

Received: 15 July 2023, Accepted: 11 August 2023

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.33282/rr.vx9il.78>

Environmental Management and Sustainability: Quranic Paradigm

1:Dr. Abdul Manan Cheema

PhD Islamic Studies, University of Sargodha, Sargodha

2:Raheela Butt

Lecturer, *Department of Islamic Studies, the University of Lahore, Lahore*

3:Asad Noor

Lecturer, *Lahore School of Aviation, the University of Lahore, Lahore*

4:Madiha Awais

Lecturer, *Lahore Business School ,the University of Lahore, Lahore*

5:Abdul Basit

Lecturer, *Department of Islamic Studies, the University of Lahore, Lahore*

6: Dr.Malik Kamran(Corresponding author)

Assistant Professor, Department of Islamic Studies, the University of Lahore, Lahore

Abstract

Environmental management and protection has become a global challenge in contemporary times. Man's enactment of modern science and technology has led him to exploit the natural resources. The violent manipulation of the natural bounties by modern man is causing disorder, disturbance, degradation and imbalance in ecological system of Earth. No doubt, Modern science and technology has made man's life easy, luxury and comfortable. But on the other side, natural ecological system of planet Earth has been degraded severely. Current condition of environmental degradation is an enormous peril to human life and other living beings. Use of fossil fuels for energy needs is one of the main causes of current environmental issue. Latest environmental research reports show that life of present humans and future generations is at the risk of climate change consequences. Therefore, it is the very need of time to take effective measures to solve alarming issue of environmental changes. Environmental management has been included in seventeen sustainable development goals (SDGs) issued by UNO. No doubt, International Community has focused on climate change, environmental protection, natural resources management, biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihood in modern times. However, religious guidance can play a solid role to protect Earth planet and its ecological system. Islam is an eco-friendly religion. Holy Quran is a divine scripture that provides comprehensive guidelines and precautions for management of natural environment. Various Quranic verses strictly prevent anti-eco activities (Fasad) and mismanagement of environment. The man has been made vicegerent of Earth by Allah almighty. So, it is the very duty of man to

care of Earth planet and manage its environmental conservation. The main objective of the study is to elucidate the Quranic paradigm of environmental management and sustainable development in modern times. The research work provides a comprehensive analysis of environmental conservation management and sustainability in the light of Quranic perspectives.

Key Words: Holy Quran, Environment, management, Conservation, Ecosystem, Sustainability.

Introduction

The environmental management is a tenacious challenge of the present era. The Earth's natural environmental system is deteriorating with each passing day. This situation poses a serious threat to human survival on Earth. The latest UN environmental reports indicate that 40% of the global population is being affected by environmental changes due to environmental pollution.¹ In this alarming situation, taking concrete actions for environmental protection is extremely crucial. Recent scientific research indicates that the polluted environment is a cause of various deadly diseases in humans. Additionally, the polluted environment contributes to climate changes. Current complex issues such as smog, irregular rainfall patterns, drought, and global warming are the result of anti-environmental activities of modern man. According to research reports, millions of people suffer due to the creation of livelihoods in polluted environments. Sustainable development cannot be achieved without industrial and economic progress with environmental facilities. Therefore, global attention has been focused on environmental management and sustainability. Sustainable development and environmental protection are essential and imperative. This is why the environmental conservation is part of United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Furthermore, international environmental conferences (COPs) are regularly held under the auspices of the United Nations to discuss and contemplate environmental management and sustainability. However, environmental and religious teachings can also play a significant role in preventing the negative effects of environmental changes. Islam is an eco-friendly religion, and instructions for environmental management, conservation and cleanliness are found throughout the Quran. Approximately 24% of the global population is Muslim, and by adhering to the Quranic discourse on environmental conservation, Muslims can play a key role in preserving the terrestrial environment. Environmental management. It is a critical discipline that involves the sustainable use and conservation of natural resources. In recent times, there has been a growing awareness of the need for responsible stewardship of the environment to address global challenges such as climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss. The Quran, the holy book of Islam, provides guiding principles that, when understood and applied, align with the goals of environmental management. Therefore, the awareness and application of environmental principles and etiquettes of Holy Quran can play an effective role to manage environmental conservation.

