

INDEPENDENT TAP REVIEW OF THE R-PACKAGE PREPARED BY PAKISTAN NOVEMBER, 2021

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INTRODUCTION: THE CORE TASK OF THE TAP REVIEW

1. This document provides a review of the R-Package Self-Assessment Report prepared by Pakistan, by way of a facilitated participatory self-assessment process, in the second half of 2021 through the participation of provincial multistakeholder workshops, focus group discussions with local communities, and a multistakeholder national validation workshop
2. The preparation of an R-Package provides an opportunity to REDD+ Country Participants to self-assess the progress on REDD+, demonstrates a country's commitment to REDD+ Readiness; and generates feedback and further guidance to stakeholders through a national multi-stakeholder self-assessment and PC assessment processes on readiness.
3. The purpose of the review is primarily to assess both progress and achievements of REDD+ Readiness in the country using a Readiness Assessment Framework (<http://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/sites/fcp/files/2013/July2013/FCPC%20framework%20text%207-25-13%20ENG%20web.pdf>), which consists of a set of 34 readiness criteria, distributed under four main readiness components, and their respective sub-components.

TAP ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

4. To perform the assessment, the TAP conducted a desk review of key documents starting with the R-Package document itself, Pakistan's Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP), Forest Reference Emissions Levels (FREL), and Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) reports. The TAP performed the following tasks:
 - i. Perform a review of Pakistan's progress and the self-assessment report, based on guidelines in the R-Package Assessment Framework.
 - ii. Review Pakistan's documentation of stakeholders' self-assessment, including the process that was used for the self-assessment and the reported outcome.
 - iii. Review key outputs and documents that underpin, and are referenced in, the R-Package, including documents pertaining to the national REDD strategy and ESMF, reference levels and forest monitoring, and national institutional structures.
 - iv. Provide targeted feedback, as required to align the processes used for self-assessment and reported outcome, comparing with the R-Package Assessment Framework guidance.

The TAP expert verified the R-Package, including:

- i. A summary of the readiness preparation process;
- ii. A report of the multi-stakeholder self-assessment process;
- iii. The results of the national multi-stakeholder assessment;
- iv. References to documentation pertinent to the nine subcomponents, prepared during the readiness preparation process.

PART A. REVIEW OF THE SELF-ASSESSMENT PROCESS AND THE ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION

Self-Assessment process according to the R-Package guidelines

5. The R-Package (submitted by Pakistan in August 2021) starts with a comprehensive introductory section which describes Pakistan’s involvement in the FCPF REDD process since 2010 through financial support of US\$ 3.8 million from the FCPF for its REDD Readiness Program (R-PP), with a grant signed in 2015. This facilitated the development of the R-PP which was submitted in December 2013 and a final version submitted produced in December of 2014. In 2018, Pakistan signed another agreement of an additional FCPF grant of US\$ 4.016 million to support its readiness effort. By June 2021 and out of a total grant funding of US\$ 7.814 million a balance of US\$ 2.7 million has been committed to various activities to be completed by June 2022. A comprehensive summary of public and external funding to various REDD related projects has been provided in Table 4 in Section 4 of the R-Package.

Project implemented by sub-national entities from their own public funds in Pakistan (Source R-Package, Pakistan)

Sub-National Entities	REDD+ Relevant Projects
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Forest carbon stock assessment and development of sub-national FREL for KP forests implemented by Pakistan Forest Institute ▪ Development of sub-national REDD+ strategy for KP province implemented by Forest Planning and Management Circle ▪ The KP government has also recently developed a project proposal (PC-1¹) which is ready for submission to the provincial government for approval.
Punjab	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establishment of Provincial REDD+ Cell in Rawalpindi (2017-19), at the total cost of Pakistani Rupees (PKR) 30 million² ▪ A PC-4³ of a project has been submitted to the provincial government which has been evaluated and waiting for approval by the competent forum to be formally incorporated under regular financing.
Balochistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development of Forest Management Information System in Balochistan” for the period 2017-2019 at the cost of PKR 90 million
Gilgit-Baltistan (GB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+): Preparedness phase for Gilgit Baltistan” (PKR 30 million) ▪ REDD+ Phase II - Roadmap and Operational Plan for REDD+ Piloting in Gilgit-Baltistan for the period 2017-2021 (PKR 40 million). This project has now been revised to increase the total cost of the project to PKR 97 million for the period 2021-23.
Azad Jammu – o – Kashmir (AJK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The AJK Forest Department has prepared a PC-1 to embark on REDD+ implementation, which would be considered in the next

¹ PC1 is a planning document of the government which serves a proposal for financing projects.

