

**National Report to the Fifth Session of the
United Nations Forum on Forests**

PAKISTAN

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**Ministry of Environment
Government of Pakistan**

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

General

Please provide additional or new information on initiatives taken or lessons learned since 1997 further to the information on forests included in your national reports to UNFF 2, UNFF 3 and UNFF 4, the Commission on Sustainable Development, and other international instruments and organizations 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,

international cooperation, including development and implementation of partnerships,

mechanisms or initiatives to facilitate stakeholder participation, including indigenous and local communities, in forest sector planning, decision-making and/or forest management.

Pakistan attended the UNFF 2 and 4 sessions, the Ad hoc expert group meeting on MAR and the Experts meeting with a view to developing the framework for a legally binding convention on forests. Pakistan has furnished its national report to UNFF3. Some progress has been made towards the IPF/IFF proposals at serial No. 27(a &b), 28(c), 29(a,b,c), 30,(b), 31(a,b,c), 64(a,b,c,d,f) and 67. this is reflected in various actions taken by the Government of Pakistan in the project titled " Forestry research and Development Project 2003-2008" and " Strengthening of the Office of the Inspector General of Forests". Under these Projects the baseline forest area, change in land use and forest land tenure studies are under progress. The results of forest area coverage using Remote Sensing shall be available for field testing prior to UNFF 5. The National Forest Policy 2001 has been formulated after broad consultation with the provinces and other stakeholders. National Workshops are planned each year at the Pakistan Forest Institute Peshawar to prioritize the Research needs. Regular scientific seminars are organized by the Punjab Forestry Research Institute Faisalabad on the epidemiology of the Shisham die-back.

The National Forest Programme (nfp) has been launched during 2004; the same was prepared after wide consultation with the provinces and other stakeholders. A national workshop to prioritize the first year activities was also held during August 2004. The provinces have nominated their respective focal points and the steering committee under the chair of the Inspector General of Forests is functional. A national workshop was organized by the office of the Inspector General of Forests in collaboration with LEAD Pakistan during 2002 on the "Root causes of deforestation in Pakistan" efforts to bring on board a diverse group of stakeholders including the forest owners, contractors and traders was quite successful.

The North West frontier Province "Forest Ordinance 2001" is a landmark legislation that has provided legal cover to Joint Forest Management (JFM) by devolution of decision making process at the JFM committees at the local level. However, there is a lot that needs to be done to bring the indigenous people into the national planning process. The identification of the indigenous groups and recording their local practices towards the natural environment is tremendous job where attention of the Inspector General of Forests shall be focused in the near future. Strategies on ways and means for identification, approaching and involving the local communities in the forestry planning process is a challenge that has been accepted, it is planned that this will be dealt under the nfp by involving the professional anthropologists. Steps have been taken to involve the professional anthropologists in Biodiversity and forestry issues: by nominating anthropologists to represent Pakistan on article 8(j) of the CBD at the international fora.

During the period 1997-2004 four meetings of the Federal Forestry Board and 10 meetings of the National Council for the Conservation of Wildlife were held with the federal Minister Environment in chair.

Implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action related to thematic issues of UNFF 2

Please provide information on: activities undertaken since 1997, progress made, constraints encountered, lessons learned, and issues that have emerged, as well as relevant information related to means of implementation (financing, transfer of environmentally sound technologies, and capacity-building) related to the following elements:

Combating deforestation and forest degradation (Please see IGF remarks on page 4)

2. *preparing diagnostic studies to analyse historical and underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation, including processes outside the forest sector*

Capacity building workshops on GIS/ RS for assessing forest cover change were arranged at the Punjab Forest School Ghoragali, Pakistan forest Institute Peshawar. Some attempts were made to analyze the underlying causes of deforestation in the First Country Report for the CBD prepared by the Ministry of environment on the Forest Biological Diversity and Equitable benefit sharing chapters of the report. A pilot project to test the models for combating desertification has been approved by GEF for a period of one year.

3. *formulating and implementing national policies and strategies, through an open and participatory process, for addressing the underlying causes of deforestation*

The National Forest Policy 2001 was formulated by involving a diverse group of stakeholders. The policy addresses issues related to deforestation, forest degradation and the multiple uses of forests.

Forest conservation and protection of unique types of forest and fragile ecosystems

4. *creating or expanding protected areas to safeguard forest and related ecosystems and their full range of values and, developing and applying criteria and methodologies for assessing the conditions and management effectiveness in protected forest areas*

In order to raise the awareness on the importance of the role of the protected areas system towards forest ecosystem conservation the targeted Protected Areas under the millennium Development Goals have been increased from 12 percent to 12.5 percent. Under the five year environmental program for the period 2004-2009 it is planned to establish the first botanical garden and a national system for floral surveys. Two GEF funded projects titled "Mountain Areas Conservation Project" and "Protected Areas Management Project" are under implementation while the "Pakistan Wetlands Project" has been approved during 2004.

