



AGA KHAN FOUNDATION



ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

AGA KHAN FOUNDATION – AN AGENCY OF THE AGA KHAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

COVER: AL-AZHAR PARK, CAIRO, EGYPT

THE CREATION OF A PARK FOR THE CITIZENS OF THE EGYPTIAN CAPITAL, ON A 30-HECTARE (74-ACRE) MOUND OF RUBBLE ADJACENT TO THE HISTORIC CITY, HAS EVOLVED WELL BEYOND THE GREEN SPACE OF THE PARK TO INCLUDE A VARIETY OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC INITIATIVES IN THE NEIGHBOURING DARB AL-AHMAR DISTRICT. THE PARK ITSELF ATTRACTS AN AVERAGE OF 3,000 PEOPLE A DAY AND AS MANY AS 10,000 DAILY DURING RAMADAN.

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RIGHT: QESHLAQ-I-BAIKH VILLAGE, AFGHANISTAN

IN RECENT YEARS, A DROUGHT HAS COMPOUNDED DIFFICULTIES EXPERIENCED DUE TO THE LARGE-SCALE DESTRUCTION OF THE AGRICULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND THE SUDDEN INFLUX OF AFGHAN RETURNEES FROM ABROAD. TO ADDRESS THE HIGH LEVEL OF FOOD INSECURITY, THE AKDN HAS DISTRIBUTED QUALITY WHEAT SEED AND FERTILIZER AND WORKED WITH COMMUNITIES TO IMPROVE WATER MANAGEMENT AND RANGELAND REHABILITATION.

In the experience of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN), the challenge of improving environmental conditions lies not in an inherent conflict between Man and Nature, but in the penury of natural resources that often forces people to consume the few assets available to them. These conditions often create a downward spiral that results in deeper poverty, depleted soils, deforested hills, polluted water, disease, and, ultimately, despair. The reasons for this cycle are complex and, in many instances, require integrated, multidisciplinary solutions.

Reflecting this complexity, the AKDN's environmental activities are integrated into broad area development projects. Land reclamation in despoiled or arid areas in Africa and Asia, for example, is part of programmes to raise incomes and manage natural resources. The creation of a 30-hectare park on a former rubble dump in the heart of Historic Cairo is also a catalyst for social and urban revitalisation in the neighbouring Darb al-Ahmar district. Likewise, an experimental village that farms organic vegetables is linked with reforestation efforts that have planted 26 million trees in the Northern Areas of Pakistan, both of which are part of attempts to build environmental assets that will raise the overall quality of life in remote mountain valleys.

Ecological concerns have always been part of the ethical underpinnings of the Network, rooted as they are in the Quran's exhortation for Man to be a good steward of the Earth. The rationale for integrating these concerns into development activities arises from over 40 years of experience and experimentation, which have established that economic, social and cultural factors all affect environmental issues. Poor and illiterate farmers, for example, may cause irreversible damage to underground aquifers through overpumping because they do not understand the concept of a water table. Solutions to water and sanitation problems in villages may be constrained by cultural taboos against communal toilets or economic issues such as age-old water rights.

It follows that solutions to environmental problems cannot be implemented in isolation from the problems of human habitats. All of the environment-related activities undertaken by the AKDN are therefore integrated into other development activities such as healthcare, education, cultural revitalisation and economic development.



ABOUT THE AGA KHAN FOUNDATION

Since it was founded by His Highness the Aga Khan in Geneva in 1967, the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) has worked primarily in four major areas: education, rural development, health and civil society. With the creation of the Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan Fund for the Environment, the environment will formally become the fifth major area of AKF activities.

In every undertaking, the overriding goal is to assist in the struggles against hunger, disease, illiteracy, ignorance and social exclusion through experimentation with – and the implementation of – innovative solutions. Central to all these efforts have been inclusive, community-based development approaches in which local organisations identify, prioritise and implement projects with the Foundation's assistance. The ultimate goal is to help poor communities achieve a level of self-reliance whereby they are able to plan their own lives and help those even more needy than themselves.

The Foundation has a sharply defined funding strategy, and its standards are, of necessity, high. Grants are normally given to local organisations interested in testing new solutions, in learning from experience and in being agents of lasting change. These organisations must share the Foundation's goals in the fields of health, education, rural development, the strengthening of civil society and the environment. If no established group exists, the Foundation occasionally creates new organisations to tackle particularly important problems. With few exceptions, the Foundation funds programmes where it has offices and local professional staff to monitor implementation (particularly in South and Central Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East).



The Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan Fund for the Environment is a new centre for environmental activities, formed by the merger of the Bellerive Foundation and the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF). Although the Bellerive Foundation will no longer exist in name, its expertise in wildlife management, education, mountain environments, forest preservation and fuel-saving stoves will continue to have an impact through the activities of the Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan Fund. The Fund will strive to maintain the values, philosophy and expertise of the late Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan and the Bellerive Foundation, the international environmental NGO he founded in 1977 and chaired along with his wife, Princess Catherine.