² \$192308 calculated on the basis of current (28th April 2021) exchange rate of 1 USD = 156 PKR

³ Project completion Form

	Departmental Working Party (DWP ⁴) meeting of the Planning and Development Department.
Sindh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Government of Sindh, through public private partnership, initiated a project titled “The Delta Blue Carbon Project – 1 (DBC – 1) over 350,000 hectares of Tidal Wetlands on the south-east coast of Sindh in Pakistan to protect, restore and sustainably manage the mangrove forests. The project is also expected to generate carbon credits through sequestering and storing vast amounts of atmospheric carbon.

6. The R-Package has clearly articulated Pakistan’s Readiness Processes and it generally conforms to the R-Package Assessment Framework. The progress made against each of the 34 assessment criteria have been well described and the self-assessment scores based on a National Validation Workshop attended by senior officials and technical staff from the Federal Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC), National REDD+ National Steering Committee, provincial senior forest officials, provincial REDD+ focal points, representatives of civil society organisations, non-governmental organisations, academia and community and women groups. Right from the summary section, the R-package is forthright about its challenges, such as, technical capacity, competing economic development options, conflicting inter-sectoral policies and forest governance challenges associated with its federal structure and its 6 provinces.

7. The assessment was done through a series of three main meetings; led by both national and international experts engaged by a Swiss Consulting firm, Hevetas. It was in summary, a facilitated and participatory and inclusive process involving six provincial multi-stakeholder workshops, six provincial focused group discussions with local communities and a multi-stakeholder national validation workshop. Representation in the workshop included national and provincial offices of the forest administrations, the REDD+ National Office, Gender Representative, Conservation Organisations (IUCN and WWF), academia and Helvetas as the consulting firm which had experts in multi-stakeholder consultation, GIS, REDD+ strategy development and researchers. In total, 189 participants (including 37 community members) participated in self-assessment process. Strengths, weaknesses and areas of further improvement against each sub-component were recorded based on feedback from participants during the consultation process. The degree of achievement under each criterion were agreed upon in each workshop with green being ‘significant progress’, yellow indicating ‘progressing well but further development required’, orange indicates ‘further development required’ and red indicates ‘not showing any progress yet.’

8. By way of methodology the self-assessment team reviewed the following documents:
 - All REDD+ related documents published in NRO web portal and office.
 - Annual progress reports submitted to FCPF.
 - MTR report 2017.
 - A review of the experience and lessons learned in the implementation of REDD+ activities funded by different donors in different countries.

In addition, they reviewed the R-Package reports developed for other South Asian Counties such as Nepal, Vietnam, and Vanuatu. Following the reviews, they prepared a self-assessment tool in

⁴ Planning and Development Department’s internal forum called Departmental Working Party for project proposal review.

line with the guidelines provided in the "Guide to the FCPF Readiness Assessment Framework⁵". A matrix was designed as a measure of facilitating the diagnosis by sub-components, and it included guiding questions for each sub-component. The diagnostic questions were further simplified and tailored to the context (at national, sub-national, and community levels) supported by required progress indicators/ information sources to facilitate the progress review for different sub-components and assessment criteria.

9. At the national level, a professionally facilitated National Validation Workshop was held on March 9th 2021, in Karachi, the capital of Sindh Province, and was attended by 47 participants, after the provincial level consultations and workshops. It was attended by senior officials and technical staff from the Federal Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC), members of the REDD+ National REDD+ Committee, provincial senior forest officials, provincial REDD+ focal points, civil society representatives, national and international non-governmental organisations, academia, community including women groups. In addition, a focus group meeting was also held specifically on the self-assessments of the technical components of FREL and National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS).
10. At the sub-national or provincial levels, consultations were held with stakeholders in the month of February 2021 by way sharing of the self-assessment tool with provincial REDD+ focal points to collect progress evidence/ information on different REDD+ Readiness components. This information served as the basis for discussion with provincial level participants to assess national as well as sub-national REDD+ readiness progress during multi-stakeholder workshops. In total, 81 participants attended the provincial stakeholder workshops. In each of the consultations at least 3 experts from Helvetas were present to give technical guidance and facilitation to the consultations.
11. At the community level, Focused Group Discussions (FGDs) were organised with communities in the months of March to June 2021, to ascertain their experiences and lessons about REDD+ Readiness activities. The FGDs were held in all the provinces or sub-national entities and so far, a total of 72 people representing community and women's groups participated in the self-assessment process, held between March and June 2021. During the process to develop REDD+ strategy options in 2017 and well before the self-assessment process in 2021, community activists involved in forest development, conservation, and REDD+ activities were invited for these consultations. To illustrate the level of participation in these consultations a combined total of 549 men and 150 women across the provinces attended and participated in the meetings as shown in Annex VIII
12. The document is also clear on the various kinds of funding it has received from both bilateral and multilateral sources to support its REDD+ Readiness Process, at both national and sub-national (provincial) levels.

