

plantation drives were initiated that helped in increasing tree population, the proliferation of seeds, and the cultivation of saplings.

These modifications reaped several notable outcomes. The commodification of ungulates (hoofed mammals) and pastures i.e. marketable exchange of animals promoting animal care and conservation, encouraged locals to protect and conserve flagship species. Revenue sharing brought local development in communities. There has been an increase in key ungulates and carnivore populations. The introduction of protection mechanisms for disease transmissions is another positive outcome. Moreover, a certain kind of legitimacy and mechanism is evident that has aided in improving trust among local communities.

Concluding the entire discussion, Nawaz shared how local communities prioritize socio-economic benefits and overall concerns. All these communities are widely diverse and it is extremely difficult to group them into a single entity. Benefits are not equally shared across all communities. Thus, it is important to create awareness regarding key issues, resource use, and the need to work together and create linkages among these communities and different regimes.

The talk was followed by a stimulating Q&A session. One of the participants inquired about the role of traditional practices and local wisdom in achieving biodiversity conservation as people see the construction of protected areas as foreign intrusion. Also, there is a large gap that exists between society, state, and NGOs. Nawaz answered that establishing protected areas is a political decision, and conservation is one of the objectives. Overall, the larger objective is to make it a world heritage site. Overall, the study questions the role of different actors in making decisions and how these decisions are made. Another participant asked the speaker to elaborate on political issues and the sociological context under which people are now adopting state-bound activities. Nawaz replied that the conservation narrative in Gilgit-Baltistan has evolved over the last 50 years. It is shifting towards community involvement, also called as co-management, but the state community partnership will take another 20-25 years to reach the required level of understanding. This is how democracy works, it takes time.

:**Jourdain Vaillant**, a diplomat and climate negotiator; **Sohaib Anwar**, an environmental engineer at Hagler Bailly Pakistan; and **Noor Ahmed**, Deputy Director at the Environment Protection Agency Punjab, were invited by the CPPG to speak on “**International Climate Change Negotiations: Challenges to Justice and Security**” on January 25, 2023 in collaboration with the French Embassy.



Pertaining to the ongoing debate on Climate Change, Vaillant highlighted that the public understanding of climate issues has evolved in the last few years, and the international framework for the fight against Climate Change has become more integrated. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), adopted in 1992, considered Climate Change as human-induced. To tackle Climate Change and its negative impacts, world leaders at the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris reached a landmark multilateral agreement on 12th December, 2015 termed the Paris Agreement. It sets forth three main agendas for negotiation: *one*, mitigation – limiting global warming and rise in global average temperature to well below 2°C from preindustrial levels, preferably 1.5 degrees celsius; *two*, adaptation and resilience – creating a global consensus on what adaptation means. It is a fairly difficult task because some countries believe that adaptation requires funding and that creates financial constraints; *three*, provision of financing to developing countries to mitigate Climate Change. In COP15 (2019), the developed countries promised to channel US\$100 billion a year to less wealthy nations to support climate action. Needless to say, the promise has not been met as yet. However, Vaillant shared that efforts are being made to bridge this financing gap.

Vaillant provided a deeper insight into the well-documented historical fact that the industrialized nations of 19th-century Europe played a significant role in driving Climate Change. He emphasized the ongoing proactive efforts aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions. He acknowledged the complexity of addressing greenhouse emissions, emphasizing that there is no one-size-fits-all solution. He further highlighted the importance of involving local communities, including women and students, in raising awareness about climate issues.

Shifting to the domain of international law, Vaillant expressed skepticism about its ability to yield results on every issue. Instead, he highlighted the pivotal role of 'national will' in effectively implementing domestic and international provisions.

