



**RESEARCH PAPER**

**Environmental Policy Analysis of Pakistan: A Theoretical Perspective**

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**ABSTRACT**

Climate change has challenged environmental security in Pakistan. It has intensified weather conditions. Climate variations are affecting every sector of Pakistan. It is need of the hour to pursue the securitization of environment in Pakistan at national security policy level. The security discourse of Pakistan should prioritize environmental security and issue of climate change which has ever been ignored being concern of low politics. Although previous Governments of Pakistan has made national policies for protection of environment, but still environment holds immense vulnerabilities not only for citizens but also for livestock, agriculture, and overall food web of the state due to worsening climate change. There is a dire need to focus and prioritize the proper mitigation and adaptation measure of climate change in Pakistan to survive predicted calamities in coming years.

**KEYWORDS**      Conservation Strategy, Environmental Security, Ministry of Climate Change, National Environmental Policy, Securitization Theory

**Introduction**

In contemporary times, environment is recognized as a dominant variable to determine the progress of a state. Environment concerns are equally significant to other security factor of a state. On one hand, if environment can be a reliable natural resource, on the other hand, the environmental security concerns i.e., abrupt, and intense climate change, global warming, water shortages, food scarcity, floods, droughts, and other such factors can devastate any state equally (Barnett, & Adger, 2010). These concerns are threatening for developing states like Pakistan, as environmental crisis has the potential to intensify the already existing conflicts and crisis faced by the citizens and state. Moreover, these problems can cause new insecurities due to the inter-state, as well as intra-state conflicts over limited resources, and can eventually become a threat for the national security of the state.

Although Pakistan produces only 1% of the total of global carbon emission, but unfortunately ranks among the top ten states, most vulnerable to the climate change and natural disasters. Continuously rising environmental uncertainties causes huge displacements of people which has the potential to start intra-state level conflict, not ignoring the huge destruction of properties due to above mentioned disasters. (Khan, 2001.) Pakistan has the greatest number of glaciers in the world outside the Arctic regions. This factor has potential to cause country wide floods and destruction. Pakistan is facing medium to maximum scale floods or droughts without having proper system and infrastructure to deal with both. This not only results in infrastructure damages, lives lost and people displacing but also causes huge setbacks to the economy. Thus, there should be an urgency to address environmental challenges by formulating workable policies to secure Pakistan.

When deep dive into Pakistan's efforts regarding environment and climate change, it has been observed that, many policies were given throughout different time periods, but not much practical work has been done. (Iqbal, Ahmed, Khan, Samad, Gill, 2018) The national policy of Pakistan has always been political, and military centric. Despite all these security issues, Pakistan still managed to formulate a few environmental strategies, which

on documentation level, has been highly praised by the international organization. Most of these strategies were a success at documentation level, yet they failed to be implemented properly. The major reason of failure is political crisis, economic disapprovals, regime change or simply just being ignored by the leading policy actors of the state as they do not deem these issues important enough to be prioritize or securitize (Barnett, 2010). Whatever might be reason, it has been claimed by the United Nations that Pakistan is the least contributor in global efforts, when it comes to the efforts related to the climatic changes and environmental degradation. This article has tried to put light on some of the major environmental policies and strategies that has been formulated by Pakistan, yet the governments of Pakistan failed to implement these strategies in the practical fields to have any impact.

### **National Conservation Strategy 1993**

The National Conservation Strategy was a quiet professionally researched project, and it took three years to be formulated in documentation. (Khan,2014) It was made by the experts under the guidelines and supervision of Planning Commission of Pakistan. It was a 406 pages long document and approved by the cabinet of Pakistan in March 1992. The focus of this document was the rapid deteriorating natural resources of Pakistan. It also tried to determine the fact that the long-term implications of these deterioration on the state's economy in specific. This document basically emphasized that the inclusion of determining the environment and its impacts is necessary in all the aspects of Pakistan's strategies and policies, particularly economic. (Iqbal et al., 2018) The main objectives of the document are still valid and relatable to date, which mainly put pressure on the state to strategize about:

- 1- Depletion of natural resources and ways to conserve them.
- 2- Strategize and implement long term sustainable developmental programs.
- 3- Try to efficiently not only use but also manage the remaining natural resources of the state.