The new Fund will integrate certain Bellerive Foundation activities into existing or new environment-related programmes of the Aga Khan Foundation. These include natural resource management and security against natural risks such as landslides, rural development in fragile natural environments and related programmes in the fields of health, housing and the built environment, education and the strengthening of civil society.

In its new form, the Fund's activities will highlight the linkages between poverty and the penury of natural resources. It will promote the management and development of sustainable natural resources through education, area development and related research that addresses existing issues in the developing world. The intention is to assist populations that are most threatened by their natural surroundings, while working to protect fragile ecosystems that are vulnerable to the effects of poorly planned human activity. Another goal of the Fund will be to enhance natural environments that can be made more productive.

The Fund will work in concert with other agencies of the AKDN. Of particular importance will be the Aga Khan Agency for Micro-finance, the Aga Khan Education Services, the Aga Khan Health Services, the Aga Khan Trust for Culture and the Tourism Promotion Services of the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development. It will also collaborate with Aga Khan University in Pakistan and the University of Central Asia.

LEFT: GUJARAT, INDIA

IN COASTAL COMMUNITIES WHERE OVERPUMPING HAS DEPLETED UNDERGROUND AQUIFERS AND LED TO ENCROACHMENT BY SALINE WATER, WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES ARE INSTRUMENTAL IN ENSURING IMPROVED WATER SUPPLIES.

BELOW: DELHI, INDIA

THE RESTORATION OF THE GARDENS OF HUMAYUN'S TOMB HAS REVITALISED A WORLD HERITAGE SITE AND PROVIDED AN IMPORTANT GREEN SPACE IN THE HEART OF DELHI.



MUUNGONI VILLAGE, TANZANIA

STARTING IN 1997 WITH JUST FIVE PEOPLE, THE MUUNGONI VILLAGE ORGANISATION NOW MANAGES OVER 9,000 BANANA TREES, 2,000 LEMON TREES, 700 COCONUT TREES AND 2,500 TREES DESTINED TO BE USED IN CARPENTRY OR FOR FUEL. THE FOUNDATION ASSISTED IN THE GROWTH OF THE ORGANISATION BY PROVIDING TRAINING IN A VARIETY OF BUSINESS SKILLS, INCLUDING MANAGEMENT, RECORD KEEPING, FINANCE, PLANNING, RESOURCE MOBILISATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION.



The new Fund will concentrate in six main areas:

1. Environmental education

In selected areas where the AKDN is present, the Fund will implement basic environmental education that explains local environmental issues, risks and needs as they relate to human populations. The Fund will also place local environmental issues and risks within the larger context of the global environment.

2. Natural Resource Management in fragile zones

The Fund will build on the combined experience of the Bellerive Foundation and the AKDN on the mitigation and even reversal of environmental threats such as salinity, deforestation and land erosion. The Fund will also work to address poor practices in agriculture, land management, water management and hygiene. It will promote environmentally sound technologies which have a high impact on the overall quality of life.

3. Nature Parks and Wildlife Reserves

Where opportunities exist in locations where the AKDN is active, the Fund will engage in supporting – directly or indirectly, and on a carefully selected basis – the sustainability of wildlife reserves, ecological areas, city and national parks. Parks will be utilised and developed for purposes such as nature conservation, the protection of rare species, habitat protection, ensuring cleaner air and water, education, improved health and employment creation. Priority will be given to populations that are most in need – and in communities where there is a risk of environmental imbalances or damage caused by human activities.

4. Environmentally and Culturally Appropriate Tourism Infrastructure

As a way of raising incomes in poor areas, the Fund will encourage the development of special forms of tourism that highlight environmental and cultural assets while providing local people with alternatives to the consumption or destruction of these assets. Activities will be closely coordinated with other AKDN agencies, local governments and city authorities. Priority will be given to areas and communities in which vital environmental resources or important cultural heritage are at risk.



5. Environmental Health

The Fund will work in target communities to introduce water supply, sanitation systems and other appropriate techniques that reduce disease and improve human welfare. Through programmes such as AKF's Building and Construction Improvement Programme (BACIP) and the Water and Sanitation Extension Programme (WASEP), the Fund will work to have a positive, measurable and long-lasting impact on the overall quality of life in areas of AKDN activity.

6. Research

The Fund will collaborate with a select group of scientific institutions and universities on field-based research that addresses opportunities and problems of the environment and human habitat in the developing world. Research subjects could include: identifying and developing new disease and drought-resistant crops for mountain and desert environments; non-lethal methods of reducing crop loss and destruction by animals; and appropriate technologies in areas suffering from increased salinity.

MOMBASA, KENYA

STUDENTS FROM THE AGA KHAN ACADEMY STUDY TORTOISES AT A NATURE RESERVE NEAR MOMBASA, KENYA. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IS AN IMPORTANT COMPONENT OF EDUCATION IN AGA KHAN SCHOOLS.





