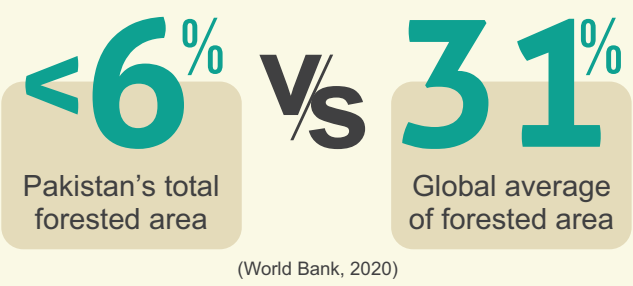


HOW CAN PAKISTAN UNLOCK ITS FOREST SECTOR'S POTENTIAL?

FOREST COVER IN PAKISTAN



Pakistan's rapidly depleting renewable natural resources are a major impediment to good development outcomes in Pakistan



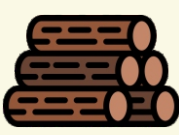
THE VALUE OF FORESTS

Social and Economic Contribution

68% of the population uses firewood for household energy

Around **1.8%** of the total employed labour in Pakistan is working in forestry-related goods and services (PIDE, 2021)

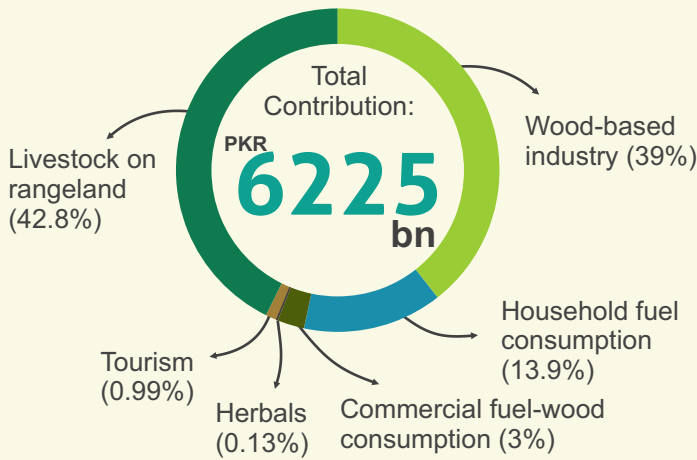
More than **500,000** workers are employed in forest industries



80%

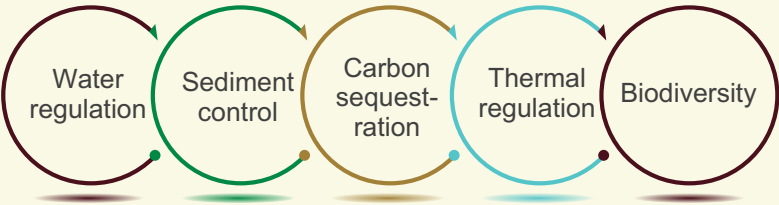
of the people living in rural areas rely on non-timber forest products for additional income (FAO, 2019)

CONTRIBUTION OF FORESTRY PRODUCTS IN THE GDP (FY21)



Ecosystem Services

Forests support:

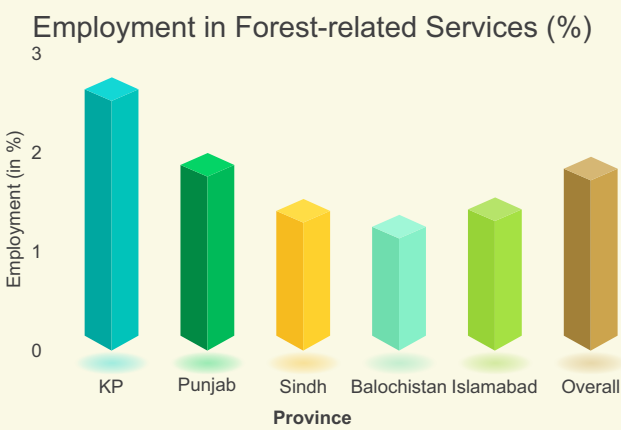


Forests provide important climate change

ADAPTATION BENEFITS

Pakistan's mangroves protect the coast against **tidal surge/sea level rise**, **sequester carbon**, provide the breeding grounds for fisheries and absorb waste

DIRECT EMPLOYMENT IN FORESTRY-RELATED SERVICES (FY21)



Source: Comprehensive National Level Assessment of Demand and Supply of Forest Products and Services in Pakistan, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (2021)

GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO DEFORESTATION

Some of the policies and programs initiated by the Government include:



FOREST LOSSES

DROPPED by **0.2%** per annum

Forest losses have slowed to about 11,000 ha per annum (Source: REDD+ program)

KEY CHALLENGES

Population Growth



Pakistan has a population over **213.61** million growing at an annual rate 2% (World Bank, 2020). This leads to a higher demand for natural resources, and a higher deforestation rate to use land for agriculture, mining and housing.

Policy, Legal and Organizational Structure and Capacity



Pakistan's forests are now a provincial subject but provinces have limited monitoring and enforcement capacities. The federal government introduced the **National Forest Policy of 2015** but it has not been adopted at the provincial level.

Lack of Reliable Data



Pakistan does not have a system for regularly and consistently assessing, monitoring, and sharing data on forest cover, growing stock, and supply and demand of forest products. In response to this, REDD+ Pakistan has introduced a project to address this.

Over-harvesting of Forest Products



Timber and non-timber forest products such as resin, oils, gums, mazri leaves etc. are over extracted leading to a degradation of existing forests.

Implementation Issues



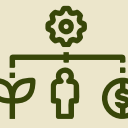
These arise from conflicting jurisdictions, compartmentalized work and weaknesses in monitoring, uncontrolled grazing, community involvement, and forest fires.

Rise in Unsustainable Tourism



This has led to clearing out of forests in the northern areas of Pakistan.

Lack of Resources



Pakistan has insufficient capacity to tap into both local and international funding windows to counter deforestation.

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE AND GLOBAL BEST PRACTICES



Nepal

Transferred user rights for a large part of its forests to local communities after widespread deforestation

Today **34%** of Nepal's forests are managed by more than **22,000** community-forest user groups



Tanzania

Follows a community based management system where rural communities manage and benefit from forest resources

Evidence shows when there are clear and enforceable rights and responsibilities, **incentives** are enough for communities to invest in forest management



Gambia

Forest cover has grown by

8.5%

over the last two decades due to tenure transition of forest land from state to community ownership

The policy has also achieved a reduction in illegal logging and incidence of forest fires in community forest areas

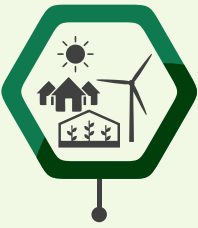
OPPORTUNITIES IN SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

Investing in Wood and Forestry Sectors

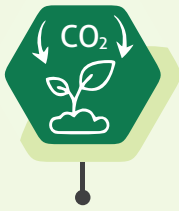
This can help Pakistan reduce greenhouse gas emissions and expand renewable energy base



Production of biomass energy



Development of green infrastructure



Use of forest resources as carbon sinks

Including Women and Marginalized Groups

Globally, around **850 mn** rural poor (**83%** women) are dependent on forest resources for family consumption (FAO, 2018).



Through greater involvement in forest-based programs, these groups can secure access to natural resources, develop their skills and knowledge concerning forest biodiversity and participatory forestry management.



Key to this approach is a benefit-sharing model, such as that deployed in Nepal, Rwanda and Tanzania that allows them to benefit from participating in forest management.