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**Draft Proceedings of Launching of the National Forest Monitoring System  
(NFMS) for REDD+ at Margala Hotel**

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**FEBRUARY 1, 2021**

**NATIONAL REDD+ OFFICE**

Ministry of Climate Change, Islamabad, Pakistan

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## 1. Introduction

Pakistan is a party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The Convention has recognized deforestation as one of the main source of emissions of carbon resulting in global warming. According to IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, Deforestation and Forest Degradation contributes about 11% towards global GHG emissions. At the same time, forestry sector has potential to sequester 31% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, which constitute one of main greenhouse gas.

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) is a concept adopted by the countries under United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2010 for climate change mitigation in forestry sector.

Ministry of Climate Change is implementing REDD+ Readiness Preparation Project with financial grant of USD 7.81 million received from the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) of the World Bank to the complete following four essential elements of the REDD+ for accessing any future result based payments under REDD+ mechanism. Pakistan has been able to complete all the key requirements of REDD+ at national level, including; Development of National REDD+ strategy and implementation framework; National Forest Monitoring System; Establishment of Forests Reference Emission Levels and/or Forest Reference Levels (FREL/FRL); Safeguards Information System.

The REDD+ project has facilitated the development of a National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) which comprises of a set standard protocol, procedures and guidelines for monitoring and measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) of forests. The system also involves a national monitoring web portal with dedicated server hosted at GCISC with supported geodatabase of forestry sector. This portal is aimed to facilitate data integration at the national level and for international reporting and preparation of GHG inventory.

The key objectives of the NFMS are as follows:

- a. National forestry data integration, synchronisation and harmonisation.
- b. Adopt advanced tools and techniques of forest monitoring and change assessment.
- c. Scientifically reliable and transparently measure forest carbon stocks and emissions.
- d. Regularly assess forest health and ecosystem benefits.
- e. Assess contribution of mega forestry initiatives such as 10BTTP for climate change mitigation and green agenda.
- f. Support provincial forestry departments with the modern tools for digital forest mapping and inventorying.

In the REDD+ context, the NFMS has been designed to estimate forest-related GHG emissions and removals following UNFCCC guidelines. The NFMS is also aimed at monitoring the implementation and results of REDD+ policies and measures in

accordance with the national circumstances. The NFMS has the following two main functions:

- A. Monitoring: is primarily a domestic tool to allow Pakistan to assess a broad range of forest information, including the REDD+ activities.
- B. Measuring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) function has three main components, or 'pillars'.
  - i. Satellite Land Monitoring System (SLMS) for assessment of forest area change.
  - ii. National Forest Inventory (NFI) for estimation of forest carbon stock.
  - iii. National Greenhouse Gas inventory (GHG-I).

NFMS has been designed based on advanced tools and techniques of forest measurements and monitoring customized in national context and keeping in view that it use "Free and Open Source" datasets and software's for measurement and monitoring of forests on sustained basis. Global Change Impact Studies Centre has been identified as the centralized institution to host the national database and web-portal, whereas data generation, ownership and coordination at the provincial levels will be done at the provincial levels.

In order to facilitate operationalisation of the developed monitoring system, capacities of officials of forestry departments in provinces and territories have been built in satellite based forest cover monitoring, field inventory and other relevant aspects together with provisioning of latest forest inventory and monitoring equipment to support regular forest monitoring.

## **2. Launching of National Forest Monitoring System for REDD+**

A formal launching ceremony of National Forest Monitoring System for REDD+ was held on 1st February, 2021 at Margala hotel, Islamabad. Mr. Malik Amin Aslam, Special Assistant to Prime Minister of Pakistan was the Chief Guest of the event. The meeting was attended by Ms. Naheed S. Durrani, Secretary MoCC/ National Project Director REDD+ Readiness Project and Ms. Rukhsana Naveed, Parliamentary Secretary MoCC.

The ceremony was also attended by officials from Provincial Forest Departments, academia, civil society, INGOs, private sector stakeholders and mainstream print and electronic media groups (**Annex-I**). The event received wide media publicity in the form of press releases and social media stories (**Annex II**).

