

Proposal for a Marine Park near Churna Island By Yousuf Ali

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Suggested during the “1st international Conference on Maritime Threats and opportunities in 21st Century” on 4th to 6th March 2007 at “Bahria University” National Center of Maritime Policy & Research Center Karachi.

As a speaker and a member of the discussion panel Yusuf Ali exhibited a 25 minute underwater documentary produced by “Karachi Scuba Diving Center”. The documentary showed the magnificent marine life and thriving corals reef along the coast of Pakistan and proposed a triangular area near Karachi at the border of Sindh and Balochistan to be declared as a “National Marine Park”

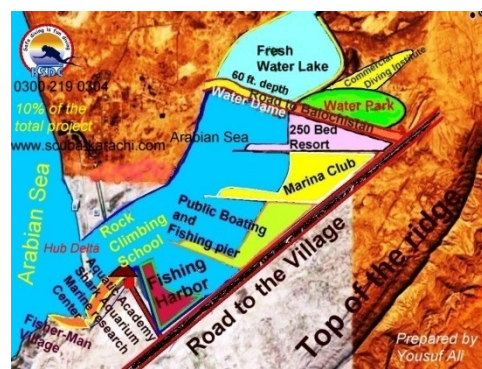
During the last five years the newly born coral reef has expanded covering a large area, not only along the Churna Island but also along the coast line of main land. Still we have not been able to convince our government to declare this productive area as a “National Park” and a number of factors are causing serious damage to the life beneath the sea which is also resulting in multiplying the miseries of the local fishing community.

October 2008

During a casual meeting with Dr. Farooq Sattar, the Federal Minister, I discussed this alarming condition regarding the marine environmental degradation and the appalling living condition of the coastal communities in great length, and proposed a solution which will improve the miserable conditions on the ground and become a source of opportunities for the inhabitants to earn their livelihood respectfully. The proposal was to build a “Tourist City” in the area at the border of Sindh and Balochistan so that the underprivileged people of both provinces living on the coastal belt could benefit.

Proposed Outline of the “Tourist City” along with the “Proposed Marine Park”

- A proposed idea to build water sports city to attract tourism from up-country and as well as foreign countries. This



- project would generate colossal amounts of local and foreign income.
- This proposed Tourist City and the Marine Park would go hand in hand in order to achieve our goals and be able to protect our environment as well as to market our product, “Tourist City” ,in the competitive world.
 - This product would also generate hundreds of thousands of jobs in all walks of life and help to improve the image of the country on a the global forum.

Further, I also stated in the proposal that this would not just be a business venture but also an educational and training outlet that would provide training and other technical assistance to the local community. No project can be successful without the ownership of the local people and training them would be a mutually beneficial step. I also added that if the government decides to go ahead with the proposal then arranging finances shall not be a problem

- Tourist Industry Booster
- Glass Bottom Boat Service for Pleasure & Research
- Industry related Boat building, & Fishing
- Technical Educational Project (to produce Skilled technicians to cope with the requirements of the present world)
- New habitat for rich and as well as for poor living together.
- Environmental Awareness Project

Now is the time to act and if no action is taken soon, this prime location could Grabbing Mafia’ has already started their roguish work, and as the time passes it will become more or less impossible to change the direction of the tide, as we would become helpless as in the case of Korangi. As a consequence of my conversation with the minister a meeting was arranged on an emergency basis with the governor and a few more concerned personalities were also invited. The salient points of the meeting are given below:

20th October 2008

The meeting was held with his Excellency the Governor of Sindh at 4pm on 21st Tuesday 2008 in Governor House of Sindh

The following high ranking officials were invited to attend the meeting:

1. Secretary to Government of Sindh, Culture & Tourism Department who was requested to record and issue the minutes.
2. Military Secretary to Governor Sindh, Governor’s House Karachi
3. P. S. to Principal Secretary to Governor Sindh Karachi
4. P. S. to Special Secretary to Governor Sindh, Karachi
5. PA to Additional Secretary -I & II Governor House, Karachi

Subject “MEETING TO DISCUSS A PLAN TO BUILD A TOURIST CITY WITHIN THE CITY”

We prepared extensively for the meeting with the Governor of Sindh to discuss the importance of the project in great detail.

- 10 minutes Power Point Presentation was made to explain the subject
- Blueprints of a project were presented that was designed to develop the Hub-River Delta for Eco-Tourism
- Plan for a Sea-Water aquarium for public to enjoy and for Marine Biologist to do their research work was laid out
- Prospects of tourism, both at a local and international level were highlighted
- Proposal to develop an artificial lake to conserve fresh water to sustain the city was also given
- A proper Marina club with the capacity to house over 100 boats was suggested. At the moment a proper marina doesn't exist in the country
- Rock Climbing School along with Club house to entertain students of Rock Climbing was also put forward.
- Developing the existing fishing village with all modern facilities (School, College, Play ground, Hospital, along with the proper housing) was high on the list
- Building fishing harbor to facilitate the local fishing communities
- developing a modern and entertaining water park which would be the largest one in the country
- Public pier where glass bottom boats would be available for general public to enjoy the newly developing coral reef
- Project was designed to generate huge amount of local and foreign income.

Yousuf Ali

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