



### Progress Towards Environmental Sustainability

Pakistan has successfully developed policies and programmes for environmentally sustainable development through wide-ranging national consultations spanning the Government and civil society, which led to the passing of the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act. This has led to building the capacity of environmental protection agencies, engaging the media, NGOs and grassroots institutions in environmental causes and investing in formal training in environmental disciplines. Pakistan’s National Conservation Strategy (NCS) and the various environmental programmes that were initiated in the 1990s generated awareness, introduced legal and regulatory frameworks, and helped strengthen environmental institutions throughout the country. The NCS also triggered off two-way linkages between conservation and other national strategies and plans.

At the same time, however, Pakistan has been experiencing years of decline in its biophysical environment. Water availability has declined from 5,300 cubic meters per capita in 1951 to a borderline of 1,200 today, which is barely above 1000 m3 per capita, the indicator of water scarcity. It is estimated that about 38% of Pakistan’s irrigated land is waterlogged, 14% is saline, and the application of agricultural chemicals has increased by a factor of almost 10 since 1980. Air pollution is increasing as a result of industrialization and seriously affects several cities. Over-fishing and polluted waters are reducing the productivity of the marine and inshore fisheries.

The situation is precarious, in particular, for mangroves in the coastal zone and certain aquatic wildlife, such as the Indus freshwater dolphin. All of these activities are contributing to the destruction of habitats and, more generally, to a loss of biodiversity.

Pakistan is taking serious steps, however, to achieve MDG 7 target 10 for access to safe drinking water. Plans are underway to extend the coverage of clean drinking water from 63% in 2001-02 to 70% in 2005-06 and sanitation from 40% to 55% in the same period. It is targeted to provide 93% of population with access to clean drinking water by 2015 and 90% of the population with access to sanitation.<sup>1</sup>

## QUICK FACTS

### CURRENT PORTFOLIO BUDGET

<b>Total UNDP-GEF and Co-Finance:</b>	\$43,655,700
<b>Total UNDP and Co-Finance:</b>	\$5,131,281
<b>Total MPU and Bilateral:</b>	\$407,133
<b>Total:</b>	\$49,194,114

**Cumulative Total ODS Phased-Out:** 18.6 ODP tonnes

## SPOTLIGHT



### Fuel-Efficient Smokeless Stoves Bring Health and Environmental Benefits<sup>2</sup>

Pakistan’s largest forest reserve, the Changa Manga, is surrounded by 55 villages, putting the protected area’s natural resources under pressure. The villagers are dependent upon firewood for cooking and there is a high rate of woodcutting, which is either used for firewood or sold to generate income. Smoke and soot from traditional stoves coat women’s kitchens and hands, causing a variety of illnesses and trauma related to smoke inhalation.

To reduce women’s dependence on firewood, and improve their health and living conditions, a project funded by the GEF Small Grants Programme encouraged widespread the use of fuel-efficient smokeless stoves. Implemented by the Escorts Foundation in two phases between 1995-2002, SGP provided grants of \$7,500 (1995) and \$32,698 (1999). Village leaders and others were consulted on how to train people to construct and use the stoves. Female volunteers took home stove construction kits and became responsible for motivating others to use the stoves, and for evaluating and monitoring post-construction use of the stoves.

11,728 stoves have been constructed to date. As a result many families now buy 50% less wood, resulting in income saved to meet other needs. Additionally illegal woodcutting in the reserve and indoor air pollution levels have decreased, while kitchen hygiene has improved. The project has provided employment opportunities for women, lifting their social status in the villages. The project also benefits the global environment through the significant reduction of GHG emissions from fuelwood burning.

The project’s focus on strengthening the capacity of local women has enabled them to take action to improve their and their families’ well-being. The Escorts Foundation is now hosting sessions for other NGOs wanting to support similar projects.



Pakistan's environmental problems are grouped into two broad categories with varying degree of impacts. The first, arising primarily from a combination of poverty and population growth, leading to the over-exploitation of natural resource capital, and the second, emanating from the largely unplanned increase in industrialization and urbanization, leading to the pollution of water, air and land. UNDP Pakistan provides the initiative and assistance in project implementation. Also, UNDP provides support in planning, development and monitoring, without creating a dependency on this support system thus independently creating a national capacity to handle projects of local and global significance.<sup>3</sup>



**Haoliang Xu, Resident Representative**

## PORTFOLIO

**FSSD\*** Three strategic initiatives are underway to identify priorities and needs for capacity development to address global environmental management requirements, to support environmental sustainability and poverty reduction in the context of economic growth, and to contribute to sustainable development in Pakistan through bringing about attitudinal and behavioural changes in students in favour of environmental conservation.

**WATER** Integrated Water Resources Management becomes essential when scarce water resources get polluted by unhealthy sanitation practices. UNDP's support, mainly through the Kasur Tanneries project, intends to contain and reduce the environmental deterioration caused by tannery waste; to improve the tanners existing inadequate technical and managerial skills, to promote environmental awareness amongst people, and to build and strengthen institutional capacities and regulatory measures

**ENERGY** Pakistan has taken serious steps towards the provision of access to sustainable energy resources. Several of UNDP projects are focusing on assisting communities to actively participate in conservation and sustainable management of forest resources, and to help reduce CO2 emissions; promoting the commercialization of wind power in Pakistan; and reducing at-source emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants by improving fuel efficiency for transport vehicles.

**LAND** UNDP's support under Sustainable Land Management and Combating Desertification is undertaking an in-depth analysis of causes and effects of land degradation in Pakistan.

**BIODIVERSITY** With a number of partner donor countries and international NGOs, UNDP through GEF resources is assisting Pakistan in enhancing conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity resources. Two projects in particular promote the conservation of freshwater and marine wetlands and the associated globally important biodiversity of the country, in addition to empowering, organizing the capacity of local communities to conserve biodiversity in the Mountain Area Conservancy project.

**CHEMICALS** UNDP supports Pakistan in its efforts to meet global environment obligations through MLF and GEF funded programmes. Under the Montreal Protocol, assistance is provided towards strengthening institutional capacity so that national policies and programming are effectively managed. Under the Stockholm Convention, UNDP is assisting with an enabling activity that establishes the basis for integrated efforts in managing POPs through development of a National Implementation Plan.

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### PARTNERS

**Some of our Partners working with UNDP and the Government in Pakistan**

SDC	EU	UNICEF
STEP	UNIDO	
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ADB	WWF	
RNE	IUCN	
JICA	DFIC	

<sup>1</sup>MDGR 2004 [http://www.undg.org/documents/5593-Pakistan\\_MDG\\_Report.doc](http://www.undg.org/documents/5593-Pakistan_MDG_Report.doc); <sup>2</sup>GEF SGP; <sup>3</sup>Responding to Climate Change, Generating Community Benefits, 2003: <http://sgp.undp.org/download/SGPCC.pdf> and SGP Online database: <http://sgp.undp.org/index.cfm?Module=Projects&Page=ShowProject&ProjectID=300>; <sup>4</sup><http://www.un.org.pk/undp/energy/overview.htm>; <sup>5</sup>Frameworks and Strategies for Sustainable Development