



**PUNJAB FORESTRY SECTOR
(FORESTS, WATERSHED, RANGELANDS AND WILDLIFE)
POLICY, 1999**

FOREST POLICY STATEMENT

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PERSPECTIVE

- **Whereas** province of the Punjab is extremely deficient in forestry sector resources with only 3% of its land area under tree cover in the public sector and whereas it is believed that for a balanced economy of the country an area of 20-25% should be under forests;
- **And whereas** it is impossible to divert any **more land** from other sectors such as agriculture to make up the deficiency of forest resources in the province;
Therefore, the tree and vegetation cover shall be increased on farmlands, marginal and sub-marginal lands to make up the deficiency of forest resources in the province.
- **And whereas** the current **land and tree tenure systems** are defective in so far as to encourage and enhance tree cover in watersheds and on farmlands:
Therefore, a proper land use planning Programme based on land capability classification, shall be formulated.
- **And whereas** the forest **user rights in the public forests** have multiplied with great increase in human and livestock population, resulting in degradation of natural resources;
Therefore, these rights shall be rationalized on the basis of carrying capacity of the public forests for sustained and perpetual benefit to the rightholders.
- **And whereas** canal **irrigation water and other resources** for establishing new and maintaining the existing forest plantations in the public sector are extremely scarce;
Therefore, land and irrigation water shall be utilized to their maximum productive potential through on-farm water management, appropriate agroforestry practices and Joint Forest Management (**JFM**) of the land resource in the public sector irrigated plantations.
- **And whereas** due to **overuse and misuse, the natural resources** have greatly deteriorated, reducing their productive potential;

Therefore, the resource use shall be regulated according to their capability and carrying capacity.

- **And whereas** the resource degradation is occurring mainly due to **concomitance of the resource users** in their proper and sustained management;

Therefore, the participation of stakeholders in resource management shall be encouraged and ensured.

- **And whereas** the valuable productive land in the irrigated tract of the province is getting out of production at an alarming rate due to the twin menace of **water logging and salinity**;

Therefore, such areas shall be rehabilitated, besides adopting other measures, through biological drainage programme involving plantation of suitable tree species at the farms, also to check the trend and maintain their productive potential.

- **And whereas** the arid area of the province is liable to **desertification** being without adequate tree cover;

Therefore, appropriate measures shall be adopted to combat and arrest the desertification process and maintain the areas for their productive use such as range management, dry afforestation, rainfed agriculture wherever possible etc.

- **And whereas** the **communal and private forests** are not being managed on scientific lines, resulting in poor production of commodities and services for rural masses;

Therefore, communal and private forests shall be covered by a tenable scientific management and appropriate legal cover, for meeting the needs of the rural communities on sustained basis.

- **And whereas** the important **watersheds** of the province, feeding our extensive irrigation system, environment friendly hydropower projects and pastoral livelihood of the rural poor, are under extreme pressure of human and livestock population due to indiscriminate overuse and are fast degrading, often unchecked;

Therefore, the management of **watersheds** shall be streamlined to ensure their sustainable development and conservation, according to their capability for perpetual use. Land capability classification shall, also, be carried out to assess their capability for various uses and to evaluate the carrying capacity for sustained benefits. The legislative cover shall also be provided to encourage participation of the stakeholders.

- **And whereas** the government is not in a position to make huge investments to increase, develop and maintain natural resources in the public sector to increase forestry production in the province;

Therefore, maximum private investment shall be encouraged in forestry production, especially in wood based industries like Pulp and Paper, Sports, Furniture, Livestock etc. through Joint Forest Management (**JFM**), joint ventures and long term leases under supervision of Punjab Forestry, Wildlife, Fisheries and Tourism Department.

- **And whereas** the Punjab province is extremely deficient in forest resources and farmlands have a great potential to make up this deficiency and whereas the farming community with risk averse attitude have strong disillusionings regarding ill effects of growing of trees along with crops in temporal and spatial arrangement;

Therefore, suitable **incentives** (inputs or market oriented) shall be provided to encourage large scale afforestation on farms through appropriate Agroforestry (**AF**) systems.

- **And whereas** the **attitude** of the rural farming communities, towards afforestation, wildlife preservation and sustained use of natural resources is somewhat indifferent, mainly due to ignorance and lack of knowledge about role of forestry sector in amelioration of farm economy;

Therefore, mass **awareness** and public **education** in respect of forests, environment, wildlife, biodiversity, watershed values, other intangible benefits and need for effective protection of these resources, through electronic media and farm level research shall be undertaken.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

- **And whereas** wildlife is vanishing and lesser number of migratory birds are visiting the Punjab province mainly due to **lack of habitat management** for various wildlife species and whereas many species are, consequently, endangered and **whereas** there is need to provide an abode and breeding place to various species of wildlife

Therefore, suitable habitat shall be developed and maintained for conservation and propagation of wild flora and fauna of the province also to entertain the migratory species visiting the Punjab province.