The report has not only focused in providing ideas and goals in thin air, but also has conducted detail research regarding natural resources, water, land, and agrarian conditions. This report pointed out the cruel fact that, only 5% of Pakistan's total land mass is covered in forests, which is too low for the sustainability of nature and biodiversity in any state. It has also emphasized to improve the quality of land and environment in Pakistan. It has focused to device the strategies dealing with issues of salinity, land erosion, flooding etc. to improve the agriculture quality as well as the forest mass (Ahmed, Shahbaz, Qasim, & Long, 2015).

The report also focuses energy resources and their challenges to Pakistan. Other main issues highlighted by this document, were related to land and water pollution, water contamination due to dispose of wastage in freshwater bodies, untreated sewage contamination, rapid population growth, poor standards of living, poverty problems and ultimate economic crisis due to all above mentioned problems. It strongly emphasized on to strategize the ways to merge the environmental and economic sectors of the state. It has provided recommendations and strategies, following which Pakistan would not only be able to tackle all the above-mentioned problems, but also would be able to help in boosting the economy of the state. The international community highly praised this plan. It was claimed to be the most unlikely and unexpected document plan, presented by a developing country like that of Pakistan (World Bank Group, 2016).

Despite being a huge success in the documentation form, the strategy failed to have any impact on the decision making and implementation realm of the state, mainly due to severe instability in the politics of Pakistan in the 1990s. The state was so focused in all of the political and military issues and developments, that the leaders and decision makers of the country failed and refused to consider the environmental issues seriously and ultimately refused to invest in any of the recommended projects even though the strategy was even promised to be financially supported by the United Nations Development Program. (Ul Haq, 1995.)

### **National Environment Action Plan 2001**

Pakistan has been facing “environment- poverty nexus” which claimed that the poor and degrading environmental conditions would increase the poverty in the state. Moreover, due to increased poverty, the poor people are more likely to rely on the natural resources and their consumption increasingly for their survival and livelihood. Thus, creating the nexus, where increasing poverty would have direct implications on the environmental conditions of the state and degrading environmental conditions would increase the poverty of the state. Thus, the environmental problems in Pakistan could not be able to tackle or solved until and unless this environment-poverty nexus is properly addressed and resolved. To resolve these environmental related issues and break this environment-poverty nexus, the Pakistani government proposed a comprehensive program known in the history as “National Environmental Action Plan” (NEAP) of 2001. The main executive task given to NEAP was to find and implement ways for the environmental stability and sustainability and methods to decrease the poverty from the state to reduce the pressure from the economy which in turn is hindering the economic growth of the state (Urooj, 2015).

The plan not only acknowledge that the economic growth and the environment of a state are deeply connected with one another, but also acknowledged that the environment in Pakistan is deteriorating with extreme rapidness. The country is facing severe environmental problems like that of poor air and water quality for citizens which became the reason for the increase in the new and old diseases among the population, poor waste management in cities which increase the land pollution, rapid deforestation for the need of accommodation of land for housing, which causes biodiversity and habitat loss for the animals, birds and many other species of wild, usage of aggregation land for housing and industrialization purposes lead to the failure of crop yields, desertification of land and land degradation due to increased level of toxicity. (Sethi, 2007).

The plan also acknowledged the importance of gender equality while formulating and implementing any policy for the state as the women are as equal part of the society as men and would likely to be equally affected by any policy imposed on the state. Thus, the main goals of the plan presented were to be able to come up with the strategies and policies to deal with the impending issues of environment, poverty, and gender equality, as all these issues were negatively impacting the economic growth of the state of Pakistan. (Ur Rehman, Zeb, 2020).

The elaborative plan was appreciated internationally, particularly the objectives of the policy related to environmental stability, reduction of poverty and economic growth. The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) especially developed a program with the name of National Environment Action Plan- Support Program (NEAP-SP) to not only support the strategies of National Environment Action Plan but to also support the program financially for the practical implementation of the NEAP. NEAP-SP has divided the development and implementation process of NEAP into two major phases. The phase 1 was a successful initiative where the United Nations program was able to achieve the many of its proposed goals. The successful achievements of NEAP-SP included:

- 1- To strategizing and formulating a National Environmental policy.

