



Readiness Fund  
Annual Progress Report  
Pakistan (2018-19)



## FCPF Readiness Fund: Pakistan Annual Progress Report

### About this document

This template is for use by Readiness Fund (RF) REDD+ Country Participants to report their annual progress on REDD+ readiness activities in general, and on FCPF-supported activities in particular. The data provided through these reports represents a central information source for measuring progress against the FCPF's expected results and performance indicators, as articulated within the FCPF Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework.

### Report preparation

Reports cover progress through 30<sup>th</sup> June of each year.

When preparing the report, RF REDD+ Country Participants should draw upon the country M&E system for REDD+ (component 6 of the R-PP) and should consult members of the national REDD task force or equivalent body. Inputs from stakeholders including IPs and CSOs should be integrated, with any divergent views recorded as appropriate. Detailed, indicator-by-indicator definitions and reporting guidance are provided within the FCPF M&E Framework (<https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/monitoring-and-evaluation-0>).

### Reporting schedule

Completed reports should be submitted to the FCPF's Facility Management Team (FMT) by **10<sup>th</sup> July** every year.

## SECTION A: NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. In brief, what were the main REDD+ readiness-related activities delivered within your country during the last year?
  - For example, strategy / policy drafting, stakeholder consultation events, capacity building / training, awareness raising initiatives
  - Please be as specific as possible, e.g. name, date and number of participants in consultation events (sex disaggregated, if available), name of policy being drafted, institutions involved in policy drafting

The national REDD+ arrangements have been institutionalised with the recommendation by Management Services Wing of the Economic Affairs Division that the roles of National REDD+ Office should be made part of mitigation wing of the Pakistan Climate Change Authority which has been established at the federal level pursuant to promulgation of Pakistan Climate Change Act 2017.

The consultancy reports including study on Feedback Grievance Redressal Mechanism and Safeguards Information System, MBIGS, Payment for Ecosystem Services, Awareness & Outreach Campaign initiated under the original grant have been completed. Whereas, the draft National REDD+ Strategy remains incomplete in spite of award of five time extensions due to concern raised by various stakeholders on its quality. The Forest Reference Emission Levels report is expected to be finalised by July 2019.

Following the signing of grant agreement for additional funding between WB-FCPF and Economic Affairs Division of Pakistan on 18-12-2019 implementation on additional readiness activities were initiated and the ToR of almost all the

essential additional activities have been finalised in consultation with the provincial stakeholders, NoL obtained from the World Bank and EOIs have been processed for advertisement.

The engagement with multiple REDD+ stakeholders continued during the reporting period through consultative workshops, coordination meetings with the provincial focal points, and exposure visits of provincial stakeholders and mainstream journalists to Billion Tree Afforestation Project.

Two World Bank missions led by Task Team Leader, visited Pakistan to review the country progress in implementing REDD+ Readiness activities. The first mission visited Pakistan on 24<sup>th</sup> September and discussed the causes of delay in signing the grant agreement. The second mission visited from 19-21 June 2019 and held meetings with project staff and interacted with various stakeholders at the multi-stakeholder outreach workshop during which progress update on original grant and the planned additional funding activities was provided to the mission. During briefing, the National Project Director assured Ministry's full support to complete the activities planned through additional funding within the project period; however, possibilities were explored to devise mechanism for completing the incomplete deliverables beyond the project period. It was explained by the Task Team Leader that further extension in implementation period of FCPF trust activities beyond June 2020 may not be possible. A strategy was prepared with support of WB mission to enhance the pace of implementation of additional funding activities.

