

Sustainable Land Management to Combat Desertification in Pakistan

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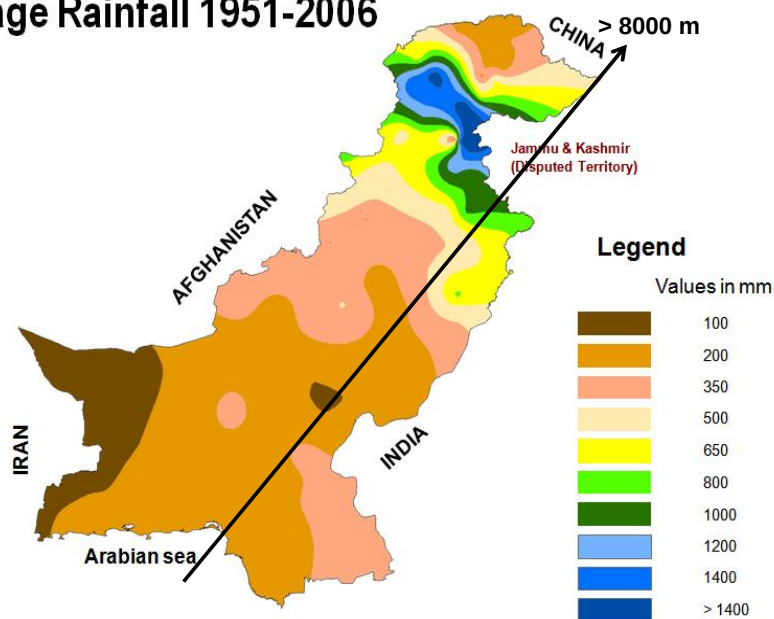
Outline

- ◆ Key facts and figures
- ◆ Major Challenges of desertification
- ◆ Barrier to Sustainable Land Management
- ◆ Measures taken to combat desertification
- ◆ Pakistan's approach for promoting SLM
- ◆ Where do we stand?
- ◆ Conclusion

Key Facts & Figures

- ◆ Pakistan is mainly a dryland Country with 80% of its land arid and semi arid
- ◆ Two-third of Pakistan's 160 million people depends on drylands to support their livelihood
- ◆ Out of 79.6 million hectares of Pakistan's total land, 62.4 million ha are susceptible to desertification
- ◆ Only 5.2 % of Pakistan's land is covered by forests
- ◆ 60 % of the country is classified as rangelands, 48 % of these rangelands are degraded

