

Minutes of the Seventh Meeting of National Steering Committee on REDD+

Date: 09 April, 2018

Venue: Committee Room of the Ministry of Climate Change

Seventh meeting of the National Steering Committee on REDD+ was convened on 09th April, 2018 in the Committee Room of Ministry of Climate Change under the Chairmanship of the Federal Secretary Ministry of Climate Change. The Chairman welcomed the members, specifically, the foreign experts and provincial participants who travelled long distances to attend this important meeting. The list of participants is attached as **Annex 1**.

AGENDA ITEM 1: REVIEW OF PROGRESS OF IMPLEMENTATION ON DECISIONS OF SIXTH MEETING OF NSC ON REDD+.

Dr. Ghulam Akbar, the National REDD+ Coordinator (NRC), briefed about the progress of decisions made during sixth meeting as under:

S. No.	Sixth Meeting Decisions	Implementation Status
1.	The meetings of the NSC on REDD+ will be convened on quarterly basis and next meeting will be held during the month of April 2018.	Implemented
2.	Female members of NSC shall be designated by Punjab, KP, AJK and GB at the earliest.	Representatives of the Punjab, KP, AJK and GB informed that nominations are in process and shall be communicated soon.
3.	Provinces shall directly seek NOC for field visits of foreign experts	Decision conveyed to the Provinces/Territories.
4.	Follow up on the 'surveying and mapping permission' of Arbonaut Oy with Survey of Pakistan (SoP) by WWF-Pakistan.	WWF-Pakistan representative informed that SoP has requested Ministry of Defense to analyze the matter and provide requisite permission.
5.	The Secretary MoCC will write a DO letter to the Chief Secretary Sindh requesting him to include PC-1 on REDD+ from Sindh Forest Department in the current year's ADP	Representative of Sindh informed that as a result of the Secretary MoCC D.O. letter, the PC I on REDD+ has now been included in ADP for 2018-19.
6.	The hard copies of the progress reports submitted by the consulting firms will be shared with the provinces/territories for feedback.	The hard copies of the reports were dispatched on January 29, 2018. The provincial representatives were reminded to share feedback.
7.	The consultants shall ensure that all provincial concerns are addressed.	Decision conveyed to the Consulting Firms.
8.	The Final Report of National REDD+ Strategy should include report of consultations with real stakeholders.	Decision conveyed to Indufor/CHIP Training & Consulting.
9.	Arbonaut OY & WWF Pakistan must conduct field sampling exercise in FATA in close coordination and with support of Focal Point, FATA.	Conservator FATA informed that the decision is being implemented.
10.	All provinces, AJK, FATA and GB shall furnish proposals for housing of the institutional arrangements to host the forestry data and registry.	Discussions were held with REDD+ Focal Persons and members of working groups in the 'Working Group Meeting' dated January 15-16, 2018.
11.	The provinces shall take note of risks in designing the information system, so that mistakes from other countries are not repeated in Pakistan.	Decisions conveyed to the Provinces/Territories.
12.	Working Group meetings shall be held regularly as per work plan.	Being implemented.
13.	SDPI shall arrange more exposure visits for journalists.	SDPI has been reminded many times to arrange exposure visits for the journalists.

14.	SDPI to engage parliamentarians in an organized manner.	SDPI has been repeatedly conveyed to implement this decision.
15.	Case for establishing the National REDD+ Office beyond the project period shall be pursued and progress put up to the Secretary	Case moved by MoCC to MS Wing of Establishment Division.

AGENDA ITEM 2: UP-TO-DATE PROGRESS OF REDD+ READINESS PREPARATION GRANT OF FCPF.

The NRC presented an update and highlighted that significant progress has been achieved towards implementation of the R-PP and briefly explained the progresses of the consulting firms as under;

Consulting Assignment	Implemented By	Current Status
Develop Forest Reference Emission Levels/Forest Reference Level and National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS)-Measurement and Reporting and Verification (MRV) System for REDD+	Arbonaut Oy Ltd. and World Wide Fund for Nature – Pakistan	The mid-term report was submitted which has been sent back to Arbonaut Oy Ltd. with comments from National REDD+ Office (NRO).
Development of the National REDD+ Strategy and its Implementation Framework for Pakistan	Indufor and Chip Training and Consulting	The draft final report has been submitted which is under review by the NRO.
Preparing a Feedback and Grievance Redressal Mechanisms (FGRM) for REDD+ after an Explicit Assessment of Existing FGRM & Developing Safeguards Information System (SIS) and Social and Environmental Management Framework (ESMF) through Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA)	Climate Law and Policy and Hagler Bailly Pakistan	The mid-term report was submitted which has already been approved.
REDD+ Awareness and Outreach	Sustainable Development Policy Institute	The mid-term report was submitted which has been approved.
Designing of REDD+ Payments for Environmental Services	Pakistan Forest Institute	The interim report was submitted which is currently being reviewed by the NRO.

