

Minutes of the First meeting of Provincial REDD+ Management Committee AJ&K on 7th April, 2017 at Forest Secretariat AJ&K

The 1st meeting of the Provincial REDD+ Management Committee (PRMC) held under the chairmanship of the Secretary Forests, AKLASC, Wildlife and Fisheries, Government of Azad Jammu & Kashmir on 7th April, 2017 at Forest Secretariat. The meeting was attended by the members of PRMC and representatives from National REDD+ Office, Ministry of Climate Change, and Government of Pakistan (**Annex I**).

The meeting started with the recitation of Holy Quran followed by a brief introduction of all the participants and welcome remarks by the chair, Mr. Zahoor Ul Hasan Gilani, Secretary Forests, AKLASC, Wildlife and Fisheries Department. He requested the participants to give their feedback and recommendations for REDD+ Readiness arrangements in AJK. He also highlighted the importance of forests of AJK and mentioned that that 88% of the total area covers the catchment of Mangle dam reservoir and needs long term measures to protect the area from flash floods and land sliding. He appreciated the role of Ministry of Climate change for their efforts and support extended whenever required.

AGENDA ITEM 1: INTRODUCTION TO CONCEPT OF REDD+ AND COUNTRY PRE – REQUISITES FOR REDD+ READINESS

Mr. Kamran Hussain, National Forest Inventory (NFI) Expert from National REDD+ Office appraised the participants about the objectives of the meeting i.e. (i) to sensitize the Provincial REDD+ Management Committee (PRMC) on the process and state of progress on REDD+ Readiness Preparation for Pakistan, (ii) review and discuss the provincial progress of Gilgit-Baltistan on REDD+ governance and management arrangements, (iii) to get endorse the additional budget requirements for provincial REDD+ readiness activities and (iv) sensitize and take on board the members of the PRMC to ensure support, transparency and facilitate effective and efficient communication and coordination for successful implementation of REDD+ Readiness activities in AJ & K. He also informed the members that the financial needs will be incorporated in Mid-Term Report along with request proposal for additional funding to be submitted by Government of Pakistan to FCPF of the World Bank. He also mentioned that proposal for additional funding is being prepared in close consultation with the provinces and territories by giving due consideration to the provincial REDD+ Readiness requirements.

Thereafter, Mr. Kamran gave detailed presentation on the concept of REDD+ and the country pre-requisites for REDD+ Readiness. He referred to decisions of Conference of Parties (COP) of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that REDD+ is to be implemented in

three phases i.e. phase 1 (awareness raising, capacity building and institutional strengthening), phase 2 (further capacity building and piloting) and phase 3 (result based financing) and that this project will bring Pakistan to be in phase 2 or early phase 3 by mid of 2018. He also mentioned that four pre-requisites i.e. (i) National REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan, (ii) National Forest Monitoring System (iii) Forest Reference Emission Levels/ Forest Reference Levels and (iv) Safeguard Information System should developed by the country under the Cancun Agreement. He further explained the National and Provincial REDD+ Readiness Management arrangements and its current implementation status which was much appreciated by the participants. Thereafter, the NFI Expert requested Mr. Afrasiyab, GIS Expert from National REDD+ Office to appraise the participants on the progress of Pakistan's Readiness Process.

AGENDA ITEM 2: PROGRESS ON THE NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL REDD+ READINESS

Mr. Afrasiyab mentioned that various mile stones have been achieved at national level under REDD+ Readiness Grant by the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) of the World Bank (WB) to strengthen the capacity of Pakistan to monitor deforestation and reduce forest and land use change related greenhouse gas emissions through a socially, environmentally, and technically sound national REDD+ strategy.

Mr. Kamran also added that Provincial REDD+ Management Committees (PRMCs) have been notified by all the provinces and the first meeting of Provincial REDD+ Management Committee in Gilgit-Baltistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has already been done and budget has been finalized for those provinces.

