



MINISTRY OF CLIMATE CHANGE &
ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION
GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY-MARCH 2026

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1



CLIMATE CHANGE

From the Editor's Desk
Bi-Monthly Newsletter | January–March 2026
Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination

The first quarter of 2026 has reaffirmed an important reality: climate action is no longer a choice—it is central to Pakistan's sustainable development, economic resilience and environmental security. As climate risks become more frequent and complex, the Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination has continued to strengthen its response through policy reforms, international partnerships, science-based decision-making and community engagement.

During the past three months, the Ministry has worked to translate commitments into action. At the national level, significant progress was made in strengthening environmental governance through the finalisation of Pakistan's National Biodiversity Targets, submission of the country's Seventh National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the development of Pakistan's first National Drought Action Plan. Together,

these initiatives lay a stronger foundation for protecting ecosystems, improving climate resilience and safeguarding natural resources for future generations.

Internationally, Pakistan expanded its climate diplomacy by deepening cooperation with bilateral and multilateral partners while actively contributing to global discussions on climate resilience, glacier protection and sustainable development. The country's participation in the Arctic Circle Rome Forum, alongside growing collaboration on climate finance, scientific research and technology, reflects Pakistan's increasing engagement in shaping international climate dialogue.

The quarter also witnessed renewed emphasis on nature-based solutions and innovation. Weekly tree plantation drives, efforts to enhance urban green spaces, promotion of artificial intelligence for climate governance and disaster preparedness, and initiatives

supporting youth-led climate entrepreneurship demonstrate the Ministry's commitment to practical, forward-looking solutions that deliver long-term environmental and social benefits.

Despite contributing less than one per cent to global greenhouse gas emissions, Pakistan remains among the countries most vulnerable to climate change. This reality reinforces the need for stronger partnerships, evidence-based policies and collective action at every level.

The stories featured in this edition reflect more than institutional activities—they represent a shared national commitment to building a greener, more resilient and climate-secure Pakistan. As we move forward, the Ministry remains steadfast in advancing inclusive, science-driven and collaborative solutions that protect our environment while creating sustainable opportunities for present and future generations.

— Editor, Newsletter

Patron-in-Chief

Senator Musadik Masood Malik
Federal Minister for Climate Change & Environmental Coordination

Patron

Ms. Aisha Humera Moriani, Secretary
M/o Climate Change & Environmental Coordination

Editor-in-Chief

Dr. Mazhar Hayat, Dy. Secretary
(Climate Change), MoCC & EC

Muhammad Saleem
Editor, Deputy Director

(Media & Communications), MoCC&EC

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Pakistan unveils first National Drought Action Plan amid worsening climate-driven water crisis

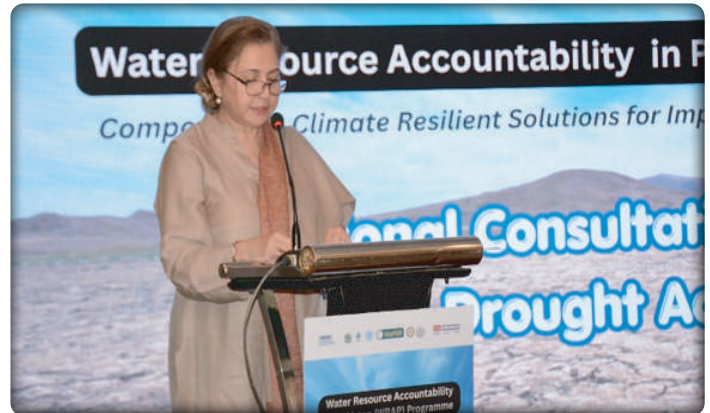
ISLAMABAD (March 28, 2026) - Pakistan has taken a major step towards strengthening climate resilience by finalising its first National Drought Action Plan (NDAP), marking a strategic shift from reactive disaster response to proactive, risk-based drought management amid rising climate threats.

Speaking at a national consultative workshop on the NDAP, Federal Secretary for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Aisha Humera Moriani warned that drought was no longer an occasional hazard but an increasingly persistent climate risk driven by rising temperatures, water scarcity and growing climate variability.

“Pakistan is among the countries facing high water stress. Drought directly threatens agriculture, water resources, food security, ecosystems and livelihoods,” she said, stressing that the country must move beyond post-disaster relief towards preparedness, early warning and long-term resilience.

The secretary said the Ministry, with technical support from the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and following extensive national consultations, had developed the action plan around five strategic pillars: governance and policy, planning and resource mobilisation, early warning systems, local mitigation measures, and capacity building.

She highlighted the Pakistan Drought Management System (PakDMS), developed by the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and partners, as a significant advancement in real-time drought monitoring. However, she emphasised that effective climate governance required translating scientific data into timely, evidence-based decisions and on-ground action.



Federal Secretary for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Aisha Humera Moriani addresses as keynote speaker at a national consultative workshop on the National Drought Action Plan (NDAP) held here at a local hotel on March 27, 2026.

The workshop brought together representatives from federal and provincial governments, NDMA, PMD, FAO, FCDO, IWMI and other development partners to develop an operational framework for implementing the plan. Discussions focused on institutional coordination, priority sectors for drought risk reduction and a roadmap for short-, medium- and long-term action.

Reaffirming the Ministry's commitment, Ms Moriani said effective drought management required a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, calling for stronger coordination among government institutions, technical agencies and development partners to build a drought-resilient Pakistan.

Musadik Malik announces weekly tree plantation to curb emissions, heatwave

ISLAMABAD (March 26, 2026) - Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Dr Musadik Masood, on Thursday announced that weekly tree plantation drives would be launched across Islamabad after March 31, in a renewed push to strengthen environmental protection, urban livability and climate resilience in the capital.

The tree plantation event was organized by Pak-EPA Islamabad in collaboration with Zong Telecom Operator.

Addressing a plantation ceremony at Shakarparian, the minister said the campaign would continue for at least one to two months, covering multiple locations across the city. The initiative forms part of the government's broader strategy to expand green cover and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

He reiterated the government's commitment to plant 10 trees for every one cut in Islamabad, adding that implementation of the pledge had now begun in practical terms. He invited the media and the public to observe the plantation activities and independently assess progress on the government's commitments.

Linking afforestation efforts with broader



Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Dr Musadik Masood addresses a spring tree plantation drive at Shakarparian, organised by Pak-EPA Islamabad in collaboration with telecom operator Zong, in Islamabad on March 26, 2026.

climate challenges, Dr Musadik Malik said rising temperatures, increasing carbon emissions and greenhouse gases were intensifying extreme weather events, including floods and accelerated glacier melt. “Trees are essential for maintaining ecological

balance as they absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen,” he said.

The federal minister emphasised that forests play a critical role in slowing down climate change by acting as natural carbon sinks, while also helping mitigate its adverse environmental, social and economic impacts. Trees, he noted, reduce the intensity of floods by enhancing water absorption, stabilise soil, prevent land erosion and lessen the damaging effects of strong winds during stormy weather conditions.

The minister said increasing tree cover also contributes to improving the livability of cities by lowering urban temperatures, reducing air pollution and creating healthier environments for residents. “Urban forestry is not just an environmental priority but a public health and quality-of-life imperative,” he added.