- 2- To develop a sanitation policy to tackle the issue of waste management.
- 3- To develop a strategy related to clean development Mechanism strategy.
- 4- To tackle the issue of deforestation and draft a national Forest policy.
- 5- To tackle the issues of energy depletion and drive an energy conservation policy. (Naureen, 2009).

More than 300 developmental programs and projects were proposed and accepted to be initiated under the phase II of the initiative. These all 300 projects were locally proposed by the researchers and developer team of Pakistan, while UN itself had formulated the proposals for around 60 developmental projects which included initiatives related to:

- Availability of Clean drinking water
- Development in terms of increasing the capacity of the country
- Formulation of first ever bio-safety centers of Pakistan.

For the practical implications of these projects, UN through phase II of NEAP-SP proposed several interventions in several programs related to social, economic, technical, and institutional developments. Phase II was aimed to provide technical, economic, and expert support for the implementation of developmental programs by UN, particularly to those which were related to the pollution prevention, resource management, climate change and environmental governance. (Khan et al., 2016).

Pakistan has always failed when it comes to the successful practical implementation of such policies. Some of the reasons that can be assume for the not so successful implementation of the phase II of NEAP-SP could be blamed upon the political instability in the country at that part of the time, clash of interest of the decision and policy makers of the state, along with the unstable international conditions mainly due to the incident of terrorism on World trade center in 2001, which has totally shifted the focus of the international politics towards the military aspects once again. (Balzacq, Léonard, & Ruzicka, 2016).

Though many, yet still not all the programs ended up as failures, ignored or unsuccessful. Some of the programs which were proposed and initiated are still working and producing some results, but these results are not sufficient for Pakistan to be environmentally stable, especially when being compared to the requirements of the state or the rate upon which the state in consuming the natural resources and damaging the environment causing the issues and incidents to increase in the frequency and intensity.

#### **National Environmental Policy 2005:**

National Environmental Policy was presented by Ministry of Environment of the Government of Pakistan in 2005. The policy acknowledged all the previous efforts that has been done by the previous governmental regimes, ministers, and research teams of Pakistan. Not only that, but the National Environmental Policy also took its inspiration from the National Conservation Strategy, National Environmental Action Plan and other such previously devised policies and strategies by the government of Pakistan. This policy came up with a comprehensive framework with the plans and high expectations to have overachieving goals regarding the environmental and ecological issues that are being faced by Pakistan. These goals were related to:

- the pollutions particularly water pollution in the freshwater bodies

- Waste management
- Land and air pollution
- Deforestation and biodiversity loss because of it
- Natural disasters like that of floods and droughts
- Climate change
- Desertification etc. (EPA, 2005).

What really makes this policy to stand out from being generic of the previous strategies and plans was the fact that it also emphasized that the environment is also related with other sectorial issues like that of poverty, population growth, gender equality, health care, trade, local governance, natural disaster management etc. Along with that this policy gave comprehensive directions and instructions on how these sectors are related to each other and have the capacity to boost as well as undermine the working and developmental capacity of each other. Moreover, it also discussed that, if not given proper attention how these linkages between the sectors can cause the issues for the country and if Pakistan must face these issues than how these issues can be solved. Moreover, it not only highlighted the environmental issues that were being faced by Pakistan but also pointed out that what might be underlying causes of these environmental problems that are causing the deterioration of the environmental conditions in Pakistan. (Farooqi, & Fatimah, 2010).

The main agenda of this policy included the aim to resolve and conserve the environmental issues through sustainable means for not only with the purpose of improving the overall development of the state but also to improve the quality of life of its citizens. Moreover, the policy also aimed to provide the Ozone and Ozone depletion related awareness to the citizens of Pakistan along with introducing Ozone friendly technology which neither must rely on the carbon fuels nor emit the greenhouse gases. The policy also aimed to encourage the people of Pakistan, to adopt to the more environmentally friendly ways to day-to-day activities and livelihood. (EPA, 2005).

