

KHYBER
PAKHTUNKHWA

URBAN FORESTRY POLICY 2023



URBAN &
PERI-URBAN
AREAS



CLIMATE CHANGE,
FORESTRY, ENVIRONMENT
& WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

Table of Contents

Part – I Background.....	1
1. Preamble.....	1
2. Rationale of the policy.....	3
3. Urban & Peri – Urban Forestry.....	5
3.1 Urban Forestry	5
3.2 Importance of Urban Forestry.....	5
3.3 Main Urban Forest Types	6
a. Peri – urban forests and woodlands:.....	6
b. City parks:	6
c. Small parks and gardens with trees:	6
d. Trees on streets or in public squares:	6
e. Other green spaces with trees:	6
f. Roadside Plantation:	6
g. Canal side Plantation:.....	6
h. Government Premises:	7
3.4 Need of Urban Forest Policy.....	7
Part – II Policy on Urban Forestry	8
4. Goal.....	8
5. Objectives.....	8
6. Policy Statement for Stakeholder Departments.....	8
6.1 Forestry, Environment & Wildlife Department	8
6.1.1 Scope of Work.....	8
6.1.2 Policy Statement/Role	9
6.2 Local Government Department	10
6.2.1 Scope of Work:	10
6.2.2 Policy Statement/ Role.....	10
6.3 Housing Department	11
6.3.1 Scope of Work.....	11
6.3.2 Policy Statement/Role	11
6.4 Agriculture Department.....	12
6.4.1 Scope of Work.....	12
6.4.2 Policy Statement/Role	12

6.5	Departments of Education.....	13
6.5.1	Scope of Work.....	13
6.5.2	Policy Statement/Role	13
6.6	Communication and Works Department.....	13
6.6.1	Scope of Work.....	13
6.6.2	Policy Statement/Role	13
6.7	Revenue Department	14
6.7.1	Scope of Work.....	14
6.7.2	Policy Statement/Role	14
6.8	Industries, Commerce & Technical Education Department.....	14
6.8.1	Scope of Work.....	14
6.8.2	Policy Statement/Role	14
6.9	Public Health Engineering Department	15
6.9.1	Scope of Work.....	15
6.9.2	Policy Statement/Role	15
6.10	Information & Public Relations Department.....	15
6.10.1	Scope of Work.....	15
6.10.2	Policy Statement/Role	15
7.	Policy Guidelines	15
8.	Policy Implementation, Strategy and Action plan	17
8.1	Administrative Setup.....	17
8.2	Strategy and Action Plan.....	17

Part – I

Background

1. Preamble

Consequent to progression of industrialization, economic growth and resultant civilization, the human migration from rural to urban areas is a regular phenomenon due to provision of best dwelling facilities and livelihood opportunities in urban centers. This migration has accelerated significantly world over in the recent past, including Pakistan.

About one-third of Pakistan's present population is living in urban centers. This figure is anticipated to reach up to 50% by the year 2025. The urban centers all over Pakistan are expanding laterally with the passage of time to accommodate immigrants from the surrounding rural areas. However, due to limited scope for expansion, the spatial expansion of these cities is disproportionate to population influx. Resultantly population density in most of the cities has increased manifold with the passage of time and has crossed the threshold limits.

Situation in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province is not different. Rapid urbanization is exerting multidimensional interlinked effects and impacts on available civic amenities and living environment. All living forms including human life in the urban centers is under tremendous pressure. The requisite natural landscape has distorted to an extent that the ecosystem is neither providing the desired goods and services adequately nor effectively manageable by the policy makers, planners and executors.

The current worst scenario is not the end rather it is progressing regressively resulting adverse trends and microclimatic effects in term of temperature rise, pattern and distribution of rainfall, floods, winds, humidity etc. and ultimately contributing to environmental degradation.

Environmental degradation in the urban centers of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is inducing depletion and degradation of natural ecosystems in and around urban areas and drastic loss of vital ecosystem services. Resilience against disturbances caused by climate change has decreased. As it continues to urbanize, sustainable development challenges will prevail in urban areas.

Current economic development being un-sustainable is demanding an innovative sustainable urban development model that should provide not only livelihood opportunity and food security but shall also be capable of responding to natural calamities and producing desired ecosystem services.

