. A series of question and answers was also carried out after the presentations made by the group leaders and final recommendations were set for the development of awareness raising strategy.

Based upon the recommendations set forth during the group work awareness raising strategy for the project was developed. The strategy document comprised the different activities along with implementation strategy for general awareness.

3.2.3 Visit of national level Journalists to the Project area

Objectives of the visit was to highlight the issues of conservation on national and international level, to publicize the Valley for the promotion of eco-tourism and develop linkages with national level news papers/media for effective and forceful projection of the issues and project activities

On October 2 and 3, 2005 the CARE project organized a two days field visit for the journalists of national level news papers and representatives of electronic media. The journalists visited the CARE project area and observed the prevailing situation there. The visit was a part of awareness raising and sensitization campaign of the project. The issues of deforestation, wildlife and



poverty were mainly focused during the visit. Potentials in the valley for the promotion of eco-tourism were also discussed. The journalists spent a night and two days in the project area and observed the situation in the valley thoroughly.

The journalists visited the project area were from, The Daily, Nawa-I- Waqt Lahore, The News Lahore, The Daily Express Lahore, Pakistan Press International (PPI) News Agency, , The Daily Kawish, The Daily Jinnah, The Daily Dawn Lahore, The Daily Mashriq Peshawar, The Daily News Peshawar, AVT Khyber and KTN TV Channel. Representative from UNICEF/ AVT Khyber and www.khyberwatch.com also visited the area along with members from EPS and staff.

3.2.4 Workshop on NTFPs

A two days (21-22 January,2006) workshop on the opportunities and challenges in the Management of Medicinal & Aromatic Products (MAPs) & non Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) in Pakistan was held in Swat Serena Hotel .The workshop was organized by EU UNDP and IUCN Regional Forestry Program Asia region . Different speakers delivered formal presentations and elaborated about the topic.

In-group's work issues confronted to the management of NTFPs were discussed. Each Group suggested concrete & realistic recommendations for

addressing the issues through the concerned stakeholders. In the final session of the workshop strategy for follow up of the actions by the concerned stakeholders was also discussed.

3.2.5 Workshop on peoples' Forest Rights Movement in NWFP

SUNGI Foundation and Sarhad Awami Forestry Ittihad (SAFI) jointly organized a 3 days (11-13 March 2006) workshop on peoples' Forest Rights Movement in NWFP in Peshawar. CARE project staff participated in this Knowledge sharing forum and informed the participants about the initiatives undertaken in Elum valley.

3.2.6 Workshop for Awareness raising and Experience sharing

SGP-PTF partners Organizations in collaboration with Forest and Wild life departments arranged a One-day workshop on March 27, 2006 in Swat Serena Hotel Saidu Sharif Swat. The title of the workshop was 'The Role of Stakeholders in Sustainable forest Management' The purpose of the workshop was to raise awareness among the stakeholders and clarify their role in the promotion of forest. All relevant stakeholders (more than 100 persons) participated and shared their expertise. The report was produced and circulated



among various stakeholders. During group work the following areas of operation were discussed and the participants suggested different viable recommendations.

- Information dissemination about the current position of forest, especially issues and SGP-PTF participatory role & efforts for the forest promotion through formal presentations, delivered by DFO, Forest Division Swat and Coordinator EU UNDP SGP PTF.
- Categorization of identified issues and selection of major issues,
- Appropriate action plans for solution of major issues (i.e Forest land dispute, Alternate sources of energy & substitute of Timber, Livelihood of local community through NTFPs, Awareness raising promotion of Eco-tourism and Removal of ban on forest)

3.2.7 Best Agricultural Practices Workshop

Project Staff participated in 3 days (11-13 March, 2006) workshop "Implementation of Best Agricultural Practices" organized by MRDP in White Palace Marghuzar, Swat

3.2.8 Learning Forum

EU UNDP SGP-PTF financed a series of various trainings under a contract with CHIP organization Islamabad. For feed back of the training program, a one day learning forum was held on 13th Decemeber,2006 in Islamabad. SGP-PTF Coordinator and CHIP organization Management also attended the forum. The participants shared views and give feedback regarding trainings conducted by CHIP for SGP-PTF partner organization's representatives.

