

# Building Naya KPK – Green Growth Malik Amin Aslam Khan



(KPK's Green Growth Logo)



(Championing the Green Cause Imran Khan Chairman PTI with Malik Amin Aslam the architect of PTI and KPK's Green Growth Initiative)

We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children

Accepting the challenge of stewardship of the earth's resources today to bequeath a more livable future for our next generations is the primary motivation behind the concept of "Green Growth". The concept is designed to revisit, revise, rethink and improve the clearly unsustainable growth model that the world is currently following and start thinking on alternate pathways to development. Over the past few years, many countries have been trying to cope with this challenge by firstly defining what "green" actually means and secondly endeavoring to translate it into practical action on the ground. Within this context, a lack of strong and unflinching political commitment has been often cited as one of the most difficult barriers to implementation.

Not many political parties have, however, risen to meet this challenge.

The "Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf" decided to do so by not only clearly defining, but also politically conceptualizing the notion of a green economy in Pakistan. This was based upon a philosophical premise that for the successful implementation of any "green" agenda it has to be politically owned and passionately driven. For this, it needs to be championed by a leading political party that can define, own and politically mainstream this concept. Once this is done, political-will could be transformed into the most effective driver of green growth rather than being an impediment to it. This has been the fundamental philosophy behind the unique political experiment currently underway in KPK province.



(Launch of PTI’s Green Development Agenda – 2013)

The first steps along this roadmap started before the elections of 2013. After extensive consultations and expert input a “Green Growth Vision” was unveiled by the party and laid out a three-step strategy for the “greening” of growth in Pakistan:

- Firstly, it was necessary to outline the national environmental challenges and enumerate the solutions within the context of various impacted sectors such as energy, water, forestry, transport, air pollution, waster generation, agriculture, biodiversity protection, ecosystem valuation as well as overall environmental governance. In its pre-election green vision, PTI did just that by not only enlisting but also focusing the solutions into action oriented targets.
- The second step of the strategy was to accord full political ownership to the “green” growth vision by integrating it into policy, party constitution as well as election manifesto documents.
- Finally, the third step pertained to creating a political “buy-in” for this vision and this was done by predicting and promising that the “alternate” green economy would generate abundant green job opportunities for the unemployed youth of the country.

Subsequently, after the elections it was imperative for PTI to plan and deliver this promised “green” vision in KPK – the province where it formed the Government.

*Unimplemented manifestos and hollow sloganeering have been the, unfortunate, hallmarks of Pakistan politics. Being a party advocating reform and change, PTI had to endeavor to shift this perception. The “Green Growth Initiative” (GGI), launched and currently underway, in the province of KPK has been a step in that direction.*

While gearing up for implementation of PTI's promised "green vision", it had to be firstly tailored to meet the economic needs, social demands and political aspirations in KPK. Secondly, parallel to this, an effective institutional mechanism had to be put in place to oversee delivery. The PTI coalition Government met both challenges by setting up a two-layered institutional structure consisting of an Inter-Ministerial committee on Green Growth technically supported by an Expert Task Force on Green Growth. The important factor being that the Chief Minister chairs the ICGG, a clear signal of strong political commitment, while the Expert task force was challenged to tailor the vision for KPK within a short and restricted time frame, which it successfully achieved in 2014.



(Chairman PTI personally driving the process for Green Growth -2014)

Thus, driven by strong political commitment and supported by a delivery based institutionalized structure, the six focal sectors were outlined including the Forestry, Protected Area/National Parks, Clean Energy, Climate Resilience, Water/Sanitation and Waste Management sectors. Furthermore, after expert deliberations and stakeholders' input, the 5-year targets for the first four priority sectors were announced during the GGI launch in 2014. These quantifiable and measurable targets were designed to drive the implementation process and as they say in cricket – "keep the eye on the ball".

