

“Every human has a
fundamental right to an environment of
quality that permits a life of dignity and well-being”

- United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm

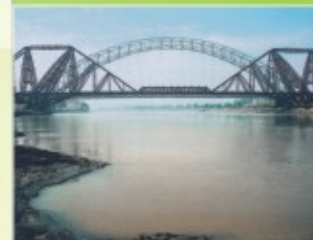


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Pakistan Environment Programme



SUNRISE digital 051-2278615





Goal

To improve Pakistan's capacity to achieve environmentally sustainable forms of economic and social development.

Purpose

The purpose of the Programme is to strengthen, operationalise and sustain core capacities of the four PEP partner institutions enabling them to more effectively support implementation of the National Conservation Strategy, and other sustainable development initiatives at the federal, provincial, and local level.

This is consistent with the country's aspirations for a rich natural resource base that will fuel more equitable and sustainable economic development for the benefit of its people and make a positive contribution to a healthy global environment.

It is admittedly a tall order that PEP or any other programme will not achieve alone. However, it is a vision that will guide PEP's interventions and to which PEP will contribute through the pursuit of the PEP outcomes.

Pakistan Environment Programme

The Pakistan Environment Programme (PEP) is a multi-dimensional development initiative aiming to protect and conserve the environment while promoting and supporting social and economic development in the country. PEP was initiated in July 1994 under the auspices of the National Conservation Strategy (NCS). The PEP partner institutions work to promote sustainable development practices in the country. PEP is funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Royal Netherlands Embassy (RNE) and is being managed by the World Conservation Union (IUCN).

The Programme has supported the twin objectives: (a) capacity building of the partner organizations themselves as the key institutions for sustaining the environment agenda in Pakistan, and (b) capacity building for the environment in the country at large, through activities of the PEP partners. The Programme has played a pivotal role in integrating environmental concerns in the emerging livelihood and poverty reduction strategies. PEP covers a wide range of subjects dealing with environmental issues, gender, education and poverty alleviation. PEP partners work with a whole array of organizations from the civil society, academia, public and private sector etc.

Outcomes

1. Improved and effective capacities of PEP partners being utilised to implement an increased number of environmentally sustainable socio-economic development initiatives in Pakistan
2. Increased number of sustainable development oriented policies in select sectors being implemented in the country
3. A wider cross-section of institutions (in public sector, civil society, academia and private sector) with requisite gender sensitive tools (policies, systems, mechanisms) practicing sustainable development principles
4. A wide range of (gender-sensitive) programmes, strategies, material and mechanisms catalysing integration of environment into development
5. Increased and diversified donor financing for, and commitment to, environmentally integrated development
6. The inclusion of gender issues into environmentally sustainable development policy, planning and implementation, budgeting, management, and its associated decision-making



Partners

The Pakistan Environment Programme is unique in terms of its sustained partnership between public sector and civil society organizations. The four PEP partners are independent entities, having their own organisational structure and specific mandate. PEP brings them together for enhancing and operationalising capacities to facilitate sustainable development in Pakistan. The fact that they have a shared interest also means certain commonalities in their functions.

- Ministry of Environment, Government of Pakistan
 - NCS Unit, International Cooperation Wing
 - Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency
- Environment Section, Planning and Development Division, Government of Pakistan
- Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI)
- The World Conservation Union (IUCN)

Ministry of Environment, Government of Pakistan

The Ministry of Environment, Government of Pakistan is responsible for national policy programmes and plans regarding environment, pollution, conservation of natural resources, policy planning and development, including physical planning and human settlements, urban water supply, sewerage and drainage, etc. The Ministry is also primarily responsible for various international environmental agreements and conventions signed by the Government of Pakistan. The charter of the Ministry addresses a number of challenges regarding the national policy, plans and programmes concerning environmental issues. The Ministry also oversees mainstreaming of environmental concerns into economic planning and policy making. The Ministry currently focuses on projects regarding energy efficiency, supply of clean drinking water, combating desertification, management of protected areas, conservation of wetlands and community based biodiversity conservation.

