

8th Edition , 2011

# Al Fikr

An Islamic Scholarly Publication



Muslim Majlis  
University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

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## Islamic Perspective of Environmental Protection

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Islam provides a complete way of life for all of mankind in this Universe. It is divine guidance from Almighty Allah, the creator of this Universe. It covers all things people do in their life time. It shows us the best way to conduct our private and public affairs, elaborating a person's duties towards his Creator (Hakkulah) and to others (Hukukul Ibadath). Therefore, every human being must act according to it and are answerable for each and every action of them on the Day of Judgment. Man, as the best creation of this world and the trustee of the earth, has great responsibilities and accountability towards nature. The resources have been given to mankind to be used for their day to day needs without compromising the environment and human lives. It is followed by either reward or punishment based on their behavior. This is clearly mentioned both in the Quran and Sunnah.

Today, countries struggle to protect and conserve the environment for the betterment of future generations. The population growth, infrastructure developments, industrializations agricultural activities, urbanization etc. are interconnected, but are contrasting elements in the context of environmental conservation. As there are no alternatives, balancing of these activities is a vital role of Policy Makers. In this point of view, environmental consciousness became the center point of economic development activities since 1970's.

In the early 1970's, the concept of "sustainable development" became a common theme as concerns grew over the burgeoning world population and increasingly polluted environment. One of the turning points of sustainable development was the United Nation's Conference on "Human Environment" in Stockholm in 1972. The Brundtland Report (1987) of the World Commission on Environment and Development characterized sustainable development as "*development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generation to meet their own needs*". The term "sustainable development" was further popularized by the Rio Summit on environment and development in 1992, which approved the action program, Agenda 21, under which world governments agreed to promote sustainable development nationally and in international co-operation. (Asia and Pacific Forestry Commission (2000).