Newsletter



ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF PAKISTAN

April-June| 2026| vol. IV

About the Newsletter

This newsletter provides a comprehensive overview of the major activities, achievements, and initiatives undertaken by the Zoological Survey of Pakistan (ZSP) during the period from April to June 2026.

It highlights key field surveys, official meetings, workshops, research activities, conservation initiatives, and other departmental engagements carried out throughout the quarter.





In This Issue:

- ZSP's ongoing research and conservation initiatives
- Recent Field Surveys and Expeditions
- Wildlife Research Highlights
- Departmental Activities and Events
- Upcoming Projects and Surveys

As an official record of ZSP's ongoing efforts, the newsletter showcases the department's contributions to biodiversity assessment, wildlife research, and faunal conservation across Pakistan. It also serves as an effective platform for disseminating scientific information, institutional developments, and collaborative initiatives, thereby promoting knowledge sharing, enhancing stakeholder engagement, and increasing public awareness of Pakistan's rich faunal diversity and the importance of its conservation.





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Simly Dam road, Kalma Chowk, Barakahu Islamabad.

Establishment of the National Botanical Garden



The Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination is undertaking the establishment of the National Botanical Garden in Barakahu, Islamabad as a landmark initiative to strengthen plant conservation, biodiversity research, environmental education, and sustainable eco-tourism.

The project aims to conserve Pakistan's indigenous, rare, threatened, and economically important plant species through both in-situ and ex-situ conservation approaches while providing a national platform for scientific research, education, and public awareness.



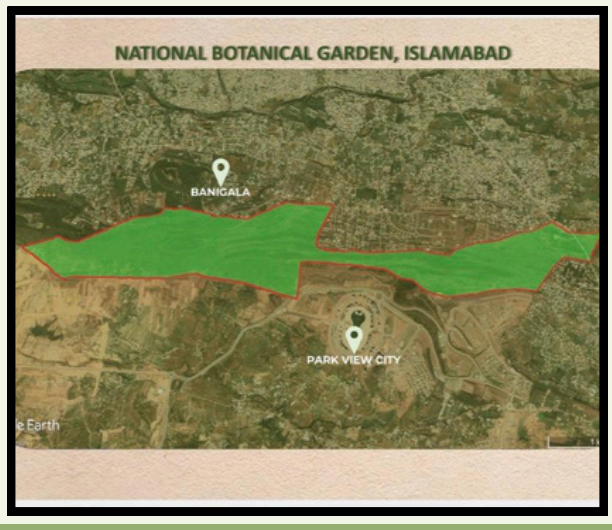
As part of the project planning process, ZSP has undertaken the development of the PC-I and other technical documentation, incorporating comprehensive plans for thematic gardens, research facilities, herbarium, seed bank, nursery, insectarium, aviary, bird-watching platforms, educational and visitor facilities, and other supporting infrastructure.

This initiative reflects ZSP's continued commitment to strengthening Pakistan's biodiversity conservation efforts and promoting the sustainable management of the country's natural heritage.

The proposed Botanical Garden will feature a range of thematic gardens, research and conservation facilities, an herbarium, nursery, seed bank, insectarium, aviary, bird-watching platforms, visitor amenities, and educational infrastructure.

The facility is envisioned to serve as a center of excellence for botanical research and biodiversity conservation, promoting collaboration among researchers, academic institutions, conservation organizations, and the general public.

The project reflects the Government of Pakistan's commitment to conserving the nation's floral diversity and advancing sustainable environmental management for future generations.





Site Visit of
Murree, Kotli Sattiyan and Kahuta National Park

The joint site visit to Murre, Kotli Sattiyan and Kahuta National Park, conducted by representatives of the Urban Unit Punjab, the Zoological Survey of Pakistan (ZSP), and an archaeological team, was undertaken in April 2026, to assess the archaeological significance of the area following the completion of the biodiversity assessment. The visit involved a detailed reconnaissance of selected locations to identify sites of cultural and historical importance and to examine their spatial relationship with the surrounding natural environment.



