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REPORT

CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP ON GILGIT-BALTISTAN CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN



22nd December 2016

Reported by:

Samreen Liaqat, Environmental Information Officer (EIO) GB-EPA

Sobia Mustafa, Research Associate (RA), WWF-Pakistan



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ACRONYMS

CC	Climate Change
COP	Conference of Parties
FWED	Forest, Wildlife and Environment Department
GB	Gilgit-Baltistan
GBEPA	Gilgit-Baltistan Environmental Protection Agency
GCISC	Global Change Impact Studies Center
GHGs	Greenhouse Gases
GLOFs	Glacial Lake Outburst Floods
GoGB	Government of Gilgit-Baltistan
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
KIU	Karakorum International University
NRM	Natural Resources Management
PMD	Pakistan Meteorological Department
WG	Working Group
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Our warmest gratitude to honorable Mr. Sajjad Haider, Secretary Forest, Wildlife and Environment Department Gilgit-Baltistan, who enhanced the standing of event as chief guest and joined the event despite of his busy schedule. Moreover, we are thankful to our presenters for enlightening the audience with their knowledge and experiences. Likewise, our earnest appreciation to all the participants for their recommendations/comments for improvement of the draft and contributed great deal in making the event successful. Most prominently, our co-organizers WWF-Pakistan backing and support throughout the commencement of the event is highly cherished.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Climate change has increasingly become a major global challenge that threatens natural, ecological and human systems of many countries around the world. Gilgit-Baltistan is equally confronted with similar challenges. Therefore, development of this climate change strategy and action plan shall enable us in addressing this global problem in specific and localized context. Realizing this diverse need for strategy formulation and action, the government of GB is committed to mainstreaming the climate change into future policy and development planning by proposing locally-driven climate change actions. The aim of such a strategy is to achieve resilience, resource sustainability and environmental stability for minimizing the adverse impacts of climate change through synergy and stakeholder participation. In this regard Gilgit-Baltistan Environmental Protection Agency arranged a consultative workshop in collaboration with WWF-Pakistan. Feedback was given by experts in the sectoral strategies and action plans for improvements in draft Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. The event started with the Recitation of Holy Quran. **Mr. Shehzad Hassan Shigri** welcomed all the audience and highlighted the objectives of the workshop. Dr. Babar Khan suggested incorporating social sector in the action plan as climate change has greatly affected the mobility of the communities in the region. At the end of the workshop, Mr. Sher Khan, Consultant GBEPA thanked all the participants for their inputs and valuable time.

I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Climate Change (CC) has emerged as a new global challenge and poses unprecedented threats to the natural habitats, societies and atmosphere across the globe. It is characterized by long-term shifts in weather patterns due to variations in temperature and precipitation levels. Global climate change trends indicate that many of the world's developing countries will face the intensified threats of climate change and violent conflicts. Scientific findings from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) clearly indicate that a changing climate has had and will continue to have significant impacts on human life and natural systems.

Pakistan, however, is a low contributor to Greenhouse Gases (GHGs), but still getting most affected in the form of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs), flash floods, landslides in the north, cyclones and sea level rise on the coast, and worst of all, it is making less marginalized communities to move from their homes, leaving behind everything to save themselves. German Watch, in its recent Global long term *Climate Risk Index 2017* reported Pakistan number 7th in the list of top 10 countries most affected by climate change from 1996 to 2015 with 133 disastrous events.

It is globally recognized that mountain ecosystems are among the most vulnerable to climate change. These vulnerabilities are likely to be intensified due to disproportionate warming in mountain areas; are particularly so in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) that is one of the highly mountainous and glaciated regions of the world. A crucial feature of GB is that its mountain ecology and socio-economic systems are strongly interdependent. Any imbalance on either side can jeopardize this delicate relationship between man and the nature. Risks associated with climate change, therefore call for a broad spectrum of policy response, adaptations and mitigations strategies at the local and regional level.

Taking cognizance from the National Climate Change Policy of Pakistan, Gilgit-Baltistan Environmental Protection Agency (GBEPA) under the development project "Environmental Monitoring and Management System in GB" has started the process to formulate "Gilgit Baltistan Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan". The strategy is based on the weather and



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climate data acquired from the Automatic Weather stations and other monitoring stations installed in Gilgit-Baltistan. IPCC scenarios have been built on the data and the current situation of Gilgit Baltistan. Adaptations measures have been devised for all major development sectors and environmental compartments to cope with the climate changes.

In this context, GBEPA in collaboration with WWF-Pakistan therefore, organized consultative workshop to have a detailed stakeholders consultation on climate change adaptation strategy and action plan (draft) developed by GB-EPA, while explaining the possibility to consider migration as a climate change adaptation strategy in the CC policy at provincial level for GB.

