

**NATIONAL REPORT TO THE THIRD SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON FORESTS**

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II. Progress and issues related to implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action:

General:

1. *Please provide additional or new information on initiatives taken or lessons learned further to the information on forests included in your national reports to the Commission on Sustainable Development on the following points:-*
 - *Assessment (including of the relevance, priority, status of implementation, planned actions) of the IPF/IFF proposals for action in the national context.*
 - *Development and implementation of your national forest programme or similar national policy framework for forests, and*
 - *Mechanisms or initiatives to facilitate stakeholder participation in forest sector planning, decision-making and/or forest management.*

1. Pakistan is a forest deficient country with 4.2 million ha (4.8%) of the total land area under forests. Forests play an important role in the national economy and serve as a source of livelihood for many communities. Many ecological and environmental imperatives are associated with forests, as harbingers of biodiversity and their watershed value is widely recognized. Local communities in mountainous areas are dependent on meager forest resource for fuel and livelihood. Forests also provide medicinal plants and non-timber forest products. During 1993 the Forestry Sector Master Plan (FSMP) recorded that the annual out turn of 686000 million cubic meter cube of timber and firewood is provided by the State Forest on annual basis, while the estimated annual consumption of timber and fuel wood is 29.5 million cubic meter. A plan has also estimated that this present consumption of 29.5540 million cubic meter will become 52.6 million cubic meter upto 2018 thus increasing future needs by 23 million cubic meter.

1.1 Pakistan has a long term Forestry Sector Master Plan (FSMP) for the development of the Forestry Sector over a period of 25 years (1993-2018). The plan suggested a number of approaches, policies, strategies and programmes to meet the wood and non-wood demands. It focuses on core areas of forest which include soil conservation, watershed management, sustainable forest management, eco-system and biodiversity management and strengthening of provincial and federal institutions. It provides a framework for various investment programmes to the Federal and Provincial Governments, international donor agencies, NGOs, private sector and communities.

1.2 The National Forest Policy 2002 has been prepared by the Government of Pakistan after a broad consultative process which has adequate provisions for the IPF/IFF proposals for actions to the three substantive issue related to (i) the economic aspects of forest: through provisions of sustainable forest management, (ii) forest health and productivity: through the provisions for sustainable anagement

of forest and preservation of the fragile eco-systems, (iii) maintaining forest cover to meet the present and future needs.

1.3 The Government of Pakistan reviewed the forest management system during 2000 in consultation with Provincial Forest Departments and other stakeholders and set up the following guidelines to ensure sustainable forest management, rapid afforestation and enforcement of forest laws:

- Long-term forest working plans should be prepared in consultation with local communities. Commercial felling of trees from any forest area without a sustainable working plan should not be carried out.
- The depleted forest areas should be protected and a programme of afforestation be developed.
- Forest harvest shall only be carried out when funds to regenerate the cut-over area are assured. Reforestation of cut over areas shall be carried out immediately after the completion of felling operation along with strict enforcement of protection measures.
- In Reserved Forests, harvesting should be restricted to hygienic felling only through Joint Forest Management Committees.
- Forest Departments will continue to assist the village communities in preparation of sustainable working plans and to monitor the activities regarding protection and management of their forests.
- To deal with forest offence cases, the schedule of compensation and fines will be revised/rationalized.
- A system of monitoring and evaluation of Forest Management may be established to monitor change in forest cover.
- All Government Departments, NGOs, Educational Institutions, Local Communities and Forest owners will be involved in afforestation activities so as to increase the forest cover in the country.
- Institutional strengthening of the Forest Departments will be carried out through necessary reforms focusing on transparency, effective enforcement of laws, community participation and strict action against corrupt elements.

1.4 Experience has shown that a sectoral approach to mountain development has to be replaced by an integrated natural resource management approach with multi-stakeholder participation to address special environmental values of the mountain watersheds. Prolonged droughts and reduced snowfall received in the mountainous areas have considerably decreased water availability in major reservoirs creating water scarcity in the country. Since water related issues and conflicts are going to increase because of the global level climatic changes, the management of upland watersheds

for enhanced water conservation will become the policy thrust area during the millennium. There is a need to prepare a strategic plan for integrated watershed management in partnership with the local communities.