During the field survey, several indicators of past human settlement were observed, including fragments of pottery (pot sherds) and Kanjoor stone, which are commonly associated with historical habitation and construction practices. These findings suggest that the area has been inhabited in the past and possesses notable archaeological value. The presence of such materials, particularly within ecologically sensitive landscapes, highlights the need for a careful and integrated approach to site management.



Lauraceae leaf fossils



The Zoological Survey of Pakistan participated in a technical and advisory capacity, with its role limited to providing ecological input and undertaking species census activities only if required for site-specific assessments. Overall, the visit marked an important step toward incorporating archaeological considerations into regional planning, ensuring the protection of both cultural heritage and the natural environment of Kotli Sattiyan.



Pot sherds and Kanjoor stone







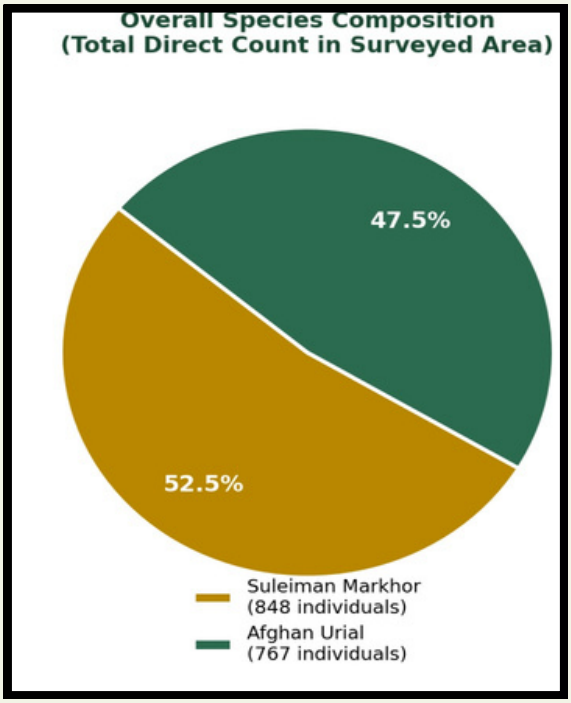
WILDLIFE POPULATION SURVEY
Torghar Community Game Reserve

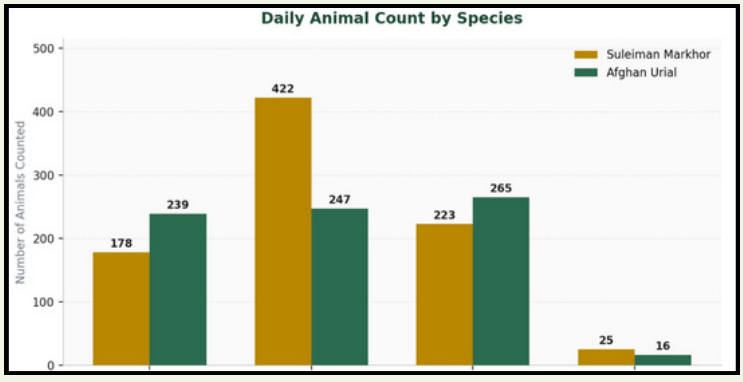




The joint population survey of the Suleiman Markhor *(Capra falconeri jerdoni)* and Afghan Urial *(Ovis vignei cycloceros)* was successfully conducted in June 2026, in the Torghar Community Game Reserve, District Killa Saifullah, Balochistan, under supervision of the Chief Conservator Wildlife Balochistan through the collaborative efforts of the Balochistan Forest & Wildlife Department (Wildlife Department), the Zoological Survey of Pakistan Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination, Islamabad and the Society for Torghar Environmental Protection (STEP) under the visionary leadership of Nawabzada Mehboob Jogezai.

A total of 848 Suleiman Markhor and 767 Afghan Urial were directly recorded within the 90 sq. km surveyed zone. Extrapolating to the full 300 sq. km Core Protected Area yields an estimated population of approximately 2827 Suleiman Markhor and 2557 Afghan Urial; population densities of 9.42 and 8.52 individuals per sq. km respectively.





This wildlife population survey provides robust, field-verified data confirming the continued viability of both the Suleiman Markhor and Afghan Urial populations within the Core Reserve of the Torghar Community Game Reserve.



