

LEAD UPDATE

Changing Climates: Pakistan's Options for Adaptation and Mitigation

Stakeholders' Consultation, Islamabad- March 13, 2008

With the growing frequency and intensity of extreme global events like hurricanes, droughts and heat waves, climate change (CC) is emerging as the most critical challenge of our times. According to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), earth's average temperature is set to rise between 1.4°C and 6°C, by the end of the current century. Most of this change is driven by human activity. The ecological and socio-economic costs of climate change are forecasted to be enormous for the entire planet, particularly for regions more susceptible to CC. Pakistan is highly exposed to the impacts of climatic events, particularly because of its agrarian economic base and resource scarcity. The challenge for Pakistan is to develop effective responses towards climate change, suited to unique regional conditions.

Background

Responding to the growing threat of global warming and increasing vulnerability of developing nations, LEAD Pakistan partnered with the British High Commission, to conduct a scoping study on Pakistan's Options for Adaptation to and Mitigation of Climate Change Effects. The exercise is part of LEAD's broader, interdisciplinary climate change program that builds upon the organization's policy research and capacity development expertise and the strength of its partnerships with the government, industry and civil society.

To generate data and discussion for the scoping study, LEAD Pakistan held consultations with stakeholders from government, media, industry, academia and civil society in Karachi, Lahore and Peshawar. The discussion in Islamabad was a culmination of aforementioned consultations, designed to collate findings and recommendations from the previous events, for review and discussion.

Objectives

- To present and discuss findings from the provincial consultations, with key stakeholders.



- To outline work and capacities of participating stakeholders for addressing CC challenges.
- To develop a shared understanding among the stakeholders on the actions to be taken in response to the identified climate change adaptation and mitigation needs.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

- William Toh, PTC
- Hamid Marwat, Forestry & Wildlife Department
- Imran Ashraf, EC
- Guen Willegghems, European Commission
- Mohsin Iqbal, GCISC
- Fatima Naqvi, Oxfam
- Naunehal Shah, ERRA
- Chaudhary Ehsan Sadiq, Access to Justice Program
- Asmatullah Khan, Washington International Management Institute
- Asif Hanif, NMEAS- Ministry of Environment
- Ejaz Ahmad, World Wide Fund for Nature
- Amena Hassan, Business for Social Progress
- Mohsin Kamal, A.B.S
- Saif-ur-Rehman, Daily Khabrain, The Post
- Anwar Naseem, Comstech
- Nick Ryder, British High Commission
- Assadullah Sajid, OGDCL
- Shuja Khan, Shell Pakistan Limited
- Imam Baig, Hashoo Foundation
- Ghulam Panjwani, Focus
- Frida Khan, NAVTEC
- Shahzad Iqbal, OGRA
- Azhar Qureshi, Eco-Conservation Initiatives
- Amjad Hussain, MOE
- Khalid Khan, Aga Khan Foundation
- Asif Qayyum Qureshi, Planning Commission
- Richard Garstang, WWF
- Fawad Khan, ISET-Pakistan
- Owais Nauman Kundi, Ministry of Environment
- Saleem-ullah, UNDP
- Abdul Munaf Qaimkhani, MoE
- A. Qadir Mangi, MOC
- M. A. Soomro, MOE
- Andrew McCoubrey, DFID-British High Commission
- Sherbaz Khan, DAWN
- Huma Mustafa Beg, Serendip Productions
- Kaleem Nasir, Columnist



Donors' Group Discussion



Participants Interacting on Climate Change Issues

Discussion

Discussions ranged from the growing threats of CC in developing countries, to the actions spurred around the world to address the challenges, such as commitments of G8 countries and the EU to cut down emissions. Stakeholders unanimously agreed that industrialized nations must bear the major burden of tackling the crisis. The session laid stress on the developing countries to reconcile imperatives, for fast economic growth and environmental sustainability.