3.2.9 Knowledge Management and Networking workshops

EU UNDP SGP-PTF office Islamabad organized knowledge management and networking workshops in Islamabad & Quetta. The representatives of all SGP-PTF Projects and concerned NGOs participated in the workshops. Beside Projects' representatives, the members of National Steering Committee of SGP-PTF, European Union focal person; IUCN Representative, CTA WWF-P, and other prominent personalities of various organizations shared their views, experiences and future vision. Details of the workshops are given below.

- A 2days(10-11th January,2007) workshop held in Islamabad.
- A six days (23rd –28th November, 2006) Knowledge Management Event and exposure visit to Balochistan. Field visits were made with the SGP-PTF team to Suliman Range Chalghoza Forest Conservation Project area, Zirat valley Juniper Forest and CPD Project area (Zargoan Valley Juniper Forest).
- Honoring & Formal Conclusion plus Knowledge Sharing event held in Islamabad on 30th April, 2007. All SGP-PTF project staff and representatives of South and South East Asia also participated in this event.

3.2.10 Visibility Signboards.

As a part of project visibility signboard were installed on the roadside at visible points. One signboard has been installed near the police check post at landaky on the main road from Peshawer to Mingora. The second and third has been installed along the main roads at kokrai and Amlook Dara respectively. Permission has been granted from the TMA Swat for the installation of the signboard.



3.2.11 Wall Chocking:

For wide-range visibility of the project and awareness about forest protection, various messages for protection of forest, wildlife and associated natural resources were marked in local & national languages at different places in Elum Valley.

3.2.12 Documentary film

➤ **Prevailing Situation**

The CARE project under a contract with a private firm produced two documentary films of five and fifteen minute duration. Through the five minute film prevailing situation of the area is highlighted. Situation of the natural resources and physical infrastructure of the area before project interventions have been shown in the film. The video also highlights the ongoing illegal practices regarding the Forest cutting.

➤ **Regular Documentary**

The 15 minutes documentary film sheltered a maximum portion of important activities undertaken for addressing issues highlighted in the five minute documentary film. Its upshots are recorded for the function to match the initial situation with that produced after the project implementation. The film is recorded in Pukhto, Urdu and English languages.

➤ **Special Documentary:**

A special documentary of the swat scenic sites was produced with aim to promote Tourism in area. Sarhad Tourism Corporation Peshawar displayed this film in Tourism Mela held at Landaki Swat.

3.3 Capacity Building:

3.3.1 Basic Skill Development Training of TGOs

Two events of Basic Skill Development (BSD) training one each for a group of 16 members of TGOs were organized in EPS Training hall. Each training event was of six days duration where besides the trainings contents, the Project objective, methodology and activities were also shared with the trainees. The interventions of the project were highlighted through presentation. The main issues of their villages were also discussed. The training provides an opportunity to the trainees for sharing experiences with each other. It also built coordination among the members of



different TGOs and paved the way for formation of cluster organization (JFMC). Following are the major topics covered during the training.

- Community Organization and its role in development.
- Communication
- Development
- Approaches
- Constitution
- Organization
- Record keeping and budgeting.

3.3.2 Training on Survey Techniques of Pheasants

One-day training on Survey Techniques of Pheasants was imparted to the community activists of village Elum and Mashay. Range Officer wildlife department was the facilitator. Community activists, EPS representatives and CARE team attended the training. Purpose of the training was to build capacity of the local community activists to conduct surveys for the project. It was a comprehensive training and all the tools and techniques needed in surveys were discussed in detail. All the participants actively participated in the training sessions.



3.3.3 WPCs Training

To inform the communities of Elum Valley about the importance of wildlife the project organized two days (6 & 7 June, 2006) training for the members of WPCs in EPS training hall. The DFO wildlife swat imparted the training. During first day of the training different topic about the wildlife protection were taught to the trainees. On next day an exposure visit was organized to the Fizagat Pheasantry and community Game Reserve Swegaly Kabal, Swat. The community members realized the importance and looked quite determent to work for the protection of wildlife.