Well-designed and managed vegetation restoration efforts in the urban and peri-urban areas of the province for enhancing forest trees and horticulture

plants cover (hereafter collectively referred as “urban forests”) are integral for meeting this challenge. Urban forests can make significant contributions to the environmental sustainability, economic viability and livability of urban settlements of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The aforementioned situation is compelling the policy makers to undertake initiatives for enhancing vegetation cover through urban forestry by involving all the concerned stakeholders/departments, autonomous bodies and development authorities present in the urban and peri-urban areas of the province, as vegetation cover is inevitable for enhancing carbon sequestration, reduction emission of Green House Gases (GHGs), controlling pollutants in the atmosphere and combating the Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect.

The policy makers, planners and executors must stand up to the challenge, join hands and start sincere concerted efforts for ensuring that their cities are economically developed, socially secured, environmentally resilient and capable of providing the ecosystem services desired and needed by their citizens for all living entities.

Although individual need based efforts for plantation are undertaken by all the respective departments/organizations and institutions, however, there exists no regulatory framework and institutional arrangement in the province to lead the process and integrate efforts of all the stakeholders/departments and institutions through directive planning, objective monitoring and guided evaluation.

In order to address the above stated situation of environmental threats, it is imperative to restore and increase the vegetation cover in the urban and peri-urban areas of the province as one of the vital actions towards mitigating the impacts of climate change. For this purpose, all the concerned provincial departments and autonomous bodies are to be taken on board at respective district levels under the command of respective Deputy Commissioners and motivated for preparation of annual plantation plans and its execution, protection, monitoring, evaluation and sustainability.

The first step towards this direction is to develop a policy on urban forestry for development of urban and peri-urban areas, with the aim and objective of ultimate environmental restoration. This policy shall provide a direction through its policy statement to respective stakeholder departments and organizations for their contribution in restoration of vegetation cover and mechanism for its future sustainability. The policy shall also provide stakeholder departments and autonomous bodies a legal instrument to synchronize their role under their existing Rules of Business or through necessary amendments wherever required in their bye laws and rules, to achieve the goals and objectives of the Policy.

The Forest Department besides its mandated role shall play a pivotal role of facilitation, technical guidance, and monitoring by providing forest plants, trainings, extension and a viable mechanism for reporting and compilation of data/information and monitoring of the activities. For report generation, MIS shall be established, creating dashboards for respective stakeholders by the Forest Department.

In consideration to the above explanation, the following departments and autonomous bodies have been short listed for their contribution towards implementation of this policy as per scope and role stated in the Policy on urban forestry for urban and peri-urban areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 2022;

1. Forestry, Environment & Wildlife Department
2. Agriculture Department
3. Housing Department
4. Local Government Department
5. Education department
6. Revenue Department
7. Public Health department
8. Industry and commerce department
9. Information department
10. All Development Authorities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
11. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) working in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The policy statements have been formulated in consultation with all the stakeholder departments with reference to their Rules of Business, Acts & Rules. The draft has been shared with respective departments, consultation meetings held and their feedback / comments accordingly incorporated. The stakeholder departments and autonomous bodies included for the implementation of this policy can still offer their comments and proposals during implementation of the policy to be put before the Urban Forestry Steering Committee to be constituted upon approval of policy to align their role towards promotion of vegetation its restoration and urban forestry in urban and peri-urban areas of the province.

2. Rationale of the policy

Trees have been aesthetically important since earliest civilization. People used trees and vegetation for their aesthetic benefits by developing formal gardens and sacred groves. Even in the early cultures trees were used to provide a landscape for buildings.

According to changed scenario, realizing its role in environment, trees are now considered as main actors to influence urban and home climate in many ways besides improving and enhancing their landscape and aesthetic

value. It is proved beyond doubt through experience that trees can convert a harsh environment/habitat more conducive for living beings by modifying the urban microclimate surrounding the buildings. Such climatic amelioration has enormous economic return.

Uncontrolled land use pattern is being practiced in most parts of the province including urban and peri-urban areas. Haphazard construction of housing colonies, individual buildings, roads, parks, commercial centers and isolated industrial units is going on irrespective of any land use planning and regulations.

The urbanization of natural landscape is replacing vegetation and soil with concrete and asphalt thus reducing the landscape's ability to lower day time temperatures in summer. Buildings are constructed using concrete without provision of any insulation material. The use of dark color material on roads, buildings and other surfaces absorb rather than reflect incoming solar energy. The combination of reduced reflectivity called albedo and absence of vegetation result in temperature difference between urban and rural areas that is greater in late afternoons and at nights, when roads, sidewalks and walls begin to release the heat that they have stored throughout the day.

