

Submissions from Pakistan

Item No. 6:

Establishment of Ad hoc Working Group (AWG) on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action

Response:

Pakistan recognizes the importance of Ad hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (AWG-DP) for launching a process to develop a new Protocol, with legal binding instrument applicable to all parties under the Convention by 2020. Pakistan is of the view that future work of the AWG-DP should be guided by the cardinal principles of the Convention i.e. common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR); equity and transparency.

Pakistan supports the idea of holding an in-session workshop at the first negotiating session in 2012 wherein the options for considering ways to increase the level of ambition will be explored based on the above stated principles.

Item No. 7:

Methodological guidelines for activities relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation ,sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in Developing countries (SABSTA.)

Response:

1. Drivers of Deforestation and forest degradation

In Pakistan majority of natural forests is either privately owned or heavily burdened with legal rights of local people. historically local communities, particularly in Gilgit Baltistan and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa provinces depends on Forests for livelihood and other forest products for sustaining their life. While addressing drivers of deforestation and degradation in Pakistan's perspective, direct correlations with poverty and sources of livelihood must be essentially established. some recent studies ,e.g. one conducted by Swiss NGO Inter- cooperation revealed that the wood extracted from deforestation hotspots was largely consumed as fuel .however detailed analysis are required on drivers of deforestation at National level are planned to be under taken in the readiness phase

2. Land tenure and governance

Legally, Pakistan has four categories of forests including Reserve Forests (RF), Protected Forests (PF), communal and private forests. The RFs are free of public rights and as such are under the least threat of deforestation and forest degradation. Whereas PF and communal forests are burdened with public rights as legally dictated. The legal right holders are unwilling to give-up their rights unless positive incentives are provided. The last category i.e. private forest is under severe threat of deforestation and degradation because the owners solely depend on these resources for livelihood. Forest governance issues are therefore essentially linked with the socio economics of forest communities.

3. Gender, Safeguards

As a policy matter Pakistan supports women empowerment and integrates gender in the programs of all economic sectors, however in REDD+ distribution of credits and benefits on the basis of gender is a complicated issue. Detailed studies are required in specific forest areas in conjunction with REDD+ project development cycle. Pakistan organized a national workshop on REDD+ safeguards which unanimously recommended implementation of all safeguards narrated in Appendix-I, in particular those regarding restricting conversion of natural forests, promotion of native species, involvement of local and indigenous communities in planning, implementing and monitoring of REDD+ activities.

4. Robust and Transparent national forest monitoring system as referred in paragraph 71 (c)

Presently, Pakistan has no centralized forest reporting system. However, provincial and local authorities have adopted monitoring systems of diverse specifications including field based surveying and remote sensing based monitoring. Pakistan strongly recommends a harmonized and standardized forest monitoring system for the sake of transparency in REDD+ activities. The national forest monitoring system requires approved methodologies backed with technical resources and capacity building of stakeholders, with the support of bilateral and multilateral financing agencies.