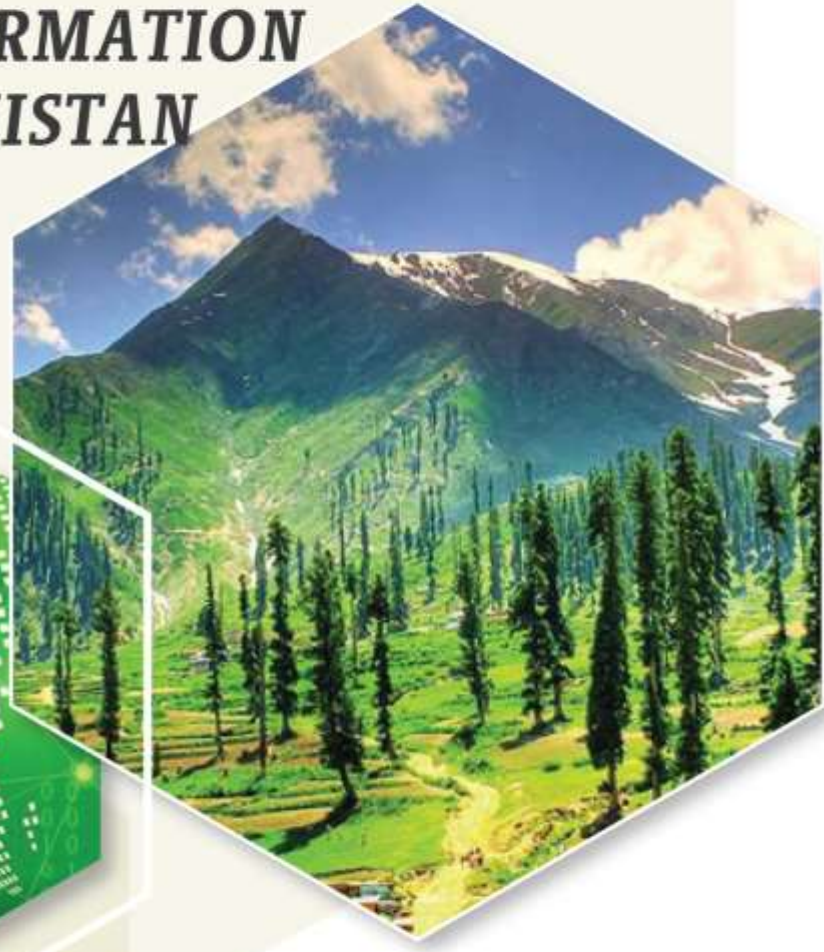




Generating Global
Environmental Benefits - GEB

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES AND WAY FORWARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION & MANAGEMENT IN PAKISTAN



**April 23rd, 2019
Rawalpindi**

**Report of a "Seminar" arranged by Generating Global Environmental Benefits (GEB)
in collaboration with Fatima Jinnah Women University (FJWU), Rawalpindi**

***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) that 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 seminar was organized by PMU, GEB project with the title of “Global Perspectives and Way Forward for Environmental Information & Management in Pakistan” on April 23, 2019 at Fatima Jinnah Women University (FJWU), Rawalpindi. The objective of the seminar was to ‘educate academia/selected representatives regarding the integration of environment and development and thus enhance their commitment and capacity for the role of academia in ensuring environmental sustainability’.

The overall objective of the seminar was to highlight the importance of environmental information and management. The seminar also aimed to create a clearer understanding of generating and managing environmental information practices in Pakistan in comparison to global practices of environmental information and management. The expected output of the seminar was to increase the understanding and importance of environmental information and management by: (a) Introduction of concepts related to environmental information and management, (b) Global practices and examples of environmental information and management, (c) The way forward for environmental information & management system in Pakistan. The discussion in this seminar was focused on the current baseline of data collection, practices of our local environment system and decisions, applied research and demonstrations related to environmental management and environmental policy.

It was agreed among the participants that arranging seminars 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 seminar 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 United Nations Development Programme/Global Environment Facility (UNDP/GEF), is being implemented by the Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC) that aims to remove the barriers to environmental information management and mainstream global environment concerns into economic decision-making. The objective of the GEB project is two-fold in its focus; one related to environmental information, and the second is 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.