The event commenced with the recitation of Holy Quran by Dr. Abdul Jabbar Kazi, Chief Conservator of Forests (R&I) Sindh.

## 2.1 Welcome Speech by Secretary MoCC

In her welcome speech, Ms. Naheed S. Durrani, Secretary MoCC/National Project Director REDD+ Readiness Project welcomed the participants and gave an overview of the project achievements. She informed that the project has made significant progress to support readiness preparation at national level. The current phase of the project is focusing on various studies and assessment at sub-national level to further strengthen local capacities and coordination for implementation of REDD+ and other forestry initiatives. She added that enhancing tree cover is one of the important national priorities of the federal government. She informed that the deforestation rate in the country was alarmingly high which needs to be curtailed through introduction of alternate energy options and participation of local communities to make our forest sustainable.



*Welcome remarks by Secretary MoCC*

## 2.2 Launching of National Forest Monitoring System

Mr Malik Amin Aslam, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Climate Change launched the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) Portal with the assistance by Dr. Ali Tahir, Professor from NUST, who practically demonstrated key features of the developed NFMS Portal. The portal is hosted on a server at GCISC and will act as a repository of national forestry data for national planning and international reporting.



*Launching of National Forest Monitoring Portal by Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Climate Change assisted by Dr. Ali Tahir*

### 2.3 Handing over of Forest Inventory/Monitoring Equipment

The NFMS launching was followed by handing over of a set of various equipment to the provincial/territorial forestry departments (Table-I). The purpose of provisioning of these equipment was to strengthen capacities of provincial/territory forestry departments in satellite based forest cover monitoring, field inventory and other relevant aspects.

**Table I: List and Quantities of Equipment Handed over to Provinces**

#	Item	Quantity						
		K P	PB	SD	BN	GB	AJK	Total
1	GIS Plotter (A0 size)	1	1	1	1	1	1	7
2	Handheld GPS	7	7	7	7	7	7	42
3	Crown Densiometer	2	2	2	2	2	2	12
4	Laser Vertex	2	2	2	2	2	2	12
5	Diameter Measuring Tape	3	3	3	3	3	3	18
6	Tree Increment Borer	3	3	3	3	3	3	18
7	Laser Hypsometer	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
8	Soil Auger	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
9	Laptop	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
10	A3 size Colored Printer (Laser jet)	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
11	Heavy Duty Scanner	1	1	1	1	1	1	7
12	DSLR Camera	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
13	Video Conference System	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
14	External Hard Drive	1	1	1	1	1	1	6



*REDD+ Focal Point-AJK Receiving Forest Monitoring Equipment from SA to PM*



*REDD+ Focal Point-GB Receiving Forest Monitoring Equipment from SA to PM*



*REDD+ Focal Point-Punjab Receiving Forest Monitoring Equipment from SA to PM*



*REDD+ Focal Point-KPK Receiving Forest Monitoring Equipment from SA to PM*



*REDD+ Focal Point-Balochistan Receiving Forest Monitoring Equipment from SA to PM*



*REDD+ Focal Point-Sindh Receiving Forest Monitoring Equipment from SA to PM*

**Pictures: Handing Over of Forest Monitoring Equipment to Provincial Forest Departments**

## 2.4 Speech by Chief Guest

Addressing the launching ceremony Mr. Malik Amin Aslam SA to PM said that monitoring of forest resources is pivotal for containing deforestation and forest degradation and addressing the climate change induced issues of global warming. He said scientific forest monitoring was essential, as it will effectively help in detecting and curtailing deforestation and forest degradation.

Mr. Amin Aslam informed that Pakistan lost 27,000 ha forest annually. He added that launching of this first ever national forest monitoring system was aligned with the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan for Clean and Green Pakistan.



*Conclusive remarks by Chief Guest*

SA to PM noted that deforestation was responsible for 11% of Greenhouse Gas emissions; however, forest can help in sequestering 30% of these emissions. He remarked that REDD+ mechanism was developed to make the world realise the significance of forests and give value to trees. He viewed that US pull out from Paris Agreement was a great setback to the global efforts to climate change agenda. He hoped that re-joining of US to Paris Agreement would further strengthen global climate change agenda and will support REDD+.

