

MINUTES OF THE TENTH MEETING OF NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE ON REDD+

Tenth meeting of National Steering Committee on REDD+ was held under the chairmanship of Secretary MoCC on 1st February, 2021 at Margala Hotel Islamabad. The list of participants is attached as **Annex-I**.

2) The meeting started with the recitation from the Holy Quran followed by welcome remarks by the chair. The efforts made by all provinces/ Territories in taking the concept of REDD+ forward was appreciated. The following agenda items were discussed during the meeting.

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

3) The compliance to decisions of the 9th Steering Committee on REDD+ were reviewed. Syed Ghulam Qadir Shah, the National REDD+ Coordinator (NRC) presented the actions against each decision as contained in Annex-I of the Working Paper, as under:

- i. On the decision related to Development of National REDD+ Strategy and its Implementation Framework, NRC informed that a new short-term contract was signed with M/ S Indufor on 15.12.2020 for finalizing the draft strategy against the balance amount without additional cost after concurrence/NOL by the World Bank. ToR and terms and conditions of the contract were revised.

On a query from Mehmood Akhter Cheema, Country Representative IUCN about timeline for completion of National REDD+ strategy, NRC informed that the national strategy is expected to be finalised by March 2021 addressing the gaps in it. On query from Mr. Irtaza Qureshi, REDD+ Focal point AJK about provincial consultations, NRC apprised that the firm will consult those provinces/ territories that have already communicated their concerns on the draft national REDD+ strategy.

Ms. Sosan Aziz, women representative from Gilgit, enquired if the strategy shall address gender aspects. NRC informed that strategy addresses gender aspects. Furthermore, a separate study for preparation of REDD+ Gender Action Plan has been awarded to address gender gaps.

Dr. Zakir Hussain, Chief Conservator of Forests GB and Mr. Iftikhar Ul Hassan Farooqi Focal Point Punjab enquired about the status of Sub-National REDD+ Strategies/Action Plans. NRC responded that the contract for preparation of Sub-national REDD+ Action Plans Forest Management Plans has been awarded and provincial consultations have started. Dr. Zakir said that management plans should be developed according to the local needs. NRC informed that during the consultation process, the site selection and criteria for management plans will be finalized by the firm in consultation with sub-national forestry departments and other stakeholders.

Mr. Riaz Wagan, Chief Conservator of Forests (Mangroves), Sindh suggested that preparation of project design documents (PDDs) may be made part of REDD+ management plans. NRC responded that under a separate consultancy assignment, three business models are proposed to be developed. All focal points emphasized to prepare Project Design Documents.

- ii. On issuance of NoC for procurement of six remote sensing drones, NRC informed that NOC has been issued by Ministry of Defense on 14 October 2020 and the procurement process of drones was underway as per WB Procurement Regulations. Mr. Mehmood Akhter Cheema, inquired about training to operate the drones. NRC responded that provision for training of the concerned provincial officials in operating drones has been included in the contract.

Dr. Abdul Jabbar Kazi, Chief Conservator of Forest, (Riverine & Inland) Sindh Forest Department requested for provision of seed dispersal drones. NRC responded, that if resources become available, procurement of seeding drones may only be possible with approval of World Bank, as there is no provision of Seeding drones in the procurement plan. Furthermore, the project does not have any planting targets.

Mr. Iftikhar ul Hasan Farooqi, DFO Punjab Forest Department, and Abdul Jabbar, Chief Conservator of Forests, Balochistan Forest Department requested NRO for sharing details of consultancy services awarded under additional grant. NRC informed that details shall be sent to the provinces.

- iii. On finalization of FREL and NFMS, NRC informed that these reports have been finalized and submitted by the consultants M/S Arbonaut Oy, Finland in association with WWF Pakistan. He added that FREL report was submitted to UNFCCC on 06 January 2020 which has been assessed by two UNFCCC experts. The assessment team has commended Pakistan's FREL report and found it to be transparent, complete and in overall accordance with the guidance contained in annex to decision 12/CP.17. Mr. Riaz Ahmed Wagan, Chief Conservator of Forest (Mangroves), Sindh enquired whether the comments / observations provided by the provinces have been addressed in the final report. NRC confirmed that all the observations received from provinces were addressed in the final report.
- iv. NRC informed that for the study titled "Establish Sub-National Forest Monitoring and Measurement Reporting & Verification Systems", WWF-P together with M/S Arbonaut oy, Finland were selected after approval of World Bank. The Survey of Pakistan expressed limited interest for mapping only. He added that PIDE has been selected for preparation of "National Demand and Supply" study with approval of World Bank as Pakistan Forest Institute declined to conduct this study. NRC informed that REDD+ Office provided technical support in preparation of a concept note for accessing Green Climate Funds for REDD+ piloting. The concept note was submitted to GCF following a presentation to the Special Assistant to Prime Minister and