After the approval of the policy by the government, it was decided that the Ministry of Environment would device an “Action Plan” whose main objectives would revolve around the implementation of the National Environmental Policy. The action plan would be given the responsibility of devising policies and assign the tasks to the concerning ministries of Pakistan with the basic instructions of implementing those strategies and plans. (EPA, 2005).

### **National Climate Change Policy 2012**

Although, claimed by many, but not a single government has taken any practical step or initiative or had bothered to prepare its citizens regarding the devastating effects that could had the potential to cause massive destructions. The result, climate change culminated in the form of disaster which hit Pakistan with its full force, when the country was neither expecting nor was prepared for it all and had shaken up the state to its core. The 2010 floods had devastated the country and caused so many casualties, destruction along with the biggest number of displacement of people and had forced the people to leave their homes, businesses and properties in a single turn of event, which had been considered to have largest number of people to be displaced in a single natural disaster, in the history of not only Pakistan but the whole world as well. As it was not devastating enough, and a sign for Pakistan to start working towards its environment and safety measures regarding it, the very next year i.e., in 2011, the people of Pakistan had to face, if not bigger, than the same event of flood with the same magnitude. This has further devastated the already miserable

state of people of Pakistan, particularly those who were used to live in the areas vulnerable to flood. (Aslam, Gul, & Asghar, 2021).

This has forced the state to stop ignoring the issues of climate change as unnecessary, apply securitization to make the deal with the natural disaster an immediate emergency in Pakistan, to devise all means available to deal with the tragedy at hand and lastly to turn the climate change into an issue that was required immediate attention with the ultimate means and resources to be dealt with along with the full-fledged attention from the government officials as well as the policy and decision makers. The goal of all these awakening measures was to save state and its people from any future natural disaster of such magnitude and destruction. (Ahmad, 2022).

This became the source of origin of a landmark policy regarding climate change, when in 2012, the government of Pakistan under the leadership of Pakistan People's Party not only approved the National Policy of Climate Change, but also formulated a new ministry of climate change which was particularly formulated to dedicate itself to the causes of the policy.

The national policy on climate change aimed to focus on the issues related to the sectors of agriculture, forestry, water, coastal lands along with their biodiversity and protection of ecosystems of Pakistan. What really was the new contribution of this policy was that it gave different ideas on:

- how to manage future natural disasters
- how state can prepare itself for the inevitable disasters
- How Pakistan can increase its storing capacity to save up maximum amount of water during the season of flooding and could reuse it not only to generate electricity but also to be able to use it in drought season.
- How these institutions related to the environmental issues can be strengthen and given authorities
- How to spread awareness regarding climate change, environmental issues, natural disasters, and disaster management among the masses of people. (Ahmed et al., 2020).

The policy also emphasized that the climate change policy of the state should be formulated in such a way that it should be inter-related and linked with the national policies of the state, to provide the sense of urgency and priority. The policy acknowledged the fact that the natural disasters like that of floods and droughts, which Pakistan had to face, has the chances to speed up in their frequency and intensity and that these floods and droughts has the potential to cause severe food, water, and energy shortages, which could have the potential to initiate a new crisis in Pakistan. The policy also acknowledged that, the natural disasters and their management measure put great strain on the already devastated economy of Pakistan. Moreover, Pakistan alone is not economically strong enough to manage these issues on its own. Thus, the policy emphasized on seeking the international financial support to tackle these numerous challenges and issues faced by Pakistan due to severe climate change events. Although it was quite comprehensive policy plan, which has not only acknowledged many of Pakistan's shortcomings and weaknesses when it comes to being vulnerable before the natural disasters and having weak natural disaster management, but also highlighted Pakistan's inability to tackle these issues on its own economically. This policy has remained unimplemented till date.