# KPK - Green Growth Targets



(KPK's Green Growth Targets for 5 years – Driving the vision)

The litmus test for any political policy or strategy, however, lies in translating it into projects on the ground and allocating them a share out of the budgetary pie. This important step was diligently followed last year and culminated in flagship projects – the “Billion Tree Tsunami”, the “KPK National Parks” project and the “365 community micro-hydel” project. These projects were clearly defining new frontiers while carving out sustainable options for growth and, thus, had to go through a detailed consultation and development process. This went on in 2014 and yielded the all-powerful PC1's for the project, which have now been allocated sizable Government funds in the ADP of 2014-15 to kickstart the initiative.

# Join the green team for the **billion** Trees Tsunami



Today, March 1, 2014, Imran Khan is inaugurating the first on-ground implementation of the Green Growth Initiative, by planting the first of the targeted two billion trees across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Join in to help fulfill our dream of:

- Planting 2 billion trees in 5 years to increase afforestation
- Bi-annual plantation drives
- Increasing employment generation through Youth Nurseries Program
- Monitoring progress through Google Forest watch tools
- Increasing the forest area to 22% in 5 years
- Doubling the size of area under national parks
- Incentivizing carbon sequestration through REDO+

Catch us online for more details.

[khyberpakhtunkhwa.gov.pk](http://khyberpakhtunkhwa.gov.pk)

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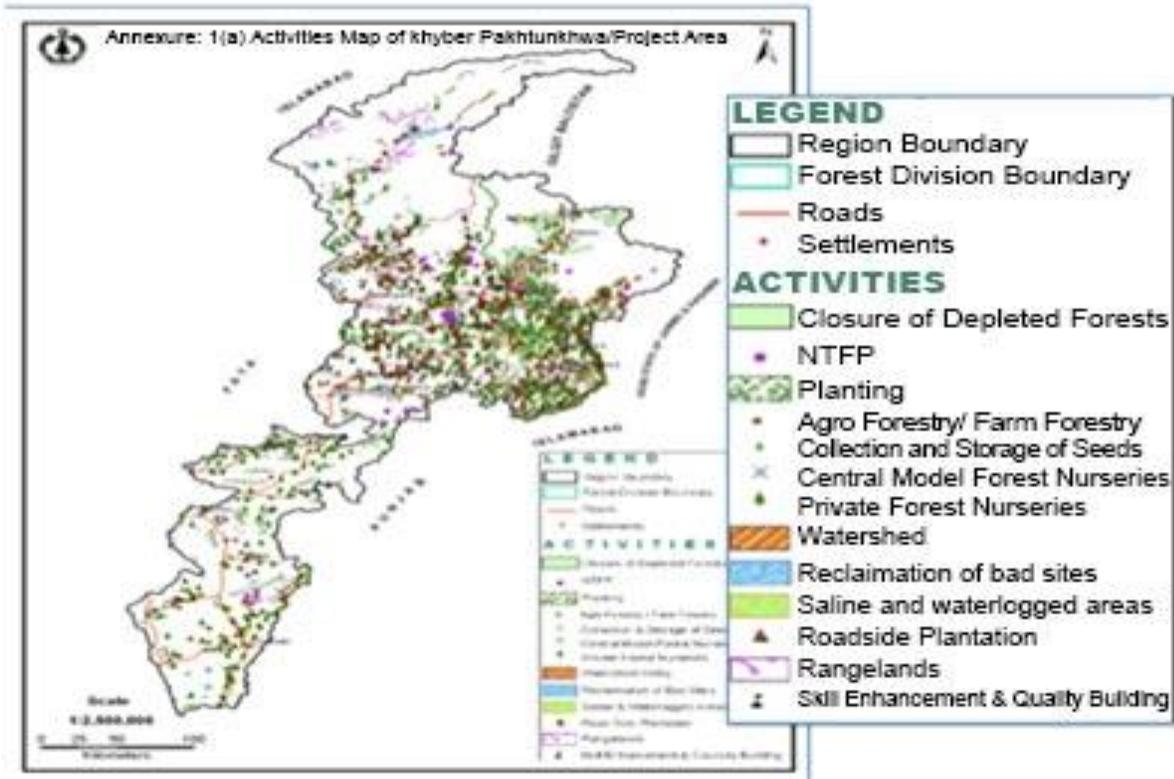
Department of Environment  
Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

04/17/14

(Launch of the “Billion Tree Tsunami” in 2014)

***The Billion-Tree Tsunami:*** The province of KPK houses 40% of Pakistan’s dwindling forests and is also the storehouse of its natural biodiversity. It was, thus logical, for forestry and national parks to be a primary focal area for the GGI.