Literature Review

Numerous scholars have conducted commendable research work on environmental issues. “A perspective of environmental pollution”² is a prominent book on topic of environment which discusses environmental pollution, its harmful effects on human life and control in an effective manner. It is very informative research work on subject of environmental pollution. Professor Dr. Ahmed bin Yusuf Al-Darwish’s book “Protection from aquatic and plant environmental pollution in the light of Islamic jurisprudence”³ presents significant information about environmental conservation in the light of Islamic jurisprudence, specifically addressing water and botanical environmental issues. Additionally, it provides a brief overview of the impact of the degraded environment on human life. Another noteworthy contribution is Professor Dr. Qibla Ayyaz’s book “Conservation and Islam” which sheds light on environmental conservation in the context of Islamic teachings in a highly engaging manner. “Islam and Environment” by Qazi Saeedullah is a substantial research work published by the Dawah Academy International Islamic University Islamabad. The book “Islam and the Environment” edited by renowned environmental expert A R Agwan, is a reference book on subject of environment. It is a compilation of various environmental research papers. Dr. Abdul Manan Cheema’s book “Natural Resources and Their Use: In Islamic and Scientific Perspective” is an excellent and vital research work that provides detailed insights about the proper and balanced management of natural resources (air, water, land, minerals, plants, animals) in the light of modern science and Islamic teachings. This book was published in 2023 by the Islamic Research Index Islamabad.

The research article titled “Environmental ethics in Islam: principles, violations, and future perspectives”⁴ discusses the negative effects of environmental pollution on Earth and human life from an Islamic perspective. Notably, it presents both Islamic principles of environmental conservation and the Christian viewpoint on the environment. Muhammad Yasin’s research article “Environmental Ethics in Islam: Principles and Perspectives”⁵ is a valuable effort to clarify the Islamic concept of environmental ethics. Another research article “The Role of Islamic Environmental Ethics in The Alleviation of Climate Change Challenges and the Preservation of Ecosystem”⁶ focuses on addressing climate change challenges and preserving ecosystems through Islamic environmental ethics.

Dr. Abdul Manan Cheema and Dr. Riaz Ahmad Saeed’s research article “The Role of Plantation in Controlling Environmental Pollution: An Islamic Perspective”⁷ is a crucial research work discussing strategies for environmental protection in the context of Islamic perspectives. It highlights the impact of climate change, pollution, and unsustainable development on human life. The article emphasizes the prominence of plants in controlling environmental pollution from the Islamic point of view. This article stands out for drawing attention to the issue of environmental pollution through charts and images, aiming to sensitize scholars and policymakers. The research article titled “Environmental Protection Strategies for Sustainable Development”⁸ is an extremely important piece of research focusing on sustainable development and environmental conservation. The article extensively discusses the increasing trends of

climate change, pollution, and unsustainable development, along with their growing impacts and negative effects. The article by Dr. Abdul Manan Cheema and Dr. Afshan Noreen, titled “The Role of International Community in Controlling Environmental Pollution and Islamic Teachings: An Analytical Study”⁹ is a vibrant and informative research work on the subject of the environment. It presents a comprehensive analysis of the role played by global environmental institutions and international environmental conferences in solving the contemporary environmental crisis. Additionally, the article engages in a nuanced discussion about the role of Islamic teachings in addressing the negative impacts of environmental changes occurring at a global level. Research paper “Qurānic Concept of Natural Resources and Modern Times: Research Review”¹⁰ is vibrant work on subject of natural resources protection in Quranic perspective.

In the present era, the significance of the environment and sustainability can be gauged from the fact that the United Nations has accorded special importance to management of environmental conservation in its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Besides the above mentioned research works, analyses on environmental conservation have been presented at various levels. However, there is no specific comprehensive work on environmental management in Quranic perspective. Therefore, keeping in view the significance of sustainability and environmental protection in contemporary times, title “Environmental Management and Sustainability: Quranic Paradigm” has been selected.

Research Methodology

In the research article, an analytical research methodology has been adopted. Primary sources related to the environment and the Quran have been utilized. However, some secondary sources and references related to the topic have also been consulted at certain points. Research material has been gathered from online libraries, environmental dictionaries, Encyclopedias, and the internet. Consultation with environmental experts has also been sought. In the contemporary era, the cost of environmental pollution is being paid through unsustainable development, leading to the destructive consequences of environmental changes. Therefore, global attention has been focused on sustainable development goals and the environment. The article presents a brief overview of global efforts for sustainability, environmental management through international environmental conferences. The effort was made to bring forth the Quranic perspectives that advocate for environmental management and sustainability. The Holy Quran introduces principles and etiquettes for environmental management and long-term development. The article endeavors to highlight the Quran's eco-friendly perspectives. The English translation of Quranic verses is taken from Maulana Taqi Usmani's English Translation¹¹ of Holy Quran.

