PAKHTUNKHWA ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

(PEDO)

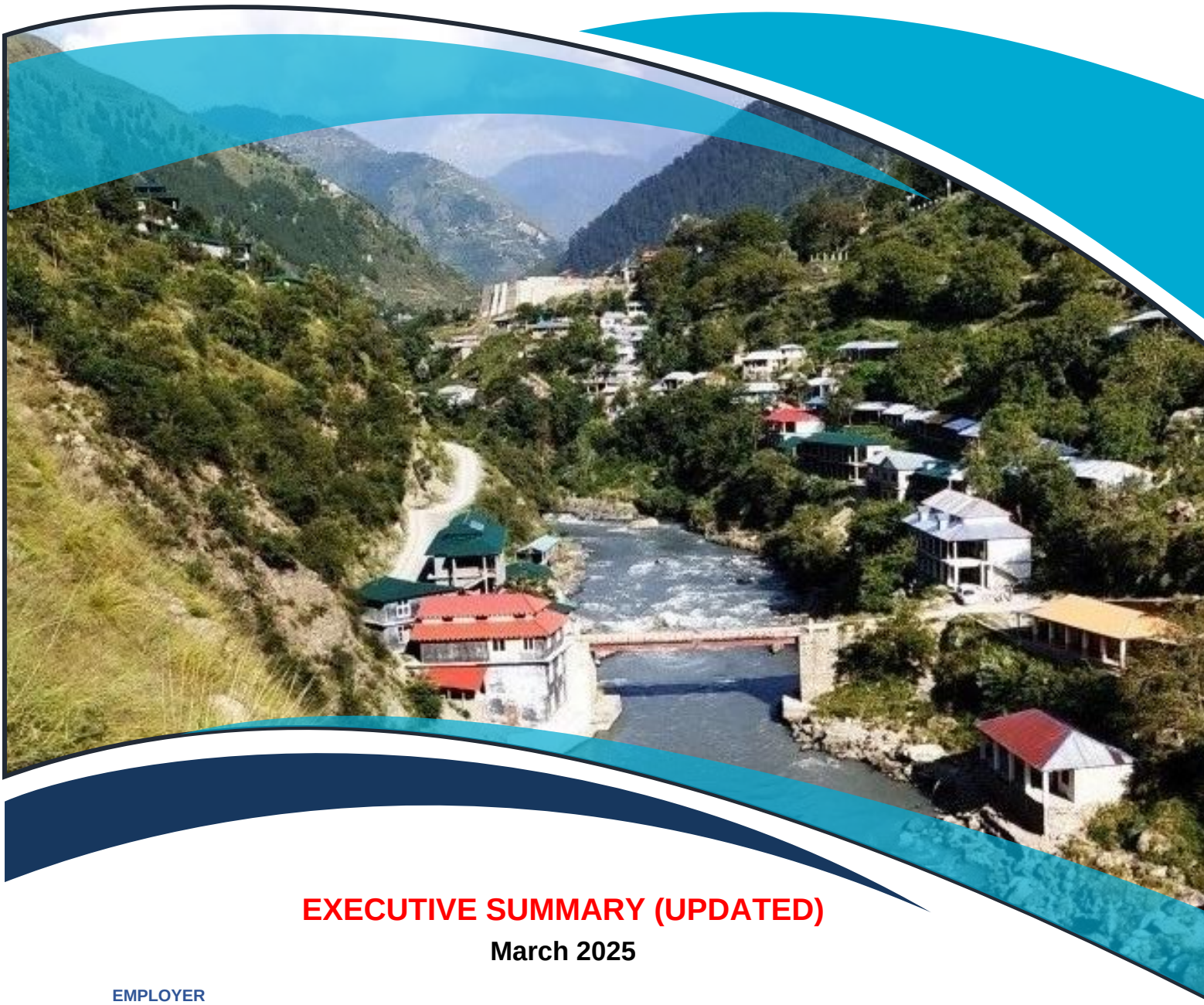
GOVERNMENT OF KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN

LOAN NO: 4057/8397 (AIIB)-PAK

BALAKOT HYDROPOWER PROJECT (300 MW)

DISTRICT MANSEHRA



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (UPDATED)

March 2025

EMPLOYER

Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO)

PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT (PMC)

A Joint Venture of DOLSAR Engineering Limited (Turkey), AGES Consultants (Pakistan), BAK Consulting Engineers (Pakistan), Civ. Tech Associates, Peshawar, Pakistan (Pakistan), Electra Consultants (Pakistan), and Techno Legal Consultants (Pvt.) Limited (Pakistan)

EPC CONTRACTOR

Joint Venture of China Gezhouba Group Company (CGGC), China &
Ghulam Rasool and Company Pvt. Ltd (GRC), Pakistan

Issue and Revision Record

Rev. No	Date	Prepared by			Checked by	Approved by	Description
00	28-08-2023	Assad Ali KHAN	Environmental Expert	PMC	Muhammad Hussain (Deputy Team Leader/Resident Engineer)	Mehmet CINGISIZ (Project Manager - Team Leader)	The original and disclosed EIA report was updated for design changes and changes in the implementation arrangement of the Project-Specific BAP.
01	21.08.2024	i. Engr. Assad Ali Khan ii. Dr. Waseem Khan iii. Dr. Muhammad Naeem Javaid iv. Mr. Ikramullah v. Dr. Muhammad Saeed Peerzada	i. Environmental Expert ii. Fish Ecologist iii. Fish Biologist iv. Field Biologist v. Plant Taxonomist	PMC	Muhammad Hussain (Deputy Team Leader/Resident Engineer)	Mehmet CINGISIZ (Project Manager - Team Leader)	Additional surveys, with emphasis on the Kashmir Hillstream Loach, were carried out to update the biodiversity section of the EIA report. Two additional volumes, Volumes D and E, were furnished as a result of the field surveys and desk studies.
02	24.12.2024	i. Engr. Assad Ali Khan ii. Dr. Waseem Ahmad Khan iii. Dr. Muhammad Naeem Javaid iv. Mr. Ikramullah v. Dr. Muhammad Saeed Peerzada	i. Environmental Expert ii. Fish Ecologist iii. Fish Biologist iv. Field Biologist v. Plant Taxonomist	PMC	Muhammad Hussain (Deputy Team Leader/Resident Engineer)	Zafer DEMIRSELCUK (Project Manager - Team Leader)	The ADB review comments were incorporated in the submission.
03	26-03-2025	i. Engr. Assad Ali Khan ii. Dr. Waseem Ahmad Khan iii. Dr. Muhammad Naeem Javaid iv. Mr. Ikramullah Dr. Muhammad Saeed Peerzada	i. Environmental Expert ii. Fish Ecologist iii. Fish Biologist iv. Field Biologist Plant Taxonomist	PMC	Muhammad Hussain (Deputy Team Leader/Resident Engineer)	Zafer DEMIRSELCUK (Project Manager - Team Leader)	The ADB additional review comments were incorporated in the submission.

PREFACE

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report for the Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW) was prepared by Hagler Bailly Pakistan (Private) Limited (HBP) in 2019. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Protection Agency (KPEPA) granted "Environmental Approval" for the report on July 6, 2021.

The current EIA report is an updated version of the approved report furnished by the Project Management Consultants (PMC)[1] for the Balakot HPP (300 MW). The updates aim to: (i) incorporate proposed changes to the design of the project's infrastructure facilities as part of the detailed design and implementation arrangements of the Project-specific Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP); and (ii) update the biodiversity section of the EIA report with emphasis on the critically endangered Kashmir Hillstream Loach (*Triplophysa kashmirensis*).

The approved report's original structure has been maintained, but significant updates have been made to the project description, social baseline, information disclosure and consultation, and BAP sections. Appropriate changes have also been applied to other sections to ensure consistency. Additionally, two new volumes, Volumes D (Management Plan for Threatened Fish Species) and E (Biodiversity Assessment), have been furnished as part of the updated EIA report.

1 A joint venture of:

i. DOLSAR Engineering Inc. Co. (Turkey) Lead Firm;
ii. AGES Consultants;
iii. BAK Consulting Engineers;
iv. CivTech Associates;
v. Electra Consultants; and
vi. Techno Legal Consultants (Pvt.) Limited from Pakistan.

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ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AIIB	Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
BAPs	Biodiversity Action Plans
BID	Background Information Document
BTHPP	Balakot Hydropower Project
CGGC	China Gezhouba Group Company (CGGC), China
CMS	Conservation of Migratory Species
CSRM	Country Safeguards Review Mission
DG	Director General
DSHA	Deterministic Seismic Hazard Analysis
EHS	Environmental Health and Safety
EIA	Environment Impact Assessment
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
EPC	Engineering, Procurement, and Construction
GIIP	Good International Industry Practice
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GRC	Ghulam Rasool and Company Pvt. Ltd (GRC)
GWh	Giga Watt hour
HBP	Hagler Bailly Pakistan (Private) Limited
IEE	Initial Environmental Examination
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
KP	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
KPEQS	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Quality Standards
KPKEPA	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Protection Agency
NCCP	National Climate Change Policy
NEQS	National Environmental Quality Standards
NOCs	No Objection Certificates
PD	Project Director
PEDO	Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization
PIU	Project Implementation Unit
PMC	Project Management Consultants
PMD	Pakistan Meteorological Department

PSGA	Poverty, Social and Gender Analysis Report
SKHPP	Suki Kinari Hydropower Project
SSEMP	Site Specific Environmental Management Plan
VECs	Valued Ecosystem Components
PEPA	Pakistan Environmental Protection Act
SPS	Safeguard Policy Statement
WAPDA	Water & Power Development Authority
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO), with financial support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), is constructing the Balakot Hydropower Project, which has a capacity of 300 MW. The project spans a 12-kilometer stretch of the Kunhar River in District Mansehra. The dam site is located in Paras village, approximately 2 kilometers downstream from the tailrace of the Suki Kinari Hydropower Project (884 MW), while the proposed powerhouse site is in Ganhool village in Balakot. The Project layout has been shown in **Exhibit III**.

1.1 Project Background

2. The project feasibility study was initially conducted in 2013 (the "FS 2013").[2] The Asian Development Bank ("ADB" or the "Lender") subsequently evaluated the Project for financing under its Hydropower Investment Development Program (HIDP). As part of the Project evaluation, the Asian Development Bank, on the advice of the technical consultants, deemed the design proposed in 2013 as unfeasible and had it modified through Aqualogus who furnished their findings in the form of the draft report in 2018. Hagler Bailly Pakistan (Private) Limited (HBP) contributed to the environmental and social assessment of various options. The Asian Development Bank then acquired services of the HBP as Safeguard Consultants to prepare documents required for ensuring that the proposed Project meets the environmental and social safeguards of the ADB and also conforms to the environmental legislation of KPK.

3. The complete package of the environmental and social safeguard documents prepared by Hagler Bailly Pakistan (Private) Limited comprises the following:

i. Knowledge Summary (A summary of the entire report)

ii. The Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) in three volumes:

   a. Volume A "Main EIA Report"

   b. Volume B "Appendices to the Main Report"

   c. Volume C "Supporting Studies"

iii. Poverty, Social and Gender Analysis Report (PSGA)

iv. Summary of Poverty Reduction and Social Strategy (SPRSS)

v. Land Acquisition and Resettlement Plan (LARP)

4. The reports listed as items iii, iv, and v above have been updated by the Project Management Consultants (PMC) of the Balakot HPP (300 MW) as standalone documents, while the EIA report is updated within this document.

1.2 Rationale and Background for EIA Updation

5. Consequent upon the ADB concurrence to the EIA report, furnished by the Hagler Bailly Pakistan (Private) Limited in 2019, the same was disclosed on the Bank website[3] for the

2 Mirza Associates Engineering Services (Pvt.) Ltd., Feasibility Study of Balakot Hydropower Project, for Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO), December 2013

3 Balakot Hydropower Development Project: Environmental Impact Assessment | Asian Development Bank (adb.org)

stakeholders and general public information. Thereafter, the disclosed EIA report was submitted to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Protection Agency (KPEPA) for review and grant of "Environmental Approval", which is a mandatory requirement in pursuance of "The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Protection Act 2014, Section (13)(1)". Hence, after obtaining No Objection Certificates (NOCs) from the relevant departments, and holding of Public Hearing event, the Director General KPEPA issued "Environmental Approval" on July 6, 2021, in respect of the Project EIA report.

6. The rationale necessitating the updation of the approved EIA report is briefly expounded hereunder.

A: Design Changes

7. The Balakot HPP (300 MW) is being executed under the Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) mode of contract whereby detail design and design optimization rest with the EPC Contractor. Provision of structure adjustment (s) placing/ orientation, value engineering, and design optimization are some of the major characteristics of such contracts.

8. During the basic design phase of the Project, the EPC Contractor proposed some changes in the intended function of the bypass tunnel, and placement of spillways in the dam body as given below.

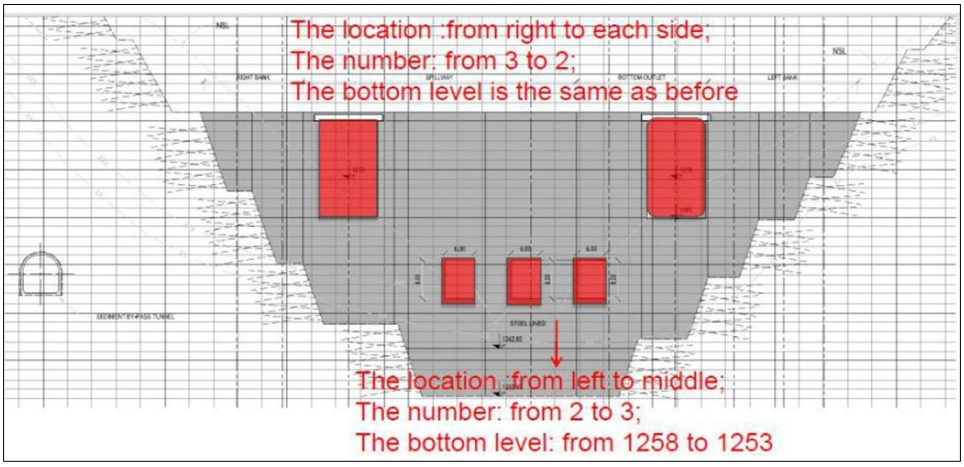
i. The bypass tunnel, originally conceived for the Kunhar River diversion during the construction phase, and sediment exclusion during the operation phase of the Project, was proposed to be used as a diversion tunnel only, whereas for sediment flushing, an additional bottom outlet would be provided in the dam body.

ii. A combination of three spillways, which in the tender document were placed at the left side of the dam body, optimized to two spillways, placed at the left and right side of the dam body.

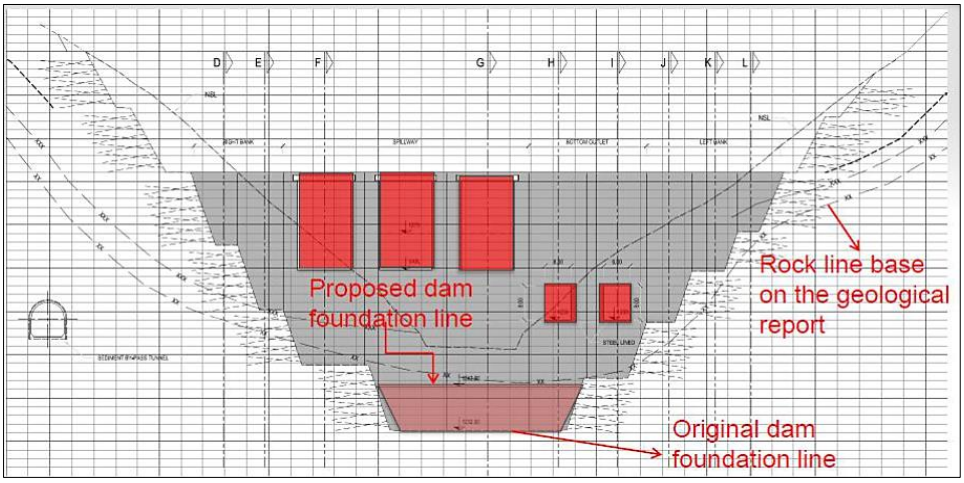
9. The PMC and Project Implementation Unit (PIU) of the Balakot HPP principally agreed with the EPC Contractor's proposal and granted concurrence for incorporation of the foregoing changes in the basic design document.

10. The original and proposed revised schemes of the foregoing arrangements are shown under **Exhibit I** below.

Exhibit I: Design Change Proposal for the Dam Spillways



Original Scheme of Spillway and Bottom Outlets

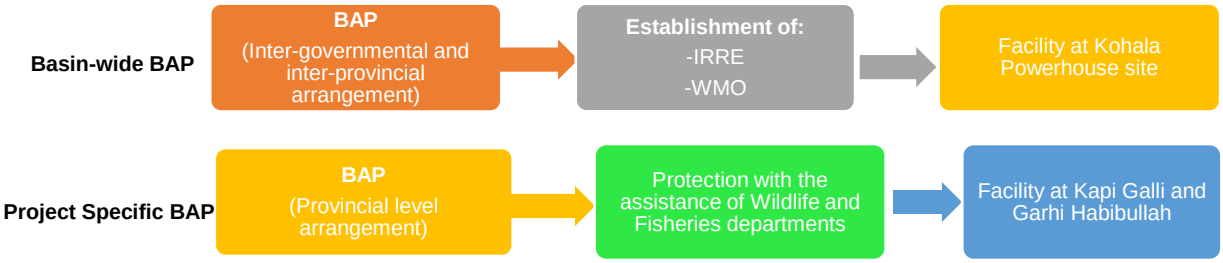


Revised Scheme of Spillway and Bottom Outlet

B: Changes in the Project-Specific BAP

11. The approved EIA report contains two types of Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) i.e. (i) Basin-wide BAP for the Jhelum Basin; and (ii) Project-specific BAP, designed for the Area of Management, to be implemented through the arrangement presented in **Exhibit II.**

Exhibit II: Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Implementation Arrangment



12. Basin-wide BAP has geographical coverage of the entire Jhelum Basin whereas the project-specific BAP will be implemented in the Area of Management, which is a 45-kilometer (km) stretch of the Kunhar River valley starting from 4 km upstream of the Balakot dam axis and ends at 5 km upstream of the Patrind HPP (150 MW) reservoir.

13. The Balakot HPP (300 MW) Site is located within the Area of Management of the project-specific BAP wherein the Works related impacts will be mitigated through measures as proposed in the EPC Contractor's Site-Specific Environmental Management Plan (SSEMP) and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) of the EIA report.

14. On January 24, 2022, i.e. on the occasion of the presentation to the Country Safeguards Review Mission (CSRM) for Pakistan conducted by the ADB, it was agreed that the PIU of the Balakot HPP (300 MW), with the PMC assistance, will undertake stakeholder's consultation and will furnish Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) consultation reports for the Basin-wide BAP and the Project-specific BAP in the Area of Management.

15. Accordingly, during the period from February to March 2022, for the project-specific BAP implementation in the Area of Management, PIU and PMC held several consultation meetings with the stakeholders and furnished a BAP Consultation report which was

subsequently submitted to the ADB and the AIIB[4] on May 20, 2022, for their review, and concurrence.

16. Thereafter, several joint consultation meetings of the Fisheries and Wildlife departments of the government of KP, the PIU, and PMC were held at PEDO House Peshawar and the headquarters of both departments. Following is the brief outcome of the consultation conducted for the finalization of the project-specific BAP institutional arrangement, and BAP Management Committee composition.

i. Due to legal constraints, the Fisheries and Wildlife departments of the government of KP recommended that the role of the implementation organization be eliminated from the BAP institutional arrangement.

ii. KP Biodiversity and Wildlife Board, being a high forum chaired by the Chief Minister of KP, shall have no role in the implementation.

iii. Membership of the BAP Management Committee should be reduced whereas the committee should be chaired by the Director General Fisheries of the KP government.

17. On March 29, 2023, the PIU submitted a proposal for revising the Institutional Arrangement of the project-specific BAP to the ADB for review and approval. The ADB expressed its concurrence with the proposal during the presentation to the ADB Environmental Safeguards Review Mission on May 22, 2023.

C: Instrumental Environmental Monitoring

18. Instrumental environmental monitoring for the Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW) was originally conducted in 2017 as part of the project's EIA studies. To update this information, it was deemed necessary to conduct further monitoring to establish the baseline conditions of various environmental factors, including air quality, noise levels, water quality, and soil analysis. To facilitate this, the EPC Contractor engaged the services of a laboratory certified by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Protection Agency (KPEPA). The baseline environmental monitoring took place from December 7 to December 14, 2022. The results of this latest instrumental monitoring are included in Annexure-1 in the main report.

19. For consistency, results of the instrumental environmental monitoring, undertaken during 2017, have also been kept in totality in the updated EIA report.

D: Information Disclosure, Consultation, and Participation

20. During the year 2021 to 2024, the project team, including the project financiers, held several consultation meetings with the project area community and with the government departments in connection with the provisions under the environmental portfolio of the project. As explained above in section B, a series of meetings were held with the stakeholders of the Basin-wide BAP and with the project-specific BAP. As an outcome of these additional consultation meetings has a direct bearing on the original EIA biodiversity financing and implementation arrangement, hence updation of the information disclosure, consultation, and participation section of the approved report is of paramount importance.

4 AIIB is the co-financier of the project

E: Availability of New Information/Data

21. Due to the emergence of relevant new information from secondary sources, and data from the project area particularly, about the changes in the status of the Kashmir Hillstream Loach from “not assessed” as per the original EIA report to the “Critically Endangered” species as per the IUCN 2023 report, and updation of the hydro census survey report by the EPC Contractor, necessary updation of the biodiversity and mitigation measures sections of the EIA report became imperative.

22. In pursuance of the ADB requirements, any changes that may occur in the project design, layout arrangement, project footprint, or other provisions of the approved EIA report, the same shall accordingly by updated and revised concurrence shall be sought from the Bank.

23. As a result of these developments, it became necessary to revise the EIA report to comply with the Bank's requirements and accurately reflect the impacts of these changes.

1.3 Study Area

24. The selection of the Study Area for the EIA considered environmentally sensitive receptors that are most likely to be impacted by the Project’s development activities during construction and operation. For the assessment of cumulative impacts, the Study Area was selected to be large enough to allow the assessment of the Valued Ecosystem Components (VECs) that may be affected by the Project activities. The Study Area defined for the baseline studies (2017-19) and impact assessment is shown in **Exhibit IV** followed by the study area in **Exhibit V** identified for the EIA updation in 2024. It is worthwhile to mention here that the study area identified for the 2017-19 EIA studies falls within the boundaries of the study area identified for additional surveys conducted in 2024.

Exhibit III: Project Layout Map

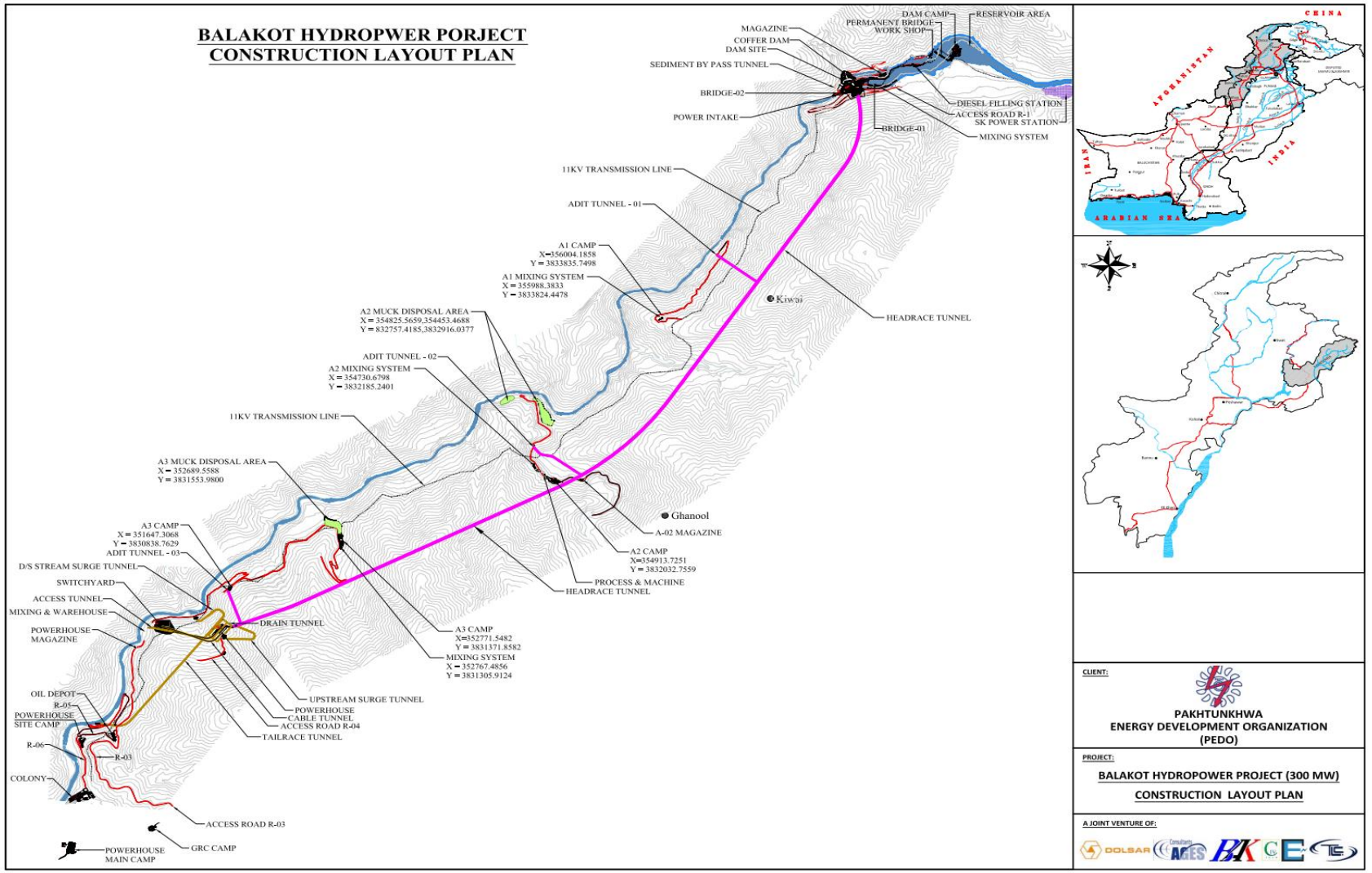


Exhibit IV: Study Areas (2017-19)

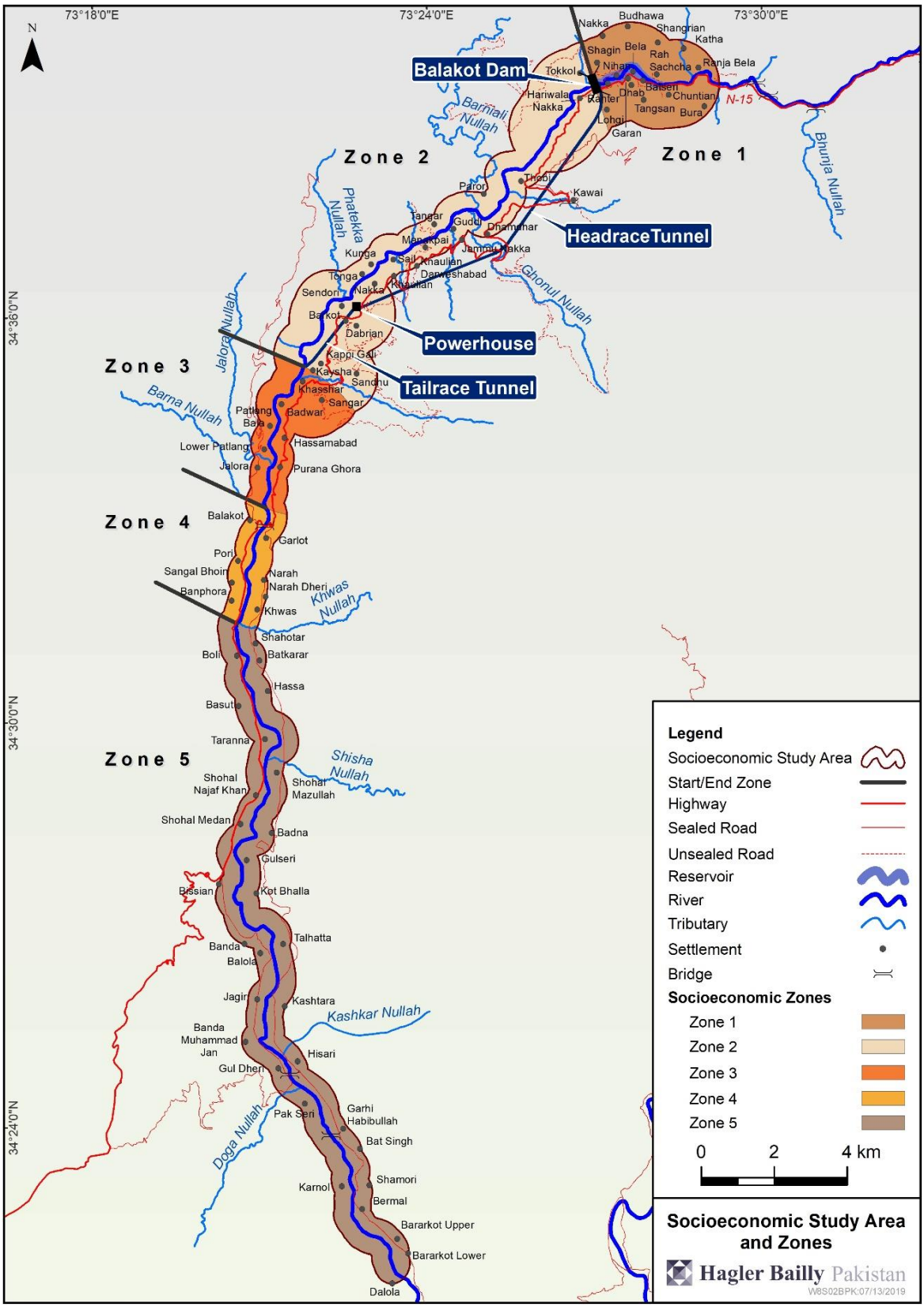
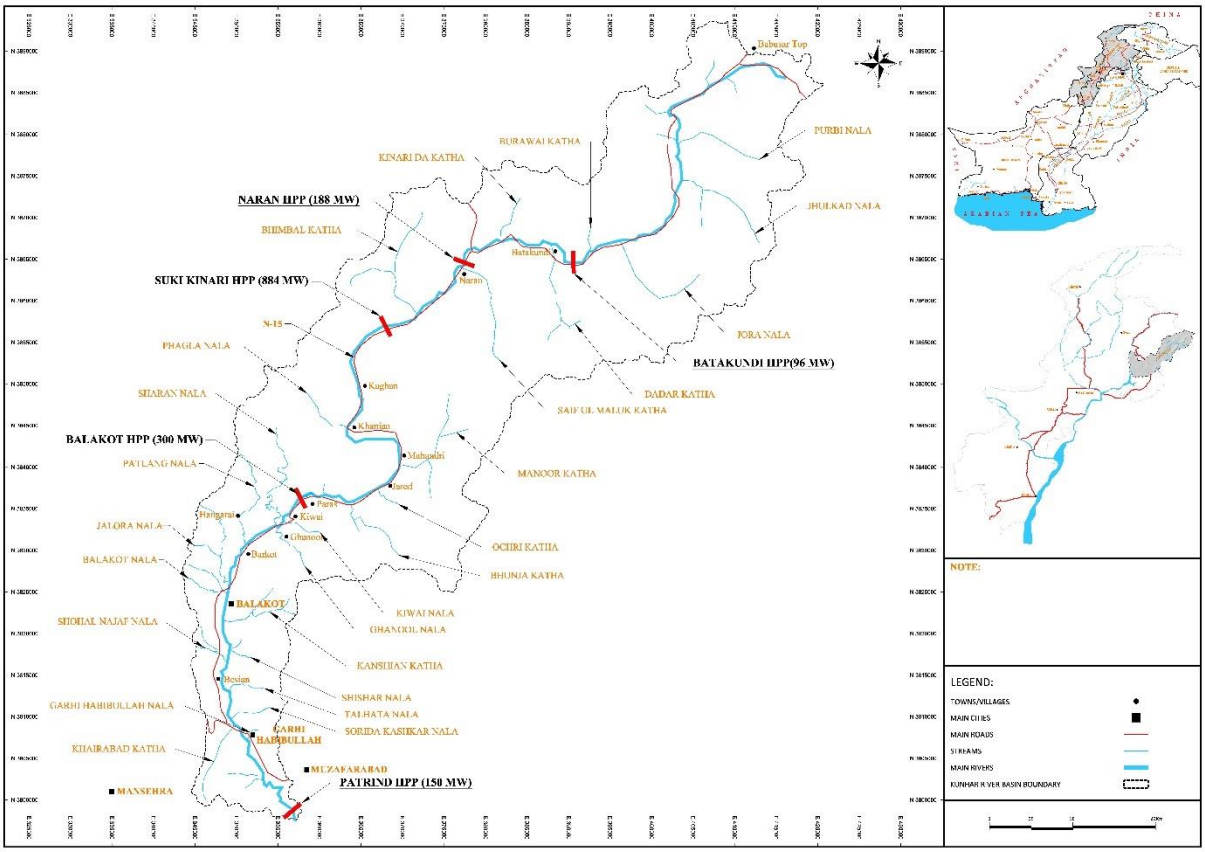


Exhibit V: Study Areas (2024)



1.4 Policy and Legal Framework

25. The EIA process, along with the environmental and social performance of the Project, will adhere to the policies set by the Government of Pakistan (GoP), the laws of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), and the international environmental agreements to which Pakistan is a signatory. The Project is also following the guidelines established by the ADB and the AIIB, as both institutions are providing financing for the Project.

1.4.1 Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Laws

26. Matters related to the environment in the KP province are governed by the KP Environmental Protection Act 2014 and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Assessment Rules, 2021. The 2014 Act addresses a wide range of environmental issues, including air and water quality, industrial liquid effluent, noise pollution, and the management of hazardous waste. Meanwhile, the 2021 regulations focus primarily on the review and approval of environmental studies. The responsibility for enforcing the provisions of both the Act and the Regulations rests with the KP Environmental Protection Agency (KPEPA).

1.4.2 ADB's Policy on Environmental Safeguards

27. The ADB has established a Safeguard Policy Statement (SPS) to manage the environmental and social risks associated with its projects. The SPS is designed to promote the sustainability of project outcomes by protecting both the environment and the people affected by potential adverse impacts. It aims to achieve this by:

i. avoiding negative impacts on the environment and affected communities whenever possible;

ii. minimizing, mitigating, or compensating for negative impacts when avoidance is not feasible; and

iii. assisting borrowers and clients in strengthening their safeguard systems and building capacity to effectively manage environmental and social risks.

1.5 Project Description

28. As stated above, the Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW) is a run-of-the-river scheme to be constructed on the Kunhar River in its 12 km stretch from Paras to Sangar village in District Mansehra of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Upon completion, 1143 giga-watt hour (GWh) of clean energy will be delivered to the National Grid every year.

29. The project dam site is located in the Paras village, around 2 km downstream of the Sukki Kinari Hydropower Project (884 MW) tailrace while the powerhouse site is proposed in the Ganhool village of Balakot. The 9.1 km long headrace tunnel of 8 m diameter will divert 154 m^3/sec design flow of the Kunhar River to the powerhouse to generate 300 megawatts of electricity. The project residential colony is identified in Sangar village. The access road to the dam and power intake is proposed to off-take from the National Highway (N-15) on the left side of the Kunhar River in Paras village.

1.5.1 Land Requirement

30. The total permanent land needed for the project is estimated to be approximately 1,826.97 kanal. This land is mainly required for the residential colony, access roads, dam sites, and other related purposes. While the temporary land acquisition is the responsibility of the EPC Contractor, the Employer will handle the payment for any temporary land acquired.

1.5.2 Main Components of the Project

i. Main Dam

31. The main dam will be a concrete gravity dam, with a maximum height of 58 m, comprising low-level/flushing outlets and a gated spillway. It has been designed to pass floods of 3,706 (Q_{10000}) m^3/s at the water level of 1288.00 m and 5,043 (PMF) m^3/s at the water level of 1291.00 m, with an upper gated ogee crest spillway and a low-level gated spillway. This layout consists of two radial upper spillway gates having an opening of 11 m in height and 10 m in width and three low-level spillway sluice gates of 8 meters (m) in height and 6 m in width. The gates are hydraulically operated for flood discharge and are set at the crest level of 1,258 meters above sea level (masl).

32. A 429 m-long diversion tunnel on the right bank was designed to be used only during the construction phase. CSG-type upstream and downstream cofferdams will be constructed to keep the dam construction site dry during the construction phase.

33. **Lateral power intake structure:** This will be located on the left bank of Kunhar River and will comprise 4 bays split by three vertical piers to provide a design discharge of 154 m^3/s. It will include trash racks for passing the design discharge. Two rectangular 4 m wide by 8 m high control gates equipped with upstream sealing will be provided.

34. **Low-pressure headrace tunnel:** This will have a length of about 9.1 km and a diameter of 8 m.

ii. Powerhouse

35. The following are the major features of the underground powerhouse.

- Underground powerhouse cavern
- Transformer/substation cavern
- Single headrace tunnel
- Surge shaft, pressure shaft
- Manifolds
- Tailrace structure

36. The powerhouse cavern will be 89.28 m long, 20.41 m wide, and 37.86 m high from the main inlet valve floor to the arch roof crown.

37. **Free flow tailrace tunnel:** Having a length of 1646.5 m, it has an archway concrete lined section (8.0 W x 8.0 H).

38. **Downstream Inclined Surge Tunnel:** A Concrete-lined inclined surge tunnel having a 7.5x9.125 m diameter, and length of 505 m is proposed.

39. **Access Tunnel:** The access tunnel is the main point of entry to the underground powerhouse complex. It is sized to accommodate two-way dump truck traffic during construction and to provide the space needed to transport heavy equipment on low bay loaders or multi-wheeled transformers into the cavern.

iii. Residential Colony

40. The project residential colony is located on the left bank of the Kunhar River in Sangar village. The residential colony covers a total of 55 kanal of land while a total of 33 residential units will be constructed for the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) staff. Offices for operation and maintenance are also identified at the tailrace end of the powerhouse. The colony and offices will be accessed through a metaled road namely R-3.

1.5.2.1 Construction Material and Waste

41. Materials required to carry out the construction of civil works for the Project include concrete aggregate, cement, pozzolans, various types of fill materials, construction chemicals, steel products, etc.

1.5.2.2 Construction Timeline

42. The construction will require about 6 years excluding Defect Liability Period (DLP).

1.6 Stakeholder Consultation

43. The consultation process was designed to be consistent with the relevant national legislation and the ADB's Safeguard Policy Statement (SPS). Consultations with the Project stakeholders were undertaken in late April, May, and June 2017 and June -July 2018. Several

consultation meetings with the community, government departments, and prospective financiers of the BAP were also held during the years 2022 to 2024.

44. As mentioned in Volume A of the EIA report, the consultation for the BTHPP (300 MW) can broadly be divided into two phases i.e. Phase-1 consultation undertaken from 2017 to 18, and Phase-2 consultation during the year 2022 to 2024.

1.6.1 Summary of Consultation (Phase-1)

45. Following is a summary of concerns expressed by the communities.

- Sediment mining and fishing will be affected as areas will be submerged. This may affect the well-being of the local community. In addition, dam construction will change flows which will result in a reduction in driftwood for the locals. As a result, deforestation may increase.
- Women use the river for a variety of purposes and this may be affected by the Project.
- Environmental issues will increase due to construction activities. Some of these include land sliding, congestion on roads, damage to structures due to vibrations from blasting, changes in aesthetics, and dust pollution.
- The presence of the dam will increase water temperature and disrupt sewage dilution. In addition, if there is a catastrophic flood there is a high risk of damage.
- Water supply from springs may be affected. People rely on water from springs for drinking.
- Agricultural land will be affected which will have an impact on local incomes.
- Locals need high priority in employment opportunities. They do not want outsiders allowed.
- Locals should be provided with free classes in English and Chinese languages to improve the employment opportunities for their children.
- The local communities should be provided with free electricity.
- Appropriate negotiations are required between affected people and the government.
- Locals are concerned that the government will not keep its promises.
- There is a concern that people of different cultures will enter the area and disturb the locals. This will affect the locals' social fabric.
- Women do not want the dam here as it will disrupt their privacy and way of life.

46. Following is a summary of concerns expressed by the institutions.

- The project will result in disturbance to the existing ecosystem. This includes the forests which will be cleared or disturbed. However, it is of note that the project will not disturb large areas of forests and that the existing forest is already highly fragmented.

- The project will generate much-needed electricity. Any loss of forest can be compensated.
- It is important to know the modifications in flows as a result of the project. Communication between the various developers in the basin is important along with consideration of mitigation measures such as fish ladders.
- The agreed environmental flow needs to be maintained.
- Important archaeological sites can be affected especially if there is flooding.
- A robust impact assessment is required in which impacts due to peaking and changes in sediment flows are addressed.
- There should be a review of impacts on downstream projects. A cumulative impact assessment should also be carried out.
- The EIA process should be risk-based and should consider past data.
- Impacts of climate change should be considered.
- Changes in flows can affect spawning grounds for fish fauna. Due to this native species can be affected.
- Use of hatcheries is recommended.
- The EIA should develop biodiversity management measures, sediment mining management measures, and fish monitoring plans.
- The project will affect fishing in the area.
- Submergence and rise in water levels are a concern as they will affect vegetation and biodiversity.
- The land acquired for the project will affect the local communities.
- The influx of labor from outside will disrupt local ways of life.
- Locals should be given preference in the jobs created as a result of the project.
- Local contractors should be hired as far as possible.
- The local community should be provided with an uninterrupted electricity supply.
- The affected community should be wealthier and have an improved quality of life after the project.
- The EIA should develop a framework for dealing with conflicts, security management, livelihood restoration, etc.
- Displaced households should be rehabilitated.
- Graves should be managed with the consent of the community.
- Vulnerable households should be provided with special assistance.
- Mitigation measures should be implemented to minimize impacts from construction-related activities.

- Flushing will impact the fish fauna of the reservoir.
- An analysis of alternatives should be carried out.
- Peaking should be analyzed and run-of-river operation should be considered.
- Changes in water levels may affect tourism in the area.
- Waste management should be carried out effectively.
- The Kaghan Development Authority should be given appropriate notice and resources to deal with changes due to the project.
- Other hydropower developers should be consulted and management should be coordinated.
- Existing pressures can be mitigated by the project. For example, there is limited data on wildlife, limited protection, the release of sewage that pollutes the river, a lack of staff, and a lack of awareness. These can be addressed to some extent using mitigation measures as part of the project.

1.6.2 Summary of Consultation (Phase-2)

47. Following is a summary of concerns expressed by the project area community during the Phase-2 consultation.

- The community is worried that the proponent of the project may not purchase land at the prevailing market rates.
- The affected people have small land holdings and cannot afford to move from the project area to other areas without sound monetary assistance.
- The affected community will not leave their houses unless the project proponent pays sufficient compensation.
- The material contracts and the jobs in the project should be given to the locals on a priority basis.
- Before initiation of the land acquisition process, the concerned government department(s) and project team should consult the affected community and should not acquire land from those who are not the actual owners of the land.
- The land should be acquired as commercial land as most of the buildings in the Paras village are commercial buildings.

48. Following are the key findings of the consultation meetings held with the government departments, private organizations, and proponents of the projects identified for financing the BAP. These meetings were held from February 2022 to December 2024.

A. Basin-wide BAP

- Although participants of the consultation meetings had awareness of the project-specific BAP interventions in the Area of Management, however, no such awareness was witnessed in the context of the Basin-wide BAP.

- As apprised by the meeting participants, there exists provision of the Basin-wide BAP in some of the projects like Kohala, Azad Pattan, Karot HPPs, etc. however, so far, no step has been taken by any of the project proponents towards process initiation, mainly due to uncertainty of cost compensation.
- Also, there are operational projects in the Jhelum Basin where no BAP obligations exist. Neelum Jhelum and Patrind HPPs are the two projects in the instant case.
- Though, with the active support of the Wildlife and Fisheries Department, Govt. of AJ&K, the project-specific BAP interventions in the Area of Management are currently being undertaken in Gulpur and Karot HPPs, still, the Basin-wide BAP felt to be quite new for participants of the consultation meetings.
- In spite of the fact that the Basin-wide BAP arrangement and its objectives were openly appreciated by most of the participants, however, due to uncertainty of cost compensation, lack of commitment and enthusiasm felt when it comes to the monetary contributions by the stakeholders
- Apparently, unless IRRE and WMO establishment and associated recurring costs compensation are not guaranteed in the COD tariff, monetary contributions by the Jhelum Basin hydropower developers appear obscure.

B. Project-Specific BAP

- Under the provisions of the “Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Fisheries and Aquaculture Act, 2022” and the “Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Biodiversity (Protection, Preservation, Conservation, and Management) Act 2015, the protection of aquatic and wildlife is the mandate of the respective departments, refraining them to extend such mandate to an independent organization or whosoever aimed for protection of aquatic fauna and wildlife.
- Active and decades-long presence of both the departments in the area with the commendable knowledge of habitat, and strong linkages with the society are some of the advantages to replace the role of implementation organization as envisaged in the original BAP.
- Long-term sustainable protection activities in the post-project construction period, to ensure continued net gains, was yet another justification provided in support of the proposed changes.
- Capacity building of the departments through successful interventions will provide them opportunities to extend and establish linkages with international donor agencies, financing conservation and habitat protection activities.
- Due to legal constraints, the Fisheries and Wildlife departments of the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa recommended that the role of the implementation organization be eliminated from the BAP institutional arrangement.

- KP Biodiversity and Wildlife Board, being a high forum chaired by the Chief Minister of KP, shall have no role in the implementation of BAP interventions at the field level.

- Membership of the project-specific BAP Management Committee should be reduced whereas the committee should be chaired by the Director General Fisheries of KP province.

1.7 Overview of the Physical Environment

1.7.1 Topography

49. The relief in the catchment of the dam varies from 629 m amsl to 5,199 m amsl. The dam site is at an elevation of 1,257 m amsl and the powerhouse site at an elevation of 1,316 m amsl.

1.7.2 Land Use and Cover

50. The land use distribution is demarcated as per the Socioeconomic Zones within the Socioeconomic Study Area. Pine and scrub forests cover the majority of the area (59% of the total zones combined) followed by agricultural intensity (26%). The density of built-up area is low about 8% and the same is the percentage of water bodies in the Study Area.

1.7.3 Geology, Soils and Seismicity

a. Tectonics

51. The Project lies along a major and active continental margin, at the confluence of Eurasian and Indian Plates that has resulted in the Himalayan orogeny. The Project area has been affected considerably by tectonics which has produced some prominent faults like the Main Boundary Thrust (MBT), the Panjal Thrust[5], and the Himalayan Frontal Thrust[6] (HFT). MBT passes along the right bank of the Kunhar River, while the powerhouse area and headrace tunnel run parallel on the left bank. This fault is about 2.4 km west of Kunhar River at the dam site. The maximum distance of the headrace tunnel from MBT is about 4.64 km. It continues in a southern direction through the rock formation some 2 km away from the powerhouse site.

b. Earthquakes and Seismicity

52. Earthquakes occur very frequently in the Project area, which is within a highly seismically active area. Several regional faults, which are some of the most active faults in the Himalayas, pass through the close vicinity of the Project site. The area is known for recent seismic events including the 2004 Paras Earthquake of magnitude 5.2 and the 2005 Earthquake of magnitude 7.6.

53. The peak ground acceleration (PGA) with a 10% probability of exceedance in 50 years (475-year average return interval) is reported and is between 1.6 meters per second squared

[5] In some literature, sections of the Panjal Thrust are synonymous with the Main Central Thrust (e.g. see Robert Yeats, Active Faults of the World, 2012, Cambridge University Press)

[6] This is considered part, or synonymous with the Muzaffarabad Thrust depending on the literature and synonymous with the Balakot-Bagh Frontal Thrust

(m/s^2) and 2.4 m/s^2 at the Project site as per Global Seismic Hazard Assessment Project (GSHAP).

54. According to the revised Building Code of Pakistan with Seismic Provision (PBC, 2007) the Project location is classified under seismic Zone 4 for which the Project is required to withstand a PGA greater than 0.32g (3.2 m/s^2).

c. Lithology

55. The Project is located in rocks belonging to Murree Formations. The Murree Formation is of early Miocene age and consists of dark red to purple and greenish grey sandstone and siltstone, purple to reddish brown shale, mudstone, and lenses of conglomerates. These rocks are exposed at the dam site and consist of alternate beds of sandstone and shale. Structurally, the formation shows a high degree of compression in the form of tight folding with repeated faulting and fracturing. At places, it shows open broad folds that have been weathered into steep ridges and valleys with a succession of cliffs and steep slopes.

56. The Murree Formation exposed in the Balakot area represents as last stages of Neo-Tethys and the beginning of the Siwalick system in the area which is indicated by sandstone and shale deposits.

d. Soils

57. The soils of the Project area are composed of piedmont alluvial deposits, where the upper layer of the plain/leveled land consists mostly of silty clay loam soils, rich in organic matter content. The subsurface strata are generally sandy loam with gravel. The soils of the hill slopes consist mostly of thin layered sandy loam soils, underlain by rocks or gravelly materials. The valley terraces in between the mountains are very fertile and used for intensive cropping, while, the hill slopes are used for forest vegetative cover.

58. Soil samples were collected on April 13, 2017, and analyzed for establishing baseline conditions to establish soil fertility and identify any current soil contamination. A total of 4 samples were collected and analyzed in the HBP Laboratory and ALS Malaysia.[7]

59. The following are the key observations of soil analysis.

- **Physical:** The pH of soil samples at all sampling locations ranges between 7.9 and 8.1. Higher values of EC are observed under forest-based land use systems compared to agricultural land.
- **Nutrients and Organics:** Organics at all sampling locations don't vary significantly. The maximum organic matter and organic carbon values are observed as 5.46% and 3.13%, respectively. Phosphates were not detected at any of the sampling locations. Nitrates are only observed on agricultural land with a maximum value of 11.6 mg/kg. Potassium is also high on agricultural lands with a maximum value of 2,220 mg/kg. Macronutrient contents show high fertility on agricultural lands.

[7] HBP Lab conducted pH, EC and organic matter tests, whereas the remaining were conducted at ALS Malaysia

- **Metals and Major Ions:** Metal contents do not vary significantly through the area sampled, indicating the absence of contamination from any industrial activity or spills. Results for boron, cadmium, mercury, selenium, and silver were below the level of reporting.

1.7.4 Visual Character

60. The visual baseline documents the current aesthetic and visual conditions of the proposed Project site as seen from the nearby receptors. A survey was conducted on May 5, 2017, at four locations, and photographs were stitched to form 180° panoramic views in the direction of Project activities.

61. The mountainous landscape, deep gorges, and vegetation greatly restrict visibility to a maximum of 0.5 to 1.5 km at receptor locations.

1.7.5 Climate

62. A regional climate overview was established using available data from the Balakot weather station. This is the nearest Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) weather station to the Project. The climate analysis of the Study Area was carried out based on climatic normal (1961–1990) developed by PMD and by classifying it into different seasons as follows:

a. Summer (mid-March to mid-June)

63. Characterized by high temperatures, moderate rainfalls with moderate humidity, and high-speed winds.

b. Summer Monsoon (mid-June to mid-September)

64. The summer monsoon, hereafter referred to as the Monsoon, is characterized by high temperatures (although milder than the summer), significantly high rainfalls with high humidity, and moderate-speed winds, slightly lower than in summers.

c. Post-Monsoon summer (mid-September to mid-November)

65. Characterized by moderate temperatures, low rainfalls with moderate humidity higher than in summers, as the humidity again reduces after monsoon and low-speed winds.

d. Winter (mid-November to mid-March)

66. Characterized by very low temperatures, moderate rainfalls, with an increasing amount of rainfall at the end of the winter, with relative humidity greater than post-monsoon summer and moderate speed winds.

67. Climatic normal data for the period of 1961 – 1990 was compared with more recent data from 1991 – 2011 for temperature and precipitation. Climatic normals are based on 30 years and developed by the PMD. The following conclusions can be drawn:

- **Temperature:** There are slight temperature variations observed in recent data as compared to climatic normal. The increase in mean temperatures in recent years is 0.2 ^{0}C. This shows that overall temperature is increased at the Project site.
- **Rainfall:** The amount of rainfall only increased in January, June, and September by an amount of 1 mm, 3 mm, and 29 mm, respectively. However, in the rest of the

months, the amount decreases. The decrease in the annual amount of rainfall is 175 mm.

68. Possible reasons for the change in weather parameters may be because of climate change or urbanization, which can explain increased temperatures and decreased amount of rainfall.

1.7.6 Water Resources

69. Water resources in the area consist of surface water including rivers and nullahs and groundwater including springs and boreholes.

a. Regional Hydrology

70. The Dam and Powerhouse are located on the Kunhar River. The Kunhar River originates from the glaciers above Lulusar Lake in the Kaghan Valley of KP. The glaciers of Malka Parbat and Makra Peak and the waters of Saiful Muluk Lake feed the river. It passes through Jalkhand and meets the Jhelum River at Rarra. The drainage area of the river is 2,535 km^2, with elevation ranging from 600 to 5,000 m.[8] It is one of the biggest tributaries of the Jhelum River Basin and the only main tributary situated entirely in Pakistan's territory. Snowmelt from the Kunhar Basin contributes 65% of the total discharge of the Kunhar River and 20-40% of the Jhelum River at Mangla.[9]

71. Although, the Kunhar River discharges into the Jhelum River, flow changes due to the will not result in flow changes in the Jhelum River due to the near complete Patrind HPP downstream of the. The Kunhar River has a steep gradient and flows through narrow gorges through much of its length. It can be observed that peak flows are observed during June on the river throughout the river.

72. The Kunhar River has two temperature regimes; upstream of Kaghan the water is cooler with average summer temperatures of 8-10 ºC and downstream of Kaghan temperatures are higher and near 12-13 ºC. The Jhelum River at its confluence with the Kunhar has a temperature of 16-17 ºC and the cooler waters of the Kunhar have a moderating influence on the Jhelum.

b. Dam Site Hydrology

73. The hydrology at the dam site is typical of Himalayan rivers, characterized by peak flows in June associated with melting of snow at higher elevations in the catchment, followed by declining flows in the summer supported by monsoon rainfall and continuing snowmelt in July and August. The dry or low-flow winter season typically extends from October through February when the flows are reduced to the order of one-sixth of the peak in June.

c. Community Water Supply Census

74. A census was carried out to map the community water resources for villages near Project facilities. A 500 m buffer around the underground headrace tunnel in the uphill direction

[8] Mahmood R, Jia S, Babel M. S., January 16, 2016, Potential Impacts of Climate Change on Water Resources in the Kunhar River Basin, *Water, Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute*, Basel, Switzerland

[9] Ibid

and up to the Kunhar River in the downward direction was demarcated for the survey to account for the distance to which the impact of the tunnel on groundwater might extend.

75. During the 2017-19 survey, a total of 70 springs were identified and characterized within the hydro census area. Of the 70 springs, 1 went dry completely and was not used after the 2005 earthquake.

76. Based on the pH and electrical conductivity of the springs sampled the water is fresh and potable. The total number of households relying on the springs within the area covered by the hydro census is 1,905. The springs are the sole supply for the majority of households for potable water. 50% of active water sources are used to supply drinking water to livestock as well. This is in line with the socioeconomic surveys and discussions during the surveys across the Study Area.

77. Small tanks are typically built around springs to store water and act as constant heads for water supply pipelines, or such that communities can manually draw water from the tank.

78. While adopting a similar methodology as stated above, and with the assistance of the PMC, the EPC Contractor conducted an updated hydro-census survey in July 2024. In this survey, a total of 61 springs were identified within the hydro-census area. Out of these 61 springs, 6 springs may potentially be affected by the project execution. Detailed survey results, the spring locations, and the project's potential impacts on each spring have been given in **Appendix D (Exhibit D.2)** of Volume B of the EIA report.

d. Demand for River Water for Other Uses

79. River water is not used for irrigation as the slopes on the river bank are steep, the cost of pumping water to agricultural lands located at elevations above the river is high, and agriculture depends on rain and water available from streams flowing down the mountain slopes. No large or medium-scale industry depends on water, and the level of industrialization is very low. River water is not suitable for drinking as it is contaminated by fecal coliform, and communities use water from springs for drinking purposes. Livestock is also mainly dependent on spring water and water from open mountain streams flowing down the slopes. River water can be turbid in seasons and the use of river water by livestock is limited to a relatively small fraction of total households that are located close to the river. These uses are insignificant in comparison to the total flow of the river. Quantification of river water use was therefore not considered to be necessary. Identifications of community sources of drinking water, mainly springs, that could be potentially impacted by the project were carried out in detail and are described in the previous section.

1.7.7 Water Quality

80. Water quality samples from Kunhar River and community springs were collected and analyzed to establish baseline conditions for surface and groundwater.

81. A total of seven samples and two quality control duplicates were collected and analyzed. Of these, four surface water samples were collected and analyzed from different sections of the Kunhar River and one from a main tributary. Two were collected from community springs located along the headrace tunnel of the Project.

82. Key observations based on the results are as follows.

- All the water quality parameters (except microbiology) are within NEQS and WHO drinking water standards.
- All river and tributary water samples were found bacteriologically contaminated and unsatisfactory for drinking due to fecal contamination. Of the two springs tested, one contained bacteriological contamination while the other was satisfactory for drinking.
- Fifteen metals were analyzed for metal content and are found within permissible levels for drinking water NEQS. However, the reported aluminum value at one location W4 (Talhatta gauging station, Kunhar River) is highest among all samples and is exceeding both the NEQS and WHO standards. This can be attributed to higher colloidal particles in river water.

83. It is worthwhile to mention here that there is no major variation in the results obtained in 2017 and the latest monitoring conducted in December 2022.

1.7.8 Ambient Air Quality

84. The ambient air quality was measured for respirable particulate matter (PM), sulfur dioxide (SO_2), and oxides of nitrogen (NO_X). Air quality sampling was carried out at four different locations in the Study Area between March 19 and May 8, 2017.

85. Key observations based on the results are as follows.

- The annual and 24-hour concentrations of SO_2, NOx, NO2, and NO comply with both the NEQS and IF-EHS limits.
- The 24-hour PM10 concentration complies with both the NEQS and IFC-EHS limits at all sampling locations. The 24-hour PM2.5 concentration exceeds the NEQS at all sampling locations however, it complies with IFC-EHS interim target 1 at all locations except at A4 (Balakot town) where it exceeds both the NEQS and IFC-EHS limits.
- The concentration of all pollutants at A2 (near the dam site) are lowest among all sampling locations.

86. The instrumental air monitoring carried out in December 2022 exhibits more or less the same trend as recorded in 2017.

1.7.9 Traffic

87. Traffic baseline is prepared to assess the current traffic conditions on the road route that will be used for the Project-related transportation of services during construction and operation of the Project. The objectives of the traffic study are to document the present traffic situation and identify existing road capacity, bottlenecks (congestion points), and potential impacts due to the Project traffic during construction and operation.

88. Traffic counts were conducted at four locations. At the counting site, two people were stationed for daytime and two for nighttime to separately count the daily traffic in both directions. The traffic count was recorded over 24 hours on a weekday (May 4, 2017) and a weekend (May 7, 2017).

89. Key findings of the traffic count are presented below.

- There was an increase in traffic over the weekends for points T1 - Paras (about 25 to 30% more vehicles) and T2 - Sendori (50% increase in vehicles heading to Balakot town) as they are on the transit route to tourist locations.
- Although the morning peak (9 am) shows a significant drop over the weekends at T3 - Balakot market and T4 - Balakot (from 700-800 vehicles to 500-600 vehicles), the traffic volumes are still generally higher on the weekend with steady flows throughout the day.

1.7.10 Noise Levels

90. This section defines the baseline ambient noise levels in the Study Area in a manner that can be used for the assessment of the noise impact of the proposed Project. Noise measurements were taken at four locations considered representative of the nearby receptors of possible noise pollution from the Project. Noise readings were taken for 24 hours at each site between May 4 and May 8, 2017.

91. Key findings of the noise measurements are presented below.

- **Small Town:** Noise levels in both the small towns of Paras (N1) and Sangar (N3) are well within NEQS noise limits and within IFC-EHS limits for most hours other than early morning hours in Paras where the nighttime limits are crossed.
- **Large Town:** The noise levels at N4, which was located within the market of Balakot Town were high and exceeded both daytime and nighttime NEQS and IFC-EHS limits. Natural sources such as wind (of which the speed went up to 5.4 m/s during sampling) and river noise may also have contributed to the high noise levels.
- **Forests:** Noise levels at the powerhouse site (N2) are steady throughout the day and night at around 50 dbA as there are no varying anthropogenic sources of noise in the area. Constant sources of noise include noise from the river and wind.

1.8 Overview of Biodiversity Values

1.8.1 Aquatic Biodiversity

92. The main aspects of the aquatic biodiversity in the Aquatic Study Area include the fish fauna, macro-invertebrates, and riparian vegetation.

1.8.1.1 Overview of Fish Fauna in the Kunhar River

93. During the studies undertaken in 2017, a total of 10 fish species were recorded from the project area. However, during the 2024 studies, a total of 16 fish species belonging to three orders, four families, and 11 genera were recorded. Four species were found economically important fishes including Brown trout (*Salmo trutta*), Rainbow trout *(Onchorhynchus mykiss*), Alwan snow trout (*Schizothorax richardsonii*), and Chirruh Snow trout (*Schizothorax esocinus*). According to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (IUCN, 2024), seven out of the recorded 16 species fall into the Threatened categories. These include; one Critically Endangered; Kashmir Hillstream Loach (*Triplophysa kashmirensis*), two Endangered species; Naseeri loach (*Paraschistura naseeri*) and Singhat (*Schistura macrolepis*), and four Vulnerable species; Stone loach (*Paraschistura alepidota*), Nalbant's loach (*Paraschistura punjabensis*), Alwan Snow Trout (*Schizothorax richardsonii*) and Chirruh

Snow trout (*Schizothorax esocinus*). The Population Trend of Nalbant's loach (*Paraschistura punjabensis*) is Unknown whereas the rest of the six Threatened fish species have Decreasing Population Trends. The remaining nine fish species out of the total 16 have been categorized as "Least Concern" with stable population trends. According to the local status and assessment of the existing fish species in the project area, four out of the seven Threatened species have "Common" status whereas three Threatened species have "Fair" status in the project area.

94. Among the recorded 16 fish species, eight species were found "Species of Special Concern". Threatened species, endemic species, flagship species, keystone species, species of economic or ecological importance, problem species, or pest species can be considered as "Species of Special Concern". These species include seven Threatened species and one economically important as well as problem species. Out of the seven Threatened fish species, five belong to the Family Nemacheilidae whereas two belong to the Family Cyprinidae. Family Nemacheilidae includes Hill stream loaches while Family Cyprinidae includes Snow trout. The "Species of Special Concern" include:

i. Stone loach / Stone barb (*Paraschistura alepidota*) Family Nemacheilidae (Vulnerable)

ii. Nalbant's loach (*Paraschistura punjabensis*) Family Nemacheilidae (Vulnerable)

iii. Kashmir Hill stream Loach (*Triplophysa kashmirensis*) Family Nemacheilidae (Critically Endangered)

iv. Naseeri loach (*Paraschistura naseeri*) Family Nemacheilidae (Endangered)

v. Singhat (*Schistura macrolepis*) Family Nemacheilidae (Endangered)

vi. Alwan Snow Trout (*Schizothorax richardsonii*) Family Cyprinidae (Vulnerable)

vii. Chirruh Snow trout (*Schizothorax esocinus*) Family Cyprinidae (Vulnerable)

viii. Brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) Family Salmonidae (Economically Important / Problem Species)

95. Expected negative impacts of the project have been identified and mitigation measures for such impacts have been suggested in the main report and Volume D (Management Plan for Threaten Fish Species). Some recommendations include:

- in-situ conservation of loaches through habitat protection and expansion;
- ex-situ conservation of loaches through commercial breeding;
- establishment of a hatchery for threatened cyprinid fishes;
- research on threatened species and publication of research findings;
- implementation of an effective watch and ward system;
- partnership in conservation and involvement of local communities in conservation;
- capacity building of the custodian fisheries department;
- control of illegal fishing;
- regulation of sustainable sand and gravel mining; and

- awareness raising among local communities

96. Keeping in view the project activities, its impacts on the aquatic fauna and ecosystem, and proposed mitigating measures, it is concluded that the Balakot Hydropower Project will not have any significant negative impacts on the fish fauna of the area especially the Kashmir Hill Stream loach inhabiting the tributary streams of the Kunhar River.

a. Migratory Fish Species

97. Based on the surveys carried out in July 2016 and February and May 2017, the Aquatic Study Area contains one long-distance migratory species, the Alwan Snow Trout *Schizothorax richardsonii*. The species is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List. A map showing the range of the species is provided in **Exhibit VI**.

b. Endemic Fish Species

98. There are two fish species endemic to the Jhelum Basin, found in the Aquatic Study Area the Nalbant's Loach and the Kashmir Hillstream Loach. The ranges for these species are shown in **Exhibit VII** and **Exhibit VIII.** The Nalbant's Loach prefers shallow water, mainly riffle habitat in tributaries. The Kashmir Hillstream Loach prefers shallow riffles and spawns in side channels. These two endemic fish species belong to the family Nemacheilidae which includes stone loaches that inhabit streams in mountainous areas. These are also included among the seven Threatened fish species in the study area. Out of the recorded seven Threatened species, five belong to the Family Nemacheilidae and two belong to the Family Cyprinidae. The family Nemacheilidae is characterized by the fishes called Loaches that live in hill streams in mountainous areas. The construction of a dam or low flow of water in the river will not have any negative impacts on the fish fauna (loaches) of the tributary streams and nullahs. Therefore, there will not be any adverse impacts of the project on five threatened fish species belonging to the Family Nemacheilidae i.e. loaches that inhabit the hill streams and not the main stream of the river Kunhar.

99. The other two Threatened fish species belonging to the Family Cyprinidae are called Snow trout. These two indigenous trout species are economically important and have a vast distribution range. But at the same time, uncontrolled and selective fishing of these two fish species is a regular practice throughout their distribution range. The other major threat to the indigenous Snow trout species is severe competition with the introduced Broun trout. Therefore, Indigenous Snow trout have become "Threatened" due to the introduction of Brown trout and overhunting. The construction of the dam will not add to its further decline. Rather the construction of a dam will support the indigenous Snow trout by expanding their habitats and providing them vast refuge, shelter, and food to compete with the introduced Brown trout.

Exhibit VI: Range of the Alwan Snow Trout

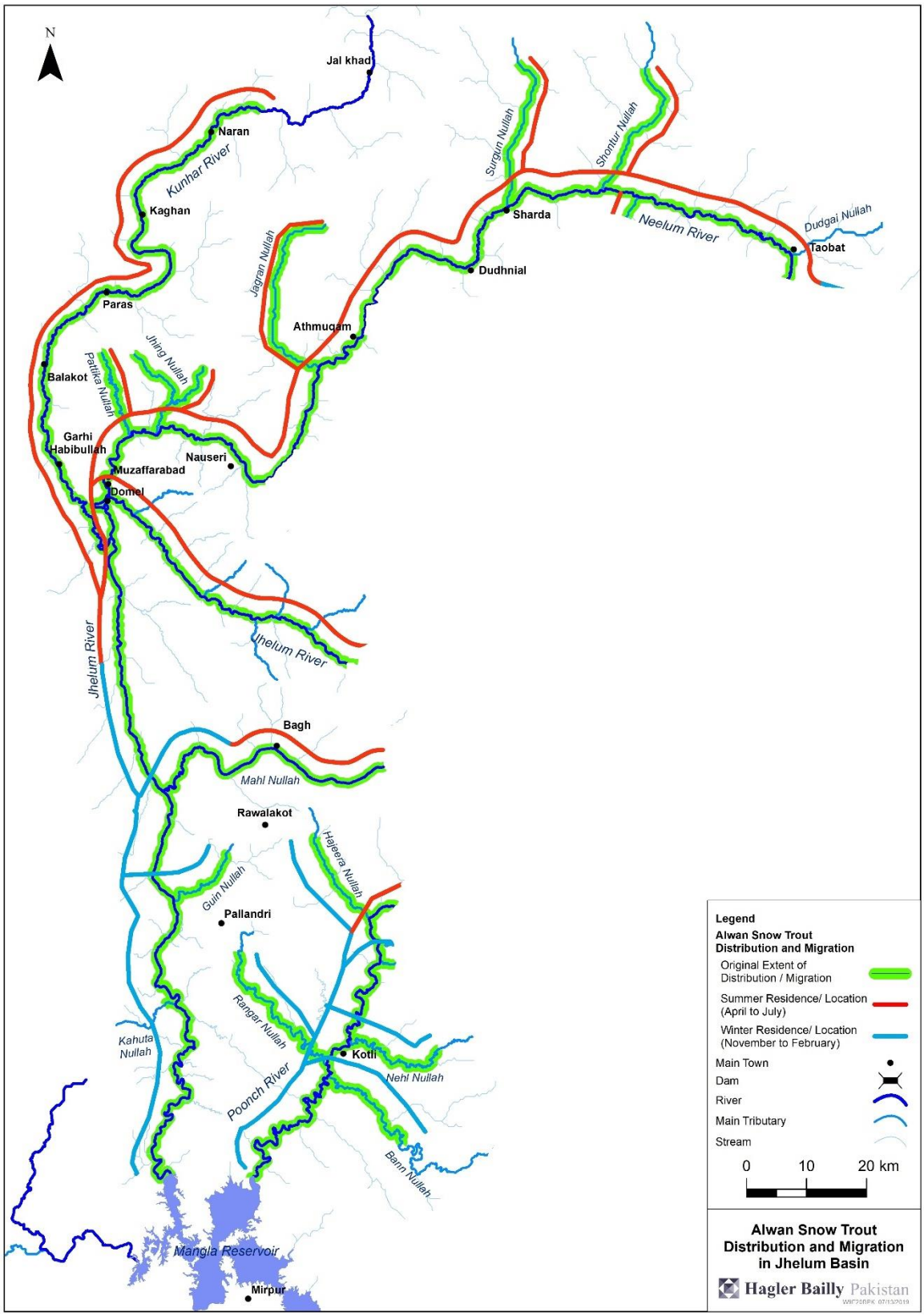


Exhibit VII: Range of the Nalbant's Loach

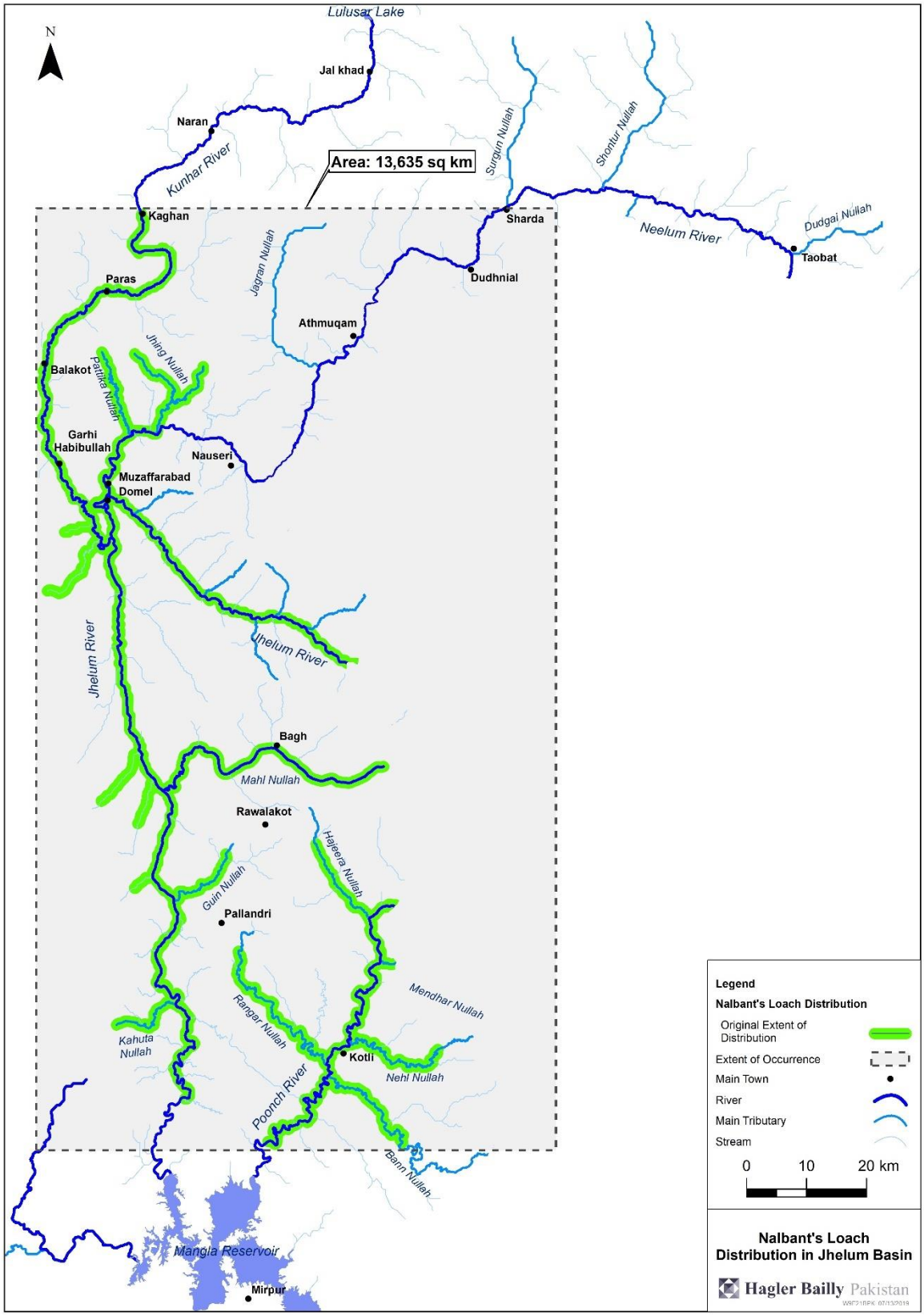
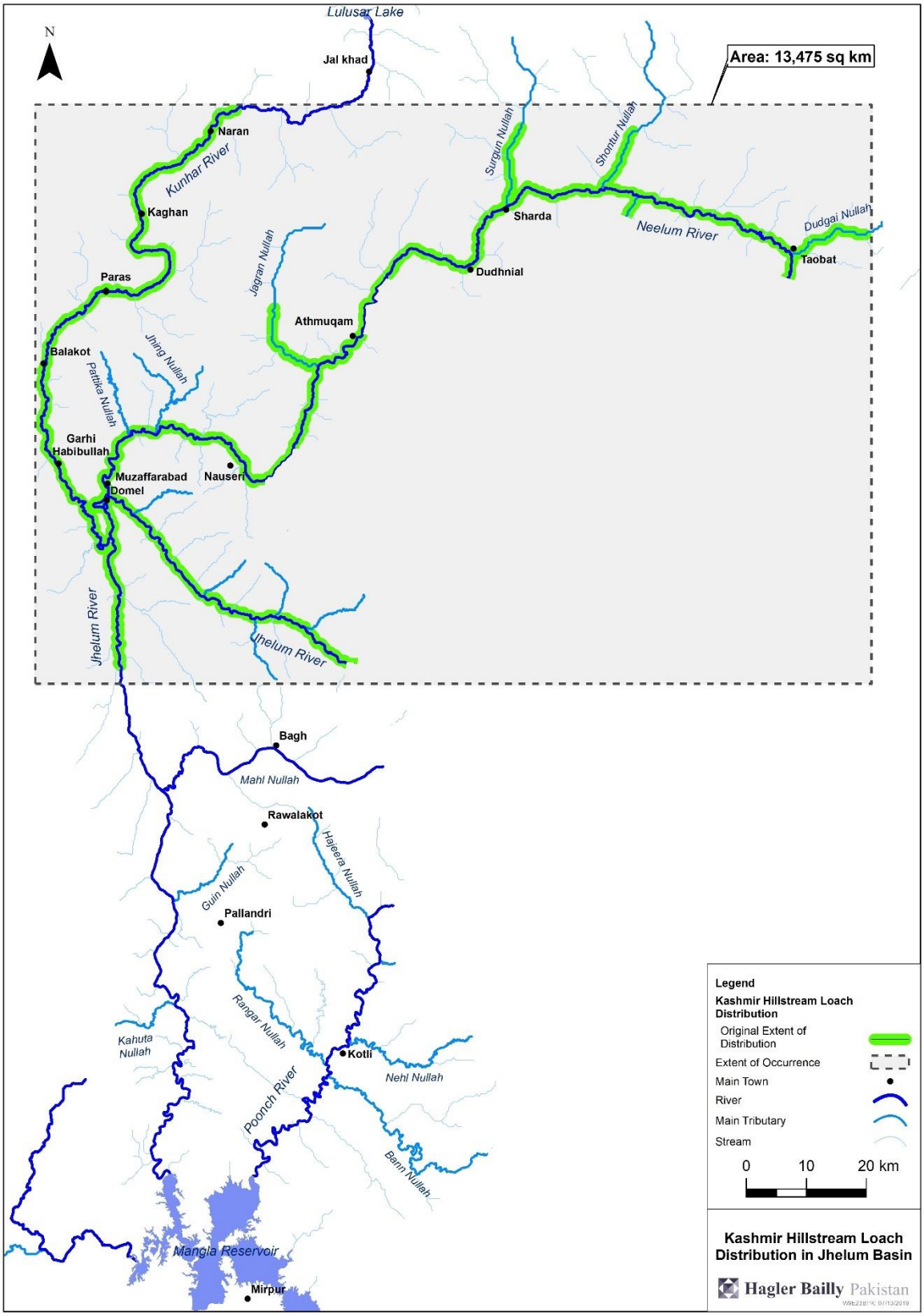


Exhibit VIII: Range of the Kashmir Hillstream Loach



1.8.1.2 Aquatic Macro-invertebrates

100. Aquatic macro-invertebrates including insects, worms, molluscs, crustacians, etc. play a crucial role in the aquatic ecosystem. They make a rich source of food for several aquatic species including the loaches. Overall 15 species of macro-invertebrates were recorded from the project area. These belong to three phyla, five orders, nine families, and 15 genera. All the specimens were identified up to the genus level except the one belonging to the Family Lymaeidae and Phylum Mollusca. All the macro-invertebrates were found in the tributary streams of the Kunhar River which are the potential habitats of Loaches including the Critically Endangered Kashmir Hillstream Loach (*Triplophysa kashmirensis*). The recorded 15 species of macro-invertebrates were observed in almost every stream in the project area and their existence in the tributaries streams of Kunhar River reflects a healthy habitat for loaches.

