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CV

With Master degrees, one each in Zoology and Forestry from Peshawar University in Pakistan; and one in Natural Resource Management from Edinburgh University, UK. Mr Ashiq Ahmad Khan has been serving, initially, the Pakistan Forest Institute as Wildlife Management Specialist, engaged primarily in Research on various aspects of wildlife species and their habitats and Education to M.Sc and B.Sc Forestry students and later, joined WWF-Pakistan as Chief Technical Adviser (CTA). As CTA, Mr Khan has been responsible for the overall conservation programme that WWF-Pakistan had to undertake as part of its vision and mandate in Pakistan.

Major contribution of Mr. Khan includes the introduction of community managed trophy hunting initiative as conservation tool for the protection of Ungulates and other species from ruthless hunting, especially in the remotest parts of the Gilgit-Baltistan that was replicated in other provinces also and is now being considered as one of the most popular conservation tool. He further introduced Ethno-Botany as a new focus of research and tool for conservation of wild flora, especially medicinal plants. Ethno-Botany is now part of teaching syllabus in various teaching institutions of Pakistan. Mr. Ashiq contributed significantly to the conservation of various species, notably Cranes, Snow leopard, crocodiles etc in Pakistan; discovered new wetland and terrestrial habitats; identified important segments of major flyways and corridors of migratory birds; and contributed to the development of management plans for several National Parks in Pakistan. Just a few months back, Ziarat Juniper Forest of Balochistan was designated as Biosphere Reserve with major contribution coming from Mr. Khan

Mr Ashiq Ahmad Khan has extensive professional affiliation at national and international levels. Besides being on several IUCN S specialists Groups and a dozen other technical committees, Mr. Khan has been the first elected *Chair of International Steering Committee of Snow leopard network* for consecutive 2 terms of 3 years each and is part of the *International Steering Committee*, established for the conservation of cranes.

Mr. Khan has recently joined EvK2CNR as its Scientific Representative.

Introduction to the session on Biosphere Reserves, scope and objectives

Ashiq Ahmad Khan, Member Ev-K2-CNR Pakistan Scientific Board Pakistan

All nations of the world, including Pakistan, do want to arrest the process of degradation of the natural landscapes, and reverse it, as and when possible. To do so, protected areas with different nomenclatures, supported by the legislations of respective countries, are in place.

Since 1974, Pakistan has created a number of protected areas in different ecological zones with nomenclatures such as National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries and Game Reserves, that covers +11% of its land mass. Although, like many more countries of the world, most of the protected areas in Pakistan are not managed the way these deserve but nevertheless, adequate level of protection is available to some of the species of global significance only in such areas. Biosphere Reserve is one such category of protected areas that is nominated and managed by respective countries but designated by UNESCO under its Man & Biosphere Programme. As of 2012, there are 610 Biosphere Reserves in 125 countries of the world, 30 in neighboring China, 9 in India and 10 in Iran. In Pakistan, there are only 2 Biosphere Reserves, the oldest being Lal Suhanra Biosphere Reserve, designated in 1977 while the recent one is Ziarat Juniper Biosphere Reserve, designated in June, 2013.

As compared to other categories, Biosphere Reserve is comparatively more flexible in its approaches and thus harmonizes better the needs of people and the conservation needs of nature and natural resources. Because of its flexibilities, it could cover a bigger chunk of a landscape, encompassing diverse ecosystems, providing greater opportunities to blend the scientific and indigenous knowledge and test its application to various environmental and livelihood problems for improved and quality life of people, living in there.

Pakistan, owing to a high altitudinal range, has a large number of sites that deserves to be protected because of their flora and fauna and diverse habitats. Many sites are critical to maintain a healthy human life by protecting its life support system that is degrading fast due to unsustainable uses. Same sites could be of tremendous interest to international community, if their cultural and biological treasures are explored and made known to the world.

Since there has been no significant effort to highlight the need for the creation of Biosphere Reserves in the past, a session has been exclusively reserved in the EvK2CNR conference. The session shall be guided by the following objectives:

1. Share information about the processes and procedures involved in the creation of Biosphere reserves
2. Know about the newly created Biosphere Reserve of Pakistan, its issues and management potentials.
3. Share information about some of the potential sites in Pakistan that could be designated as Biosphere Reserves under the UNESCO's Man & Biosphere Programme