

The Environment and Climate Change Outlook of Pakistan



Foreword

The Environment and Climate Change Outlook of Pakistan is a review of the environmental conditions, the impacts of climate change and the status of national response to the changing situation in the country. Its objective is to provide a general evaluation of the quality of environment and emerging sustainable development trends in the country. While providing data and information on environmental conditions and trends and emerging problems, particularly climate change, the document also analyses critically the policy response to these issues in the country. It also illustrates successful initiatives and best practices, some of which may be replicated. Finally, the report identifies key challenges and areas in which urgent action is needed.

The principal challenge identified is to promote growth in the country while safeguarding natural resources, promoting eco-efficiency, and enhancing public participation while empowering communities to become custodians of the environment. It also notes that although Pakistan contributes very little to GHG emissions, yet the country faces the worst environmental challenge in the form of climate change and dealing with it is no longer an option for the country; it has become an unavoidable reality in the wake of increasing symptoms exhibited through cataclysmic floods and droughts. The potential impacts of climate change identified are wide-ranging and are likely to affect all dimensions of development with impacts across many sectors and ecosystems.

The report highlights that a number of environmental problems of the country are the result of failure to consider the environmental implications of development. It also identifies poverty and difficulties in meeting basic need as another important factor responsible for aggravating environmental degradation. The report underscores that these interdependent and interconnected environmental challenges contain an important message of broadening the vision of economic growth to the holistic perspective of sustainable development.

A number of national and international institutions helped in the preparation of this report. Among national institutions, help was extended by the Ministry of Industries, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Finance, Planning Commission, Federal Bureau of Statistics, GCISC, WAPDA, SUPARCO, NARC, NIO, Pakistan Forest Research Institute, Pak EPA and provincial EPAs, Pakistan Meteorological Department, NDMA, PCRWR, and several other organizations. UNEP, UNESCAP, and international NGOs such as IUCN and WWF also extended assistance in the preparation of the study.

The report is the result of close collaboration between University of Peshawar, Climate Change Division and UNEP. We wish to thank Dr. Mohammad Aslam Khan Professor, University of Peshawar, and the author of this report. I would also like to thank Mr. Irfan Tariq and Mr. Zia-ul-Islam, Directors of this Division, who made extremely valuable contributions in the production of this report. The generous financial support of UNEP towards the preparation of the report is deeply appreciated and duly acknowledged

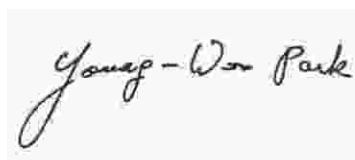
Secretary, Climate Change Division

Preface

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has the mandate to keep the state of the global environment under review. As highlighted in the Rio+20 outcome document *The Future We Want*, this calls for the provision of scientific information and building national and regional capacity to support informed decision-making. This mandate is implemented by working with partners to help countries develop scientific assessments and identify emerging issues, based on credible data and information, monitoring and earth observation.

The Pakistan Environment and Climate Change Outlook (ECCO) 2013 is one of the outcomes of this mandate. It uses an integrated environmental assessment methodology developed as part of UNEP's Global Environment Outlook assessment process, to present and analyze data and information on the state, trends and outlook of the environment. The Pakistan ECCO report has a particular focus on climate change, and is expected to guide environmental policy, strategy development and planning in the years to come.

The report presents concrete evidence that food, freshwater and the livelihoods of the Pakistani people are under threat due to climate change and environmental degradation. It reveals that inadequate capacity, unsustainable consumption and production, poverty and inequity are primary factors that undermine progress towards environmental sustainability in Pakistan.



Young-Woo Park
Regional Director and Representative
United Nations Environment Programme
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

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List of Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
ADP	Annual Development Programme
AEDB	Alternative Energy Development Board
AR	Attock Refinery
ASICTP	Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics
BAU	Business as Usual
BC	Biological Capacity
BOD	Biological Oxygen Demand
CAI	Clean Air Initiative
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBOs	Community Based Organization
CBR	Crude Birth Rate
CDA	Capital Development Authority
CDGL	City District Government Lahore
CDR	Crude Death Rate
CIESIN	Centre for International Earth Science Information Networking
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
CLEAN	Central Laboratory for Environmental Analysis and Networking
CMS	Convention on Migratory Species
CNG	Compressed Natural Gas
CO	Carbon monoxide
COD	Chemical Oxygen Demand
CPI	Cleaner Production Institute
CRU	Climate Research Unit
DALYs	Annual Disability Adjusted Life Years
DSC	Data Surveillance Centre
ED	Ecological Deficit
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EF	Ecological Footprint
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EKN	Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherland
ENERCON	Energy Conservation Centre
ENSO	EL Nino Southern Oscillation
FNT	Far-Nose-Throat

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