Facilitated Self-Assessment Process

5 <https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/sites/fcp/files/2013/July2013/FCPC%20framework%20text%207-25-13%20ENG%20web.pdf>

13. From the description of the process, Pakistan has made it clear that it was guided by the FCPF Readiness Assessment Framework. The process was facilitated by both national and international technical advisors and was based on the 34 assessment criteria and a set of diagnostic questions.

Timeframe and development of the Readiness Process in Pakistan

14. The next paragraphs summarise the events and milestones, coming from its R-PP preparation phase prior to the development phase of the R-Package
15. Pakistan first engaged in the REDD+ readiness process in 2010, with funding from the FCPF. This facilitated the creation of a national REDD+ National Office and National Steering Committee and Thematic Working Groups (RTWG) which provided platforms for government and non-governmental organizations to engage in the preparation of the R-PP in 2014 and which eventually culminated in a Readiness Package in 2021. At the time of this self-assessment Pakistan has produced key documents detailing milestones toward REDD+ Readiness. These are listed and described in table 8 of the R-Package, which presents knowledge products by categories, namely Community Guidebooks, Video Documentaries, Training Manuals, Extension Material, Study Reports (on reference levels, MRV, FGRM, SIS, SESA) and Translations and digitization of Forest Policies and Laws. It is also noteworthy that Pakistan has developed its reference and reference emission levels that has been endorsed by a Technical Advisory Panel of the UNFCCC with a statement that “the data and information used by Pakistan in constructing its FREL are transparent, complete, and in overall accordance with the guidelines contained in the annex to decision 12/CP.17.”

National ownership for REDD+ Readiness Process

16. The self- assessment report provides a clear picture of stakeholder participation and a seemingly candid view of achievements and weaknesses, which are particularly on institutional arrangements for implementing REDD+. In that regard, a list of planned actions is listed in a work plan for readiness which will be concluded by June 2022.
17. Another important evidence of national ownership is that the R-package has provided key achieved milestones on institutional arrangements to support REDD+ readiness. These are described in section 4.1.1 which describes a national REDD+ Coordination Institution and decision-making bodies, in addition to the structure of the REDD+ Office. Furthermore, the structures for REDD+ coordination and implementation at the provincial levels are also illustrated and includes both working groups and offices for feedback grievance redress. In addition, the TAP appreciates the information on all REDD+ related projects that are currently funded by the provinces themselves as further evidence of ownership. In addition, the National Steering Committee is chaired by the Federal Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change to provide multi-sector coordination. This is a positive feature of political ownership of the REDD+ Program.
18. From the documentation on REDD+ in Pakistan there seems to be a strong interest in REDD+ based on earlier work facilitated by its various nationally and externally funded programs (Table 4) including allocations of public funding by sub-national or Provincial Administrations.

PART B1. SUMMARY OF REDD+ PROCESSES – STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF THE R-PACKAGE FROM THE SELF-ASSESSMENT PROCESS

An overview

19. Part I of the R-Package describes the chronology of events, processes and achievements, as well as international aid that has supplemented efforts of the Government toward REDD+ Readiness.
20. On its Strategic Vision on the implementation of REDD+ in Pakistan, it is worth noting what the country has proposed.
 - Restoration, reforestation, and afforestation
 - Sustainable forest management
 - Payment for ecosystem services
 - Efficient alternative energy sources
 - Silvo-pastoral and agroforestry practices
 - Sustainable tourism and eco-tourism
21. The key achievements that have been registered between 2010 and 2021 and which are described in the R-Package are listed herein as follows:
 - Development of an R-PP which laid the foundation for the national REDD+ Strategy
 - Preparation of a National REDD+ Strategy with 6 strategy options
 - Provincial REDD+ Action Plans (PRAPs) and spatial analysis of the drivers of deforestation and degradations linked to geographic and socio-economic context
 - Feasibility assessments of each strategy option
 - Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA)
 - Readiness Organization and Consultation
 - Establishment of a Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL)/ Reference Level (RL) endorsed and published by UNFCCC.

Key Gaps identified and a work plan up to 2020

The self-assessment report has identified key gaps under two main sub-sections listed below:

Sub-component 2c: Framework for REDD+ implementation

- Adoption and implementation of legislation/regulations
- Guidelines for implementation
- Benefit sharing mechanisms
- National REDD+ Registry

Sub-component 4b: Information on multiple benefits, other impacts, governance and safeguards

- Identification of key non-carbon aspects
- Monitoring, reporting and information sharing
- Institutional arrangements and capacities