Proposed Activity

GEB project under its approved Annual Work Plan (AWP-2019) conducted an environmental seminar titled "Global Perspectives & Way Forward for Environmental Information & Management in Pakistan". The overall objective of the seminar was to highlight the importance of environmental information and management. The seminar also aimed to create a clearer understanding of generating and managing environmental information practices in Pakistan in comparison to global practices of environmental information and management. The expected output of the seminar was to increase the understanding and importance of environmental information and management by:

- a) Introduction of concepts related to environmental information and management.
- b) Global practices and examples of environmental information and management.
- c) The way forward for environmental information & management system in Pakistan.

The discussion in this seminar will focus on the current baseline of data collection, practices of our local environment system and decisions, applied research and demonstrations related to environmental management and environmental policy.



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

Dr. Saleem Janjua, National Project Coordinator, GEB Project warmly welcomed the speakers and stakeholders for their participation in the seminar and heartily thanked Prof. Dr. Samina Amin Qadir, Vice-Chancellor, Fatima Jinnah Women University (FJWU), Rawalpindi, for all the support she provided for arranging such conversant seminar at FJWU, Rawalpindi. 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 government and private departments. He explained that all the available data & information can contribute towards the formulation of economic policies in Pakistan. Also, the data and information being generated in different forms is required to be gathered at a single platform to make it accessible for all related departments and the general public. The initial activities planned by the GEB project aim to map out all the relevant departments having necessary environmental data primarily for the establishment of a pilot IT-based Environmental Information Management System (EIMS) in KPK and Punjab. Dr. Saleem Janjua, in his introductory remarks, highlighted the importance of the EIMS, progress made under the GEB-project and also outlined the plan to ensure data system for environmentally sustainable development in Pakistan. His speech was an inspiration for all the participants, especially the faculty and academia at the university, who seem inclined to go for enhanced works in this vital field of environmental research. He affirmed that accurate, reliable and up to data is needed for proper planning of projects.





Remarks by Mr. Aman Ullah Khan, Assistant Resident Representative, UNDP

Mr Aman Ullah Khan, Assistant Resident Representative (ARR), UNDP graced the occasion with his presence. He shared his annotations for the utmost need for EIMS in Pakistan. He ensured that UNDP will always extend its full support for GEB-Project for the establishment of the EIMS by giving every possible assistance for the accomplishment of the project.



Remarks by Prof. Dr. Samina Amin Qadir, VC, FJWU

The worthy Vice-Chancellor (VC), FJWU, Prof. Dr. Samina Amin Qadir was the guest of honor for the occasion. She was of the view that environmental problems are a very dangerous threat that the modern world is facing today. She said that Pakistan is also one of the world's foremost victims of environmental issues and global warming. Environmental problems are reaching hazardous limits because people do not have awareness of the outcomes. She said that it is "more of a behavioral issue then of technical nature for effective environmental management. We need to teach our new generations about the environment and encourage researchers to conduct empirical studies on climate change issues. Their findings will help to streamline policies". The worthy VC acknowledged the initiative of UNDP for its contributions to environmental protection and development in Pakistan.





**Presentation by Prof. Syed Ahmad Ali Shah,
Director, CESTaC**

In his presentation, Prof. Syed Ahmad Ali Shah, Director, CESTaC amicably shared the information with participants on “Introduction of concepts related to Environmental Information & Management.” He appreciated UNDP for offering its support to CESTaC for promotion of the environmental activities. He said that this event has opened new avenues for the students and faculty alike towards their academic and research



pursuits. By introducing the EIMS concepts, he explained that it is an organized combination of hardware, software, communications network and data resources that collects data, transforms it and disseminates information. It is a kind of environmental monitoring database system that is designed to identify and to promote the progress of sustainable environmental management. Although, information management practices in many organizations have a long history and are evolving rapidly. However, data handling and management practices are somewhat less developed.

He elaborated that current data collection and transfer is haphazard in most instances, and there are few tools to support it. He pointed out that data within organizations is scattered, and effective collaboration and data sharing occur inconsistently. Institutional memory is short therefore, little data is captured and retained for future use. As a result, the same problems are addressed repeatedly by different environmentalists. EIMS refers to the management of an organization's environmental programs in a comprehensive, systematic, planned and documented manner. It includes the organizational structure, planning, and resources for developing, implementing and maintaining the policy for environmental protection. The concept of goods, services, and hazards opens and extends the concept of natural resources and links the concepts of environmental quality and life quality.



