

Pakistan finalises national forest policy to boost forest cover

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ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Climate Change has drafted National Forest Policy (NFP) and further process of consultation on it is in the final stage, said ministry's media official.

"The ministry has given final touches to the draft of the National Forest Policy with the help of all relevant stakeholders including all four provinces, Azad Jammu Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan and Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and Capital Development Authority Islamabad," said Mohammad Saleem, deputy director media & communication at the climate change ministry.

Revised version of draft policy document is expected to be put forward soon before the Council of Common Interests (CCI) in its meeting for consideration, he said.

On the directives of the Prime Minister of Pakistan Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, the Ministry of Climate Change kicked off the process of making forest policy and in this regard engaged actively with the all the stakeholders.

According to the ministry official, it would be an overarching policy, which aims to increase country's tree cover, save existing forests through participation of all stakeholders including forest communities.

The present government has assigned top priority to boosting tree forest cover of the country.

In Pakistan, some 4.8 per cent of the total landmass of 79 million hectares is under forest.