

FAST FACTS

United Nations
Development Programme



Pakistan

Protection of Critical Ecosystems

Human survival and wellbeing depend upon biodiversity and healthy ecosystems, and the goods and services they provide—such as food, medicines, crop pollination, filtration of pollutants, and protection from natural disasters. This contribution is neither fully recognized nor valued in markets. As a result, ecosystems, species and genes—the building blocks of biodiversity—are being degraded at an unparalleled pace as natural resources are exploited without consideration for their broader ecosystem and economic values. The poor, especially in rural areas, face the most severe impacts of such changes as they directly depend on ecosystem goods and services for their survival and wellbeing.

The sustainable management of ecosystem is essential to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and combating poverty. The conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is key to achieving development goals.

UNDP's biodiversity and ecosystems portfolio is the largest in the UN system. In Pakistan, our work helps individuals, institutions and systems to identify and implement new options for effective ecosystem management. We assist the Government to identify and access environmental finance



MATTERS OF FACT

- The first National Climate Change Policy was developed and approved
- National Sustainable Development Strategy was presented as Pakistan's road map for sustainable development in Rio+20
- **24** projects were implemented across **19** districts to improve service delivery and community ownership of natural resources
- **5** critically threatened dry land eco-systems were conserved through community based initiatives in sustainable management of land resources in Balochistan, KP and Punjab provinces
- More than **700,000** households nationwide engaged in climate change adaptation, energy conservation/alternate energy provision, ecosystem and biodiversity conservation
- Approximately **5,000** hectares of non-arable arid land were converted into productive land

for ecosystem management, mobilize pro-poor markets for ecosystem goods and services and generate sustainable livelihoods for those dependent on ecosystems. Our key area of intervention—conserving and protecting ecosystems – continues to strengthen community resilience.

Our work on protection of critical ecosystems improves community-based management of natural resources in vulnerable environments, including the sustainable management of threatened ecosystems.

Integrating ecosystem management into development planning

Our interventions support the National Sustainable Development Strategy of Pakistan, which was also drafted with UNDP support. We assist the Government and communities, while working with civil society, the private sector and national and international partners to improve livelihoods by integrating biodiversity issues into national sector-based policies.

Our work supports the government to mainstream ecosystem management into government policies and plans and into market systems, through partnerships with

the private sector and communities.

The livelihoods of the majority of Pakistan's population are dependent on the use of natural resources including land, water and fisheries. In remote mountains, arid, semi-arid and coastal areas, local populations are almost entirely dependent on natural assets. Some of these eco-systems are also of global significance and home to rare plant and animal species. Through targeted interventions we are promoting the sustainable use of natural resources by providing better alternatives to communities to transform them from resource users into resource managers. Without compromising conservation responsibilities, UNDP helps establish value chains for marketable biodiversity products and services through these interventions. The value addition to the marketable products and services ends itself to wide scale replication across the larger landscape with the involvement of local government institutions and the communities.

Key elements of UNDP's work at the policy and institutional levels include integration of biodiversity considerations into development policies, unlocking the productive potential of protected areas beyond pure conservation and, most importantly, ecosystem based mitigation and adaptation to climate change. These key areas maintain and enhance the goods and services provided by biodiversity and ecosystems in order to secure livelihoods, food, water and health, enhance resilience, conserve threatened species and their habitats, and increase carbon storage and sequestration.

Generating sustainable livelihoods

UNDP supports community based organizations and relevant public institutions in assessing domestic and international markets for demand for biodiversity friendly non-timber forest products in Pakistan. We help to create a mechanism that adds more value to products and increases income generation for communities, as well as establishing voluntary certification of these products. When products are certified as "green", this improves their marketability. These are in line with the Fifth National Report of Pakistan to UNCBD (2014), the National Forest Policy (2010), the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (1999 - NBSAP) and the National Sustainable Development Strategy (2012).

Conserving marine biodiversity

UNDP works to improve community-based management of natural resources in vulnerable environments, including the sustainable management of threatened ecosystems. In partnership with the Global Environment Facility, we are helping in conserving marine biodiversity in the North Arabian Sea and improving the management of marine resources.

Sustainable forest management

In line with the National Forest Policy of Pakistan 2010, we help to strengthen protection of high conservation value forests at the landscape level, improve management of protected forests, and develop models for community managed forests.

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