

**Supplement to Expression of Interest in Joining the
Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)**

December 6, 2011

1. General information

Country submitting the form: **Pakistan**
Date submitted: 27th January, 2012
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2. Background

2.1 In what capacity would your country participate in the FCPF? Choose one of the five categories of participation below and briefly explain. Participation in the FCPF could be in different capacities, ranging from no support to full support and to be determined by PC subject to available resources, as listed below:

Government of Pakistan seeks Full Membership of FCPF for the full range of support including financial and technical support for REDD+ readiness, help to formulate a R-PP including grant to implement the R-PP and for one country representative to attend FCPF meetings (option iv).

2.2 Should your country preference be category (iii) or (iv) above, have you already identified or had discussion with a potential Delivery Partner for channeling FCPF resources and providing REDD+ readiness Services? If so, which one (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Inter- American Development Bank, United Nations Development Programme or World Bank)?

Yes the office of the Inspector General of Forests has had many discussions with UNDP Pakistan on modes of channeling resources for mainstreaming REDD in Pakistan. FAO Pakistan had also been in the loop; FAO has recently supported participation of provincial REDD focal points to undertake a field visit to REDD sites in Nepal. It is planned to hold meetings with FAO Islamabad for channeling FCPF resources when available. On the basis of comparative availability of REDD+ expertise in the regional perspectives, Government of Pakistan will prefer FAO and UNDP as the potential delivery partners.

2.3 Does the World Bank have an active portfolio on forests and natural resource management in your country? If so, briefly explain.

World Bank has had big forest related portfolios in Pakistan during the recent past this includes the Protected Areas Management Project and Forestry Sector Project. However there is no active project at the present.

2.4 Have you received, or are you expecting to receive in the near future, technical or financial support for REDD+ from the UN-REDD Programme or any other multilateral or bilateral assistance program for REDD+? If yes, provide the details and also mention for what areas of REDD+ Readiness would you request the FCPF support?

Pakistan has become a Member of UN-REDD Programme during 2011 and following measures have already been undertaken:

- i. National Focal Point for UN-REDD has been designated.
- ii. National Steering Committee has been constituted and its meetings are held regularly.
- iii. Pakistan has participated in the seventh meeting of UN-REDD Policy Board.

Recently, UN-REDD intimated to all partners that some resources have been mobilized to implement readiness phase and they have invited proposals from Member countries including Pakistan. No proposal has so far been submitted to UN-REDD Programme, working is being done to identify major gaps and prioritize needs in this regard and it is expected that Pakistan will soon be able to submit requests for specific support. Other ongoing efforts include active mobilization of ICIMOD and accessing GEF resources for SFM and REDD.

3. REDD+ and National Development

3.1 How important are forests in your country, including for poverty reduction, the well-being of forest-dependent Indigenous Peoples and other forest dwellers, and biological diversity? Please use quantitative data, if available.

Status of forests & deforestation: Most of the country falls in the arid and semi-arid zones. Agriculture and livestock grazing are the major land uses in Pakistan. Both of these land uses compete with and impact forests and forestry in many ways. Pakistan has a low forest cover country with 5.01% area under forests but their great variety reflects the country's great physiographic and climatic contrasts. However this 5 percent forest cover of a big country is a substantial area of great diversity. Pakistan's forest and woodland types include: littoral and swamp forests; tropical dry deciduous forests; tropical thorn forests; sub-tropical broad-leaved evergreen forests; sub-tropical pine forests; Himalayan moist temperate forests; Himalayan dry temperate forests; sub-alpine forests; alpine scrub. Coniferous forests pre-dominate the hilly terrain. Pakistan is one of the first countries in the world that perfected the techniques of creating man-made plantation forests. These plantations are now an important wood source in Pakistan. These fall into four categories: irrigated plantations; farmland trees; linear plantations along roads and irrigation canals and railway lines. Overall Pakistan has only 0.03 ha of forest per capita of population compared to the world average of 1.0 ha.