The Ministry of Environment has participated in, and contributed to PEP, primarily through the National Conservation Strategy (NCS) Unit that PEP supported. The NCS Unit is now firmly established in the Ministry with its main responsibility to coordinate and support the NCS implementation in the country. Among the other important parts of the Ministry are the Environment Wing and Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency. As a technical section of the Ministry, the Environment Wing plays an important role in environmental policy making and legislation, co-ordinates and follows up on the Government of Pakistan's international obligations and commitments. The Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency created under the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act 1997 plays an important role in environmental protection and management. Its mandate includes development and enforcement of regulatory mechanisms for effective environmental compliance, formulation of environmental performance standards such as National Environmental Quality Standards, general awareness-raising on key environmental issues and capacity building in environmental protection and management.

Environment Section, Planning and Development Division

Being part of the Planning and Development Division, the Environment Section lies at the core of integrating environmental concerns in Pakistan's development planning and budgeting. As a manager of government's planning processes, it ensures a satisfactory and credible review of development projects with an environmental angle.

The Environment Section expedites appraisal, authorisation and approval of environment sector's projects and ensures that environmental issues are taken into account in national development plans and programmes. It ensures environmentally sound planning by developing project preparation guidelines, redesigning procedures to incorporate Initial Environmental Examinations (IEEs) and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs).

The Environment Section works in close collaboration with the existing economic and technical sections of the Planning and Development Division, sectoral ministries and international agencies and NGOs to ensure environmental sensitivity and environment friendly investments for the promotion of sustainable development, preserving the living environment and controlling pollution.

Sustainable Development Policy Institute

Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) was founded in August 1992 on the recommendation of the Pakistan National Conservation Strategy (NCS), also called Pakistan's Agenda 21. The NCS placed Pakistan's socio-economic development within the context of a national environmental plan. SDPI's mission is to conduct policy oriented research and advocacy from a broad multi-disciplinary perspective and to promote the implementation of policies, programmes, laws and regulations based on sustainable development and strengthen civil society and government interaction through collaboration with other organizations and activist networks. The design of the Institute was initiated by the Pakistan Programme of the World Conservation Union (IUCN) with significant financial support from Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) under the Pakistan Environment Programme.

SDPI is a policy-oriented research institute, aiming to produce quality policy research and advocate democratic governance and pro-people initiatives. SDPI aims to catalyse the transition towards sustainable and just development in Pakistan and serves as a source of expert advice for the government, private sector, and non-governmental sector supporting the implementation of Pakistan's National Conservation Strategy. SDPI also strives to contribute to strengthening the social and physical infrastructure for research in Pakistan including the construction and dissemination of databases and research indices.

SDPI disseminates research findings and public education through the media, conferences, seminars, lectures, publications and curricula development.



The World Conservation Union

Created in 1948, the World Conservation Union (IUCN) brings together 82 States, 112 government agencies, 850 plus NGOs, and some 10,000 scientists and experts from over 180 countries in a unique worldwide partnership. IUCN's mission is to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.

IUCN is the world's largest environmental knowledge network and has helped over 75 countries to prepare and implement national conservation and biodiversity strategies. IUCN is a multi-cultural, multilingual organization with some 1000 staff located in 62 countries. Its headquarters are in Gland, Switzerland.

IUCN Pakistan has five programme offices in cities from the north to the south, multiple field offices and a large portfolio of projects. It is one of the nine Country Offices of IUCN's Asia Programme, covering 23 countries with a workforce of nearly 500.

There are 24 members of IUCN in Pakistan which include the Government of Pakistan as a state member, seven government agencies, and 16 NGOs. The IUCN members have organised themselves into a Pakistan National Committee (PNC), which has its own bye-laws and office bearers. The IUCN Secretariat in Pakistan works closely with the PNC of IUCN members as well as with the individual members. This collaboration takes various forms like participation in programme planning, joint projects, complementing each others work, advocacy around key issues and linking with the relevant organization and initiatives outside Pakistan.

IUCN provides a unique neutral platform where it works closely with the governments at the national and provincial levels as well as with civil society at large. Following a two-pronged approach, IUCN advocates and technically assists the development of the conservation strategies, supports strategy implementation by providing assistance in policy making, legal reforms, capacity building, environmental assessment, awareness, education, and selected field projects.