5. *developing and implementing partnership mechanisms to engage forest owners, private sector, indigenous people and local communities in the planning and management of forest conservation areas and developing and implementing a range of innovative mechanisms for financing and encouraging forest conservation*

The approved National Forestry Program facility encourages the involvement of forest owners, indigenous people and local communities in the planning and management of forest conservation areas and proposing a range of innovative mechanisms for financing and encouraging forest conservation. The NWFP forest Ordinance 2001 has in fact provided legal basis for the involvement of the local communities in the management of the forest areas.

6. *giving high priority in national forest programs to the rehabilitation and sustainable management of forests and trees in environmentally critical areas, recognising the linkage between forest protection and sustainable development and improving the coordination among such policies and programmes*

The National Forest Policy has adequate provisions for the conservation of fragile ecosystems and rehabilitation of relict forests.

Rehabilitation and conservation strategies for countries with low forest cover

7. *expanding forested area, establishing and managing plantations to enhance production of forest goods and services, while avoiding the replacement of natural ecosystems, and recognizing the role of imports in satisfying the needs for forest products and services*

Establishment of Irrigated plantations appears as a major alternative to reduce the pressure on the natural forest ecosystems in view of the increasing human population. However, the acute shortage of irrigated water is a major impediment in establishing new plantations and maintain the existing ones to their optimum production potential. The case for imposing zero duties and taxes on import of all kinds of wood is taken up rigorously as a result of which there is a trend of reduction of import duties.

8. *promoting the regeneration and restoration of degraded forest areas including through partnerships and building capacities to promote effective participation in decision making, and development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies*

No major technology for reforestation, afforestation or regeneration of natural forests or the establishment of new irrigated plantation has come forth since 1997. It is felt that the terminology of environmentally sound technologies needs further elaboration and preparing of inventories of all such technologies. However, there had been a lot of concern by the environmentalists on the negative impacts of eucalyptus and use of polythene bags in forest nurseries. Eucalyptus plantation has been restricted to degraded and saline lands. No alternative to the polythene bags has been found that could replace the polythene bags at large scale economically.

9. *improving the efficiency of international cooperation to support the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and building capacity to monitor forest resources*

Pakistan cooperates with the FAO FRA process and had sent a scientist to the FRA meeting in Rome during 2003. The FAO commission on forests meeting at Fiji was also attended by the Inspector General of Forests.

Rehabilitation and restoration of degraded lands and promotion of natural and planted forests

10. *promoting the creation of new forest resources through plantations and recognizing their role in rehabilitation of degraded lands and forests in environmentally critical areas*

Creation of new forest plantations has been constrained due to the paucity of water and funds. The matter of the gradual in budgetary allocation for the forestry sector was discussed in the Federal Forestry Board meetings and the matter has been taken up with the provinces.

promoting policies to meet increasing demand for wood and non-wood forest products and services, through sustainable forest management.

Sustainable forest management is recognized as a corner stone of the forest policy 2001 and the policies preceding it. However translation of the sustainable management concepts into management practices has been slow at the provincial level since the provinces are still geared to practice the sustainable yield management instead.

Implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action related to thematic issues of UNFF 3

Please refer to your national report if appropriate, or provide new or updated information on: activities undertaken since 1997, progress made, constraints encountered, lessons learned, and issues that have emerged, as well as relevant information related to means of implementation (financing, transfer of environmentally sound technologies, and capacity-building) to support the following actions:

Economic aspects of forests, including trade

- 12.** *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)*

Not Applicable

- 13.** *the amount, scope, or quality of market data and information for wood and non-wood forest products and their substitutes*

The statistical data is compiled on all products including wood prices. The data is fairly accurate; however market information system for the tree farmers is the need of the hour.

- 14.** *use of economic and policy instruments to facilitate progress toward sustainable forest management (these may include improved tax policies and forest revenue collection systems)*

The concept of Sustainable Forest Management that evolved in the post Rio era is still not fully accepted by the provincial forest departments therefore it is yet not reflected in the forest management practices. However, there is widespread acceptance of the need to improve the existing systems.

- 15.** *efforts to reduce negative impacts of trade.*

Not applicable

- 16.** *participation in forest certification and labelling schemes and work toward mutual recognition and comparability of such schemes, and*

Not applicable

- 17.** *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.*

Pakistan is a party to CITES and strictly adheres to its legal provisions. No violation of CITES regulations for illegal trade in tree species was pointed out nor reported.

