

NEWSLETTER

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JULY-SEP 2025

ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF PAKISTAN

MINISTRY OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND
ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION

The Zoological Survey of Pakistan continues its commitment to documenting, conserving, and promoting awareness about Pakistan's biodiversity.

This newsletter brings you the latest updates on our initiatives, field surveys, plantation, and research collaborations. Together, let's work towards a greener and more sustainable Pakistan

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ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF PAKISTAN

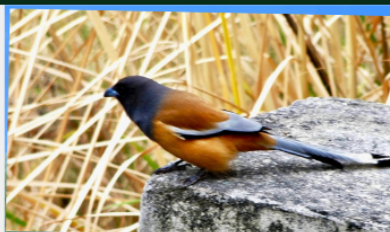
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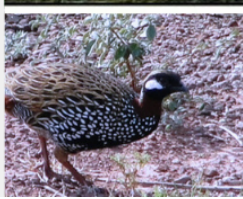
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EXPLORING PAKISTAN'S RICH BIODIVERSITY



NATIONAL PLANTATION DRIVE

The Zoological Survey of Pakistan (ZSP) has actively contributed to the national cause of environmental protection by organizing a series of plantation drives under the Government of Pakistan's initiative "Aik Beti, Aik Shajar", "Green Pakistan: Planting a Brighter Future." and "Zameen ki Betiyan & Sinfe Ahan".

Drive: 1 "Aik Beti, Aik Shajar" on 22nd August 2025 with the students of Bashir Medical Institute Barakahu Islamabad



Drive: 2 "Green Pakistan: Planting a Brighter Future" on 28th August 2025 with the students of Aftab Public School Barakahu Islamabad

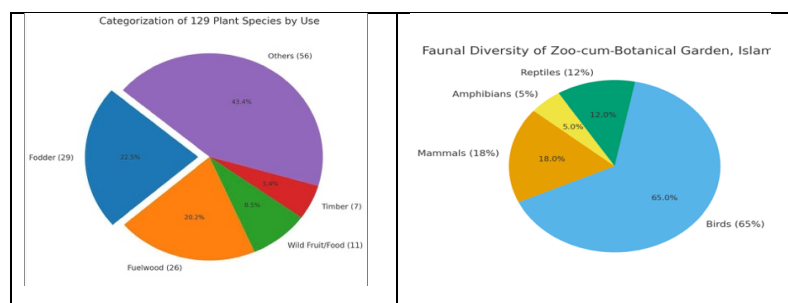


Drive: 3 "Zameen ki Betiyan & Sinfe Ahan" on 11th September 2025. Chief Guest: Ms. Hasina Ambreen DIG, MoCC and Guest of Honor: Ms. Chaand Bibi (General Secretary, PMLN, NA-47, and Member of Metropolitan)



BIODIVERSITY ASSESMENT OF ZOO CUM BOTANICAL GARDEN

The biodiversity assessment of the Zoo-cum-Botanical Garden, Islamabad, conducted by the Zoological Survey of Pakistan, highlights its ecological significance as a diverse habitat for both flora and fauna. The site represents an ecologically diverse habitat encompassing dry scrubland, cultivated green belts, artificial wetlands, and tree plantations, providing shelter to a wide range of mammalian, avian, reptilian, and amphibian species. A total of 129 plant species were documented, including fodder, fuelwood, timber, and medicinal plants, along with two invasive species posing a threat to native vegetation. The faunal survey recorded mammals (18%), birds (65%), reptiles (12%), and amphibians (5%), emphasizing the site's importance as a refuge for avifauna and small vertebrates. The report underscores the garden's ecological, educational, and socio-economic value, while recommending invasive species control, habitat restoration, and enhanced conservation initiatives to safeguard its biodiversity for future generations.



Medicinal plants: 103 herbs of ecological and ethnobotanical value.

Invasive species: *Parthenium hysterophorus* L. and *Lantana camara* L.



Porcupine (*Hystrix indica*)



Yellow throated marten (*Martes flavigula*)



Black partridge (*Francolinus francolinus*)



Indian tree pie (*Dandricitta Vagabunda*)

WORKSHOPS AND TRAININGS

The Zoological Survey of Pakistan attended a workshop on 2024-2025 Review and 2025-2026 Planning of Upscaling Green Pakistan Programme jointly organized by Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MoCC&EC) and IUCN Pakistan from 10th to 12th September 2025 at The Mark Hotel Islamabad. During the session, ZSP requested budgetary support for the hiring of a consultant to provide technical expertise and for the repairing of damaged boundary wall of the Zoo Cum Botanical Garden Barakahu, Islamabad.