## 2. What were the main REDD+ readiness-related achievements in your country during the last year?

- For example, x number of individuals attended REDD+ consultations (sex disaggregated, if available), national REDD+ strategy was finalised, government formally adopted national REDD+ related policy/s, NFMS was established, partnership agreement with private sector association signed

### ***Component 1: Readiness Organization and Management:***

- Following the signing of agreement for additional funding between WB-FCPF and Economic Affairs Division of Pakistan on 18-12-2019, the vacant positions of National REDD+ Coordinator and National Forest Inventory Expert were filled through a rigorous recruitment process as per procurement guidelines.
- In order to strengthen capacities of NRO, hiring process of a Communication Specialist and a Safeguards Specialist was initiated following the necessary approval of ToR by WB and advertisement of the positions on 14 April 2019. The recruitment process will be completed by August 2019.
- In order to institutionalize National REDD+ Office as a permanent body for coordinating implementation of REDD+ in Pakistan the Ministry of Climate Change of Pakistan processed a request to the Management Services Wing of the Establishment Division for advice. It was recommended that the role of National REDD+ Office may be transferred to the mitigation wing of the Pakistan Climate Change Authority that has been established at the federal level pursuant to the promulgation of the Pakistan Climate Change Act 2017.
- Two coordination meetings of Focal Points and one meeting of REDD+ stakeholders was organised during the reporting period. During the meeting held on 21-12-2018, the final reports of consultancy assignments under original grant were shared with the participants. During the second coordination meeting held on 18-19th March, 2019, details of activities under additional grant and the draft Terms of References of new studies, prepared by NRO were discussed to seek input of the REDD+ focal points for finalisation of ToR. In all 26 participants attended these meetings as follows:

Date of Meeting	No of Participants		
	Male	Female	Total
21 December 2018	12	02	14
18-19 March 2019	10	02	12

### ***Capacity Building, Awareness and Outreach:***

- Two exposure visits were organised to study the successful experiences of Billion Tree Afforestation Project (BTAP) implemented in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan. The first four days visit was organized for government

officials from 22-25th April, 2019. The visit was beneficial to the provinces in pursuing and adopting the experiences in the newly launched Federal government initiative of Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Programme to be implemented over the next four year. The second visit included journalists from mainstream print and electronic media to various project sites of Billion Tree Afforestation Project implemented in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The objective of the visit was to sensitise journalist towards environmental issues and provide them an exposure to various afforestation sites to highlight the importance of forestry sector in the country. The visit of journalists concluded with a press briefing organised in the Conference Room of Ministry of Climate Change during which the journalist interacted with the Advisor to Prime Minister on Climate Change. Details about field observations were shared and views were exchanged on the Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Programme planned by the Federal government. The visits resulted in wide media coverage in English and local language newspapers (10 news stories).

- A multi-stakeholders outreach event was organized on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2019 with the objective: a) to provide an update to the stakeholders about ongoing and the planned REDD+ Readiness Preparation activities under additional grant funding and b) to create awareness and engage with the REDD+ stakeholders. The participants included officials from forest departments, civil society, academia, private sector, media and the representatives of various national and international consulting firms. The details of participants of exposure visits are as follows:

Dates	Details of Visit	No of Participants		
		Male	Female	Total
22-25 April 2019	Forest Department Officials	35	01	36
30 June to 03 July 2019	Journalists Visit	25	04	29
20 June 2019	Multi-stakeholder Outreach Workshop	53	07	60

- The final report on REDD+ awareness raising and outreach activities conducted by Sustainable Development Policy (SDPI) Institute was finalised and endorsed by the provinces/territories and their contract was concluded. As part of this consultancy the following deliverables were completed:
  - A strategic Communication Plan was prepared for a period from 2019-2020
  - A short documentary video highlighting Pakistan's status and commitment to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.
  - REDD+ Training Manual for forest communities: Introduction, Importance, challenges pertaining to REDD+.
  - Terms of Reference finalized for conducting Awareness Raising and Outreach and implementation of a strategic communication plan.

#### **National REDD+ Internship Program:**

- In order to provide learning and research opportunities to youth scholars and youth the terms of reference of National Internship Programme were reviewed and finalised with approval from the WB in order to strengthen its intended outcomes.