Environmental System

The term "environmental system" refers to the complex interactions and interdependencies among various components of the environment, including living organisms, ecosystems, physical

elements, and human activities. Understanding environmental systems is crucial for addressing environmental challenges, developing sustainable practices, and managing natural resources. The environmental system of the Earth encompasses all entities, living or non-living, found around or affecting it in any way. It includes all living organisms and inanimate objects that are part of its surroundings. Plants, animals, minerals, air, water, forests, mountains, oceans, deserts, birds, insects, and the land are various environmental elements. These different environmental elements are interconnected and essential for each other's survival. The planet Earth is unique in the whole universe as the only celestial entity with a supportive environment for human life. While the environment of planet Mars shares some similarities with Earth compared to other planets, it is still not conducive to sustaining life. This is because the planet Mars environment lacks the necessary conditions for life, with low levels of oxygen and high concentrations of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in its atmosphere.

McKay states:

“There is considerable evidence that the early climate of Mars was very different from the inhospitable conditions there today. This early climate was characterized by liquid water on the surface and a dense atmosphere composed predominantly of CO₂.”¹²

In contrast, Earth's environment is characterized by a delicate balance that supports a diverse range of life forms. The presence of an atmosphere rich in oxygen allows for the respiration of many organisms, while the balanced levels of various gases contribute to the overall sustainability of life on Earth. This intricate web of environmental elements highlights the importance of preserving and maintaining the equilibrium of the Earth's environmental system for the well-being of all its inhabitants. The environmental system of Earth has been intricately designed to be conducive to human life and survival. The quantities of all elements on Earth are balanced to create a harmonious environment. The environmental system, which encompasses all living and non-living things, is a natural habitat for organisms that coexist with each other in specific locations. This system is known as an ecosystem.

An ecosystem is a natural environment for living organisms where they interact with each other and their surroundings in a balanced manner. The Earth's ecosystem is a complex web of relationships between various species and their physical environment. This interdependence ensures the sustainability and equilibrium of life on the planet. In essence, the environmental system of Earth has evolved to support biodiversity and maintain the delicate balance required for the coexistence of different life forms. This balance is crucial for the survival and well-being of all living organisms, including humans, and emphasizes the importance of preserving and respecting the Earth's natural environment.

Gardip Raj writes:

“Ecosystem is a community of interdependent organisms together with the environment which they inhabit and with which they interact (e.g., a pond, an Oakwood).”¹³

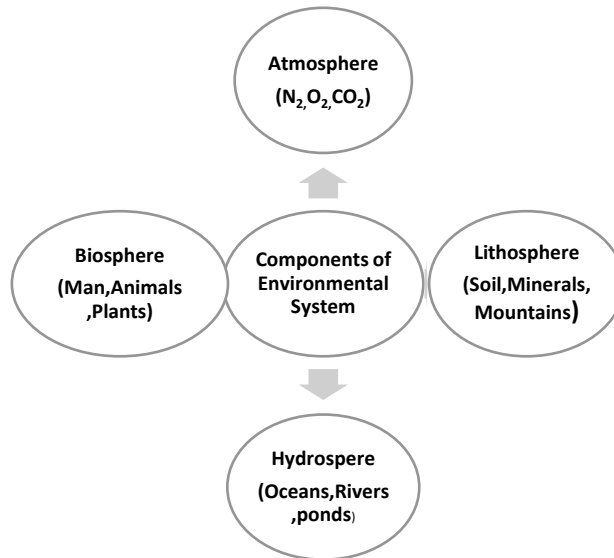


Diagram: Components of Environmental System

In the above-mentioned diagram, the fundamental components of the environmental system of the Earth are provided. All living elements found in the environment are interconnected for mutual survival. Management and proper use of environmental elements is essential to maintain environment hospitable for life existence.

The Effects of Environmental mismanagement

The Environmental mismanagement is a global issue in contemporary times. Environmental mismanagement can have severe and far-reaching consequences for ecosystems, biodiversity, human health, and the overall well-being of the planet. The effects are diverse and can manifest at local, regional, and global scales. The use of fossil fuels at a large scale to meet the growing demands of the industries and energy requirements has given rise to environmental pollution, ecological imbalance, climate change, and global warming. The economic activities of modern humans without environmental facilities are severely impacting the natural environmental system. According to global environmental reports, environmental and climatic changes are contributing to various diseases, leading to the loss of millions of lives annually. If attention is not given to environmental management, there is a concern that future climate changes cause a huge damage of life on Earth.

Recent UN report indicates:

“Research shows that 3.6 billion people already live in areas highly susceptible to climate change. Between 2030 and 2050, climate change is expected to cause approximately 250 000 additional deaths per year, from undernutrition, malaria, diarrhea and heat stress alone.”¹⁴

Developed nations are carving their path through environment friendly technology, while the entire burden of environmental mismanagement is being imposed on developing countries.

Industry persons are using fossil fuels to meet energy needs without concern for environmental facilities and principles, leading to undesirable changes in the environment. The unpleasant transformations in the environment are causing destructive societal impacts due to human-induced climate change. Without proper management of environmental conservation, the pursuit of unregulated material progress is termed unsustainable development.

