



## Ministry of Climate Change, Aga Khan Foundation and United Nations mark World Environment Day

Event raises awareness on the need to work collectively on mitigating the effects of climate change and protect the environment in Pakistan.

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Today the United Nations, the Aga Khan Foundation and the Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination celebrated World Environment Day in Islamabad with an event raising awareness on how climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution are affecting Pakistan, and how people are taking action.

“Pakistan is among the countries most adversely impacted by climate change, but it is leading the way with its climate diplomacy,” said Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam, Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change. “We are educating our youth on this crucial subject. We will leave no stone unturned to slow environmental degradation down and increase our ability to deal with the fallout of global warming and its impacts on clean water, health, agriculture, food systems, and energy.”

During the ceremony, Pakistan’s ‘Living Indus’ initiative officially received the World Restoration Flagship award which the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) announced in March; UNEP supports Pakistan’s National Adaptation Plan for building resilience to climate change. Living Indus is a Government-led initiative, which the UN supports, to restore the ecological health of the Indus River Basin. Moreover, the event paid tribute to 30 ‘Climate Heroes’ -- women and men who take action against the climate crisis across the country.

“Just last week, temperatures in Pakistan crossed 52 degree Celsius. We cannot turn back time, but we can take collective action to adapt to this new age of global warming,” said Mr. Mohamed Yahya, the UN Resident Coordinator in Pakistan. “Across the country, communities are already trying to cope with the impact of climate change; they combat pollution, deforestation, rapid glacial melt, floods, droughts and heatwaves. By supporting ‘Living Indus’ and a range of innovative programmes, UN agencies aim to help them protect and restore nature, biodiversity, water sources, as well as their lives and livelihoods.”

The event marked the premiere of ‘When the floods come’, a new documentary by Nyal Mueenuddin. This young Pakistani filmmaker went on a 3000km odyssey down the Indus River to capture the most intimate stories of how people’s lives are inextricably bound to climate change. The film will be screened again during a public event at PNCA this Friday.

“Communities have been experiencing firsthand the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation. It is already transforming landscapes, habitats, livelihoods, and local aspirations, said Mr. Akhtar Iqbal, CEO, Aga Khan Foundation. “That said, we have witnessed how our collective actions can make a difference. We, at the Aga Khan Foundation and agencies of the Aga Khan Development Network, have been fully committed to doing our part for over 55 years and we will continue to support Pakistan to cope with the challenges ahead. We want to ensure that communities are empowered to be more resilient, have access to clean energy, adopt more

sustainable natural resources management practices and contribute to large reforestation efforts. We also want to place women and young people at the centre of climate leadership and invest in their future through boosting green businesses and jobs.”

In Pakistan and all over the world, ecosystems are threatened. From forests and drylands to farmlands and lakes, natural spaces on which humanity’s existence depends are reaching a tipping point. This year, World Environment Day focuses on land restoration, halting desertification and building drought resilience under the slogan “Our land. Our future. We are #GenerationRestoration.”

Led by the UNEP, and held annually since 1973, World Environment Day has grown to be the largest global platform for environmental outreach. It is celebrated by millions of people across the world.

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### **Note to editors:**

The UN in Pakistan: Climate Action and the Environment are one of the top priorities on the United Nations’ global agenda, and one of the 5 priorities agreed between the United Nations and Pakistan. Investing to fight climate Change, biodiversity loss and pollution is one of six pathways that can help achieve the 17 Global Goals (also known as SDGs) to end extreme poverty, inequality, and mitigate climate change. This is why we support Pakistan’s ‘Living Indus’ initiative. You can follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Aga Khan Foundation (AKF): Environment and climate is a core strategic priority and cross-cutting theme for the Aga Khan Development Network ([AKDN](#)). AKF is significantly accelerating its response to the global climate crisis, working with communities to strengthen their resilience to climate change, so they not only survive but thrive. AKF works with communities in diverse ecosystems (mountains, coasts and plains), alongside government and civil society and the private sector, to develop locally led adaptation and mitigation responses to climate change and improve quality of life. AKF’s Climate Resilience interventions are crosscutting, interlinked and include Forestry, Regenerative Farming, Clean Energy, Green Economy, Coastal Regeneration, and Education and Climate Change.

UNEP: The United Nations Environment Programme is the leading global authority on the environment. It unites 193 Member States in an effort to find solutions to climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste, collectively known as the triple planetary crisis. UNEP supports Pakistan’s National Adaptation Plan (NAP) for building resilience to climate change. Website: [UNEP](#)

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