ZSP actively participated in a three-day workshop on One Health Surveillance Visualization organized by the National Institute of Health (NIH) in collaboration with the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (US-CDC) at Serena Hotel from 15th to 17th September 2025. The objective of the workshop was to utilize a specialized tool to visually map and analyze the current status of Pakistan's zoonotic disease system. Representatives from all relevant sectors, including human, animal, and environment, participated to ensure integrated and productive outcomes for the future.



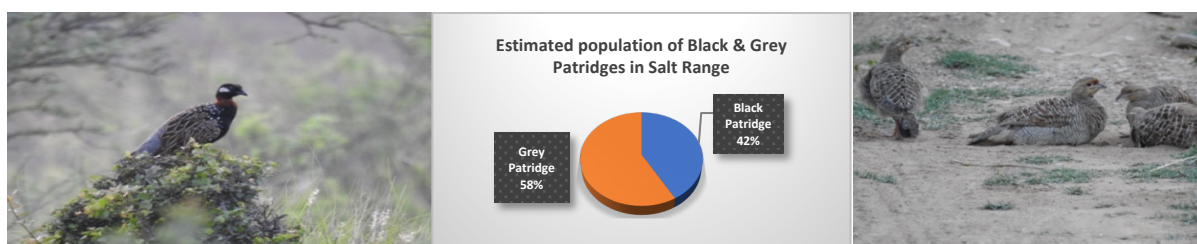
ZSP also attended a three-day training course organized by the Pakistan Planning and Management Institute (PPMI), Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives on "Preparation of PC-I and PC-II" for public sector officers from 17th to 19th September 2025. The course aimed to enhance the capacity of officers in project formulation and feasibility preparation. Mr. Mohammad Shahid, Ex-Joint Chief Economist, Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, delivered detailed lectures on the preparation of PC-I documents and project feasibility under PC-II during the training sessions.



SURVEYS

Population Survey of Grey and Black Partridge in Salt Range

A field survey was conducted from 11th to 20th August 2025 in the Salt Range to estimate the population of Grey Partridge (*Francolinus pondicerianus*) and Black Partridge (*Francolinus francolinus*), medium-sized game birds belonging to the family *Phasianidae*, order *Galliformes*. Both species are widely distributed across Pakistan, inhabiting Indus plains, forests, sub-mountainous tracts, riverine forests, grasslands, and agricultural ecosystems. Using point count, direct count, and call count methods, the estimated population in the Salt Range was recorded as 25,228 Grey Partridges and 17,991 Black Partridges.



Ongoing Wildlife Survey in Cholistan Desert

A wildlife survey is currently being conducted from 22nd to 30th September 2025 in the Cholistan Desert, covering the districts of Rahimyar Khan, Bahawalpur, and Bahawalnagar. The survey focuses on assessing the population status and distribution of Blackbuck (*Antelope cervicapra*), Chinkara (*Gazella bennettii*), and the Great Indian Bustard (*Ardeotis nigriceps*).

Punjab Wildlife Census Project

The Zoological Survey of Pakistan has extended its technical support to the Punjab Wildlife and Parks Department as a Steering Committee member under the *Punjab Wildlife Census Project*. Within the framework of this initiative, the survey of herpetofauna has successfully been completed, while the survey of flora is presently underway.



ACTIVITIES

- A comprehensive presentation highlighting the performance and key achievements of the Zoological Survey of Pakistan (ZSP) was delivered to the Honorable Federal Minister for Climate Change, Mr. Musadik Malik on 21st August 2025 in the Committee room of Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination. The briefing covered ZSP's ongoing initiatives and progress along with recommendations for strengthening institutional capacity.
- In pursuance of the directions issued by the Honorable Federal Minister during the meeting, necessary compliance has been ensured. The compliance report has accordingly been submitted for consideration and record.
- The Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination has been briefed on the complete history of Pakistan Museum of Natural History (PMNH) and current status of Marine Biological Research Laboratory (MBRL), with the recommendation that it be formally transferred from the relevant ministry and remerged with ZSP to strengthen the organization and enhance its ability to fulfill its national mandate effectively.