3.3.4 Training in Joint Forest Management (JFM)

Two days training (23-24th January 2007) in joint forest management was organized for the members of JFMC Elum valley. A total of 22 persons participated in the training workshop. The nazim and member of UC Islampur and forest department staff also attended the training.

The DFO, Forest Division Swat imparted the training and asked the participants to form and register JFMC for proper management of natural resources in their respective areas. He asked the participants to ensure forest protection and directed forest staff to extend full support to all the JFMCs in their respective circles.

3.3.5 Embroidery Training:

In order to improve living condition of the people through enhancing earning opportunities the project organized embroidery training for the women of the area who were already involved in the profession. The project enhanced their skill and then facilitated them in marketing of the value added good.

3.3.6 Bee Keeping Training:

Three person from various communities obtained 5 days (26-30 June, 2006) training in Bee keeping. The MRDP & CARE projects jointly hired the services of experts and facilitated the trainings. Boarding /Lodging to trainees from project area was provided by CARE Project. The project also provided two full Bee boxes to each trained persons. Project facilitated them in marketing of honey also.

3.3.7 Kitchen Gardening Training:

In November 2006, kitchen gardening training was conducted by female FSO to a group of 35 women in female TGO Miragai. The project also provided certified seeds for demonstration plots. The group members appreciated the efforts and termed “learning by doing” exercise very useful for community understanding.

3.3.8 Building and Construction Improvement Program

One of the important activities of the project was the construction of energy efficient guesthouse as a model in the area. To built capacity of the local mesons and other traditional skilled persons the project developed linkages with Building and Construction Improvement Program (BACIP) at Gilgit- a project of Aga Khan Planning and Building Services, Pakistan. The project sent six persons from CARE forest project area to BASIF who availed 5 days (19-23rd May2006) training.



3.3.9 Fuel Efficient Stove Manufacturing and Mechanization Training

The project organized a ten days training (11 to 21st December, 2006) in stoves manufacturing and mechanization. Two persons from the project area availed this opportunity. The project also encouraged the trainees to establish the concerned business in the area and provided a tool kit to each of them. This training event not only enable two persons from the project to establish their own enterprise but the community members have now the facility to get the stoves comparatively at cheaper price in their area.



3.4 Agricultural Business Development

3.4.1 Fruit and Forest Nurseries (FFN) rising.

Three nurseries of 4 kanals area were established by project at three different locations (Elum, Kadoona & Miragai). 39831 fruit & fast growing forest plants were produced. Different kind and variety like Peaches, Apple, Persimmon, Pear, Cherry, Walnut and other fast growing forest species saplings were raised. Fruit plants were budded & grafted with improved varieties and introduced in project area. The sizeable plants were distributed among community members in spring season 2007 from these nurseries. They planted the fast growing saplings in their surrounding areas. While fruit plants like quince and pear were also planted on edges of farms land. It expected that in coming 5 to 6 years such initiatives will supplement community income. Plantation of fast growing forest species will not only makes them self-sufficient in firewood stock but they will earn enough money through sale of extra stock. Their income will increase and ultimately pressure on forest will reduce. This intervention built-up orchards and agro-forest nursery business in project area especially in bottom hill pockets of valley.



3.4.2 Demonstrative Plots of cereal crops

Wheat & Maiz demo plots were laid out with TGO Elum Kaley. Wheat Crops in both plots performed very well and showed an edge over the other crops, while the Maiz crop was not very good because of late sowing due to drought. Maiz demo plots was laid out on the same land previously used for wheat plot. Objective of the activity was to convince the people to use their agriculture land for crops in both seasons.

3.4.3 Vegetable demonstration Plots:

Small size Kitchen demonstration plots of winter vegetable (including Spinach, Peas, Turnip and Coriander) were laid out with members' of female TGO Miragi. The Vegetable plots grown-up very well. They harvesting crops and took reasonable benefit of it.

This activity encouraged the growers because they got premium prices. This practice gain momentum with each passing day and it is predicted that the cash farming will supplement community income and pressure on forest cutting will reduce.

