

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

Date: 23 January, 2018

Venue: Committee Room of the Ministry of Climate Change

The sixth meeting of the National Steering Committee (NSC) on REDD+ was held under the Chairmanship of the Federal Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC). The meeting started with the welcome remarks by the Chair who thanked all the participants, in particular the foreign experts who travelled long distances to attend this important meeting. List of participants is attached (**Annex – I**).

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

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

S. No.	Fifth Meeting Decisions	Implementation Status
1.	The Meetings of NSC on REDD+ will be convened on six monthly basis.	It was decided that meeting of the NSC should be convened on quarterly basis.
2.	The sixth meeting of NSC on REDD+ will be convened in a forest area.	The sixth NSC meeting could not be convened in the forest area due to budgetary and lodging constraints.
3.	Secretary MoCC offered his full assistance required in the establishment of REDD+ offices in the provinces.	All provinces have established provincial REDD+ Cells.
4.	M/S Arbonaut shall furnish confidential reports on the performance of the trainees.	Compliance made.
5.	Two female representatives from all provinces/ territories shall be inducted in the NSC instead of only one.	Sindh, FATA and Baluchistan have notified two women representatives other provinces will notify shortly.
6.	A strict criterion should be followed for selection of candidates for their training abroad.	A strict criterion was followed in selection of forest officers.
7.	A pre-departure session of the trainees should be organized.	Pre-departure session was arranged.
8.	Secretary MoCC assured his full assistance and support by taking up the case with Ministry of Interior to issue the NOC to international experts.	Ministry of Interior observed that this is a provincial case. Provinces have to get NOC from the Ministry of Interior directly.
9.	M/S Indufor will conduct consultations with the missing stakeholders i.e. the forest owners, right holders, Guzara owners, forest contractors/ purchasers of forest rights and women before submission of the REDD+ strategy. Provincial governments shall be kept on board in all such consultations.	This decision was conveyed to M/S Indufor provided the final report soon.

10.	A file for support letter from Secretary MoCC for 'surveying and mapping permission' of Arbonaut Oy with Survey of Pakistan (SoP) should be initiated.	Letter has been sent to Sop.
11.	SDPI will share all the press clippings (print and electronic) with National REDD+ Office for the purpose of record keeping.	SDPI has shared the clippings of the newspapers.
12.	SDPI shall invariably cover all events on REDD+ that are arranged by the Ministry and share the blue print of the REDD+ documentary that is under preparation.	SDPI is covering all the events organized by National REDD+ office.

Decisions:

- i) 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.
- ii) Female members of NSC shall be designated by Punjab, KP, AJK and GB at the earliest.
- iii) Provinces shall directly seek NOC for field visits of foreign experts.
- iv) Follow up on the 'surveying and mapping permission' of Arbonaut Oy with Survey of Pakistan (SoP) by WWF-Pakistan.

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

- A) The NRC presented an update and highlighted that significant progress has been achieved towards implementation of the R-PP as given below;
 - I. The relevant stakeholders have been identified and engaged via an extensive consultative process.
 - II. The Provincial Grievance and Implementation Units have been notified
 - III. The provincial REDD+ Management Committees are in place.

All the required consultancies have already been awarded to the best available foreign firms that are supported by local partners.

- B) Nation-Wide Internship Programmed has also been launched.
- C) A series of trainings have been arranged for the officers of the provincial forest departments, academia and civil society organizations.
- D) An Additional Funding (AF) of US\$ 4.014 million has also been approved by the FCPF-World Bank. Activities for the implementation of AF have been planned to start from July 2018 and the Readiness Phase is expected to complete by June 2020.

E) Pakistan was elected as Bureau Member of FCPF and member of PC in the last FCPF meeting held at Laos dated: 25-29 September, 2017.

The Chair enquired about the mechanism adopted for selection of the national and international firms for the consulting assignments. Dr. Ghulam Akbar replied that a rigorous and transparent process was adopted for the evaluation and hiring. He mentioned that the guidelines of the World Bank have strictly been followed during this process, as required under the Grant Agreement signed by EAD.