Summary of the self-assessment process shown by component

Component	Sub-component/ Criteria	Participatory Ranking
Readiness Organisation and Consultation	Component 1a: National Management Arrangements	
	Accountability and Transparency	Green
	Operating Mandate and Budget	Green
	Multi-sector Coordination Mechanism and Cross-sector Collaboration	Green
	Technical Supervision Capacity	Green
	Funds Management Capacity	Green
	Feedback Grievance and Redressal Mechanism	Yellow
	Component 1b: Consultation, Participation and Outreach	
	Participation and Engagement of Key Stakeholders	Green
	Consultation Processes	Green
	Information Sharing and Accessibility of Information	Green
	Implementation and public disclosure of consultation outcomes	Yellow
	Preparation of National REDD+ Strategy	Sub-Component 2a: Evaluating Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Laws, Policy and Governance
Assessment and analysis		Green
Prioritization of direct and indirect drivers/barriers to forest enhancement		Green
Links between drivers/barriers and REDD+ activities		Green
Action plans to address natural resource rights, land tenure, governance		Green
Implications for forest law and policy		Green
Sub-Component 2b: REDD+ Strategic Options		
Selection and prioritization of REDD+ strategy options		Green
Feasibility Assessment		Green
Implications of strategy options on existing sectoral policies		Green
Sub-Component 2c: Framework for REDD+ Implementation		
Adoption and Implementation of Legislation/Regulations		Yellow
Guidelines for Implementation		Yellow
Benefit Sharing Mechanism		Yellow
National REDD+ registry and system monitoring REDD+ activities		Orange
Sub-Component 2d: Social and Environmental Impacts		
Analysis of social and environmental safeguard issues		Green
REDD+ strategy design with respect to impacts		Green
Environmental and Social Management Framework		Green
Forest Reference Emission Levels		Component 3: Forest Reference Emission Levels
	Demonstration of Methodology	Green
	Historical use data and adjusted for national circumstances	Yellow
	Technical Feasibility of the Methodological Approach and consistency with UNFCCC/ IPCC and guidelines	Green

National Forest Monitoring System and Safeguard Information System	Component 4a: National Forest Monitoring System	
	Documentation for Monitoring Focus	Green
	Demonstration of early system implementation	Yellow
	Institutional arrangements and capacities	Green
	Sub-Component 4b: Information on multiple benefits, other impacts, governance, and safeguards	
	Identification of relevant non-carbon aspects, and social and environmental issues	Yellow
	Monitoring, reporting and information sharing.	Orange
Institutional arrangements and capacities – Multiple benefits and safeguards	Orange	

Proposed REDD+ Readiness Preparation Action Plan

22. While the TAP recognises and agrees with the overall assessment, it has suggested additional comments to each component.

PART B2. ASSESSMENT BY THE TAP

COMPONENT 1. READINESS ORGANIZATION AND CONSULTATIONS

Sub-component 1a. National REDD+ Management Arrangements (Criteria 1-5 **Green** and 6 **Yellow**)

- 1) Accountability and transparency
- 2) Operating mandate and budget
- 3) Multi-sector coordination mechanisms and cross-sector collaboration
- 4) Technical supervision capacity
- 5) Funds management capacity
- 6) Feedback and grievance redress mechanism (FGRM)

23. In terms of the management of REDD+, the proposed institutional and management arrangements are well described, despite a seemingly strong federal system of governance with the 6 provinces. The description of national and sub-national entities that will manage REDD+ are clear, including the replication of the National REDD+ Task Forces and respective Technical Working Groups in each of the six Provinces.

24. From the self-assessment, stakeholders appreciate the level of accountability and transparency on REDD+ that is addressed under Criterion 1. Of interest are the bi-annual meetings of the National Steering Committee and the plan that the National REDD+ Office will be moved as unit under the Ministry of Climate Change when the FSPF funding lapses.

25. Criterion 2 on operating mandates and budget has been well described in the R-Package and have satisfied stakeholders during the self-assessment process. The evidence for this is as follows and demonstrate the priority accorded to the forest sector.

