Sustainable Land Management Programme to Combat Desertification in Pakistan (SLMP) - Phase II

Land is a scarce resource in Pakistan where 80 percent of the land is arid or semi-arid. Majority of the rapidly growing population depends on dry lands to support their livelihoods through agro-pastoral activities.

Unsustainable land management practices and increased demand for natural resources are the main causes of land degradation and desertification. Other causes include deforestation, overgrazing, drought and floods. Unless unsustainable practices are addressed, land degradation will continue at an accelerated pace with adverse impacts on the structural and functional integrity of ecosystems, biodiversity and people’s livelihoods.

**QUICK FACTS**

- **Duration:** August 2015 - June 2020
- **Implementing partners:** Ministry of Climate Change, Provincial governments
- **Funding partner:** Global Environment Facility, Pakistan’s Federal and Provincial Governments,
- **Location:** Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa
- **Annual budget (2019):** US$ 853,690
- **Contact:** Muhammad Sohail, Programme Officer, Environment and Climate Change Unit, UNDP muhammad.sohail@undp.org
One solution to this problem is sustainable land management (SLM), the use of land resources such as soil, water, animals and plants to produce goods, to meet changing human needs, while ensuring the long-term productive capacity of these resources and maintenance of their functions within the natural environment.

The SLM programme (Phase I) paved the way towards using a long-term programmatic and results-based approach to combatting desertification and land degradation over entire landscapes in Pakistan. In Phase II, this is being scaled up to ensure sustainable management of land and natural resources in arid and semi-arid regions so that ecosystem functionality and critical ecosystem services are enhanced.

**Objectives**

This project assisting the Government of Pakistan to achieve its long-term goal, “to combat land degradation and desertification in Pakistan”. It aims:

- To enable policies and institutional mechanisms for SLM to be put in place at federal and provincial levels.
- To enhance skills to scale up SLM through an institutionalized, multi-tiered capacity-building programme.
- To scale up SLM practices through effective knowledge management.
- To develop participatory GIS-based district and village land use plans.
- To develop climate-resilient SLM decision support system.
- To mobilize local communities for scaling up SLM activities.
- To improve water conservation and on-farm practices.
- To provide new livelihood opportunities through improved ecosystems opportunities.

**Expected results**

- A strong enabling environment is built at provincial and local levels that support the scaling up of SLM practices.
- An effective, targeted, and adaptive SLM land use planning and decision support system is established.

- Climate-resilient SLM activities are implemented on the ground, including integrated soil and water management, restoring rangeland productivity, improving dry land/desert ecosystem, etc.

**What's next?**

- SLM mainstreamed into sectoral policies
- Capacity building trainings for farmers.
- Awareness, outreach and advocacy through knowledge products, seminars and media engagement
- Preparation and dissemination of Land Use Plans at districts and village levels
- Soil and water conservation measures and on-farm management through infrastructure building & Tech support
- Rangelands rehabilitation and restoration of ecosystem services
- Special focus on Community Based SLM funds.

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<th>Districts in Phase-II</th>
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<td><strong>Punjab:</strong></td>
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<td>Pishin, KillaSaifullah,Mastung, Kech, Lasbella</td>
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