The act of reaching and maintaining minimal legal standards is a must. By not being compliant, companies may face fines, government intervention or may not be able to operate; and the EIMS helps to develop, implement, manage, coordinate and monitor environmental policies. Waste reduction begins at the design phase through pollution prevention and waste minimization and finally recycling. He stated that the specific objectives is to establish a functional EIMS in Pakistan. The project would be ‘to review and analyze the current situation of national environmental data/information management in the country; to establish an appropriate institutional and technical framework; to develop a sector-specific and inter-sectoral database of environmental information in the Country and to establish a functional national environmental information system in Pakistan. Also ‘to build and strengthen the capacities of key organizations involved in the establishment and sustainable operation of the project’. Information sharing involves the relatively simple process of transmission either through documentation or verbal communication. Data sharing, on the other hand, requires contextual understanding such as:

- A set of logically related tasks performed to achieve a defined outcome
- An awareness and understanding of a set of environmental information and ways that this environmental information can be made useful to support a specific task or reach a decision.
- The value of environmental information is directly linked to how it helps decision-makers achieve their organization’s goals at the Country and local levels.

While concluding the presentation, he quoted the following examples of systems developed for EIMS.

- EtQ workflow-based environmental management software
- NEMS environmental management suite
- Emisoft's environmental management, reporting and compliance platform
- Medgate environmental management software
- MonitorPro environmental data management system
- EsDat environmental data management system
- Enviance regulatory compliance system
- ERA Environmental's environmental management system



In the end, he thanked Dr. Saleem Janjua, National Project Coordinator, GEB Project for providing him a platform to put across his knowledge on the topic and appreciated the initiative of the MoCC and UNDP to create sustainable environmental benefits.

Presentation by Miss Fauzia Bilqis Malik, Manager, IUCN

Miss Fauzia Bilqis Malik, Manager, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in her presentation highlighted "Global practices and examples of Generating and Managing Environmental Information". Environmental information refers to data held by public authorities regarding the state of water, air, soil, fauna, flora, land, and natural sites and data on activities that are likely to affect. Environmental information also includes data held by private entities, such as companies. Environment research activities also generate or collect environmental information. Most of the environment-related information is generated for purposes of environmental planning, monitoring, and control or government oversight. She said that Environmental Information & Management system is a need of the hour for the whole world to understand the changes in our planet and the role of human activities in this. It can help us to access the quality of environmental information which is crucial for developing relevant policies and appropriate practical responses for the global and regional environmental problems. Effective environmental problem solving depends on the appropriate information being brought into action.



She discussed different types of information that can be classified as environmental information under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

- Information on the state of the elements of the environment: air, atmosphere, water, soil, natural sites including wetlands, coastal and marine areas, and biological diversity and its components including genetically modified organisms.
- Information on the factors affecting the elements of the environment: substances, energy, noise, radiation and waste, emissions, discharges and other releases into the environment.



- Information on the measures and activities affecting the environment or the factors affecting it: policies, legislation, plans, programmes and environmental agreements which affect or could affect the elements and factors.
- Reports on the implementation of environmental legislation to create better public awareness of how and why environmental legislation is implemented
- Associated economic information: specifically, cost-benefit and other economic analyses and assumptions used to calculate the effects of the measures or activities.
- Information on the state of human health and safety. This includes issues related to food safety, the conditions of human life, cultural sites and built structures, but only to the extent that they are affected or may be affected by the state of the elements of the environment.

National Action Programmes (NAPs) are the key instruments to implement the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). They are often supported by action programmes at sub-regional (SRAP) and regional (RAP) levels. The alignment and strengthening of NAP with the 10-year strategy of UNCCD were done by IUCN in 2016 under the project titled Sustainable Land Management Programme (SLMP II) of the MoCC funded by UNDP-GEF. The process involved engaging key stakeholders at the federal and provincial levels. Through an interactive process along with the capacity building initiatives, the Provincial Action Plans were developed for the four provinces, including AJK and Gilgit Baltistan. Provincial documents then contributed to compile the NAP. She continued by unfolding successful examples of the EIMS models of the developed and developing countries while highlighting the works carried out by IUCN. The environment under review Programme works towards bringing coherence and synergy in data collection processes, develops the capacity to strengthen national and regional reporting. UN Environment Live platform which was launched in 2014 to provide open access to data and information to governments, non-governmental organizations, other stakeholders and the general public and seeks partnerships to fill gaps in global data relevant to the environment, wherever they may exist. By keeping the environment under review, the UN Environment aims to link science with policy-making and foster sustainable development. She concluded her presentation by considering environmental assessment to facilitate policy-making based on sound science and environmental information and early warning on emerging concerns to identify and analyze environmental issues of global importance. An information management



system can strengthen government capacity to generate, access, analyze, use and communicate environmental information and knowledge.