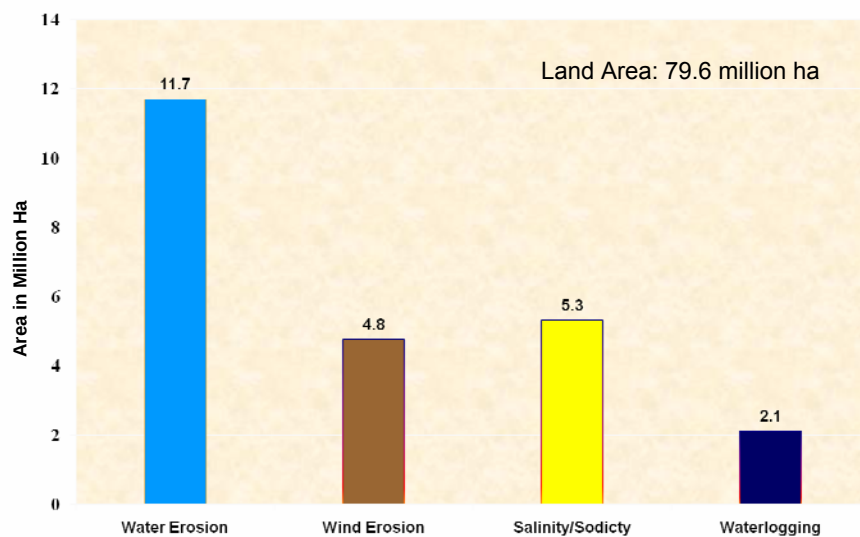
Average Rainfall 1951-2006



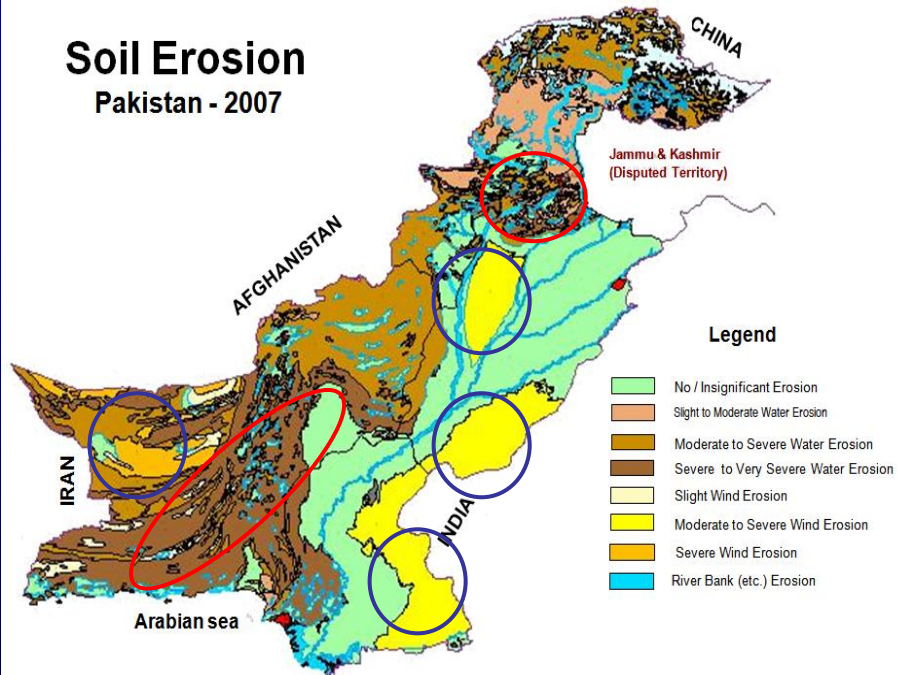
Challenges of Desertification

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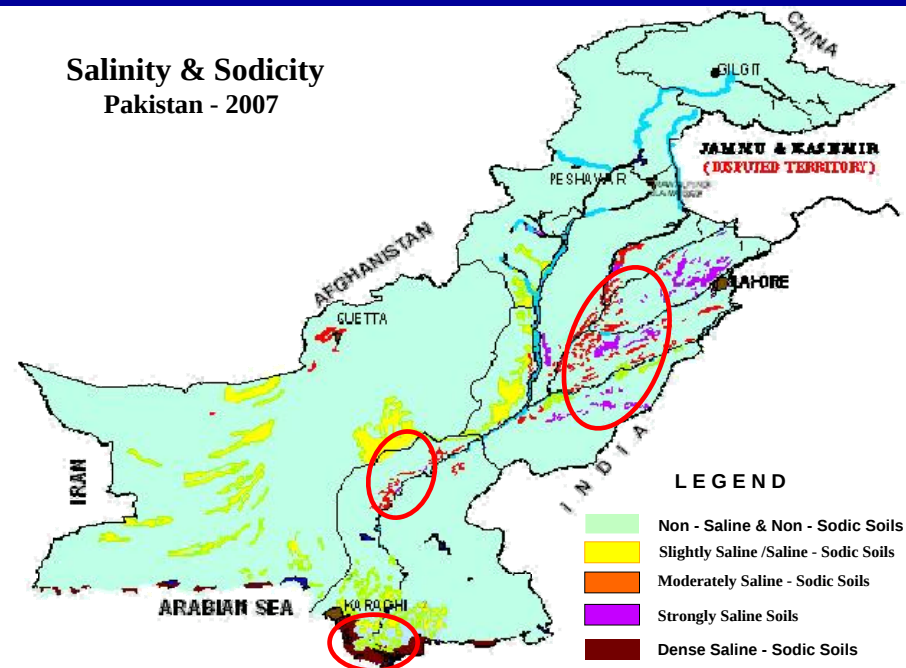
Land Degradation in Pakistan