101. Based on surveys carried out for the EIA, the most abundant macro-invertebrate taxa reported include *Baetis sp*. followed by *Rhithrogena sp.* Abundance was found to be the highest upstream of Paras village. Species richness was found to be the same throughout the Aquatic Study Area.

1.8.1.3 Riparian Vegetation

102. Among riparian vegetation, the dominant species include *Parthenium hysterophorus*. *Conyza Canadensis* and *Rumex dissectus*. Vegetation cover was reported as ranging between 1.48% and 0.52%, average plant count was 27.5 and floral diversity was reported as 3.25 species per Sampling Location. One of the dominant plant species in the Riparian zone is the invasive species *Parthenium hysterophorus*.

1.8.1.4 Terrestrial Biodiversity

a. Terrestrial Flora

103. This area is mountainous and the Terrestrial Study Area has an elevation range of 1,023 m to 2,199 m.[10] During the May 2024 survey, overall 287 plant species were recorded from the study area. These include 42 species of trees, 49 species of shrubs, 163 species of herbs, 09 species of climbers, 20 species of grasses, and 04 species of sedges. These 287 plant species belong to 79 families, 111 species are annual and the rest 176 species are perennial. None of the recorded plant species is threatened according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species or endemic or protected species. The locals are dependent on the plants for numerous uses, some of which include food sources, medicinal products, fodder, and fuel.

b. Mammals

104. All the mammalian species were searched in all the identified habitats in the study area. Small mammals like mice, squirrels, mongooses, etc. were directly observed during the daytime whereas for nocturnal small mammals like rats, bats, shrews, etc. observations were made at night. Different techniques to observe different small mammals included spotlighting technique, observing active burrows, fresh feces, and tracks.

105. Different large and medium-sized mammals show different feeding habits and some species are diurnal while others are nocturnal. Therefore, different direct and indirect methods

10 Nasir, Yasin J., and Rubina A. Rafiq. "Wild flowers of Pakistan." Karachi: Oxford University Press xxxiii, 298p., 104p. of plates-illus., col. illus. ISBN195775848 (1995).

were applied to locate various large mammals in the study area. Track and trails, fecal material, body parts, dead animal remains, fur entangled in the bushes, feeding remains, etc. of different mammals were observed in different habitats in order to confirm the existence of different animals, particularly the nocturnal mammals. Sounds and calls of animals also indicate the presence of animals in a locality and no sound does not necessarily mean that no animal exists there. Sounds, calls, roars, etc. of different mammals were listened to at night and the existence of different mammals was confirmed.

106. During the May 2024 survey, overall 21 species of mammals belonging to six orders, 12 families, and 21 genera were recorded from the study area. According to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (IUCN 2024), all the recorded mammals in the study area have been categorized as “Least Concern” with either stable or increasing population trends.

c. Avifauna

107. A total of 111 bird species belonging to 17 orders were recorded. Most of the birds, especially the resident and summer breeders were observed directly in different habitats in the study area whereas, for recording the winter visiting birds, secondary data was consulted. The recorded birds included 50% resident birds, 29% winter visitors, 11% summer breeders, and 10% passage migrants or irregular year-round visitors according to Grimmett *et al*. (2008). None of the recorded birds is Threatened or endemic to Pakistan. All the recorded birds have been categorized as “Least Concern” by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

d. Herpetofauna

108. Herpeto-fauna includes amphibians (frogs and toads) and reptiles (snakes and lizards). Applying all the possible direct and indirect observation methods, eight species of amphibians, belonging to three families and six genera were recorded. These amphibians belong to the Order Anura and include three toads and five frogs. According to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (IUCN, 2024), none of the recorded eight amphibian species is threatened. All the recorded species have been categorized as “Least Concern” and all have stable population trends.

109. Among reptiles, a total of 24 species belonging to one order, 10 families, and 20 genera were recorded. The recorded reptiles include 12 lizards and 12 snakes. None of the recorded reptilian species is Threatened and only three species; including two lizards and one snake have NEAR THREATENED conservation status with a decreasing population trend and the rest of the 21 species are categorized as LEAST CONCERN with stable population trend.

1.9 Overview of Socioeconomic Environment

110. Rural settlement surveys were undertaken in selected settlements with river dependence or within 1 km of Project facilities. Detailed interviews were conducted with key informants to gather information on each settlement’s social and economic setup, with a focus on infrastructure and livelihoods. Key physical and socioeconomic features of the Study Area are illustrated by the photographs in **Exhibit IX.**

Exhibit IX: Physical and Socioeconomic Features of the Study Area




Roads and transport in the study area



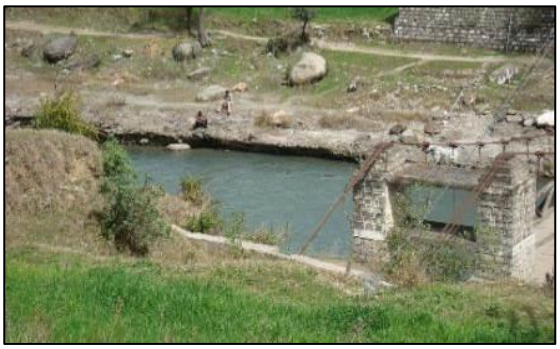

Water Supply System in study area



Sand mining trough at Bararkot



Sand mining with excavator



Fishing with the rod at Talhatta



Fishing at Karnol

111. A total of 31 settlements were surveyed during the fieldwork, ranging in size from 3 households to 1,500 households. Both the right and left banks of the river are almost similar in terms of settlement distribution and size, and the average number of households per settlement in all zones is 128. The average household size in the Socioeconomic Study Area is 6.2 individuals, with a minimum of 3.5 and a maximum of 10.

112. People in the pastoral communities within the Socioeconomic Study Area have a trend of seasonal migration, with one home close to the river and one at higher elevations. These communities move their livestock herds to higher elevations in the mountains for grazing during the summer. Migration into and out of the Socioeconomic Study Area was found to be insignificant over the past 7 years.

113. People from 7 different casts are residents in the Socioeconomic Study Area, with Gujjar and Syed being the biggest groups. The predominant language is Hindko, however, Gojri is also widely spoken. Urdu, the language of communication is also understood everywhere, especially amongst the youth.

114. School enrolment for both boys and girls was found to be comparable at all levels, in fact, enrolment of girls is higher in many cases.

115. Most parts of the Socioeconomic Study Area have access to basic health facilities, such as pharmacies, lady health visitors/workers, and dispensaries. No disease was reported as an epidemic, and as expected, the most common illness reported in the adult male and female populations was flu/fever. Other illnesses reported included dysentery, diabetes, and jaundice.

116. The settlements situated on the left bank of Jhelum River in the Socioeconomic Study Area are well connected as there is a road running along the river for its entire length in the area. Communities residing on the right bank are not as well connected, however, suspension bridges and unsealed roads do connect them to major roads.

117. Most surveyed settlements reported having access to a public potable water supply system consisting of a central water storage system, where water collects from a mountain spring and is supplied to the community via a pipeline up to a central point in the community. Almost all surveyed settlements also reported having access to spring water at relatively short distances.

118. None of the settlements surveyed in the Socioeconomic Study Area are connected to a municipal sewage system. Most human waste is disposed of in septic tanks and all other wastewater eventually runs off into the Jhelum River. Most settlements surveyed reported access to pit latrines of some type.

119. The three major fuel sources in the Socioeconomic Study Area include electricity, fuelwood, and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). Natural gas is not supplied in the area. None of the settlements are connected to the country’s landline telephone network, however, most of the area does receive a mobile phone signal.

120. The Socioeconomic Study Area and surroundings are generally peaceful, and there are no major law and order problems reported. Police check posts are only present on the main Kaghan Highway. Police check posts and monitor incoming traffic to tourist areas, to determine the purpose of visitors to the valley.

121. Banks and markets are available mainly in Balakot city. Shops are present on the main Kaghan Highway. The shops provide for the day-to-day needs of the local communities or to supply travelers and tourists. For major purchases, all settlements in the survey area depend mainly on Balakot city, which is the hub of economic activity in the region.

122. 55% of the total employable population is employed while 25% are unemployed. The remaining are students, retired, and others such as labor and small business operators.

123. The major sources of income are private and government services and business while other significant livelihoods include wage labor and work as skilled artisans. A significant portion of households in the Socioeconomic Study Area earn less than PKR 25,000 and can therefore be considered impoverished.

124. The average landholding in all settlements ranges from 4 to 7 kanals per household. The largest landholding size was reported as 7.67 kanals. The main winter crop in all zones is wheat and the main summer crop is maize. Most agricultural land is rain-fed with almost no dependence on river water for irrigation. The agricultural economy is purely subsistence in nature.

125. Livestock commonly owned include bullocks/buffalos, cows, and goats. Livestock owners often engage herders to rear goats, whereas poultry, cows, and buffalo are reared at home.

126. River-dependent socio-economic activities in the Socioeconomic Study Area were found to be quite limited.

127. Sediment (sand, gravel, and cobble) mining is carried out throughout the Study Area. The mineable sediment resource is being extracted to meet small-scale construction demand, involving the construction and maintenance of local residential and commercial buildings as well as roads. Miners in the Balakot area reported that the import of sediment varies from year to year depending on the status of the construction industry.

128. The mining techniques are crude, involving the use of labor for dredging. No mechanical extraction was observed anywhere in the Study Area except Jagir (Thanda Mor) where sand is extracted through an excavator. The sand and gravel are mined using shovels and spades and are loaded onto animals and vehicles, from where it is transported to the roadside.

129. Fishing for self-consumption was observed in the Study Area. Fishing as a business was not observed in any of the six zones except in Zone 5 at Balakot. Even here it was on a small scale to meet the local restaurant clientage. The fishing season lasts between six months through the year, depending on the fish species caught.

130. Fuel wood is the main source of energy for domestic cooking and heating. Respondents reported that fuel wood is collected from the farmlands and dead-fallen trees in the forests. There is limited dependence on driftwood collected from the riverbanks as a source of fuel wood except in settlements at the peripheries of Balakot where the river flows through more plain areas creating room for such activities

131. Recreational dependence on the river was reportedly low in all the zones. During the survey, the respondents did not cite riverside fishing, boating, or picnics as a major

recreational activity. However, the roadside hotel owners reported that riverside recreation was popular to a certain extent among tourists from other areas.

1.10 Environmental Flow Assessment and Impacts on Aquatic Ecology

132. The assessment of impact on aquatic ecology presented in the report provides predictions for changes in fish populations due to the Project associated with the barrier created by the dam, and change in flow conditions in the Kunhar River. The assessment also takes into account other anthropogenic factors such as the harvesting of fish and sediment from the river system that contribute to the degradation of aquatic ecosystems and hence fish populations in parallel.

133. Although the construction of the dam will cause a reduction of flow d/s of the dam however, as given in the approved EIA report, a minimum of 6.1 m^3/s flow will be maintained even in the extremely low flow season. This provision of ecological flow is 32% of the historical low flow. This flow will further be supplemented by 13 streams/ nullahs d/s of the dam. These nullahs will significantly compensate for the reduced flow in the river, thus keeping the downstream ecosystem intact and healthy. Also, except d/s of Balakot city, the Kunhar River water is not being used for irrigation purposes. Hence the prospect of further reduction in the River water is not anticipated.

134. The river ecology in the study area has been significantly altered by human activities, leading to the over-exploitation of natural resources. Common practices include illegal tree cutting, sand and aggregate mining, and uncontrolled fishing. Snow trout and brown trout are economically important fish species in the area; however, it has been observed that these two species do not grow to larger sizes due to relentless fishing practices conducted both day and night.

135. Additionally, most native fish species in the region belong to the family Nemacheilidae, which includes stone loaches that inhabit streams in mountainous areas. Since these streams fall outside the impact zone of the dam construction on the Kunhar River, the aquatic life in these streams is expected to remain unaffected.

136. The populations of the two species of snow trout found in the study area are already declining due to overfishing and the introduction of the exotic brown trout species. Unlike the native snow trout, brown trout are not bottom feeders. Consequently, the formation of the reservoir is anticipated to not only enhance the habitat for fish fauna but also increase food resources and reduce competition between the two species, particularly concerning food, shelter, and space.

137. The natural food chain and ecosystem in the study area appear to be somewhat disturbed due to the absence of certain biotic components, such as tertiary consumers and top predators. The Eurasian otter (Lutra lutra) is recognized as a top predator in cold-water aquatic ecosystems, as it helps to control, regulate, and maintain the populations of all other species at lower trophic levels.

138. The deep, slow-moving waters in the dam/reservoir will promote the growth of phytoplankton and other aquatic vegetation, which in turn will support a variety of macroinvertebrates. This increased vegetation will also provide more foraging areas, refuge,

and shelter for the Snow trout, which is currently facing competition for food and space from the introduced Brown trout, often being dominated by it.

139. Although the construction of a dam will hinder fish migration, the enhanced productivity resulting from fish stocking in the reservoir, along with protective measures, is expected to lead to an increase in both the size and numbers of existing fish populations. The growth of these fish populations will help attract the missing components of the food chain, allowing otters—top predators of the aquatic ecosystem—to return and complete the food chain.

1.10.1 Baseline Scenario

140. There are several other major hydropower projects (HPPs) under construction on the Kunhar River, and several more are proposed. The ones under construction include the Patrind HPP and the Sukki Kinari HPP while the ones proposed include the Naran HPP and the Batakundi HPP. All of the HPPs under construction or nearing completion will create barriers to inter alia, fish and sediment movement in the Kunhar Basin. But at the same time, the construction of different dams and reservoirs along the Kunhar River will also develop ruderal habitats for the aquatic biodiversity and to some extent, will compensate for the isolation barriers for the aquatic fauna.

141. More specifically:

- the PHPP has blocked the passage of migrating fish from the Jhelum River into the Kunhar River;
- SKHPP is expected to operate as a peaking plant it will discharge peaking flows in the 1.5 km reach between its outfall and the reservoir; and
- SKHPP will reduce sediment flow downstream and block fish migrations due to its dam.

1.10.2 Environmental Flow Release Scenario

142. For operational scenarios, both baseload and peaking operations were considered. EFlow release was varied at 20%, 35%, and 50% of the minimum 5-day dry season flow[11] of 17.4 m^3/s along with the EFlow release of 1.5 m^3/s as suggested in the feasibility study. However, as the project will operate on Peak Mode of operation hence, the recommended E-Flow of 6.1 cumec will be maintained downstream of the dam.

1.10.3 Management Scenario

143. Anthropogenic pressures on the Kunhar River, which impact the selected indicators include the following.

- Selective fishing pressure,
- Non-selective fishing pressure,
- Sediment mining,
- Nutrient enrichment,

[11] Min 5 day dry season flow is calculated by DRIFT. It calculates the median value of a running 5 day average over the 51 year record.

- Tree cutting.

144. Four management scenarios, which represent the predicted river condition in 51 years[12] under different levels of protection/management were considered. The protection levels considered were:

- **Business as Usual Protection (BAU):** increase non-flow-related pressures in line with current trends, i.e. 2017 pressures double in intensity over the next 51 years.
- **Low Protection (LP):** maintain 2017 levels of non-flow-related pressures on the river; i.e., no increase in human-induced catchment pressures over time.
- **Moderate Protection (MP):** reduce 2017 levels of non-flow-related pressures by 50%, i.e., the decline in pressures (relative to 2017) over time.
- **High Protection (HP):** reduce 2017 levels of non-flow-related pressures by 90%, i.e., the decline in pressures (relative to 2017) over time.13

1.10.4 Results and Conclusions

145. Two operational scenarios were recommended for consideration of the stakeholders:

- **Preferred Case:** Baseload operation with an EFlow of 1.5 m^3/s and High Protection
- **Alternate Case:** Peaking operation with an EFlow of 6.1 m^3/s and High Protection

146. With a baseload operation, it will be possible to meet the requirement of Net Gain in population of fish species that trigger Critical Habitat, with a margin for uncertainties in predictions of EFlow modeling of the order of 15% above and below the predicted mean change in populations, and a more conservative baseline of LP level of protection against which Net Gain is calculated.

147. With a peaking operation and EFlow release of 6.1 cumecs, there will be a loss in power generation of the order of 3.5% compared to the loss under a baseload operation with an EFlow release of 1.5 cumecs. While the basic requirement of Net Gain will be met assuming a Business as Usual Baseline, there will be a limited margin for accommodating uncertainties in EFlow modeling predictions. The Net Gain requirement will not be met assuming a conservative baseline with a Low Protection level of protection.

148. The implementation of protective measures under the BAP, along with additional initiatives, can significantly benefit fish populations. These measures include awareness-raising campaigns, banning illegal and commercial fishing in rivers and streams, cleaning streams of solid waste, constructing fish pools, prohibiting the release of wastewater into streams, establishing fish hatcheries, and stocking fish. Together, these actions aim to achieve a net gain in fish populations.

[12] This is the length of the historical hydrological record that was used in the assessment.

[13] Experience in neighboring rivers has shown that it is easier to impose a complete ban on activities such as illegal fishing and mining than it is to reduce these activities by half.

1.11 Study of Alternatives

1.11.1 No Project Option

149. Pakistan is going through an acute power shortage. The gap between supply and demand has crossed 5,000 MW. The proposed Project will supply the much-needed power to reduce the current gap. Environmentally, this Project will contribute towards improving the air quality as in the long run it will displace fossil fuels used in power generation. The Project also aims to protect fish fauna in the Kunhar River and its tributaries to achieve improvement in fish populations for fish species of conservation importance. A Biodiversity Management Plan has been prepared and will be implemented as a part of the Project to achieve this objective. Therefore the 'no project' option will have a negative impact on the economy as well as on the environment in the Kunhar River.

1.11.2 Alternative Technologies and Scale for Power Generation

150. The alternatives to the proposed run-of-the-river (RoR) hydropower project include power generation from LNG/imported natural gas-based combined cycle gas turbines (CCGTs), coal-fired steam plants, and fuel oil-based diesel engines. In addition, other technologies such as nuclear, wind, and solar renewable energy power plants could also be considered as alternatives. An analysis of the life cycle average cost of generation shows that the cost of power generation for the proposed large-size run of river (RoR) hydropower project is presently comparable to that for LNG and coal-based options. The cost of power generation for large hydropower projects is also presently lower than that for wind energy and solar PV projects where power generation is intermittent and weather-dependent.

1.12 Project Impacts

151. During the scoping stage of the EIA process, several potential environmental and social impacts of the project were identified. The baseline surveys were conducted keeping in consideration the potential impacts. The potential environmental and social impacts were evaluated based on consideration. A summary of Project impacts is presented in **Exhibit X.**

Exhibit X: Summary of Significant Impacts

ID	Aspect	Impact	Phase	Stage	Magnitude	Timeframe	Spatial Scale	Consequence	Probability	Significance	+/-
1	Aquatic Ecology	Change in the Ecological Integrity through the implementation of the BAP (see Volume 2C of the EIA)	C, O	Init	Major	Long Term	Extensive	High	Definite	High	+
2	Aquatic Ecology	Loss of riverine ecosystem due to inundation by Project Reservoir	C, O	Init	Major	Long Term	Intermediate	High	Definite	High	-
				Res	Major	Long Term	Intermediate	High	Definite	High	-
3	Aquatic Ecology	Degradation of the river ecosystem in the low-flow segment downstream of the Project dam	C, O	Init	Major	Long Term	Intermediate	High	Definite	High	-
				Res	Major	Long Term	Intermediate	High	Definite	High	-
4	Aquatic Ecology	Degradation of the River Ecosystem Downstream of the Tailrace	C, O	Init	Major	Long Term	Intermediate	High	Definite	High	-
				Res	Moderate	Long Term	Intermediate	High	Definite	High	+
7	Terrestrial Ecology	Project operation leads to animal disturbance, displacement, and decline.	O	Init	Minor	Long Term	Small	Medium	Possible	Medium	-
				Res	Minor	Medium	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-
8	Ambient Air Quality	An increase in ambient and ground level concentrations of air pollutants from construction activities and vehicular movement may cause health impacts to the community.	C	Init	Moderate	Medium Term	Small	Medium	Possible	Medium	-
				Res	Minor	Short Term	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-
9	Blasting and Vibration	Vibration from blasting during the construction phase may disturb local communities.	C	Init	Moderate	Medium Term	Intermediate	Medium	Possible	Medium	-
				Res	Minor	Short Term	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-
10	Blasting and Vibration	Blasting may pose a health hazard due to flying debris.	C	Init	Moderate	Short Term	Intermediate	High	Possible	Medium	-
				Res	Minor	Short Term	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-
11	Hydrology and Water Quality	Alterations of the natural passage of springs due to blasting for tunnels may disrupt the water supply for mountain spring users.	C	Init	Moderate	Long Term	Intermediate	High	Possible	High	-
				Res	Minor	Medium	Intermediate	Low	Possible	Low	-
12	Hydrology and Water Quality	The use of local water resources for construction activities may	C	Init	Moderate	Short Term	Intermediate	Medium	Possible	Medium	-
				Res	Minor	Short Term	Small	Low	Unlikely	Low	-

ID	Aspect	Impact	Phase	Stage	Magnitude	Timeframe	Spatial Scale	Consequence	Probability	Significance	+/-
		reduce the water availability for local communities.									
15	Soil, Topography, and Land Stability	Contamination of soil as a result of the accidental release of solvents, oils, and lubricants can degrade soil fertility and agricultural productivity.	C	Init	Moderate	Medium	Intermediate	Medium	Possible	Medium	-
				Res	Minor	Medium	Intermediate	Low	Unlikely	Low	-
17	Soil, Topography, and Land Stability	Failure of spoil dumping sites results in increased erosion and sediment load entering the river.	C	Init	Moderate	Long Term	Intermediate	High	Possible	High	-
				Res	Moderate	Medium Term	Intermediate	Medium	Unlikely	Low	-
26	Livelihood and Well-being	Direct, indirect, and induced employment at the local levels, resulting in increased prosperity and well-being due to higher and stable incomes of people.	C, O	Init	Minor	Long term	Extensive	Medium	Possible	Medium	+
				Res	Moderate	Long term	Extensive	High	Definite	High	+
27	Livelihood and Well-being	Increase in the stock of skilled human capital due to transfer of knowledge and skill under the Project resulting in enhanced productivity of the local labor.	C, O	Init	Minor	Long term	Intermediate	Medium	Possible	Medium	+
				Res	Moderate	Long term	Extensive	High	Possible	High	+
28	Livelihood and Well-being	Increase in recreational and subsistence fishing due to increase in catch of fish following the creation of favorable habitats for the fish in the Kunhar River.	C, O	Init	Minor	Long term	Extensive	Low	Possible	Low	+
				Res	Minor	Long term	Extensive	Low	Possible	Low	+
29	Livelihood and Well-being	Loss of income from sediment mining due to change in the pattern of sediment deposition following the construction of the dam	O	Init	Major	Long term	Extensive	High	Definite	High	-
				Res	Minor	Medium	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-
30	Livelihood and Well-being	Loss of assets and livelihood as a result of land acquired for the Project	D, C	Init	Major	Long term	Extensive	High	Definite	High	-
				Res	Minor	Medium	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-
31	Socio-Cultural Impacts	Increase in population due to in-migration of job seekers (in-migrants) leading to pressure on existing social infrastructure and services in the Study Area.	C	Init	Moderate	Medium	Intermediate	Medium	Possible	Medium	-
				Res	Minor	Medium	Intermediate	Low	Possible	Low	-

ID	Aspect	Impact	Phase	Stage	Magnitude	Timeframe	Spatial Scale	Consequence	Probability	Significance	+/-
32	Socio-Cultural Impacts	Disputes over the distribution of Project employment within and between Study Area inhabitants and the in-migrants resulting in social unrest	C	Init	Moderate	Medium	Intermediate	Medium	Possible	Medium	-
				Res	Minor	Short term	Intermediate	Low	Possible	Low	-
33	Socio-Cultural Impacts	Potential social unrest in the Study Area due to conflicting socio-cultural norms amongst the inhabitants and in-migrants.	C	Init	Minor	Short term	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-
34	Socio-Cultural Impacts	Submergence of the graveyards.	C	Init	Moderate	Medium	Intermediate	Medium	Possible	Medium	-
				Res	Minor	Short term	Intermediate	Low	Possible	Low	-

C: Construction (and pre-construction); O: Operation; Init: Initial; Res: Residual; Duration: Short (less than four years), Long (beyond the life of the Project)

Frequency: High (more than 10 times a year), Low (less than once a year)

1.13 Climate Change Risk

152. A climate change risk assessment carried out in collaboration by Aqualogous, Team Consultants, and Hagler Bailly Pakistan, included as part of the Feasibility Study, indicates the following based on analysis of multiple models, as well as literature:

- General potential increase in annual precipitation associated with an increase in summer Monsoon precipitation.
- Decrease in winter and spring precipitation.
- Likely increase in the Probable Maximum Flood, based on the Maximum Precipitable Water.

153. The changes will have consequences on dam operations covered under the scope of the Feasibility Assessment. Concerning environmental impact, i.e. impact on receptors, the following impacts with the dam in place, in conjunction with climate change are likely:

- Decreased environmental flow release downstream of the dam, particularly during low flow conditions in winter, based on assessed future greenhouse gas emissions scenarios and climate change models utilized by the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (AR5).
- Increase risk of dam failure due to increase in Probable Maximum Precipitable water, and thereby Probable Maximum Flood, under high greenhouse gas concentration scenarios (representative concentration pathway 8.5) by 2070-2100.

154. Concerning the risk of decreased environmental flow releases, the design is resilient to climate change, since low-level outlets are available and can be utilized to release environmental flow.

155. In addition, concerning the increase in Probable Maximum Precipitation, based on consultation with dam engineers, the dam is already designed and has an increase of 30-35% in probable maximum precipitation peak, a conservative estimate based on a 30-35% increase in maximum precipitable water, and the dam break risk assessment considers similarly large floods, that are unlikely to cause the failure of the dam.

1.14 Cumulative Impact Assessment

156. The methodology used for the CIA of the Project has been adapted from the guidelines of the International Finance Corporation. The study area selected for the CIA (CIA Study Area) includes the entire length of the Kunhar River from Lulusar Lake down to its confluence with the Jhelum River, a total length of 116.3 km. The temporal scope of the CIA spans 51 years up till the year 2068.

157. Priority VECs were identified through an Ecosystem Services Review and from ecological studies. The ecosystem services and biodiversity values identified as important were combined to develop a list of prioritized VECs for this study. The prioritized VECs for this CIA are:

- River ecology with emphasis on fish fauna
- Recreation and tourism

1.14.1 Impact on Fish Fauna

158. Three environmental management scenarios were considered when assessing the impact on fish fauna in the CIA Study Area.

159. A 'Business as Usual' (BAU) scenario, which predicts the health of the river ecosystem in the absence of any additional dams (both planned and under construction) but with present-day non-flow pressures maintained at Business as Usual levels.

160. A 'Baseline Management' (BM) scenario predicts the health of the river ecosystem after the construction of all five dams, with the following operational and environmental management measures in place:

- Project will operate with a constant baseload flow and an EFlow of 1.5 m^3/s
- Sukki Kinari HPP, Naran HPP, and Batakundi HPP will operate following a peaking regime
- Patrind HPP will continue to operate with a baseload flow, however, this has no impact on the Kunhar River as its powerhouse is located on the Jhelum River and the impacts of peaking will occur in the Jhelum River.
- Protection Level 3, or Pro 3 level of protection will be implemented in the Project area of management
- Protection Level "Business As Usual (BAU)" will be implemented in the Patrind HPP, Sukki Kinari HPP, Naran HPP, and Batakundi HPP areas of management

161. An 'Enhanced Management' (EM) scenario predicts the health of the river ecosystem after the construction of all five dams, with the following operational and environmental management measures in place:

- Project, Naran HPP, and Batakundi HPP will operate with a constant baseload flow
- Sukki Kinari HPP will operate following a peaking regime
- Patrind HPP will continue to operate with a baseload flow, however, this has no impact on the Kunhar River as its powerhouse is located on the Jhelum River and the impacts of peaking will occur in the Jhelum River
- Protection Level 3, or Pro 3 level of protection will be implemented in the areas of management of all HPPs

162. The likely cumulative impacts on three indicator fish species are described in the following sections.

1.14.1.1 Alwan Snow Trout

163. The Alwan Snow Trout faces heavy selective fishing pressures, which are expected to increase significantly under the business-as-usual scenario. This is predicted to reduce Alwan Snow Trout populations by around 70% throughout the Kunhar River. The expected impact of all dams will result in the complete elimination of the Alwan Snow Trout in most of the Kunhar River. The only exception under this scenario is the stretch between Project Dam to Patrind Reservoir, where a 25% decrease compared to current levels is expected. This stretch will continue to support Alwan Snow Trout populations because of the 1.5 m^3/s EFlow from the

dam to the powerhouse, and the base flow from the powerhouse to the Patrind reservoir. Under Enhanced Management strict protection is applied throughout the river basin and baseload flow is maintained from all dams except Sukki Kinari. However, the barrier effect of the dams combined with reduced flows, especially between dams and powerhouses is enough to eliminate the Alwan Snow Trout in most of the river. River sections downstream of the Project dam continue to support fish populations largely due to the dam's E-Flow. Other sections or rivers, such as the Sukki Kinari dam to the tailrace and the Patrind reservoir to the Jhelum confluence retain significantly depleted populations of the Alwan Snow Trout (reduction of 65 to 70%).

1.14.1.2 Nalbant's Loach

164. The Nalbant's Loach is currently only found downstream of the Sukki Kinari dam site. Under the Business as Usual scenario, the Nalbant's Loach population reduced by 60% compared to current populations. The Nalbant's Loach is sensitive to pollution, and the growing impact of runoff from human settlements and habitat degradation due to activities such as sand mining will result in a reduced population under BAU. The Baseline Management scenario representing the impact of all five dams results in the elimination of the Nalbant's Loach from most stretches of the river due to the combined effect of human impacts and changes in hydrology. However, between the Project dam to the tailrace, there is a 70% decline, and between the Project tailrace to Patrind reservoir, there is a 10% increase. This increase in the Nalbant's Loach population is a result of this stretch of river retaining sufficient water flow due to the EFlow from Project dam and baseload flow from the powerhouse, combined with reduced human impacts due to the conservation measures in the Project implemented under BM. Under the Enhanced Management scenario, increased protection throughout the river basin results in other stretches retaining some of the Nalbant's Loach population. The stretch between the Sukki Kinari dam and its tailrace and the Patrind dam and the Jhelum confluence retain 30% of the current population. The Project dam to tailrace and Project tailrace to Patrind reservoir remain unchanged from the BM scenario.

1.14.1.3 Kashmir Hillstream Loach

165. The Kashmir Hillstream Loach distribution is similar to that of the Nalbant's Loach, and it is only found downstream of the Sukki Kinari dam site. Under the Business as Usual scenario, the Kashmir Hillstream Loach population will reduce by 70% in all stretches where it is currently found. The Kashmir Hillstream Loach is sensitive to human impacts such as habitat degradation and water pollution, and growing population pressure and its associated impacts will result in a reduced population under BAU. Under the Baseline Management scenario changes in hydrology combined with human impacts result in the elimination of the Kashmir Hillstream Loach from most stretches of the Kunhar River. Downstream of Project dam, where an EFlow is maintained, 10% of the existing population will remain. Between the Project tailrace and the Patrind reservoir the combination of EFlow from the dam, baseload flow from the powerhouse, and increased protection in this area are expected to result in a 10% increase in the population. Increased protection under Enhanced Management results in the Sukki Kinari dam to tailrace and Patrind Dam to confluence sections retaining 10% of the current Kashmir Hillstream Loach populations. The Project dam to tailrace (90% reduction) and Project tailrace to Patrind reservoir (10% increase) sections remain unchanged from the BM scenario.

1.14.2 Overall Impact on Ecosystem Integrity

166. The cumulative impact of the proposed HPPs on the overall ecosystem condition and integrity of the Kunhar River was studied, and categories used to describe the Kunhar River's Present Ecological State are based on modification from the natural (see **Exhibit XI**). At present, sections of Kunhar River upstream of Patrind reservoir are largely natural and fall within Category B. Downstream, sections of the river between the Patrind reservoir and the Jhelum confluence are already affected by the construction and operation of Patrind dam, and these sections have therefore been placed in Category B/C.

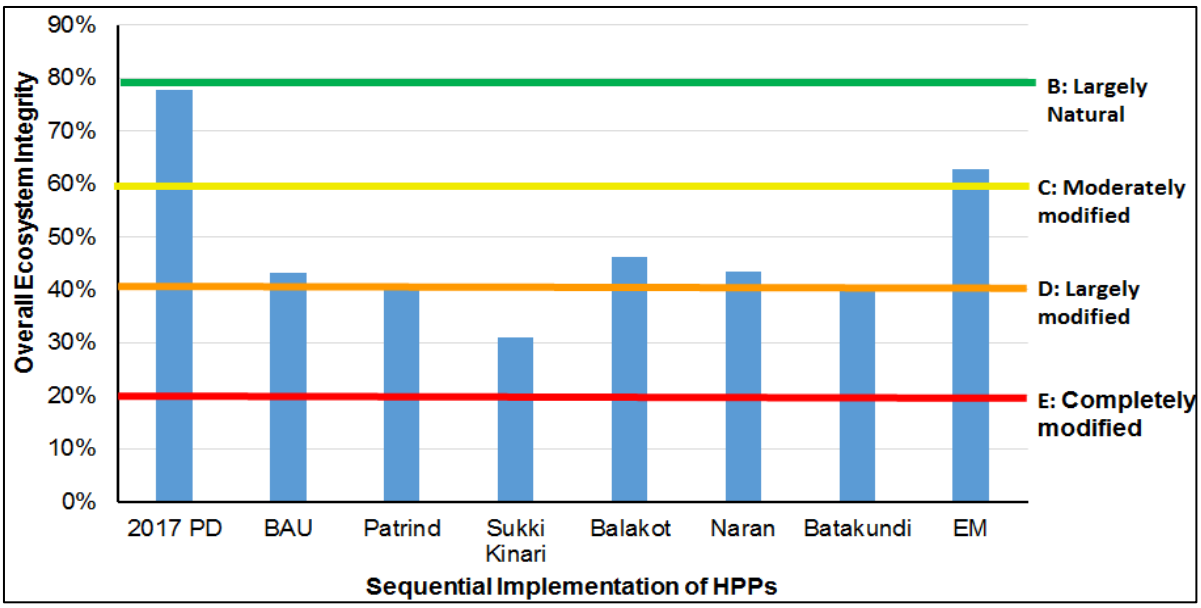
Exhibit XI: Definitions of the Present Ecological State (PES) Categories

A	Unmodified, natural	As close as possible to natural conditions.
B	Largely natural	Modified from the original natural condition but not sufficiently to have produced a measurable change in the nature and functioning of the ecosystem/community.
C	Moderately modified	Changed from the original condition sufficiently to have measurably altered the nature and functioning of the ecosystem/community, although the difference may not be obvious to a casual observer.
D	Largely modified	Sufficiently altered from the original natural condition for obvious impacts on the nature and functioning of the ecosystem/community to have occurred.
E&F	Completely modified	Important aspects of the original nature and functioning of the ecosystem community are no longer present. The area is heavily negatively impacted by human interventions.

167. A weighted average score for the CIA Study Area was calculated based on the score for ecological integrity in each segment of the river and the length of the segment.

168. **Exhibit XII** illustrates the calculated changes in overall ecosystem integrity for the CIA Study Area with the sequential implementation of the HPPs.

Exhibit XII: Predicted Ecosystem Integrity in the CIA Study Area with Sequential Implementation of Hydropower Projects



- Starting with a Present Day score of 78% corresponding to ecosystem integrity of B, the ecosystem integrity deteriorates to D, or a score of about 43% under the BAU scenario without any project. This deterioration is due to poor protection and increasing pressures on the ecosystem from fishing, sediment mining, and deterioration in water quality over time.
- With Patrind HPP added, the overall score drops to 40%, still within Category D. However, with the addition of Sukki Kinari the score reduces further to 31%, which is Category D/E. This reduction is due to the impacts downstream of the Sukki Kinari dam.
- Since the Project includes an EFlow, baseload flow, and Pro 3 level protection (within the Project area), the addition of this HPP improves the overall ecosystem integrity to a score of 46%, or Category C/D.
- The addition of Naran HPP brings the score down to 43% and Batakundi HPP brings it further down to 40% or Category D.

169. Finally, with the implementation of the Enhanced Management scenario, the ecosystem integrity can be improved to a score of about 63%, corresponding to an ecological integrity slightly higher than Category C. This is a significant improvement over the BAU and BM scenarios.

1.14.3 Livelihoods Related to Sediment Mining

170. There is expected to be a significant impact on recreation and tourism in the Kaghan and Naran areas as a result of the construction and operation of Sukki Kinari HPP and Naran HPP. Of the two riverside towns, Naran is the bigger center for recreation and tourism. According to the Tourism Corporation of KP, there are currently over 100 hotels operating in and around Naran. Tourism in the area is seasonal, with most tourists visiting during June, July, and August. During these months, a very significant proportion of locals work in tourism-related activities. Through the provision of tourism-related services, local communities in these areas derive a very significant portion of their annual income from recreation and tourism during the three summer months.

171. For the most part, the construction and operation of Sukki Kinari and Naran HPPs are expected to have a negative impact on tourism in the area. There will be major changes to the present-day largely natural environment as a result of access road construction, dam, and powerhouse construction, inundation, and changes in hydrology (reduced flows, peaking), which will have a detrimental impact on the aesthetics of the area and activities such as recreational fishing. Dam operations will also create potential safety issues since peaking operations could result in accidents and fatalities as unaware tourists are swept into the river by sudden increases in water flow downstream of powerhouses.

172. In an area such as Naran with a well-established tourism sector, there is a very high dependency on recreation and tourism for income. Any reduction in the number of tourists will have very serious socioeconomic consequences.

173. Guidelines and mitigations must be prepared as a part of the Sukki Kinari HPP and Naran HPP BAP/BMPs to minimize the impact of the developments on tourism in the area.

1.14.4 Management Strategy and Measures

174. The CIA presents two management scenarios including the following:

- Baseline Management
- Enhanced Management

175. The enhanced management scenario is recommended as it will effectively mitigate the impacts of the project.

176. The long-term outcome of the baseline management scenario in terms of prioritized VECs will be a high level of degradation of the river habitat and ecosystems resulting in substantial and irreversible loss of ecosystem functions and services. Some parts of the river ecosystems protected under the BAP/BMP developed for hydropower projects will survive and improve due to improved protection and surveillance supported by the projects.

177. Under this scenario, the number of tourists visiting the Kaghan and Naran area is likely to decrease as the area's aesthetics and activities such as recreational fishing are negatively affected.

178. Under the enhanced management scenario, the owners of hydropower projects located within the CIA Study Area would individually and collectively fulfill their environmental and social responsibilities as mandated by law, and manage their corporate and reputational risks.

179. The long-term outcome of this scenario in terms of river ecosystems and ecosystem services will be maintenance and most likely enhancement of ecosystem functions and services in selected segments of the river, and sustainable livelihoods. Under this scenario, there is a likelihood of achieving an increase of about 10% (over the current baseline) in the population of endemic fish species in certain sections of the river.

180. The transition from the present Baseline Management to this scenario will require extensive and sustained effort over a period of time, and will essentially consist of building upon initiatives that have already been identified and partly tested by the Wildlife Department, KP in other parts of the province.

1.15 The Biodiversity Action Plan

181. A Critical Habitat Assessment deduced that the Project is located in a Critical Habitat due to the presence of valued aquatic biological resources, including the threatened, restricted range or endemic fish species Nalbant's Loach (*Schistura Nalbanti*) and Kashmir Hillstream Loach (*Triplophysa kashmirensis*). In addition, the Kunhar River provides habitat for the Alwan Snow Trout (*Schizothorax richardsonii*) which is a migratory fish and is listed as Vulnerable in the IUCN Red List. According to the International Finance Corporation's Performance Standard 6 (IFC PS6), in Critical Habitats 'Net Gain' is required for those values for which Critical Habitat has been designated. This can be done through the development of a biodiversity offset and/or, through the implementation of programs that could be implemented in situ (on-the-ground) to enhance habitat, and protect and conserve biodiversity.' This BAP has, therefore, been prepared to support the corporate commitments of the PEDO for conserving biodiversity as well as to meet the requirements of IFCs PS6 and ADB's Safeguard Policy Statement 2009 for the Project.

1.15.1 Objectives of the BAP

182. This BAP includes a set of actions for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in an area where biodiversity will be directly impacted by the Project. Specific objectives of the BAP are to ensure that the Project:

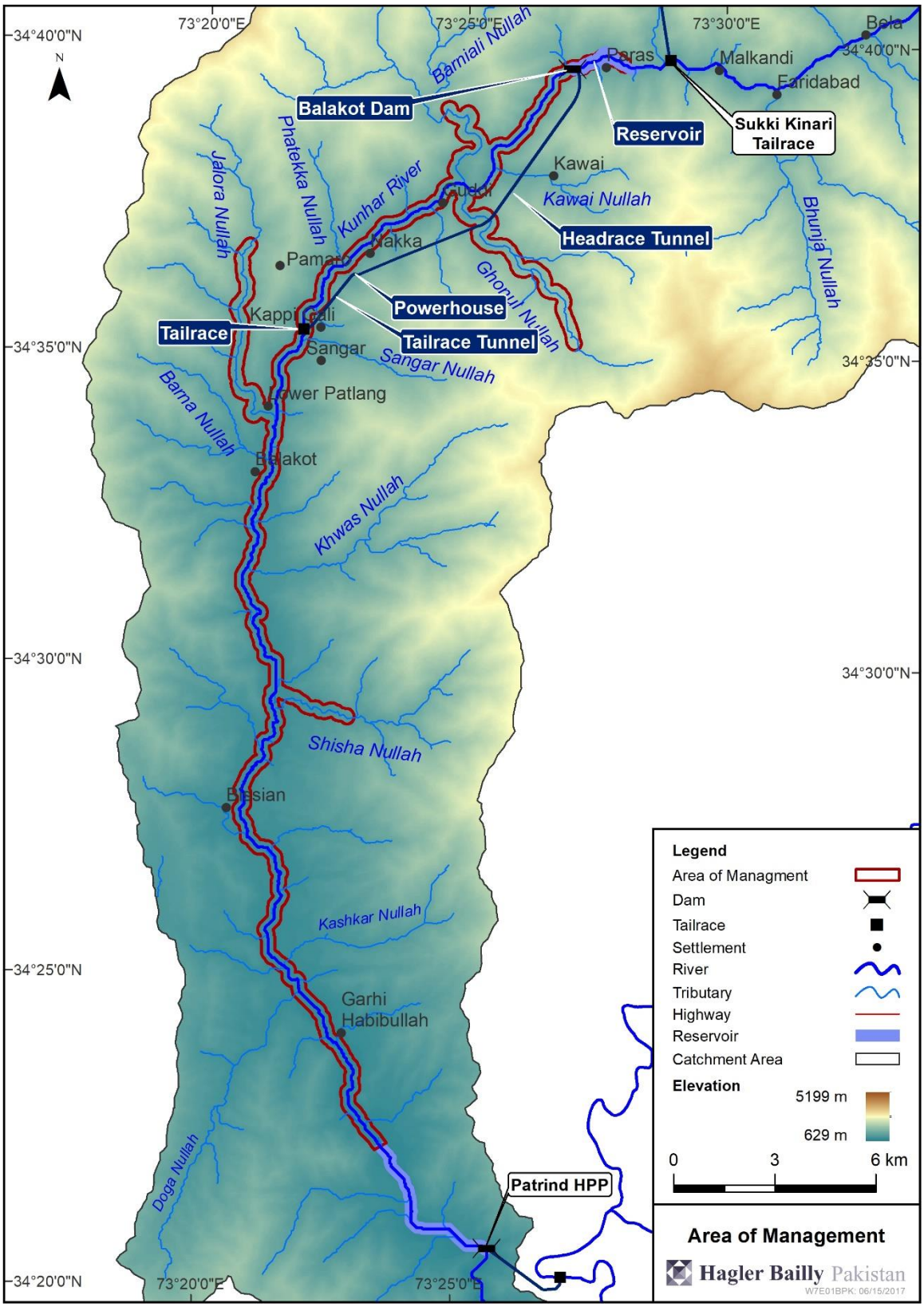
- implements the mitigation and monitoring of biodiversity as proposed in the EIA, and as refined and/or modified by the BAP itself;
- complies with national legislation and policy requirements;
- complies with lenders and other international requirements;
- addresses the concerns and expectations of the stakeholders; and
- implements best practices and sustainable solutions

183. This BAP also includes basin-wide measures for the protection of biodiversity that are important for the protection of biodiversity in the long term. These include the establishment of an Institute for Research on River Ecology, the establishment of a Watershed Management Program, and actions and measures that the Governments can take to protect and enhance the biodiversity in the Kunhar Basin.

1.15.2 Spatial and Temporal Scope of the Biodiversity Action Plan

184. The selection of the geographic scope of the BAP has been defined to incorporate an area where biodiversity will be directly impacted by the Project. This area is defined as the Area of Management and includes an impact zone of about 45 km length of river. The Area of Management includes the reservoir of the Project, 4 km upstream of where the Project dam will be constructed and extends to 5 km upstream of the Patrind dam but excluding the reservoir of Patrind HPP. The Area of Management also includes segments of the Barniali, Ghonul, Jalora, and Shisha Nullahs. **Exhibit XIII** illustrates a map showing the Area of Management.

Exhibit XIII: Spatial and Temporal Scope of BMP



1.15.3 Proposed Conservation Measures

185. The strategy and approach used for protecting the biodiversity includes the following:

- setting up an effective and efficient watch and ward system that will help to reduce the existing anthropogenic pressures in the Area of Management which is central to keeping the integrity of the Area of Management of the BAP intact. This will:
  - curtail illegal fishing including non-selective fishing, fishing in the breeding season of fish, and fishing in river tributaries;
  - regulate sediment mining to maintain it at sustainable levels and prevent sediment mining from ecologically sensitive locations;
- Promote environmental awareness among the local communities and engage them in protecting the ecological resources; and
- Institutional strengthening of custodian government departments.

a. Control of Illegal Fishing

186. The following measures will be implemented by the Fisheries, and Wildlife departments of the KP province (referred to as Departments) with support from the Project for conserving the fish populations of the Kunhar River.

- Non-selective fishing using fine mesh gill nets, poisons, and dynamites will be completely controlled in the entire stretch of the Kunhar River.
- Fishing in the tributaries that are breeding grounds for fish will be banned.
- Fishing during the breeding season of the fish (May-August) will be banned.
- Fishing in habitats identified as sensitive, particularly for the fish species of conservation importance will be restricted or banned, with special attention to sections of tributaries that are breeding grounds of fish.
- Commercial fishing will not be allowed either in the river and its tributaries or in the reservoir.
- The above rules and regulations will be strictly implemented with an efficient and effective watch and ward system.
- Subsistence fishing using rods and cast nets with limited weights will be allowed through a permitting system in the reservoir created upstream of the dam, and downstream of the dam when the KP Fisheries Department considers the fish populations to have recovered.
- Angling will be allowed to attract visitors and develop the educational and recreational value of the river when the KP Fisheries considers the fish populations to have recovered.

b. Fish Passage

187. In the absence of tested and proven techniques for the automatic transportation of fish upstream of the dam to a height of more than 35 m which is the case with the Project, the physical transport of fingerlings of migratory fish captured downstream of the river to upstream

of the dam is recommended however, the option shall be discussed with the Fisheries Department. Experimentation with emerging methods and techniques to transport fish upstream of the dam will be conducted by the proposed Institute for Research on River Ecology (IRRE).

c. Regulation of Sand and Gravel Mining

188. Sediment mining will only be allowed in designated areas and banned from ecologically sensitive areas such as habitat of fish of conservation importance, and fish breeding locations in tributaries. An Outline for Sediment Mining Management Guidelines is provided in the BAP**.** The Sediment Mining Guidelines will ensure that a balance is achieved between meeting community needs for sand and gravel as well as the integrity of aquatic habitat in the Area of Management such that the habitat is not excessively damaged due to uncontrolled mining activities on the river bed.

d. Awareness among Local Communities

189. An Awareness and Education Program will be initiated to inform and educate the local communities about the importance of the biological resources of the area and the actions required for their protection.

e. Human Resources for Management of Aquatic Biodiversity

190. As part of the BAP, PEDO will provide funds to support an improved watch and ward system within the Area of Management. This will include the construction of field offices, hiring of additional staff members (watchers), and necessary equipment and facilities.

f. Establishment of an Institute for Research on River Ecology (IRRE)

191. The IRRE is proposed as a basin-wide institution in which all the developers of HPPs in the Jhelum Poonch and Kunhar basin contribute to the establishment and operation of the institute, and jointly benefit from the research outputs. The initiative is the outcome of the International Finance Corporation of the World Bank (IFC) initiative to set up a Hydropower Working Group for the basin, through which the project owners can cooperate and collaborate to collectively manage the basin sustainably. The proposed institute will help the project owners in maintaining ecological databases and research and analysis capabilities that will benefit them individually by lowering their environmental management costs. PEDO will contribute to the establishment and operation of an Institute for Research on River Ecology (IRRE), subject to the approval of associated costs in the tariff by the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA).

g. Establishment of Watershed Management Program (WMP)

192. The Watershed Management Program (WMP) will primarily focus on the improvement of water quality in the Kunhar basin which is critical for the protection of biodiversity in the long term. The institutional and financial model for setting up watershed management institutions will be similar to that proposed for the IRRE but will be restricted to the Kunhar basin. The support provided by PEDO and project owners in this case, however, will be limited, as additional support and resources will be mobilized from the participating government departments which will include forests, wildlife, agriculture, and irrigation. Action areas may include, but not be limited to, land use management and reforestation to reduce erosion and

risk of landslides and to meet community needs for fuel wood and timber, management of water use, and control of water quality. As in the case of the IRRE, PEDO will contribute to the establishment and operation of a WMP subject to the approval of associated costs in the tariff by the NEPRA.

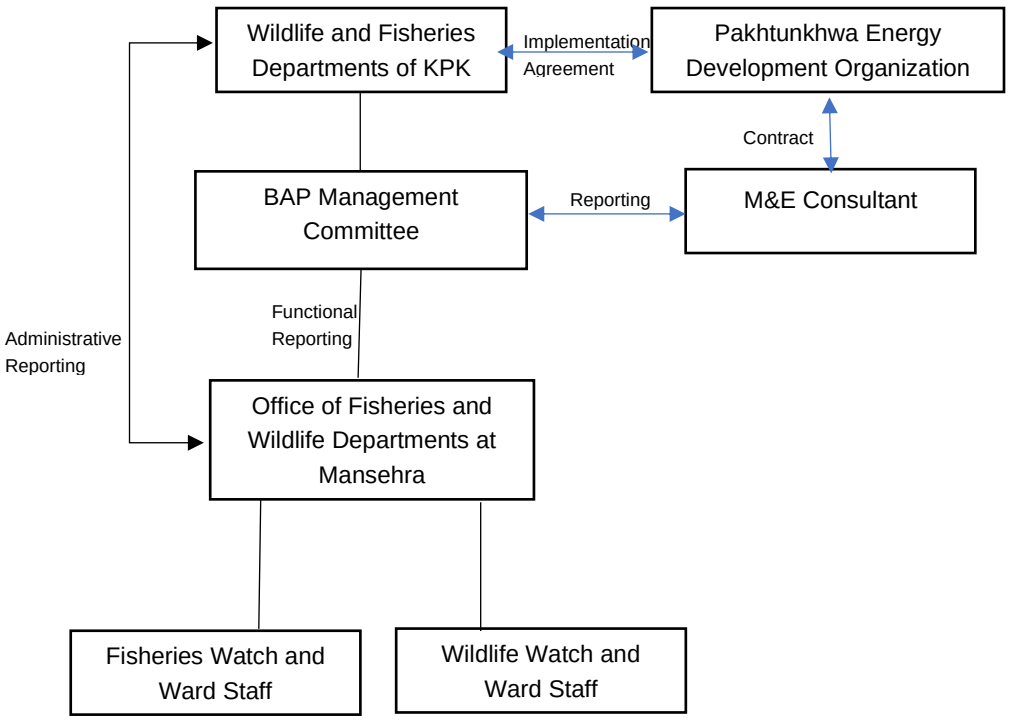
1.15.4 Institutional Arrangements for Implementation of BAP

193. In the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, the responsibility for the watch and ward of the terrestrial and aquatic ecological resources lies with the Wildlife Department, while the Fisheries Department regulates recreational fishing and is also responsible for the management of the water quality of the river.

194. As both the departments have a clear mandate of watch and ward in their respective areas hence, under the BAP, both the departments will look after their respective areas.

1. **Exhibit XIV** illustrates the institutional and contractual arrangements for the implementation of protection under the Project Specific BAP.

Exhibit XIV: Project-Specific BAP Institutional Arrangements for Protection and Management



195. A BAP Management Committee in KP will be established, which will be responsible for reviewing the reports submitted by the departments and the M&E Consultant. The composition of the BAP Management Committee and their role and responsibilities have been given in detail in Volume C of the EIA report.

1.15.5 Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and Adaptive Management

196. A Pressure-State-Response (PSR) framework will be used for monitoring of effectiveness of the implementation of the BAP. The type of indicators proposed for monitoring the pressures are:

- the total amount of fish by species being harvested in a year, for subsistence and recreational purposes, through legal as well as illegal means; and
- total amount of sand and gravel extracted from the river and tributaries, separately reported or estimated for extraction through legal means (with permits at designated mining sites) and illegal means (without permits).

197. Indicators of state will include hydrology, water quality, catchment, and fish. The method of data collection, frequency and timing of collection as well as data analysis is included in a detailed Monitoring and Evaluation Plan prepared for the BAP. The methodologies will be adjusted and adapted over time where required to facilitate assessment. Indicators of response will include institutional capacity, awareness among stakeholders, and their concerns. A combination of qualitative and quantitative techniques will be employed. Reports will be prepared and discussed with the key stakeholders once every year.

198. The indicators and methodologies used for monitoring may need to be adjusted and adapted in line with the principles of adaptive management to respond to changing pressures, and unforeseen or unexpected outcomes of the mitigation measures applied.

1.15.6 Budget for Implementation

199. The BAP presents budgets for capital and one-time costs and annual operating or recurring costs respectively for implementation of the BAP (**Exhibit XV**). Implementation will be initiated following the financial close of the Project.

Exhibit XV: Summary of the Budgetary Requirements for Implementation of the BAP

	Total Cost (USD)	Share of PEDO (USD)
Capital/One-Time Cost		
Protection		656,380
Monitoring and Evaluation of Protection		120,000
Institute for Research on River Ecology @ 10% of Total Cost	322,817	32,282
Watershed Management @ 25% of Total Cost	615,670	153,917
Total Capital/One-Time Cost		**962,579**
Annual Recurring Cost		
Protection		32,814
Institute for Research on River Ecology @ 10% of Total Cost	175,512	17,551
Watershed Management Program @ 25% of Total Cost	216,087	54,022
Monitoring and Evaluation of IRRE and WMP		30,000
Total Annual Recurring Cost		**134,387**
Budget Estimate for Capitalization Purposes		
Capital/One-Time Cost		**962,579**
Recurring Cost for 6.5 Years During Construction		873,515
Total Cost for Capitalization		**1,836,094**

1.16 The EIA Budget

200. Exhibit XVI shows the total EIA budget , including budget for BAP and EMP.

Exhibit XVI: Summary of Cost Estimates for EMP and BAP in USD

No	Item	Note	Construction Phase			Operation Phase (Annual)
			Capital	Recurring (Annual)	Total (years) 6.5	
1	**Biodiversity Action Plan**		**1,087,576**	**134,387**	**873,516**	**268,492**
1.1	Protection		656,380	32,814	213,291	32,814
1.2	Monitoring and Evaluation of Protection		120,000			18,461
1.3	Implementation of the IRRE	Subject to approval by NEPRA	32,282	17,551	114,082	17,551
1.4	Implementation of the WMP	Subject to approval by NEPRA	153,914	54,022	351,143	169,666
1.5	Monitoring and Evaluation of the IRRE and WMP	Subject to approval by NEPRA		30,000	195,000	30,000
1.6	Setting of M&E system and preparation of Sediment Management Guidlines	Subjecct to approval by NEPAR	125,000			
2	**Implementation of Stakeholders Engagement Plan**			**208,190**	**1,353,235**	**208,190**
3	**Environmental & Social Mitigation Measures**			**310,780**	**2,286,990**	**192,640**
3.1	Salaries and Benefits		–	310,780	1,786,990	192,640
3.2	EHS Training, Surveys, Laboratory Fees, and out-of-pocket expenses				500,000	
4	**External Monitoring**	For the construction phase, this is a lump sum cost for the services for 6.5 years, based on 18 visits. For the operation phase, this is the annual cost based on 2 visits per year	**–**		**284,460**	**31,610**
5	**Instrumental Monitoring and Sampling**		**8,380**	**700**	**12,930**	**9,080**
5.1	Monitoring of vehicles for emissions and noise*			700	4,550	700
5.2	Monitoring of ambient noise levels		2,190		2,190	2,190
5.3	Monitoring of ambient dust levels drinking, surface and waste water		6,190		6,190	6,190
6	**Mitigation Measures**		**961,300**		**961,300**	
6.1	Tree plantation cost	To be determined in consultation with the Forest Department	822,420		822,420	
6.3	Springs and water resources		138,880		138,880	
Total (1+2+3+4+5+6)			**2,057,256**	**654,057**	**5,772,431**	**710,012**

PAKHTUNKHWA ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

(PEDO)

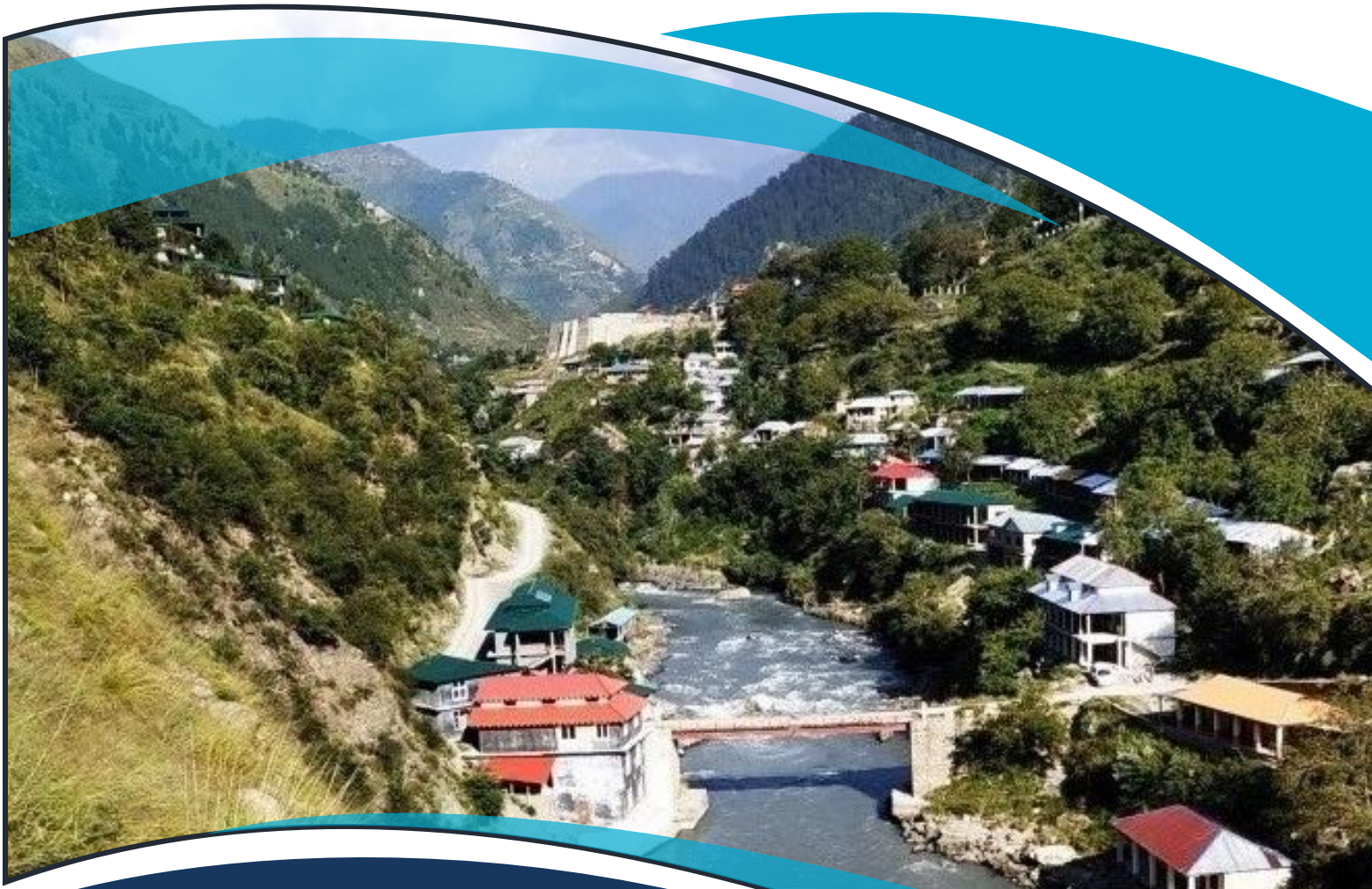
GOVERNMENT OF KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN

LOAN NO: 4057/8397 (AIIB)-PAK

BALAKOT HYDROPOWER PROJECT (300 MW)

DISTRICT MANSEHRA



VOLUME A

MAIN EIA REPORT (UPDATED)

March 2025

EMPLOYER

Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO)

PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT (PMC)

A Joint Venture of DOLSAR Engineering Limited (Turkey), AGES Consultants (Pakistan), BAK Consulting Engineers (Pakistan), Civ. Tech Associates, Peshawar, Pakistan (Pakistan), Electra Consultants (Pakistan), and Techno Legal Consultants (Pvt.) Limited (Pakistan)

EPC CONTRACTOR

Joint Venture of China Gezhouba Group Company (CGGC), China &
Ghulam Rasool and Company Pvt. Ltd (GRC), Pakistan

Issue and Revision Record

Rev. No	Date	Prepared by			Checked by	Approved by	Description
00	28-08-2023	Assad Ali KHAN	Environmental Expert	PMC	Muhammad Hussain (Deputy Team Leader/Resident Engineer)	Mehmet CINGISIZ (Project Manager - Team Leader)	The original and disclosed EIA report was updated for design changes and changes in the implementation arrangement of the Project-Specific BAP.
01	21.08.2024	i. Engr. Assad Ali Khan ii. Dr. Waseem Khan iii. Dr. Muhammad Naeem Javaid iv. Mr. Ikramullah v. Dr. Muhammad Saeed Peerzada	i. Environmental Expert ii. Fish Ecologist iii. Fish Biologist iv. Field Biologist v. Plant Taxonomist	PMC	Muhammad Hussain (Deputy Team Leader/Resident Engineer)	Mehmet CINGISIZ (Project Manager - Team Leader)	Additional surveys, with emphasis on the Kashmir Hillstream Loach, were carried out to update the biodiversity section of the EIA report. Two additional volumes, Volumes D and E, were furnished as a result of the field surveys and desk studies.
02	24.12.2024	i. Engr. Assad Ali Khan ii. Dr. Waseem Ahmad Khan iii. Dr. Muhammad Naeem Javaid iv. Mr. Ikramullah v. Dr. Muhammad Saeed Peerzada	i. Environmental Expert ii. Fish Ecologist iii. Fish Biologist iv. Field Biologist v. Plant Taxonomist	PMC	Muhammad Hussain (Deputy Team Leader/Resident Engineer)	Zafer DEMIRSELCUK (Project Manager - Team Leader)	The ADB review comments were incorporated in the submission.
03	26-03-2025	i. Engr. Assad Ali Khan ii. Dr. Waseem Ahmad Khan iii. Dr. Muhammad Naeem Javaid iv. Mr. Ikramullah v. Dr. Muhammad Saeed Peerzada	i. Environmental Expert ii. Fish Ecologist iii. Fish Biologist iv. Field Biologist v. Plant Taxonomist	PMC	Muhammad Hussain (Deputy Team Leader/Resident Engineer)	Zafer DEMIRSELCUK (Project Manager - Team Leader)	The ADB additional review comments were incorporated in the submission.

PREFACE

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report for the Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW) was prepared by Hagler Bailly Pakistan (Private) Limited (HBP) in 2019. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Protection Agency (KPEPA) granted "Environmental Approval" for the report on July 6, 2021.

The current EIA report is an updated version of the approved report furnished by the Project Management Consultants (PMC)[1] for the Balakot HPP (300 MW). The updates aim to: (i) incorporate proposed changes to the design of the project's infrastructure facilities as part of the detailed design and implementation arrangements of the Project-specific Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP); and (ii) update the biodiversity section of the EIA report with emphasis on the critically endangered Kashmir Hillstream Loach (*Triplophysa kashmirensis*).

The approved report's original structure has been maintained, but significant updates have been made to the project description, social baseline, information disclosure and consultation, and BAP sections. Appropriate changes have also been applied to other sections to ensure consistency. Additionally, two new volumes, Volumes D (Management Plan for Threatened Fish Species) and E (Biodiversity Assessment), have been furnished as part of the updated EIA report.

1 A joint venture of:

i. DOLSAR Engineering Inc. Co. (Turkey) Lead Firm;
ii. AGES Consultants;
iii. BAK Consulting Engineers;
iv. CivTech Associates;
v. Electra Consultants; and
vi. Techno Legal Consultants (Pvt.) Limited from Pakistan.

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LIST OF ANNEXURES

Annexure 1: Guiding Note to the updated EIA Report (R03)

Annexure 2: Scanned Copies of the Instrumental Environmental Monitoring Result

Annexure 3: GRM Notification

ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AIIB	Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
BAPs	Biodiversity Action Plans
BID	Background Information Document
BTHPP	Balakot Hydropower Project
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CGGC	China Gezhouba Group Company (CGGC), China
CMS	Conservation of Migratory Species
CSRM	Country Safeguards Review Mission
DG	Director General
DSHA	Deterministic Seismic Hazard Analysis
EC	Electrical Conductivity
EHS	Environmental Health and Safety
EIA	Environment Impact Assessment
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
EPC	Engineering, Procurement, and Construction
GIIP	Good International Industry Practice
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GRC	Ghulam Rasool and Company Pvt. Ltd (GRC)
GSHAP	Global Seismic Hazard Map Project
GWh	Giga Watt hour
HBP	Hagler Bailly Pakistan (Private) Limited
HFT	Himalayan Frontal Thrust
ICOLD	International Commission on Large Dams
IEE	Initial Environmental Examination
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
KPK	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
KPEQS	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Quality Standards
KPEPA	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Protection Agency
LAA	Land Acquisition Act
LARP	Land Acquisition and Resettlement Plan
MBT	Main Boundary Thrust

MCE	Maximum Credible Earthquake
MDE	maximum design earthquake
NCCP	National Climate Change Policy
NEPPO	Near East Plant Protection Organization
NEQS	National Environmental Quality Standards
NOCs	No Objection Certificates
NSDS	National Sustainable Development Strategy
NTDC	National Transmission and Dispatch Company
OBE	Operation Basis Earthquake
PD	Project Director
PEDO	Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization
PIU	Project Implementation Unit
PMC	Project Management Consultants
PMD	Pakistan Meteorological Department
PMP	Project Management Professional
PSGA	Poverty, Social and Gender Analysis Report
PSHA	Probabilistic Seismic Hazard Analysis
SKHPP	Suki Kinari Hydropower Project
SPRSS	Summary of Poverty Reduction and Social Strategy
SSEMP	Site Specific Environmental Management Plan
VECs	Valued Ecosystem Components
PEPA	Pakistan Environmental Protection Act
SPCS	Sarhad Provincial Conservation Strategy
SPS	Safeguard Policy Statement
SWHP	Surface Water Hydrology Project
WAPDA	Water & Power Development Authority
WCD	World Commission on Dams
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

1 INTRODUCTION

1. Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO), with the financial assistance of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), is implementing the construction of the Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW) in its 12-kilometer (km) stretch from Paras to Sangar village in District Mansehra of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province. The project dam site is located in Paras village, around 2 km downstream of the Suki Kinari Hydropower Project (884 MW) tailrace while the powerhouse site is proposed in Ganhool village of Balakot. The project location map, layout, and other details have been given under Project Overview.

2. The project feasibility study was initially conducted in 2013 (the "FS 2013").[2] The Asian Development Bank ("ADB" or the "Lender") subsequently evaluated the Project for financing under its Hydropower Investment Development Program (HIDP). As part of the Project evaluation, the Asian Development Bank, on the advice of the technical consultants, deemed the design proposed in 2013 as unfeasible and had it modified through Aqualogus who furnished their findings in the form of a draft report in 2018. Hagler Bailly Pakistan (Private) Limited (HBP) contributed to the environmental and social assessment of various options. The ADB then acquired services of the HBP as Safeguard Consultants to prepare documents required for ensuring that the proposed Project meets the environmental and social safeguards of the ADB, and also conforms to the environmental legislation of KP province.

3. The complete package of the environmental and social safeguard documents prepared by Hagler Bailly Pakistan (Private) Limited comprises the following:

i. Knowledge Summary (A summary of the entire report)

ii. The Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) in three volumes:

   a. Volume A "Main EIA Report"

   b. Volume B "Appendices to the Main Report"

   c. Volume C "Supporting Studies"

iii. Poverty, Social and Gender Analysis Report (PSGA)

iv. Summary of Poverty Reduction and Social Strategy (SPRSS)

v. Land Acquisition and Resettlement Plan (LARP)

4. The reports listed at S/No. iii, iv, and v above, have been updated by the Project Management Consultants (PMC) of the Balakot HPP (300 MW) as standalone reports while the EIA report is updated herein.

1.1 Rational and Background for EIA Updation

5. Consequent upon the ADB concurrence to the EIA report, furnished by the Hagler Bailly Pakistan (Private) Limited in 2019, the same was disclosed on the Bank website[3] for the

2 Mirza Associates Engineering Services (Pvt.) Ltd., Feasibility Study of Balakot Hydropower Project, for Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO), December 2013

3 Balakot Hydropower Development Project: Environmental Impact Assessment | Asian Development Bank (adb.org)

stakeholders and general public information. Thereafter, the disclosed EIA report was submitted to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Protection Agency (KPEPA) for review and grant of “Environmental Approval”, which is a mandatory requirement in pursuance of “The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Protection Act 2014, Section (13)(1)”. Hence, after obtaining No Objection Certificates (NOCs) from the relevant departments, and holding of Public Hearing event, the Director General KPEPA issued “Environmental Approval” on July 6, 2021, in respect of the Project EIA report.

6. The rationale necessitating the updation of the approved EIA report is briefly expounded hereunder.

A: Design Changes

7. The Balakot HPP (300 MW) is being executed under the Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) mode of contract whereby detail design and design optimization rest with the EPC Contractor. Provision of structure adjustment (s) placing/ orientation, value engineering, and design optimization are some of the major characteristics of such contracts.

8. During the basic design phase of the Project, the EPC Contractor proposed some changes in the intended function of the bypass tunnel, and placement of spillways in the dam body as given below.

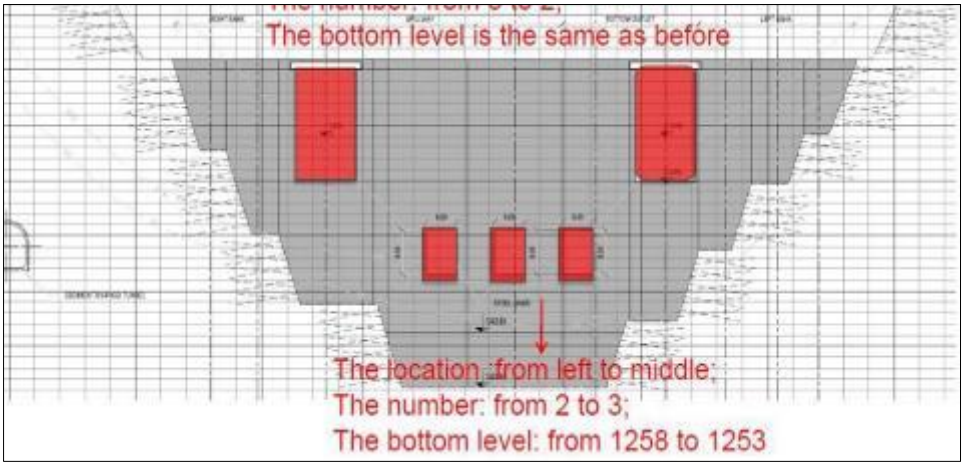
i. The bypass tunnel, originally conceived for the Kunhar River diversion during the construction phase, and sediment exclusion during the operation phase of the Project, was proposed to be used as a diversion tunnel only, whereas for sediment flushing, an additional bottom outlet would be provided in the dam body.

ii. A combination of three spillways, which in the tender document were placed at the left side of the dam body, optimized to two spillways, placed at the left and right side of the dam body.

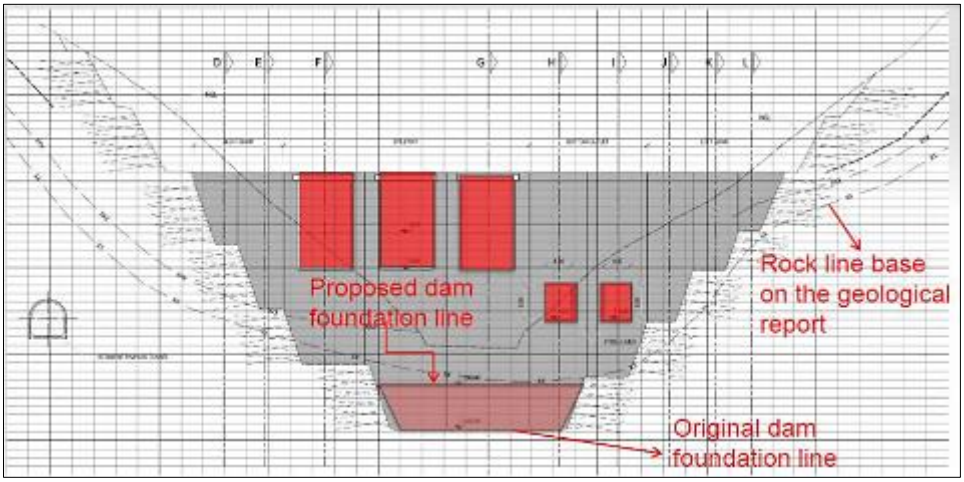
9. The PMC and Project Implementation Unit (PIU) of the Balakot HPP principally agreed with the EPC Contractor’s proposal and granted concurrence for incorporation of the foregoing changes in the basic design document.

