

Proceeding Report



Provincial Stakeholder Consultation on NDC 3.0 – Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP)

Thursday, 27th February, 2024
Venue: Peshawar Serena Hotel, Peshawar

Organizers



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Background

Pakistan, as a signatory to the Paris Agreement, has committed to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). While NDC 2.0 set ambitious targets, challenges such as policy misalignment, financial constraints, and a lack of localized implementation strategies have hindered progress. The increasing frequency of climate-induced disasters, particularly floods and extreme weather events, has further highlighted the urgent need for stronger adaptation and mitigation measures. This seminar on Climate Change and NDC 3.0 aimed to assess Pakistan's climate commitments, address key implementation challenges, and explore pathways for sustainable and inclusive climate action, with a particular focus on provincial engagement, green financing, and evidence-based policymaking.

Objectives of the Workshop

Assessing Progress on NDCs

To analyze the progress, gaps, and future direction of KP's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement.

Evaluating Climate Policies and Institutional Frameworks

To evaluate the effectiveness of existing climate policies, financial mechanisms, and institutional frameworks at both federal and provincial levels.

Identifying Barriers and Proposing Solutions

To highlight major barriers such as resource constraints, policy misalignment, and lack of digitalized climate data while proposing actionable solutions.

4. Strengthening Provincial Climate Initiatives

To explore how provinces can take independent climate initiatives, ensuring accreditation and alignment with global financing mechanisms like the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

5. Advocating for a Data-Driven NDC 3.0

To advocate that NDC 3.0 is grounded in data and evolves from KP's Planning & Development (P&D) department alongside all relevant sectors and departments.



6. Enhancing Climate Finance and Market Mechanisms

To discuss the role of green taxation, carbon markets, and private sector involvement in scaling up climate resilience efforts.

7. Promoting Inclusive and Localized Climate Strategies

To emphasize the importance of local engagement, indigenous knowledge, and inclusive climate policies in disaster preparedness and mitigation.

Venue and Date

The event was held on February 27, 2025 (10:00 AM - 04:00 PM) at the Serena Hotel, Peshawar.

Stakeholders Participation:

The event was attended by a diverse range of stakeholders, including representatives from industries, academia, and associations. Key participants included officials from the Planning & Development, Ministry of Climate Change, Environment Protection Department, and Provincial Disaster Management Authority. Additionally, representatives from the SDG Secretariat, Agriculture, Forest, Livestock, and Fisheries Departments were present. Chambers of Commerce & Industry, journalists, policymakers, and members of various NGOs and CBOs also contributed to the discussions and exchanges during the event.

Proceedings

The workshop was systematically designed to facilitate discussions on key aspects of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). It followed a structured sequence, defining the responsibilities of various stakeholders. Academia contributed by providing research insights, policy recommendations, and analytical perspectives on climate strategies. This approach ensured a comprehensive dialogue on the evolution from NDC 2.0 to NDC 3.0, highlighting key differences, progress, and future directions.

Amjad Nazeer (Chief Executive, Alternate Development Services)

Amjad Nazeer, in his opening remarks, provided a critical assessment of Pakistan's climate commitments under the United Nations framework and the Paris Agreement. He pointed out the ambitious yet often unrealistic projections outlined in the country's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) 2.0, particularly regarding GDP growth and emission reduction targets. He emphasized that while Pakistan has pledged to transition toward a more sustainable future, the lack



of concrete and localized strategies hinders meaningful progress. To effectively address climate change, he underscored the urgent need for skill development, proper resource allocation, and region-specific interventions that consider Pakistan's unique socio-economic and environmental challenges.

Further highlighting systemic issues, he identified major gaps in the country's climate policies, particularly in areas such as transport emissions and methane reduction, where clear benchmarks are lacking. He also pointed out the unreliable nature of climate-related data, which undermines the credibility of policy targets and progress assessments. Stressing the need for a more pragmatic approach, he called for realistic climate goals that align with the country's economic and infrastructural capacities. He emphasized the urgent need for data-driven policymaking in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, particularly given the province's high deforestation rate (2.1% annually), increasing urbanization, and the environmental strain posed by unmanaged waste in cities like Peshawar. He highlighted that KP's transport sector remains a significant contributor to emissions, with a lack of sustainable urban mobility solutions.