Within the forestry sector, through a number of revolutionary measures, the KPK Government has committed to not only reverse the high rate of deforestation but also shift the current philosophy from treating forests as a “revenue” machine towards preserving them as a valued “natural capital”.



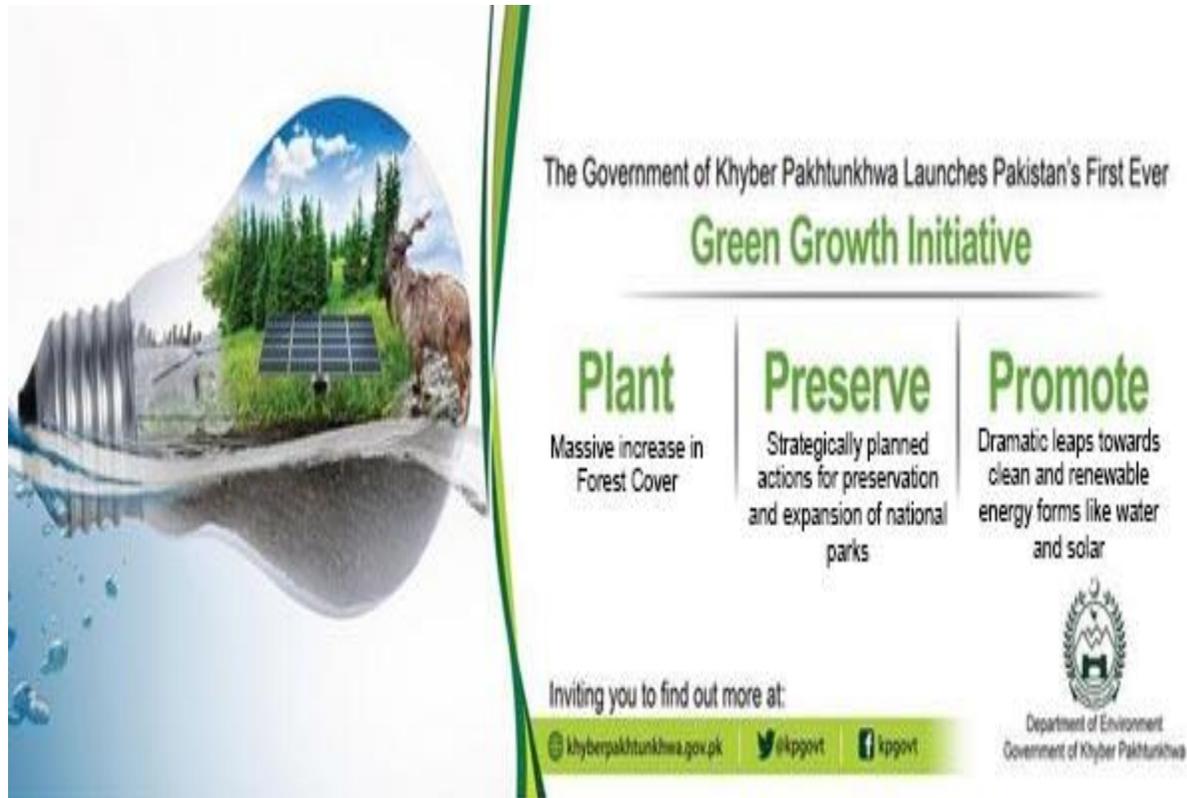
(Detailed GIS mapping of KPK completed – Green Growth KPK)



(Nursery for new plants in Mansehra – Green Growth Initiative – 2015)

For the first time in the history of Pakistan, the forest area in KPK is targeted for a major enhancement from 20% to 22% by 2018, which would entail converting, at least, 30000 hectares of additional forests through massive afforestation drive. In addition, through enrichment measures the

tree cover in existing forests would be increased from 20% to 30% by 2018. This would entail protection and gap plantations in, at least, 27000 hectares each year. The above ambitious targets would be achieved through the massive 4-year “Billion Tree Tsunami” project, which is now underway.