#### ***Component 2: REDD+ Strategy Preparation:***

- The National REDD+ Strategy and Action Plan was presented by the Consulting Firm at the eighth meeting of REDD+ National Steering held on 13 June 2018 during which deficiencies were highlighted in the report and the firm was advised to improve the draft. Following this the consultants held additional consultations with parliamentarians / legislators on 17 October 2018 in which total number of 33 participants including 09 females participated. Additionally, consultation was held with select members from judiciary for better assessment of the drivers of deforestation and designing of implementation framework. The revised final draft Report was submitted by the consultants on 23-12-2018. The draft final report was shared with the provinces to seek their endorsement who in their responses have reiterated shortcomings in the report. The concerns were expressed by the provincial stakeholders during the meeting of focal points held on 18-19 March 2019 and at the multi-stakeholder outreach workshop held on 20 June 2019. The report still remains incomplete after the award of five extension over and above the original period of contract. The last extension has expired on 31 January 2019. Way forward is being explored in consultation with WB to get this output concluded.

- Two design documents on Payment for Ecosystem Services developed for two Ecosystems (Mangroves and Kaghan Temperate Forests) were finalised and endorsed by the respective provincial governments to conclude this contract.
- Standard Operating Procedures endorsed for filing and addressing complaints for a feedback and grievance redressal mechanism was finalised and endorsed by all the provincial stakeholders.
- Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for Pakistan prepared and endorsed by all the provincial stakeholders.
- A soft launch of Safeguards Information System web portal on 20-06-2019. The website has been developed both in English and Urdu languages: <http://reddpakistansis.com/?lang=ur>
- A report on Pakistan's approach towards meeting UNFCCC and FCPF requirements was prepared.
- Terms of References finalized and NoL was obtained from the World Bank and EOIs processed for hiring of consultant services for implementation of following additional funding activities:
  - Comprehensive National Level Assessment of Demand and Supply of Forest Products and Services in Pakistan
  - Assessment of private sector engagement and potential of carbon trading mechanisms and market for Pakistan
  - Preparation of Participatory Forest Management Plans and REDD+ Action
  - Assessment of existing Forestry Systems
  - Assessment of opportunity cost of REDD+ and impact assessment of leasing of forest land to other purposes
  - Prepare a REDD+ Gender Action Plan (GAP)

### ***Component 3: Reference Emission Level / Reference Levels:***

The draft FREL/FRL report prepared by the consultants, M/S Arbonaut was shared at workshop held on 19-09- 2018 that was attended by members of Thematic REDD+ Working Groups and other key REDD+ stakeholders. The workshop was attended by 35 male and 05 female participants. The participants provided valuable feedback on Landuse / Landcover maps prepared for each four year interval covering the period from 1996-2016 and suggested improvements in Activity Data and Emission Factors. The feedback received from the provincial stakeholders and that provided by the technical evaluation committee of NRO was shared and discussed with the consultants in skype meetings. The consultant was awarded extension for the third time with the approval of World Bank to complete the assignment to the desired level of acceptance. Follow up is being made with the consultants to submit the revised report based on technical feedback provided to them.

### ***Component 4: Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards:***

- The findings of study on developing National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) and Forest Reference Emission Levels (FRELs) for Pakistan were presented by the consultant M/S Arbonaut during the meeting of REDD+ Thematic Working Groups on 19-09-2018 during which the feedback of participants was obtained on the draft Land use maps of Pakistan prepared for each four year interval covering the period from 1996-2016. The meeting was attended by 40 participants including 05 females belonging to various provincial forestry departments, academia, CSO, SUPARCO, Survey of Pakistan, Global Climate Impact Studies Centre (GCISC) and private sector. The participants endorsed the framework of National Forest Monitoring System with designated institutional roles and responsibilities for SLMS, NFI and GHG-I.
- The designed NFMS web-portal for Pakistan has been finalised and endorsed. Hosting of NFMS web portal is proposed to be done by GCISC. The soft launch of NFMS Web-portal was held on 20-06-2019: <http://reddpakistansis.com/?lang=ur>
- A framework for Multiple Benefits, Impacts, Governance and Safeguards (MBIGS) with monitoring indicators was finalised.
- Under the additional funding, ToR were finalized, NoL obtained and EOIs processed for hiring of consultant services for establishing Sub-National Forest Monitoring and Measurement Reporting & Verification Systems to strengthen the NFMS.
- The process of procurement of forest monitoring drones has been at the advance stages of implementation with specifications approved by the World Bank. The required NoC from Ministry of Defense is being pursued to get the procurement process completed.