### **Eco-System Restoration Initiative**

Although Pakistan is among the states who are least likely to produce Greenhouse gases, due to their weak and limited industrialization. Unfortunately, Pakistan still ranks among the top 10 states who are most likely to be affected by the climate change and natural disasters caused because of it. This is particularly due to Pakistan's geographical location and topography. In past 20 years, Pakistan has suffered socially, geographically, territorially, and economically because of the annual natural disasters. According to an estimate, Pakistan's economy has most likely to be suffered the loss of about total \$3792.52 million in these years in some total of 152 natural disasters. The rate of natural disaster's occurrences has increased manifold and is too high for sustainability. Due to which Pakistan suffer even more than it should, mainly because of poor management and poor articulation of managing measures of the natural disasters by the government of Pakistan. (Aslam, Gul, & Asghar, 2021).

All these factors lead the government of Pakistan under the leadership of Imran Khan to launch Eco-System Restoration Initiative (ESRI) with the main goal of strengthen the state of Pakistan to withstand any natural calamity. For this purpose, the government has started new initiatives particularly designed to deal with the environmental challenges. Some of the main initiatives are:

- Plantation programs with the aim of afforestation.
- Protection and conservation of biodiversity in water bodies as well as in forests.
- To formulate and take such initiatives which coincides with the environmental policies of Pakistan as well as with ESRI. (Chaudhry, 2017).

### **Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Programme (TBTTP)**

The government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI) during their governance period from 2013-2018 in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) initiated a program to tackle the issue of climate change and deforestation in the province. The project was labelled as the Billion Tree Afforestation Project (BTAP) which had been a huge success for the provincial government. Moreover, the success of this initiative was not self-proclaimed and was acknowledged as a successful initiative by the international independent monitors. The project was highly praised at the international level, and it was encouraged by the international community to expand this great initiative to other provinces as well as other states should also take the inspiration from BTAP and should adopt these kinds of initiatives as well. (Ehtasham et al., 2022). After the huge success of BAP in KPK, the government announced to expand the Billion Tree Project into the plantation of up to Ten Billion Tree Initiative across the whole state of Pakistan. The project was then renamed to be called as "Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Project" (TBTTP), for its country wide venture. This nationwide project would include the plantation activities in all the provinces of the country, even with the inclusion of AJK (Azad Jammu and Kashmir) and GB (Gilgit Baltistan). This project is one of its kind projects, which has provided each province with their own budget to achieve their targeted goal regarding the plantation related to TBTTP.

Another great approach taken by the project management team of TBTTP is that it adopted a participatory approach for the plantation campaign in all the provinces, where every person from every aspect of social life, whether a student, youth, farmers, old people, stay-at-home spouses etc. is encouraged to take their fair share of participation in the project activities. Not only this, schools, and colleges, along with their students are encouraged to engage in these huge afforestation activities. Along with public engagement, the provincial and federal departments, dedicated to forestry and climate change are fully involved in the plantation and its management programs. (Rayan, Gruehn, & Khayyam, 2021).

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) approved the program and allocated the budget of Rs. 125.184 billion for the targeted plantation of about 3.29 billion plants, during the phase I of the project. By the end of Fiscal Year 2021 (July 2020- March 2021), the program was able to achieve the plantation of about 350 million trees. Not only proven to be beneficial for the climate change and environment purposes, but this project was also able to generate around 100,000 daily wages employments till March 2021. (Ehtasham, Sherani, Younas, Izbel, Khan, Bahadur, & Akbar, 2022). This project can be considered as the first huge practical success for any government of Pakistan in the realm of environmental preservation. Moreover, it also has the potential to provide long term benefits regarding the preservation of atmosphere, better healthy environment, in reducing toxic and harmful effects of Greenhouse Gases from the atmosphere, reduce the intensity and frequency of floods, droughts and other natural disasters. (Balzacq, Léonard, & Ruzicka, 2016).

**Clean Green Pakistan Index**

The Clean Green Pakistan Index (CGPI) is a program initiated by the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan, under the supervision of Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC). The main objective of this program was to formulate a mechanism for strengthening the services provided to the citizens by the local government particularly related to the municipality. The mechanism would rank the cities of Pakistan by following five pillars provided by Clean Green Pakistan. These five pillars are related to:

- 1- Drinking water
- 2- Sanitation
- 3- Hygiene
- 4- Solid waste Management
- 5- Plantation.

