
Contents

1. Introduction and Background	2
2. IUCN's Earthquake Response and its Objectives	2
3. Environmental Risks and Needs Assessment	3
4. Supporting Long-Term Recovery: IUCN's Strategic Response.....	4
4.1 Guiding principles and cross-cutting approaches.....	4
4.2 Defining an ecosystems and livelihoods approach in the context of post-earthquake recovery	5
4.3 IUCN's niche and role in the recovery process	6
4.4 Implementation and partnerships	7
Annex: Highlights of IUCN's Earthquake Response (up to January 2006)	9

1. Introduction and Background

The earthquake that recently struck Northern Pakistan – in parts of the North West Frontier Province (NWFP) and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) - has prompted a

approaches to rehabilitation and reconstruction. The earthquake, though devastating, has created unique opportunities for rebuilding and re-engineering of the social, economic, environmental and cultural fabrics and institutional arrangements for research, planning and service delivery in the affected areas.

4. Supporting Long-Term Recovery: IUCN's Strategic Response

A massive international and national effort has been mobilised to respond to the earthquake, involving a wide range of sectors, agencies and levels of scale. IUCN's long-term commitment to supporting this response is founded on the stated needs and demands to integrate ecosystem and livelihoods aspects into these recovery and reconstruction processes; the capacity to operate, influence and convene at global, regional, national and local levels; and the ability to draw on and work with IUCN's diverse network of government, NGO and private s(level)-(e)-10cOran5s

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- **Undertaking development activities** in the communities and areas that have been affected by the earthquake.

IUCN has been working on post-earthquake recovery almost since it struck. Assessments, reports and guidance documents that are currently available relating to elements of this strategy can be obtained from the website of IUCN Pakistan at: www.iucnp.org/

IUCN is headquartered in Switzerland and operates regional and country programmes in most parts of the world. IUCN maintains its national and local-level programmes and projects through an extensive network of national and international members, partners and scientific experts. Within the context of post-earthquake recovery and reconstruction, IUCN will draw on its long history of engagement at global, regional, national and local levels and its extensive networks of members, partners and scientific experts to focus on the following geographical areas.

- **As a global membership union, IUCN has the ability to work and interact with a wide range of actors and agencies, and to influence global policy and practice**, and will therefore play an important role in mobilising international support and assistance to global, regional, national and local-level processes of post-earthquake recovery.
- **As a regional institution, IUCN has both the mandate and the experience to act at a regional level**, and can play a key role in facilitating dialogue, exchange and information sharing, as well as in developing region-wide responses and future planning. One key example would be to learn from its recent post-tsunami recovery experiences in Sri Lanka and Thailand.
- **As a national institution, IUCN has a well-developed country programme in Pakistan, a longstanding presence and history of activities**. Most of the activities will be implemented through IUCN's Country Programme in Pakistan.

4.4 Implementation and partnerships

IUCN's strength lies in its diverse network of members, partners and scientific experts. This enables us to work, exert influence and convene stakeholders at many different levels of scale, from the global to the local, and with many different agencies and sectors, including governments, non-governmental organizations and private sector companies.

IUCN is a global conservation union comprising more than 1,000 States, government agencies and non-governmental organizations from 140 countries. It also includes more than 10,000 scientists and experts operating as part of volunteer commissions and networks in key environmental areas.

In Asia, IUCN operates at both the regional and country levels, and includes more than 140 members and 1,800 commission experts. With more than 200 technical staff working in the Asia Region, IUCN has regional thematic programmes in biodiversity, environmental assessment, environmental

Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy, will provide key support and technical assistance to post-earthquake recovery processes.

As a result of the earthquake, IUCN has already established partnerships and alliances with a wide range of new partners and agencies working in relief, rehabilitation and infrastructure development. These new partners are drawn from national and international NGOs, government agencies, bilateral and multilateral donors, research institutes, universities and the private sector. It is envisaged that these new partnerships and ways of working will be critical to IUCN's efforts in supporting post-earthquake recovery and rehabilitation processes. IUCN is committed to joining the global community in ensuring that recovery from the earthquake is successful – both in terms of human welfare and environmental rehabilitation. The two aspects are mutually dependent. IUCN's experience, membership and convening power are unique and provide the basis for an important contribution in linking the needs of both people and the environment to ensure a better future for all.

Annex: Highlights of IUCN's Earthquake Response (up to January 2006)

Initial Relief Measures

- IUCN's **Pakistan Earthquake Relief Fund** was immediately instituted with donations coming from all over the global Union, especially its Asia Region.
- Many staff wanted to do volunteer relief work and they were encouraged to do so.
- Rs.300,000 (US\$ 5,000) was donated from an existing SDC funded project funds for medicines and lighting equipment to *Sungi*, an IUCN member.
- The Pakistan National Committee of IUCN was mobilized to coordinate relief work among the members. Some of IUCN members, especially *Sungi*, *SPO*, and *SRSP*, were in the forefront of relief initiatives by civil society. Their role was acknowledged by the Government of Pakistan with *Sungi* being asked to make the presentation on behalf of Pakistan's civil society to the International Donor Conference on Earthquake Relief and Rehabilitation.

Preliminary Assessments by IUCN

- An Organization Level Assessment (OLA) of the environmental damage was carried out with CARE and WWF, followed by a Community Level Assessment (CLA), conducted in field with CARE.
- A Field Mission to NWFP and AJK was carried out between October 16-18, 2005 which resulted in:
 1. **Alert Bulletin 1**
 - Jointly released with CARE and WWF, it highlights the post-disaster hazards and risks due to aftershocks, landslides and debris; and cautions against poor sanitation conditions and pressure on forests for fuel and shelter needs.
 - Was widely circulated – both among relief administrators and the general public - and got prominent coverage in the national media.
 2. **Preliminary Environmental Assessment Report**
 - Makes a preliminary assessment of the damage and lists potential environmental risks; suggests short and medium term initiatives; and recommends specific IUCN interventions.
 - Circulated among all relevant quarters and was used as a reference by relief agencies. Also reported in the media.

Coordination and Advocacy

An **Earthquake Team** comprising of staff from various offices, covering the whole range of relevant experience and required skills was put in place. This team was given the collective responsibility for substantive, effective and timely response from IUCN.

- Extensive discussions with several key organizations - government, donors, UN and international relief agencies – were undertaken to ensure environmental concerns were integrated into the relief work and reconstruction and rehabilitation plans. These included Federal Relief Commission, Ministry of Environment, UNOCHA, UNEP, CARE, and WB Forum for Donors on Environment.

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- Participated in the International Donors Conference on November 19, 2005, with IUCN representatives highlighting the environmental aspects of relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction in different working groups.
 - A national ***Roundtable on the impacts of earthquake on people and ecosystems*** was jointly organized by the Pakistan National Committee and IUCN Pakistan Programme on November 28. It was actively participated by representatives of the government and its relief agencies, civil society organizations, academia and media. The key recommendations from the Roundtable were:
 1. Develop a seismic map of Pakistan and AJK (Pakistan Administered Kashmir) delineating zones with associated risks.
 - 2.
