

Draft Minutes of the Eleventh Meeting of National Steering Committee on REDD+ held on 12 October, 2021 at Islamabad Hotel, Islamabad

Eleventh meeting of National Steering Committee on REDD+ was held on 12 October 2021 at Islamabad Hotel, Islamabad. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Naheed S. Durrani, Secretary Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC). The initial session of the meeting was attended by Mr. Amin Aslam, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Climate Change. 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 in which she thanked all the participants for attending the meeting. The following agenda items were discussed during the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 1: NATIONAL REDD+ STRATEGY AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

3) Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Climate Change, Malik Amin Aslam attended the opening session of the meeting during which a presentation was held on National REDD+ Strategy and Its Implementation Framework. In his speech, he appreciated collaborative efforts of the provincial forestry department and MoCC in preparation of national strategy. He mentioned that Pakistan is one of the most effected countries from Climate Change though its share in global emissions is minimal.

4) Mr. Amin Aslam added that the Government of Pakistan has assigned high priority to forestry and energy sectors under its revised NDCs which target 60% shift to clean energy and 30% conversion to e-vehicles by 2030 with complete ban on use of imported coal. He emphasized on the importance of Climate Vision of the Ministry of Climate Change. He said the National REDD+ Strategy would be helpful to promote nature-based solutions to cope with climate change which is in line with the vision of Prime Minister of Pakistan. He highlighted that the on-going initiatives such as TBTP, Protected Area Initiative and ESRI target forest restoration in all ecosystems from mangroves to alpine lands and are creating green job opportunities for the local communities.

AGENDA ITEM 2: PROVISION OF REMOTE SENSING DRONES TO PROVINCIAL/ TERRITORY FOREST DEPARTMENTS

5) The Special Assistant to Prime Minister urged provinces to improve forest monitoring for curtailing deforestation. He said that sustained monitoring of forest resources and changes in forest land and their overall outlook is at the heart of efforts for curtailing deforestation, degradation of forests and effective assessment of greenhouse gas emissions and their removals from the atmosphere to slow down global warming. He highlighted that adoption of new technology offers a promising potential to improve the scientific and accurate field measurements in forests to support transparent national forest monitoring systems for international reporting and better forestry planning.

6) The Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Climate Change along with NPD/Secretary MoCC handed over, the Remote Sensing Drones among all the provincial forestry departments, which were procured under the REDD+ project.



AGENDA ITEM 3 (i): PROGRESS ON DECISIONS OF 10TH MEETING OF NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE ON REDD+ AND CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

7) The compliance to decisions of the 10th Steering Committee on REDD+ were reviewed. Syed Ghulam Qadir Shah, 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 finalization of National REDD+ Strategy (NRS), it was informed that it has been finalized in consultation with all the provinces.
- ii. On development of Forest Reference Emission Levels and establishment of National Forest Monitoring System, it was informed that FREL has been endorsed by UNFCCC and the contract has been completed with final payment disbursed to the consultant M/S Arbonaut Oy Finland.
- iii. On decision regarding request of NSC to approach WB for additional support for equipment such as, seeding drones, NRC informed that WB was of the view that purchasing equipment would be acceptable if it is essential, however, availability of sufficient budget is essential before processing such requests. Furthermore, Forest Monitoring Drones have been procured under the project to strengthen forest monitoring systems of provinces / territories.
- iv. Regarding the decision to consult subnational forest departments during preparation of the proposed GCF proposal for REDD+ piloting, NRC informed that GCF has advised MoCC to prepare a larger proposal for Ecosystem Restoration. He added, a national proposal for demonstration of REDD+ is being prepared to explore funding from NDRMF.
- v. With regard to decision that provinces/ territories will explore possibilities to engage permanent human resources to operationalize forest monitoring system in provinces/ territories on sustainable basis, the provincial REDD+ Focal Point of AJK, Mr. Irtaza Qureshi requested for provision of workstation to forest department, as they do not have existing resources to establish a dedicated cell for REDD+. Mr. Gohar Ali, KP Focal Point REDD+, seconded Mr. Irtaza. NRC mentioned that the readiness fund is closing, however, a new proposal is being prepared to be submitted to NDRMF wherein additional requirements by provinces could be added and the draft proposal has already been shared with all the provincial REDD+ Focal Points.
- vi. Regarding decision on exploring the possibilities of HR support for operationalization of forest monitoring systems and additional equipment as requested by provinces, it was informed that WB has advised to build capacities through a series of trainings as a quicker option to strengthen provincial monitoring capacities.
- vii. On development of sub-national MRV systems, it was informed that the process of contract with WWF Pakistan has been signed on 05 July 2022; whereas contract has been signed with PIDE on 28-07-2021 to undertake national level assessment of demand and supply of forest products and services.