SA to PM further added that deforestation is responsible for 11 percent of the total Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions causing environmental degradation. Trees can help contain 30 percent of the climate change causing emissions." He added that a recent global study claimed that one trillion tree plantation could help absorb all carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions of the world.

He highlighted that Pakistan has been striving to conserve forest through indigenous resources through initiatives such as 10BTTP to practically show to the world of its aspiration to mitigate environment degradation. This initiative has been recognised globally as Pakistan's identity. He added that the present government is not only focusing on increasing the country forest cover but also committed to safeguarding the existing forest resources from land and timber mafia.

He appreciated that the forest monitoring system through satellite data would help the country to improve "conservation, sustainable management of forests, enhancement of forest carbon stocks and monitor changes in the forest land use and detect deforestation and forest degradation activities."

In the end, the Chief Guest appreciated the National REDD+ Office team on development of the NFMS portal and making good progress on REDD+ readiness preparation activities in Pakistan, including the successful establishment of Pakistan's Forest Emission Levels.

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## Annexes

### Annex-I: List of Participants

S. No	Name/ Designation	Organization
1.	Malik Amin Aslam, Special Assistant to PM on Climate Change	Ministry of Climate Change
2.	Rukhsana Naveed	Member National Assembly
3.	Ms. Naheed Shah Durrani, Secretary	Ministry of Climate Change
4.	Dr. Raja Omer, DIGF	Ministry of Climate Change
5.	Mukhtiar Ali, AIGF	Ministry of Climate Change, Islamabad
6.	Muhammad Saleem, DD Media	Ministry of Climate Change
7.	Dr. Ali Tahir, Professor	NUST, Islamabad
8.	Rahat Jabeen/ Environment Specialist	World Bank, Pakistan
9.	Rehan Hyder,	World Bank, Pakistan
10.	Abdul Muqet Khan, Chief Conservator Forests (N)	Punjab Forest Department
11.	Iftikhar UI Hassan Farooqi, DFO	Punjab Forest Department
12.	Dr. Abdul Jabbar Kazi, CCF	Forest and Wildlife Department, Govt of Sindh
13.	Riaz Ahmed Wagan, CCF	Forest and Wildlife Department, Govt of Sindh
14.	Kanwal Nazim, Women Representative	Sindh Forest Department
15.	Matiullah Khan, Special Secretary, Forestry, Env and Wildlife Department	KP Forest Department
16.	Gohar Ali, DFO	KP Forest Department
17.	Muhammad Arif, CF/ Director CDN and GD	KP Forest Department
18.	Abdul Jabbr, CCF (N)	Balochistan Forest Department
19.	Niaz Khan Kakar, Conservator of Forests	Forest and Wildlife Department Balochistan
20.	Fawad Siddique, Deputy Conservator of Forest.	Forest Department Quetta, Balochistan
21.	Zakir Hussain, CCF	GB Forest Department
22.	M. Essa, Provincial REDD+ focal Point	GB Forest Department
23.	Syed Gul Hussain Shah, CF	AJK Forest Department
24.	Irtaza Qureshi, Provincial REDD+ focal Point	AJK Forest Department
	Syed Ghulam Qadir Shah/ NRC	National REDD+ Office, Islamabad
	Pervez Manan/ NFI Expert	National REDD+ Office, Islamabad
	Muhammad Afrasiyab, GIS Expert	National REDD+ Office, Islamabad
	Nadeem Nasir/ Procurement, Contract Management Officer	National REDD+ Office, Islamabad
25.	Farhat Jabeen/ Research Associate	National REDD+ Office, Islamabad
26.	Sumayyah Aleem/ Research Associate	National REDD+ Office, Islamabad
27.	Rizwan Afzal/ Finance Manager	National REDD+ Office, Islamabad
28.	Mehar Farooq	NARC, Islamabad

