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Newsletter

Pakistan Forest Institute, Peshawar

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Chief Patron: Syed Said Badshah Bukhari
Director General

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Editor: Tanvir Ahmad Qureshi
Extension Specialist



Participants of the Landcover Atlas of Pakistan Launching Ceremony

LANDCOVER ATLAS OF PAKISTAN - LAUNCHED

Pakistan Forest Institute (PFI), under Forestry Sector Research and Development Project prepared and launched Landcover Atlas of Pakistan which is based on scientific research using the latest techniques of Geographic Information System (GIS) and Remote Sensing. The chief guest of the function was Mr. Wajid Ali Khan, Honorable Minister for Environment, Govt. of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Environment, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mr. Wajid Ali Khan said the study provides a scientific monitoring mechanism of natural resources particularly forests and underscored the need for its continuation with regular intervals for preparation of management plans.

Referring to the report, he stated that total forest area of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa that was earlier only 17 percent has now increased to 20.3 percent showing a significant increase of 3.3 percent due to government's effective strategies and regular plantations.

He said the Landcover Atlas report has dispelled all the impressions regarding deforestation and reduction of forests areas in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as contrary to facts. The climate

change and global warming have posed great threats to environment and this positive effort of PFI will help to give boost to the global and regional efforts to tackle these issues on scientific basis.

The Minister said that forest and glaciers of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were great source to generate water for agriculture sector of the country and their protection was not only the responsibility of the government but of the civil society as a whole.

The Minister said that this study will provide a guideline for researchers and students in future and directed the officials to inform masses about its significance. Close coordination between different national building institutions and educational institutions are must to take full advantages of each other's expertise and commended the efforts of PFI team for conducting such a comprehensive study. Earlier, the Director GIS made a presentation and explained key features and contents of the atlas. The Secretary Environment and Director General Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Syed Said Badshah Bukhari appraised the participants about different phases and aspects of the study. He said, PFI had established GIS and Remote Sensing Centre in 2004 under Forestry Sector Research and Development Project to assess the existing forests types and other landcover of the country through using latest GIS/RS techniques.

He said, Landcover Atlas report has been shared with all provincial forest departments, including Azad Kashmir and FATA and valuable suggestions from the concerned departments were incorporated in the study. Forestry experts from across the country and province participated and termed the study a comprehensive and based on facts.

PFI PREPARED RANGELAND POLICY FOR KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

Pakistan Forest Institute (PFI) prepared the first-ever Rangeland Policy for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in consultation with other stakeholders and with support from International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD). The draft policy was unveiled during a one-day workshop held on 31st December, 2012 at PFI, Peshawar. The workshop was attended by a large number of participants from Environment, Forest, Wildlife, Agriculture and Livestock Departments, Universities, FAO, IC, ICIMOD and local NGOs. Minister for Environment, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mr. Wajid Ali Khan was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Secretary Environment, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Syed Said Badshah, Bukhari, was also present on the occasion.



Participants of workshop of KP's Rangeland Policy unveiled



Mr. Wajid Ali Khan, Minister of Environment Expressing his views at the workshop

The Secretary Environment told the participants that Rangelands of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are important natural resources which provide a wide range of goods and services, having significant social, economic and ecological values. However, these resources are facing a number of challenges, threatening their integrity, productivity and sustainability. To protect, conserve and properly manage these resources, a well defined policy for the rangelands is a basic requirement. A number of attempts has been made in that direction at national level but that could not be successfully concluded. After 18th Constitutional Amendment, the subject of rangeland management has been exclusively shifted to the domain of provincial governments which gives imperative to formulate and adopt

rangeland policy at provincial level. The current initiative was started by PFI with support from ICIMOD and prepared a comprehensive rangeland policy within a short time.