Construction of multistoried buildings and roads has increased average day time temperatures by accumulating heat energy at day time and releasing the same at evening in the same surroundings. Consequent to removal of vegetation air humidity has decreased, benefits of shades lost and evapo-transpiration process minimized to maintain optimum air humidity. Thus, Urban Heat Island (UHI) effects are created.

Expanding urbanization will lead to further enhanced UHI effects in coming decades. The use of cooling energy during summer by using air conditioners etc. are further exacerbating UHI effects.

Solar radiations are heating up the buildings in both winter and summer. A sunlit roof or wall may have twice the heat gain as compared to shaded roof or wall. During summer time, a tree cover or shade might reduce cooling cost by about 10 to 20 percent.

In dry and hot climatic conditions like prevailing in Pakistan, lowering air temperatures through trees planting can significantly decrease cooling cost and efficiency during summers. This is due to the fact that a tree can transpire upto 100 gallons of water a day. A conservative estimate of the expected air temperature difference between a densely tree shaded area of a city versus an unshaded area is about 2 degrees Centigrade while one degree C° reduction in temperature could reduce cooling load by 20 - 25% in different localities. In a hot dry location, the cooling effects of trees could be as large as 5 air conditioners running for 20 hours.

However, the architects and urban planners have overlooked this aspect of energy saving while designing constructions till date relying instead on

mechanical air conditioning to maintain comfort during summer months, utilizing large quantity of energy and generating greenhouse gases and contribution to global warming.

The erection of multistoried buildings and plazas are increasing solar interface surface manifold. The concrete work which is converting green surface into grey surface has increased solar energy absorbing capacity in the urban areas manifold. All these manmade interventions and disturbances have made a devastating effect on urban environment leading to imbalance in natural atmospheric gases, increase smog, air and water pollution. Efforts to improve quality of life through urbanization and industrialization are adversely affecting living beings. The problem is further aggravated due to the establishment of industries within and around the human settlements in urban centers where industrial and vehicular pollutants combine to bring adverse effects on citizen's health.

Although share of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in emission of GHGs is low but the province cannot isolate itself from the effects of global warming and resultant disasters as witnessed in recent past in the shape of rising temperatures, flood, drought and unprecedented monsoon rainfalls. Some of these events have caused heavy economic losses. The occurrences of these events are confirming the doubts that manmade interference with nature has manifesting itself in the form of extreme weather events.

In consideration to combat the aforementioned adversaries, the policy on urban forestry has been prepared to integrate the activities of tree planting in urban and peri – urban areas in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

3. Urban & Peri – Urban Forestry

3.1 Urban Forestry

The art, science and technology of managing trees and forest resources in and around Urban Community Ecosystems for the psychological, sociological, economic and aesthetic benefits to the society.

It includes networks or systems comprising all woodlands, groups of trees, and individual trees located in urban and peri-urban areas; i.e., forests, street trees, trees in parks and gardens, and trees in derelict corners. Urban forests are the backbone of the green infrastructure, bridging rural and urban areas and ameliorating a city's environmental footprint.

3.2 Importance of Urban Forestry

Urban forestry can contribute to climate-change mitigation, both directly by sequestering carbon and indirectly by saving energy and reducing the Urban Heat Island effect. Urban areas are major contributors to climate change:

although they cover only 2 percent of the earth's surface, they produce more than 70 percent of global carbon dioxide emissions as well as significant quantities of other greenhouse gases. Urban areas are also highly vulnerable to prominent impacts of climate change which besides others, also include sinter alia, rising sea levels, increased precipitation, inland floods, frequent and stronger cyclones, storms, and increased extremes of heat and cold which are likely to affect hundreds of millions of urban and peri-urban dwellers worldwide in coming decades. Despite these risks, many cities are yet to be planned appropriately for climate change. Urban forestry can play key role in making cities more resilient to the effects of climate change. For example, they can mitigate storm water runoff, improve air quality, combat noise pollution, sequester carbon, save cooling energy consumption by shading, improve human health & safety by filtering and blocking glare & reflected light for pedestrians and commuters besides reducing the impacts of extreme weather and floods. The vegetation and soils of urban forests are potentially a very large carbon sink.