Mr Abdur Rauf Qureshi, the provincial REDD+ focal point for AJ&K, briefed the participants about the progress of REDD+ Readiness activities in AJ&K and informed about the meeting held a day earlier with the representatives of National REDD+ Office, Ministry of Climate Change to identify missing items and budget requirements for provincial REDD+ Readiness to support implementation of National REDD+ Strategy. He informed participants that the forest department of AJ&K has established the REDD+ Cell, nominated members for National Working Groups on different thematic areas of REDD+, notified the Provincial REDD+ Management Committee and various officers of Forest Department of AJ&K have participated in different capacity building workshops and trainings organized by Ministry of Climate Change from time to time. However, it is very unfortunate that due to limited financial resources, the Readiness activities could not be implement in AJ & K except for those management arrangements supported by Ministry of Climate Change through FCPF grant. He emphasized to extend the management arrangements at district and local level for effective coordination for REDD+ Readiness arrangements because there are 10 districts and 4 circles in AJ&K. He also referred to the progress of Government of

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit – Baltistan and mentioned that both the governments have established their REDD+ offices and REDD+ staff on permanent basis. HE also proposed that Forest Department should prepare and submit a PC-I to competent forum for its approval through public funds.

AGENDA ITEM 3: PRESENTATION ON THE ADDITIONAL BUDGET REQUIREMENTS FOR PROVINCIAL REDD+ READINESS ACTIVITIES IN KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

Mr. Kamran Hussain briefed the participants about various components of R-PP for which additional funding is being sought from the FCPF to fulfill the provincial requirements for REDD+ Readiness. He informed the participants that after a fruitful discussion with the provincial REDD+ Focal Point a tentative budget has been designed. He shared the detailed budget with the participants which, after successive discussions, was finally endorsed by all the participants.

AGENDA ITEM 4: DISCUSSION

Dr. Abdul Aziz Qureshi, Deputy Director Livestock, discussed the major reasons of forest degradation associated with livestock rearing and high dependency on grazing of livestock by local communities. He suggested to give due consideration on the provision of incentives to such communities so that their dependency on forest will be reduced.

Mr. Aurangzeb Director General, Climate Change Centre, presented his concern that for the successful completion of R-PP we should provide extensive consultation to communities and stakeholders at provincial, district and local level.

Attique Ur Rehman, Regional General Manager of NRSP referred to different potential micro funding sources for agriculture and livelihood and committed for his continuous support to attract such micro funds to support REDD+ Readiness process in AJ & K.

Decisions:

Based on the discussion, following decisions were taken;

- I.* The REDD+ Coordination Committees will be notified at district level under the chairmanship of conservation of forests of the respective forest circle to ensure effective coordination, sensitization, awareness and monitoring of REDD+ activities at community level.

Action by the Provincial REDD+ Cell/ Forest Secretariat, Government of AJ & K

2. The PRMC will be revised after identifying more relevant stakeholders including representatives from EPA, AJ&KRSP and Azad Kashmir Power Development Organization

Action by the Provincial REDD+ Cell/ Forest Secretariat, Government of AJ & K

3. The PRMC will meet after every four months to monitor and coordinate the progress of REDD+ Readiness activities.

Action by REDD+ Cell through Forest Secretariat

4. A PC-1 will be developed to support the REDD+ Readiness activities through public funds. In this regard request will be send to OIGF for technical facilitation and guidance through National REDD+ Office to prepare the PC-1.

Action by REDD+ Cell through Forest Secretariat

The meeting ended with closing remarks by the Chair who thanked all the participants for their valuable inputs and agreement and endorsement of various decisions. Thereafter, the participants were served with lunch hosted by National REDD+ Office.

ANNEX I: List of participants of Provincial REDD+ Management Committee

Meeting of REDD+ Management Committee
Held in Committee Room Secretariat Forest Muzaffarabad on 07-04-2011

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