**Request for Targeted Support: Developing REDD+ Readiness in Pakistan – Developing Options for Addressing Social Impacts of REDD+**

**Background**

Pakistan covers an area of over 800 000 km2 between latitudes 24 and 27°N and longitudes 61 and 75°E; the population is about 187 million. The country can be divided into three main geographical regions:

* Mountains occupy the northern and western parts of the country. The northern mountains are the termination of the great Himalayan range with a number of peaks well above 6 000 m permanently clad with snow. The submountainous areas are extensive, forming a number of plateaus and valleys. The western mountains are lower and are associated with plateaus, semi arid valleys and plain land, most of which are unproductive;
* The Indus plain is the western part of the indo-gangetic plain which forms one of the most prominent and extensive physiographic divisions of the subcontinent. The plain is formed by the large quantitites of alluvial material deposited since time immemorial by the Indus and several of its tributaries. The land is fertile and heavily populated;
* The coastal zone is a narrow fringe bordering the Arabian Sea. It includes also the Indus delta, and the saline marshes of Rann of Kutch.

Forest areas include mangrove forests and coastal forests, “upland hardwood forests” on mountains above 1 500 in small patches in shallow and moist depressions, dry temperate forests, between 1 800 m and 3 000 m west of the Indus, “riverine forests” along the banks of the Indus and of other rivers, coniferous forests - the most important commercial forests, xerophytic temperate forests, and “alpine forests” between 2 850 and 3 600 metres. Scrub formations include “tropical thorn forests”, “subtropical dry evergreen forests”, and “alpine scrub”. The total area of forest and scrub formations is about 3 million hectares.

**General Approach**

When Pakistan attained independence from British rule in 1947, the Forest Act 1927 was in force over most of the country, including the NWFP. In 1974 the 1927 Act was extended to the Provincially Administered Tribal Areas (PATA) of Chitral, Dir, Kalam, Swat and Malakand. The 1927 Act does not apply to the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) which cover 2.76 million hectares along the country’s border with Afghanistan.

Since the subject of forests is not mentioned in either of the constitutional legislative lists, forestry is an exclusively provincial subject. Provincial assemblies may amend the Forest Act 1927 or enact new forest laws for their respective provinces. In 2002, the NWFP became the first province to reform its forest law. The NWFP Forest Ordinance 2002 repealed the 1927 Forest Act in its application to the NWFP, but all rules and notifications issued under the repealed laws remain in force to the extent that they are consistent with the 2002 Ordinance.

Recognizing the importance of effective social safeguards for REDD+, a National Consultative Workshop on “Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria for REDD+ Safeguards” held on January 12, 2012 at Islamabad, inaugurated by the Mr. Mohammad Javed Malik, Federal Secretary, Ministry of National Disaster Management. The workshop was attended all the major stakeholders from all over Pakistan and generated both initial ideas on social safeguards for REDD+ and considerable interest among diverse stakeholders to develop these ideas further. Consequently, Pakistan is requesting targeted support to ensure that potential social impacts of REDD+ are assessed and the information is used to develop a comprehensive system of social safeguards for REDD+.

**Objective**

The Objective of the proposed targeted support is “***to integrate social principles risk assessment into wide stakeholder engagement and governance capacity strengthening processes, and develop safeguard principles and social benefit impact assessment in Pakistan***”.

**Activities**

In order to achieve the stated Objective, the following indicative activities are anticipated:

1. Undertake a social principles risk assessment and multiple benefits impact assessment;
2. Design and implement wide stakeholder consultation process to review and validate the results of the assessment undertaken under 1, above;
3. Design a governance capacity strengthening process in order to design social safeguard principles.

**Budget**

The total budget for these activities is estimated at $110,000 for the described activities, to be implemented over a period of one year, broken down as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Activity | Personnel | Supplies, commodities, equipment and transport | Contracts | Other direct costs | TOTAL |
| Social principles risk assessment  | 15,000 | 5,000 | 0 | 0 | 20,000 |
| Stakeholder consultation process to review and validate the results  | 10,000 | 5,000 | 0 | 0 | 15,000 |
| Design a governance capacity strengthening process  | 15,000 |  | 0 | 0 | 15,000 |
| TOTALS | 40,000 | 10,000 | 0 | 0 | 50,000 |