

# IUCN Pakistan Annual Report 2016





## About IUCN

IUCN is a membership Union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organisations. It provides public, private and non-governmental organisations with the knowledge and tools that enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to take place together.

Created in 1948, IUCN is now the world's largest and most diverse environmental network, harnessing the knowledge, resources and reach of more than 1,300 Member organisations and some 16,000 experts. It is a leading provider of conservation data, assessments and analysis. Its broad membership enables IUCN to fill the role of incubator and trusted repository of best practices, tools and international standards.

IUCN provides a neutral space in which diverse stakeholders including governments, NGOs, scientists, businesses, local communities, indigenous peoples organisations and others can work together to forge and implement solutions to environmental challenges and achieve sustainable development.

Working with many partners and supporters, IUCN implements a large and diverse portfolio of conservation projects worldwide. Combining the latest science with the traditional knowledge of local communities, these projects work to reverse habitat loss, restore ecosystems and improve people's well-being.

IUCN's Asia Regional Office is in Bangkok, Thailand. The IUCN Asia Regional Secretariat has over 200 staff located in country and liaison offices across South and South East Asia in Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Lao PDR, Nepal, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam.

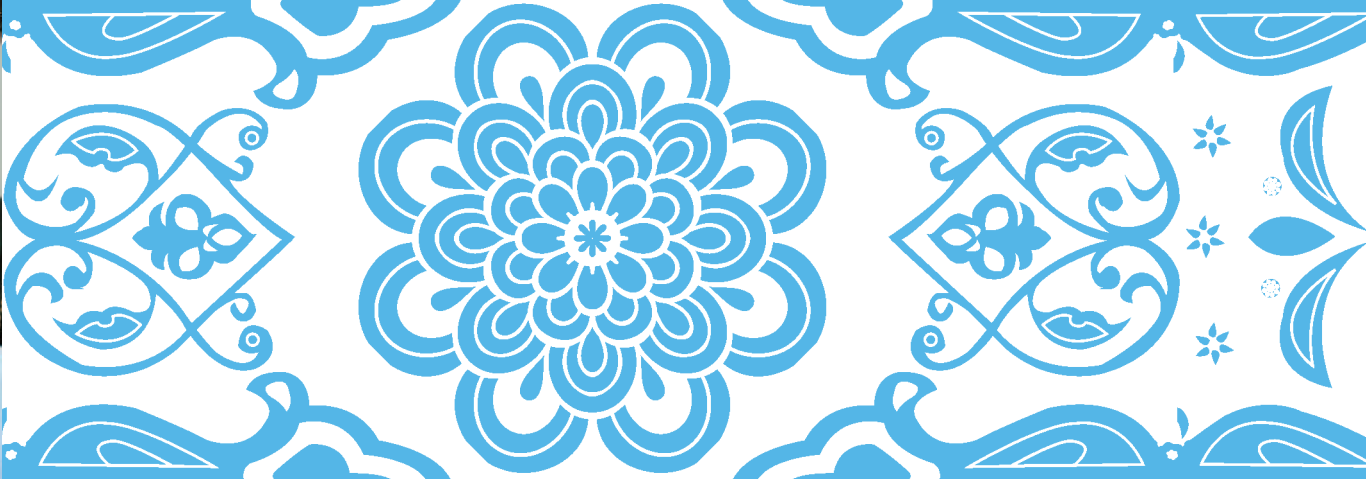
IUCN has worked in Pakistan since 1985. The Pakistan country programme has 42 member organizations, including the Government of Pakistan as the state member, 7 government agencies, 33 NGOs and an international NGO. IUCN has helped the Pakistani government and society to carry forward the agenda for conservation of natural resources, ecological stewardship and sustainable development.

[www.iucn.org/pakistan](http://www.iucn.org/pakistan)



## CONTENTS

Message from the Chair, Pakistan National Committee of IUCN Members	02
Message from the Country Representative, IUCN Pakistan	03
Valuing and Conserving Nature	05
Effective and Equitable Governance of Natural Resources	21
Deploying Nature-Based Solutions	29
Visit of the Standing Committee of the Pakistan Senate to IUCN	33
IUCN's Donor Coordination Group Meeting	34
Engagements with the Private Sector – Ensuring Environmental Stewardship	36
IUCN World Conservation Congress	38
Commission for the Ecosystem Management Chair, Piet Wit Visits Pakistan	41
IUCN Commissions Members in Pakistan	43
IUCN Members in Pakistan	44
Portfolio	46



## Message from the Chair, PNC of IUCN Members

The year 2016 was significant in terms of the election of the new Pakistan National Committee. The two-year term of the National Committee started from January 2016, and the IUCN Members also elected the new IUCN Council during the IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC) held in Hawaii, USA, on 1-10 September 2016.

I am especially thankful to the IUCN Members in Pakistan for their vote of confidence in electing me as the Chair of the Pakistan National Committee. Pakistan has been fortunate that Mr. Malik Amin Aslam has been elected as the Regional Councillor for a second term (2017-2020). I am happy to note that a large number of representatives from IUCN Pakistan member organisations and commissions participated in the WCC. Significant contributions from the members included a motion initiated by Indus Earth in favour of getting Astola Island declared a Marine Protected Area due to its unique ecological significance and a workshop organized by Baanhn Beli on vulture conservation in which they shared their experience and learning from a recently-concluded project.

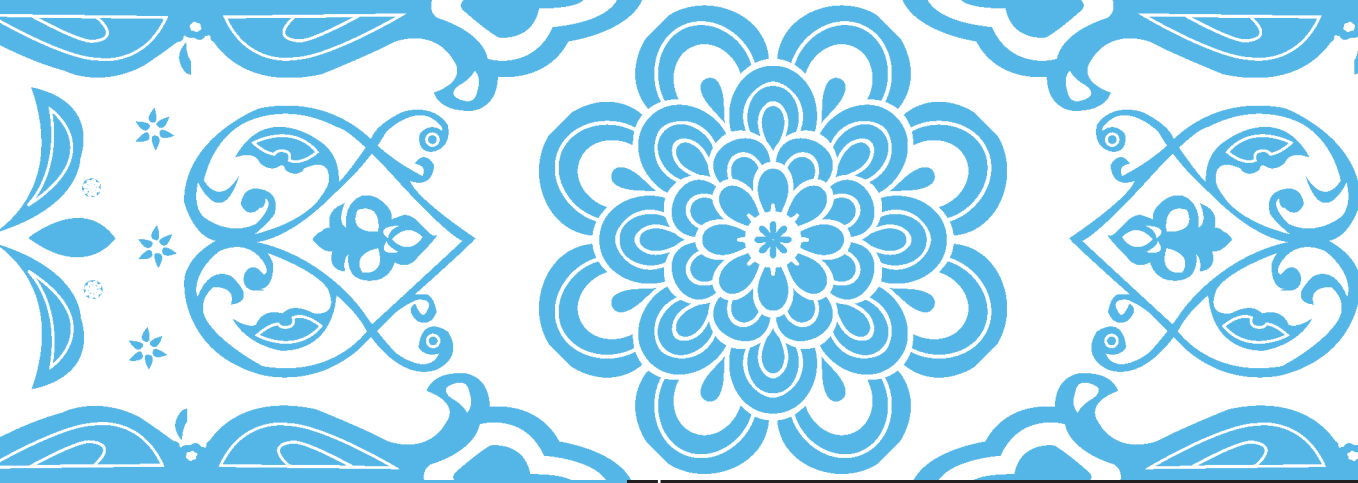
In my capacity as the Chair of the Pakistan National Committee (PNC), and being the head of an organisation based in Quetta, Balochistan, I find the province's water issues very close to my heart. I have endeavoured to ensure greater focus on this serious issue by the Government of Balochistan and, using IUCN's convening power, brought together water experts and key stakeholders towards solution-focused deliberations to address the challenges involved.

In July 2016, I had the opportunity to attend a meeting of the Asian Regional Members Committee of IUCN in Beijing, China. The purpose was to motivate joint efforts among IUCN's Asia members and find opportunities to prepare for effective participation in the WCC.

I hope that with the help of IUCN Pakistan we will come up with some robust programmes that a maximum number of member organisations can implement jointly. In the wake of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), there is tremendous potential for projects to mitigate the effects of urbanisation on the ecology, wildlife and natural resources of the country. Climate change is one of the challenges we face today and requires continuous efforts on our part.

I look forward to the cooperation of the members and support of IUCN Pakistan to further the mission of IUCN and to prioritise nature conservation as an essential pursuit for our survival.

**Amjad Rashid**



## Message from the Country Representative

It gives me great pleasure to present IUCN Pakistan's annual report for the year 2016. The continued dedication of IUCN Pakistan's staff and members has put IUCN Pakistan back on an upward trajectory. As we continue to set high standards, we are also mindful of the challenges that lie ahead of us.

The year 2016 started with a newly elected IUCN Pakistan National Committee assuming its responsibilities, with Mr. Amjad Rashid in the lead as the Chairperson.

2016 was the year of IUCN's World Conservation Congress in Hawai'i in September, in which significant and effective participation by a large number of IUCN Pakistan members – including the Ministry of Climate Change as the State Member – was a great achievement in itself. The former Regional Councillor from Pakistan, Mr. Malik Amin Aslam, was re-elected for a second term (2017-2020) during the Congress.

Other highlights of the year include the award of three major projects, including a GEF-funded Sustainable Forest Management project; headway into the CPEC through the signing of a contract with a Chinese company in Karachi and a joining of hands with the Pakistan Navy for a massive mangroves plantation campaign along Pakistan's coasts.

Initiatives such as the Pakistan Sustainable Transport (PAKSTRAN) project and National Action Programme (NAP) yielded some commendable results as they successfully came to a close by the end of the year. It is worth mentioning here that PAKSTRAN has been the only project on sustainable transport within the IUCN network globally and quite aptly addressed at least three of the UN's seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)..

Also a key highlight of 2016 was the regional symposium on vultures, which marked the successful conclusion of a year-long project on vulture conservation. The symposium addressed the reasons behind the dramatic decline in vulture populations in South Asia in recent years, presented some important solutions and laid the foundations for a robust national vulture conservation strategy.