Mr. Abdul Jabbar Kazi, Conservator of Forests, Social Forestry Circle, Karachi, Sindh, requested the Chair to write to the Chief Secretary Sindh that the PC-I for REDD+ should be included in the Annual Development Programme (ADP) of the current year. This was followed by clarifications by international experts on technical issues and global experiences on REDD+.

Decision:

- i) 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.

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

Mr. Jaime Severino, Team Leader, Indufor presented the progress on the consultancy for developing National REDD+ Strategy and its Implementation Framework for Pakistan. He informed the house that two rounds of consultations have been organized with Provincial REDD+ Management Committees (PRMCs), communities, forest owners, timber contractors and other key stakeholders. He presented the strategic options to address the Drivers of Deforestations. He mentioned that Inception, Interim and Mid-term reports have already been submitted and now they are working on draft final report which will be based on two studies i.e., Safeguards Information System and NFMS/MRV/FREL.

Mr. Shahid Rashid Awan, Additional Secretary (Technical), Punjab Forest Department opined that ideally provincial strategies should be developed and then these should become part of the National REDD+ Strategy, as the National REDD+ Strategy is missing legal matters and concrete activities to be taken at provincial level. Mr. Abdul Basir, Conservator Forests, FATA, opined that, although, the consulting firm has prepared its report on Drivers of Deforestations, however, this progress is not enough. Moreover, he emphasized that the exact sources as well as the location of Drivers of Deforestation should be identified and means to address these should be focused.

Syed Mahmood Nasir, Inspector General Forests stated that one of the major Drivers of Deforestation is "huge number of pending cases of forest offences in the courts" that needs to be addressed while conducting this study. Mr. Jaime Severino, mentioned that this is addressed in the Interim Report.

Dr. Ghulam Akbar explained that these Drivers of Deforestations have been configured from consultations with provinces and complete reports are available on National REDD+ Office

website which needs to be critically reviewed by the technical people of the provinces. The Chair intervened at this stage and mentioned that provincial concerns shall be addressed during the next meeting of the NSC to be held in March, 2018.

Decision:

- i) The hard copies of the progress reports submitted by the consulting firms will be shared with the provinces/territories for feedback.
- ii) The consultants shall ensure that all provincial concerns are addressed.
- iii) The Final Report should include report of consultations with real stakeholders.

AGENDA ITEM 4: DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL FOREST MONITORING SYSTEM (NFMS), MEASUREMENT, REPORTING AND VERIFICATION MECHANISM (MRV) AND FOREST REFERENCE EMISSION LEVEL (FREL) BY FINNISH COMPANY ARBONAUT OY & WWF-PAKISTAN.

Mr. Jarno Hämäläinen, team leader, Arbonaut Oy, gave a brief presentation on the status of NFMS and FRELs consultancies. He updated that field activities have been completed in Azad Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab, whereas, field staff is currently working in Sindh. This will be followed by visits to selected areas in Balochistan and FATA. He also mentioned difficulties in getting permissions for his foreign consultants from Survey of Pakistan. It was informed that Survey of Pakistan has also been approached to undertake the demarcation of forest boundaries. He mentioned that they have already submitted Inception and Interim Reports while Mid-term Report will be submitted soon.

Mr. Abdul Basir, Conservator Forest, FATA enquired as to why the maps shown didn't display any sample point in FATA. Mr. Jarno Hämäläinen responded that initially there were some concerns due to security issues, but now FATA has been included for completing field inventory. Mr. Abdul Basir, Conservator Forest, FATA ensured that there are no security risks involved for carrying out the sampling exercises in FATA.

Inspector General of Forests also enquired that whether only State Forests have been considered while selecting the sample plots, the team leader Arbonaut Oy, explained that the work is undertaken by strictly following the forest definition notified by the Government of Pakistan that includes all the categories including State Forests as well as Private Forests.