### 3. What were the main REDD+ readiness-related challenges and/or problems during the last year?

For example, lack of engagement from key stakeholders, political barriers, limited funding

Despite several implementation challenges resulting from uncertainties over the extension of project agreement, replacement of NPD and replacement of key project staff the REDD+ readiness activities have continued to progress during the reporting period. The following have been the key challenges:

- The agreement for additional funding was signed on 18-12-2018, resulting in uncertainty over the continuity of activities after 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2018.
- Significant time of at least 4 months consumed in seeking approval of ToRs of various additional funding activities from WB, initially through emails and later on through STEP process.
- Replacement of Key staff at National REDD+ Office took a longer time than expected. This resulted in delays in future planning, timely evaluation and follow up on deliverables/reports submitted by consulting firms.
- Switching of National Project Director twice resulted in change of signatories and time lag in processing and approvals of project deliverables.
- Low financial disbursement due to:
  - Pending improvements in quality of deliverables - National Strategy & Action Plan and FREL.
  - Delays in endorsement of final deliverables and feedback on draft reports by provincial (sub-national) governments.

### 4. What are the main REDD+ readiness-related activities that you hope to deliver during the next year?

For example, hold x consultation events, submission of R-Package to the PC, finalisation of SIS, commission research into REDD+ strategy options

- Finalisation and endorsement of Forest Reference Emission Levels Report for submission to UNFCCC.
- Finalization and endorsement of National REDD+ Strategy.
- Hiring of International / National Consulting Firms for additional funding activities as listed below:
  - Comprehensive National Level Assessment of Demand and Supply of Forest Products and Services
  - Assessment of existing Forestry Systems
  - Establish Sub-National Forest Monitoring and Measurement Reporting & Verification Systems for Pakistan
  - Assessment of private sector engagement and potential of carbon trading mechanisms and market for Pakistan
  - Preparation of Participatory Forest Management Plans and REDD+ Action
  - Awareness Raising and Outreach
  - Assessment of opportunity cost of REDD+ and impact assessment of leasing of forest land to other purposes
  - Prepare a REDD+ Gender Action Plan (GAP)
  - Design, Develop and Operate official FMS Web Portals in each Sub-national Unit to be linked with NFMS Web portal
- Complete hiring process of Communication Specialist and Social an Environment Safeguard Specialist.
- Organise meetings of the National REDD+ Steering Committee and Thematic REDD+ Working Groups
- Organise an international visit of relevant stakeholders.
- Organise various trainings for national capacity building in REDD+
- Organise various awareness and outreach events/exposure visits.
- Engage legal experts for integration of most pertinent recommendations from Readiness studies into existing forestry laws and policies at national and provincial level.
- Initiate National REDD+ Internship Programme.
- Publication and dissemination of findings from REDD+ Readiness studies is also envisaged.
- Procurement of Six units of Forest Remote Sensing Drones and Forest Monitoring equipment for strengthening of the Provincial Forest Monitoring Systems.