Dependence for livelihood: Pakistan's economy is agro-based and about two thirds of population resides in rural areas. Although there is a wide spectrum of social and cultural setups in different eco-zones viz: mountains, plateaus, plains, deserts and coastal areas, yet the common characteristics are the traditional dependence of rural communities on natural vegetation. Rural dwellers located close to natural forest; legal owners, legitimate right holders or non-right holders, all enjoy multiple uses of forests. They depend, with varying degree, upon forests for construction wood, fuel wood, grazing and many other uses. Medicinal and aromatic plants and other non-timber forest products are used by about 80% of forest dwellers in one way or the other. While the communities living away from forests rely on purchase of forest products like fuelwood, wild fruits and medicinal plants from market. In plains, similar dependence is on irrigated plantations. Trophy hunting of CITES listed species in particular the Markhor *Capra falconeri* is a success story that generates handsome income to the custodial communities but also in conserving the habitats in the high hill mountainous areas.

The recent trend is the rising realization of the importance of REDD as a means to conserve and enhance forest cover, forest area and carbon stocks. It is gradually being viewed as the important tool to save natural forests and stop forest degradation in the near future. While forest legislation in Pakistan defines the major and minor forest produce, acceptance of forest carbon in the relevant laws is possible with a well thought out plan and FCPF R-PP and its implementation appear one way to achieve the goal.

3.2 What are the current situation and trends in deforestation and forest degradation? What are the main causes of deforestation and forest degradation?

No reliable figures are available at the present however according to the last survey of 2004 the rate of deforestation of natural forests is 27,000 ha. According to FAO (2006) during the last two decades Pakistan has lost 25% of its natural forests with an annual rate of forest land use change of 2%. Deforestation and degradation of natural forests, retrogression, fragmentation and loss of wildlife habitats as well as decline in populations of forest dependent species continues unabatedly though not scientifically documented. Many direct and underlying causes are attributed to this trend. The available studies show that while tree density in natural forests is declining, forest area may not be decreasing however tree cover on farmlands is definitely increasing.

The available studies also show that underlying causes of deforestation include: population growth and rising demand for land conversion, illegal logging, and unclear forest land tenure reforms and weak law enforcement. Infrastructure development has become another driver of deforestation.

3.3 Does your country currently have a forest monitoring system, including estimates of greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation?

In Pakistan, forest management is the responsibility of provincial forest departments who have some in-built system for monitoring of their respective forest resources. This includes field based assessment of existing stocks, new planting, and forest damages by fires etc. However, there is lack of harmonization as they follow different methods and reporting formats. Secondly, there is no mechanism to monitor forests on lands outside jurisdiction of forest departments.

At national level, some organizations like National Agricultural Research Centre, SUPARCO, and ICIMOD etc. conduct forest assessment occasionally, but this is mainly project based and anecdotal. The Ministry of Environment through its attached department, Pakistan Forest Institute conducted national forest assessment in 2004. As such, monitoring and assessment of national forests on regular basis is not conducted by any department, nor there exist any department assigned the function of forest monitoring. REDD provides a hope that a transparent system of forest monitoring will be established for the first time.

3.4 What is the current thinking on what would be needed to reduce deforestation and forest degradation in your country (e.g., potential programs, policies, capacity building, etc.)?

Under the Constitution of Pakistan, Forestry is provincial subject and Provincial governments formulate their own strategies and action plans to achieve the goals and objectives of the policy on forests. Federal Government under its mandated functions is coordinating and facilitating the provinces through national policy, programmes and projects. While international agreements including UNFCCC and its REDD+ mechanism fall in the domain of Federal functions. The office of the IGF consequent upon designation as the REDD Focal Point for Pakistan since 2010 has organized a number of consultative meetings, capacity building trainings and workshops on various aspects of REDD. The gist of the thinking that emerged out of these activities is that REDD appears as the best available option to curb deforestation with community participation in a transparent environment as spelled out in the UNFCCC Agreements on REDD (Cancun and Durban accord in particular). There appears a consensus that the drivers of deforestation can

best be addressed through the REDD mechanism and there is a huge potential of enhancing carbon stock. Since huge lands around in the Indus plains exist that can be planted up and huge potential of bringing back the mangrove forests exists.