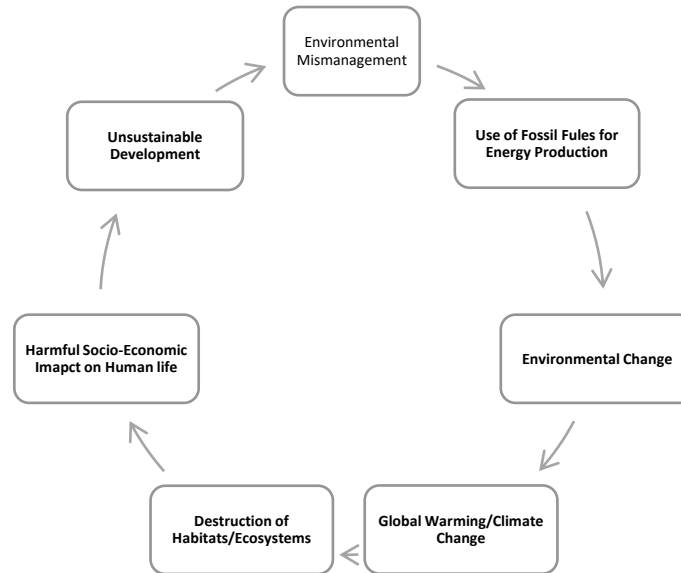


Diagram: Environmental Mismanagement Effects

Addressing the effects of environmental mismanagement requires coordinated efforts, sustainable policies, and responsible practices at individual, community, national, and international levels. Sustainable resource management, conservation initiatives, and the adoption of environmentally friendly technologies are crucial for mitigating these adverse effects.

Environmental Management and Sustainability

Environmental management involves planning, implementing, monitoring, and regulating human activities to reduce their negative impact on the environment. It encompasses a wide range of activities, including natural resource conservation, pollution control, waste management, and land-use planning. Sustainability is the concept of meeting present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It involves a balanced and integrated approach to economic, social, and environmental considerations. In the present era, sustainable development and environmental management are the most crucial global challenges. Hence, numerous environmental organizations are actively playing a role at the global level for sustainability and management of environmental conservation. To raise awareness about the significance of environmental conservation, every year on June 5th, “World Environment Day” is celebrated throughout the whole world. The purpose of this celebration is to educate the world about the natural environment and its protection. Environmental degradation is currently the

most critical issue globally. To seek a sustainable solution to environmental issues, international environmental conferences are being organized at the global level. The first significant global environmental conference was held under the auspices of the United Nations in 1992 in Brazil.

A. R. Agwan writes:

“The UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, during 13-14 June 1992, was the latest and so far the largest assembly of world leaders convened for the specific purpose of discussing environmental issues.”¹⁵

In 2015, a global environmental conference for environmental conservation was held in the renowned city of Bonn, Germany. During this conference, emphasis was placed on reducing the emission of harmful gases for environmental conservation. A recommendation was made to limit the global temperature increase to 2 degrees Celsius. The Environmental Conference (COP 26) took place in Glasgow, Scotland, in October 2021. COP-27, was the 27th United Nations Climate Change conference, which was held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt in November 2022 to seek solutions of climate change issue. COP-28 (United Nations Climate Change Conference) was held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in November 2023 for conservation and management of environment. These global environmental conferences attract thousands of environmental activists, environmental NGOs, and environmental experts from the entire world. In these conferences, recommendations and proposals are presented regarding management of environmental conservation and sustainable development.

1	The UN Conference on Environment and Development-UNCED(1992)	Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)
2	World Summit on Sustainable Development(2002)	Johannesburg(South Africa)
3	UN Conference on Sustainable Development(2012)	Janeiro(Brazil)
4	UN Sustainable Development Summit(2015)	New York(USA)
5	Paris Climate Change ConferenceCOP-21 (2015)	Paris(France)
6	The UN Climate Change ConferenceCOP-25 (2019)	Madrid(Spain)
7	Glasgow Climate Change Conference COP-26 (2021)	Glasgow(Scotland)
8	The UN Climate Change Conference COP27(2022)	Sharm el-Sheikh (Egypt)
9	The UN Climate Change Conference COP27(2023)	Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Table: Conferences on Sustainable Development and Environmental Conferences

Environmental management and sustainability are interlinked, with effective environmental management practices contributing to overall sustainability. Sustainable practices, in turn, reduce the need for reactive environmental management by preventing negative impacts. In short, Environmental management and sustainability are intertwined concepts that share the goal of ensuring a healthy and balanced relationship between human activities and the environment. Effective environmental management practices are integral to achieving sustainable development and safeguarding the planet for future generations.