## SECTION B: READINESS PROGRESS

5. Please provide your own assessment of national progress against all REDD+ readiness sub-components:  
(Indicator OV.1.B: Number of FCPF supported countries that have in place a National REDD+ Strategy, FREL/FRL, NFMS and SIS; Output 1.3 indicators)

Progress rating key:

Complete	The sub-component has been completed
	Significant progress
	Progressing well, further development required
	Further development required
	Not yet demonstrating progress
N/A	The sub-component is not applicable to our process

Sub-component	Progress rating (mark 'X' as appropriate)	Narrative assessment (briefly explain your rating)
<b>R-PP Component 1: Readiness Organisation and Consultation</b>		
<b>Sub-component 1a:</b> National REDD+ Management Arrangements	Complete	X
	N/A	
<b>Sub-component 1b:</b> Consultation, Participation and Outreach	Complete	
		X
	N/A	
<b>R-PP Component 2: REDD+ Strategy Preparation</b>		
<b>Sub-component 2a:</b> Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance	Complete	
		X
	N/A	
<b>Sub-component 2b:</b> REDD+ Strategy Options	Complete	
		X
	N/A	

Sub-component	Progress rating (mark 'X' as appropriate)	Narrative assessment (briefly explain your rating)
Sub-component 2c: Implementation Framework	Complete	Same as under 2a above.
	X	
	N/A	
Sub-component 2d: Social and Environmental Impacts	Complete	All the required deliverables planned for this sub-component have been completed and validated at National Level
	N/A	
<b>R-PP Component 3: Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels</b>		
Component 3: Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels	Complete	Based on technical input from the provincial stakeholders and the technical team at NRO the draft report on Forest Reference Emission Levels / Forest Reference Levels is under further review and expected to be completed by July 2019.
	X	
	N/A	
<b>R-PP Component 4: Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards</b>		
Sub-component 4a: National Forest Monitoring System	Complete	NFMS and MRV procedures have been finalized at National Level. An NFMS Web-portal has been designed and soft launch on 20 June 2019. The formal launch will be conducted once the data from FREL report is approved at the national level. The work on sub-national MRV system is planned under the additional funding activities.
	X	
	N/A	
Sub-component 4b: Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards	Complete	A framework with indicators at national Level has been formulated. Detailed work at sub-national levels work is planned under the additional funding activities.
	X	
	N/A	



## SECTION C: NON-CARBON BENEFITS

6. Does your national REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan include activities that directly aim to sustain and enhance livelihoods (e.g. one of your program objective/s is explicitly targeted at livelihoods; your approach to non-carbon benefits explicitly incorporates livelihoods)?

(Indicator 3.2.b: Number of RF REDD+ Country Participants whose REDD+ Strategies include activities that directly aim to sustain and enhance livelihoods)

Yes

If yes, please provide further detail, including attachments and/or references to the documentation that outlines your approach:

Livelihood aspects are an integral part of the draft National REDD+ Strategy. The draft report is undergoing constant process of revisions to get it finalised and endorsed at the national levels. The related aspect covered in the draft national REDD+ Strategy may be viewed at:

<https://www.redd-pakistan.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/REDD-Strategy-V1.1.pdf>

7. Does your national REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan include activities that directly aim to conserve biodiversity (e.g. one of your program objective/s is explicitly targeted at biodiversity conservation; your approach to non-carbon benefits explicitly incorporates biodiversity conservation)?

(Indicator 3.3.b: Number of RF REDD+ Country Participants whose REDD+ Strategies include activities that directly aim to conserve biodiversity)

Yes

If yes, please provide further detail, including attachments and/or references to the documentation that outlines your approach

The draft national REDD+ Strategy of Pakistan includes the actions to be implemented at sub-national level which will support biodiversity conservation as the co-benefits that will result from conservation and sustainable management of forestry resources in Pakistan. The draft report is undergoing constant process of revisions to get it finalised and endorsed at the national level. The related aspect covered in the draft national REDD+ Strategy may be viewed at:

<https://www.redd-pakistan.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/REDD-Strategy-V1.1.pdf>

## SECTION D: FINANCE

8. Please detail the amount of all finance received in support of development and delivery of your national REDD+ readiness process since the date that your R-PP was signed. Figures should only include secured finance (i.e. fully committed) – ex ante, (unconfirmed) finance or in-kind contributions should not be included:

(Indicator 1.B: Amount of finance received to support the REDD+ Readiness process (disaggregated by public, private, grants, loans))