10. The original and proposed revised schemes of the foregoing arrangements are shown under **Exhibit 1-1** below.

Exhibit 1-1: Design Change Proposal for the Dam Spillways



Revised Scheme of Spillway and Bottom Outlets

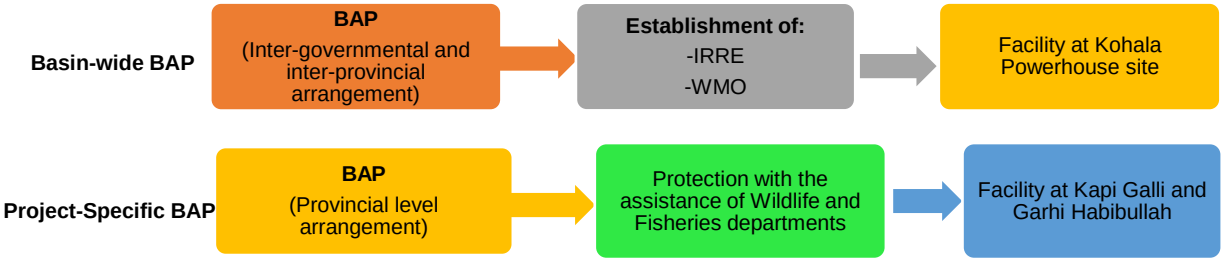


Original Scheme of Spillway and Bottom Outlet

B: Changes in the Project-Specific BAP

11. The approved EIA report contains two types of Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) i.e. (i) Basin-wide BAP for the Jhelum Basin; and (ii) Project specific BAP, designed for the Area of Management, to be implemented through the arrangement presented below.

Exhibit 1-2: Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Implementation Arrangement



12. Basin-wide BAP has geographical coverage of the entire Jhelum Basin whereas the project-specific BAP will be implemented in the Area of Management, which is a 45-kilometer (km) stretch of the Kunhar River valley starting from 4 km upstream of the Balakot dam axis and ends at 5 km upstream of the Patrind HPP (150 MW) reservoir.

13. The Balakot HPP (300 MW) Site is located within the Area of Management of the project-specific BAP wherein the Works related impacts will be mitigated through measures as proposed in the EPC Contractor's Site-Specific Environmental Management Plan (SSEMP) and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) of the EIA report.

14. On January 24, 2022, i.e. on the occasion of the presentation to the Country Safeguards Review Mission (CSRM) for Pakistan conducted by the ADB, it was agreed that the PIU of the Balakot HPP (300 MW), with the PMC assistance, will undertake stakeholder's consultation and will furnish Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) consultation reports for the Basin-wide BAP and the Project-specific BAP in the Area of Management.

15. Accordingly, during the period from February to March 2022, for the project-specific BAP implementation in the Area of Management, PIU and PMC held several consultation meetings with the stakeholders and furnished a BAP Consultation report which was subsequently submitted to the ADB and the AIIB[4] on May 20, 2022, for their review, and concurrence.

16. Thereafter, several joint consultation meetings of the Fisheries and Wildlife departments of the government of KP, the PIU, and PMC were held at PEDO House Peshawar and the headquarters of both departments. Following is the brief outcome of the consultation conducted for the finalization of the project-specific BAP institutional arrangement, and BAP Management Committee composition.

i. Due to legal constraints, the Fisheries and Wildlife departments of the government of KP recommended that the role of the implementation organization be eliminated from the BAP institutional arrangement.

ii. KP Biodiversity and Wildlife Board, being a high forum chaired by the Chief Minister of KP, shall have no role in the implementation.

iii. Membership of the BAP Management Committee should be reduced whereas the committee should be chaired by the Director General Fisheries of the KP government.

17. On March 29, 2023, the PIU submitted a proposal for revising the Institutional Arrangement of the project-specific BAP to the ADB for review and approval. The ADB expressed its concurrence with the proposal during the presentation to the ADB Environmental Safeguards Review Mission on May 22, 2023.

C: Instrumental Environmental Monitoring

18. Instrumental environmental monitoring for the Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW) was originally conducted in 2017 as part of the project's EIA studies. To update this information, it was deemed necessary to conduct further monitoring to establish the baseline conditions of various environmental factors, including air quality, noise levels, water quality, and soil analysis. To facilitate this, the EPC Contractor engaged the services of a laboratory certified by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Protection Agency (KPEPA). The

4 AIIB is the co-financier of the project

baseline environmental monitoring took place from December 7 to December 14, 2022. The results of this latest instrumental monitoring are included in **Annexure 2** in the main report.

19. For consistency, results of the instrumental environmental monitoring, undertaken during 2017, have also been kept in totality in the updated EIA report.

D: Information Disclosure, Consultation, and Participation

20. Since February 2021, the project team, including the project financiers, held several consultation meetings with the project area community and with the government departments in connection with the provisions under the environmental portfolio of the project. As explained above under item B, a series of meetings were held with the stakeholders of Basin-wide BAP and with project-specific BAP. As an outcome of these additional consultation meetings has a direct bearing on the original EIA biodiversity financing and implementation arrangement, hence updation of the information disclosure, consultation, and participation section of the approved report is of paramount importance.

E: Availability of New Information/Data

21. Due to the emergence of relevant new information from secondary sources, and data from the project area particularly, about the changes in the status of the Kashmir Hillstream Loach from “not assessed” as per the original EIA report to the “Critically Endangered” species as per the IUCN 2023 report, and updation of the hydro census survey report by the EPC Contractor, necessary updation of the biodiversity and mitigation measures sections of the EIA report became imperative.

22. In pursuance of the ADB requirements, any changes that may occur in the project design, layout arrangement, project footprint, or other provisions of the approved EIA report, the same shall accordingly by updated and revised concurrence shall be sought from the Bank.

23. As a result of these developments, it became necessary to revise the EIA report to comply with the Bank's requirements and accurately reflect the impacts of these changes.

1.2 Project Proponents

24. PEDO was established by the Government of KP in 1986 as the Small Hydel Development Organization. Its objectives included the following:

i. to identify and develop hydel potential up to 5 MW;
ii. to construct small hydel stations for isolated load centers; and
iii. to operate and maintain off-grid small hydel stations.

25. In 1993, it was converted to an autonomous body and renamed Sarhad Hydel Development Organization which was again renamed Pakhtunkhwa Hydel Development Organization (PHYDO) in 2013, following the change of the province name from Northwest Frontier Province to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

26. The 18th Amendment to the Constitution of Pakistan vested full authority to the provinces to develop power projects of any capacity through the public or private sector. Consequently, the provincial assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, through the Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (Amendment) Act 2014, renamed PHYDO to Pakhtunkhwa

Energy Development Organization and expanded its mandate to include all types of power generation sources. The key powers and duties of PEDO under the amended Act include:[5]

i. prepare a comprehensive plan for the development and utilization of the power and energy resources of the KP;

ii. frame a scheme, or schemes, for the KP providing for the generation, transmission, and distribution of power; and the construction, maintenance, and operation of powerhouses, grids and microgrids, transmission and distribution lines especially in the remote mountainous areas of KP;

iii. act as adviser to the Government on all matters regarding the issuance of licenses and joint ventures in the power sector;

iv. have control over the operation of all powerhouses, grids, transmission and distribution lines in KP constructed by, or transferred to, PEDO;

v. make recommendations to the Government for prescribing standards for the maintenance of powerhouses, grids, microgrids, and transmission and distribution lines of the Organization;

vi. restrict or prohibit by general or special order, the clearing and breaking up of land in the catchment area of any river; and

vii. establish thermal, solar, wind, or other alternate renewable energy-based powerhouses, erect test masts, collect wind and solar data for power generation, lay or cause to be laid, pipelines for supply of fuel, establish fuel supply means, engage in transmission, trading, distribution, and sale of energy to industries and domestic consumers, manage demand discipline, cause the setting of tariff, recover and collect charges, fees, and tariffs and do all other things necessary and incidental with power produced or generated by or through the Organization.

1.3 Project Overview

27. As stated above, the Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW) is a run-of-the-river scheme to be constructed on the Kunhar River in its 12 kilometers (km) stretch from Paras to Sangar village in District Mansehra of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Upon completion, 1143 giga-watt hour (GWh) of clean energy will be delivered to the National Grid every year.

28. The project dam site is located in the Paras village, around 2 km downstream of the Sukki Kinari Hydropower Project (884 MW) tailrace while the powerhouse site is proposed in the Ganhool village of Balakot. The 9.1 km long headrace tunnel of 8 meters (m) diameter will divert 154 m^3/sec design flow of the Kunhar River to the powerhouse to generate 300 megawatts of electricity. The project residential colony is identified in Sangar village. The access road to the dam and power intake is proposed to off-take from the National Highway (N-15) on the left side of the Kunhar River in Paras village.

29. The project location maps, layout, dam, and powerhouse sites are shown in **Exhibits 1.3 to 1.7.**

5 The Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization Act, 1993. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Act No. I of 1993. http://kpcode.kp.gov.pk/homepage/lawDetails/30.

Exhibit 1-3: Project Location in Pakistan



Exhibit 1-4: Project Location in District Mansehra

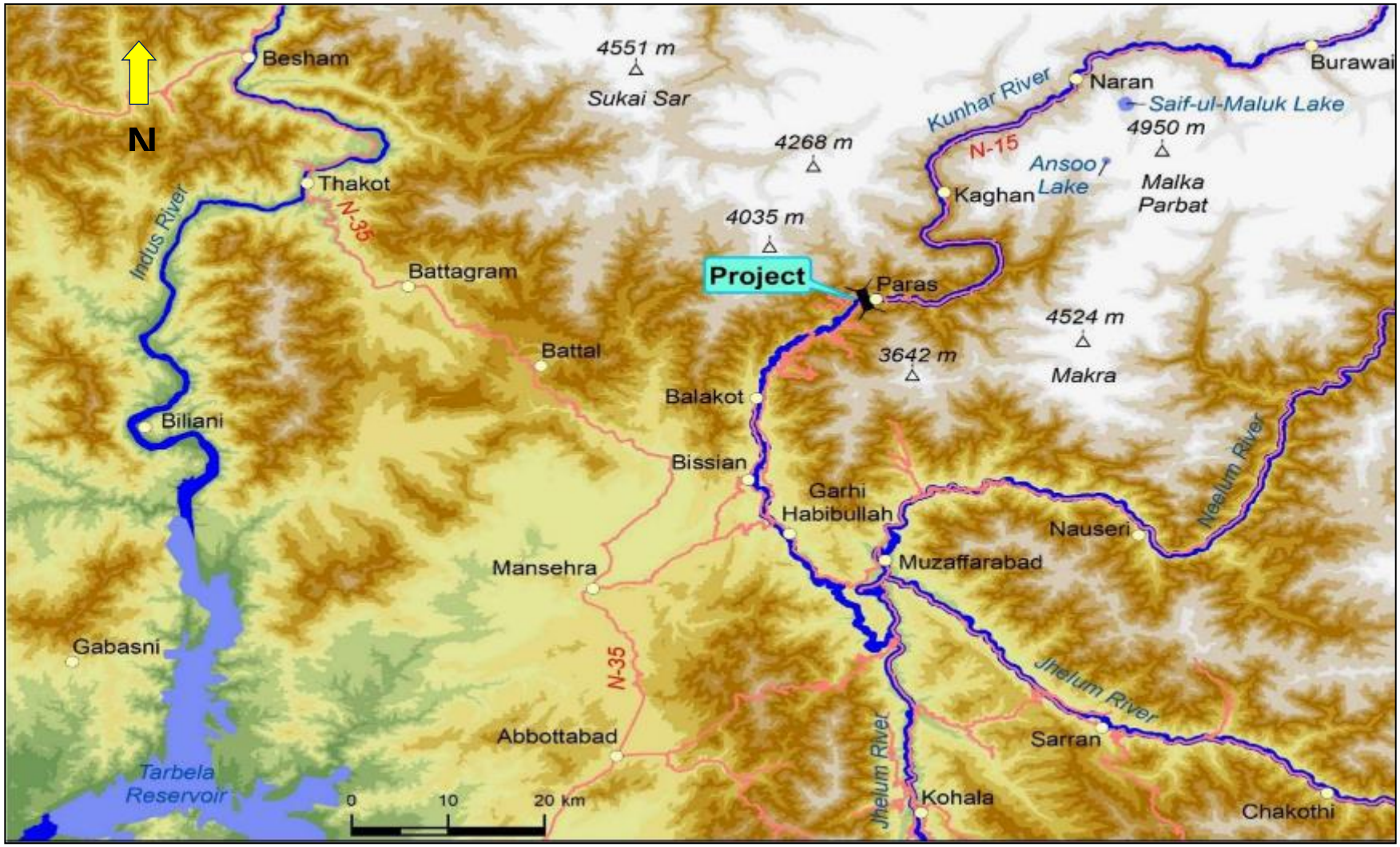


Exhibit 1-5: Project Layout

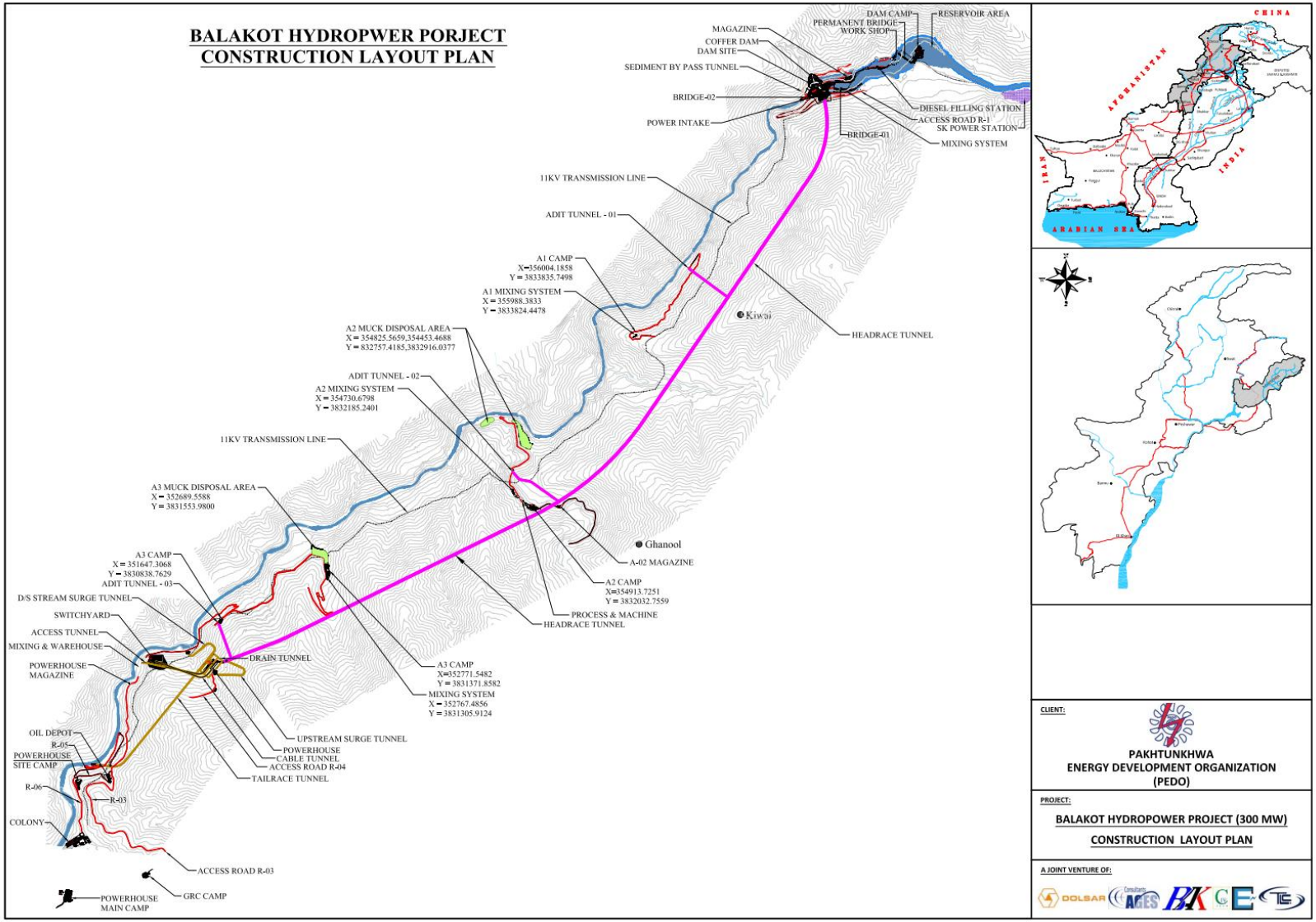


Exhibit 1-6: Project Setting-Dam Site

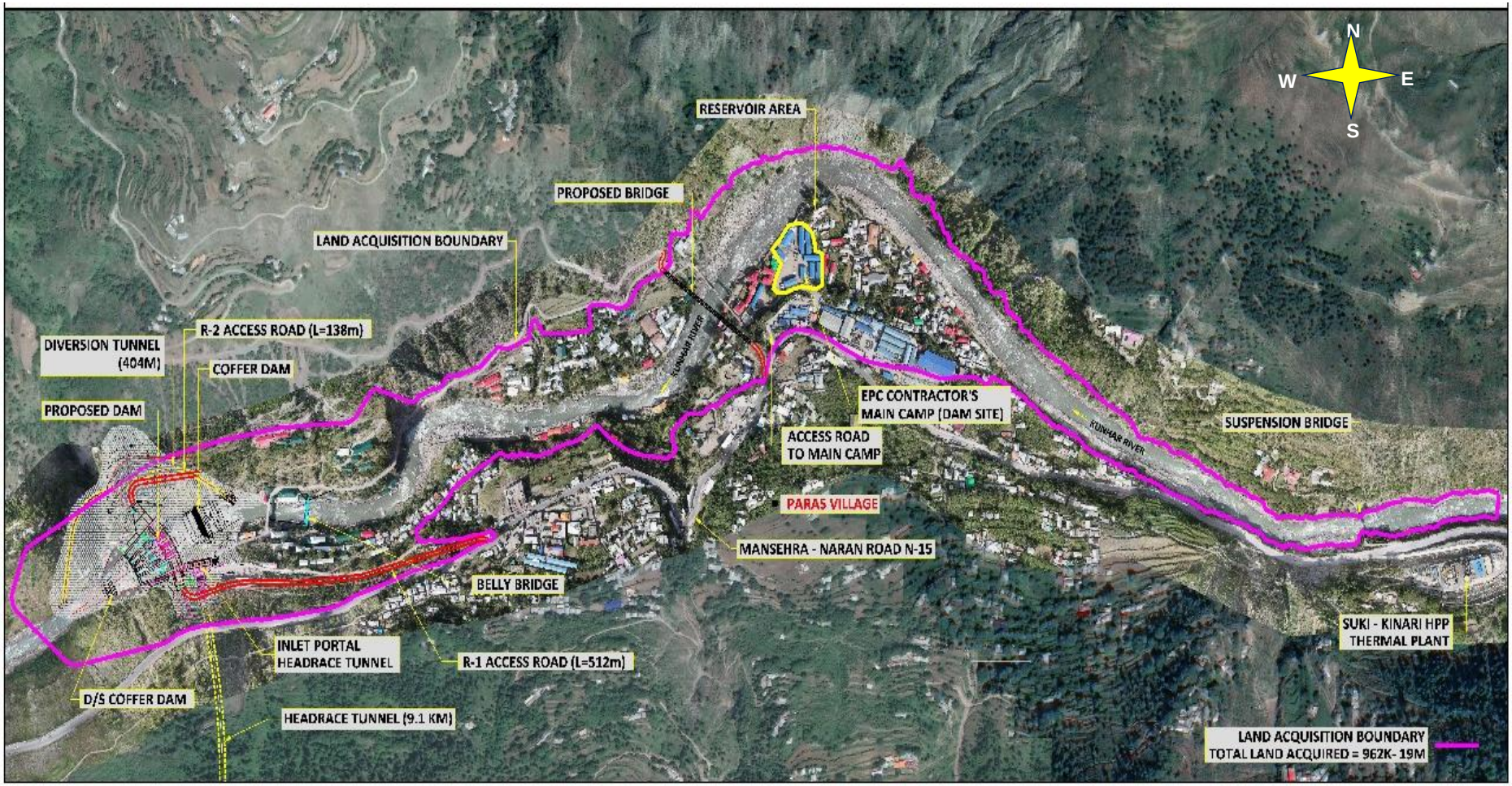


Exhibit 1-7: Project Setting- Powerhouse and Colony Sites



1.4 Objectives and Scope of the EIA

30. The overall purpose of the EIA is to identify the potential environmental and social impacts of the proposed Project and evaluate them following the process that is acceptable to regulatory authorities in Pakistan and the Project lenders. In this process, the EIA identified measures to minimize any anticipated adverse impact of the proposed Project, at least to the level that meets the national and good international industry practice (GIIP) criteria for evaluation of environmental and social impacts.

31. The specific objectives of this EIA are to:

i. assess the existing environmental conditions in the Project area, including the identification of environmentally sensitive areas;

ii. assess the proposed activities to identify their potential impacts, evaluate the impacts, and determine their significance;

iii. propose appropriate mitigation measures that can be incorporated into the design of the proposed Project, or how it is constructed or operated, to ensure that the potential impacts of the Project are within the acceptable limits—as defined by environmental laws, ADB safeguard policies, and GIIP—and where feasible the impacts are further minimized;

iv. assess cumulative impacts of proposed hydropower projects on the Kunhar River and provide recommendations to the concerned regulators to undertake measures for the protection of the environment;

v. Prepare an EIA report for submittal to the KP Environmental Protection Agency (KPEPA) and the lenders;

32. The scope of the EIA includes the assessment of environmental and social impacts of all activities during construction and operation stages that will be undertaken to make the Project a reality. However, the scope does not include the manufacturing of the hydropower plant equipment, its transportation from the place of manufacture through ships on international water, and the unloading of the same at the Karachi ports.

33. To evacuate power from the proposed Project, a 500 kV transmission line to be constructed by the National Transmission and Dispatch Company (NTDC) falls in the category of associated project.[6] The length of the transmission line is not known at this stage as the interconnection point is not yet finalized.

34. To achieve environmental or social outcomes consistent with the KP regulatory requirements and the ADB safeguards policies, it is essential that NTDC undertake the EIA of the transmission line following the requirements stated in Section 2 of this report and develop a sound Environmental Management Plan (EMP). The scope of this EIA does not include the design, construction, and operation of the transmission line for evacuation of the power produced by the Balakot HPP, however, recognizing the potential impacts and risks associated with the transmission line, measures to ensure that a full EIA of the transmission

6 IFC defines associated facilities as “facilities that are not funded as part of the project and that would not have been constructed or expanded if the project did not exist and without which the project would not be viable”

line is undertaken, the EMP identifies and defines a set of management measures to be taken in the contractual arrangement with NTDC.

1.5 Study Areas[7]

35. The spatial boundaries of the Study Areas for the EIA were selected to cover all areas where any measurable change to any component of the environment is likely to take place, directly or indirectly, due to any activity directly associated with the proposed Project. The selection of the Study Areas took into account the environmentally sensitive receptors[8] that are most likely to be impacted by the Project's development activities. It also took into account the different stages of the Project specifically construction and operation. To ensure the assessment of cumulative impacts, the Study Areas were selected to be large enough to allow the assessment of the Valued Ecosystem Components (VECs) that may be affected by the Project activities.

36. The permanent footprint of the proposed Project includes the area that will be acquired for the dam, reservoir, powerhouse, and other facilities. The temporary footprint includes the land that will be required or disturbed due to the facilities that will be developed during the construction phase at the dam, powerhouse, and other infrastructure components.

37. The Study Areas are considerably larger than the Project footprint. The proposed Project has different types of impacts spread over a relatively large area. Therefore, a single study area for all types of impacts is difficult to define.

38. The ecological Study Area was defined as follows:

i. **Aquatic Study Area (Original):** The part of the Kunhar River starting from Faridabad upstream of the Project to Bissian, downstream of the Project. It includes tributaries in this stretch but only those with a significant perennial flow that supports the breeding of fish.

ii. **Aquatic Study Area (Additional).** The study area, for the fish diversity and distribution assessment carried out in May 2024 in the Kunhar River and contributing streams, is 90 km long i.e. upstream of the Sukki Kinar HPP reservoir up to the Patrind HPP reservoir.

iii. **Terrestrial Study Area (Original):** This was defined as a 1 km buffer around locations where Project-related facilities are to be located.

iv. **Terrestrial Study Area (Additional):** The terrestrial fauna including amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals, scrub lands, forest lands, agricultural lands, and villages along the Kunhar River were surveyed in the 90 km long study area.

39. The socioeconomic Study Area includes:

i. **500 m buffer on each side of the river**: along reaches that may be impacted due to the Project, and the zone where there is river dependence (either through the

7 Unless specifically mentioned in the report, the "Study Area" and " Zones" therein shall be construed the original study area where the Hagler Bailly Pakistan (Private) Limited (HBP) conducted environmental studies in 2017-19.

8 Sensitive receptors include, for example, residential areas, schools, places of worship, habitat of threatened or vulnerable flora and fauna species, drinking water sources, wetlands, and cultural heritage sites.

use of driftwood, or the use of sediment as building materials) is a zone of 500 m of the river.

ii. All settlements with a center within the 500 m buffer included.

iii. All settlements with more than 50% of their land area within the 500 m buffer are also included.

iv. **1 km buffer around Project facilities:** for coverage of communities that will be directly impacted through either resettlement or construction-related impacts.

v. **Upstream Extent:** selected as tailrace tunnel of Sukki Kinari HPP, upstream of the dam, as the dam as a barrier may affect communities reliant on ecological resources (such as fish).

vi. **Downstream Extent:** The downstream extent of the Study Area is at the start of the reservoir of the Patrind HPP.

40. Keeping in view expected variations between rural and urban areas, impact due to the Project, flow variations along different reaches of the Kunhar River due to tributaries, as well as changes due to other hydropower projects, the Study Area is divided into different zones along the Kunhar River as given below.

i. **Zone 1:** Upstream of Balakot Dam (including Balakot Reservoir Area)

ii. **Zone 2:** Downstream of Balakot Dam up to Upstream of Balakot Tailrace Outlet

iii. **Zone 3:** Downstream of Balakot Tailrace Outlet up to Upstream of Balakot City

iv. **Zone 4:** Balakot City along Kunhar River

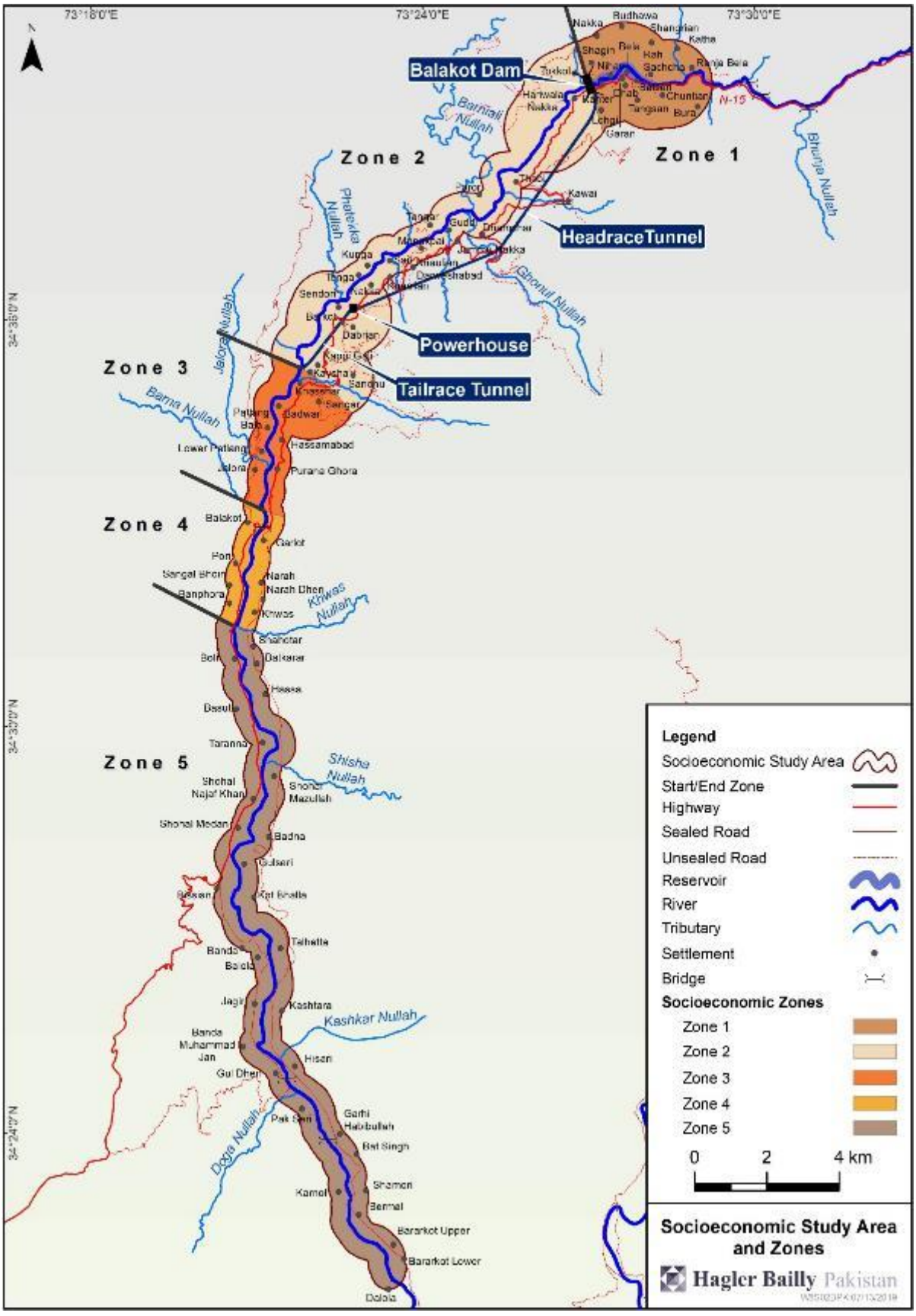
v. **Zone 5:** Downstream of Balakot City up to the reservoir of Patrind Hydropower Project

vi. **Zone 6:** One-kilometer buffer around Project facilities

41. The Study Area used for the physical environment was the same as that for the socioeconomic environment.

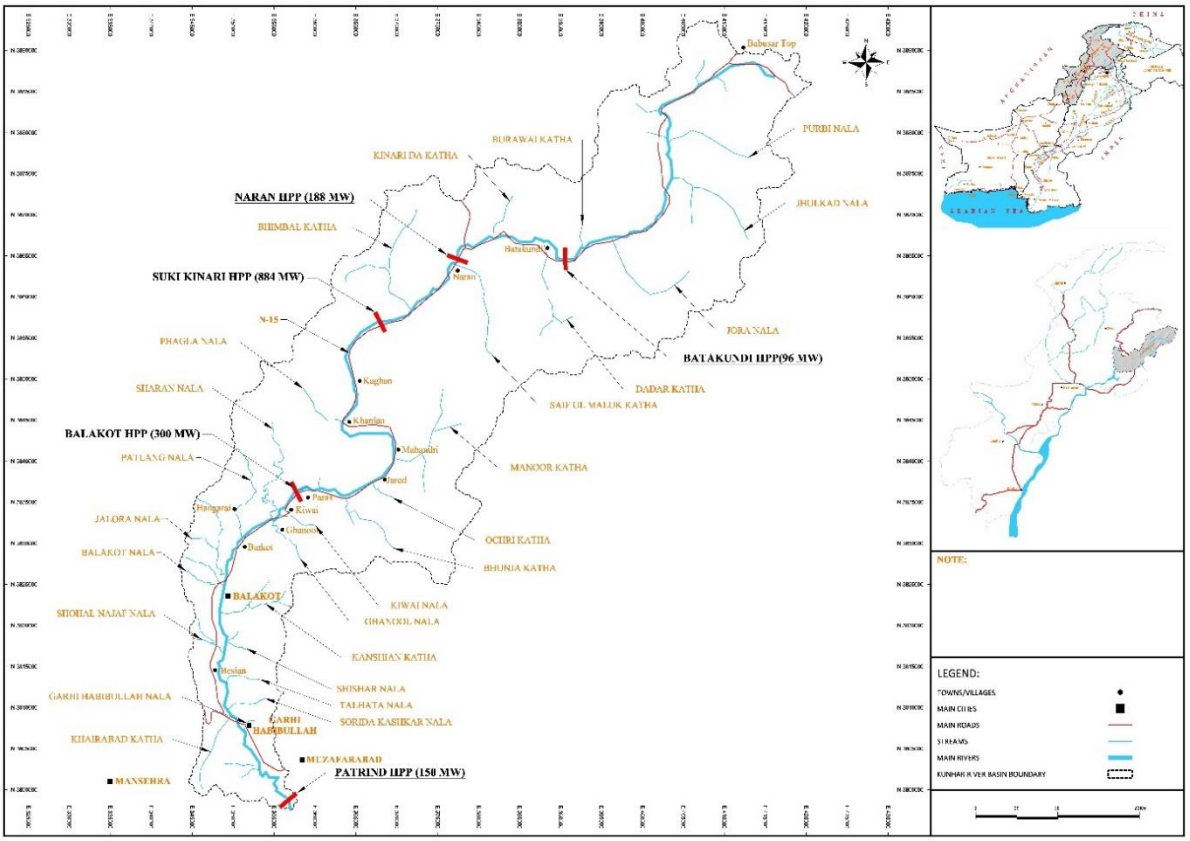
42. The Study Area defined for the baseline studies (2017-19) and impact assessment is shown in **Exhibit 1-8** followed by the study area in **Exhibit 1-9** identified for the EIA updation in 2024. It is worthwhile to mention here that the study area identified for the 2017-19 EIA studies falls within the boundaries of the study area identified for additional surveys conducted in 2024.

Exhibit 1-8: Study Areas[9] (2017-19)



[9] Zone 6, a One-kilometer buffer around the Project facilities, has not been shown in the map

Exhibit 1-9: Study Areas (2024)



1.6 Study Team

43. The approved EIA report was developed by a team of professionals working with HBP or associated with HBP, who were the leading experts in their respective fields in the country. In addition to HBP, a senior consultant from Southern Waters Ecological Research and Consulting (South Africa) as well as Engititan (Pvt.) Ltd. contributed to the E-Flow assessment. **Exhibit 1-10** shows the names of the study team members and their roles.

Exhibit 1-10: Study Team (2017-19)

Name	Education and Experience	Role and Main Activities
Hagler Bailly Pakistan (Private) Limited (HBP)		
Hidayat Hasan	PhD Coursework, Atmospheric Physics MSc Physics BSc Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics 23 years of experience in environmental and social impact assessment	Project Team Leader Supervision of Compilation and standardization of the Project reports Technical support to the socioeconomic and LARP team
Vaqar Zakaria	BS and MS in Chemical Engineering, MIT, USA 26 years of experience in environmental assessment and monitoring	Project Supervision Technical Team Leader (E-Flow Assessment) Supervision of the Biodiversity Action Plan Supervision of the Cumulative Impact Assessment
Anwar Fazal Ahmed	MSc (Hons) Rural Development MA Economics 16 years of experience in resettlement planning and implementation	Social Safeguards Expert (Land Acquisition and Resettlement) Household socioeconomic data collection, analysis and reporting.

Name	Education and Experience	Role and Main Activities
Aziz Karim	MSc Biochemistry BSc Biochemistry, Microbiology, Chemistry Over 10 years of experience in environmental assessment	Technical Team Leader (Physical Environment) Coordination of Physical Environment field teams Supervision of physical data collection (noise, air quality, traffic, and visual) Water quality, visual and traffic analysis, and reporting
Hassan Bukhari	MS Natural Resources and Environment BS Physics 2 years of experience in environmental assessment	Water quality, noise, traffic, and air quality data analysis and reporting Physical impact assessment Inputs to aquatic ecology impact assessment Environmental Flow (E-Flow) Assessment support
Saeed Nawaz	BA Journalism and Education F.Sc Physics, Chemistry, Biology 19 years of experience in water, wastewater and soil sample analysis	Hydro census and water sample data collection Water physical parameters laboratory analysis
Sadia Asghar	BSc Environmental Engineering F.Sc Pre-Engineering 2 years of experience in environmental assessment	Climate data review, analysis, and reporting Physical baseline reporting Air quality, traffic, and visual impact assessment
Kamran Minai	MSc Environmental Science and Management BSc Biology 2 years of experience in environmental assessments	Project management activities Compilation and standardization of the Project reports Quality assurance checks Coordination of Terrestrial Ecology field teams Compilation of Ecological Baseline Terrestrial ecology desktop research, data collection, analysis, and reporting Terrestrial ecology impact assessment Aquatic ecology impact assessment
Ahmad Shoaib	M.Phil. Fisheries and Aquaculture B.S (Hons.) Applied Zoology B.S (Hons.) Fisheries and Aquaculture 3 years of experience in aquaculture and 1 year of experience in fish surveys for environmental assessments	Aquatic ecology field investigation, data analysis, and reporting Development of Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for the BAP.
Muhammad Usman Berches Niazi	M.Sc. Geography B.A. Geography and Economics 4 years of experience in Geographic Information Systems (GIS)	Socioeconomic data collection (settlement and ecosystem services), community consultations, and compilation Socioeconomic, physical, and ecological report maps
Jan Muhammad	MS Economics 8 years of experience in social development	Translation of the Background Information Document (BID) into Urdu
Ghulam Murtaza	MSc Sociology (in progress) BA Sociology F.Sc Pre-Engineering 7 years of experience in geographic information systems (GIS) and 8 years of experience in ecology field surveys	Socioeconomic, physical, and ecological report maps
Khalil Ejaz Awan	MBA Business Administration Over 11 years of experience in administration and 2 years of experience in socioeconomic data collection.	Administrative and logistic support

Name	Education and Experience	Role and Main Activities
Imran Khalid	Certification in MS Office and Hardware Graduation 12 years of experience in formatting and designing technical documents	Document formatting services
Umer Jahangir	Graduation 7 years of experience in formatting and designing technical documents	Document formatting services
HBP Associates		
Dr Mohammad Rafique	PhD Zoology MPhil Genetics MSc Zoology BSc 27 years of experience in fisheries assessments	Biodiversity expert and lead aquatic ecologist Aquatic ecology field investigation, data analysis, and reporting
Dr. Jamil Ahmad	PhD Sociology Masters Anthropology Bachelor of Arts History 20 years of experience in socio-economic studies and data collection	Social Development Specialist Socioeconomic data collection Socioeconomic baseline reporting Socioeconomic impact assessment
Muhammad Munir Sheikh	MS Hydrology MSc. Mathematics 30 years of experience in climate studies, assessments and authorship	Climate change expert Climate change risk and vulnerability assessment
Rizwana Waraich	Master's in English Literature Master in Business Administration (Human Resource Management) Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Statistics More than 15 years of experience in socioeconomic data collection, analysis, and reporting with a focus on gender issues	Gender Expert Socioeconomic data collection with a focus on gender-related data Gender analysis and reporting
Mishkatullah	MSc (Hons) Agriculture and Entomology BSc (Hons) Agricultural Entomology FSc Pre-Engineering 12 years of experience in entomological studies	Aquatic ecology field investigation (macroinvertebrates), data analysis and reporting
Rafaqat Masroor	PhD Zoology (Herpetology) MSc Zoology BSc Zoology, Botany, Geography 14 years of experience in wildlife studies and conservation assessments	Terrestrial ecology field investigation and data collection
Wajid Saghir	MSc Botany BSc Botany, Zoology, and Psychology 5 years of experience in plant studies for environmental assessments	Terrestrial and riparian vegetation data collection and reporting
Buland Akhtar Siddiqui	Certification in Project Management Professional (PMP) MS Computer Science Diploma in Computer Applications BSc Mathematics and Physics 20 years of experience in data analysis and management, more than 10 years of experience in project management	Ecological and socioeconomic data analysis
Mohammad Arshad	MSc Forestry Over 7 years of experience in social development including Resettlement Action Plans	Household socioeconomic data collection
Muhammad Yasir Asad	MS Sociology 6 years of experience in social development	Household socioeconomic data collection

Name	Education and Experience	Role and Main Activities
Arslan Tariq	MS (M. Phil) Environmental Science	Household socioeconomic data collection
Madeha Aslam	MA. Anthropology	Household socioeconomic data collection
Sadaf Rani	Master's in Commerce – Finance	Household socioeconomic data collection
HBP Consultants		
Bilal Khan	BSc Geology BEng Environmental Engineering Over 10 years of experience in hydrology, geology, and environmental impact assessment	Hydrology modeling Climate Change Risk Assessment
Cate Brown	PhD Zoology MSc Zoology BSc (Hons), Zoology BSc Zoology, Biochemistry 26 years of experience in aquatic ecology and integrated environmental flow assessment	E-Flow Expert Support for E-Flow Assessment
Hussain Ali	MS in Environmental Engineering. 10 years of experience in environmental engineering	Organization and supervision of river cross-section surveys

44. The study team for the updated EIA is comprised of the following experts.

Exhibit 1-11: Study Team for the Updated EIA (2024)

S/No	Name of Team Member	Expertise	Organization
1	Dr. Muhammad Naeem Javaid	Fish Biologist	Pakistan Wildlife Foundation
2	Dr. Waseem Ahmad Khan	Fish Ecologist	Pakistan Wildlife Foundation
3	Dr. Muhammad Saeed Pirzada	Plant Taxonomist	Pakistan Wildlife Foundation
4	Mr. Ikram Ullah	Field Biologist	Pakistan Wildlife Foundation
5	Engr. Assad Ali Khan	Field Facilitation/EE	AGES, Pakistan
6	Mr. Aqil Shah	Field Facilitation	AGES, Pakistan
7	Mr. Johar Khan	KP Wildlife Department	Facilitator / Local Guide
8	Mr. Mukhtiar	Local Fisherman	Local Fisherman

1.7 Organization of the Report

45. The EIA is organized into 10 chapters. Following this chapter, **Section 1** (*Introduction*), two chapters provide information that puts the Project into context. These are:

i. **Section 2** (*Policy Legal and Administrative Framework*) describes the legal, policy, and requirements lenders applicable to the EIA process and the project design.

ii. **Section 3** (*Project Description*) describes the Project facilities, its main components, the construction activities, the transport route, land requirements, and the technical design summary.

46. The impact of the Project is assessed on the existing environment. The current status of environmental conditions has been discussed in the following chapter:

iii. **Section 4** (Description of the Environment) is further divided into three parts:

- **Section 4.1** (Physical Baseline) describes the geology, soils, hazards, topography, land use, climate, air quality, sound levels, visual character, and the water resources of the Study Area.
- **Section 4.2** (Ecology Baseline) describes the fish, macro-invertebrates, riparian vegetation, terrestrial flora, mammals, avifauna, and herpetofauna of the Study Area.
- **Section 4.3** (Socioeconomic Baseline) provides a narrative description of the socioeconomic zones, a description of the demographics, ethnicity, religion, governance, and administrative setup, social service infrastructure, physical infrastructure, local economy household socioeconomic conditions, indigenous people, and cultural heritage of the Study Area.

iv. **Section 5** (*Analysis of Alternatives*) identifies and analyzes various alternatives to the Project and its design, which includes the 'no project' option; alternative technology and scale of power generation; alternative Project location and layout; peaking and non-peaking operation; environmental flow and management option, and options for equipment and supplies transportation.

v. **Section 6** (*Information Disclosure, Consultation, and Participation*) describes the scoping consultations undertaken for the Project and the results of consultations.

47. The impact assessment is organized in three chapters:

vi. **Section 7** (*Anticipated Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures*) is the main assessment chapter that assesses the impact of the proposed Project design, construction, and operation on the physical, ecological, and socioeconomic environment of the area. The aspects that are covered include aquatic ecology, terrestrial ecology, air quality, hydrology and water quality, noise, soil, topography, land stability, land acquisition, livelihood and well-being, macroeconomic impacts, aesthetics and tourism, climate change, cumulative impacts, traffic, and road.

vii. **Section 8** (Grievance Redress Mechanism) provides the framework for reporting, recording, and taking action on complaints of the community.

viii. **Section 9** (*Environmental Management Plan*) provides details on management and mitigation measures to be carried out during the design, construction, and operation phases of the Project. It also categorizes these measures based on the responsibilities of various members of the Project execution team and lays out the main aspects for monitoring the implementation of management and mitigation measures.

ix. **Section 10** (*Conclusions and Recommendations*). It brings together the salient findings of the assessment.

2 POLICY, LEGAL, AND ADMINISTRATIVE FRAMEWORK

48. This section provides a summary of the national and international legislation and guidelines that are relevant to the assessment of the Project's environmental components. The review of the legal and institutional framework and relevant laws helps identify the policy directives and required procedures to investigate social responsibility, environmental accountability, and financial soundness of the Project.

2.1 Provincial Legislative and Regulatory Framework

49. The development of statutory and other instruments for environmental protection and management has steadily gained priority in Pakistan since the late 1970s. The Pakistan Environmental Protection Ordinance 1983 was the first piece of legislation designed specifically for the protection of the environment. The promulgation of this ordinance was followed in 1984 by the establishment of the Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency, the primary government institution dealing with environmental issues. Significant work on developing environmental policy was carried out in the late 1980s, which culminated in the drafting of the Pakistan National Conservation Strategy. Provincial environmental protection agencies were also established at about the same time. The National Environmental Quality Standards (NEQS) (**Appendix A**) were established in 1993. The enactment of the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act 1997 (PEPA 1997) conferred broad-based enforcement powers to the environmental protection agencies. Publication of the Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency Review of Initial Environmental Examination and Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 2000 (IEE-EIA Regulations 2000) provided the necessary details on the preparation, submission, and review of an IEE and EIA. In addition to the PEPA 1997, Pakistan's statute books contain a number of other laws that have clauses concerning regulation and protection of the environment.

50. One of the key components of the 18th Amendment to the Constitution, passed by the parliament in 2010, was the devolution of power from the federal to provincial governments. Through this amendment, the concurrent legislative list of the constitution was abolished, and all legislative powers on subjects included in the concurrent legislative list, which included environmental protection, were transferred to the provinces. Thus, after the passage of the 18th Amendment, the federal government lost its power to legislate on environmental protection, and only provincial governments could make laws regarding the protection of the environment.

2.1.1 Statutory Framework for Environment

51. The key national environmental legislation was the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act (PEPA 1997). After devolution through the 18th Constitutional Amendment 2010, the provinces have sole authority and responsibility to legislate on 'environment and ecology'. In this respect, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Protection Act 2014 (KP Act 2014), promulgated in 2014, and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Assessment Rules 2021, promulgated in September 2021, will apply to this Project.

2.1.2 Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Protection Act 2014

52. The KP Environmental Protection Act 2014 applies to a broad range of issues and extends to air, water, industrial liquid effluent, and noise pollution, as well as to the handling

of hazardous wastes. The articles of the KP Act 2014 that have a direct bearing on the proposed Project are listed below.

53. The details are discussed in the following sections:

i. Article 11 deals with the KP environmental quality standards (KPEQS) and its application.

ii. Article 12 deals with discharges, emissions, and waste disposal.

iii. Article 13 deals with IEE and EIA with the review and approval process.

iv. Article 14 prohibits import of hazardous waste.

v. Article 15 that provides rules on the handling of hazardous substances.

vi. Article 16 provides regulations on motor vehicles.

vii. Article 17 prohibits various acts detrimental to the environment.

54. The main features of the KP Act 2014 are discussed in **Exhibit 2-1**.

Exhibit 2-1: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Protection Act 2014

Purpose	To provide for the protection, conservation, rehabilitation, and improvement of the environment, for the prevention and control of pollution, and promotion of sustainable development
Definition of *Adverse Environmental Effect*	pollution or impairment of, or damage to, the environment, and includes,--- i. impairment of, or damage to, human health and safety or to property or biodiversity; ii. pollution to the physical, biological, social, economic environment or geological, hydrological resources or various landforms; iii. damage to public comfort, aesthetic conditions, ecological balance, and meteorological conditions; iv. damage to aquifers, vegetal canopy, cultural heritage, or archeological sites; and v. any other adverse environmental effect as may be specified in the rules
Definition of *Air Pollutant*	Any substance that causes pollution of air and includes soot, smoke, dust particles, odor, light, electromagnetic radiation, heat, fumes, combustion exhaust, exhaust gases, noxious gases, hazardous substances, and radioactive substances;
Definition of *Biodiversity or Biological Diversity*	The variability among living organisms from all sources, including inter-alia terrestrial, marine, and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part, includes diversity within species, between species, and of eco-systems;
Definition of *Environment*	i. air, water, and land; ii. all layers of the atmosphere; iii. all organic and inorganic matter and living organisms; iv. the ecosystem or flora and fauna, and ecological relationships; v. buildings, structures, roads, facilities, installations, and works; vi. all social or cultural and economic conditions and activities affecting community life; and vii. the inter-relationships between any of the factors specified in sub-clauses (i) to (vi)
Definition of *Hazardous Waste*	The waste which contains hazardous substances or as may be prescribed and includes healthcare risk wastes and radioactive waste
Definition of *Hazardous Substance*	viii. a substance or mixture of substances, except the pesticide as defined in the Agricultural Pesticides Ordinance, 1971 (II of 1971), which, because of its physical, chemical or biological properties or toxic, explosive, flammable, corrosive, infectious, radioactive, persistent or having any other characteristics as may be prescribed, or is likely to cause, directly or in combination with other substances, an adverse environmental effect; and ix. any substance which may be prescribed as a hazardous substance;
Definition of *Discharge*	Spilling, leaking, pumping, depositing, seeping, releasing, flowing out, pouring, emitting, emptying or dumping;
Definition of *Ecosystem*	A dynamic complex of plant, animal, and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit;
Definition of *Effluent*	Any material in solid, liquid, or gaseous form or combination thereof being discharged from industrial activity or any other source and includes a slurry, suspension, or vapor;
Definition of *Industrial Activity*	Any operation or process for manufacturing, making, formulating, synthesizing, altering, repairing, crushing, grinding, cleaning ornamenting, finishing, packing or otherwise treating any article or substance with a view to its use, sale, transport, delivery or disposal, or for mining, for oil and gas exploration and development, or for pumping water or sewage, or for generating, transforming or transmitting power or for any other industrial or commercial purposes;

Definition of *Industrial Waste*	Waste resulting from an industrial activity;
Definition of *Pollution*	The contamination of air, land, or water by the discharge of emission of effluent or wastes or air pollutants or noise or other matter which either directly or indirectly or in combination with other discharges or substances alters unfavorably the chemical, physical, biological, radiational, thermal or radiological or aesthetic properties of the air, land or water or which may, or is likely to make the air, land or water unclean, noxious or impure or injurious, disagreeable or detrimental to the health, safety, welfare or property of persons or harmful to biodiversity;
Definition of *Noise*	The intensity, duration, and character of sound from all sources, including vibration;
Definition of *Sewage*	Liquid or semi-solid wastes and sludge from sanitary conveniences, kitchens, laundries, washing, and similar activities and any sewerage system or sewage disposal works;
Definition of *Waste*	Substance or object or material which has been, is being or is intended to be, discarded or disposed of, and includes liquid waste, solid waste, waste gases, suspended waste, industrial waste, agricultural waste, radioactive and nuclear waste, mist, animal waste, electronic waste, municipal waste, hospital waste, pharmaceutical waste, plastic and polythene waste and residues from the incineration of all types of waste.
Definition of *Climate Change*	A change of climate that is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable periods;
Definition of *Emission*	The extent of pollutant's discharges per unit time or the extent of pollutant per unit volume of gas, liquid, or vapor emitted
Definition of *Factory*	Any premises in which industrial activity is being undertaken;
Functions of the Agency	Administer and implement the provisions of this Act and the rules made there under;
	Prepare, in coordination with the appropriate Government Agency or local council and in consultation with the concerned sectoral Advisory Committees where established, environmental policies for the approval of the Council
	Prepare, revise, and establish the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Quality Standards with the approval of the Council: Provided that before seeking approval of the Council, the Agency shall publish the proposed Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Quality Standards for public opinion in accordance with the prescribed procedure;
	Ensure enforcement of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Quality Standards; resources, solid waste management and water sanitation
	Establish standards for the quality of the ambient air, water, and land, by notification establish different standards for discharge or emission from different sources and for different areas and conditions as may be necessary: Provided that- (a) where these standards are less stringent than the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Quality Standards prior approval of the Council shall be obtained; and (b) list of areas, with the approval of the Council, in which any class of activities or projects shall not be carried out or shall only be carried out subject to certain specified safeguards;
	Co-ordinate with other Provinces, Federal Governments, National, and International Organizations for the implementation of environmental policies, issues concerns, and programs as may be prescribed

	Co-ordinate and facilitate the Government departments, agencies, organizations, and institutions in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in adaptation to address the impacts of climate change;
	Establish systems and procedures for surveys, surveillance, monitoring, measurement, examination, investigation, research, inspection, and audit to prevent and control pollution, and to estimate the costs of cleaning up pollution and rehabilitating the environment in various sectors
	Carry out and conduct environmental monitoring and implementation of environmental approvals provided in this Act;
	Carry out and conduct environmental audits of old industrial units in accordance with rules(Old industrial units means those established before the commencement of this Act)
	Issue licenses for the consignment, handling, transport, treatment, disposal, storage, handling or otherwise dealing with hazardous substances;
	Assist Government Agencies, local councils, local authorities, and other persons to implement schemes for the proper disposal of wastes to ensure compliance with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Quality Standards
	Provide information and guidance to the public on environmental matters
	Specify safeguards for the prevention of accidents and disasters that may cause pollution, collaborate with the concerned persons in the preparation of contingency plans for control of such accidents and disasters, and coordinate the implementation of such plans;
	Review and approve mitigation plans and give guidance and directions, where necessary, for cleanup operations ordered under this Act
Prohibition of certain discharges or emissions	(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, rules, notifications and guidelines made thereunder i. No person shall discharge or emit or allow the discharge or emission of any effluent or wastes or air pollutant or noise, load, concentration, or level that is in excess of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Quality Standards or, where applicable, the standards established under sub-clause (vii) and (viii) of sub-section (1) of section 6; and ii. No person shall discharge effluents, emissions, or wastes in excess of the load permitted in the conditions of the environmental permit or environmental approval or license. (2) The Agency, with the approval of the Government, may levy a pollution charge on any person who contravenes or fails to comply with the provisions of sub-section (1), to be calculated at such rate, and collected in accordance with such procedure as may be prescribed. (3) Any person who pays the pollution charge levied under sub-section (2), shall not be charged with an offense with respect to that contravention or failure.
Initial Environmental Examination and Environmental Impact Assessment	1) No proponent of a project shall commence construction and operation unless he has filed with the Agency an initial environmental examination or where the project is likely to cause an adverse environmental effect, an environmental impact assessment, and has obtained from the Agency, environmental approval in respect thereof. (2) The Agency shall (a) review the initial environmental examination and accord its approval or require submission of an environmental impact assessment by the proponent; or

	(b) review the environmental impact assessment and accord its approval subject to such conditions as it may deem fit to impose, require that the environmental impact assessment be resubmitted after such modifications as may be stipulated, or reject the project as being contrary to environmental objectives. (3) Every review of an environmental impact assessment shall be carried out with public participation and no information will be disclosed during such public participation which relates to: (a) trade, manufacturing or business activities, processes or techniques of a proprietary nature, or financial, commercial, scientific or technical matters which the proponent has requested should remain confidential unless for reasons to be recorded in writing, the Director-General of the Agency thinks that the request for confidentiality is not well-founded or the public interest in the disclosure outweighs the possible prejudice to the competitive position of the project or its proponent; or (b) International relations, national security, or maintenance of law and order, except with the consent of Government; or (c) Matters covered by legal professional privilege. (4) The Agency shall communicate its approval or otherwise within four months from the date the initial environmental examination or environmental impact assessment is filed complete in all respects in accordance with the prescribed procedure, failing which the initial environmental examination or, as the case may be, the environmental impact assessment shall be deemed to have been approved, to the extent to which it does not contravene the provisions of this Act and the rules, provided that delay is not on part of the proponent for the provision of additional information asked for during the review process or conductance of public hearing of the project. (5) Subject to subsection (4), Government may in a particular case extend the aforementioned period of four months if the nature of the project so warrants. (6) The provisions of sub-sections (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5) shall apply to such categories of projects and in such manner as may be prescribed. (7) The projects or any activity of a proponent not covered under sub-section (6), specified in guidelines shall obtain a general environmental approval in a manner prescribed in guidelines in respect thereof. (8) The Agency shall maintain separate Registers for initial environmental examination and environmental impact assessment projects, which shall contain brief particulars of each project and a summary of decisions taken thereon, and which shall be open to inspection by the public at all reasonable hours and the disclosure of information in such Registers shall be subject to the restrictions specified in sub-section (3).
Handling of Hazardous Substances	Subject to the provisions of this Act, no person shall generate, collect, consign, transport, treat, dispose of, store, handle, deal in and use or import any hazardous substance except- -- (a) under a license issued by the Agency and in such manner as may be prescribed; or (b) in accordance with the provisions of any other law for the time being in force, or of any International Treaty, Convention, Protocol, Code, Standard, Agreement or other instrument to which Pakistan or the Province of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is a party.

Regulation of motor vehicles	(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, and the rules, notification, and guidelines made thereunder, no person shall operate a motor vehicle from which air pollutants or noise are being emitted in an amount, concentration, or level that is in excess of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Quality Standards or where applicable the standards established under clauses (vii) and (viii) of sub-section (1) of section 6. (2) To ensure compliance with the standards mentioned in sub-section (1), the Agency may direct that any motor vehicle or class of vehicles or locomotive shall install such pollution control devices or other equipment use such fuels, or undergo such maintenance or testing as may be prescribed. (3) Where a direction has been issued by the Agency under sub-section (2) in respect of any motor vehicles or class of motor vehicles, or locomotives, no person shall operate any such vehicle till such direction has been complied with.

2.1.3 The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Assessment Rules 2021

55. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Assessment Rules 2021, promulgated in September 2021, provide details of project categorization, preparation, submission review, and grant of environmental approval thereof. The Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Review of IEE and EIA) Regulations, 2000, have been repealed through Rule 25 of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Assessment Rules 2021 to the extent of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

2.1.4 Preparation and Submission of EIA

56. Article 13 of the KP Act 2014 states that "*No proponent of a project shall commence construction and operation unless he has filed with the Agency an initial environmental examination (IEE) or where the project is likely to cause an adverse environmental effect, an environmental impact assessment (EIA), and has obtained from the Agency, environmental approval in respect thereof*".

57. Also, Rule 4 of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Assessment Rules 2021, states that "*Where the project falls with the categories mentioned in **Schedules-II, III and IV**, the proponent shall file EIA or IEE or GEA respectively, with the Agency*".

58. EIA preparation for Balakot HPP (300 MW) and obtaining the necessary "Environmental Approval" thereof falls in the purview of both of the above.

2.2 Environmental Standards

2.2.1 National Environmental Quality Standards

59. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa EPA is yet to formulate the *Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental* Quality Standards (KPEQS) as per Article 6 (v) of the KP Act 2014. So, the National Environmental Quality Standards (NEQS) will apply to the Project. Article 11(1) of the PEPA 1997 states that "Subject to the provisions of this Act and the rules and regulations made thereunder no person shall discharge or emit or allow the discharge or emission of any effluent or waste or air pollutant or noise in an amount, concentration or level which is more than the National Environmental Quality Standards."

60. National Environmental Quality Standards (NEQS) have been established for gaseous emission, liquid effluent, ambient air quality, noise, and drinking water. From the date of enforcement of the NEQS, all projects, whether in operation on the date or constructed later, are required to comply with these standards.

61. The Project needs to comply with all applicable standards, and Project proponents and contractors should ensure that no activity will result in the emission of pollutants and effluents exceeding limits as prescribed in the NEQS. The applicability of the NEQS to the Project is described in **Exhibit 2-2**. The complete set of NEQS are included in **Appendix A**.

Exhibit 2-2: NEQS Applicable to the Project

NEQS	Applicability During Construction	Applicability During Operation
Gaseous Emission	All power generators	Any back-up generator
Noise emission	All noise sources	Not applicable
Emissions from motor vehicles	All project vehicles	All project vehicles

NEQS	Applicability During Construction	Applicability During Operation
Noise from motor vehicles	All project vehicles	All project vehicles
Ambient air quality	Changes in air quality in the surrounding area due to construction activities	Not applicable
Liquid effluent	Sanitary waste and other liquid waste are discharged into the environment	Sanitary waste and other liquid waste are discharged into the environment
Drinking water	Water supplied by the owners and contractors to staff	Water supplied by the owners and contractors to staff

2.2.2 ADB's Guidelines for Project Emission

62. The ADB requires that "During the design, construction, and operation of the project the borrower/client will apply pollution prevention and control technologies and practices consistent with international good practice, as reflected in internationally recognized standards such as the World Bank Group's Environment, Health and Safety Guidelines. These standards contain performance levels and measures that are normally acceptable and applicable to projects. When host country regulations differ from these levels and measures, the borrower/client will achieve whichever is more stringent. If less stringent levels or measures are appropriate given specific project circumstances, the borrower/client will provide full and detailed justification for any proposed alternatives that are consistent with the requirements presented in this document."

63. The IFC's EHS Guidelines[10] will be used as the basic criteria for evaluating the emissions (gaseous, effluent, noise, etc.) from the Project. Fundamentally, the NEQS as well as the IFC EHS Guidelines will be applicable following the guidelines cited above.

2.3 Other Environmental Laws

2.3.1 Land Acquisition Act 1894

64. The national law governing land acquisition is the Land Acquisition Act 1894 (LAA 1894) and successive amendments to it. The LAA 1894 regulates the land acquisition process and enables the government to acquire private land for public purposes through the exercise of the right of eminent domain. Land acquisition is a provincial responsibility in Pakistan and provinces also have their own province-specific implementation rules.

65. The LAA 1894 and its implementation rules require that, following an impact identification and valuation exercise, land and crops are compensated in cash at the current market rate to titled landowners. In past practice land acquisition was usually based on the last 3 to 5 years average registered land–sale rates. However, in several recent cases like the Faisalabad Khanewal Motorway project and the Expressway 35 project, the median rate over the past 1 year, or even the current rates have been applied. Under section 23 of LAA 1894 and its amendments, in addition to the market–value of the land a sum of 15% of the amount as compulsory acquisition surcharge is also paid to the affected persons (APs) if the acquisition has been made for public purpose and a sum of 25% on such market–value if the

10 Sustainability Overview webpage on the official website of the International Finance Corporation – World Bank Group, http://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/topics_ext_content/ifc_external_corporate_site/ifc+sustainability/our+approach/risk+management/ehsguidelines

acquisition has been made for a Company. The APs, if not satisfied, can go to the Court of Law to contest the compensation award of the LAC.

66. The various sections relating to the land acquisition are briefly discussed below and summarized in **Exhibit 2-3**.

Exhibit 2-3: Key Feature of the LAA 1894

Section	Actions [Person Responsible]	Purpose and Effect
4	Publication in the official gazette of a notification that a "land in any locality is needed or is likely to be needed for any public purpose or a Company" [Collector] Public notice of the substance of such notification at convenient places in the said locality [Collector]	Allows preliminary investigation. In effect, it demonstrates the interest of the government that the "land in any locality is needed or is likely to be needed for any public purpose or a Company" Allows the Collector to authorize persons to enter, and where necessary, clear the land to: survey the land; undertake soil and other studies for determining the suitability of the land; measure land and demarcate boundaries by placing markers.
5 and 5A	Publication in the official gazette by the government a) the intention of the government that any particular land included in Section 4 notification is needed for public purposes or a Company, b) the administrative location of the land, c) the purpose of land acquisition, d) its approximate area, and e) location where the development plan for the land, if required, is available for public inspection, if required, [DC, if land required for public purposes or the provincial government if land required for a Company] Public notice of the substance of such notification at convenient places in the said locality Collector	Notifies the intention of the government to acquire land for the particular purpose to give the opportunity to the interested persons (persons who would be entitled to claim an interest in compensation if the land were acquired) to file an objection to the land acquisition. The objection can be filed within 30 days.
6	The Collector, if satisfied after reviewing the report made under section 5–A, subsection (2), will make a declaration in the official Gazette with conclusive evidence, stating that particular land is required for public/private purposes. The declaration will include the location of the land, the purpose, and its approximate area. The declaration shall be made only after ensuring that the compensation is to be paid by the company.	Provides the declaration from the collector for the purchase of required land. Declaration is published and communicated to the public at large to notify the acquisition of land including its location, area, and purpose.
7	After declaration under Section 6 Collector, to take order for the acquisition of the land.	Official orders are given by the [Executive District Officer (Revenue)], directing the Collector, to initiate the formal land acquisition process.
8	If the required land is not demarcated under section 4, the Collector will give orders to mark, measure, and plan out the required land.	Demarcation of required land as per the exact requirement of the project.
9	The Collector is to issue a public notice at convenient places on or near the land to show intentions for acquiring required land and inviting to file claims for	To inform the land owners and public at large, well ahead the time, about the acquisition of the demarcated land to ensure that interested persons are given sufficient time to object or claim.

Section	Actions [Person Responsible]	Purpose and Effect
	compensation, objections to measurements, etc., indicating the date, time, and place for all the land owners, indicating such date not earlier than 15 days. The Collector is also to serve notice, by post, to the occupier or to the known land owners (if any), residing within the revenue district or elsewhere. The Collector shall also serve notice, not less than 15 days before the date fixed under subsection (2) of section 9, to the land owners about the inquiry to be held under section 11 for the determination of claims and objections.	
10	The collector will also require and send a notice to any other interested person (co-proprietor, sub–proprietor, mortgagee, tenant or otherwise) with interest/claim about the required land. Any person claiming any interest under this section or section 9 will be bound to do so within the meaning of sections 175 and 176 of the Pakistan Penal Code.	To ensure that there are no financial discrepancies left unaddressed during the process of land acquisition every person associated with the land is duly informed and their objection/claims are appropriately addressed.
11	On the fixed date, the Collector is to enquire into the claims and objections of interested persons with regard to measurements made under section 8, the value of the land (at the date of the publication of the notification under section 4, subsection (1), and respective claims. The Collector can make an award (under his jurisdictions) of the true area of the land, compensation which in his opinion should be allowed for the land, and the distribution of the compensation among all the known or believed to be interested in the land, whether they have appeared before him or not.	To determine the actual land owners and precise measurements of the required land. This section also ensures that the compensation paid is a true representation of the value of land. To ensure that the compensation is fairly distributed among all the owners of the land.
12	The award filed in the Collector's office shall be deemed conclusive, whether the interested persons have appeared before the Collector or not. The Collector shall issue immediate notice of the award to the land owners whether they have appeared personally or by their representatives when the award is made.	To avoid potential future conflicts between the government and the owners of the land. This ensures that the decision made by the collector is final. To convey complete information on time to the landowners. This section ensures that the landowners have complete information on the award irrespective of their presence in Collector's office.
12 –A	The Collector can rectify any mistake (typographical, arithmetical errors) in the award by his motion or on the application of any of the parties.	To ensure that there are no errors or mistakes in the award or the assessment of the land. This ensures that the measurement and valuation of the land is done justly.
13	The Collector may conduct or discontinue and reschedule the inquiry for any reason, any day/time fixed by him.	To implement checks and balances on the system. This ensures a sense of responsibility for the government officers.

Section	Actions [Person Responsible]	Purpose and Effect
14	The Collector is empowered by this section to call and enforce the attendance of witnesses, including the interested parties or any of them to produce the documents by the same means, and in the same manner as provided in the case of a Civil Court under the Code of Civil Procedures.	To avoid future conflicts and increase transparency in the land acquisition process. To ensure that only the rightful legal owners who have proper documents are paid the award and no illegal claims are entertained.
15	The Collector shall be guided by sections 23 and 24 in determining compensation.	
16	Under this section, the collector may take possession of the land, after the compensation paid to the owner of the land or deposited in the Civil Court in his name by the acquisition authority, and the required land, shall then be granted to the government without any further claim.	To ensure a smooth transfer of land rights from the owner to the acquisition authority. This gives security to the acquiring authority that once the award is paid in full, the Collector will take possession of the land.

2.3.2 Key Biodiversity Laws

67. Several other laws in the statute books of Pakistan have a bearing on the environmental performance of the Project. The four primary laws are described in **Exhibit 2-4**.

Exhibit 2-4: Four Key Laws Relevant to the Project

Law	Description	Applicability to the Project
The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Forest Ordinance, 2002	This Act authorizes provincial forest departments to establish forest reserves and protected forests. The Act prohibits any person from: setting fires in the forest; quarrying stone; removal of any forest produce; or causing any damage to the forest by cutting trees or clearing areas for cultivation or any other purpose without express permission of the relevant provincial forest department.	The Project area does not include any forest reserve or protected forests established by the provincial forest department. There is limited forest cover around the Project facilities locations. Therefore, this law does not apply to the Project.
The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Wildlife and Biodiversity (Protection, Preservation, Conservation and Management) Act, 2015	This law was enacted to protect the province's wildlife resources directly and other natural resources indirectly. It classifies wildlife by degree of protection, i.e., animals that may be hunted on a permit or special license, and species that are protected and cannot be hunted under any circumstances. The Act specifies restrictions on hunting and trade in animals, trophies, or meat. The Act also defines various categories of wildlife-protected areas, i.e., National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, and Game Reserves.	There are protected areas within the Mansehra District. If the Project and related activities are found to impact Protected Areas, this law will be applicable.
NWFP Fisheries Rules 1976	This law prohibits the destruction of fish by explosives, poisoning water, and the hunting of protected fish species. The law also forbids the use of net or fixed engine traps without a permit or license. The law grants power to the Director General (DG) of Fisheries to issue permits to catch fish. It protects fish against 1) the Destruction of fish by explosives, and 2) the Destruction of fish by poisoning water.	This law applied to the Project as there was a possibility of catching fish as sustenance by the Project staff and also makes it obligatory to obtain a license from the fisheries department before commencing any fishing activities.

Law	Description	Applicability to the Project
The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Fisheries and Aquaculture Act, 2022	The Act was promulgated for the protection, preservation, conservation, regulation, and management of fisheries biodiversity and aquaculture in the Province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa This Act also deals with the powers of the Director General and his/her authority to delegate powers to other persons of the department and also deals with powers of other officers. Declaration of water bodies as sanctuaries, imposition of penalties against offenders, and taking necessary actions for the protection and conservation of aquatic lives are some of the main features of this Act.	As the Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW) will affect the Kunhar River aquatic life hence, provisions of the Act apply to the project.

2.3.3 Other Laws

68. In addition to the laws cited above, several other laws were reviewed for provisions that can affect the environmental and social performance of this Project. A list is provided in **Exhibit 2-5**. These were reviewed and the results of the review are provided in this section, in particular information about their potential to impact the Project.

Exhibit 2-5: Other Laws Reviewed

Antiquities Act, 2016		Industrial Relations Act, 2010
Delimitation of Local Councils Act, 2015		Forestry Commission Act, 1999
Environmental Protection Act, 2014		Irrigation and Drainage Authority Act, 1997
Factories Act, 2013		Kaghan Development Authority Act, 1996
Forest Ordinance, 2002		Minimum Wages Act, 2013
Industrial and Commercial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 2013		Payment of Wages Act, 2013
Energy Development Organization Act, 1993		Rivers Protection Ordinance, 2002
Integrated Water Resources Management Board Ordinance, 2002		Worker's Compensation Act, 2013
Prohibition of Employment of Children Act, 2015		The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Local Government Act, 2013
Protection of Trees and Brushwood Act, 1949		The West Pakistan Firewood and Charcoal (Restriction) Act, 1964
Rural Drinking Water Supply Scheme Act, 1985.		Wildlife and Biodiversity (Protection, Preservation, Conservation and Management) Act, 2015
The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Right to Information Act,2013		

69. **Energy Development Organization Act, 1993:** The Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO) is granted authority by this Act to develop the energy resources in KP. Under this Act, the development of hydropower is transferred to PEDO.

70. The Project is being developed by PEDO, which is operating under this Act. PEDO must comply with all regulations under this Act.

71. **Forest Ordinance, 2002:** The Forest Ordinance, 2002 has been instated to protect, conserve, manage, and sustainably develop forests and other renewable natural resources. The ordinance empowers the government to declare any forest land as reserved or no longer reserved, designate reserve forests for village communities to use, declare forest land or wasteland as Protected Forests or remove protected status, control Guzara Forests, Mazri and Mazri produce, as well as timber and timber produce. Under the ordinance, the government is granted powers in forest management, with authority given to forest officers. The government, through its officers, has the right to exercise penalties on violations of prohibitions as laid out in the ordinance.

72. Certain plant species are protected under the Act when found in reserved forests, protected forests, and protected wastelands. A list of these species is provided in Schedule I of the Act.

73. The Project is not expected to impact Reserve Forests, Protected Forests, Village Forests, or Guzara Forests. Reserved Forests are located around the Project facilities. The Project will have an impact on forested areas. It is important to ensure that Project-related activities do not encroach on any of the above-mentioned types of forests. It is also important that Project staff not engage in the collection or trade of forest produce.

74. **Forest Development Corporation Ordinance, 1980:** The Forest Development Corporation has been established under this ordinance. The corporation functions to “make suitable arrangements for the:

i. economic and scientific exploitation of forests;
ii. sale of forest produce;
iii. establishment of primary wood-processing units;
iv. regeneration in areas to be specified by the Government; and
v. performance of such other functions as may be assigned to it by Government.”

75. The Project will not be impacted by this ordinance. It should be ensured that Project staff do not engage in activities that are under the jurisdiction of this corporation for example in the trade of forest products.

76. **Forestry Commission Act, 1999:** The Act is aimed at establishing a Forestry Commission to improve the protection, management sustainable development of forests in KP. Under this Act, the Commission established is empowered and entrusted to further this aim by taking steps such as giving vision and a framework for the sustainable development of forests in KP, guiding and overseeing the process of institutional and legislative reforms in the Department, advocating policies for sustainable development of forests, etc. The Project will not be impacted by this Act, however, any initiatives undertaken by the Commission may be of interest to the Project for biodiversity management and mitigation.

77. **Protection of Trees and Brushwood Act, 1949:** The Act protects trees and brushwood. Under this Act, it is illegal to clear trees and brushwood belonging to the local government. Project-related activities should only be undertaken on land acquired for the Project. They should not clear trees or brushwood outside the acquired area.

78. **Wildlife and Biodiversity (Protection, Preservation, Conservation, and Management) Act, 2015:** The Act has been instated to consolidate the laws relating to the

protection, preservation, conservation, and management of wildlife in KP. Its aims include the following:

a. strengthening the administration of the organization[11] to effectively manage wild animals and their habitats;
b. to holistically manage Protected Areas sustainably for the best interest of the Indigenous communities and local stakeholders;
c. securing appropriately the goods and services produced from wild animals and their habitats at the level of local communities;
d. fulfilling the obligations envisaged under the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements ratified by the Government of Pakistan;
e. promotion of public awareness and capacity building for proper appreciation of the environmental significance and socio-economic values of wildlife; and
f. conservation of biological diversity and realization of its intrinsic and extrinsic values through sustainable use and community participation."

79. The Act empowers Wildlife Officers to enforce the laws relating to wildlife conservation and management and to use reasonable force to do so, if necessary. It places restrictions on hunting, possession, and display of wildlife, trade, and trafficking of wildlife or wildlife products, and protected areas. Wildlife offenses and penalties for those offenses are provided in the Act.

80. The Project and Project-related activities will be affected by the Act if there is a violation of the rules about wildlife. This will be the case if staff engage in activities prohibited under the Act such as hunting, possession and display of wildlife, trade in wildlife and wildlife products, introduction of alien invasive species, and so on. To ensure compliance with the law, staff should report any wildlife sightings to the concerned government department.

81. **Rivers Protection Ordinance, 2002:** The ordinance has been instated to provide for the protection of aquatic ecology, water quality, and economic and environmental value of rivers and their tributaries in KP. The ordinance has been instated keeping in view the increasing developments along rivers in KP and the need to maintain the quality of the rivers for public use. The rules set out will apply to any length of a particular river or stream or any part of a river or its tributary that has been specified by the Government. The Project is a hydropower project being developed on the main Kunhar River. If the Government of KP has designated the Kunhar River or specifically a stretch of the Kunhar River which includes the stretch to be used by the Project, then the rules set out in this ordinance will be applicable.

82. The rules laid out in the ordinance relate mainly to encroachment onto the river and pollution of the river. It is important that Project-related activities do not pollute the river and that all construction activities along the river banks be carried out within the area designated for them.

83. **Integrated Water Resources Management Board Ordinance, 2002:** The Integrated Water Resources Management Board has been established to devise and oversee the implementation of an integrated water resources management strategy aimed at sustainable economic, social, and environmental returns on water resource development. Under the

11 Wildlife Department, KP

ordinance a Board has been established, the functions of which include conducting studies to accurately assess the various demands of water for consumptive or non-consumptive use. This includes the use of water resources for hydropower itself, as well as areas that will potentially be affected by the Project such as fisheries, water-related sports, environmental sustainability, forestry, lakes and water bodies, etc.

84. The Project will be affected by this ordinance as it is impacting the flow of the Kunhar River. Any policies, rules, and procedures put in place by the Board need to be complied with.

