



LAL SOHANRA VISIT

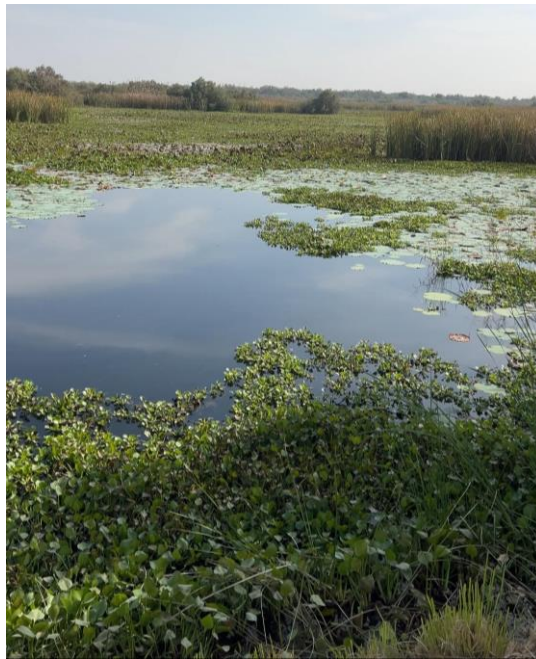
NOVEMBER 19, 2025

**MANAGEMENT OF SUSTAINABLE
AGRICULTURE AND BIODIVERSITY
CONSERVATION IN THE LAL
SOHANRA UNESCO BIOSPHERE
RESERVE**

Introduction of Lal Sohanra National

Management of Sustainable Agriculture and Biodiversity Conservation in the Lal Sohanra Biosphere

Lal Sohanra Biosphere Reserve is one of Pakistan's largest protected landscapes, located about 35 km east of Bahawalpur. Spanning nearly 200,000 hectares, it represents a rare ecological blend of desert, forest, and wetland ecosystems. The reserve is home to diverse flora and fauna, including the endangered blackbuck, chinkara, and several species of migratory birds. On November 19, 2025, a delegation from MNS University of Agriculture Multan and TARA Group visited Lal Sohanra Biosphere Reserve to brief the UNESCO Country Head, Mr. Fuad Pashayev, and his team about ongoing and upcoming conservation and sustainability initiatives at RD-50.



Arrival

Upon arrival, the delegation was welcomed by the field staff of Lal Sohanra National Park. The UNESCO team was introduced to the landscape's ecological zones and ongoing conservation programs. The visit was organized by the Convener, UNESCO Chair, at MNS University of Agriculture, Multan. The team received an overview of the commanded and uncommanded zones and the environmental management practices being carried out within the biosphere reserve.



02

Field Visit Summary

- **Briefing on Seed Ball Technology**

Dr. Muqarrab Ali explained the Seed Ball Technology developed for the uncommanded dry forest area of Lal Sohanra. This initiative aims to improve vegetation cover, enhance native plant survival, reduce carbon footprints, and restore wildlife habitats in line with UNESCO conservation themes.



- **Plantation Strategy for CO₂ Absorption**

Dr. Tanveer Ahmad presented a plantation model focusing on high and medium CO₂ absorption species. These climate-resilient plants will support habitat stabilization and align ecosystem restoration with UNESCO biosphere guidelines.



- **Canal Water Purification Using Crop Residue**

Dr. Zeeshan Ali described a low-cost crop residue-based filtration system designed to purify canal water. This filtered water can be used for domestic purposes, improving livelihoods and promoting circular economy practices in the region.



02

- **Support for Local Farmers**

Dr. Sagheer from TARA Group briefed the UNESCO team about providing high-quality seeds, fertilizers, and technical assistance to improve agricultural productivity and strengthen climate-resilient farming practices.



Discussion with Officials

UNESCO Country Head, Mr. Fuad Pashayev, appreciated the efforts of MNS University and TARA Group. He expressed his vision to make Lal Sohanra one of the most visited natural biosphere reserves in Pakistan, promoting circular bioeconomy and long-term ecological resilience. He also showed interest in continued collaboration with the university for future conservation programs.



04

04

Community Interaction

The delegation visited local communities, Blackbuck Conservation Park, Patisar Lake, and winter migratory bird habitat zones. These visits highlighted the ecological importance of Lal Sohanra as a critical desert–wetland interface. The UNESCO team expressed strong interest in collaborating with MNS University on landscape restoration, biodiversity conservation, water purification innovations, and community livelihood enhancement.

Conclusion

The visit to Lal Sohanra Biosphere Reserve on November 19, 2025, provided an opportunity to present ongoing conservation and sustainability initiatives to UNESCO. The combined efforts of MNS University, TARA Group, and local partners were acknowledged for their dedication to ecological restoration and rural development. UNESCO expressed interest in strengthening collaborations aimed at long-term management, conservation, and sustainable development of the biosphere reserve.