29.	Noreen Bashir, JS (Coordination)	Ministry of Defence
30.	Junaid Memon	PIDE, Islamabad
31.	Dr. Jawad Ali	Helvetas Swiss, Islamabad
32.	Rab Nawaz,	WWF Pakistan
33.	Mehmood Akhter Cheema, Country Director	IUCN, Pakistan
34.	Fouzia Malik	IUCN, Pakistan
35.	Hammad Saeed	IUCN, Pakistan
36.	Sheraz Gardazi	Geo TV
37.	Naveed Akram	Daily Spokesman
38.	Abdullah	Dunya News
39.	Muhammad Haseeb, Camera man	Dunya News
40.	Zia	Hum TV
41.	Maryam Malik	92 News Channel
42.	Aneel Ahmed	Bol TV
43.	Dr. Arshad Ashraf	NARC, Islamabad
44.	M. Nafees	24 News
45.	Zara Qazi	GNN
46.	Sohail Butt	Asian Telegraph

## Annex-II: Launching of National Forest Monitoring System for REDD+

S. No	Date	Title	Newspaper	Reporter
1.	02-02-2021	Amin Aslam launches NFMS to gauge impact of 10BTT Under REDD+	Associated Pres of Pakistan	Correspondent
2.	02-02-2021	Pakistan launched first forest monitoring system to tackle climate change	Gulf News	Sana Jamal
3.	02-02-2021	Monitoring forest resources pivotal for containing deforestation	The Nation	Staff reporter
4.	02-02-2021	First ever monitoring system against forest mafia, illegal logging, land use launched	Pakistan Observer	Zubair Qureshi
5.	02-02-2021	First ever monitoring system starts	The News	Noor Aftab
6.	02-02-2021	Amin Launched NFMS to gauge impacts of 10BTT under REDD+	Pak Observer	Staff reporter
7.	02-02-2021	Monitoring system to stem forest loss launched	City news	Correspondent
8.	02-02-2021	Low forests cover and Deforestation are the main drivers of Climate Change	Daily Jung (Uudu)	Correspondent

## Amin Aslam Launches NFMS To Gauge Impact Of 10BTT Under REDD+

2 days ago Mon 01st February 2021 | 04:42 PM



**Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Climate Change (SAPM) Malik Amin Aslam Monday launched the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) for gauging the impact of 10 Billion Tree Tsunami and Billion Tree Tsunami plantation projects for results based payments under the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) mechanism**

ISLAMABAD, (APP - UrduPoint / Pakistan Point News - 1st Feb, 2021 ) :Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Climate Change (SAPM) Malik Amin Aslam Monday launched the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) for gauging the impact of 10 billion Tree Tsunami and Billion Tree Tsunami plantation projects for results based payments under the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) mechanism. Addressing the launching ceremony of NFMS portal and latest equipment distribution among forest departments of all federating units including Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit Baltistan (GB) , the SAPM said the REDD+ mechanism was developed to make the world realise the significance of forests and give value to trees.

Amin said: "Deforestation is responsible for 11 percent of the total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions causing environmental degradation. Trees can help contain 30 percent of the climate

change causing emissions." He added that a recent global study claimed that one trillion tree plantation could help absorb all carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions of the world.

The SAPM mentioned that the US pull out from Paris Agreement was a greater setback to the REDD+ efforts as the US was contributing 30 percent of the overall CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

It was propitious that the President Biden led US administration had rejoined the Paris Agreement whereas Pakistan was also a devout supporter of REDD+ initiative, he added. "Pakistan is the only developing country conserving its forests through her indigenous available resources and increasing forest cover." Amin noted that "we wanted to practically show the world what it aspired for mitigating environmental degradation through 10BTT".

The 10 BTT project, he said had become the identity of Pakistan globally where the newly elected US administration had congratulated him and desired to learn from Pakistan's experience of this mega conservation project. The UK Minister and UN head had also lauded the 10BTT project. "The critics of the mega plantation initiative from the Opposition should realise that its a model project for the world that has become a guiding stone in terms of ecological conservation which is for our coming generations.

" He pointed out that the 2004-2012 REDD+ estimates lacked the impact of BTT and 10BTT plantation programmes which would be estimated in the coming phase of the initiative.

The SAPM also launched the web portal of NFMS and distributed latest forest monitoring equipment including GPS monitoring, satellite linking devices and other modern tools.