To address these challenges, he stressed the importance of green taxation, sustainable financing mechanisms, and enhanced climate governance at the provincial level, ensuring alignment between KP's development priorities and national climate commitments. Finally, he underscored the necessity of integrating climate policies at both federal and provincial levels, reinforcing the importance of cohesive and well-coordinated policymaking to achieve sustainable development goals while addressing KP's specific vulnerabilities.

Presentation by Mr. Obaid Ullah (Program Manager, CPDI)

Mr. Obaid emphasized the critical role of green skills in promoting a circular economy, where resources are reused, recycled, and repurposed to minimize environmental impact. He highlighted that developing technical expertise in sustainable practices is essential for fostering eco-friendly industries and reducing dependency on finite natural resources. By integrating green skills into education and workforce development, societies can build resilience against climate change while ensuring economic growth through environmentally responsible means.

Furthermore, he underscored the need to incorporate indigenous practices into climate-related projects, particularly in biodiversity conservation. Many local communities have long relied on sustainable methods to manage their natural resources, and these time-tested approaches can offer valuable insights for modern environmental challenges. Recognizing and formalizing such indigenous knowledge within national and regional climate policies would lead to more inclusive, culturally relevant, and effective conservation efforts.

Discussing international climate finance, Mr. Obaid explored innovative financial instruments that could help mitigate climate risks and support green investments. He elaborated on mechanisms like blue bonds—which finance ocean and water-related sustainability initiatives—and Debt-for-Nature Swaps (DNS), which allow countries to restructure debt in exchange for environmental commitments. These financial tools, if effectively utilized, could significantly enhance Pakistan's ability to mobilize funds for climate adaptation and mitigation projects.



Additionally, he stressed the importance of digitization and centralized knowledge-sharing in the climate change regime. A well-integrated digital platform would facilitate institutional coordination, improve expenditure tracking, and enable more informed decision-making through real-time data. Such a mechanism would enhance transparency in climate-related investments and help assess needs more accurately, ensuring that financial and policy interventions align with on-the-ground realities. By leveraging technology for knowledge dissemination and institutional integration, Pakistan can build a more robust and adaptive response to climate challenges.

Presentation by Mr. Ozair Rahim (Assistant Environmental Chief, Planning and Development (P&D), KPK)

Ozair Rahim, in his presentation provided an in-depth analysis of the climate change impacts on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), highlighting the province's vulnerability to extreme weather events such as floods, droughts, and rising temperatures. These challenges have been exacerbated by deforestation, glacial melt, and erratic monsoons, leading to soil erosion, reduced agricultural productivity, and displacement of communities. The discussion also reviewed Pakistan's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) 2.0, assessing both achievements and gaps, particularly concerning the major floods from 2010 to 2023. These disasters, including the devastating 2010 floods, underscored the need for stronger disaster preparedness, resilient infrastructure, and sustainable land management. While policy efforts have been made, gaps in financial resources, stakeholder coordination, and effective community-based adaptation strategies continue to hinder climate resilience.

The discussion also focused on KP's transition to renewable energy and its collaboration with international organizations such as GIZ and UNEP. The province has taken significant steps to promote clean energy, with ongoing investments in solar and hydropower projects. However, financial constraints, regulatory challenges, and technological limitations continue to impede progress. Among the notable provincial initiatives, 136 mini-micro hydropower units have already been established, with an additional 142 under construction, providing sustainable energy solutions to remote areas. Additionally, KP has issued 80,000 carbon credits, with a long-term target of 5.4 million, reflecting its commitment to emission reduction strategies. Efforts have also been directed towards climate adaptation in vulnerable districts such as Swat, Charsadda, and DI Khan, where mitigation plans have been implemented to reduce the risks posed by extreme weather events.

Despite these advancements, the province faces significant challenges in forest conservation, particularly due to illegal logging by the timber mafia and inconsistencies in afforestation data, such as the double counting of trees. These issues highlight the urgent need for stricter regulatory enforcement, improved monitoring mechanisms, and community engagement in conservation efforts. While KP's commitment to climate action is evident through its ongoing projects and policy initiatives, addressing these persistent challenges will require strengthened governance, sustained financial investments, and enhanced collaboration with both national and international stakeholders. The presentation concluded that a multi-stakeholder approach, supported by long-term policy planning, is crucial to ensuring a climate-resilient future for the province.