1.5 Pakistan organizes tree planting campaigns twice a year during the Spring and Monsoon seasons with the involvement of different Government agencies including educational institutions, National High Way Authority, Water and Power Development Authority, Armed Forces, NGOs, local bodies, community organizations etc. Pakistan has planted 132 million saplings during the Spring and Monsoon seasons 2002 and fixed a target of planting 72 million saplings during the spring tree planting campaign 2003. In addition to this, Pakistan is promoting public participation in the protection, conservation and management of the forests through different Forestry Sector Development Projects like Rachna Doab Afforestation Programme, Mangla and Tarbela Watershed Management Project, NWFP Forestry Sector Development Project, Upland Rehabilitation and Development Project, Natural Resource Conservation and Management Project, Protecting and Managing Wildlife and Biodiversity etc. being implemented in the country.

Economic aspects of forests including trade:

2. *Please provide information: i) activities undertaken in your country, ii) progress made, iii) lessons learned, iv) constraints encountered (including those related to financing, transfer of environmentally sound technologies, and needs for capacity-building) and v) initiatives planned and vi) the role of enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination to facilitate progress in:*

- *Valuation of forest goods and services (this may include, among other things, the development and use of new valuation methodologies, valuation of a wider range of goods and services, and policy decisions that reflect a more comprehensive assessment of forest values).*
- *The amount, scope, or quality of market data and information for wood and non-wood forest products and their substitutes.*
- *Use of economic and policy instruments to facilitate progress toward sustainable forest management (these may include improved tax policies and forest revenue collection systems).*

2. The Government of Pakistan is implementing a project titled "Strengthening of Forestry Wing at Federal Level for Sustained Monitoring and Implementation of the Forestry Sector Master Plan" with the assistance of Asian Development Bank over a period of six years (from 1996 to 2002). The main focus of the project is to review and refine the strategies/programmes of the Forestry Sector Master Plan (FSMP) compatible to the present needs of the country. The project has identified different policy studies, which highlight the need of valuation of forests goods and services. These studies include marketing and pricing system of non-wood forest produce, supply and demand of fuel wood and timber for household and industrial sectors and consumption patterns of wood and wood products and the role of private and public forest industries in the development of Forestry Sector in the country.

- 2(i) No activities for assessment of economic aspects of forestry were undertaken. No information available.
- 2(ii) Not available. Since no data on the economic aspects of forestry is available.
- 2(iii) Not available because no economic and policy instruments to conduct case studies on improved tax policies and revenue collection system have been initiated.
- 2(iv) Although, these studies of economic aspects of forests are of crucial importance, but because of the limited financial resources are restricted to a limited scope. Therefore, it will be a need of the time that Government of Pakistan may be provided the international financial and technical assistance for their broader implementation in the country.

3. *Please provide information on i) initiatives taken, ii) progress made, iii) lessons learned, iv) constraints encountered (including those related to financing, transfer of environmentally sound technologies, and needs for capacity building); and v) initiatives planned, and vi) the role of enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination to facilitate progress related to trade in forest products or environmental services (e.g. carbon trading), including in:*

- *Efforts to reduce negative impacts of trade.*
- *Participation in forest certification and labeling schemes and work toward mutual recognition and comparability of such schemes, and*
- *Efforts to reduce illegal trade(exports from or imports into your country) in wood or non-wood forest products. Please indicate achievements made, lessons learned, constraints encountered, and planned initiatives.*

3. Pakistan is deficit in timber production and as such export of timber in the shape of logs, lumber and sawn timber is placed on the negative list of export policy 2000. However, the export of value added wood products such as sport goods, furniture and other artifacts of wood have been encouraged.

- 3(i) The Government of Pakistan is strictly following the export policy.
- 3(ii) Government of Pakistan is not doing any forest certification and labeling of forest products. Financial and technical assistance is needed to undertake this activity.
- 3(iii) Government is strictly following the national and international obligations to reduce the illegal trade in wood and non wood forest products and no significant activities have been initiated to conduct case studies.
- 3(iv) Initial indicators are that the Joint Forest Management experience is showing good results, however, it is felt that if the JFM committees are not provided with financial resources/interest free loans/endowments the role of the JFM

committees cannot make any impact. Since forestry operations like harvesting need huge capital investment, some success has been achieved in popularizing alternative sources of energy at the household led by popularizing bio-gas plants. Efforts are underway to introduce fuel efficient stoves. A lot of investment has been made in building capacities of the rural communities to manage the natural resources through GEF funded projects. However, assessment of the capacities built need third party evaluations. Pakistan has had tremendous success in community based trophy hunting programmes in the Northern Areas and the Provinces of Balochistan and NWFP.