The SAPM also informed that assisted natural regeneration was the cheapest source of forest conservation and 60 percent component of 10BTT composed of natural regeneration whereas 40 percent was plantation on new forest lands.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) in its 2000 Report claimed that Pakistan was losing 27,000 hectares (ha) of forest area per annum due to deforestation where Billion Tree Tsunami plantation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had added 0.6 million ha to the forest land through plantation and one million would be added further through 10BTT.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary Ministry of Climate Change Naheed Shah Durrani said forest degradation had a huge role in environmental degradation where 10BTT would largely impact the footprints of forestation. She added that the modern equipment provided by the Ministry would enhance the capacity of provincial forest departments in forest monitoring.

The data of REDD+ from provinces would be gathered under the NFMS portal and consequently shared for international reporting.

The REDD+ has facilitated the development of NFMS comprising a set of standard protocol, procedures and guidelines for monitoring and measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) of forests.

The core objectives of the NFMS were National forestry data integration, synchronisation and harmonisation, adopt advanced tools and techniques for forest monitoring and change assessment, scientifically reliable and transparently measure carbon stocks and emissions, regularly assess forest health and ecosystem benefits, assess contribution of mega forestry initiatives such as 10BTT for climate change mitigation and green agenda .

## **Pakistan launches first forest monitoring system to tackle climate change**

System will help improve conservation and sustainable management of forests

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Published: February 02, 2021 10:28 [Sana Jamal, Correspondent](#)

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The Billion Tree Afforestation Project aims to slow down the effects of global warming in Pakistan. Image Credit: Billion Tree Tsunami Afforestation Project

Islamabad: Pakistan has launched its first ever national forest monitoring system to curb illegal deforestation and degradation of land and to mitigate the effects of climate change.

The forest monitoring system through satellite data would help the country improve “conservation, sustainable management of forests, enhancement of forest carbon stocks and monitor changes in the forest land use and detect deforestation land degradation activities,” said Prime Minister’s Special Assistant on Climate Change, Malik Amin Aslam.

Pakistan loses forests over 27,000 hectares annually which is not only a massive environmental issue but also a major public health crisis. “There has been large-scale deforestation and land degradation in the country over last several years” which shows there is a need for effective monitoring system to help detect logging operations in forest areas and natural habitats of outstanding significance or critical importance, in a matter of minutes, Aslam said. Digital tools can help perform fast, accurate and cost-effective assessments of the size and health of forests.

Monitoring of forest resources is pivotal for containing deforestation and forest land degradation and slowing down the global warming-induced climate crisis, experts say.

### **Forest monitoring components**

Satellite land monitoring systems (SLMS) and other data collection providing information for activity data. National Forest Inventories (NFI) or other data collection providing information on emission factors

The monitoring system will be based on measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) functions which would help produce high-quality, reliable data on forests, including forest-carbon estimates, that are critical to the battle against climate change caused by among others deforestation and degradation of forests.

The system also involves a national monitoring web portal with a dedicated server hosted at Global Change Impact Studies Centre (GCISC) with supported geodatabase of the forestry sector, said Climate Change Ministry Secretary Naheed Shah Durrani. “This portal is solely aimed to facilitate data integration at the national level and for international reporting and preparation of GHG inventory”, she said urging the provincial forest departments in conserving the fast depleting forest resources.

The event was organised by the Ministry of Climate Change jointly with the World Bank-supported \$7.81 million reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) readiness project developed by United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to boost forest cover.

### **10 billion tree tsunami**

The first-ever national forest monitoring system has been launched under Prime Minister Imran Khan’s vision for clean and green Pakistan to check unlawful deforestation and forest land degradation, to boost forest cover and tackle climate action.

Pakistan’s ambitious 10 billion tree plantation project has earned global recognition as the most successful green initiatives to combat climate change. In 2017, Pakistan’s provincial Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government successfully achieved the plantation target of one billion trees under the ‘Billion Tree Tsunami Afforestation Project’ after which PM Imran Khan extended the project and announced to plant 10 billion trees countrywide by 2023 to increase the forest cover, create new green jobs and tackle climate change.

## Monitoring forest resources pivotal for containing deforestation

SAPM on Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam says the overarching goal of National Forest Monitoring System is to establish a reliable resource information system



### Our Staff Reporter

February 02, 2021

ISLAMABAD - Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam on Monday said that monitoring of forest resources is pivotal for containing deforestation and forest land degradation and taming global warming-caused climate change.

There has been large-scale deforestation and land degradation in the country over last several years for want of effective forest monitoring system, which helps detect logging operations in forest areas and natural habitats of outstanding significance or critical importance, in a matter of minutes, he remarked while addressing a high-level event “Launch of the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS)” held here on Monday.

“However, the forest monitoring system would prove a great help for the country regarding conservation, sustainable management of forests, enhancement of forest carbon stocks and

monitoring changes in the forest land use and detecting deforestation land degradation activities,” he highlighted.

Quoting figures, PM’s aide Malik Amin Aslam said that Pakistan loses forests over 27,000 hectares annually, which has led to massive environmental degradation and contamination of air quality, causing various serious public health hazards.

The event was organised by the Ministry of Climate Change in support with the World Bank-supported US\$ 7.81 million dollar Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) Readiness Project.

The United Nations Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (or UN-REDD+ Programme) is a collaborative programme of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), created in 2008 in response to the UNFCCC decisions on the Bali Action Plan and REDD at the United Nations’ 13th Session on Climate Change.

He told the participants that while heightened importance has been assigned by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf-led incumbent government to boosting forest cover and taming deforestation and land degradation in the country, a first-ever national forest monitoring system launched here today as a part of Prime Minister Imran Khan’s vision for clean and green Pakistan to check unlawful deforestation and forest land degradation activities across the country for environmental sustainability and national climate action.

Spelling out goals of the development of robust national forest monitoring system, Malik Amin Aslam told the participants that its overarching goal is establishment of a reliable forest resource information system for application in creating national forest policies, planning and sustainable development.

# First-ever monitoring system against forest mafia, illegal logging, land use launched

February 2, 2021



## **Zubair Qureshi**

Prime Minister's Special Assistant on Climate Change, Malik Amin Aslam has said that monitoring of forests resources is pivotal for containing deforestation and forest land degradation and taming global warming-caused climate change.

He made these remarks while addressing “launching ceremony of the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS)” which helps detect logging operations in forest areas and natural habitats of outstanding significance or critical importance, in a matter of minutes. There has been large-scale deforestation and land degradation in the country over last several years for want of effective forest monitoring system, said Malik Amin Aslam. “However, he said the forest monitoring system would prove a great help for the country regarding conservation, sustainable management of forests, enhancement of forest carbon

stocks and monitor changes in the forest land use and detect deforestation land degradation activities,” he highlighted.

Quoting figures, PM’s aide Malik Amin Aslam said that Pakistan loses forests over 27,000 hectares annually, which has led to massive environmental degradation and contamination of air quality, causing various serious public health hazards. The event was organised by the Ministry of Climate Change in support with the World Bank-supported US\$ 7.81 million dollar Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) Readiness Project.

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The REDD+ is an only concept, which was adopted by the countries under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2010 for mitigation of climate change in the forestry sector.

He told the participants that while the heightened importance has been assigned by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf-led incumbent government to boosting forest cover and taming deforestation and land degradation in the country, a first-ever national forest monitoring system launched here today as a part of the prime minister Imran Khan’s vision for clean and green Pakistan to check unlawful deforestation and forest land degradation activities across the country for environmental sustainability and national climate action.

Spelling out goals of the development of a robust national forest monitoring system, Malik Amin Aslam told the participants that it’s overarching goal is establishment of a reliable forest resource information system for application in creating national forest policies, planning and sustainable development.

## **First-ever forest monitoring system starts**

National

Noor Aftab

February 02, 2021

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam has said that monitoring of forest resources was pivotal for containing deforestation and forest land...

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam has said that monitoring of forest resources was pivotal for containing deforestation and forest land degradation and taming global warming-caused climate change.

Addressing the “Launch of the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS)” event held here on Monday, he said there had been large-scale deforestation and land degradation due to absence of effective forest monitoring system in the country.

The monitoring system would be based on Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) functions, deployment of which would help produce high-quality, reliable data on forests, including forest-carbon estimates, that are critical to the battle against the climate change.

He said: “The forest monitoring system would be a great help for the country regarding conservation, sustainable management of forests, enhancement of forest carbon stocks, monitor changes in the forest land use and detect its degradation in the country.”

Malik Amin Aslam said that Pakistan lost forests over 27,000 hectares annually, which led to massive environmental degradation and contamination of air quality, causing various serious public health hazards.

He told the participants that launch of first-ever national forest monitoring system was part of Prime Minister Imran Khan’s vision for clean and green Pakistan to check unlawful deforestation and forest land degradation activities across the country.

He said the monitoring, reporting and verification of forest resources would employ Satellite Land Monitoring Systems (SLMS), adding, “The forest monitoring system would also identify and collect activity data for their relevant land use.”

He noted that Pakistan was a party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which had recognised deforestation as one of the main sources of carbon emission, resulting in global warming.

# Pakistan OBSERVER

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Wednesday 3rd Feb 2021

## Amin launches NFMS to gauge impact of 10BTT under REDD+

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Climate Change (SAPM) Malik Amin Aslam Monday launched the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) for gauging the impact of 10 Billion Tree Tsunami and Billion Tree Tsunami plantation projects for results based payments under the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) mechanism.

Addressing the launching ceremony of NFMS portal and latest equipment distribution among forest departments of all federating units including Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit

### CDNS offers less tax to customers receiving up to Rs0.5m profit

ISLAMABAD



Baltistan (GB), the SAPM said the REDD+ mechanism was developed to make the world realise the significance of forests and give value to trees.

Amin said: "Deforestation is responsible for 11 percent of the total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions causing environmental degradation. Trees can help contain 30 percent of the climate change causing emissions."

He added that a recent global study claimed that one trillion tree plantation could help absorb all car-

bon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions of the world.

The SAPM mentioned that the US pull out from Paris Agreement was a greater setback to the REDD+ efforts as the US was contributing 30 percent of the overall CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

It was propitious that the President Biden led US administration had rejoined the Paris Agreement whereas Pakistan was also a devout supporter of REDD+ initiative, he added. "Pakistan is the only developing country conserving its forests

through her indigenous available resources and increasing forest cover."

Amin noted that "we wanted to practically show the world what it aspired for mitigating environmental degradation through 10BTT".

The 10 BTT project, he said had become the identity of Pakistan globally where the newly elected US administration had congratulated him and desired to learn from Pakistan's experience of this mega conservation project.

# INTERNATIONAL THE NEWS

## **Monitoring system to stem forest loss launched**

**Islamabad**

**Our Correspondent**

**February 02, 2021**

Islamabad:Prime Minister's Special Assistant on Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam has said the effective monitoring of forests is imperative for containing deforestation and forestland...

Islamabad:Prime Minister's Special Assistant on Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam has said the effective monitoring of forests is imperative for containing deforestation and forestland degradation and taming global warming-caused climate change.

"There has been large-scale deforestation and land degradation in the country over last several years for want of effective forest monitoring system, which helps detect logging operations in forest areas and natural habitats of outstanding significance or critical importance, in a matter of minutes," he told the launching ceremony of the National Forest Monitoring System here on Monday.

The premier's aide, however, said the forest monitoring system would prove a great help for the country regarding conservation, sustainable management of forests, enhancement of forest carbon stocks and monitor changes in the forest land use and detect deforestation land degradation activities.

He said Pakistan lost forests over 27,000 hectares annually, causing massive environmental degradation and contamination of air quality and various serious public health hazards.

The event was organised by the Ministry of Climate Change in support with the World Bank-supported \$7.81 million dollar Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) Readiness Project. The United Nations Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (or UN-REDD+ Programme) is a collaborative programme of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), created in 2008 in response to the UNFCCC decisions on the Bali Action Plan and REDD at the United Nations' 13th Session on Climate Change.

Malik Amin told participants that while the heightened importance had been assigned by the government to boosting forest cover and taming deforestation and land degradation in the country, a first-ever national forest monitoring system launched here as part of Prime Minister Imran Khan's vision for clean and green Pakistan to check unlawful deforestation and forest land degradation activities across the country for environmental sustainability and national climate action.

