**Rizwan Irshad**

**PERSONAL DATA:**

Name: **Rizwan Irshad**

Nationality: Pakistani

Designation: Deputy Director (Bio), Ministry of Climate Change, Islamabad, Pakistan

**ACADEMIC RECORD:**

**PhD: Biological Sciences**: Thesis Title: Ecology and Conservation of Wild Canids in the Salt range, Pakistan with focus on Indian Wolf (*Canis lupus pallipes*).

Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan.

**M. Phil: (Environmental Biology)**

Subjects studied: Research Techniques and Methods of Instrumental Analysis, Advances in Plant Ecology, Cell Organelles Evolution, Human Genetics, Plant Ecology, and General Genetics. Title of thesis: Some studies on biology of captive Cheer Pheasant *Catreus walichii.* Hardwiki

**Attained first in final examination and earned “Certificate of Merit”**

**Masters: (M.Sc. Zoology)**

Biochemistry, Animal Physiology, Embryology, Cell Biology, Microbiology (Specialization), Environmental Biology, Genetics, Taxonomy, Evolution Palaeontology, Fisheries, Chordate Zoology, Invertebrate Zoology, Biometry

**Attained third position in merit in the university (68 % marks)**

**B.Sc. Graduation**: Subjects of specialisation included:

Invertebrate Zoology, Chordate Zoology, Cell-Biology & Genetics, Botany, Physical Chemistry, Inorganic Chemistry, English, Pakistan Studies.

**Attained First position in merit in the college and got merit scholarship**

**Language Proficiency:**

TOEFL Score: 560

TWE (Test of Written English) 5.5

One year English Language programme

Computer Certificate Programme

**Participation in IPBES related activities and visits abroad**

Currently I am MEP member and remained involved in processes of new and rolling out programs of IPBES, and raised points especially on the issues with ramifications across the sectors. The presence remained relatively shadowed due to Covid 19 and online nature of communications. A significant contribution was to highlight the Platform at various local fora including academia.

**Related Work EXPERIENCE**

1. Deputy Director Biodiversity, Ministry of Climate Change, Islamabad PAKISTAN
2. Researcher at King Saud University (Riyadh, KSA) July 2011 to Oct. 2017
3. Technical Officer (Biodiversity), Ministry of Environment Pakistan
4. Lecturer in Biology, Education Department, Government of Punjab (Eight years)

**Present Assignments:**

Being desk officer for Biodiversity related issues, I am responsible for initiating all tasks including communication, project development and execution. I have been involved with the ABS related issues since 2004. While I was away on assignments with King Saud University, I was invariably linked with the CBD reporting process including ABS. I was part of official delegation participating in COP negotiations (that finally ended with finalization of Kunming Declaration). Also I remained involved in communications related with CBD’s Post 2020 framework. The participation was significant especially when I was the one to coordinate and conduct 2020 assessment (6th National Report).

Earlier, I was part of Pakistan’s delegation to work on efforts to harmonize legal instruments on ABS in SAARC region. The three days session was conducted in Kathmandu back in 2005. I also participated in IUCN led training process on ABS back in 2005.

My office is responsible for streamlining approval process of CBD program areas, Access legislation, developing consensus among provincial partners and other stakeholders.

Through future participation in IPBES fora will surely be a significant contribution to the assessments and other initiatives as well as bringing a strong message for scientific community in Pakistan and the region.

Recently, I was involved in preparation of Interim National Report on Nagoya Protocol, Declaration of Marine Protected Areas, Implementation of Bisafety Project/s, National Reports for CBD, Cartagena Protocol, Forest Invasive Species, Action Plans for Raptors, IAS, Drought. Pakistan’s participation in 30X30 initiative of HAC was Handled by my office. The voice of HAC was conveyed to CBD fora in an effective manner while drafting the Kunming declaration.

Such a diversified working brings me messages about the efforts of the international community in the areas of nature conservation.