3.3 Main Urban Forest Types

The urban forest can be characterized into following types: -

- a. **Peri – urban forests and woodlands:** Forests and woodlands including wind breaks, shelter belts, live hedges/fences and live spurs, surrounding towns and cities that can provide goods and services such as wood, fiber, fruit, other non-wood forest products, clean water, recreation and tourism.
- b. **City parks:** Large urban or district parks with a variety of land cover and at least partly equipped with facilities for leisure and recreation.
- c. **Small parks and gardens with trees:** Small district parks equipped with facilities for recreation/ leisure, and private gardens and green spaces.
- d. **Trees on streets or in public squares:** Linear tree plantation, small groups of trees, individual trees in squares and parking lots and on streets, etc.
- e. **Other green spaces with trees:** For example, urban agricultural plots, sports grounds, vacant lands, lawns, green walls & rooftop gardens, vertical forests, river banks, open fields, cemeteries, Miyawaki plantations and botanical gardens.
- f. **Roadside Plantation:** The linear rows of trees along the right of way of road network including median between the roads.
- g. **Canal side Plantation:** Plantation on the either side of canals running through the urban & peri – urban areas.

- h. **Government Premises:** All Government premises including health, education and other provincial departments, where plantation of trees is carried out.

3.4 Need of Urban Forest Policy

In urban areas several sectors are simultaneously implementing their developmental initiatives within their given ambit of legislation, rule of business and as per scope of their work. However, inter-sectoral policies are sometime in conflict with each other in the perspective of ecosystem disturbances, urban heat island effects and mandate for access to and control over the use of open spaces for forest trees and plantation of horticultural plants.

An environmental restoration effort for urban and peri-urban areas through urban forestry could only be viable if opportunities for inter – sectoral dialogue is provided to harmonize the conflicting range of interests. This will develop and strengthen a common vision for green infrastructure development in and around cities. It could only be ensured if roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder are well-defined and effective coordination, facilitation and mechanism for accountability is provided under a unified command and guidance system.

This policy is an attempt to coordinate the roles and responsibilities of various provincial departments and autonomous bodies for promoting forest trees and horticulture plants cover in urban and peri-urban areas and to pave the way in requisite direction for mitigating the adversaries of climate change and global warming effects in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by providing guidance to the respective stakeholders for special treatment to the neglected vegetation cover in urban and peri-urban areas.

Part – II

Policy on Urban Forestry

4. Goal

Develop, maintain and optimize urban and peri-urban forestry resource through an integrated approach in a scientific, environmentally sustainable, ecologically stable and socially acceptable manner.

5. Objectives

The following objectives are to be achieved through adoption of an integrated approach by all the key stakeholders;

1. Restoration of green environment through enhancing green/tree cover in urban, peri-urban and agriculture areas for improving the quality of human environment.
2. Utilize all available open space for conversion into green landscape.
3. Enforce and regulate the existing provisions of tree plantation.
4. Create awareness and enabling environment for urban and peri-urban forestry and its social, environmental and economic benefits.
5. Make necessary amendments in existing laws and rules to synchronize with the concept of urban and peri-urban forestry.
6. Promote corporate social responsibility for tree plantation.

6. Policy Statement for Stakeholder Departments

The following are the main functions of stakeholder provincial departments and autonomous bodies: -

6.1 Forestry, Environment & Wildlife Department

6.1.1 Scope of Work

a. Forest Department

The Forest Department activities of the Forestry, Environment & Wildlife Department are mainly related to conservation and development of forests including afforestation on canal, road sides and in the rural areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Besides, the department

raises planting stock in its nurseries for its own consumption as well to cater the need of other departments and private sector either free of cost or on subsidized rates.

b. Environment Protection Agency

The Environment Protection Agency (EPA) is mandated to implement the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Act, 2014 and climate change Policy through a robust mechanism, issues Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) reports for all types of infrastructural development activities and industrial units except buildings works. Besides, it is also mandated for approval and monitoring of Environmental Management Plans (EMPs) of industrial units whereby besides other tasks, plantation activity is always part of the plans.

c. Pakistan Forest Institute Peshawar

Main functions of PFI are forestry education, training, research and extension.