85. **Rural Drinking Water Supply Scheme Act, 1985:** The Act has been instated to facilitate the execution of schemes for the supply of drinking water in rural areas. Project-related activities should not disrupt any schemes established under this Act. As long as Project-related activities take place within the land acquired for the Project, this law will not affect the Project.

86. **Irrigation and Drainage Authority Act, 1997:** The Act addresses the irrigation and drainage system in KP by requiring the adoption of a strategy for streamlining it. It includes the implementation of policies in the water resources sector to improve and sustainably develop supply for irrigated agriculture along with operating and maintaining irrigation, drainage, storage reservoirs, and flood control infrastructure in KP. The Project will not be affected by the Act if it does not affect the irrigation system in KP. Irrigation is not expected to be impacted by the Project.

87. **The West Pakistan Firewood and Charcoal (Restriction) Act, 1964:** The Act prohibits the burning of firewood and charcoal in factories, brick kilns, limekilns, and other specified places. The Project can be considered a factory under the definition provided in the Act. The Project owner and developer should ensure that no burning of firewood and charcoal is carried out in premises under its control.

88. **Antiquities Act, 2016:** The Antiquities Act, 2016 applies to the Project. Chapter IV, Clause 56 ‘Execution of mega project’ requires a clearance to be obtained from the Director (as defined in the Act) before the construction of a dam. Chapter VI, Clause 70, ‘Regulation of mining, quarrying, etc.’ gives the Director authority to prohibit mining, quarrying, excavation, blasting, and movement of heavy vehicles for the purpose of protecting or preserving any immovable antiquity.

89. **Factories Act, 2013:** The Factories Act, 2013 provides for the regulation of labor in KP. A factory is defined as “…any premises, including the precincts thereof, whereon ten or more workers are working, or were working on any day of the preceding twelve months, and in any part of which a manufacturing process is being carried on or is ordinarily carried on with or without the aid of power, but does not include a mine, subject to the operation of the Mines Act, 1923 (Act No. IV of 1923);” Based on this definition, the Act applies to the Project.

90. The Act regulates a range of conditions relating to labor. These include health and safety, restrictions on the working hours of adults, holidays with pay, and special provisions for adolescents with children. It also provides for government inspection staff to function as directed by the government, penalties and procedures relating to violations of the Act as well as supplemental information for staff (such as display of factory notices, removal of difficulties, protection against discrimination, etc.). The Project needs to comply with the requirements under these regulations.

91. **Industrial and Commercial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 2013:** The Industrial and Commercial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 2013 provides for the regulation of industrial and commercial employment in KP. It provides a list of standing orders for workers in the province. These include classification of workers based on types of contracts, identification of workers, the requirement for documenting terms and conditions, publications of working times, publication of wage rates, shift working, payment of wages, incentive schemes, insurance, bonuses, stoppage of work, closure of establishment, termination of employment, punishments, liability of the employer, amongst others.

92. The Project is required to comply with the clauses in this Act. The terms and conditions for the workers need to be published and all matters related to agreements between workers and the developer, outlined in the Act, need to be documented and adhered to.

93. **Prohibition of Employment of Children Act, 2015:** The Act has been instated to prohibit the employment of children and to regulate the employment of adolescents in KP. The Project will be impacted by the Act only if it employs children under the age of 14. The Project should not employ children or adolescents for any Project-related activities. Under the Act, staff designated by the government can inspect the Project facilities to ensure compliance with its rules. The inspector may require the establishment to provide evidence of the age of staff in case of dispute over age.

94. **Industrial Relations Act, 2010:** The Act has been instated to regulate relationships between workers and employers. It outlines the rights and responsibilities of the workers and the employer. For example, workers and employers can, without distinction, establish and join associations of their own choice. Every trade union and employer's association shall frame its constitution and rules to elect its representatives.

95. The owners and developers of the Project need to ensure that no unfair conditions are placed on labor in terms of employment practices. The workers also must not partake in any unfair labor practices. Furthermore, under the Act, the participation of workers in management is important. Under the Act, the government can appoint an inspector to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Act. The Act also provides for penalties in case of violations of provisions in the Act.

96. **Minimum Wages Act, 2013:** The Act provides for the regulation of minimum rates of wages and various allowances for different categories of workers employed in certain industrial and commercial undertakings and establishments. The Project needs to ensure that all workers are paid at least minimum wages. If this is ensured, the Act will not affect the Project.

97. **Payment of Wages Act, 2013:** The Act regulates the payment of wages to persons employed in factories, industrial establishments, and commercial establishments in KP. The Project can be considered a factory under the definition in the Act. Therefore, it needs to comply with the provisions of the Act by ensuring payment of wages by all responsible people.

98. **Worker's Compensation Act, 2013:** The Act provides for workers or their legal heirs compensation for injury or death by accident. The Project owner will be liable to provide compensation if personal injury is caused to a worker by accident during his employment.

99. **Kaghan Development Authority Act, 1996:** The Act instates the development of an authority to develop Kaghan and other regions of the Hazara Division. The Kaghan Development Authority is empowered by the Act for environmental upgradation and uplift of the common. The Authority is involved in the development of schemes in diverse types of schemes, examples of which include education, health, agriculture and industry, forest conservation, preservation of wildlife, promotion of tourism, improvement of water supply, landslide management, sewerage and drainage, etc.

100. The Project will have an impact on the area under the jurisdiction of the Kaghan Development Authority. The Project is being developed by PEDO; therefore, it is owned by the Government of KP. Under the Act, the Authority shall discharge its functions, guided by directions from the government. This highlights the importance of PEDO in coordinating with the Kaghan Development Authority, especially as Project-related activities will place added pressure on the service infrastructure in the area, which is under the Authority. However, the Act is not binding on the Project.

101. **The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Local Government Act, 2013:** The Act has been instated to construct and regulate local government institutions in KP and to consolidate laws relating to these institutions. The Act defines the functions and powers of various heads of local government such as District Councils, Villages, City Districts, etc.

102. The local government is a stakeholder with whom the Project needs to coordinate. Any changes in the organization, powers, and functions of the local government, directed by the Act, can affect the Project.

103. **Delimitation of Local Councils Act, 2015:** The Act mainly concerns the defining of local councils by providing for the delimitation of village councils, neighborhood councils, and territorial wards for general seats to tehsil councils, and district councils, for elections to local councils in KP. The Act may affect the Project if there is a change in the delimitation of local councils.

104. **The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Right to Information Act, 2013:** The Act provides for ensuring transparency and access to information in KP. The Project is a public sector Project; therefore, it needs to provide information to the public and not compromise transparency under this Act.

2.4 Federal and Provincial Conservation Strategies

105. Pakistan National Conservation Strategy (PNCS)[12] was prepared jointly by the then-federal Ministry of Environment with assistance from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). It was approved by the federal cabinet in 1992 as the basic policy document on environmental sustainability.

106. The Sarhad Provincial Conservation Strategy (SPCS)[13] was prepared by the Government of KP with assistance from IUCN. It was approved by the provincial cabinet in 1996 and was considered a sustainable development action plan for the KP.

12 The Pakistan National Conservation Strategy, 1992.
13 The Sarhad Provincial Conservation Strategy, 1996, Government of North West Frontier Province in collaboration with IUCN–The World Conservation Union.

107. Both these documents are no longer used for planning purposes and as such are obsolete as a policy document. However, they can be used where relevant as a guideline.

108. **National Sustainable Development Strategy, 2012 (NSDS)**: The NSDS envisions the evolution of a just and harmonious society via the promotion of vibrant and equitable economic growth without the over-exploitation of natural resources and the fair distribution of development dividends to all, in particular marginalized, poor, and vulnerable in society and to future generations. The strategy is aligned with the emerging concept of a 'green economy' as an alternative to the Framework for Economic Growth (2011), prepared by the Planning Commission of Pakistan.

109. **National Climate Change Policy (2012):** The National Climate Change Policy, approved by the Government in 2012 has the overall goal 'to ensure that climate change is mainstreamed in the economically and socially vulnerable sectors of the economy and to steer Pakistan towards climate resilient development'. One of the major objectives of this policy is the conservation of natural resources and long-term sustainability further elaborated through specific measures under forestry, biodiversity, and other vulnerable ecosystems. Concerning forestry, the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) outlines the need to restore and enhance Pakistan's forest cover under sustainable forest management to 'withstand present and probable future impacts of climate change.' Biodiversity-related policy measures include setting national biodiversity indicators and providing requisite financial resources for implementation of the BAP (2000).

110. To support the Climate Change Policy, in 2013 the Government prepared a Framework for Implementation of the Climate Change Policy (2014-2030) which lists priority, short-term, medium-term, and long-term actions to be implemented in various sectors including forestry.

111. **KP Climate Change Policy, 2022:** The KP Climate Change Policy was prepared and approved in 2017. However, due to the revision of the National Climate Change Policy and the inclusion of newly merged districts (Ex FATA) into KP, the policy was revised and updated in 2022. The policy reflects the province's commitment to addressing climate change challenges and advancing sustainable development goals in line with national and international commitments. It serves as a framework for guiding climate action initiatives and promoting resilience-building measures to safeguard the well-being of communities and ecosystems in KP. The Climate Change policy is focused on:

i. Mitigation- a process of reducing GHG emissions that contribute to Climate Change. It comprises measures for lowering GHG emissions and improving GHG sinks.

ii. Adaptation- a process, or combination of actions and measures, that reduces the susceptibility of natural and human systems to the impacts of Climate Change.

2.5 Institutional Framework

112. The success of environmental assessments as a means of ensuring that development projects are environmentally sound and sustainable depends in large measure on the capability of regulatory institutions for environmental management. The institutional framework

for decision-making and policy formulation in environmental and conservation issues is briefly described below.

113. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Protection Agency (KP EPA) is primarily responsible for administering the provisions of the KP Environmental Protection Act, 2014. The institutional framework for decision-making and policy formulation in environmental and conservation issues is summarized in **Exhibit 2-6**.

Exhibit 2-6: Institutional Responsibilities

Agency	Law	Functions	Relevance to the Project
KP Environmental Protection Agency and KP Environmental Protection Council	KP Environmental Protection Act 2014	Enforcement of provisions of the KP Environmental Protection Act 2014 in KP	KPEPA has the key jurisdiction in the context of environmental protection over the Project
Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO)	The Sarhad Hydel Development Organization Act, 1993	Preparation of a comprehensive plan for the development and utilization of the power and energy resources of KP, and framing of a scheme or schemes for the province for generation, transmission, and distribution of power.	Being the developer, PEDO needs to ensure compliance with the requirements of the KPEPA and lender agencies.
National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA)	Regulation of Generation, Transmission and Distribution of Electric Power Act, 1997	Regulating the provision of electric power services, specifically granting licenses for the generation, transmission, and distribution of electric power. The Act requires the licensee to follow performance standards laid down by the Authority for the distribution and transmission of electric power, including safety, health, and environmental protection instructions issued by the Authority or any Governmental agency, with the least environmentally harmful supply of electricity.	The Authority requires preparation and approval of EIA from the respective EPA as a condition of granting of generation license. Beyond this, the authority has no direct role in environmental management as per current practice.
Provincial Disaster Management Authority KP	National Disaster Management Act (Amended) 2012	The Authority may: lay down policies on disaster management; lay down guidelines to be followed by the government; and take such measures for the prevention of disaster or the mitigation or for preparedness and capacity building for dealing with disaster situations as it may consider necessary.	Will be the key agency in case of any natural or human-made emergency or disaster in the Project area.
Fisheries Department, KP	NWFP Fisheries Rules 1976, and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Fisheries and Aquaculture Act, 2022	The Fisheries Department has the authority to enforce the laws and regulations provided in the Fisheries Rules, 1976. This includes regulation of fishing methods using permits and licenses, the species that can be caught, and associated penalties for violation of regulations about wild fish.	All wild fish fauna are under the jurisdiction of the Fisheries Department; therefore, they need to be informed about any impacts on fish fauna and related mitigation measures need to be agreed with them.

Agency	Law	Functions	Relevance to the Project
Forest Department, KP	The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Forest Ordinance, 2002. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ordinance No. XIX of 2002.	The Forest Department enforces the provisions of the Forest Ordinance, 2002 to meet its objectives which include the protection, conservation, management, and sustainable development of forests by engaging the community and defining the role of the government.	All forest areas including reserved forests, village forests, protected forests, guzara forests, and wastelands, and produce from forests are under the jurisdiction of this department. They need to be informed about impacts on forests and they need to agree with related mitigation measures.
Wildlife Department, KP	The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Wildlife and Biodiversity (Protection, Preservation, Conservation and Management) Act, 2015	The Wildlife Department enforces the provisions of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Wildlife and Biodiversity Act, 2015 to meet its objectives which include strengthening the administration of the organization to effectively manage wild animals and their habitats, to fulfill the obligations of the government under its commitments to managing biodiversity, and promoting public awareness for the value of wildlife and conservation.	All wildlife is under the jurisdiction of this department. The department needs to be informed of impacts on wildlife and they need to agree to related mitigation measures.
Local Governments	The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Local Government Act, 2013 Act No. XXVIII	Under this Act, the local governments are established and function within the provincial framework. Local areas for local government include villages, neighborhoods, tehsils, towns, districts, and city districts. The Act foresees a role for the district government in environmental management.	The District Administration in Mansehra, if it has enacted any of the procedures for environmental management, will be involved in certain aspects of the environmental management of the Project.

2.5.1 Environmental Protection Agency

114. The KP EPA was established in 1989. It is a monitoring and regulating agency with the following main functions:

i. administer and implement the KP Environmental Protection Act 2014, its rules and regulations;

ii. review the IEE-EIA, including preparation of procedures and guidelines;

iii. preparation, revision, and enforcement of NEQS (industries, municipalities, and vehicular emissions);

iv. establish and maintain laboratories, and certification of laboratories, for conducting tests and analysis;

v. assist local councils/authorities and government agencies in the execution of projects;

vi. establish a system for surveys, monitoring, examination, and inspection to combat pollution;

vii. conduct training for government functionaries and industrial management;

viii. provide information and education to the public on environmental issues;

ix. publish an annual state of the environment report. Survey qualitative and quantitative data on air, soil, water, industrial/municipal, and traffic emissions; and

x. take measures to promote environment-related research and development activities.

2.5.2 Environmental Protection Council

115. The Pakistan Environmental Protection Council established in 1984 does not have regulatory power over KP. The KP Environmental Protection Act 2014 allows for a provincial-level environmental protection council which has yet to be established. It will be the highest inter-ministerial statutory body in the province and will be responsible for:

i. formulating environmental policies;

ii. overseeing enforcement of environmental law;

iii. approval of the NEQS; and

iv. incorporation of environmental considerations into development plans and policies.

2.6 Asian Development Bank Policies and Guidelines

116. The Safeguard Policy Statement (SPS) builds upon the three previous safeguard policies on the environment, involuntary resettlement, and indigenous peoples, and brings them into one single policy that enhances consistency and coherence, and more comprehensively addresses environmental and social impacts and risks. The SPS aims to promote the sustainability of Project outcomes by protecting the environment and people from the Project's potential adverse impacts by avoiding adverse impacts of projects on the environment and affected people, where possible; minimizing, mitigating, and/or compensating for adverse project impacts on the environment and affected people when

avoidance is not possible; and helping borrowers/clients to strengthen their safeguard systems and develop the capacity to manage environmental and social risks.

117. The following ADB policies and guidelines may apply to the proposed Project:

i. ADB's 2009 Safeguard Policy Statement (SPS) – Safeguards Requirement (SR) 1 on Environment, SR2 on Involuntary Resettlement (IR), and SR3 on Indigenous Peoples (IP);

ii. ADB Social Protection Strategy (2001);

iii. ADB Gender and Development Policy (1998);

iv. access to Information Policy (2018);[14] and

v. relevant ADB Operations Manual (OM) such as OMF1 for Safeguards Policy Statement, OML3 for Access to Information Policy[15], OMD10 for Non-sovereign Operations, OMC3 for Incorporation of Social Dimensions into ADB Operations, OMC2 for Gender and Development;[16]

vi. ADB's Accountability Mechanism Policy (2012)[17]

118. The ADB's environmental policy is grounded in its Poverty Reduction Strategy and its Long-Terms Strategic Framework. To ensure the reduction of poverty through environmentally sustainable development, the ADB's Environment Policy contains five main elements: (i) promoting environment and natural resource management interventions to reduce poverty directly, (ii) assisting developing member countries to mainstream environmental considerations in economic growth, (iii) helping maintain global and regional life support systems that underpin future development prospects, (iv) building partnerships to maximize the impact of ADB lending and non-lending activities, and (v) integrating environmental considerations across all ADB operations.

119. Under the last element, the ADB pledges to address the environmental aspects of its operations through the systematic application of procedures for (i) environmental analysis for country strategy and programming; (ii) environmental assessment of project loans, program loans, sector loans, loans involving financial intermediaries, and private sector loans; (iii) monitoring and evaluation of compliance with environmental requirements of loans; and (iv) implementation of procedures for environmentally responsible procurement. In the context of policy-based lending and policy dialogue, the ADB will identify opportunities to introduce policy reforms that provide incentives to improve environmental quality and enhance the sustainability of natural resource management.

120. ADB classifies projects into category A (with potentially significant environmental impact); category B (with potentially less significant environmental impact); or, category C

14 Asian Development Bank (ADB), September 2018, Access to Information Policy, Available at https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/institutional-document/450636/access-information-policy.pdf. Accessed on 18 June, 2019.
15 Asian Development Bank (ADB), Janaury 2019, Access to Information Policy Operations Manual, Available at https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/institutional-document/31483/om-l3.pdf
16 Asian Development Bank (ADB), September 2016, Operations Manual, Institutional Document, ADB, Available at https://www.adb.org/documents/operations-manual
17 Asian Development Bank (ADB), 2012, Accountability Mechanism Policy, ADB Available at https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/institutional-document/33440/files/accountability-mechanism-policy-2012.pdf

(unlikely to have significant environmental impact).[18] An IEE is required for category B projects and an EIA, requiring greater depth of analysis, for category A projects. No environmental assessment is required for category C projects although their environmental implications nevertheless need to be reviewed. The proposed Project has been classified as a category A project for the environment.

121. The ADB requires public consultation and access to information in the environment assessment process. It specifies the need for meaningful consultation, which involves two-way communication between the borrower/client and the affected communities and stakeholders. It also involves the active participation of affected communities and stakeholders in various stages of the project design and implementation. The following principles apply to meaningful consultations:[19]

i. begins early and is carried out on an ongoing basis throughout the project cycle;

ii. ensures timely disclosure of relevant information;

iii. is free of intimidation or coercion;

iv. is gender-inclusive and responsive, and tailored to the needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups; and

v. incorporates relevant views of affected people and other stakeholders into project design and decision-making.

122. The Environmental Management Plan (EMP) is a key component of the EIA. The ADB places strong emphasis on the preparation of EMPs during project processing. The EMP sets out conditions and targets to be met during project implementation. It is also required to develop procedures and plans to ensure that the mitigation measures and monitoring requirements approved during the environmental compliance review will be carried out in subsequent stages of the project.

123. The ADB, however, recognizes that the specific construction and operational activities may not be defined well enough at the feasibility stage of the project cycle to provide the details required for an effective EMP. The ADB therefore requires that the Borrower ensure that a revised EMP be prepared at the beginning of the implementation stage. The Company will be the project proponent and will be responsible for preparing the revised EMP.

2.6.1 ADB's Safeguard Policy Statement 2009

124. Built upon the three previous safeguard policies the Involuntary Resettlement Policy (1995), the Policy on Indigenous Peoples (1998), and the Environment Policy (2002), the Safeguard Policy Statement was approved in 2009. The safeguard policies are operational policies that seek to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse environmental and social impacts including protecting the rights of those likely to be affected or marginalized by the developmental process.

18 A fourth category, FI (credit line for subprojects through a financial intermediary, or equity investment in a financial intermediary), requires that an appropriate environmental management system should be developed and assessment carried out.

19 Asian Development Bank (ADB), Environmental Safeguards: A Good Practice Sourcebook Draft Working Document, December 2012.

125. According to **Section 8**, Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management of ADB's Safeguard Policy Statement 2009, "the borrower/client will assess the significance of project impacts and risks on biodiversity and natural resources as an integral part of the environmental assessment process. The assessment will focus on the major threats to biodiversity, which include the destruction of habitat the introduction of invasive alien species, and on the use of natural resources in an unsustainable manner. The borrower/client will need to identify measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate potentially adverse impacts and risks and, as a last resort, propose compensatory measures, such as biodiversity offsets, to achieve no net loss or a net gain for the affected biodiversity."

126. Critical Habitat is defined by ADB's SPS 2009 as follows: Critical habitat is a subset of both natural and modified habitat that deserves particular attention. Critical habitat includes areas with high biodiversity value, including habitat required for the survival of critically endangered or endangered species; areas having special significance for endemic or restricted-range species; sites that are critical for the survival of migratory species; areas supporting globally significant concentrations or numbers of individuals of congregation species; areas with unique assemblages of species or that are associated with key evolutionary processes or provide key ecosystem services; and areas having biodiversity of significant social, economic, or cultural importance to local communities. Critical habitats include those areas either legally protected or officially proposed for protection, such as areas that meet the criteria of the World Conservation Union classification, the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization's world natural heritage sites.

127. No project activity will be implemented in areas of critical habitat unless the following requirements are met.

i. There are no measurable adverse impacts, or likelihood of such, on the critical habitat that could impair its high biodiversity value or the ability to function.

ii. The project is not anticipated to lead to a reduction in the population of any recognized endangered or critically endangered species or a loss in the area of the habitat concerned such that the persistence of a viable and representative host ecosystem is compromised.

iii. Any lesser impacts are mitigated in accordance with para. 27 (Mitigation measures will be designed to achieve at least no net loss of biodiversity. They may include a combination of actions, such as post-project restoration of habitats, and offset of losses through the creation or effective conservation of ecologically comparable areas that are managed for biodiversity while respecting the ongoing use of such biodiversity by Indigenous. Peoples or traditional communities, and compensation to direct users of biodiversity.

128. When the project involves activities in a critical habitat, the borrower/client will retain qualified and experienced external experts to assist in conducting the assessment.

129. ADB's safeguard policy framework consists of three operational policies on the environment, indigenous peoples, and involuntary resettlement. A brief detail of all three operational policies has been mentioned below:

130. ***Environmental Safeguard:*** This safeguard is meant to ensure the environmental soundness and sustainability of projects and to support the integration of environmental considerations into the project decision-making process. The requirements apply to all ADB-financed and/or ADB-administered sovereign and non-sovereign projects, and their components regardless of the source of financing, including investment projects funded by a loan; and/or a grant; and/or other means, such as equity and/or guarantees (hereafter broadly referred to as projects). This policy and its requirements about environmental assessment, baseline, and impact assessment will apply to this project and the EIA will be undertaken to ensure that the Project is designed to comply with the policy.

131. ***Involuntary Resettlement Safeguard:*** This safeguard has been placed to avoid involuntary resettlement whenever possible; to minimize involuntary resettlement by exploring project and design alternatives; to enhance, or at least restore, the livelihoods of all displaced persons in real terms relative to pre-project levels; and to improve the standards of living of the displaced poor and other vulnerable groups. This policy and its requirements will apply to this project and the EIA and LARP will be undertaken to ensure that the Project is designed to comply with the policy.

132. ***Indigenous Peoples Safeguard:*** This safeguard looks at designing and implementing projects in a way that fosters full respect for Indigenous Peoples' identity, dignity, human rights, livelihood systems, and cultural uniqueness as defined by the Indigenous Peoples themselves so that they receive culturally appropriate social and economic benefits; do not suffer adverse impacts as a result of projects; and participate actively in projects that affect them. Based on the available information no indigenous people live in the project area. However, this will be further confirmed during the study.

133. ***Information, Consultation, and Disclosure:*** Consultation and participation are essential in achieving the safeguard policy objectives. This implies that there is a need for prior and informed consultation with affected persons and communities in the context of safeguard planning and for continued consultation during project implementation to identify and help address safeguard issues that may arise. The consultation process begins early in the project preparation stage and is carried out on an ongoing basis throughout the project cycle. It provides timely disclosure of relevant and adequate information that is understandable and readily accessible to affected people and is undertaken in an atmosphere free of intimidation or coercion. In addition, it is gender inclusive and responsive and tailored to the needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and enables the incorporation of all relevant views of affected people and other stakeholders into decision-making. ADB requires the borrowers/clients to engage with communities, groups, or people affected by proposed projects and with civil society through information disclosure, consultation, and informed participation in a manner commensurate with the risks to and impacts on affected communities. For projects with significant adverse environmental, involuntary resettlement, or Indigenous Peoples impacts, ADB project teams will participate in consultation activities to understand the concerns of affected people and ensure that such concerns are addressed in project design and safeguard plans.

2.6.2 Social Protection Requirements

134. ADB's Social Protection Strategy (2001 SPS) requires the Borrower to comply with applicable labor laws about the Project and take the following measures to comply with the core labor standards[20] for the ADB-financed portion of the Project.

i. Carry out its activities consistent with the intent of ensuring legally permissible equal opportunity, fair treatment, and non-discrimination about recruitment and hiring, compensation, working conditions, and terms of employment for its workers (including prohibiting any form of discrimination against women during hiring and providing equal work for equal pay for men and women engaged by the Borrower).

ii. Not restrict its workers from developing a legally permissible means of expressing their grievances and protecting their rights regarding working conditions and terms of employment.

iii. Engage contractors and other providers of goods and services.

iv. Who does not employ child labor[21] or forced labor[22].

v. Who have appropriate management systems that will allow them to operate in a manner that is consistent with the intent of (A) ensuring legally permissible equal opportunity and fair treatment and non-discrimination for their workers, and (B) not restricting their workers from developing a legally permissible means of expressing their grievances and protecting their rights regarding working conditions and terms of employment.

vi. whose subcontracts contain provisions that are consistent with paragraphs (i) and (ii) above.

2.6.3 Access to Information Policy (2018)

135. The objective of the Access to Information Policy (2018) is to promote stakeholder trust in ADB and to increase the development impact of ADB activities. The policy reflects ADB's commitment to transparency, accountability, and participation by stakeholders in ADB-supported development activities in Asia and the Pacific. It also recognizes the right of people to seek, receive, and impart information about ADB's operations.

136. The policy applies to documents and information that ADB produces, requires to be produced by its borrowers or clients, or are produced and provided to ADB by other parties in the course of ADB operations.

2.6.4 Gender and Development Policy 1998

137. ADB's Gender and Development Policy (1998) adopts gender mainstreaming as a key strategy for promoting gender equity, and for ensuring that women participate in and that their

20 The core labor standards are the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labor; the abolition of child labor; elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation; and freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining, as per the relevant conventions of the International Labor Organization

21 child labor means the employment of children whose age is below the statutory minimum age of employment in the relevant country, or employment of children in contravention of International Labor Organization Convention No. 138 'Minimum Age Convention" (www.ioo.org)

22 forced labor means all work or services not voluntarily performed, that is, extracted from individuals under threat of force or penalty

needs are explicitly addressed in the decision-making process for development activities. The key elements of ADB gender policy are: (i) Gender sensitivity, to observe how the project affects women and men differently and to take account of their different needs and perspectives in resettlement planning; (ii) Gender analysis, which refers to the systematic assessment of the project impact on men and women and the economic and social relationships between them; (iii) Gender planning, which refers to the formulation of specific strategies to bring about equal opportunities to men and women; and (iv) Mainstreaming, to consider gender issues in all aspects of ADB operations, accompanied by efforts to encourage women's participation in the decision-making process in development activities.

138. The SPS and safeguards requirements also reiterate the importance of including gender issues in the preparation of safeguards documents at all stages to ensure that gender concerns are incorporated, including gender-specific consultation and information disclosure. This includes special attention to guarantee women's assets, property, and land-use rights and restoration/improvement of their living standards; and to ensure that women will receive project benefits.

2.6.5 Climate Change Risk Management Framework

139. The climate risk management approach of the ADB aims to reduce risks resulting from climate change to investment projects in Asia and the Pacific. ADB's framework identifies climate change risks to project performance in the early stages of project development and incorporates adaptation measures in the design of projects at risk. ADB climate risk management framework comprises the following steps.

i. Context-sensitive climate risk screening at the concept development stage to identify projects that may be at medium or high risk.

ii. Climate change risk and vulnerability assessment during preparation of projects at risk.

iii. Technical and economic evaluation of adaptation options.

iv. Identification of adaptation options in project design.

v. Monitoring and reporting of the level of risk and climate-proofing measures.

2.7 International Treaties and Agreements

140. **Exhibit 2-7** lists important international environmental treaties that have been signed by Pakistan and may have relevance to the Project. They concern climate change and depletion of the ozone layer; biological diversity and trade in wild flora and fauna; desertification; waste and pollution; and cultural heritage.

Exhibit 2-7: International Environmental Treaties Endorsed by Pakistan

Topic	Convention	Date of Treaty	Entry into Force in Pakistan
Climate change and the ozone layer	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change - the primary objective is the stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.	1992	1994
	Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change - enabled by the above Convention on Climate Change. It has more powerful and legally binding measures. It sets binding targets for 37 industrialized countries and the European community for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.	1997	2005
	Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer - acts as a framework for international efforts to protect the ozone layer with a primary objective to protect human health and the environment against adverse effects resulting from human activities that modify or are likely to modify the ozone layer.	1985	1993
	The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete Ozone Layer and associated amendments - enabled by the Vienna Convention, is designed to protect the ozone layer by phasing out the production and consumption of several substances believed to be responsible for ozone depletion.	1987	1993
Waste and pollution	Basel Convention on the Control of Trans Boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal - regulates the transboundary movement of hazardous waste and other waste with the stated purpose of protecting human health and the environment against the adverse effects from generation and management of hazardous waste and other waste. The Convention provides for three sets of measures with binding obligations. These are: Strict control of the transboundary movement of hazardous waste; Environmentally sound management of hazardous waste; and Enforcement and implementation of the provisions of the convention at international and national levels.	1989	1994
	International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation	1990	1995
	Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants - seeks to protect human health and the environment from Persistent Organic Pollutants, which are chemicals that remain intact in the environment for long periods, become widely distributed geographically, and accumulate in the fatty tissue of humans and wildlife.	2001	2008

Topic	Convention	Date of Treaty	Entry into Force in Pakistan
	The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) – is the main international convention that covers the prevention of pollution of the marine environment by ships from operational or accidental causes. The Convention includes regulations aimed at preventing and minimizing pollution from ships, both accidental pollution and from routine operations, and currently includes six technical Annexes.	1983	
Desertification	International Convention to Combat Desertification – to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought. It is supported by international cooperation and partnership arrangements, to achieve sustainable use of land and water resources and sustainable development in affected areas.	1994	1997
Biodiversity and the protection of plants and animals	Convention on Biological Diversity – covering ecosystems, species, and genetic resources and also the field of biotechnology. The objectives are: conserve of biological diversity; sustainable use of its components; and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources.	1992	1994
	Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity - addresses potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology.	2000	2009
	Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals - aims to conserve terrestrial, marine, and avian migratory species throughout their range. It is concerned with the conservation of wildlife and habitats on a global scale.	1979	1987
	Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Siberian Crane - parties undertake to provide strict protection to Siberian Cranes, and identify and conserve wetland habitats essential for their survival.	1998	1999
	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora - to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.	1973	1976
	International Plant Protection Convention (1997 Revised Text) - to prevent the international spread of pests and plant diseases. It requires the maintenance of lists of plant pests, tracking of pest outbreaks, and coordination of technical assistance between member nations.	1951/52	1954
	Agreement for the Establishment of the Near East Plant Protection Organization - to establish the Near East Plant Protection Organization (NEPPO), which promotes international cooperation to implement the International Plant Protection Convention.	1993	2009

Topic	Convention	Date of Treaty	Entry into Force in Pakistan
	Plant Protection Agreement for the Asia and Pacific Region and amendments – establishes the Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission to review and promote the region's progress in the implementation of the Agreement. Trade in plants and plant products are regulated by certification, prohibition, inspection, disinfection, quarantine, destruction, etc., as necessary.	1955 (Amendment 1967)	1958 (amendment 1969)
	Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat and associated protocols and amendments - to promote conservation and sustainable use of wetlands. The Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance now includes almost 1,800 sites (known as Ramsar Sites). There are currently 19 Ramsar sites in Pakistan.	1971 (amended 1987)	1976 (amended 1994)
Cultural heritage	Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage - requires parties to adopt a general policy on the protection of the natural and cultural heritage, to set up services for such protection, to develop scientific and technical studies, to take appropriate legal, technical, scientific and administrative measures and to foster training and education for such protection.	1972	1976

141. Pakistan is a party to several conventions about biodiversity, including the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention) and the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

142. The CBD defines biodiversity as "the variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine, and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species, and of ecosystems". As a signatory country, Pakistan has a responsibility to:

- safeguard its biodiversity;
- introduce procedures requiring environmental impact assessment (EIA) for projects likely to have significant impacts on biological diversity; and
- introduce legislative provisions that ensure environmental policies and procedures are duly taken into account.

143. There is no direct bearing of these treaties on the Project. Wherever required, the federal or provincial governments have enacted laws to comply with the provisions of the treaties listed in this section. Thus the obligations of the Project are to comply with pertinent laws only.

2.8 Guidelines

2.8.1 World Bank Group

144. The ADB recognizes the environmental safeguards documents of the World Bank Group including the International Finance Corporation as an example of good international industry practice.

145. The specific requirements are as follows.

- Apply pollution prevention and control technologies and practices consistent with international good practices as reflected in internationally recognized standards such as the World Bank Group's Environmental, Health, and Safety Guidelines. …. [Page 16 of SPS 2009].
- During the design, construction, and operation of the project the borrower/client will apply pollution prevention and control technologies and practices consistent with international good practice, as reflected in internationally recognized standards such as the World Bank Group's Environment, Health and Safety Guidelines. These standards contain performance levels and measures that are normally acceptable and applicable to projects. When host country regulations differ from these levels and measures, the borrower/client will achieve whichever is more stringent. If less stringent levels or measures are appropriate given specific project circumstances, the borrower/client will provide full and detailed justification for any proposed alternatives that are consistent with the requirements presented in this document. [Page 36 of SPS 2009].

- The borrower/client will provide workers12 with a safe and healthy working environment, taking into account risks inherent to the particular sector and specific classes of hazards in the borrower's/client's work areas, including physical, chemical, biological, and radiological hazards. The borrower/client will take steps to prevent accidents, injury, and disease arising from, associated with, or occurring during work by (i) identifying and minimizing, so far as reasonably practicable, the causes of potential hazards to workers; (ii) providing preventive and protective measures, including modification, substitution, or elimination of hazardous conditions or substances; (iii) providing appropriate equipment to minimize risks and requiring and enforcing its use; (iv) training workers and providing them with appropriate incentives to use and comply with health and safety procedures and protective equipment; (v) documenting and reporting occupational accidents, diseases, and incidents; and (vi) having emergency prevention, preparedness, and response arrangements in place. The borrower/client will apply preventive and protective measures consistent with international good practice, as reflected in internationally recognized standards such as the World Bank Group's Environment, Health, and Safety Guidelines. [Page 38 of SPS 2009].

146. The ADB recommends using the IFC's Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) guidelines for emission and effluent.[23] It also refers to the IFC's Performance Standard 3: Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention, for assessment and compliance with greenhouse gas emission standards.[24] There are a total of eight IFC Performance Standards which were published in April 2006 and revised in 2012. In addition to this, the World Bank Group's Environmental and Social Framework includes ten Environmental and Social Standards (ESS). ESS4. Community Health and Safety addresses the health, safety, and security risks and impacts on project-affected communities. Annex 1 of ESS4 "Safety of Dams" applies to new, existing and under-construction dams.[25] For large dams, the World Bank requires the following.

- Reviews by an independent panel of experts (the Panel) of the investigation, design, and construction of the dam and the start of operations.
- Preparation and implementation of detailed plans: a plan for construction supervision and quality assurance, an instrumentation plan, an operation and maintenance plan, and an emergency preparedness plan.
- Prequalification of bidders during procurement and bid tendering.
- Periodic safety inspections of the dam after completion.

2.8.2 World Commission on Dams 2000

147. The World Commission on Dams (WCD) established the most comprehensive guidelines for dam building so far. It describes an innovative framework for planning water and

23 The International Finance Corporation, Environmental, Health, and Safety General Guidelines, The World Bank Group, April 2007.
24 Asian Development Bank (ADB), Environmental Safeguards: A Good Practice Sourcebook Draft Working Document, December 2012.
25 The World Bank Group, The Environmental and Social Framework, March 30, 2017, < http://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/environmental-and-social-policies-for-projects/brief/the-environmental-and-social-framework-esf>, accessed May 1, 2017

energy projects that is intended to protect dam-affected people and the environment and ensure that the benefits from dams are more equitably distributed. The WCD framework covers key areas for improved planning of dams, including the need to fully assess all available options for meeting water and energy needs; addressing outstanding social issues from existing dams before building new ones, gaining public acceptance for key decisions, and the importance of protecting healthy rivers.[26] The Project is being constructed in an area with natural resources of value both in terms of ecology and socioeconomics. It is being financed by an international funding body, the ADB, therefore, international standards, guidelines, and best practices need to be considered.

2.8.3 Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency

148. Regulation 6 of the IEE-EIA Regulations 2000 pertains to the guidelines. It states that: '(1) The Federal Agency may issue guidelines for the preparation of an IEE or an EIA, including guidelines of general applicability, and sectoral guidelines indicating specific assessment requirements for planning, construction, and operation of projects relating to particular sector. (2) where guidelines have been issued under sub-regulation (1), an IEE or EIA shall be prepared, to the extent practicable, in accordance therewith and the proponent shall justify in the IEE or EIA or environmental checklist any departure therefrom.'

149. The relevant guidelines are the following.

- Policy and Procedures for Filing, Review and Approval of Environmental Assessments, Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency, September 1997.
  - ➢ these guidelines define the policy context and the administrative procedures that will govern the environmental assessment process, from the project pre-feasibility stage to the approval of the environmental report. The section on administrative procedures has been superseded by the IEE-EIA Regulations, 2000.
- Guidelines for the Preparation and Review of Environmental Reports, Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency, 1997.
  - ➢ These guidelines target the project proponents and specify:
    - the nature of the information to be included in environmental reports;
    - the minimum qualifications of the EIA conductors appointed;
    - the need to incorporate suitable mitigation measures at every stage of project implementation;
    - the need to specify monitoring procedures;
- Guidelines for Public Consultation, Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency, May, 1997.
  - ➢ These guidelines support the two guidelines mentioned earlier. It deals with possible approaches to public consultation and techniques for designing an

26 International Rivers, The World Commission on Dams, Available at <https://www.internationalrivers.org/campaigns/the-world-commission-on-dams>, accessed April 18, 2017

effective program of consultation that reaches out to all major stakeholders and ensures the incorporation of their concerns in any impact assessment study.

- Guidelines for Sensitive and Critical Areas, Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency, October 1997.
  - The guidelines on sensitive areas are more specific in that they identify the officially notified protected areas in Pakistan, including critical ecosystems, archeological sites, etc., and present checklists for environmental assessment procedures to be carried out inside or in the vicinity of such sites. Environmentally sensitive areas include, among others, archeological sites, biosphere reserves and natural parks, and wildlife sanctuaries and preserves. The guidelines state that the approach recommended in the document should extend to areas in the vicinity of such sensitive and critical sites, although the term ‘vicinity’ is not explicitly defined.

3 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

150. This section provides a brief description of the Project. The description is based on the Project Basic Design carried out by the EPC Contractor in 2022-23.

151. As stated under **Section 1**, the Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW) is a run-of-the-river scheme to be constructed on the Kunhar River in its 12 km stretch from Paras to Sangar village in District Mansehra of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Upon completion, 1143 giga-watt hour (GWh) of clean energy will be delivered to the National Grid every year.

152. The project dam site is located in Paras village, around 2 km downstream of the Sukki Kinari Hydropower Project (884 MW) tailrace while the powerhouse site is proposed in Ganhool village of Balakot. The 9.1 km long headrace tunnel of 8 m diameter will divert 154 m^3/sec design flow of the Kunhar River to the powerhouse to generate 300 megawatts (MW) of electricity. The project residential colony is identified in Sangar village. The access road to the dam and power intake is proposed to off-take from the National Highway (N-15) on the left side of the Kunhar River in Paras village.

153. All parts of the Project are located on the left bank of the Kunhar River. The dam site (34° 39' 36.510" N, 73° 27' 1.340" E) is about 29 km upstream of Balakot town. The powerhouse (34° 36' 15.143" N, 73° 22' 49.943" E) is located 12 km upstream of Balakot, near Kappi Gali village.

154. Project brief salient features are given in **Exhibit 3-1** followed by location and layout maps, and Project settings in **Exhibit 3-2 to Exhibit 3-6.**

Exhibit 3-1: Brief Salient Features

S/NO	DESCRIPTION	UNIT	DETAIL
1	**HYDROLOGY AND DESIGN FLOWS**		
1.1	River		Kunhar[27]
1.2	Catchment area of the dam site	km^2	1939
1.3	(Average) flow at the intake	m^3/s	87
1.4	Design Discharge	m^3/s	153.9
1.5	Design Flood T=10,000 years	m^3/s	3706
1.6	Probable Maximum Flood	m^3/s	5043
2	**RESERVOIR**		
2.1	Normal Operating Level (NOL)	masl	1288.0
2.2	Minimum Operating Level (Min.OL)	masl	1283.0
2.3	Surface area (at NOL)	km^2	0.28
2.4	Reservoir length (at NOL)	km	2.2
2.5	Gross storage capacity (at NOL)	$X10^6 m^3$	3.65
2.6	Regulating storage capacity (NOL)	$X10^6 m^3$	1.2
3	**DAM STRUCTURE**		
3.1	Dam type		Curved Concrete Gravity Dam
3.2	Dam crest elevation	masl	1292.0
3.3	Maximum height above the riverbed	m	35.0
3.4	Maximum height above foundation	m	49.0
3.5	Crest length	m	146.0
4	**SPILLWAYS AND LOW-LEVEL OUTLETS/FLUSHING SLUICES**		
4.1	Spillway type		Upper WES spillway + bottom outlet
4.2	Upper spillway crest elevation	masl	1278.0
4.3	Upper spillway gates no. and type		3 (radial gates)
4.4	Upper spillway gates size (W x H)	m×m	11 X 10
4.5	Bottom outlet invert elevation	masl	1253.0
4.6	Bottom outlet gates no. and type		2 sluice gate + 2 radial gate
4.7	Low-level spillway size (W x H)	m×m	6x8
5	**RIVER DIVERSION**		
5.1	Construction Flood	m^3/s (T=20 years)	900
5.2	Diversion type		Diversion tunnel + bottom outlet, with cofferdam
5.3	Upstream Coffer dam type		CSG cofferdam
5.4	Upstream coffer dam crest elevation	masl	1272.0
5.5	Downstream coffer dam type		CSG cofferdam
5.6	Downstream coffer dam crest elevation	masl	1252.5
5.7	Diversion tunnel type		Archway
5.8	Diversion tunnel no. (-)		1
5.9	Diversion tunnel size (W x H)	m×m	Archway (7,5 x 8,0)

[27] Around 12 km section of the Kunhar River will be devoid of the water as result of the diversion. However, a minimum of 6.1cumec of flow will be maintained in this section even in the extreme low flow season.

S/NO	DESCRIPTION	UNIT	DETAIL
5.10	Diversion tunnel length	m	650
5.11	Diversion tunnel slope	%	1.5
5.12	Diversion tunnel inlet invert elevation	masl	1261.0
5.13	Diversion tunnel outlet invert elevation	masl	1248.0
6	**POWER INTAKE STRUCTURE**		
6.1	Intake type		Bank-type intake
6.2	Trash racks no.		4
6.3	Trash rack size (W x H)	m×m	8 x 1 0
6.4	Service gates no.		2 (1 emergency gate)
6.5	Service gate size (W x H)	m×m	4 x 8
6.6	Intake crest elevation	masl	1271.0
7	**HEADRACE TUNNEL**		
7.1	Tunnel section		Circular concrete lined (8.0 m inner diameter)
7.2	Length up to surge tank	m	9137
7.3	Tunnel slope		0.56%、0.00%、1.11%
8	**UPSTREAM INCLINED SURGE TUNNEL**		
8.1	Type		Concrete lined circular surge shaft+inclined surge tunnel
8.2	Internal diameter	m	14.5
8.3	Length of surge tunnel	m	568
8.4	Bottom elevation of surge shaft	masl	1203
9	**PRESSURE TUNNEL/SHAFT & PENSTOCK**		
9.1	Pressure tunnel/shaft main section type and size		Steel-lined circular cross-section (5.6 m internal diameter)
9.2	Pressure tunnel/shaft length	m	375
9.3	Penstock length	m	88
9.4	Branch Section Type		Manifold (3 branches)
9.5	Size of each branch	m	2.2 m internal diameter conduits
9.6	Max. Length of branch	m	～30
10	**POWERHOUSE AND SUBSTATION**		
10.1	Powerhouse type		Conventional underground cavern
10.2	Main cavern general dimensions (L x W x H)	m	89.28x20.40x37.86
10.3	Turbine type		Francis
10.4	Number of units		3
10.5	Turbine axis elevation	masl	1054,0
10.6	Transformer/Substation type		Underground cavern (adjacent to the main powerhouse cavern)
10.7	Transformer cavern general dimensions (L x W x H)	m	94.82 x17.40 x31.79
11	**DOWNSTREAM INCLINED SURGE TUNNEL**		
11.1	Type		Concrete-lined inclined surge tunnel
11.2	Internal diameter	m	7.5x9.125

S/NO	DESCRIPTION	UNIT	DETAIL
11.3	Length of surge tunnel	m	505
11.4	Surge tunnel bottom elevation	masl	1028.0
12	**TAILRACE**		
12.1	Type		Circular tunnel with transition to an archway section at the final length and Outlet portal
12.2	Tunnel section		Circular concrete lined (8.0 m diameter)
12.3	Length up to the final transition section	m	1646.5
12.4	Tunnel slope up to the final transition section	%	0.122%, -18.45% (ascending slope)
12.5	Tunnel final section		Archway concrete lined section (8.0 W x 8.0 H)
12.6	Length from transition to outlet	m	50
12.7	Tunnel slope up to the outlet portal	%	0.23 (ascending slope)
13	**POWER AND ENERGY**		
13.1	Gross Head	m	229.0
13.2	Design Net Head (m)	m	217.6
13.3	Installed plant capacity	MW	300 (at the generator)
13.4	Average annual energy production	GWh	1144（average of 55 years）
14	**PROJECT ACCESS FACILITIES**		
14.1	Access road to dam Left side R1 (length)	m	512 m (from Sharan Road, connection to National Highway N-15 at the left side of Kunhar River, nearby Paras village)
14.2	Access road to Diversion tunnel R2 (length)	m	138 m (from the dam bridge deck up to the Sediment by-pass tunnel intake)
14.3	The access road to the Main Access tunnel Power House R3 (length)	m	3254m (From Sangar connection from National Highway N-15 to Main Access tunnel Power House
14.4	The access road to Surge tank R4 (length)	m	290m (from National Highway N-15 to access road Surge tank
14.5	The access road to Tailrace Tunnel R5 (length)	m	823m (from R3 connection to tailrace tunnel
14.6	Access road to Permanent staff Residential Colony R6 (length)	m	611m (from N15 connection to Resident colony
14.7	Permanent Staff Residential Colony	m^2	Covered area= 11995.5 m^2

Exhibit 3-2: Project Location in Pakistan



Exhibit 3-3: Project Location in District Mansehra

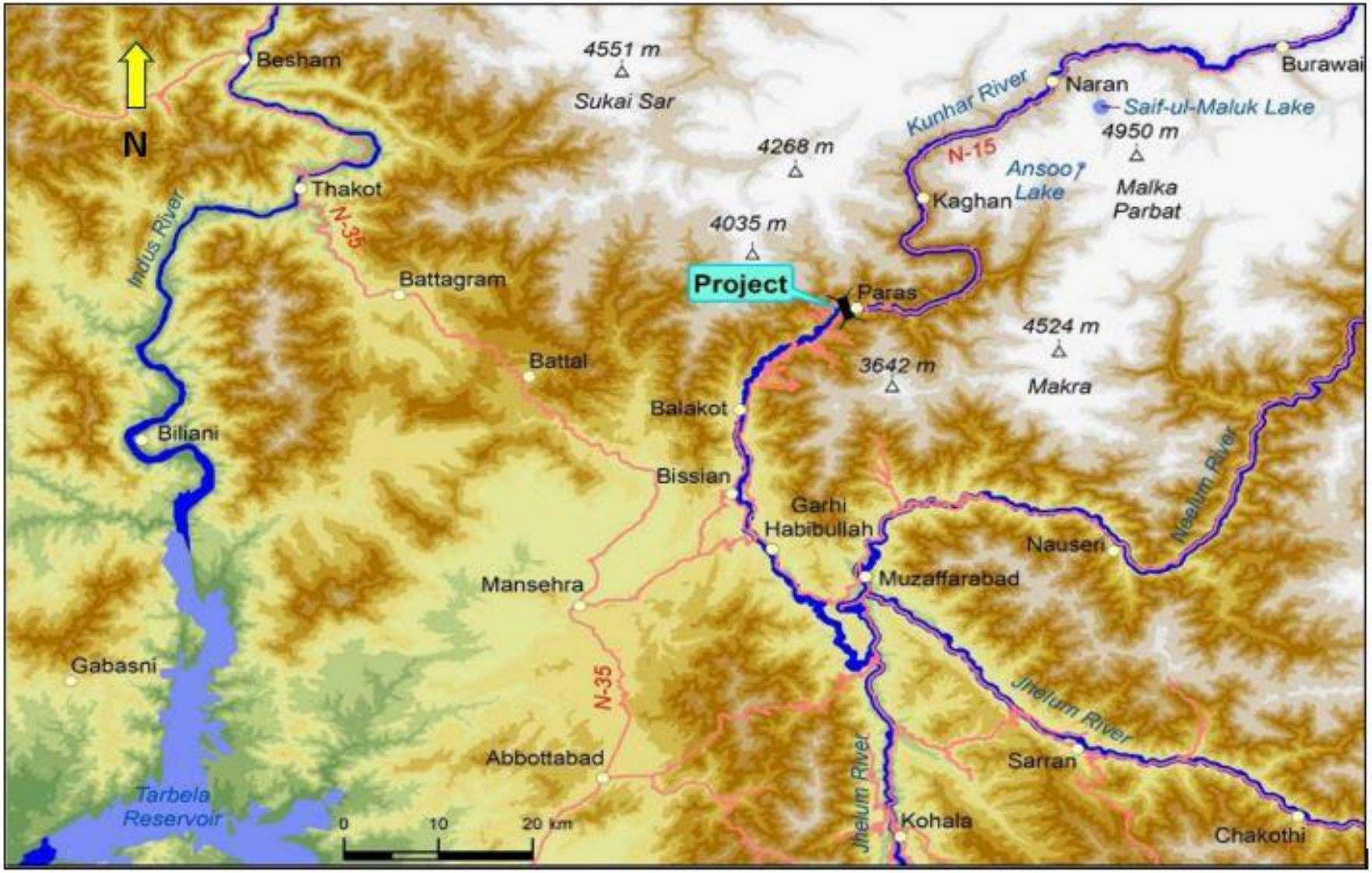


Exhibit 3-4: Project Layout

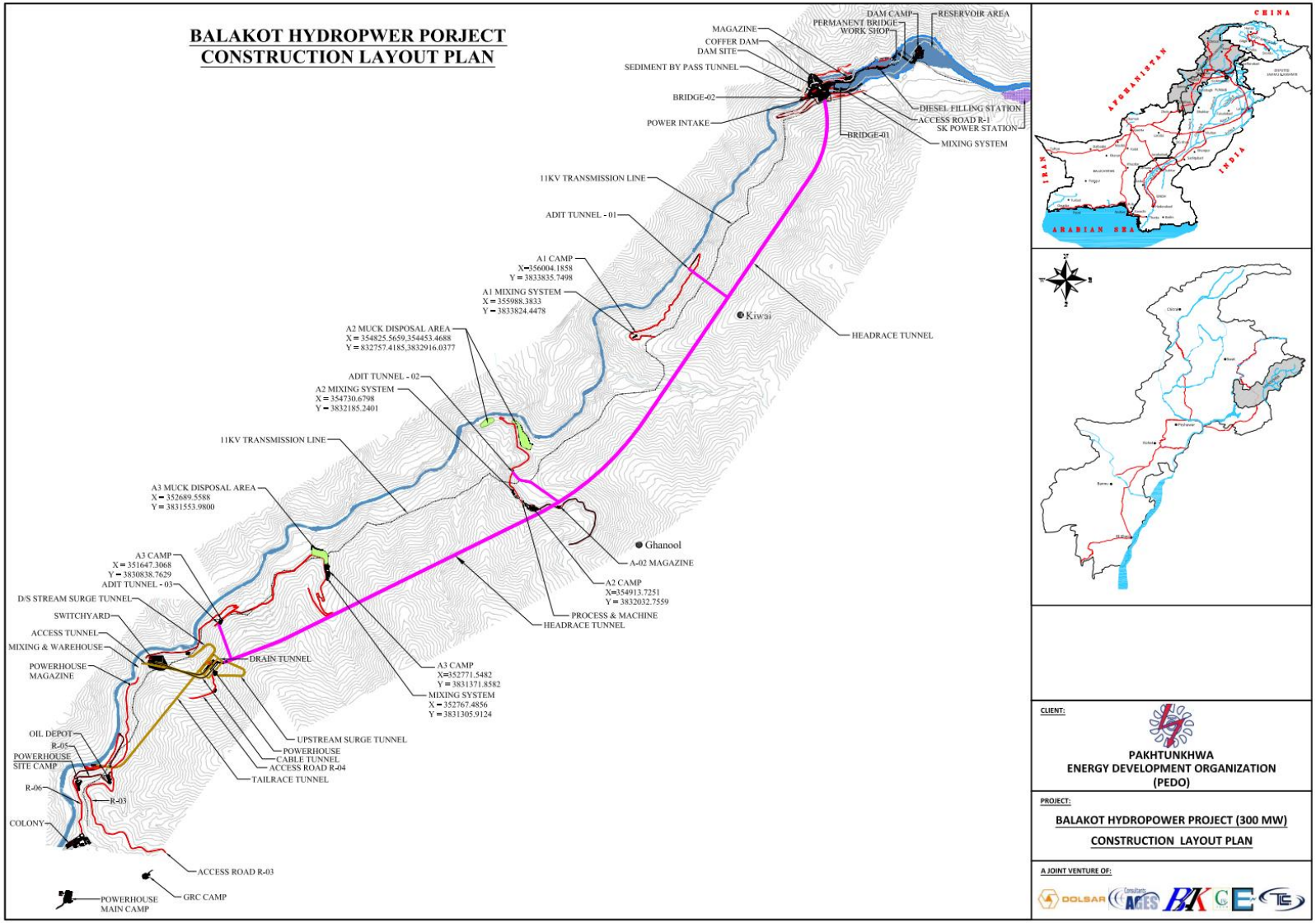


Exhibit 3-5: Project Setting-Dam Site

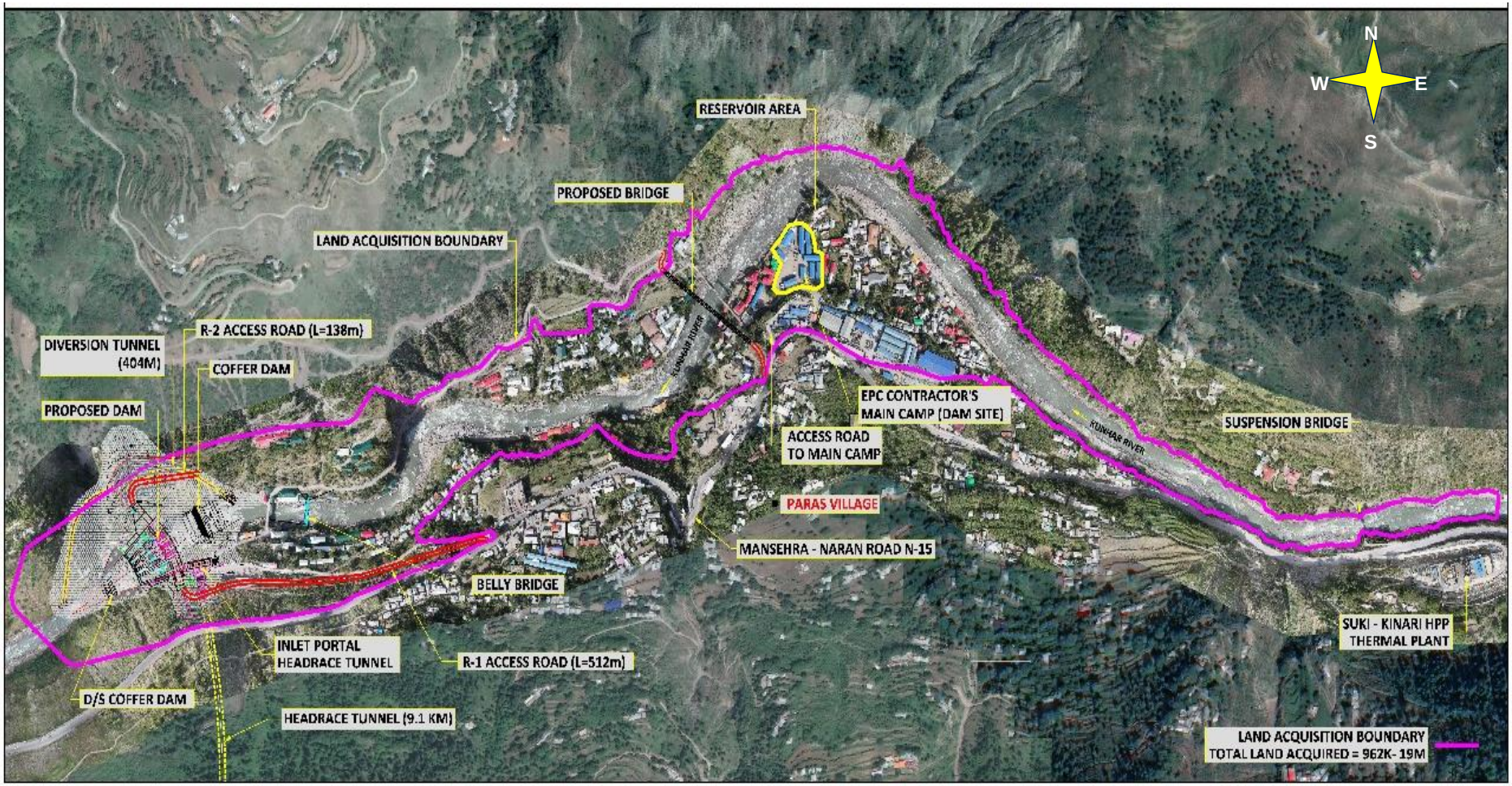
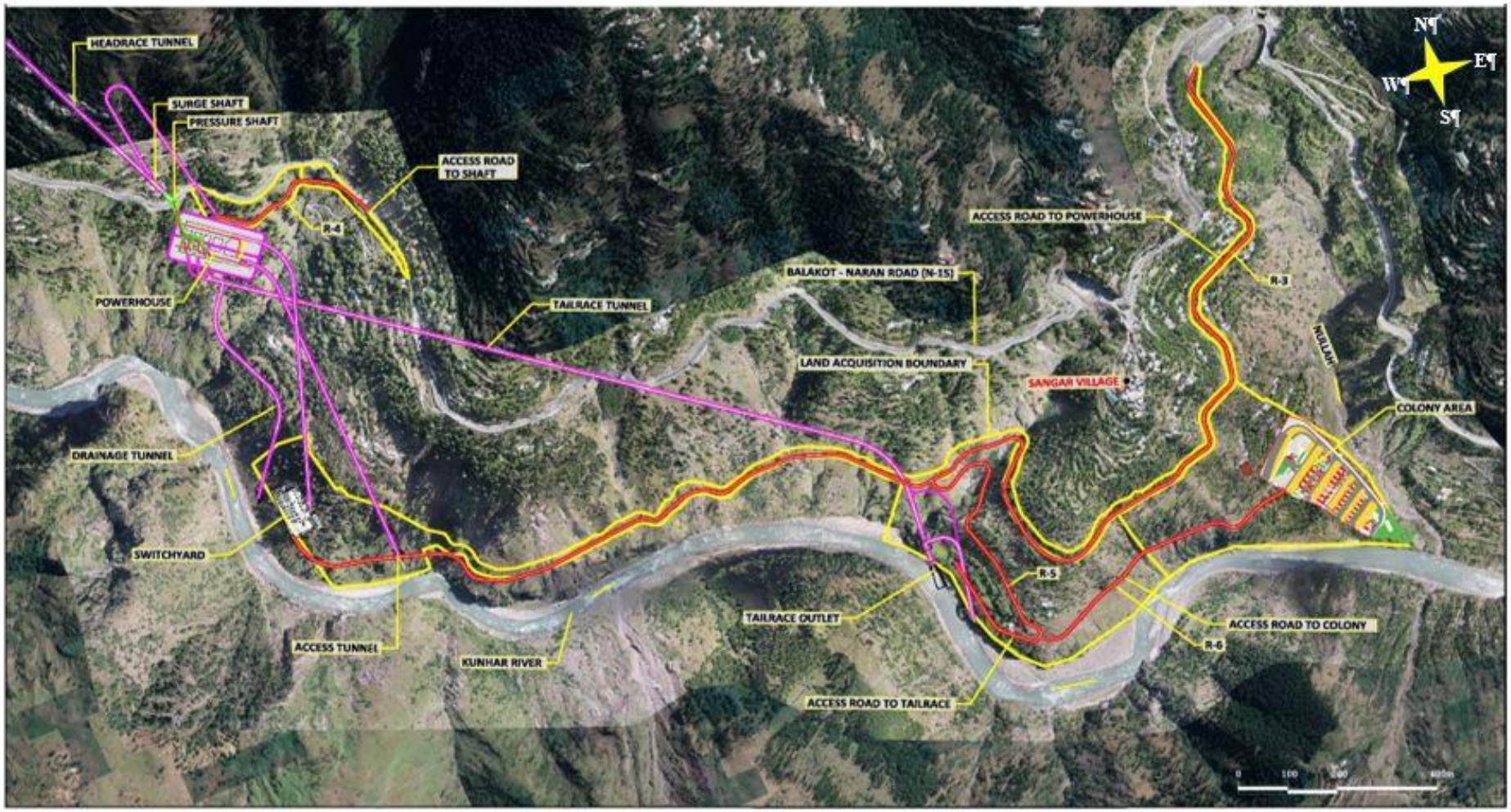


Exhibit 3-6: Project Setting- Powerhouse and Colony Sites



155. The Kunhar River originates from the glaciers above Lulusar Lake in the Kaghan Valley of KP. The glaciers of Malka Parbat and Makra Peak and the waters of Saiful Muluk Lake feed the river. It passes through Jalkhand and meets the Jhelum River at Rarra. The drainage area of the river is 2,535 km^2, with elevation ranging from 600 to 5,000 m.[28] It is one of the biggest tributaries of the Jhelum River Basin and the only main tributary situated entirely in Pakistan's territory. Snowmelt from the Kunhar Basin contributes 65% of the total discharge of the Kunhar River and 20-40% of the Jhelum River at Mangla.[29]

3.1 Main Component of the Project

3.1.1 The Main Dam Site

156. The main dam will be a concrete gravity dam, with a maximum height of 58 m, comprising low-level/flushing outlets and a gated spillway. It has been designed to pass floods of 3,706 (Q_{10000}) m^3/s at the water level of 1288.00 m and 5,043 (PMF) m^3/s at the water level of 1291.00 m, with an upper gated ogee crest spillway and a low-level gated spillway. This layout consists of two radial upper spillway gates having an opening of 11-meter (m) in height and 10 m in width and three low-level spillway sluice gates of 8 meters (m) in height and 6 meters (m) in width. The gates are hydraulically operated for flood discharge and are set at the crest level of 1,258 meters above sea level (masl).

157. A 429 m-long diversion tunnel on the right bank was designed to be used only during the construction phase. CSG-type upstream and downstream cofferdams will be constructed to keep the dam construction site dry during the construction phase.

158. **Lateral power intake structure:** This will be located on the left bank of Kunhar River and will comprise 4 bays split by three vertical piers to provide a design discharge of 154 m^3/s. It will include trash racks for passing the design discharge. Two rectangular 4 m wide by 8 m high control gates equipped with upstream sealing will be provided.

159. **Low-pressure headrace tunnel:** This will have a length of about 9.1 km and a diameter of 8 m.

160. The concrete gravity dam setting, and the intake structures have been shown in **Exhibit 3-7 & Exhibit 3-8** followed by **Exhibit 3-9** showing the headrace tunnel section.

28 Mahmood R, Jia S, Babel M. S., January 16, 2016, Potential Impacts of Climate Change on Water Resources in the Kunhar River Basin, *Water, Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute*, Basel, Switzerland
29 Ibid

Exhibit 3-7: Concrete Gravity Dam Setting

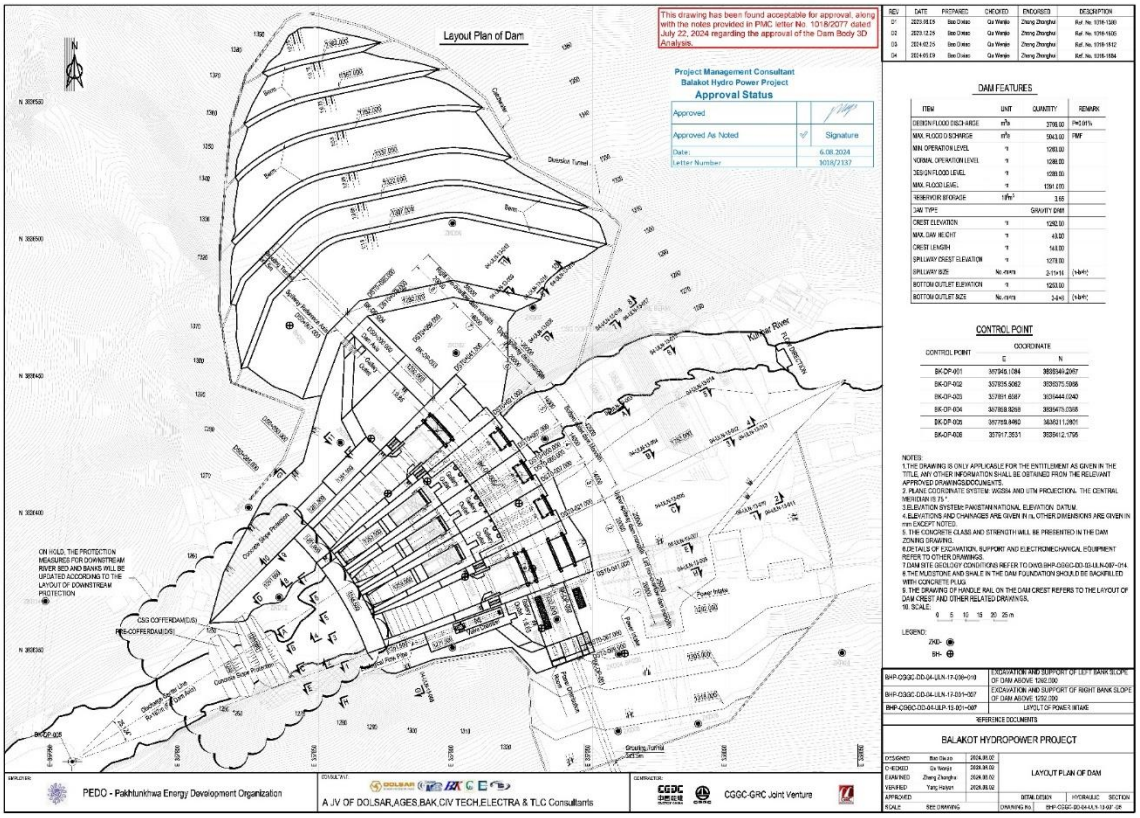


Exhibit 3-8: Intake Structure

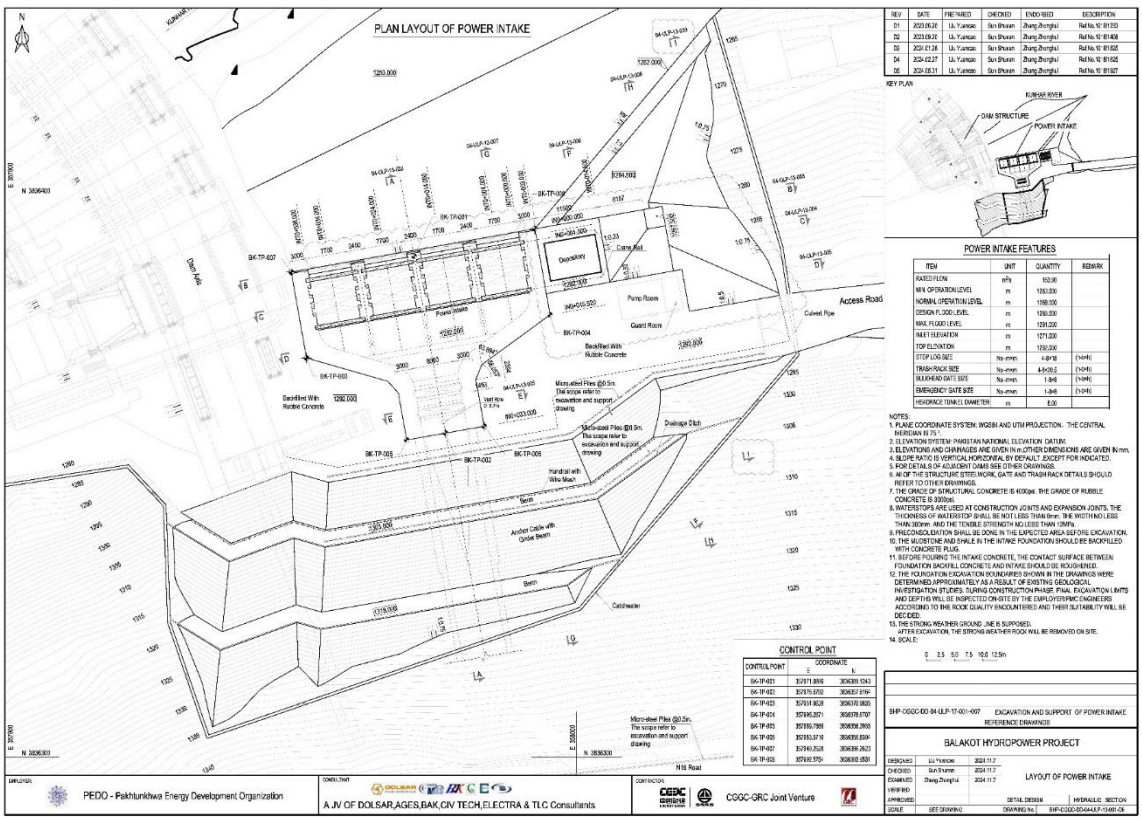
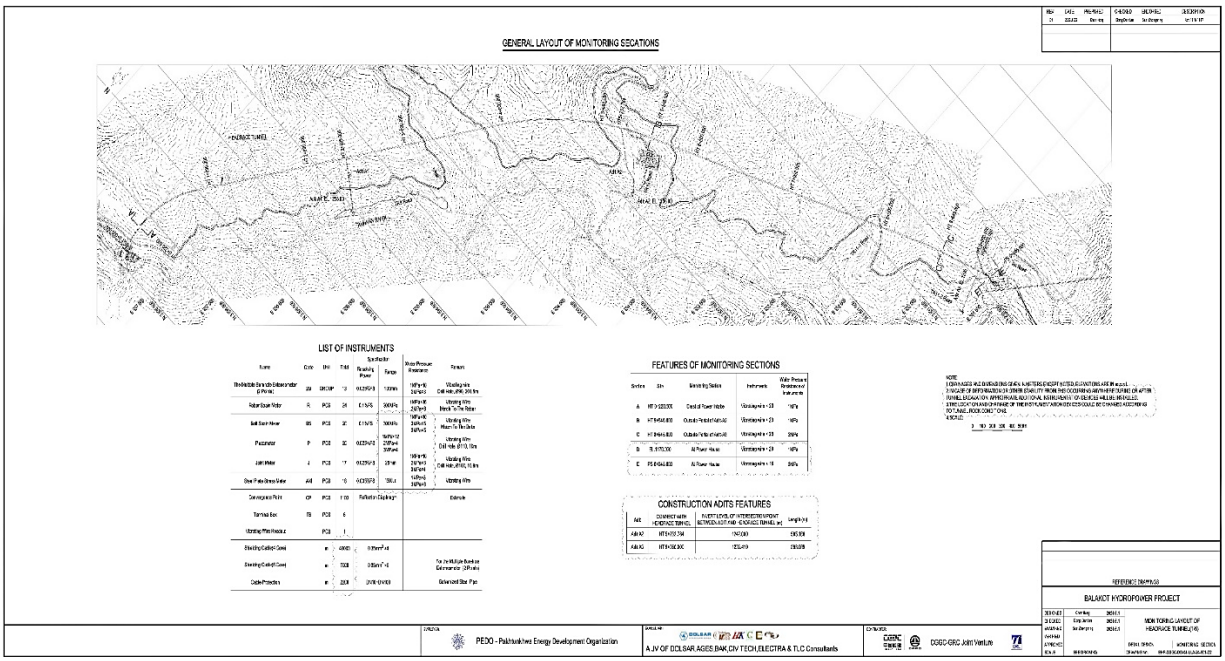


Exhibit 3-9: Headrace Tunnel Section



3.1.2 Powerhouse

161. The layout of the underground powerhouse has been shown in **Exhibit 3-10** is comprised of the following structures:

- Underground powerhouse cavern
- Transformer/substation cavern
- Single headrace tunnel
- Surge shaft, pressure shaft
- Manifolds
- Tailrace structure

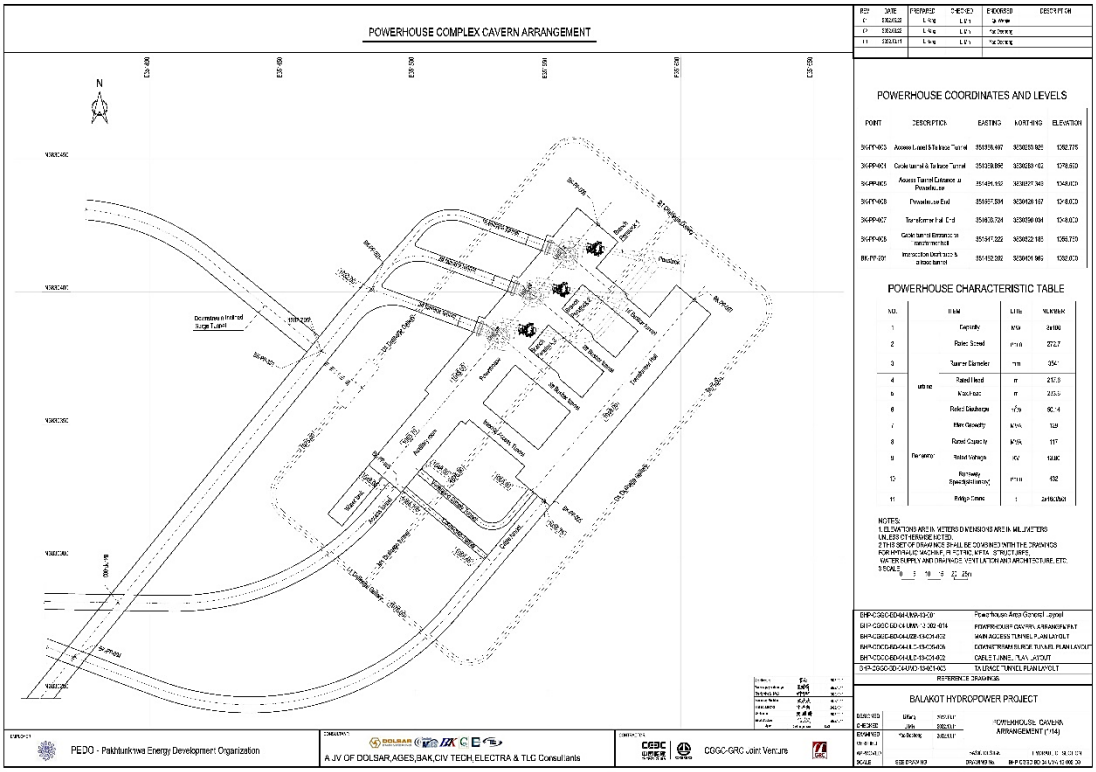
162. The powerhouse cavern will be 89.28 m long, 20.41 m wide, and 37.86 m high from the main inlet valve floor to the arch roof crown.

163. **Free flow tailrace tunnel:** Having a length of 1646.5 m, it has an archway concrete lined section (8.0 W x 8.0 H).