- Plan to integrate the National REDD+ Office into the Ministry of Climate Change under the National Climate Change Authority.
 - The launching by the Government of Green Pakistan Program of 2017 for environmental resilience in 2017
 - The Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Program (2019 – 2023)
26. On Criterion 3 which addresses the critical issue of coordination, the self-assessment suggests a high level of satisfaction from the functioning of both the National Steering and Provincial REDD+ Committees. However, the R-PP suggests that non-forestry sectors do not recognize the importance of addressing Climate Change and emission reductions so much more work is needed in coordination with other sectors. The coordination challenges should be more strongly reflected in the self-assessment.
27. On Criterion 4, on technical supervision capacity, the self-assessment by Pakistan has observed that technical supervisory capacity for REDD+ still needs to be strengthened particularly at sub-national or provincial levels. These have been reflected in the action points in in Table 6, which has provided a list of improvements which include actions such as to mainstream REDD+ management with the Ministry of Climate Change, increase the representation of women in Working Groups, staffing REDD+ Offices in the Provinces, the building of technical staff capacity and continued community awareness campaigns, being the main ones.
28. On Criterion 5, table 4 spells out REDD+ related projects funded by the provinces and which are augmented by nationwide programs such as the USD 180 million World Bank supported Pakistan Hydromet and Ecosystem Restoration Services Program.
29. On Criterion 6 dealing with FGRM issues, the TAP notes this has been designed for REDD+ and will complement existing laws particularly at the provincial level. This is in line with a statement in the R-Package that “The FGRM proposed is not intended to replace formal legal channels for managing grievances, but rather to complement them and serve as an initial ‘port of call’ for stakeholders to raise their concerns using FGRM in addition to other available mechanisms” For instance one of the provinces, AJK Forest Department has developed a grievance redressal mechanism through projects financed by World Bank (WB), Asian Development Bank (ADB), and Islamic Development Bank (IDB). The department also has also established project-based Grievance Redressal Committees (GRCs). However, the FGRM processes designed for REDD+ will only be operational in the next stage of REDD+ at the national level.
30. Based on the missing aspects on FGRM under criterion 6 the TAP agrees with the assessment and also concurs that the assessments of the other 5 criteria are supported by evidence.
31. **1b. Consultation, Participation, and Outreach (Criteria 7-9 is Green 10, Yellow)**
- 7) Participation and engagement of key stakeholders
 - 8) Consultation processes
 - 9) Information sharing and accessibility of information
 - 10) Implementation and public disclosure of consultation outcomes

32. The self-assessment process described in the R-Package and the documentary evidence (e.g., knowledge products (see table below) presented is credible and demonstrates a clear and structured process.

Knowledge Products developed under REDD+ Readiness Process of Pakistan

Category	Products
Community Guide Books	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change and Role of Forests • REDD+ PES Monitoring: A Community Guide • What is REDD+ ? : A Guide to Local Communities • Risks and Benefits of REDD+ • Trees of Pakistan (In process)
Video Documentaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pakistan's status and commitment to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation
Training Manuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green House Gas Inventory • Satellite Land Monitory System (SLMS) • National Forest Inventory • Measurement of Forest Carbon Stocks
Extension material	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brochures, Pamphlets, bill-boards, printed caps, Pens, notepads and bags etc
Study Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of existing forestry systems in Pakistan (In Process) • Reports on NFMS, FREL, SESA, ESMF, FGRM, SIS, NRS • At sub-national level the governments of GB and AJK have also developed study reports on forest inventory and GIS based Land use Classification, Allometric Equations, Biomass/Volume Tables, basic wood densities/ expansion factors for conifer and broadleaved tree species (i.e., Blue pine, Deodar, spruce, Fir, Pine and Oak).
Translations and digitization of Forest Policies and Laws (In process)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National forest policy 2016 • Climate change policy 2012 • Forest management plans • Forest laws and regulations • National and provincial level research and other relevant reports.

33. On Criterion 7 on participation, the R-Package has stated more consultations would be needed at the District Levels to improve awareness and to involve more women representations. This sounds reasonable and remedial actions are expected to be made in 2021.
34. On Criterion 8 the R-PP has also provided a well-documented account of national consultations in district, provincial and national fora.
35. On implementation and public disclosure of consultation outcomes, what is significant is that a national communication strategy and outreach program was developed in 2016 and documented in the R-PP. Several platforms have been created for information sharing and communication which include; online, social, print and electronic platforms. As an example, the following online platforms are operational and provincial ones are under preparation:
- A national REDD+ website (www.redd-pakistan.org).
 - A website on REDD+ safeguards (<http://reddpakistansis.com>)
 - A web-portal on National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) (www.nfmspak.org).
- The TAP concurs with the individual and overall assessment of this sub-component.

COMPONENT 2. REDD+ STRATEGY PREPARATION

2a. Assessment of Land Use, Land-Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance (Criteria 11-15, Green)

- 11) Assessment and analysis of land use and land use change drivers
 - 12) Prioritization of direct and indirect drivers/barriers to forest enhancement
 - 13) Links between drivers/barriers and REDD+ activities
 - 14) Action plans to address natural resource rights, land tenure, governance
 - 15) Implications for forest law and policy
36. On criteria 11, 12 and 13 which are on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, the TAP has noted that the REDD+ Strategy includes an action plan which sets out key activities that address the drivers. In addition, it states that analyses of drivers were done for each of the 6 provinces and recognizes provincial and/or geographical differences in the way each driver is manifested and severity differences of each driver by forest type. A noteworthy statement in the R-Package is that spatial analysis of drivers linked to their geographic and socio-economic contexts will be done at the provincial levels. Furthermore, barriers that need to be overcome to reduce emissions from the forest sector have also been identified and described.
37. On Criterion 14, the R-Package has recognized a key weakness on the clarification of carbon rights which will be handled by each of the provinces. Carbon rights and benefit sharing have not been recognized or provided for in forest legislation. In that regard a study on carbon rights is expected to be finalised by December 2021. Likewise, provincial REDD+ action plans (PRAPs) that are also expected to be completed by December 2021, will include benefit sharing mechanisms.
38. On Criterion 15, the policy and legal implications of the proposed strategy options have been described, including the Government's decision to ban illegal timber exports, the decision to join the EU's Voluntary Partnership Agreement to curb illegal activities in the forest sector through law enforcement; FLEGT. However, policies and procedures for the FGRM framework are still a 'work in progress', as mentioned earlier on.
39. The self-assessment as stated by Pakistan is well substantiated and the TAP concurs.