Presentation by Prof. Dr. M. Irfan Khan, HOD Environmental Science, IIU

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Irfan Khan in his presentation titled “The way forward for environmental information & management system in Pakistan” pointed out the dynamics of knowledge that is generated through research, disseminated through communication, and extended through application in the field. Further, he explained that environmental data and information play an important role in environmental governance in preparation of policies and implementation of plans, Programme, and projects. Environmental information is not only important for governments but also for the private sector, multilateral organizations, Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), and other interest groups as well. Environmental data and information serve as a tool in monitoring and enforcing compliance with regulations, standards, and environmental policies. While providing an important instrument for policy integration, they also assist in informed decision-making. Consequently, it has become imperative to deliver essential and reliable information on priority environmental issues to decision-makers, and the ability to harmonize with international standards and classifications. To create an understanding of the context, he explained that wisdom is the utilization of accumulated knowledge to create a higher level of understanding of the data. The dynamics of knowledge are generated through research, disseminated through communication, and extended through application in the field.



While addressing the three Rio Conventions—on Biodiversity, Climate Change and Desertification—derive directly from the 1992 Earth Summit. Each instrument represents a way of contributing to the sustainable development goals of Agenda 21. The three conventions are intrinsically linked, operating in the same ecosystems and addressing interdependent issues.



He further revealed that according to Rio Declaration and Agenda 21 and Pakistan Environmental Protection Act (PEPA), 1997: Clause (d) of subsection 1 of section 6 the functions of Federal EPA:- the EPA shall prepare and publish an annual National Environment Report on the state of the environment. Clause (f) of subsection 1 of Section 4 explains in detail ‘the functions of Environmental Protection Council’. The council shall consider the National Environment Report and give appropriate directions thereon.

Similarly, the importance of such information management for preparation of national documents to comply with international agreements the national EIMS accumulated by:

1. National Compendium of Environmental Statistics
2. Provincial/Regional Environmental Profiles
3. State of the Environment Pakistan Reports

In his presentation, he added the concept of the knowledge economy; any activity that involves the collection and analysis of data, synthesis of information, innovation, and understanding the context is Knowledge-Intensive activity. The economy in which the production of goods and services are primarily based on knowledge-Intensive activities contributes to a large portion of economic growth and employment and is a direct result of knowledge-Intensive activities.

He continued by stating that ‘Production of these documents will need the development of a system, where data may be collected, compiled, processed and analyzed for appropriate interpretation in the relevant document’. In our existing system, there are gaps between research findings and policy making to communicate and transform integrating research findings into the policy-making process. By shedding light on “Way Forward for Pakistan: Knowledge management for improved decision making and local planning systems”, Dr. Muhammad Irfan Khan in his presentation also pointed the importance of removing barriers to environmental information and management to mainstream the global environmental concerns into economic decision-making. Significance of this system is to manage the environmental information and employ this information for improved decision-making by establishing a robust environmental information & management system in Pakistan.



Key Lessons

Following are some key lessons from the seminar:

- Data transfer is haphazard in most instances, and there are few tools to support it in our current environmental data gathering system.
- Data within organizations is scattered, and effective collaboration and knowledge sharing occurs inconsistently.
- Environmental data and information serves as a tool in monitoring and enforcing compliance with regulations, standards and environmental policies.
- In our existing system, there are gaps between research findings and policy making to communicate and transform integrating research findings into the policy-making process
- Importance of removing barriers to environmental information and management to mainstream the global environmental concerns into economic decision making has increased enormously.
- The effective environmental problem-solving mechanism depends on the appropriate information being brought into action.
- The policy-making process involves engaging key stakeholders at the federal and provincial levels.
- Through an interactive process along with the capacity building initiatives, the provincial action plans need to be developed for the four provinces.
- The environment under review Programme works towards bringing coherence and synergy in data collection processes, develops the capacity to strengthen national and regional reporting.
- Significance of EIMS is to manage the environmental information and employ this information for improved decision-making by establishing a robust environmental information & management system in Pakistan.



Concluding Remarks

Prof. Dr. Uzaira Rafique, Dean Faculty of Environment Sciences and Technology, Fatima Jinnah Women University, Rawalpindi, FWJU in her concluding remarks emphasized the need for new approaches towards research with the aim to serve the humanity. She also emphasized on the need of participation at every position to put aside differences and work together to create good environmental governance, engaging all parts of society to share both the responsibilities and the benefits of conservation. Information management to strengthen government capacity to generate, access, analyze, use and communicate environmental information and knowledge. She proudly mentioned a good working relationship with UNDP in front of the FJWU faculty and students. She concluded by motivating the students to come with the innovative ideas benefiting the country.

On behalf of GEB project, Mr. Lutfullah Khalid, Assistant Project Officer, GEB-UNDP, concluded the seminar with a vote of thanks by extending his sincere thanks to the guests who spared time from their busy schedule to grace the occasion and the speakers for gracing their important work and sharing it with all. He mentioned his deepest sense of appreciation for all the volunteers because of whom we have made the event possible. He extended his thanks to all the staff members of FJWU, and GEB project for their enormous cooperation in the organization of this seminar.



Certificate Distribution

Souvenirs and Certificates of appreciation were distributed among the students of the Fatima Jinnah Women University, who volunteered their support in organizing the seminar with GEB, project's staff.





Gallery



<https://dailythepatriot.com/e-paper/>



فاطمہ جناح ویمن یونیورسٹی میں موسیقی تھریپس، اثرات پرسمینار

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راولپنڈی: قاضی جناح ویمن یونیورسٹی میں موسیقی تہذیبیوں کے بارے میں منعقد ہونے والے سیمینار کے شرکاء کا مہمان خصوصی اور وائس چانسلر راج گروپ فونو



Seminar on environment held



Government of Pakistan, along with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) under their Global Environmental Benefits (GEB) project. Dr. Saleem Janjua, Country Coordinator (GEB) of Ministry of Environment, Government of Pakistan graced the occasion with his presence and delivered the key note address. Dr. Janjua presented the brief overview of the GEB initiative and stressed the need for Pakistan to highlight the importance of environmental information management system in the country that is required for better economic decision-making, and also to support the sustainable development of the country. In this regard, Mr. Amanullah Khan, Assistant Resident Representative of UNDP shared his annotations for environmental information management system and its need for Pakistan. Prof. Dr. Samina Amin Qadri, Vice Chancellor,

Fatima Jinnah Women University, Rawalpindi was also present on the occasion. She appreciated the efforts of Government of Pakistan through Ministry of Climate Change for initiating the GEB project and stressed on the significance of EIMS in Pakistan.

The seminar proceeded with presentations and in-depth technical discussions on EIMS, best practices and way forward for Pakistan. Stakeholders/Participants from different departments and organizations unanimously stressed on the need for a robust environmental information management system in Pakistan and the role that projects like GEB through UN assistance can play. It was also agreed that all government departments/stakeholders will play their role in a coordinated manner for addressing key issues and safeguarding environment of Pakistan.

The
Frontier Post

First national English daily published from Prešov, Košice, Ljubica, Zlín, Krasno and Wodington D.C.



PESHAWAR: Country Coordinator GEB Ministry of Climate Change and UNDP Pakistan Dr. Saleem Janjua is posing for group photos with other participants at end of seminar on Global Perspectives & Way Forward for Environmental Information and Management in Pakistan.

The Patriot

Seminar held to highlight issues of climate change

RAWALPINDI: One day seminar titled "GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES & WAY FORWARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION & MANAGEMENT IN PAKISTAN" was organized by the Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC), Govern-

Mr. Amanullah Khan, Assistant Resident Representative of UNDP shared his annotations for environmental benefits (GEB) project, and management system and its need for Pakistan. Prof. Dr. Samina Amin Qadri, Vice Chancellor, Quaid-e-Azam University, Rawalpindi was also present on the occasion. She appreciated the efforts of Government of Pakistan through Ministry of Environment for initiating the GEB project.

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GEB MANAGEMENT



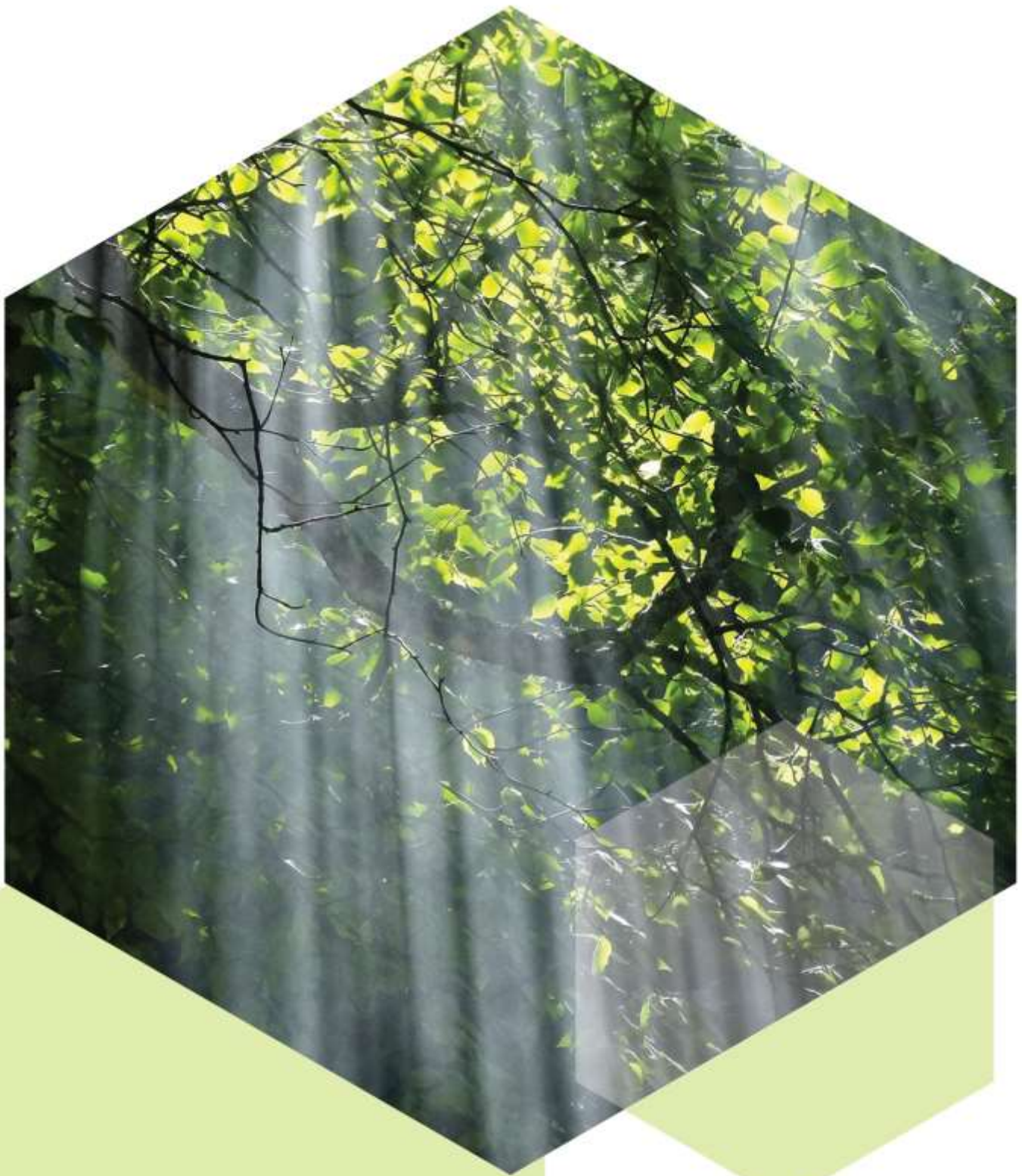
Mr. Hassan Nasir Jamy
Secretary / National Project Director - GEB

Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC)
Government of Pakistan



Dr. Saleem Janjua
National Project Coordinator - GEB

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) &
Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC)
Government of Pakistan



GENERATING GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS (GEB)
BUILDING NO. 301, STREET 87, E-II/2, ISLAMABAD
TELL: 051-8319161