164. **Downstream Inclined Surge Tunnel:** A Concrete-lined inclined surge tunnel having 7.5x9.125 m diameter, and length of 505 m is proposed.

165. **Access Tunnel:** The access tunnel is the main point of entry to the underground powerhouse complex. It is sized to accommodate two-way dump truck traffic during construction and to provide the space needed to transport heavy equipment on low bay loaders or multi-wheeled transformers into the cavern.

Exhibit 3-10: Powerhouse Layout



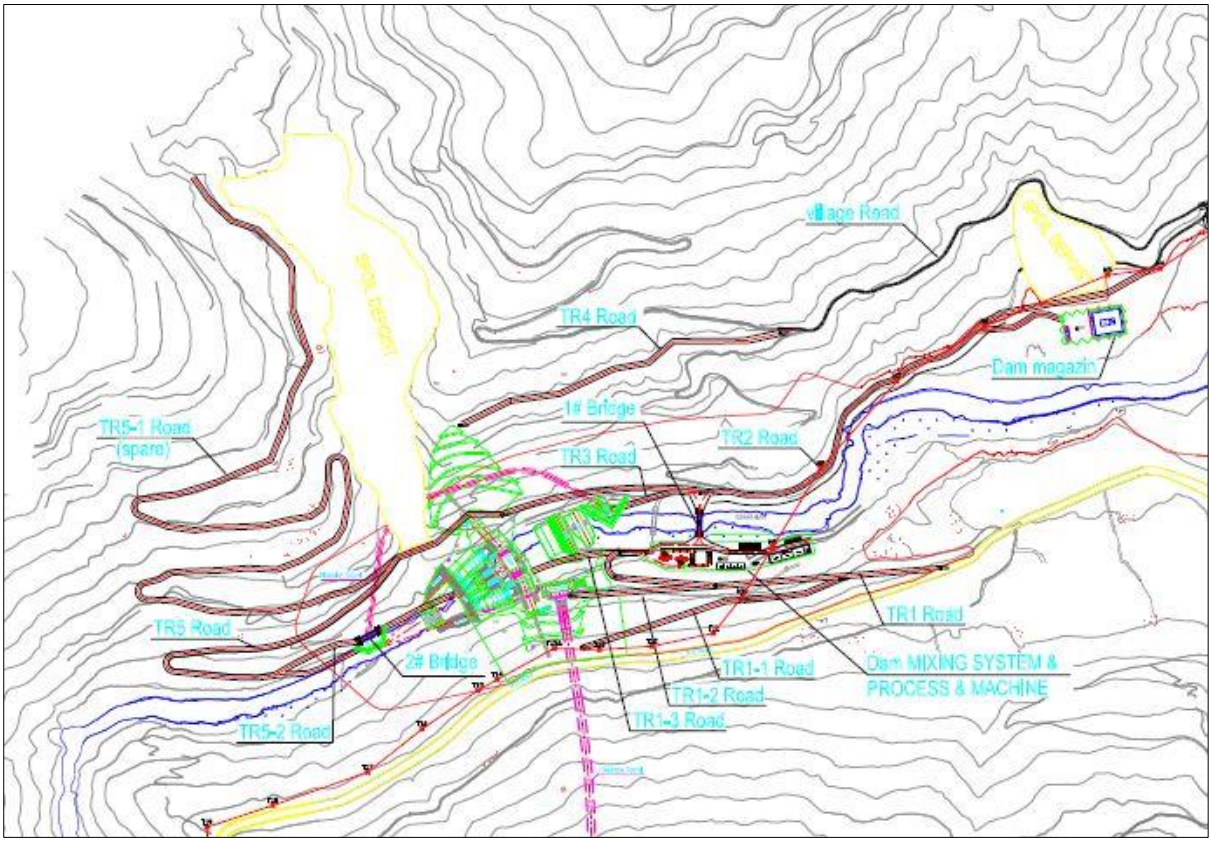
3.2 Residential Colony

166. The project residential colony is located on the left bank of the Kunhar River in Sangar village. The residential colony covers a total of 55 kanal of land while a total of 33 residential units will be constructed for the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) staff. Offices for operation and maintenance are also identified at the tailrace end of the powerhouse. The colony and offices will be accessed through a metaled road namely R-3.

3.3 Access Routes

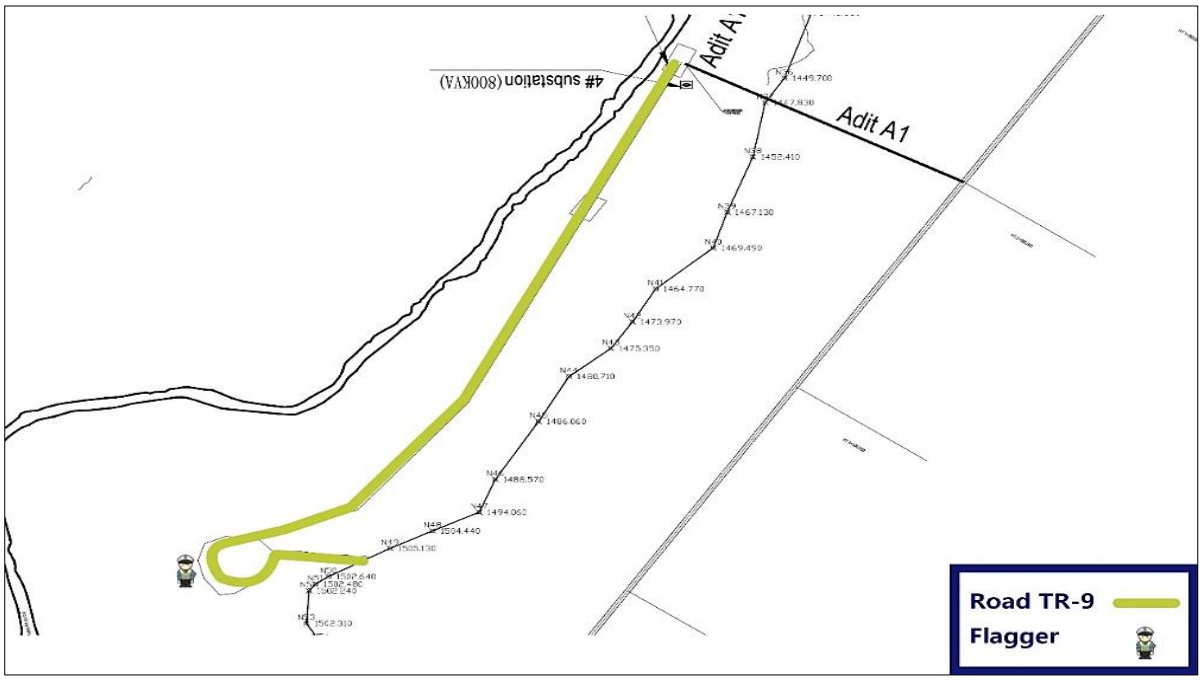
167. The EPC contractor has arranged several temporary roads into the construction area within the Project boundary for access to the site for construction work. In this regard, as shown in **Exhibit 3-11**, 8 temporary access roads are envisaged at the dam site.

Exhibit 3-11: Layout of Access Roads at the Dam Site



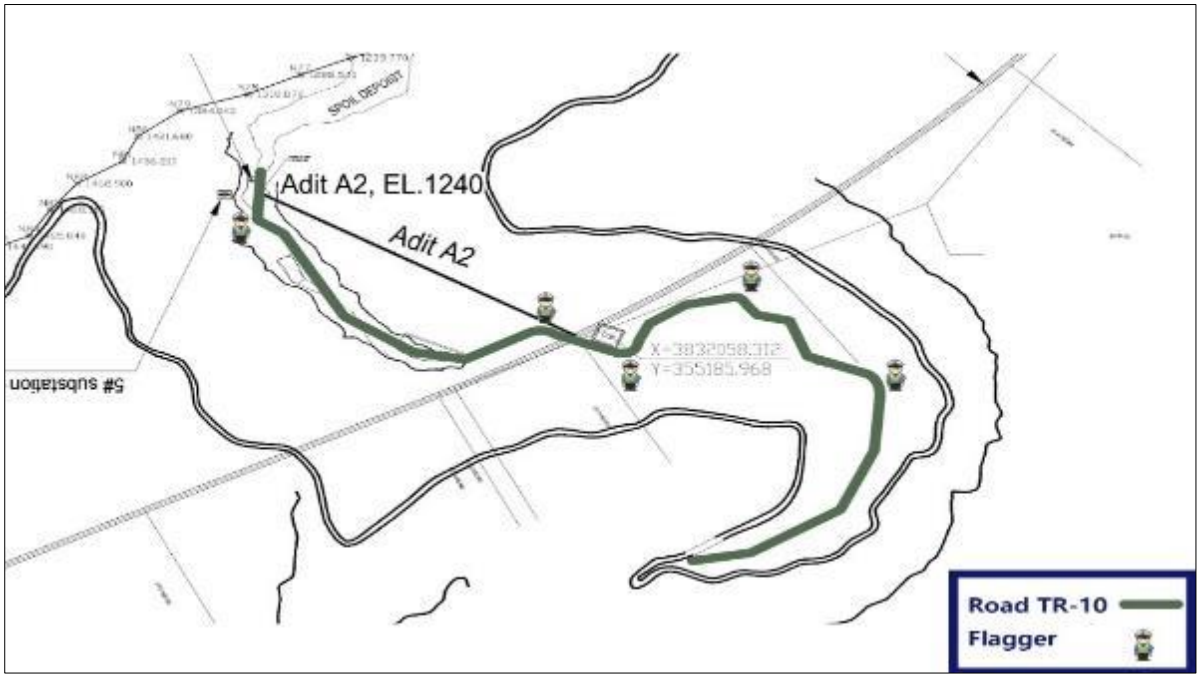
168. The EPC Contractor has also identified a construction road at the Adit-1 site. **Exhibit 3-12** shows the layout of this road marked as TR-9 which offtakes from N-15 and terminates at the portal of the Adit-1 tunnel.

Exhibit 3-12: Access Road Layout at Adit-1



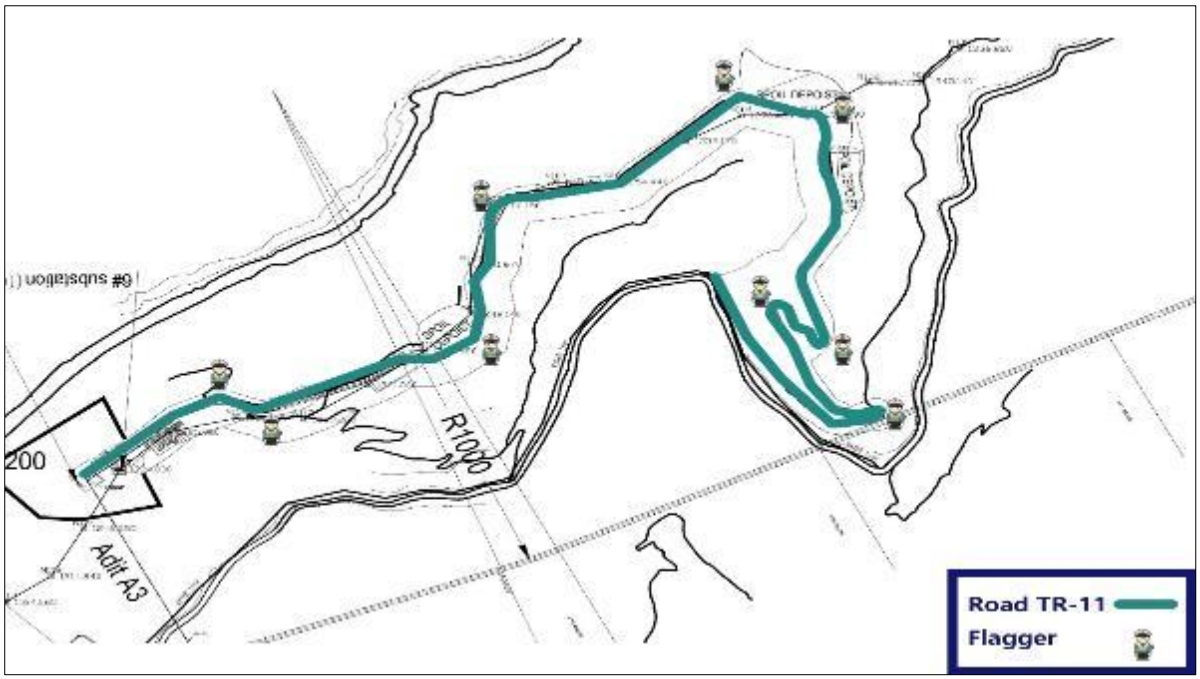
169. The access road leading to Adit-2 has been named TR-10. This road also offtakes from the N-15 in Ganhool and terminates at the proposed spoil area identified at the A-2 site.

Exhibit 3-13: Access Road Layout at Adit-2



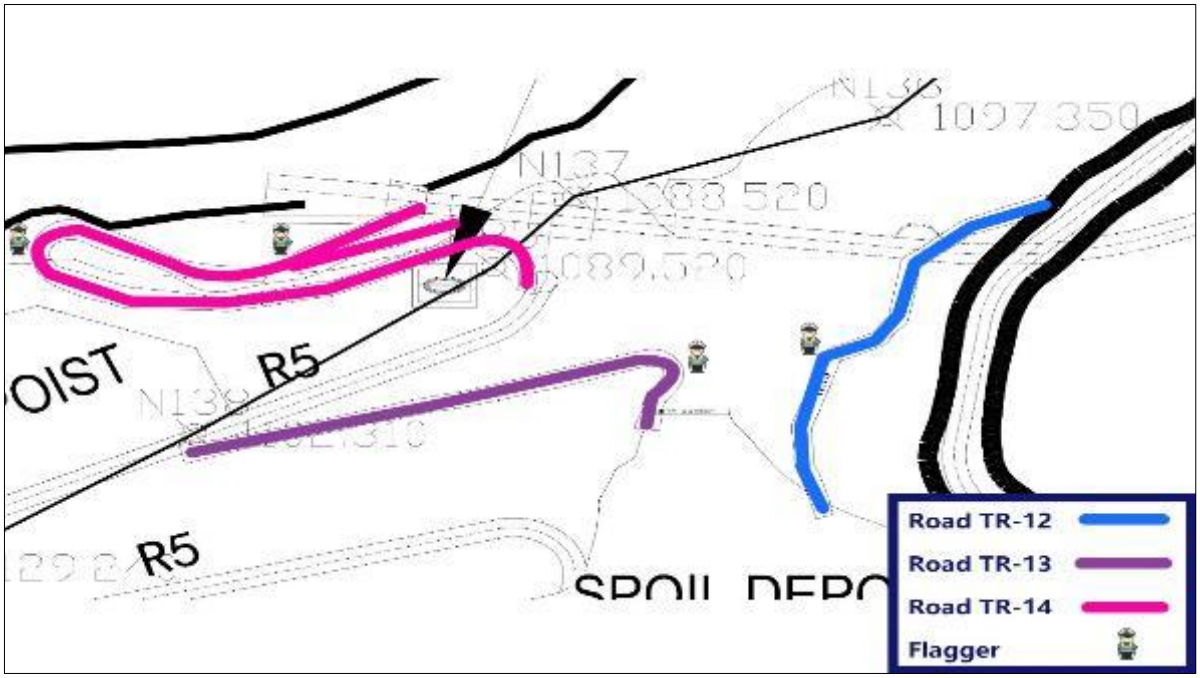
170. The access road leading to Adit-3 is known as TR-11 which off taken from N-15. This access road will also be used for access to the powerhouse site.

Exhibit 3-14: Access Road Layout at Adit-3



171. At the powerhouse site, as shown in **Exhibit 3-15**, three roads have been proposed known as TR-12, TR-13, and TR-14. The general layout of these roads has been given in the aforesaid figure.

Exhibit 3-15: Layout of Roads in the Tail Water Outlet Area



3.4 Project Requirements

3.4.1 Materials

172. Materials required to carry out the construction of civil works for the Project include concrete aggregate, cement, pozzolans, various types of fill materials, construction chemicals, steel products, etc.

173. Three (3) quarry areas have tentatively been identified which the EPC Contractor intends to use in the future, subject to material testing and their subsequent approvals from the PMC. Once approved by the PMC, the EPC Contractor of Balakot HPP (300 MW) will secure necessary permits from the relevant departments. Quarry areas, identified so far, have been shown in **Exhibits 3-16 to 3-18** below.

Exhibit 3-16: Shohal Mazullah Quarry Areas

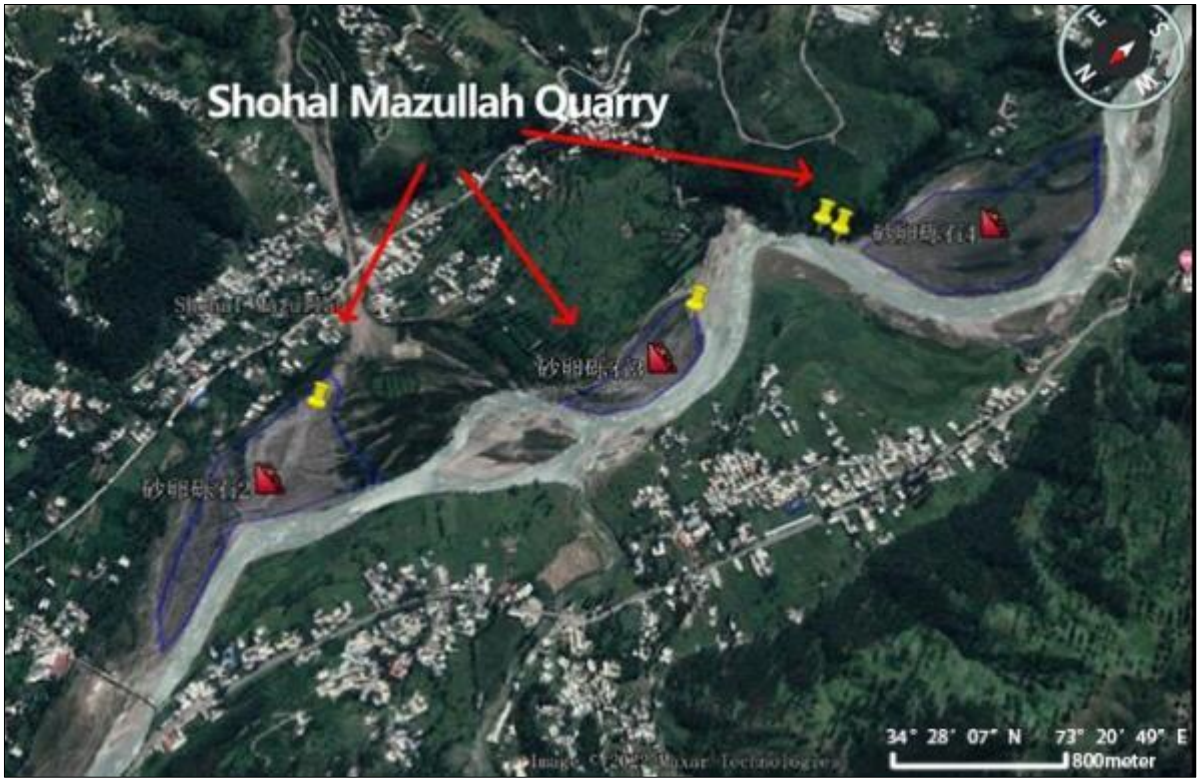


Exhibit 3-17: Karonch Quarry

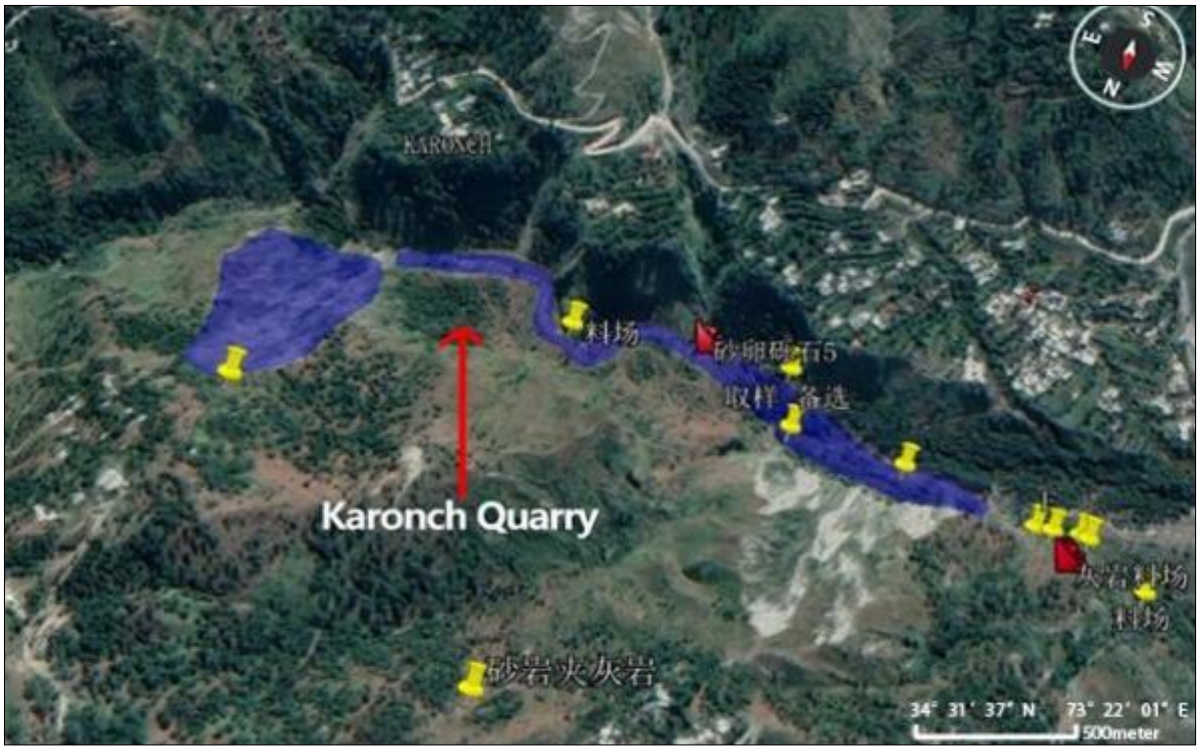


Exhibit 3-18: Tranna Quarry Area



3.4.2 Spoil Disposal

174. As reported by the EPC Contractor, the construction of Balakot HPP (300 MW) is expected to generate spoil of the following quantum which needs proper disposal.

- Excavation volume: 2,048,000 m³
- Filling volumes: 105,000 m³
- Spoils to Spoil disposal area: 1,943,000 m³

175. So far, the EPC Contractor has identified five (05) spoil disposal areas. Out of these, two sites i.e. A2 and A3 have been approved while the rest were under review till the end of November 2024. These two sites are shown in **Exhibit 3-20 .** The other identified spoil areas, marked on Google Imageries, have been given under **Exhibit 3-19** and **Exhibit 3-21.**

Exhibit 3-19: Dam Site Spoil Disposal Area



Exhibit 3-20: Adit-2 and Adit-3 Spoil Disposal Areas



Exhibit 3-21: Powerhouse Spoil Disposal Areas



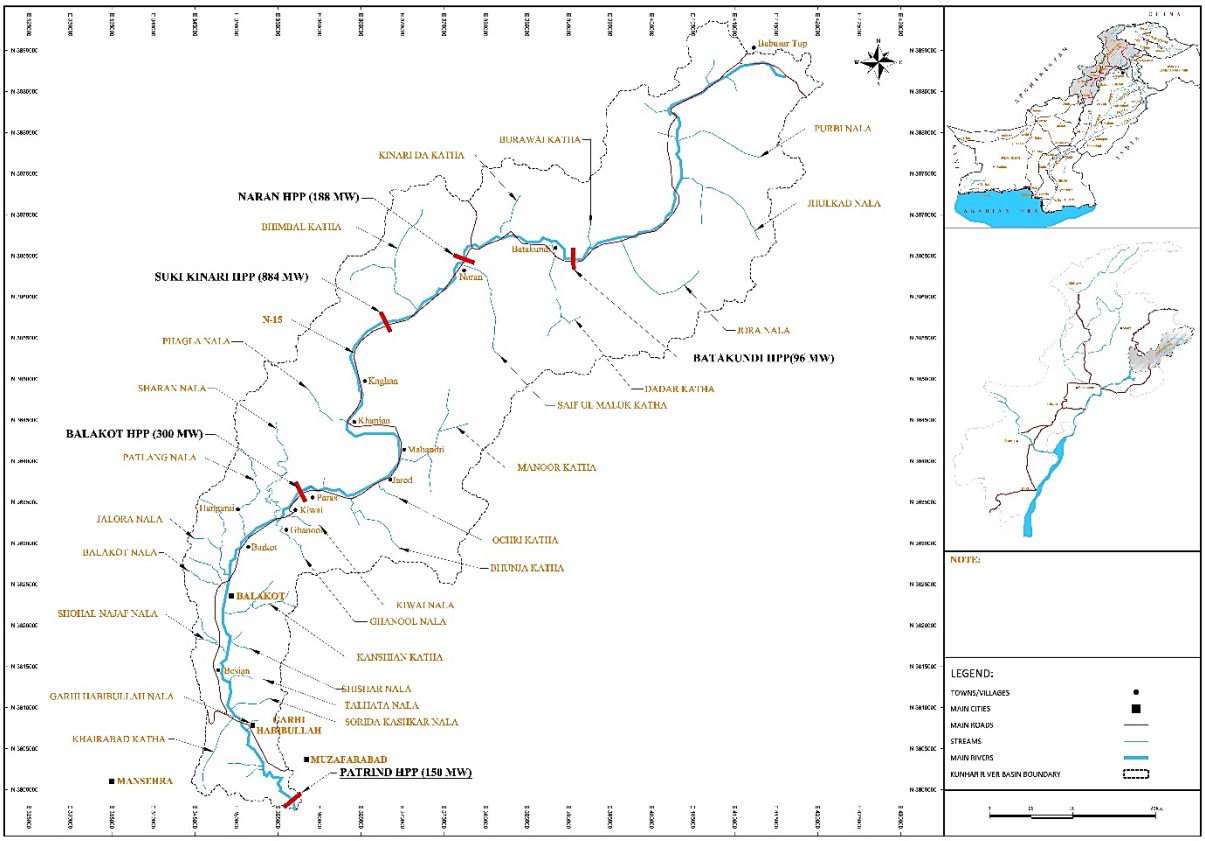
3.5 Regional Hydropower Developments

176. The Kunhar River is a tributary of the Jhelum River. Several hydropower projects have been planned or are under construction in the Jhelum Basin, of which five are located on the Kunhar River. None of the projects are currently operational. **Exhibit 3-22** shows a list of these hydropower projects. **Exhibit 3-23** shows the cascade of projects on a map.

Exhibit 3-22: Hydropower Projects Planned or Under Construction on the Kunhar River

S/No	Project Name	Capacity (MW)	Dam Height (m)	Planned/Under Construction
1.	Batakundi HPP	96	58	Planned
2.	Naran HPP	188	74	Planned
3.	Suki Kinari HPP	884	55	Under construction
4.	Balakot HPP	300	49	Under construction
5.	Patrind HPP	150	44	In operation
Total		**1618**		

Exhibit 3-23: Cascade of Projects on the Kunhar River

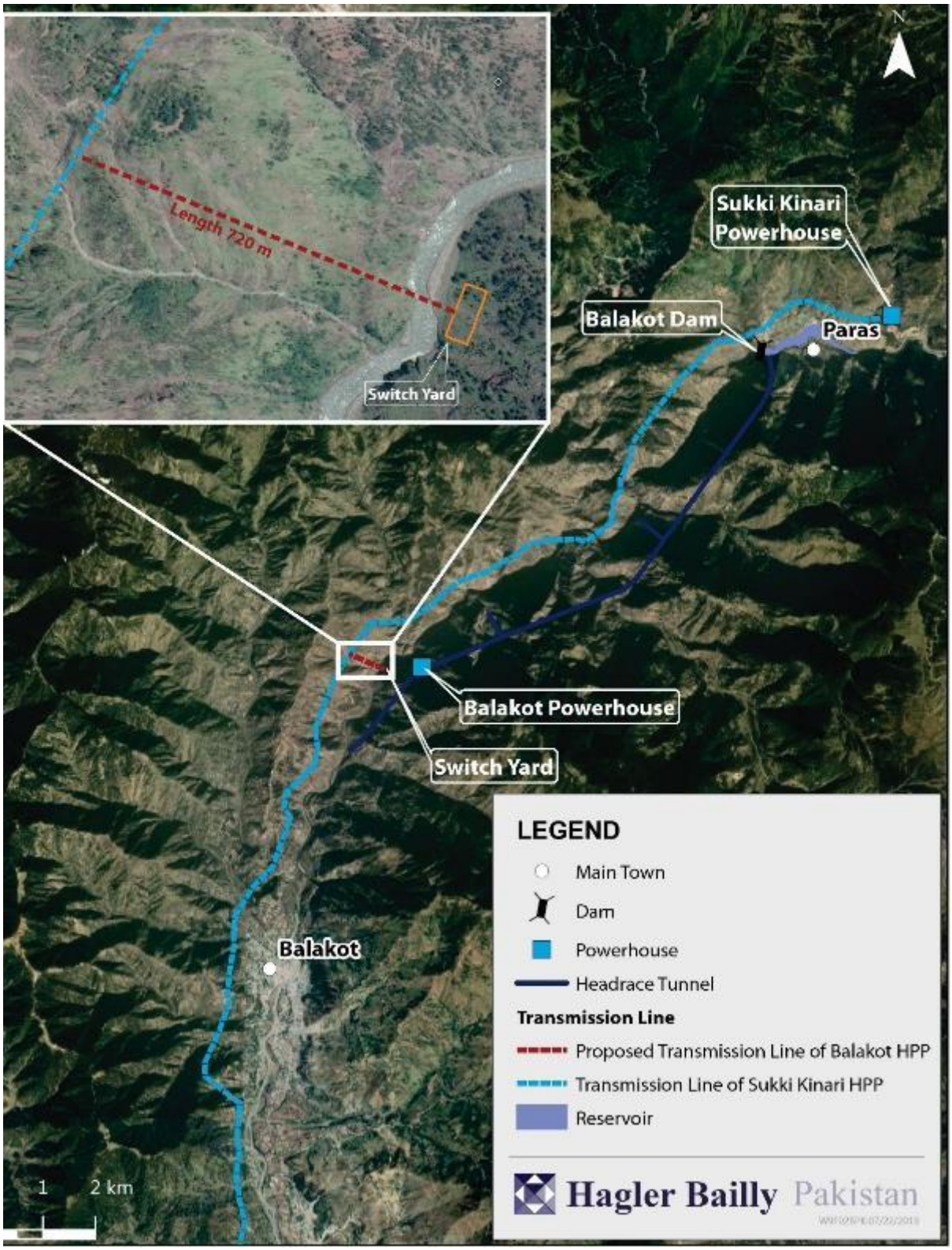


3.6 Associated Facilities

177. The transmission line to be constructed by NTDC to evacuate power from the proposed Project falls in the category of associated facility. The total length of the transmission line will be 2 km[30] and it will connect the switch yard of BTHPP (300 MW) to the Sukki Kinari – Maira transmission line. **Exhibit 3-24** shows a schematic diagram of the proposed transmission line.

[30] The length of the transmission line is as per the EPC Contract which is subject to changes in accordance with the transmission line actual rout.

Exhibit 3-24: Schematic of Transmission Line



4 DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

4.1 Physical Environment

178. The physical baseline includes a description of the topography, land use, geomorphology, visual character, climate, air quality, sound levels, and water resources of the Study Area.

4.1.1 Scope and Methodology

179. The specific tasks covered under the physical baseline study included:

- review of the available literature on the physical environment of the Study Area;
- analysis of secondary information to characterize baselines, particularly topography, land use, and climate;
- field surveys for characterization of Study Area - specifically:
  - soil quality;
  - visual character;
  - water resources (including water quality sampling and hydro census of community springs);
  - air quality;
  - traffic levels; and
  - noise levels

180. Where relevant baseline data is compared to the NEQS and where relevant, other standards, including the IFC-EHS Guidelines, apply to the Project. The physical environment survey plan is included in **Appendix B**.

4.1.2 Topography

181. The Kunhar River flows at a high altitude, with most (59%) of its catchment 3,000 meters above mean sea level (m amsl), through narrow steep gorges for much of its length. The relief in the catchment of the Project dam varies from 629 m amsl to 5,199 m amsl. The dam site is at an elevation of 1,257 m amsl and the powerhouse site at an elevation of 1,316 m amsl. A comparison of the distribution by elevation in the catchment of the Kunhar River and the catchment of the proposed Project dam is given in **Exhibit 4-1** and topography of the area mapped in **Exhibit 4-2.**

4.1.3 Land Use

182. Land use distribution is shown in **Exhibit 4-3**. Land use in the Study Area is tabulated in **Exhibit 4-4** and graphed in **Exhibit 4-5**. Photographs of major land uses are given in **Exhibit 4-6**. An example of the classification method is shown in **Exhibit 4-7.** A brief discussion of the land use categories found in the Study Area is given below.

- Agricultural fields are mostly terraced, and used to grow crops such as wheat, maize, and rice. Fruit trees are also common. It is the second most dominant land use covering 26% of the Study Area. The extent of agriculture expands

downstream as the valley widens with 43% of Zone 5 under agriculture, compared to only 12% of Zone 2.

- Settlements include built-up areas such as homes and shops. Homes are often in the middle of agricultural fields. Balakot town is the defining feature of Zone 4 where the settlement accounts for the largest land use category at 37%. Settlements make up 10% or less of the land use in the other zones.
- Water bodies such as rivers are used for fishing and the extraction of sand and gravel. The Kunhar River is very narrow in Zones 1 to 3 accounting for between 2% to 5% of the land cover. It widens in Zones 4 and 5 where its land cover increases to 11% and 14%, respectively.
- Pine forests make up a significant portion of Zones 1 to 3 ranging from 22% to 29%. Pine forests account for only 6% and 8% of Zones 4 and 5, respectively.
- Scrub forests are the most widely spread land use, covering 40% of the Study Area.

Exhibit 4-1: Catchment Elevation Distribution

Elevation Band (m amsl)	Kunhar River Catchment	Project Dam Catchment
<1000	3%	0%
1000-1999	16%	3%
2000 - 2999	21%	19%
3000 - 3999	34%	44%
4000 - 4999	25%	34%
5000+	0.02%	0.03%
Min	629	1,245
Max	5,199	5,199
Average	2,907	3,210

Exhibit 4-2: Topography of the Kunhar River Basin

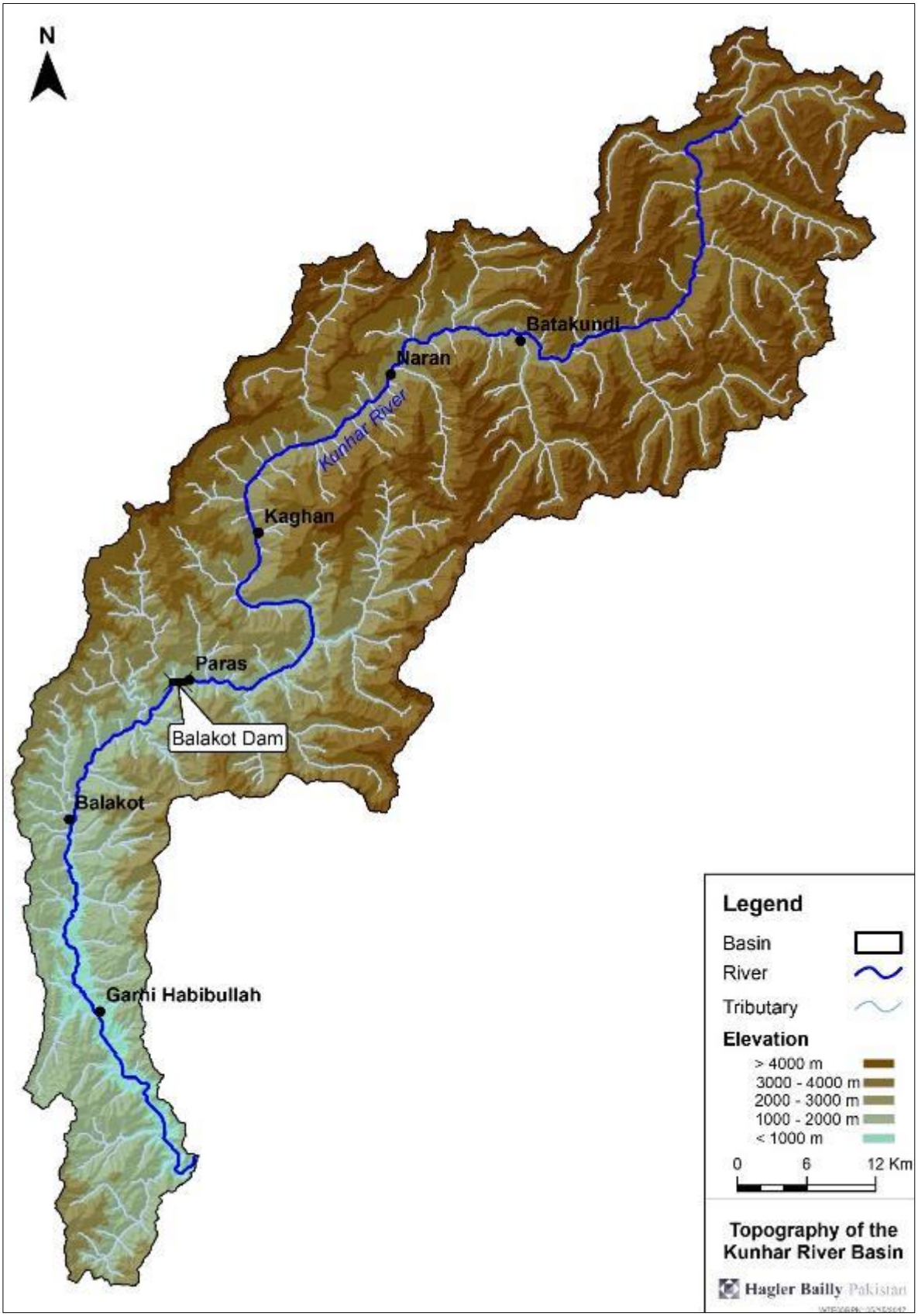


Exhibit 4-3: Land Use Distribution in the Study Area

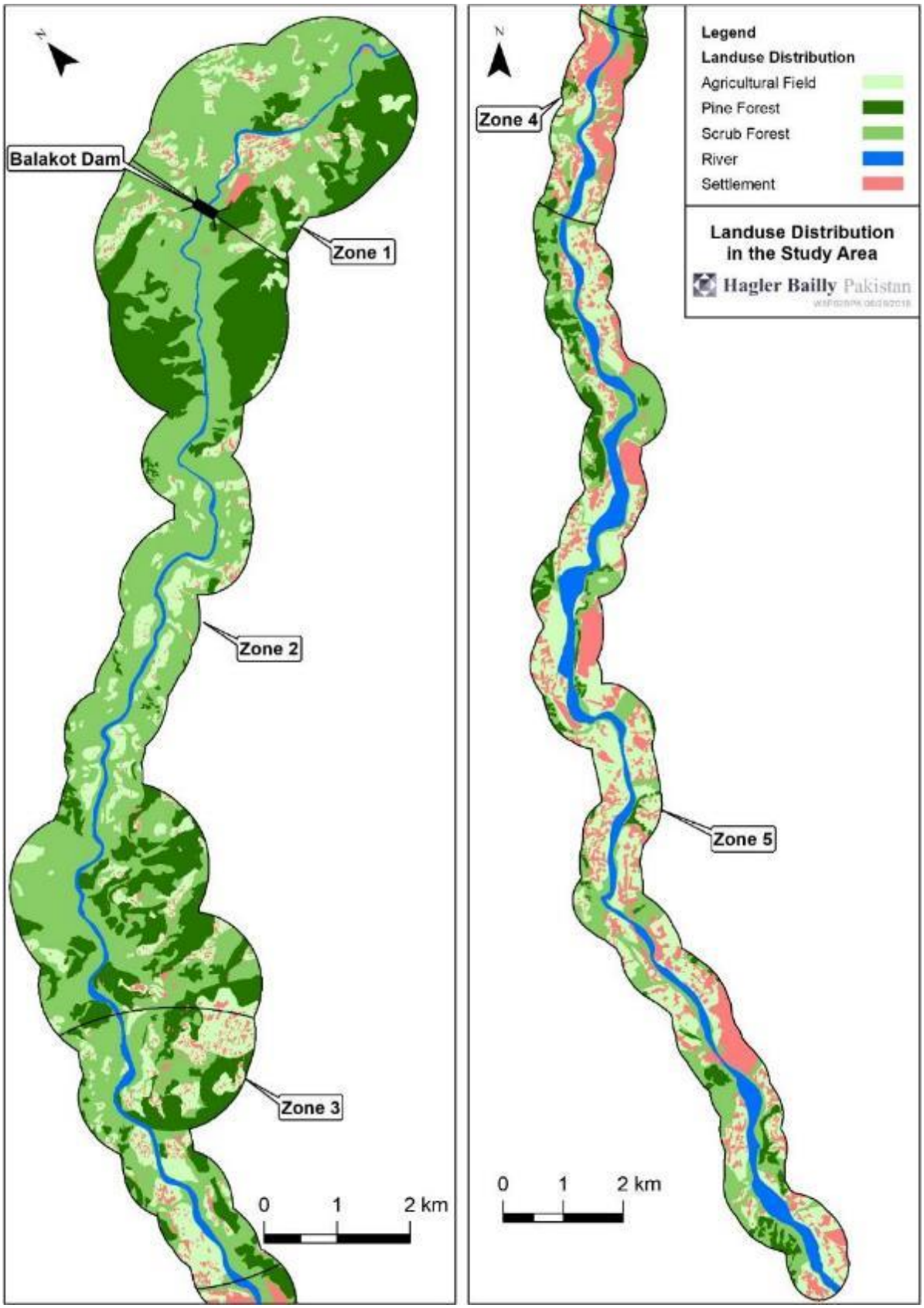


Exhibit 4-4: Land Use in the Study Area (km^2)

Zone	Pine Forests	Scrub Forests	Agricultural Fields	Settlements	Water Bodies	Total Area
Zone 1	1.98	4.45	1.25	0.40	0.15	8.24
Zone 2	5.99	11.39	2.62	0.39	0.61	21.00
Zone 3	1.36	2.27	1.83	0.43	0.33	6.21
Zone 4	0.22	0.68	0.90	1.27	0.38	3.45
Zone 5	1.73	5.30	9.37	2.05	3.09	21.54
Study Area (Total)	**11.29**	**24.08**	**15.97**	**4.54**	**4.57**	**60.45**
Study Area (Percentage)	**19%**	**40%**	**26%**	**8%**	**8%**	**100%**

Exhibit 4-5: Land Use in the Study Area (%)

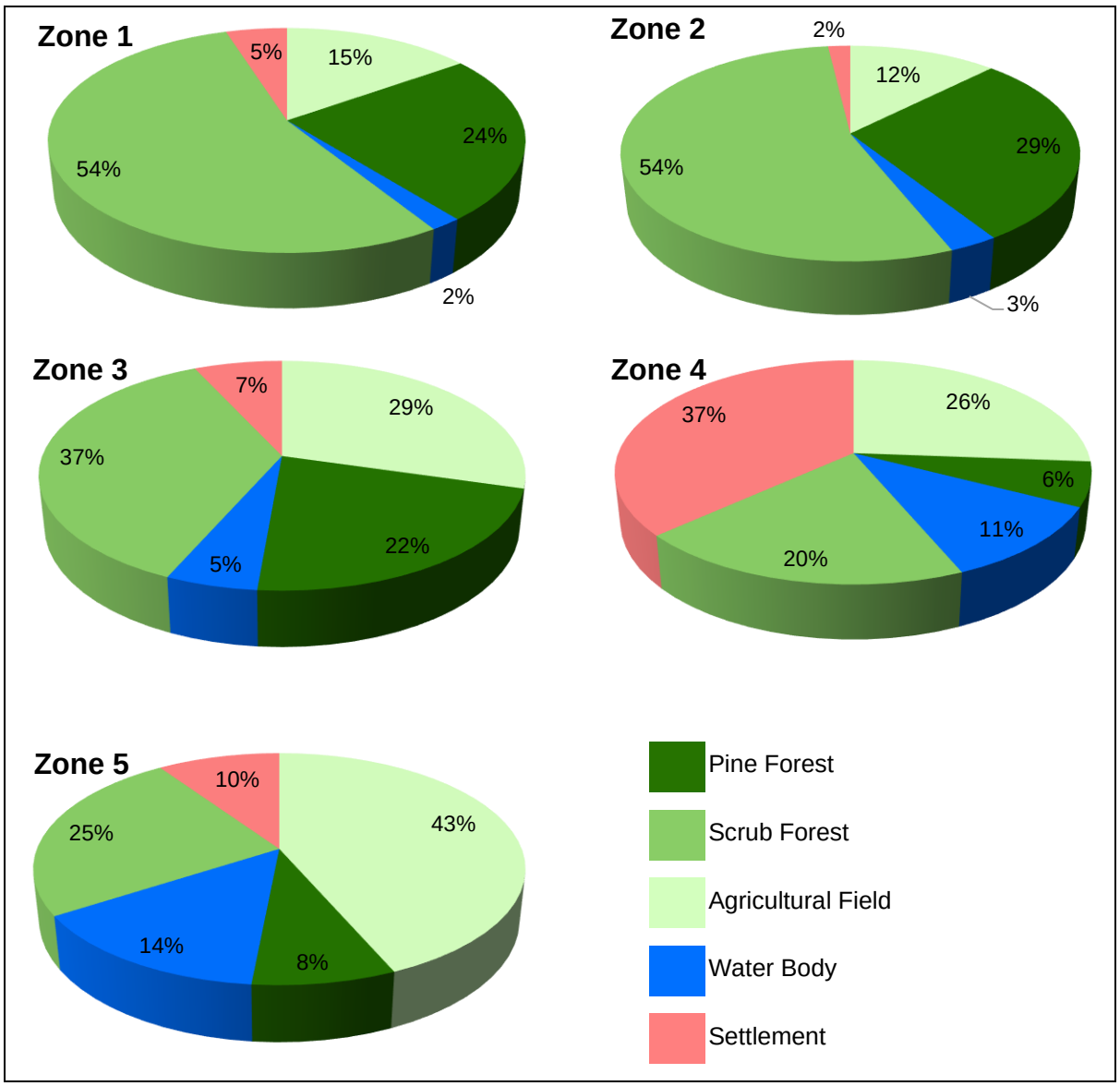


Exhibit 4-6: Photographs of Major Land Uses in the Study Area



Terraced agricultural fields at Dhamdar village



Terraced agricultural fields at Jalora village



The built-up area next to the Kunhar River



The Kunhar River near Bissian village

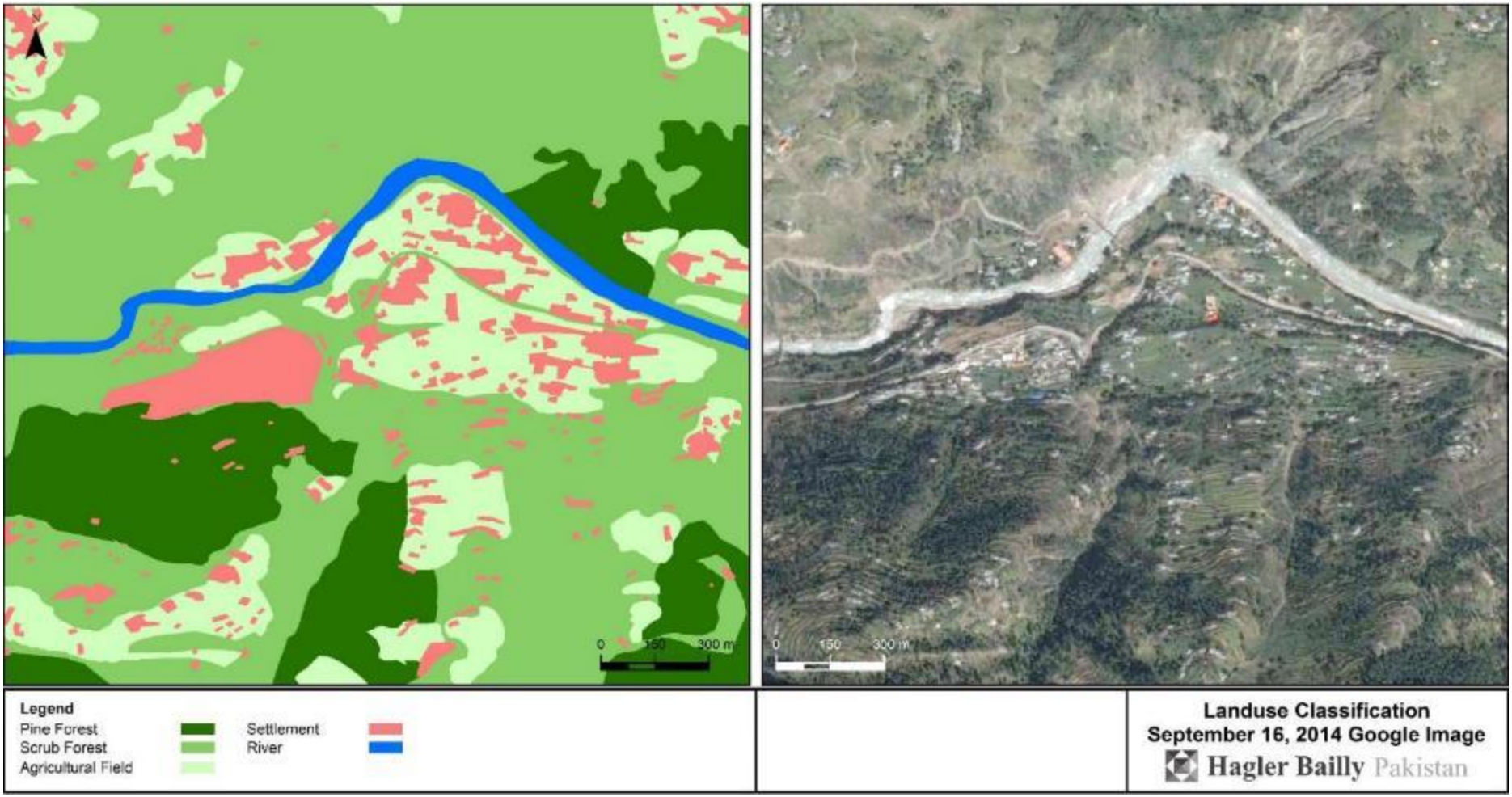


Pine forest near Project dam site



Scrub forest near Project dam site

Exhibit 4-7: Land Use Classification Example



4.1.4 Geology, Soils and Seismic Hazards

183. This section largely summarizes information from the Feasibility Study and is supplemented with additional literature reviews.

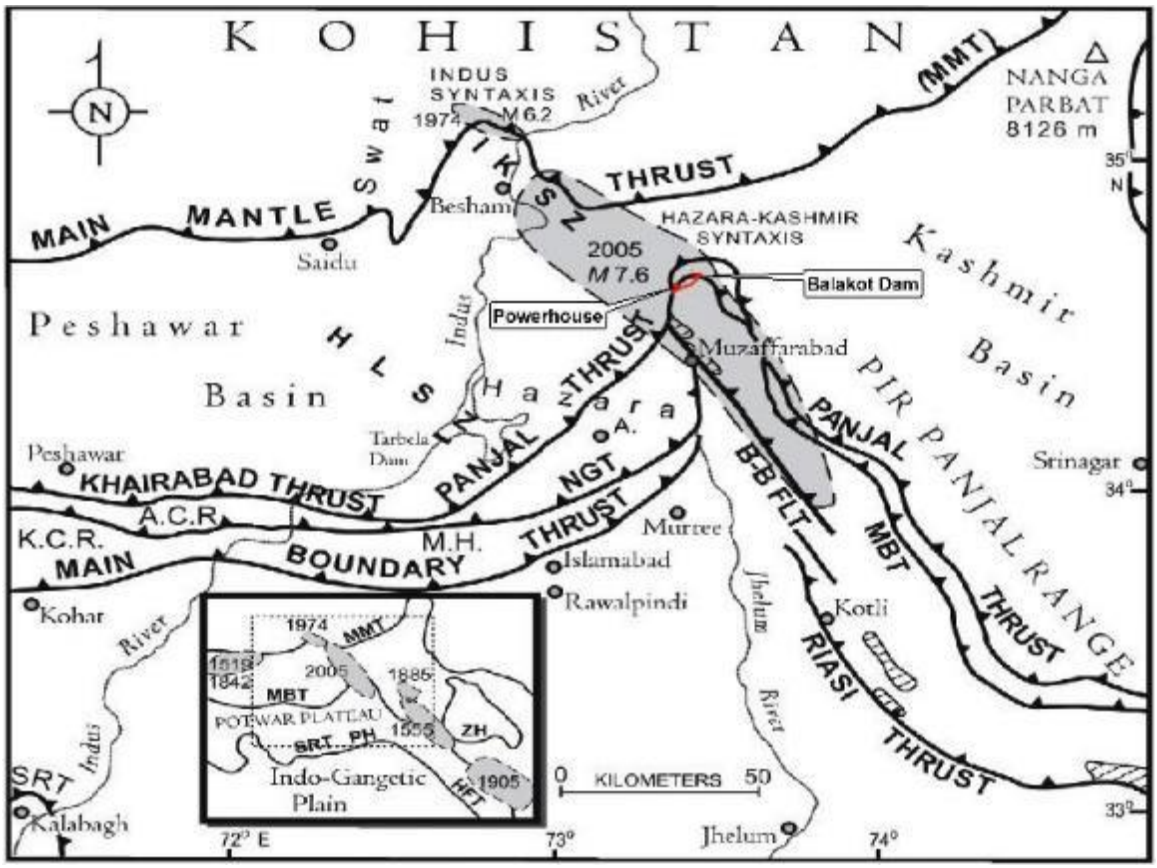
184. **Tectonics:** The Project lies along a major and active continental margin, at the confluence of Eurasian and Indian Plates that has resulted in the Himalayan orogeny. The Project area has been affected considerably by tectonics which has produced some prominent faults like the Main Boundary Thrust (MBT), the Panjal Thrust[31], and the Himalayan Frontal Thrust[32] (HFT). MBT passes along the right bank of the Kunhar River, while the powerhouse area and headrace tunnel run parallel on the left bank. This fault is about 2.4 km west of Kunhar River at the dam site. The maximum distance of the headrace tunnel from MBT is about 4.64 km. It continues in a southern direction through the rock formation some 2 km away from the powerhouse site. Major tectonic faults are shown in **Exhibit 4-8**.

185. Being part of the seismically active Himalayas, all the regional faults in the vicinity of the Project dam, have the potential for generating future earthquakes at the Project site. However, the Muzaffarabad Thrust, of Holocene age, and its northwest continuation as the Indus-Kohistan seismic zone is a proven active seismic zone, which not only generated the 2005 earthquake (of magnitude 7.6), but also the 1974 Patan earthquake, 1906 Kangra earthquake, and 1555 Srinagar earthquake. Since this active fault is a northwest (NW) - southeast (SE) oriented thrust fault that dips at an angle of ~30º towards the NW, the epicenters of earthquakes associated with this fault are located along a linear belt extending from Allai-Kohistan through Paras (the Project reservoir site), and then further into Kashmir. This implies that regional geology and tectonics associated with this regional boundary fault are the controlling factors in the seismic vulnerability of any man-made structures in the Kaghan and Neelum Valleys.

31 In some literature, sections of the Panjal Thrust are synonymous with the Main Central Thrust (e.g. see Robert Yeats, Active Faults of the World, 2012, Cambridge University Press)

32 This is considered part, or synonymous with the Muzaffarabad Thrust depending on the literature and synonymous with the Balakot-Bagh Frontal Thrust

Exhibit 4-8: Major Tectonic Faults in Relation to Dam and Powerhouse



Source: Hussain, Ahmad, Robert Yeats, and MonaLisa. "Geological setting of the 8 October 2005 earthquake." Journal of Seismology 13.3 (2009): 315-325; Notes: A.C.R., Attock–Cherat Range; K.C.R., Kala Chitta Range; M.H., Margalla Hills; B-B FLT, Balakot–Bagh fault; IKSZ, Indus Kohistan Seismic Zone; HLSZ, Hazara–Lower Seismic Zone; NGT, Nathia Gali thrust; HFT, Himalayan Front thrust; SRT, Salt Range thrust; PH, Pabbi Hills; A, Abbottabad; ZH, Zanskar Himalaya; diagonal pattern: Precambrian limestone inliers. Shaded pattern, meizoseismal zones of earthquakes with dates given; shading in the main map shows the 2005 earthquake.

186. **Earthquakes and Seismicity:** Earthquakes occur very frequently in the Project area, which is within a highly seismically active area. Several regional faults, which are some of the most active faults in the Himalayas, pass through the close vicinity of the Project site. The area is known for recent seismic events including the 2004 Paras Earthquake of magnitude 5.2 and the 2005 Earthquake of magnitude 7.6, which is discussed further below.

187. In October 2005, an earthquake of magnitude 7.6 occurred along the Muzaffarabad Thrust. This formed a surface rupture zone approximately 80 km long with an average co-seismic vertical displacement of approximately 2.8 m.[33] The Riasi Thrust has been loaded due to the earthquake and possesses conditions for a strong earthquake of magnitude over 7 to occur, in addition to other faults including the Panjal Thrust, Nathia Gali Thrust, Murree Thrust, and Jhelum Fault.

188. Due to the complex seismotectonic setting described above, it was considered necessary in the Feasibility Study, 2013 to conduct a critical evaluation of seismic hazards to quantitatively determine the level of seismic hazards the proposed Project may exposed to. The guidelines of the International Commission on Large Dams [ICOLD, 1989; modified 2010]

33 Ibid.

require both deterministic and probabilistic seismic hazard analyses, which result in the characterization of the design ground motions for different elements of the hydropower project.

- **Deterministic Seismic Hazard Analysis (DSHA):** DSHA involves the selection of a seismic source with maximum magnitude potential and minimum distance from the site of interest. Hazards are computed in terms of maximum horizontal peak-ground acceleration (PGA) using a set of selected ground-motion prediction equations. The Feasibility Study, 2013 used, two next-generation attenuation equations (Boore and Atkinson, 2008 and Akkar and Bommer, 2010) for the computation of seismic hazards**.**
- **Probabilistic Seismic Hazard Analysis (PSHA):** PSHA primarily refers to a model for seismic hazard computations originally developed by Cornell (1968) and McGuire (1976) popularly termed the Cornell–McGuire model (Klügel, 2008). The goal of PSHA is to quantify the rate (or probability) of exceeding various ground-motion levels at a site (or a map of sites) given all possible earthquakes.

189. **Exhibit 4-9** shows a summary of the results of the above studies and the reported values briefly described below.

- The controlling Maximum Credible Earthquake (MCE) is the largest reasonably conceivable earthquake that appears possible along a recognized fault or within a geographically defined tectonic province, under the specific tectonic framework governing the region of interest. Inelastic behavior with associated damages and cracking is permissible under the MCE provided the water-retaining integrity of the main dam body is retained. According to ICOLD (2010), MCE is estimated based on DSHA earthquake scenarios. The ground motion parameters of the MCE are taken as the 84 percentiles.
- The maximum design earthquake (MDE) is the maximum level of ground motion for which a structure is designed. According to ICOLD (2010) guidelines, the MDE ground motion parameters are estimated based on PSHA, using the mean values of the ground motion parameters.
- According to ICOLD (2010) guidelines, the dam shall be capable of resisting the controlling Operation Basis Earthquake (OBE) within the elastic range, remain operational, and not require extensive repairs. All structural components, which are part of or built within the main dam body, will be designed to remain functional during and after an OBE event. The OBE is best determined by using PSHA. OBE ground motions are significantly lower than those for MCE and MDE and have return periods between 145 and 275 years, depending upon the local seismic conditions.

Exhibit 4-9: Summary of Seismic Design Criteria (PGA in g)

Criteria	Return Period	Value (PGA in g)	
		Dam Site	Powerhouse Site
Operation Basis Earthquake (OBE)	150	0.26	0.27
	475	0.37	0.38
Maximum Design Earthquake (MDE)	1,000	0.45	0.46
	2,500	0.57	0.58
	10,000	0.79	0.81
Maximum Credible Earthquake (MCE)		0.71	0.79

190. According to the revised Building code of Pakistan with Seismic Provision (PBC, 2007) the Project location is classified under seismic Zone 4 (see **Exhibit 4-10** for which the Project is required to withstand a PGA greater than 0.32g (3.2 m/s^2) (see **Exhibit 4-11**).

Exhibit 4-10: Seismic Zones, PBC 2007

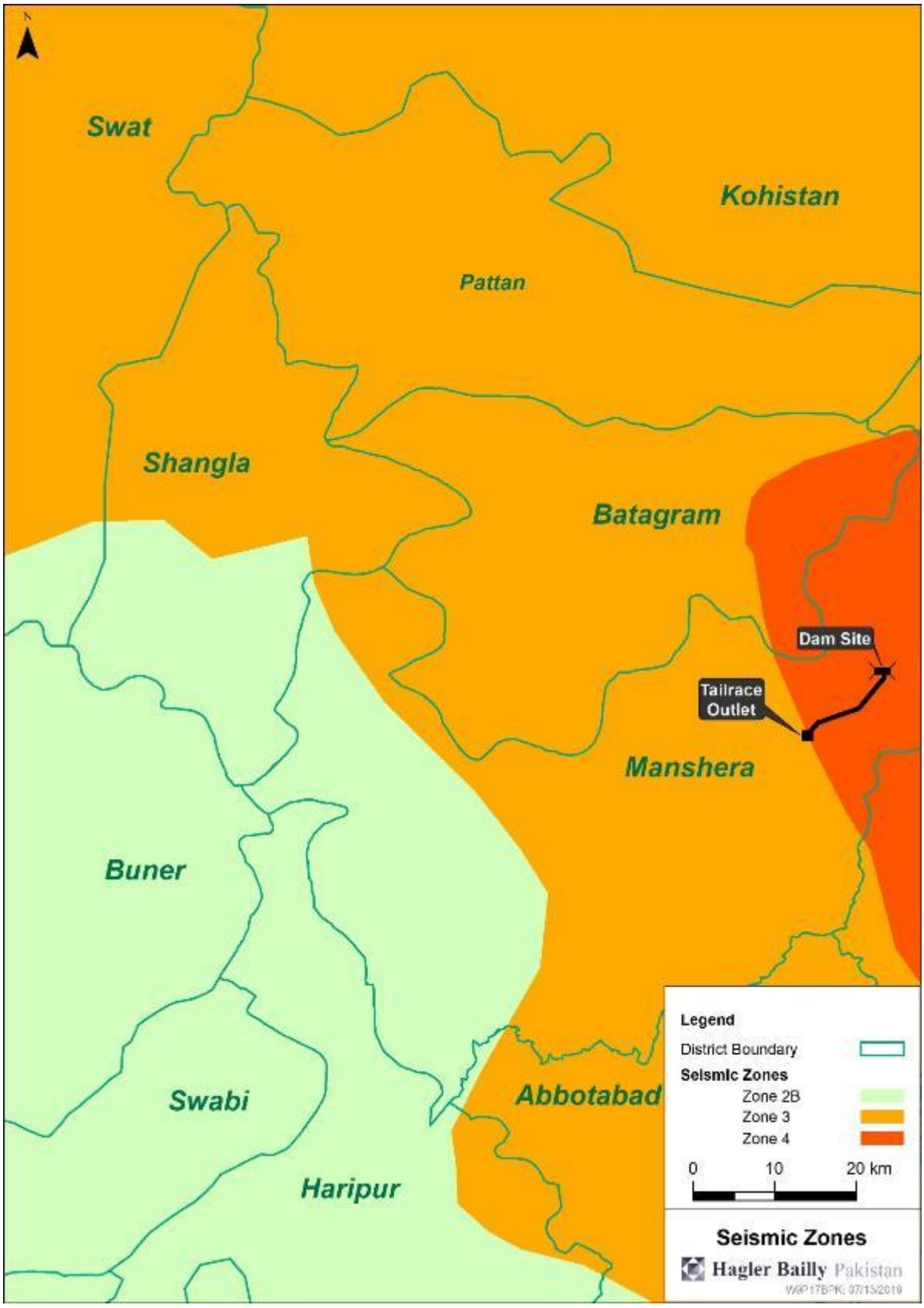
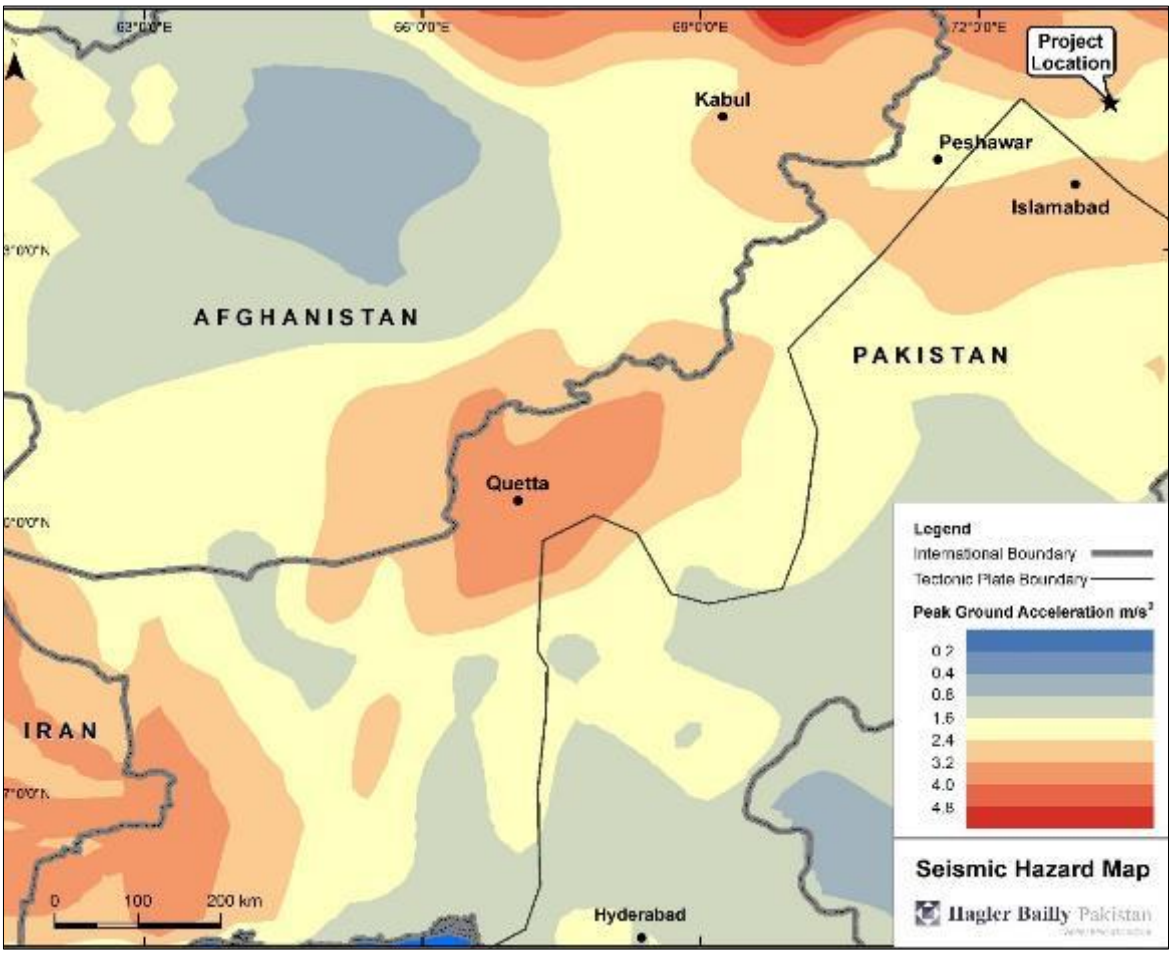


Exhibit 4-11: Seismic Zone Categorization, PBC 2007

Seismic Zone	Peak Horizontal Ground Acceleration
1	0.05 to 0.08g
2A	0.08 to 0.16g
2B	0.16 to 0.24g
3	0.24 to 0.32g
4	> 0.32g

191. The Global Seismic Hazard Map Project (GSHAP) is shown in **Exhibit 4-12**. The Peak Ground Acceleration (PGA) with a 10% probability of exceedance in 50 years (475 years average return interval) is between 1.6 meters per second squared (m/s^2) and 2.4 m/s^2 at the Project site.

Exhibit 4-12: Seismic Hazard Map of Pakistan



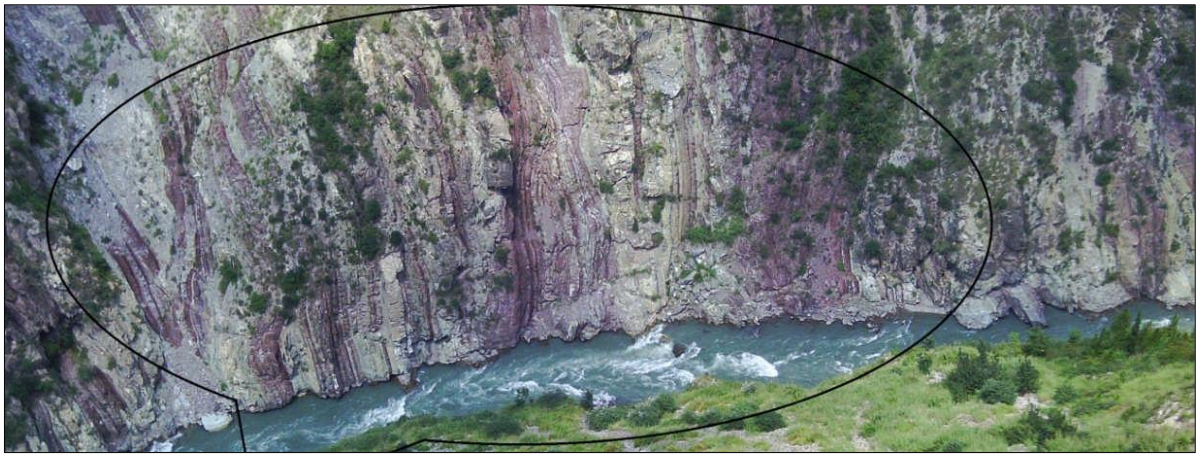
Source: Adapted from Giardini, D., Grünthal, G., Shedlock, K. M. and Zhang, P.: The GSHAP Global Seismic Hazard Map. Annali di Geofisica 42 (6), 1225-1228, 1999.

192. **Lithology and Soils:** The Project is located in rocks belonging to Murree Formations. The Murree Formation is of early Miocene age and consists of dark red to purple and greenish grey sandstone and siltstone, purple to reddish brown shale, mudstone, and lenses of conglomerates. These rocks are exposed at the dam site and consist of alternate beds of

sandstone and shale as shown in **Exhibit 4-13**. Structurally, the formation shows a high degree of compression in the form of tight folding with repeated faulting and fracturing. At places, it shows open broad folds that have been weathered into steep ridges and valleys with a succession of cliffs and steep slopes.

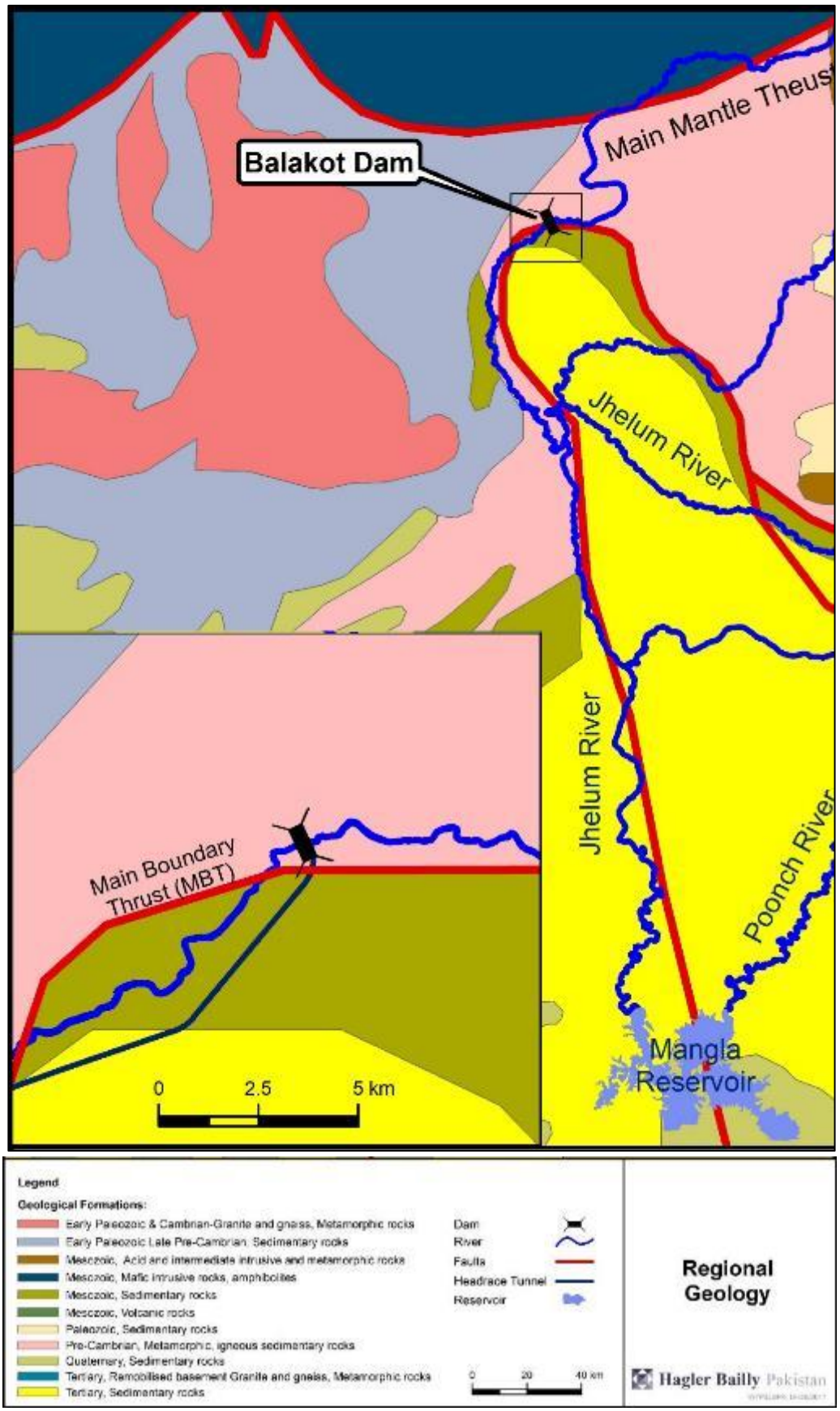
193. The Murree Formation exposed in the Balakot area represents as last stages of Neo-Tethys and the beginning of the Siwalick system in the area which is indicated by sandstone and shale deposits. The lithological units in the region, are shown in **Exhibit 4-14**.

Exhibit 4-13: Alternate Bedding of Sandstone and Mudstone/Shale near the Dam Axis



Source: Aqualogus, June 2019, Draft Final Report D2.2B – Feasibility Study for the 300 MW Balakot Hydropower Project, for the Asian Development Bank and Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization

Exhibit 4-14: Regional Geology



194.

4.1.4.1 Soil Analysis (2017)

195. The soils of the Project area are composed of piedmont alluvial deposits, where the upper layer of the plain/leveled land consists mostly of silty clay loam soils, rich in organic matter content. The subsurface strata is generally sandy loam with gravel. The soils of the hill slopes consist mostly of thin layered sandy loam soils, underlain by rocks or gravelly materials. The valley terraces in between the mountains are very fertile and used for intensive cropping, while, the hill slopes are used for forest vegetative cover.

196. **Methodology and Sampling Locations:** Under the feasibility studies, soil samples were collected on April 13, 2017, and analyzed for establishing baseline conditions to establish soil fertility and identify any current soil contamination. A total of 4 samples were collected from locations listed in **Exhibit 4-15** and shown in **Exhibit 4-16**. Soil samples were analyzed in the HBP Laboratory and ALS Malaysia[34]. The sampling results are summarized in **Exhibit 4-17**.

Exhibit 4-15: Sampling Locations for Soil Quality (2017)

ID	Coordinates	Description	Notes and Justification
S1	34° 39' 38.16" N 73° 27' 42.32" E	Agricultural land, Paras	To check agricultural fertility and the proposed location of labor camps which may lead to contamination
S2	34° 38' 49.53" N 73° 26' 28.79" E	Pine forest, Dam site	Location of the dam site which may lead to contamination.
S3	34° 36' 12.12" N 73° 22' 56.61" E	Scrub forest, Powerhouse site	Location of powerhouse site which may lead to contamination.
S4	34° 34' 54.90" N 73° 22' 07.70" E	Agricultural land, Sangar	To check agricultural fertility and the proposed location of labor camps which may lead to contamination.

