

IUCN
The World Conservation Union

A large, stylized white graphic of two figures holding hands in a circle, set against a background of a large, faint circular pattern of overlapping ovals. The figures are composed of thick, flowing lines, suggesting movement and connection. The background is split vertically into a gold and a dark grey section.

annual report

I U C N P A K I S T A N

With many thanks to all the staff
who contributed.

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Page 2: Jamshyd Masud
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Page 8: Saeed Khan
Page 12: Chitral Conservation
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Page 14: Kairas N. Kabraji
Page 16/17: Nasir Ali Panhwar
Page 18: Javed Ahmed
Page 20: Jamshyd Masud
Page 23: Abbottabad Conservation
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Page 26/27: S. A. Siddiqui

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Author

Aalia Bux

Editors

Nikhath Sattar and
Dhunmai Cowasjee

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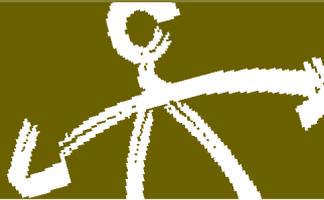
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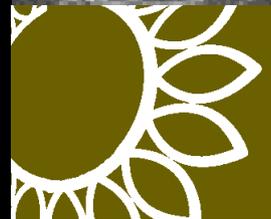


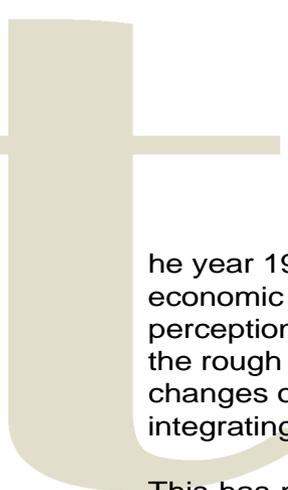
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foreword

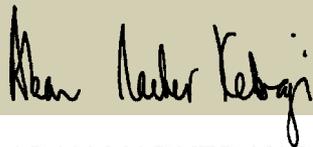




he year 1999 has been challenging not least because of the economic climate in the country and the international perception of Pakistan. We have had to chart our way through the rough seas of geo-political trends while bringing many changes on board: preparing for a switch in command and for integrating the country office with the larger IUCN in Asia.

This has meant preparing both staff and the partners IUCN works with for a slightly different organisation, one that continues to work with a large body of government and non-government institutions in Pakistan while engaging with the regional membership. The benefits of regional contacts, access to a larger pool of experts, of transboundary work is all exciting and many opportunities lie waiting to be tapped. There is no doubt that this 'opening up of the programme' can but bring good to the work in Pakistan.

It is also a time to say au revoir. After 15 years of work in Pakistan, I will be moving on as Regional Director, IUCN Asia. It is a challenging role and where IUCN and I will need support both within the country and outside it. The Pakistan National Committee, the Commission members and the partners that we have worked with are resources that have been tapped and can be availed of for the greater good of conservation work in Pakistan and Asia. I look forward to doing that.



ABAN MARKER KABRAJI
Country Representative, IUCN Pakistan



**taking the
programme forward**





In the final year of the millennium there were significant challenges for IUCN. While the global Union underwent a leadership change and external evaluation, IUCN Pakistan also prepared to undergo a change of hands. The external environment was harsh, with political and economic difficulties in Pakistan peaking during the year, and donor confidence reaching an all-time low. For IUCN Pakistan, 1999 was a year of transition as the organisation realigned and restructured to meet these challenges and prepared to usher in a new era of tighter and more integrated operations for the future.

During the year, IUCN's Global Programme initiated a planning process that provided an overall vision for the organisation and set out clear objectives for the way forward. This was assisted, in part, by an external review of the global Union fielded by donors as part of a regular three-year evaluation cycle. The review mission visited Pakistan in May 1999 and provided favourable feedback and recommendations. Key among these was to capitalise on resource sharing regionally, by strengthening the ties between the Pakistan and Asia offices through programme linkages, experience sharing and learning, and financial support. This was formalised through an expansion of the Asia region that now extends from Pakistan in the west to Japan in the east.

For the past three years, IUCN Pakistan's Country Representative had also been holding the post of Regional Director, South and Southeast Asia. Following the Director General's decision to de-link these posts, a recruitment process for a new CR in Pakistan was put in place. At the same time, discussions on how to facilitate the linkages with the Asia programme were initiated. A task force was created within the Senior Management Group to look into this and to propose recommendations.

