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## Climate change and Biodiversity Conservation and Role of Bandit dwellers in the Reserved Forests of Sindh

### Author's Details:

<sup>(1)</sup>Fritz Bohmler

Junkersstr.60, 88250 Weingarton Germany

<sup>(2)</sup>Mohammad Zafar Wassan

Conservator Forest-Larkana

<sup>(3)</sup>Prof.Dr.Faiz Muhammad Shaikh

Professor & Chairman-Deptt:of Agri:Economics , SZABAC-Dokri-Sindh-Pakistan

Email:faizs045@gmail.com

Rasool Bux Juneko –Director - Agri: Extension Sukkur

### Abstract:

*This research investigates the climate change BiodiveAt the first instance, the available resources on internet, history books, musical libraries, periodical, news articles and oral accounts of the people were reviewed.In addition various dialogue sessions were conducted with different stake holders who are directly related the Forests and Biodiversity Conservation.It was started from local people who are living inside the forest and their livelihood is dependant upon the forest and forestry related products.They are directly interconnected with these bandits for their kinship bonds, livelihood sustainability and other business activities related with the Forest. The second source of information were those forest functionaries who are performing their duties inside the forest.Their job description is related with different functions meant to protect, maintain and grow up these forests and they are working in limits smaller area units of forests territory. In the first phase, the Forest functionaries at the lowest tier were interviewed about the role of bandits to conserve and destruct the tree cover and biodiversity of the system.*

*Later on, senior management upto highest level of province was consulted to corelate the conservation with the activities and role bandits inside the forestsrsity Conservation and Role of Bandit dwellers in the Reserved Forests of Sindh. It was revealed that The forestry cover provides a camouflage to them in case of even aerial attacks. The entry of a common man is restricted by these outlaw and criminal elements, as they are afraid from the attack of other the militants of their rival tribes. Furthermore, they cooperate with the forest department in the case of regeneration operations in the abkalni ( inundation) seasons.In these operations the seed of indigenous trees is broadcasted in the blank areas of the forest.These trees are sown with a view to seed, grow up and enhance tree cover area of the forest lands.They provide security cover to the staff of forest department and labourers who are hired by the forest functionaries to avail the chance of flood water for regeneration of trees.*

*The negative role of these bandits in terms of deforestation and biodiversity destruction has also been reported by some respondents. Especially, in the decade of 90s the decoits were causing to deforestate the forest land and selling these woodlots for income generation and monetary benefits.*

**Key Words:** Biodiversity, Conservation, Role, Bandit dwellers Reserved Forests of Sindh

### Introduction

Generally, the forests are considered as safe heaven for outlaws who abscond from the writ of law and corridors of the justice. As per local accounts, these offensive and rebellious attitudes are developed for different sociological and economic factors. These factors are attributed to long-standing enmities, police atrocities, long standing tribal clashes and poverty.The weaker law and order system, judicial lacunae and

inequalities developed the sense of deprivations among the society. All above given factors and inequalities added fuel to these complexities. Furthermore, the poverty woes has further worsened the situation and poverty affected inhabitants abiding around the forests are turned it into criminals.

Historically, it is fact the forests of subcontinent remained the abode of criminal. Various historical characters got the fame as the heroes of the society, as they revolted against the tyrant rulers and got refuge in the forests. There are different factors that compel the a normal persons as the criminals.

The presence of these decoits had different dynamics in terms of biodiversity conservation and forest Cover security and biodiversity Conservation. In some cases they deforest and clear forests for money gains and short time crops cultivation of cash crops. In some cases, these outlaw element secure the trees and guard these forestry plantation covers. These forest covers are a natural camouflage for these outlaw elements. Especially, the the forests of Indus eco- regions remained the abode of criminal. These forests are located in the tail of river Indus and the climatic parameters are favourable for xerophytic species which develop thorny projection along the branches of trees. This thorny vegetative growth limits the access of law enforcers ultimately they got mobility from one place to another place.

This study is meant to understand the anthropocentric attitudes of the people who are abiding inside the forests. The study will review the historical and scientific literature available on the history of these criminals who absconded to the forests and their role to conserve or destruct the forestry cover. In addition, the study is focussed upon the role of these outlaws in the terms of conservation, deforestation and biodiversity destruction.

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## Materials and Methods

At the first instance, the available resources on internet, history books, musical libraries, periodical, news articles and oral accounts of the people were reviewed. In addition various dialogue sessions were conducted with different stake holders who are directly related the Forests and Biodiversity Conservation. It was started from local people who are living inside the forest and their livelihood is dependant upon the forest and forestry related products. They are directly interconnected with these bandits for their kinship bonds, livelihood sustainability and other business activities related with the Forest. The second source of information were those forest functionaries who are performing their duties inside the forest. Their job description is related with different functions meant to protect, maintain and grow up these forests and they are working in limits smaller area units of forests territory. In the first phase, the Forest functionaries at the lowest tier were interviewed about the role of bandits to conserve and destruct the tree cover and biodiversity of the system.

Later on, senior management upto highest level of province was consulted to corelate the conservation with the activities and role bandits inside the forests. In the same way, the opinion of bandits living inside the forests was sought through indirect sources. The scope study was further broadened when other stake holders who are not directly related to safeguard the forest cover but they are obliged to control the crime.

They were consulted about the role of decoits in deforestation and biodiversity destructions. At the last, different research journal on the subjects of forest, criminology, biodiversity and anthropology were referred. It was meant to know the role of bandits for the biodiversity conservation and tree cover be known at the global level.