There are around 35 indicators set by the team of CGPI that would be used to score the city in the above mentioned five categories. The sum of score of all the five pillars would provide the final score for the ranking of the cities. The first phase of the program was successfully implemented in around 20 cities of KPK during the year of 2020. The result of the ranking of the cities of KPK and Punjab is provided in the given figures below.

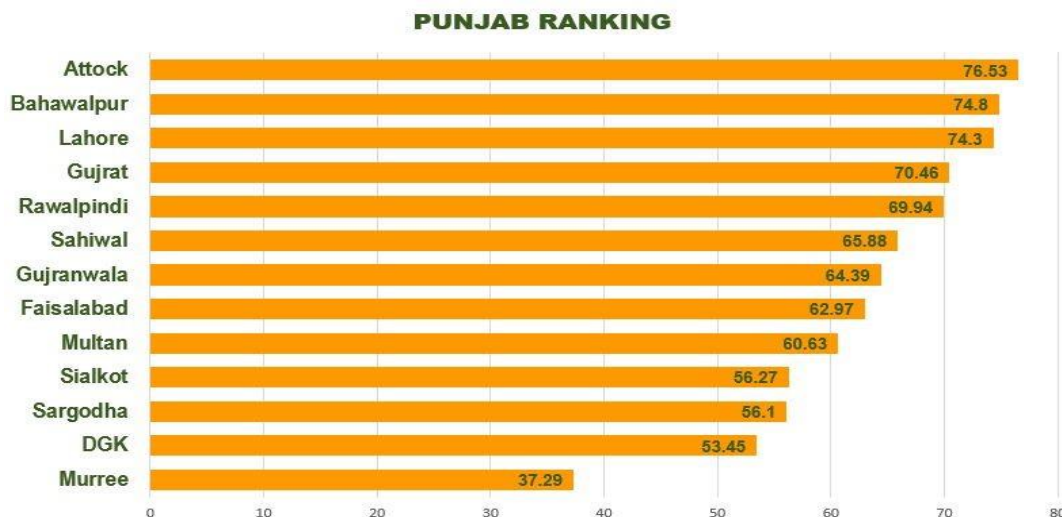


Figure 1 Punjab Ranking Source: Ministry Of Climate Change





Figure 2 KPK Ranking SOURCE: Ministry of Climate Change

The phase II of the project is aimed to expand the Index up to 90 cities across the country, including all the provinces of Pakistan. (Kiran, 2017).

### **Citizen Engagement Program**

Another important program which was launched by the government of Pakistan under the supervision of Ministry of Climate Change is related to the engagement of citizens in the environmental related activities in the country. The program is named as “Clean Green Champions” by the government of Pakistan. The program is designed to promote the engagement of people and encourage them to take voluntary participation in the activities regarding the five pillars of Clean Green Pakistan Index (CGPI). The activities are designed by MoCC and are divided into three main categories, among which the Green Champions (volunteers) are free to choose their desired voluntary activity:

- i. The first category is dedicated to the voluntary services based on self-help in the categories of waste management, sanitation related activities and in solving problems related to the water supply etc.
- ii. The second category is related to the volunteering for the help of local government in issues particularly related to the resolving of people’s issues and complaints and helping in the essential services.
- iii. The third category is related to help the government in spreading the awareness regarding the behavior of people towards the environment and how environmental conditions require equal contributions from all, for the government to be able to decrease the threat level.

The program has been appreciated particularly by the youth of Pakistan and the registration of the champions has reached the sum of about 120,000 volunteers so far. (Khan, 2014).

### **Participation in Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (Redd+)**

In 2010, the states of the world, under the authority of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) adopted a proposal. The concept was named as the Reduced Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+). The concept

encouraged the process of the atmospheric Carbon to be absorbed through the standing forests and such resources. It also claimed that the financial timber and carbon market value of those trees and forests has increased far more which has large accumulation of carbon in them. Thus, the carbon markets of the world, trade far more for the trees which are rich in carbon sources.