The six-year strategic framework for IUCN Pakistan was finalised in 1999 after an extensive year-long consultative process with members, partners and staff. Key objectives include integrating environment and development; supporting institutional and human resource development; facilitating a supportive policy and legal framework; and increasing popular support for the



environment. In meeting these objectives, IUCN Pakistan has shifted focus towards consolidation rather than expansion, capitalising on existing strengths and restructuring in response to external dynamics. Following up on successive management reviews over the past few years, a decentralised organisation structure — with strong technical programmes — will need to be developed. An on-going challenge for the organisation over the next few years will be to effectively operationalise this strategy. .

A start at implementing the strategy was made with work in freshwater ecosystems. On the request of the Government of Punjab and the ADB, IUCN may assist in carrying out environment audits of the large, 25-

year National Drainage Programme. IUCN members have supported this involvement, and discussions are underway to finalise the scope of work.

Besides national issues, IUCN needs to keep abreast of emerging global environmental issues. To this end, IUCN HQ initiated studies at the regional and national level that would help determine the scope of future work in emerging areas. IUCN Pakistan played a leading role in initiating studies in climate change, environment and security and desertification in Asia, and participated in another study on alien invasive species.

Although IUCN Pakistan has been reasonably successful in attracting donor funds for projects, donor



confidence in the country fell rapidly in the wake of the May 1998 nuclear tests and the political uncertainty following the October 1999 government change. By the end of 1999, the donor profile for Pakistan had changed significantly — the Dutch had withdrawn, Norwegian funding was curtailed, and uncertainty prevailed amongst most of the remaining donors including the Canadians.

Fortunately IUCNP's relationship, built up over years of working together, ensured that current progress continued as planned. The major progress that did emerge in 1999, was that GEF-UNDP funds for the US\$ 8 million, seven-year Mountain Areas Conservancy Project came through.

In many ways, 1999 was one of the most difficult years for IUCN Pakistan, highlighting the challenges of a rapidly changing environment for conservation both in Pakistan

and internationally. IUCN Pakistan will continue to operationalise strategies, strengthen systems and build capacity, while maintaining the flexibility to continue to meet the challenges of the future. Looking ahead, the NCS mid-term review has been slated for March 2000; it will evaluate the progress made so far and provide recommendations for the future. The review is likely to be critical for Pakistan, redefining the role of government and civil society organisations, including IUCN, in taking the environment agenda forward.





financial operations



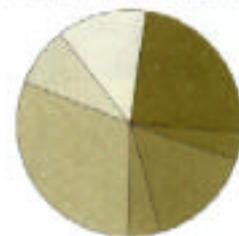
Financially, 1999 was a difficult year with Pakistan-specific impediments affecting aid to the country generally. However, international grant aid support for IUCN-implemented projects was generally forthcoming.

During 1999, new phases of the Sarhad Provincial Conservation Strategy, the Northern Areas Conservation Strategy and the Mountain Areas Conservancy Project started. A reprofiling of the Pakistan Environment Programme was carried out during the year and a new phase of the NORAD Frame Agreement was developed and sent for approval.

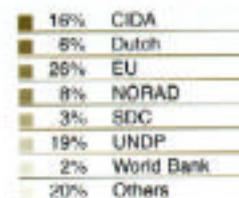
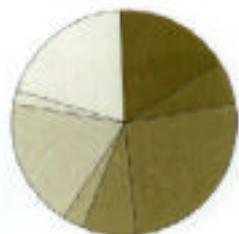
The total turnover was approximately Rs. 188 million in 1998 and Rs. 227 million in 1999, an increase of 27% and 20% respectively over the previous years. Almost this entire turnover was made up of project funds. Staff went up to 260 in 1999 through recruitment for SPCS, NACS and MACP.

The continuity of our donor base gives us confidence for the future. However, the Finance Programme has begun revamping its management systems to enable better information flow for managers. Also, the finance function in the north, based in Islamabad, has been strengthened to give greater autonomy to these offices. No doubt 2000 will be as challenging as the previous year. We believe we are well-placed to meet what lies ahead.