Discussion:

A rich discussion was held on various aspects of the progress on which the NRO clarified that the project operates under World Bank procurement rules & ensured that all reports generated by the project are shared with the provinces and are available on the website www.redd-pakistan.org.

Decision:

- All consultants shall ensure quality of deliverables as per Terms of References.
- All provincial focal points shall share progress reports with relevant stakeholders.

AGENDA ITEM 3: PROGRESS UPDATE BY INDUFOR & CHIP CONSULTING & TRAINING PAKISTAN ON “DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONAL REDD+ STRATEGY AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK FOR PAKISTAN”.

The National REDD+ Coordinator informed the meeting that the strategy consultancy is very important and that the consultants have this time come up with a very good report as compared to their previous work. The Chair expressed displeasure due to absence of team leader/poor quality of voice in the Skype presentation which was not understandable. The Chair further asked why the local partner consultant is not present to give the presentation like all other consultancy firms. Mr. Tayyab responded that since Jaime is Team Leader and due to the technical nature of presentation, it was not possible for him to give the progress. The Chair took serious note of absence of local technical partners who could answer to the queries of the National Steering Committee. The IGF reminded the consultant to engage with real stakeholders including the district administration that deals with payments to forest owners.

Ms. Saima Younus, Addl. Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi stressed the need to consult the forest owners and the district administration, this was also seconded by Mr. Allaudin Khan, Chairman Guzara Committee Hazara and Mr. Mazhar Ali Qasim, forest owner KP.

Decisions:

- The Chair showed serious concerns on the progress of Indufor and CHIP for developing National REDD+ Strategy.
- The Chair directed the NRC to stop their further payments until they fulfill the contractual obligations in letter and spirit. He further desired that a separate case of this contract may be submitted to him.
- The consultants to submit explanation for missing relevant stakeholders.

AGENDA ITEM 4: PROGRESS UPDATE BY ARBONAUT OY & WWF-PAKISTAN ON “DEVELOP FOREST REFERENCE EMISSION LEVELS/FOREST REFERENCE LEVEL AND NATIONAL FOREST MONITORING SYSTEM (NFMS)-MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING AND VERIFICATION (MRV) SYSTEM FOR REDD+”.

Mr. Jarno Hämäläinen, team leader, Arbonaut Oy, gave a brief presentation on the status of the consultancy, National Forest Monitoring System and Forest Reference Emission Levels. He informed that initially the work was delayed due to administrative issues that have been overcome and can guarantee that the assignment will be completed within the given timeframe.

The NRC requested the Chair to take decision on housing the data and registry under this assignment. Various options for housing the data were deliberated in the meeting.

Decisions:

- The data and the registry will be housed in the GCISC, MoCC after expiry of the project.
- The GCISC should also be included as a member of the National Steering Committee of the R-PP.
- The Web Portal will be linked with the website of National REDD+ Office. i.e. www.redd-pakistan.org

AGENDA ITEM 5: PROGRESS UPDATE BY CLIMATE LAW & POLICY (CLP) AND HAGLER BAILLY PAKISTAN PREPARING ON FEEDBACK AND GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL MECHANISMS (FGRM) FOR REDD+.

Ms. Daniela Rey Christen, Team Leader CLP gave presentation about the assignment. She discussed the Progress on Safeguards Information System and Institutional arrangements for the SIS. She also informed about the planned Working Group and Stakeholders meetings in Islamabad during April 2018.

Dr. Ghulam Akbar, NRC, stated that all the consulting firms after consulting the provinces and stakeholders shall advise how the results of their assignments shall be integrated.

Decision:

- It was decided that the SIS website will be linked with National REDD+ Office's website till the final decision on hosting the data at national level is made.

AGENDA ITEM 6: PROGRESS UPDATE ON "DESIGNING OF REDD+ PAYMENTS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES" BY PAKISTAN FOREST INSTITUTE, PESHAWAR.

Mr. Anwar Ali, representing Pakistan Forest Institute presented the up to date progress of the study and informed on planned activities to achieve the objectives through provincial workshop. Mr. Anwar Ali assured that PFI shall complete the assignment within allocated time.

Decision:

- Pakistan Forest Institute will develop the resource material as per contract simultaneously with the design of payment for environmental services.

AGENDA ITEM 7: DISCUSSION ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES AND WAY FORWARD.

The meeting ended with and from thanks to the Chair. The Chair in his concluding remarks emphasized that the money we receive from donors is for the people of Pakistan and we expect that International Firms engaged in different consulting assignments under this project come up with tangible progress and their presentations should demonstrate utmost clarity and should be meaningful.

WMA