



**Standing Committee
on Climate Change**

EPA CONSULTATION WORKSHOP

17th March 2022
PC Hotel Karachi

Introduction:

The Standing Committee on Climate Change (CCC) Pakistan in collaboration with WFD initiated a one-day interactive session with the officials of federal and provincial Environmental Protection Agencies (EPAs). This inclusive approach is part of a series of training events engaging key stakeholders - executive authorities, legislators, academia, and research institutions - to collaboratively combat climate change at all levels.

Objectives:

The one-day workshop with members of Federal and Provincial EPAs was themed around the following objectives:

1. Taking Federal and Provincial EPAs on board to identify what challenges and problems they are facing.
2. Identifying solutions for these issues and finding gaps between legislation.
3. Exploring ways of mutual collaboration for evidence-based policymaking.

Summary:

The workshop aimed at conceptualizing the Post-Legislative Scrutiny (PLS) process of Environment Protection Agency Act (PEPA) and bridging gaps and challenges between Federal and Provincial EPAs.

Consultation Discussion:

During the consultation session, participants engaged in discussions highlighting several key points. These included concerns about the lack of assistance and resources for provincial Environmental Protection Agencies (EPAs), the need for provincial development and legislative support, and the importance of effective coordination between the federal and provincial EPAs. It was suggested that delegated legislation could strengthen the mechanism by filling gaps in federal law. Participants also raised concerns about the nature of collaboration between the Climate Change Committee (CCC) and EPAs, emphasizing the need for provinces to adapt legislation to address emerging needs. The importance of an efficient yet empowering Act, suited to the geographic and demographic requirements of provinces, was stressed. Additionally, participants identified the need for improvements in service rules and by-laws, digitization of environmental monitoring, and clearly mentioning domestic waste in the Act. They highlighted the desire for EPAs to operate autonomously and called for the inclusion of corporate social responsibility in legislation. Environmental challenges related to projects like CPEC, and unregulated forest fires were discussed, underscoring the necessity for clearly defined roles and improved approval processes between different government bodies.

Challenges:

Following points of discussion came out of the interactive sessions between the members of provincial assemblies, research experts and trainers:

- Lack of previous opportunities for interaction between the federal and provincial Environmental Protection Agencies (EPAs), leading to a lack of coordination among the participants.
- Limited avenues for collaborative talks and discussions, emphasizing the need for a well-defined mechanism to ensure the continuity of such meetings.

Recommendations:

- Expedite the process of monitoring and reporting while ensuring efficient case disposal by environmental tribunals.

- Provide judges with technical support and enhance the training of prosecution to bolster their understanding of environmental matters.
- Enhance the capacity of tribunals and establish clearer guidelines regarding penalties to prevent abuse of discretionary power.
- Vest the powers to ensure compliance with the agencies, accompanied by penalties in the form of environmental levies and environmental restoration practices.
- Provide adequate training to judges to address their qualifications gap in handling environmental cases.
- Enact amendments in judiciary laws/rules to equip civil judges and courts with the necessary knowledge and expertise.
- Set a time limit of 90 days for tribunals to dispose of cases and stipulate fines ranging from PKR 50,000 to PKR 5 million.
- Align advisory committees with the tribunals to improve coordination and effectiveness.
- Enhance technical support in relevant fields such as engineering to bridge the gap between legal and scientific aspects, while establishing qualification criteria and preferences.
- Establish a joint committee for National Environmental Quality Standards (NEQS) applicable nationwide.
- Ensure transparent reasoning for suspending Environmental Protection Orders (EPOs) and implement checks on tribunals for accountability.
- Address the issue of repeated violations more effectively.
- Foster partnerships between EPA and industries to leverage support from organizations like SUPARCO.
- Establish a centralized monitoring and data management system to enhance oversight capabilities.
- Direct universities to conduct research and consolidate data centrally to enhance research input.
- Encourage CSR-driven solutions for mitigating environmental damage resulting from accidents while involving relevant departments and designated bodies.
- Engage the Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority (PND) for scrutiny of projects to determine their potential environmental hazards, emphasizing a proactive approach.
- Create an inventory of environmental development stakeholders, facilitating collaboration in areas such as biobase, forestation, solid waste management, and social programs.
- Maximize the impact of research funding from the Higher Education Commission (HEC) by generating knowledge and information to address environmental challenges.
- Mandate EPA to develop guidelines for all ministries regarding their functions and roles in environmental development.

Way Forward:

This consultation session marks a significant milestone in fostering future collaborative endeavors and provincial-level consultations. It has provided a platform to explore and establish a robust coordination mechanism, enabling EPAs to operate with greater efficiency and effectiveness. The valuable insights gained from this session will guide and inform future initiatives aimed at enhancing environmental management and promoting sustainable development.

Agenda:



EPA Consultation Workshop

Date: 17th March 2022

Venue: PC Hotel Karachi

16th March 2022	
Arrival and Check-in	
17th March 2022	
Session I	
Welcome Remarks <i>Ms. Sana Naz Country Representative WFD</i>	10:30 am -10:40 am
Conceptualizing Post Legislative Scrutiny (PLS)process <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environment Protection Agency (PEPA) Act• Legislative Assessment• Review of Delegated Legislation• Legal Socialization for PEPA <i>Syed Mujtaba Ali Zaidi PLS Expert</i>	10:40 am – 11:30 am
Roundtable Discussion <i>Challenges and Gaps between Federal and Provincial EPAs</i>	11:30 am – 12:30 pm
Q/A Session and Interactive Session	
Closing Remarks <i>Ms. Munaza HassanHon. Chairperson Standing Committee on Climate Change</i>	01:15 pm –01:30 pm
Lunch	01:30 pm
Check out	

List of Participants:

EPA Consultation Workshop

Date: 17th March 2022

Venue: PC Hotel Karachi

Sr.No	Name	Organization
1.	Mr. Amir Abbas Khan	<i>(Federal EPA)</i>
2.	Mr. Zaigham Abbas	<i>(Federal EPA)</i>
3.	Mr. Muhammad Ramzan	<i>(Federal EPA)</i>
4.	Ms. Farzana Altaf Shah	<i>(Federal EPA)</i>
5.	Mr. Muhammad Ali Batur	<i>(Bal. EPA)</i>
6.	Mr. Fathe Khan Khajjak	<i>(Bal. EPA)</i>
7.	Mr. Mumtaz Ali	<i>(KP EPA)</i>
8.	Mr. Waris Ali Gabol	<i>(Sindh EPA)</i>
9.	Mr. Muhammad Imran Sabir	<i>(Sindh EPA)</i>
10.	Dr. Nusrat Naz	<i>(Punjab EPA)</i>
11.	Dr. Amir Farooq	<i>(Punjab EPA)</i>
12.	Ms. Zeemal Ali	<i>(Punjab EPA)</i>
13.	Ms. Sana Naz	<i>WFD</i>
14.	Syed Mujtaba Zaidi	<i>Consultant</i>
15.	Mr. Zeeshan Hussain	<i>Consultant</i>

Picture Gallery: <https://climatechangePakistan.com/picture/>