### **Results and Discussions**

The role of bandits in the terms of Tree Cover Improvement and Biodiversity Conservation

It was told by the forest dwellers that in some cases the decoits who are living inside the forest are protecting the forest as they don't allow to cut the trees. They don't allow any activity around their hideouts for their own security from the law enforcement agencies. The forestry cover provides a camouflage to them in case of even aerial attacks. The entry of a common man is restricted by these outlaw and criminal elements, as they are afraid from the attack of other the militants of their rival tribes. Furthermore, they cooperate with the forest department in the case of regeneration operations in the abkalni ( inundation) seasons. In these operations the seed of indigenous trees is broadcasted in the blank areas of the forest. These trees are sown with a view to seed, grow up and enhance tree cover area of the forest lands. They provide security cover to the staff of forest department and labourers who are hired by the forest functionaries to avail the chance of flood water for regeneration of trees.

The negative role of these bandits in terms of deforestation and biodiversity destruction has also been reported by some respondents. Especially, in the decade of 90s the decoits were causing to deforest the forest land and selling these woodlots for income generation and monetary benefits.

The forests of Hala Matiari and Jamshoro along the national highway and Indus high were the main refuge off the the bandits. In addition to commit the other crimes they used to sale the woodlot of trees. They intentionally connived with wood thieves for want of money. The forest Functionaries were restricted to enter the forest areas. Many Forest functionaries at the level of Senior Management were were abducted during their visit to the forests. Later on, they were released after paying the ransom. In the backdrop of these criminals activities of these bandits hundreds of hectre of forest cover removed from the forest lands of Dadu, larkana, Hyderabad and Naushehro Feroz districts of the Sindh province. These nefarious activities caused a heavy loss to the endemic biodiversity of a particular ecological zone of riverain forests. The removal of tree cover caused the distrubance to the ecological systems and the habitat of the systems fauna was annihilated by these anthropogenic activities, ultimately, the system was destroyed at whole.

### **The Anthrocentric Attitudes of Forest Dwellers.**

The foundation of nature is laid upon the phenomenal Biological processes and cycles which are being operated spontaneously by the forces of nature. These processes are disturbed the homo sepians who played the wrong with these natural process for his own benefits. The evolution of homo sepians has given new discoveries and inventions to the humanity. But, these discoveries and inventions caused the distrubances with the environment of the planet. The forest, an important component of the nature, is a basic source to sequestrate the carbon and other greenhouse emissions, is removed in the name of development. Millions of acres of forest cover is changed to Agriculture patches in the name food and shelter. The forest dwellers caused various anthropocentric interventions on forest landscape. In the case of bandit dwellers who work inside beyond any control of law and operating regulations caused indiscriminate loss to the ecological systems. At the first instance, the clearance of the forest area reduced which was meant to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions. Secondly, the use of fuel wood derived from the trees and other flora caused the release of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Thirdly, the loss of flora caused to destroy the fauna which were interrelated with the flora of the ecosystem for the survival. In aftermath of all these anthropogenic interventions the whole ecosystem of the reserved forests of Sindh was finished. This caused a big vacuum for the endemic biodiversity of Sindh.

The historical review of the banditry and its relationship with the forest cover.

The global folk literature cites various references, eulogies, ballads, songs and quotes which represents their popular role amongst the public. These bandits revolted against the ruling class who were ruling and exploiting the common people of their territory. Generally, these revolts were against the exorbitant taxes, cruelties, despotic attitudes and atrocities committed by dictator and autocrat rulers. They were considered

heroes even they have committed the heinous crimes of Murder, robbery and decoits. Their criminal activities were seen as militant struggle with political agenda to get rid of dictator rulers of different rulers.

It starts from Robin Hood who revolted against the Sheriff of Nottingham and absconded in the forests. The Sherwood Forests were his hideouts in Nottingham. He organized a gang or band of bandits who used to rob the rich and distributed their looted wealth among the poor of vicinity. In the same sequence, the banditry history of subcontinent is filled with such characters who revolted against the government for their unjust policies. They are popular characters of the folklore of older times.

The history of banditry in subcontinent is not different from the European History about the folklore character of Robin Hood. In the subcontinent, different bandits got their place in the popular ballads, songs and folklore literature. The name of Dullah Bhatti, Rai Ahmed Khan Kharal, Sultana Daku, and Maan Singh appeared in the classical folklore literature of Subcontinent. The recent history of banditry has the same characters like Sultana and Robin Hood. In Sindh, Paroo Chandio, Mohib Sheedi are popular characters of present banditry history. They are being eulogized like Robin Hood and for their charity and good will conduct for the poor. Same like the past characters found their hideouts in the thick riverain forests of Sindh. The Paroo Chandio were operating from the Sona Bindi Forests where as Mohib Sheedi was lurking in the thick riverain forests of Matiari.

### Conclusion

It is concluded that Forests are being depleted on account of anthropogenic interventions, ultimately causing the biodiversity loss on the planet. It has been cited from different historical annals, that Forests remained the hide out of the criminal outlaws who rebelled against the despotic rulers weaker judicial system and social inequalities. However, their role to protect the natural resource of forest by ecological means is disputed. In some cases they restricted and limited the anthropogenic activities. These restrictions to Forests tamed the anthropogenic interventions which ultimately improved the health of ecosystems. On the other hand, they caused huge losses to biodiversity by allowing deforestation for money gains. It is not only limited to the monetary benefits of the bandits but their supporter who are conniving with them in the crimes are beneficiary from these illegal wood cutting trade and business.

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