On the heels of the Vultures Conservation project, another project titled 'Integrated Approach for Education, Capacity Building and Livelihood Development of Coastal Communities in Sindh and Balochistan' was launched, funded by the USAID Small Grants Ambassador's Fund programme. This project aims to expand on the achievements of our previous partnership with USAID by focusing on raising environmental awareness in schools and among fishing communities, while also including a study on the illegal trade in freshwater turtles.

Our engagement with the private sector has also expanded, with new projects signed with Engro Foundation and Sui Southern Gas Company Limited (SSGC). As ever, we remain committed to fostering sustainable and inclusive development while ensuring that our natural environment is preserved for future generations. Looking to the future, I remain optimistic that IUCN Pakistan will continue setting challenging goals for itself and pursuing high standards with the same innovation, dedication and perseverance it has always shown.

**Mahmood Akhtar Cheema**





# VALUING AND CONSERVING NATURE

## ASIA PROTECTED AREAS PARTNERSHIP

In recent times, an increasing number of Asia's protected areas have been put at risk due to an alarmingly high rate of economic development. The Asia Protected Areas Partnership (APAP) is a trans-boundary partnership that brings together 12 countries in the Asia region. Established in April 2014, the idea for this initiative originally came about at the first ever Asia Parks Congress, which took place in 2013 in Sendai, Japan. The establishment of this partnership reflects a growing recognition of the significance of protected areas in multiple spheres, sustainable economic development, climate change, disaster risk reduction and cultural significance, as well as their aesthetic beauty.

In Pakistan, the province of Khyber Pukhtunkhwa (KPK) became the first provincial government to become part of APAP. This was done at a ceremony held in Islamabad where IUCN awarded the APAP certificate to the KPK Wildlife Department. Under this new partnership, the KPK government has planned the establishment of four new



L to R - Dr. Scott Perkin, Head, Natural Resources Group, IUCN Asia; Ms. Aban Marker Kabraji, IUCN Regional Director Asia; Mr. Imran Khan, Chairman, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf; Mr. Malik Amin Aslam, IUCN Vice President and Regional Councillor Asia

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national parks in order to preserve the province's natural beauty and provide eco-tourism services.

Mr. Imran Khan, Chief of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Party, the ruling party in the KPK province, attended the

event. In 2015, Imran Khan's Billion Tree Tsunami Campaign also made an entry into the global Bonn Challenge, a massive global initiative that aims to reforest around 150 million hectares of degraded and deforested land by 2020.



## MAKING HEADWAY INTO CHINA-PAKISTAN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR

IUCN Pakistan made substantial headway into the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in 2016 as it held key discussions with government officials both in China and Pakistan and signed an agreement with an energy company set up under the CPEC in Karachi.

The CPEC is a development megaproject which aims to connect Gwadar Port in south western Pakistan to the north western autonomous region of Xinjiang in China, via a network of highways, railways and pipelines to transport oil and gas.

While it is seen to provide numerous economic benefits for both countries and aspires to transform Pakistan into a regional economic hub, IUCN is focusing on the environmental and social costs associated with an infrastructure project of this scale and on the strategies that will best advise the environmental sustainability and social safeguards that will make this investment beneficial for local livelihoods.

### A brief history

IUCN's involvement in CPEC began in 2015, during the visit of IUCN President Mr. Zhang Xinsheng to Pakistan. IUCN has also been in high-level discussions with the government of Pakistan since then – especially with the Ministry of Climate Change and the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms. Through its China office, IUCN has also been in discussion with the National Development and Reforms Commission (NDRC) and the

Ministry of Environment in China. Both governments are of the view that economic development achieved under CPEC should conform to the principles of sustainable development, and should not be at the cost of environmental degradation.

### IUCN and CPEC

Given its long history in the field of environmental conservation, IUCN is well placed to offer environmental assistance and advice and it has the tools necessary to monitor compliance with environmental regulations. IUCN has recently introduced the concept of Strategic Environmental Impact Assessments (SEA) into Pakistan's development planning and is fully geared to apply such tools toward environmentally safeguarding CPEC projects.

In 2016, IUCN signed an agreement with an energy company, Port Qasim Electric Power Company (Pvt) Ltd. (PQEPC), set up under CPEC, to carry out a scoping study aimed at mapping IUCN's further engagement with the company and to assess possible options for mitigation.

As the CPEC forges ahead, IUCN, given the opportunity, can play an increasingly important role by providing policy advice which has been developed in consultation with the government and the people, bringing the latest knowledge into the country through its access to global knowledge networks and transmitting lessons from the field into dialogue.

A seminar is being planned for mid-2017, with the twofold aim of bringing all relevant CPEC stakeholders onto a common platform, and formalising the role of IUCN in



ensuring environmental safeguards along the infrastructure project. The seminar will further define the scope of work IUCN can engage in, and how it will coordinate with the relevant government agencies in carrying out this work.

### **Eco-Forum Global Annual Conference in Guiyang, China**

Eco-Forum Global (EFG) is China's primary national platform to promote sustainable development, engaging leading global intellectual leaders, policymakers, business executives and other stakeholders. EFG aims to find common ground to mobilize worldwide stakeholders to foster technological innovation, transform ways of production and living, alter GDP-centred policies and bridge the green gap between developed nations and developing nations.

IUCN facilitated the participation of a delegation from the Pakistan government to the Eco-Forum Global Conference held in Guiyang, China, in July 2016. While there, the delegation, led by the Federal Minister for Climate Change, met with officials from NDRC to discuss the CPEC. Potential collaboration with IUCN on CPEC was discussed, along with the idea that IUCN and EFG could be environmental advisors for the CPEC and design pilot projects in select areas. IUCN's expertise and broad knowledge base could be particularly useful in areas such as wetland restoration and flood management, and it was noted that there was scope for involving both private sector and Chinese state companies. The possibility of holding a seminar on CPEC with high-level officials from both countries was first discussed in the course of these meetings.

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Group photo of the Delegation of China's Ministry of Environmental Protection with the IUCN staff and the Pakistan Government officials

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## China's Ministry of Environmental Protection Delegation visits IUCN

In September 2016, a delegation from the China Ministry of Environmental Protection, attended a meeting organized by IUCN in Islamabad in collaboration with the Pakistan Ministry of Climate Change.

The meeting agenda mainly focused on exchanging an overview of the laws and practices which govern the development of infrastructure projects in each country. IUCN Pakistan discussed the recent introduction of environmental impact assessments (EIAs) and SEAs in Pakistan through the National Impact Assessment Programme.

Emphasis was given to the restoration of wetlands, to biodiversity and to water conservation, which were considered particularly vulnerable.

Key speakers at the meeting included Mr. Mahmood

Akhtar Cheema, the Country Representative for IUCN Pakistan; Mr. Syed Mahmood Nasir, Inspector General of Forests for the Pakistan Ministry of Climate Change and Dr. Ren Jingming, Deputy Engineer General of the Appraisal Centre for Environment and Engineering.

## Panel Discussions

A panel discussion organised jointly by IUCN and the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics took place in Islamabad, where experts called for the need to explore safer, greener and more climate-friendly options in technology, and shared the idea of establishing biological corridors to maintain the country's threatened biodiversity. Mr. Cheema moderated the session and touched upon the subject of eco-tourism especially with regard to the CPEC. Speakers at the discussion also touched on the subject of energy efficiency and the potential for renewable energy, while highlighting the importance of carrying out EIAs in a collaborative manner involving both the federal and provincial governments.

## MFF PAKISTAN INITIATIVES AT A GLANCE

The Mangroves for the Future (MFF) initiative, launched by IUCN and UNDP in 2006 as a response to the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, aims to improve natural coastal infrastructure and strengthen resilience against future natural disasters. MFF is currently in its third phase and has grown to include eight institutional partners and a growing number of countries. MFF is operational in Pakistan since 2010.

During 2016, the National Coordinating Body (NCB) of MFF Pakistan approved four small grants under Cycle V for implementation in MFF priority coastal sites. These small grants contribute to community managed fish sanctuaries, promote sustainable fishing practices, reduce post-harvest losses through the use of modern tools and techniques, and encourage the role of women in productive activities through capacity building, exposure to markets, enhanced self-confidence and a greater role in household decision-making.

The completed small grant project awarded to the Institute of Business Management (IoBM), Karachi led to an Economic Valuation of Mangroves in Port Qasim Area.

Findings show that the total value of mangrove products and services in the study area is an estimated USD 1,363/ha/year. Another completed small grant awarded to the Institute of Science and Technology, University of Karachi assessed the stock and market potential of consumable seaweed, in collaboration with the University's Centre of Excellence in Marine Biology. The findings revealed that edible seaweeds were not as abundant as perceived. .

In addition to these, a medium grant was awarded to the Pakistan Navy to establish a biological wastewater treatment system using aquatic Reed plants (Constructed Wetland System). The inaugural ceremony of the reed bed system was performed by Syed Qaim Ali Shah, Chief Minister Sindh, and attended by high-level officials of the Sindh Government, Pakistan Navy, Commissioner Karachi, IUCN staff, private sector members, and the media. The Navy is now successfully using treated wastewater to green 3 acres of Sports Complex Ground, and the model has subsequently been replicated in three more Navy units. A regional-scale project implemented by the FAO in three MFF countries, Pakistan, Thailand and Viet Nam, sought to develop a mechanism enabling investors to responsibly promote mangrove

L to R: Syed Qaim Ali Shah, Chief Minister Sindh; Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, Minister, Transport & Mass Transit, Labour, Human Resources, Information; Rear Admiral Farukh Ahmed; Vice Admiral Syed Arifullah Hussaini

© MFF Pakistan





conservation/restoration, carbon emissions reduction and sustainable development through the provision of funding to local communities. The project's concluding workshop in Bangkok was held in December 2016, during which a series of publications titled, Mangrove carbon estimator and monitoring guide; Incentive allocation for mangrove protection and Mangrove-related policy and institutional frameworks and financing for mangrove protection in Pakistan, Thailand and Viet Nam were presented, intended to be used in conjunction to establish sustainable financing for mangrove protection.