AL-AZHAR PARK, CAIRO, EGYPT

CASE STUDY NO. 1 A “GREEN LUNG” FOR CAIRO

When the city of Cairo was built and laid out by the Fatimids, His Highness the Aga Khan’s ancestors, 20 percent of it was devoted to open space, including a royal park and garden. But by the second half of the 20th century, as more and more people from rural areas moved into the city and new high-rise housing was built to accommodate them, it became one of the densest metropolises in the world.

In 1984, His Highness the Aga Khan announced his decision to finance the creation of a park for the citizens of the Egyptian capital. The only central location which was of suitable scale was the derelict Darassa site, a 30-hectare (74-acre) mound of rubble adjacent to the Historic City. The site posed several technical challenges. It had been a debris dump for over 500 years. Construction required excavation, grading and replacement with appropriate fill. A total of 1.5 million cubic metres of rubble and soil, a figure which represents over 80,000 truckloads, was moved. In addition, three 80-meter freshwater tanks for the city of Cairo had to be incorporated into the Park design. Specialised plant nurseries had to be created to identify the best plants and trees for the soil, terrain and climate. Over 655,000 young plants from cuttings and seeds were planted in the Park.

Today, the US\$ 30 million project has evolved well beyond the Park to include the restoration of 1.5 kilometres of the 12th century Ayyubid wall and socio-economic initiatives in the neighbouring Darb al-Ahmar district. These include housing rehabilitation, microfinance, apprenticeships and healthcare. The Park itself attracts as many as 10,000 visitors daily during Ramadan.



ALTIT VILLAGE, PAKISTAN

CASE STUDY NO. 2 ENVIRONMENTAL WATER AND SANITATION

The Water and Sanitation Extension Programme (WASEP), which was established in 1997 by the Aga Khan Planning and Building Service (AKPBS) in Pakistan, has gained considerable notice for its innovative approaches to what many health officials consider the most important development issue faced today: the creation of potable drinking water and sanitation systems that prevent disease.

WASEP offers technical advice and resources for building safe, potable drinking water systems; improving access to sanitation; developing drainage facilities; and establishing an operational and sustainable village-based management structure. It also facilitates the adoption of healthier personal, domestic, and environmental hygiene. A recent study published in the World Health Organization Bulletin confirmed that WASEP contributed to reducing diarrhoeal diseases by at least 25 percent.

The demonstrable impact of the programme has led to replication of the model in several other areas through a partnership between AKPBS and the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund. In 2005, 150,000 people were expected to benefit directly from the current phase of the programme, which focuses on supply and drainage infrastructure, community management of these systems and hygiene education. In recognition of this success, AKPBS has received several awards, including the US \$1 million Alcan Prize for Sustainability for its efforts in Pakistan, and a “Nirmal Gram”, or “Clean Village” Award, for a water and sanitation project in Gujarat, India. For more details about these awards, see “Environmental Awards” on page 20.



CHILUMANI, KWALE, KENYA

CASE STUDY NO. 3 REFORESTATION AND LAND RECLAMATION

The Aga Khan Rural Support Programmes (AKRSP) have integrated reforestation and land reclamation into their overall activities since the first programme began in Pakistan in the 1980s. Land reclamation has been successfully undertaken in a variety of environments, ranging from the coastal plains of Gujarat, India – where saltwater ingress and drought have posed extraordinary challenges – to the high mountain zones of northern Pakistan, Afghanistan and Tajikistan. These activities usually involve the construction or repair of irrigation systems and the creation of bunds, “recharge” wells and related conservation measures, including rainwater harvesting systems and drip and sprinkler irrigation systems. In Kenya’s drought-stricken coastal provinces, AKF has worked to rebuild aquifers through the construction of reservoirs and bunds that capture rainwater.

Over 33,000 hectares of land have been reclaimed in the Gilgit region of Pakistan’s Northern Areas alone. Another 66,000 hectares have been returned to productive use in Gujarat, India. Similar programmes are operating in Afghanistan and Tajikistan. In Mozambique’s Cabo Delgado province, AKF has introduced composting and intercropping as ways for farmers to improve the soil and increase yields. Related reforestation efforts centre on building environmental assets that may not have existed before, or redressing deforestation caused by overpopulation or natural disasters. Over 26 million plants and trees have been planted in the Northern Areas of Pakistan by AKRSP programmes. Many of these trees are also used to stabilise soils in areas which are prone to drought or otherwise at risk.



SHIGAR FORT RESIDENCE, BALTISTAN, PAKISTAN

CASE STUDY NO. 4 ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE

The advent of jet travel has made mass tourism possible in even the most remote corners of the globe. In many cases, however, the most alluring locations are also the most fragile. The great numbers of visitors, and the infrastructure required to accommodate them, have often burdened local environments to unsustainable levels.

As an antidote, the AKDN encourages the development of specific forms of tourism that highlight environmental and cultural assets while providing local people with alternatives to the degradation of these assets. This approach has several defining attributes: recognition of the surrounding environment as an asset that is the principle draw for visitors; a long-term investment that assures a sustained interest in preserving the environment; and a commitment to sustainable environmental practices that reduce the ecological footprint of a tourism property.