2b. REDD+ Strategy Options (Criteria 16-18, Green)

- 16) Selection and prioritization of REDD+ strategy options
 - 17) Feasibility assessment
 - 18) Implications of strategy options on existing sectoral policies
40. Criteria 16 and 17 clearly state it is the feeling of the stakeholders that the strategy options are feasible for implementation, even in the absence of robust economic analyses, which Pakistan plans to undertake shortly.
41. On Criterion 18 the TAP notes that the R-Package clearly stated that the strategy options were analysed and described with respect to their implications to existing sectoral policies. In addition, feasibility assessments were conducted using cost benefit analysis approaches against their expected emission reduction potentials. It would also be useful to analyse how existing sectoral

policies would impede or facilitate the implementation of the strategy options since this is what underlies the need for cross-sectoral coordination which will be spearheaded by the Ministry of Climate Change.

42. In the technical and economic feasibility of the strategy options, it would be useful to identify and describe those likely policy and technological options that would transform Pakistan's forest sector and enable it to enhance emission reductions alongside meeting other development goals. This would be particularly important as Pakistan proceeds to the next stage of preparing an emission reduction programme document (ER-PD). It is therefore reassuring that under criterion 18, the R-Package has recognized this and has also stated that much more needs to be done on cross-sectoral and vertical coordination among sectors and government levels. Hence Pakistan's capacity to mainstream REDD+ into provincial economic development plans remains important and what is particularly encouraging is the already existing projects that are funded primarily by provincial administrations and the larger World Bank Program.
43. The results of the self-assessment which has suggested that significant progress has been made, is, based on the evidence, a fair reflection of the progress that has been made. However, what remains unclear under the strategy options is how Pakistan will deal with escalating demands for fuelwood which has been identified as a major driver of forest degradation. As such, it would be useful to directly address fuelwood demand more clearly in the R-Package under Component 2 on REDD+ Readiness, Sub-Section 4.2.2 on Strategic Options under the REDD+ Readiness Strategy.

2c. Implementation Framework (Criteria 19-21 Yellow, 22 Orange)

- 19) Adoption and implementation of legislation/regulations
- 20) Guidelines for Implementation
- 21) Benefit sharing mechanism
- 22) National REDD+ registry and system monitoring REDD+ activities

44. On Criteria 20 and 21, the R-Package presents a clear understanding of the key issues that constitute an implementation framework and has described what it sees as gaps (legislation to facilitate benefit sharing and clarify carbon rights) that need to be addressed. It lists and describes pieces of legislation that will support the Implementation on REDD+ actions. These are National Climate Change Policy of 2012, The National Forest Policy of 2016, the Pakistan Climate Change Act of 2017, supported by a massive afforestation/reforestation program: the Ten Billion Tree Afforestation Program (10BTTP).
45. On Criterion 21, the need for the development of Benefit-Sharing Mechanisms has been recognized as a weakness. The R-Package clearly states that and seems to have a commitment that benefit sharing mechanisms be developed at the provincial level between 2022 and 2025.
46. While a REDD+ registry has been designed, and not yet operational, it has been recognised and will be upgraded between 2022 and 2026. The proposed design⁶ will entail a database of carbon projects and carbon transactions.
47. Based on the above three paragraphs, the TAP agrees with the self-assessments.

2d. Social and Environmental Impacts (Criteria 23-25, Green)

⁶ <https://www.redd-pakistan.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/National-REDD-Registry-Design.pdf>

- 23) Analysis of social and environmental safeguard issues
 - 24) REDD+ strategy design with respect to impacts
 - 25) Environmental and Social Management Framework
48. On criterion 23 dealing with analysis on safeguards, the R-Package has clearly stated Pakistan's comprehensive SESA review process which was done on the National REDD+ Strategy Options. The main risks that were identified are: elite capture due to unclear land tenure, gender inequality and social conflicts over land and natural resources. In addition, the R-Package asserts that Pakistan's Laws are generally consistent with UNFCCC REDD+ Safeguards.
49. On criteria 24 and 25, the SESA provided inputs and feedback that was used to revise draft ESMF and enabled a focus on land tenure issues and also contributed through stakeholder consultations to the prioritization of drivers, and possible interventions.
50. The ESMF has noted the fact that the national legal framework generally protects the rights in the UNFCCC REDD+ Safeguards and is also consistent with FCPF Guidelines.