The minister noted that trees planted in earlier drives were being protected and had shown healthy growth, terming it a positive indicator of continuity and seriousness in government efforts. Emphasising public participation, he stressed that awareness and community engagement, particularly among young people, were critical for building a culture of environmental responsibility. He appreciated schoolchildren for actively taking part in plantation activities, calling their involvement “encouraging and vital for the future.”

Recognising the role of the media, the minister said it had played a powerful part in sensitising the public about the importance of forests and their community-based protection and conservation. He urged media organisations to further step up awareness efforts, particularly on tree plantation and fuel-saving practices for the



Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Dr Musadik Masood plants a tree sapling at Shakarparian as a part of spring tree plantation campaign on March 26, 2026.

general public.

Malik also highlighted that fuel conservation under the government's austerity policy would contribute to reducing carbon dioxide emissions, underscoring the link between economic discipline and environmental benefits.

Calling for a whole-of-society approach, the minister underscored the importance of active participation by communities, educational institutions, civil society organisations and the corporate sector in tree plantation campaigns, as well as in the protection and conservation of forest resources. He said such collective efforts were essential to support the government's drive to increase national tree cover.

He further reaffirmed the present government's commitment to the protection and conservation of forest resources, stating that these efforts were essential to achieving broader goals of environmental sustainability, biodiversity conservation and climate resilience.

The announcement signals a continuation of policy focus on nature-based solutions as Pakistan grapples with increasing climate vulnerabilities, the federal minister Dr Musadik Malik emphasised.

Pakistan Submits 7th National Biodiversity Report to UN Convention

ISLAMABAD (March 15, 2026) - Pakistan has submitted its Seventh National Report (7NR) on biodiversity conservation to the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, highlighting progress in protected areas, forest conservation and implementation of global biodiversity commitments.

The report outlines Pakistan's efforts to align national biodiversity policies with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which sets 23 global targets to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030.

The report aims to contribute to the global assessment of progress under the biodiversity framework during COP17 of the biodiversity convention scheduled to be held from Oct 19 to 30 in Yerevan, Armenia.

Around 125 countries, nearly two-thirds of the 196 parties to the convention, have submitted their seventh national reports ahead of the global stocktaking process on biodiversity conservation.

Under Article 26 of the convention, member states are required to submit periodic reports on actions taken to implement biodiversity conservation policies and strategies.

The report also highlights significant achievements in Pakistan's biodiversity conservation efforts, including the expansion of protected and conserved areas to around 20 per cent of the country's territory, covering terrestrial and marine ecosystems.

Climate Ministry finalises National Biodiversity Targets under global framework to boost conservation

ISLAMABAD (March 14, 2026) - Pakistan has finalised its National Biodiversity Targets (NBTs), aligning them with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity, officials said on Saturday. The move marks a key milestone in the country's global biodiversity commitments.

The two-day high-level meeting, held in Islamabad and chaired by the secretary of the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, brought together representatives from federal ministries, provincial environment, forestry and wildlife departments, academia, and development partners to review and refine Pakistan's biodiversity priorities. Additional Secretary-I Dr Saad S. Khan, Director Biodiversity Naeem Ashraf Raja, and Conservator Wildlife Samar Hussain Khan participated in the sessions.

According to details, NBTs were finalised after extensive consultations with government and non-government stakeholders across the country. The targets have been aligned with global frameworks, ensuring Pakistan's biodiversity priorities reflect both ecological conservation needs and broader development objectives.

The consultative process identified a comprehensive set of targets covering ecosystem conservation and restoration, sustainable use of natural resources, biodiversity finance, and inclusive governance. Officials highlighted that these targets provide a framework for monitoring and reporting progress on Pakistan's biodiversity goals, supporting both national and global conservation agendas.

PAKISTAN FINALISES NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY TARGETS
ALIGNING WITH KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK
A MAJOR MILESTONE IN PAKISTAN'S GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY COMMITMENTS

HIGH-LEVEL CONSULTATIVE MEETING
Two-day meeting held in Islamabad
Chaired by Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination
Participants included representatives from federal ministries, provincial environment, forestry & wildlife departments, academia, and development partners

KEY OFFICIALS PARTICIPATED
Dr Saad S. Khan, Additional Secretary-I
Naeem Ashraf Raja, Director Biodiversity
Samar Hussain Khan, Conservator Wildlife

EXTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS
NBTs were finalised after extensive consultations with government and non-government stakeholders across the country.

ALIGNED WITH GLOBAL FRAMEWORKS
Targets reflect both ecological conservation needs and broader development objectives.

COMPREHENSIVE SET OF TARGETS
Covering ecosystem conservation & restoration, sustainable use of natural resources, biodiversity finance, and inclusive governance.

MONITORING & REPORTING
Targets provide a framework for monitoring and reporting progress on Pakistan's biodiversity goals, supporting national and global conservation agendas.

KEY TARGETS BY 2030
PROTECT 30% OF LAND & SEA AREAS
through effectively managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems
CONTROL INVASIVE SPECIES
Prevent introduction and eradicate or manage invasive alien species
PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT & USE
Ensure sustainable use of biodiversity through integrated approaches
IMPLEMENT SMART MEASURES
Develop legal & administrative policies to monitor and assess business and development impacts on biodiversity

These targets will guide Pakistan's biodiversity actions in the coming years and support implementation of the Revised National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP 2026-2030).

OUR COMMITMENT FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE
 Strengthen biodiversity conservation
 Enhance ecosystem resilience
 Promote inclusive governance
 Contribute to global efforts to halt biodiversity loss
TOGETHER FOR NATURE. FOR PEOPLE. FOR PAKISTAN.

Pakistan is committed to a nature-positive future for current and future generations. Protect • Restore • Sustain

The newly finalised targets will guide Pakistan's biodiversity actions in the coming years and support implementation of the revised National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP 2026-2030). The initiative forms part of Pakistan's broader efforts to strengthen biodiversity conservation, enhance ecosystem resilience, and contribute to global actions aimed at halting biodiversity loss.

National biodiversity targets are specific, time-bound goals within a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, designed to conserve biodiversity, restore ecosystems, and align with global frameworks like the Kunming-Montreal GBF.

The Key targets include protecting 30% of land and sea areas, controlling invasive species, and promoting sustainable management by 2030. The targets also incorporate actionable SMART measures, such as developing legal and administrative policies to monitor business and development impacts on biodiversity.

Swedish bank eyes Pakistan climate fund as glacier diplomacy gains momentum

ISLAMABAD (March 10, 2026) - Sweden and Pakistan explored closer cooperation on climate finance, glacier research and sustainable infrastructure, with a leading Swedish financial institution considering the launch of a multi-country green investment fund for Pakistan.

The development came during a meeting between Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Musadik Masood Malik and Swedish Ambassador Alexandra Berg von Linde in Islamabad.

According to officials, discussions focused on the growing global climate crisis, particularly the accelerating pace of glacier melt and its implications for vulnerable regions, including the Arctic and the Himalayan belt.



Islamabad, 10th March 2026: Her Excellency Ms. Alexandra Berg von Linde, Ambassador of Sweden to Pakistan, called on the Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Dr. Musadik Malik.

The ambassador congratulated the minister on his invitation to participate in the Arctic Circle Assembly, describing it as recognition of Pakistan's increasing role in global climate diplomacy.

Mr Malik stressed the need for stronger cooperation among countries affected by glacial retreat, saying climate threats were no longer confined within national borders. He underlined the importance of joint research and coordinated policy responses between Arctic and Himalayan states to tackle the long-term impacts of glacier melt.

During the meeting, the ambassador said Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken was exploring the establishment of a multi-country investment fund in Pakistan focusing on water, infrastructure and energy sectors.

She said the initiative aimed to support climate-resilient projects and help local companies reduce risks linked to green investments. The proposed fund is also expected to work with the Green Climate Fund to mobilise climate financing for sustainable development projects.

The ambassador sought the ministry's support in facilitating coordination for the proposed initiative, particularly in its role as Pakistan's National Designated Authority for the Green Climate Fund.

Mr Malik welcomed the proposal and expressed interest in holding detailed talks with representatives of the Swedish bank in the coming days. He said Pakistan offered significant investment opportunities in climate-focused sectors, especially water management, clean energy and resilient infrastructure.

Pakistan urges stronger climate cooperation at Arctic Circle Rome Forum in Italy

ISLAMABAD (Mar 05, 2026) - Federal Minister for Climate Change Musadik Masood Malik warned that Pakistan remains among the countries most vulnerable to climate change as he addressed the



ISLAMABAD (Mar 05, 2026) - Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr. Musadik Masood Malik addressing the 'Arctic Circle Rome Forum' held in Rome, Italy from March 2-5, 2026

Arctic Circle Rome Forum, calling for stronger global cooperation and science-based solutions to tackle the accelerating impacts of melting glaciers and extreme weather.

Speaking at the forum's plenary session titled "View from Pakistan: Climate & Poles," the minister highlighted the country's exposure to climate-induced disasters, including glacier melt, rising sea levels and increasingly frequent extreme weather events.

Musadik Malik also participated in a panel discussion on "Science

Diplomacy for the Third Pole," where he stressed the need for closer collaboration between scientists and policymakers and urged the international community to advance climate justice and shared research initiatives to address environmental risks affecting mountain and polar regions.

On the sidelines of the forum, Pakistan's embassy in Rome arranged meetings for the minister with a number of international leaders and officials, including Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, chairman of the Arctic Circle and former president of Iceland; Katrín Jakobsdóttir, chair of the Polar Dialogue and former Icelandic prime minister; Greenland's Foreign Minister Vivian Motzfeldt; Canadian Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs Mona Fortier; Norwegian State Secretary Eivind Vad Petersson; and former EU ambassador for Arctic affairs Marie Anne Coninx.

The minister also met Italy's Minister for Universities and Research Anna Maria Bernini and Marco Rusconi, director of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation.

During his visit, Musadik Malik held academic engagements at Sapienza University of Rome, where discussions with senior faculty focused on expanding research collaboration and academic linkages with Pakistani institutions.

In his remarks and meetings, the minister proposed several initiatives aimed at strengthening international climate cooperation, including the creation of a "Virtual Green University" to connect researchers and students worldwide, a "Climate Risk Capital Fund" to support climate-tech entrepreneurs, and the concept of "Green Intellectual Property" to promote equitable access to climate innovation.

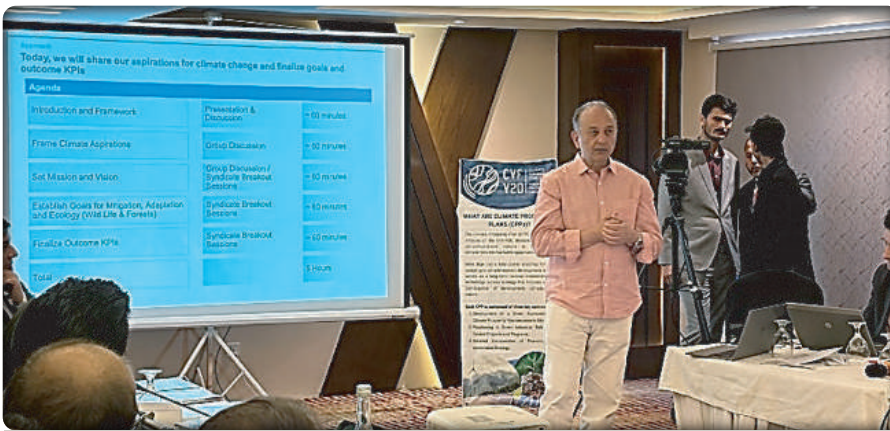
Musadik Malik also visited the Italian National Research Council (CNR), where he met President Andrea Lenzi and held discussions with scientists on biodiversity, cryosphere research and environmental sustainability.

Pakistan's participation in the Rome Forum marked its first engagement with the Arctic Circle platform, following a special invitation extended to the country.

High-level consultative meeting in Murree shapes Pakistan's climate prosperity strategy

Murree, Pakistan (February 17, 2026) - Senior government officials, development partners and technical experts convened in Murree for a two-day high-level meeting to chart a coordinated and implementation-focused pathway for Pakistan's climate future, with a focus on advancing the country's Climate Prosperity Agenda.

The meeting, titled "Strategic Cooperation on Pakistan's Sectoral Climate Prosperity Roadmap: Define, Design and Deliver," was held from February 16 to 17 under the auspices of the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination in collaboration with the Climate Vulnerable Forum and the V20 Finance Ministers



Federal Minister for Climate Change and Senator Dr. Musadik Malik addressing at inaugural session of two-day consultative meeting "Strategic Cooperation on Pakistan's Sectoral Climate Prosperity Roadmap: Define, Design and Deliver" held in Murree from February 16 to 17, 2026 convened by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination in collaboration with the Climate Vulnerable Forum and the V20 Finance Ministers Secretariat.

unified national climate strategy. Structured around a "Define, Design, Deliver" framework, participants outlined national aspirations, identified priority sectors, and worked on setting measurable targets and performance indicators to guide implementation.



Federal Minister for Climate Change and Senator Dr. Musadik Malik addressing at inaugural session of two-day consultative meeting "Strategic Cooperation on Pakistan's Sectoral Climate Prosperity Roadmap: Define, Design and Deliver" held in Murree from February 16 to 17, 2026 convened by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination in collaboration with the Climate Vulnerable Forum and the V20 Finance Ministers Secretariat.

On the first day, discussions focused on defining Pakistan's current climate landscape and building a shared vision for 2031, with participants emphasising the need to transform the country into a green and climate-resilient economy. Key deliberations revolved around three pillars: adaptation, mitigation and ecosystems.

Experts and policymakers collaborated to develop sectoral missions and strategic directions aligned with development priorities and fiscal realities. The sessions concluded with the identification of outcome-oriented goals across these pillars.

The second day shifted towards operational planning, beginning with a review of climate finance flows, gaps and opportunities in Pakistan. This exercise helped inform subsequent discussions on refining priorities and strengthening implementation pathways.

Hamza Haroon, Regional Director for West and South Asia at the CVF-V20 Secretariat, highlighted the importance of adopting a country platform approach to better align public and private investments and support long-term climate action.

Participants then developed Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and set ambitious yet achievable targets for 2031, aiming to ensure measurable progress across sectors.

Participants agreed that the outcomes of the meeting would guide

Secretariat.

Federal Minister for Climate Change and Senator Dr. Musadik Malik and Federal Secretary Aisha Humera Moriani addressed the gathering, which brought together 55 participants representing federal ministries and provincial governments including Pakistan Climate Change Authority, Global Change Impact Study Center.

Additional Secretary-I Dr. Saad S. Khan, Additional Secretary-II Humera Azam Khan, Joint Secretary (Climate Finance) Khalida Bashir, Joint Secretary (International Cooperation) Nazia Zaib Ali, and Deputy Secretary (Climate Change) Dr. Mazhar Hayat of the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination also attended the meeting.

Officials described the meeting as a significant step towards developing a results-driven and

ongoing efforts to align policy frameworks, financing mechanisms and institutional capacity, as Pakistan advances a more coordinated and implementation-oriented climate prosperity agenda.



Federal Minister for Climate Change and Senator Dr. Musadik Malik and Federal Secretary Ms. Aisha Humera Moriani in a group photo with participants of the two-day consultative meeting "Strategic Cooperation on Pakistan's Sectoral Climate Prosperity Roadmap: Define, Design and Deliver" held in Murree from February 16 to 17, 2026 convened by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination in collaboration with the Climate Vulnerable Forum and the V20 Finance Ministers Secretariat.

Germany Envoy Meets Climate Minister, Discusses CISTA Project and Expanded Climate Cooperation

ISLAMABAD (February 27, 2026) - German Ambassador to Pakistan Ms Ina Lepel called on Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr Musadik Malik in Islamabad on Tuesday to discuss ongoing bilateral cooperation on climate action.

The ambassador thanked the ministry for its continued coordination with provincial governments on climate initiatives and highlighted the wide-ranging collaboration between Germany and Pakistan, particularly through the German development agency GIZ. She said joint efforts span climate adaptation and resilience, emission control strategies, capacity building, green initiatives and pilot projects aimed at strengthening Pakistan's climate response framework.

Ms Lepel also briefed the minister on a proposed initiative titled Integrated Climate Information Services Value Chains for Transformative Climate Action (CISTA), commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment. The project aims to develop integrated climate services and improve data management systems to support evidence-based policymaking and strengthen institutional coordination.

Dr Malik appreciated Germany's sustained partnership in advancing Pakistan's climate agenda and welcomed the proposed CISTA initiative. He suggested organising a joint technical workshop focusing on data integration and information sharing to ensure effective implementation of the project.

Both sides discussed expanding bilateral cooperation through joint research programmes, academic exchanges and enhanced mechanisms for institutional collaboration and data sharing to support climate resilience and sustainable development efforts.



Islamabad, 27th February 2026: Her Excellency Ms. Ina Lepel, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Pakistan, called on the Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Dr. Musadik Malik.

Pakistan finalises National Biodiversity Targets aligned with global biodiversity framework

ISLAMABAD (Feb 23, 2026): Pakistan has finalised its National Biodiversity Targets (NBTs), aligning them with the global biodiversity framework during a high-level meeting chaired by the secretary of the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination.

The two-day meeting, held in Islamabad on February 22-23, brought together representatives from federal ministries, provincial environment, forestry and wildlife departments, academia and development partners to review and refine the country's biodiversity priorities.

Additional Secretary-I of the Ministry Dr. Saad S. Khan, Director Biodiversity Naeem Ashraf Raja, Conservator Wildlife Samar Hussain Khan

Officials in the Ministry's biodiversity section said the targets have been aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global

Biodiversity Framework adopted under the Convention on Biological Diversity, marking



Technical session chaired by the secretary of the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination to finalise Pakistan's National Biodiversity Targets with participation from federal and provincial stakeholders in Islamabad.

a key milestone in Pakistan's efforts to meet its global biodiversity commitments.

During the technical sessions, participants discussed strategies to align national conservation priorities with international biodiversity goals while strengthening monitoring systems and measurable indicators.

The consultations also focused on ensuring that the targets reflect Pakistan's ecological conservation needs alongside its broader development objectives.

The sessions involved extensive consultations with key stakeholders from across the country, including policymakers, environmental experts and representatives of development organisations.

Through the consultative process, Pakistan identified and refined a set of national targets covering ecosystem conservation and restoration, sustainable use of natural

resources, biodiversity finance and inclusive governance.

The newly finalised targets would guide Pakistan's biodiversity actions in the coming years and support the implementation of the revised National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP 2026-2030).

The initiative is part of Pakistan's broader

efforts to strengthen biodiversity conservation, enhance ecosystem resilience and contribute to global actions aimed at halting biodiversity loss.

Azerbaijan envoy calls on Climate Minister, invites him to World Urban Forum in Baku

ISLAMABAD (February 19, 2026) - Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, Mr Khazar Farhadov, called on Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr Musadik Malik at his office on Monday.

During the meeting, the ambassador appreciated the minister's remarks at a recent meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) on climate change, particularly his emphasis on collective global responsibility and the need for consistency in international climate commitments. He acknowledged Pakistan's advocacy for equitable climate action and greater support for developing countries facing disproportionate climate impacts.

Both sides reaffirmed the longstanding and brotherly relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan, highlighting shared cultural, historical and diplomatic ties.

Ambassador Farhadov extended an invitation to Dr Malik to participate in the 13th Session of the World Urban Forum, scheduled to be held in Baku from May 17 to 22, 2026. The forum will focus on issues related to sustainable urban development, climate resilience and the growing climate-urban nexus.

Dr Malik welcomed the invitation and underscored the importance of continued cooperation between Pakistan and Azerbaijan in advancing climate action and sustainable development initiatives.



Islamabad, 19th February 2026_His Excellency Mr. Khazar Farhadov, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, called on the Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Dr. Musadik Malik.

IWMB Marks World Pangolin Day with Awareness and Engagement Session

ISLAMABAD (February 17, 2026) - The Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB), in collaboration with WWF-Pakistan and Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University, organised an awareness and engagement session to mark World Pangolin Day and highlight the need for stronger efforts to protect the species and curb wildlife trafficking.

The event, held under the Pangolin Conservation Project and the Combatting Wildlife Trafficking in Pakistan Project, brought together representatives of the British High Commission in Islamabad, Quaid-i-Azam University, conservation experts, students and members of the local community.



Speakers stressed the urgent need for coordinated action to protect pangolins considered the most trafficked mammals in the world and to strengthen collaboration among government institutions, conservation organisations, academia and local communities.

Dr Tariq spoke about the ecological significance of pangolins, noting that the shy, nocturnal mammals play a vital role in maintaining ecological balance by controlling insect populations.

IWMB representative Sakhawat highlighted measures being taken to protect pangolins in the Islamabad Capital Territory, including wildlife rescue operations, habitat



protection and enforcement against illegal wildlife trade.

Senior Director Biodiversity Rab Nawaz emphasised the importance of collective action in addressing the growing challenge of wildlife trafficking. He urged individuals and institutions to support conservation efforts by raising awareness, adopting responsible behaviour and reporting wildlife crimes.

Participants also visited pangolins currently undergoing rehabilitation at a wildlife rescue centre. Officials said the rescued animals are expected to be released back into their natural habitat in the coming weeks.

The visit highlighted both the devastating impacts of illegal wildlife trade and the positive role of conservation, rescue and rehabilitation efforts.

Speakers said awareness, education and youth engagement were essential to tackling wildlife trafficking and ensuring the protection of threatened species.

They noted that initiatives such as the World Pangolin Day event help build informed and responsible stakeholders capable of contributing to the protection of Pakistan's biodiversity and the fight against wildlife crime.

Pakistan, Kazakhstan to deepen climate cooperation; Astana summit invite extended

ISLAMABAD (February 11, 2026) - Pakistan and Kazakhstan have agreed to expand cooperation on climate action, water security and digital innovation, as Kazakhstan's Ambassador Yerzhan Kistafin called on Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr Musadik Malik in Islamabad.

During the meeting, the ambassador conveyed appreciation for the hospitality extended to President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and his delegation during their recent visit to Pakistan, and expressed satisfaction over what he described as steadily growing "brotherly relations" between the two countries.

Mr Kistafin invited Dr Malik to participate in the Regional Ecological Summit scheduled to be held in Astana in April, aimed at strengthening regional collaboration on environmental protection and sustainable development.

Welcoming the invitation, the minister said Pakistan and Kazakhstan shared deep historical and cultural ties and had significant potential to enhance cooperation, particularly in the climate and environmental sectors. He stressed the importance of broadening collaboration and trade not only bilaterally but also with the wider Central Asian region.

The two sides reviewed progress on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed during President Tokayev's visit and discussed practical steps for its implementation. They explored prospects for joint initiatives in artificial intelligence, financial technology and



Islamabad, 11th February 2026: His Excellency Mr. Yerzhan Kistafin, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Pakistan, called on the Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Dr. Musadik Malik.

e-governance, identifying these sectors as key drivers of sustainable growth and institutional efficiency.

Climate change and water scarcity featured prominently in the talks, with both sides acknowledging the shared vulnerability of the region to extreme weather events and environmental degradation. They underlined the need for enhanced knowledge-sharing, technical cooperation and joint projects focused on environmental protection, climate resilience and sustainable development.

The meeting reflected Pakistan's efforts to strengthen environmental diplomacy and build regional partnerships to address transboundary climate risks, while leveraging emerging technologies to support green governance and economic modernisation.

Pakistan submits 7th National Biodiversity Report under Convention on Biological Diversity

ISLAMABAD (February 11, 2026) - The Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination has submitted its 7th National Report on biodiversity to the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, outlining the country's progress in conservation efforts and implementation of global biodiversity commitments.

The report provides a comprehensive overview of Pakistan's actions to protect ecosystems, expand protected areas and strengthen

biodiversity governance.

The preparation of the report involved extensive consultations coordinated by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination with a wide range of stakeholders, including federal ministries, provincial departments, research institutions, academia, civil society organisations and international development partners.

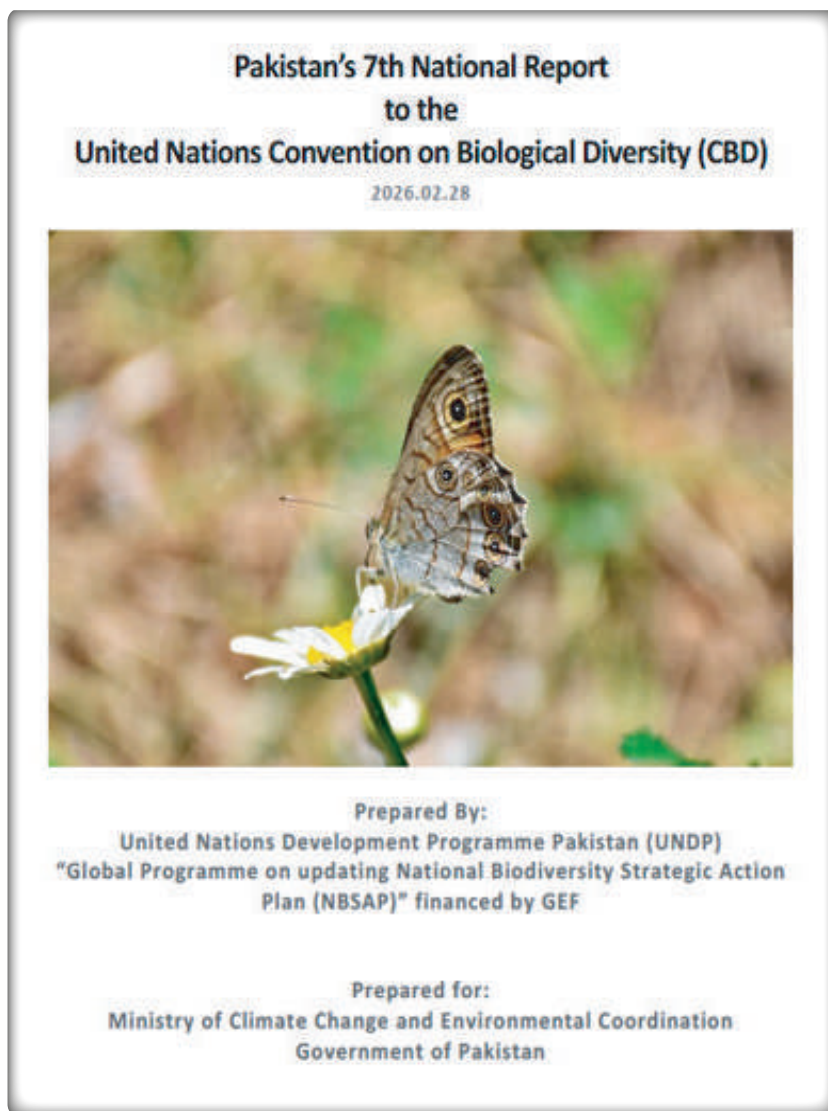
The report highlights key achievements in biodiversity conservation,

including the expansion of protected areas, ecosystem conservation measures and forest restoration initiatives through large-scale tree plantation programmes.

The document also outlines progress in coastal ecosystem protection, particularly mangrove restoration efforts, as well as community-based conservation initiatives aimed at involving local populations in biodiversity management.

the report not only documents progress but also identifies key challenges and opportunities for improving biodiversity governance and strengthening conservation policies in the country.

The submission of the report forms part of Pakistan's obligations under the global biodiversity convention and contributes to international monitoring of biodiversity conservation efforts.



Pakistan, UN-Habitat agree to boost cooperation on climate-resilient urban development

ISLAMABAD (February 10, 2026) - Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr Musadik Masood Malik underscored the need for a practical and implementable national urban strategy to address Pakistan's mounting climate and urbanisation challenges, during a high-level meeting with a UN-Habitat delegation at the ministry.

The delegation was led by Ms Kazuko Ishigaki, Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, UN-Habitat.

The meeting focused on strengthening collaboration between the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MoCC&EC) and UN-Habitat on climate-resilient urban development, including sustainable housing, land management and upgrading of informal settlements.

Ms Ishigaki briefed the minister on UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2026-2029, which prioritises housing, land and basic services, with strong integration of climate adaptation and resilience. She reaffirmed the agency's commitment to supporting Pakistan in developing strategies to reduce urban flooding, mitigate drought impacts and address other climate-related risks affecting cities.

She also highlighted the importance of Pakistan's high-level participation in the 13th World Urban Forum (WUF-13), scheduled to be held in Baku from May 17 to 22, 2026. The forum, she noted, would provide a global platform for Pakistan to showcase its urban resilience initiatives and engage with international partners and experts.

Dr Malik shared a comprehensive overview of the country's urban challenges, including rapid urbanisation, urban heat islands, inadequate drainage and sewerage systems, water contamination, encroachments, housing shortages and weak enforcement of zoning regulations.

He observed that poor urban design and planning lay at the root of many of these issues and stressed that Pakistan required a context-specific and action-oriented National Urban Strategy rather than a generic policy document.

The minister said the government had taken necessary steps to operationalise the ongoing National Urban Strategy project under the Adaptation Fund and reaffirmed the ministry's commitment to meaningful reforms in urban planning and climate adaptation.



Islamabad, 11th February 2026: His Excellency Mr. Yerzhan Kistafin, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Pakistan, called on the Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Dr. Musadik Malik.

Secretary MoCC&EC Ms Aisha Humera Moriani, Director General (Environment and Climate Change) Mr. Asif Sahibzada Khan, Deputy Director (Architecture) Mr. Fayaz Memon and Deputy Director (Media and Communication) Mohammad Saleem also attended the meeting.

AI can transform climate governance, disaster preparedness: Musadik Malik

ISLAMABAD (Feb 10, 2026) - Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr Musadik Malik called for harnessing artificial intelligence (AI) to strengthen disaster preparedness and improve monitoring of climate vulnerabilities, saying predictive technologies could help Pakistan better manage mounting climate risks.

Speaking at the National Artificial Intelligence Workshop in Islamabad, the minister said AI offered practical solutions to Pakistan's longstanding challenge of fragmented and limited data, which often hampers effective policymaking.

"The most significant and impactful application of artificial intelligence lies in its predictive and preventive capabilities," he said, according to a statement issued by the information ministry. "Through AI-based modelling, we can design interventions that create the maximum impact with limited resources."

Dr Malik highlighted the role of AI in climate governance, public policy and disaster risk management, noting that integrating multiple technologies and monitoring systems could enable early identification of climate vulnerabilities on the ground.

He said AI could function as a "watchdog" by analysing real-time data and generating early warnings, allowing authorities to intervene before potential disasters escalate into major crises.

The remarks come a day after Pakistan launched Indus AI Week, which runs until Feb 15, aimed at aligning policy direction, industry adoption, talent development and innovation under a coordinated national framework. Addressing the opening session, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif announced that the government would invest \$1 billion in AI by 2030 to modernise the country's digital economy.

Dr Malik, however, cautioned that while AI is driving a global



Federal Minister Dr. Musadik Malik Addresses National Artificial Intelligence Workshop in Islamabad, on 10th February, 2026.

technological revolution, its next phase, particularly the emergence of autonomous AI agents, could have far-reaching implications for the labour market.

"AI agents are likely to replace certain jobs and functions," he said, stressing the need for careful integration of AI into public service. "We must ensure timely and efficient reallocation and reskilling of affected human resources."

The minister added that technology adoption alone could deliver short-term productivity gains, but sustained progress would depend on continuous innovation.

"One-time productivity can be achieved through technology adoption, but lasting progress requires innovation," he said, underscoring the need for a forward-looking and responsible AI strategy in climate governance and public administration.

Pakistan losing nearly 1pc of GDP annually to climate damage – Dr Musadik Malik

KARACHI (February 10, 2026) – Federal Minister for Climate Change & Environmental Coordination, Dr. Musadi Masood Malik said that Pakistan is losing almost one per cent of its gross domestic product (GDP) each year to climate-related damage despite contributing less than one per cent to global greenhouse gas emissions.



Dr. Musadik Masood Malik, Federal Minister for Climate Change addressing the 4th Pakistan Climate Conference 2026 at Karachi.

Addressing the fourth Pakistan Climate Conference held here, the minister remarked that recurring floods, extreme heatwaves and destruction of infrastructure were steadily eroding economic gains and undermining human security.

Citing recent disasters, he said around 6,000 people had died in the last four major floods, while 19,000 were injured or disabled. More than 40 million people were displaced and nearly 20 million children forced out of school.

"We celebrate growth of 3–4pc, only for floods to wipe out nearly 10pc of GDP in a single season," he said, describing climate change as an "existential economic challenge" rather than a routine environmental concern.

Referring to record 53°C heatwaves and the accelerated melting of glaciers, Mr Malik said the crisis must be confronted with the same national resolve once reserved for counterterrorism efforts.

He said the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination was pursuing a three-pillar strategy focused on restoring natural ecosystems, expanding and strengthening infrastructure, and building climate-resilient systems. Priorities include protecting natural flood defences such as mangroves and forests, recharging aquifers and safeguarding clean rivers.

The minister noted that Pakistan's updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) 3.0 – which target a 50pc reduction in emissions by 2035 – would require an estimated \$565.7 billion in investment.

Calling on industries to invest in youth-led green innovation, he announced that the ministry would launch youth-driven climate initiatives and a Virtual Green University after Eid to promote sustainable development and equip the next generation with climate action skills.

"Effective climate adaptation is not optional," he said. "It is fundamental to Pakistan's resilience, development and future prosperity."

Youth-led climate action highlighted at UK-backed Climate Finance Accelerator Launch

ISLAMABAD (Feb 6, 2026) - Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr Musadik Malik underscored the pivotal role of youth in Pakistan's climate and economic transformation while addressing the launching ceremony of the Climate Finance Accelerator (CFA) in Islamabad.

The CFA is a UK government-funded technical assistance initiative designed to accelerate the mobilisation of climate finance for projects and businesses aligned with Pakistan's national climate priorities.

Speaking at the event, Dr Malik said Pakistan, as a developing economy, must urgently invest in its young people by creating access and opportunities. "If we empower our youth, they can bring about a revolution for this country and for our economy," he said.



Islamabad, 6th February, 2026_Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Dr. Musadik Malik, addressed the launching ceremony of the Climate Finance Accelerator (CFA) in Islamabad



Drawing on international examples, the minister noted that cities such as Beijing and Shanghai were among the world's most polluted just a decade ago, but China has since emerged as a global leader in renewable energy. "Today, China exports nearly 70 per cent of the world's solar technology. Pakistani youth do not lack talent or ability;

they lack opportunity," he remarked.

He also referred to Finland and other Nordic countries, highlighting their transformative approaches to forest protection and environmental sustainability, saying Pakistan could draw valuable lessons from their experiences.

Dr Malik said initiatives like the Climate Finance Accelerator were crucial for providing platforms to young entrepreneurs and innovators. He briefed participants on the Ministry's Green Fields Programme, which enables youth to pitch climate-focused ideas and connect with national and international investors.

"Under Green Fields, we are linking young innovators with investors. We have already facilitated this by taking two Pakistani companies to Seville, Spain, where they presented their ideas to international investors," he said.

Appreciating the support of development partners, the minister thanked DAI for its technical and financial assistance. "We will work shoulder to shoulder with our young people. My vision is to turn this ministry into an accelerator for youth - an incubation space where ideas are nurtured and scaled," the federal minister added.

Dr Musadik Malik urges protection of forests, wetlands to safeguard livelihoods

ISLAMABAD (February 2, 2026) - Federal Minister for Climate Change Dr Musadik Malik stressed that wetlands were not merely lakes or recreational sites but vital natural resources directly linked to the livelihoods and survival of millions of people.

Speaking at a clean-up campaign organised by the Ministry of Climate Change in collaboration with the Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB) on the occasion of World Wetlands Day, the minister said wetlands provided food, income and ecological security to communities that depend on them.

Dr Malik said natural resources belonged to the vast majority of the population and not to a privileged few. "This country does not belong to the elite alone but to those whose daily lives depend on forests, wetlands and other natural resources," he said.

Warning against environmental degradation, the minister said the destruction of wetlands would lead directly to the loss of livelihoods and economic insecurity for ordinary citizens.

He added that deforestation and damage to wetlands were not just environmental concerns but also serious economic issues, as forests and wetlands formed the backbone of public livelihoods while providing protection against climate impacts.

Dr Malik said forests and wetlands were among the world's largest natural carbon sinks, playing a critical role in absorbing carbon from the atmosphere.

He noted that global warming and rising carbon emissions were accelerating glacier melt, triggering floods and other climate-related disasters in Pakistan.



Federal Minister For Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr. Musadik Malik is addressing the World Wetlands Day event organised by the Ministry in collaboration with IWMB at Kinara Park, Jinnah Road, Bani Gala, Islamabad on February 2, 2025.

Many School children were also there at the event held play-cards with messages including save water, save wetlands, save nature and other environmental slogans.

The minister appreciated their participation and encouraged them to remain engaged in conservation initiatives. He praised citizen volunteers as the true custodians of forests and national parks saying real leadership lies in daily conservation work rather than ceremonial appearances.

Musadik Malik meets SciTech DiploHub CEO, calls for enhanced science diplomacy for climate action

ISLAMABAD (January 28, 2026) - Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr Musadik Malik on Monday met Chief Executive Officer of SciTech DiploHub, Mr Alexis Roig, to discuss strengthening the integration of science diplomacy into climate action and policymaking in Pakistan.

According to an official statement, Dr Malik appreciated SciTech DiploHub's pioneering role in bridging science and diplomacy, terming such integration an urgent global requirement, particularly for climate-vulnerable countries like Pakistan.



Islamabad, 28th January 2026: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Dr. Musadik Malik, met with Mr. Alexis Roig, Chief Executive Officer of SciTech DiploHub.

The minister said Pakistan continues to face severe economic and social pressures due to climate change, making science-based and evidence-driven policymaking essential for effective climate action.

The meeting focused on leveraging Pakistan's local knowledge, academic expertise and research institutions, while exploring the development of structured training and fellowship programmes, including models to embed scientists within government ministries to support policy formulation and implementation.

Both sides agreed to jointly develop a detailed roadmap within a

week to guide future collaboration. The proposed framework aims to mobilise the AGC and around 100 PhD-level climate scientists, enhance access to climate financing, and establish sustainable scientific advisory mechanisms.

The meeting was attended by representatives from the Higher Education Commission, Global Change Impact Studies Centre, leading universities, national research organisations and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Pakistan, Denmark hold talks on climate action and science diplomacy

ISLAMABAD (January 26, 2026) - Ambassador of Denmark to Pakistan Ms Maja Mortensen on Monday called on Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr Musadik Malik to discuss climate action, science diplomacy and bilateral cooperation.

The meeting focused on the changing global political landscape and its implications for international cooperation on climate issues. Dr Malik said countries of the Global South were facing a disproportionate impact of climate change despite contributing minimally to global emissions.

He noted that nearly 70 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions come from just ten

countries, which also receive about 85pc of global green financing, underscoring the need for more equitable climate finance.

Dr Malik appreciated the progressive environmental policies and social welfare models of Nordic countries and briefed the ambassador on Pakistan's plan to establish a Green University to



Islamabad, 26th January 2026_The Ambassador of Denmark to Pakistan, Ms. Maja Mortensen, called on the Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Dr. Musadik Malik

promote climate research, joint initiatives, and student and faculty exchange programmes.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral cooperation in climate action and science diplomacy.

Green financing equity key to tackling climate challenges: State Minister Dr Shizra

ISLAMABAD (January 22, 2026) - Minister of State for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Dr Shizra Mansab Ali Khan said the government was pursuing region-specific strategies to tackle climate and environmental challenges while strongly advocating a fair and just global distribution of green financing.

She said urban settlements across the country were being brought under planned frameworks in accordance with the law. Provincial governments, she added, had been directed to strictly enforce city planning regulations and ensure that construction activities complied with approved plans and environmental standards to



She was speaking at a luncheon hosted here for climate change beat reporters, attended by senior journalists from Islamabad and Rawalpindi.

Dr Shizra said comprehensive climate strategies had been developed for Islamabad, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), and Gilgit-Baltistan, with concrete measures being implemented in line with the national climate policy. She added that Pakistan had formally urged the international community to ensure equitable access to green financing, particularly for countries most vulnerable to climate impacts.

Highlighting conservation efforts, the minister said a strict ban on deforestation was in force nationwide and legal action was being taken against those involved in illegal logging. She added that strong measures were also underway to protect fertile land from encroachment and degradation.

Referring to glacial protection, Dr Shizra said expert-led initiatives were being implemented in AJK and Gilgit-Baltistan to safeguard glaciers, describing them as critical to Pakistan's long-term water security.

protect forests, biodiversity, and wildlife.

Criticising global green financing mechanisms, the minister said nearly 85 per cent of available climate finance was being received by just 10 countries, calling the situation "deeply unjust". She questioned why countries responsible for large-scale environmental damage continued to attract the bulk of climate funding, while vulnerable nations struggled for access. She also pointed to regional emissions, saying neighbouring countries, particularly India, were major contributors to carbon pollution.

Dr Shizra further disclosed that, on the prime minister's directives, orders had been issued to demolish illegal commercial constructions along riverbanks in Gilgit-Baltistan. Provinces, she said, had been strictly instructed to ensure all urban development complied with city planning laws.

Reaffirming the government's commitment, the minister said Pakistan remained focused on environmental protection, climate resilience, and sustainable development to secure a safer future for coming generations.

Dr. Musadik Malik calls for climate justice, urges global scientific collaboration at ThinkFest 2026

LAHORE (January 24, 2026) - Federal Minister for Climate Change Dr Musadik Malik called on the international community to treat the global climate crisis not merely as an environmental challenge, but as a failure of global cooperation and justice, highlighting the disproportionate impact on developing countries like Pakistan.

Addressing a session titled "From Lab to World Stage: The Power of

Science Diplomacy" on the second day of ThinkFest 2026 at the Alhamra Arts Council, Dr Malik emphasized the role of scientific diplomacy as a bridge between nations, enabling collaborative research and global projects despite political differences. "Science is the only language that remains universal," he said.

Dr Malik highlighted Pakistan's vulnerability to climate change,



Dr. Musadik Malik addressing a session titled "From Lab to World Stage: The Power of Science Diplomacy" on the sidelines of the ThinkFest 2026 at the Alhamra Arts Council in Lahore on Jan 24, 2026.

noting that the country contributes less than 1 percent of global carbon emissions, yet remains among the most affected by climate-related disasters, including floods, heatwaves, and glacial lake outbursts. He stressed that for developing nations, international scientific cooperation is a necessity for survival rather than a luxury.

The minister also raised concerns about global accountability, pointing out the imbalance between financial profits and environmental costs. "It is fundamentally wrong for profit to be privatized by the few while the climatic consequences are socialized among the many," he said, urging the creation of mechanisms to hold high-emitting countries financially accountable for their contributions to the climate crisis.

Dr Malik's remarks were warmly received by participants, which included scholars, policymakers, journalists, artists, and climate activists from Pakistan and abroad, positioning Pakistan as a strong advocate for climate justice on the international stage.

ThinkFest 2026, running from January 23 to 25 at Alhamra, The Mall, aims to foster dialogue on pressing national and global issues, offering a platform for debates and discussions with free entry to encourage public participation.

Musadik Malik calls for regional cooperation on climate-driven disasters at ECO meet



Islamabad, 22 January 2026: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr Musadiq Malik attended the closing ceremony of 10th ECO Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction at NDMA HQs

ISLAMABAD (January 22, 2026) - Climate-induced disasters are no longer distant threats but an everyday reality, Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Musadik Masood Malik said on Thursday, urging Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) member states to adopt inclusive, science-based, and people-centred disaster strategies.