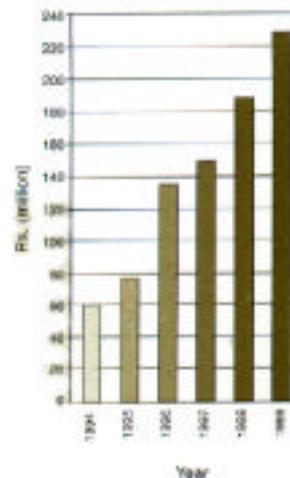
Donor-wise funds, 1999



Donor-wise funds, 1998



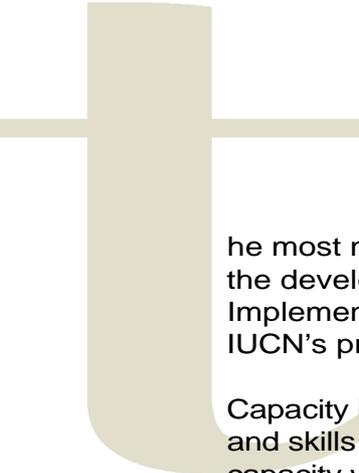
Funds Turnover





**implementing the national
conservation strategy**





he most notable breakthrough for the conservation movement in Pakistan was the development of the **National Conservation Strategy** in 1992. Implementing the NCS is the guiding force that provides direction and focus to IUCN's programme strategies in Pakistan.

Capacity building interventions play a pivotal role in developing the knowledge and skills necessary to achieve NCS objectives. Recognising this, efforts to build capacity within institutions are spearheaded under the CIDA-funded **Pakistan Environment Programme**. Initiated in 1994, PEP was the first major IUCNP initiative directly emanating from the NCS and involves the partnership of institutions that carry the mandate to influence environment management policies. These include the NCS Unit in the Ministry of Environment, the Environment Section in the Planning Commission, the Sustainable Development Policy Institute and IUCN Pakistan. The project ends in 2000 and a second phase may be initiated following the recommendations of the NCS mid-term review.

Capacity building of each PEP partner institution is organised around a cluster of activities including funding, technical assistance, training programmes and workshops — utilising regional linkages and support from the Canadian Partner Organisation. During 1999, PEP activities centred on strengthening capacity, primarily through the induction and orientation of new staff for partner institutions, including environmental specialists, project staff and consultants.

An important dimension of IUCNP's work in NCS implementation is the formulation of provincial and district conservation strategies. IUCN Pakistan worked with the government of NWFP to develop the **Sarhad Provincial Conservation Strategy**, approved and adopted in 1996. Supported by SDC, the SPCS was formulated through a broad-based participatory approach and is a policy framework that provides guidelines for both government and civil society's future development activities in the province.

SPCS is currently in its third phase, Partners for Sustainable Development in NWFP, launched in July 1998. PSDN aims at strengthening partnerships with



the public and private sectors, civil society and media to enable them to take on an enhanced role in sustainable development. It carries out activities through several line departments of the government of NWFP and a select number of civil society organisations, supported by focal points and roundtables.

One of PSDN's major thrusts is to enhance the capacity of key partners. During 1999, two of the six-module SPCS Partners Training Programme — the Social Sector: Measuring the Success of Investments, Planning and Monitoring; and the Economics of Environmental Sustainability — were conducted, and a workshop on Multilateral Environment Agreements was held for government departments. Civil society interventions included training of

registered CBOs and NGOs in project proposal development and environment management. A number of roundtables were operationalised during the period, including the NGO roundtable and one on sustainable agriculture.

IUCN lays emphasis on opening up the business of government to inputs from civil society, and to promoting this concept at different levels of government. This has been operationalised through district-level strategic planning in line with the progressive implementation processes of the NCS and the SPCS.

Hence the **Chitral Conservation Strategy** is a district-level planning exercise which takes stock of the resources of Chitral and aims to maximise their productivity through a

decentralised planning process. To ensure the active involvement of stakeholders, the CCS employs participatory mechanisms that promote ownership. The process is guided through a District Conservation Roundtable that provides a forum for coordinating sustainable development activities. During 1999, the CCS sectoral papers and a draft of the main document were finalised, demonstrating significant progress for the strategy. Work started on the Chitral District Conservation Fund and project proposals were prepared in order to initiate implementation alongside strategy formulation.

The **Abbotabad Conservation Strategy** is also based on participatory planning, and takes an integrative approach to development by forging links between ecological, economic and social issues. The planning process is facilitated by a District Conservation Roundtable as well as by a Steering Committee which coordinates ACS activities. During 1999 the public consultation process for formulating the ACS ended, an exercise in which all the 57 union councils of Abbotabad District were covered. It led to sustainable development issues being identified and prioritised.