6.1.2 Policy Statement/Role

- a. The Forest department shall provide multipurpose species forest plants to education, health and defence Institutions from its nurseries free of cost, while to other provincial Departments and private sector they will be provided on subsidized rates.
- b. The department shall devise a workable mechanism for periodic monitoring & reporting regarding the implementation of the policy by all the stakeholder departments and Autonomous bodies.
- c. The Community Development, Extension, Gender and Development (CDE&GAD) Directorate of Forest department will be involved for sensitization of human resource in stake holder Govt. departments through the facilitation of local Govt. department.
- d. The Environment Protection Agency (EPA) shall ensure follow up of the implementation of EIAs reports issued for various industrial units regarding tree plantation component. It shall evaluate all the major EIAs issued from time to time in the past so as to ensure compliance of the environmental restoration conditions and to monitor the implementation of EMPs. Environmental restoration through plantation should be given topmost priority for sites falling under urban and peri – urban areas of the respective district.
- e. The Pakistan Forest Institute Peshawar shall conduct regular research work for introduction and recommendation of ecologically best suited urban flora. Besides, it will conduct research and carryout work for

production of urban flora, training, awareness raising of the stakeholder departments for dissemination of urban forestry.

- f. Institutional and Human Resource Development and Management Directorate Peshawar of Forest Department will be engaged in framing, designing and scheduling of urban forestry trainings for stakeholders departments in urban and peri-urban areas of the province.

6.2 Local Government Department

6.2.1 Scope of Work:

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Local Government Act, 2013 Section 2 (r) while defining the scope of 'municipal services' also include the public parks, gardens, arboriculture and landscaping in the mandate of local Governments and local areas development authorities. The Act and its allied rules, bye-laws and guidelines obligate the different local governments and authorities for maintaining the greenery and conservancy of the local areas including land use and zoning, management of state land placed under its control in the district. Moreover, the local governments are obligated to work within the policy framework of the Provincial Government.

6.2.2 Policy Statement/ Role

- a. The department shall ensure the utilization of open spaces, state land placed under its control and management through establishment of Parks, tree plantation and landscape development subject to its financial and human resources, in line with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Local Government Act, 2013, by City Local Governments, Neighborhood Councils and Local Areas Development Authorities. Where needed, the local governments shall solicit technical guidance/support from the respective Forestry, Environment and Wildlife Department and financial support from the Provincial Government.
- b. Urban forestry activities shall be ensured by all the respective local governments, Local Area Development Authorities and Neighborhood Councils in existing townships schemes and those to be developed in future. They shall ensure the condition of mandatory plantation in front of the residences and enforcing restriction on removal or trimming of trees from private or public land without approval from relevant authority. Similarly, the available open areas be utilized through tree plantation with proper care and maintenance system.

6.3 Housing Department

6.3.1 Scope of Work

The main objective of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Housing Department is to establish infrastructure for a comprehensive system of Town Planning at different levels in the province for systematic and integrated growth of urban and rural areas to achieve the goal of “Housing for all” including housing for shelter-less, through utilization of latest technologies and state-of-the-art technology for low-cost housing, environment-friendly green building, reduction of congestion and elimination of slums, hygienic waste-disposal and establishment of sanitary landfills etc.

Main functions of the department are;

- a. To implements parameters of national housing policy, coordinate and liaise with Federal Government, district Government, Tehsil and Town Municipal Administrations, concerned departments and Government Agencies,
- b. Facilitate public and private partnership or ventures in housing and development of recreational activities,
- c. Promote environment for friendly and standardized construction activities,
- d. Facilitate land availability through various innovative measures, develop a comprehensive land information system to cater for the planning and development requirements for a period of five to ten years,
- e. Formulate provincial land use policy, plan and prepare regional development plans (Inter District Spatial Planning-Master Plans) for an integrated coordinated and systematic planning to ensure orderly growth and development of physical infrastructure such as highways railways, industrial zones, conservation of forest reserves and provision of electricity, telephone, sui gas etc.
- f. Plan a comprehensive program for the development of satellite, intermediate, secondary and industrial towns to reduce migration and drift to big settlements.
- g. Coordinate with Federal Government, District Government and Tehsil & Town Municipal Administrations for implementing the development plans and program pertaining to housing and town planning.
- h. Assist Government Agencies to plan/execute Government servants housing schemes etc. in the areas of low cost housing.

6.3.2 Policy Statement/Role

The department, while establishing infrastructures, facilitating provision of housing inputs, implementing parameters of the national housing policy and facilitating construction of multi storied flats shall promote environment friendly standardized construction activities in the province by ensuring

mandatory provision of open green spaces, tree plantation along roads, medians and in front of residential buildings.

