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Generating Global  
Environmental Benefits - GEB

# **ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION & MANAGEMENT: ADDRESSING KEY ISSUES & WAY FORWARD FOR PAKISTAN**

**MARCH 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2019  
PESHAWAR**

Report of a "Lecture" arranged by Generating Global Environmental Benefits (GEB) in collaboration with  
Forestry, Environment & Wildlife Department, Peshawar

***GEB - A Joint Initiative of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)  
& Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC)***





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## Executive Summary

GEB project, funded by the UNDP/ Global Environment Facility (GEF), is being implemented by the Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC) aims to remove barriers to environmental information management and mainstream global environment concerns into the economic decision-making of Pakistan. As per the AWP-2019, a lecture was organized by PMU, GEB project with the title of “Environmental Information & Management: Addressing key Issues & Way Forward for Pakistan” on March 26, 2019 at Forestry, Environment & Wildlife Department, Peshawar. The objective of the visit was to ‘educate selected representatives/stakeholders regarding the integration of environment and development and thus enhance their commitment and capacity for the role of different stakeholders and departments in ensuring environmental sustainability’.

The purpose of the session was mainly to help contextualize the key stakeholders in the focus of the project. Therefore, the following approach was adopted: (a) Selection of the representation of the stakeholders, (b) Highlighting that the change is realized through efforts of critical mass of individuals who understand the purpose and are committed. The environment and associated issues were presented in the context of the UN conventions for which GEF serves as financial mechanism. In comparison to global practices of environmental information and management, the expected output of the lecture was to increase understanding and importance of environmental information and management by: the foreword of concept allied to environmental information and management; Global examples of environmental information and management; the apt way forward for Environmental Information & Management System (EIMS) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) province.

It was agreed among the participants that arranging lectures such as this one are important to increase environmental understanding of the concerned stakeholders/participants as they have a vital role to play in raising environmental awareness as well as forming public views and perceptions on development projects. Participants of the subject lecture appreciated the activity and efforts of GEB team and wished that it might continue in future through different forums so that they are capacitated with the right information on environment.

## Background:

Generating Global Environmental Benefits (GEB) project, funded by the UNDP/GEF, is being implemented by the Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC) that aims to remove barriers to environmental information management and mainstream global environment concerns into the economic decision-making in Pakistan. The objective of the GEB project is two-fold in its focus; one related to environmental information, and the other to employ this information for improved decision-making. Moreover, the said project has three inter-related outcomes: regular availability of consistent and reliable environmental data; a coordinated and robust environmental information management system; and enhanced commitment and capacity for sustainable development planning and legislation.

## Opening Remarks by Dr. Saleem Janjua, National Project Coordinator, GEB

Dr. Saleem Janjua, National Project Coordinator, GEB Project warmly welcomed all the participants and heartily thanked all to spare their time for joining the lecture. He briefly overviewed the Project and its components as the project is aimed to initially explore how the environmental database is generated, gathered, stored and utilized by different governmental and private departments, and how these data and information are contributing towards formulation of economic policies in Pakistan. Also, the data and information being generated in different forms requires to be gathered at a single platform to make it accessible for all. The pilot implementation of the project will be in Peshawar, KPK and Lahore, Punjab where the IT based EIMS. The initial activities planned by the GEB project are to map out all the relevant departments having necessary data. Later need-analysis would be conducted to examine the data. Dr. Saleem Janjua said that he is pleased to be the part of this esteemed and noble project. The team is working very hard day and night to line-up activities and appreciated the project management team's efforts in arranging the event.



## Remarks by Dr. Bashir Khan, DG EPA, Peshawar

Dr. Bashir Khan, DG EPA Peshawar emphasized that data availability and its continuity is very important to carry out any practical measures. Unfortunately, in our society when one commits and starts to collect data to perform practical solutions the society starts to criticize and demands for the practical work and when practical work is started without baseline



data the projects can't be executed properly and cannot proceed and eventually fail. These are the problems in developing countries like Pakistan. So accurate and enough data is needed for proper planning of projects. To hide our weaknesses and from criticism we do not share and publish data although the criticisms always leads to improvements. EPA has taken steps to publish its data of all related environmental variables of KPK in a "*KPK Environmental Profile*" in 2018 GPS locations have been added too. The copies of KPK Environmental Profile have been transferred to academia, ministries and line departments with the aim to set this booklet as a Benchmark. He appreciated the efforts and idea of UNDP and shared his good wishes for the GEB Project team.