Funded by RNE, the **Balochistan Conservation Strategy** aims to design a policy framework that ensures the integration of environment concerns into development planning in the province. BCS builds on the concepts developed through the SPCS to decentralise policy-making and has introduced consultative innovations that are new to the

development process in Balochistan. During 1999, BCS continued to focus on developing the strategy through a consultative process that included the writing and review of 15 background papers and five drafts of the document. In addition, training needs assessments of stakeholders were conducted and customised courses were arranged. Other activities during the year included awareness raising for the environment, identification of demonstration projects for implementation and gender sensitisation of staff and partner organisations.

The **Northern Areas Conservation Strategy**, co-funded by SDC and NORAD, is the third active area of IUCN's efforts to devolve policy-making to the provincial level. During 1999, the NACS gained momentum in initiating public consultations for the prioritisation of issues in the Northern Areas. The process was discussed with stakeholders and field tested in one village in each of the four districts. In addition, the first draft of the Conceptual Framework for the NACS was circulated and four interest groups/roundtables were formed — NGO, Communications, Education and Natural Resources. A joint workshop was held to clarify the concept, roles and responsibilities of these fora.





working with people





The success of the National Conservation Strategy is based on the adoption of conservation principles and practices within the very fabric of society. This approach clearly calls for a well-managed process of learning and change. Awareness-raising for the environment is embodied in the NCS through three powerful tools for working with people — communication, education and networking — to ensure the capacity and commitment for conservation. These flow through project activities and integrate with the larger IUCNP programme to target educators, community leaders, professionals and the public as a whole to enable a well-informed society for sustainable development.

Effective communication is the key to influencing people to adopt new attitudes for conservation and sustainability in resource use. The **Communications Programme** works through four strategic areas of focus — information gathering and dissemination; capacity building for communication; advocacy and raising the profile of IUCN — to provide support to PEP partners, IUCNP and IUCN Asia programmes and projects, and partners in their communications work.

Information is an essential tool for effective communication. During 1999, the Programme continued its work of disseminating information on the environment to a broad segment of the public. In this respect, the development of a library database that was accessible through both IUCNP's Local Area Network and website was initiated to allow greater public access to the organisation's information collection. Information dissemination also included proactive production of articles and press releases for newspapers through the year. Publications remained a key feature of the Programme, with regular production of the Urdu quarterly *NCS Jareeda* and ongoing editorial support to IUCNP's programmes and projects. Support at the Asia regional level included the publication of *A Study on Aid to the Environment Sector in Vietnam* and *Securing our Future in Asia's Changing Environment, Proceedings of the IUCN South and Southeast Asia Regional Conservation Forum*.

Development of electronic communications is an important initiative for IUCNP, facilitated through the Communications Programme. SDNP is a UNDP-



funded project aimed at supporting the dissemination of information on sustainable human development. Over the years, it has played a major role in both popularising and developing capacity in the use of electronic communications in Pakistan. The project's third phase started in October 1998, and is focusing on building institutional capacity to make information available on the web and developing a meta-website that will house development information with a particular focus on Pakistan. The transitional website was launched in August 1999. Also, SDNP is in the process of launching on-line internet services from Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi and Peshawar and assisting in the development of websites on topics of direct relevance to biodiversity, ecosystem management and environmental policies.

In an ongoing effort to build capacity for communication, a number of

workshops were held for editors and journalists to improve the frequency and quality of environmental reporting in Pakistan. The Programme continued to support the Forum of Environmental Journalists Pakistan, and was actively involved in the Reuters-IUCN Media Award for the South and Southeast Region. The presentation ceremony, organised by the Communications Programme, was covered by the local and national press, as well as television news.

Advocacy encompasses all communication work and strengthens it by proactively articulating IUCN's position on various issues. During the year the Communications Programme focused on developing a strategy for advocacy at the sub-national, national and international levels. Examples include advocacy on exploration and mining for gas in Kirthar National Park; the Programme took the lead in

developing position statements, lobbying and mobilising public opinion on this issue.

The **Education Programme** works in two ways: to institutionalise environment into the education system and to include education in work carried out by the environmental movement in Pakistan. The latter includes incorporating recommendations on environmental education in the conservation strategies, and working with educational institutions and NGOs in capacity building, institutional support and material development for environmental education.

A major outcome in 1999 was the development of the Balochistan Environmental Communication and Education Strategy. Eventually, it was formulated with wide stakeholder participation, including input from the government. Support was also provided to existing education interest groups and roundtables.