6.4 Agriculture Department

6.4.1 Scope of Work

6.4.1.1 The Agriculture Department is mandated for sustainable agriculture and livestock development in the province leading to food security and raising living standards of the farming/rural population of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa through its attached departments of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Cooperation and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Agriculture University with the following specific objectives:

- a. Research & Development in Agriculture & Livestock Sector.
- b. Sustainable use & Conservation of Natural Resources.
- c. Extension & Propagation of Research outcome, adoption of National & International best practices for continuous improvement of Agriculture.
- d. Education, Training & capacity Development of the farmers
- e. Horizontal & Vertical Growth of the Sector to enhance productivity.
- f. Land zoning and management
- g. Climate Change Management.

3.4.1.2 The Extension wing of the department is present throughout the province up to Union Council Level; the primary function is to disseminate agriculture technologies developed by the Agricultural Research System of the province and to bring specific problems of the farming communities to the Agricultural Research System for further research along with other regulated activities.

6.4.2 Policy Statement/Role

6.4.2.1 The Agriculture Department shall cooperate with Forest, Environment & Wildlife Department in the implementation of its various initiative related to Agro& Farm - forestry and to facilitate farmers to obtain multipurpose Forest species planting stock from the nurseries of Forest Department suitable for the area.

6.4.2.2 Similarly, the department shall facilitate in identification/production/procurement of requisite horticulture species/planting stock for demand fulfillment of urban and Peri-urban areas on reasonable/subsidized rates. In addition, it will also motivate farmers through its Extension wing for integration of forestry with agriculture to increase tree cover on the farmlands.

6.5 Departments of Education

6.5.1 Scope of Work

All the public sector educational institutes including schools, colleges and universities in the province are under the administrative control of this Department and simultaneously regulating the affairs of private sector institutions also.

6.5.2 Policy Statement/Role

6.5.2.1 The Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) Coordinator/Principal concerned shall prepare a plan by identifying blank areas in premises of school and colleges, share in the district level Urban Forestry Committee and ensure planting of trees and their sustainability by updating data in School Information System (SIS) Tablet-App.

6.5.2.2 The "Data Collector" of Primary and Higher Education Departments during visit to Schools and Colleges shall process updating data in Monitoring Application at District level on monthly basis. All Schools and Colleges to be provided Forest species planting stock from the nurseries by concerned Divisional Forest Officers (DFOs) as per plan submitted by the education department to the district level Urban Forestry Committee under the supervision of concerned Deputy Commissioner.

6.5.2.3 The universities will communicate their plans highlighting the available open spaces, planting strategy and maintenance plan thereof to the concerned DFOs for provision of multipurpose forest plants under intimation to the Monitoring & Evaluation Unit of FP&MC.

6.6 Communication and Works Department

6.6.1 Scope of Work

The department, besides other functions is mandated for preparation of architectural plans/drawings of provincial Govt. buildings as well as maintenance of Govt. buildings through provincial building maintenance cell.

6.6.2 Policy Statement/Role

The department with requisite legislation, to ensure in all the Govt. buildings, the provision of mitigation against the adversaries of climate

change and adaptation to lower the temperature through solar energy consumptive component/vegetation cover is provided and appropriate space for planting is designed while planning/designing the new Govt. buildings.

6.7 Revenue Department

The District Administration of each district is headed by the concerned Deputy Commissioner.

6.7.1 Scope of Work

6.7.1.1 The Revenue Department through respective Deputy Commissioners will actively participate in all the plantation drives and campaign in the urban and peri – urban areas and to ensure that all the derelict corners within civil jurisdiction of the district, warranting vegetation cover is appropriately treated accordingly by respective stakeholders.

6.7.1.2 Besides, a district level Urban Forestry Committee shall be constituted with the representation from all the stakeholder departments under the respective Deputy Commissioner, to ensure the implementation of the policy at district level.

6.7.2 Policy Statement/Role

The District Administration as well as all departments/institutions included in the district level Urban Forestry Committee shall prepare the Annual Tree Plantation Plan for urban and peri-urban areas through identification of sites and estimated number of trees to be planted at these sites. The Committee shall also be responsible to assist the Forest, Environment & Wildlife Department during monitoring/evaluation of the progress and preparation of Annual Report of the district.