In the East Africa region, Serena hotels owned by the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development (AKFED) are renowned for setting environmental standards that reflect these attributes. In Tanzania, for example, prior to the creation of new facilities in the country's national parks, four environmental impact studies were carried out. The Serena chain was one of the first hotel groups to conduct assessments and these studies prompted changes in design and provided new modes of operation to enable more efficient use of water and resources. In several cases, construction was altered to spare trees. Indigenous plants are preserved and propagated on all sites. Special



AMBOSELI SERENA LODGE, KENYA

equipment incinerates waste to provide a source of energy for the hotel. Solar energy is also being used at hotels in Asia and Africa. These and other measures have earned the Serena hotels numerous awards (see "Environmental Awards" page 23) . All Serena properties are members of the Green Globe organisation, which is sponsored by the World Travel and Tourism Council. One of these, the Amboseli Serena Safari Lodge, was also awarded a Green Globe commendation and other awards for reforestation efforts in Amboseli National Park.

Another AKDN institution, the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC), has been recognised for its pioneering work in combining cultural restoration with environmental protection. It was awarded a British Airways Tourism for Tomorrow Award for its efforts in promoting sustainable tourism in Karimabad, Pakistan and most recently, the PATA Gold Award for the restoration and re-use of the Shigar Fort Palace and complex. These efforts were assisted by the creation of Town Management Societies, local NGOs that work to maintain the natural environment as part of overall efforts to leverage existing cultural and environmental assets. AKTC also supports local enterprises that reflect environmentally sound business practices, such as the production of locally made woollen rugs and hand-knotted vegetable dye carpets in the Northern Areas of Pakistan. Other environment-related measures include a self-paying waste management project, which has been set up to dispose safely of human waste and garbage, and a mud-compacting system for traditional floors that is designed to reduce respiratory problems caused by dust.



GUJARAT, INDIA

CASE STUDY NO. 5 WATER CONSERVATION

The problem of dwindling freshwater resources is already daunting in many places, but in the coastal areas of Gujarat, India, and in Salamieh, Syria, it is especially acute.

In Gujarat, as far as 10 kilometres inland, saltwater has encroached on freshwater resources, contaminating them forever. In some areas, saltwater is advancing 300 metres per year. The repercussions of water salinity are many: the inability to grow traditional crops, such as mangoes and coriander; and the stunting of other crops, such as coconuts; the reduction of milk production from cows and goats and the long-term inability to support livestock; the need for women to travel as far as 12 kilometres to fetch water; the expense of drilling new wells because of the depletion of aquifers; and subsequent tension over the sharing of the resource. Ironically, the soil remains some of the most fertile in India. Yet more and more of it is being abandoned because of salinity.

To address these problems, the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme is introducing drip and sprinkler irrigation methods that are 50 percent more efficient. It is also constructing simple rainwater harvesting mechanisms to channel monsoon rains from roofs into covered cisterns. It is building or rehabilitating check dams to capture rainwater so as to rebuild aquifers. It is also identifying new water resources and constructing shallow “recharge” wells and “percolation” tanks in special geological formations that are resistant to saltwater encroachment. AKRSP has also introduced crops, such as chicko, betel and castor, which can grow in saline water environments. It has set up



SALAMIEH, SYRIA

group management of water resources through village organisations and alerted villagers, through street theatre and publications, to the dangers of salinity and the need to work together as a community to conserve this dwindling resource.

In Syria, as in India, a growing problem of water scarcity – a consequence of limited water resources, overuse and poor management – is having an impact on water for drinking and agricultural use. In its Water Management Project, the Foundation's objective is to promote better communal and individual management of water resources, as well as to develop more efficient methods of agricultural production.

Current activities include the improvement of irrigation systems, especially through drip and sprinkler systems, and the introduction of new crops and agricultural techniques. Mushroom cultivation, which provides a crop that requires very little water, is one way to generate alternative sources of income in rural areas suffering from drought.

The Programme is also working to raise awareness regarding scarcity while conducting research on water resources in the region. Other efforts focus on increasing incomes by improving the efficiency of water use and developing off-farm employment opportunities in agro-based industries, animal production and horticulture.



PAMIR I, TAJIKISTAN

CASE STUDY NO. 6 SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FOR DEVELOPING ECONOMIES

In the quest for sustainable energy sources, remote communities in developing countries pose special challenges. In the mountainous regions of Central Asia and northern Pakistan, in particular, many villages are far removed from the electricity grid. One solution, which was first pioneered by the Aga Khan Foundation in Pakistan, involves digging a narrow channel along a hillside to divert water into a pipe. The pressure created by the water flowing through the pipe is enough to turn a turbine and produce 20-100 kilowatts of power. These micro-hydroelectric plants generate enough power to light a village or even several communities.