### Remarks by Mr. Tauheed-ul-Haq, Deputy Chief Conservator

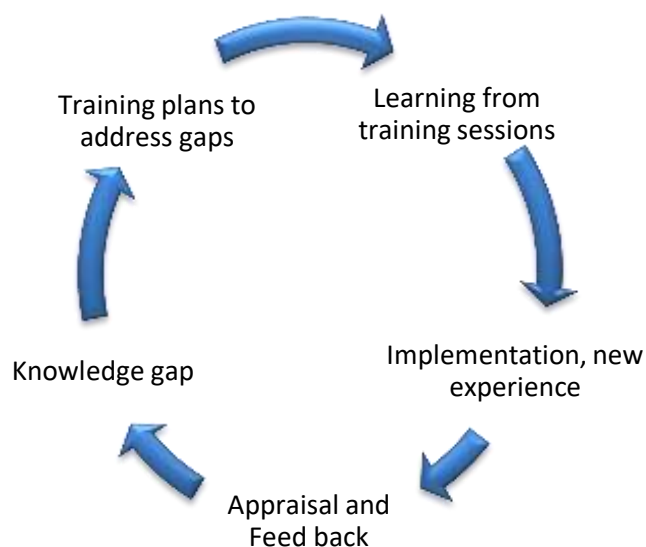
Mr. Tauheed-ul-Haq, Deputy Chief Conservator of Forest, KPK thanked for inviting him and involving Wildlife and Forest Department in this lecture. The annual reports published by the Wildlife and Forest Department are standardized documents for the data of all flora and fauna species which can be very useful for the GEB Project. There is variation in the data of every year which may be eliminated by GEB Project if feasible. He ensured the collaboration of Wildlife and Forest Department and their project teams with UNDP in every manner for this noble purpose.



### Lecture by Environment Expert, Mr. Saleem Ullah

After these remarks, Ms. Numra Asif (GEB Project) invited the resource person to deliver his lecture. Mr. Saleem Ullah delivered a detailed presentation on environment in the context of the project and highlighted the following:

First of all he shared his methodology with the participants by saying that we all learn from each other and especially from experts such as you. We will follow the model of continuous learning in the project based on the following figure:



He continued his lecture by stating the following; In the recent years, Pakistan has experienced terrorism based extreme incidents, nevertheless we believe that the real and present danger to the country's existence is not terrorism, given its mutually reinforcing fabric, but is the environmental issues in general and the water security, depends on its natural system, in particular. Anatol Lieven in his book, Pakistan: a hard country, published in 2011, has very thoroughly analyzed this factor. In fact this process is the product of three interconnected degradation processes, land degradation, biodiversity degradation and climate change. The issue of wastes and chemicals (toxic) has further exacerbating the overall decay. Together these are endangering not the lives and livelihoods of the people of this country but also threaten the statehood of the country.

In order to create a pragmatic focus of environment in the context of the project namely Generating Global Environmental Benefits from Improved Decision Making Systems and Local Planning, a lecture comprise of two sessions is being organized with the project stakeholder in Peshawar. The purpose of the session is mainly to help contextualize the key stakeholders in the focus of the project. Therefore, the following approach has been adopted:

- a. Selection of the representation of the stakeholders: the audience of the lecture has been chosen from the line departments of the provincial government that contribute to the restoration of the environment in the province.
- b. The lecture highlighted that the change is realized through efforts of critical mass of individuals who understand the purpose and are committed. The resource person therefore stressed that this group should be consistently engaged in the capacity building efforts of the project that will make the groups the change agent for the project.
- c. The environment and associated issues were presented in the context of the UN conventions for which GEF serves as financial mechanism. These included the following five, nevertheless the project will mainly focus on information management and it's mainstreaming on the conventions during the lecture on biodiversity, climate change and land degradation and desertification.
  - Convention on biological diversity since 1992
  - Framework Convention on climate change since 1992
  - Convention to Combat Desertification 1996
  - Stockholm Convention on POPs since 2004
  - Minamata Convention on Mercury since 2017





d. Beside the environmental focus of the lecture, the data collection, information and knowledge management was also focused. Issues related the Environmental Information Management System (EIMS) were discussed in details and solutions were highlighted.

The lessons learnt and best practices:

The lessons learnt and best practices from all parts of the country, beside other countries of the world were shared by the resource person. He in particular mentioned about the interrelationship of the management of biodiversity and its impact on climate change adaptation and land degradation neutrality.



### Interactive Session

Dr. Saleem Janjua and Mr. Saleem Ullah Khan started the interactive session. Dr. Saleem Janjua said that this is the opportunity to discuss gaps, bottle-necks and identify the variables and finalizing the indicators with the help of departments, organizations and academia.