Dr. Ghulam Akbar asked the participants about an appropriate department to host the National Forest Monitoring System and REDD+ Registry. Chair advised to get feedback from the provinces on the institutional arrangements.

Decision

- i) Arbonaut OY & WWF Pakistan must conduct field sampling exercise in FATA in close coordination and with support of Focal Point, FATA.
- ii) All provinces, AJK, FATA and GB shall furnish proposals for housing of the institutional arrangements to host the forestry data and registry.

AGENDA ITEM 5: 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) BY LONDON-BASED CARBON, LAW & POLICY (CLP) AND HAGLER BAILLY PAKISTAN.

Ms. Daniela Rey Christen, Team Leader CLP gave presentation about the assignment. She appreciated the efforts of Working Groups who wholeheartedly participated not only in the two days' workshop of Safeguards but also in the subsequent training workshop on the subject. She mentioned that CLP has submitted Inception and Interim reports and the Mid-term report will be submitted soon. Ms. Daniela Rey presented highlights of the study and elaborated that there are three requirements of the safeguards that should be essentially met. These include;

- I. Implementing REDD+ activities in a manner consistent with the Cancun safeguards
- II. Establishing a system to provide information on how the Cancun safeguards are being addressed and respected and
- III. Providing a summary of information on how the Cancun safeguards are being addressed and respected.

She also explained that how the Safeguard Information System and Feedback Grievance Redress Mechanisms will be designed.

Inspector General of Forests asked whether there were risks associated with the implementation of REDD+ safeguards in the context of Pakistan and lessons learnt from other countries. Ms. Daniela Rey replied that the major risk is to determine how to implement REDD+ safeguards. She emphasized that it is of utmost importance to implement the REDD+ safeguards to gain hands-on experience in determining what to report on in future communications with UNFCCC.

Decision

- i) The provinces shall take note of risks in designing the information system, so that mistakes from other countries are not repeated in Pakistan.
- ii) Working Group meetings shall be held regularly as per work plan.

AGENDA ITEM 6: AWARENESS & OUTREACH BY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT POLICY INSTITUTE (SDPI).

Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director, SDPI, gave a detailed presentation on the efforts to raise awareness about REDD+ in Pakistan. He also mentioned the panel discussion that was arranged in the Sustainable Development Conference (SDC) which is a land mark event organized every year by SDPI. During SDC, scientists from various countries participated and presented their research findings. This year, members for Coalition of Rainforest Nations (CFRN) also participated in the SDC and spoke about global experiences on REDD+. Mr. Jaime Severino also

delivered a talk on REDD+ through skype while Mr. Anish Joshi from Nepal delivered a presentation on NFMS. He also mentioned that 15 journalists have been sensitized about the REDD+ and an exposure visit of one week was arranged to Gilgit-Baltistan for the journalists to understand the complex challenges of forests. He also showed four articles of newspaper which have been produced on REDD+ for increasing awareness in masses.

Inspector General of Forests was of the view that more journalists should be trained in REDD+ and more field exposures of journalists should be arranged to different forest ecosystems in Pakistan, if funds were available.

Mr. Usman Yaqoob, National Project Director REDD+ enquired as to how the problem of governance could be addressed while implementing REDD+ in Pakistan. Mr. Jaime Severino replied that for addressing the challenge of governance, the foremost thing is that National REDD+ Office should be made a permanent entity beyond this R-PP grant.

Decision

- i) SDPI shall arrange more exposure visits for journalists.
- ii) SDPI to engage parliamentarians in an organized manner.
- iii) Case for establishing the National REDD+ Office beyond the project period shall be pursued and progress put up to the Secretary.

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

No substantive issue was raised by the participants. The Chair, once again thanked the participants from provinces and especially those from overseas and adjourned the meeting. He assured that the concerns of the provinces will be addressed and advised the consulting firms and National REDD+ Office to coordinate with the provinces on all the substantive issues.

The meeting ended with and from thanks to the Chair.







6th Meeting of the National Steering Committee on REDD+
(23rd January 2018)






Committee Room Ministry of Climate Change







Attendance Sheet






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