Over 180 micro-hydel units, supplying electricity to 50 percent of the population of Chitral, Pakistan, have been built. The projects are implemented, maintained and managed by the communities themselves. Several dozen other such plants are in operation in Tajikistan and Afghanistan. In 2004, the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme in Pakistan won an Ashden Award for Sustainable Energy in recognition of "outstanding and innovative renewable energy projects" (see "Environmental Awards" on page 21).

In Tajikistan, a US\$ 26 million investment by the government, the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development (AKFED) and other international agencies, is expanding the capacity of a partially constructed Soviet-era hydroelectric power plant. Generation and distribution infrastructures for Khorog and the surrounding region are also being rehabilitated. When complete, the hydroelectric



MINI HYDROELECTRIC PLANT, AFGHANISTAN

plant, known as Pamir I, will boost the supply of hydroelectric energy in eastern Tajikistan, especially during the critical winter months, and help redress widespread deforestation that resulted from the burning of wood following the end of Soviet-era diesel fuel subsidies. A pioneering financing scheme will make the hydro-electricity produced by the project affordable to the poor people of this remote mountainous area through tariff subsidies. A reliable source of electric power should also assist in economic growth in the region. In the project's second phase, Pamir I will supply the electricity needed for economic growth in eastern Tajikistan and eventually begin exports to northern Afghanistan.

In the Ivory Coast, the US\$ 225 million Azito plant that uses the country's own supply of clean-burning natural gas was built by AKFED and its partners. It now provides 30 percent of the country's electricity needs. Similarly, Kenya's Tsavo power plant, which was built by a consortium of investors led by AKFED, was the first such plant constructed to meet the criteria of new, more stringent environmental laws.

Other AKDN agencies have supported programmes to create practical alternatives to the reliance on fossil fuels. These include biogas systems, wind-powered irrigation pumps and small-scale solar power arrays that can generate electricity for a community.



ZANZIBAR, TANZANIA

CASE STUDY NO. 7 FUEL-SAVING STOVES AND HEALTHIER HOUSES

The Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan Fund for the Environment, which is a newly integrated part of the Aga Khan Foundation, builds on the late Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan's pioneering work in fuel-efficient stoves, tree planting and community-based forest management and ownership. Designed in Kenya, the stoves help reduce food waste and improve fuel efficiency while addressing health and hygiene problems such as the inhalation of smoke. In addition to the three main models for use in homes, small-scale enterprises and larger institutions such as schools projects worked to improve the efficiency and safety of traditional three-stone fires through training and the development of appropriate technologies.

The Aga Khan Foundation's Building and Construction Improvement Programme (BACIP), in Pakistan, complements these efforts with innovative improvements to housing environments, especially with regard to solutions to common health hazards such as respiratory conditions related to wood smoke in cooking quarters. BACIP has developed housing construction methods that are low-cost, seismic-resistant, and energy- and resource-efficient. Through research, testing and application, over 60 different interventions designed to improve building standards have been created. BACIP also influences standards by training local craftsmen and builders in improved house construction techniques. In the broader context, it counsels municipal officials on creating healthier environments through village growth planning and management.



NARYN, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

CASE STUDY NO. 8

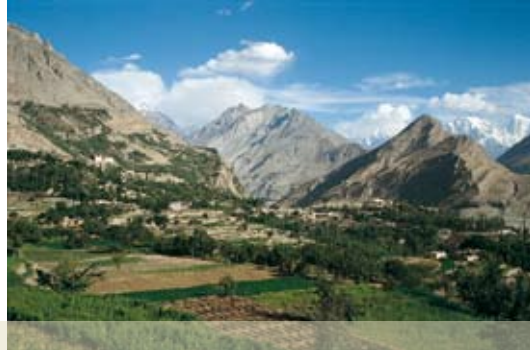
A UNIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT IN MOUNTAIN ENVIRONMENTS

In Central Asia, environmental conditions contribute significantly to stress migration to cities. In Kazakhstan, for example, 66 percent of the land mass is affected by desertification. In the Kyrgyz Republic, landslides and mud flows affect 2.3 million hectares (5.5 million acres). In Tajikistan, over 95 percent of the land is categorized as eroded or degraded. However, the mountains also present opportunities. They provide most of the world's freshwater and much of its mineral wealth; possess vast if latent hydropower; and have potential in areas as diverse as agriculture and tourism.

It is the mandate of the University of Central Asia (UCA), which will be located on three campuses – in Khorog, Tajikistan; Tekeli, Kazakhstan; and Naryn, Kyrgyz Republic – to help the people of the region seize these opportunities. The University campuses will incorporate environmental parks which will function not only as environment resources for local communities, but as dynamic laboratories for research and education in a variety of disciplines, including water and dry land management, reforestation, energy substitution and biodiversity. The Continuing Education programme, which has been operating since 2002, provides training in agricultural and natural resource management as well as other courses. The Bachelor's programme, beginning in 2007, will relate all studies to the specific conditions of mountain regions and their development. Among initial institute programmes in the post-graduate school will be ones dedicated to Resources and Regional Development; Tourism and the Leisure Industry; and Rural Development.