3.4.4 New Model Orchards

The project facilitated the TGOs of Kadoona, Sherkhane, Jowaz, Elum, KuzaMithrapindi, Bara Mithrapindi, Alooktall and Miragai to established model orchard on their land with the following specifications.

In Elum & Kadoona orchards of apple (King star variety), in Jowaz, Mithrapindi & Kadoona apricot (Red French variety), in AmlookTall & Sherkhane peaches (Golden Variety) and in Miragai persimmon (Seedless variety) were planted in the orchards.

3.5 Natural Resource Management

All activities carried out during project period were aimed to promote the natural resources and improve livelihood condition of people in the project area. Mass community gatherings were held. TGOs, WPCs and JFMC members were sensitized for the purpose of plantation and protection of regeneration in valley.

3.5.1 Base Line Survey (forest)

Base line survey was conducted to know about the existing trends and intensity of smuggling of timber and fuel wood in the area both for commercial as well as domestic use. The dealers involved in the illegal trade were interviewed and data collected. The survey revealed that the local people are mostly engaged in the illegal trade of timber and fuel wood for earning livelihood. The trend intensifies in winter due to lack of employment opportunities however, decreased in the summer season when the inhabitants are involved in agricultural activities and migrate temporarily to other areas for work.

3.5.2 Baseline Survey of Monal and Koklas Pheasants.

The Elum Valley was once rich in term of wild life especially birds and animals. But in the last few decades these species are threatened in the area due to

excessive and illegal hunting practices. Some of the species are now extinct. To know about the existing population of different birds and animals the project will carry out a number of baseline and surveys. The baseline survey of Koklas and Monal Pheasants was the first in this direction. The Survey was conducted in different localities of the project area on 15th and 24th of May 2005. Community activists, EPS representatives and project team participated in the activity. The Range Officer wildlife department facilitated the team throughout the survey. The team stayed in the field for two nights to collect the data. Five survey points were identified and five teams were as formed prior to the survey. One team was station at each point early in the morning to record the data. Beside the Koklas and Monal Pheasants other species of birds and animals were also recorded during the survey. The findings of the survey are compiled in report to be used as baseline data for the project activities.

3.5.3 Plantation campaigns

To enhance the forest cover in the area the project organized a number of plantation campaign and planted about 13,884 seedlings of different species of forest trees. Beside regular plantation activities through hiring of labor, several plantation events were organized for awareness raising of stakeholders.

The project carried out communal plantation where students, community members and Forest Department participated. Detail of plantation carried out in the project area is given below.



- In year 2005 a total 20000 plants were planted. Out of which 15,000 seedlings of pines and 5,000 seedlings of deodar were planted in Qala Meragai and Elum respectively.
- In year 2006 a total of 1180840 saplings are planted .Out of which 980840 Pines saplings were planted in Qilla Meragai , Gul bandi, Amlook Tall and 20000 Deodar saplings in Kadoona and Elum.

3.5.4 Protection of regeneration sites

Mass community gatherings were held. TGOs, WPCs and JFMC were sensitized for the purpose to protect the plantation and regeneration in valley. As a result the regeneration sites were protected through social and barbed wire fencing and MOUs were signed with the communities in this regard.

3.6 Eco- Tourism Promotions

3.6.1 Eco- Camp and Energy Efficient Guest House in Elum Valley

To promote eco-tourism in the region, EPS through CARE Project established well furnished Eco-camp and Energy Efficient Guest House of permanent structure in the area near Elum Village. The structures comprises of three rooms, one kitchen, two bathrooms and watchman hut.

All necessities of life such as beds, carpets, matrices, cooking utensils etc are provided in these facilities. Tented accommodation to a group of 25 persons in maximum is also available for the eco-tourists. Further beautification of the sites including landscaping is in progress. All these facilities will be available to tourists on payment. Each 25% of the net income will be give to the land owner and the Elum TGO.



3.6.2 Tourism Mela at Landaki Swat

Sarhad Tourism Corporation (STC) and local administration district swat jointly organized a six days Tourism mela at Landakai, Swat on June 25-30, 2006.