Presentation by Dr. Zeeshan Shafeeq (National Centre of Artificial Intelligence, and Centre for Intelligent System and Networks Research (CISNR), UET Peshawar)

Dr. Zeeshan Shafeeq and his team at UET Peshawar have been contributing to at least 10 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through various innovative projects. Their work spans renewable energy, water management, agriculture, transportation, and disaster management. In 2022, the region faced severe environmental challenges, and Dr. Shafeeq's team has focused on reducing carbon emissions by implementing renewable energy solutions. They have developed "meter-less" products to optimize water usage, helping to reduce underground water wastage. In Peshawar, their digitalized grid systems successfully reduced load shedding from 12 hours to just 4 hours. They have also worked on projects aligned with the KP transportation plan to reduce carbon emissions and improve infrastructure.

One major achievement has been the digitalization of the electricity grid. Initially facing a 10% overloading issue, the team implemented solutions that significantly reduced load shedding. They also mapped flood sources and sinks, helping to reduce flood risks by over 90%. Their early warning systems can send earthquake alerts up to 3 minutes in advance, providing valuable time for people in areas like Swat and Chitral to prepare. Additionally, they have developed traffic monitoring systems and focused on monitoring GHG emissions from petroleum products.

The team has addressed groundwater pollution caused by floods by developing devices to detect bacterial contamination, allowing for a faster response to public health risks. They have also focused on agricultural innovation in northern regions facing water scarcity by creating artificial environments to increase mushroom yields. In terms of food preservation, they developed solar-powered dryers to prevent food wastage, especially in the northern regions where drying is a significant problem.

In response to disasters like the Muree tragedy, the team has developed special drones capable of operating in extreme conditions to evacuate people quickly. Finally, they are working on "Smart Environments" that integrate technology to optimize urban infrastructure, energy consumption, and environmental quality, contributing to more sustainable and resilient cities. Through these efforts, Dr. Shafeeq's team is making significant strides in building a more sustainable and resilient future for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Deliberations and Suggestions:

The session began with a question on whether provinces can independently handle climate-related projects. Ozair Rahim responded affirmatively, noting that provinces can take on such initiatives but must first secure accreditation. He pointed out that organizations like Jazz Bank and NRSP are already accredited with the Green Climate Fund (GCF). He also highlighted a recent study revealing that 79-80% of climate-related challenges are linked to debt funding.

A follow-up question addressed why floods cause similar levels of damage year after year, despite preparedness. Ozair Rahim explained that the lack of integration of local communities, knowledge,



and wisdom into planning contributes to this issue. He stressed the need for an inclusive, bottom-up approach, where local engagement, particularly in GIS systems, is key for effective planning and development. Additionally, he noted that mobile phone surveys may overlook crucial data due to financial constraints.

Rehman Aziz then asked about the potential of the Gari-Chandan project, with its 11 million carbon credits, to help mitigate the impacts. Ozair Rahim affirmed that the project has been successful, having already planted 3.2 million trees, which contribute significantly to carbon credits.

A question was posed about development projects in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) that are actively protecting vulnerable areas. Ozair Rahim mentioned the Nowshera river-side protection wall as one example, which mitigates risks by limiting construction in high-risk areas. He also mentioned mini-micro hydro projects, highlighting the active engagement of local communities in the management of these projects to ensure their sustainability.

Sajid Ali from PDMA KP answered a question regarding the steps taken by the organization to prepare for natural disasters. He outlined PDMA KP's comprehensive policies designed to address various events, including monsoons, heatwaves, winter storms, and Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF). These policies include alarm systems for local communities, and consultations with people from five districts and eight valleys. He emphasized that, as a result of these efforts, the losses from the 2020 and 2022 floods were much less compared to the devastating 2010 floods.

The discussion then shifted to how PDMA KP ensures timely evacuation during floods. Sajid Ali explained that PDMA calculates water flow times to ensure that evacuations are done in a timely manner, which significantly reduces potential damage.

A question about the gap in NDC 2.0 regarding data availability was raised. Ozair Rahim addressed this by pointing out the lack of accessible data as a key issue. He emphasized the need for a centralized system for data access and the use of digital tools to make data available to all stakeholders. He also stressed the importance of aligning policy implementation with climate action boards to close this data gap.

Muska Mukhtar from IM Sciences raised concerns about the absence of ground-level disaster reports and data. Ozair Rahim responded by acknowledging the ongoing work in this area but noted that data-sharing mechanisms need improvement. He emphasized the need to create dedicated sections for data access and engage academia and civil society in data collection and sharing to enhance transparency.

Zahoor ud Din from the Agriculture Department inquired about any plans or assessments for carbon credits. Ozair Rahim responded that the last environmental assessment was conducted in 2017 and that a new assessment is currently underway.