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ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS RECEIVED BY THE AGENCIES OF THE AGA KHAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

1. 2006 “Clean Village” Award for AKPBS Project

The Indian village of Karan was awarded the “Nirmal Gram” Award in March 2006. The project to make the village “nirmal” (clean) was undertaken by the Patan district’s rural development committee with assistance from the Aga Khan Planning and Building Services, India. Karan has a population of 766 people. Each home now has a toilet facility and underground sewerage.

2. 2005 Global Development Awards: Most Innovative Development Project

The Aga Khan Rural Support Programme in Pakistan (AKRSP) received the 2005 Global Development Award for Most Innovative Development Project. The Award, which was announced at the Seventh Annual Global Development Conference held in St. Petersburg, Russia, on 20 January 2006, was given to development projects that are judged to have the greatest potential for benefiting the poor in developing countries.

3. 2005 Alcan Prize for Water and Sanitation Programme for AKPBS

The Aga Khan Planning and Building Service (AKPBS) in Pakistan was named the 2005 winner of the US \$1 million Alcan Prize for Sustainability by the Prince of Wales International Business Leaders Forum (IBLF). It received the award for its efforts to improve Pakistan’s built environment and water and sanitation facilities. Launched in 1997, the programme’s aim is to reduce the risk of water-borne diseases through the provision of potable water as well as improved hygiene and sanitation practices. The success of this programme has led to a partnership between AKPBS and the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund. As a result, the programme is being replicated in several other areas with the support of donors and partners.

When the Alcan Prize was awarded at a ceremony in March 2006, it was matched by a US\$ 1 million contribution from the Aga Khan Foundation Canada (AKFC) in recognition of Canada’s long-standing support for the work of AKPBS as well as Alcan’s Canadian roots. His Highness the Aga Khan matched that contribution with an additional US\$ 1 million. The award prize and the matching funds now form the endowment of the Fund for the Sustainability of the Built Environment, which will aid AKPBS’ efforts to reduce vulnerability to seismic activity, upgrade rural housing and improve water and sanitation, in Pakistan and neighbouring countries.



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4. 2005 Travel + Leisure Global Vision Innovation Award for Cairo Projects

The Cairo project received the 2005 Global Vision Innovation Award from *Travel + Leisure* magazine. The citation lauded the projects “multifaceted approach”: “Our judges were drawn to the extraordinarily multifaceted approach of this project: Al-Azhar provides leisure and recreational space to a city that has little; acts as an engine of social and economic development for neighboring residents; and is a catalyst for historic preservation. In a city where the amount of green space per resident was roughly the size of a footprint, Al-Azhar is a much-needed green lung for Cairo’s 17 million inhabitants.... Al-Azhar has proven to be one of the most significant urban renewal efforts in recent history.”

5. 2005 Best of Asia Award: Time Magazine

The restoration of Baltit Fort in the Hunza Valley of Pakistan appeared on the cover of *Time* Magazine (27 June 2005, Asian edition) in a roundup of the “Best of Asia”. It won the “Best Restored Treasure”. *Time* said that “seven hundred years’ worth of earthquakes, avalanches and neglect had turned it into a rubble-strewn heap, prompting the Mir to turn it over to the Aga Khan Trust for Culture in 1989. The charitable foundation embarked on a restoration, which took six years and more than \$3 million—and the results are stunning.”

6. 2004 “Green Oscar” for AKRSP’s Micro-hydros in Northern Areas of Pakistan

The Aga Khan Rural Support Programme in Pakistan (AKRSP) received an Ashden Award for Sustainable Energy for “outstanding and innovative renewable energy projects”. The Award was given for the innovative use of mini hydroelectric plants, called micro-hydels. The Ashden Award cited the AKRSP for the sustainable and eco-friendly solution: “Unlike dams, which invariably damage the local eco-system, the micro-hydel technology used by AKRSP involves simply digging a narrow channel to divert water along a hillside and into a pipe, creating enough pressure to turn a turbine and so produce 20-100kw of power.” Over 180 micro-hydel units supplying electricity to 50 percent of the population of Chitral have been built. The projects are implemented, maintained and managed by the communities themselves.



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7. 2004 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Conservation Award for Excellence

AKDN's conservation programmes in the Hunza Valley encompass support for town management committees which, among other duties, are charged with caring for the environment and supporting sustainable cottage industries. UNESCO has given a number of awards to AKDN projects in Pakistan, beginning with the Baltit Fort: "The restoration of the majestic 700-year old Baltit Fort exemplifies excellence in conservation practice applied to large-scale monuments. This challenging project was the first of its kind in northern Hunza. By demonstrating that historic structures can be saved, restored and recycled for continued use in the community, the Baltit Fort project is a model for the revitalization of historic structures throughout the northern regions of Pakistan. In this project, the historic wood and masonry structure was carefully repaired using a combination of traditional local knowledge and state-of-the-art conservation techniques. The fort's restoration has fostered the local revival of traditional building trades, while an associated handicrafts project provides improved livelihood opportunities in the area. In its new use as a cultural centre and museum, the Baltit Fort attracts thousands of visitors to the province and has contributed to reinvigorating the local community's pride in their heritage."