COMPONENT 3. REFERENCE EMISSIONS LEVEL/REFERENCE LEVELS

Criteria 26 (Green) 27(Yellow) 28 (Green)

- 26) Demonstration of methodology
 - 27) Use of historical data, and adjusted for national circumstances
 - 28) Technical feasibility of the methodological approach, and consistency with UNFCCC/IPCC guidance and guidelines
51. On Criteria 26, 27 and 28. In the R-package, Pakistan has clearly described the methodology it used and the feasibility of which was ascertained by a Technical Advisory Panel of the UNFCCC as meeting UNFCCC's standards of transparency, completeness and in accordance with their guidelines.
52. On Criterion 26 and 27, demonstration of methodology and the use of historical data, based on a historical time series analysis 2004, 2008 and 2012 of land use/land cover classification using Landsat imagery (5/7/8) has been clearly made. Pakistan has also adopted a step-wise approach and will keep improving its RL/REL estimates over time. The TAP agrees with the overall rating of Green since significant progress has been made. The TAP is also further pleased with the fact that Pakistan is keen to use a stepwise approach as it has stated in this section and continue to improve its data on existing carbon pools to improve its estimates.
53. The TAP concurs with the overall self-assessment and appreciates the fact that Pakistan has recognised the fact that despite UNFCCC accepting its methodology, there is still room for improvement as stated in the preceding paragraph.

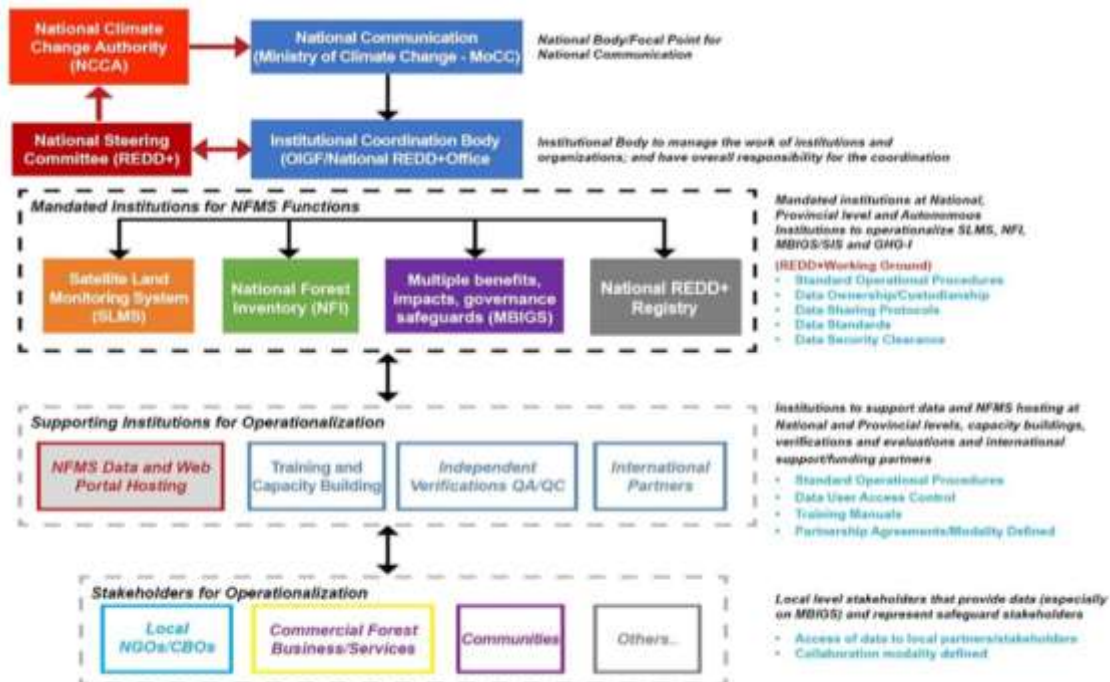
COMPONENT 4. MONITORING SYSTEMS FOR FORESTS AND SAFEGUARDS

4a. National Forest Monitoring System (Criteria 29,31, Green, 30 is Yellow)

- 29) Documentation of monitoring approach

- 30) Demonstration of early system implementation
- 31) Institutional arrangements and capacities - Forests