(The Chairman PTI launched the KPK Green Growth Targets to the youth in Peshawar – 2014)

The project has been designed to include various new facets such as:

- A program for establishing “youth nurseries” which should create decent and green jobs for the youth of KPK. The Government will have secure buy-back agreements with small scale nursery owners to encourage green employment. Detailed village level GIS mapping has been done for the whole province to identify the sites for these nurseries as well as the plantations.
- It innovatively focuses on outsourcing new forest growth to the private sector – to ensure survival of planted forests through financial incentives spread over 3 years.
- Community ownership and protection of enrichment forestry has been proposed under the project. Trained “Forest nigahbaans” will be hired by the communities and financed by the Government.
- The Government is also in the process of establishing rules for REDD+, an innovative global financial instrument that aims to reverse deforestation by providing cashable carbon value to standing forests.
- A complete ban on cutting and felling of trees in the reserved forests of KPK has already been imposed and it will be converting, in a phased manner, all these state owned forests into protected areas.

- To ensure accountability and transparency, the project entails an independent third party monitoring regime to be put in place, which will use tools such as GIS monitoring and Google Earth, to ensure compliance with what has been committed.

The above project concept has been preliminarily accepted for inclusion under the global “Bonn Targets” – a regime where voluntary forestry targets are recognized. Once officially recognized, KPK will be the first sub-national entity in the world to get this honor of recognition.



(New Frontiers sought for KPK’s National Parks)

***National Parks and Wildlife Protection:*** Being the custodian of a major portion of Pakistan’s natural biodiversity, the KPK Government has also committed to not only expanding the Protected Areas/National Parks in KPK but also ensuring their professional and proper management and preservation by integrating this with ecotourism.

To oversee and manage this transformation, the GGI has announced:

- The formation of a high powered and autonomous “Wildlife and National Parks Management Board” through a legislative bill which was passed earlier this month.
- A specialized “Wildlife and Park Management” Youth force, given special powers under this legislation, will be professionally trained to act as nature’s guards and create tremendous employment opportunities.
- The legislation includes formation of a provincial level “Wildlife and Parks Fund” which will be connected with small conservation funds to be set up at each National Park.
- The above fund has been allowed powers to do direct raising of funds and spending it for purposes of protection of wildlife and managing national parks.

- The “National Parks Management” project has been designed and its PC1 already passed to include funds for the above purposes.

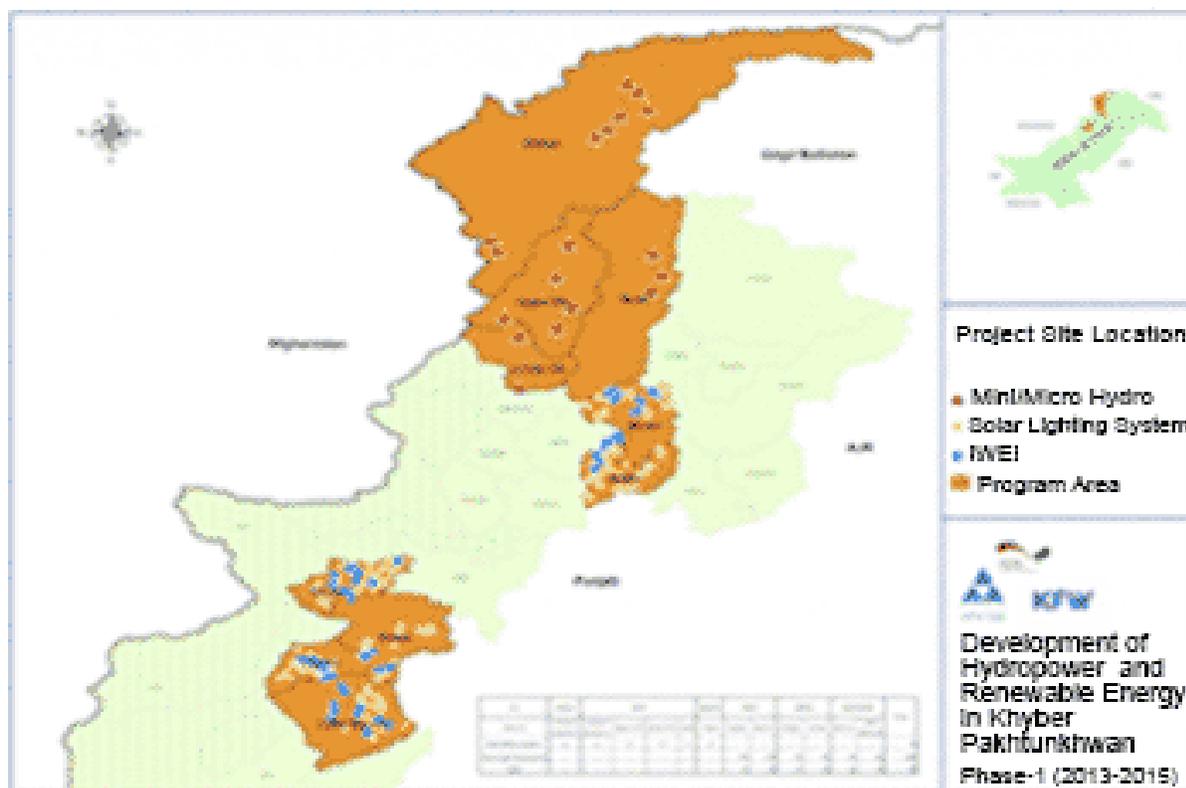
KPK will endeavor to ensure that the area under protected areas goes from 11% to 15% of its area by 2018. This would surpass the MDG commitment made by Pakistan. All of these steps should generate green job while raising awareness and sensitizing the public to KPK’s unique natural heritage.

KPK is also aiming to achieve global linkage for this initiative by enlisting it under the recently formulated “Asian National Parks Authority”. The work for doing so has already started and would again give KPK a global recognition for a locally implemented environmental initiative.

***Combating Climate Change:*** Climate change remains a pressing challenge for the KPK province, which, owing to its geography and topography, is the province in Pakistan most vulnerable to climate change impacts. The repeated ravaging floods in the past few years have been a stark reminder of the devastation and infrastructure loss this vulnerability can cost. Thus, the GGI logically targets enhancing the climate resilience of the province through vulnerability mapping and climate proofing of its infrastructure. Climate adaptation concerns will be integrated into the planning process through the EIA and PC1 preparation stages.



(Micro-Hydro in operation in Malakand KPK – Green Growth)



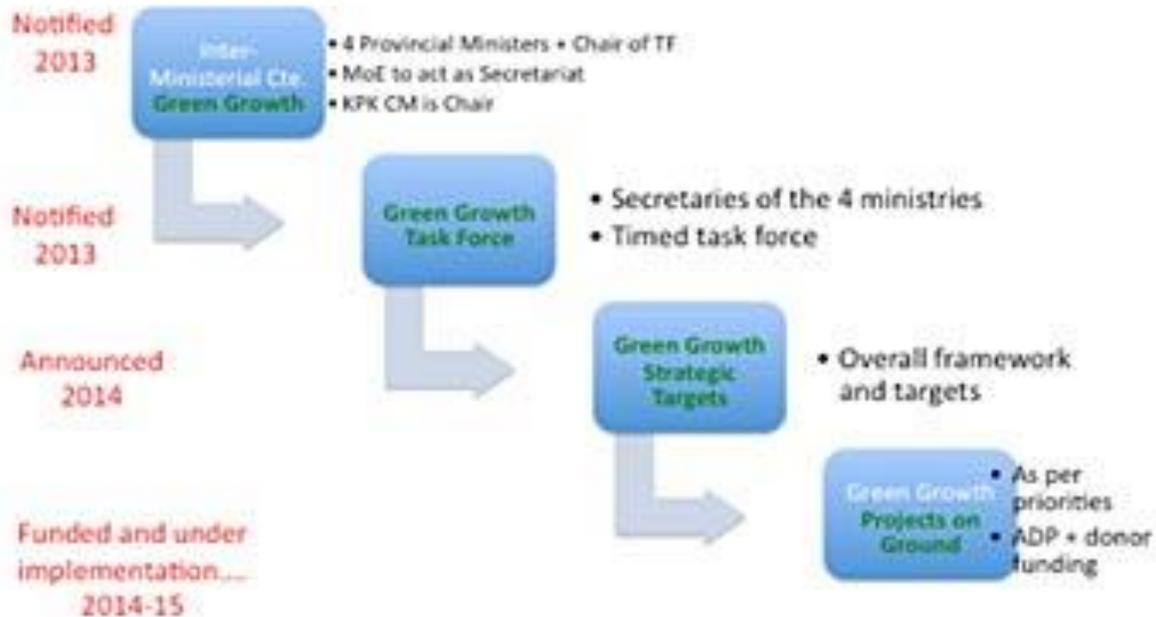
(Going Green in KPK – Sites for 365 small/micro hydro projects)

**Targeting “Zero Carbon” Growth:** The fourth important sector of the GGI is also linked with the climate responsibility that KPK is undertaking by voluntarily committing to “Zero Carbon” growth. This would encompass the efforts for promotion of clean energy and carbon sequestration.

- The Forestry and National Parks initiative have been outlined above and relate to climate mitigation through sequestering carbon in forest and protected rangelands.
- In addition, by 2018, KPK will expand its energy base by adding an additional 3000 to 4000 MW but will remain committed to clean energy by ensuring that, at least, 80% of its power generation is based on clean renewable energy namely hydro and solar.
- A hallmark of this initiative is the project bringing online 356 community driven small hydro projects amounting to 35 MW of clean off-grid energy delivering clean energy and community jobs across the province. All the sites of these micro-hydro projects have already been identified and many of them already launched through a public-private partnership. The aim is to provide cheap and affordable electricity (Rs.2/unit) to off-grid villages and to deliver this service without any load shedding.
- In addition, a plan is also envisaged for piloting a “Solar Roofs” project in Peshawar as well as a “Solar tube wells” provision for the farmers of KPK thus moving the province towards a greener development pathway.

The “Green Growth” initiative of KPK is now firmly on its feet after an extensive planning and development phase. This revolutionary initiative aims to be a flag bearer of a green revolution in Pakistan and to ensure a better quality of life to the citizens of KPK, creation of decent and clean job opportunities for the youth and become a means for social uplift and poverty eradication in the province.

# The KPK.....Green Pathway...



(The pathway to success – KPK’s Green Growth)

The politics of change demands shifting from sloganeering towards delivery. Hopefully the successful implementation of the GGI by PTI will not only establish the notion of political ownership being a pre-requisite for catalyzing green growth in Pakistan, and the world, but also create a paradigm shift in KPK’s growth trajectory – leading to prosperity, poverty reduction and a better quality of life for the people while fulfilling the imperatives for a cleaner environment.

PTI’s green drive, embodied by the initiative in KPK, remains an evolving strategy that will continue to improve through a feedback process. It is, however, the first initiative by any mainstream political party of Pakistan (and maybe the developing world) to not only clearly articulate a “green” development agenda but also extend it full political ownership. The party remains hopeful that this politically palatable and homegrown green program will not only provide the strong impetus required for an environmentally sustainable future for Pakistan but also become a trailblazer for other developing countries searching for a pathway towards a green economy.



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