8. 2002 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Conservation Award for the Ganish settlement projects

From the award citation: "The restoration of four 300-year old wooden mosques in the Hunza Valley has successfully revitalized the village '*chataq*', the traditional public heart of the Ganish historic settlement. Initiated and undertaken by the villagers, with professional guidance, the project has rebuilt community spirit in an authentic rural village which has undergone major socio-economic change and natural disasters over the years.

"The restrained conservation approach has stabilized the buildings which were in danger of collapse, while retaining the rich historic patina and showcasing the intricate detailing of the structures. Modern materials were selectively incorporated alongside the use of traditional materials and techniques. The preservation of the surrounding buildings and infrastructural improvements was sensitively executed, consequently strengthening the traditional urban fabric while upgrading the quality of life of the residents. The project presents an outstanding example of a community-led initiative strategically facilitated by outside support."



9. British Airways Tourism for Tomorrow Award: Global Winner for 2000

British Airways also singled out the Baltit Fort restoration for acclaim: “The Aga Khan Trust for Culture has restored the prime historic landmark of the 700-year old Baltit Fort on the terraced slopes in Hunza, in Northern Pakistan. The main theme of the project is to preserve this setting despite natural decay and the inevitable impact of recent changes, such as urbanisation which has begun to threaten the integrity of the built heritage. The Fort is now a museum and cultural centre. Moreover, culturally and environmentally compatible small enterprises are being promoted which provide gift items, local woolen rugs and hand-knotted vegetable dye carpets for visitors... These activities are playing a major part in reinvigorating the traditional community spirit and restoring the residents’ pride of their heritage. A self-paying waste management project has been set up to safely dispose of human waste and garbage. The project now attracts over 20,000 visitors, half of which are from outside the country. Access to the Fort is limited to pedestrians and only 25 visitors are allowed at any one time. To reduce the pressure on the environment there is a break from tourists during the 4-5 months of winter.”

10. Green Globe Award for Serena Hotels

Serena Hotels, which have been environmental pioneers for many years, have put important environmental programmes in place to protect wildlife, communities and fragile habitats. All Serena properties are members of the Green Globe organization, a certification that is sponsored by the World Travel and Tourism Council. The Quetta Serena Hotel was the recipient of the Green Globe Commendation Award for three years for efforts to beautify the city and educate local school children in environmental awareness. The hotel promotes environmental activities, such as tree-planting weeks, flower exhibitions, workshops on the environment and walks to reduce pollution.

Serena properties in Tanzania were only established after four environmental impact studies were carried out – which is typical of Serena operations. The chain adopted the recommendations suggested by each survey to minimise environmental impact and maximise socio-economic benefit. Land rehabilitation was carried out at each location during construction. Construction employed local materials and labour. Each of the buildings was designed to blend into its natural settings. Today, special incinerators are used to process non-toxic waste and, simultaneously, to supply heat to the rooms. Indigenous plants are carefully preserved and propagated at each site. Over 283,000 trees have been planted by the Mountain Lodge. Another 250,000 trees were planted by the Amboseli Serena Lodge. The Serena Safari Lodge provided 53,000 seedlings to local communities for planting.

ABOUT PRINCE SADRUDDIN AGA KHAN AND HIS HIGHNESS THE AGA KHAN

The late Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, paternal uncle of His Highness the Aga Khan, founded and chaired the Bellerive Foundation along with his wife, Princess Catherine. Prince Sadruddin served the international community in a variety of roles, including the United Nations' High Commissioner for Refugees (1965-77) and the United Nations' Coordinator for Assistance to Afghanistan (1988-90). He was also the United Nations' Executive Delegate of the Secretary General for a humanitarian programme for Iraq, Kuwait, and the Iraq-Iran and Iraq-Turkey border areas (1990). His father, Sir Sultan Mahomed Shah Aga Khan, was the President of the League of Nations from 1937 to 1939.

His Highness the Aga Khan succeeded his grandfather, Sir Sultan Mahomed Shah Aga Khan, as the 49th hereditary Imam of the Shia Imami Ismaili Muslims in 1957. He is the Chairman of the Aga Khan Development Network, a group of nine agencies whose mandates include the delivery of improved healthcare, quality education, the preservation of historic neighbourhoods, microfinance, water and sanitation, housing and large-scale economic infrastructure. The activities of each agency are designed to reinforce and complement those of the other agencies within the Network.

ABOUT THE AGA KHAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

Founded and guided by His Highness the Aga Khan, the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) brings together a number of development agencies, institutions, and programmes that work primarily in the poorest parts of Asia and Africa. AKDN is a contemporary endeavour of the Ismaili Imamate to realise the social conscience of Islam through institutional action. AKDN agencies conduct their programmes without regard to faith, origin or gender.

