

**BAS-AASSA Symposium on
NATURE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

07-08 October 2023

Recommendations

DHAKA DECLARATION

Judicial exploration of natural resources for sustainable development is a major challenge in the present world in the context of global climate crisis with adverse consequences on livelihood, health and wellbeing of the people. For achieving the universally endorsed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), sustainable use of natural resources is a prerequisite. The issue is especially important for rapidly developing countries like Bangladesh where aligning development with sustainability at all dimensions and levels is highly vital. Under this perspective, the present BAS-AASSA Symposium has been organized (with major support from IAP) to address the causes, effects and solutions of the problem related to nature for sustainable development.

Following the deliberations and discussions during the Theme Lecture and twenty-seven Invited Lectures on various aspects of the problem, an interactive open discussion was held in the Concluding Session of the Symposium. During the Session it was decided that the recommendations of the Symposium would be compiled in the form of a '**Dhaka Declaration**'.

DHAKA DECLARATION

On the basis of the background documents and deliberations during the Theme Lecture and Invited Lectures (including the discussions that followed), the Participants of the 'Nature for Sustainable Development Symposium', held during 07-08 October 2023 in Dhaka, Bangladesh, unanimously declares the following points to be collectively termed as 'Dhaka Declaration'.

1. Sustainable use of natural resources must be a global priority to achieve SDGs and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Lower Middle-Income Countries (LMICs) should be further prioritized in the relevant Policies and Programs;
2. Sustainable utilization of nature should be considered as a prime moral issue with obligations not only to the present but also to our future generations as well;

3. AASSA may undertake a SWOT study among Member Countries and create a Situation Analysis document to identify the context-specific problems, prospects and suggestions in this challenging area;
4. Multisectoral nature of the challenge needs to be properly appreciated and, also the importance of inter-country collaboration may be strengthened with AASSA playing a facilitating and coordinating role;
5. Transboundary approaches for research and development projects needs to be planned in related fields with involvement of the relevant scientists and social workers of the Member Countries;
6. Promotion of academia-industry collaboration as well as academia-government interaction (a mostly neglected area in many countries) should be emphasized to enhance awareness and translation of research into practice and to generate evidence-based policy by the Government and Inter-Government (Inter-country) Agencies/ Organizations.
7. Sustainability in all aspects (environmental, economic and social) should be adequately scrutinized for all the Development Project Proposals (DPPs) of the AASSA member countries and the national Academies of Sciences may play a role in this regard;
8. Areas for bilateral and multilateral areas (such as environment, agriculture, biodiversity, energy, food & nutrition security, and health) should be identified and coordinated actions should be initiated to address some of the prioritized issues.
9. Worsening of equity, particularly among vulnerable groups, is a major consequence of unsustainable use of nature and ensuring equity should be a major focus in all initiatives related to sustainable use of nature.