The Education Programme has initiated material development to provide tangible support to its efforts at incorporating environmental education in education policies and institutions. A Teacher Education Manual was developed and tested at the Bureau of Curriculum, NWFP and the Urdu version was finalised during 1999. This manual has also been adopted as part of the B.Ed programme at the Teacher Education College, Gilgit. The integration of environmental education in the school system is taking further shape with the development of a generic module on Orientation to the Environment.

To support both education in conservation and conservation in education, the Programme is developing a website on biodiversity with SDNP. The website will be aimed that teachers, children as well as biodiversity experts and the general public.

Capacity building of civil society organisations to work on environmental issues was supported through the **NGO and Community Support Programme**. During 1999, the Programme played an active role in the BCS process, assisting in the development of the Non-government Organisations Strategy, in supporting the NGO interest group and in capacity building workshops for local-level NGOs. As part of efforts to increase the institutional capacity of development organisations, the Baanhn Beli and Strengthening Participatory Organisations programmes were evaluated for their environmental content.

Gender has been a priority of IUCN and the organisation has begun to implement gender sensitive policies both within the organisation and within its programmes. As part of the process, workshops on gender sensitivity for staff and partners were held.





enabling the laws





aw provides both the foundation and the framework for the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. The **Environmental Law Programme** recognizes that good law-making is a process that has many qualities and requires many inputs — among them broad-based participation, quality information, technical expertise and political will — and endeavors to supply both a context and a platform for addressing each of them.

The Programme continued to provide support to the long-term process of law-making in Pakistan during 1999. The enactment of the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act (1997) has given impetus to public interest litigation to advance the cause of conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, pollution control, and public health and safety. Capitalising on this opportunity, the Law Programme published two manuals on public interest litigation. One is a handbook of case studies illustrating how civil society can protect and enforce its environmental rights through the legal system in Pakistan. The second is a step-by-step guide for lawyers on how to develop environmental cases that not only explains the procedures involved, but also the law and court decisions that will support their arguments. The handbook of case studies was published in English and Urdu to ensure that it is accessible to a wide segment of society.

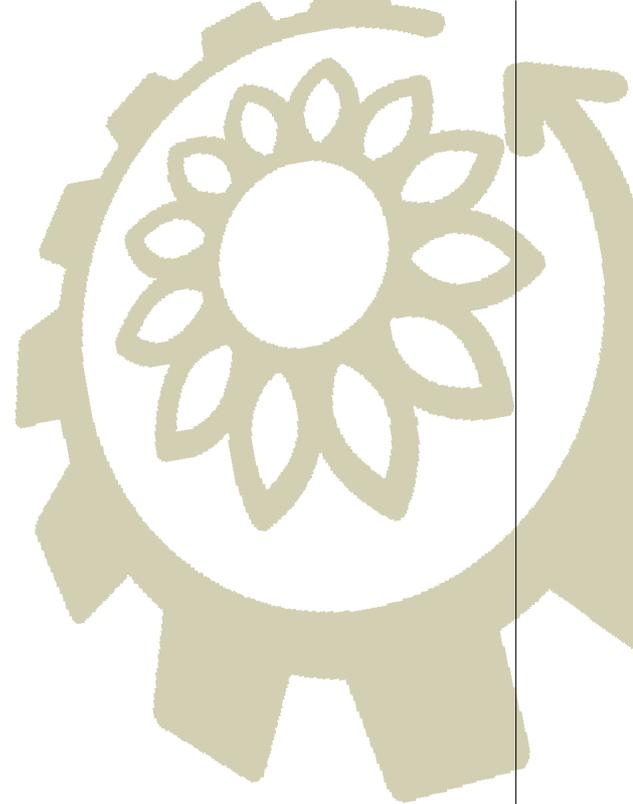
For several years, IUCNP has been nurturing the interest of a group of lawyers and judges in environmental legal services. In 1999, this culminated in 15 founding members launching the Pakistan Environmental Law Association. IUCNP will continue to provide PELA with a secretariat and other in-kind support as the group defines its organisational strategy and begins to take on issues and activities. Interestingly, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Pakistan delivered the keynote address at the launch of PELA and the public interest litigation manuals, demonstrating the level of interest for environmental law in Pakistan.

