



Pakistan - News Articles about the International Day for Biological Diversity 2016

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1260111/protecting-biodiversity-vital-for-poverty-reduction>

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Protecting biodiversity vital for poverty reduction

THE NEWSPAPER'S STAFF REPORTER — PUBLISHED MAY 23, 2016 06:58AM

ISLAMABAD: Secretary Climate Change Syed Abu Akif on Sunday said stemming the loss of biodiversity was vital for the poverty reduction and economic sustainability.

He pledged support to provincial governments and private organisations to protect biodiversity. The official was speaking at a three-day national awareness and training workshop on “Biodiversity conservation, access to genetic resources and fair and equitable sharing of their benefits under the United Nations Nagoya Protocol.”

“We must realise that the loss of biodiversity in all parts of the country has increased alarmingly and many wildlife and plant species are on the verge of extinction,” Mr Akif added.

The event coincided with the International Day for Biological Diversity that was also celebrated by the climate change ministry to highlight the role of biodiversity conservation for poverty reduction and achieving the United Nations’ 17 sustainable development goals. The goals were adopted on September 25 last year and are to be achieved by 2030.

The theme of the day this year was ‘Mainstreaming biodiversity, sustaining people and their livelihoods.’

The workshop and the biodiversity day event were organised by the ministry in partnership with the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) under its GIZ Biodiversity Khyber Pakhtunkhwa project and German Cooperation Organisation.

Mr Akif added: “We must understand that biodiversity is the foundation for the life and for the essential services provided by ecosystems. It ensures people’s livelihoods and sustainable development in all realms of socio-economic activity, including agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism.”

The gathering was informed that Pakistan provided habitats for 188 mammal species, of which six were endemic and 20 threatened with extinction. There are 666 bird species of which 25 are endangered. As many as 174 reptile species are found in the country, 13 of them ranked as endemic species. The reptiles include 14 turtles, one crocodile, 90 lizards and 65 species of snakes. Besides, there are 22 amphibians, nine of them declared endemic. Total 198 fresh water fish species exist in the country and 29 of them are endemics. So far, more than 5,000 species of invertebrates have been identified. In addition, there are over 5,700 species of flowering plants with over 400 species endemic in the country.

The country is also home to 26 national parks, 96 wildlife sanctuaries and 93 game reserve areas.

Other speakers said the increasing population, spontaneous, reckless urbanisation, deforestation and over-exploitation of natural resources were the main causes of the biodiversity loss.

The inspector general of forests, climate change ministry, Syed Mahmood Nasir, said biodiversity was an important cross-cutting issue in the 17 sustainable development goals.

“It is critical that we make progress on mainstreaming biodiversity and transforming how societies value and manage it,” said Mr Nasir.

Director biodiversity Raja Naeem Ashraf talked about the draft National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

He said the draft plan aimed at checking the biodiversity loss by conserving and protecting the wildlife and plant species, restoring ecosystems and promoting sustainable use of natural resources.

Wolfgang Hesse, the policy adviser of GIZ, spoke on the importance of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources.

Published in Dawn, May 23rd, 2016

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/1108304/climate-change-biodiversity-loss-alarming-official/>



THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE > PAKISTAN

Climate change : Biodiversity loss alarming: official

By [Our Correspondent](#)

Published: May 23, 2016

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Climate Change Secretary Syed Abu Ahmad Akif has pledged to stem biodiversity loss in the country in collaboration with all provincial forest and wildlife departments and non-governmental organisations.

“We must realise that loss of biodiversity in all parts of the country has sped up alarmingly and many wildlife and plant species are on the verge of extinction,” Secretary Syed Abu Ahmad Akif stressed, while addressing a concluding ceremony of the three-day national awareness-raising and training workshop on “Biodiversity conservation, access to genetic resources and fair and equitable sharing of the their benefits under the United Nations’ Nagoya Protocol”.

He was speaking at a gathering of biodiversity, wildlife, forest, water department experts, and conservationists.

Akif said halting biodiversity loss should be taken as a national duty.

“We must understand that biodiversity is the foundation for the life and for the essential services provided by ecosystems. It underpins peoples’ livelihoods and sustainable development in all realms of

socio-economical activity, including agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism, among others. By halting biodiversity loss, we are investing in people, their lives and their well-being,” he emphasised.