Quranic Paradigm of Environmental Management

The Quran provides guidance on various aspects of life, including principles that can be applied to environmental management. The environment and ecology is so significant in Islam that multiple verses in the Holy Quran mention various aspects of the environment and environmental elements. In recent times, there has been a growing awareness of the need for responsible stewardship of the environment to address global challenges such as climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss. The Quran, the holy book of Islam, provides guiding principles that, when understood and applied, align with the goals of environmental management. The Quranic verses emphasize the importance of ethical treatment of the environment, responsible resource use, and the role of humanity as custodians of the Earth. Many Islamic scholars and environmentalists draw upon these Quranic teachings to advocate for sustainable and eco-friendly practices.

Environment (habitat)

The Quran contains numerous verses that address the environment, the natural world, and the relationship between humanity and the Earth. These verses highlight the significance of stewardship, balance, and the ethical treatment of the environment. Habitat (environment) has been mentioned in various verses of Quran. It shows significance of environment in the eyes of Islam.

It is stated in Quran:

“Those who have migrated for the sake of Allah after they were oppressed, We shall give them a good place (descent habitat) in the world, and of course, the reward of the Hereafter is much greater, if they only knew!” (Quran, 16:41)

Ibn-e-Jarir Tabari states:

“The Quranic word ‘La nubawwīannahum’ means that they shall surely be settled. While the other Quranic term ‘La nuhllannahum wa lanuskinannahum’ follows as they shall be settled in charming environment, explaining that in Arabic linguistic usage the concept of aforementioned Quranic term involves both location (environment) and charming.”¹⁶

Ecosystem

The terrestrial environment and living beings have a deep connection. All living beings exist in the form of a community for their survival, where they are interdependent for the necessities of life. This mutual interaction is referred to in the terminology of environmental science as an environmental system or ecosystem. Trees, rocks, air, water, fire, soil, forests, plants, animals, minerals, birds, and humans themselves are elements of the Earth's vast environmental system (Ecosystem). The Quran also mentions the terrestrial environmental system and its essential environmental elements.

It is stated in Quran:

“There is no creature moving on the earth, nor a bird flying on its two wings, but they are all communities like you. We have not missed anything in the Book. Then, to their Lord all of them shall be gathered.” (Quran, 6:38)

It is stated in Tafsīr al-Manār:

“The care for preserving the various species of animals and showing kindness towards what Allah has subjected for mankind and others is derived from His saying: 'And there is no creature on the earth or bird that flies with its wings except communities like you.' (Quran, 6:38)”¹⁷

On Earth, besides humans, countless other creatures exist, and Allah alone knows their vast numbers. Islam commands humans to treat other creatures with kindness. Around humans, there are numerous living beings, both sentient and non-sentient. All these entities are part of the Earth's grand environmental system, and they depend on each other.

David writes:

“The environment does not belong to man alone nor to the particular group of species he favors most; the environment is for all living things, and all are interconnected like a massive, intricate web.”¹⁸

Environmental Mismanagement (Fasad)

The Quran prohibits environmental mismanagement (disorder/imbalance).

It is stated in Quran:

“Remember when He made you successors after _Ad and lodged you on earth (whereby) you make castles in its plains and hew out the mountains to build houses. So be mindful of the bounties of Allah, and do not go about the earth spreading disorder.” (Quran, 7:74)

It is explained in Tafsir ul Manaar in context of above holy text of Quran that God has made Earth suitable place for man.¹⁹ It is clearly commanded by God to avoid anti-environment activities (Fasad) in Earth because it is home place of all humans and other living beings.

Prohibition of Extravagance (Israf)

Holy Quran condemns extravagance of natural resources. This aligns with modern environmental management practices that prioritize efficiency, reduction of waste, and the responsible consumption of resources. Islam encourages individuals to appreciate the blessings provided by the environment and avoid unnecessary extravagance. The extra use of environmental elements has disrupted the natural balance of the Earth's environment. The solution to this concerning situation is found in the environmental teachings of the Quran, as illuminated in the texts of Holy Scripture. Multiple Quranic teachings provide comprehensive guidance on various aspects of the environment, particularly emphasizing the preservation of natural habitats and the appropriate utilization of environmental elements (air, water, plants, animals, soil). Various Quranic texts clearly condemn extravagance of any environmental element.

It is stated in Quran:

“Eat and drink and do not be extravagant. Surely, He does not like the extravagant.” (Quran, 7:31)

The aforementioned verse establishes the command for the balanced use of environmental elements. The preservation and management of the environmental elements is also encompassed in the understanding of the above holy text. Now, it becomes incumbent upon humans to utilize the Earth and its natural elements with utmost responsibility and wisdom.