As the Law Programme ultimately relies on legislative innovation and reform to achieve its objectives, the documentation and analysis of the existing legal regime is a priority. The Law Programme plans to launch a comprehensive study of statutory legal instruments in 2000 at the federal and provincial levels. This study will facilitate IUCNP's work by providing an information resource base, besides building the capacity of the legal community taken on as consultants for the exercise. Side by side, the Law Programme will be developing legal education and training curricula and materials, besides providing high quality legal input on a variety of IUCNP initiatives as well as those of partners.



**industry, economy and the
environment**





Economic development and rapid globalisation have important implications for environment management in the developing world. Emerging issues such as trade liberalisation, rising foreign debt and diminishing foreign aid often reduce government ability to prioritise conservation initiatives, intensifying pressure on natural resources and leading to overconsumption and environmental degradation. The challenge facing IUCN Pakistan is to highlight the links between economic development and environment conservation, to be able to promote a philosophy of sustainable development in government policy and industry practices.

The **Business Programme** has a two-fold mandate. Externally, it aims to emphasise the exigency for environmentally responsible behaviour in the business community, while within IUCNP, it focuses on infusing economic, financial and business-related issues and concerns into the organisation's own projects and programmes. Recognising the need to highlight the economic value of the environment, the Programme continued to focus on environmental economics during the year. Phase I of the Green Accounting Initiative — launched in 1997 as one of the themes of IUCN's global work on economics — came to a successful conclusion in 1999 with the publication *The Economic Value of the Environment: Cases from South Asia*. The GAI project demonstrates that the tools used for allocating value to environmental resources can be used in policy and decision-making processes in Pakistan.

A study on Building Capacity for Trade and Sustainable Development in Developing Countries was also concluded during the year. The project analysed

the environmental impact of trade liberalisation on the leather and textile sectors, with a simulated cost-benefit analysis of adopting cleaner technologies in Pakistan. The outcome of the study was disseminated at a workshop for government ministries, NGOs and research institutions.

Other activities during 1999 included background work on the village conservation funds to be set-up under the Mountain Areas Conservancy Project and support to the Sustainable Industry Roundtable formed under the SPCS. The Sarhad Provincial Conservation Strategy has been working to infuse environmental concerns into the industrial and urban environment sectors; through the Roundtable, key industrialists and representatives from the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry have been involved.

Towards the end of the year the Programme was reoriented slightly, with a strategic split taking place between the business and the environmental economics components. The latter portion, under a mutual agreement between IUCN Pakistan and the Asia programme, will flower into a regional Environmental Economics Programme based in this country. It

economic context for the environment. The Business Programme has shifted focus to working more closely with the business community. Future themes will include innovative ways to finance sustainable development, for example, through international financing mechanisms such as debt swaps for nature.

In 2000, the Business Programme will work more closely with the business community, the financial sector and development planners in addition to IUCNP's own project staff. Future themes of work for the next quadrennial will include: innovative mechanisms for financing sustainable development; trade and environment, a financial sector initiative (aimed at greening the financial services industry); corporate social responsibility; economic and financial incentives; ecotourism and micro-credit; and enterprise development.

Mainstreaming environmental impact considerations in industrial policies and practices is a primary objective of the **Environment Assessment Services Programme**. The Programme has made significant progress in its mission to support institutions in the prevention and control of environmental degradation. At the policy level, assistance was provided in the preparation and review of rules and regulations for the National Environmental Quality Standards, the backbone of PEPA 1997. In addition, the Programme continued to support departments such as the provincial Environment Protection Agencies, which play an essential role in the implementation of legislation.

will kick off in 2000, continuing the valuable work of developing an





Capacity building initiatives during 1999 included training workshops in Environment Impact Assessment, Strategic Environmental Assessment and Hazardous Waste Management. These workshops, conducted for government and private institutions, focused on both implementing and analysing assessments. Capacity building efforts were also extended to encompass academic and government training institutions such as the National Institute for Public Administration, the breeding ground of future leadership in Pakistan.

During 1999, the Programme concluded an Environment Impact Assessment of a coal mining initiative in Chaparson Valley in the Northern Areas. At 13,000 feet, the Chaparson mine is one of the highest in the world besides being located in an

ecologically sensitive area; one of the valleys is home to the endangered snow leopard.

In a strategic attempt to provide a platform for intervention at the policy and institutional level, EAS helped lay the foundation of the Pakistan Environment Assessment Association in October 1999. The first and only EAS institution in Pakistan, PEAA has already become a member of the South Asian Regional Environmental Assessment Association. It will work to use EIAs as a tool to ensure that the environment is part of the agenda during the planning phase of development projects. IUCN is providing support services to PEAA and acting as the Secretariat until the association becomes self-sustaining.