34 HBP Lab conducted pH, EC and organic matter tests, whereas the remaining were conducted at ALS Malaysia

Exhibit 4-16: Soil Sampling Locations (2017)

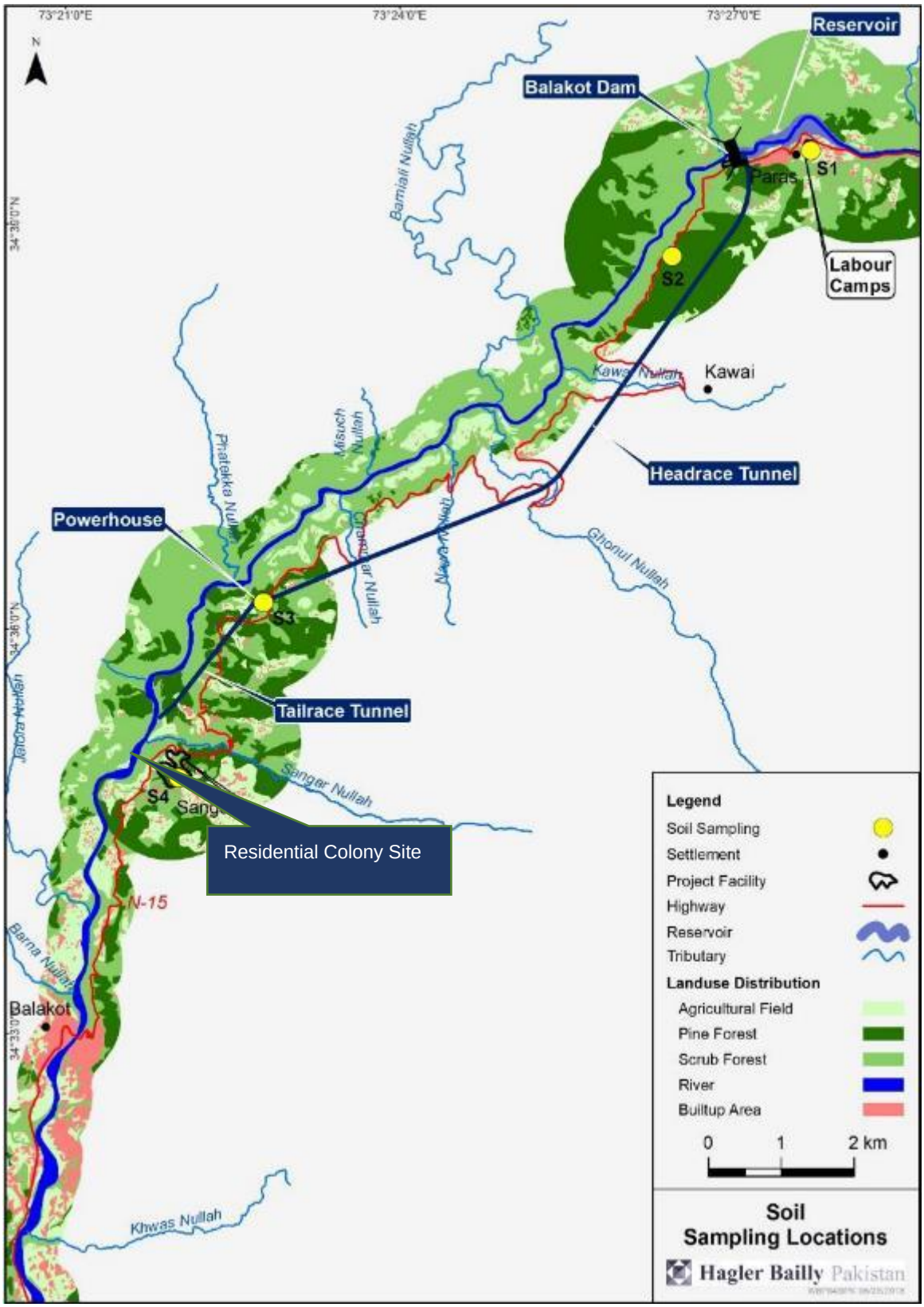


Exhibit 4-17: Soil Quality Test Results (2017)

Parameter	Method	LOR	Unit	S1	S2	S3	S4
				Agriculture	Pine Forest	Scrub Forest	Agriculture
Physical							
pH	CSSS	0.1		8.1	8.1	7.9	7.9
Electrical Conductivity (EC)	CSSS	1	µS/cm	233	474	377	258
Macro-nutrients and Organics							
Nitrate	APHA4500-NO3-H	0.1	mg/kg	11.6	<0.1	<0.1	1.8
Phosphate	APHA4500-P-F	1	mg/kg	<1	<1	<1	<1
Potassium	USEPA6010B	5	mg/kg	2,220	609	908	1,040
Organic Matter	CSSS	0.1	%	2.86	2.69	5.46	3.72
Organic Carbon	CSSS	0.05	%	1.64	1.55	3.13	2.13
Metals and Major Ions							
Arsenic	USEPA6010B	1	mg/kg	8	4	6	4
Barium	USEPA6010B	5	mg/kg	152	54	50	61
Boron	USEPA6010B	5	mg/kg	<5	<5	<5	<5
Cadmium	USEPA6010B	1	mg/kg	<1	<1	<1	<1
Chromium	USEPA6010B	1	mg/kg	43	25	56	17
Copper	USEPA6010B	1	mg/kg	34	19	28	23
Iron	USEPA6010B	1	mg/kg	25,100	14,200	22,600	11,000
Lead	USEPA6010B	1	mg/kg	17	12	16	16
Manganese	USEPA6010B	1	mg/kg	501	710	798	770
Mercury	USEPA7471A	0.1	mg/kg	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
Nickel	USEPA6010B	1	mg/kg	54	37	88	20
Selenium	USEPA6010B	5	mg/kg	<5	<5	<5	<5
Silver	USEPA6010B	1	mg/kg	<1	<1	<1	<1
Zinc	USEPA6010B	1	mg/kg	78	38	72	58

Note: LOR = Level of Reporting, mg/kg = milligram per kilogram, µS/cm = micro Siemen per centimeter

197. Key observations based on the results presented in **Exhibit 4-17** are as follows:

- **Physical:** The pH of soil samples at all sampling locations ranges between 7.9 and 8.1. The maximum pH is observed as 8.1 at S1 (agricultural land, Paras) and the minimum as 7.9 at S3 (scrub forest, powerhouse site). Higher values of EC are observed under forest-based land use systems compared to agricultural land. The maximum EC is observed as 474 µS/cm at S2 (pine forest, dam site).
- **Nutrients and Organics:** Organics at all sampling locations don't vary significantly. The maximum organic matter and organic carbon values are

observed at S3 as 5.46% and 3.13%, respectively. Phosphates were not detected at any of the sampling locations. Nitrates are only observed on agricultural land (S1 and S4) with a maximum value of 11.6 mg/kg at S1. Potassium is also high at S1 (agricultural land, Paras) and S4 (agricultural land, Sangar) with a maximum value of 2,220 mg/kg at S1. Macronutrient contents show high fertility at S1 (agricultural land, Paras) and S4 (agricultural land, Sangar).

- **Metals and Major Ions:** Metal contents do not vary significantly through the area sampled, indicating the absence of contamination from any industrial activity or spills. Results for Boron, Cadmium, Mercury, Selenium, and Silver were below the level of reporting.

4.1.4.2 Soil Analysis (2022)

198. Prior to initiating construction activities, the EPC Contractor engaged Integrated Environment Laboratory (IEL), a Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Protection Agency (KPEPA) certified facility, to conduct baseline environmental monitoring. Instrumental surveys were performed from December 7 to 14, 2022, at the predetermined locations as showin in **Exhibit 4-19** , establishing pre-construction environmental conditions.

199. The results obtained are presented in **Exhibit 4-18** which will be used for comparative assessment during construction-phase monitoring, and evaluation of potential project impacts on soil quality.

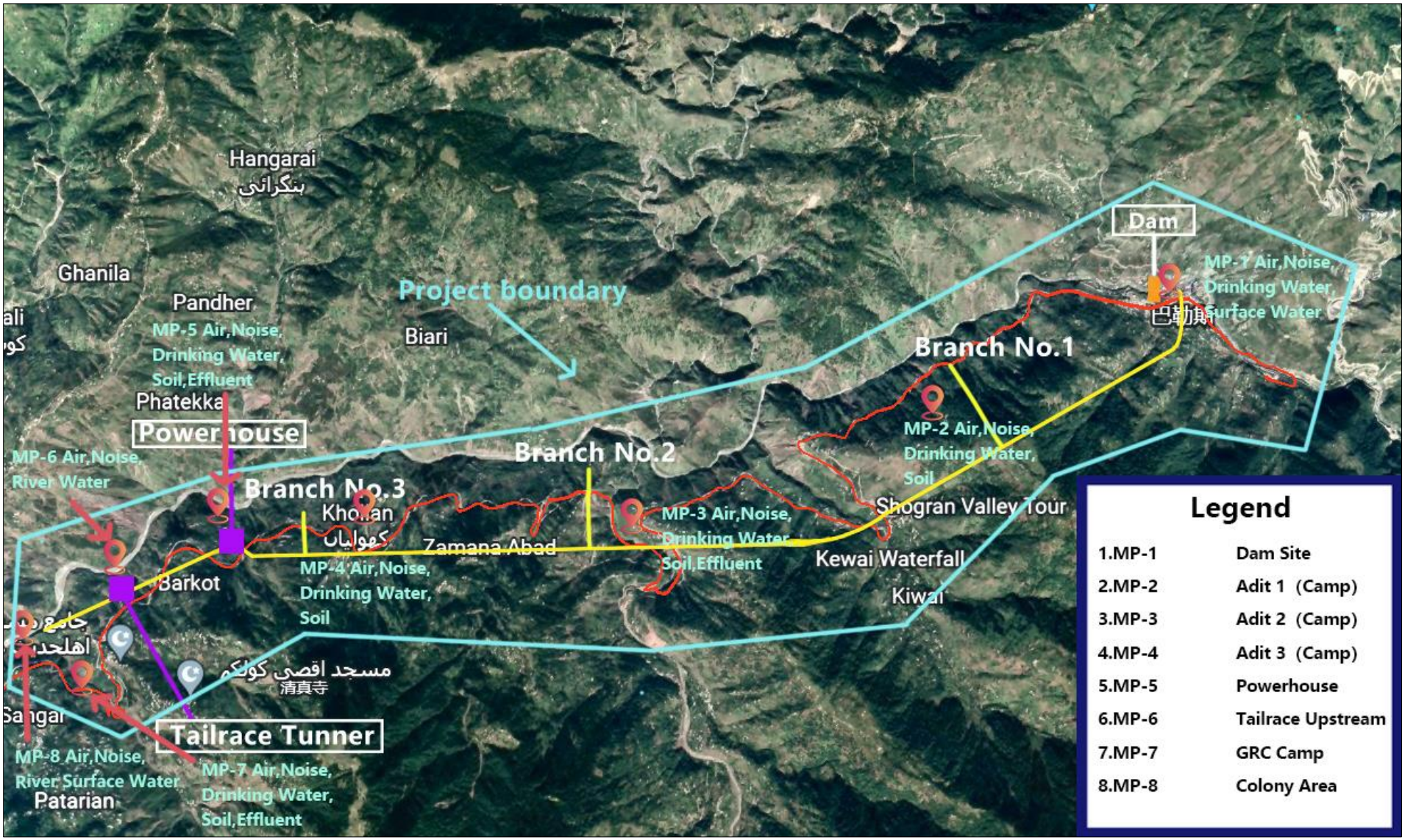
Exhibit 4-18: Soil Analysis Results (2022)

S/No	Parameters		Sampling Points and Results				
			Adit 1	Adit 2	Adit 3	GRC Camp	Powerhouse
1	Soil Texture	Sand %	14	08	17	16	12
		Silt%	57	58	49	43	61
		Clay %	29	34	34	41	37
		Texture Class	Silty Clay Loam	Silty Clay Loam	Silty Clay Loam	Silty Clay Loam	Silty Clay Loam
2	pH		8.1	8.1	8.0	8.0	8.1
3	Electrical Conductivity EC (μSm^{-1})		238	238	231	231	229
4	Phosphorus ($mgkg^{-1}$)		2.01	2.01	3.2	3.2	2.9
5	Sodium Absorption Ratio		4.07	4.07	3.54	3.54	3.37

μSm^{-1}: Micro siemens/meter
$mgkg^{-1}$: milligram per Kilogram

200. The above results indicate uniformly alkaline soils (pH 8.0-8.1) with moderate salinity (EC 229-238 µS/m) across sites. Texture analysis reveals dominant silty clay loam classification, suggesting similar water retention characteristics throughout the project area.

Exhibit 4-19: Instrumental Environmental Monitoring Locations (2022)



4.1.5 Visual Character

201. The visual baseline records the current aesthetic and visual conditions of the proposed Project site as seen from the nearby receptors.

202. **Methodology and Sampling Locations:** To document the visual baseline, a survey was conducted on May 5, 2017. Visual survey locations are listed in **Exhibit 4-20** and shown in **Exhibit 4-21. Exhibit 4-22** shows the views of Project facility locations from nearby receptors.

Exhibit 4-20: Visual Survey Locations

ID	Coordinates	Altitude (m)	Bearing of Image Center	Location	Rationale
V1	34° 39' 46.6" N 73° 27' 16.6" E	1,356	Southeast	Right Bank: reservoir	View towards Paras where the reservoir will inundate land
V2	34° 39' 00.6" N 73° 26' 29.4" E	1,335	West	Left Bank: downstream of the dam site	View downstream of the dam site
V3	34° 36' 07.1" N 73° 22' 52.5" E	1,366	Northwest	Left Bank: powerhouse site	View towards the construction activity site near the powerhouse site
V4	34° 35' 05.2" N 73° 21' 48.7" E	1,070	Northwest	Left Bank: tailrace outfall	View near the tailrace outfall

Exhibit 4-21: Visual Survey Locations

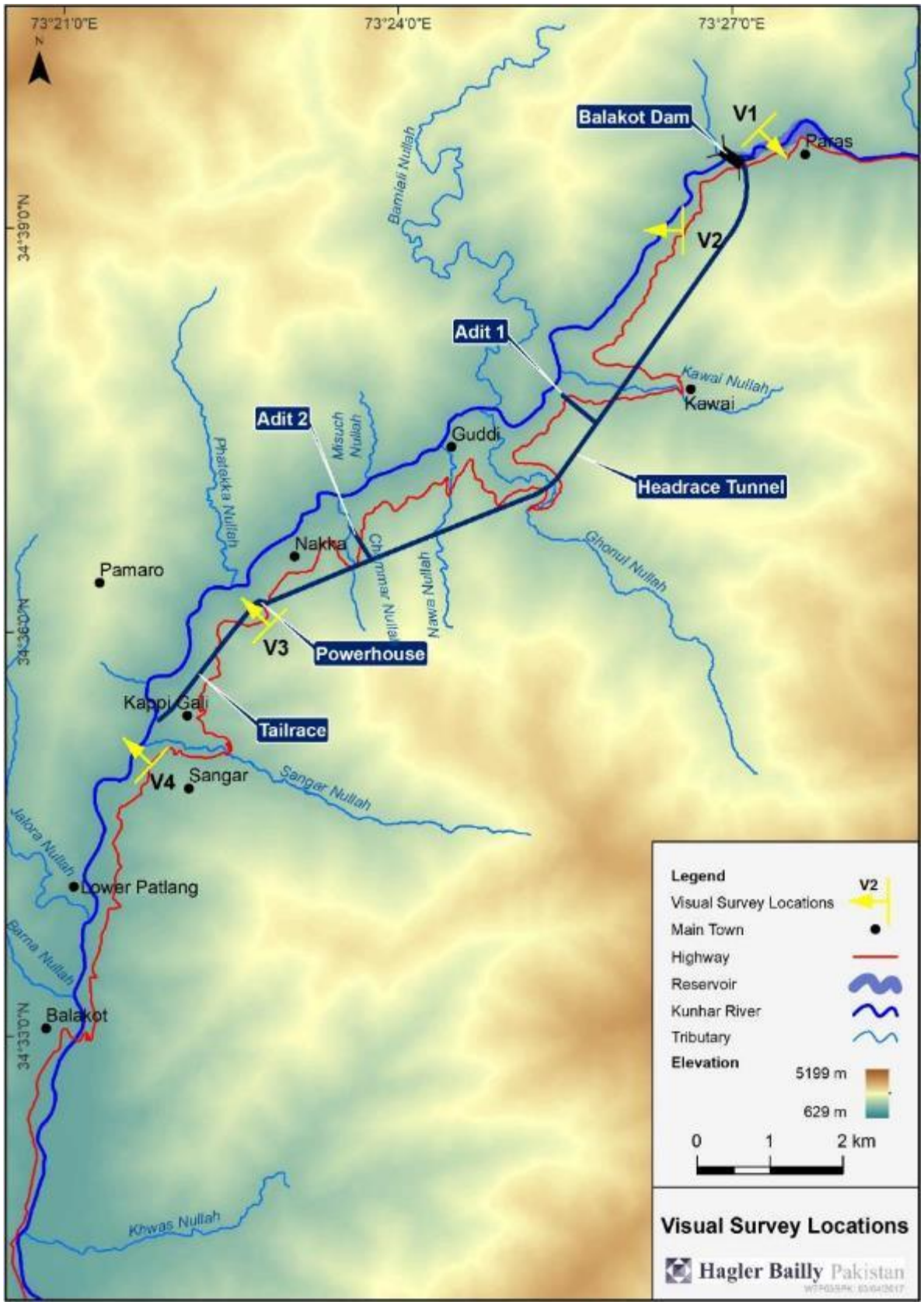
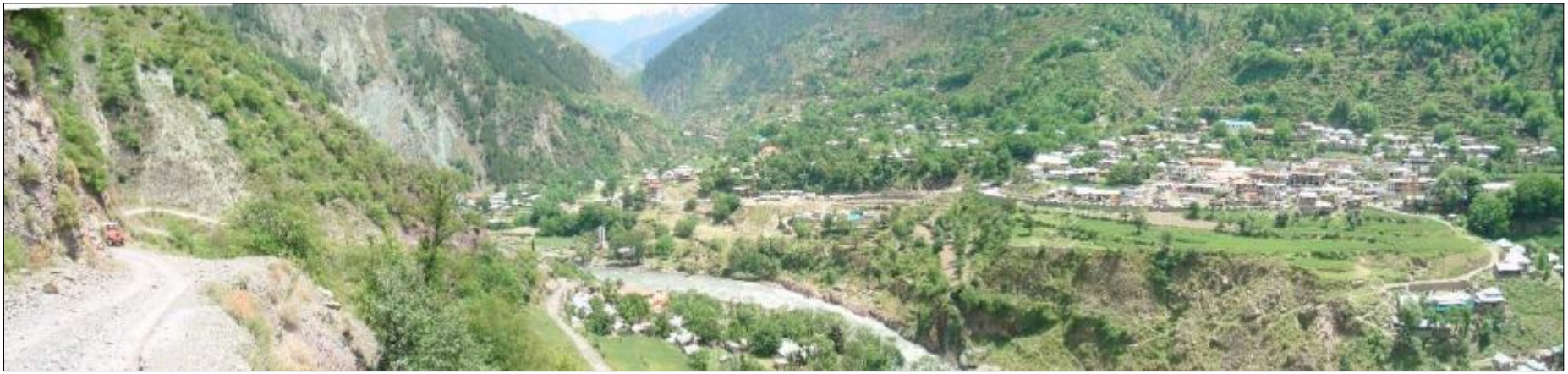


Exhibit 4-22: Visual Survey Photographs



View from V1 (180-degree view, at 1356 meters elevation, centered at bearing Southeast, right bank). The village of Paras and agricultural fields can be seen in the distance.



View from V2 (180-degree view, at 1335 meters elevation, centered at bearing West, left bank). River downstream of the Dam site can be observed. Steep hills and trees hinder visibility



View from V3 (180-degree view, at 1366 meters elevation, centered at bearing Northwest, left bank). View of the Powerhouse site. Mountainous terrain hindered visibility



View from V4 (180-degree view, at 1070 meters elevation, centered at bearing Northwest, left bank). View of the Kunhar River after the tailrace outfall. The valley starts to widen as the river approaches Balakot.

203. The following method was used for the visual survey.

- A compass was used to record the bearings, in degrees, for the photographs.
- GPS coordinates of the locations were recorded.
- A tripod was used to take the photographs.

204. Photographs were stitched to form 180° panoramic views in the direction of Project activities.

205. From the above, it is observed that the mountainous landscape, deep gorges, and vegetation greatly restrict visibility to a maximum of 0.5 to 1.5 km at receptor locations.

4.1.6 Climate Baseline

206. The objective of the climate baseline is to characterize the climatic conditions in the Study Area. This includes characterization of the monthly trends in weather parameters (temperature, precipitation, relative humidity, wind speed, and direction) and the extreme conditions that occur in the Study Area.

4.1.6.1 Data Sources

207. A regional climate overview was established using available data from the Balakot weather station. This is the nearest Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) weather station to the Project. The description of the weather station is presented in **Exhibit 4-23.**

Exhibit 4-23: Details of Balakot Weather Station

World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Identification Number	41536
Established	1957
Location	73° 21' E, 34° 32' N
Location with respect to the dam site	16 km northeast
Location with respect to the powerhouse site	8 km northeast
Elevation (m amsl)	980.0
Data period used in the analysis	1961-1990 (30 Years)

4.1.6.2 Data Analysis

208. The climate analysis of the Project area was carried out by classifying it into different seasons as below.

- **Summer (mid-March to mid-June):** Characterized by high temperatures, moderate rainfalls with moderate humidity, and high-speed winds.
- **Summer Monsoon (mid-June to mid-September):** The summer monsoon, hereafter referred to as the Monsoon, is characterized by high temperatures (although milder than the summer), significantly high rainfalls with high humidity, and moderate speed winds, slightly lower than summer.
- **Post-Monsoon summer (mid-September to mid-November):** Characterized by moderate temperatures, low rainfalls with moderate humidity higher than in summers, as the humidity again reduces after the monsoon and low winds.

- **Winter (mid-November to mid-March):** Characterized by very low temperatures, moderate rainfalls, with an increasing amount of rainfall at the end of the winter, with relative humidity greater than post-monsoon summer and moderate speed winds.

209. The summary of climate analysis is presented in **Exhibit 4-24**. The parameters are tabulated in **Exhibit 4-25** and graphed in **Exhibit 4-26** to **Exhibit 4-30.** Wind frequency distribution is presented in **Exhibit 4-31**.

Exhibit 4-24: Seasonal Variation

Season	Temperature and Humidity	Rainfall	Wind
Summer (mid-March to mid-June)	Daily maximum temperature averages between 19°C and 35°C. The daily minimum gradually increases from 8°C in March to 21°C in June. Morning humidity reduces from 67% in March to 54% in June. The same trend was observed in afternoon humidity which also reduced from 51% in March to 34% in June.	30% of total rainfall occurs in summers with the maximum amount of rainfall observed in March (189 mm). The mean number of rainy days during this period ranges from 6 to 10 per month. Monsoon generally starts in late June.	The predominant wind direction is southwest with a mean wind speed of 1.1 m/s. however, the wind keeps on changing direction between southwest and northwest. 24% of the time winds were calm during this period.
Monsoon (mid-June to mid-September)	Daily maximum temperature drops by a few degrees and averages between 30°C and 32°C. Daily minimum temperatures gradually decrease and vary between 17°C and 21°C. Morning humidity increases to 89% in August and then reduces to 81% in September. The same trend was seen in afternoon humidity. It increases to 66% in August and then reduces to 54% in September.	45% of total rainfall occurs in monsoons with the maximum amount of rainfall observed in July (359 mm). In August rainfall slightly reduced to 293 mm. The mean number of rainy days during this period is between 6 and 14 per month.	The wind speed decreases in monsoon with a mean speed of 0.6 m/s during this period. Winds are southwesterly. 30% of the time winds were calm during this period.
Post-monsoon summer (mid-September to mid-November)	Daily maximum temperature decreases by about 3°C and averages between 21°C and 27°C. Daily minimum temperatures start decreasing and drop to 6°C by November. Morning humidity decreases sharply to 75% in October and November. Afternoon humidity drops sharply in October to 44% and remains near 49%.	By the end of September, the monsoon rainfall ends. Only about 5% of total rainfall occurs in post-monsoon summer. The amount of rainfall significantly reduces to 45 mm in October. The number of rainy days is less than 5 during these months.	Further reduction in wind speed occurred during this period with a mean speed of 0.6 m/s. Winds are southwesterly. 17% of the time winds were calm during this period.
Winter (mid-November to mid-March)	Daily maximum temperature averages between 14°C and 16°C. Daily minimum temperature averages between 2°C and 4°C. Morning humidity again increases to 78% and then drops to 72% in February. Afternoon humidity again increases to 59% in December and then drops to 55% in February.	The amount of rainfall starts increasing with the advent of winter. About 20% of the total rainfall occurs during this season with the maximum amount in February (154 mm). The mean number of rainy days is between 5 and 8 per month.	Wind speeds tend to increase at start of January with a mean speed of 0.6 m/s during this period. The predominant wind direction is southwest however, also blows from northwest. 29% of the time winds were calm during this period.

Note: Morning measurements were made at 5:00 AM and afternoon measurements were made at 5:00 PM (Pakistan Standard Time)
A day is defined as a *rainy day* if the total amount of rainfall for that day exceeds 2.5 mm.

Exhibit 4-25: Weather Parameters

Month	Temperature (ºC)			Humidity (%)		Rainfall (mm)	Number of Rainy days	Wind Speed (m/s)	
	Mean	Min	Max	5:00 AM	5:00 PM			Max	Mean
Jan.	8.1	2.0	14.0	76	58	94.9	5.5	3.6	0.5
Feb.	9.6	3.9	15.4	72	55	153.5	7.8	3.6	0.9
Mar.	13.5	7.6	19.5	67	51	188.6	9.7	3.6	1.0
Apr.	19.0	12.6	25.3	62	46	134.3	8.4	3.6	1.1
May.	24.1	17.2	31.0	54	36	77.0	5.9	5.1	1.1
Jun.	28.2	21.0	35.3	54	34	98.4	6.8	6.2	1.1
Jul.	26.8	21.3	32.3	81	59	359.4	13.7	3.6	0.7
Aug.	25.9	20.6	31.3	89	66	292.5	12.4	3.6	0.5
Sep.	24.0	17.1	30.9	81	54	100.8	6.4	2.6	0.6
Oct.	19.4	11.5	27.5	75	44	44.7	2.9	3.6	0.7
Nov.	14.0	6.2	21.9	75	49	45.9	2.7	2.6	0.5
Dec.	9.4	2.9	16.0	78	59	81.2	5.0	3.6	0.4

Exhibit 4-26: Mean Monthly Temperatures (°C)

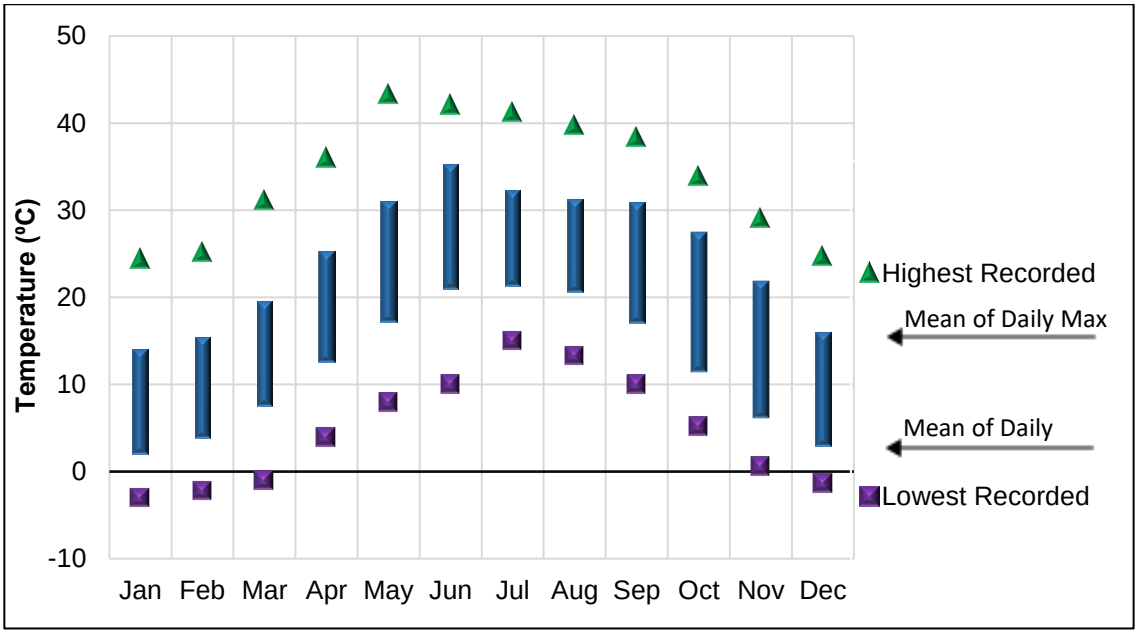


Exhibit 4-27: Mean Monthly Relative Humidity (%)

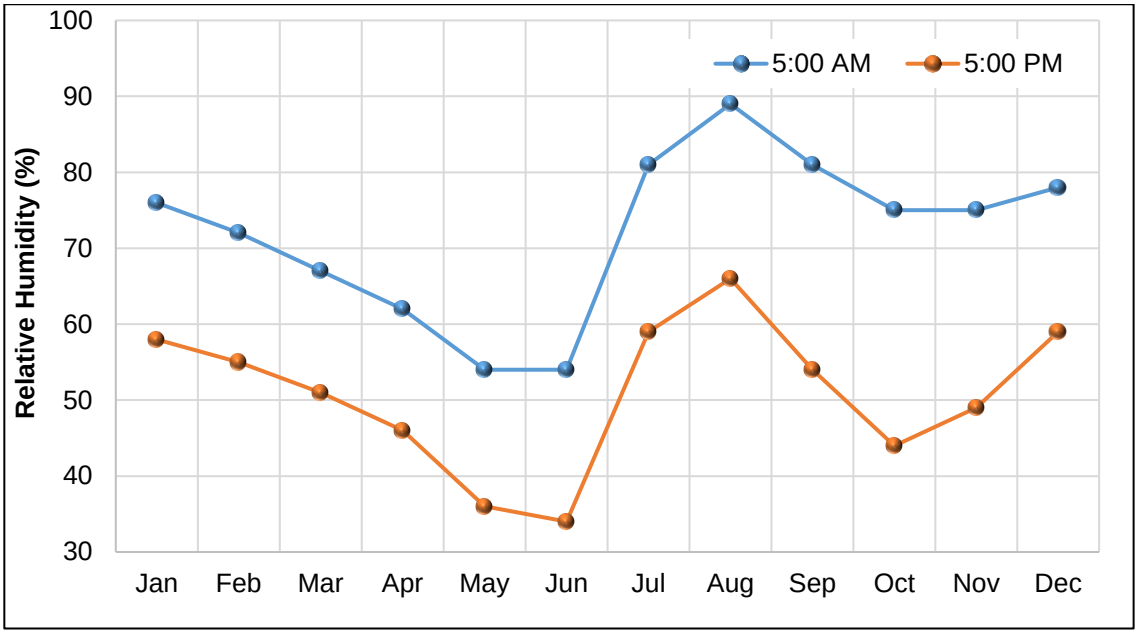


Exhibit 4-28: Mean Monthly Rainfall (mm)

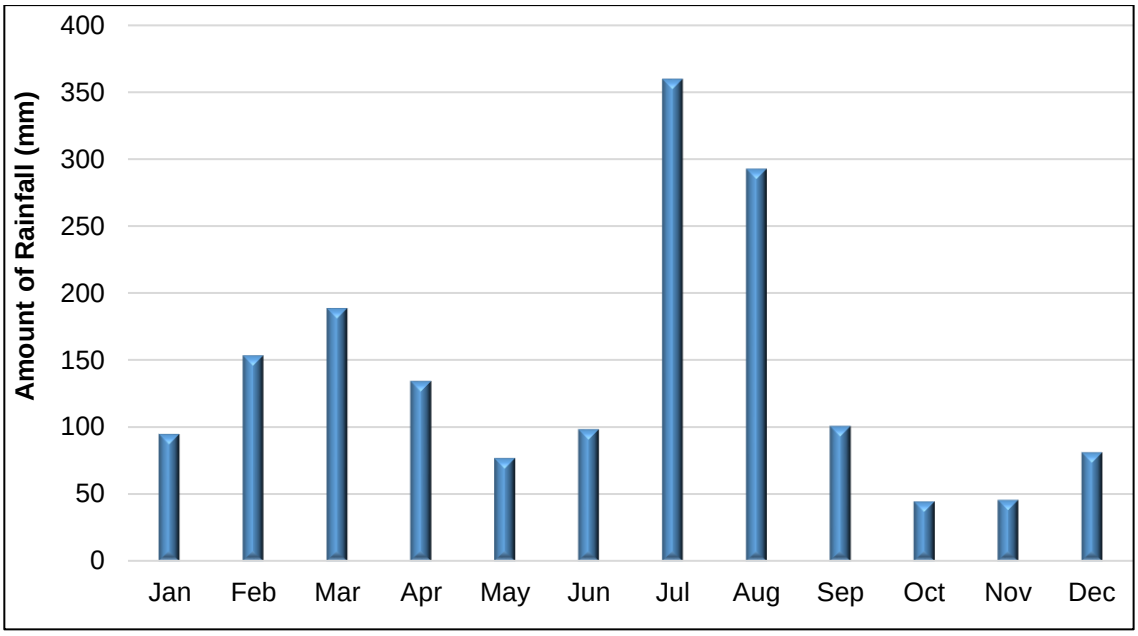


Exhibit 4-29: Mean Number of Rainy Days

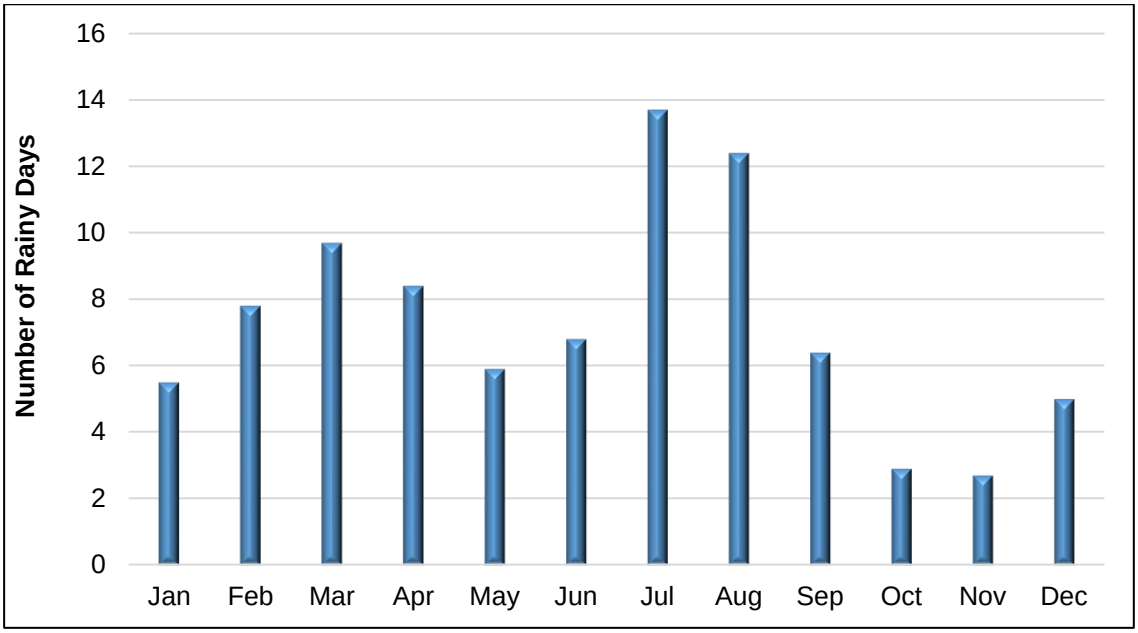


Exhibit 4-30: Mean Monthly Wind Speed (m/s)

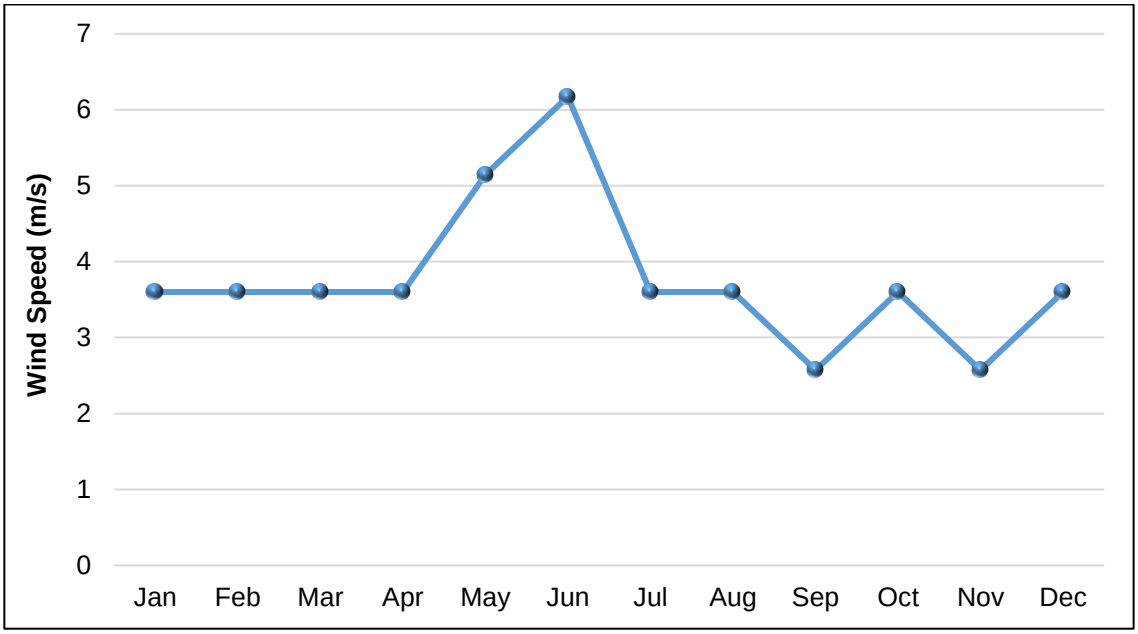


Exhibit 4-31: Wind Frequency Distribution (%)

Month	Wind Speed Ranges (m/s)									Wind Direction							
	Calm	0.5 to 2	2 to 4	4 to 6	6 to 9	9 to 12	12 to 14	14 to 17	> 17	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW
Jan.	67%	27%	6%	0.2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	0%	2%	1%	17%	0%	10%
Feb.	47%	44%	8%	0.5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	4%	0%	4%	0%	31%	0%	12%
Mar.	39%	43%	16%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	6%	0%	6%	1%	30%	0%	17%
Apr.	45%	39%	15%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	0%	5%	1%	31%	0%	15%
May.	35%	46%	18%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	0%	8%	2%	34%	0%	17%
Jun.	36%	44%	18%	2%	0.4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	5%	0%	6%	2%	38%	0%	12%
Jul.	62%	28%	10%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	6%	1%	28%	0%	2%
Aug.	68%	28%	4%	0.2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	8%	1%	22%	0%	1%
Sep.	63%	35%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	5%	2%	28%	0%	2%
Oct.	47%	49%	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	8%	7%	33%	0%	4%
Nov.	62%	37%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	2%	25%	0%	8%
Dec.	77%	21%	2%	0.2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	17%	0%	4%

Note: Calm are the winds less than 0.5 m/s.

N: North S: South E: East W: West

NE: Northeast SE: Southeast SW: Southwest NW: Northwest

4.1.6.3 Weather Extremes

210. Weather extremes for the Balakot weather station are given in **Exhibit 4-32** for temperature and in **Exhibit 4-33** for precipitation.

Exhibit 4-32: Temperature Extremes in the Study Area

Month	Lowest Recorded		Highest Recorded	
	Value	Year	Value	Year
Jan	-3.0	1974	24.4	1971
Feb	-2.2	1972	25.2	1985
Mar	-1.0	1979	31.1	1971
Apr	3.9	1989	36.0	1974
May	8.0	1987	43.3	1988
Jun	10.0	1979	42.1	1984
Jul	15.0	1975	41.2	1985
Aug	13.3	1988	39.7	1987
Sep	10.0	1979	38.3	1962
Oct	5.2	1982	33.9	1971
Nov	0.6	1962	29.0	1979
Dec	-1.3	1986	24.7	1988

Exhibit 4-33: Extreme Precipitation Conditions

Month	Wettest Year		Heaviest Rainfall in 24 hours		Driest Year	
	Rain (mm)	Year	Rain (mm)	Year	Rain (mm)	Year
Jan	226.0	1980	67.3	1973	0.0	1966
Feb	345.1	1980	80.8	1971	22.0	1985
Mar	373.6	1980	108.5	1973	14.0	1971
Apr	277.1	1965	105.1	1979	48.0	1974
May	191.7	1982	64.7	1979	6.0	1980
Jun	283.7	1978	84.1	1977	28.6	1990
Jul	914.9	1988	213.8	1988	113.6	1983
Aug	567.2	1983	245.0	1983	148.9	1989
Sep	199.3	1977	79.0	1978	3.3	1971
Oct	241.3	1987	88.0	1987	0.0	1984
Nov	192.7	1986	103.0	1986	0.0	1968
Dec	324.2	1990	80.1	1990	0.0	1981

4.1.6.4 Comparison of Climatic Normal with Recent Data

211. Climatic normal data for the period of 1961 – 1990 was compared with more recent data from 1991 – 2011 for temperature and precipitation. Climatic normals are based on 30

years and developed by the PMD. A comparison of the datasets is shown in **Exhibit 4-34** and graphed in **Exhibit 4-35** to **Exhibit 4-36.**

212. The following conclusions can be drawn:

- **Temperature:** There are slight temperature variations observed in recent data as compared to climatic normal. The increase in mean temperatures in recent years is 0.2ºC. This shows that overall temperature is increased at the Project site.
- **Rainfall:** The amount of rainfall only increased in January, June, and September by an amount of 1 mm, 3 mm, and 29 mm, respectively. However, in the rest of the months, the amount decreases. The decrease in the annual amount of rainfall is 175 mm.

213. Possible reasons for the change in weather parameters may be because of climate change or urbanization, which can explain increased temperatures and decreased amount of rainfall.

Exhibit 4-34: Comparison between Climatic Normal and Recent Data

Month	Mean Temperature (ºC)		Rainfall (mm)	
	1961-1990	1991-2011	1961-1990	1991-2011
Jan	8.1	8.2	94.9	95.9
Feb	9.6	9.9	153.5	152.1
Mar.	13.5	14.1	188.6	152.5
Apr	19.0	19.0	134.3	104.1
May	24.1	24.2	77.0	72.5
Jun	28.2	27.2	98.4	101.4
Jul	26.8	26.8	359.4	324.3
Aug	25.9	26.0	292.5	236.7
Sep	24.0	24.1	100.8	129.8
Oct	19.4	19.8	44.7	40.2
Nov	14.0	15.1	45.9	36.9
Dec	9.4	10.5	81.2	49.6
Annual	**18.5**	**18.7**	**1,671.2**	**1,496.0**

Exhibit 4-35: Comparison of Monthly Temperatures (ºC)

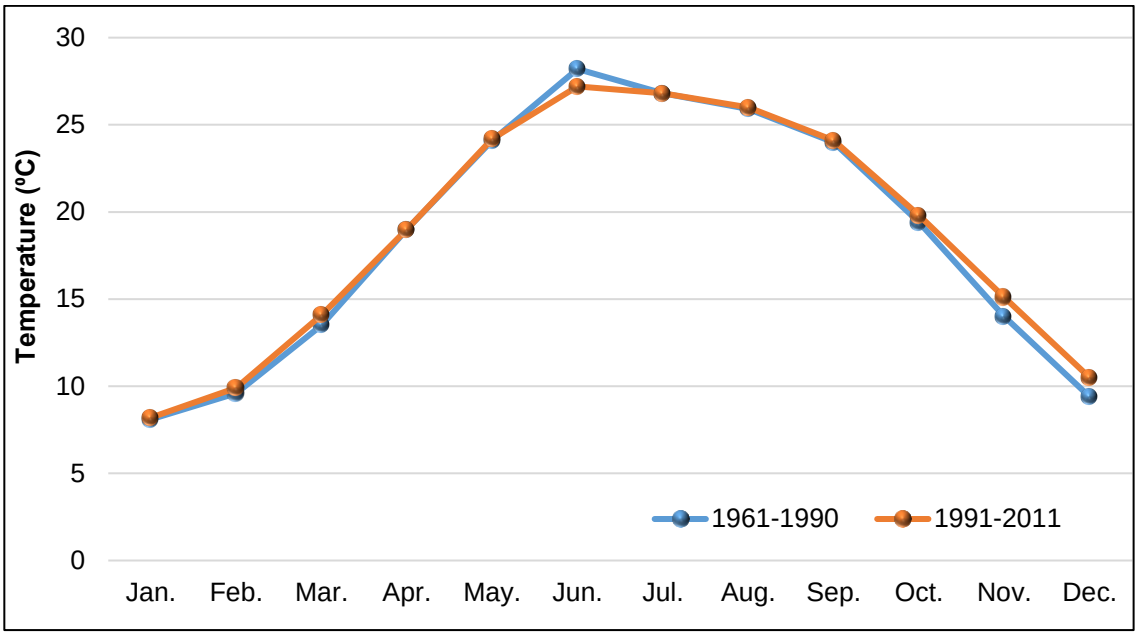
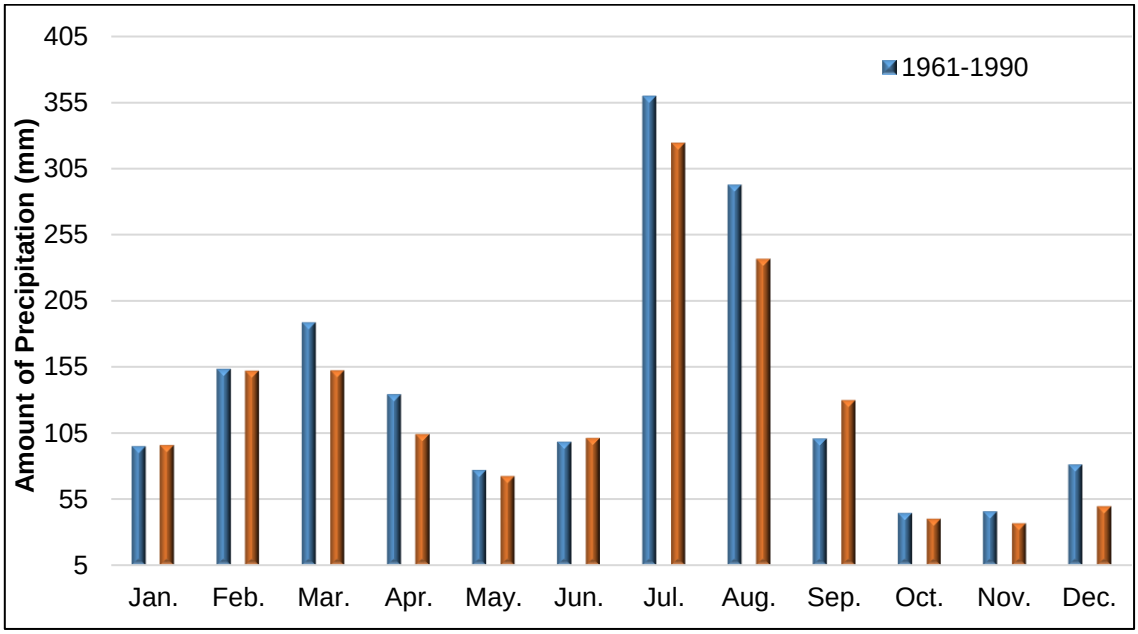


Exhibit 4-36: Comparison of Mean Monthly Rainfall (mm)



4.1.7 Water Resources

214. Water resources in the area consist of surface water including rivers and nullahs and groundwater including springs and boreholes.

4.1.7.1 Regional Hydrology

215. The Project Dam and Powerhouse are located on the Kunhar River. This section describes the hydrology of the Kunhar River up to its confluence with the Jhelum River. The catchment area, Kunhar River, and its' principal tributaries up to its confluence are shown in **Exhibit 4-37**.

216. The Kunhar River originates from the glaciers above Lulusar Lake in the Kaghan Valley of KP. The glaciers of Malka Parbat and Makra Peak and the waters of Saiful Muluk Lake feed the river. It passes through Jalkhand and meets the Jhelum River at Rarra. The drainage area of the river is 2,535 km^2, with elevation ranging from 600 to 5,000 m.[35] It is one of the biggest tributaries of the Jhelum River Basin and the only main tributary situated entirely in Pakistan's territory. Snowmelt from the Kunhar Basin contributes 65% of the total discharge of the Kunhar River and 20-40% of the Jhelum River at Mangla.[36]

217. Although, the Kunhar River discharges into the Jhelum River, flow changes due to the Project will not result in flow changes in the Jhelum River due to Patrind HPP downstream of the Project.

218. The Kunhar River has a steep gradient and flows through narrow gorges through much of its length. The bed elevation plot of the Kunhar River and its key tributaries are shown in **Exhibit 4-38.**

219. **Flow Regime:** The Kunhar River had gauging stations installed by the Surface Water Hydrology Project (SWHP), WAPDA. Gauging stations in the vicinity of the Project are shown in **Exhibit 4-37.** Gari Habibullah (1960-1994) and Naran (1960-2005). stations were closed and moved to and Talhata in 1995 and Kaghan in 2009 respectively.

220. Data from the Gari Habibullah gauging station was selected as the primary source of data due to its location and long-term data availability. Furthermore, data from Talhata (which is 2 km upstream from the Gari Habibullah station) was appended to the Gari Habibullah data by adopting a catchment ratio approach shown below to create a 51-year record of gauging data (from 1960 to 2010):

$$Flow_{Gari\ Habibullah} = 1.01 \times Flow_{Talhata})$$

221. In the Feasibility Study, it was noted that the flow data was found missing for years 1993 and October and November 2005. Hence a relationship between Naran and Gari Habibullah was developed using the mean daily flows for the years 1960 to 1992, to estimate the missing year data for the year 1993 and for October and November 2005. The relationship[37] used is shown below:

$$Q_G = -0.0054Q_N^2 + 2.6158Q_N + 5.6281 \qquad R^2 = 0.9798$$

222. Where Q_G is the flow at Gari Habibullah and Q_N is the flow at the Naran stream gauging station. Monthly average flows at each gauging station are shown in **Exhibit 4-39.** As can be observed peak flows are observed during June on the river throughout the river.

223. **Temperature Regime:** The Kunhar River has two temperature regimes as illustrated in **Exhibit 4-40.** Upstream of Kaghan, the water is cooler with average summer temperatures of 8-10 C whereas downstream of Kaghan temperatures are higher and near 12-13 C. The Jhelum River at its confluence with the Kunhar has a temperature of 16-17ºC and the cooler waters of the Kunhar have a moderating influence on the Jhelum.

35 Mahmood R, Jia S, Babel M. S., January 16, 2016, Potential Impacts of Climate Change on Water Resources in the Kunhar River Basin, *Water, Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute*, Basel, Switzerland
36 Ibid
37 Feasibility Study of Project 2013

Exhibit 4-37: Kunhar River Catchment

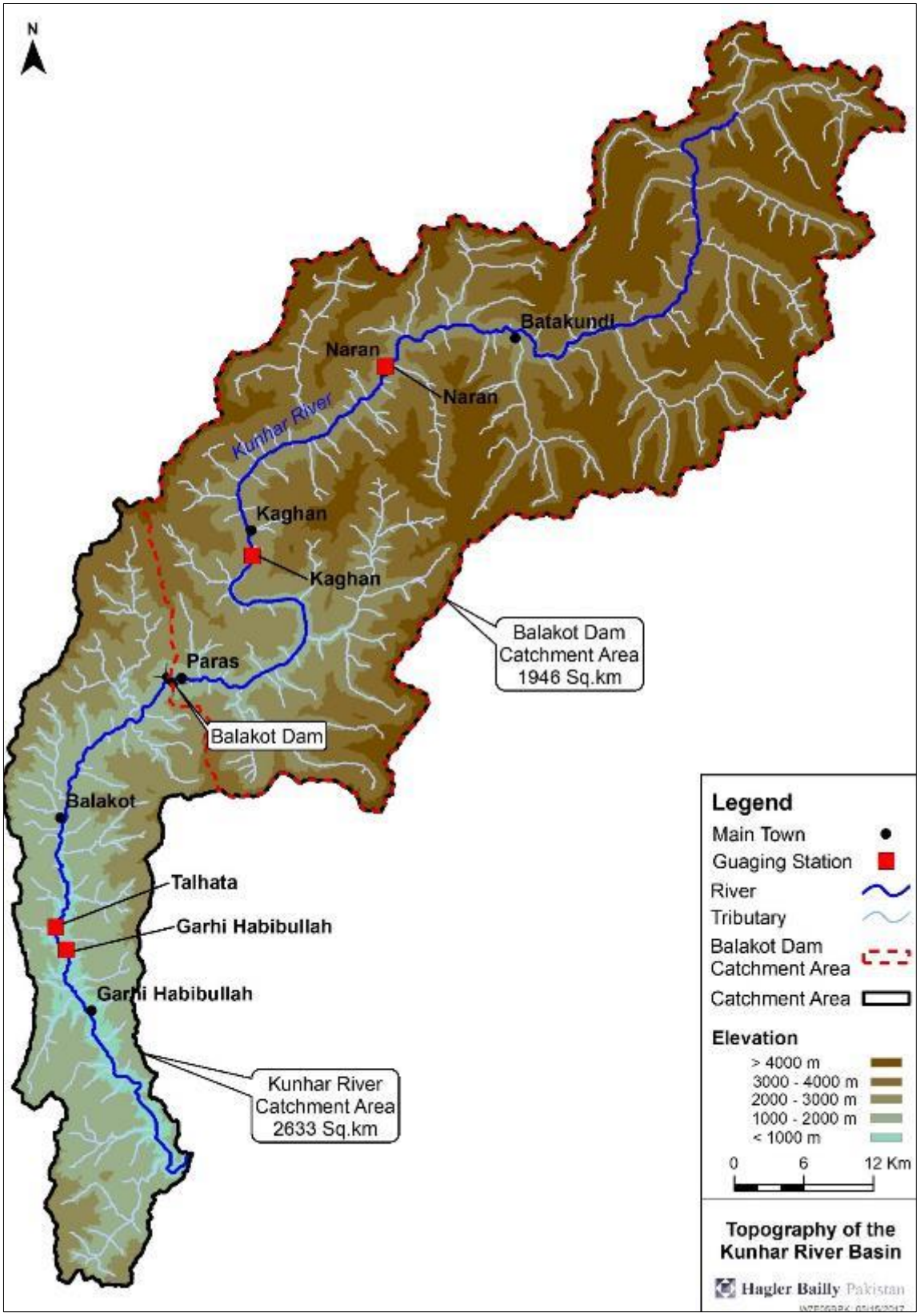


Exhibit 4-38: Kunhar River Bed Elevation

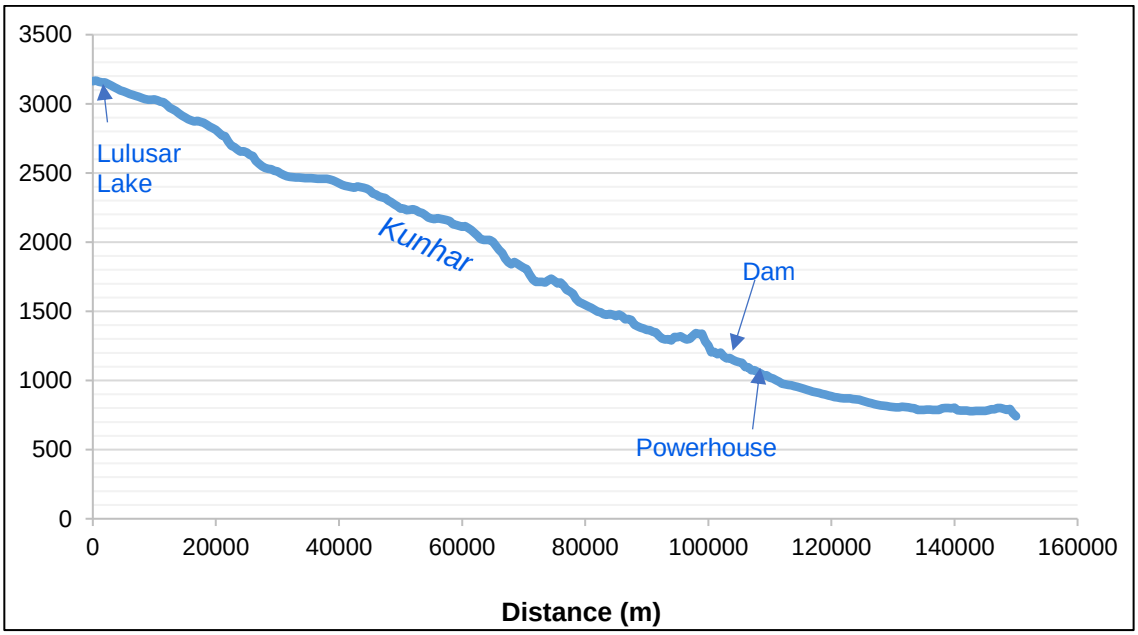


Exhibit 4-39: Daily Average Flow along Kunhar River

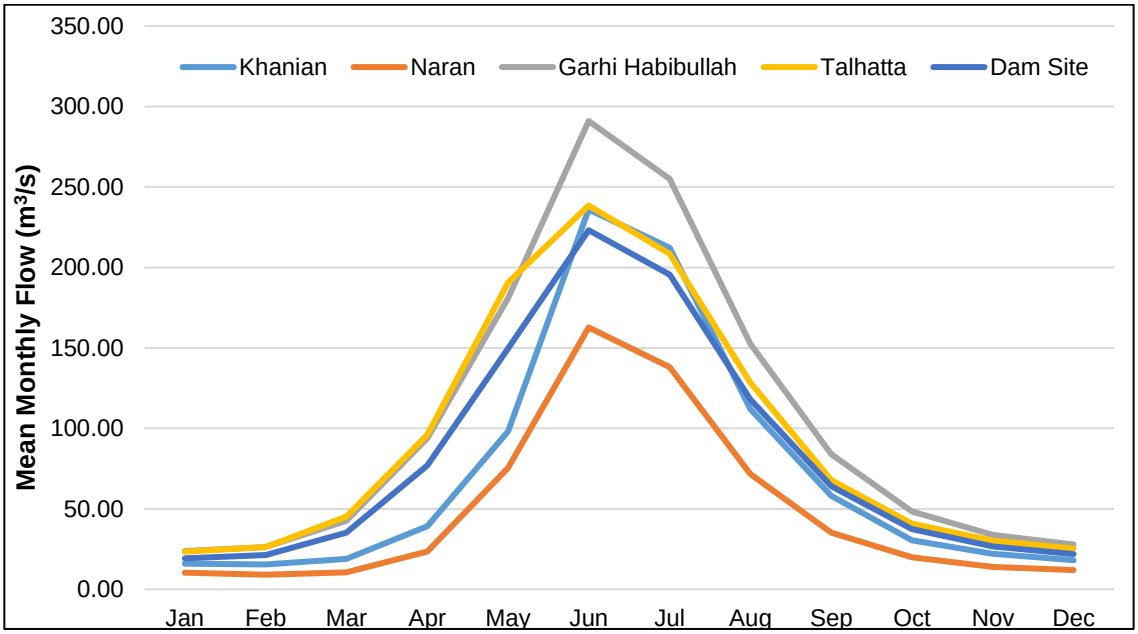
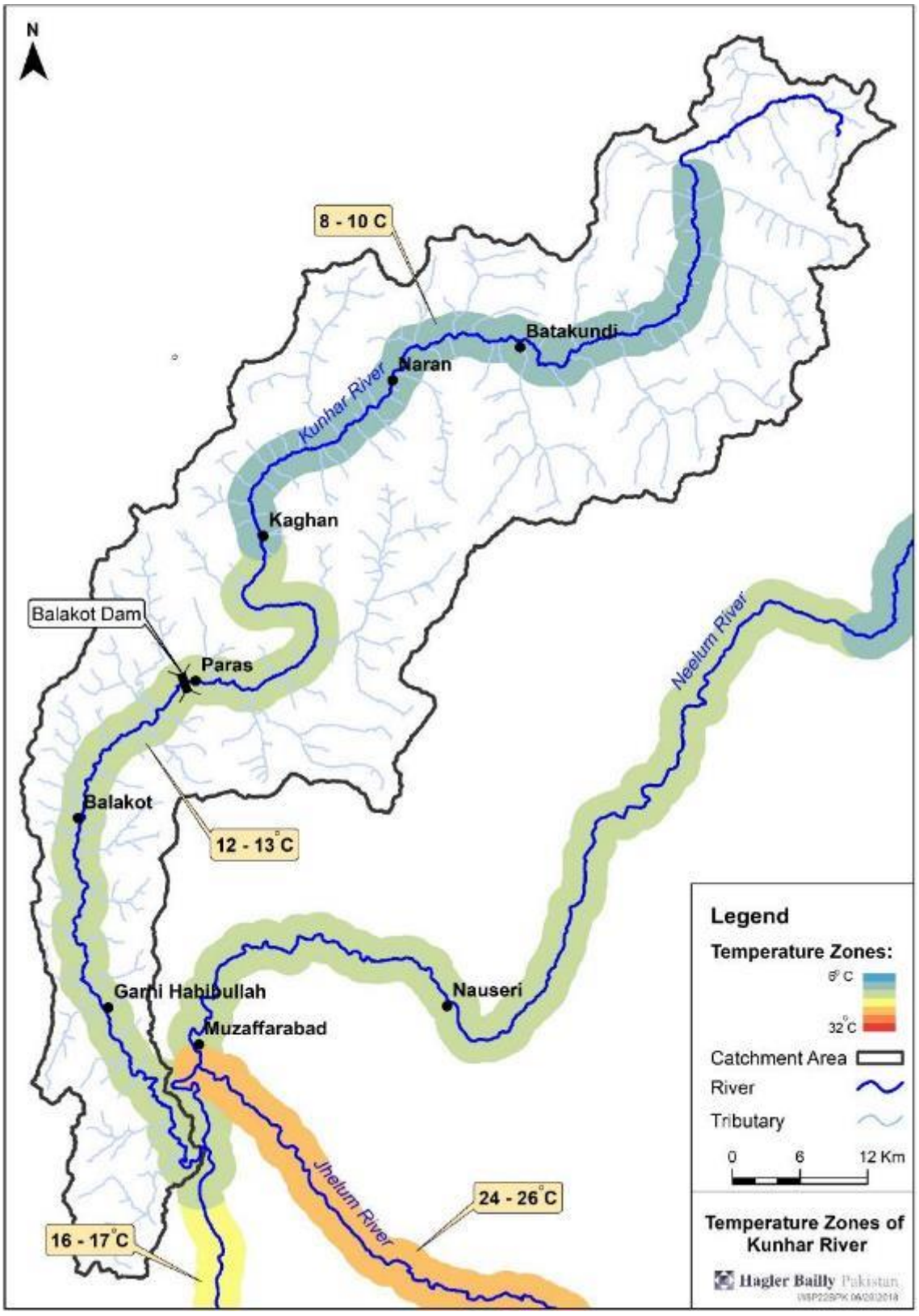


Exhibit 4-40: Temperature Zones of Kunhar River



4.1.7.2 Dam Site Hydrology

224. The hydrology at the dam site is typical of Himalayan rivers, characterized by peak flows in the month of June associated with melting of snow at higher elevations in the catchment, followed by declining flows in the summer supported by monsoon rainfall and continuing snowmelt in the months of July and August. The dry or low-flow winter season typically extends from October through February when the flows are reduced to the order of one-sixth of the peak in the month of June.

225. The Project site hydrology based on the Feasibility Study is summarized below. The daily average flow at the dam site is shown in **Exhibit 4-39**. Annual run-off frequencies at the dam site are summarized in **Exhibit 4-41** while flood frequencies at the dam and powerhouse sites are summarized in **Exhibit 4-42**. Median values of hydrology parameters of ecological importance are presented in **Exhibit 4-43**. These are calculated via DRIFT (for details see Environmental Flow Assessment Report in **Volume C** of the EIA report).

Exhibit 4-41: Flow Exceedance Frequency at Dam Site

Exceedance Time (%)	Driest Year (2001)	Wettest Year (1992)	Average Flow Year (1963)	Mean Daily Flows (1960-2010)	All Daily Flows (1960-2010)
100	11.4	18.1	16.8	19.6	6.5
90	13.7	23.5	19.1	20.9	19.4
80	16.7	30.4	23.7	23.6	23
70	20.8	55.8	28.3	28.3	27.3
60	23.8	68.2	34.1	37.1	34.3
50	31.1	108.3	41.6	50.3	48.6
40	40.1	143.5	70.5	78.3	73
30	55.4	172.2	112.8	120.6	108.4
20	73.6	218.1	150.2	171.1	154.5
10	104.7	274.4	232.1	221	215.9
–	182.3	1388.6	331.1	252.1	1388.6

Exhibit 4-42: Flood Frequency

Return Period (Years)	Floods at Project Dam Site (m^3/s)	Floods at Project Powerhouse Site (m^3/s)
2	414	447
5	752	813
10	1,060	1,146
50	1,887	2,040
100	2,280	2,466
500	3,263	3,529
1,000	3,714	4,016
10,000	5,312	5,745
Probable Maximum Flood	5,702	

Exhibit 4-43: Hydrology Parameters of Ecological Importance in Low Flow Section

Parameter	Baseline Value
Mean annual runoff (m^3/s)	90.5
Dry: minimum 5-day discharge (m^3/s)	17.4
Wet season: peak 5-day discharge (m^3/s)	319.6
Dry season: onset (calendar week)	43
Wet season: onset (calendar week)	16
Dry season: duration (days)	175
Wet season: duration (days)	133

4.1.7.3 Community Water Supply Census (2017-19)

226. A census was carried out to map the community water resources for villages near Project facilities. A 500 m buffer around the underground headrace tunnel in the uphill direction and up to the Kunhar River in the downward direction was demarcated for the survey to account for the distance to which the impact of the tunnel on groundwater might extend. This area and the surveyed water resource infrastructure are shown in **Exhibit 4-44**. The complete census results are presented in **Appendix D.**

227. **Methodology and Sampling Locations:** During the census, mountain springs were documented. The location and water quality at the origin of the spring was noted. The following key information was collected at each water source.

- Spring location (village name, neighborhood (if applicable), and geographical coordinates.
- Ground elevation concerning datum (mean sea level) to the accuracy of the GPS.
- Spring usage for:
  - approximate water extraction rate
  - approximate number of users
  - water extraction method
- Basic chemical parameters (measured on site): pH, electrical conductivity (EC), and temperature.
- Time and date of measurement.
- Pictures

228. **Results and Analysis:** During the 2017-19 environmental studies, a total of 70 springs were identified and characterized within the hydro-census area. Of the 70 springs, one was observed completely dried since the 2005 earthquake.

229. Small tanks are typically built around springs to store water and act as constant heads for water supply pipelines, or such that communities can manually draw water from the tank. Images depicting the water infrastructure are shown in **Exhibit 4-45**.

230. A detailed summary of the results is provided in **Exhibit 4-46**. Based on the pH and electrical conductivity, the water is fresh and potable.

231. The total number of households relying on the springs within the area covered by the hydro census is 1,905. The springs are the sole supply for the majority of households for potable water. 50% of active water sources are used to supply drinking water to livestock as well.

232. During the 2005 earthquake, the drinking water supply infrastructure for many communities within the Study Area was largely damaged. The communities reported that some springs also dried up after the earthquake.

Exhibit 4-44: Hydro-census Locations (2017-19)

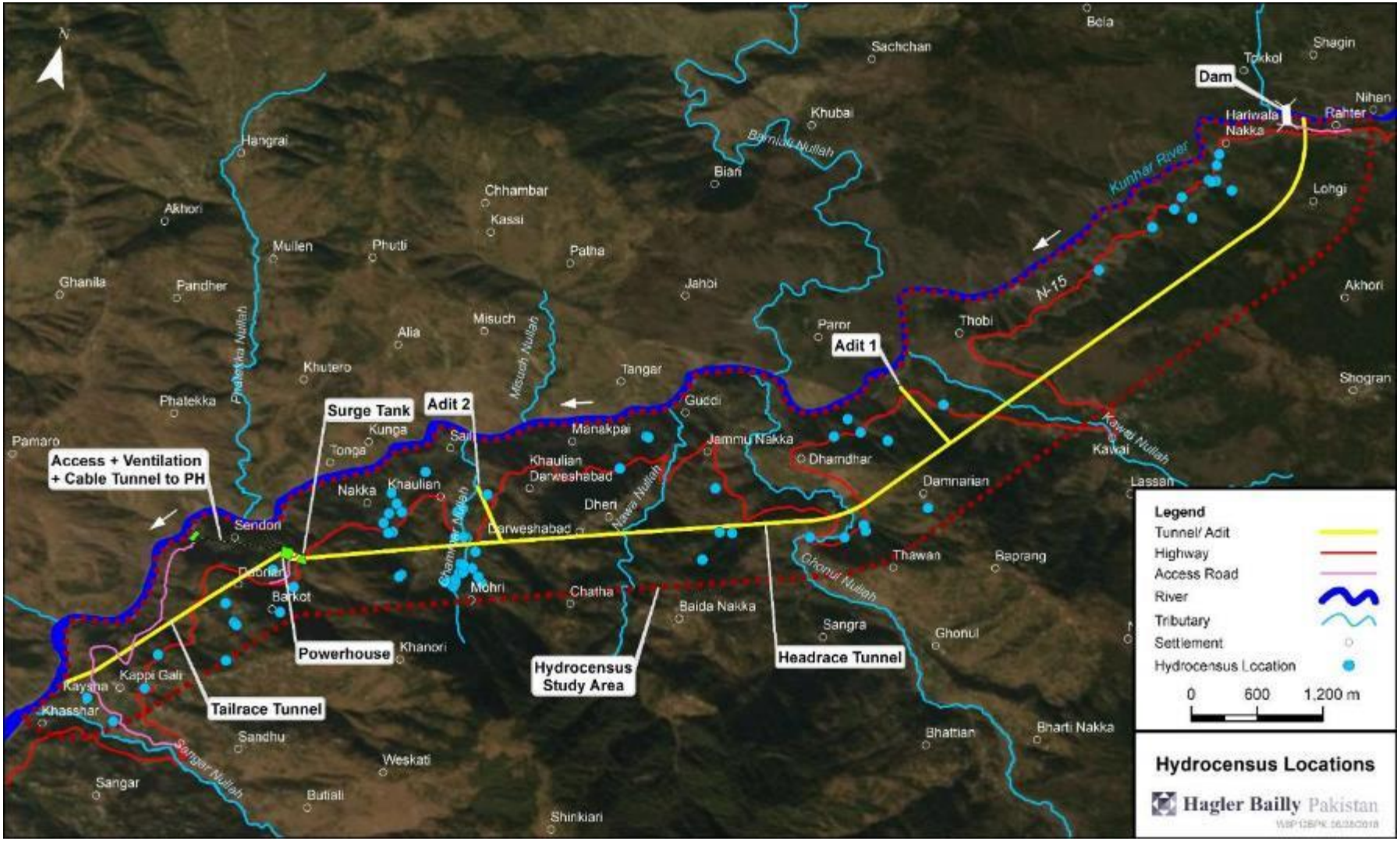


Exhibit 4-45: Photographs of Water Resource Infrastructure



Spring outlet at S-98



Spring outlet and collection structure at S-4



Spring outlet and collection structure at S-94



Spring outlet and collection structure at S-5



Free-flowing spring at S-7



Spring outlet and collection structure at S-10

Exhibit 4-46: Summary of Mountain Spring and Borehole Census Results

Parameter Group	Parameter	Value
Number Surveyed	Mountain Springs	70
Status	Active	68
	Inactive	2
Elevation (m amsl)	Minimum	1,126
	Mean	1,413
	Median	1,392
	Maximum	1,807

Parameter Group	Parameter	Value
pH	Minimum	7.3
	Mean	8.0
	Median	8.1
	Maximum	8.5
Electrical Conductivity (µS/cm)	Minimum	222
	Mean	349
	Median	344
	Maximum	505
Temperature (˚C)	Minimum	12.0
	Mean	16.9
	Median	17.0
	Maximum	23.0
Average age of spring	Pre-1950 (i.e. more than 67 years)	72%
	Pre-2005 earthquake (i.e. between 67 and 12 years)	24%
	Post 2005 earthquake (i.e. less than 12 years)	1%
	Age not available	3%
Water use	Human drinking	77%
	Human other uses	66%
	Livestock use	50%
Household water usage (L/day) *Not counting dry springs*	Minimum	-
	Mean	252
	Median	200
	Maximum	1,000
Households using water (households per spring)	Minimum	-
	Mean	28
	Median	8
	Maximum	500
Livestock water use (livestock per spring	Minimum	-
	Average	32
	Median	6
	Maximum	200
Extraction method (# of springs)	Manual	31
	Pipe	44
	Both Manual and Pipe	7
	Motor	0

Note: The analysis also includes springs that flow only during selected months of the year

4.1.7.3.1 Hydro-census Survey (2024)

233. While adopting a similar methodology as stated above, and with the assistance of the PMC, the EPC Contractor conducted an updated hydro-census survey in July 2024.

234. In this survey, a total of 61 springs were identified within the hydro-census area. Out of these 61 springs, 6 springs may potentially be affected by the project execution. Detailed survey results, the spring locations, and the project's potential impacts on each spring have been given in **Appendix D (Exhibit D.2)** of Volume B of the EIA report.

4.1.7.4 Demand for River Water for Other Uses

235. River water is not used for irrigation as the slopes on the river bank are steep, the cost of pumping water to agricultural lands located at elevations above the river is high, and agriculture depends on rain and water available from streams flowing down the mountain slopes. There is no large or medium-scale industry that depends on water, and the level of industrialization is also very low. River water is not suitable for drinking as it is contaminated by fecal coliform, as communities use water from springs for drinking purposes. Livestock is also mainly dependent on spring water and water from open mountain streams flowing down the slopes. River water can be turbid in seasons, and the use of river water by livestock is limited to a relatively small fraction of the total households that are located close to the river. These uses are insignificant in comparison to the total flow of the river. Quantification of river water use was therefore not considered to be necessary. Identifications of community sources of drinking water, mainly springs, that could be potentially impacted by the project were carried out in detail and are described in the previous section.

4.1.7.5 Water Quality

236. Water quality samples from Kunhar River and community springs were collected and analyzed to establish baseline conditions for surface and groundwater.

4.1.7.5.1 Water Quality Tests (2017)

237. **Methodology and Sampling Locations:** A total of seven samples and two quality control duplicates were collected and analyzed. Of these, four surface water samples were collected and analyzed from different sections of the Kunhar River and one from a main tributary. Two were collected from community springs located along the headrace tunnel of the Project. **Exhibit 4-47** describes the sample locations and rationale for their selection. The locations are shown in **Exhibit 4-48**. The detailed methodology adopted for sample collection is presented in **Appendix E**.

238. Water was sampled in February and April 2017. Samples taken in February were sent to SUPARCO for metals and HBP Lab for the remaining parameters, whereas samples collected in April were sent to ALS Malaysia for metals, Excel Labs Islamabad for microbiology and HBP Lab Islamabad for the remaining parameters. On-site water quality testing was also carried out with hand-held meters for pH, conductivity, temperature, and dissolved oxygen.

239. **Results and Analysis:** The results of the river water quality analysis are summarized in **Exhibit 4-49**. The complete results are given in **Appendix E**.

240. Key observations based on the results are as follows.

- All the water quality parameters (except microbiology) are within NEQS and WHO drinking water standards.
- All river and tributary water samples were found bacteriologically contaminated and unsatisfactory for drinking due to fecal contamination. Of the two springs tested, one contained bacteriological contamination while the other was satisfactory for drinking.
- Fifteen metals were analyzed for metal content at each sampling location. Results of the analyzed metals are found within permissible levels for drinking water NEQS. However, the reported aluminum value at location W4 is the highest among all samples and exceeds both the NEQS and WHO standards. This can be attributed to higher colloidal particles in river water.
- No major differences were found in the water quality at all sampling locations.