Prevention of Imbalance

Disruption into the environmental system of the Earth is a severe form of corruption and disorder (Fasad fil-Ardh). A study of Quranic verses makes it clear that the root cause of the current environmental crisis is the anti-environmental activities of present-day humans. Modern humans, for their worldly comforts, conveniences, and material benefits, have established factories and industries, but they have not made the effort to adopt preventive measures for environmental degradation. It is evident that setting up such environmentally unfriendly factories will lead to environmental pollution and deadly diseases. The reckless actions and settlements of humans are causing the destruction and ruin of the natural environment. Disturbing the balance of the natural environmental system is outright disobedience to Allah Almighty. The Quran guides against causing environmental corruption and imbalance on the Earth.

It is stated in Quran:

“Do not make mischief on the earth after it has been set in order. That is good for you, if you are believers.” (Quran, 7:85)

In the Above mentioned verse, there is an injunction against causing imbalance (environmental change), while encouragement for the preservation of the natural environment is also found. It is established that the Quran prevents humans from damaging the Earth through negative activities. Earth is the only planet where the environment is suitable for the survival of human life. The Earth and its environment have been mentioned in the Quran to be suitable and balanced for human habitation. The Quranic text emphasizes the responsibility placed upon humans to maintain the environmental balance of the Earth for the survival of human life. It reminds every individual of their duty to avoid disrupting the environmental balance of the Earth. The Quran frequently mentions the concept of balance in the natural order of the universe. This Quranic principle advocates for moderation in usage of various elements. Environmental management, therefore, encourages practices that maintain ecological balance and avoid excessive exploitation of natural resources.

Stewardship and Responsibility

The Quran emphasizes that humans are stewards or custodians (Khalifah) of the Earth. This concept underscores the responsibility of individuals and communities to manage the environment wisely. Environmental management, according to Quranic principles, involves

recognizing our role as caretakers and ensuring the sustainable use of resources for the benefit of current and future generations.

In accordance with Quranic teachings, the responsibility of preserving the environment is imposed upon humans. It is incumbent upon humans to use environmental elements in a responsible manner, ensuring that future generations can also benefit from them fully. The present deteriorating condition of the environment poses a significant challenge for humans. Humans are responsible for the conservation of the Earth and the natural environment, as God has appointed them as His vicegerents and stewards on Earth.

It is stated in Quran:

“O Dawud, We have made you a vicegerent on earth, so judge between people with truth, and do not follow the selfish desire, lest it should lead you astray from Allah’s path. Surely those who go astray from Allah’s path will have a severe punishment, because they had forgotten the Day of Reckoning.” (Quran, 38:26)

Imam Zumakhshari states in his commentary that the man is appointed as vicegerent or steward on Earth. The verse seems to emphasize that this appointment is a form of succession, similar to how rulers may appoint successors over certain territories. The mention of being appointed from among the prophets who stood firm in the truth suggests a continuity of responsibility. Additionally, the advice to judge among people with justice and not to follow personal desires indicates the importance of upholding divine judgment in matters related to both religion and the world.²⁰ All things on Earth have been created for the service of humanity. In these things, there is a delicate balance and harmony. Humans are responsible for the preservation of this natural balance. Allah has established balance and proportion in the universe, and it is the responsibility of humans to ensure its continuity. Due to limited awareness about environmental management, issues such as environmental pollution are emerging. With the increasing population and growing necessities, the judicious and moderate use of water, animals, plants, and other environmental elements has become essential need of contemporary times.

Environmental cleanliness

The Quran encourages the management of a clean and pollution-free environment. Maintaining cleanliness and purity in the environment is a cherished practice in the eyes of the Creator of the universe. Various Quranic texts make it clear that Allah values those individuals who take care of cleanliness.

It is stated in Quran:

“They ask you about menstruation. Say: It is an impurity. So, keep away from women during menstruation; and do not have intimacy with them until they are cleansed. But when they are cleansed, then go to them from where Allah has commanded you. Surely Allah loves those who are most repenting, and loves those who keep themselves pure.” (Quran, 2:222)

Imam Baghwi illustrates in his commentary that He (God) loves those who purify themselves with water from impurities and filth.²¹ Allah Almighty has commanded humans to keep themselves safe from impurities and filth in terms of their souls and hearts. Additionally, there is an order to protect dwellings, places of worship, and their surroundings (natural environment) from pollution. Modern scientific research has proven that a polluted environment is a cause for the spread of dangerous pathogens (viruses and bacteria), posing an irreparable threat to human population. In the present era, the solution to the negative effects of environmental changes on human health and life lies in environmental preservation and cleanliness of environment.

