**Lec-5**

**Environmental Policy Of The Government Of Pakistan**

**Introduction**

* In order to stimulate a more focused approach to the management of living resources and to provide a policy guidance on how to do so, the IUCN, UNEP and WWF prepare the World Conservation Strategy (WGS)
* The WGS published in 1980 was aimed at:

1. Maintaining life support systems
2. Preserving biodiversity
3. Ensuring sustainable utilization of ecosystem

* Although the WGS was criticized for failing to integrate environment and economics and for giving limited consideration to social aspects
* It did succeed in drawing attention to the concept of sustainable development, which many felt should be elevated to a global ethic if humans and nature are to survive
* The WGS called for international and national responses

**The Pakistan National Conservation Strategy 1992**

* Work on the PNCS began in 1985/86 when GoP formally requested the IUCN (which agreed to provide technical support/coordinating role) and CIDA (which agreed to provide funds)
* A full 7 year later, on 1st March 1992, the PNCS was approved by the Cabinet of Pakistan
* The PNCS became the Policy document on sustainable development in Pakistan
* The preparation process involved :
* Formation of a steering committee comprising of highest level of design makers in the country concerned with the environment
* Preparation of sectoral papers by experts in the country to clearly bring out environmental problems/issues
* Circulation of draft strategy for public feedback
* Wide dissemination of approved strategy
* Key aspects pertaining to the successful preparation of PNCS include:
* Involment of more than 3,000 people through workshops, comments on drafts and other consultations
* Reliance on local team of experts thus following the made in Pakistan approach
* Insistence approach
* Treatment of exercise as a process rather than as a project
* The PNCS provided the agenda for action and the implementation strategy over 10 years (1992-2001)
* The *major objectives* of the PNCS were:
* Conserve Natural resources
* Make development sustainable, and
* Improve efficiency in the use and management of resources
* The 406 page documents was divided into three parts
* Part I deals with the state of Pakistan’s Environment
* Part II presents detailed recommendations for various sectors of the economy
* Part III contains programs with expected output and physical investment required over 10 year period
* The PNCS recommended 14 core program areas for priority implementation
* Maintaining soils in croplands
* Increasing irrigation efficiency
* Protecting watersheds
* Supporting forestry and plantation
* Restoring rangelands and improved livestock
* Protecting water bodies and sustaining fisheries
* Conserving biodiversity
* Increasing energy efficiency
* Developing and deploying renewables
* Preventing/abating pollution
* Managing urban wastes
* Supporting Institutions for common resources
* Integrating population and environment programs
* Preserving the cultural heritage
* A review of PNCS was completed in May 2000
* The review concluded that PNCS was highly instrumental in:
* Creating awareness in environment and conservation
* Initiating a consultative process for achieving its goal at various levels
* Advocating priorities
* On the other hand, the review also concluded that PNCS has not resulted in:
* Influencing macro-economics and sectoral policies
* Providing incentives and safeguards for clean growth
* Improving general environment
* Proper reporting on sustainable development and state of the environment
* Similarly, the natural resource management is still weak, response to hazard reduction and disaster management is limited and empowerment of communities is still absent
* The review suggested that practical steps should be taken to implement the PNCS

**National Environment Policy 2005**

The NEP 2005 aims to

* Protect, conserve and restore Pakistan’s environment in order to improve the quality of life of the citizens through sustainable development

The objectives of policy are

* Conservation, restoration and efficient management of environmental resources
* Integration of environmental considerations in policy making and planning processes
* Capacity building of government agencies and other stakeholders at all levels for batter environmental management
* Meeting international obligations effectively in line with the national aspirations
* Creation of a demand for environment through mass awareness and community mobilization
* The NEP 2005 provide policy guidelines in 9 sectors:
* Water supply and management
* Air quality and noise
* Water management
* Forestry
* Biodiversity and protected areas
* Climate change and ozone depletion
* Energy efficiency and renewables
* Agriculture and livestock, and
* Multilateral environmental agreements
* The Policy also provide cross-sectoral guidelines in 7 areas:
* Poverty and environment
* Population and environment
* Gender and environment
* Health and environment
* Trade and environment
* Environment and local governance
* Natural disaster management

**Policies in NEP 2005 Having Role for Town Planning**

* Promote non-motorized means of travel such as cycling and walking through provision of adequate walkways and cycle lanes in cities
* Develop and implement area conservation strategies for urban centers and towns of historical and cultural significance
* Ensure protection and preservation of prime agricultural land from conversion for other uses through introducing land use planning and zoning
* Regularize all the notified katchi abadies and upgrade katchi abadies and slums through provision of water supply and sanitation facilities
* Devise and implement the national resettlement policy
* Channelize migration to the intermediate/smaller agro based towns through provision of necessary infrastructure and support facilities
* Upgrade living environment in rural settlements in order to generate reverse migration
* Develop master plans to ensure development of cities, towns and rural dwellings in a planned manner
* Ensure equitable access to land and other environmental resources
* Develop and implement district and tehsil level environmental management plans
* Establish and implement a natural disaster management strategy