

Date 13-10-2024

# Environmental Science

(CSS-2016)

Q. What are the salient features of the Environmental Policy of Pakistan? Discuss if pertinent laws and institutions are existence and justifiably effective. (20)

## Introduction:

The Environmental policy of Pakistan is a comprehensive framework aimed at addressing the country's environment challenges while promoting sustainable development. It is formulated to conserve natural resources, mitigate pollution and manage the impacts of climate change, the policy emphasizes a balanced approach to economic growth and environmental protection. Despite the presence of various environmental laws and institutions, the effectiveness of these frameworks remains a subject of debate, primarily due to challenges in implementation and enforcement. This response will examine the salient features of the policy and assess the effectiveness of existing laws and institutions.

# I. Salient Features of the Environmental Policy of Pakistan:

## 1. Sustainable Development:

Sustainable development refers to a growth model that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It emphasizes a balance between economic growth, environmental protection and social-well being.

Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. (Brundland Report, 1987)

## 2. Biodiversity Conservation:

Biodiversity Conservation involves protecting and managing diverse ecosystems, species and genetic resources to ensure their survival. It aims to maintain the balance of nature, supporting ecological health and human well-being.

"The diversity of life on Earth is essential to the health of our planet and survival of our species" (E.O Wilson)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Air and water Pollution Control:

Air and water pollution control involves measures to reduce contaminants released into the environment, aiming to improve air and water quality. It focuses on regulating emissions, promoting cleaner technologies, and ensuring public health and ecosystem safety.

"Air pollution is responsible for around 7 million premature deaths each year, mainly due to respiratory and cardiovascular diseases" World Health Organization (WHO)

### 4. Waste Management:

Waste management involves the collection, treatment and disposal of waste to minimize its impact on the environment. It emphasizes recycling, composting and waste-to-energy solutions to promote sustainability and reduce landfill use.

"The waste of plenty is the resource of scarcity" (Thomas Love Peacock)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. Climate Change Mitigation:

Climate change mitigation refers to efforts aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing carbon sinks to limit global warming. Strategies include transitioning to renewable energy, increasing energy efficiency and promoting sustainable land use practice.

"The Climate Crisis is not a political issue, it is a moral and spiritual challenge to all of humanity" (Pope Francis)

### 6. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a process that evaluates the potential environmental effects of a proposed project or action before it is carried out. It aims to inform decision-makers and the public, ensuring that environmental considerations are integrated into the planning and development process.

"Over 100 countries have implemented EIA legislation, recognizing its importance in sustainable development and environmental protection."

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## II. Pertinent Laws and Institutions :

### A. Laws :

i- Pakistan Environmental Protection Act (PEPA) 1997:

This act is the primary legal framework for environmental protection, establishing regulations for pollution control, waste management and environmental assessments.

ii- National Climate Change Policy (2012) :

It aims to address the climate change through adaptation and mitigation strategies.

iii- Pakistan Environmental Protection Council :

Pakistan Environmental Protection Council established under PEPA act to formulate and implement national environmental policies.

### B. Institutions :

a. Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC) :

It is responsible for policy-making, implementing climate action plans and coordinating with provincial department.

Date

b. Environmental Protection Agencies (EPAs) :  
It is provincial EPAs oversee the enforcement of environmental regulations at the local level.

c. Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources :  
PCRWR is a government agencies dedicated to sustainable water management and research to address water scarcity and quality challenges in Pakistan.

PCRWR was established in 1964 to address the growing concerns over water resource management in Pakistan"

### III Effectiveness of the Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources :

- i- The framework has contributed to increase of awareness about environmental issues.
- ii- Some progress has been made in renewable energy projects, afforestation and pollution control initiatives.

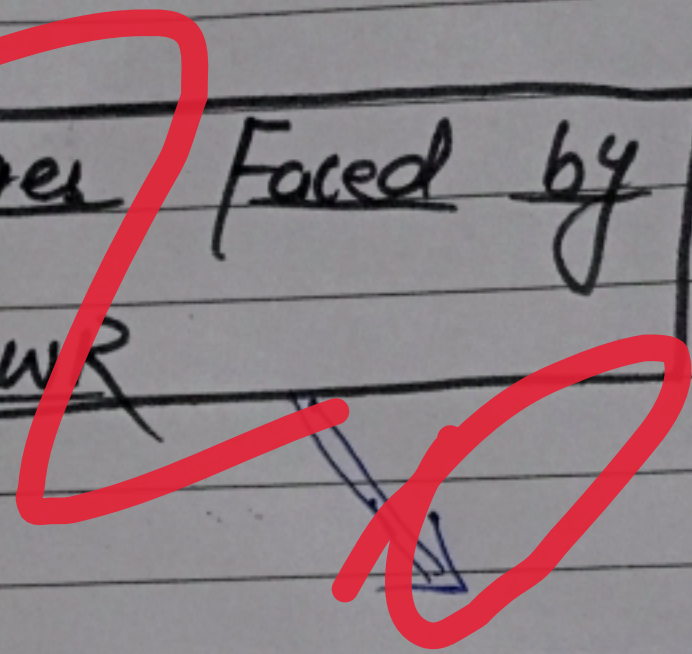
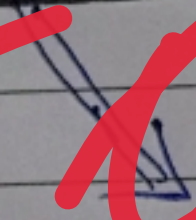
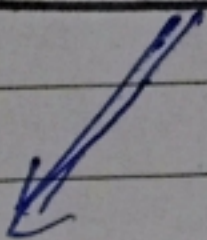
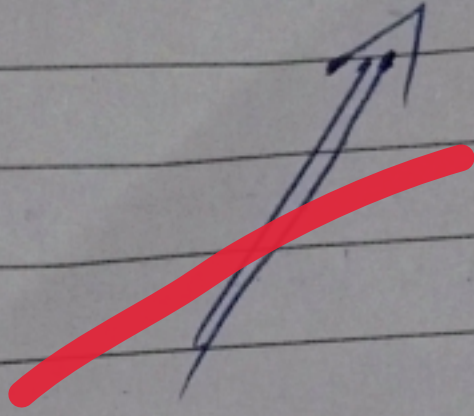
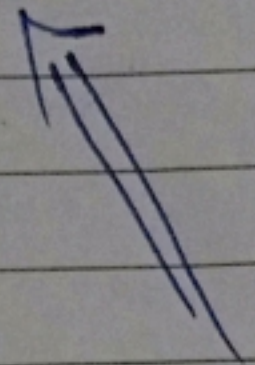
Lack of Implementation

Weak Enforcement

Challenges Faced by  
PCRWR

Political and Economic  
Constraints

Climate Vulnerability



Date \_\_\_\_\_

8

## Conclusion:

The Environmental Policy of Pakistan presents a comprehensive approach to addressing environmental issues. However, the effectiveness of these laws and institutions is limited by weak enforcement, resource constraints and insufficient coordination. To strengthening institutional capacity and ensuring strict adherence to regulations are essential for achieving sustainable development goals.

Add analysis as well  
You are supposed to explain  
things in a profound manner

