

Media Update

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FAO

Press Release

Tackling climate change and improving livelihoods through Chilghoza pine in Pakistan.

Islamabad: September 7, 2017: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) with the collaboration of Ministry of Climate Change and provincial Forest Departments will contribute to improving environment, enhancing resilience and improving livelihoods in Pakistan over the next 5 years through its project “Reversing deforestation and forest degradation in high conservation value Chilgoza Pine in Pakistan.”

Global Environment Facility (GEF) which is the largest public donor for projects aimed at improving the global environment will provide financial support for the project.

As part of the consultative process, a two day National Validation Workshop was held on 7-8 September at the FAO Representation in Islamabad. Representatives from the federal and provincial government, forest departments and local and international development partners participated in the workshop.

The Chilghoza ecosystem in Pakistan is subjected to negative impacts of climate change. Chilghoza Pine is an important member of the unique ecosystem of the dry temperate ecological zone and has the potential to contribute billions of rupees to the economy by providing non-timber forest products, providing fuel wood and regulating water. This project will cover Chilghoza forests in Balochistan, FATA, KP and Gilgit-Baltistan.

Welcoming participants, Ms. Mina Dowlatchahi FAO Representative to Pakistan said: *“Collection and processing of Chilghoza has a tremendous potential to provide a good source of income by supporting local livelihoods.*



This project is key in that it will provide a mechanism to achieve successful restoration of forests.”

Through this project FAO and its partners aim to strengthen regulatory and policy environment for integrated and sustainable management of Chilgoza forests, conserving and restoring Chilgoza forest landscape, building capacity of local institutions and other stakeholder and developing a value chain which would help improve resilience of the communities and provide them with sustainable means of securing livelihoods.

Mr. Syed Mehmood Nasir, Inspector General of Forests Ministry of Climate Change appreciating the initiative said: *“The partnership of government and FAO is important for adopting best practices in order to enable Pakistan to cater to the demand of the international market and together we need to overcome the challenges in developing the Chilgoza value chain.”*

During the workshop, participants engaged in sessions dedicated to identifying ways and discussing issues related to forest degradation, improving food security, improving livelihoods of the communities growing Chilgoza Pine while contributing towards improving the environment at the same time.

The participants agreed that the workshop will be instrumental in project implementation.

Background note for the editors:

Global Environment Facility (GEF) is the largest public donor for projects aimed at improving the global environment.

This GEF project in Pakistan is an integral part of “The Restoration Initiative” (TRI): The program has been developed to make a significant global contribution to restoring ecosystem functioning and improving livelihoods through the restoration of priority degraded and deforested landscapes, in support of the Bonn Challenge, and in response to the expressed needs of countries.

Through the GEF programmatic approach, the TRI will create synergies, provide a wider array of tools and resources to national projects, and

leverage key partnerships to yield cost savings and realize greater impact than possible under a fragmented, project-by-project approach.

The Program consists of national projects supported by a Global Learning, Financing, and Partnerships project to develop and disseminate best-practices and tools, catalyse investment in restoration, expand the scope of countries and actors engaged in forest and landscape restoration, and realize benefits at scale. The Restoration Initiative has been developed through collaboration between and will be steered by GEF Agencies IUCN, FAO, and UNEP. Additional advice on program development has been provided by WWF.

The TRI programme components include: Policy development and integration, Implementation of Restoration Programs and Complementary initiative, Institutions, Finance, and Up-scaling, and Knowledge, Partnerships, Monitoring and Assessment. While the chilgoza project components are: Strengthening regulatory and Policy Environment for integrated and sustainable management of chilgoza forests and ecosystem, Chilgoza forest landscape conservation and restoration at the community level, Local institutions supported by capacitated stakeholders for Chilgoza sustainable forest management, and knowledge, partnerships, monitoring and assessment.

The components of both the TRI programme and the Chilgoza Project are similar, thus defining the similarity in the scope. In this way, the project will benefit from the TRI initiative and at the same time the Chilgoza project will contribute to the overall objective of the TRI by restoring degraded forest ecosystem in the climate hit temperate forests of Pakistan. The Chilgoza project will be using the various tools and lessons learnt for the forest landscape restoration. The same way, the lessons learnt from the Chilgoza project will be disseminated through the partner organizations and institutions through TRI. There is a clear link between the two initiatives and through adaptation of synergetic approach; the main purpose of forest landscape restoration will be achieved contributing to the Bonn Challenge.
