

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

Date: 20th July, 2017

Venue: Committee Room of the Ministry of Climate Change

The fifth meeting of the National Steering Committee (NSC) on REDD+ was held under the chairmanship of the Federal Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change on 20th July, 2017. The meeting started with the recitation from the Holy Quran followed by welcome remarks by the chair who thanked all the participants for their participation in the meeting, in particular the foreign experts who travelled to attend this important meeting. List of participants is attached. (Annex – I).

The IG Forests updated on the significance of this meeting as at this stage the mid-term evaluation has been undertaken by the World Bank and that the pre-requisites for entering into full scale REDD+ implementation are underway that needed guidance and support from the NSC.

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

Dr. Ghulam Akbar, the National REDD+ Coordinator NRC, briefed the NSC about the progress of decisions made during fourth meeting of the NSC on REDD+ as under:

- i) The proposal for establishment of National REDD+ Office from the regular budget of MoCC has been developed and sent to the Establishment Division to conduct a management study.
- ii) Gilgit-Baltistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have already established REDD+ cells while the process is at an advanced stage in the Punjab. Rest of the provinces and territories i.e. Sindh, Balochistan, Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJ & K) are in a process of taking up similar cases with their respective provinces.
- iii) Two female representatives from forest communities have also been nominated from government of Sindh and Gilgit-Baltistan while other provinces have not yet nominated female representatives.
- iv) A member representing forest related industry i.e. ZRK Ltd. has been notified.
- v) The chair was requested to review the decision regarding convening of NSC meetings on quarterly basis that was also supported by other members of the NSDC.

Decisions:

1. The Meetings of NSC on REDD+ will be convened on six monthly basis.
2. The sixth meeting of NSC on REDD+ will be convened in a forest area followed by a field trip under the guidance of the chair of NSC on REDD+, if finances permit.
3. Secretary MoCC offered his full assistance required in the establishment of REDD+ offices in the provinces. A letter will be sent to provincial Chief Secretaries of Sindh, AJ & K, Balochistan, Punjab and FATA to extend their full support regarding establishment of provincial REDD+ Cells on permanent basis.

4. M/s Arbonaut shall furnish confidential reports on the performance of the trainees who are proceeding to Finland for the training facility offered by Arbonaut.
5. Two female representatives from all provinces/ territories shall be inducted in the NSC instead of only one.
6. A strict criteria should be followed for selection of candidates for their training abroad that includes certificate by the provincial governments that the trainee shall work on REDD+ for the next five years.
7. A pre-departure session of the trainees should be organized and the Secretary MoCC would like to attend that and meet with the trainees.

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

The NRC updated Pakistan's progress on fulfilling the following four pre-requisites of the Cancun Agreement on REDD+ that countries have to fulfill in order to reap full benefits of REDD+ as was decided in the 16th meeting of Conference of Parties (COP) in 2010:

- i) National REDD+ Strategy and/or Action Plan
- ii) National Forest Reference Emission Levels which will be used as bench marks to monitor future performance
- iii) National Forest Monitoring System along with Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) mechanism
- iv) Safeguard Information System to address the grievances of local communities and ensure their active participation and engagement

The NRC gave an update on institutional arrangements and said that significant progress has been achieved towards four components of the R-PP that include i) all the required national and provincial institutional entities have been established ii) the relevant stakeholders have been identified and engaged via an extensive consultative process. iii). The national and provincial focal points have been notified iv) provincial and National Steering Committees on REDD+ are in place this includes the Provincial REDD+ Management Committees and Grievance and Implementation Units.

In order to complete these tasks in line with international best practices and UNFCCC approved standards the NRC informed that the following firms have been hired by following the World Bank Procurement Procedures.

- a) The Finnish company Indufor Oy in association with local firm i.e. CHIP Training and Consulting (CTC) has been hired in January 2017 to develop National REDD+ Strategy and its Implementation Framework for Pakistan. And that the representative of the firm is presenting today the Mid Term evaluation to the NSC.
- b) The Finnish company Arbonaut OY. in joint venture with WWF-Pakistan has been hired in January 2017 for the development of National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS), Measurement Reporting and Verification Mechanism (MRV) and Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) and the work is progressing well and is expected to be completed by June, 2018.

- c) The London based firm i.e. Climate Law and Policy (CLP) has signed a contract during third week of July, 2017 to develop a mechanism for Feedback Grievance Redressal and Safeguard Information System by applying the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment which is expected to be completed by June, 2018.

The NRC highlighted issues pertaining to No Objection Certificate from Ministry of Interior to allow the visit of expatriate experts to Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), FATA and AJ & K. He said despite fulfilling all the codal formalities as required by ministry of Interior the NOCs were not issued yet that caused delays in work progress by international firms.