Afghan Urial
(Ovis vignei cycloceros)



Suleiman Markhor
(Capra falconeri jerdoni)



Baseline Biodiversity Survey in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa





The Zoological Survey of Pakistan (ZSP) participated in the Baseline Surveys of Biodiversity Components under the project "Conservation, Development and Management of Wildlife in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa." The surveys were conducted in June 2026, in Kot Manzary Baba and Daragai (District Malakand), and Mahaban, Malka, and Chagarzai (District Buner) in collaboration with the Pakistan Museum of Natural History (PMNH) and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Wildlife Department.



As part of the joint survey, ZSP was responsible for assessing the avian diversity of the selected habitats through systematic field observations and species documentation. The surveys recorded a rich assemblage of bird species across the study areas, with Chagarzai emerging as a biodiversity hotspot where more than 90 bird species were documented during the survey period.


Brahminy starling
(*Sturnia pagodarum*)


Indian roller
(*Coracias benghalensis*)

The findings will contribute to the development of a comprehensive biodiversity database and provide valuable scientific information for wildlife conservation, habitat management, and evidence-based decision-making in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.



Plantation Drive

The Zoological Survey of Pakistan (ZSP), in collaboration with the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, organized a plantation drive in May 2026, at the National Botanical Garden, Barakahu, Islamabad, to promote environmental conservation and enhance public awareness of the importance of tree plantation.



Students from Bashir Medical Institute actively participated in the event by preparing informative posters and educational displays highlighting the environmental, ecological, and social benefits of tree plantation. The initiative reflected a shared commitment to fostering environmental stewardship and encouraging community participation in Pakistan's greening efforts.













The event was graced by the Inspector General of Forests, Dr. Syed Moazzam Nizamani, as the Chief Guest, who emphasized the significance of afforestation and collective efforts in addressing climate change and conserving biodiversity.

CEO, IMDC Mr. Yasir Niazi, Registrar Col. Mujtaba Abbasi and Principal MLT, IMDC Dr. Usman Waheed also attended the event.





World Environment Day 2026



The Director of the Zoological Survey of Pakistan Mr. Altaf Hussain Khurrho participated in the World Environment Day 2026 celebrations, organized under the theme "A Global Call for Climate Action."

The event brought together senior government officials, representatives of national and international organizations, environmental experts, academia, and conservation practitioners to reaffirm their commitment to environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, and climate resilience.



The event served as a platform to highlight Pakistan's ongoing efforts to address environmental challenges through sustainable resource management, ecosystem restoration, and collaborative conservation initiatives. During the proceedings, participants emphasized the importance of strengthening partnerships among government institutions, research organizations, and development partners to advance climate action and biodiversity conservation.

The participation of the Director, ZSP, reflected the department's continued commitment to supporting national environmental priorities through scientific research, biodiversity assessment, wildlife conservation, and evidence-based policy development. The event also provided an opportunity to engage with key stakeholders, exchange knowledge, and explore collaborative initiatives aimed at safeguarding Pakistan's natural heritage and promoting sustainable environmental management.

Workshop



Consultative Workshop on Biodiversity Management Planning

Officials from the Zoological Survey of Pakistan (ZSP) attended a consultative workshop on the development of the Sectoral Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) for the Murree Kotli Sattiyan National Park. The workshop brought together key stakeholders to discuss conservation priorities, management strategies, and collaborative approaches for the sustainable protection of the park's rich biodiversity. ZSP contributed technical input and emphasized the importance of scientific research, biodiversity monitoring, and evidence-based management to support the long-term conservation of this ecologically significant protected area.







One Health Consultative Workshop

Officials of the Zoological Survey of Pakistan (ZSP) participated in the Two-Day Consultative Workshop on One Health Joint Action Planning and Regulatory Mechanism for ICT–Islamabad, organized by the Health Services Academy (HSA) under the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination.

During the sessions, ZSP contributed technical perspectives on wildlife, biodiversity, and environmental health, emphasizing the importance of integrating ecological considerations into national One Health planning. The participation reinforced ZSP's commitment to supporting collaborative approaches for improving public, animal, and environmental health through evidence-based policy and coordinated action.