One of the participants working in the Hydro Power Plant Projects pointed out that the data shown by the resource person that Pakistan was producing 181 mt CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent GHGs in 1994 and in 2012 is now raised to 374 mt CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent GHGs but in 1994 the contribution of energy sector was 48% by that population but in 2012 the data decreased to 45% although the population increased. This is good sign and indicates that Pakistan is going Eco-friendlier in its energy sector that is due to ban on the coal power plants. Coal is our natural resource we should not let it be in the reservoirs coal plants should be operational but with compliance to EPA standards and adopting preventive measures to overcome energy shortages.

Dr. Saleem Janjua agreed and commented the 2030 energy demand projection shows a good mix but a column for the shortfalls being faced should also be added.

A suggestion was given by participants to establish an online catalogue of Environmental Profile of a specific area in a chronological as a Demo including all the components of environment for that area to set as a demo or benchmark for all other areas/cities to help the departments in understanding to put their data. Also, the Expert Panels should be involved to carry out activities and proposing suggestions and taking decisions instead of committees. Moreover, the revision of standard documents acting as benchmark will help project a lot and will save time almost 3-4 years and PEDO can serve as a main source of KPK Environmental data.





Dr. Saleem Janjua added a point that institutional mapping will be carried out to narrow down the data source institutions, scoping them and performing their need-analysis. There will be series of lectures, seminars and workshops in this project to bring all stakeholders to build their capacities and to point out bottle necks at every stage.



One of the participants appreciated the efforts of GEB Project of inviting and involving P&D which is a good step to ensure the project efficiency and informing P&D about the activities of environmental projects being implemented in Pakistan. It was pointed out by a participant that technology and knowledge transfer to farmers to build their capacity and making change at the grass-root level. ASRSP is an organization working on ground level with communities of KPK and FATA. One individual from every mapped-out department should be nominated as focal person and, in every activity, that specific person should be invited and communicated to save time and energy and to avoid working from the scratch with different individuals each time.

Dr. Saleem Janjua was of the view that the main issue is that we are carrying out activities for awareness at grass root in our country but is it changing our behaviors as well. He said and heard that we should remember ABC stands for A stands for Awareness, B for Behavior and C for Change. A participant from agricultural background suggested that the comprehensive Agricultural information is accessible on national official



websites and mobile apps which can be very useful source of data. Another participant suggested that the closing document of SLMP Project by UNDP can also act as a roadmap and very informative for GEB Project.

Mr. Atif Rahim a student of BS environment from University of Peshawar raised a point that the researches of academia especially Dept. of Environmental Sciences University of Peshawar are not generally involved in various development projects. They hold very useful data and have great capacity; however such resources needs financial aid to carry out their researches accurately while GEB project need data so HEC research projects and student researchers can be a good source of primary data for the environmental profile of various process of KPK.

GEP Project team noted the point and appreciated the participants for their technical inputs.

### Concluding Remarks

Ms. Numra the master of ceremony thanked all the participants and formally announced the end of lecture. The session was concluded by the vote of thanks from organizers. The output of the activity was to increase the environmental understanding of concerned stakeholders/participants as they have

a vital role to play in environmental decision making, and planning and review of development projects. It is neither possible nor intended to make participants environmental experts. The idea instead is to expose them to the essentials of environmental concerns, how they manifest in Pakistan, and what are Pakistan's interests and global obligations in this regard. The output will have served its purpose if the participants are able to raise the right questions in relation to environmental considerations when they plan development projects or when they are tasked with environmental reviews of such projects.

### Souvenir Distribution by Dr Saleem Janjua

Dr. Saleem Janjua, National Project Coordinator, GEB Project distributed souvenirs among the esteemed guests included Dr. Bashir, DG EPA KPK, Mr. Tauheed-ul-Haq Deputy Chief Conservator of Forest KPK, Mr. Saleem Ullah Khan, Resource Person, moreover the DG EPA presented souvenir to Dr. Saleem Janjua as a memory of ceremony this activity was followed by the tea break.





Gallery





## Press Release

<https://dailyaen.com.pk/index.php?page=3&edition=peshawar&date=2019-03-27&type=newspaper>



[https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/index.aspx?Issue=NP\\_PEW&Page=City\\_Page002&Date=20190327&PageNo=2&View=1](https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/index.aspx?Issue=NP_PEW&Page=City_Page002&Date=20190327&PageNo=2&View=1)



# GEB MANAGEMENT

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