Exhibit 4-47: Sampling Locations for Surface and Groundwater Quality (2017)

ID	Coordinates	Description	Notes and Justification	Dates of Sampling
W1	33° 39' 38.1"N 73° 28' 18.1" E	Upstream of Project Dam, Kunhar River	Background river water conditions	Feb. 28, 2017
W2	34° 35' 02.3" N 73° 21 44.0" E	Near Sangar village, Kunhar River	Kunhar River before Balakot town (upstream of Balakot)	Feb. 28, 2017
W3	34° 29' 12.9" N 73° 21' 20.9" E	Near Tarana village, Kunhar River	Kunhar River after Balakot town (downstream of Balakot)	Feb. 28, 2017
W4	34° 26' 38.6" N 73° 21' 32.0" E	Talhatta gauging station, Kunhar River	Reported use of river water by local residents	Apr. 14, 2017
W5	34° 37' 54.0" N 73° 26' 34.1" E	Kawai Nullah	Tributary water quality baseline conditions	Apr. 14, 2017
W6	33° 37' 47.6" N 73° 25' 45.8" E	Community spring near Kawai	Spring water quality along the headrace tunnel	Apr. 14, 2017
W7	33° 35' 36.6" N 73° 22' 22.4" E	Community spring near Kappi Gali	Spring water quality along the headrace tunnel	Apr. 14, 2017
W8	33° 37' 47.6" N 73° 25' 45.8" E	Duplicate of W6	Quality control sample	Apr. 14, 2017

Exhibit 4-48: Water Quality Sampling Locations (2017)

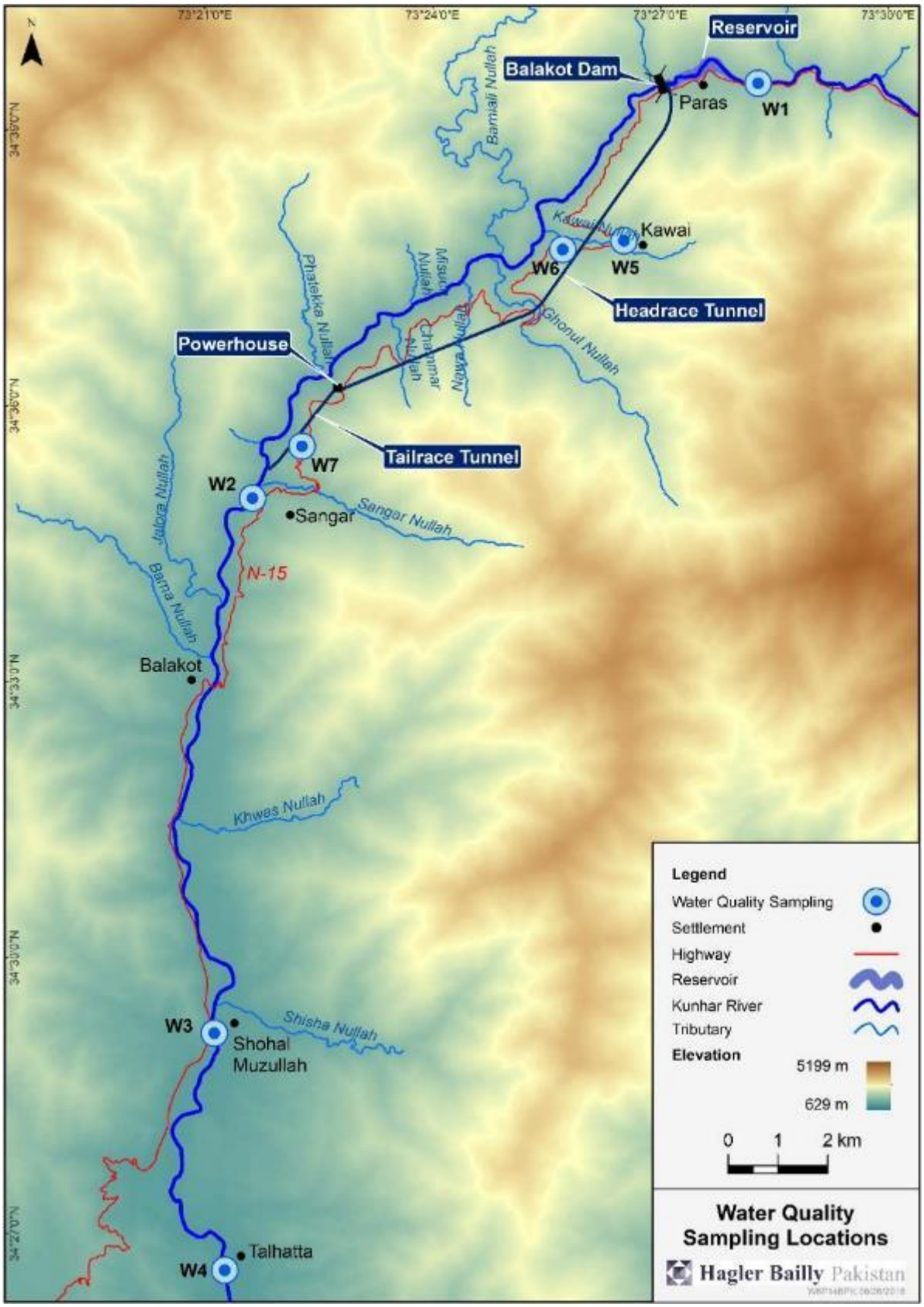


Exhibit 4-49: Water Quality Test Results

Parameter	Unit	LOR	WHO Guideline	NEQS for Drinking Water	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7	W8
Field Tests												
Temperature	°C	1	–	–	7.5	8.2	9.2	14.8	14.8	14.5	18.5	14.5
DO	mg/l	0.1	–	–	11.2	11.5	11.5	10.7	9.6	7.6	7.8	7.6
EC	µS/cm	1	–	–	260	312	285	218	348	472	363	473
General Parameter												
TDS	mg/l	10	<1,000	<1,000	194	218	208	130	178	322	206	323
pH		0.1	6.5 – 8.5	6.0 – 8.5	8.2	8.4	8.5	8.2	8.5	7.5	8.2	7.5
TSS	mg/l	4	–	–	–	43.5	40.5	107	15	<4	<4	<4
BOD	mg/l	5	–	–	<5	<5	<5	5.3	5.6	<5	<5	<5
COD	mg/l	5	–	–	<5	<5	5.3	10.4	11.8	<5	<5	<5
Turbidity	NTU	0/0.01*	<5	<5	1.66	4.83	4.72	15	6	4	6	4
Nitrate	mg/l	0.1/0.01*	50	50	0.025	0.047	0.053	0.28	0.23	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
Phosphate	mg/l	0.1/0.02*	–	–	<0.02	<0.02	<0.02	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
Metals (Total) and Major Cations												
Aluminum	µg/L	1	200	200	37	82	95	220	74.2	18.1	3.6	18.1
Antimony	µg/L	1	20	5	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
Arsenic	µg/L	1	10	50	<1	6	5	1.2	3	<1	7.9	<1
Barium	µg/L	1	700	700	7	15	18	27.9	87.3	38.8	300	36.8
Boron	µg/L	1	300	300	11	19	16	<1	4.7	16.3	<1	14.7
Cadmium	µg/L	1	3	10	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
Chromium	µg/L	1	50	50	<1	5	8	1.2	<1	<1	<1	<1

Parameter	Unit	LOR	WHO Guideline	NEQS for Drinking Water	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7	W8
Lead	µg/L	1	10	50	<1	<1	<1	1	3.3	<1	<1	<1
Manganese	µg/L	1	500	500	<1	21	24	79.3	10.2	<1	<1	<1
Mercury	µg/L	1	1	1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
Nickel	µg/L	1	20	20	<1	7	9	3.5	<1	<1	<1	<1
Silver	µg/L	1	–	–	7	9	10	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
Tin	µg/L	1	–	–	–	–	–	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
Selenium	µg/L	1	10	10	<1	<1	<1	–	–	–	–	–
Zinc	mg/l	0.1	3	5	–	–	–	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
Microbiology												
MPN of Coliforms:	No./100 ml			–	–	–	–	–	18+	1+	18+	1+
MPN of E.Coli	No./100 ml			–	–	–	–	–	18+	0	18+	0

Note:

LOR = Level of Reporting, DO = Dissolved Oxygen, EC = Electrical Conductivity, TDS = Total Dissolved Solids

TSS = Total Suspended Solids, BOD = Biological Oxygen Demand, COD = Chemical Oxygen Demand, MPN = Most probable number

mg/l = milligram per liter, µg/L = microgram per liter, NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Unit µS/cm = microsiemen per centimeter

" – "means that standards are not defined for this parameter or the parameter was not analyzed, * First LOR is for W1, W2, and W3. Second LOR is for remaining samples

4.1.7.5.2 Water Quality Tests (2022)

241. **Methodology and Sampling Locations:** During the updated baseline instrumental environmental monitoring carried out in 2022, drinking and the Kunhar River water samples were collected from the predetermined locations as showin in **Exhibit 4-19** and were tested in the laboratory.

242. APHA standard methods used for the sampling, and preservation of water whereas the following standards methods were used for analysis.

- American Water Works Association (AWWA) and
- American Public Health Association (**APHA**)

243. **Drinking Water Analysis:** The drinking water samples were collected from six locations and anaylised in the laboratray through the aforementioned standard methods. The results obtained are given in **Exhibit 4-50**.

244. As evident from the updated baseline results of the drinking water sources in the Project area, almost all the monitored parameters fall within the guiding values of WHO and NSDWQ. Also, almost, similar trend of the results was recorded during the February 2017 drinking water monitoring whereby only microbiological contamination was observed in some instances.

245. **Surface Water Analysis:** For the Kunhar River water monitoring, samples were collected from three locations i.e. Dam site (upstream of temporary diversion dam, just downstream of the Sukki Kinari HPP tailrace), Tailrace upstream (Barkot), and downstream side of the project residential colony area. The objective of the Kunhar River water monitoring was to: (i) establish baseline water quality at undisturbed reference points; (ii) assess cumulative impacts of tributary inflows; and to (iii) evaluate potential construction-phase influences on riverine ecosystems. The results obtained are given in **Exhibit 4-51**.

Exhibit 4-50: Drinking Water Quality Test Results (2022)

S/No	Parameters	Standard Method	Units	WHO	NSDWQ	Sampling Points					
						Dam Site	Adit 1	Adit 2	Adit 3	Powerhouse	GRC Camp
						Results					
1.	pH	APHA-4500H+ B	--	6.5-8.5	6.5-8.5	7.4	7.7	7.3	7.7	7.5	7.7
2.	Temperature	---	°C	---	----	7	6	8	8	7	7
3.	Taste & Odor	In-house	--	Non-Objectionable	Non Objectionable	Non Objectionable	Non Objectionable	Non Objectionable	Non Objectionable	Non Objectionable	Non Objectionable
4.	Color	APHA-2120 B/C	TCU	≤ 15	<15	4	6	5	6	10	6
5.	Turbidity	APHA-2130 B	NTU	<5	<5	3	4	4	4	4	3
6.	Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	APHA-2540 C	mg/l	< 1000	<1000	359	381	363	377	402	384
7.	Total Hardness as $CaCO_3$	APHA-2340 C	mg/l	-------	<500	294	217	261	258	316	347
8.	Nitrate (NO_3)	APHA-4500NO3 B	mg/l	50	≤50	2.2	1.9	1.03	1.06	1.2	1.46
9.	Nitrite (NO_2)	APHA-4500NO2 B	mg/l	3	≤3	0.04	0.06	0.07	0.08	0.37	0.58
10.	Arsenic (As)	APHA-3500As B	mg/l	0.01	≤0.05	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.
11.	Nickel (Ni)	ASTM E3047-16	mg/l	0.02	≤0.02	0.001	0.003	0.005	0.008	0.009	0.006
12.	Antimony (Sb)	APHA-3500Sb B	mg/l	0.005	<0.005	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.
13.	Chloride (Cl)	APHA-4500Cl- B	mg/l	250	<250	128	131	138	129	105	117
14.	Chlorine	APHA-4500 CL	mg/l		0.5-1.5	0.2	0.09	0.1	0.03	0.1	0.05
15.	Lead (Pb)	APHA-3500 Pb-B	mg/l	0.01	≤0.05	0.006	0.001	0.004	0.005	0.003	N.D
16.	Fluoride	APHA-4500F- C	mg/l	1.5	≤1.5	0.73	0.58	0.86	0.75	0.91	0.64
17.	Aluminium	APHA-3500 Al	mg/l	≤ 0.2	≤0.2	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.
18.	Manganese (Mn)	APHA-3500 MN-B	mg/l	0.5	≤0.5	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.
19.	Cadmium (Cd)	APHA-3500 Cd-B	mg/l	0.003	0.01	N.D	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.
20.	Barium (Ba)	APHA-3500 Ba B	mg/l	0.3	0.7	0.16	0.08	0.12	0.16	0.11	0.2

S/No	Parameters	Standard Method	Units	WHO	NSDWQ	Sampling Points					
						Dam Site	Adit 1	Adit 2	Adit 3	Powerhouse	GRC Camp
						Results					
21.	Mercury (Hg)	APHA-3500 Hg-B	mg/l	0.001	≤0.001	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.
22.	Copper (Cu)	APHA- 3500 Cu-B	mg/l	2	2	0.03	0.07	0.04	N.D.	0.06	0.05
23.	Zinc (Zn)	APHA- 3500 Zn B	mg/l	3	5	1.01	1.06	1.1	1.3	1.08	1.06
24.	Boron (B)	APHA 4500 B- C	mg/l	0.3	0.3	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.
25.	Chromium (Cr)	APHA 3500 cr B	mg/l	0.05	≤0.05	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.
26.	Selenium (Se)	APHA- 3500 Se C	mg/l	0.01	0.01	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.
27.	Cyanide (CN)	APHA 4500-CN	mg/l	0.07	≤0.05	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.
28.	E-Coli	APHA:9222 D	Number/ 100 mL	Must not be detectable in any 100 ml sample	0 Number/100 ml	7	0	0	0	0	0
29.	Total Coliform	APHA:9222 B	Number/ 100 ml	Must not be detectable in any 100 ml sample	0 Number/100 ml	13	0	0	0	0	0

NSDWQ: National Standards for Drinking Water Quality
WHO: World Health Organization
ND: Not Dedected

Exhibit 4-51: Surface Water (Kunhar River) Quality Test Results (2022)

S/No	Parameters	Standard Method	Units	NEQS	Sampling Points		
					Dam Site	Tailrace	Colony Area
					Results		
1.	Temperature	-----	°C	40	5	6	4
2.	pH	APHA-4500H+ B	--	6-9	8.3	7.9	8.1
3.	Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD)	APHA-5220-D	mg/l	150	113	108	86
4.	Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD5) at 20 °C	APHA, 5210	mg/l	80	62.8	54.7	42
5.	Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	APHA-2540 C	mg/l	3500	2637	2492	1864
6.	Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	APHA-2540 D	mg/l	200	129	108	117
7.	Total Hardness	APHA-2340 C	mg/l	--	164	157	161
8.	Oil & Grease	Separation Method	mg/l	10	2.8	2	1.3
9.	Chromium (Hexa & Trivalent)	APHA-3500Cr B	mg/l	1.0	0.61	0.55	0.41
10.	Total Iron	APHA-3500-Fe-B	mg/l	8.0	3.8	3.2	2.6
11.	Chloride	APHA-4500Cl- B	mg/l	1000	256	234	209
12.	Flouride	APHA-4500F- C	mg/l	10	2.4	1.8	1.1
13.	Ammonia	ASTM-D1426-15	mg/l	40	4.9	3.7	2.9
14.	Cadmium	APHA-3500 Cd-B	mg/l	0.1	0.01	0.008	0.006
15.	Lead	APHA-3500-Pb B	mg/l	0.5	0.08	0.03	0.01
16.	Arsenic	APHA-3500As B	mg/l	1.0	N D	N D	N D
17.	Copper	APHA-3500Cu B	mg/l	1.0	0.27	N D	N D
18.	Barium	APHA-3500Ba B	mg/l	1.5	0.07	0.04	0.03
19.	Selenium	APHA- 3500 Se C	mg/l	0.5	N.D	N.D	N D
20.	Silver	APHA-3500Ag-B	mg/l	1.0	N.D	N.D	N D
21.	Manganese	APHA-3500-Mn B	mg/l	1.5	0.33	0.28	0.26

S/No	Parameters	Standard Method	Units	NEQS	Sampling Points		
					Dam Site	Tailrace	Colony Area
					Results		
22.	Zinc	APHA-3500-Zn B	mg/l	5.0	0.58	0.37	0.31
23.	Nickel	ASTM E3047-16	mg/l	1.0	0.15	0.11	0.08
24.	Boron	APHA-4500B-C	mg/l	6.0	N.D	N.D	N.D
25.	Mercury	APHA-3500 Hg-B	mg/l	0.01	N.D	N.D	N D
26.	Sulphide (S^{-2})	APHA-4500 S_2	mg/l	1.0	0.35	0.31	0.29
27.	Sulphate (SO_4)	APHA-4500-SO_4 C	mg/l	600	429	354	349
28.	An Ionic Detergent (as MBAS)	----	mg/l	20	1.1	0.9	0.4
29.	Phenolic Compound (as Phenol)	APHA-5530-D	mg/l	0.1	0.06	0.02	0.01
30.	Cyanide (as CN) total	APHA 4500-CN	mg/l	1.0	N.D	N.D	N D
31.	E-Coli	APHA:9222 D	Number/100 ml	---	Uncountable	Uncountable	Uncountable
32.	Total Coliform	APHA:9222 B	Number/100 ml	---	Uncountable	Uncountable	Uncountable

4.1.8 Ambient Air Quality

246. This section describes the current ambient air quality in the area where Project activities are proposed.

247. The pollutants selected for evaluation, based on the expected emissions from the Project activities and the level of risk to human health posed by these pollutants, are as follows.

- Sulfur dioxide (SO_2)
- Oxides of Nitrogen (NO_X)—Mainly Nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) and Nitric oxide (NO)
- Respirable particulate matter—Coarse (PM_{10})[38] and Fine ($PM_{2.5}$)[39]

4.1.8.1 Emission Sources

248. There are two main sources of emissions in the Study Area, which are discussed below.

i. **Wood/Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) burning**. Wood burning and LPG are used for cooking and heating. Burning wood is a significant source of PM_{10}, $PM_{2.5}$ whereas combustion of LPG is a significant source of NO_x but both sources also result in SO_2 emissions.

ii. **Traffic**. The combustion of petrol and diesel is a source of NO_x and SO_x emissions with diesel burnt in heavy transport vehicles being the main source of SO_2. Vehicle exhaust results in $PM_{2.5}$ emissions whereas tire movement, especially on tracks and unsealed roads results in dust emissions (PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$).

4.1.8.2 Ambient Air Monitoring (2017)

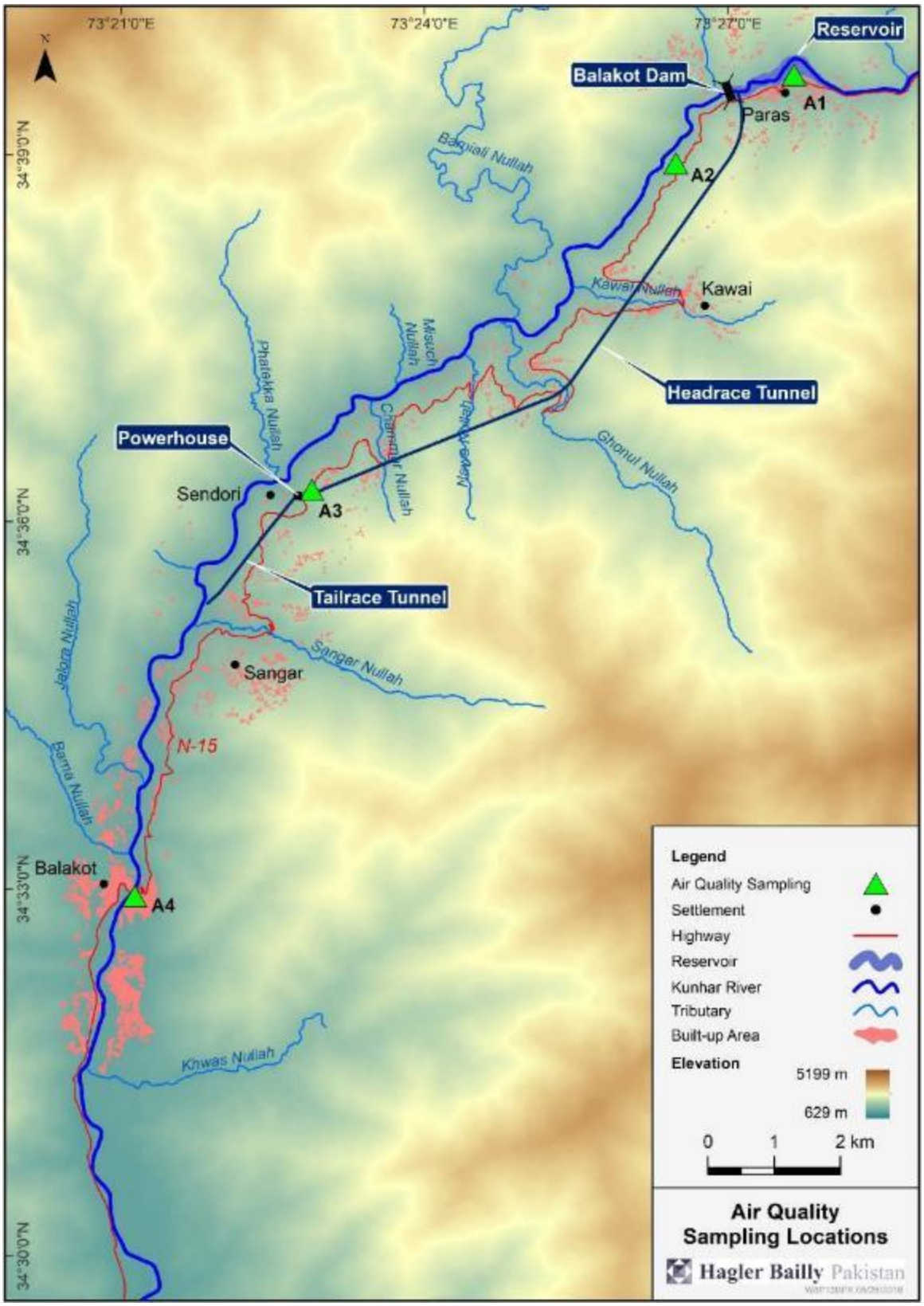
249. **Methodology and Sampling Locations :** Air quality sampling was carried out at four different locations in the Study Area between March 19 and May 8, 2017. A description of sampling locations and the rationale of selection is given in **Exhibit 4-52**. The sampling locations, along with nearby settlements and roads are shown in **Exhibit 4-53**. The detailed methodology is provided in **Appendix F**.

Exhibit 4-52: Details of Air Quality Sampling Locations (2017)

Sample ID	Coordinates	Location	Rationale for Site Selection
A1	34° 39' 41.3" N 73° 27' 39.2" E	Paras	Near the proposed labor camp in Paras
A2	34° 39' 01.1" N 73° 26' 30.9" E	Hariwala Nakka	Near the proposed dam site
A3	34° 36' 18.2" N 73° 22' 57.6" E	Nalla	Near the proposed powerhouse site
A4	34° 32' 57.2" N 73° 21' 17.1" E	Balakot	Near the proposed labor camp in Sangar
A5	34° 39' 41.3" N 73° 27' 39.2" E	Paras	Duplicate of A1

38 PM_{10} is particulate matter 10 micrometers or less in diameter
39 $PM_{2.5}$ is particulate matter 2.5 micrometers or less in diameter

Exhibit 4-53: Air Quality Sampling Locations (2017)



250. **Results and Analysis:** The air quality sampling results are summarized in **Exhibit 4-54** and the values exceeding the NEQS and IFC-EHS limits are highlighted. The complete results are produced in **Appendix F**.

Exhibit 4-54: Results of Ambient Air Quality Sampling (µg/m^3) (2017)

Sample ID	NO_x	NO_2	NO*	SO_2	PM_{10}	$PM_{2.5}$
LOR	0.033 µg of NO_x	0.01 µg of NO_2	-	0.03 µg of S	100 µg	100 µg
A1	6.9	6.1	0.8	1.8	104.7	65.2
A2	2.0	2.1	**	<1.3	78.6	52.4
A3	5.2	3.0	2.2	1.4	117.8	65.4
A4	16.8	13.8	3.0	20.1	130.9	78.5
A5 (duplicate of A-1)	7.1	5.6	1.5	<1.2	–	–
A6 (field blank)	1.5	0.4	1.1	<1.2	–	–
NEQS (annual)	**100*** **	**40**	**40**	**80**	**120[a]**	**15[a]**
NEQS (24-hour)	**140*** **	**80**	**40**	**120**	**150**	**35**
IFC (annual – interim target 1)	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**70[a]**	**35[a]**
IFC (24-hour – interim target 1)	**–**	**–**	**–**	**125**	**150**	**75**

Note:
a: annual does not apply to particulate matter data reported above
"–" means either the data is not available or the standard is not defined.
* NO results are derived by subtracting NO_2 from NO_x.
** Where nitric oxide (NO) results have not been calculated result for NO_X was lower than the result for NO_2.
*** Standards for NO_x are not defined and calculated in terms of NO_2. NO_x annual standard = annual standard of NO_2 + 1.5 × annual standard of NO. The same is true for 24-hour standards.

251. The following analysis of results is presented.

- The annual and 24-hour concentrations of SO_2, NO_x, NO_2, and NO comply with both the NEQS and IF-EHS limits. This leaves a wide room to incorporate emissions of the proposed Project. The maximum levels of SO_2, NO_x, NO_2, and NO are 20.1, 16.8, 13.8, and 3.0 µg/m^3, respectively observed at A4 (Balakot town). This is mainly due to the high traffic in the town and the concentrated use of LPG and wood for domestic purposes.
- The 24-hour PM_{10} concentration complies with both the NEQS and IFC-EHS limits at all sampling locations. The 24-hour $PM_{2.5}$ concentration exceeds the NEQS at all sampling locations however, it complies with IFC-EHS interim target 1 at all locations except at A4 (Balakot town) where it exceeds both the NEQS and IFC-EHS limits. The highest readings of PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ were recorded at A4 (Balakot town) along the N-15 highway.
- The concentration of all pollutants at A2 (near the dam site) is lowest among all sampling locations. A2 is mainly contributed by natural sources and is dominated by forests. The nearest settlement is about 780 m away from A2.

4.1.8.3 Ambient Air Monitoring (2022)

252. **Methodology and Sampling Locations:** During the updated baseline instrumental environmental monitoring undertaken in 2022, ambient air was monitored for 24 hours for particulate matters, and various gaseous emissions like CO,SO_2, NO_x at the preidentified locations as shown in **Exhibit 4-19.** The Air Quality Monitoring System (AQMS-65), employed for monitoring, is a fully integrated air monitoring station that delivers 'near reference levels' of performance parameters. With a size of large suitcase, it can measure up to 20 different gaseous, particulate pollutants, and environmental parameters simultaneously. The AQMS-65 offers optimal balance between performance and measuring criteria pollutants.

253. **Results and Analysis:** The results obtained for particulate matters and gaseous emissions are presented in **Exhibit 4-55.**

Exhibit 4-55: Results of 24 Hours Ambient Air Quality Monitoring (2022)

Sample Locations	PM_{10} (µg/m^3)	$PM_{2.5}$ (µg/m3)	CO (mg/m3)	NO (mg/m3)	NO_2 (µg/m3)	SO_2 (µg/m3)
Dam Site	63.03	13.36	0.12	6.11	7.23	5.27
Adit 1	57.9	15.93	0.13	5.09	5.56	6.15
Adit 2	68.26	15.6	0.08	4.21	4.23	5.04
Adit 3	35.42	3.36	0.19	5.17	4.65	3.19
Powerhouse	45.36	9.34	0.29	5.33	6.06	6.25
Tailrace	24.73	5.07	0.13	3.89	4.41	1.6
GRC Camp	59.03	16.1	0.54	8.55	9.57	8.13
Colony Area	31.45	5.91	0.12	2.86	3.47	1.64
NEQS Guiding Values	**150**	**35**	**5**	**40**	**80**	**120**
WHO Guiding Values	**45**	**15**	**4**	**---**	**25**	**40**

254. As evident from the results above, the PM_{10} concentration at most of the sampling points exceeds the WHO guiding values but falls well below the NEQS. The same scenario was recorded in April 2017, when instrumental monitoring was undertaken in the project area as part of the EIA study. However, the results obtained at that time are quite above the current monitoring results, which may primarily be attributed to the monitoring period. It is worthwhile to mention here that during April, there occurs a vivid increase in traffic on roads, and other construction activities in the project area as compared to the activities during December.

255. The baseline results obtained for $PM_{2.5}$ show compliance with the NEQS; however, they are in excess to the WHO guideline values at some locations. The sharp variation at some monitoring points may be due to the sampling locations. For example, the concentration at Adit 3 is quite less as compare to the GRC Camp location since the latter is in close proximity of the N-15 road while the former is in the valley, well below from the road level.

256. As is clear from the gaseous emission results presented above, all principal pollutants fall within the NEQS and WHO guideline values. More or less, a similar trend was recorded during the 2017 instrumental monitoring carried out in the project reach.

4.1.9 Traffic

257. The traffic baseline is prepared to assess the current traffic conditions on the road route that will be used for the Project related transportation of services during construction and operation of the Project. The objectives of the traffic study are to document the present traffic situation, identify existing road capacity, bottlenecks (congestion points), and potential impacts due to the Project traffic during construction and operation.

4.1.9.1 Transportation Route

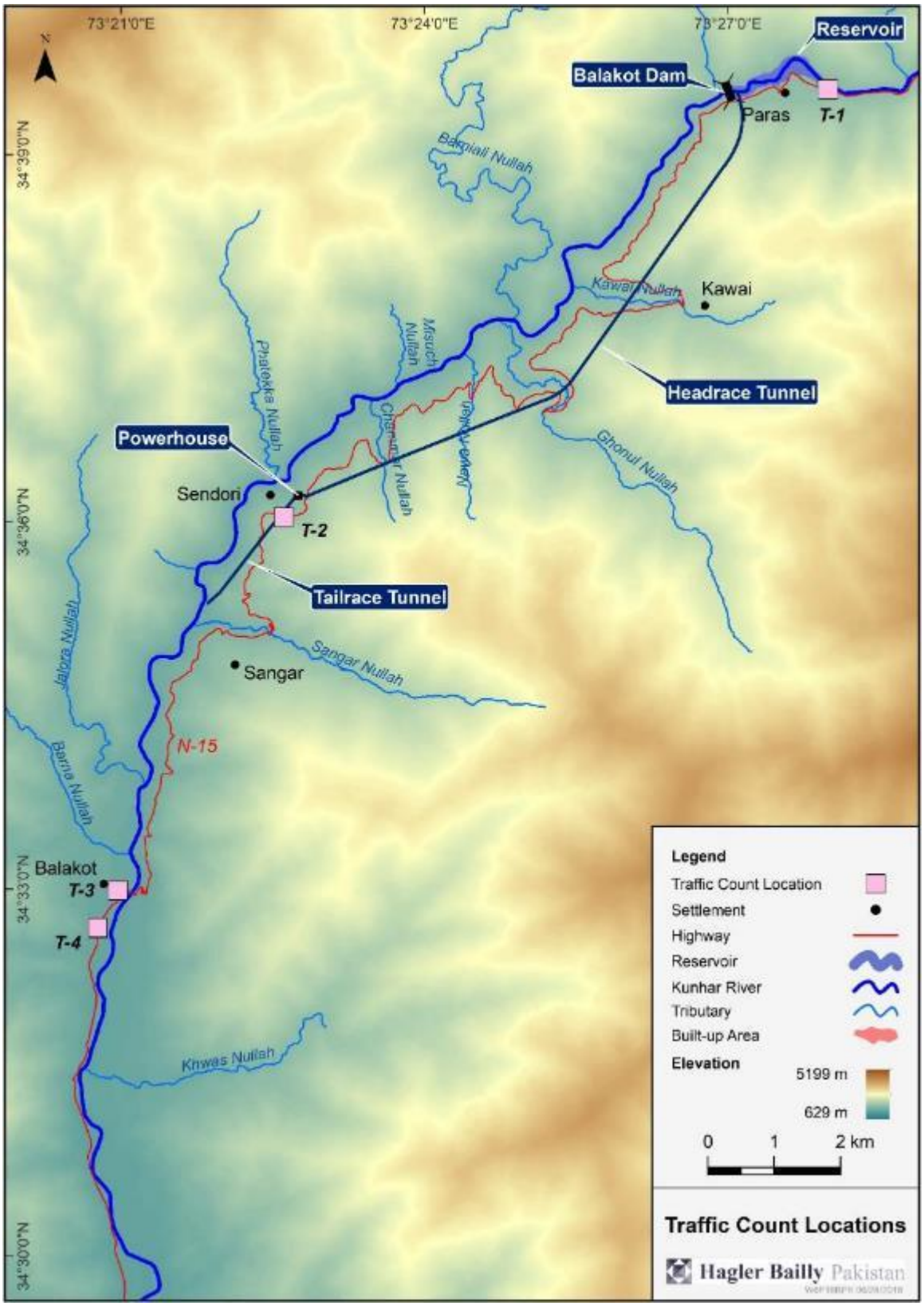
258. The transport route for the Project is described in **Section 3**. A discussion on the possible alternate routes and the reason for the selection of this route has been given in **Section 5**.

259. **Methodology and Sampling Locations:** Traffic counts were conducted at four locations listed in **Exhibit 4-56** and shown in **Exhibit 4-57.** A team of qualified surveyors was selected, and a pilot count was conducted before the actual survey. At the counting site, two people were stationed for daytime and two for nighttime to separately count the daily traffic in both directions. The traffic count was recorded over 24 hours on a weekday (May 4, 2017) and a weekend (May 7, 2017).

Exhibit 4-56: Traffic Count Locations

ID	Coordinates	Location	Rationale
T1	34° 39' 39.1" N 73° 27' 57.8" E	Paras	Traffic at the dam and reservoir site.
T2	34° 36' 06.8" N 73° 22' 52.5" E	Sendori	Traffic at the powerhouse site.
T3	34° 33' 01.8" N 73° 21' 11.7" E	Balakot market	Traffic in Balakot town
T4	34° 32' 42.1" N 73° 20' 55.2" E	Balakot	Traffic in Balakot town

Exhibit 4-57: Traffic Count Locations



260. Passenger Car Equivalent (PCE) or Passenger Car Unit (PCU) is a metric unit used to assess traffic-flow rate.[40] PCU is a measure of the relative space requirement of a vehicle compared to that of a passenger car under a specified set of roadway, traffic and other conditions. The value assigned to each of the classifications of the vehicles may depend on several factors such as:

- dimensions, power, speed, acceleration, and braking characteristics of the vehicle;
- road characteristics such as geometrics including gradients, curves, access controls, type of road: rural or urban, presence and the type of intersections;
- transverse and longitudinal clearances between vehicles moving on the road, which in turn depends upon the speeds, driver characteristics, and the classes of other moving vehicles;
- environmental and climatic conditions and;
- traffic control methods, speed limits, and barriers.

261. The PCU for different classes of vehicles is not defined universally, however, the values used here are typical for Pakistani road conditions. The PCUs are calculated based on traffic counts. **Exhibit 4-58** shows the PCU factor for each vehicle**.**

Exhibit 4-58: Two-Way Traffic at each Traffic Count Location

Vehicle	PCU Factor
Motorcycles	0.50
Auto rickshaws	0.75
Cars (sedans)	1.00
Jeeps/Pickups	1.25
Mini Bus	1.50
Bus	2.00
Truck – 2 axle	2.50
Truck – 3 axle	3.00
Truck – 4 axle	3.50
Truck – 5 axle	4.00

262. **Results and Analysis:** The summary of the two-way traffic count at the sampling locations is presented in **Exhibit 4-59**. The hourly traffic volume is graphed in **Exhibit 4-60** for weekdays and in **Exhibit 4-61** for the weekend. Detailed data is included as **Appendix G**. Key findings are presented below.

- There was an increase in traffic on the weekends for points T1 (about 25 to 30% more vehicles) and T2 (50% increase in vehicles heading to Balakot town) as they are on the transit route to tourist locations.

40 Ahuja, Amanpreet Singh (2004). *Development of passenger car equivalents for freeway merging section*

- Although the morning peak (9 am) shows a significant drop on the weekends at T3 and T4 (from 700-800 vehicles to 500-600 vehicles), the traffic volumes are still generally higher on the weekend with steady flows throughout the day.
- According to the police check post near T1, the traffic increases between 20 to 25 times the measured traffic during the peak tourist season for the months of June and July due to transit traffic heading to Naran, Kaghan, and beyond.

Exhibit 4-59: Two-Way Traffic at each Traffic Count Location (Non-Season)

Summary	Traffic point	Day Type	Bikes	Cars	Pick-up	Buses	Truck	Tractor/ Trailer	Total	%LTV	%HTV	Total PCUs
Paras to Kaghan	T1	Weekday	100	647	427	18	144	2	1,338	88%	12%	1,637
		Weekend	189	775	521	31	151	3	1,67**0**	89%	11%	1,976
Kaghan to Paras	T1	Weekday	98	623	384	8	133	9	1,255	88%	12%	1,538
		Weekend	149	846	466	30	160	1	1,652	88%	12%	1,969
Sendori to Paras	T2	Weekday	96	493	422	26	119	1	1,157	87%	13%	1,425
		Weekend	149	600	389	21	96	8	1,263	90%	10%	1,478
Paras to Sendori	T2	Weekday	71	479	341	10	98	8	1,007	88%	12%	1,239
		Weekend	147	776	427	41	162	2	1,555	87%	13%	1,882
Balakot to Dabrian	T3	Weekday	1,407	2,129	809	34	121	9	4,509	96%	4%	4,257
		Weekend	1,625	2,462	1,195	57	199	29	5,567	95%	5%	5,506
Dabrian to Balakot	T3	Weekday	921	1,727	529	34	99	8	3,318	96%	4%	3,197
		Weekend	1,064	2,498	965	35	204	24	4,790	95%	5%	4,916
Balakot to Mansehra	T4	Weekday	696	1,927	499	50	82	7	3,261	96%	4%	3,244
		Weekend	753	2,549	846	60	130	12	4,350	95%	5%	4,482
Mansehra to Balakot	T4	Weekday	1,209	2,195	1,044	54	93	11	4,606	97%	3%	4,498
		Weekend	897	1,948	859	39	123	8	3,874	96%	4%	3,902

Exhibit 4-60: Weekday Hourly Traffic PCU

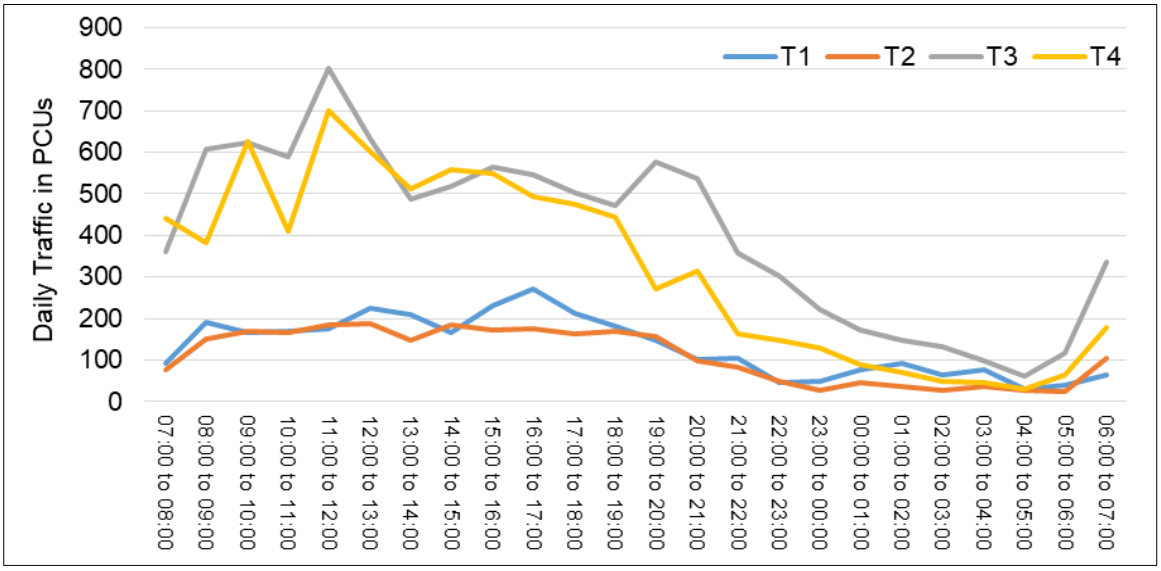
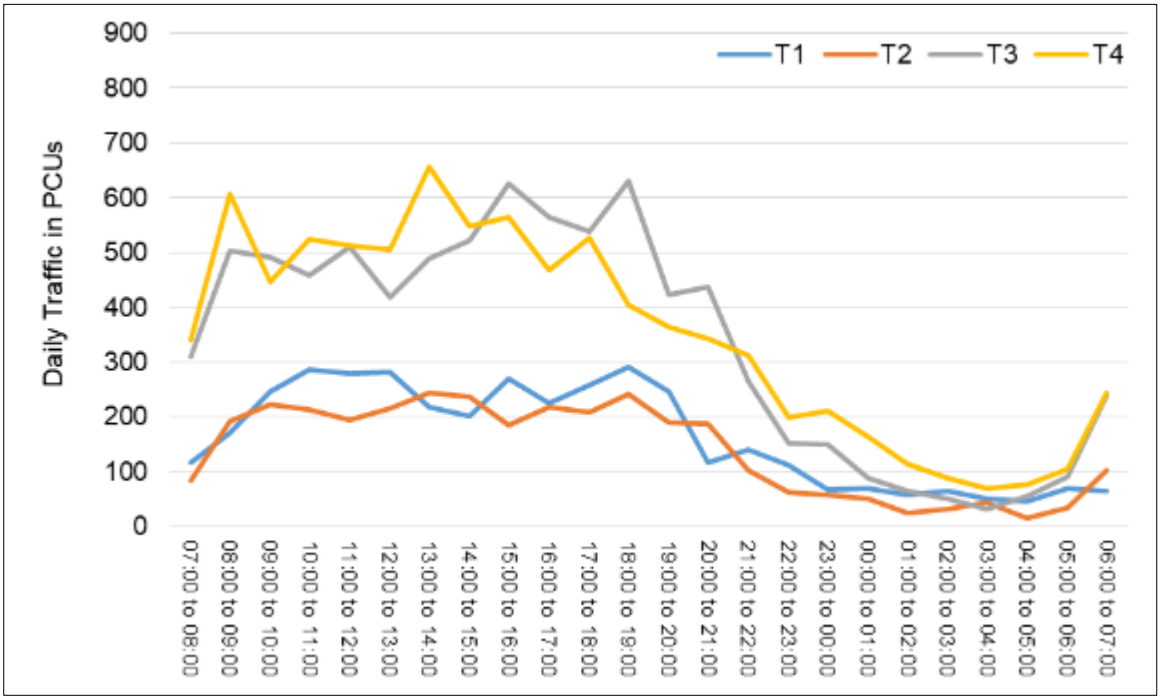


Exhibit 4-61: Weekend Hourly Traffic PCU



4.1.10 Noise Levels

263. This section defines the baseline ambient noise levels in the Study Area in a manner that can be used for the assessment of the noise impact of the proposed Project. Sound levels were measured at selected locations considered representative of the nearby receptors of possible noise pollution from the Project.

264. Noise is defined as a loud, undesired sound that interferes with normal human activities. If it affects the well-being of the surrounding community (environmental noise), it is considered a nuisance and normally has no direct health impacts. Exposure to very high noise levels (exceeding 85 dBA), particularly for prolonged periods can cause hearing loss. This level of noise is usually encountered in the workplace around construction sites and is considered an occupational hazard.

265. In general, human sound perception is such that a change in sound level of 3 dB is just noticeable, a change of 5 dB is noticeable, and an increase of 10 dB is perceived as a doubling of sound level.

266. The following is a brief description of the terminology used in this assessment.

- ***Sound*:** A vibratory disturbance created by a vibrating object, which, when transmitted by pressure waves through a medium such as air, is capable of being detected by a receiving mechanism, such as the human ear or a microphone
- ***Noise*:** Sound that is loud, unpleasant, unexpected, or otherwise undesirable
- ***Decibel (dB)*:** A unitless measure of sound on a logarithmic scale, which indicates the squared ratio of sound pressure amplitude to a reference sound pressure amplitude. The reference pressure is 20 micro-pascals
- ***A-Weighted Decibel (dB(A))*:** An overall frequency-weighted sound level in decibels, which approximates the frequency response of the human ear. The typical human ear is not equally sensitive to all frequencies of the audible sound spectrum. As a consequence, when assessing potential noise impacts on people, an electronic filter is used that de-emphasizes certain frequencies in a manner corresponding to the human ear's decreased sensitivity to low and extremely high frequencies. All of the noise levels reported in this Section are A-weighted
- ***Equivalent Sound Level (L_{eq})*:** The equivalent steady state sound or vibration level, which in a stated period, typically one hour, would contain the same acoustical or vibration energy.

4.1.10.1 Noise Monitoring (2017)

267. **Methodology and Sampling Locations:** Noise measurements were taken at four locations listed in **Exhibit 4-62** and shown in **Exhibit 4-64.**

Exhibit 4-62: Noise Sampling Locations

ID	Location	Coordinates	Dates of Survey	Distance from River (m)	Elevation Difference from River (m)	Description
N1	Paras	34° 39' 41.6" N 73° 27' 39.1" E	May 6 to 7, 2017	192	38	Small town, main road
N2	Powerhouse Site	34° 36' 10.1" N 73° 22' 42.7" E	May 4 to 5, 2017	576	201	Forest, main road
N3	Sangar	34° 34' 54.7" N 73° 22' 10.4" E	May 5 to 6, 2017	720	288	Small town, main road
N4	Balakot	34° 32' 44.3" N 73° 20' 56.0" E	May 7 to 8, 2017	210	19	Large town, main road

268. The noise levels were measured using portable Cirrus Research plc.'s sound level meter, Model CR:1720. The instrument meets the International standards IEC 61672-1:2002, IEC 660651:1979, IEC 60804:2001, IEC 61260:1995, IEC 60942:1997, IEC 61252:1993, ANSI S1.4-1983, ANSI S1.11-1986, and ANSI S1.43-1997 where applicable. The instruments have a resolution of 0.1 dB.

269. The meter was calibrated at the start of measurement at each site, using Cirrus Research plc.'s acoustic calibrator, Model: CR:514. The sound meter and calibrator were factory-calibrated on September 28, 2015. The instrument was mounted on a tripod, to avoid interference from reflecting surfaces within the immediate neighborhood, and a windshield was used in all measurements. Photographs of the sampling equipment setup are provided in **Exhibit 4-63.**

270. Noise readings were taken for 24 hours at each site between May 4 and May 8, 2017.

Exhibit 4-63: Noise Sampling Site Photographs

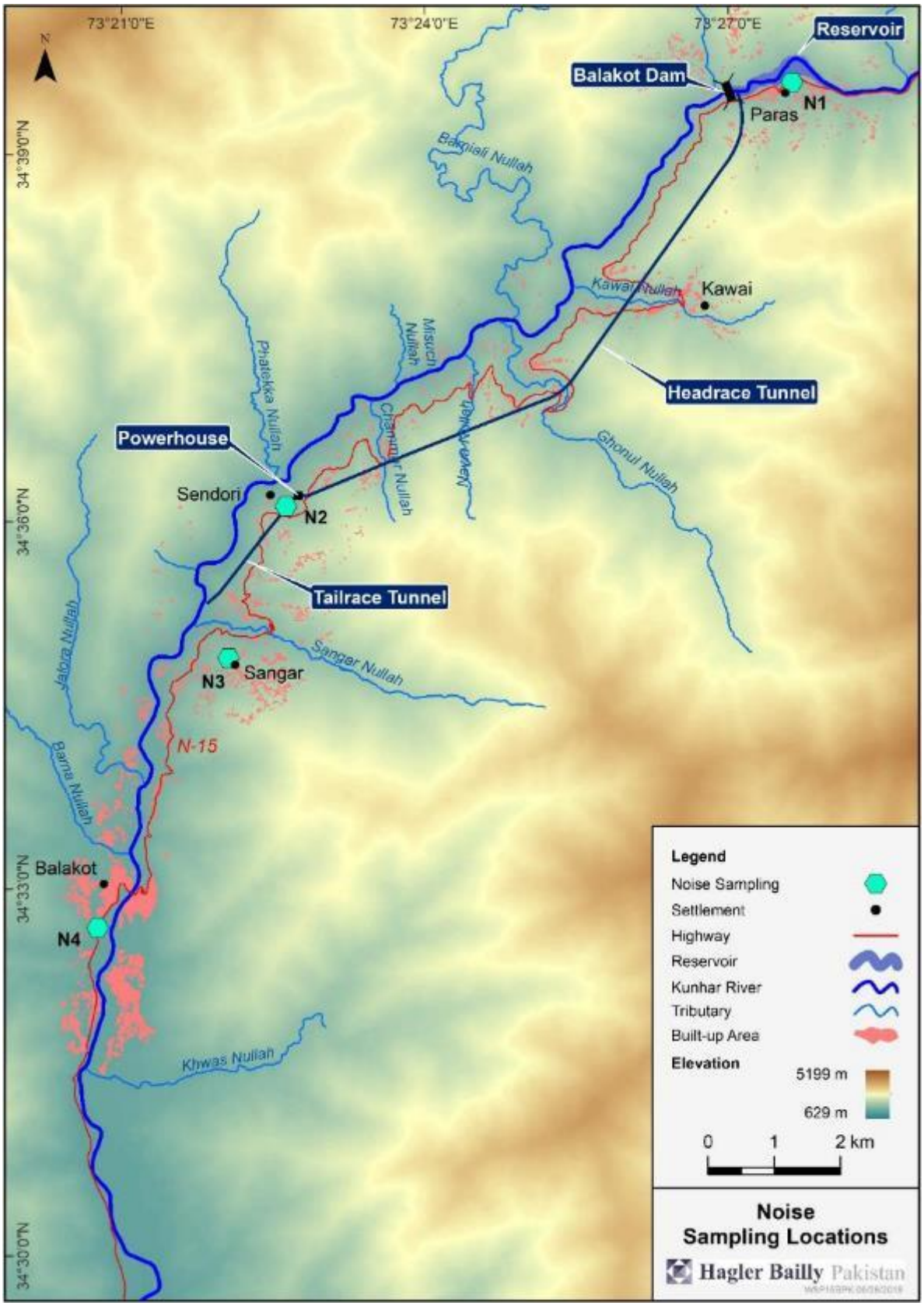


Sound meter at N1



Sound meter at N3

Exhibit 4-64: Noise Sampling Locations



271. **Results and Analysis:** A summary of the results and NEQS are provided in **Exhibit 4-65.** L_{10} and L_{90} refer to percentile noise levels that exceeded 10% and 90% of the time,

respectively. The levels are calculated excluding the 10% upper and lower extreme ranges of the noise data. Hourly variations are captured in **Exhibit 4-66**. Weather data measured during the sampling exercise is given in **Exhibit 4-67.**

Exhibit 4-65: Summary Statistics of Sound Levels during the Survey

ID	Location	24 hours (dBA)				Daytime	Nighttime
		L_{10}	L_{50}	L_{90}	L_{EQ}	L_{EQ}	L_{EQ}
N1	Paras	46.0	46.6	44.8	49.5	44.4	41.6
N2	Powerhouse site	50.1	50.0	50.2	51.5	49.8	48.6
N3	Sangar	42.0	42.3	41.5	45.3	40.2	37.5
N4	Balakot	60.1	61.1	57.9	63.5	59.1	53.4
NEQS Limits						**55**	**45**
IFC Limit						**55**	**45**

Exhibit 4-66: Hourly Noise Levels

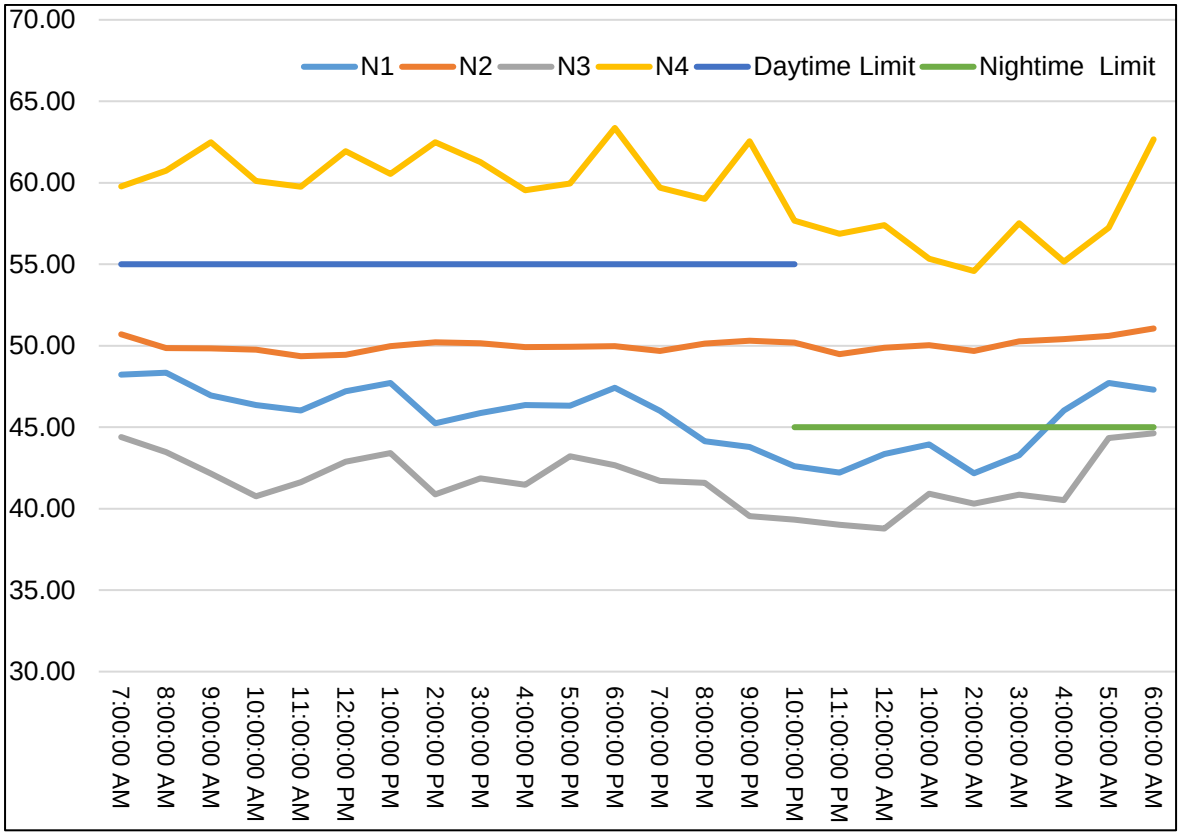


Exhibit 4-67: Weather Parameters during Noise Sampling

ID		Temperature deg C	Wind Speed (m/s)	Relative Humidity (%)	Barometric pressure (mb)
N1	Mean	23.6	0.2	49.4	870.6
N2	Mean	21.0	0.5	45.5	872.7
N3	Mean	21.0	0.5	45.5	872.7
N4	Mean	26.5	1.2	42.1	901.1

- **Small Town:** Noise levels in both the small towns of Paras (N1) and Sangar (N3) are well within NEQS noise limits and within IFC-EHS limits for most hours other than early morning hours in Paras where the night-time limits were crossed.
- **Large Town:** The noise levels at N4, which was located within the market of Balakot Town were high and exceeded both daytime and nighttime NEQS and IFC-EHS limits. Natural sources such as wind (of which the speed went up to 5.4 m/s during sampling) and river noise may also have contributed to the high noise levels.
- **Forests:** Noise levels at N2 were steady throughout the day and night at around 50 dbA as there are no varying anthropogenic sources of noise in the area. Constant sources of noise include noise from the river and wind.

4.1.10.2 Noise Monitoring (2022)

272. **Methodology and Sampling Locations:** In the year 2022, the twenty-four (24) hours noise level monitoring was carried out at the pre-identified locations as shown in **Exhibit 4-19.** Digital Sound level meter with the following specifications was employed during the noise monitoring.

- HME® 9011 Sound Levels Meter
- IEC651 Type 2 & ANISI.4TYPE2 (Japan)

Features of the Equipment

- Accuracy: ± 1.5 dB (under reference condition)
- Frequency range: 31.5 Hz to 8.5K Hz
- Linearity range: 50 dB
- Measuring level: 30 – 130 dB(A), 35 – 130 dB(C)
- Digital display: 4 digits
- Resolution: 0.1 dB
- Display: 0.5 secretary
- Bar graph: 50 dB scale at 1 dB step for monitoring current sound pressure level display period: 50 mS

273. **Results and Analysis:** The results obtained for the 24-hour noise monitoring are given in **Exhibit 4-68.**

Exhibit 4-68: Ambient Noise Monitoring Results (2022)

S/No	Monitoring Time	Unit	Sampling Points							
			Dam Site	Adit 1	Adit 2	Adit 3	Powerhouse	Tailrace Upstream	GRC Camp	Colony Area
			Results (Leq)							
1	09:00 AM	dB(A)	46.70	49.60	48.10	48.00	43.80	48.10	61.00	42.50
2	10:00 AM		46.50	49.40	47.90	47.80	43.60	47.90	60.80	43.60
3	11:00 AM		46.30	49.20	47.70	47.60	43.40	47.70	60.50	40.90
4	12:00 PM		46.10	49.00	47.50	47.40	43.20	47.50	60.30	41.70
5	01:00 PM		45.80	48.70	47.20	47.10	42.90	47.20	60.10	45.30
6	02:00 PM		45.60	48.50	47.00	46.90	42.70	47.00	59.90	44.20
7	03:00 PM		45.40	48.30	46.80	46.70	42.50	46.80	59.70	40.90
8	04:00 PM		45.20	48.10	46.60	46.50	42.30	46.60	59.50	43.20
9	05:00 PM		45.00	47.90	46.40	46.30	42.10	46.40	59.20	46.40
10	06:00 PM		44.80	47.70	46.20	46.10	41.90	46.20	59.00	45.40
11	07:00 PM		44.50	47.40	45.90	45.80	41.60	45.90	58.80	48.70
12	08:00 PM		44.30	47.20	45.70	45.60	41.40	45.70	58.60	42.40
13	09:00 PM		44.10	47.00	45.50	45.40	41.20	45.50	58.40	40.20
14	10:00 PM		43.90	46.80	45.30	45.20	41.00	45.30	58.20	44.70
15	11:00 PM		43.70	46.60	45.10	45.00	40.80	45.10	57.90	42.10
16	12:00 AM		43.40	46.30	44.80	44.70	40.50	44.80	57.70	44.00
17	01:00 AM		43.20	46.10	44.60	44.50	40.30	44.60	57.50	46.20
18	02:00 AM		43.00	45.90	44.40	44.30	40.10	44.40	57.30	41.70
19	03:00 AM		42.80	45.70	44.20	44.10	39.90	44.20	57.10	44.10
20	04:00 AM		42.60	45.40	44.00	43.80	39.70	44.00	56.90	42.90
21	05:00 AM		42.30	45.20	43.70	43.60	39.40	43.70	56.60	41.00
22	06:00 AM		42.10	45.00	43.50	43.40	39.20	43.50	56.40	40.40
23	07:00 AM		41.90	44.80	43.30	43.20	39.00	43.30	56.20	44.30
24	08:00 AM		41.70	44.60	43.10	43.00	38.80	43.10	56.00	43.30
NEQS Guiding Value: 45-55[41] dB WHO Guiding Value: 70 dB										

[41] 45 dB for night time and 55 dB for day time as per NEQS

274. The twenty-four 24-hours results for ambient noise level monitoring show that the recorded noise levels at GRC Camp are in excess of the NEQS guideline value of 55 dB. As the camp is located adjacent to the N-15, hence, exceedance in noise levels is primarily attributed to the vehicular traffic on N-15 because, apparently, there are no other stationary sources that may cause noise pollution.

275. The noise level monitoring results recorded during the current monitoring period exhibit more or less the same trend as recorded during the instrumental monitoring carried out in May, 2017.

4.2 Ecology Baseline

276. The ecology baseline has been prepared to present the ecological conditions in the Project area.

4.2.1 Objectives and Scope

277. The baseline was prepared with the following objectives.

- Qualitative and quantitative assessment of terrestrial vegetation, periphyton[42], macro-invertebrates, fish, herpetofauna[43,] birds, and mammals.
- Identification of key species, their relative abundances, and their conservation status.
- Compiling reports of wildlife sightings in the Study Area by the resident communities.
- Identification of any additional habitats, and microhabitats.
- Analysis to further develop the basis for evaluating the potential impacts of Project-related activities on biodiversity, specifically the identification and evaluation of critical habitats.

4.2.2 Sources of Information

278. Sources of information for the preparation of the ecological baseline included published literature, reports, and field surveys conducted for the collection of data. The following report, which provides ecological information collected in the proximity of the Project area, was consulted.

- Hagler Bailly Pakistan, March 20, 2017, Environment and Social Impact Assessment for Kohala Hydropower Project, Kohala Power Company (Pvt) Ltd;
- Hagler Bailly Pakistan, September 2016, Biodiversity Strategy for Jhelum-Poonch River Basin – Preparatory Phase, Fish Surveys in Tributaries, for the International Finance Corporation.

4.2.3 Study Areas (2016-17)

279. Two types of ecological resources are of concern, aquatic and terrestrial. Therefore, two types of Study Areas were defined, an Aquatic and a Terrestrial one.

42 Aquatic organisms, such as certain algae, that live attached to rocks or other surfaces
43 The reptiles and amphibians of a particular region, habitat, or geological period

280. The Aquatic Study Area includes the stretch of the Kunhar River from Faridabad upstream of the Project to Bissian downstream of the Project. It was selected taking into consideration the maximum extent of impacts of the Project both upstream and downstream. The reservoir is expected to form along a stretch up to 2.8 km upstream of the dam. The Aquatic Study Area extends past the upstream end of the reservoir till just past Faridabad, to account for the maximum extent of the impact upstream of the reservoir. It extends downstream till Bissian, a location representative of the impacts of release from the tailrace tunnel. Approximately 10 km downstream of Bissian is the start of the reservoir of Patrind HPP, which has altered the riverine habitat and created a barrier downstream of the Project. The Aquatic Study Area also includes tributaries in this stretch but only those with a significant perennial flow that supports the breeding of fish, are included. The Aquatic Study Area is shown in **Exhibit 4-69**.

281. The Terrestrial Study Area comprises a 1 km buffer around selected locations where Project-related facilities are to be located. Project-related activities will occur within the Project-related facilities. The flora and fauna within a 1 km radius of these activities are expected to be impacted by them. Sampling Locations were selected within all habitat types where Project facilities will be located. Sampling Locations were also selected at other sites in the Terrestrial Study Area, with representative sampling by proportion of habitat type. Scrub Forest makes up the highest percentage of the habitat in the Terrestrial Study Area followed by Pine Forest and Agriculture Area. **Exhibit 4-70** shows the Terrestrial Study Area.

Exhibit 4-69: Aquatic Study Area (2016-17)

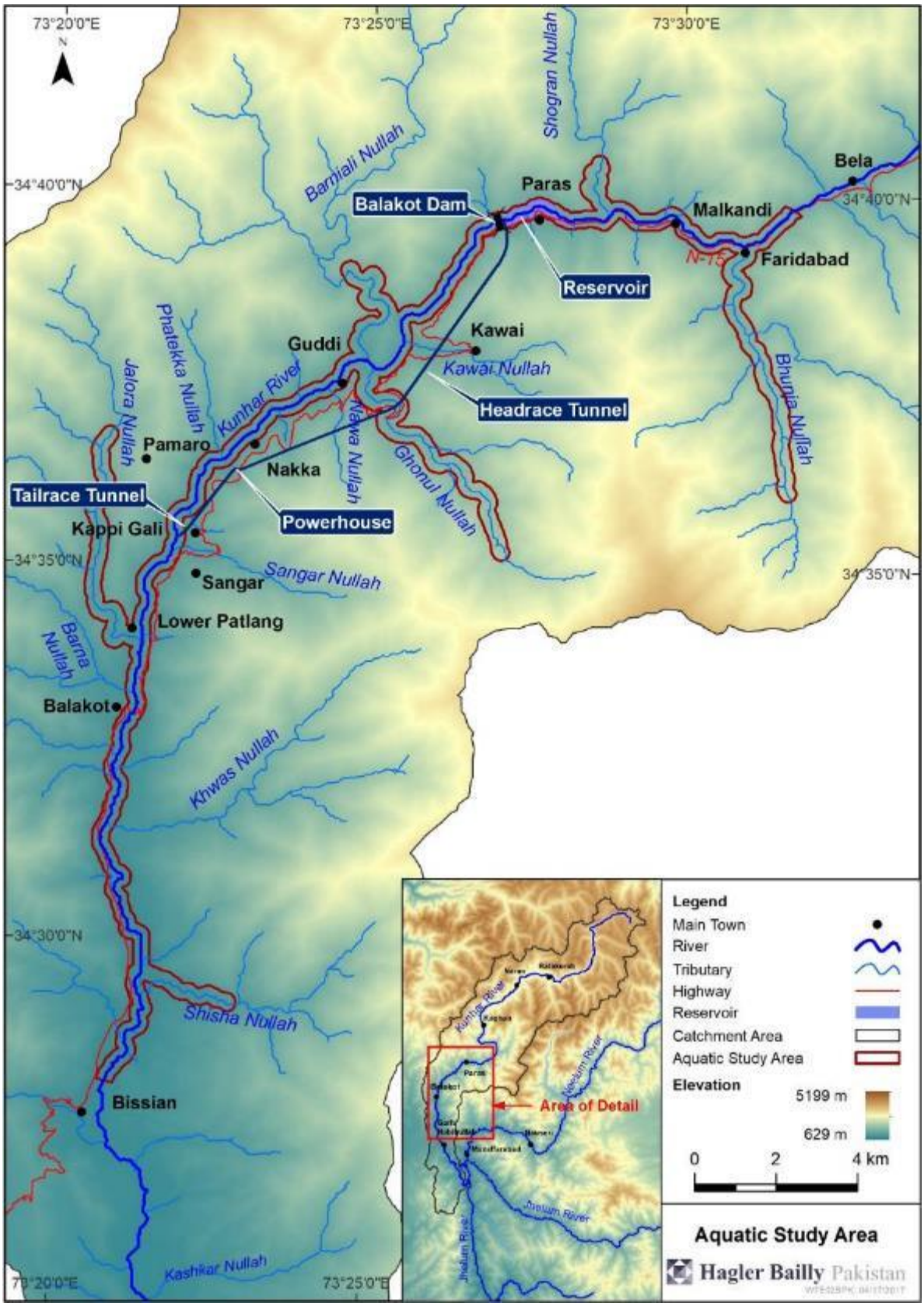
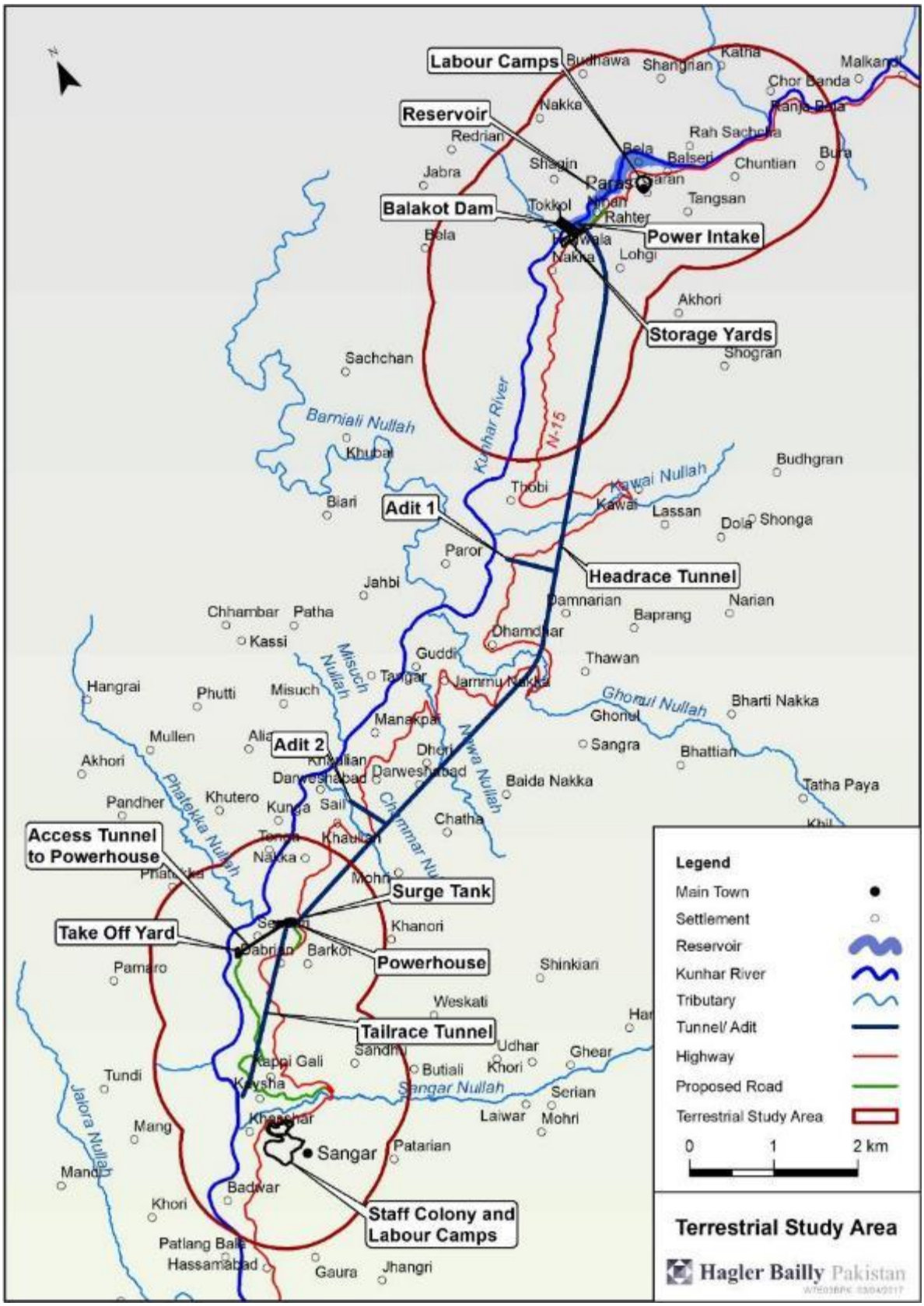


Exhibit 4-70: Terrestrial Study Area (2016-17)



4.2.4 Methodology

282. The field survey plan for data collection is provided in **Appendix H**. The methodology used for each biological resource is summarized below.

283. **Survey:** The winter survey for fish fauna was carried out between February 24, and March 1, 2017. The spring survey for fish fauna was carried out between May 13, and May 16, 2017. The survey for terrestrial ecology was carried out between May 19, and May 23, 2017.

284. Representatives from the Fisheries Department, KP, and the Wildlife Department, KP accompanied the teams to observe sampling. Photographs of staff from the Departments observing field sampling are provided in **Exhibit 4-71**.

Exhibit 4-71: Government Department Staff Observing Field Sampling, May 2017 Survey





Mr Qaiser Javed from the Fisheries Department, KP observing samples collected for fish fauna



Mr Sarmad Shah, Sub-Divisional Forest Officer, Balakot, Wildlife Department, KP (extreme right) walking with the team to Sampling Location T8

4.2.5 Aquatic Ecology

285. Sampling for aquatic ecology was carried out for the following.

- Fish
- Macro-invertebrates
- Periphyton
- Riparian Vegetation

4.2.5.1 Sampling Locations

286. Sampling Locations for fish fauna, macro-invertebrates, periphyton, and riparian vegetation are shown in **Exhibit 4-72**. The justification for the selection of these Sampling Locations is provided in **Exhibit 4-73**. The list of Sampling Locations in the tributaries is provided in **Exhibit 4-74.**

4.2.5.1.1 Fish

287. In the February 2017 Survey, sampling was carried out at the Sampling Locations shown in **Exhibit 4-72**. The sampling in May 2017 was also carried out at the same Sampling Locations. The methods for data collection included the use of two different types of nets, gill nets and cast nets, as well as electrofishing. Details of the use of each method are provided in **Appendix H**.

288. Statistical analysis was carried out to determine fish community structure and species diversity. The details of the application of these statistical methods are provided in **Appendix H**.

4.2.5.1.2 Macro-invertebrates

289. Macro-invertebrate sampling was conducted in the May 2017 Survey at the Sampling Locations shown in **Exhibit 4-72.**

290. The sampling methods are described in **Appendix H**, along with details of how the samples were processed in the laboratory.

291. The data collected was used to generate information on the abundance of macro-invertebrates for each taxon.

4.2.5.1.3 Periphyton Biomass

292. Periphyton could not be collected during the February 2017 Survey. Sampling for periphyton was attempted in the May 2017 Survey as well, however, periphyton was again not present due to the fast flow of the river, which erodes and washes out biomass on the cobblestones. The proposed Sampling Locations for both the February 2017 Survey and May 2017 Survey are shown in **Exhibit 4-72**. Methods for data collection and sample analysis are described in detail in **Appendix H**.

Exhibit 4-72: Sampling Locations for Fish, Macro-invertebrates, Periphyton and Riparian Vegetation

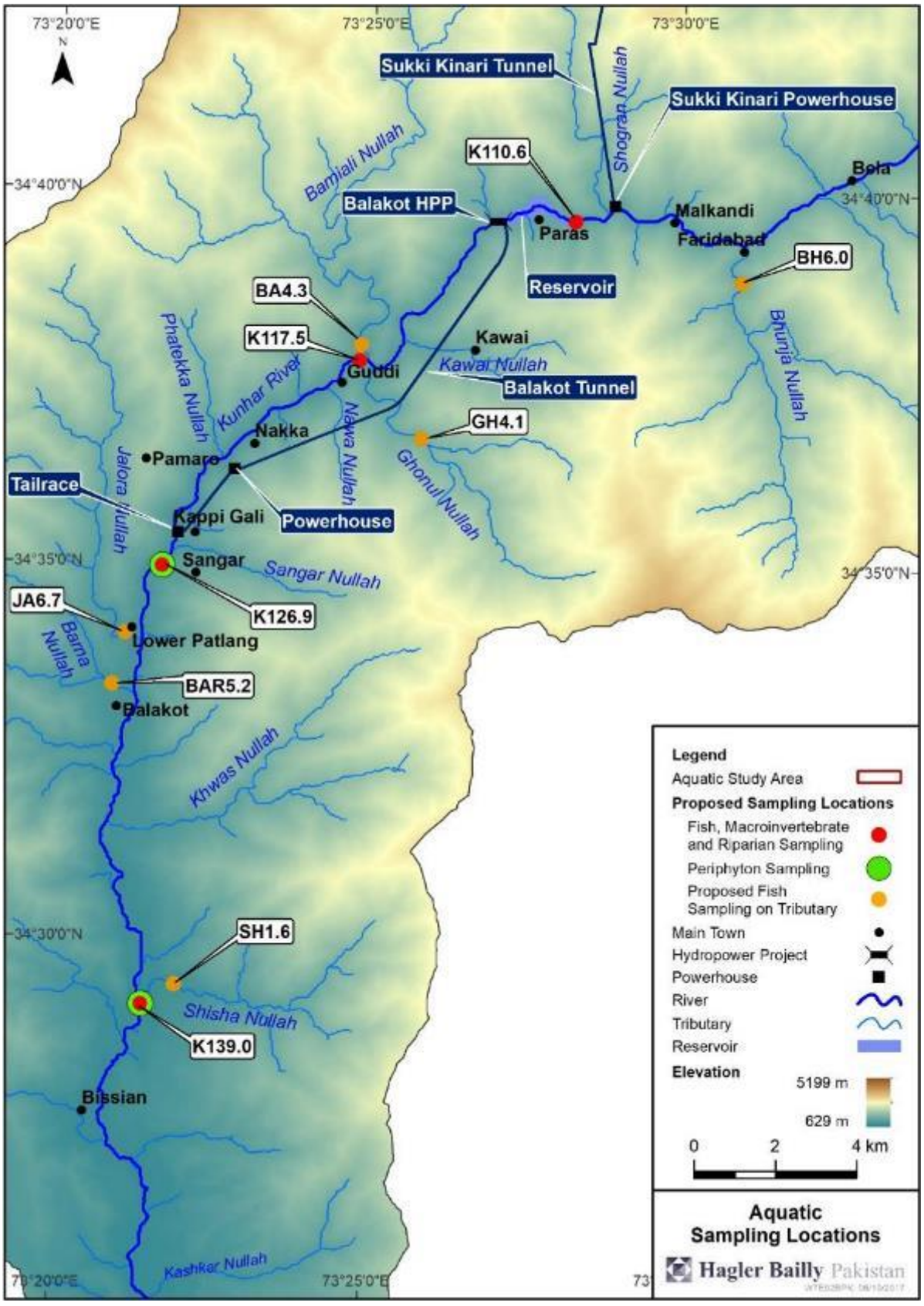


Exhibit 4-73: Justification for Selection of Sampling Locations on Main River

River Segment	Sampling Location ID	Expected impacts from the Project
Upstream of Dam	K110.6	This location is upstream of the reservoir of the proposed dam and will be impacted by the barrier to migration created by the dam
Downstream of Dam	K117.5	This location will be impacted by the lower flows due to the diversion of the river flow into the power generation tunnel
Downstream of Diversion Tunnel	K126.9, K139.0	Both the temperature and flow of water at this location will be impacted by variations in flow.