Motivation of Tree Plantation

In the present era, large-scale deforestation is considered a significant cause of current climatic and environmental changes. The preservation of the natural environment on Earth and the survival of human life is the responsibility of every individual. It is incumbent upon everyone to contribute to the protection of as many plants and trees as possible, as trees contribute to keeping the air clean. Recent reports indicate that deforestation is occurring at an alarming rate worldwide. According to United Nations research, a huge forest area is cleared annually. According to scientists, the biggest threat to the environmental system at present is the rapid elimination of forests. According to these environmental organizations, deforestation is continuously increasing at global level. The Quran explicitly encourages and urges the planting of trees in various verses. There is found encouragement for planting trees on Earth, while cutting down trees without reason (deforestation) is strictly prohibited in Quran.

It is stated in Quran:

“Once he turns back, he moves about in the land trying to spread disorder in it, and to destroy the tillage and the stock; and Allah does not like disorder.” (Quran, 2:205)

The aforementioned verse simultaneously emphasizes preventing the destruction of forests and plantations (deforestation) on one hand, while encouraging the establishment of new forests on the other. In other words, this Quranic verse serves as an encouragement for the preservation of green belts and motivates for rise in green belts through afforestation. Imam Qurtabi in his commentary 'Al-Jami' li Ahkam al-Qur'an states that The mentioned Quranic verse encourages and motivates people to plant forests (afforestation) on Earth.²²

Qur'anic Environmental Paradigm and Eco-Practices

The Quran Garden-Pakistan, Quran Park-Dubai²³, and Quran Botanic Garden-Qatar²⁴ are practical examples of Quran's environmental management and encouragement. The Quran Gardens are an Eco-projects, representing practical examples of Quranic concepts related to the environment, serving as a beacon light for Muslim communities worldwide. The adorning Earth with trees, plants, and lush greenery is a distinctive expression of the Quranic Paradigm. Forests

serve as an excellent means to control air pollution because trees have the ability to filter and absorb harmful gases from the atmosphere.



Image: Quranic Park Dubai²⁵

Islamic Foundation for Ecology and Environmental Sciences (IFEES)²⁶ is a global Islamic environmental organization. Headquarter of IFEES is located in Birmingham, England. This organization conducts environmental workshops, publishes environmental magazines, and organizes seminars to promote Islamic and Quranic paradigm of environmental conservation. Additionally, it has established some Eco-Mosques to foster environmental management awareness in Islamic societies. The establishment of Islamic Foundation for Ecology and Environmental Sciences (IFEES) in England, along with Eco-Projects such as Quran Bagh in Pakistan, Quran Botanic Garden in Qatar, and Quran Park in Dubai, serves as practical examples of environmental management based on Quranic principles. Every Muslim, by acting upon the Quranic perspectives on the environment, must play a significant role in environmental conservation. Quranic paradigm of environment can contribute significantly to sustainable development. With 24% of the world's population being Muslim, they have the potential to make a meaningful contribution in management of environment and sustainable development.

Conclusion

Environmental management and sustainable development are the challenges of the modern era. No doubt, The progress of modern science and technology has made human life easier and prosperous, but it has also disrupted the Earth's natural environmental system. Due to the increasing trend of environmental changes, global warming, erratic rainfall, floods, droughts, infectious diseases, and skin diseases are emerging as complex problems. Without providing environmental facilities, material progress and well-being cannot be termed as sustainable development; rather, such progress is referred to as non-sustainable development. Therefore, the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have emphasized the prominence of environmental management. In addition, environmental conferences, known as the Conference of the Parties

(COP), are held annually to discuss and delve into environmental management. The Quran guides man in each field of life. Quranic principles of environmental conservation management and sustainability are natural, universal, inherent, long-lasting, global, and comprehensive, serving as a guiding light not only for Muslims but also for every person worldwide. In the current polluted and complex environmental situation, Quranic paradigm of environmental can play a crucial role in environmental conservation and sustainability. In conclusion, the principles outlined in the Quran offer valuable insights for individuals and communities engaged in environmental management. By incorporating these principles into our practices, we can contribute to a more sustainable and harmonious relationship with the environment. Environmental management guided by Quranic principles is not only a duty but also a pathway to preserving the beauty and integrity of the Earth for future generations. Every conscious person must contribute to management of environmental conservation and sustainable development.

References

¹UN Environment Program, Facts about Nature Crisis,

<https://www.unep.org/facts-about-nature-crisis> Accessed 10 September 2023.

²Holdgate, M. W. (1979). A perspective of environmental pollution. Cambridge University Press.

³Al-Darwaish A. (2014), Protection from aquatic and plant environmental pollution in the light of Islamic jurisprudence, Islāmabād: Sharia Academy International University Faisal Masjid.