Pakistan has also been the member of this program. For the implementation of this program, Pakistan has been given a grant of total \$3.8 million since 2015 onwards under the authoritative body of the REDD+ Readiness Proposal (R-RP). This grant was awarded to Pakistan after following a competitive process held by the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), which is a subsidiary working under World Bank. The competing states were given the task to fulfill four necessary elements, following only which a state would be able to complete R-RP. These four elements/tasks were designed by international and national consultants hired by World Bank. After being a success, in 2018 Pakistan was awarded an additional grant of \$4.01 million by FCPF for Pakistan to continue its activities in pursuing REDD+ Readiness Program till June 2020 (Loginova, 2021). To measure the success of this program UNFCCC demanded the report regarding the Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) measure the levels of carbon accumulation in the trees of forests of Pakistan, which was successfully submitted by Pakistan.

### **Preparation of National Drought Plan for Pakistan**

The Global Mechanism Team of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), has selected and formulated a national consultant team for Pakistan, with the task at the hand of formulating a comprehensive and detailed National Action Plan. The National Action Plan would be the part of "Drought initiative" taken by United Nations to help the states particularly developing ones with the main purpose of enhancing their ability to resist any future droughts or drought related situations (Ali et al., 2013). Pakistan for past few years facing drought situations, particularly in Sindh province. Thus, if successful, it would be a great initiative.

### **National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAB)**

In November 2018, the Government of Pakistan has approved a program whose main purpose is to device strategies and implement these strategies for the protection and preservation in the phase of implementation in all the provinces (Bhandari, 2022). Moreover, this plan is the part of Pakistan's National Strategy to fulfill the target given to it under SDGs 2030.

### **Theorizing the Environmental Issues of Pakistan**

Pakistan is a state that has been blessed enormously when it comes to nature yet rank among those top 10 states of the world who are most likely to be greatly affected by the climate changes and suffer severe natural disasters. Pakistan's environmental vulnerability increases manifolds due to inability of the governments of Pakistan to be able to manage the natural disasters. This increase not only the suffering of the people of Pakistan but also the burden on already worn-out economy of Pakistan.

When observed through the lens of securitization theory, the process of environmental policies, strategies and priorities are far easier to understand. For this purpose, all three steps of the securitization are discussed, keeping in mind the environmental stances of Pakistan, particularly to observe that under which step Pakistan was be able to get a success and which step was a failure in execution. (Romaniuk, 2018).

### **Step I: Speech Act**

The first step towards the process of securitization of any act, issue, event, proposal, or phenomenon is the Speech Act. That means the utterance of the matter in such a way to make audience realized how big of a deal is the issue at hand. The success or failure of the speech act depends upon the message conveyer, their ability and style. How proficient a person is in convincing their audience to agree with them regarding the urgency and dangers of a concept, according to the perception of the person conveying the speech act. (Balzacq, Léonard, & Ruzicka, 2016).

Pakistan has always been a state that, since its independence, which must rely upon the militaristic and political approach, when it comes to the matter of policy making regarding national security of the state. One of the biggest reasons for this is the nature relationships of the state with the neighboring states. When it comes to the matter of security, Pakistan has failed to buildup friendly and peaceful relationship with any of the neighbors bordering the state, except that of China. Thus, the realistic approach of Pakistan towards its national security policy is among one of the many reasons that no one among state authorities considered the topic of non-traditional security challenges particularly environmental degradation and climate change to be a strong enough factors, to consider them a security challenge.

Another important reason, why the issue of environmental security was considered not to be an important enough factor to be voiced for, was the mindset, thinking capacities, cultural impacts and selfish personal incapability of the leaders and policy makers of Pakistan. But the perception has started to change since the environmental issues has become a big deal at the international arena. (Floyd, 2008). As far as speech act, regarding the environmental situations in Pakistan is considered, at every forum it has been voiced as rapidly downgrading conditions of environment and natural resources in Pakistan. Public awareness has been among the masses about the importance of trees and forests through speeches of leaders and authorities to encourage people to plant more trees and refrain themselves from activities which are proven to be harmful for the environmental resources such as carbon emission, cutting of trees and forests, housing schemes in the agricultural lands etc.