Decisions:

- i. Minutes of 10th meeting of steering committee on REDD+ were confirmed.
- ii. All provinces / territories acknowledged the receipt of Remote Sensing Drones.
- iii. National REDD+ Strategy was endorsed by all provinces / territories.

- iv. The provinces shall be consulted for finalizing the NDRMF PC-1 to include their essential needs related to REDD+.

AGENDA ITEM 3 (ii): PROGRESS UPDATES OF REDD+ READINESS ACTIVITIES

8) Syed Ghulam Qadir Shah, NRC gave a detailed presentation on status of REDD+ project. He reported that all four requirements of REDD+ have been completed at national level. Additional activities are underway at sub-national level to further strengthen the REDD+ Requirements for which consultancy contracts have been signed with national and international firms with the approval of World Bank. The procurement of forest monitoring equipment and drones have been completed and handed over to all the provinces / territories under proper acknowledgment as per the recommended approach of WB. He added that FREL report was submitted to UNFCCC on 06 January 2020 which was assessed by two UNFCCC experts. UNFCCC has commended the report and found it transparent, complete and is overall in accordance with IPCC guidance contained in annex to decision 12/CP. 17. NRC apprised that various awareness raising sessions were conducted. National Internship Programme was initiated under which 26 interns were selected from all provinces and territories to support in undertaking small scale forestry/REDD+ related research. He informed that REDD+ Readiness Package has also been submitted to FCPF Participants Committee which has been assessed as complete. It will be presented for endorsement in the upcoming Participant Committee meeting of FCPF to be held on 14-17 December, 2021.

9) NRC also presented procurement status of various national and international consultancy assignment under additional funding activities and added that the individual consultants will provide progress update on their respective assignments in the subsequent session of the National Steering Committee. NRO is also making efforts to develop a proposal to seek funding for the demonstration phase of REDD+ from NDRMF.

10) Mr. Riaz Ahmed Wagan, REDD+ Focal Point Sindh requested that as the key REDD+ requirements have been completed, provinces may be supported to explore funding opportunities under compliance or voluntary markets. He added that a registry needs to be established to maintain database of such projects to avoid double counting.

11) Mr. Niaz Khan Kakar, REDD+ Focal Point Balochistan inquired whether the contracted activities could be completed by June 2022 due to expected delays due to prevalent COVID-19 situation. He enquired whether or not the WB was considering no cost extension beyond June 2022. NRC responded that any decision related to further extension is to be done at the next meeting of Participant Committee (PC) of World Bank scheduled in December 2022.

12) Mr. Gohar Ali REDD+ Focal Point KP reiterated that for the sub-national forest monitoring portals, data management and ownership should be with respective subnational forest departments through dedicate spaces in a distributed server mechanism. The forum agreed with the suggested approach.

Decisions:

- i. The project progress on various activities was endorsed and NROs efforts in this regard appreciated.

- ii. Provinces / territories shall take steps to institutionalize REDD+ and integrate REDD+ interventions in their Annual Development Plans.
- iii. Monitoring web-portals shall be established in provinces / territories and integrated with national portals with defined protocols for data generation, ownership and sharing.
- iv. NRO will approach WB/FCPF for possible no cost extension of project.

AGENDA ITEM 4: PROGRESS UPDATE ON ASSIGNMENTS UNDER ADDITIONAL FUNDING

13) Team leaders of each of the respective consultancy services presented progress update on their respective assignments as follows.

14) Ms. Arjumand Nizami representing M/S Helevetas presented progress on assignment "Preparation of REDD+ Action Plans and Forest Management Plans". She informed that socio-economic and ecological data of 15 selected sites collected, three management plans have been drafted and drafting of remaining management plans is in progress. In addition, 37 awareness sessions were conducted involving 1182 participants. She added that for preparation of participatory REDD+ Action Plans, consultations have been completed in all provinces / territories, two PRAPs have been drafted (KP and GB) – remaining 4 are being drafted.

15) Mr. Danish Rashdi representing IUCN presented progress on assignment "Awareness and Outreach". He informed that Strategic Communications Plan for REDD+ has been updated, 32 key messages have been developed, 12 awareness products designed, 8 out of 10 technical knowledge products have been edited and designed, 10 infographs have been designed, 6 media stories and two media talk shows have been organized 12 out of 30 community session have been organized and four national trainings have been conducted. In addition, a documentary is under preparation and script is being finalized in consultation with NRO.

16) Dr. Dur e Nayab representing PIDE gave progress update on assignment titled Assessment of Demand & Supply of Forest Products & Services, to Quantify Contribution of Forests to Rural Livelihood & National Economy. She informed that the experts of Pakistan Forest Institute (PFI) are also part of the team. Inception Report has been completed and tools and methodology for data collection have been finalized in consultation with relevant stakeholders. She informed that data collection will be completed by January 2022 and the preliminary findings are expected during March 2022.