AKDN agencies operate in social and economic development as well as in the field of culture. The Aga Khan Foundation (AKF), the Aga Khan Agency for Microfinance (AKAM), Aga Khan Health Services (AKHS), Aga Khan Education Services (AKES), and the Aga Khan Planning and Building Services (AKPBS) operate in social development.

The Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development (AKFED) seeks to strengthen the role of the private sector in developing countries by supporting private sector initiatives in the development process. The Fund and the Foundation also encourage government policies that foster what the Aga Khan first called an “enabling environment” of favourable legislative and fiscal structures.

The Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) coordinates the Imamate's cultural activities. Its programmes include The Aga Khan Award for Architecture, the Historic Cities Support Programme, and the Education and Culture Programme.

Two universities are also part of the Network. The Aga Khan University is a major centre for education, training and research. Chartered as Pakistan's first private international university in 1983, AKU has made significant contributions on a range of development challenges. It has teaching sites

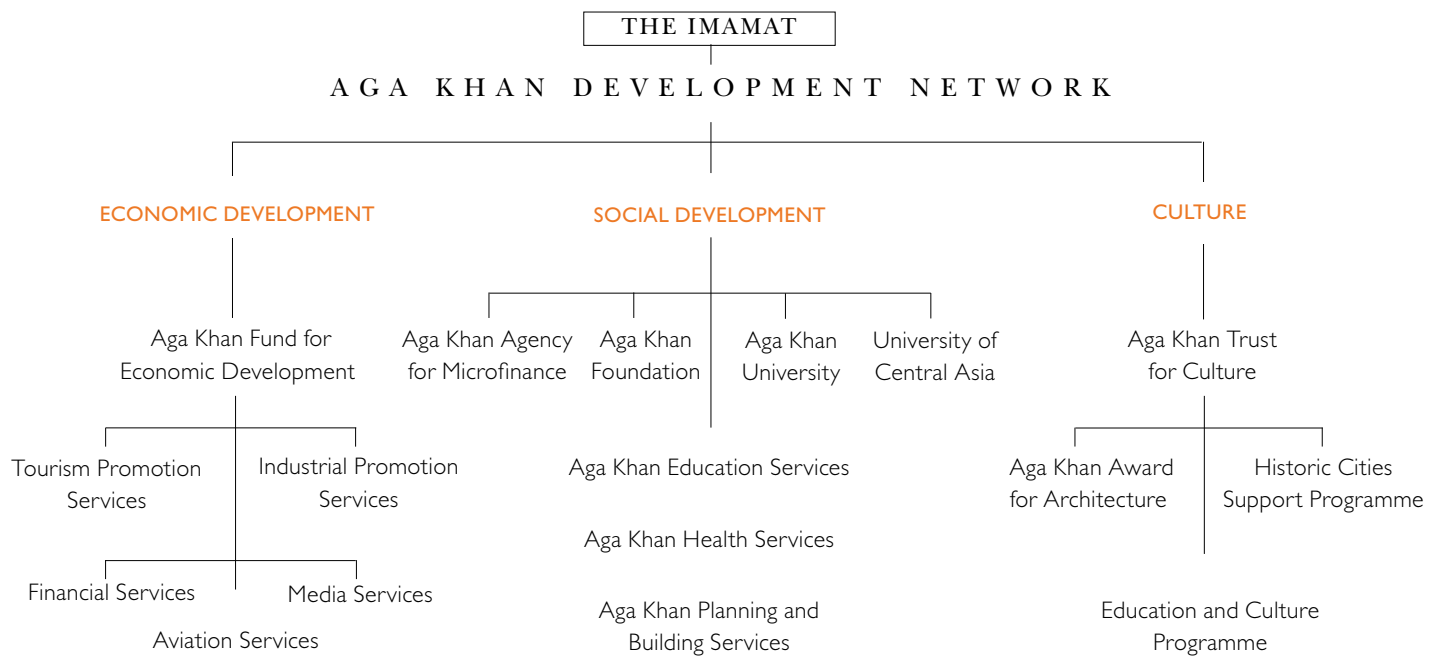
in Afghanistan, Kenya, Pakistan, Syria, Tanzania, Uganda and the United Kingdom. The University of Central Asia, chartered in 2000, is located on three campuses under construction: in Khorog, Tajikistan; Tekeli, Kazakhstan; and Naryn, Kyrgyz Republic. UCA's mission is to foster economic and social development in the mountain regions of Central Asia. It will offer a Master of Arts degree in mountain development; a Bachelor of Arts programme based on the liberal arts and sciences; and non-degree continuing education courses, which have been in operation since 2002.

While each agency pursues its own mandate, all of them work together within the overarching framework of the Aga Khan Development Network so that their different endeavours can interact and reinforce one another. Their common goal is to help the poor achieve a level of self-reliance whereby they are able to plan their own lives and help those even more needy than themselves.

MODEL VILLAGE OF HALTHAGHARI, BALTISTAN, PAKISTAN



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Centro Nazionale delle Riccerche
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Wild Rose Foundation
World Monument Fund
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