Sharing the Punjab government's perspective on Climate Change, Ahmed drew the audience's attention to the initiatives taken by the Environment Protection Department, Punjab (EPD). The EPD is working on provincial Climate Change policy within the broad framework of the National Climate Policy. It is also working closely with the federal government to finalize a national adaptation plan for building a resilient Pakistan. Additionally, EPD is on board with irrigation, agriculture, and energy sectors; and is working with different academic institutions to spread awareness among the masses.

Lastly, Anwar brought to attention the issue of 'institutional incoherence' in Pakistan. He pointed out that there was a lack of cohesion between institutions at the local, provincial, and national levels. He observed that one of the important events in the political history of Pakistan was the Eighteenth Amendment, which had devolved legislative powers from the federation to the provinces and declared local government as the third tier of government in the constitution. But unfortunately, powers and capabilities that were required by the devolved institutions were never fully invested in, leading to limitations in capacity. It goes without saying that Pakistan has limited operative capacities and financial resources. Therefore, one of the main challenges facing Pakistan today is how to build the capacity of the state and how to enable markets

within this domain to absorb technology. Further emphasizing the deficiencies in Pakistan's institutional framework, Anwar listed: limited comprehension of climate science, inadequate capacity for data assimilation and interpretation, and, most crucially, challenges in effectively translating data and information into informed decision-making processes.

The discussion was followed by an engaging question and answer session, where participants expressed concerns about various aspects of Climate Change. When delving into mitigation strategies, there was a focus on international negotiations and the influence of G-20 countries, including Saudi Arabia, India, Russia, China, UK, and the US. It was argued that these nations can actively exert their power in international conventions and policy-making. However, it was emphasized that while their influence is substantial, there may exist an inequality in power distribution among these countries.

Addressing the subject of Climate Change financing, participants raised concerns about its inadequacy in meeting UNFCCC standards. Vaillant said that there was a pressing need for \$1 trillion to sustain global efforts in mitigating the effects of global warming, but current financing only stands at \$652 million. He highlighted financial disparities among countries and stressed that there was a need for a legally binding financial pact and sustainable financial infrastructure. According to him, this infrastructure would enable states to manage financial flows and participate fully in the mitigation and adaptation process. Moreover, the importance of involving the private sector in Climate Change negotiations that align with the Paris Agreement was highlighted. It can be beneficial as private entities often provide sustainable solutions.

It was also clarified that Climate Change financing extends beyond traditional grants or funds. Relying heavily on external grants and loans has been deemed unsustainable. Concessional grants have also been deemed ineffective. Instead, Climate Change financing is the total global estimation of financial flows over a given period. This leads to a call for Climate Change funds to be allocated and disbursed at the local and community levels, recognizing that the impact of

Climate Change is most acutely felt in these communities.

The conversation shifted to whether advanced nations are willing to share technologies for developing a green economy in less developed countries. The speakers responded with skepticism, primarily driven by concerns about the intellectual property rights of these technologies being held by developed nations. Ahmed highlighted that technologies are helpful only to a certain extent, so there is a need for effective and actionable policymaking. Further, the significance of capacity building is a key factor in ensuring effective mitigation and resilience building. He explained that beyond government initiatives, the involvement of civil society and private entities was equally important. Creating awareness among the masses, particularly through engagement with the education sector, is essential. He stressed on the importance of educating the bureaucracy as they have greater access to the masses. It allows for the spread of awareness at the

grassroots level. Not only that, it will aid in fostering a sense of community and ownership within the masses which will help build resilience.

Addressing the question related to the role of geopolitics in Climate Change adaptation, Vaillant explained that imposing penalties on pollutants could be effective if execution was ensured. However, negotiating on Climate Change was acknowledged as challenging due to the geopolitical issues of different countries. The example of the Russia-Ukraine war and associated sanctions, highlighted the need for a long-term solution and a solid plan unaffected by political dynamics.

Regarding the issue of data, Ahmed explained that access to numerous open databases has enabled effective utilization for mitigation and resilience building. Contrary to popular belief, he emphasized that Pakistan has contextualized databases with high precision and warning systems.

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