

Proposal on Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Programme

Scope

The significant feature of the programme is to plant ten billion trees across country through a phased approach. The programme has been designed and will be implemented after thorough consultation with the provinces. The tree plantation component of the programme is a replication of the successfully completed model of 'Billion Tree Afforestation Project' in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The outcomes of BTAP have been duly acknowledged by United Nations Environment Programme, Bonn Challenge and other international bodies and fora.

Objective

Facilitate transition towards environmentally resilient Pakistan by main streaming notions of adaptation and mitigation through ecologically targeted initiatives covering afforestation, biodiversity conservation and enabling policy environment.

Components

A). Enhancement of Forest Cover

The Phase –I of this component of the Programme focuses on enhancement of the forest cover by adding 3.29 billion indigenous plants through afforestation, reforestation and regeneration over next four years to curb the impacts of climate change. The priority areas for the purpose are as under:

- a. Conservation and enhancement of natural forests through assisted natural regeneration
- b. Road and canal side plantation
- c. Rehabilitation and re-stocking of historical plantations
- d. Restoration and improvement of scrub forests
- e. Increase in existing cover of mangrove forests
- f. Watershed and soil conservation in hilly and river catchment areas (reserved as well as community forests)
- g. Rehabilitation of guzara and protected forests
- h. Protection and augmentation of dry temperate forests

B) Biodiversity Conservation

The challenges to wildlife protection and preservation will be overcome through improvement and effective implementation of wildlife legislations and institutional strengthening as under:

- a. Enhanced management of Protected Areas (Biosphere Reserve/ National Parks) with special focus on Eco-tourism (at least one in each province/territory) on international standards.
- b. Establishment or Up gradation of existing Zoo on international standards (at least one in each province/territory)
- c. Revival of Critically Endangered Habitats (at least one habitat in each province/territory)
- d. Improvements of Wildlife related Legislations and its implementation.

- e. Curbing of illegal wildlife trafficking through establishment of control desks in international/national airports.
- f. Rehabilitation/ Rescue Centers for Confiscated Wildlife in each province/ territory.
- g. Zero plastic in protected areas.
- h. Liaison between Wildlife Departments and Universities.
- i. Rehabilitation of forest covers in Man and the Biosphere (MAB) reserves and intervention for declaration of more MAB reserves, which are in pipeline.

C) Institutional Strengthening

Zoological Survey of Pakistan (ZSP) is the pioneer research organization for multi-disciplinary zoological and wildlife related matters in the country. Therefore to enhance its capacity following are the specific objectives.

- a. Establishment of Zoo-Cum Botanical Garden in reserve forest BanigalalIslamabad
- b. Inventory of Endangered Wildlife Species and Habitat across Pakistan

Support Required

The Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Programme not only includes tree planting / regeneration but also supports implementation of target 15.1, 15.2, 15.5 and 15.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals. The programme targets will also result in mitigating the impact of climate change in the country since plantations are a major source of carbon sink. The increase in vegetation cover will prevent land degradation and improve aquifer.

Financial support is required to implement any component / sub-component of this programme.