Decisions:

1. Secretary MoCC ensured his full assistance and support by taking up the case with Ministry of Interior to issue the NOC to international experts enabling them to visit GB, FATA and AJ & K.

Action by National REDD+ Coordinator

AGENDA ITEM 3 and 4: PROGRESS UPDATE BY:

- a) **INDUFOR OY, FINLAND ON DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL REDD+ STRATEGY AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK**
- b) **B) M/S ARBONAUT FINLAND ON DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL FOREST MONITORING SYSTEM (NFMS), FOREST REFERENCE EMISSION LEVEL (FREL) AND MEASUREMENT, REPORTING, AND VERIFICATION (MRV) MECHANISM**

The team leaders of both the companies gave and presented the progress to the NSC as under:

a) M/S Indufor OY Finland

Ms. Majella Clarke, the Team Leader for the development of National REDD+ Strategy and its Implementation Framework gave the presentation on the progress by Skype. She presented the overall progress and explained that the development of National REDD+ Strategy for Pakistan has taken into consideration all the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. She further added that rigorous multi-stakeholder consultations were held at all levels to formulate the clear vision, principles, objectives and strategic actions to address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. She added that Pakistan's National REDD+ strategy will provide guidelines to address the forest land tenure issues (based on the findings of a parallel study being conducted by CLP), access rights in forests, respect for national regulations and laws, active participation and engagement of local forest communities, and opportunities and equitable share of local people in distribution of benefits with their prior informed consent.

Mr. Mujtaba Hussain Zaidi representing the forest industries sought views for inclusion of irrigated plantations in REDD+ Strategy. Ms. Majella Clarke responded that inclusion of irrigated plantations under REDD+ will depend on finalization of national forest definition which is not yet finalized and under technical assessment and consultation process by another consulting firm working on NFMS and FREL/ FRLs. She also gave her technical opinion that irrigated plantations can as such be included in REDD+.

Syed Mazhar Ali Qasim, Forest owner from KP enquired as to how the user rights of firewood collection and timber harvesting for construction of houses will be accounted under REDD+. Mrs. Majella responded that there are clear guidelines of UNFCCC on REDD+ safeguards that have to be accounted while formulating the National REDD+ Strategy. She said that REDD+ strategy will take into account such issues once the finding of another parallel study on Strategic Social and Environmental Assessment (SESA), Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Safeguard Information System (SIS) and Feedback Grievance and Redressal Mechanism (FGRM) are being done by international consulting firm i.e. CLP. The SESA and FGRM study will provide detailed information and analysis on issues related to land tenure, access rights, benefit sharing etc. based on which strategic options will be recommended in national REDD+ strategy.

Mr. Azhar Ali, Conservator of forests KP enquired that consultations have to be made with forest owners and right holders in particular the forest contractors who had purchased forest rights and are entitled to receive royalties. IGF supported the viewpoint of the representative on KP and Ms Majella on query responded that no consultation has been made with the owners and right holders. The IG stressed that the issue of ownership of forests and forest rights are peculiar in the natural forests of KP, GB, Punjab, Balochistan and AJ&K and consultations with owners and right holders is a must prior to submission of the Strategy by Indufor.

On a query IGF observed that land tenure issues have to be accounted in National REDD+ Strategy as provided in ToRs. He further highlighted the complexities involved in forest land tenure as driver of deforestation and that no strategy can be processed without consulting and identifying the drivers of deforestation associated with forest contractors, rights purchasers, forest owners and Guzara owners.

b) ARBONAUT OY FINLAND

Mr. Anish Joshi/ Mr. Tuomo Kuoranne presented the progress on National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) / Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV), Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL)/ Forest Reference Level (FRL). Mr. Joshi mentioned that work is progressing well, however, as per requirement of the Survey of Pakistan (SoP) Act 2014, Arbonaut OY has applied to SoP for registration and the decision is awaited and asked for a support letter from MoCC that may help the registration. The Chair showed displeasure for not seeking his support in this particular case and promised that the support letter shall be issued and if needed he shall make phone calls or even meet the concerned to get the registration expedited.

Mr. Rab Nawaz representing WWF-Pakistan informed that WWF-Pakistan has got the renewal of its registration and that the partners from Finland are expected to get the permission soon.

Mr. Anish Joshi also briefed that review and consultation activities for the forest definition, production of updated forest cover maps by application of change analysis methodology and staff training activities are under progress. He informed that national land use and cover classification systems have been reviewed and harmonised to be in line with the six main

IPCC classes and harmonised land use classification scheme to be presented and adopted at National Working Group meeting scheduled on 7-8 August, 2017.