ACTIVITIES





Technical Committee Visit to the National Botanical Garden

The Technical Committee conducted a comprehensive visit to the proposed National Botanical Garden at Barakahu, Islamabad, to review the progress of the project and assess the proposed site for its development. The visit focused on evaluating the suitability of the area for the establishment of various thematic gardens, research facilities, conservation infrastructure, and visitor amenities envisioned under the project.



Meeting with Registrar, Akbar Niazi Medical and Dental College for MoU

The Director of the Zoological Survey of Pakistan (ZSP) held a meeting with the Registrar of Akbar Niazi Medical and Dental College, Islamabad, to discuss the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at fostering institutional collaboration in the fields of biodiversity conservation, research, education, and capacity building.

CEO of Tolaneez Consulting Ltd Visits Zoological Survey of Pakistan

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Tolaneez Consulting Ltd visited the Zoological Survey of Pakistan (ZSP), Islamabad, to provide technical assistance and expert guidance for the development of the proposed National Botanical Garden, Islamabad. The visit focused on exchanging technical knowledge and discussing international best practices in botanical garden planning, biodiversity conservation, landscape design, and sustainable management.



ACTIVITIES



Steering Committee Meeting on Punjab Wildlife Census Project

The Director of the Zoological Survey of Pakistan (ZSP) attended the Steering Committee Meeting of the Punjab Wildlife Census Project, convened to review the progress of the project and discuss strategies for strengthening wildlife monitoring and conservation across the province. The meeting brought together representatives from relevant government departments, conservation organizations, and technical experts to evaluate ongoing activities and provide strategic guidance for the successful implementation of the census.





Farewell Ceremony for the Secretary, MOCC

The Director ZSP participated in a farewell ceremony held in honour of the Secretary, MoCC&EC Ms. Ayesha Humera Moriani in recognition of her dedicated service and valuable contributions to the ministry. The event was attended by senior officials and staff from the Ministry and its attached departments.

Meeting at the Planning Division

The Director of the Zoological Survey of Pakistan (ZSP) participated in a meeting held at the Planning Division to discuss matters related to the proposed National Botanical Garden, Islamabad. The meeting focused on reviewing the project's planning framework, development strategy, and implementation roadmap, with particular emphasis on its significance for biodiversity conservation, research, environmental education, and sustainable eco-tourism.



ACTIVITIES





Development of Framework Policy Report for Stray Animal Population Management

The Zoological Survey of Pakistan (ZSP) developed a Framework Policy Report for Stray Animal Population Management to support the formulation of a coordinated and scientifically informed national approach for managing stray animal populations. The policy framework provides strategic guidance for addressing the ecological, public health, animal welfare, and socio-economic challenges associated with increasing populations of stray animals in urban and rural areas.

Digitalization of Biodiversity Data and Launch of ZSP Website

The Zoological Survey of Pakistan (ZSP) has made significant progress in modernizing biodiversity information management through the digitalization of its biodiversity data and the development of its official website, which is now fully operational. As part of this initiative, historical records, field survey data, faunal inventories, and specimen information have been converted into standardized digital formats, ensuring their long-term preservation, efficient management, and easy retrieval.



Ongoing & Upcoming



As an ongoing activity, ZSP is actively engaged in the development of the National Botanical Garden, Islamabad, a flagship initiative aimed at promoting plant conservation, biodiversity research, environmental education, and sustainable eco-tourism.

Once completed, the National Botanical Garden will serve as a centre of excellence for plant conservation, research, capacity building, and public awareness, contributing significantly to the conservation of Pakistan's rich floral diversity and sustainable environmental management.

The Zoological Survey of Pakistan (ZSP) will continue its nationwide biodiversity assessment and wildlife research activities through the implementation of field surveys, species monitoring, and ecological studies across diverse ecosystems.

ZSP will undertake collaborative research projects, strengthen biodiversity documentation, expand digital data resources, and enhance institutional partnerships with national and international organizations. These ongoing efforts aim to improve scientific knowledge, support sustainable wildlife management, and contribute to the conservation of Pakistan's rich biological heritage.

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