**conserving biodiversity,
demonstrating the principles
of sustainable development**



Biodiversity conservation is at the heart of IUCN's work world-wide. Conserving the integrity of nature — between and within species and among the variety of ecosystems — while keeping in mind the social and economic dimensions reflects IUCN's approach to biodiversity conservation. In Pakistan, nine major ecosystems remain under the threat of progressive degradation from population pressures, pollution and unsustainable practices. Recognising the importance of protecting Pakistan's biological legacy, the government ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity in 1994. IUCNP works closely with the government's Biodiversity Working Group and other agencies in implementing the CBD.

In 1999, the **Biodiversity Programme** contributed at both policy and field level in furthering the cause of biodiversity in Pakistan. The Biodiversity Action Plan for Pakistan, which provides policy level guidance on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, reached its final stage during the year, ready for formal approval by the government. BAP was formulated in 1996, following which it went through an extensive public consultative process involving a number of provincial workshops, organised by IUCNP and the relevant agencies.

Field projects under the Programme are driven by the principle of helping communities manage their natural resources. The three-year pilot project, Biodiversity Conservation through Community Development, was successfully concluded during the year. The project demonstrated that communities show a sense of ownership and responsibility towards natural resources, provided they have access to technical skills and know-how. The project also made important contributions towards the capacity building of government and non-government organisations to assist communities to develop and implement biodiversity management plans.

The Biodiversity project provided the groundwork for a full-scale development project, the GEF-UNDP funded Mountain Areas Conservancy Project, which was launched during 1999. MACP aims to build on the community mobilisation concepts introduced in the pilot phase in order to protect and ensure sustainable use of biodiversity. Based on a very positive evaluation of its predecessor, the MACP will continue and scale-up project activities in four conservancies spread over the Northern Areas and the NWFP. Each conservancy convenes a number of villages encompassing an area of ecological interest.



During the year, MACP focused on conducting training courses and workshops to build capacity for natural resource management. In this regard, an environmental sensitisation workshop was conducted for army personnel on tree cutting and illegal hunting, while the capacity building of MACP staff and community representatives was initiated through participation in international and local courses in biodiversity-related issues. Support continued for projects initiated under the pilot phase, including Village Conservation Funds and water supply and irrigation schemes. The MACP also made headway in initiating a series of community dialogues addressing issues such as conservation of the Astor markhor through trophy hunting and development of a markhor conservation plan.

Ecosystem management has been a long-standing priority of IUCN with

initiatives carried out at a global and regional scale through linkages with the IUCN Secretariat and its extensive network of members and partners. In Pakistan, IUCN lays particular emphasis on the conservation of mangrove forests in view of their important ecological functions, contribution to rural livelihoods and the severity of the threat to this resource. This work is done through the **Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Programme**.

During 1999, work was carried out in collaboration with government and non-government organisations. The Programme provided support to Shirkat Gah-Women's Resource Centre in developing a series of research studies on the feasibility of alternative sources of income for coastal communities. These include activities such as bee keeping and basket weaving. Capacity building initiatives continued with workshops and training programmes for

promoting community involvement in mangrove management and special field training programmes for the Sindh and Balochistan forest departments.

The Programme carried out a case study, funded by DFID, to recommend tools to assess the monetary and non-monetary costs and benefits of artificial flood release. The study focused on the distribution effects of floods that overflow the banks of the river below Kotri Barrage, covering the impact on in-channel processes such as sediment movement and fish habitat, as well as the downstream impact on groundwater and the Indus delta.

Unlike many countries, Pakistan has large areas of wetlands, of which nine have been declared as "wetlands of international importance" under the Ramsar Convention. Improper management of water, illegal hunting and land reclamation threatens many of these precious wetlands. Pollution, eutrophication, excessive fishing and recreation have further damaged these areas. In response, IUCNP has been working to designate eight sites in Balochistan and Sindh. Provincial governments are now in the process of issuing formal notification of these sites, which may later be notified under the Ramsar convention.

IUCNP is also active, through the **Environment Rehabilitation in NWFP and Punjab** project, in promoting the rehabilitation of areas that have been exposed to progressive degradation. ERNP is an EU-funded project with three operational field sites — one in the Punjab and two in the NWFP. The key

feature of the project is participatory management of natural resources in creating and maintaining sustainable social and economic development. The Programme works through four areas of intervention: natural resources management, social resources development, human resources development and monitoring and evaluation.