Date/Venue:

The consultative workshop was held at Serena Hotel Gilgit from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM on Thursday, 22nd December 2016.

II. OBJECTIVES

This consultative workshop aims to enhance climate resilience by;

- i. Bringing together multi stakeholders and policy makers to identify appropriate adaptation strategies for GB, and
- ii. Improve understanding of migration and remittance for strengthening of community's adaptive capacity against climate change.

III. PROCEEDINGS

a. Inaugural Session

The event has formally started around 10:00am. Sobia Mustafa from WWF and Usama Rehmat from GB-EPA facilitated the event. Usama Rehmat welcomed the audience and invited Mr. Ghulam Uddin, Director Fisheries GB, for the recitation of Holy Quran.

Mr. Shehzad Hassan Shigri, Director GB-EPA addressed the audience as a keynote speaker. Initially, he welcomed the Chief Guest, Mr. Sajjad Haider, Secretary Forest, Wildlife and



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Environment Department (FWED) Gilgit-Baltistan, and thanked all the audience for their participation. He highlighted objectives of the workshop and a brief background on formulation of Gilgit-Baltistan Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. In 2014, GBEPA developed Environmental Protection

bill following 18th amendment. The bill was approved by Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative

Assembly in 2015. GBEPA, with a mandate to oversee the environmental issues in the region, developed climate change adaptation policy and which now is being mainstreamed in the form of action plan for GB and provincial level. GB-EPA drafted “Gilgit-Baltistan Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan” in compliance with the objectives of Pakistan’s National Climate Change Policy. This provincial and sectoral action plan is drafted keeping in view the climatic changes that we have encountered hitherto and the change scenarios that we are expecting. He further said, unexpected changes are taking place in GB in the form of extreme weather patterns, high level of precipitation, shift of snowfall from winter (Nov-Jan) to spring (Feb-Mar). Furthermore, he said, a collaborative action from all the relevant stakeholders is needed for the improvement of this draft and to develop a strong mitigation and adaptive climate change strategy for the region.

Mr. Sajjad Haider, Secretary FWED, GoGB delivered a speech in which he thanked organizers of the event. He further said, Climate Change is an abrupt phenomenon and people now realized changes but are we ready to cope with the changes? Humans have a greed for preparation so that its generation can have a secured future. But now until we don’t have strategy we cannot have preparatory plans. GoGB is concerned about emerging climate change issues in the region and therefore this Action plan has been formulated after Climate Change policy.



Figure 1: Mr. Shehzad Hassan Shigri welcoming the guests.



Figure 2: Honorable Chief Guest, Secretary FWED GB addressing the audience.



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Additionally, he said that we need to discuss and include expert's opinion as recommendations to improve the drafted action plan.

b. Presentations

Followed by Secretary's speech, Mr. As'haab Ullah Baig, GBEPA Consultant has given brief overview of Climate Change in context of GB and Green House Effect. He mentioned that climate change is a natural process but this process speeds up due to different factors, industrialization as a major. Temperature increase, sea level rise and change in precipitation

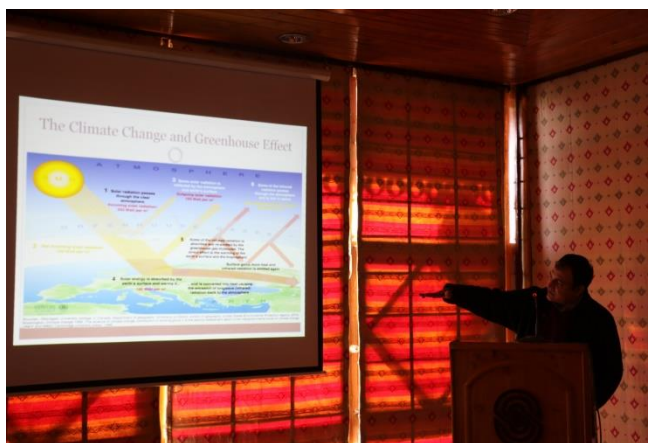


Figure 3: Mr. As'haab Ullah Baig while giving presentation.

patterns are the major impacts of climate change affecting all the key sectors. Variations in Temperature and precipitation levels over the last three decades were estimated by analyzing the past thirty-year climate (1984-2013) record provided by GBEPA. The datasets contain records for mean monthly minimum and maximum temperatures; and precipitation levels for Gilgit, Skardu, Astore, Chilas and Gupis. He highlighted climate change disaster events that occurred in the recent years.

Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) and Global Change Impact Studies Center (GCISC) have determined region-wise climate projections for Pakistan (2011-2050). He further mentioned framework and guiding principles for climate change strategy and action plan. This strategy is based on following guiding principles: Mainstreaming Climate Change into Policy and Development Planning; GB Specific and Area Driven Climate Change Interventions; Sustainability and Environmental Stability; and Stakeholder's Participation in Climate Change Policy Implementation. He highlighted the thematic areas for which specific adaptation and mitigation measures needed to be taken.