CARE Project established a stall in the mela decorated with banners, Photographs and Printed materials. CARE Project Staff briefed the tourists and explained the initiatives taken by project for Eco-Tourism in the area. The project developed a Video film especially for the occasion to inform tourists abot the potential scenic sites of swat particularly of Elum Valley. The tourists and local people showed great interest in EPS stall.



3.6.3 Sawan Sangran Event (Ram Takht Mela)

Besides scenic sites, the project area has also a rich history, abounded with many historical remains. Mount Elum is famous because of two things. First, its peak (*RamTakht*) has the ancient places of worship of the Hindu Raja Ram Chander jee

and secondly, it is the highest peak of Hindu Raj ranges in the south of district Swat. Till the merger of Swat State into Pakistan in 1969, Hindus and Sikhs from all over the country used to come *Ramtakht* for worship. They organized mela (*Sawan Sangran Mela*) here in July each year.

To enhance eco-tourism opportunities and create environment of peaceful co-existence the project revived the *Sawan Sangran* mela on July 15-17, 2006. More than 200 people including 43 Hindus/Sikhs from all over the Frontier Province participated in the mela. The Hindus and Sikhs offered their worships in a peaceful manner. Response of the local people was extraordinary and they provided all sort of support in organizing the event.



The project made all the necessary arrangements and provided basic facilities in shape of shelter, food services at the peak of a mountain where except spring water & wood nothing else was available to meet these basic requirements for stay of human being.

The journalist and Electronic Media representatives also participated in the event. They recorded interviews of different participants, especially from Hindus and Sikhs. The program ended with congregation and was termed successful in all respects.

Wide converge to this event was given by the PTV in local, national and international news. The leading newspapers also give full coverage to the event and published articles in the form of news stories

3.6.4 National Workshop for Tourism Promotion in Malakand Region

Beside other initiatives taken by CARE project-EPS for the promotion of tourism in previous quarters, a workshop titled “Tourism promotion in Malakand Region” was organized by EPS on April 29, 2007 in Swat. EU UNDP SGP-PTF sponsored 50% expenditure of the workshop, while remaining amount was spent by EPS from its own resources. In the concluding session of the workshop an ad hoc committee was formed for the promotion and follow of recommendation



set forth during the group work. Report of the workshop is prepared and circulated among the stakeholders.

3.6.5 Distribution of Fuel-efficient stoves

In Elum Valley almost all the households use fuel wood for cooking and heating purposes. They used traditional hearths, which require more wood and hygienically not sound. To address this issue the project introduced such fuel efficient stoves which consume 55% of wood as compared to traditional hearth to produce the heat. Secondly, the fuel efficient stove produces no smoke. The project provided 200 stoves to the TGOs, WPCs and JFMCs members on cost share basis. Cost of each stove was Rs. 400/=, where Rs. 150/= per stove was paid by the community and the remaining Rs. 250/= by the project. The use of these stoves provided better fire facility to community especially, to women who are very closely link with kitchen activities.



These stoves are used both for cooking as well as warming (in winter). It minimized the household expenditure due less consumption of firewood and as a result the pressure on forest resources decreased substantially.

Communities' wise detail of Fuel-efficient Stoves distributed in Elum Valley is given in the table below.

Name of Target Group Organization (TGO).	No of Stoves.
Elum Taraqitee foundation, Elum Kaley.	35
Falahi Tanzeem Mashay.	10
Islahi Committee Kadoona, Marghazar.	25
FTGO Miragi	27
Islahi & Falahi Committee Bara Mithra Pindai.	10
Islahi Committee Kuza Mithrai Pindi	10
Falahi Committee Amlok Tall.	15
Islahi Committee Sher Khaney , Marghazar	17
Falahi Tanzeem Marghazar Chum	25
Jangal Bachaow Community Jowaz.	26
Total	200

3.6.6 visitswat.com for Tourism Promotion

EPS in collaboration with UNDP PTF has completed a web site on Tourism Promotion in Malakand region and launched it on the WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY i.e., 5th June 2007.

The web site is for the promotion of tourism in general and eco-tourism in particular. Those who are attached with the tourism industry in the region or the country should send their details for display in the web site free of charge. The Swat Hotel management Association, the Tour Operators and other relevant stakes are aware of the web site. Those businesses who want to put their additional aids in the web site should pay to the Webmaster. The name of the web site is visitswat.com.