3.5 What are the key potential challenges for REDD+ in your country (e.g., lack of financing, lack of technical capacity, governance issues)?

The potential challenges for a successful REDD programme are manifold, the recent trainings though at a very small scale show that there exists a well-qualified team of forestry trained graduates and junior staff that can easily understand the new concepts of REDD. However trainings and consultations on REDD are expensive for which finance remains a real challenge. Similar is the case for the forest owners, forest right holders and traders in forest produce.

One challenge that is most likely to emerge once REDD projects are started is the resistance from the so called powerful timber mafia, as with REDD in place dwelling communities will start protecting the forests once they are convinced that they will get a due and fair share from the sale proceeds of forest carbon that they protect. This challenge can be addressed by a systematic approach of building capacities of the local communities.

Another potential challenge that may emerge while Pakistan moves ahead with REDD is the recent constitutional amendment the 18th amendment under which environment has been removed from the concurrent list thereby making it a provincial subject. Some provinces have also shown a trend of entering into direct agreements with private companies for pilot REDD projects. However the text of the Cancun and Durban Agreements on REDD is clear about national forest carbon accounting and national emissions which have already been conveyed to all the provinces. The consultations held in the recent months with the provinces create high hopes that the challenge created due to the 18th constitutional amendment for taking up REDD at the national level will be resolved with the provinces in accordance with the UNFCCC Agreements related to REDD. Provinces/ territories have recently started acting on the advice of the NFP for REDD and in fact there is trend that all REDD related initiatives in the provinces are being shared with the NFP.

3.6 How does REDD+ fit in your country's national low-carbon development strategy/plan, if any, or in the strategy/plan for the forest and other relevant sectors (e.g., agriculture, water, energy, transportation)?

Government of Pakistan has finalized the National Climate Change Policy NCCP which is in the final stages of approval. Work on the development of the low-carbon development strategy is also in the offing and Pakistan is actively pursuing the developments in the Green Economy discourse as well preparing for the Rio plus 20 Summit. REDD forms an important component of the NCCP as a mitigation measure; under the policy measures the NCCP clearly spells out 'secure financial assistance from World Bank's FCPF and UN- REDD Programme as well as form other international sources to formulate national programme for avoiding deforestation and forest restoration". As such this document is a direct measure/ first step to implement a provision in the NCCP.

The draft National Forest Policy also has a similar provision for mainstreaming REDD as tool to curb deforestation and enhance forest cover/ forest carbon stock.

3.7 Please briefly describe the envisaged national management arrangements for REDD+,

explaining at what level of government REDD+ would be steered.

Ministry of National Disaster Management, Office of Inspector General of Forests as the National Focal Point for REDD, has oversight of Pakistan REDD+ policy and REDD+ Strategy preparation process. A National Steering Committee, comprising senior representatives of all provinces and international NGOs has been constituted in the Ministry of National Disaster Management that is mandated to review the REDD+ progress and to plan activities for the future. Provincial focal points have been designated in all provinces to coordinate with national focal point and to undertake REDD+ related programmes in their respective territories. There is active consideration to establish a REDD Facilitation Unit RFU to assist the National Focal Point to implement REDD with full time devotion. It is expected that with the availability of financial resources this RFU will become operational.

3.8 Please briefly describe the proposed consultations that would be conducted to design the REDD+ strategy.

In the post-Cancun period, a series of consultative meetings and workshops have been held in all the provinces and the federal capital on a few aspects of REDD+ the latest one was held on 12th January in which the UN REDD SEPC safeguards were taken up in detail and the comments were conveyed to UN REDD. Now, the provincial focal points for REDD+ are fully functional and undertaking consultation down to grass root levels. During the designing of REDD+ strategy, rigorous and meaningful consultation will be held at all levels and on all aspects of REDD+.