**EARLIER WORK EXPERIENCE:**

**King Saud University**

I remained employee as a **Researcher** at **King Saud University** (College of Science, Department of Zoology) since July 2011. The assignment ended in June. 2017.

**Responsibilities:** Handling the **Journal of King Saud University-Science**

1. Administering the regular publication process for the Journal as Editorial Office. This work involves liaising between authors, the editorial board and the publishers (Elsevier) through all stages of the publication process.

2. Arranging Special Issues in the popular domains of Mathematics and Biological Sciences.

3. Bringing in new editors and associate editors for the journal

4. Attracting authors for JKSUS: Visible diversity of authors is unmatched by any other journals in its class.

5. Attracting reviewers for JKSUS: Visible diversity of authors can be seen

6. Performance:

* A continuously growing influx of articles
* Continuous work, irrespective of vacations and events
* Citations per document: Unmatched by any KSU journal

Indexing the journal in various databases to meet the needs of the authors:

Cabells, Proquest, DOAJ, Biosis Previews, Scopus. Applied for TR JCR

**Experience training and Skills in the Domain of Communication:**

**English Language Certificate** Bahauddin Zakariya University offered one year English Language Certificate Course for Science Students. In final evaluation I secured A grade and First position in merit.

The programme was a part of Asia Foundation activities in academia.

**Computer Certificate Programme**: A three month course arranged by the National Institute of Electronics, Ministry of Science and Technology. The course enabled me to use a range of software as well as developing a broader understanding of the utilisation of IT in modern academic and work environments.

**Participation in CBD related activities and visits abroad**

For participation in Scientific Conferences, trainings, training Workshops, negotiations and official meetings, I have visited institutions and experts in the following countries, specifically related with biodiversity and NRM:

**China, Xi’an:** Communication on CBD’s NBSAP revision

**India, Dera Dhun:** CBD PoW PAs

**Germany**: IPBES and UNFCCC fora

**Japan, Nagoya:** CBD COP 10 & Nagoya Protocol

**Japan, Tokyo:** CBD post 2010 targets

**Japan, Tsukuba:** CBD’s National Reporting

**Lebanon, Beirut:** GLOBE Training

**Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur)** SoWFGR Country Report

**Nepal, Katmandu:** SAARC Communication on ABS

**Norway, Trondheim**: UNEP-CBD Conference on Biodiversity (2007)

**Norway, Trondheim**: UNEP-CBD Conference on Biodiversity (2010)

**Saudi Arabia**: Personal visit (2007)

**Saudi Arabia**: 2011-2017

**Thailand, Bangkok**: IUCN Communication on ABS

**Thailand, Hua Hin:** Training on UNCCD’s PRAIS

**Thailand, Salaya:** Training on Environmental Health

**Vietnam, Hanoi**: Surveillance of Forest Invasive Species

**Turkey, Istanbul**: UNCCD’s CRIC 7 & SCT S1

**Republic of Korea:** 16-19 Oct. 2017. Roundtable on Biobridge

**PUBLICATION AND RESEARCH WORK**

Book entitled “Biodiversity of Pakistan: Status trends and threats” is a recent endeavour where I am the principal author of 140 pages synthesizing the subject (Table of Contents provided as .pdf)

Publication entitled “Feeding habits of Asiatic Jackal in the Salt Range, Pakistan” published in Records: Journal of Zoological Survey of Pakistan (2009).

Publication entitled “Bengal Fox in the Salt Range, Pakistan” published in Records: Journal of Zoological Survey of Pakistan (2009).

”Global Strategy for Plant Conservation: Pakistan’s perspective.” Paper presented to the Pakistan Association of Eastern Medicine: a forum of eastern medicine (15 March 2010) operated by Hamdard Foundation.

“Fishes of the River Chanab in District Multan” (published in Biologia Vol. 37. No.1).

 As a part of research team, I explored the fauna and flora of Lehri Nature Park, District Jhelum.