During 1999, the ERNP experienced funding difficulties which created major bottlenecks for the overall progress of the project, especially with respect to physical interventions at the field level. Despite the financial crunch, ERNP made headway in community mobilisation and capacity building for natural resource management. A total of 272 communities in 99 villages were mobilised for environmental protection and rehabilitation, while training workshops and courses were organised for ERNP staff and communities, many through linkages with SPCS/PSDN. A wide range of research studies were undertaken during the period including sectoral reviews, joint forest management, hydropower generation and cultivation of medicinal plants. ERNP is due for a mid-term review in 2000.



abbreviations and acronyms



ADB	Asian Development Bank
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBOs	Community-based Organisations
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
DFID	United Kingdom Department for International Development
EU	European Union
GEF	Global Environment Facility
NACS	Northern Areas Conservation Strategy
NCS	National Conservation Strategy
NGOs	Non-governmental Organisations
NORAD	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
NWFP	North West Frontier Province
PEP	Pakistan Environment Programme
PEPA	Pakistan Environmental Protection Act, 1997
RNE	Royal Netherlands Embassy
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SDNP	Sustainable Development Networking Programme
SPCS	Sarhad Provincial Conservation Strategy
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

1999 publications

NCS Jareeda (Urdu)

Securing our Future in Asia:

Proceedings of the IUCN South & Southeast Asia
Regional Conservation Forum, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah,
Malaysia

**A Study on Aid to the Environment
Sector in Vietnam,**

Hai Noi, November 1999

IUCN Pakistan offices

IUCN Pakistan Country Office

1 Bath Island Road, Karachi 75530
Tel: 021-5861540/41/42
Fax: 021-5870287/5861448
E-mail: mohammad.rafiq@iucnp.org

IUCN Pakistan Islamabad Office

H. No. 26, Street 87
Sector G-6/3, Islamabad
Tel: 051-2270689/90
Fax: 051-2270688
E-mail: mail@iucn-isb.sdnpk.org

IUCN Pakistan Sarhad Office

Street No. 2, House No. 109
Defence Officers Colony
Peshawar Cantt., Peshawar
Tel: 091-271728/276032
Fax: 091-275093
E-mail: mail@iucn.pwr.sdnpk.org

IUCN Pakistan Balochistan Office

Marker Cottage,
Shahrah-e-Zarghon, Quetta
Tel: 081-840450/51/52
Fax: 081-820706
E-mail: rao@iucn.qta.sdnpk.org

IUCN Pakistan Northern Areas Office

Alpine Complex, Main Gilgit Road
Cantonment Area, Jutial, Gilgit
Tel: 0572-55692/55809
Fax: 0572-55808
E-mail: iucnglt@glt.comsats.net.pk

IUCN Pakistan SPCS Support Unit

Planning & Environment Dept.
Government of NWFP
Civil Secretariat, Police Road,
Peshawar
Tel: 091-9210930/9210550
Fax: 091-9210399
E-mail: mail@iucn.pwr.sdnpk.org

IUCN Pakistan ACS Support Unit

Abbottabad Conservation Strategy
c/o Deputy Commissioner
Abbottabad
Tel/Fax: 0992-331493/332449
e-mail: iucnacs@atd.hazara.net.pk

IUCN Pakistan CCS Support Unit

Chitral Conservation Strategy
c/o Deputy Commissioner Chitral,
Chitral
Tel/Fax: 0933-412079

IUCN Pakistan BCS Support Unit

P&D Department,
Government of Balochistan
Block No. 6, Civil Secretariat,
Quetta
Tel: 081-840450/51

IUCN Pakistan NACS Support Unit

P&D Department,
Gilgit,
Northern Areas
Tel: 0572-55692

IUCN-The World Conservation Union

Founded in 1948, The World Conservation Union brings together States, government agencies and a diverse range of non-governmental organizations in a unique world partnership: over 950 members in all, spread across some 139 countries.

As a Union, IUCN seeks 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.

The World Conservation Union builds on the strengths of its members, networks and partners to enhance their capacity and to support global alliances to safeguard natural resources at local, regional and global levels.

In Pakistan, the Union seeks to fulfill this mission by supporting the empowerment of civil society institutions and facilitating the government to implement the National Conservation Strategy as well as other national and sub-national plans on sustainable development.