The NCB Pakistan has also been actively involved in supporting the process of designating Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in Pakistan, specifically in line with the country's commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and more generally under the Sustainable Development Goals. A Working Group was formed to identify potential sites for MPAs, and four were subsequently chosen: Astola Island, Churna Island, Miani Hor and Gwatar Bay. A motion (# 052) submitted by a PNC member (Indus Earth) from Pakistan was adopted at the World Conservation Congress 2016 calling for the declaration of Astola Island as Pakistan's first MPA. The process of designating these sites as MPAs is underway and will continue during 2017 in collaboration with the Ministry of Climate Change, Government of Pakistan and other relevant stakeholders. Meanwhile, MFF has extended its support to the Marine Fisheries Department to promote the use of Turtle Excluder Devices (TED), due to which Pakistan was certified to export its shrimp catch to the US.

The other work during the year included integration of two Elective Course Modules on Integrated Coastal Management and Mangroves Ecology and Management in the Revised Curriculum of BS Marine Sciences in collaboration with Higher Education Commission of Pakistan and development of a Handbook on the Coastal and Marine Resources of Pakistan. The Handbook is a compilation of information on Pakistan's coastal ecosystems and biophysical resources and highlights the key sustainable coastal management issues. It is intended to be a useful reference guide for teachers and academia.



## **INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF GWATAR BAY'S COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS – A TRANS-BOUNDARY INITIATIVE**

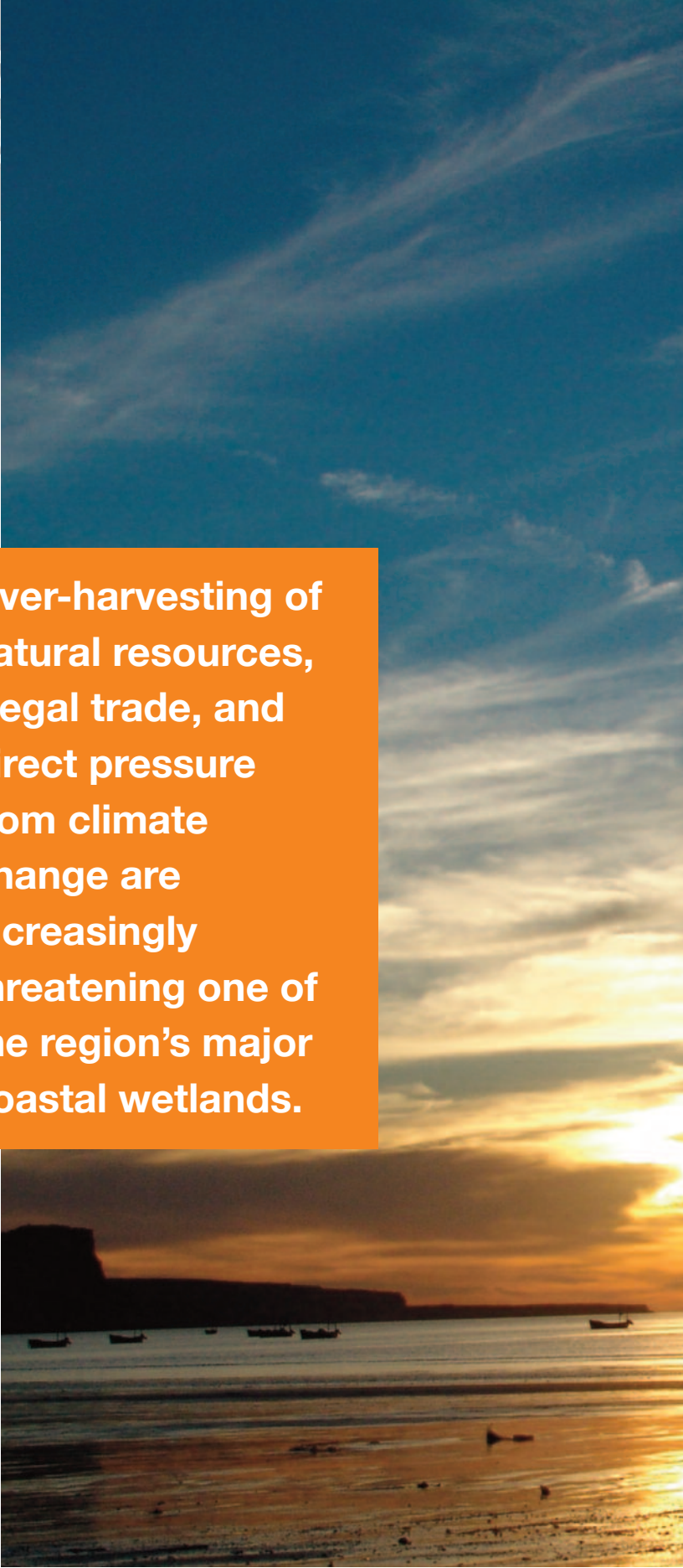
The concept of an integrated management plan for the coastal and marine ecosystems of Gwatar Bay between Iran and Pakistan emerged from discussions facilitated by IUCN's regional offices in West Asia and Asia, in response to a request received from Iran for such a joint trans-boundary initiative.

Subsequent discussions took place at a workshop organized by IUCN in Karachi, involving experts from both Pakistan and Iran and focusing on the Gwatar Bay area between the two countries.

Gwatar Bay is a trans-boundary bay situated on the coast of the Sistan-Baluchistan province of Iran and Pakistan's Balochistan province. It covers an area of around 1,000 km<sup>2</sup> (including the adjacent floodplains) and around 100km of coast between the two countries. The Bay is fed by the largest rivers of the two countries: the Dasht River in Pakistan and the Bahu-Kalat River in Iran.

Despite being separated by a national border, the ecosystems of the bay function as a single entity, with interdependent habitats and species. The area is also very important for local communities, mainly Baloch ethnic groups who share the same culture and language on both sides of the border.

Gwatar Bay is a visually attractive area and has important potential in terms of tourism, which needs to be further explored. The uniqueness of this area led to the



**Over-harvesting of natural resources, illegal trade, and direct pressure from climate change are increasingly threatening one of the region's major coastal wetlands.**

designation of two Ramsar sites: the Gwatar Bay and Hur-e-Bahu Ramsar site in Iran, and the Jiwani Coastal Wetlands Ramsar site in Pakistan. Discussions with Iran originally began through meetings related to the Ramsar Convention, where wetlands issues and opportunities for cooperation were discussed. While efforts have been underway between the two countries to promote cooperation in the political, economic, commercial and cultural spheres, including environment and conservation which serve as significant areas where collaboration is essential.

While Gwatar Bay has a rich endowment of natural resources, it is facing a host of increasingly serious environmental problems. These include pressures from over-fishing and over-harvesting of natural resources, illegal trade and direct pressure from climate change. The area is also home to a number of threatened species, such as the marsh crocodile, several species of turtles, marine mammals and a number of important bird species.

In response to this situation, a project concept has been developed with the aim of presenting key ideas to

support dialogue and consultation for the development of a proposal for trans-boundary management of the Gwatar Bay ecosystem between Iran and Pakistan. The general idea behind such a project would be to influence, encourage and assist societies, particularly local communities in Gwatar Bay, to conserve the integrity and diversity of the area's coastal and marine resources and to ensure that the use of these resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable. It is expected that this project would generate long-term benefits for both countries through the conservation of these critical ecosystems, while also improving the livelihoods of the communities that dwell in the area.

Through appropriate management of one of the major coastal wetlands in the region, a model for cooperation on natural resources management and climate change between Iran and Pakistan could then be replicated in other parts of the region. Such a project could also result in valuable lessons for joint management between Iran and Pakistan which can then be replicated, disseminated and turned into policy recommendations.



## PAKISTAN NAVAL FORCE – PROTECTORS OF THE COASTS

In celebration of International Day of Forests, IUCN Pakistan collaborated with the Pakistan Navy, to launch a million-mangrove tree plantation drive.

This campaign, initiated by the Chief of the Naval Staff, would add significantly to the ongoing forest conservation efforts in Pakistan.

The Pakistan Navy recognises the significance of forests and natural vegetation, particularly the mangrove forests that grow along the coastal areas of the country. Being aware of the valuable role of these forests, the Pakistan





Navy has carried out mangrove plantation drives along the Balochistan and Sindh coasts for the protection and conservation of their natural resources.

In 2016, the Navy was given a medium grant by the Mangroves for the Future Programme (MFF) to increase mangrove forest cover along the coasts. The Pakistan Navy is also a member of the National Coordinating Body of MFF.

This initiative is unique in the sense that apart from their traditional role of being vigilant guards of the national coasts, the naval forces are now also seen as protectors of Pakistan's coastal natural resources.



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Inspector General Forests, Syed Mehmood Nasir

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## CURBING SEA INTRUSION IN INDUS DELTA THROUGH MANGROVES

The gradual encroachment of the sea into the Indus Delta and up the main course of the River Indus in lower Sindh is being increasingly highlighted as one of the worst cases of large-scale environmental degradation occurring in Sindh, in recent policy debates. It is evident that sea intrusion has destroyed thousands of hectares of land in the coastal districts of Thatta and Badin, rendering prime agricultural land barren, contaminating aquifers and causing degradation of coastal deltaic and riverine ecosystems, thus compelling the communities to migrate to the hinterland raising the level of poverty.

This project responds to the interest of the Government of Sindh in combating the land degradation caused by sea intrusion, and provides an alternative livelihood source to the largely marginalized communities residing in the area.

There are three components to this project. The first is mangroves plantation, under which 50,000 hectares of

mangrove forest will be raised. 75% of these are under the management of the Sindh Forest Department, while the remaining 25% (some 12,500 hectares) will be managed by IUCN. To date, IUCN has raised 2,200 hectares. Most of these plantations are located on the islands and in the creeks at Keti Bunder, Kharo Chan, and the Port Qasim Area.

Building on lessons learnt from mangrove forest users in other Asian countries, the second component of the project focuses on a study of the clinical utility of the mangroves species *Rhizophora mucronata*, and has been initiated under the Hamdard Research Institute of Medicine, Hamdard University.

Lastly, community mobilisation is an important part of the sea intrusion project. The aim is to give local communities along the coast an incentive to protect, restore and maintain mangrove plantations by providing them with alternative sources of income. These communities are being trained to work on raising plantations in between their other jobs. Formal and informal training programmes on disaster risk reduction have also been organised in Keti Bunder and Kharo Chan.