While counting causes of the biodiversity loss, Akif listed increasing population, spontaneous, reckless urbanisation, deforestation and overexploitation of natural resources as the main factors.

However, the climate change secretary urged the biodiversity experts to prioritise prevention of threatened species first from becoming extinct by protecting them from threats such as habitat loss due to unplanned urbanisation, population growth and pollution.

Climate Change Ministry Inspector General of Forests Syed Mahmood Nasir said that biodiversity was an important cross-cutting issue in the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

The goal 15 explicitly recognises the significance and benefits of putting an end to the biodiversity loss and recognising the importance of biological diversity for fighting poverty, providing food and fresh-water, and improving the life, he pointed out.

“It is critical that we make progress in mainstreaming biodiversity and transforming how societies value and manage it,” Nasir stressed.

Climate Change Ministry Director Biodiversity Raja Naeem Ashraf informed the participants that the ministry had hammered out a draft National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).

Talking about aims of the draft plan, Ashraf said, “The draft plan or NBSAP aims to check the biodiversity loss by conserving and protecting the wildlife and plant species, restore ecosystems and promote sustainable use of natural resources for the wellbeing of the present and the future generations.”

Published in The Express Tribune, May 23rd, 2016.

<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/islamabad/23-May-16/biodiversity-loss-speeding-up-wildlife-plants-extinction-at-alarming-level>



Biodiversity loss speeding up wildlife, plants extinction at alarming level

By: PPI, 23-May-16

ISLAMABAD: The Climate Change secretary has pledged to stem biodiversity loss in the country in collaboration with all provincial forest and wildlife departments and non-governmental organisations.

“We must realise that loss of biodiversity in all parts of the country that has speeded up alarmingly and many wildlife and plant species are on the verge of extinction,” the Secretary Syed Abu Ahmad Akif stressed while addressing a concluding ceremony of the three-day national awareness-raising and training workshop on ‘Biodiversity conservation, Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of their Benefits under the United Nations’ Nagoya Protocol’ on Sunday, said a press release.

The International Day for Biological Diversity was also celebrated by the Climate Change Ministry to highlight the role of biodiversity conservation for poverty reduction and achieving the United Nations’ 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The goals were adopted last year on September 25 and are to be achieved by year 2030.

The Biological Diversity Day is celebrated every year on May 22nd. This year it is being marked under the theme ‘Mainstreaming Biodiversity; Sustaining People and their Livelihood.’

The workshop and biodiversity day was organised by the ministry in partnership with the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) under its GIZ Biodiversity Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Project and German cooperation organisation.

The secretary informed the gathering of biodiversity, wildlife, forest, water experts, and conservationists that halting biodiversity loss should be taken as a national duty.

He emphasised, “We must understand that biodiversity is the foundation for the life and for the essential services provided by ecosystems. It underpins peoples’ livelihoods and sustainable development in all realms of socio-economical activity, including agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism, among others. By halting biodiversity loss, we are investing in people, their lives and their well-being.”

Pakistan provides habitats for 188 mammal species, out of which six are endemic and 20 are threatened with extinction. There are 666 bird species, out of which 25 are endangered. As many as 174 reptile species are found in the country, 13 of them ranked as endemic species. The reptiles include 14 turtles, one crocodile, 90 lizards and 65 species of snakes. Besides, there are 22 amphibians, nine of them declared endemic.

The total 198 fresh water fish species exist in the country and 29 of them endemics. So far more than 5,000 species of invertebrates have been identified. In addition, there are over 5,700 species of flowering plants, with over 400 species endemic in the country.

The country is also home to 26 national parks, 96 wildlife sanctuaries and 93 game reserve areas. He said that increasing population, spontaneous, reckless urbanisation, deforestation and overexploitation of natural resources are the main causes of the biodiversity loss.

However, the climate change secretary urged the biodiversity experts to prioritise the prevention of the threatened species first from becoming extinct by protecting them from threats like habitat loss due to unplanned urbanisation, population growth and pollution. The Climate Change Ministry’s Inspector General of Forests, Syed Mahmood Nasir, in his inaugural speech said, biodiversity is an important cross-cutting issue in the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

He said that the Goal 15 explicitly recognises the significance and benefits of putting an end to the biodiversity loss and recognising the importance of biological diversity for fighting poverty, providing food and fresh-water, and improving the life.