## **Step II: Audience Approval**

The second step of the securitization process is the most difficult, time consuming, energy and resource taking part. That is the reason that the major criticism on securitization is related to this part of the process. The critiques claim that people of a state belong to different societies, classes, and backgrounds. Each have their own set of believes ideas and mindsets regarding every concept and aspect of life. That is the reason, it is extremely difficult for a large mass of people to be able to agree with the leader regarding many issues of the state. That is the reason, this phase of the securitization process is a determining phase regarding the success or failure of a topic or issue being securitized. This is the Buzan and Weaver's way of keeping a check and balance on the authoritative bodies of the state to refrain them from abusing their power. (Brzoska, 2009).

When it comes to the securitization of environmental security related issues of Pakistan, the leaders of Pakistan have gone through the same difficulties at one level or the other. Spreading awareness among the educated, social media using class of the society and among the people belonged to the urban areas is comparatively an easy task, but at the same time, due to the same opportunities and advancement, it became the most perplexing task as well.

There can be seen many examples in Pakistan, where a project related to the development of the state, or the preservation of the natural resources failed just because the policy makers has failed to be able to convince the related audience to agree with them and their policies. The best example of this can be seen through the impending construction of

Kalabagh Dam. The project of Kalabagh Dam is the project of the decade for Pakistan, yet people of the area has refused to allow the construction of this project. Even though the dam is a project that has the potential to eradicate all the looming energy crisis and energy shortfall problems faced by the state of Pakistan for decades. Yet the unfortunate thing for Pakistan is that, not a single leader or policy maker is yet to be successful in getting the approval from the local people of Kalabagh for the construction of the dam.

Same is the case with various other projects that had to be scrapped down just because the people associated with the project refused to acknowledge the importance of those issues. Mostly due to their own beliefs and perception regarding the issue and thus refuse to give their approval. In this way, sometimes the most powerful tool of the process of the securitization, becomes the cause for the failure of a critical issue to be securitized.

### **Step III: Implementation**

After passing through the two difficult stages of the process, the third phase is comparatively an easy one to be implemented for the stake holders if that is the intention.

As far as the environmental issues and the implementation of its solutions, is concerned in Pakistan, only the recent governments have started to pay attention to the environmental conditions of the state and has acknowledged the fact that the environment of Pakistan is urgently needed to be protected, otherwise it can become a danger for the survival and security of the state. Although acknowledged by the governments of the past two decades, the importance of implementation of urgent environmental policies, several proposed projects were restricted to the documentation level just because the authoritative bodies refused to consider those policies to be important enough to be worthy of thousands of dollars of investments (Riffat& Khan, 2006).

The previous government of Pakistan has somehow successfully securitized the issue of environment and has started to initiate variety of projects and programs. Some of those projects and programs are financed by different bodies of UN but some of them are locally financed and supported by the government of Pakistan as well. (Urooj, 2015) The most important among them is the Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Project. Several recently initiated and announced projects are in their developmental phase, yet many of them are in their implementation phase as well. Fortunately, few of the projects has been proven to be a momentous success for Pakistan and has been even praised by the international community. But it is also a sad reality that these projects are still too little too late of an effort as compared to the requirement.

### **Conclusion**

Pakistan is still facing environmental crisis which are evident from the recent floods, droughts, heat waves, huge and destructive spells of rain etc. One factor that these recent natural disasters h is that these efforts to preserve environment of Pakistan and preventing the rampant environmental degradation converting into an existential threat for the nature as well as security of Pakistan are still not enough. Pakistan still needs extensive work to be done until it can be safe from any impending danger of environmental crisis. This article has explored the nature and potential of policies on environment that has been adopted by every government of Pakistan. Although extremely late, Pakistani government has finally started to pay attention to the environment and climate of the state even if it is restricted to the documentation level for now. The efforts being made by the government of Pakistan is still on very initial phases. The Pakistani government still requires extensive research, efforts and sources until Pakistan would finally be able to secure the sustainability of environment in Pakistan and would be able to provide environmental security and freedom from fear to the citizens of Pakistan.

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