Highlights and findings from the stakeholders' consultations on CC, were shared. The participants were briefed on the structure and objectives of the provincial events and methodologies employed for stakeholders' engagement. High level of attendance and representation of diverse stakeholders were cited as common features of the consultations, along with the strong willingness of stakeholders to engage in CC action. The recommendations of the Lahore consultation were showcased, demonstrating the nature and quality of feedback.

Participants were divided into working groups. The performance and existing capacities of key stakeholder groups, with regard to CC action were evaluated. Four thematic groups representing government, civil society, industry and funding community, carried-out the stakeholders' mapping exercise.

Sectoral strengths and weaknesses**CIVIL SOCIETY**

Access to communities, capacity building expertise and skills, awareness raising structures within communities, technical capacity on disaster management and conservation of nature were identified as the strengths of civil society organizations (CSOs). Whereas, low technical capacity of CSOs to counter CC, non-availability of knowledge on CC in regional languages, absence of central web-portal- CIA of environment in Pakistan, poor linkages between CSOs, academia, government and industry and lack of a consistent

platform for media to create linkages were identified as the issues affecting CSOs.

INDUSTRY

Environmental protection's incorporation as a feature of CSR, multi-national companies' knowledge and technical skills on CC and environmental issues, strong cost-cutting incentives available to companies for undertaking energy efficient programs and energy companies' pioneering work on alternative energy in Pakistan, were recognized as the industrial sector's strengths. Whereas, absence of an enabling economic environment for undertaking climate friendly initiatives, trade barriers, high excise duties on import of energy efficient technology, lack of awareness on CC related issues in corporations, absence of legal checks and balances, and missing technical capacity on CC were the key issues, affecting industrial sector.

GOVERNMENT

The Government's (GoP) follow-up of the international agenda on CC, having signed the UNFCC and related instruments, CC's incorporation into Vision 2030 and the MTDP, NEP and National Sustainable Development Policy, setting-up of a Cabinet Committee on CC, establishing of a CC cell in the Ministry of Industries, giving a mandate to all government departments to have focal persons on environment and spearheading of the Key Environmental Performance Indicators Program, by the Planning Commission of Pakistan were recognized as environment related initiatives, enhancing the government sector's strengths.

Questionable capacity and finances of GoP, to meaningfully engage and negotiate on international agreements, low level technical capacity of government personnel engaged in CC and environment related issues, lack of training

facilities on CC, non-translation of public policies and action plans at the grass roots level, lack of internal coordination among government agencies and departments, little or no consultation with stakeholders from civil society and industry and negligible enforcement of environmental laws were attributed as the major issues affecting GoP's performance.

FUNDING AGENCIES

Strong and growing presence of funding agencies in Pakistan, capacity of international donors to influence public policies, provision of assistance to the GoP in framing environment related policies and action plans, funding agencies' increasing commitment to global CC aspirations, active role of funding agencies in renewable energy projects, were the initiatives highlighting the strengths of funding agencies. Whereas, lack of coordination and synergy among agencies, failure to mainstream CC as a development issue and its alignment with existing social sector program, problems being faced in prioritizing CC and environmental concerns in the face of existing socio-political problems in Pakistan, difficulties in working with bureaucratic and non-cooperative government quarters and lobbying front from politicians were pointed out as the issues affecting funding agencies.

Conclusion

The consultation revealed a diverse range of CC stakeholders in Pakistan. Some of them are already taking direct or indirect action on CC. Policy level interventions of the government are noteworthy. However, they fall short of implementation and seriously need to become holistic. Stakeholders from other sectors seem to be largely existing outside the policy making sphere, although there is evidence that suggests improving interaction between public and private sector actors. However, the quality of this interaction needs to be further analyzed and improved, for tangible results. There is need for a coordinated, critical mass of change agents from all sectors, for developing a multiplier effect on climate change.

LIST OF SPEAKERS

- H.E. Robert Brinkley, High Commissioner of the UK to Pakistan
- Dr. Ishfaq Ahmad, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Climate Change
- Ali Tauqeer Sheikh, CEO & NPD, LEAD Pakistan