Syed Said Badshah Bukhari, DG PFI at workshop

Mr. Anwar Ali, Forest Mensuration Officer, PFI, presented the draft of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Rangeland Policy. He said that the goals of the proposed policy are to protect, conserve and develop the rangelands of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in a sustainable manner through participatory approach; enhance the production of the desirable mix of goods and services of rangelands to the level of potential productivity; contribute to biodiversity conservation, control and reversal of desertification and land degradation and climate change mitigation and adaptation; and support livelihood and well-being of dependent communities and other stakeholders. The policy calls for sustainable management of rangelands in accordance with scientific principles of range management aimed at ensuring multiple benefits from the rangelands. It is proposed that a separate institutional setup will be created in the Forest Department for rangeland management.

Addressing the workshop, the Minister, for Environment Mr. Wajid Ali Khan appreciated the efforts of PFI for formulating a rangeland policy for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He said the enforcement of the policy would help conserve and develop natural resources of the rangelands of the province. This endeavour of PFI will enable the government to significantly contribute to the national efforts to comply with obligations under international environmental conventions and protocols including UNCBD, UN Conventions on control of desertification, UNFCCC and other such efforts.

NEWS OF FOREST EDUCATION DIVISION

HAKIM SHAH
Director Forest Education

The Forest Education Division, Pakistan Forest Institute Peshawar, conducted Annual Sports Week and various other academic activities during July-December, 2012 given as under:

ANNUAL SPORTS WEEK

Annual Sports Week of the college was celebrated from 13.11.2012 to 16.11.2012 in the main college ground of Pakistan Forest Institute, Peshawar. Various games such as Football, Cricket, Lawn tennis, Volleyball and Basketball were played by M.Sc and B.Sc. Forestry students. Basketball, Football and Volleyball matches were won by the B.Sc. Forestry students while Cricket match was won by the M.Sc. Forestry students.

Student athletes displayed their physical fitness and strength on the concluding day in various athletic events such as

100 meters, 200 meters & 400 meters races, Relay race, Obstacles race, Sack race, Javelin throw, Long jump, High jump and Tug of war.



A student taking part in the Javelin throw competition



Chief Guest giving away trophy to a winning team captain

The football match between D.G. Eleven and students was worth seeing. After a very tough competition, D.G. Eleven won the match.

Secretary Environment Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Director General, Pakistan Forest Institute, Peshawar was the chief guest of the concluding ceremony of Annual Sports Week 2012. In his address, he emphasized that sports were a very important part of every individual's professional as well as personal life. He advised the students to compete with sportsman spirit in every test of their life. Later on, he gave away prizes to the winners.

ADMISSIONS TO M.Sc./ B.Sc. FORESTRY COURSES (SESSION 2012-14)

The process for admission to M.Sc. and B.Sc. Forestry courses session 2012-14 against self-supporting general seats started in the month of August, 2012. Admission notice was advertised in a number of leading English and Urdu newspapers including The News, Dawn, Jang, Aaj and Mashriq. The last date for submission of applications was 12.9.2012.

Services of National Testing Service (NTS) were hired for conducting the entry test which was held simultaneously on 23.09.2012 at six centres established throughout the country i.e. Peshawar, Islamabad, Lahore, Multan, Karachi and Quetta

Besides the selection of Self financed candidates, Sindh and Balochistan Forest Departments have also sent

nominees for M.Sc and B.Sc forestry courses. Sindh Forest Department has sent 5 and 8 nominees for undergoing M.Sc and B.Sc forestry training respectively while Balochistan Forest Department has sent 19 and 5 nominees for undergoing M.Sc and B.Sc forestry training respectively. Regular classes commenced with effect from 01.11.2012.



Director Forest Education Division and faculty inspecting the venue of NTS examination



Director Forest Education Division and Regional Manager NTS viewing the conduct of the examination

WORKING PLAN CAMP

Working plan camp of M.Sc. and B. Sc. Forestry Session (2010-12) was conducted at PFI Field Station Shinkhari w.e.f. 12-07-2012 to 01-08.2012 under the supervision of Mr. Ghayyas Ahmad APoF, Mr. Yousaf Khan LIF, Mr. Anwer Ali FMO and Mr. Sohaib Ahmed LIF. Mr. Asadullah, Lecturer Agricultural University Peshawar was especially invited to deliver lectures on Forest Management Plan during the first week of the camp. Students were given lectures on Working Plan preparation, organization, practices of forest inventory in coniferous forests, forest inventory techniques, data collection, data analysis and compilation. On the completion of lectures, students collected and analyzed data from practice plots. Then with the help of local staff compartments were allocated to students at field station Shinkhari for full enumeration and partial enumeration methods. Students were also taken to Moist Temperate Forests Hillkot for collection of data by full enumeration and partial enumeration methods. Before the conclusion of the tour, Mr. Hakim Shah, Director Forest Education visited the camp to see overall progress of the tour.