Addressing the closing session of the 10th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Dr Malik said Pakistan is committed to leading by example, strengthening regional solidarity and placing vulnerable communities at the heart of disaster preparedness and response.

His remarks came as ministers and senior officials from Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Iran adopted the Islamabad Declaration, reaffirming their commitment to enhancing regional cooperation, disaster resilience, and coordinated

action against escalating climate risks.

The two-day meeting, hosted by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on January 21–22, reviewed progress since the last ministerial conference and endorsed measures aligned with the Sendai Framework, ECO Vision 2025, and the Izmir Treaty. Sessions were chaired by NDMA Chairman Lt Gen Inam Haider Malik.

Delegates highlighted the increasing complexity of climate-driven hazards, stressing the need for stronger regional coordination, harmonised frameworks, early warning systems, joint training, and capacity building. Pakistan's offer to make its National Emergencies Operation Center (NEOC) a regional hub for DRR planning, joint assessments, multilateral simulation exercises, and real-time information sharing was endorsed. Member states agreed to use NEOC-based models as scalable frameworks across the region.

Other initiatives approved include land hazard zonation mapping,

improved risk communication, coordinated search-and-rescue operations, logistics and relief systems, and real-time seismic data sharing. Türkiye's proposal for a Regional Seismic Data Centre was welcomed.

Delegates also endorsed closer cooperation with UNESCAP, APDIM, and UNICEF. A two-year work plan between the ECO Secretariat and UNICEF Tajikistan was approved, alongside a short animated video to educate children on disaster prevention.

The Islamabad Declaration emphasised inclusive disaster risk

reduction, empowering women, youth, older persons, and persons with disabilities, while calling for stronger follow-up mechanisms through the ECO Secretariat. Lt Gen Inam Haider Malik said the declaration reflects a collective regional resolve to protect communities and highlighted Pakistan's readiness to share expertise and technology.

Delegates thanked the Pakistani government and NDMA for their hospitality. The date and venue for the 11th ECO ministerial meeting will be finalised in consultation with the secretariat.

Musadik Malik, Talal Chaudhry chair meeting on protecting Islamabad's green cover

ISLAMABAD (January 9, 2026) - Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Musadik Masood Malik along with Deputy Federal Interior Minister Talal Chaudhry chaired a high-level meeting to review measures for environmental protection and preservation of green cover in the federal capital.

The meeting was attended by Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry, Chairman Capital Development Authority Muhammad Ali Randhawa, Secretary of the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Aisha Moriani, and senior representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency, Islamabad Wildlife Management Board, the interior and health ministries, and other relevant departments.

During the meeting, officials briefed the minister on an ongoing campaign aimed at reducing the number of non-native paper mulberry trees in Islamabad. The species has been identified as a major allergen responsible for severe seasonal allergies and asthma-related health issues among residents of the capital.

Officials said the campaign focuses on the selective removal of paper mulberry trees in areas where their concentration exceeds 90 per cent, including Shakarparian, Fatima Jinnah Park (F-9 Park), and sectors H-8 and H-9.

The removed trees will be replaced with native and fruit-bearing varieties as well as pine species to restore ecological balance and improve the city's green landscape.

The minister was informed that authorities planned to plant more trees than those removed under the



Islamabad_9th January, 2026: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr Musadik Malik chairs a high-level meeting on Environmental Protection of Pakistan.

campaign to ensure that Islamabad's overall tree cover is not reduced. Plans also include planting mature native trees to accelerate ecological recovery.

Participants stressed the need for enhanced coordination among the Environmental Protection Agency, the Capital Development Authority and the climate change ministry to ensure timely plantation activities during the upcoming spring season.

Mr Malik emphasised the importance of streamlining procedures and improving communication among the relevant ministries, environmental protection agencies and the civic authority.

He directed officials to develop a transparent and well-defined mechanism to ensure full compliance with existing laws, rules and procedures related to environmental campaigns, including permissions and licensing.

A comprehensive review of the current situation was conducted during the meeting, and it was agreed that all stakeholders would maintain close coordination on future steps, particularly regarding tree plantation and environmental protection initiatives in the capital.

Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan called on Federal Minister Dr. Musadik Malik

Islamabad (January 9, 2026) - His Excellency Nawaf bin Saeed Ahmad Al-Malkiy, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan, called on the Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Dr. Musadik Malik, in Islamabad.

During the meeting, both sides held comprehensive discussions on avenues for enhanced mutual and strategic cooperation.

The Federal Minister highlighted Pakistan's priorities in climate resilience and sustainable development, and emphasised the importance of international partnerships in addressing global environmental challenges. He appreciated Saudi Arabia's continued support and engagement with Pakistan across multiple



His Excellency Nawaf bin Saeed Ahmad Al-Malkiy, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan, called on the Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Dr. Musadik Malik in Islamabad on 9th January, 2026.

sectors.

The Saudi Ambassador reaffirmed the Kingdom's commitment to further strengthening bilateral cooperation. Both sides reiterated

the deep-rooted, brotherly relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia and expressed confidence that the longstanding partnership would continue to grow.

Education must adapt as AI outpaces textbooks, says Musadik Malik

ISLAMABAD (January 8, 20226) - Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr Musadik Malik said that traditional textbook-based education is rapidly losing relevance as artificial intelligence, biotechnology and emerging technologies reshape the world at an unprecedented pace.

Addressing students as the chief guest at the Prime Minister's Youth Laptop Distribution Ceremony held at COMSATS University Islamabad, the minister urged universities to move beyond rote learning and focus on preparing students for an uncertain and fast-evolving future.

"Whatever you are being taught from textbooks has already happened," Dr Malik said, adding that most academic material is five to seven years behind real-world developments. "The speed at which technology is advancing means memorisation alone will not help you survive."

Highlighting the rise of artificial intelligence, biotechnology, nanotechnology and cognitive sciences, he said these fields were not futuristic concepts but active forces already redefining life, work and education. He noted that AI tools such as ChatGPT had transformed how knowledge is created and used, forcing universities worldwide to rethink their approach. "Just a few years ago, universities were trying to catch students using ChatGPT. Today, they are teaching prompt engineering," he remarked, calling it evidence of how quickly the rules of learning are changing.

Dr Malik said the purpose of initiatives such as the Prime Minister's Youth Laptop Scheme was not merely to distribute devices but to empower students with skills, adaptability and critical



Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Musadik Masood Malik poses for a group photograph with students during the laptop distribution ceremony under the Prime Minister's Youth Laptop Scheme at COMSATS University Islamabad on January 8, 2026.

thinking. "The goal is not laptops or degrees. The goal is to prepare you for a world where even your teachers may not fully understand what is coming next," he said.

He emphasised that universities must cultivate understanding, decision-making ability and the courage to make mistakes, warning that institutions failing to do so risk becoming irrelevant. "If universities cannot teach students how to think and adapt, then education loses its meaning," he added. The minister also stressed the importance of bringing youth towards research, innovation and a knowledge-based economy, describing education and technology as the foundations of national development. Under the Prime Minister's Youth Laptop Scheme, laptops are being distributed to high-performing students across public sector universities to enhance digital access, research capacity and learning opportunities. The ceremony was attended by university officials, faculty members and a large number of students.



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