Spelling out goals of the development of robust national forest monitoring system, he said its overarching goal was the establishment of a reliable forest resource information system for application in creating national forest policies, planning and sustainable development.

"The monitoring system would be based on measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) functions, deployment of which would help produce high-quality, reliable data on forests, including forest-carbon estimates, that are critical to the battle against climate change caused by among others deforestation and degradation of forests," he said.

The prime minister's aide said the monitoring, reporting and verification of forest resources would employ satellite land monitoring systems (SLMS) and other data collection providing information for activity data (AD), National Forest Inventories (NFI) or other data collection providing information on emission factors (EF).

He said the forest monitoring system would also identify and collect activity data for their relevant land use and its change (LULUC), forestry and REDD+ activities. For instance, spatial data on deforestation and afforestation/reforestation to be collected through satellite data, Malik Amin added.

According to him, Pakistan is party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which had recognized deforestation as one of the main source of emissions of carbon resulting in global warming.

However, stemming deforestation and forest land degradation have been globally recognized as the best way to slow down global warming-induced climate crisis and achieve environmental sustainability goals.

Earlier, briefing about the World Bank-funded REDD+ Readiness Preparation Project, Climate Change Ministry Secretary Naheed Shah Durrani said the initiative had been a great help and support for implementation of the country's first national forest monitoring system.

She said the system also involves a national monitoring web portal with dedicated server hosted at GCISC with supported geodatabase of forestry sector. The secretary urged the provincial forest departments to play their effective role in implementing the national forest system for conserving the fast depleting forest resources of the country as part of global climate action and environmental sustainability.



## موسمیاتی تبدیلی کی بڑی وجہ درختوں کی کٹائی و جنگلات کی کمی ہے، میں اسلم

10 بلین ٹری سونامی منصوبہ عالمی سطح پر پاکستان کی پہچان بن گیا ہے، معاون خصوصی موسمیاتی تبدیلی

موسمیاتی تبدیلی کا سبب بننے والے عوامل میں 30 فیصد تک کمی لاسکتے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ہم دنیا کو دکھانا چاہتے ہیں کہ پاکستان 10 بلین ٹری سونامی کے ذریعے ماحولیات کو فروغ دینے کے لئے عملی اقدامات کر رہا ہے یہ منصوبہ عالمی سطح پر پاکستان کی پہچان بن گیا ہے۔ انہوں نے نیشنل فاریسٹ مانیٹرنگ سسٹم کے ویب پورٹل کا اجراء کیا اور جنگلات کی مانیٹرنگ کے جدید آلات آزادیوں و کشمیر اور گلگت بلتستان سمیت تمام وفاقی اکائیوں کے جنگلات کے محکموں میں تقسیم کئے۔ وفاقی سیکرٹری موسمیاتی تبدیلی ناہید شاہ درانی نے کہا کہ جنگلات میں کمی سے ماحول پر منفی اثرات مرتب ہوئے ہیں۔ 10 بلین ٹری سونامی پراجیکٹ ان اثرات میں کمی لانے میں اہم سنگ میل ثابت ہوگا۔

اسلام آباد (اپنے نامہ نگار سے) وزیر اعظم کے معاون خصوصی برائے موسمیاتی تبدیلی ملک امین اسلم نے کہا ہے کہ موسمیاتی تبدیلی کی سب سے بڑی وجہ 11 فیصد درختوں کی کٹائی اور جنگلات میں کمی کی وجہ سے ہے۔ پاکستان واحد ترقی پذیر ملک ہے جو اپنے وسائل سے نہ صرف جنگلات کو بچا رہا ہے بلکہ جنگلات کے رقبے میں اضافہ بھی کر رہا ہے۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے پیر کو یہاں نیشنل فاریسٹ مانیٹرنگ سسٹم پورٹل کے اجراء اور جنگلات کے محکموں میں جدید آلات تقسیم کرنے کی تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ریڈ پلس میکنزم دنیا کو جنگلات کی اہمیت سے آگاہی دینے اور درختوں کی افادیت کو اجاگر کرنے کے لئے تیار کیا گیا تھا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ درخت