17) Mr. Muhammad Ibrahim Khan representing WWF Pakistan presented progress update on assignment, Establishing Sub-National Forest Monitoring, Measurement Reporting and Verification Systems. He informed about the methodological frameworks for SLMS and Provincial Forest Inventory and QA / QC are in progress. Work on definition of forest degradation has been initiated and draft definition has been prepared for finalization at the national stakeholders' workshop scheduled on 26-10-2021. Downloading and pre-processing of Landsat Imageries for 2016 and 2020 completed. Trainings on forest inventory conducted in all provinces and data collection is expected to be completed by February 2022 and preliminary findings shall be consolidated by April 2022.

18) Ms. Coline Seyller representing Joint venture of TEREA, ONF International and EMC presented progress update on assignment titled Assessment of private sector engagement and potential of carbon trading mechanisms and markets for Pakistan. She informed that Inception report was finalised in August 2021, meetings with potential international private sector have been completed and tools for private sector consultations have been developed. A draft brochure has been developed and national consultations are planned to be conducted by national and international consultants during November 2021.

19) Mr. Nadeem Bukhari representing M/S Helevetas presented progress update on assignment, Assessment of Existing Forestry Technical and Extension Systems and REDD+ Readiness Self-Assessment". He informed that consultations have been completed at provincial and federal level. He added that REDD+ Readiness assessment (R-Package) has been completed through national multistakeholder self-assessment process and findings were validated at national workshop held in Karachi that was attended by Additional Secretary MoCC. The report has been finalised after incorporating feedback from World Bank. In addition, data collection has been completed on technical and extension systems including the private and government nursery hubs in all provinces. Protocols have been developed for establishment of forest seed orchards. In addition, 370 forestry documents/maps are being digitized including updating of the book titled Trees of Pakistan.

20) Dr Barun Gurung, representing WOCAN presented progress update on assignment titled Preparation of REDD+ Gender Action Plans. He informed that the consultations and gender assessments were completed in all provinces / territories by involving 475 participants. In addition, an international training was also organized. He shared the draft findings of gender assessment, gender gaps identified, opportunities for improvement and measures recommended for future. He added that inception report and mid-term reports have been submitted to NRO and preparation of draft final report was in progress.

21) Mr. Gohar Ali also identified the need to support strengthening of provincial REDD+ setups. On a query related need and process of identification of certain studies, it was informed that the need for these studies were identified during the mid-term project review involving all the provinces / territories. The studies/activities were identified and subsequently endorsed by the Participant Committee of World Bank with additional grant. NRC added that all the identified studies and activities were essential so as to comply with readiness requirements of UNFCCC and FCPF in order to access any future international funding.

22) NRC informed that under new project being developed for NDRMF funding provision has been kept to support establishment of REDD+ Cells and the draft proposal has already been sent to all the provinces for their review. He added that as per WB policy readiness grant cannot be utilized for concrete works, except for assessments and capacity building. Mr. Essa, REDD+ Focal Point GB informed that GB has already established REDD+ Cell/Office through their own resources. Mr. Niaz Kakar also informed that a separate REDD+ unit has been established in Balochistan. He appreciated project progress and support to strengthen capacities of provinces / territories. He specifically requested for organizing training on use of drones at the provincial level. Mr. Riaz Wagan informed that Sindh province was also making efforts to seek funding for strengthening provincial REDD+ cell. The chair requested all provinces to identify their needs that may be made part of proposal under preparation by NRO for NDRMF funding.

The chair also advised IUCN Pakistan to expedite community awareness sessions in provinces and other remaining activities.

Decisions:

- i. Provinces will identify support required for strengthening of provincial REDD+ Cells for inclusion in NDRMF proposal by NRO.
- ii. Process will be initiated for exploring opportunities for forest carbon financing.
- iii. Provinces / territories will send requests to NRO to explore possibilities of organizing training sessions at the provincial level, particularly on use of drones.
- iv. All consultants were requested to expedite progress on implementation of contractual agreements within the stipulated timelines.
- v. IUCN Pakistan to expedite community awareness sessions in provinces and other remaining activities.
- vi. Progress made on outputs under various consultancy services and other project activities was approved as under:
 - a. Report of National REDD+ Strategy and its Implementation framework.
 - b. Inception Report and Midterm Report of the assignment “Preparation of Participatory Forest Management Plans and REDD+ Action Plans” submitted by M/S Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation Pakistan.
 - c. Inception Report and Progress Report-1 of the assignment “Awareness Raising and Outreach” submitted by M/S IUCN Pakistan.
 - d. Inception Report of the assignment, “Assessment of Private Sector Engagement and Potential of Carbon Trading Mechanisms and Markets for Pakistan” submitted by JV of TERE, ONF and EMC.
 - e. Inception Report, Interim Report (R-Package), and Mid Term Report of the assignment, Assessment of Existing Forestry Systems in Pakistan submitted by M/S Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation Pakistan.
 - f. Inception Report and Mid Term Report of the assignment, “Prepare REDD+ Gender Action Plan(s)” submitted by M/S WOCAN, USA.
 - g. Inception Report of the assignment, “Comprehensive National Level Assessment of Demand and Supply of Forest Products and Services submitted by Pakistan Institute of Development Economics.
 - h. Procurement of forest monitoring drones and forest inventory and monitoring equipment handed-over to the provinces.
 - i. Interns selected under national internship programme.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks from chair.