Mr. Anish Joshi mentioned that nominations from National REDD+ Office and provincial departments have been received who will attend two training modules (i.e. SLMS from 14 – 18 August, 2017 and National Forest Inventory from 21 – 24 August, 2017) at Arbonaut who offered with an opportunity to participate in On-Job-Training through the actual production tasks.

Decisions:

1. 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.
2. A file for support letter from Secretary MoCC for registration of Arbonaut OY with SoP should be initiated.

Action by National REDD+ Office

3. WWF-Pakistan should share the renewal of its registration with Survey of Pakistan with National REDD+ Office.

Action by WWF-Pakistan

AGENDA ITEM 5: PROGRESS UPDATE BY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT POLICY INSTITUTE (SDPI) ON REDD+ AWARENESS AND OUTREACH

Mr. Shafqat Munir representing Sustainable Development Policy Institute SDPI gave a presentation on progress of REDD+ awareness and outreach component. He said that a project orientation meeting was convened for SDPI staff followed by a meeting with the National REDD+ office team to streamline the implementation plan. He further added that SDPI has engaged the media for awareness through and media coverage and interviewed various stakeholders for preparation of a documentary during a one day workshop on the preparation of Greenhouse Gas Inventories under the project ‘Reporting for Results-based REDD+ (RRR+)’ organized by Global Change Impact Studies Centre (GCISC) in Collaboration with Coalition for Rainforest Nations (CfRN) and Ministry of Climate change on 18th July, 2017 at Serena Hotel Islamabad.

Mr. Shafqat Munir also mentioned that SDPI provided logistic arrangements and media work on March 21, 2017 during a seminar titled as “International Day of Forests”. The seminar was jointly organized by National REDD+ Office in the Ministry of Climate Change, Arid University and Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI). He further added that SDPI has created social media groups on different social networking sites to provide a stakeholders’ platform to share information, knowledge and local wisdom to protect and increase forest cover. SDPI has also conducted training workshop of Journalists on 19th July, 2017 to engage journalists that will translate technical issues in a user-friendly language to create awareness in the society. He assured the NSC that there shall be continued and follow up stories on all aspects of REDD+.

Decisions:

1. SDPI will share all the press clippings (print and electronic) with National REDD+ Office for the purpose of record keeping.
2. 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.
3. SDPI shall revisit the work plan and gear up their activities for an enhanced visibility in particular with parliamentarians, decision makers and forest dwelling communities.

Action by SDPI

AGENDA ITEM 6: Provincial Progress on REDD+

The chair invited the provinces to share their experiences while working for REDD+. The representatives from provinces and regions shared the progress of REDD+ in their respective jurisdictions as below:

a) Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA)

Mr. Abdul Baseer, Conservator of Forest, FATA informed that the provincial REDD+ focal point and members of the national or provincial REDD+ working groups have been nominated and Provincial Grievance and Implementation Unit (PGIU) notified. He also mentioned that some officers have enhanced their capacities by attending relevant trainings organized by Pakistan Forest Institute (PFI), Peshawar in the recent past while one of the officers from FATA will attend the training in Finland offered by Oy Arbonaut.

b) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP)

Mr. Azhar Ali, Conservator of Forests, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa updated the committee that KP forest department through its own funding sources has developed allometric equations for major forest tree species through destructive sampling that will be used to assess the above ground biomass and carbon content of the forests of KP. He further added that the land use maps and FREL/ FRL at sub-national level for KP have also been developed.

c) Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJ&K)

Khawaja Mumtaz, Conservator of Forests AJ&K, updated that due to lack of funding, there is not much progress on REDD+ in AJ&K. However, the State Grievance and Implementation Unit, REDD+ focal person and members of the working groups on REDD+ have been notified. He also mentioned that case was initiated to government of AJ&K to establish REDD+ cell on permanent basis but due to lack of funding it was not approved. However, forest department will initiate the case next year again.

d) Punjab

Mr. Iftikhar ul Hasan Farooqi, Divisional Forest Officer informed that the Rawalpindi North Forest Division of Punjab Forest Department launched a project on forest carbon stock assessment few years back which is now in completion phase. He further added that PGIU, Provincial REDD+ focal person and members of Working Group on REDD+ have also been notified by the Punjab forest department. He further added that government of Punjab recently approved a project for Rs. 30 million to establish REDD+ cell in Rawalpindi.

e) Sindh

Mr. Abdul Sattar Khatri, Conservator of Forests/ Provincial REDD+ Focal point Sindh Forest Department informed the committee that a case will soon be put up to higher authorities to establish REDD+ Cell on permanent basis. He stressed that the lease of forest land in Sindh has to be discouraged and abandoned to prevent illegal cutting within the forest areas.

f) Balochistan

Mr. Niaz Khan Kakar, Deputy Conservator of Forests Balochistan Forest Department/ Provincial REDD+ Focal point mentioned that there is no progress on REDD+ relevant activities in Balochistan due to lack of capacities and financial support, however, like other provinces provincial REDD+ focal person and members of working groups on REDD+ have been notified by the Balochistan Forest Department. He also requested the chair to extend his full support to Balochistan regarding establishment of REDD+ in Balochistan.