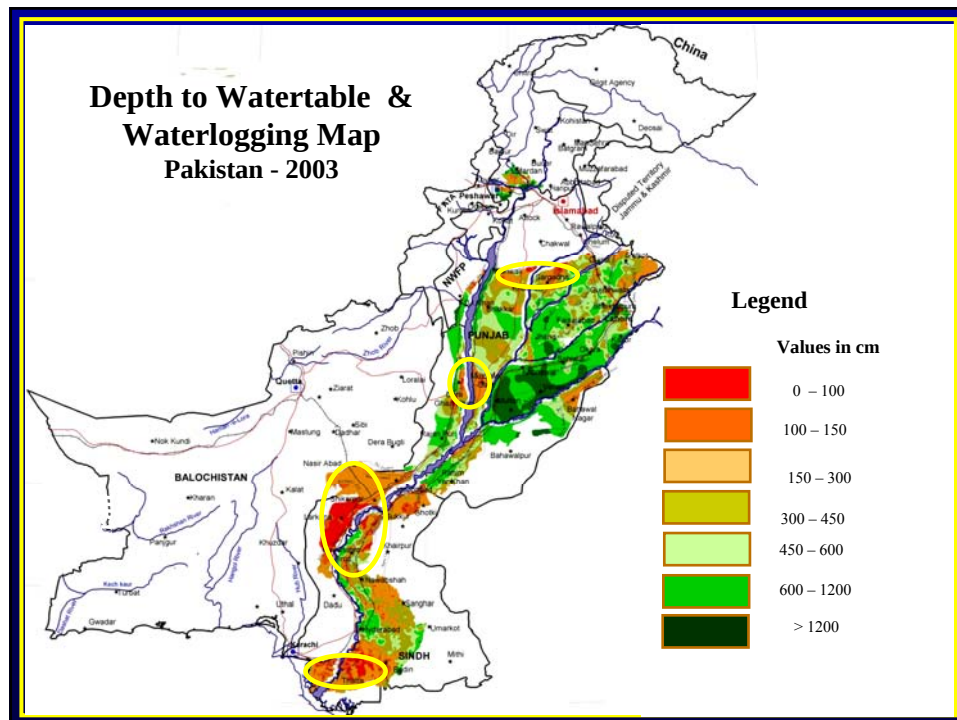


Soil Erosion Pakistan - 2007



Salinity & Sodicity Pakistan - 2007





Barrier to SLM

♦ Policy

- Inappropriate subsidies & limited land use planning

♦ Institutional

- Limited institutional capacity & coordination, knowledge gaps, lack of awareness, difficulty in mainstreaming NAP

♦ Financial

- Insufficient funding & low priority

♦ Socio-economic

- Vulnerability to climate change impacts & land tenure insecurity

Measures Taken

- ◆ Developed and adopted NAP
- ◆ Controlling water logging and salinity through community involvement
- ◆ President's Programme for lining canals, water courses and water storage ponds
- ◆ Integrated watershed management to check water erosion

Measures Taken

- ◆ Barani (arid) Areas Development Program
- ◆ Construction of small dams to store runoff water
- ◆ Rehabilitation of degraded rangelands
- ◆ Launching of National afforestation programme (US\$200 million)
- ◆ GEF-UNDP funded national SLM project

Approach for Promoting SLM

- ◆ Integrated, cross-sectoral and participatory approach aimed to combat desertification and alleviate poverty
- ◆ Removing key barriers to introduce integrated management of land resources