Secretary MoCC. On a query regarding consultation with the provinces and details of the proposed concept note, NRC informed that the concept note is much broader and focuses on REDD+ pilot demonstration. Once the concept note is approved by GCF, detailed proposal will be prepared in consultation with the provinces/ territories.

Decisions:

- i. The minutes of 9th meeting of national steering committee on REDD+ were confirmed.
- ii. The approach adopted to finalize the National REDD+ Strategy was endorsed.
- iii. The completed study on establishment of National Forest Monitoring Systems conducted by Arbonaut was approved.
- iv. Provisioning and quality of various forest inventory and monitoring equipment to provinces/ territories for strengthening of provincial monitoring systems was approved. NRO to approach WB for additional support for equipment such as, seeding drones, high resolution camera lenses, fire equipment, calipers, laser vertex, tree increment borers, etc.
- v. Forest departments of provinces/ territories may be consulted during preparation of the proposed GCF proposal for REDD+ piloting.
- vi. Provinces/ Territories interested in preparing Project Design Documents (PDDs) may discuss possibility with the Consultants hired for developing REDD+ Management Plans.

AGENDA ITEM 2: PROGRESS UPDATED OF REDD+ READINESS ACTIVITIES

4) Syed Ghulam Qadir Shah, NRC gave a detailed presentation on REDD+ project. It was informed that out of the four essential compliance requirements for REDD+ implementation, three have been completed; National REDD+ Strategy is expected to be finalized by March 2021. He added, that FREL report was submitted to UNFCCC on 06 January 2020 which has been assessed by two UNFCCC experts, who have commended the report and found it to be transparent, complete and in overall accordance with IPCC guidance contained in annex to decision 12/CP. 17.

5) NRC also presented progress status of various activities under additional funding activities. Almost all consultancy services have been awarded/or at the advance stage for awarding to various consulting firm with approval by WB. He added that to strengthen forest monitoring system, equipment has been procured and handed over to respective provinces/ territories (**Annex-II**) at the launching ceremony held at Margala Hotel Islamabad on 01-02-2021. He added the procurement of forest monitoring drones is in process as per WB Procurement Regulations after issuance of NOC by Ministry of Defense (MOD). Dr. Zakir Hussain, Chief Conservator GB requested National REDD+ Office to send an official letter with list of equipment to provincial/ territorial forest departments for official record.

6) The provincial focal points requested project support to engage human resources for operationalization of provincial monitoring systems and recommended for sending such a request to WB. NRC encouraged the provinces to engage permanent positions, especially GIS Expert and GIS Analyst to make the forest monitoring systems operational on long term basis. He informed that series of trainings have been planned to build capacity of the forest department officials. He also brought to the notice of members the available funding opportunity under National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF). The chair also highlighted utilizing the Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Programme (TBTP) GIS human resource in this regard.

7) Mr. Gohar Ali Focal Point Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), said that in terms of HR, KP has sufficient manpower and offered to assist in capacity building of other provinces/ territories. He added that as KP has more than 50% of the total forests in Pakistan, therefore, its requirements for the forest inventory and monitoring equipment are more as compared to other provinces. He requested for provision of more equipment to KP. NRC responded that if resources become available World Bank shall be requested to consider and approve procurement of additional forest inventory and monitoring equipment.

8) Mr. Abdul Muqet Khan Chief Conservator of Forests Punjab highlighted that another NOC will be required for operating drones at site. Ms. Noreen Bashir Joint Secretary (Coordination), Ministry of Defence responded that a formal request may be processed to Ministry of Defence for issuance of NOC for flying operations.

9) NRC has informed that 109 applications were received from all over Pakistan under National Internship Programme. As the initial response from Balochistan and AJK was inadequate, more applications are being invited through provincial focal points/Technical field supervisors of Balochistan and AJK by allowing extra time to provide equal opportunity to all provinces. Evaluation of internship applications from Punjab and KP has been completed and for other provinces/territories it is in process.