Amount (US\$)	Source (e.g. FCPF, FIP, name of gov't department)	Date committed (MM/YY)	Public or private finance? (Delete as appropriate)	Grant, loan or other? (Delete as appropriate)
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\$3,800,000	FCPF Readiness Preparation Grant	06/2015	Public	Grant
\$4,014,000	AF of FCPF Readiness Preparation Grant	12/2018	Public	Grant

9. Please detail any ex ante (unconfirmed) finance or in-kind contributions that you hope to secure in support of your national REDD+ readiness process:

The sub-national forestry departments have prepared REDD+ projects with approved financial allocations from public funding, as follows:

Amount (US\$)	Source (e.g. FCPF, FIP, name of gov't department)	Public or private finance? (Delete as appropriate)	Grant, loan or other? (Delete as appropriate)
\$315,000	Government of Balochistan	Public	Annual Development Plan
\$562,000	Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Public	Annual Development Plan
\$189,000	Government of Punjab	Public	Annual Development Plan
\$315,000	Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir	Public	Annual Development Plan
\$252,000	Government of Gilgit Baltistan	Public	Annual Development Plan

## SECTION E: FCPF PERFORMANCE

10. To help build an understanding of the FCPF strengths, weaknesses and contributions to REDD+, please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements:

(Indicator 4.B: Participant Countries' assessment of FCPF's role within and contribution to national REDD+ processes)

Mark 'X' as appropriate

	Completely disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Completely agree
The FCPF's support has had a <b>central influence</b> on the development our national REDD+ systems and processes					X
The FCPF's support has <b>improved the quality</b> of our national REDD+ systems and processes				X	
The FCPF's support has <b>improved national capacities</b> to develop and deliver REDD+ projects				X	
The FCPF's support has <b>helped to ensure substantive involvement of multiple stakeholders</b> (including women, IPs, CSOs and local communities in our national REDD+ systems and processes)					X

Comments / clarifications, if appropriate:

NIL

11. To help assess the usefulness and application of FCPF knowledge products (publications, seminars, learning events, web resources), please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements:

(Indicator 4.3.a: Extent to which FCPF learning, evidence and knowledge products are used by Participant countries)

Mark 'X' as appropriate

	Completely disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Completely agree
We <b>regularly access</b> FCPF knowledge products to obtain REDD+ related information				X	
FCPF knowledge products are <b>relevant</b> to our REDD+ related information requirements			X		
FCPF knowledge products are <b>sufficient</b> to address all of our REDD+ related information requirements			X		
The FCPF <b>website</b> is a useful resource for accessing FCPF and REDD+ related information					X

Comments / clarifications, if appropriate:

It is suggested that both National Project Directors and National REDD+ Coordinators are invited for participation in the FCPF Participant Committee Meeting for enhanced learning and experience sharing among the member counties.

## SECTION F: FINAL COMMENTS

12. If appropriate, please provide any further comments or clarifications relating to your work on REDD+ Readiness during the last year:

The project has made significant progress during the period resulting in completion of three deliverables including Feedback Grievance Redressal Mechanism and Safeguards Information System, MBIGS, Payment for Ecosystem Services, Awareness & Outreach; whereas, the FREL report is expected to be completed by July 2019. As far as additional funding activities are concerned, the process on recruitment of additional consultant experts has been at the advanced stage; ToR of all the additional funding assignments have been cleared by the World Bank; and the advertisements for EOIs have been published on 14-07-2019. Efforts are underway to improve the quality of National REDD+ Strategy and get the contract concluded as early as possible.

The financial disbursements have been impacted due to delays in completion of the pending deliverables of initial grant, FREL and the National REDD+ Strategy and impact of dollar variation. However, with the completion of pending deliverables, and onset of the additional funding activities in pipeline and procurement of forest monitoring inventory equipment which are at the advance stages of completion the financial disbursement position is expected to enhance significantly during the current year.