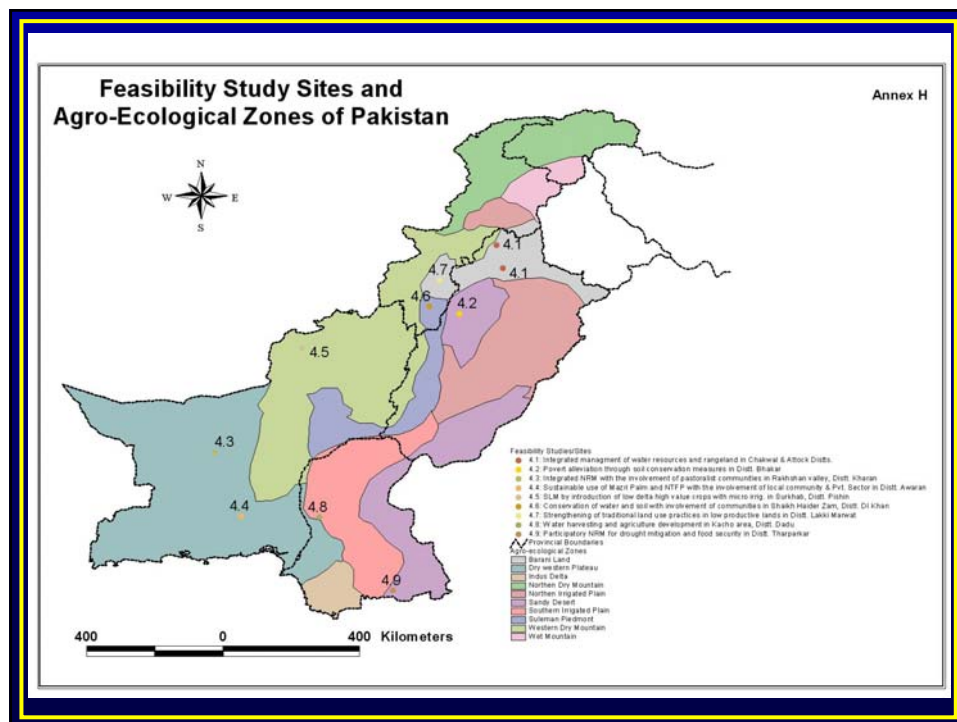


Sustainable Land Management Project

Focus on implementation of UNCCD, NAP & MDGs

Components

- ◆ Creating enabling environment for mainstreaming SLM and NAP into sectoral policies, plans and PRSP
- ◆ Building Capacities for SLM
- ◆ Mainstreaming SLM into land use planning
- ◆ Pilot projects for demonstrating SLM practices
- ◆ Documentation and dissemination of lesson learnt and best practices



Few Examples of Desertification Control Measures



Rehabilitation of Degraded Rangelands

- ◆ Protection
- ◆ Raising grass nurseries
- ◆ Reseeding degraded lands
- ◆ Grazing management and fodder harvesting



Rainwater Harvesting

- ◆ Address water scarcity
- ◆ Check soil erosion
- ◆ Restore degraded lands
- ◆ Alleviate poverty



Dry Afforestation

- ◆ Combat desertification
- ◆ Mitigate Climate change impacts
- ◆ Provide fodder and fuelwood
- ◆ Enhance carbon sequestration



Sand Dune Stabilization

- ◆ Control wind erosion
- ◆ Shelter belts protect agriculture fields and settlements
- ◆ Provide wood, food & fodder
- ◆ Habitat for dryland biodiversity



Where do we stand?

- ◆ Pakistan is still struggling with understanding:
 - Extent of desertification problems
 - Barriers in promoting SLM
 - Nexus in land degradation and climate change
- ◆ Largely sectoral interventions
- ◆ NAP developed, but yet to be integrated into policy planning and national sustainable development strategy

Conclusion

- ◆ Desertification challenges faced by Pakistan are enormous and undermine our efforts for sustainable development.
- ◆ SLM is a viable option to address problems of desertification and rural poverty
- ◆ Challenges of desertification can not be met unless SLM is mainstreamed into national development plans, sectoral policies and PRSP
- ◆ Capacity building & decentralization of SLM decision making
- ◆ Partnerships among government agencies, donors, NGOs and local communities