- 3(v) It is planned to take action to build capacities of the decision makers in SFM; criteria and indicators for SFM, harmonizing forest related definitions and role of forest in carbon sequestration under the CDM. Monitoring of forest cover change through GIS has been planned at the national level.
- 3(vi) In order to assimilate the trade related issues for forest products in the National Forest Policy, an interface has been established with WTO Cell of the Ministry of Commerce. Similarly, a representative of the Pakistan Embassy, Japan attended the session of the ITTC in Yokohama, Japan during November 2002. The high rates of annual membership fees to the ITTC is an impediment for Pakistan's membership to this forest related MEA. Pakistan is in the process of considering ratification of the Kyoto Protocol; capacity in dealing with carbon trading under the Kyoto Protocol needs attention. Similarly, investment in capacity building to reduce negative impacts of trade in forest products and forest certification is needed.

Forest Health and Productivity

4. If damage to forests from air pollution is a significant problem in your country, please provide information on recent national strategies or programmes to minimize damaging air pollution. Please indicate if your country is involved in any international cooperation efforts aimed at strengthening scientific knowledge increasing information access or reducing the impacts of long-range air pollution on forests, as well as your views on the role of enhanced cooperation at the regional and international levels to facilitate such work.

4. No empirical assessment of air pollution damages to the forest has been conducted. However, there are no reports of damage to forests due to air pollution. However, Pakistan has been involved in international cooperation efforts such as convention on climate change, convention on desertification and convention of biodiversity.

Maintaining Forest Cover to meet present and future needs

5. Please indicate progress made and lessons learned in efforts to harmonize or to make compatible policy frameworks in your country (e.g. national forest programme or a similar policy framework for forests, biodiversity strategies and action plans, national action plans to combat desertification, etc.) that collectively address the full range of forest values.

5. In order to maintain the forest cover to meet the present and future needs a number of initiatives have been conducted; these includes (a) project titled "Forestry Sector Research and Development" has been prepared to strengthen the research capabilities of Pakistan Forest Institute, Peshawar (b) in order to monitor the changes in forest cover on regular basis a project has been prepared by the Pakistan Forest Institute Peshawar which shall commence from June, 2003. Besides, Government of Pakistan has also prepared the biodiversity action plan and plan to combat desertification at the national level. Similarly the National Communication Plan for the UNFCCC is in the process of finalization.

6. The Government of Pakistan has initiated a study on Supply and Demand Gaps in wood and non-wood forest products in the country (during 2003) with the assistance of Asian Development Bank. Based on the results of this study, future policy framework for the sustainable management of the natural resources will be framed.

Other Information and Emerging Issues

7. Please provide any additional relevant information on the implementation of proposals for action or emerging issues related to: i) economic aspects of forests, ii) forest health and productivity, or iii) maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs.

7. In Pakistan *Dalbergia Sissoo* is the main species growing in irrigated plantations, farmlands and avenue plantations. It constitutes a major source of wood for construction, furniture making, agricultural tools, fuel wood etc. This specie is suffering with a very serious problem of dieback spreading rapidly not only in Pakistan but in the region. All the Provincial Forest Departments and National and Provincial Research Institutes are conducting research on this problem in collaboration with national institutions and Agricultural Universities. Office of the Inspector General of Forests, Ministry of Environment, Local Government & Rural Development, Islamabad has constituted a special working group of the scientists, who has identified workable strategies to combat the problem of shisham dieback in consultation with all the stakeholders.

Preparation of the Report

8. Describe the process of preparing this report, including which government agencies and stakeholder groups were involved, and the extent to which they contributed. Provide information on challenges encountered and lessons learned in the preparation of this report.

8. The Office of the Inspector General (Forest), Ministry of Environment, Local Government & Rural Development is organizes different national meetings, seminars and workshops with the involvement of all the stake-holders to ensure the sustainable and well coordinated management of the natural resources in the country. This report is based on the information provided in such meetings, conferences, seminars etc.