

## REPORT

### **International Conference on “BIODIVERSITY IN DESERT AREAS: PRESENT STATUS, THREATS AND REMEDIATION” ISESCO HEADQUARTERS, RABAT, KINGDOM OF MOROCCO**

The Network of Academy of Sciences in Islamic Countries (NASIC) under the auspices of IAP and with the collaboration of Hassan II Academy of Science & Technology Morocco and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) organized an International Conference on “Biodiversity in the Desert Areas: Present Status, Threats and Remediation” on 13<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> September, 2012 at ISESCO Headquarters, Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco.



Inaugural session of the Conference was held at the ISESCO Headquarter, and it was chaired by Director General, ISESCO, H. E. Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri.

After recitation from Holy Quran, proceedings of the inaugural session comprised of Welcome Address by Secretary General, NASIC, Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood Khan, address by President, NASIC, Prof. Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman, address by Ambassador of Pakistan H.E. Mrs. Tasnim Aslam and opening remarks by the chair H.E. Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri. At the end of the opening session Prof. Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman was awarded ISESCO Gold Medal for his services to the Science and Technology in Muslim Countries.

Conference was participated by 30 eminent scientists from Morocco and delegates from Egypt, Jordan, Libya, Republic of Tunis, Republic of Algeria, Afghanistan and Pakistan. (List of Participants attached)

The following three technical sessions were held; at the end of each session there were lively discussion.

- i) Desertification and conservation of desert ecosystems.
- ii) Case studies on preserving biodiversity and Environmental vulnerability.
- iii) Case studies on preserving biodiversity.

After the conclusion of the first day H.E. Mrs. Tasnim Aslam, Ambassador of Pakistan invited all the delegates to her residence for Dinner.

The purpose of this Conference was to bring NASIC member Academies at one forum to discuss issues, difficulties and solutions of biodiversity in desert areas. The desert covers one fifth of the Earth's land surface. Many of the wild plants are an important source of food for local communities. The desert biodiversity can be maintained and exploited sustainably by introducing community based resource management practices and establishment of ample protected areas for conserving threatened flora and fauna. In order to mitigate the problem of

biodiversity loss in these areas, efforts are required to provide alternate sources of energy to the rural communities such as solar, wind, biogas etc to reduce pressure on already fragile natural habitats which will lead to conserving biodiversity in desert ecosystem, stimulate partnerships; share and exchange experiences of successful technologies, innovations and strategies to conserve biodiversity in desert areas: Present Status, Threats and Remediation where National Academies can play a role to enhance Science and Technology for biodiversity and create more vision among National Academies within and outside NASIC member countries. The Conference generated a lot of enthusiasm and was well attended and successfully organized.

There was special session to formulate the recommendations and the following recommendations finalized.

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<http://www.nasic.org.pk/index.htm>

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