

Please provide the following details on the origin of this report

Contracting Party	PAKISTAN
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Please provide summary information on the process by which this report has been prepared, including information on the types of stakeholders who have been actively involved in its preparation and on material which was used as a basis for the report

This report has been compiled based on the information received from relevant government institutions/organizations and NGOs, in response to wide circulation of the proforma. Some of the sources include:

- (1) Field Surveys carried out by Punjab Economic Research Institute, Lahore, on the request of Punjab Forest Department to assess the state of social Forestry in Punjab.

- (2) Monthly and periodical Progress Report of Punjab.
 - U.S. AIDED Forestry Planning and Development Project
 - ADB associated and Barani Development Project
 - Punjab Forest Sector Development Project
 - Monitoring & Evaluation Reports of Monitoring and Evaluation Wing of the Punjab Forest Department
 - Monitoring and Evaluation Reports of Forestry Consultants of Punjab Forest Sector Development Project

- (3) Field visits and Inspection Notes by the members of the Punjab Forest Service

The report is also based on direct observations, reports received from the field staff, data collected in the field and interviews with fishermen and other community members.

Article 8h Alien species

1. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium		c) Low	√
2. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	√
				d) Severely limiting	

3. Has your country identified alien species introduced?	
a) no	
b) only major species of concern	√
c) a comprehensive system tracks introductions	
4. Has your country developed national policies for addressing issues related to alien invasive species?	
a) no	
b) yes – as part of a national biodiversity strategy (please give details below)	√
c) yes – as a separate strategy (please give details below)	
5. Has your country assessed the risks posed to ecosystems, habitats or species by the introduction of these alien species?	
a) no	
b) only some alien species of concern have been assessed	√
c) most alien species have been assessed	
6. Has your country undertaken measures to prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	√
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	

Decision IV/1 Report and recommendations of the third meeting of SBSTTA

7. Is your country collaborating in the development of projects at national, regional, sub-regional and international levels to address the issue of alien species?	
a) little or no action	
b) discussion on potential projects under way	√
c) active development of new projects	

8. Does your national strategy and action plan address the issue of alien species?	
a) no	
b) yes – limited extent	√
c) yes – significant extent	

Case-studies

9. Has your country submitted case-studies on the prevention of introduction, control, and eradication of alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species, in response to the call by the fourth meeting of SBSTTA?	
a) no – please indicate below whether this is due to a lack of available case-studies or for other reasons	√
b) yes – please give below any views you may have on the usefulness of the preparation of case-studies for developing a better biological understanding of the problem and/or better management responses.	
10. How many case-studies are available that could be used to gain a better understanding of the issues surrounding alien species in your country?	
a) none	
b) 1-2 – limited understanding	√
c) >2 – significant information available	

Transboundary issues

11. Are known alien invasive species in your country also a problem in neighbouring or biogeographically-similar countries?	
a) not known	
b) none	
c) a few – but in general alien invasive species problems are specific	√
d) more than a few - in general we share common problems with other countries	
12. Is your country collaborating in the development of policies and programmes at regional, sub-regional or international levels to harmonise measures for prevention and control of alien invasive species?	
a) little or no action	
b) discussion on potential collaboration underway	√
c) development of collaborative approaches for a limited number of species	
d) consistent approach and strategy used for all common problems	

Further comments

The introduction of exotic species can also be done on purpose by natural resource managers most often to increase commercial production in agriculture, livestock and forestry. In Pakistan to meet the increasing demands of a rapidly growing human population, fast growing exotic species have been introduced to overcome shortages in timber, fodder and fuel wood. In introduction of Robinia, Ailanthus, Eucalyptus, Lantana, Prosopis etc. are the invasive exotic which may pose threats to natural habitats.

Many primitive land races/cultivars and wild relatives of agricultural crops have suffered from genetic erosion due to introduction of high yielding varieties of these crops and habitat degradation.

Some common regional/endemic diseases of wheat in our area are:

- Kernal bunt (*Neovissia indica*, Syn. *Tillitia indica*) was first recorded in India in 1930 and was known to be Pakistan in early Sixteen. It has now spread upto North & West of Pakistan. It is seed & soil borne disease and can be transferred by seeds.
- Loose Smut (*Ustilago tritici*), regional disease of wheat found in Iran, Afghanistan & Pakistan
- Complete burnt (*Tilletia foetida* & *T. caries*), it is an endemic disease of Higher elevation in the Northern and Western part of Pakistan, Iran & Afghanistan
- Flag Smut (*Ustilgp tritici*), it is endemic disease of Potohar region of Pakistan, but it may be migrated if there is no check on seed schange.
- So before getting seed from any country, it may be treated well by fungicides or pesticides etc.

Extreme care is required in the selection of species to be introduced to minimize any impacts an native species. Introductions should be considered only if absolutely necessary and should be accompanied by strategies to assess the magnitude of any threats to indigenous species.

IUCN-Pakistan is actively involved in the Global IUCN Initiative on Alien Species, which was established in 1999. The objective of the Global Initiative (GI) on Invasive Species was to understand the issue and enhance knowledge and capacity of IUCN, its members and partners in selected countries in the Asia Region. The Regional Biodiversity Programme of IUCN, based in Sri Lanka coordinated the GI on Invasive Species and IUCN Pakistan participated in this GI in collaboration with GABI and other partners in the country, to take the initiative forward.

A scoping study was conducted by IUCN Pakistan in collaboration with CABI, Rawalpindi, and with strong involvement of other relevant institutions e.g., Ministry of Environment, NARC, Botany Department University of Karachi, Balochistan University, University of Agriculture Faisalabad NWFP Agri. University and Pakistan Forest Institute. A national workshop was organized at NARC, Islamabad, inviting experts from all over the country. On including specie origin and its potential impact on native biodiversity, economic impact etc. (draft report is available with IUCN Pakistan).

A project proposal has been drafted for the purpose to enhance knowledge base and capacity in the country to address the issue in an integrated manner. It will collaborative project involving all the relevant organizations/institutions (Min. of Environment/CAB/NARC/Universities) in the country. Regional and global linkages are also envisaged to be established. The project proposal will be soon shared with relevant institutions and will be sent to potential donors for funding.