6.8 Industries, Commerce & Technical Education Department

6.8.1 Scope of Work

The department is mandated control and supervision of the industries in the economic zones, Industrial development board and cottage industries in the province.

6.8.2 Policy Statement/Role

The department through effective coordination with chambers and associations of commerce and industries, to ensure that all the industries and development boards etc. are actively involved in implementation of urban Forest policy through adequate planting and other mitigation measures in the urban and peri-urban areas.

6.9 Public Health Engineering Department

6.9.1 Scope of Work

6.9.1.1 PHED is mandated to provide potable water and sanitation facilities to the rural population and planning and construction of mega water supply and, sewerage and drainage scheme in urban areas.

6.9.1.2 Its vision & mission is provision of safe drinking water and sanitation facilities to the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in an efficient manner at an affordable cost without any discrimination to promote health, hygiene and cleaner environment. Every citizen of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has access to potable drinking water and sanitation facilities for ensuring high standard of public health.

6.9.2 Policy Statement/Role

The department, through requisite amendments in its legislation, to ensure in its planning, execution and maintenance of the sanitation schemes in urban and peri-urban areas that provision for efficient percolation of surface runoff rain water as well as other waste water into soil strata is provided. This will contribute to environmental restoration through enhancing ground water recharge and arresting further depletion of the water table.

6.10 Information & Public Relations Department

6.10.1 Scope of Work

The department, besides other functions is mandated for targeted and effective sensitization through publicity and public relations.

6.10.2 Policy Statement/Role

The department through production and distribution of films and documentaries, active and effective communication through print and electronic media & persuasion shall ensure dissemination of all information i.e., policies, legislation, rules and regulations, planting drives and campaign etc. pertaining to Urban forestry for the urban and peri-urban areas of the province.

7. Policy Guidelines

- a. All the relevant stakeholder departments / autonomous bodies shall nominate their focal person at provincial level.

- b. A district level Urban Forestry Committee headed by respective Deputy Commissioner shall be responsible for preparation of annual urban plantation plan, its execution and communication to the focal person of Forestry, Environment & Wildlife Department for monitoring and report compilation at provincial level.
- c. To enhance effect and impact of the activity, the plantations shall be preferably established in the form of groves with close spacing for plant to plant and row to row and those plants especially having less extensive root system with medium size and of ornamental value may also be selected near the habitation.
- d. All the stakeholder departments in the districts shall ensure the promotion of Urban forestry in their command area as per scope of work elaborated in the Policy. Each department shall communicate their progress report of monsoon and spring season to their focal person as well as FP&MC of Forest Department at provincial level.
- e. The expenditure involved on planting and its subsequent maintenance shall be met out by the respective departments from their Annual Development Program (ADP).
- f. The stakeholder departments / autonomous bodies shall examine their acts / rules / bye – laws and amend it accordingly so as to incorporate it as a developmental component in their regular ADP and ensure mandatory implementation of the Policy for sustainable promotion of Urban forestry and plantation work.
- g. All the Town Committees, Municipal Committees and Municipal Corporations shall implement the policy as per provision of Local Government Act, 2013.
- h. During the currency of 10-BTTP till 2022-23 period, and subject to availability of requisite planting stock with the departments, the Forest Department will facilitate and fulfill the demand of stakeholder departments for aesthetic as well as multipurpose forest plants at subsidized rates, while Agriculture Department will facilitate in provision/procurement of horticulture plants species at reasonable rates. In the long run, plants procurement/production shall be the responsibility of respective departments. However technical assistance in plants procurement/production, planting and monitoring during implementation of policy shall be the responsibility of Forest and Agriculture Department.
- i. During medium/long term, the Pakistan Forest Institute (PFI) Peshawar, Forest Department and Agriculture Department with the facilitation of local Govt. department, shall impart requisite training to

the stakeholder departments/autonomous bodies/communities for establishment of nurseries and plantations of urban flora.

- j. The district and provincial level set ups of Information & Public Relations Department, with collaboration of Community Development, Extension & Gender and Development Directorate of the Forest Department, shall ensure sensitization of general public/community towards promotion of urban forestry in the province.
- k. Indifferent response on implementation/violation of policy by the respective stakeholder implementing departments, may be treated as poor performance of the respective dealing hands, to be duly reflected in PERs of respective officers/officials.