3.7 Track improvement:

The project rehabilitated the track (passage), starting from Shandala, Marghuzar and reaches to Eco-Camp near Elum village. Rehabilitation included widening, leveling and stone surfacing of the passage.

A total of 11 Km long & 6 feet wide track was improved during the project life with active participation of the communities. The project through the support of Technical Unit of EPS surveyed the passages, prepared the required drawings and marked portions of the passage according to the requirement of leveling or widening or pavement.



The project also linked the TGOs with Malakand Rural Development Project. As a result the TGO Kadoona, initiated a project Jeep-able road construction in collaboration with MRDP. The road will be laid from Marghuzar to Shandala and so far more than 1 Km road is completed. The TGO Elum Village has also initiated dialogues with MRDP to construct jeep-able road from Char Kamar up to Elum village from Bunir side.

3.7.1 Developing of Rest Areas on Trackside

Project constructed two rest areas on trackside at Sodher and Pandyoo. These rest areas are used by the tourists and community members for relaxation during



tracking. In rain and harsh weather, they serve as shelters at different locations for their transitory stay.

4. Effects and early impacts in the Targeted Area:

4.1 Qualitative Changes in the Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices of Target Beneficiaries as well as Partners

During each intervention the project focused on transfer of knowledge and change in attitude and the prevailing practices of the target beneficiaries. The project activities, such as training, demonstrations, workshops, seminars, field days and exposure visit contributed directly to knowledge dissemination that brought improvement in the attitude of the people and their traditional practices. The projects in the very inception focused on social organization to unit and motivate them towards collective initiatives and introduce the concept of self reliance. The people realized the importance of natural resources that without forest their survival in the valley is impossible rather difficult. The traditional hearths were replaced with fuel efficient stoves. People adopted the cultivation of off season vegetables that multiplied their income. They began to facilitate tourist to their area as it is much profitable for them.

The project also proved beneficiary for EPS- the partner organization. Program area of EPS is Natural Resource Management and without this project it would have difficult for EPS to intervene in Elum Valley at such a large scale. The organization also learnt a lot by implementing the project both from the field interventions and the trainings imparted to its staff under this project.

4.2 Degree of Involvement of Marginalized Sectors (male & women) in Decision Making and Benefits accruing

Due to primitive society people in Elum Valley are very conservative in nature. Poverty is rampant where female has no or very little say in natural resource management. EPS launched the project with participatory approach right from situation analyses and planning till implementation and monitoring. The project was successful in involving the marginalized male in the project activities through honoring their ideas and they substantially benefited from the project.

The project succeeded partially to involve female strata of Elum Valley in different activities. They involved in F.E. Stoves distribution, Kitchen gardening and Embroidery trainings only. Their activities were few and confined to their homes only. Conservative nature of society in the valley was the main reason. Therefore,

progress remained low and slow. At the end of the Project, very slight change was noticed in male behavior regarding female involvement in decision making. It is believed that in future women participation would be possible because women showed enthusiasm in project interventions.

5. Lessons learned, Highlighting Key Obstacles Encountered, and How these were Addressed

5.1 Lessons Learned

- The Ulma and influential of the area are to be taken in confidence before involving the local women, tenants & concessionists's groups in any NRM or livelihood activity
- Forest is very lone term business while communities are more attracted towards activities bearing quick economic returns
- Sustainability of natural resources can only be attained when the locals' have alternate income opportunities.
- Ownership concept worked well as compared to community Participation from other position.
- Women involvement in development is very difficult, mainly due to the social constraints in the Project area. For involvement of female special and tailored made approach is required.
- Project area was remained closed for construction activities in winter. Here not only NR activities were seasonal but construction too. Construction activities should be undertaken well in time
- Mobility (Use of pedestrian track) remained a time consuming problem.
- Project period was too short. Such project required 5 to 7 years.