⁴Al-Damkhi, A. M. (2008). Environmental ethics in Islam: principles, violations, and future perspectives. *International Journal of Environmental Studies*, 65(1), 11-31.

⁵Gada, M. Y. (2014). Environmental ethics in Islam: Principles and perspectives. *World Journal of Islamic History and Civilization*, 4(4), 130-138.

⁶HAYAT, I., MALIK, M. S., ALI, M. W., HUSNAIN, M., SHARIF, M., & HALEEM, A. (2023). THE ROLE OF ISLAMIC ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS IN THE ALLEVIATION OF CLIMATE CHALLENGES AND THE PRESERVATION OF ECOSYSTEM. *Russian Law Journal*, 11(11s).

⁷Cheema, A. M. C., & Saeed, R. A. (2023): The Role of Plantation in Controlling Environmental Pollution: An Islamic Perspective. *Research Journal Ulūm-e-Islāmīa*, 30(01), 55-74.

⁸Malik, A., & Grohmann, E. (Eds.). (2012). Environmental protection strategies for sustainable development (Vol. 520). Dordrecht, The Netherlands: Springer.

⁹Cheema, A. M., & Noureen, A. (2023). THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN CONTROLLING ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION AND ISLAMIC TEACHINGS: AN ANALYTICAL STUDY: The Islamic Culture" As-Saqafat-ul Islamia" *Research Journal-Sheikh Zayed Islamic Centre, University of Karachi*, 48(1).

¹⁰AM Cheema, F Alvi (2022). Qurānic Concept of Natural Resources and Modern Times: Research Review, *Research Journal Ulūm-e-Islāmīa* 29 (01), 1-16.

¹¹Usmani, M. M. T. (2020). *The Noble Quran: Meaning with explanatory notes*. Turath Publishing.

¹²McKay, C. P., & Stoker, C. R. (1989). The early environment and its evolution on Mars: Implication for life. *Reviews of Geophysics*, 27(2), 189-214.

¹³Gardeep R. (1992). *Dictionary of Environment*, India: Anmol Publications, 67.

¹⁴World Health Organization (12 October, 2023)., Climate Change Key Facts,

<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/climate-change-and-health> Accessed 15 October 2023.

¹⁵Agwan, A. R. (Ed.). (1997). *Islam and the Environment*, India: Institute of Objective Studies, 12.

¹⁶Muhammad bin Jarīr al-Tabarī, *Jāmae ul-Bayān fi Tawil ul-Qur'an*, (Beirut: Al-Risālah Foundation, 1420 AH), 17:206

¹⁷Rashīd, M. (1990), *Tafsīr al-Manār*, Egypt: Al-Hīat –ul-Misriyyah Al-‘Amat ul Lil Kitāb, 8:257

¹⁸David L. Bender & Bruno Leone (1989).,Animal Rights, U.S.A: Greenhaven Press, Inc.,164

¹⁹Rashīd, M. (1990), Tafsīr al-Manār, , 8:448

²⁰Zumakhsharī M. (1407 AH)., Al-Kashāf ‘un Haqaiq Gawāmaz al-Tanzīl, Beirut: Dār ul-Kitāb al-‘Arabī,4:89

²¹Baghwī, H.(1417 AH), Maālam al-Tanzil fi Tafsir ul-Qur’an, Riyādh: Dar Tayyaba for Publishing and Distribution, 1:259

²²Qurtubī,M. (1384 AH),Al-Jami'a Li Ahkām ul-Qur'an, Cairo: Dār ul-Kuttab ul-Misrya, 3:18

²³The project is divided into green areas comprising 12 orchards and greenhouses for growing the 51 types of plants mentioned in the Holy Quran, including: bananas, pomegranate, olives, watermelons, grapes, figs, garlic, leeks, onions, corn, lentils, wheat, cumin, ginger, dates, basil, pumpkin, cucumber and more. The garden also includes many stalls distributed in all orchards, on which is displayed information about the available types of plants and trees and their benefits in food and medicine, in addition to the Quranic verses that mention them. For more details click: <https://www.dm.gov.ae/projects/quranic-park/>

²⁴Bouftira, I. (2013, November). Ethnobotanical Study Of Medicinal Plants Belonging To The Qu'Ranic Botanical Garden Qatar And Their Therapeutic Benefits. In Qatar Foundation Annual Research Forum (Vol. 2013, No. 1, pp. BIOP-0165). Qatar: Bloomsbury Qatar Foundation Journals.

²⁵<https://www.dm.gov.ae/projects/quranic-park/> Access 12 April 2022

²⁶Khalid, F. M. (2004). Islamic basis for environmental protection. Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature, ed. Bron R Taylor, 1.