

## Environmental governance and the assessment of manifestos of Pakistan's political parties

**Authors:**

**Asghar Khan<sup>1</sup>,  
Ashfaq U Rehman<sup>2</sup>,  
Ayaz Ahmad<sup>3</sup> and  
Shughla Ashfaq<sup>4</sup>**

**Institution:**

1. Department of Regional Studies, University of Peshawar, Pakistan.
2. Department of Political Science, Women University Swabi, Pakistan.
3. Department of English, Abdul Wali Khan University, Mardan Pakistan.
4. Department of Politics & International Relations, International Islamic University Islamabad, Pakistan.

**Corresponding author:  
Ashfaq U Rehman**

**ABSTRACT:**

This research assessed different political parties' election manifestos for treatment of the environmental issue. Textual analysis of party's manifesto was used to clarify each party position as well as to examine their comparative approach to address environment concerns of Pakistan. This research presents an analysis of the manifestos of eight major political parties of Pakistan. The manifestos of these parties expressed commitment and modus operandi to solve the problems of Pakistani people. Their voters have been directly affected by the negative environmental changes in the social, political and economic spheres. In this regard, this research argued that negative effects of environment become the most critical in deciding policies and planning for public welfare and development in political, social and economic spheres. The party that have been in power and parties that have not been in power but have significant following are collectively shaping governance that has been determined by environmental concerns of Pakistan. Unfortunately, the redressal of environmental issues has been commonly relegated to the bottom of priorities in the manifestos of the political parties of Pakistan. The political parties, instead of addressing the environmental concerns prioritized it with manipulation to grab power for the sake of enjoying it. The area that has been covered by forests has reduced to 24% from 50% (in 1940s). The wastage of natural resources especially water has resulted in drying of swamps and lakes (and general reduction of fresh water resources). Soil has become less fertile; the underground water has been receding, and the country has been becoming a desert.

**Keywords:**

Environment, Governance, Manifesto, Pakistan, Politics, Political parties.