Mr. Shamsul Haq Memon, former Secretary, Sindh Forest and Wildlife Department; Mr. Manzoor Ali Sheikh, Secretary, Sindh Forest and Wildlife Department; Mr. Wasif Saeed, Chief Economist, Planning and Development Department, FATA. (Mr. Mahmood Akhtar Cheema, IUCN Country Representative speaking at the podium)

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## A MODEL FOR INTEGRATED COASTAL MANAGEMENT

The coastal areas of Sindh and Balochistan face numerous problems. Among them are the depletion and degradation of mangrove forests due to a lack of awareness of their ecological and economic value; sea intrusion onto agricultural land due to a reduction in freshwater flow to the Indus Delta (with subsequent effects on livelihoods); over-fishing and destructive fishing practices (such as the use of small-mesh nets); illegal wildlife trade; and a lack of basic education, healthcare, and market access.

Recognising that such issues cannot be dealt with in isolation, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) awarded IUCN the project “*Integrated Approach to Education, Capacity Building and Livelihood Development of Coastal Communities in Sindh and Balochistan*”, which aims to address some of these issues by promoting integrated coastal management. The project involves imparting environmental education in 50 schools in the coastal areas of Sindh and Balochistan, and building the

capacity of local communities by training them on sustainable fishing practices, so that they can better manage their livelihood resources. In addition to this, a comprehensive study on the illegal trade in freshwater turtles will also be conducted, while the results will be presented in a seminar next year, along with some recommended measures for addressing the issues.

The project launching ceremony in November 2016 drew representatives from the Sindh Government, IUCN members, academics, conservation experts, and the media. Mr. Manzoor Ali Sheikh, Secretary, Sindh Forest and Wildlife Department, presided over the event as Chief Guest.

Project activities have picked up pace towards the end of 2016, with the development of outreach material like leaflets and posters translated into various local languages, and of content for environmental awareness sessions in schools. Work on a baseline survey has been initiated, and initial visits to schools have also begun. It is hoped that the successful completion of this project will serve as a model for further attempts at finding solutions to Pakistan’s many coastal problems in a holistic manner.



## ARRESTING THE SPEEDY DECLINE IN VULTURE POPULATION IN PAKISTAN

The vulture population in Pakistan has declined steeply over the last 20 years or so, and accelerated efforts are now underway to save these large, magnificent birds from the many insidious threats they've been facing. Vultures have a crucial role in the ecosystem: they serve as a unique scavenger bird which rids the landscape of dead or rotting carcasses. All 8 vulture species found in Pakistan are on the IUCN Red List, and three of them have been listed as Critically Endangered.

While vultures fall prey to various threats globally, in Pakistan they've been rapidly vanishing due to the use of a pain-killer called diclofenac, normally administered to livestock. Despite a ban since 2006 on the production and use of veterinary medicines containing diclofenac, the unauthorized use of the drug has continued with impunity and with disastrous consequences. This refers not only to the imminent threat of extinction, but also to the economy: a study by IUCN concluded that it makes financial sense to invest in the recovery and conservation of these birds rather than replacing the services they render with technological solutions provided by the state.

This project, launched jointly in 2015 by IUCN and Baanhn Beli (a local organisation based in Sindh province) and funded by the USAID Small Grants Ambassador's Fund Programme, has rekindled hope for saving this vital species in Sindh's southern-most district of Tharparkar – an area now considered the core habitat for the remaining vulture population. The project's main aims were to provide policy-level support and to contribute to national efforts to protect vultures, while also raising awareness among local communities regarding the ecological and socio-economic importance of the species.

The project successfully came to a close in 2016, with two major events: a regional symposium and a National

Vulture Recovery Meeting, which originally convened in 2012 with a view to improving coordination nationally to protect and conserve vultures. The third National Vulture Recovery Meeting was held alongside the symposium.

However, the most significant achievement was the development of a National Vulture Conservation Strategy and Action Plan. This document is an attempt to guide local, provincial and national-level actions towards the conservation, protection and restoration of vultures in the country. A handbook, *The Vultures of Pakistan*, was also produced with the aim of helping people identify the different species of vultures found in the country.

### Regional Symposium for Vulture Conservation

In May 2016, IUCN Pakistan, in collaboration with Baanhn Beli and the Ministry of Climate Change, organised a regional symposium on the conservation of vultures in South Asia. The event brought together species experts from India, Bangladesh, Thailand and Nepal, with the aim of encouraging them to share their experience and knowledge in order to formulate a more accurate and holistic strategy for vulture conservation.

One of the main conclusions drawn from the symposium, and the project in general, was that the use of the drug diclofenac, a painkiller administered to livestock, must be curbed. Diclofenac residue is harmful to vultures who feed on tainted corpses, and the drug is therefore one of the primary reasons for the decline in vulture populations in South Asia. However, concerted efforts at the local, provincial, national and regional levels are required in order to ensure that a ban on the drug can be successfully implemented. The shortage of dead animals on which they feed, and encroachments by humans in their habitat, were also touched upon briefly as further explanations for the vulture species' decline.

IUCN and Baanhn Beli have already endorsed stringent regulations against the use of diclofenac, and the



**Vultures play a crucial role in keeping ecosystems healthy: yet today, all eight vulture species found in Pakistan are on the IUCN Red List.**

government of Pakistan has recognized the need to scale up existing efforts to bring alternative drugs into the market and to establish trans-boundary Vulture Safe Zones in the wild. The importance of sensitising the health sector to the issue was also discussed.

The results of a baseline survey on vultures conducted in Nagarparkar, Sindh, were shared at one of the technical sessions, alongside presentations by regional experts on their experiences in vulture conservation and their suggestions on measures which could be adopted in Pakistan to address the decline in the vulture population.

Government representatives, media and academia were also in attendance. The proceedings of the symposium were presented in a report, which included papers submitted by the regional experts, along with their conclusions and recommendations.





# EFFECTIVE AND EQUITABLE GOVERNANCE OF NATURAL RESOURCES



## **STRENGTHENING RESEARCH-POLICY INTERFACE TO IMPROVE WATER MANAGEMENT IN BALOCHISTAN**

IUCN Pakistan, in collaboration with its member Taraqeeq Foundation, organised a two-day expert consultation conference on improving water management and governance in Balochistan.

The initiative was also supported by the Government of Balochistan and the US-Pakistan Centre for Advanced Studies in Water, and invited representatives from government, donors, international organizations, NGOs, academia and the media.

The conference was held in recognition of the need to urgently address the deteriorating water situation in the province. Key areas covered during the sessions included the impacts of groundwater mining and the institutional

measures needed to control it, water conservation opportunities and the impacts of climate change on groundwater depletion.

Balochistan, a natural resource-rich province, is home to a great variety of flora and fauna. Most of its rural population is dependent on these natural resources, which include minerals, forests and rangelands. The scarce water resources of Balochistan have, in recent years, been relentlessly exploited beyond their renewal potential, with the result that the water table in many natural aquifers has been depleted at an alarming rate. Experts believe that the water table in Quetta is being depleted at a rate of 10 to 12 feet per year. Furthermore, experts pointed out that over 70% of Quetta's water supply was contaminated, which posed a serious risk of mass migration from Quetta and other cities if the government failed to address the chronic water crisis.

Thematic technical sessions and panel discussions focused on floodwater as a potential water resource and on the construction of delay-action dams and check dams on small streams and gorges that could both help increase groundwater recharge and reduce the intensity of flash floods. However, the importance of complementing such activities with appropriate watershed management efforts was also emphasised.

The conference also called for the implementation of the Balochistan Master Water Plan 2015-2025 and the draft Balochistan Integrated Water Resource Management Act, both awaiting government approval.

During the conference, the Secretary of the Ministry of Climate Change, Syed Abu Ahmad Akif, noted that climate change and associated water issues had serious implications for Pakistan's future. He explained that rapid population growth, especially in urban areas, and decreasing surface and groundwater availability would impact every aspect of life in the coming decades as weather patterns become more unpredictable and both floods and droughts become more common.

Experts were unanimous in suggesting that a lack of a clear understanding of water issues could therefore be disastrous, not only for Balochistan, but for the country as a whole.

Using its ability to convene diverse stakeholders and facilitate conservation efforts, IUCN organised this initiative to assist the federal and provincial governments in improving decision-making capacity within government ministries, research institutes and the general public in relation to water resource management in a changing climate in Pakistan.

Governor Balochistan, Muhammad Khan Achakzai – delivering a speech at the event

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L to R – Mr. Usman Manzoor, Program Officer, UNDP; Mr. Ishrat Ali, Joint Secretary (Development), MoCC; Mr. Hamid Marwat, National Program Coordinator, Sustainable Livelihood Management Program II; Ms. Fauzia Malik, Manager, IUCN Islamabad Program Office

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## PAKISTAN – NATIONAL ACTION PROGRAMME (NAP) ALIGNMENT AND STRENGTHENING NATIONAL REPORTING PROCESSES

This project aimed to support the revision of the National Action Programme (NAP), Provincial Action Programmes (PAPs), and the development of the sixth national report to the United Nations Commission to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). It was financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and Pakistan’s Government, through the Ministry of Climate Change.

Over a span of nine months, a stock-taking of the existing projects in combating desertification was initially conducted. The original National Action Programme (NAP) document was developed in 2002; however, it could not be implemented. Hence, the NAP document was mandated to be revised in line with the 10 year strategy of the UNCCD, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) for the period 2016 - 2030.

Schematics for the NAP implementation were also proposed by establishing a National Coordination

Committee for Desertification (NCCD) for policy support. Similar Committees, such as Programme Coordination Committees (PCCs) have been proposed with detailed ToRs and composition, with a request to Provincial Planning and Development departments to organise the initial meetings for the revival of the process.

IUCN revised the National Action Programme (NAP) to Combat Desertification document and developed Provincial Action Programmes for all four provinces, Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB). Additionally, input for the Sixth National Report to the UNCCD was provided. A financial diagnosis and mapping of financial resources was conducted for the implementation of the NAP and PAPs, for which an Integrated Financial Strategy was developed. A National Desertification Control Unit (NDCU) was proposed in the document to coordinate the implementation of the NAP and PAPs at all levels. To effectively sustain the NAP to combat desertification and to reduce poverty in arid and semi-arid regions of the country, there is a need to establish a “National Desertification Fund”. Establishment of the fund may preferably be done by an Act of Parliament and notified by the Federal Government to provide it with a legal cover to effectively support the NAP.



