

# WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND RURAL LIVELIHOODS IN PAKISTAN

## Future Challenges and Opportunities in a Globalizing World

### Recommendations of the Conference

As biodiversity loss continues at alarming rates. This loss threatens to undermine economic and social progress in Pakistan and worldwide.

Pakistan has repeatedly recognized that reinforced action is urgently required if Pakistan is to meet the commitments made to halt the loss of biodiversity and to significantly reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity.

This action needs to be carefully directed so that it has the desired effect and so that resources are used as cost-effectively as possible.

The conference 'Education for Wildlife Sustainability' was convened by the UVAS, to address these concerns.

More than 300 participants were drawn, represented key stakeholders from the universities, environmental, forest, wildlife, media and development communities.

This 'Message from the conference has been recommended for consideration by Conference Delegates

1. Protect and conserve threatened ecosystems, habitats and species by the development of appropriate programmes of assessment, management and monitoring, and teaching and research.
2. Improve understanding of the major anthropogenic and natural drivers of biodiversity change, and their individual and combined impacts. Important drivers and pressures include:
  - Habitat fragmentation, connectivity and destruction
  - Climate change
  - Natural and anthropogenic catastrophes
  - Pollution
  - Non-indigenous and invasive organisms and emergent diseases
  - Loss of genetic diversity
  - Harvesting and hunting pressure
3. Ensure conservation of Pakistan's most important wildlife habitats and species within a thriving wider environment.
4. Prevent, minimize and mitigate negative impacts on biodiversity of construction, infrastructure and extractive industries, or related to the use of infrastructure.
5. Ensure that biodiversity concerns are fully recognized in the conception and implementation of community legislation and instruments in both environment and other sectors.
6. Prevent or minimize the negative impacts on biodiversity and optimize opportunities to benefit biodiversity, in relation to climate change adaptation and mitigation.
7. Conserve and enhance biodiversity through sustainable forest management at national, regional and global levels.
8. Ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources while promoting their conservation and sustainable use.
9. Raise awareness and educate local public, stakeholders, policy makers, NGO's and Government organisations, regarding wildlife conservation issues.
10. Train personnel in rescue and preparedness programmes with respect to environmental management and natural disasters
11. Introduce captive breeding and conservancy programmes on critically endangered species of animals and plants.
12. Encourage the development of law enforcement initiatives to stop the use of harmful pesticides and harmful veterinary drugs.
13. Develop and apply modelling tools including GIS methodology, aimed at understanding the complex nature of natural ecosystems and the interactive processes that ensure their stability and sustainability.
14. Produce a bank of GIS reports on ecosystems and their constituent species in Pakistan that can routinely be available to researchers and teachers.
15. Develop appropriate tagging methods to allow the tracking of endangered wildlife on a continuing basis, and link this to GIS assessments of ecosystems.
16. Prepare atlases containing distribution maps of endangered species of animals and plants.
17. Institute monitoring programmes that assess the effectiveness of sustainable conservation programmes on a continuing and regular basis.

18. Institute programmes to train non-professional and professional personnel in conservation and environmental management issues.
19. Introduce long term monitoring and modelling programmes that allow the continuous assessment of climate change, and its impact on ecosystems and wildlife.
20. Develop curricula in schools that teach wildlife conservation and environmental management.
21. Establish wildlife information and resource centres for the use of local communities, NGO's, Government organizations, schools, colleges, and universities.
22. Encourage the development of cross-disciplinary research and teaching programmes at all levels that lead to a deeper understanding of the functioning of natural ecosystems.
23. Raise the awareness of the general public, including children, of environmental and wildlife issues by the use of radio, television, websites, and the press.
24. Address the subject of harmful levels of pesticide residues in plants and animals, with particular reference to food chains and human consumption.
25. Use environmentally friendly and socially acceptable agricultural practices for the sustainable production of agricultural crops, so that these crops can be safely used for human and animal consumption.
26. Develop and then use participatory non-formal methodologies to train the trainers and facilitators in field techniques for agricultural and environmental management.
27. Promote wildlife tourism, by the use of trained local guides who have detailed knowledge of local fauna, flora and associated environmental issues.

It is now imperative that all key stakeholders respond effectively to this message by mobilizing and engagement of the private sector and the general public.

The recommendation committee was comprised of the following experts:

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