

Facilitating the Access to Environmental Laws in Pakistan

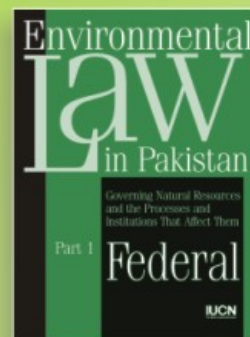
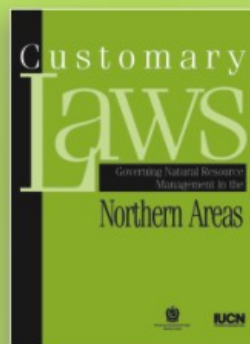
A situation analysis exercise carried out by IUCN Pakistan's Law Programme in 1999 revealed a dearth of reference and information on environmental law in Pakistan. Lack of collective and comprehensive resource repository pervaded a general confusion about presence of laws pertaining to protection and conservation of environment in Pakistan. Subsequent consultations with lawyers and stakeholders of the Law Programme led to the concept of compiling a series titled *Environmental Law in Pakistan* - a compendium of all natural resource management laws of Pakistan and the processes that affect them.

Compilation of the Series

The resource repository is organized in six parts, with each part of the series being divided into two volumes. The six parts relate to Federal, Balochistan, North-West Frontier Province, Punjab, Sindh and Northern Areas. The first volume in each part describes and analyses the laws governing natural resources, as well as the processes and activities that impact natural resource management. And the second volume contains the full text of all legal instruments discussed. These reviews are a selection and overview of legal instruments with greatest actual or potential impact on natural resources and the environment.

The process of compiling, writing and editing this series has taken a considerable amount of time. The authors are legal practitioners and academics belonging to all provinces and territories of Pakistan. They searched for and reviewed hundreds of federal and provincial legal instruments to identify statutes that directly govern natural resources, as well as those that actually or potentially affect natural resource management in the country.

The series is intended to serve as a reference resource for law students and teachers, practicing lawyers, lawmakers, judges, administrators, corporate officers, and others who require information on the subject. Every effort has been made to keep the text of the analysis jargon-free so that it is accessible to the widest possible audience.



Online Information Base and its Structure

Considering the peculiar nature of this information source, where the number of laws was not very large (a few hundred in all), while many of them had a long text, it was decided to adapt it for the Web in the form of an *indexed directory* tree. Users can easily access and find these documents

vol 1 under *Description and Analysis* (a single PDF document)

vol 2 based on the actual compilation, has been divided into individual laws under various categories.

As such a user can easily navigate to a particular law that s/he may be looking for. The full text of each of these laws is also available in separate PDF files, which can be easily downloaded. It can be accessed at: www.law.iucnp.org

This information base is very convenient as these books, especially the compilation of the laws under vol. 2, are quite voluminous and very costly to print in large numbers. Besides, hard copies of such compilations are not very amenable for sorting and searching things. The funding for creating this online repository has come from the Pakistan Environment Programme (PEP).

Note: *So far, however, only the Federal environmental laws and those of NWFP and Northern Areas are being presented. Those of other provinces would follow later*