5.2 Key Obstacles Encountered In Project Implementation:

- The society as a whole in valley was passive in women related activities. Limited the involvement of women in many project interventions.
- Due to the unavailability & high prices of weather observatory equipments the weather observatory was not established.
- The spring plantation in months of December & January was comparatively more successful as compared to March & April. Plants easily settled themselves in new places and benefited from extended rain period. So very less mortality of plants occurred in the plantation carried out in those months.

- Due to shifting plants mortality ratio increased and high expenses occurred.
- Members of TGO Elum were not ready to decide about eco-camp and EEGH sites. Sites selection difference took long time and the dialogues wasted a lot of time, which delayed construction. So Project undertake the construction of eco-camp and EEGH last stage due to site selection problem.
- Drought spell after plantation in 2006 increased mortality ratio in a portion of plantation site in Elum towards north side.
- The JFMC Elum did not fully started work because of its late formation and landowner ship disputes.
- Villagers encroached to use adjacent forest area for agriculture purposes. One day an individual was burning the scrub to bring more area to his adjacent land. Suddenly the fire went out of control and started burning of surrounding areas. Forest caught fire from the inappropriate act of the individuals.

5.3 How Have These Problems/Difficulties Been Addressed?

- Project arranged Ulma conference and informed them about the role of women in development. Also organized awareness raising workshop and devised awareness raising strategy. Team leader, Social organizer Officers (Male & Female) played their role in mobilizing the communities to play active role and involve women in project interventions.
- Due to shortage of budget and non-availability of equipments locally the matter was discussed with the PTF Coordinator. The weather observatory idea was dropped. The budget will be utilized for promotion of eco-tourism.
- EPS will try to complete plantation in months of December and January. Also nurseries are to be established in near vicinities of plantation sites to minimize mortality rate which occurs due transportation. Also it will help in cost effectiveness.
- Team leader and social organizer as well as field supervisor held a number of dialogues with TGO and agreed them on the site, which was comparatively more feasible.
- The drought damaged about 40% plants. Next year in two sites(Elum & Amlooktall) gape were filled .in the actual plantation.
- For safety purpose MOUs were signed for protection of plantation and regeneration sites. Fencing was done in Elum. The matter was discussed with DFO Forest Division Swat. The community identified the person . DFO lodged FIR against the culprit (burner of forest). The JFMC and TGOs made commitment not to retrench forestland through such

practices. However in such cases joint effort will be made to control forest fire in time. The RFO demonstrated fire-putting techniques in a JFMC meeting. This practice yielded good results. The case was put in court but due to natural death of culprit during this period, the case closed by the court.

6. Future plans to continue/expand/replicate Project activities using Local Resources, including initiatives for Local Resource Mobilization for Sustainability

EPS on its own has the technically ability to provide post project support for further enabling communities to fully prepare for take over of some activities. The business plan developed for eco-tourism will be materialized which will further promote eco-tourism in the area. Similarly the Tourism promotion Committee will continue work for promotion of tourism in the region. As far as the plantation and regeneration is concerned the sites are handed over to the communities to carry it forth for the remaining 4 to 5 years. The TGOs & WPCs members are trained and they have the ability to continue the efforts through collective initiatives.

The infrastructure (Eco-Camp and Energy Efficient Guest House) developed by EPS and TGO Elum for promotion of eco tourism in the valley. Both parties will be jointly managed these facilities. These services will be offered to the eco-tourists on charge. 25% of the net income so earned will be paid to the landowner, 25% to TGO Elum and 50% will be kept for repair and maintenance of the facilities and further promotion of eco-tourism in the valley.

The EU UNDP support in the shape of CARE forest Project explored new venues and put many ideas on working agenda. EPS is in touch with different organizations and trying to find donor for the potentials especially eco-tourism promotion in valley. Environment rehabilitation efforts will continue and community livelihood will be linked with conservation of natural resources especially forest in valley.

