

What are potential environmental impacts of CPEC?
(CSS - 2022)

Introduction:

The China Pakistan Economic Corridor is a pathway that will bring economic sustainability to the wider Eurasian region. The CPEC includes \$62 billion in investment projects for Pakistan's infrastructure, energy and other development initiatives. However, owing to its three potential environmental concerns and implications, CPEC could enhance vulnerabilities for Pakistan.

Potential environmental impacts of CPEC:

CPEC is a massive infrastructure project that has the potential to cause significant environmental impacts in the region. Some of the potential environmental impacts of the CPEC are:

① Coal-based projects of CPEC

CPEC's \$ 33 billion investment in 19 energy projects aims to resolve Pakistan's energy crisis but raises environmental concerns.

② Deforestation in search for better infrastructure

CPEC-related deforestation,

with over 54,000 trees cut in 2017, has hindered CO₂ absorption, worsening climate risks. ✓

③ Natural habitat destruction: ✓

CPEC infrastructure projects disrupt ecosystems, displace communities, and harm biodiversity. ✓

④ Industrialization with unsustainable development

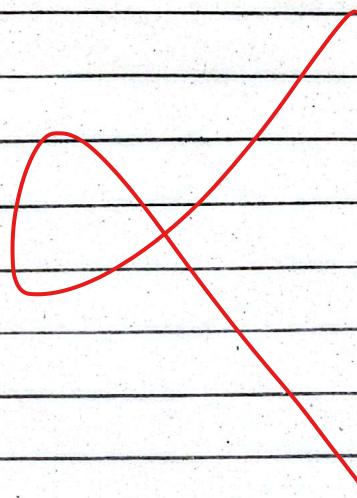
⑤ Report by World wide fund

⑥ Vehicle traffic and deteriorating air quality

⑦ Risk of natural catastrophe

Conclusion:

In conclusion, CPEC has had significant environmental impacts in Pakistan.



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