

CERP

CERP Policy Statement on Environmental Safeguards and Sustainability

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CERP is acutely aware of the environmental challenges driven by climate change and affecting the entire globe. Unfortunately, these environmental challenges affect the developing world disproportionately. While these developing countries are not the major contributors to the factors affecting climate, they are far more vulnerable to the climate-induced economic shocks.

Pakistan is a prime example of this phenomenon. It is a poor country, relying heavily on agriculture for not just income but also for the need to feed its burgeoning population. It receives rain only for a part of the year and relies heavily on the irrigation system which is fed by melting glaciers in the north. It is a water-scarce country, where floods are becoming more frequent and devastating with every passing year. Rapid urbanization is leading to deforestation, pollution and degrading the air quality, which will have long-term impact on the health of its people and will reduce life expectancy.

CERP has the unique position to lead and inform the discussion on the environmental safeguarding and sustainability and to catalyze and drive the action to fight climate change. CERP will continue to play its part in the following ways:

- CERP will increasingly focus on enabling and facilitating research on climate in Pakistan, by continuing to attract the best minds of the world working in this area.
- CERP will continue to create funding opportunities and channelize funds to create evidence on climate change and the countermeasures which governments, businesses and societies can take.
- CERP will leverage its reach in the government ministries and agencies vested with the responsibility to safeguard the environment in order to inform and support policy.
- CERP will create more space in the public sphere to raise awareness and to engage citizens in an informed debate on climate change.
- CERP will continue to create more evidence on agriculture and sustainable agriculture practices.

We are aware of the fact that no single organization or government can fight climate change and safeguard the environment alone. Therefore, CERP will lead coalition building efforts and will always be an eager partner of like-minded organizations and professionals in efforts to safeguard the environment.