7. The Cumulative Expenditure Report

S #	Budget Line Items	Approved Budget	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance	
A	(A) PROGRAMME COST	-			
	1	Inception Workshop	33,954	33,954	-
	2	Participatory Workshop for Yearly Plan of Operation	11,656	11,656	-
	3	Community Meetings	39,507	38,528	979
	4	Formation of TGOs , WPCs and JFMC (Cluster Organization of Valley)	66,000	65,990	10
	5	Linkages development	47,672	47,444	228
	6	Develop brochures, pamphlets, booklets and calendars for awareness and information sharing (tourist guide map) etc.	166,700	166,700	-
	7	a) Boarding & Lodging of Invitees	100,000	100,000	-
		b) Field visit	62,236	62,236	-
	8	a) Basic Skills Development (BSD)	127,663	127,663	-
		b) Training on Wild Life Protection	24,417	24,417	-
c) Honey Bee Keeping Training		12,500	12,500	-	
d) Honey Bee Boxes		12,000	12,600	(600)	
9	Baseline and periodic surveys about forest and wildlife	43,685	43,685	-	
10	Establishment of farmer new nurseries of indigenous species in the project area	214,039	223,769	(9,730)	
11	a) Seedlings	405,650	405,650	-	

	b) Travel from Nursery to road side (Marghuzar)	41,040	41,040	-
	c) Carraige from raod side to the plantation site	155,090	155,090	-
	d) Plantation campaigns	392,940	392,940	-
	e) Tools, travel and feasibility	6,332	6,332	-
12	Construction of energy efficient Guest house as model in the area	517,786	609,533	(91,747)
13	Introduction of fuel efficient stoves as models in different areas	50,000	50,000	-
14	Small Scale Enterprises development	12,835	12,835	-
15	Assess/study ecotourism potential	6,911	6,911	-
16	Eco-tourism promotion Events	134,447	134,447	-
17	Training of local guides and site management & Furnishing	20,197	20,197	-
18	Improvement of tracks	369,483	362,310	7,173
	Furnishing of Camping site for Ecotourism	79,803	78,814	989
19	a) Establishment of Camping Site for Eco-Tourism (Guard Room and General Washroom plus Store)	200,000	274,496	(74,496)
	b) Travel and Visibility	27,387	28,387	(1,000)
	c) Developing Rest areas on 2 potential sites of the track	47,420	47,420	-
20	b) Sign Boards	20,476	20,476	-
	c) Video Film	171,950	171,950	-
21	Monitoring & Evaluation	71,813	71,813	-
22	Concluding Seminar	84,789	84,789	-
23	Field Visits and Monitoring	13,000	7,185	5,815
24	Establishment of fruit orchard	17,000	16,000	1,000
25	Weather Observatory(WO)	110,000	-	110,000
26	Training in operation of W.O. and data recording	10,000	-	10,000

27	Furnishing of Energy efficient guest house	60,000	50,914	9,086
28	Development of Web page for eco-tourism promotion in Swat	50,000	40,000	10,000
29	National Workshop to device strategy for tourism and eco-tourism	60,000	60,095	(95)
31	Regeneration, Protection and existing forest protection and sowing	70,000	46,970	23,030
Sub-Total (A)		4,168,378	4,167,736	642
(B) CAPITAL COST		-	-	-
B	1 Computer	40,000	40,000	-
	2 Printer	25,000	25,000	-
	3 Digital and Still Camera	27,450	27,450	-
Sub-Total (B)		92,450	92,450	-
(C) ADMINISTRATIVE COST		-	-	-
C	1 Stationary	79,958	79,958	-
	2 Documentation	6,880	7,549	(669)
	3 Office Rent, Maintainance and Utilities	157,573	157,573	-
	4 Mobility Cost @ of Rs. 15000/- per month	482,761	482,713	48
Sub-Total (C)		727,172	727,793	(621)
(D) STAFF COST		-	-	-
D	1 Project Coordinator	535,000	535,000	-
	2 Social Organizer (Male & Female)	455,000	455,000	-
	3 Admin & Finance Manager	50,000	50,000	-
	4 Field Supervisor	113,000	113,000	-
5	Earthquake Relief Fund	10,000	10,000	-
Sub-Total (D)		1,163,000	1,163,000	-

Grand Total in PK Rs. (A+B+C+D)	6,151,000	6,150,979	21
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Note: The budget for Weather Observatory Rs.120,000/-was utilized on the construction of Energy Efficient Guest House & Eco-camp. Weather Observatory is not available in Pakistan and import of the machine will cost more than 10 million pounds.