In December 2016, a training workshop on climate financing opportunities was organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Water and Power, and was attended by members from different departments of the Ministry of Water & Power and the Climate Finance Unit at the Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC). The workshop played a crucial role in disseminating important information regarding Green Climate Fund (GCF) accreditation and financing for all relevant stakeholders.

Through the events, activities, printed material and the IUCN and PAKSTRAN websites, a large number of individuals from civil society, academia and other transport-related departments at the federal and provincial levels were given knowledge and awareness on the concept of sustainable urban transport, establishing a solid base for the formulation of a comprehensive urban transport policy.

### **Training Workshop on Accessing Climate Financing**

Under the PAKSTRAN project, a two-day training workshop on climate financing opportunities was conducted in Islamabad in December 2016 with the aim of equipping the participants with the relevant skills needed to apply for climate funding, especially from funds such as the GCF. With Pakistan among the top countries most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, and with the government being able to allocate only a limited portion of its budget to environmental issues, this was a particularly important exercise. The workshop also achieved the general objective of making more institutions in the country aware of the GCF and the opportunities it offers, while the Clean Development Mechanism and Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions were also discussed

Emphasis was given to the development of concepts and proposals which would be relevant for funds like the GCF, which has certain thematic areas on which it focuses. The GCF is a unique global initiative to respond to climate change through both mitigation and

adaptation by investing in low-emission and climate-resilient development. Established by 194 governments to limit or reduce greenhouse gas emissions in developing countries, the GCF also aims to help vulnerable societies adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change.

Mr. Fawad Hayat, Director of Climate Finance for the MoCC, was one of the workshop's key presenters. Government representatives, media, academia and national and international NGOs also participated in the event, and the sessions were designed to be as interactive as possible to enable participants to come forward with practical recommendations on the subject. Particular emphasis was given to the opportunity to develop a proposal on flood management, with speakers from the Federal Flood Commission giving an overview of the issue in Pakistan.

Group work was an important part of the sessions.

Given the current focus on climate change in the international arena, and the growing recognition that it is a pressing problem worldwide, the GCF is becoming increasingly relevant. The workshop was vital in identifying future opportunities to access its funds through establishing sustainable future collaborative arrangements with donors and key stakeholders. Incidentally, the PAKSTRAN project, which focuses on providing technical assistance to reduce the growth of energy consumption and related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from Pakistan's transport sector, is in line with one of the GCF's priority areas, which is reducing emissions from transport.

**PAKSTRAN  
focuses on  
providing technical  
assistance to  
reduce the growth  
of energy  
consumption and  
related GHG  
emissions in the  
transport sector.**

## WATER GOVERNANCE IN FATA


Water Governance in FATA is a two-year project funded by the Swiss Agency for Development & Cooperation (SDC). The project primarily focuses on integrating environmental concerns specific to water governance in the planning and implementation of development projects pertaining to the FATA region, by establishing an Environment Cell in the P& D Department of FATA secretariat. IUCN Pakistan is the partner organization responsible for the implementation of the project and is doing so through its partners in the Planning and Development Department (P&DD), FATA secretariat, Ministry of Climate Change and SDC.

The project is designed to address problems like: environmentally insensitive development planning and implementation; continuous over-exploitation of groundwater resources beyond their recharge capacity; contamination of water sources; and overall weak institutional and technical capacities to manage water resources in the region.

The main purpose of the project is to develop and enhance the technical capacities of the FATA Secretariat/Directorate and relevant departments at the agency level to institutionalise proper planning and monitoring of development investments which contribute to ecologically sustainable changes. The project also prioritizes awareness-raising amongst the youth.

Progress in 2016 has revolved around two broad outcomes: ensuring environmental protection measures are adopted in development projects by all stakeholders' institutions; and improving the performance of natural resource institutions in the formulation and implementation of water governance programmes.





A capacity needs assessment of select departments and focal points was carried out by the FATA Secretariat, and a capacity development plan was formulated accordingly, in order to ensure that the secretariat staff was better equipped to incorporate environmental considerations in their planning activities. Environmental Assessment (EA) guidelines were developed and adopted at the basin and sub-basin levels. A handbook for water conservation through watershed management was also developed.

Meanwhile, several activities to raise environmental awareness were undertaken. World Wildlife Day was jointly celebrated by IUCN and the FATA Secretariat in March. An exposure visit for students was also organised. The students, who were from Khyber and Mohmand Agencies, were taken to Islamabad to visit the Pakistan

Museum of Natural History, and the Margalla and Shakarparian National Parks – a garbage collection drive was undertaken at the latter. The students were also given the rare opportunity of visiting the Pakistan Senate. The establishment of environmental clubs in four schools in FATA is underway.

In order to further strengthen the environment cell, an environmental specialist and a natural resource management specialist joined the team in December 2016. Meanwhile, the challenges anticipated for the coming year include the implementation of an official capacity development plan, and a detailed study on water quality, surface and sub-surface water resources mapping, and localised water protection parameters in the region.

Rosa laacrans: Commonly used in Eastern Medicine  
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# DEPLOYING NATURE- BASED SOLUTIONS



## **MOUNTAINS & MARKETS – CREATING POWERFUL VALUE CHAINS**

Mountains and Markets is a UNDP-funded project being implemented by the Ministry of Climate Change, Government of Pakistan. IUCN, in its role as technical assistant, has been supporting the project management unit since 2013. The project activities are located in four conservancies in Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa and Gilgit Baltistan.

The overall aim of this project is to create market-based incentives to address threats to biodiversity in the project area arising from the unsustainable commercial exploitation of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs). This will be done by generating biodiversity conservation benefits for local communities in Pakistan's mountainous northern areas by assisting them in establishing viable community-based enterprises, while also ensuring that these enterprises benefit from, and are well integrated with, national and international markets for green products and services.

To this end, the year 2016 saw the successful achievement of many of the project activities. Two more Business and Biodiversity Roundtables (BBRTs) were held with the aim of strengthening links between the private sector, community producers, conservation actors and other key stakeholders. The discussions also focused on how to overcome the barriers that limit community-based biodiversity-friendly NTFP production.

Protocols for sustainable harvest and Biodiversity Monitoring Indicators (BMIs) for NTFP's were developed, and several trainings were held for Community Based Enterprises (CBEs). These trainings covered a range of topics, including the sustainable harvest of NTFPs. They also involved developing the capacity of CBEs by imparting business and financial planning and management skills. Stakeholders were also given the opportunity to broaden their experience by visiting the International Trade Fair in Baltimore, USA.

Expected activities in the year ahead include updating and completing the baseline survey, conducting further trainings for CBEs on BMI, holding another Business and Biodiversity Roundtable, and completing the Joint Forest Mechanism.

## National Ethno-Botanical Seminar

As part of the Mountains and Markets initiative, IUCN hosted a National Ethno-Botanical Seminar in Islamabad during December, in order to draw attention to the rich flora found in Pakistan's northern regions, and to underscore the importance of using our biodiversity products sustainably. The economic scope of botanical products is constantly expanding, with the industry for herbal and plant medicine worth billions of dollars. Given these developments, a speedy and quality-focused value chain needs to be in place to ensure that these resources are not over-exploited.

Participants included representatives from the Ministry of Climate Change, Government of Pakistan, UNDP, IUCN and Pakistan Science Foundation, experts from the forestry and herbal sectors, and academics.

While the project's aim is to add value to marketable Non-Timber Forest Products while ensuring that the project's benefits accrue to the communities which maintain and harvest these products, it is also hoped that the certification of biodiversity-friendly products will create new economic incentives for biodiversity conservation, thus making the harvesting of such products sustainable.





Successes under the project were highlighted, such as the fact that Pakistan's herbs can now be certified for export. Suggestions were made regarding the need to refer to CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) when engaging in the trade of such products. The Chairman of the Pakistan Science Foundation, Dr. Muhammad Ashraf revealed the plan of establishing a fully-fledged botanical garden in Pakistan, which is a pioneering step in itself.

### **THIRD PARTY MONITORING OF GIZ RAHA PROJECTS**

IUCN, through continued motivational efforts and advocacy, has succeeded in aligning the approaches and developmental strategies of member organisations with the principle of sustainable development and environmental conservation. As a result, member organisations such as the Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP), Taraqee Foundation and Water, Environment & Sanitation Society (WESS) have started designing and implementing projects following the strategy of sustainable development through conservation of natural resources and ecosystem rehabilitation.

The IUCN Balochistan Programme has strengthened its partnership



### **ACCELERATING DEVELOPMENT THROUGH CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE**

In the wake of accelerating industrial and economic development, the need for applied research in the energy sector has been rising ever since the energy crisis has hit the world in general and Pakistan in particular. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is financing the establishment of two centres for advanced studies in Pakistan, one at the National University of Science and Technology (NUST), Islamabad and the other at the University of Engineering and Technology (UET), Peshawar. The centres will be dedicated to undertaking applied research for exploring the potential of indigenous resources and developing technologies and policy guidelines, leading to the availability of inexpensive energy in Pakistan. While the centres will enjoy a working relationship with the local energy industry, efforts are being made to collaborate with overseas industries as well to seek sponsorships for research projects. Arizona State University (ASU), USA is implementing this project on the ground in Pakistan, for which IUCN is providing assistance and support under a Sub-award agreement with ASU.

Besides supporting ASU in Project implementation, IUCN assisted ASU in facilitating the holding of various workshops, which included a national level stakeholders' workshop, green buildings workshop, gender workshop, batteries and fuel cells workshop, and an orientation workshop for Pakistani students going to the USA as part of a students' exchange programme.

with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (German Development Cooperation) by signing a year-long contract for third party supervision, monitoring and evaluation of two developmental projects being implemented by BRSP and WESS, with the financial support of GIZ.

GIZ has been financing developmental projects in the border districts of Pakistan since the last two decades, where the concentration of Afghan refugees in and around the urban and rural settlements has contributed to the degradation of the environment, and deterioration of physical infrastructure, forests, and rangelands.

Over the last two years, IUCN has been entrusted by GIZ to carry out the technical supervision, monitoring and

impact evaluation of two ongoing GIZ-funded projects focusing on enhancing social cohesion through sustainable natural resource management in the Killa Abdullah, Pishin, Chaghi and Nushki Districts. Three monthly monitoring reports have been submitted to date, and one quarterly evaluation exercise has been conducted. Additionally, the IUCN team regularly provides inputs to GIZ and its implementing partners in order to ensure that projects are implemented with a true spirit of environmental and natural resource conservation.