The topic of urban flooding was then brought up, with Ozair Rahim explaining that adaptation plans have been implemented at the district level. He mentioned that the Planning and



Development (P&D) department is refining these plans based on return-on-investment considerations. Sajid Ali added that urban flooding remains a serious risk but that resource mapping and public engagement are crucial for managing it. PDMA KP has developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the monsoon season, and water pumps have been pre-deployed for evacuation. He also mentioned efforts to remove encroachments and prevent trash accumulation in canals.

A question was posed regarding why flood-related activities seem to only be active during actual floods. Sajid Ali explained that PDMA is continuously improving preparedness, especially as new types of disasters, such as floods and landslides, emerge. He mentioned that PDMA is coordinating with national and local projects to address these emerging challenges. Kashif Nazeer added that any disaster prevention projects could be directed to the P&D for further support and treatment.

Engr. Obaid Ullah asked about effective flood control measures. Ozair Rahim highlighted that "red zones" should remain free from construction, and flood models must be improved for better predictions. He also emphasized that early warning systems should integrate real-time data to allow for timely responses. Sajid Ali added that in areas like Swat, people live near rivers with traditional land rights, so encroachment isn't a major concern. The focus, he said, should be on water conservation, reducing water velocity during floods, and minimizing infrastructure damage. He also mentioned the importance of evaluating how much water is recharged versus how much is depleted, particularly in flood-prone areas.

Key Challenges Identified

1. **Resource constraints and lack of financial support:** Limited financial resources and inadequate funding mechanisms hinder the effective implementation of climate initiatives and emission reduction strategies.
2. **Absence of an implementation plan for carbon markets under Article 6:** The lack of a structured roadmap and regulatory framework for carbon markets creates uncertainty and limits Pakistan's participation in global carbon trading.
3. **Weak policy alignment between federal and provincial ministries:** Poor coordination between different government levels leads to fragmented climate policies, inefficiencies, and delays in implementation.
4. **Limited involvement of academia, civil society, and local communities:** The exclusion of key stakeholders restricts research-driven solutions, grassroots engagement, and the integration of community-led climate adaptation strategies.
5. **Lack of digitalized and accessible data for climate action planning:** The absence of centralized, real-time, and easily accessible climate data limits evidence-based decision-making and effective policy planning.
6. **Lack of transparency and poor monitoring and implementation mechanism:** Weak accountability frameworks and inefficient monitoring systems result in ineffective policy execution and hinder progress tracking.
7. **Limited formal acknowledgment and incorporation of indigenous emission reduction mechanisms:** Traditional community-led emission reduction practices are often overlooked, reducing their potential contribution to climate mitigation efforts.



Proposed Way Forward

1. **Strengthening green skills and the circular economy:** Enhancing workforce capacity in sustainable practices and promoting circular economy models can drive climate resilience, resource efficiency, and economic growth.
2. **Integrating indigenous knowledge and inclusive climate policies:** Embedding traditional ecological knowledge into national policies can ensure community-led, culturally relevant, and effective climate adaptation and mitigation strategies.
3. **Promoting private sector engagement in climate action:** Encouraging businesses to adopt sustainable practices, invest in green technologies, and participate in carbon markets can accelerate climate action and economic sustainability.
4. **Establishing a centralized digital database for climate-related data:** Developing a comprehensive, real-time, and accessible climate data repository can support evidence-based decision-making, research, and policy implementation.
5. **Developing assessment frameworks for international climate finance opportunities:** Creating structured evaluation mechanisms can improve access to global climate finance, ensuring effective funding for national mitigation and adaptation efforts.

Annex I: Pictures



پشاور، اے ڈی ایس چیف ایگزیکٹو امجد نذیر کا ماحولیاتی تبدیلیوں پر ورکشاپ کے شرکا کے ساتھ گروپ فوٹو





Annex II: News Coverage

Eight die in road mishap
FP Report

CHAKRALA: Eight people died after a passenger bus traveling from Kathak to Swat veered off the road and plunged into a ravine near Natta Thak in the M-2 Motorway. Five people died instantly, while 11 others sustained injuries. Three more passengers succumbed to their wounds at the hospital, raising the death toll to eight.

OGRA slashes LPG price
FP Report

ISLAMABAD: The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) slashed the price of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) today. As per the notification issued by the OGRA on Friday, the LPG rates have been reduced by Rs 15 to Rs247.82 per kilogram. The new prices will be in effect from Sunday, March 1, 2025.