Forest health and productivity

- 18.** *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.*

Not applicable

Maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs

19. *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.*

The National Forest Programme, National Biodiversity Strategy, the National Communication to the UNFCCC and the National Action Plan to Combat Desertification stand approved by the Government of Pakistan. Each has a component on forestry within the mandate of its respective international legal instrument. The profile of these documents has yet to receive adequate attention of the policy makers. It is expected that the need to harmonize policy frameworks so as to collectively address the full range of forest values shall take quite some time.

20. *Please provide information on recent efforts to assess long-term trends in national supply and demand for wood, non-wood forest products and services and whether your country's national forest programme or similar policy framework for forests takes into consideration future needs for forest goods and services. Please provide views on how enhanced cooperation at the regional and international levels, including through UNFF, could further facilitate implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action*

In order to devise policies to cater for the long term demand for wood and wood products, availability of the basic data is essential. Studies are planned while some are in progress under the project 'Strengthening of the Forestry Wing at the federal level' to collect and analyze baseline data on demand and supply of wood and wood products. Regional and international cooperation in this regard is essential so as that appropriate policies are devised keeping in view the international trade regulations and certification requirements.

Implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action related to thematic issues of UNFF 4

Please refer to your national report if appropriate, or provide new or updated provide information on: activities undertaken since 1997, progress made, constraints encountered, lessons learned, and issues that have emerged, as well as relevant information related to means of implementation (financing, transfer of environmentally sound technologies, and capacity-building) related to the following elements:

Social and cultural aspects of forests

21. *promoting the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of forest genetic resources and addressing the issue of intellectual property rights, including the identification of the origins of forest genetic resources, taking into account work undertaken by the Convention on Biological Diversity and other international agreements*

The Biodiversity and the Bio-safety Acts are in different stages of preparation. These issues will be addressed adequately in these legal instruments.

22. *strengthening the role of women in sustainable forest management, including through capacity building and greater participation in community-based forest management*

In line with the national programme to involve women in the decision making processes at the local, district and national levels, women's participation in the Joint Forest management Committees is encouraged. Various projects

in the forestry sector have women participation components. The progress of women involvement has been satisfactory.

23. *integrating local and indigenous communities in sustainable forest management programmes, particularly as regards (a) recognition and respect of the customary and traditional rights and privileges of indigenous and local communities, (b) participation in decision making regarding the management of forests, (c) the attainment of secure land tenure arrangements, (d) capacity building and technology transfer for sustainable forest management directed at indigenous and local communities*

Realizing the shortfall in capacity to understand and address the issues related to indigenous people and local communities efforts have been made to encourage the professionals in the social sciences to undertake research and studies in these issues. Poverty is the main issue that concerns the forest dwelling local communities; in order to address poverty issues the PRSP has provisions to involve the local communities in the poverty alleviation projects.

Traditional forest-related knowledge

24. *inventorying, cataloguing, and applying traditional forest related knowledge for sustainable forest management and promoting research on TFRK with the involvement of the knowledge holders*

Not Applicable

25. *supporting the application of intellectual property rights and/or other protection regimes for traditional forest related knowledge, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of traditional forest related knowledge, innovations and practices*

Not Applicable

Scientific forest-related knowledge

26. *disseminating scientific knowledge to all interested parties, including through new and innovative ways, and strengthening capacity and mobilizing funding for national and regional research institutions and networks*

The office of the Inspector General of Forests encourages the allforesters mailing list that provides a platform for dissemination of scientific knowledge. The membership of this list has exceeded 200 individuals. A project to strengthen research at the Pakistan Forest Institute Peshawar has been launched for the period 2003-2008 at a cost of PKR 194 million.

27. *enhancing interaction between scientific research and policy processes, including priority setting of research, addressing of knowledge gaps and using scientific knowledge to support decision-making*

Not Applicable

monitoring, assessment and reporting, concepts, terminology and definitions

28. *improving information on national forest resources, making the information widely available, assisting other countries in their related efforts*

The digital data has not been prepared as yet.

criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management

29. *developing and using criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management (at national level and/or subnational level and for policy, planning, management and/or monitoring purposes), and participating in regional and/or international C&I processes*

The C & I for SFM have been developed and shall be refined in a national workshop planned in the country before UNFF 5.

III. Preparation of the Report

30. *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 successes, challenges and lessons learned in the preparation of this report.*

This report has been prepared by the office of the Inspector General of Forests and is based on the information received from the provincial forestry departments, the NGOs and the various deliberations at the Federal Forestry Board and the national council for the conservation of Wildlife meetings. The efforts of the secretariat in preparing this format is appreciated, however it is pointed out that the capacities to mainstream the UNFF proposals for action into policy are limited at the local, provincial and national levels.