AGENDA ITEM 7: DISCUSSION ON OTHER SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS AND WAY FORWARD

No issue of substantive nature was raised by any member. The meeting ended with a note of thanks by the chair.

Annex I: List of participants

Annex-I: List of Participants

1. Syed Abu Ahmad Akif Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change, Islamabad
2. Syed Mahmood Nasir, Inspector General Forests, Ministry of Climate Change, Islamabad
3. Mr. Iftkhar ul Hassan Farooqi, Divisional Forest Officer, Punjab Forest Department
4. Mr. Tariq Naseem, Forest and Wildlife Department Punjab
5. Mr. Abdul Sattar Khattri, Conservator of Forests and Working Plan, Sindh Forest Department
6. Mrs. Kanwal Nazim, Sindh Forest Department, Women Representative
7. Mr. Niaz Khan Kakar, Divisional Forest Officer, Forest and Wildlife Department Balochistan
8. M. Azhar Ali Khan, Conservator Forest, KP Forest Division
9. Mr. Tauheed Ul Haq, DCF, Forest, F&WD Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
10. Mr. Khan Mumtaz Ahmed, Project Director Watershed, AJ & K Forest Division
11. Mr. Sajjad Haider, Secretary Forests, Government of Gilgit-Baltistan
12. Mr. Mehmood Gaznavi, Conservator Forest, F&WD Gilgit- Baltistan
13. Dr. Zakir Hussain, Forest, F&WD Gilgit- Baltistan
14. Mr. Hayat Ali, Divisional Forest Officer, FATA
15. Mr. Abdul Baseer, FATA Forest and Wildlife Department.
16. Mr. Fazal- e- Akbar, Deputy Chief, Environment Section, Planning Development & Reforms
17. Syed Mujtaba Zaidi, ZRK Furniture Industry,
18. Mr. Manazar Hussain, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resource
19. Mr. Fouzia Bilqees, IUCN, Karachi
20. Mr. Azam Baig, Manager, SUNGI
21. Dr. Jamal Nasir, President, Green Task Force
22. Mr. Mazhar Ali Qasim, Representative of Forest Owner, KPK
23. Mr. faisal Syed, FAO- Pakistan
24. Mr. Saeed Afzal, Representative of Forest Owner, Government of Gilgit-Baltistan
25. Miss. Saima Younas, ADC, Deputy Commissioner's Office, Rawalpindi
26. Mr. Kamran Babur, Divisional Forest Officer Guzara, Committee Rawalpindi
27. Mr. Irfan tariq, Focal point UNFCCC, DG Environment
28. Mr. Arif Goheer, GCISC, Ministry of Climate Change.

29. Dr. Tuomo Kauranne, President, Arbonaut Ltd.
30. Mr. Anish Joshi, Arbonaut Ltd.
31. Mr. Rab Nazaz, WWF-Pakistan
32. Mr. Muhammad Hamza, GIS Coordinator, WWF-Pakistan
33. Mr. Iqbal Muhammad, WWF- Pakistan
34. Mr. Muhammad Tayyab, CTC- Pakistan
35. Mrs. Linda Rosengren, Senoir Consultant, Indufor, Ltd
36. Mr. Tassaduq Hussain, Research Associate, CTC- Pakistan
37. Mr. Shafqat Munir, SDPI, Pakistan
38. Miss Sadaf Liaqat, SDPI, Pakistan
39. Mr. Fabio Pestorella, Coalition for Rainforest Nations
40. Mr. Johannes Broutz, Technical Team Leader, CfrN
41. Miss Safira Batool, Intern, Ministry of Climate Change, Islamabad
42. Miss. Kanza Saleem, Intern, Ministry of Climate Change, Islamabad
43. Dr. Ghulam Akbar, NRC, National REDD+ Office
44. Syed Mazhar Hussain Kazmi, procurement Specialist, National REDD+ Office
45. Mr. Kamran Hussain, NFI Expert, National REDD+ Office
46. Mr. Muhammad Afrasiyab, GIS Expert, National REDD+ Office
47. Mr. Khurshid Khan, finance Manager, National REDD+ Office
48. Miss. Farhat Jabeen, Research Associate, National REDD+ Office
49. Miss Sumayyah Aleem Khan, Research Associate, National REDD+ Office
50. Mr. Atiq Ur Rehman, Admin Assistant, National REDD+ Office
51. Miss Salma Khan, Intern, National REDD+ Office