IUCN is also helping member organizations and GIZ in conceptualising projects for future financing, with special emphasis on promoting climate change adaptation by strengthening community resilience to the effects of climate change.

IUCN Team monitoring the WESS-implemented and GIZ-financed NRM project site





## VISIT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE PAKISTAN SENATE TO IUCN

IUCN Pakistan facilitated a visit of the members of the Standing Committee of the Senate of Pakistan to the coastal areas of Karachi to ascertain the level of environmental degradation that continues unabated, threatening both marine life and the livelihoods of millions of fisher folk who depend solely on the coastal resources of the country.

The delegation was headed by the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Environment, Mir Muhammad Yousaf Badini, and comprised Senator Ahmed Hasan from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Senator Nuzhat Sadiq, Senator Saleem Zia and the Federal Secretary of the Ministry of Climate Change, Syed Abu Ahmed Akif.

The visit was meant to sensitize the delegation to the seriousness of the chronic issue of marine pollution along the Karachi coast, and also to help develop their understanding of the implications such environmental degradation has for the local economy.

The delegation visited the areas where industrial waste and sewage was being poured into the sea, attended a

briefing of the Pakistan Navy on the effects of marine pollution and also inspected a mangrove plantation drive by a private fertilizer firm on 50 hectares along the coastal belt of Karachi.

The Committee was also informed of the heavy damage the Pakistan Navy was incurring due to the marine pollution – the rate of deterioration to the Pakistan Navy's ships and submarines has doubled due to alarming levels of marine pollution off the coast of Karachi. It is estimated that around 500 million gallons of untreated polluted water, containing both industrial waste and sewage, pours into the sea every day.

The delegation urged the government authorities to take appropriate measures to address the issues of industrial effluent flowing into the sea, mangrove deforestation and encroachments along the coast. They were appreciative of the years of mangroves restoration work IUCN has been carrying out along the coast of Karachi and Sindh, as well as of the technical expertise the organization has provided frequently to the government.

Visit of the Members of the Environment Standing Committee of the Pakistan Senate to the coastal areas

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## IUCN DONOR COORDINATION GROUP MEETING



Realizing the importance of donors in the development process, IUCN Pakistan constantly stays in touch with its donors to keep them abreast of the sustainable development challenges Pakistan faces, and helps them align their commitments towards initiatives aimed at addressing conservation challenges.

Every year, IUCN organizes a donor coordination meeting to bring together its donors to update them on pressing issues, along with its achievements and ongoing activities. This year's IUCN Donor Coordination Group (IDCG) meeting was organized in Islamabad in January. Major donors, international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and representatives of the government, as well as national and international experts, attended the event.

IUCN highly appreciates the contribution and commitment of the donors over the years. Because IUCN is a membership-based union, much of its work is to facilitate its members and partners, both in the government and in the NGO sectors.

Donors at the IDCG 2016 valued the conservation initiative currently underway at IUCN, and spoke of possible re-alignment of some of their ongoing commitments towards tackling the challenges involved in conservation. They appreciated IUCN's early work and recounted some of the organization's achievements in the last 30 years.

Donors recognise that Pakistan is faced with new challenges in sustainable development, and with the impacts of climate change adequately visible now, there

is a greater need to focus on mitigation and adaptation measures through projects that specifically address key biodiversity conservation issues.

Donors highlighted numerous opportunities to work together with IUCN as partners, especially after the COP21 in Paris. IUCN was viewed as having the relevant expertise to work on the climate change agenda with the Ministry of Climate Change. Amongst key issues discussed at the meeting were water governance, species conservation, coastal resources degradation and strategic environmental assessments, especially in the context of the CPEC. Special emphasis was given to water as an integral part of IUCN's programme, especially in water-scarce Balochistan, where several initiatives have been piloted and require up-scaling.

IUCN's work along the coasts of Pakistan is very well-recognised. The Mangroves for the Future (MFF)

Programme in particular, being a regional initiative, spans the entire coastline of Asia and links different countries in what is a true example of a regional trans-boundary programme. MFF has disbursed 30 small grants along the coast of Pakistan to date; these grants are vital in that they invest in small pilot projects initiated by local NGOs and community-based organisations working in the area. Donors were encouraged to explore potential opportunities that MFF could present through its piloting work.

CPEC was another opportunity where donors showed keen interest to work together with IUCN in ensuring environmental safeguards. IUCN also briefed donors about the need for a trans-boundary initiative between Iran and Pakistan in Gwatar Bay and the wetlands between the two countries, and about the Ecosystems Across Borders initiative between Pakistan and India, mainly in the Rajasthan area.

L to R - Mr. Mahmood Akhtar Cheema, IUCN Country Representative;  
Mr. Malik Amin Aslam, IUCN Vice President and Regional Council Asia;  
Ms. Aban Marker Kabraji, IUCN Regional Director Asia; Dr. Scott Perkin, Head, Natural Resources Group, IUCN Asia.

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## ENGAGEMENTS WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR – ENSURING ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP



IUCN is notable for its partnership approach in addressing environmental issues. Being one of the oldest conservation organizations in the world, it understands that the environment can't be considered in isolation – environmental issues do not exist in a vacuum, and they cannot be solved in one. Also, given the evolving nature of climate finance in particular, and environmental funding in general, it is increasingly important to engage the private sector in conserving the integrity and diversity of natural resources. Moreover, businesses themselves are dependent on our limited stock of natural capital, which makes the decision to involve them in utilising this stock sustainably a logical one.

Our engagement with the private sector in Pakistan has grown in the past few years, particularly with companies operating along the coast of Karachi. IUCN supports these companies in fulfilling their corporate social responsibilities.

2016 has seen IUCN work on four private sector initiatives for the following companies/organisations: Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC); Engro Elengy; Engro Foundation; and the Port Qasim Electric Power Company (PQEPC).

Because these are all located along the coast, mangrove plantation and conservation has been a running theme across most of these engagements. However, various other activities have also been undertaken. Both projects under Engro involve the training and capacity building of local communities within the project area in order to ensure the sustainability of the interventions after the project is formally over. The development and

dissemination of education and outreach material in local languages has also played its part in the sustainability of the project.

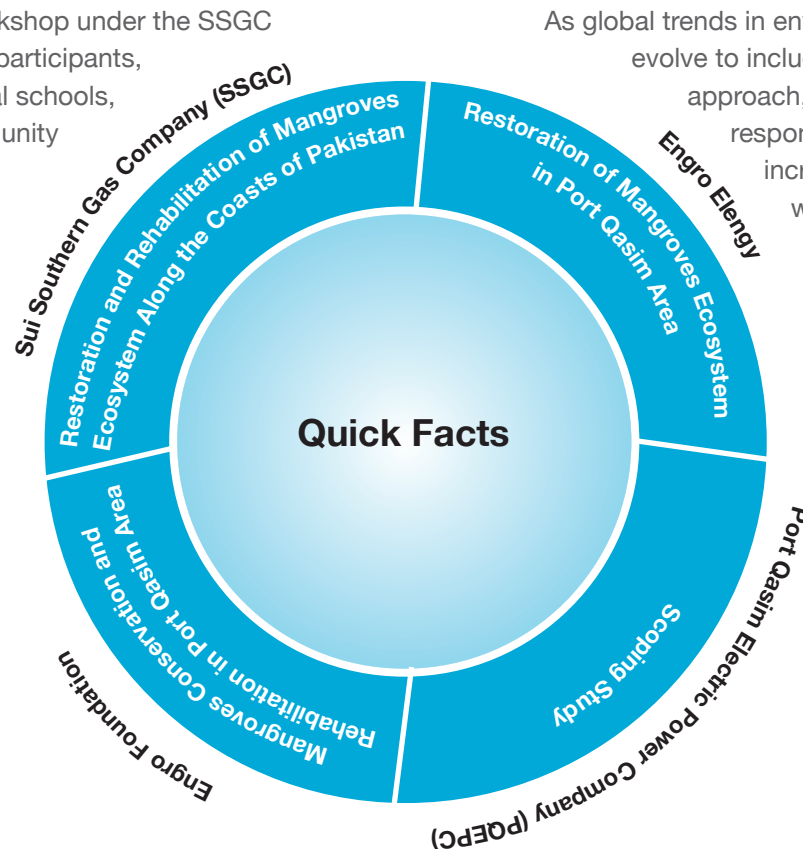
Both Engro Elengy and Engro Foundation have invested in the plantation/rehabilitation of 500 ha each of mangrove forests in Port Qasim Area. 385 ha have already been completed under the Engro Elengy project, which started in 2015. In addition, a 100,000 container plant nursery has also been established for selected species of mangrove. A short documentary is planned, and will focus on the importance of the coastal environment and ecosystem. Meanwhile, an exposure visit under the Engro Elengy project saw the participation of students from the Department of Geography, University of Karachi, senior officials of the IFFCO, Dalda Foods, and senior officials from Engro Elengy.

In October, a training workshop under the SSGC project drew around 100 participants, mainly students from local schools, stakeholders, local community members and decision makers, while technical experts from IUCN and representatives from SSGC and the Sindh Fisheries Department spoke at the event. SSGC has also invested in increasing mangrove forest cover by planting 6,000 to 10,000 saplings in the

jurisdiction of their LPG Terminal at Port Qasim, of which 9,000 have been planted to date. Additionally, a seminar involving the public, media, and academic institutions is also a component of this engagement.

The inclusion of students in many of the awareness raising activities is particularly important, because the hands-on experience they receive will eventually enable them to come up with newer, better solutions for mangrove conservation.

Towards the end of the year, IUCN signed a contract with the Port Qasim Electric Power Company (PQEPC) to carry out a scoping study in the vicinity of their new installation in order to assess the major environmental impacts, provide environmental guidance, and establish a shortlist of priority actions to mitigate these impacts.



As global trends in environment financing evolve to include a more market-based approach, and as corporate social responsibility becomes increasingly important in a world where environmental issues are gaining more and more awareness, IUCN acknowledges and encourages the growing interest and participation of the private sector in safeguarding our environment and natural resource base.



## IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS



The IUCN World Conservation Congress is held once every four years and brings together leaders and decision-makers from government, civil society, indigenous peoples, business, and academics, with the goal of conserving the environment and harnessing the solutions nature offers to global challenges.

The 6th IUCN Conservation Congress took place from 1st – 10th September in the Hawaii Convention Center, in the Hawaiian capital, Honolulu.

In the 6th Congress more than 1,300 Member organizations exercised their rights to influence the global conservation agenda and guide IUCN's work plan for the four years to follow. It was attended by around 10,000 participants. Pakistan had a large delegation from the Asia region comprising 50 delegates, including representatives of the IUCN Members and IUCN staff members.

Pakistan was in the limelight with an extra-ordinary achievement of Professor Ashiq Ahmad, who was awarded the Kenton Miller Award at a ceremony held at the Congress. It was the first time any person from the South Asia region was honored with this award. It was in recognition of his role as an innovator and leader in promoting co-management in the vicinity of Khunjerab National Park for improving the quality of life of the people of the area.

Indus Earth Trust from Pakistan submitted a Motion in the IUCN Members Assembly for declaring Astola Island as a Marine Protected Area that was adopted by a majority votes at the Congress.





Members of the Pakistan delegation to the WCC

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Baanhn Beli organized a workshop at the Congress titled: *A vulture conservation strategy: sharing an experience from Pakistan: looking to learn from others*. The workshop shared the work of the project on vulture conservation jointly implemented by IUCN and Baanhn Beli for preparation of National Vulture Conservation Strategy, supported under the USAID Small Grants Ambassador's Fund in Nagarparkar, Tharparkar. The findings of the project were presented during the Congress.

The workshop was attended by a large number of participants. Proceedings were conducted by Senator (r) Mr. Javed Jabbar, who introduced the role of Baanhn Beli in promoting grassroots community development in the far-flung areas of Sindh, encouraging community participation in the conservation of natural resources, and raising awareness about environmental issues in Pakistan.

Pakistan fielded two candidates for the IUCN Council elections: Mr. Malik Amin Aslam, former IUCN Vice

President and Regional Councillor Asia for the position of Regional Councillor for the second term and Ms. Meher Marker Noshirwani for the position of the Chair, *Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP)*. Mr. Malik Amin Aslam was re-elected as the Regional Council for Asia. He also participated as a panelist for a high level session at the Members Assembly on Building Constituencies for Nature; a session on Conservation Finance; presented the Council performance report along with the president and vice presidents; and chaired the members' session to elect the next president of IUCN.

The IUCN Pakistan National Committee regularly convened the committee's meetings for experience sharing and the election campaign follow-up for the two candidates from Pakistan. Delegates from Pakistan participated in hundreds of other workshops, knowledge cafés, seminars, poster exhibitions, high level dialogues and presentations.

The Cultural and Scientific Society of Pakistan showcased a poster titled *Inspiring Young Generation: Capacity Building for Conservation and Management of Ecosystem, Biodiversity and Protected Areas through Training Workshops: A CEM, West Asia Successful Program Conduction in Pakistan, Qatar and Sultanate of Oman* at the Forum. The poster portrayed the training workshops organized by the Regional Chair of the Commission of the Ecosystem Management, West Asia for enhancing the capacity of the experts of the Ecosystem Management in various countries of West Asia.

Mr. Tahir Rashid, Commission Member, Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP) and The World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) was invited as an expert and a panelist at a side event: *Mega Cities and Watershed Management*. The event comprised of four presentations and a panel of 5 experts presenting their experiences with working on the forest landscape and ecosystem based restoration of watersheds of

megacities in China and other places. The empirical examples enabled the audience to understand and subsequently uptake replicating the restoration efforts for similar watersheds across the world.

Mr. Naseebullah Khan Bazai, Additional Chief Secretary, Planning and Development Department Government of Balochistan presented the Balochistan perspective at the Water Pavilion during the session on Water Conservation Issues in the Arid and Semi-Arid Zones. He also presented Balochistan's perspective on Integrated Water Shed Management for recharging ground water aquifers during the screening of the Ground Water Solar Pump video by AWAZ Foundation.

AWAZ Foundation Pakistan screened the documentary of its flagship program on clean energy and safe water for poor and marginalized farmers titled *Rising with the Sun*. The screening was held at the Water Pavilion of the Congress.

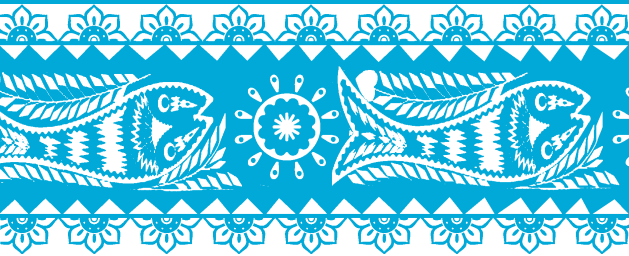
Malik Amin Aslam Khan, chairing one of the sessions at the WCC

© Kiara for MA



A Meeting of the IUCN Pakistan National Committee at the WCC





## COMMISSION FOR THE ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT CHAIR, PIET WIT VISITS PAKISTAN

On the invitation of the Scientific and Cultural Society of Pakistan, Mr. Piet Wit, chairperson, IUCN Commission for the Ecosystem Management (CEM), visited Pakistan for a training workshop on “Conservation and Management of Biodiversity and Ecosystem” organised at the University of Karachi by the Scientific and Cultural Society of Pakistan in collaboration with the Department of Zoology, University of Karachi in July 2016. The training covered various thematic areas: IUCN Red Listing of Ecosystems, Importance of GIS for biodiversity and ecosystem systems, modern techniques for ecosystem restoration, marine turtle conservation in Pakistan, climate change and its effect on ecosystems, threatened species, data recording with GPS, status of reptiles in Pakistan, conservation status of biodiversity of Sindh and the status of mangroves. The CEM is striving to expand its worldwide database on ecosystems.

During his visit, Mr. Piet Wit also had a meeting with Ms. Aban Marker Kabraji, IUCN Regional Director Asia, and Mr. Mahmood Akhtar Cheema, Country Representative IUCN Pakistan, who gave him an overview of the programmes and activities underway at IUCN Pakistan. A meeting was also convened for the IUCN Members, CEM Commission Members and IUCN staff to interact with the Chair, CEM at the IUCN country office. Mr. Piet Wit presented an overview of CEM and its products.

Mr. Wit proceeded to share the work that CEM had carried out over the last four years. The commission works on specific ecosystems, such as wetlands, mountains, and subjects such as fisheries and deep-sea mining, and has over 20 thematic groups. Some newer thematic groups include arctic ecosystems, nanotechnology and



Mr. Piet Wit, Chairperson, IUCN Commission for the Ecosystem Management (CEM) along with Mr. Tahir Qureshi and Dr. Babar Hussain

aquaculture. Mr. Wit encouraged Commission Members to come forward with new thematic areas to focus on. He also highlighted the fact that CEM maintains a Red List of Ecosystems which is compiled using the same scientific rigor and process as that of the IUCN Red List of Species, as well as the importance of inclusive thinking in conservation work which has led to IUCN's increased role in disaster-risk reduction.

Following the meeting a field visit was organised by IUCN Pakistan to Hawksbay and Sandspit beaches. The two beaches stand among the 11 most important beaches in the world where marine turtles lay eggs. Mr. Wit also

planted a mangrove sapling in the vicinity of the WWF Wetlands Centre at the Hawksbay beach. The mangroves in the vicinity of Mai Kolachi area were also visited by the team.

IUCN Pakistan is striving to involve IUCN Commission Members in its activities. Two of the Regional Chairs from Pakistan, Dr. Muhammad Zaheer Khan for Commission for Ecosystem Management and Ms. Meher Marker Noshirwani for Commission for Environment, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP) have been very active in their tenure from 2012-2016. Involvement of the commission members is one of IUCN Pakistan's priorities.





## IUCN COMMISSIONS IN PAKISTAN

Commission	Focal Person	Description	Pakistan Members
<b>IUCN Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)</b>	Danish Rashdi	CEC drives change for the co-creation of sustainable solutions through leading communication, learning and knowledge management in IUCN and the wider conservation community.	<b>28</b>
<b>Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP)</b>	Faiz Kakar	CEESP provides expertise and policy advice on economic and social factors for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.	<b>26</b>
<b>World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL)</b>	Fauzia Bilqis Malik	WCEL advances environmental law by developing new legal concepts and instruments, and by building the capacity of societies to employ environmental law for conservation and sustainable development.	<b>20</b>
<b>Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM)</b>	Tahir Qureshi	CEM provides expert guidance on integrated ecosystem approaches to the management of natural and modified ecosystems.	<b>17</b>
<b>Species Survival Commission (SSC)</b>	Ghulam Qadir Shah	SSC advises the Union on the technical aspects of species conservation and mobilizes action for those species that are threatened by extinction.	<b>49</b>
<b>World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)</b>	Dr. Abdul Majeed	WCPA promotes the establishment and effective management of a worldwide representative network of terrestrial and marine protected areas.	<b>24</b>

# IUCN MEMBERS IN PAKISTAN

## NAME OF ORGANIZATION - MEMBER SINCE

### STATE MEMBER



NCCW, CLIMATE CHANGE DIVISION - 1975  
[www.cdmpakistan.gov.pk/cdm\\_ministry.html](http://www.cdmpakistan.gov.pk/cdm_ministry.html)

### GOVERNMENT AGENCIES



SINDH WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT - 1973  
[www.sindhforests.gov.pk](http://www.sindhforests.gov.pk)



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF OCEANOGRAPHY (NIO) - 1995  
[www.niopk.gov.pk](http://www.niopk.gov.pk)



GOVERNMENT OF GILGIT-BALTISTAN - 2008  
[www.gilgitbaltistan.gov.pk](http://www.gilgitbaltistan.gov.pk)



PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, BALOCHISTAN - 2008



PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, FATA - 2008



SINDH COASTAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY - 2013  
[www.sindhpn.gov.pk/aboutus/attachedoffices.asp](http://www.sindhpn.gov.pk/aboutus/attachedoffices.asp)



PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, KPK - 2015

### INTERNATIONAL NGO



AGA KHAN RURAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME (AKRSP) - 2005  
[www.akrsp.org.pk](http://www.akrsp.org.pk)