54. On Criterion 29, it has been noted that Pakistan has clearly stated and used its forest definitions consistently and has a well-documented national land cover classification. So far, a NFMS has been proposed and web-portal has been developed. Technically it is also impressive that permanent sample plots have been laid out, diameter-height models, country-specific allometric equations have been developed, in addition to root-shoot ratios for different forest types. So far it is encouraging that an NFMS web-portal has been developed to provide an integrated platform for sharing data, a national database to ensure quality and accessibility. This will be followed by a plan to strengthen systems and capacity for monitoring at provincial levels.
55. On criterion 30 despite the existence of a national web-portal there is still work to be done to build monitoring systems and capacities in all 6 provinces, which will strengthen monitoring capacity, update satellite-based forest management information and field assessment of carbon stock, develop district-wise Land-use and Land Cover (LULC) and change detection maps, update and develop allometric equations etc. Because all these have yet to be done the TAP concurs with the assessment of criterion 30.
56. On Criterion 31 on institutional arrangements, Pakistan appears to be clear on a national organization structure for monitoring. The institutional structure for monitoring is clearly illustrated in the figure below, and it is further noted that the ownership of NFMS will rest in the provinces or sub-national entities. On capacities, only three provinces; Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) and Punjab have well developed institutional capacities and resources in the form of GIS laboratories, equipment and human resources, hence capacity strengthening in the other provinces should be a priority.



National Institutional Arrangements for NFMS in Pakistan

57. The TAP concurs with the assessment of Criterion 31 and the 2 criteria; 29 and 30 preceding it. In general, the key weaknesses for monitoring have been clearly spelled out and remedial actions

have been proposed. Clearly, capacity at the provincial level is needed for some provinces and skills for monitoring policy indicators has been recognized.

4b. Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards (Criteria 32 Yellow 33-34, Orange)

- 32) Identification of relevant non-carbon aspects, and social and environmental issues
- 33) Monitoring, reporting and information sharing
- 34) Institutional arrangements and capacities – Multiple Benefits and Safeguards

58. Pakistan is of the opinion that Criteria 32 to 34 still need further improvements, particularly a more comprehensive description of non-carbon benefits, which could be geographically influenced, and SMART indicators for their monitoring. In addition, the capacity to monitor non-carbon and multiple benefits, and the building of the necessary capacity at both national and provincial levels are identified.
59. The TAP concurs with the assessment of the three criteria. It's worth noting that to date, there are no clear descriptions of the non-carbon benefits and the policy indicators will also need to be monitored. Since this sub-component is critical to any future performance based payments, capacity building action is needed to address the identified shortcomings that will need to be overcome. Pakistan is recommended to develop clear descriptions of non-carbon benefits and to articulate policy indicators that will be monitored at both nationally and sub-nationally levels.

SUMMARY ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PC

60. Based on the TAPs assessment of the R-Package self-assessment report, and accompanying documents, the readiness processes and the associated outputs have been well documented and clearly stated by Pakistan. The R-Package has also been quite candid on the areas of weaknesses and most of the remedial actions appear to be well thought out and have timelines. As a sign of the significant progress made, 31 out of 34 criteria are green or yellow and the needed improvements under each criterion have been summarized in tables under sub-component.
61. Despite the complexity of managing a REDD+ Program within the framework of a federal structure and system of governance, the remedial actions have recognized the need to build the capacity of stakeholders at sub-national or provincial levels.
62. As already stated under Component 2, it would be useful to address fuelwood demand more clearly in the R-Package under Component 2 on REDD+ Readiness. In addition, analyses on how existing sectoral policies would impede or facilitate the implementation of the strategy options would be a powerful tool to underpin the need for cross-sectoral coordination which will be spearheaded by the Ministry of Climate Change.
63. Since Pakistan has noted that sectoral policies do not account for deforestation and forest degradation drivers as stated in Table 15; this is an aspect of cross-sector coordination that should be strengthened in the document. Pakistan could also consider linking its REDD+ Strategy as a mechanism for achieving 'Land Degradation Neutrality' under UNCCD, to deal more broadly with the issues of aridity and desertification. In that context, increasing forest and tree cover and maintaining existing forest and woody vegetation cover could play the roles of mitigation and rehabilitation.
64. While the capacity needs for RL/REL and MRV have been identified, including the monitoring of safeguards, and non-carbon multiple benefits, Pakistan needs more specific details of capacity building plans for each of the provinces.
65. All in all, the R-Package depicts quite substantive progress that Pakistan has made on its REDD+ Readiness Program.

DOCUMENTS REVIEWED FOR THIS ASSESSMENT

- Government of the Republic of Pakistan 2021. Multistakeholder Self-assessment of REDD+ Readiness in Pakistan. Ministry of Climate Change
https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/system/files/documents/pakistan_r-package_25_08_21_final_0.pdf
- Government of the Republic of Pakistan 2013. Readiness preparation proposal (R-PP)
<https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/system/files/documents/Pakistan%27s%20Revised%20R-PP%20-%20September%2010%202014.pdf>
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https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/system/files/documents/MTR_Pakistan_FCPF_GRANT_REVISED_2017