10) Abdul Jabbar, Chief Conservator of Forests, Balochistan Forest Department viewed that the consulting firms usually work in isolation and do not keep the forestry departments onboard which effects the quality of outputs. NRC informed that the consultants have been bound in the ToR to keep strong liaison with the forestry departments of provinces/ territories to ensure quality and ownership of the outputs.

11) Mr. Mahmood Akhtar Cheema, Country Representative IUCN Pakistan commended project progress and achievements and assured that IUCN Pakistan is taking all provinces on-board for implementation of various awareness and capacity building activities under REDD+ project.



Decisions:

- i. NRO will formally inform all province/ territories about the equipment provided on 01-02-2021.
- ii. Provinces/ territories will explore possibilities to engage permanent human resources to make forest monitoring system in provinces/ territories operational on sustainable basis.
- iii. NRO will share details of awarded consultancies and achievements with provinces.
- iv. NRO will explore with WB the possibilities of HR support for operationalization of forest monitoring systems and additional equipment as requested by provinces.
- v. Completed study on National Forest Monitoring Systems prepared by M/S Arbonaut Oy Finland and assessment of FREL Report by UNFCCC experts was approved.
- vi. Selection of Pakistan Institute of Development Economic (PIDE) for preparation of national forest demand and supply study, and WWF Pakistan together with international experts for preparation of sub-national forest monitoring systems was approved.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks from chair.



Annex-I: List of Participants

S. No	Name/ Designation	Organization
1.	Ms. Naheed Shah Durrani, Secretary/ NPD	Ministry of Climate Change, Islamabad
2.	Mr. Matiullah Khan, Special Secretary, Forestry, Env and Wildlife Department	KP Forest Department
3.	Ms. Noreen Bashir, Joint Secretary (Coordination)	Ministry of Defence, Rawalpindi
4.	Dr. Raja Omer, DIGF	Ministry of Climate Change, Islamabad
5.	Mr. Mehmood Akhter Cheema, Country Director	IUCN, Pakistan
6.	Dr. Faiz Ul Bari, Advisor	FAO, Pakistan
7.	Mr. Abdul Muqet Khan, Chief Conservator Forests (N)	Punjab Forest Department
8.	Dr. Abdul Jabbar Kazi, CCF	Forest and Wildlife Department, Govt of Sindh
9.	Mr. Riaz Ahmed Wagan, CCF/ Provincial REDD+ Focal Point	Forest and Wildlife Department, Govt of Sindh
10.	Mr. Abdul Jabbar, CCF (North)	Balochistan Forest Department
11.	Syed Gul Hussain Shah, CCF	AJK Forest Department
12.	Dr. Zakir Hussain, CCF	GB Forest Department
13.	Mr. Muhammad Arif, CF/ Director CDE and GD	KP Forest Department
14.	Mr. Fawad Siddique, DCF	Balochistan Forest Department
15.	Mr. Mukhtiar Ali, AIGF	Ministry of Climate Change, Islamabad
16.	Mr. Iftikhar Ul Hassan Farooqi, DFO	Punjab Forest Department
17.	Mr. Gohar Ali, DFO/ Provincial REDD+ Focal Point	KP Forest Department
18.	Mr. Muhammad Essa, DFO/ Provincial REDD+ Focal Point	GB Forest Department
19.	Mr. Irtaza Qureshi, DFO/ Provincial REDD+ Focal Point	AJK Forest Department
20.	Mr. Muhammad Saleem, DD Media	Ministry of Climate Change, Islamabad
21.	Mr. Muhammad Umer, Assistant Director (UN)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad
22.	Dr. Kanwal Nazim, Women Representative	Sindh Forest Department
23.	Ms. Sosan Aziz, Women Representative	GB Forest Department
24.	Syed Ghulam Qadir Shah, NRC	National REDD+ Office, Islamabad
25.	Mr. Pervez Manan, NFI Expert	National REDD+ Office, Islamabad
26.	Mr. Muhammad Afrasiyab, GIS Expert	National REDD+ Office, Islamabad
27.	Ms. Farhat Jabeen, Research Associate	National REDD+ Office, Islamabad
28.	Ms. Sumayyah Aleem, Research Associate	National REDD+ Office, Islamabad