The Frontier Post

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Pakistan faces severe environmental challenges
Urgent actions needed to protect glaciers: experts urge

FP Report

PESHAWAR: Experts from various sectors, including environment, academia, and civil society, gathered to discuss Pakistan's environmental responsibilities, challenges, and opportunities. Speaking at a crucial workshop organized by the Alternate Development Services (ADS), Chief Executive Anjum Nazeer, and representatives from the National Centre for Intelligence and Research (NCIR), Ullah Chaudhry stressed that Pakistan must ensure a strong provincial response and the provision of financial resources to fulfill its

by the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) 1.6, emphasizing the need for collaborative consultation to find practical solutions and civil society support. This workshop focused on discussing Pakistan's environmental responsibilities, challenges, and opportunities. Speaking at a crucial workshop organized by the Alternate Development Services (ADS), Chief Executive Anjum Nazeer, and representatives from the National Centre for Intelligence and Research (NCIR), Ullah Chaudhry stressed that Pakistan must ensure a strong provincial response and the provision of financial resources to fulfill its

also made for technology-driven initiatives to enhance climate resilience. Discussions covered political hurdles obstructing the implementation of NDC, the role of Pakistan's government institutions, the potential for realistic environmental strategies considering the country's limited financial resources. Experts unanimously agreed on the importance of a robust environmental action plan supported by financial resources, with Pakistan's financial cooperation and shared the nation's commitment to protecting its ecosystems. They also highlighted issues such as policy inconsistency, weak implementation mechanisms, and the crucial role of

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Climate goals
Pakistan needs stronger action and funds



ماحولیاتی حکمت عملی، بین الاقوامی وعدے

پاکستان کو مضبوط صوبائی ردعمل اور مالی وسائل کی فراہمی یقینی بنانا ہوگی

پشاور (دو قلم نگار خصوصی) ماحولیاتی حکمت عملی، بین الاقوامی وعدے، پاکستان کو مضبوط صوبائی ردعمل اور مالی وسائل کی فراہمی اور صوبائی ودوقاتی حکومتوں میں مالی وسائل کی فراہمی یقینی بنانا ہوگی، اسے ڈی ایس مربوط تعاون وقت کی اہم (باقی صفحہ 6 تاریخہ نمبر 2)

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322 نمبر

The Voice of the Time

DAILY TIMES

March 01, 2025

Yousaf Raza Gilani stresses enhanced Pakistan-Ireland cooperation in key sectors

Ayaz Sadig, president of Hungary discuss matter of mutual interest

Security forces

Call for provincial financial resources to fulfil global commitments

SHAHZAD RASHEED fulfill its international environmental commitments. Pakhtunkhwa, in the context of the Paris Climate Agreement. Artificial Intelligence Centre for Intelligent System and Network Research (CISNR) among others.

PESHAWAR: Experts from various sectors, including environment, policymaking, academia, and civil society, gathered to discuss Pakistan's environmental responsibilities, challenges, and opportunities related to



Agenda

Thursday, 27th February, 2025

Venue: Peshawar Serena Hotel

Time	Agenda Point	Speaker/Resource Person
10:00 AM -10:30 AM	Welcome and Opening Remarks. Introduction of NDC 3.0. Highlighting Challenges and Opportunities ahead.	Amjad Nazeer, Chief Executive, Alternate Development Services (ADS)
10:30 AM - 11:00 AM	Addressing center-provincial gaps w.r.t. NDC 3.0. ensuring mitigation, adaptation, and effective implementation.	Mr. Ozair Rahim, Assistant Chief, Climate Change & Environment Section.
11:00 AM -11:15 AM	Tea- break	
11:15 AM -11:45 AM	Pakistan's Net-Zero Commitments and Political Challenges.	Mr. Ubaid Ullah Chaudhary, Project Manager, Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI).
11:45 PM - 2:00 PM	Lessons from previous NDCs: Identifying key gaps. The role of KP government departments in NDC 3.0 implementation. Opportunities and challenges in implementation at the provincial level. Perspectives from civil society, academia, and private sector. Recommendations from KP government, civil society, academia, and the private Sector.	Zeeshan Shafeeq, Center from Artificial Intelligence, UET
2:00PM – 2: 30PM	Q&A Session	
2:00 PM - 2:10 PM	Closing Remarks	Host
2:00PM	Lunch	