Annex-I: List of Participants

S. No	Name/ Designation	Organization
1.	Malik Amin Aslam, SA to PM on Climate Change	Ministry of Climate Change, Islamabad
2.	Ms. Naheed Shah Durrani, Secretary/ NPD	Ministry of Climate Change, Islamabad
3.	Mr. Tariq Naseem, Additional Secretary	Punjab Forest Department
4.	Dr. Raja Omer, DIGF	Ministry of Climate Change, Islamabad
5.	Mr. Mehmood Akhter Cheema, Country Director	IUCN, Pakistan
6.	Dr. Faiz UI Bari, Advisor	FAO, Pakistan
7.	Dr. Abdul Jabbar Kazi, CCF	Forest and Wildlife Department, Govt of Sindh
8.	Mr. Riaz Ahmed Wagan, CCF/ Provincial REDD+ Focal Point	Forest and Wildlife Department, Govt of Sindh
9.	Mr. Ghulam Muhammad CCF	Balochistan Forest Department
10.	Mr. Gohar Ali, CCF/ / Provincial REDD+ Focal Point	KP Forest Department
11.	Mr. Niaz Khan Kakar, Conservator of Forests,	Balochistan Forest Department
12.	Mr. Asad Masood, Conservator of Forests	AJK Forest Department
13.	Mr. Iftikhar UI Hassan Farooqi, Director	Forest Services Academy, Goragali, Murree
14.	Mr. Muhammad Essa, DFO/ Provincial REDD+ Focal Point	GB Forest Department
15.	Mr. Irtaza Qureshi, DFO/ Provincial REDD+ Focal Point	AJK Forest Department
16.	Mr. Muhammad Umer, Assistant Director (UN)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad
17.	Mr. Arshad Maqsood	Ministry of Petroleum, Islamabad
18.	Mr. Muhammad Nasir Saleem, Deputy Secretary	Ministry of Defense
19.	Mr. Qadir Yar Tiwana	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Islamabad
20.	Mr. Christopher James, Task Team Leader REDD+	World Bank Pakistan, Islamabad
21.	Mr. Muhammad Sohail	UNDP Pakistan
22.	Mr. Mehmood Akhter Cheema, Country Director	IUCN, Pakistan
23.	Mr. Muhammad Sajjad, Manager CCA	Pakistan Poverty and Alleviation Fund, Islamabad
24.	Ms. Adnana Rao	Pakistan Poverty and Alleviation Fund, Islamabad
25.	Mr. Shams	Pakistan Poverty and Alleviation Fund, Islamabad
26.	Mr. Munir Ahmed	Devcom Pakistan
27.	Mr. Danish Rashidi, Team Leader	IUCN, Pakistan
28.	Mr. Hammad Saeed	IUCN, Pakistan
29.	Ms. Arjumand Nizami, Team Leader	Helvetas Swiss, Pakistan
30.	Mr. Nadeem Bukhari	Helvetas Swiss, Pakistan

31.	Dr. Durr e Nayyab, Team Leader	PIDE, Islamabad
32.	Mr. Nabeel Anwer	PIDE, Islamabad
33.	Mr. Muhammad Ibrahim, Team Leader	WWF, Pakistan
34.	Hammad Gilani, Assistant Professor	Institute of Science and Technology, Islamabad
35.	Mr. Sajidin Hussain, Consultant REDD+	EMC Pakistani
36.	Mr. Asif Shuja Khan, COO	EMC Pakistan
37.	Syed Ghulam Qadir Shah, NRC	National REDD+ Office, Islamabad
38.	Mr. Pervez Manan, NFI Expert	National REDD+ Office, Islamabad
39.	Mr. Muhammad Afrasiyab, GIS Expert	National REDD+ Office, Islamabad
40.	Mr. Rizwan Munir, Finance Manager	National REDD+ Office, Islamabad
41.	Mr. Nadeem Nisar, Procurement & Contract Management Officer	National REDD+ Office, Islamabad
42.	Ms. Farhat Jabeen, Research Associate	National REDD+ Office, Islamabad