Progressively, Dr. Babar Khan, Head WWF-Pakistan (GB region) addressed the audience about "Climate Change Adaptation; Migration and Remittance, An option Unelaborated". He discussed about efforts of WWF-Pakistan in GB to tackle the consequences of climate change

affecting the social sector in form of migration and how to get maximum benefit from it. He said that change is sustainable but from last three decades, the frequency of natural changes has been increased abnormally by human activities in Gilgit-Baltistan. Changes are taking place in the form of extreme weather patterns, change in precipitation i.e. rainfall and snowfall patterns change and increase in minimum and maximum temperature causes fast glacier melts affecting



Figure 4: Dr. Babar Khan presenting WWF-Pakistan efforts towards climate change adaptations.

the agricultural sector of the region that is totally depend on glacier for irrigation. Late snowfall and early melting cause flashfloods; snow has no time for condensation and converts into ice. Furthermore he said there is 0.7°C increase in temperature over decades but the effects will double in GB as we move towards higher elevations the effects will increase.

Climate change not only effects the life supporting systems but mobility of locals as well. In Asia, 123 million people (83% of global) were displaced due to climate change. Climate Change human mobility is a challenge, In COP-16 as a response human mobility is recognized as an adaptation challenge and in COP-21 human mobility was included officially.

c. Technical Session

For discussion and consultation on Gilgit-Baltistan Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan Five Working Groups (WG) were assigned thematic areas for their input comments according to their expertise.

WG 1: Thematic area given to **WG 1** was *Infrastructure resilience* that was presented by Mr. Muhammad Alam, Assistant Chief NRM, Planning and Development Department, GB.

WG 2: Thematic area given to WG 2 for review and comments was *Livestock*, presented by Dr. Ijlal Hussain, Livestock Officer, Livestock and Dairy Development Department GB.



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WG 3: Fisheries Sector was given to group 3 and after group work and consultation, presented by **Mr. Ghulam Uddin, Director Fisheries Department, GB.**

WG 4: Group 5 reviewed and commented on **Forestry, Rangeland, Wetlands and Biodiversity** sectors. **Dr. Muhammad Zafar**

Khan, Assistant Professor, KIU presented on behalf of his group.



Figure 5: Participants while working in group.

WG 5: Disaster Management sector was presented by **Mr. Pervaiz Ahmad, Regional Program Officer, FOCUS Pakistan.**

Working groups reviewed the drafted action plan and provided appropriate adaptation and mitigation strategies in context of GB as input comments/recommendations according to their area of expertise that needed to be to incorporate for the improvements in action plan.

Dr. Babar Khan, Head WWF-Pakistan suggested to incorporate migration, a social aspects of climate change in drafted climate change strategy and action plan draft and he will provide assistance along with his team for this improvement in the action plan.

d. Closing Ceremony

Mr. Sher Khan Consultant GBEPA formally thanked organizers of the event and all participants for their valuable time and their feedback. He said, recommendations/ comments given by all groups are highly valuable. They will incorporate practical and implementable recommendations into action plan.





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IV. CONCLUSION

This event has successfully resulted in gathering of recommendations for improvements in climate change strategy and action plan. Moreover, migration as an adaptive strategy against climate change in Gilgit-Baltistan was incorporated in the action plan. And many different technical proposals were recommended by experts of various sectors that are needed to be amalgamated in the draft.

ANNEXURE

a. Program Schedule

Time	Event/Activity	Facilitation
9:00 hr.	Arrival/seating of guests	
9:30-9:35	Recitation from the Holy Quran	Participant
9:35-9:50 9:50-10:05 10:05-10:20	Welcome address and objectives of the workshop Speech by Chief Guest	Shehzad Hassan Shigri, Director GBEP Sajjad Haider, Secretary, GB FWED
10:20-10:40	Presentation : GB EPA Consultant	GB EPA/consultant
11:45-11:00	Presentation: HIMALICA Action Research – How migration can play role in adaptation against Climate Change	Dr. Babar Khan, Head WWF-Pakistan
11:00-11:15	Documentary: Climate change adaptation project	WWF
11:15-11:45	Tea/Coffee Break	
Technical Session I		
11:45-12:45	Discussion and Consultation on Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan in Gilgit-Baltistan (Drafted) developed by GBEP WG 1: WG 2: WG 3: WG 4:	
12:45-01:45	Planery: Working Group Presentation and Recommendation (Inclusive and Exclusive)	
01:45-02:15	LUNCH	
Technical Session II		
2:15-3:00	Open Discussion (Question/Answer)	
3:00-3:10	Conclusion and vote of thanks	GB EPA



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