Faunal Exploration activity as a part of team of QAU working on a UNDP funded study on poverty alleviation in Lachhi Kohat. Similar study is up-coming in November 2008 in remote areas of Baluchistan.

Studied the impact of seismic surveys conducted for oil and gas exploration in a part of Nara Game Reserve, Sindh in 2001.

Studied the population growth patterns of the Black Buck (*Antelop cervicapra*) in Cholistan as a part of M.Sc. Study.

A WWF Pakistan funded project on the Ecology and Conservation of Canids in The Salt Range, Pakistan with a focus on the Indian Wolf.

In vitro antioxidant and anti-herpes activities of Cuminum cyminum seeds extract 2016 Biomedical Research Vol. 27, No. 4

Expression of Biotransformation and antioxidant genes in the liver of Albino mice after exposure to Alphatoxin B1 and an antioxident sourced from Turmeric, 2017, Jordan Journal Biological Sciences (accepted 7 Oct. 2017)

**TEACHING AND OUTREACH:**

I worked as formal tutor for Environment related courses in Allama Iqbal Open University Islamabad, PAKISTAN. Lately, I conducted a course on “women and forestry”. I am also an invited resource person for The Pakistan Forest Institute, Peshawar to deliver lectures in the field of Forest Genetics and Forest ecology.

**ORIGINAL RESEARCH WORK:**

1. Impact of Pakistan Motorway on the fragile ecosystem of the Salt Range, Pakistan

As part of M. Phil study, I focused on evaluating impact of Motorway M-2 on the mountainous ecosystem of the Salt Range. The work focused on the potential of the M-2 as a barrier for population parameters. Significant flagship species of Punjab Urial and wolf are distributed widely in the area. The impact on the population of partridges was also considered. Road related animal mortality on the M2 was also discussed.

2. Ecology and Conservation of Wild Canids in the Salt Range Pakistan with a focus on the Indian Wolf

This work for my PhD degree focused on population parameters of members of the family canidae. Indian Wolf, Red Fox and Asiatic Jackal are reported to be present in the Salt Range area. Bengal fox was has also been reported for the first time in an extension of its range of distribution. The study was conducted by using sophisticated instruments and gadgets as well as using modern statistical tools (DISTANCE). A significant component of the study focused on evaluating the views and perceptions of local people towards the three canid species.

3. Some studies on the biology of Captive Cheer Pheasant in Pakistan

Cheer Pheasant is endemic to lower Himalayan scrub forests. As a whole, the pheasant is an endangered species and in Pakistan’s territory, it is locally extinct. The aim of the study was to quantify the time and activity budget of the bird in different captive conditions and suggest ways and means for its potential re-introduction. Year round observations of the activity of the bird were recorded and the study suggested that the bird exhibits behaviours which are specific to the species. Egg laying patterns and oology were also studied.

**PROJECTS:**

In the following projects, I was a significant executing partner:

1. Pakistan Wetlands Project (UNDP-GEF)
2. Pakistan’s BCH III Project (Ongoing)
3. UNEP Project on preparation of 4th National Report to Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
4. Protected Areas Management Project (World Bank-GEF)
5. Biodiversity Enabling Activities (UNEP-GEF)
6. First National Report to CBD (UNEP-GEF)
7. Third National Report to CBD (UNDP-GEF)
8. Fourth National Report to CBD (UNDP-GEF)
9. Fourth National Report to UNCCD (UNDP-GEF)
10. Sixth National Report to CBD
11. Processes related with National Drought Plan for Pakistan: A UNCCD led process
12. SOWFGR Country Report
13. Worked as Company Secretary Fund for Protected Areas: An independent entity established under SECP aiming at conservation of biological resources in three national parks
14. WWF funded project on Conservation of Indian Wolf in the Salt Range Pakistan
15. Pakistan Science Foundation Project on Wild Canids’ Ecology in the Salt Range Pakistan