Group Photo with M.Sc. Forestry Session (2010-12)

ORIENTATION TOUR, M.Sc. FORESTRY (2012-14)

Imparting field knowledge to forestry students beside theoretical knowledge is a bright aspect of studies at Pakistan Forest Institute. For this purpose, field tours are arranged to various ecological zones of Pakistan. The very first tour that forestry students conduct after joining PFI is called **Orientation Tour**. In this tour, students are oriented to different types of natural forests as well as irrigated plantations. Orientation tour of M.Sc. Forestry session 2012-14 was conducted from 24-12-2012 to 30-12-2012 under the supervision of Mr. Yousuf Khan (Lecturer in Forestry) and Mr. Sohaib Ahmed (Lecturer in Forestry). During whole tour, Director Forest Education Mr. Hakim Shah accompanied the class. During this tour, Students were shown Scrub Forests of the Margalla Hills, Chir Pine Forests and Moist Temperate Forests of the Murree Hills and Galiat. Students also visited Islamabad Zoo to learn about captive breeding on wild animals. Students were taken to Changa Manga Irrigated Plantation where they were given briefings about Sale Depot, Irrigation lay-out, Nursery techniques and forest recreation. On the last day of the tour, students visited Jallo Forest Park near Lahore where they studied flora and fauna of the park.



Students in Ayubia National Park



Lecture by Deputy Director Forest CDA at Margalla Hill National Park



Group photo of class with Director Forest Education and DFO Changa Manga

EXAMINATIONS & RESULTS

1. Result of B.Sc. and M.Sc. Forestry Session 2010-12 (4th Term) was announced on 3rd November, 2012. The examination was held from 17.10.2012 to 19.10.2012. All the students were declared pass.
2. The result of 5th Term B.Sc. and M.Sc. Forestry Session 2010-12 was announced on 30th November, 2012. The examination was held from 12th November to 15th November, 2012. All the students were declared pass. 46 students qualified B.Sc Forestry examination while 38 students qualified M.Sc Forestry examination.

OBITUARY

Dr. G.M Khattak
(1924- 2012)

It is with profound sorrow we report the sad demise of Dr. G.M Khattak, Ex-DG, Pakistan Forest Institute, Peshawar on 12th December, 2012. Dr. G. M Khattak was born on 3rd January, 1924 in Nushki, Balochistan. He had a brilliant record of success. He wrote Forest Types of Pakistan and many other text books. He rendered meritorious services at various high ranking jobs as VC University of Peshawar, VC Agriculture University, Peshawar and Chairman University Grants Commission. He was also awarded Sitara-e-Imtiaz by the President of Pakistan. He was a very hard working and sincere officer. He was untiring in his zeal to maintain the high standards and field oriented face of the Department. His death is an irreparable loss for their families, friends and forestry community in Pakistan and abroad. May Allah rest his soul in peace, Ameen.



M.I Sheikh
(1930- 2012)

With great sorrow, we report the sad demise of Mr. M.I Sheikh, Ex-DG, Pakistan Forest Institute, Peshawar who passed away on 12th November, 2012 at the age of 82 years. Mr. M.I Sheikh was born on 5th February, 1930 at Amritsar. He retired as Chief Conservator of Forest, Punjab. He wrote Trees of Pakistan including 360 publications of international fame. He was a person of soft disposition, kind and helpful nature. He will be greatly missed by his friends and colleagues. His death is an irreparable loss for their families, friends and forestry community in Pakistan and abroad. May Allah rest his soul in peace, Ameen.