Syed Mahmood Nasir stressed, “It is critical that we make progress in mainstreaming biodiversity and transforming how societies value and manage it.” The Climate Change Ministry Biodiversity Director, Raja Naeem Ashraf, informed the participants that the ministry has hammered out a draft National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).

While talking about the aims of draft plan, Ashraf said, “The draft plan or NBSAP aims to check the biodiversity loss by conserving and protecting the wildlife and plant species, restore ecosystems and promote sustainable use of natural resources for the wellbeing of the present and the future generations.”

<http://pakobserver.net/2016/05/23/speakers-urge-halt-to-loss-of-environmental-economic-sustainability/>



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SPEAKERS URGE HALT TO LOSS OF ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

Workshop on biodiversity conservation

Zubair Qureshi

Islamabad—Speakers at a workshop on ‘Biodiversity conservation, Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of the their Benefits under the United Nations’ Nagoya Protocol’ called upon the government to stem biodiversity loss in the country in collaboration with all provincial forest & wildlife departments and non-governmental organizations. “We must realise that loss of biodiversity in all parts of the country has speeded up alarmingly and many wildlife and plant species are on the verge of extinction,” they said.

Federal Secretary Environment Secretary Abu Ahmad Akif while addressing the workshop stressed joint efforts in this regard. All the stakeholders, public sector and private need to address the issue, he said. The International Day for Biological Diversity was also celebrated by the climate change ministry to highlight the role of biodiversity conservation for poverty reduction and achieving the United Nations’ 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The goals were adopted last year on September 25 and are to be achieved by year 2030.

The Biological Diversity Day is celebrated every year on May 22. This year it is being marked under the theme ‘Mainstreaming Biodiversity; Sustaining People and their Livelihoods’ The workshop and biodiversity day were organised by the ministry in partnership with the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) under its GIZ Biodiversity Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Project and German Cooperation organisation.

The secretary Syed Abu Akif told the gathering of biodiversity, wildlife, forest, water experts, and conservationists that halting biodiversity loss should be taken as a national duty. “We must understand that biodiversity is the foundation for the life and for the essential services provided by ecosystems. It underpins peoples’ livelihoods and sustainable development in all realms of socio-economical activity, including agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism, among others. By halting biodiversity loss, we are investing in people, their lives and their well-being,” he emphasised.

Pakistan provides habitats for 188 mammal species, of which six are endemic and 20 threatened with extinction. There are 666 bird species, of which 25 are endangered. As many as 174 reptile species are found in the country, 13 of them ranked as endemic species. The reptiles include 14 turtles, one crocodile, 90 lizards and 65 species of snakes. Besides, there are 22 amphibians, nine of them declared endemic. Total 198 fresh water fish species exist in the country and 29 of them endemics. So far more than 5,000 species of invertebrates have been identified. In addition, there are over 5,700 species of flowering plants, with over 400 species endemic in the country. The country is also home to 26 national parks, 96 wildlife sanctuaries and 93 game reserve areas.

Meanwhile, while counting causes of the biodiversity loss, he said that increasing population, spontaneous, reckless urbanisation, deforestation and overexploitation of natural resources are the main causes of the biodiversity loss. However, the climate change secretary urged the biodiversity experts to prioritise the prevention of the threatened species first from becoming extinct by protecting them from threats like habitat loss due to unplanned urbanisation, population growth and pollution.

Inspector General of Forests at the climate change ministry, Syed Mahmood Nasir, in his inaugural speech said, biodiversity is an important cross-cutting issue in the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The Goal 15 explicitly recognises the significance and benefits of putting an end to the biodiversity loss and recognizing the importance of biological diversity for fighting poverty, providing food and fresh-water, and improving the life, he pointed out. “It is critical that we make progress in mainstreaming biodiversity and transforming how societies value and manage it,” Syed Mahmood Nasir stressed.

Director Biodiversity at the Climate Change Ministry, Raja Naeem Ashraf, informed the participants that the ministry has hammered out a draft National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). About the draft plan, Mr. Ashraf said, “The draft plan or NBSAP It aims to check the biodiversity loss by conserving and protecting the wildlife and plant species, restore ecosystems and promote sustainable use of natural resources for the wellbeing of the present and the future generations.”