### LOCAL NGOS



World Wide Fund for Nature-Pakistan (WWF) - 1970  
[www.wwf.org](http://www.wwf.org)



THE SCIENTIFIC & CULTURAL SOCIETY OF PAKISTAN (SCSP) - 1988  
[www.scsparachi.org](http://www.scsparachi.org)



SHIRKATGAH-WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE - 1990  
[www.shirkatgah.org](http://www.shirkatgah.org)



BAANH BELI - 1992



SUNGI DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION - 1992  
[www.sungi.org](http://www.sungi.org)



SHEHRI-CITIZENS FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT - 1992  
[www.shehri.org](http://www.shehri.org)



PAKISTAN INSTITUTE OF LABOUR EDUCATION & RESEARCH (PILER) - 1992  
[www.piler.org.pk](http://www.piler.org.pk)



SARHAD RURAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME (SRSP) - 1993  
[www.srsp.org.pk](http://www.srsp.org.pk)



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT POLICY INSTITUTE (SDPI) - 1993  
[www.sdpi.org](http://www.sdpi.org)



STRENGTHENING PARTICIPATORY ORGANISATION (SPO) - 1994  
[www.spopk.org](http://www.spopk.org)



AWAZ FOUNDATION PAKISTAN - 2013  
[www.awazcde.org.pk](http://www.awazcde.org.pk)



H.E.J. RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF CHEMISTRY - 1996  
[www.iccs.edu](http://www.iccs.edu)



LEGENDS SOCIETY - 2013  
[www.legendssociety.org](http://www.legendssociety.org)



KHWENDO KOR - 1997  
[www.khwendokor.org.pk](http://www.khwendokor.org.pk)



RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION - 2013  
[www.rdfoundation.org.pk](http://www.rdfoundation.org.pk)



SOUTH ASIA PARTNERSHIP PAKISTAN (SAP-PK) - 2001  
[www.sappk.org](http://www.sappk.org)



SOUTH ASIAN CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE NETWORK (SACAN) FOUNDATION - 2013  
[www.sacanasia.org](http://www.sacanasia.org)



LEAD-PAKISTAN - 2001  
[www.lead.org.pk](http://www.lead.org.pk)



NEW WORLD HOPE ORGANISATION - 2013  
[www.newworldhope.org](http://www.newworldhope.org)



INDUS EARTH TRUST - 2006  
[www.indusearthtrust.org](http://www.indusearthtrust.org)



THARDEEP RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME - 2013  
[www.thardeep.org](http://www.thardeep.org)



HAASHAR ASSOCIATION - 2006  
[www.haashar.org](http://www.haashar.org)



CENTRE FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT- 2014  
[www.cpdbalochistan.org](http://www.cpdbalochistan.org)



TARAQEE FOUNDATION - 2010  
[www.taraqee.org](http://www.taraqee.org)



HEALTH AND NUTRITION DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY (HANDS) - 2014  
[www.hands.org.pk](http://www.hands.org.pk)



TRUST FOR CONSERVATION OF COASTAL RESOURCES - 2011  
[www.tccrpk.org](http://www.tccrpk.org)



PARTICIPATORY VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (PVDP) - 2014  
[www.pvdpsindh.org](http://www.pvdpsindh.org)



HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT NETWORK (HRDN) - 2012  
[www.hrdn.net](http://www.hrdn.net)



WATER, ENVIRONMENT AND SANITATION SOCIETY (WESS) - 2014  
[www.wess.org.pk](http://www.wess.org.pk)



INSTITUTE OF RURAL MANAGEMENT (IRM) - 2012  
[www.irm.edu.pk](http://www.irm.edu.pk)



NATIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM - 2015  
[www.facebook.com/national-rural-development-programme-nrdp-135685133198587/](https://www.facebook.com/national-rural-development-programme-nrdp-135685133198587/)



BALUCHISTAN RURAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME - 2013  
[www.brsp.org.pk](http://www.brsp.org.pk)



SOCIETY FOR EMPOWERING HUMAN RESOURCE - 2015  
[www.sehr.org.pk](http://www.sehr.org.pk)

## PORTFOLIO

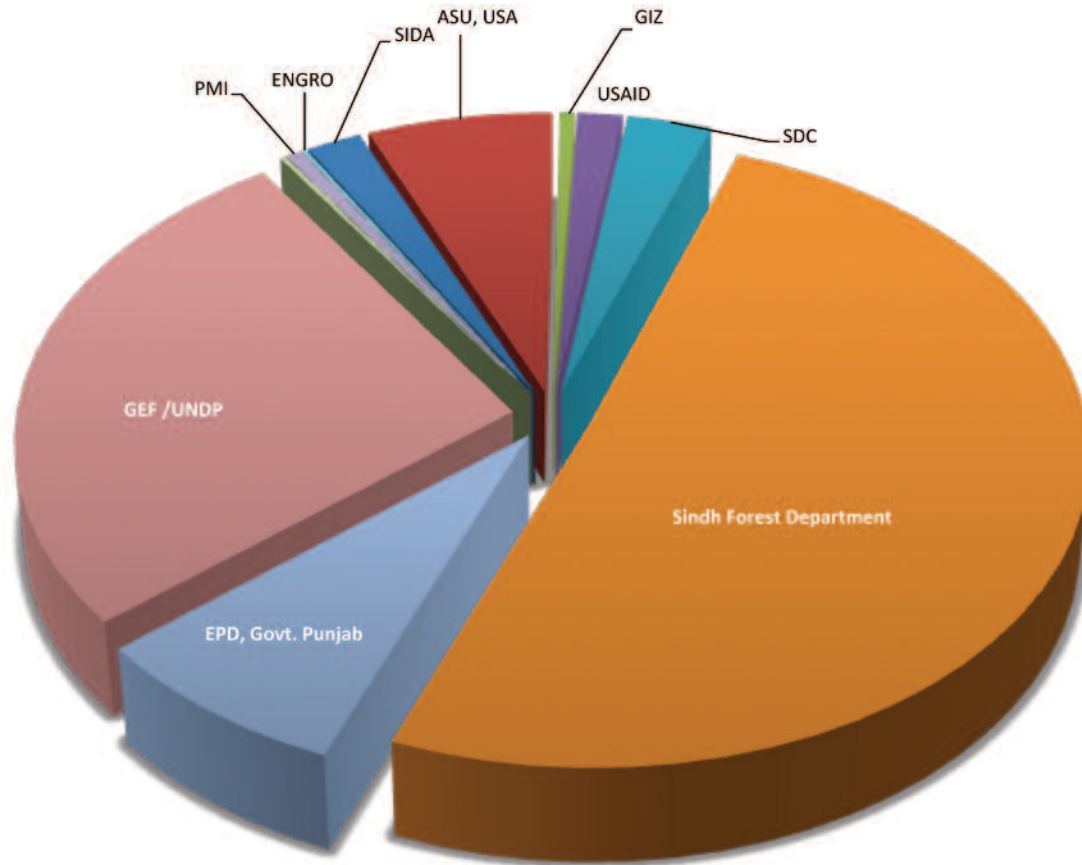
IUCN has been implementing a wide variety of projects, ranging from policy advocacy and support to on ground implementation. The IUCN Pakistan projects during 2016 are as follows:

Project	Donor	Duration	Budget (US\$)
The Mangrove For the Future -MFF-NCB	SIDA	2016	85,000
The Mangrove For the Future-MFF-SGP	SIDA	2016	185,833
Establishment of Biodiversity Park in Murree	EPD-GoPunjab	2010-2016	1,093,906
Pakistan Sustainable Transport Project (PSTP)	GEF/UNDP	2011-2016	1,728,000
Support to Pakistan for the Revision of the NBSAPs and Development of Fifth National Report to the CBD	GEF/UNEP/CCD	2013-2016	220,000
Possible Role of Mangroves in curbing Sea Intrusion	Sindh Forest Department	2014-2019	6,981,000
Integrated Approach to Education, Capacity Building and Livelihood Development of Coastal Communities in Sindh and in Baluchistan Provinces	USAID	2016-2017	190,000
Mountain & Markets Programme (M&M)	GEF/UNDP	2013-2017	339,200
Third Party Monitoring and Evaluation Assignment in Killa Abdullah and Zhob, Balochistan	GIZ	2014-2016	73,414
Support ASU in relationship Building with Govt. and academia	ASU-Arizona State University	2014-2019	911,445
Mangroves Conservation and Rehabilitation in Port Qasim Area	ENGRO Foundation	2016-2017	51,000
Restoration of Mangroves Ecosystem in Port Qasim Area	ENGRO	2015-2016	80,000
Establishment of Environment Cell in FATA Secretariat	SDC	2015-2017	417,752
Preparation of Vulture Conservation Strategy - Pak	USAID	2015-2016	31,450
National Action Programme (NAP) to Combat Desertification in Pakistan	MoCC	2016-2017	135,000
Sustainable Forest Management to Secure Multiple Benefits in Pakistan's High Conservation Value Forests	GEF/UNDP	2016-2020	1,272,617



The donor mix for IUCN Pakistan portfolio during 2016 is shown in the graph below:

## DONOR MIX





## IUCN PAKISTAN CONTACTS

### **KARACHI**

Country Office  
1 Bath Island Road, Clifton  
Karachi 75530  
Tel: +92 (21) 35861540-42  
Fax: +92 (21) 35861448  
cro.pk@iucn.org

### **ISLAMABAD**

Programme Office  
70-A, Nazimuddin Road  
F-7/4, Islamabad  
Tel: +92 (51) 2656991-97  
Fax: +92 (51) 2656998

### **QUETTA**

Programme Office  
Marker Cottage,  
Shahrah-e-Zarghoon  
Quetta  
Tel: +92 (81) 2840450-2  
Fax: +92 (81) 2820706

### **PESHAWAR**

FATA Water Governance Project  
FATA Environment Cell  
P&DD FATA Secretariat,  
Warsak Road, Peshawar  
Tel: +92 (91) 5201825

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**IUCN Pakistan**  
**Country Office**

1 Bath Island Road  
Karachi 75530, Pakistan  
Tel +92 (21) 35861540-43  
Fax +92 (21) 35861448  
cro.pk@iucn.org  
www.iucn.org/pakistan