- **And whereas** it is expedient to involve **private enterprise** in conservation and management of wildlife;

Therefore, wildlife farming and ranching shall be encouraged in the private sector.

- **And whereas** illegal **hunting and poaching** is rampant in the province, effective control of Wildlife and Parks Department is not possible with the existing legislation and inputs and whereas enforcement of punitive and authoritative laws has failed to deliver the requisite conservation results;

Therefore, legislative reforms shall be carried out to improve enforcement of laws through improved legislative provisions.

- **And whereas** number of **wildlife** and **tree species** have drastically **declined**, affecting the population and variety of flora and fauna;

Therefore, in-situ and ex-situ measures shall be adopted to maintain biological diversity, through establishment of breeding centres, game reserves, game sanctuaries, zoological gardens etc. to conserve the species and gene pool.

- **And whereas** forests and wildlife have great potential for **recreational facilities** for the masses, which has not been adequately exploited so far;

Therefore, appropriate measures shall be taken to develop and exploit this potential for expanding recreational facilities for the public.

- **And whereas** the **non-consumptive use** and **intangible benefits** of forestry sector resources have not been well recognized during appraisal of the developmental activities;

Therefore, a system shall be evolved to value such non-consumptive use and intangible benefits of the forestry sector resources.

- **And whereas** environmental, water and other type of **pollution** is rampant in the province with increasing population, resulting in poor health of the masses and lack of pollution free livable environment as the fundamental right of the people and whereas Pakistan is signatory to many international conventions such as Convention on Biodiversity (**CBD**), Convention on Migratory species (**CMS**), Convention on Wetland Conservation (**CWC**), Convention on Trade of Endangered Species (**CITES**), Convention on Combating Desertification (**CCD**), Convention on Climate Changes (**CCC**), Convention on World Heritage (**CWH**) etc.;

Therefore, solid steps shall be taken to maintain pollution free livable environment and stand firmly by the international commitments for the betterment of humanity, masses in Pakistan and province of Punjab.

- **And whereas** our natural **ecosystems** are seriously endangered due to lack of sustainable development and measures to conserve ecological security in various ecological zone of the province;

Therefore, suitable measures shall be taken to conserve natural ecosystems in various agro-ecological zones of the province through establishment of Protected Areas scientific management plans.

- **And whereas** the **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)** is essential for forestry and other projects, as also provided in Pakistan Environmental Protection Act, 1997;

Therefore, it shall be made mandatory to undertake screening and EIA of all the projects to safeguard against environmental degradation and ensure sustainable development.

SOCIAL EQUITY AND PARTICIPATION PERSPECTIVE

- **And whereas**, the **social equity** in resource management, being essential to meet the bonafide needs of the masses, is often missing in the planning and development process, leading to unstable, un-sustainable and fragile development and management of forestry sector resources;

Therefore, the communities shall be actively involved in decision making, considering their bonafide needs on top priority basis in planning, development and management of resources.

MARKETING AND INDUSTRIAL USE PERSPECTIVE

- **And whereas** the current **marketing** of forestry sector products and services is unsatisfactory, both on the farm lands and in the public sector, resulting in very low returns to the producers of this long term enterprise and therefore, it does not attract public and private investments;

Therefore, the marketing system and efficiency of utilization by the wood based industries and other end users shall be improved. A continuous marketing and utilization surveillance and elaborate information system required for a free capitalistic marketing system for the farmers and department to realize true price for their products and services, shall be introduced, in addition to exploring the possibility of producing and

exporting value added goods. The marketing system and utilization efficiency shall be organized on modern scientific lines.

- **And whereas** the current **utilization** of forestry products both for energy and construction and industrial use, is inefficient and wasteful;
Therefore, there is dire need for introducing efficient exploitation and utilization of the scarce forestry products and services. Appropriate research and mechanization shall be introduced in this important discipline of forestry sector.

PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT & MONITORING PERSPECTIVE

- **And whereas** the current **planning and development process** of the P&D Department is not adequate for forestry, wildlife, range management disciplines, and whereas an inbuilt planning & monitoring process suited to the requirement is available in department;
Therefore, the departmental planning and development process shall be recognized, linked with the planning process of the P&D Department and Planning Commission of Pakistan to make applicable to Forestry, Wildlife, Fisheries and Tourism Department.
- **And whereas** the **monitoring and evaluation** process is weak at present, sometimes resulting in delays and unsatisfactory or faulty implementation of development projects and other resource management activities;
Therefore, the existing monitoring and evaluation facilities shall be updated on modern lines and decentralized to make it effective and purposeful at different levels.
- **And whereas** there no concept of **forward planning** in the forestry sector, being a long term enterprise, resulting in faulty planning and lack of future strategy;
Therefore, the forward planning process shall be introduced in forestry sector, on the modern lines.