8. Policy Implementation, Strategy and Action plan

On approval of the policy, the following administration set up shall be put in place for execution and implementation in accordance with the policy guidelines, strategy and action plan being provided in the policy *ibid*.

8.1 Administrative Setup.

- a. An “Urban Forestry Steering Committee” comprising secretaries of the respective implementing departments and headed by Additional Chief Secretary, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to be constituted to oversee the overall implementation of the Policy and to approve any requisite amendments in the Strategy and Action Plan of the policy *ibid* for appropriate course corrective measures and efficacy of the policy.
- b. All the relevant departments / autonomous bodies mentioned in the policy shall nominate their focal persons at provincial level.
- c. Management units designated as “Urban Forest Blocks” comprising urban and peri-urban areas of the district shall be constituted by the respective Conservator of Forests at each district and tehsil headquarters. The numbers of management units in each district will vary depending upon the number of Revenue sub divisions in each civil district.

8.2 Strategy and Action Plan

- a. Urban Plantation drives shall continue round the year. For this purpose, district level “Annual Urban Plantation Plan” shall be prepared by Urban Forestry Committee, represented by the district head of each stakeholder department as per scope of work of the respective department, under the guidance, supervision and control of the respective Deputy Commissioners. The plan shall be

communicated to their focal persons as well as to FP&MC of Forest Department at provincial level.

- b. Target of Annual Urban Plantation in each district shall be flexible to be determined by the respective Deputy Commissioners as per scope of work in the district. However, tentatively it shall be at least 10,000 plants of urban flora / species at Tehsil Headquarter and 20,000 at District Head Quarter blocks, respectively.
- c. Each stakeholder department may like to apportion around 2-5% share of its ADP Budget for promotion of urban and peri-urban forestry by either providing a dedicated component under their other developmental projects or may prepare separate PC-I for the purpose in collaboration with respective DFOs of the Forest Department.
- d. The PC-I shall provide for procurement / production of plants and plantation work by respective stakeholder departments at their own arrangements or through Forest Department staff after signing appropriate Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for plantation with the respective territorial DFOs. However, subsequent maintenance/watch and ward of the urban forest plantations shall be the responsibility of respective stakeholder departments to ensure ownership and sustainability of the investment.
- e. The urban forest contingent of Forest Department shall remain associated with the respective stakeholder departments for technical assistance during plants procurement/production, planning, planting and ongoing monitoring of the urban plantations so as to ensure timely course correction for appropriate procurement/production, handling and planting operations.
- f. At the close of each planting season, every stakeholder department, after due verification by the respective territorial DFO, shall communicate its progress report on prescribed format to the Conservator of Forests, FP&MC of Forest Department through respective Deputy Commissioner for monitoring and progress reporting to the Government.
- g. The Conservator of Forests, FP&MC of Forest Department through DFO M&E Urban Forestry of the Circle, shall conduct regular monitoring of all urban forestry plantations, compile the consolidated progress report and transmit it to concerned quarter as per following arrangements;
 - i. All the implementing stakeholder departments / autonomous bodies, through respective Deputy Commissioners shall communicate their progress on urban planting at the end of each Monsoon and Spring Tree Plantation Campaigns, duly verified

through their respective territorial DFOs to the FP&MC of the Forest Department on prescribed format in hard as well as in soft form through Android Application.

- ii. The Conservator of Forests FP&MC, after conducting the requisite monitoring through DFO, M&E Urban Forestry of the Circle and requisite feedback on course correction to the implementing departments at district level, shall develop GIS based data source of all the monitored plantations and submit its consolidated report to the concerned provincial focal person of implementing department, Urban Forestry Steering Committee as well as Forestry, Environment & Wildlife Department.
 - iii. The GIS Laboratory of FP&MC / consultant hired for the purpose, shall develop a website, Programme and an Android Application as well as arrange training on reporting the data regarding planting of urban flora for the focal persons of implementing departments.
 - iv. The GIS Laboratory of FP&MC / consultant hired for the purpose, shall develop a Dashboard for reporting of data/progress reports, output of monitoring carried out, annual progress report on the policy implementation, highlighting change detection in area under plant cover in the district.
- h. All stakeholders will develop financial plans for implementation of the policy as well as pool other financial resources from the private sector, INGOs, NGOs and business enterprises under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).



**CLIMATE CHANGE,
FORESTRY, ENVIRONMENT
& WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT**