



# Environmental and Social Management Framework

PUNJAB TOURISM FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH PROJECT



***Punjab Resource Management Program***

***December 2016***

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Government of Pakistan and Government of Punjab have planned to implement a Punjab Tourism for Economic Growth Project with strong support from the private sector and civil society. The Chief Minister of Punjab established a Steering Committee on July 7, 2015, to oversee cultural and heritage tourism promotion in the province. It is chaired by the Minister of Tourism and comprises senior representatives from relevant government departments, a Member of the Punjab Assembly along with two private sector representatives. A sub-committee was formed in November 2015 with key focal points from the Tourism Development Corporation of Punjab (TDCP), the Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) and District Coordination Officers (DCOs). The DCOs serve as lead persons, or project directors, for the sites in their areas. Finally, the Government of Punjab has also recently set up an Advisory Council comprising distinguished professionals to oversee the overall policy related to the promotion of cultural heritage and project implementation. These proactive initiatives show a commitment to turn this project into an effective vehicle for tourism development.

## Background

The Project will finance some low-scale physical interventions to provide improved access, better road conditions and public convenience facilities. In line with the environmental legislation of Pakistan as well as World Bank (WB) Operational Policies, an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for the project has been prepared to include environmental and social impact studies for the selected sites to mitigate any negative impact.

This ESMF assesses environmental and social impacts related to the Project, and outlines an Environmental and Social Management and Monitoring Plan (ESMMP) as well as a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) to address any adverse potential impacts as a result of this Project. The ESMF includes institutional arrangements required to implement environmental and social aspects and presents monitoring requirements for effective implementation of mitigation measures; describes training needs and specific reporting and documentation requirements; and proposes a third-party validation mechanism. The ESMF also assesses the Physical Cultural Resources (PCR) requirements and guides the preparation of PCR Management Plans, where required.

## Project Description

### *Component 1: Policy, Institutions and Governance for Tourism Development*

The first component will address market failures linked to sector coordination failures, uncompetitive markets and legacy information failures. The project activities will support implementation of the new Tourism Policy by: (i) reforming and strengthening public institutions mandated with sector regulation and governance aimed at improving market competition; (ii) improving tourism data collection and strengthening sector coordination between federal, provincial and local authorities, including relevant authorities, and tourism industry associations, religious institutions and civil society; (iii) improving management and the protection of sites by developing management plans; and (iv) improving partnerships and knowledge by improving the quality of information about the sites, their cultural significance, and facilities within and around the sites that can be accessed by visitors .

### ***Component 2: Private Investment and Entrepreneurship Promotion***

The second component will address pockets of uncompetitive markets as well as missing markets associated with public ownership of commercial properties and services. It will promote positive externalities linked to people-to-people contact and a better informed local population. The project activities will address: (i) weak capacity for facilitation and promotion of private investment in the tourism sector; (ii) insufficient options and quality of training in tourism-related institutes of learning; (iii) weak cooperation and product coordination between tourism and other important market segments; and (iv) entry barriers affecting female labor force participation.

### ***Component 3: Public Investment Facility***

The third component will provide public goods to improve access to the historical, leisure, cultural heritage sites and reduce negative externalities such as over-crowding and site-specific environmental degradation. The project activities will seek to address: (i) poor access to some sites (access roads, parking, and select border facilities); (ii) health and safety concerns for visitors; and (iii) potential strains on basic infrastructure and services resulting from a projected increase in the number of visitors. It will finance technical assistance, equipment and works to improve secondary and tertiary road access, upgrade and build new parking areas, and install tourist and family friendly facilities along the main transport network and near the sites (but not within any of the sites/compounds themselves).

### ***Component 4: Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation***

The fourth component will finance a Project Implementation Unit (PIU) in charge of project management and daily implementation of project activities, including procurement, financial management, safeguards management, monitoring and evaluation (M&E), communications, community outreach and stakeholder consultations. It will also finance TA to embed international expertise to prepare and monitor implementation of activities on a needs basis.

## **Project Area**

The main sites selected under this project are located across four districts in Punjab.

1. District Rawalpindi – Mankiala Stupa, Taxila Museum, Julian Remains
2. District Chakwal – Katas Raj
3. District Gujranwala – Gurdwara Rori Sahib
4. District Sheikhupura – Gurdwara Sacha Sauda Sahib

## **Environmental and Social Baseline**

### ***Physical location, climate and land use***

The project sites vary in location from being situated in northern to central districts of Punjab. The climatic and other associated conditions vary thus across the project sites. Rawalpindi and Chakwal are rain-fed, with higher precipitations during July-August period, with a hilly terrain, and high variations in elevation, supporting scrub to coniferous forests. Land use patterns show agriculture as the primary land use, followed by forest area and built-up area. Project sites are in peri-urban areas, surrounded by agricultural fields and

low level built-up structures. Gujranwala and Sheikhupura, on the other hand, are canal irrigated, with high precipitation during months of May-September, supporting plain and flat lands highly suitable for agriculture. Hence the primary land use is agriculture in these districts. The project sites in these districts are surrounded either by agricultural lands or by densely populated areas.

### ***Biodiversity, habitat and environmental sensitivity***

In comparison, northern districts of Rawalpindi and Chakwal have a higher percentage of forest cover as well as naturally occurring habitats, which support several wildlife species, as compared to the central districts of Gujranwala and Sheikhupura which are primarily agricultural areas having minimum natural habitats left that can support wildlife. None of the project site is near a habitat of a critical wildlife species nor is in the proximity of a protected area of any classification. The highest concentration of wildlife is in Districts Chakwal and Rawalpindi. The target districts have the following types of wildlife. However, there is limited presence of wildlife in the project areas.<sup>1</sup>

- Rawalpindi – Leopard, Monkey, Leopard Cat, Barking Deer, Pangolin, Goral, Fox
- Chakwal – Fox, Striped Hyena, Common Peafowl, Partridge, Flamingo
- Gujranwala – Grey Partridge, Waterfowl, Hog Deer
- Sheikhupura – Hog Deer, Quail, Wild Boar

### ***Surface and Groundwater Resources***

Punjab is blessed with numerous large, medium and small sized rivers, with ample groundwater resources in the central districts. Rawalpindi gets its water mainly from River Jhelum and Soan, while Chakwal's main source is Soan River, along with its several tributaries. Gujranwala is fed by River Chenab while River Ravi flows through Sheikhupura. In addition to these two rivers, several large to medium sized canals also service these central districts, playing a pivotal role in groundwater recharge. Although the districts are blessed with surface water resources, groundwater pumping is common to meet agricultural as well as domestic water requirements. This pumping is indiscriminate, putting an undue pressure on the groundwater tables.

### ***Physical Cultural Resources***

Punjab has been home to many different cultures, religions and civilizations. These include Gandhara in the north, Sikhism and Hinduism across the province as well as high imprints of Buddhist, Mughal, Rajput and Sikh dynasties. This rich history has resulted in occurrence of various physical cultural resources depicting varied physical conditions, with some being well kept while others dilapidated. This project will have an impact on selected sites, with an aim to improve the management and governance of the same.

### ***Socio-economic Profile***

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<sup>1</sup>Forest, Wildlife and Fisheries Department, Government of Punjab (fwf.punjab.gov.pk)

The total population of the four target districts at the time of the 1998 Population Census was 11,000,000. Chakwal has the lowest population of 1,000,000, while Gujranwala, Sheikhupura and Rawalpindi have similarly sized populations of over 3,000,000. Chakwal and Sheikhupura are mainly rural districts, with 74% of the population in Sheikhupura and 88% of the population in Chakwal residing in rural areas. In Gujranwala and Rawalpindi, almost half of the population resides in urban areas.

Though all four districts are predominantly agricultural, both Gujranwala and Rawalpindi have a heavy presence of industry in the urban areas, ranging from large scale industries such as oil refineries and steel mills, to small and medium industries. The main agricultural crops grown in the rain fed districts of Rawalpindi and Chakwal are wheat, maize and groundnuts, while the canal fed districts of Sheikhupura and Gujranwala grow mainly wheat, rice and sugarcane.

### **Stakeholder Consultations**

Stakeholder consultations were held to gather the concerns and feedback from any persons affected by the project such as the local community, associated department/agencies and other stakeholders. The general concern arising from these consultations is the potential environmental and social issues that may arise during the project activities. This ESMF proposes a strategy for keeping the stakeholders' informed and receiving their feedback at various stages of the project through public consultations at the design, construction and operations stage. This will improve the acceptability of the Project by the local community and also ensure their participation in the process of project development.

### **Impacts Assessment and Mitigation**

A detailed assessment has been carried out for potential impacts associated with the project, including those with environmental and social dimensions. The assessment has been done for design, construction and operation phase, and accordingly mitigation measures have been proposed. A detailed Environmental Management and Monitoring Plan has been proposed which suggests mitigation measures, monitoring parameters and responsibilities.

Impacts associated with biodiversity, air quality, soil, solid waste, labor health and safety, public convenience and safety, PCR and land acquisition were assessed for design, construction and operations phase. The impacts were found to be from low to medium in nature, given that the potential impacts are highest for Component 3 Public Investment Facility, specifically, Sub Component 3.1 Secondary and Tertiary Road Access, and Sub Component 3.2 Public Convenience Facilities and Basic Services.

For these components, most of the impacts are expected during construction phase of the sub-projects. The anticipated impacts are mostly temporary, localized, and reversible in nature, and with the help of appropriate mitigation measures, these potential impacts can be adequately addressed. Impacts related to solid waste, labor health and safety, public convenience and safety, PCR and land acquisition (mostly temporary and small scale) were found to be of medium magnitude, but due diligence is required to mitigate the same.

The major potential adverse impacts associated with construction of access roads include possible cutting of old trees that fall within the ROW, which will need to be compensated through planting of new trees of local, indigenous species. Introduction of exotic and/or invasive species will be strictly prohibited. Improper

waste disposal from the construction site as well as labor camps can lead to various public health concerns including worsened air quality due to waste burning, breeding grounds for vectors, and/or clogging of drains and pollution of subsurface water. A robust solid waste management plan will need to be put in place for construction material as well as for the domestic waste produced by labor camps. Workers' health and safety plan will be prepared for road construction labor, in order to safeguard them from any adverse impacts while handling heavy machinery and toxic material (if any). Construction activities and increased traffic due to upgraded road facilities may impact public safety of surrounding communities. Placement of workers camps next to communities' living areas may result in inconvenience, noise and conflict. Proper signage for construction phase, alternative routes and location of labor camps at appropriate distance from local settlements are some of the mitigation measures. Upgrading roads is not expected to involve land acquisition. However, some proposed roads are mostly surrounded by agricultural lands or by populated settlements, hence there is a chance that some land acquisition most likely on a temporary basis may occur. A RPF has been prepared to mitigate and tackle the associated issues. Since these roads are in proximity to PCR, there is a possibility of chance finds while digging and excavating. A procedure for reporting chance find has also been proposed.

For building public convenience facilities and basic services, most of the associated potential adverse impacts are similar to the ones mentioned above for access roads. The project areas are located in agricultural irrigated lands and in populated peri-urban areas. There is a presence of rivers and streams near the main sites. The communities in these areas use hand pumps and wells as a source of municipal water (for drinking, washing, bathing, etc.). The sub-component includes construction of washroom facilities around main sites and improvement in existing facilities. Improper design of toilets and sewage treatment and disposal systems can lead to surface, sub-surface and ground water contamination. Location of construction sites near rivers and streams can cause contamination from construction waste. Using proper toilet and sewage designs, avoiding disposal of untreated effluent into freshwater bodies and locating toilets at safe distances are some of the mitigation measures proposed. During the upgradation process (construction activities) of arrival lounges and terminals, the regular visiting and influx of tourists especially at religious festivals can result in greater inconvenience and disruption for the general public (including the visitors). Once operational, a large concentration of people in a confined area can result in a high number of casualties if there is an emergency of any sort (fire, earthquake etc.). Alternate arrival and lounging arrangements, fire safety plans and emergency response plans for construction and design phase have been proposed. Land acquisition may be required if these facilities will be extended. A RPF has been prepared to mitigate and tackle the associated issues.

A detailed Environmental and Social Management and Monitoring Plan has been developed which will guide the project through the design, construction and operations phases, by highlighting the potential impacts, mitigation measure, monitoring parameters and frequency, along with responsibilities.

## **Resettlement Framework**

The project activities under Component 3 may require some land acquisition. To address the impacts of this, a RPF has been prepared in accordance with the World Bank Operational Policy on Involuntary Resettlement (OP 4.12). The RPF guides the preparation of Resettlement Action Plans (RAP) in case land acquisition or resettlement may occur. RPF includes measures to inform, consult and provide prompt and effective compensation to all Project Affected Persons (PAPs) for losses of assets attributable directly to

the project. The RPF includes details of entitlements as applicable for PAPs losing land, structures, other assets and incurring income/livelihood losses and support through the transition period, and development assistance. These affected persons are eligible for rehabilitation subsidies and for the compensation of lost land, structures and utilities along with loss of livelihood. There will also be special provisions for vulnerable displaced persons.

### **Institutional Arrangements**

The implementation of the ESMF will fall under the overall supervision of the Project Director, Project Implementation Unit (PIU), housed in the Punjab Resource Management Program (PRMP). The Project Director will be responsible for the implementation, monitoring and reporting of the ESMMP through the Environment Safeguards Officer. The Social Safeguards Officer will ensure implementation of the RPF and any other social safeguards related measures with the support of a Gender Specialist, Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) Specialists and Social Mobilizers. The Project Implementation Consultants (PIC) will be carrying out construction work through contractors and will also be responsible for supervision of the contractors work on the sites. At the site level, the DCOs will be responsible for execution of the sub-project and will also be involved in monitoring of ESMF implementation. Detailed roles and responsibilities of the project team are provided in the ESMF.

### **Monitoring and Reporting**

A robust system of internal and external monitoring of the ESMMP and RAP will be required throughout the life of the project. In addition to monitoring by the Environment and Social Safeguards Officers, the Project Coordinator will play a pivotal role in monitoring implementation of the ESMF especially where technical designs and construction related impacts are involved. In addition, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer and DCO can also be requested to conduct random monitoring of construction sites in the project areas, both during construction and operation. Reports of these monitoring visits will be submitted to the Environment Specialist in the PIU.

External Monitoring will be used to ensure that both construction and the operation phase activities have been undertaken in line with the ESMF. Third Party Validation (TPV) exercises, conducted through an independent monitoring agency will be carried out on annual basis to evaluate the overall ESMMP compliance and implementation progress, and to ensure that the mitigation measures are implemented as per the mitigation plan. For the RAP (if required for any sub-project), external monitoring will be carried out twice a year, and its results will be communicated to all concerned PAPs, the PRMP/PIU and World Bank through quarterly and semi-annual reports. Sub-projects whose implementation time-frame will be under 6 months will be monitored on quarterly basis.

Quarterly Progress Reports (QPRs) will be compiled by the Environment and Social Safeguards Officers, and shared with the Project Director and World Bank. These reports will provide progress on implementation of mitigation measures, safeguard monitoring, capacity building, and any other Environmental and Social Management and Monitoring Plan (ESMMP) implementation activity carried out during the reporting quarter, and will propose mid-course correction actions. The Social Safeguards Officer will prepare monthly reports on social aspects and RAP implementation activities and submit to the Project Director. Quarterly progress reports on RAP progress will be shared with the World Bank.

## **Capacity Development and Trainings**

Capacity building and training of the staff associated with EMP and RAP implementation will be required for effective environmental and social management. Specific trainings on environmental impacts and mitigation will be arranged for the relevant PIU staff to deliver their monitoring responsibilities in an organized and effective manner as per requirement of the monitoring plan. Trainings will also be held for contractors, sub-contractors, architects, supervision consultants, local authorities and local communities.

## **Budget for ESMF Implementation**

A budget for implementation of the ESMF has been proposed. This includes capacity development and training costs over the course of the project, budget for External Monitoring/Third Party Validations, and a budget for mitigation activities, set at 2% of the total project cost. The total budget for trainings, monitoring and mitigation of measures set in the ESMMP is PKR 102 Million over the course of the project. The budget for resettlement and PCR related training is estimated as PKR 4.44 million. In addition, there will be a resettlement budget and financing which will be calculated when detailed RAPs are prepared in line with this ESMF.

## **Grievance Redress Mechanism**

A multi-tier GRM has been proposed in the ESMF. The lowest tier of GRM will be at PIU level and PSC will be the highest forum for resolution of any complaint. At the district level, the DCO will be the Grievance Redress Officer. GRM will provide an easy to access forum for stakeholders to officially launch any complaint (through complaint boxes, by post, via mail, in person etc.) against any project related activities or issues whereby, their complaints will be heard, registered and addressed by the project. The proposed GRM has time bound activities with clearly defined roles and responsibilities.

## **Disclosure**

The ESMF and RPF will be disclosed on the website of PRMP, Government of Punjab, and on the World Bank Info Shop. Hard copies of this ESMF and RPF will also be shared with the Provincial Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), project stakeholders, contractors, Civil Society Organizations etc. A copy of the ESMF and RPF will be placed in the Project Implementation Unit, PRMP for public access. The Urdu translation of the Executive Summary of the ESMF will also be distributed to all relevant stakeholders, especially to the communities in the project areas.