RESEARCH, TRAINING AND EXTENSION PERSPECTIVE

- **And whereas** the **forestry institutions** in the province are quite outdated with obsolete technology and research techniques, often unable to deliver the goods;
Therefore, the Punjab Forestry Research Institute, Faisalabad and Punjab Wildlife Research Institute, Faisalabad shall be amalgamated, reorganized and upgraded to deliver the goods and help in addressing the emerging challenges in forestry sector development.
- **And whereas** adequate and reliable **data** about land and resources is not readily available, resulting in faulty planning & management and consequential degradation of forests, range management and wildlife in the province **and whereas** it is imperative to develop and maintain central forestry database in the proposed Punjab Forestry and Wildlife Research Institute (**PFWRI**), Faisalabad;
Therefore, a modern, well-equipped database centre shall be established at the Punjab Forestry and Wildlife Research Institute Faisalabad to cater for the requirement within and outside the department.

- **And whereas** the research in natural resource management is not well recognized, resulting in inadequate financial and human resource inputs, leading to improper development and management;
Therefore, the capacity and financial inputs in research in Forestry, Wildlife and Range Management shall be enhanced and strengthened in accordance with the increasing needs.

POLICY AND LEGISLATION PERSPECTIVE

- **And whereas** there is inconsistency and conflict amongst the policies adopted by various natural resource disciplines often adversely affecting the forestry sector;
Therefore, such inconsistencies shall be removed and the conflicts shall be resolved for smooth implementation of forestry sector policy.
- **And whereas** the existing **legal framework** is outdated and incompatible with new emerging challenges and needs as an instrument of policy implementation and does not adequately address the Joint Forest, Wildlife and Range Management, Participation of stakeholders, Joint Venture with the wood based industries etc.;
Therefore, it is necessary to revise, update and consolidate all enactments to cater for natural resource management in accordance with the modern concepts of participation of stakeholders, Joint Forest, Wildlife and Range Management, Joint Ventures with wood based industries and Ecosystem Management. The legislation shall be revised and all enactment shall be consolidated and updated to address the current challenges.
- **And whereas** any natural resource policy has to be **dynamic**, flexible and adjusting to the new emerging challenges;
Therefore, the forest policy shall be reviewed periodically and revised every five years to accommodate the changing demands on resource use.

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT PERSPECTIVE

- **And whereas** with continuous advancement of knowledge and technology in natural resource management and due to lateral and vertical movement of the resource managers in various disciplines, there is an urgent need for capacity building, orientation, updating of knowledge and human resource development;
Therefore, the Punjab Forestry and Wildlife Research Institute, Faisalabad shall be upgraded and strengthened to cater for the continuous requirement of the capacity building and human resource development.

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND MASS AWARENESS PERSPECTIVE

- **And whereas** there is lack of general awareness regarding the importance of natural resources amongst the masses, resulting in degradation of resources and whereas there is an urgent need for awareness building and political commitment;
Therefore, an extensive mass awareness programme shall be launched for education and extension at various levels, including policy makers to enhance awareness and political commitment for development and conservation of natural resources in the province.

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION PERSPECTIVE

- **And whereas** Punjab as a province of Pakistan cannot remain aloof within the community of nations and whereas Pakistan is signatory to various conventions and treaties relating to natural resource conservation;

Therefore, Government of the Punjab shall stand by all these commitments and shall seek international collaboration in funding the management and conservation of natural resources in the global perspective.

NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION PERSPECTIVE

- **And whereas** the forests, wildlife habitat and rangelands are under great pressure and prone to damage by human and livestock population and whereas the measures for protection are neither appropriate nor adequate;

Therefore, a workable forest protection strategy shall be formulated with the participation of stakeholders by formulating the Community Organizations (CO) for the public, communal and private forests. Various forest enactments and rules shall be revised and consolidated.

PRESERVATION OF ORIGINAL FLORA AND FAUNA

- **And whereas** the indigenous flora and fauna and national heritage are endangered in various ecological zones of the province, resulting in ecological imbalance;

Therefore, ecosystem reserves shall be developed in various agro-ecological zones of the province to preserve the original flora and fauna and maintain Biodiversity.

- **And whereas** the scarce forestlands are often being transferred for other uses, further decreasing the percentage of forest area in the province;

Therefore, there shall be complete ban on change of land use of the forestlands. In case it is inevitable to transfer any forest area, at least an equal area shall be transferred to forestry sector in lieu of the land so transferred.