Exhibit 4-74: List of Sampling Locations for the Tributaries

Tributary (Local Name)	Sampling Location ID
Shogran Nullah	SH1.7
Bhunja Nullah	BH6.0
Barnialai Nullah	BA4.3
Makra Nullah	MA4.1
Barna Nullah	BAR6.7
Shisha Nullah	SH1.6

4.2.5.1.4 Riparian Vegetation

293. The methodology used for riparian vegetation is the same as that used for sampling of terrestrial flora. Sampling was carried out at the banks of all the aquatic ecology Sampling Locations (**Exhibit 4-72**).

4.2.6 Terrestrial Ecology

294. Sampling for terrestrial ecology included the following.

- Terrestrial Flora
- Mammals
- Avifauna
- Herpetofauna

4.2.6.1 Sampling Locations

295. Sampling Locations for terrestrial ecology are provided in **Exhibit 4-75**. The locations were determined taking into account three main habitat types identified using ***Google Earth™*** satellite imagery. These include Agricultural Areas, Scrub Forests, and Pine forests. The number of Sampling Locations were distributed between these habitat types within the Terrestrial Study Area, with 10 in the two Forest habitat types (six in Scrub Forest and four in Pine Forest) and four in the Agricultural Area habitat type. Ground-truthing was carried out during sampling to determine the actual habitat at that sampling location. The habitat type of each Sampling Location, after ground-truthing, is provided in **Exhibit 4-75** and **Exhibit 4-76.**

Exhibit 4-75: Sampling Locations for Terrestrial Flora and Fauna

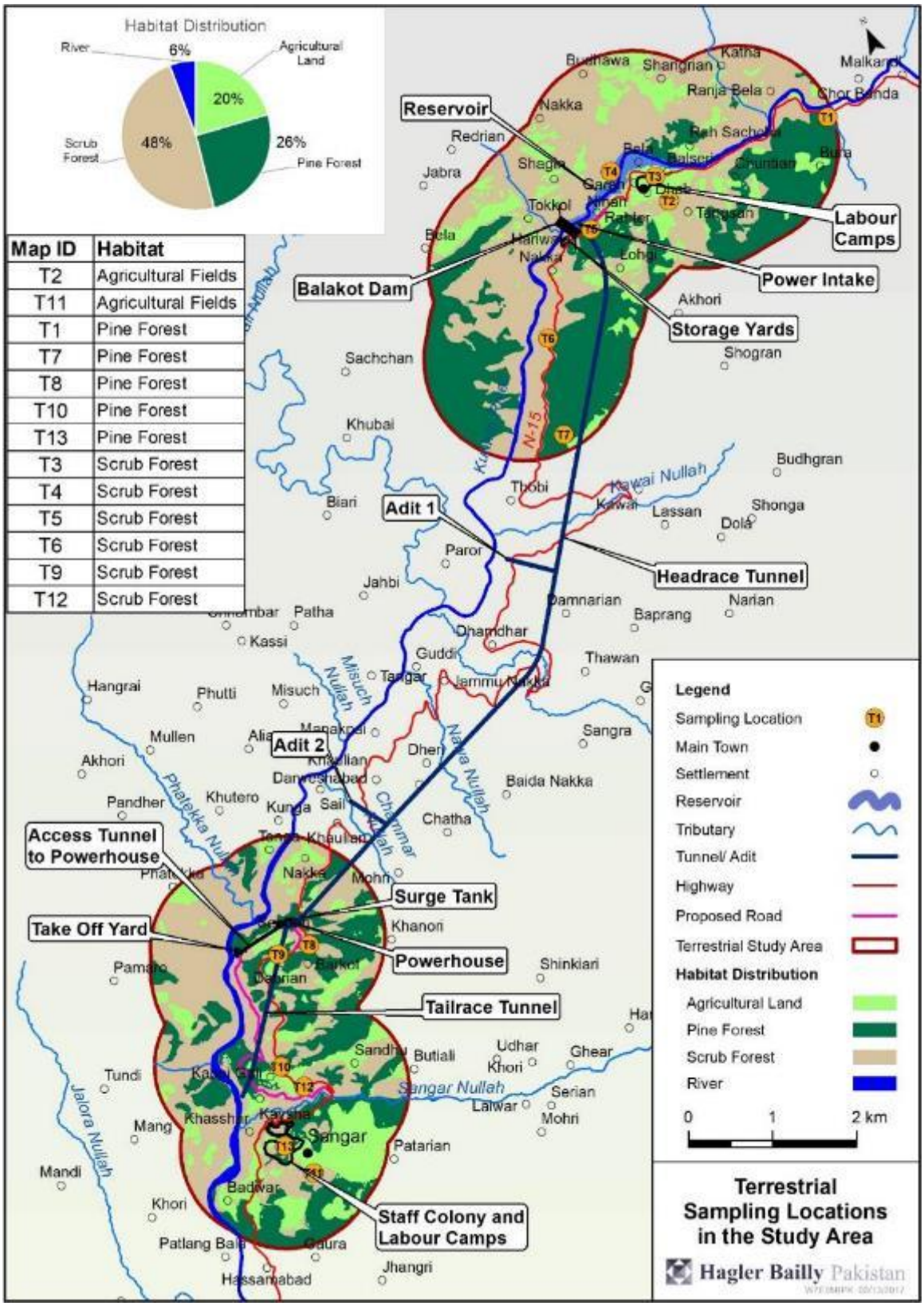


Exhibit 4-76: Habitat Types for the Terrestrial Sampling Locations

Sampling Locations	Relative Position of Sampling Location
T2, T11	Agricultural Area
T1, T7, T8, T10, T13	Pine Forest
T3, T4, T5, T6, T9, T12	Scrub Forest

4.2.6.2 Terrestrial Flora

296. The methods used for sampling and analysis of terrestrial flora are described in **Appendix H**. The data collection and analysis on terrestrial flora were used to generate information on the following.

- Cover
- Relative Cover
- Density
- Relative Density
- Frequency
- Relative Frequency
- Importance Value Index

297. The results of the sampling and analysis are provided under item No. 4.8.

4.2.6.3 Mammals

298. Mammals were sampled at the Sampling Locations shown in **Exhibit 4-75**. The methods used for sampling were different for small and large mammals. These methods are described in detail in **Appendix H**. Sampling for mammals was used to collect information about the presence, abundance, and distribution of mammal species in the three habitat types, Agricultural Area, Scrub Forest, and Pine Forest, within the Terrestrial Study Area.

4.2.6.4 Avifauna

299. Avifauna was sampled at the Sampling Locations shown in **Exhibit 4-75**. The methods used for sampling are described in detail in **Appendix H**. Sampling for birds was used to collect information about the diversity, abundance, and distribution of bird species within the Terrestrial Study Area. It also identified the presence of any birds of conservation importance present within the Terrestrial Study Area.

4.2.6.5 Herpetofauna

300. Herpetofauna was sampled at the Sampling Locations shown in **Exhibit 4-75**. The methods used for sampling are described in detail in **Appendix H**. Sampling for herpetofauna was conducted to collect information about the presence, diversity, abundance, and distribution of reptile and amphibian species within the Terrestrial Study Area.

4.2.7 Protected Areas or Areas of Special Importance for Biodiversity

301. Both aquatic and terrestrial areas are either protected or of special importance to biodiversity near the Project.

302. The part of the Kunhar River above Balakot Bridge (**Exhibit 4-77**) is protected as it is stocked by the Fisheries Department, KP. This includes the protected status of the river and riparian areas, however, the exact area within the terrestrial areas is not known. There are also terrestrial Protected Areas within the Mansehra District. A map showing the terrestrial Protected Areas and areas of special importance for biodiversity is provided in **Exhibit 4-77**. A map showing the Important Bird Areas (IBAs) is shown in **Exhibit 4-78**.

4.2.7.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas

303. Information about the terrestrial Protected Areas, including national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, and game reserves was obtained from the Wildlife Department of KP. The Protected Area closest to the dam site is the Manshi Wildlife Sanctuary, located 5 km away. The second closest is the Saif-ul-Maluk National Park, located 23.5 km from the dam site.

4.2.7.2 Mansehra Wildlife Division

304. There is a diversity of habitat types within the Mansehra Wildlife Division consisting of Scrub forests, Chir pine Forests, Moist Temperate Forests, Dry Temperate Forests, Sub Alpine Forests, Alpine Pastures, and Wetlands.

305. There are two types of wetlands found in the Mansehra Wildlife Division.

- High-altitude wetlands are found in upper Kaghan Valley. The most important among them are Saiful Maluk Lake, Lulusar Lake, Dudipat Sar Lake, and Ansoo Lake etc.
- Low-altitude wetlands are found in areas around Lower Kunar and Siran Rivers.

Exhibit 4-77: Map of Protected Areas

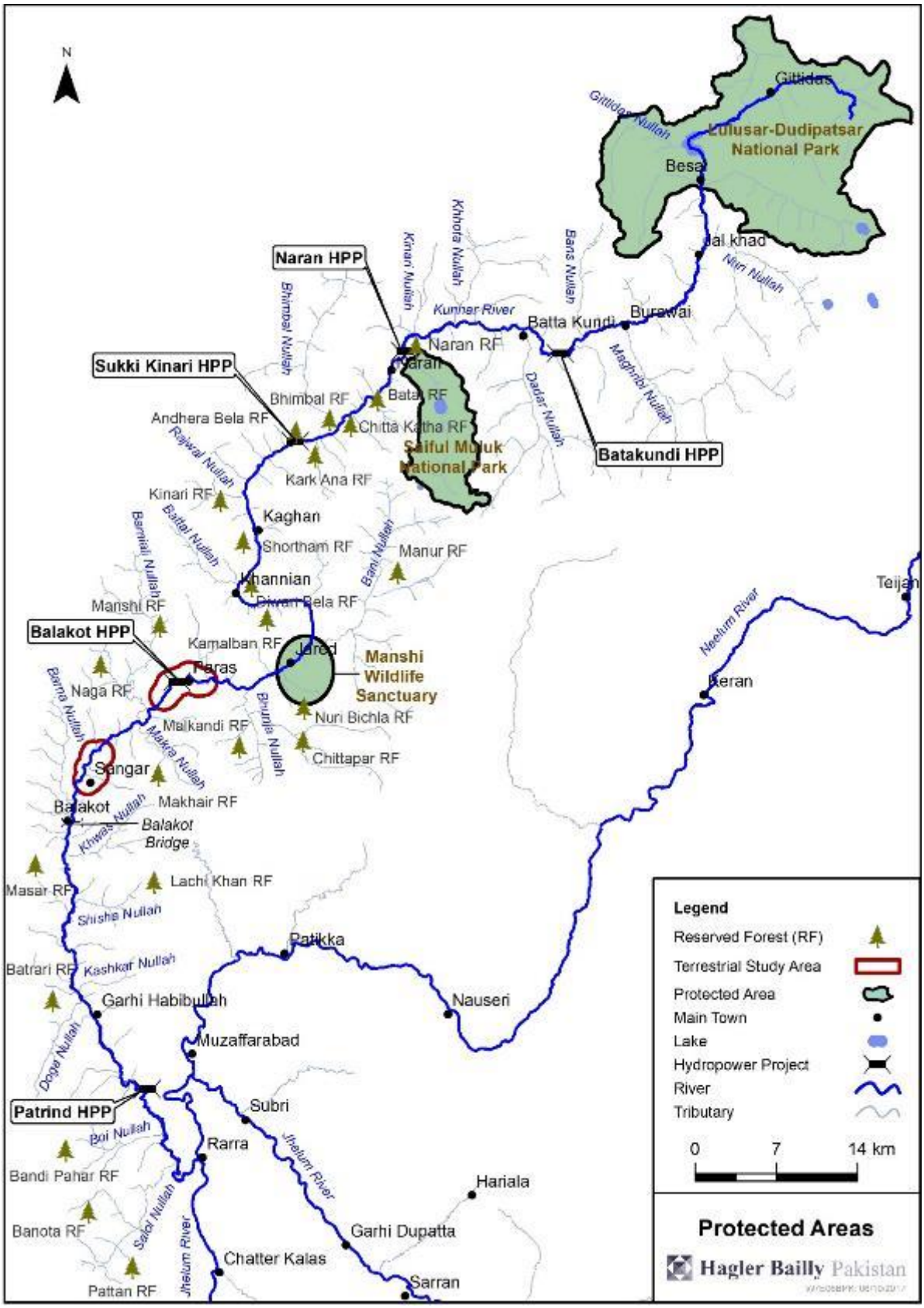
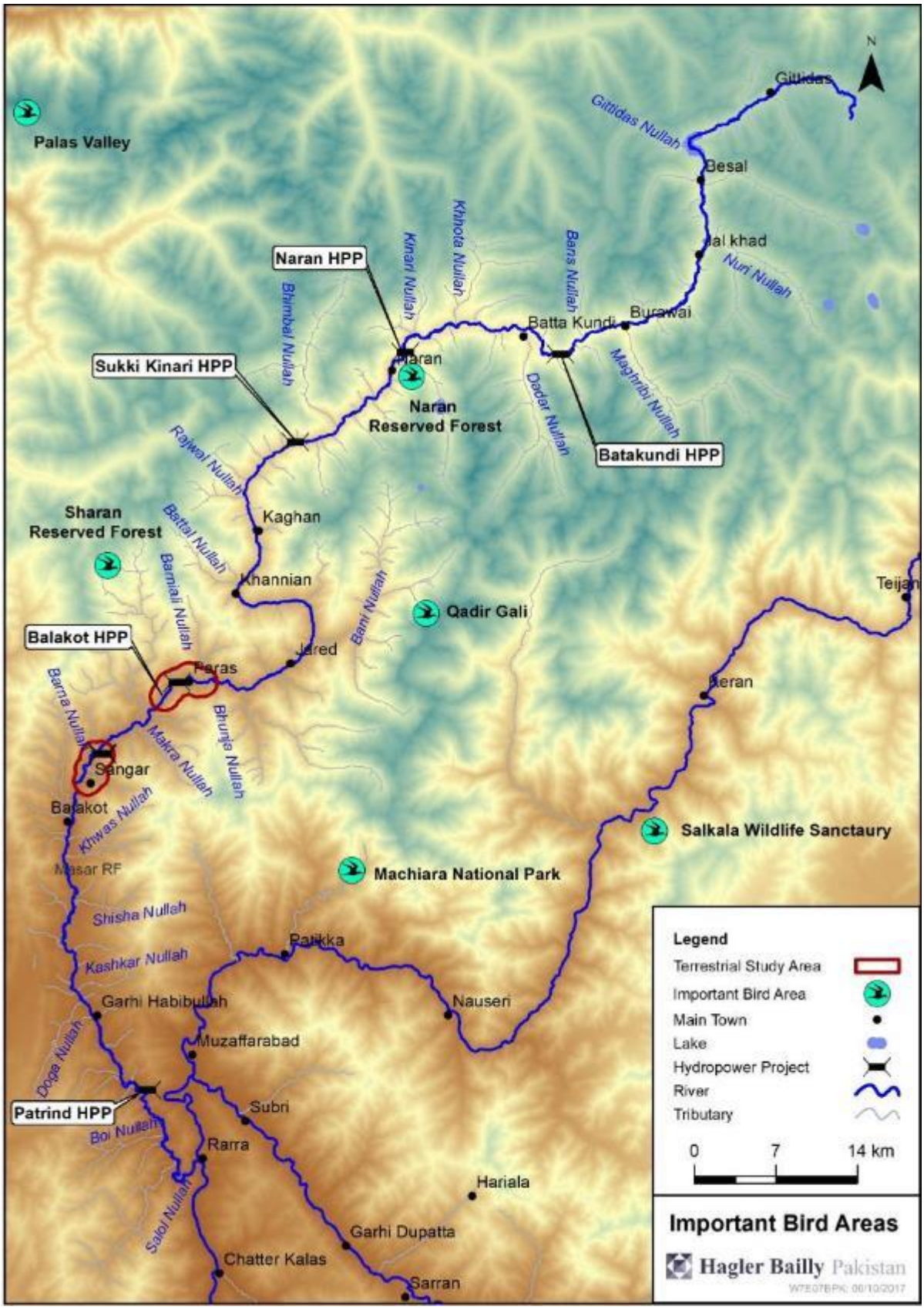


Exhibit 4-78: Map of Important Bird Areas



306. Due to the diversity of habitat types, there is a wide diversity of flora and fauna which makes Mansehra Wildlife Division a very important site for protection and conservation. The human population is increasing rapidly which is not only fragmenting habitat but also degrading it. Local communities are highly dependent upon natural resources which presents a challenge for conservation. Mansehra Wildlife Division maintains regular contact with the local communities to persuade them, educate them about the importance of natural resources and enlist their support in the conservation of biodiversity. There are 12-15 communities, organized to protect and manage Community Game Reserves and other protected areas in Mansehra. Similar efforts are being undertaken to organize communities living around the national parks of Kaghan Valley so that they help in protecting and managing their natural resources, for example, tapping into the benefits of eco-tourism. There is informal interaction with the communities of Upper Siran and Kanshian that are living around the habitat for re-introduction of Chir pheasants.

307. Terrestrial Protected Areas in the vicinity of the Terrestrial Study Area include ten community Game Reserves, two National Parks, and one Wildlife Sanctuary. Other hot spots suitable for being declared as Protected Areas have been identified by the Wildlife Department, KP. Some of these patches of habitat are Bichla Manoor Reserve Forests, Sharhan Reserve Forests; Shogran Reserve Forests, and adjoining habitat in Kaghan Valley, Hillan, and Chorr in Battagram Districts. These areas are important for their biodiversity and need protection from habitat degradation and over-exploitation. A description of each type of Protected Area is provided below.

4.2.7.3 National Parks

308. There are two National Parks in Mansehra Wildlife Division including the Saiful Maluk National Park and Lulusar-Dudipat National Park.

4.2.7.3.1 Saiful Maluk National Park

309. Saiful Maluk was declared a National Park on April 28, 2003. The total area of this national park is 12,026 acres. The human population around the National Park is about 20,000. Important fauna of the Park includes Snow Leopard, Marmot, Brown Bear, Himalayan Ibex, Snow Cock, Snow Partridge, and Himalayan Griffin Vulture.

310. Microtopographic features and morphological and physiological characteristics of the vegetation give rise to patterns that vary in size and are found intermittently. For example, Junipers are prostrate with spreading aerial parts. Its compact patches are found all over pastures, but particularly on rocky ridges. Salix occupies depressions on cooler aspects. Species of Polygonum have extensive rhizomes and several patterns are usually visible in pastures. Iris forms more or less compact patches distributed all over the area, giving the impression of pure stands. Potentilla-Astragalus-type vegetation is present.

311. The large number (63) of species indicates the richness of floral diversity. Prevailing conditions suggest that more palatable species have disappeared due to heavy grazing. Most forbs (17 species)[44] have poor palatability and are therefore abundant. Some forbs have medical value, and locals use them to treat both humans and livestock. Fresh leaves or

44 A forb is a family of plants that have broad leaves and herbaceous structures.

branches of some are used as food. Woody species are a good source of fuel wood and thatch. Dry branches and stems of Juniper and Salix are collected for fuel.

312. An estimated 0.1 million people visit the Saiful Maluk Park area every year. Threats to the national Park are over-exploitation of natural resources, ill-planned tourism, pollution, illegal fishing, modification of land for cultivation, and ill-planned construction.

4.2.7.3.2 Lulusar Dudipat National Park

313. Lulusar-Dudipat was declared a National Park on April 28, 2003. The human population around it is about 15,000, mainly nomadic and semi-nomadic peoples. The important fauna of the Park includes Snow leopard, Marmot, Brown Bear, Himalayan Ibex, Snow Cock, Snow Partridge and Himalayan Griffin Vulture.

314. An estimated 20,000 people visit the Park area every year. Threats to this National Park are the same as for the Saiful Maluk National Park.

4.2.7.4 Wildlife Sanctuaries

315. There is one wildlife sanctuary located 5 km from the Project, the Manshi Wildlife Sanctuary.

4.2.7.4.1 Manshi Wildlife Sanctuary

316. This sanctuary is located in Kaghan Valley at a height of about 2,438 meters above sea level. The total area is about 2,307 hectares.

317. Important wildlife species found here are the Common Leopard, Black Bear, Grey Goral, Musk Deer, Jungle Cat, Grey Langur, Rhesus Monkey, Kokhlas Pheasant, Chukar, Snow Partridge, and Monal Pheasant.

318. Important flora of the sanctuary is Deodar *Cedrus deodara*, Fir *Abies pindrows*, Biar *Pinus wallichiana*, Kain *Ulmus wallichiana*, Walnut *Juglans regia*, Bankhor *Aesculus spp.*, Guch *Vibernum*, Jangli Gulab *Rosa moschatta*. Medicinal plants include Ban Khakhri *Podophylum hexandrum,* Mamaikh *Paeonia emodi*, Chita podeena *Mentha longifolia*, Ratan jot *Geranium wallichianum,* etc.

4.2.7.5 Game Reserves

319. There are 10 proposed Game Reserves located near the Project. These are listed below. Their locations and boundaries are not currently available. Details about them are provided in **Appendix I**.

- Pharana
- Behali
- Sheikh Abad
- Bhaili Ghatti
- Jallo
- Kareer
- Battal
- Palsala Dhanaka
- Lassan Thukral

- Khawajgan

320. The likelihood of notification of these Game Reserves is currently unknown. In addition to these, there is a partridge breeding center at Lasan Nawab and Dhodial Pheasantry in Dhodial.

321. Information about the presence of proposed Game Reserves located in the wider area of the Project is of significance because it indicates that hunting is of interest in the area and that game animals are present. Awareness of this is important to regulate any hunting activities that Project staff might engage in.

4.2.8 Aquatic Ecology

322. The study of aquatic ecology covers fish fauna, macro-invertebrates, periphyton, and riparian vegetation. Sampling was carried out within the Aquatic Study Area to determine species diversity and abundance. The results of sampling and literature review are reported in this section.

4.2.8.1 Overview of the Fish Fauna in Kunhar River

323. The long-distance migratory species Alwan Snow Trout *Schizothorax richardsonii,* as well as the Himalayan Catfish *Glyptosternum reticulatum* and Kashmir Hillstream Loach *Triplopysa Kashmirensis* are widely distributed species and found in the Kunhar River upstream and downstream of proposed Project. The species Nalbant's Loach *Schistura nalbanti*, Stone Barb *Schistura alepidota*, Arif's Loach *Shistura arifi,* and Flat Head Catfish *Glyptothorax pectinopterus* are mainly found in Kunhar River and tributaries downstream of the proposed Balakot dam but they are also recorded from few places upstream. The species Kunar Snow Trout *Schizothorax labiatus* is exclusively found in the Kunhar River downstream of the proposed dam site. They tend to migrate in summer towards the upper parts of the river. Two introduced species Brown Trout *Salmo trutta fario* and Rainbow Trout *Oncorhynchus mykiss* are found exclusively upstream of the proposed dam. These two are cold water species and of high food value. There is an extensive raceway[45] aquaculture of Rainbow Trout in the areas upstream and downstream of the proposed dam. Alwan Snow Trout (both upstream and downstream of the dam) and Kunar Snow Trout (mostly downstream of the dam) are two other species of food value. They are not cultured but are captured from the river.

324. A total of ten species have been reported from the Kunhar River based on the surveys carried out in February 2017 and May 2017 as a part of this study, in July 2016 as a part of the Biodiversity Strategy for Jhelum Poonch River basin – Preparatory Phase,[46] and advice from Dr. Muhammad Rafique, a fish expert with the Pakistan Museum of Natural History (PMNH). Out of these, one species is a long-distance migratory species and two are endemic to the Jhelum Basin. The complete list of fish species reported from the Kunhar River is given in **Exhibit 4-79**, along with information about their IUCN Red List Status, endemism, and whether they are long-distance migratory or not.

45 Raceway is based on the continuous water flowing through the aquaculture tanks

46 Hagler Bailly Pakistan, September 2016. Biodiversity Strategy for Jhelum Poonch River basin – Preparatory Phase, for the International Finance Corporation, Washington D.C.

Exhibit 4-79: List of Species Reported from the Kunhar River (2016-17)

S/No	Scientific Name	Common Name	IUCN Status	Endemic	Migratory
1.	*Glyptosternum reticulatum*	Himalayan Catfish	Not Assessed		
2.	*Glyptothorax pectinopterus*	Flat Head Catfish	Not Assessed		
3.	*Salmo trutta fario*	Brown Trout	Not Assessed		
4.	*Oncorhynchus mykiss*	Rainbow Trout	Not Assessed		
5.	*Schistura alepidota*	Stone Barb	Not Assessed		
6.	*Schistura arifi*	Arif's Loach	Not Assessed		
7.	*Schistura nalbanti*	Nalbant's Loach	Not Assessed	✓	
8.	*Schizothorax labiatus*	Kunar Snow Trout	Not Assessed		
9.	*Schizothorax richardsonii*	Alwan Snow Trout	**Vulnerable**		✓
10.	*Triplophysa kashmirensis*	Kashmir Hillstream Loach	Not Assessed	✓	

Note: All species, except the Kunar Snow Trout were observed during the surveys (July 2016, February 2017, and May 2017). In the opinion of Dr Muhammad Rafique, a fish expert with the Pakistan Museum of Natural History (PMNH), the Kunar Snow Trout is also present in the Aquatic Study Area.

4.2.8.2 Results of the July 2016, February 2017, and May 2017 Surveys

325. Fish surveys were carried out in February 2017 and May 2017 as a part of this study and in July 2016 as a part of the Jhelum-Poonch Biodiversity Strategy.[47] Fish sampling was carried out using cast nets, electrofishing, and gill nets. The method used at each location depended on the morphology of the river or tributary, accessibility, the target fish species, and the possibility of finding the fish in a particular habitat given temperatures and fish activity at the time of sampling. It was not possible to apply all methods at all Sampling Locations. **Exhibit 4-80** shows the photographs of field activities performed during the surveys.

Exhibit 4-80: Photographs of Field Activities



a) Electrofishing



b) Cast netting

47 Ibid



c) Gill Netting



d) Measuring Fish Length



e) Fish Breeding Maturity Observed



f) Releasing Fish Back to River

4.2.8.2.1 Results of the July 2016 Survey

326. During the July 2016 Survey, sampling was conducted at a total of three Sampling Locations in the Aquatic Study Area. All were downstream of Balakot Town.

- A total of 99 specimens of two fish species were collected from the Kunhar River.
- Maximum relative abundance (46 specimens) was observed at Sampling Location K143.9, Upstream of Banda Balola Village.
- The most abundant fish species observed in the main Kunhar River was the Alwan Snow Trout. A total of 53 specimens were collected using electrofishing and cast nets.
- A total of 46 specimens of the endemic Kashmir Hillstream Loach were collected during the surveys, using electrofishing and cast nets.

4.2.8.2.2 Results of the February 2017 Survey

327. During the February 2017 Survey, sampling was conducted at a total of 10 Sampling Locations in the Aquatic Study Area. Four of these are located in the main Kunhar River while five are located in the tributaries. A total of 215 specimens of seven species were collected during the February 2017 Survey from the main Kunhar River and its tributaries, using cast nets, gill nets, and electrofishing.

A. Main Kunhar River

- A total of 45 specimens of four fish species were collected from the main Kunhar River.

- Maximum relative abundance (28 specimens) was observed at Sampling Location K139.0, in the Kunhar River near its confluence with Shisha Nullah.
- The most abundant fish species observed was Alwan Snow Trout, with a total of 32 specimens collected, using electrofishing, gill nets and cast nets.
- The second most abundant fish species was Kashmir Hillstream Loach, with eight specimens collected. All the specimens were collected from Sampling Location K139.0.

B. Tributaries of Kunhar River

- A total of 170 specimens of six fish species were collected from the Kunhar River.
- Maximum relative abundance (62 specimens) was observed at Sampling Location SH1.6, located at Shisha Nullah near Bissian.
- The most abundant fish species observed from the tributaries of Kunhar River was the Alwan Snow Trout. A total of 105 specimens were collected using electrofishing and cast nets.
- The second most abundant fish species was Nalbant's Loach, with 34 specimens collected.

4.2.8.2.3 Results of the May 2017 Survey

328. During the May 2017 Survey, sampling was conducted at a total of nine Sampling Locations in the Aquatic Study Area. Four of these are located in the main Kunhar River while five are located in the tributaries. A total of 549 specimens of nine species were collected from the main Kunhar River and its tributaries.

A. Main Kunhar River

- A total of 194 specimens of five fish species were collected from the main Kunhar River.
- Maximum relative abundance (146 specimens) was observed at Sampling Location K139.0, in the Kunhar River near its confluence with Shisha Nullah.
- The most abundant fish species observed during the surveys was Alwan Snow Trout with a total of 134 specimens collected, using electrofishing and cast nets.
- The second most abundant fish species was Kashmir Hillstream Loach, with 59 specimens collected. All the specimens were collected from the Sampling Location. Kashmir Hillstream Loach was not collected from the tributaries.

B. Tributaries of Kunhar River

- A total of 355 specimens of eight fish species were collected from the Kunhar River.
- Maximum relative abundance (175 specimens) was observed at Sampling Location JA6.7, Jalora Nullah at the Confluence of Kunhar River, using cast nets and electrofishing.

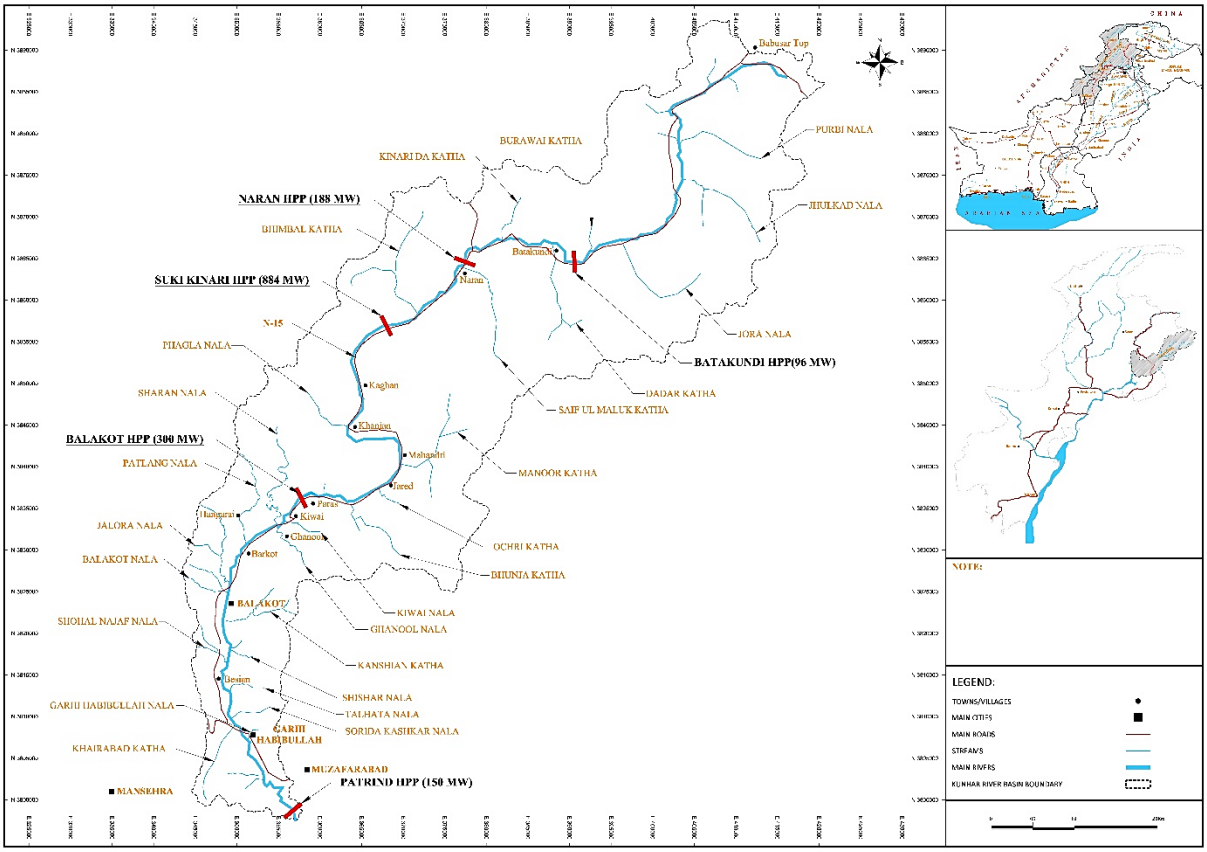
- The most abundant fish species observed from the tributaries of Kunhar River was Alwan Snow Trout with a total of 170 specimens collected, using electrofishing and cast nets.
- The second most abundant fish species was Nalbant's Loach, with 90 specimens collected.
- The relative abundance of fish species observed during the February 2017 Survey is shown in Error! Reference source not found. while species richness is shown in **Exhibit 4-88.** The relative abundance of fish species observed during May 2017 Survey is shown in **Exhibit 4-89** while species richness is shown in a while **Exhibit 4-90.**

329. A comparatively higher relative abundance and species richness was observed during the May 2017 Survey in comparison with the February 2017 Survey. A warmer temperature range (13°C-16.5°C) in the May 2017 Survey in comparison with February 2017 Survey (8°C – 12°C) is the likely reason for higher relative abundance and species richness in the May 2017 Survey. The tributaries downstream of the proposed dam i.e. Jalora Nullah, Barna Nullah, and Shisha Nullah are more productive and have a higher abundance of fish in comparison to the tributaries upstream of the dam site. Tributaries downstream are the prominent breeding grounds for most fish species i.e. Nalbant's Loach, Alwan Snow Trout, Arif's Loach, Stone Barb, and Flat Head Catfish while comparatively lower breeding was observed in the tributaries upstream of the dam.

4.2.8.2.4 Results of Fish Survey Conducted in May 2024

330. As shown in **Exhibit 4-81,** the study area for the 2024 survey starts from Naran i.e. upstream of the Sukki Kinar HPP reservoir up to the Patrind HPP reservoir which is around a 90 km long stretch of the Kunhar River including sampling in the contributing streams, while for the terrestrial fauna including amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals, scrub lands, forest lands, agricultural lands and villages along the Kunhar River were searched.

Exhibit 4-81: Study Area for the 2024 Fish Survey



331. In the study area, a total of 16 species of fish were recorded from the Kunhar River and its tributaries. The recorded 16 fish species belong to three orders, four families, and 11 genera **Exhibit 4-82.** Economically important fish species include; *Salmo trutta fario* (Brown trout), *Onchorhynchus mykiss* (Rainbow trout), and *Schizothorax richardsonii* (Alwan Snow trout). Brown trout and Alwan Snow trout are the most favorite fish species in the area regarding its food and economical value.

Exhibit 4-82: Fish Species Recorded in the Study Area (May 2024)

S/No	Zoological Name	Common Name	Family	Order
1	*Glyptosternon reticulatum*	Turkestan Catfish	Sisoridae	Siluriformes
2	*Glyptothorax pectinopterus*	Flathead catfish	Sisoridae	Siluriformes
3	*Salmo trutta fario*	Brown trout	Salmonidae	Salmoniformes
4	*Onchorhynchus mykiss*	Rainbow trout	Salmonidae	Salmoniformes
5	*Paraschistura alepidota*	Stone loach / Stone barb	Nemacheilidae	Cypriniformes
6	*Schistura arifi*	Arif's loach	Nemacheilidae	Cypriniformes
7	*Schistura nalbanti* / Now *Paraschistura punjabensis*	Nalbant's loach	Nemacheilidae	Cypriniformes
8	*Triplophysa kashmirensis*	Kashmir Hillstream Loach	Nemacheilidae	Cypriniformes
9	*Nemacheilus corica*	Sundali	Nemacheilidae	Cypriniformes

S/No	Zoological Name	Common Name	Family	Order
10	*Schistura naseeri* / Now *Paraschistura naseeri*	Naseeri loach	Nemacheilidae	Cypriniformes
11	*Schistura macrolepis*	Singhat	Nemacheilidae	Cypriniformes
12	*Schizothorax labiatus*	Kunar Snow trout	Cyprinidae	Cypriniformes
13	*Schizothorax plagiostomus* Now *Schizothorax richardsonii*	Alwan Snow Trout	Cyprinidae	Cypriniformes
14	*Schizothorax curvifrons* / Now *Schizopyge curvifrons*	Ladakh Snow trout	Cyprinidae	Cypriniformes
15	*Schizothorax esocinus*	Aasala / Chirruh Snow trout	Cyprinidae	Cypriniformes
16	*Puntius sophore*	Spot fin swam barb	Cyprinidae	Cypriniformes

332. **Food and feeding habits of the recorded fish species.** Out of the recorded 16 fish species, three species are carnivores, one species is herbivores while the rest of the 12 species are omnivores in their feeding habits. Although all the recorded species are ecologically important, however, three species; Brown trout, Rainbow trout, and Alwan Snow Trout also have commercial and economic importance. Food and feeding habits of recorded fishes are in **Exhibit 4-83.**

Exhibit 4-83: Food and Feeding Habits of the Recorded Fish Species (May 2024)

S/No	Zoological Name	Common Name	Feeding Habit	Food Items
1	*Glyptosternon reticulatum*	Turkestan Catfish	Carnivore	Annelids, crustaceans, insects, Algae, and decaying organic matter
2	*Glyptothorax pectinopterus*	Flathead catfish	Carnivore	Benthic insects and their larvae, occasionally small fish
3	*Salmo trutta fario*	Brown trout	Carnivore	Crustaceans, mollusks, insects, and smaller fish
4	*Onchorhynchus mykiss*	Rainbow trout	Omnivore	Aquatic insects, fish eggs, terrestrial insects, algae, small fish, crustaceans
5	*Paraschistura alepidota*	Stone loach	Omnivore	Insect larvae, crustaceans, worms, algae and detritus
6	*Schistura arifi*	Arif's loach	Omnivore	Invertebrates, insect larvae, crustaceans, micro-fauna, algae and biofilm off rocks
7	*Paraschistura punjabensis*	Nalbant's loach	Omnivore	Invertebrates, algae and organic detritus
8	*Triplophysa kashmirensis*	Hillstream Loach	Omnivore	Small invertebrates, algae, and detritus
9	*Nemacheilus corica*	Sundali	Omnivore	Invertebrates, insect larvae, worms, crustaceans, algae, and organic detritus
10	*Paraschistura naseeri*	Naseeri loach	Omnivore	Insects, crustaceans, mollusks, plankton, snails, tiny fish, Algae and plant matter
11	*Schistura macrolepis*	Singhat	Omnivore	Aquatic invertebrates, algae, and detritus
12	*Schizothorax labiatus*	Kunar Snow trout	Omnivore	Algae, aquatic plants, invertebrates, zooplankton, and detritus.
13	*Schizothorax richardsonii*	Alwan Snow Trout	Omnivore	Invertebrates, algae, detritus, and zooplankton.
14	*Schizopyge curvifrons*	Ladakh Snow trout	Herbivore	Benthic algae, aquatic plants, and detritus
15	*Schizothorax esocinus*	Chirruh Snow trout	Omnivore	Aquatic invertebrates, insect larvae, worms, and crustaceans

S/No	Zoological Name	Common Name	Feeding Habit	Food Items
16	*Puntius sophore*	Spot-fin Barb	Omnivore	Small aquatic invertebrates and plant matter

333. **Conservation status of the recorded fish species.** According to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (IUCN, 2024), seven fish species out of the recorded 16 species fall into Threatened categories. These include; one Critically Endangered; Kashmir Hillstream Loach (*Triplophysa kashmirensis*), two Endangered species; Naseeri loach (*Paraschistura naseeri*) and Singhat (*Schistura macrolepis*), and four Vulnerable species; Stone loach (*Paraschistura alepidota*), Nalbant's loach (*Paraschistura punjabensis*), Alwan Snow Trout (*Schizothorax richardsonii*) and Chirruh Snow trout (*Schizothorax esocinus*). The Population Trend of Nalbant's loach (*Paraschistura punjabensis*) is Unknown whereas the rest of the six Threatened fish species have Decreasing Population Trends. The remaining nine fish species out of the total 16 have been categorized as "Least Concern" with stable population trends. The conservation status of the recorded fish species is **Exhibit 4-84.**

Exhibit 4-84: Conservation Status and Population Trend of the Recorded Fish Species (May 2024)

S/No	Zoological Name	Common Name	IUCN Status (2024)	Population Trend (2024)
1	*Glyptosternon reticulatum*	Turkestan Catfish	Least Concern	Decreasing
2	*Glyptothorax pectinopterus*	Flat head catfish	Least Concern	Unknown
3	*Salmo trutta fario*	Brown trout	Least Concern	Unknown
4	*Onchorhynchus mykiss*	Rainbow trout	Least Concern	Unknown
5	*Paraschistura alepidota*	Stone loach / Stone barb	Vulnerable	Decreasing
6	*Schistura arifi*	Arif's loach	Least Concern	Unknown
7	*Paraschistura punjabensis*	Nalbant's loach	Vulnerable	Unknown
8	*Triplophysa kashmirensis*	Kashmir Hillstream Loach	Critically Endangered	Decreasing
9	*Nemacheilus corica*	Sundali	Least Concern	Unknown
10	*Paraschistura naseeri*	Naseeri loach	Endangered	Decreasing
11	*Schistura macrolepis*	Singhat	Endangered	Decreasing
12	*Schizothorax labiatus*	Kunar Snow trout	Least Concern	Decreasing
13	*Schizothorax richardsonii*	Alwan Snow Trout	Vulnerable	Decreasing
14	*Schizopyge curvifrons*	Ladakh Snow trout	Least Concern	Stable
15	*Schizothorax esocinus*	Chirruh Snow trout	Vulnerable	Decreasing
16	*Puntius sophore*	Spot fin swam barb	Least Concern	Unknown

334. **Local status of the recorded fish species.** According to the local status and assessment of the existing fish species in the study area, four out of the seven Threatened species have "Common" status whereas three Threatened species have "Fair" status (**Exhibit 4-85).**

335. Out of the recorded 16 fish species, eight species were found "Common" while the rest of the eight species were found "Fair" (**Exhibit 4-85).** According to the local status and

assessment, “Common” species are those observed/found at 50% of the sampling sites whereas the “Fair” species are those observed/found at 25% of sampling sites.

Exhibit 4-85: Local Status of the Recorded Fish Species (May 2024)

S/No	Zoological Name	Common Name	IUCN Status (2024)	Local Status (2024)
1	*Glyptosternon reticulatum*	Turkestan Catfish	Least Concern	Fair
2	*Glyptothorax pectinopterus*	Flathead catfish	Least Concern	Fair
3	*Salmo trutta fario*	Brown trout	Least Concern	Common
4	*Onchorhynchus mykiss*	Rainbow trout	Least Concern	Common
5	*Paraschistura alepidota*	Stone loach	Vulnerable	Fair
6	*Schistura arifi*	Arif’s loach	Least Concern	Fair
7	*Paraschistura punjabensis*	Nalbant’s loach	Vulnerable	Common
8	*Triplophysa kashmirensis*	Kashmir Hillstream Loach	Critically Endangered	Common
9	*Nemacheilus corica*	Sundali	Least Concern	Fair
10	*Paraschistura naseeri*	Naseeri loach	Endangered	Fair
11	*Schistura macrolepis*	Singhat	Endangered	Fair
12	*Schizothorax labiatus*	Kunar Snow trout	Least Concern	Common
13	*Schizothorax richardsonii*	Alwan Snow Trout	Vulnerable	Common
14	*Schizopyge curvifrons*	Ladakh Snow trout	Least Concern	Common
15	*Schizothorax esocinus*	Chirruh Snow trout	Vulnerable	Common
16	*Puntius sophore*	Spot fin swam barb	Least Concern	Fair

336. **Ecological and economical importance of the recorded fish species.** Every single species, whether it is a plant or animal, has a significant role in nature and plays its part in keeping the ecosystem in equilibrium. Fish form the largest group of animals that is used for the production of animal-based foods. Besides being consumed as food, a large number of other fish products of great economic importance are being obtained from marine and freshwater fishes throughout the world and include fish meal, fish flour, fish silage, fish soluble, fish glue, etc. (Gupta & Gupta, 2006). Freshwater fishes are not only an important source of high-quality protein but also provide minerals, vitamins, and high contents of nutritionally valuable ω-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids (Hussein *et al*., 2011; Shakir *et al*., 2013). In addition, sport fishing and ornamental fishkeeping have become popular hobbies and means of recreation for millions of people today (Gupta & Gupta, 2006). Unfortunately, fish from worldwide freshwater and marine sources are in severe decline due to various anthropogenic pressures (Limburg *et al*., 2011). Major anthropogenic impacts include industrialization, agricultural intensification, extreme urbanization (Singh *et al*., 2007; Qadir, 2009) and overexploitation of fisheries resources and overhunting.

Exhibit 4-86: Glimpses of Few Fish Species Recorded in the Study Area (May 2024)



Schistura macrolepis



Naseeri loach (*Paraschistura naseeri*)



Stone loach (*Paraschistura alepidote*)



Nalbant's loach (*Paraschistura punjabensis*)



Spot-fin swam barb (*Puntius sophore*)



Brown trout (*Salmo trutta*)

Exhibit 4-87: Relative Abundance Observed in the main Kunhar River and Tributaries, February 2017 Survey

		Kunhar River					Tributaries							
Sampling Location		**K110.6**	**K117.5**	**K126.9**	**K139.0**		**BAR5.2**	**BA4.3**	**BH6.0**	**GH4.1**	**JA6.7**	**SH1.6**		
		Upstream Paras Town	Kunhar River near Confluence of Barinali Nullah	Kunhar River near Sangar Town	Kunhar River near Confluence of Shisha Nullah	**Total Kunhar River**	Barna Nullah	Barniali Nullah near Confluence of Kunhar River	Bhonja Nullah Near Bhonja Village	Ganhool Nullah near Ganhool Village	Jalora Nullah	Shisha Nullah near Confluence of Kunhar River	**Total Tributaries**	**Total Survey**
Scientific Name	**Common Name**													
Glyptosternum reticulatum	Himalayan Catfish	–	–	–	4	**4**	–	–	1	–	–	–	**1**	**5**
Salmo trutta fario	Brown Trout	–	1	–	–	**1**	–	–	10	–	–	–	**10**	**11**
Schistura alepidota	Stone Barb	–	–	–	–	**–**	10	–	–	–	–	8	**18**	**18**
Schistura arifi	Arif's Loach	–	–	–	–	**–**	–	–	–	–	2	–	**2**	**2**
Schistura nalbanti	Nalbant's Loach	–	–	–	–	**–**	15	–	–	–	5	14	**34**	**34**
Schizothorax richardsonii	Alwan Snow Trout	6	4	6	16	**32**	35	3	3	–	24	40	**105**	**137**
Triplophysa kashmirensis	Kashmir Hillstream Loach	–	–	–	8	**8**	–	–	–	–	–	–	**–**	**8**
Relative Abundance		**6**	**5**	**6**	**28**	**45**	**60**	**3**	**14**	**–**	**31**	**62**	**170**	**215**

Exhibit 4-88: Species Richness Observed in the main Kunhar River and Tributaries, February 2017 Survey

Sampling Location		Kunhar River				Total Kunhar River	Tributaries						Total Tributaries	Total Survey
		K110.6	K117.5	K126.9	K139.0		BAR5.2	BA4.3	BH6.0	GH4.1	JA6.7	SH1.6		
		Upstream Paras Town	Kunhar River near Confluence of Barinali Nullah	Kunhar River near Sangar Town	Kunhar River near Confluence of Shisha Nullah		Barna Nullah	Barniali Nullah near Confluence of Kunhar River	Bhonja Nullah Near Bhonja Village	Ganhool Nullah near Ganhool Village	Jalora Nullah	Shisha Nullah near Confluence of Kunhar River		
Scientific Name	Common Name													
Glyptosternum reticulatum	Himalayan Catfish	–	–	–	✓	✓	–	–	✓	–	–	–	✓	✓
Salmo trutta fario	Brown Trout	–	✓	–	–	✓	–	–	✓	–	–	–	–	✓
Schistura alepidota	Stone Barb	–	–	–	–	–	✓	–	–	–	–	✓	✓	✓
Schistura arifi	Arif's Loach	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	✓	–	✓	✓
Schistura nalbanti	Nalbant's Loach	–	–	–	–	–	✓	–	–	–	✓	✓	–	✓
Schizothorax richardsonii	Alwan Snow Trout	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓	–	✓
Triplophysa kashmirensis	Kashmir Hillstream Loach	–	–	–	✓	✓	–	–	–	–	–	–	✓	✓
Richness		**1**	**2**	**1**	**2**	**4**	**3**	**1**	**3**	**–**	**3**	**3**	**6**	**7**

Summary

Most Abundant Species	*Schizothorax richardsonii*	**Highest Abundance Location**	SH1.6	**Highest Richness**	SH1.6, JA6.7, BH6.0, BAR5.2
2nd Most Abundant Species	*Schistura nalbanti*	**2nd Highest Abundance Location**	BAR5.2	**2nd Highest Richness**	K117.5, K139.0

Exhibit 4-89: Relative Abundance Observed in the main Kunhar River and Tributaries, May 2017 Survey

Sampling Location		Kunhar River				Total Kunhar River	Tributaries						Total Tributaries	Total Survey
		K110.6	K117.5	K126.9	K139.0		BAR5.2	BA4.3	BH6.0	GH4.1	JA6.7	SH1.6		
		Upstream Paras Town	Kunhar River near Confluence of Barinali Nullah	Kunhar River near Sangar Town	Kunhar River near Confluence of Shisha Nullah		Barna Nullah	Barniali Nullah near Confluence of Kunhar River	Bhonja Nullah Near Bhonja Village	Ganhool Nullah near Ganhool Village	Jalora Nullah	Shisha Nullah near Confluence of Kunhar River		
Scientific Name	Common Name													
Glyptosternum reticulatm	Himalayan Catfish	–	–	1	–	**1**	2	–	3	7	11	–	**23**	**24**
Glyptothorax pectinopterus	Flat Head Catfish	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	-	–	**1**	**1**
Salmo trutta fario	Brown Trout	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	-	–	**1**	**1**
Schistura alepidota	Stone Barb	–	–	–	5	**5**	19	–	–	–	17	15	**51**	**56**
Schistura arifi	Arifs Loach	–	–	–	–	–	3	–	–	–	3	3	**9**	**9**
Schistura nalbanti	Nalbant's Loach	–	–	–	–	–	37	–	–	–	32	21	**90**	**90**
Schizothorax richardsonii	Alwan Snow Trout	2	5	32	90	**129**	15	5	4	–	112	34	**170**	**299**
Triplophysa kashmirensis	Kashmir Hillstream Loach	–	–	8	51	**59**	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	**59**
Oncorhynchus mykiss	Rainbow trout	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	10	–	–	–	10	**10**
Relative Abundance		**2**	**5**	**41**	**146**	**194**	**77**	**5**	**18**	**7**	**175**	**73**		**549**

Exhibit 4-90: Species Richness Observed in the main Kunhar River and Tributaries, May 2017 Survey

		Kunhar River					Tributaries							
Sampling Location		**K110.6**	**K117.5**	**K126.9**	**K139.0**		**BAR5.2**	**BA4.3**	**BH6.0**	**GH4.1**	**JA6.7**	**SH1.6**		
		Upstream Paras Town	**Kunhar River near Confluence of Barinali Nullah**	**Kunhar River near Sangar Town**	**Kunhar River near Confluence of Shisha Nullah**	**Total Kunhar River**	**Barna Nullah**	**Barniali Nullah near Confluence of Kunhar River**	**Bhonja Nullah Near Bhonja Village**	**Ghanool Nullah near Ghanool Village**	**Jalora Nullah**	**Shisha Nullah near Confluence of Kunhar River**	**Total Tributaries**	**Total Survey**
Scientific Name	Common Name													
Glyptosternum reticulatm	Himalayan Catfish	–	–	✓	–	✓	✓	–	✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Glyptothorax pectinopterus	Flat Head Catfish	–	–	–	–	–	✓	–	–	–	-	–	✓	✓
Salmo trutta fario	Brown Trout	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	✓	–	-	–	✓	✓
Schistura alepidota	Stone Barb	–	–	–	✓	✓	✓	–	–	–	✓	✓	✓	✓
Schistura arifi	Arifs Loach	–	–	–	–	–	✓	–	–	–	✓	✓	✓	✓
Schistura nalbanti	Nalbant's Loach	–	–	–	–	–	✓	–	–	–	✓	✓	✓	✓
Schizothorax richardsonii	Alwan Snow Trout	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓	✓	✓
Triplophysa kashmirensis	Kashmir Hillstream Loach	–	–	✓	✓	✓	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	✓
Oncorhynchus mykiss	Rainbow trout	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	✓	–	–	–	✓	✓
Richness		**1**	**1**	**3**	**3**	**4**	**6**	**1**	**4**	**1**	**5**	**4**	**8**	**9**

Summary

Most Abundant Species	*Schizothorax richardsonii*	**Highest Abundance Location**	JA6.7	**Highest Richness**	BAR5.2
2nd Most Abundant Species	*Schistura nalbanti*	**2nd Highest Abundance Location**	K139.0	**2nd Highest Richness**	JA6.7

4.2.8.2.5 Key Observations (2016-17 Survey)

337. A list of the fish species captured is given in **Exhibit 4-91**, along with information on their IUCN status, endemism[48] and migratory status. Of the species captured, Alwan Snow Trout *Schizothorax richardsonii* is listed as Vulnerable in the IUCN Red List 2017. There are two species, Nalbant's Loach *Schistura nalbanti* and Kashmir Hillstream Loach *Triplophysa kashmirensis*, which are endemic to the Jhelum Basin.

338. Photographs of some of the fish species observed during the surveys are given in

339. **Exhibit** 4-92**.** A map showing the relative abundance and richness observed during the February 2017 Survey is given in **Exhibit 4-93**. A map showing the relative abundance and richness observed during the May 2017 Survey is given in **Exhibit 4-94**. A map showing a comparison of relative abundance observed during the February and May 2017 Survey is given in **Exhibit 4-95**. A map showing a comparison of species richness observed during the February and May 2017 Survey (**Exhibit 4-96)**.

Exhibit 4-91: Fish Fauna Recorded from Study Area in the Kunhar River and Tributaries, July 2016, February 2017, and May 2017 Survey

No	Scientific Name	Common Name	IUCN Status	Endemic	Migratory
1.	*Glyptosternum reticulatum*	Himalayan Catfish	Not Assessed		
2.	*Glyptothorax pectinopterus*	Flat Head Catfish	Not Assessed		
3.	*Salmo trutta fario*	Brown Trout	Not Assessed		
4.	*Schistura alepidota*	Stone Barb	Not Assessed		
5.	*Schistura arifi*	Arif's Loach	Not Assessed		
6.	*Schistura nalbanti*	Nalbant's Loach	Not Assessed	✓	
7.	*Schizothorax richardsonii*	Alwan Snow Trout	**Vulnerable**		✓
8.	*Triplophysa kashmirensis*	Kashmir Hillstream Loach	Not Assessed	✓	
9.	*Oncorhynchus mykiss*	Rainbow Trout	Not Assessed		

Exhibit 4-92: Photographs of Fish Fauna Recorded from Kunhar River and Tributaries,
(July 2016, February 2017, and May 2017 Survey)



a) Glyptosternum reticulatum



b) Schistura alepidota

48 Endemic species refers to species that are endemic to the Jhelum Basin.



c) Schistura arifi



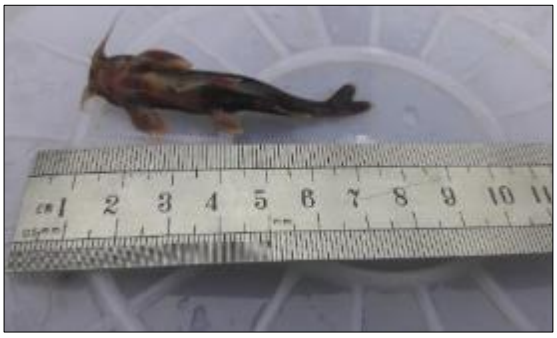
d) Schistura nalbanti



e) Oncorhynchus mykiss



f) Schizothorax richardsonii



g) Glyptothorax pectinopterus



h) Triplophysa kashmirensis

Exhibit 4-93: Fish Relative Abundance and Richness, February 2017 Survey

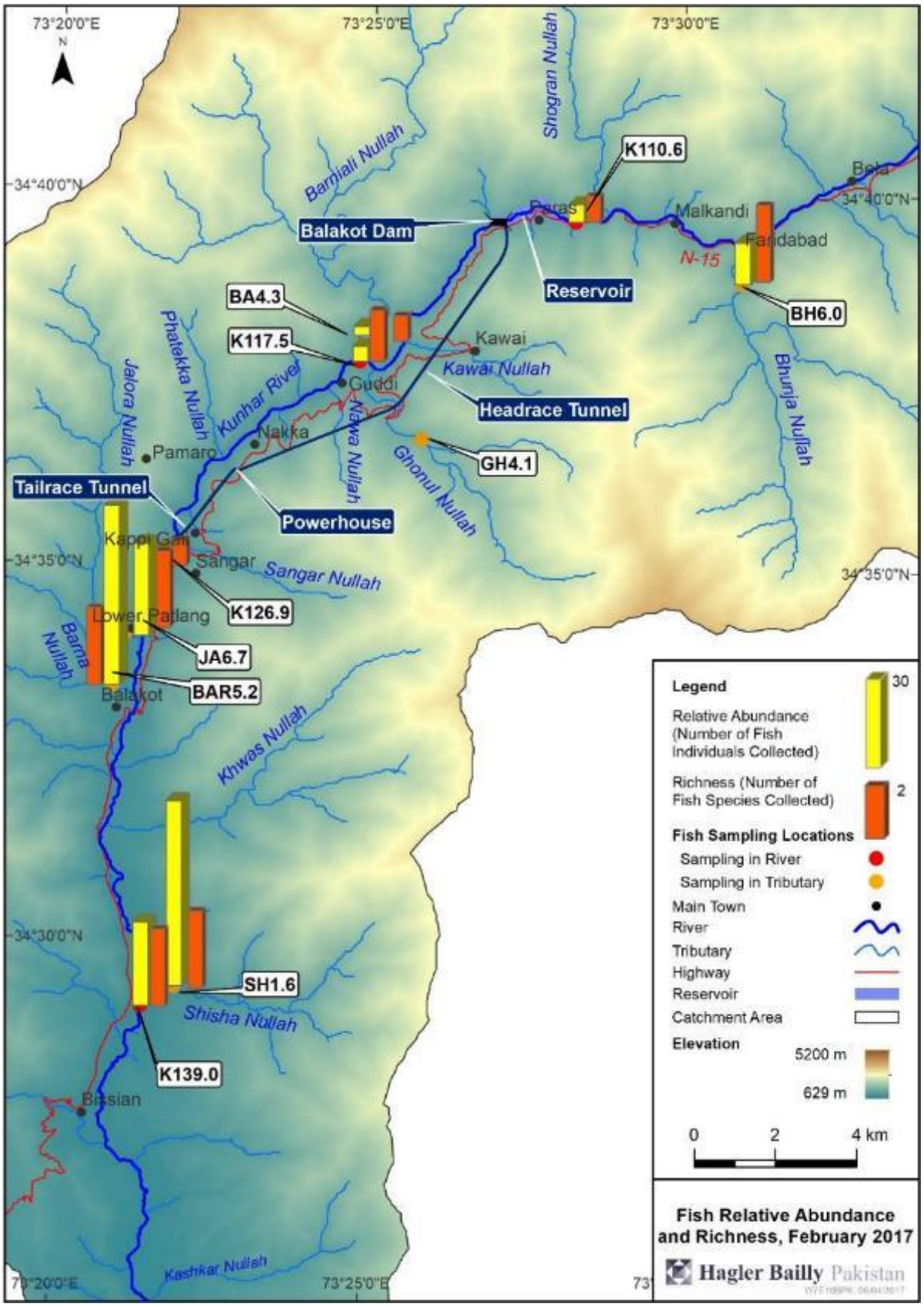


Exhibit 4-94: Fish Relative Abundance and Richness, May 2017 Survey

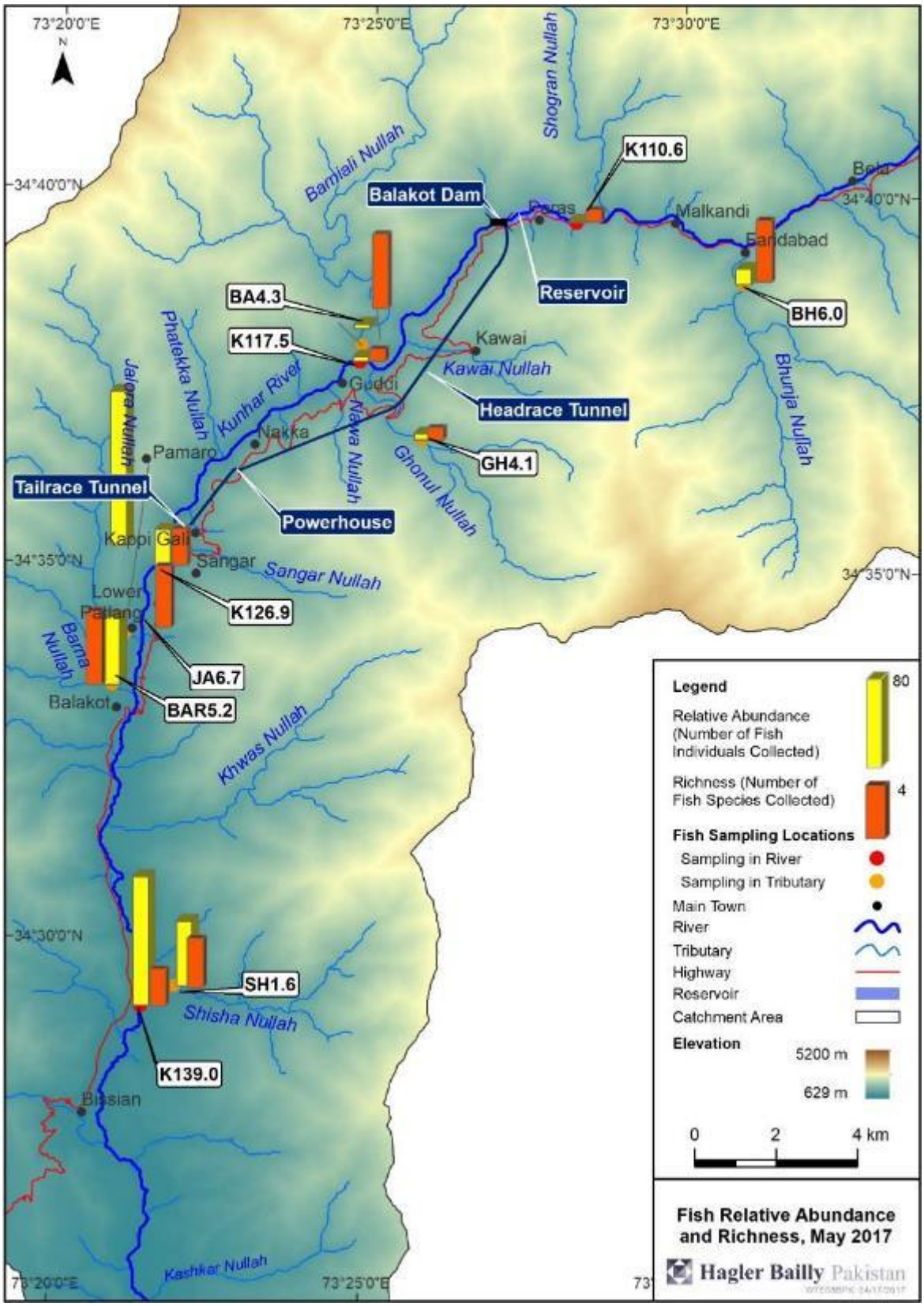


Exhibit 4-95: Comparison of Fish Relative Abundance, February and May 2017 Survey

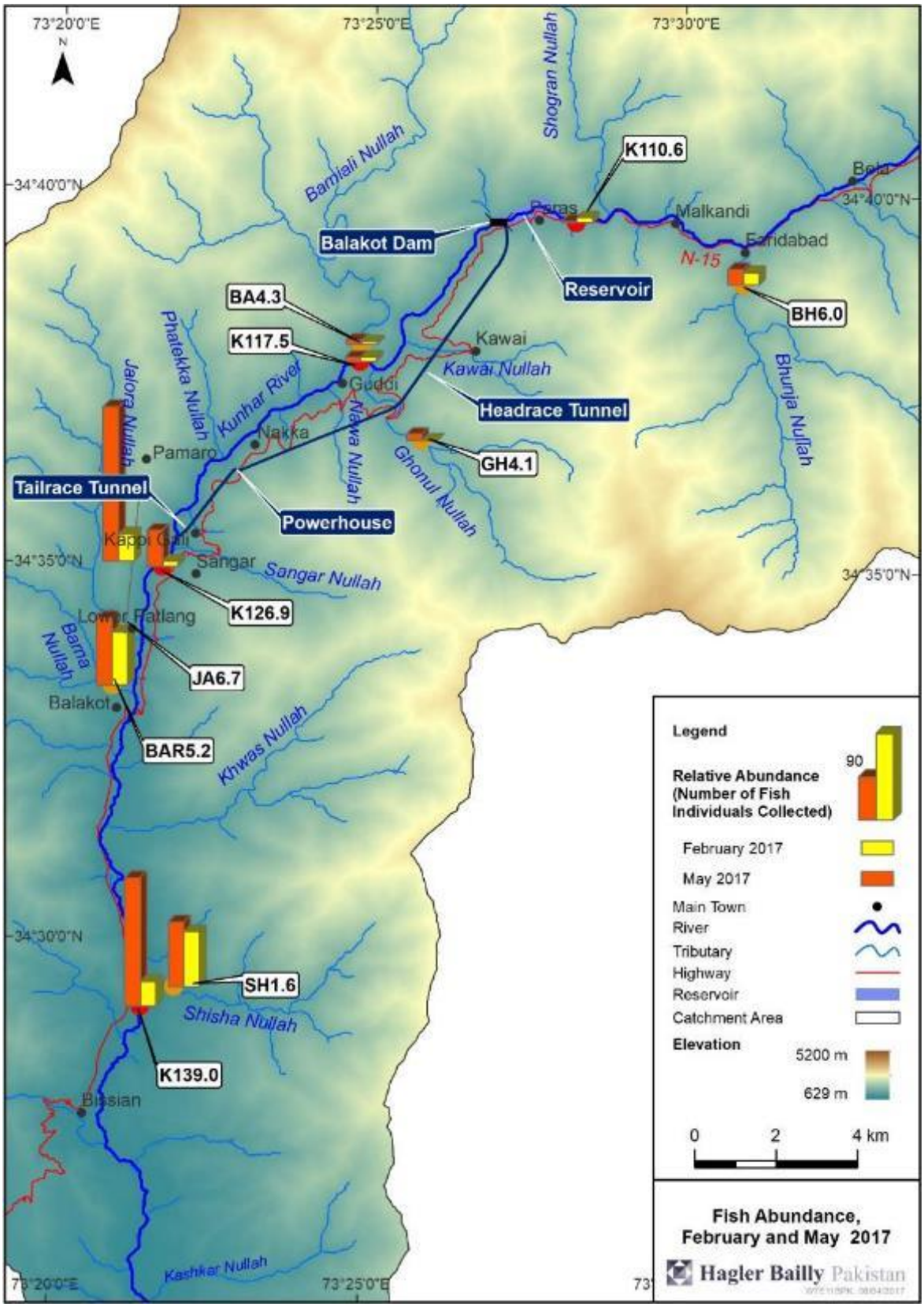
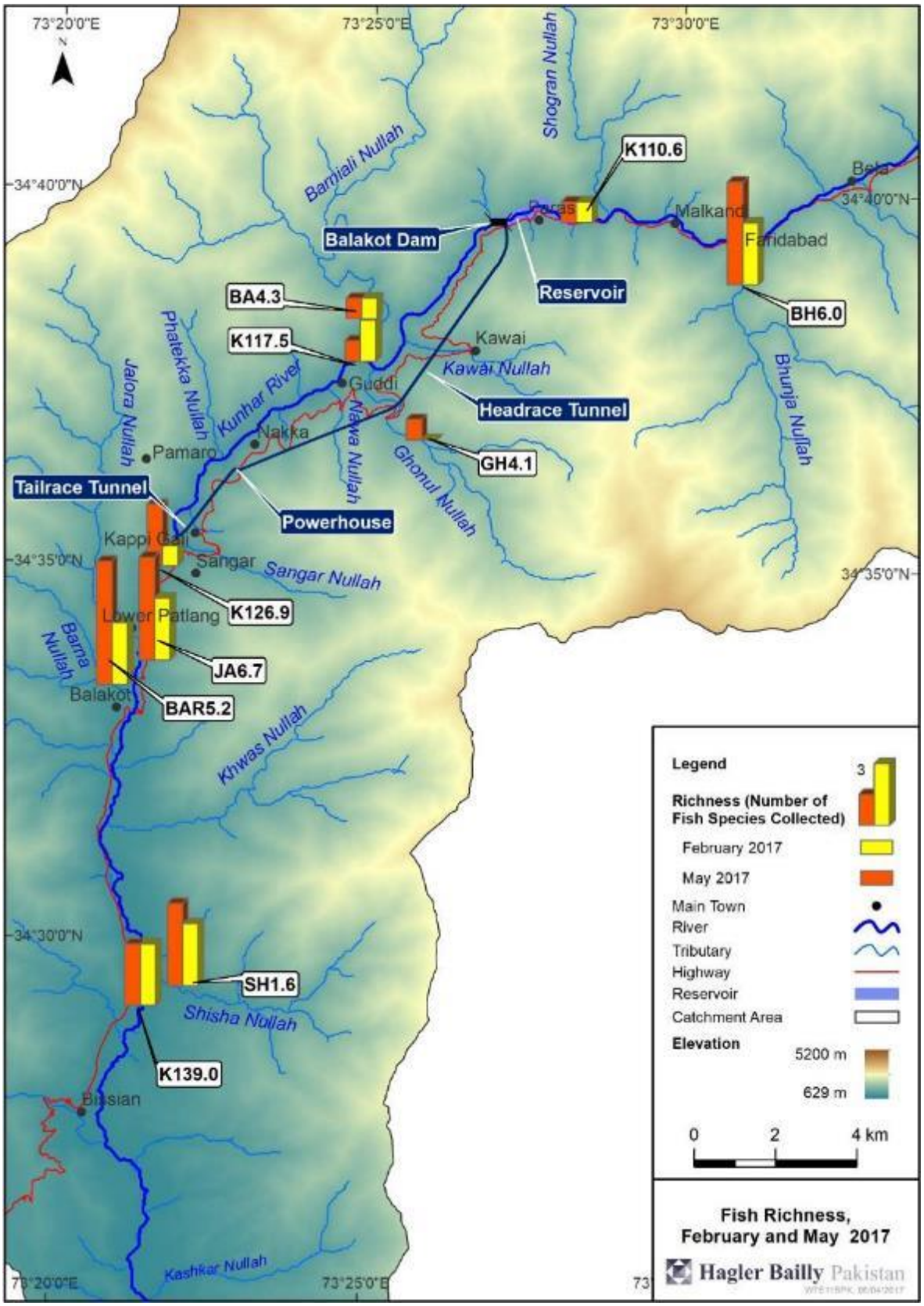


Exhibit 4-96: Comparison of Fish Species Richness, February and May 2017 Survey



4.2.8.3 Species of Special Concern in light of the 2024 Survey[49]

340. Species of Special Concern can be identified as:

- Threatened Species
- Endemic Species
- Flagship or Keystone Species
- Species of Economic Importance
- Species of Ecological Importance
- Problem Species / Pest Species

341. Eight of the recorded fish species from the study area are important from ecological, economic, and conservation points of view **(Exhibit 4-97).** These include seven Threatened Species and one economically important as well as Problem Species. Out of the seven Threatened fish species, five belong to the Family Nemacheilidae and two belong to the Family Cyprinidae.

Exhibit 4-97: Species of Special Concern in the Study Area (May 2024)

S/No	Zoological Name	Common Name	Family	Concern
1	*Paraschistura alepidota*	Stone loach / Stone barb	Nemacheilidae	Threatened (VU)
2	*Paraschistura punjabensis*	Nalbant's loach	Nemacheilidae	Threatened (VU)
3	*Triplophysa kashmirensis*	Kashmir Hillstream Loach	Nemacheilidae	Threatened (CR)
4	*Paraschistura naseeri*	Naseeri loach	Nemacheilidae	Threatened (EN)
5	*Schistura macrolepis*	Singhat	Nemacheilidae	Threatened (EN)
6	*Schizothorax richardsonii*	Alwan Snow Trout	Cyprinidae	Threatened (VU)
7	*Schizothorax esocinus*	Chirruh Snow trout	Cyprinidae	Threatened (VU)
8	*Salmo trutta fario*	Brown trout	Salmonidae	Problem Species

i. Stone loach / Stone barb (*Paraschistura alepidota*)

Family **:** Nemacheilidae

IUCN Status **:** VULNERABLE

Paraschistura lepidote was most recently assessed for the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species in 2020. It is listed as Vulnerable under criteria A3ce.

Population Trend: Declining

Special Concern: Threatened Species

342. **Introduction.** Stone loach / Stone barb is a small, freshwater fish belonging to the family Nemacheilidae. This species is known for its adaptation to fast-flowing streams and rivers, where it plays a significant role in the aquatic ecosystem. It is characterized by an elongated, slender body covered with small, cycloid scales. It has a distinctive color pattern with dark vertical bands along its sides. It possesses a pair of barbels near its mouth, which

[49] For further details, refer to Volume D of the EIA report.

help in detecting food on the substrate. It is adapted to live in rapid water, with a streamlined body that minimizes resistance.

343. **Feeding Habits.** It is a carnivore fish and benthic feeder (bottom feeder) that primarily eats small invertebrates like insect larvae, crustaceans, and worms, as well as algae and detritus, and plays a crucial role in maintaining the ecological balance of its habitat.

344. **Optimum Temperature for its Survival.** *Paraschistura alepidota* thrives in water temperatures ranging from 15°C to 20°C which is typical of the cool, fast-flowing streams it inhabits.

345. **Habitat Type.** This species inhabits fast-flowing streams and rivers with rocky or gravelly substrates. These habitats provide the necessary conditions for feeding and spawning, as well as refuge from predators. This fish was caught at 60% of the sampling points d/s of the Balakot HPP dam site.

346. **Ecological Role.** *Paraschistura alepidota* plays a crucial role in its ecosystem by helping to control insect populations and contributing to the breakdown of organic matter. Its feeding activities also help to maintain the health and clarity of the water by preventing the overgrowth of algae.

347. **Threats to this Species.** In the survey area, the following are some of the major threats to this fish.

- Habitat destruction through mining and quarrying.
- Dam construction and water management projects that may alter river flow and habitats.
- Pollution from agricultural runoff, industrial discharges, and domestic waste.
- Climate change, such as temperature and precipitation changes.
- Invasive non-native/alien species / problematic species.

348. **Distribution Range.** *Paraschistura alepidota* is a non-migratory stone loach species found in Pakistan, characterized by its streamlined body and 3-4-year generation length. It is abundant in the Madyan River, Swat River basin, Kohat Toi, and Dor rivers (Mirza *et al*. 1981). It also occurs in the Jhelum River in Kashmir, all the rivers and streams of Hazara, in Swat, Panjkora, Dir, Malakand, and Kabul rivers and their tributaries, and Kurram valley (M. Rafique pers. comm. 2020). The species is likely to occur in Kashmir Valley and Himachal Pradesh, India, but this requires confirmation (M. Rafique and J.A. Johnson pers. comm. 2020).

349. **Conservation Actions Needed.** Following are some of the actions required for the conservation of this species.

- Research into the taxonomy of this species
- Wild population management
- Land/water management
- Site/area management
- Education and awareness

- Public awareness campaigns

ii. Nalbant's loach (*Paraschistura punjabensis*)

Family **:** Nemacheilidae

IUCN Status **:** VULNERABLE

Paraschistura punjabensis has most recently been assessed for *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* in 2020. *Paraschistura punjabensis* is listed as Vulnerable under criteria B1ab (iii).

Population Trend: Unknown

Special Concern: Threatened Species

350. **Introduction.** *Paraschistura punjabensis* is an ornamental fish species (Mirza *et al*. 1995) and is commonly known as Nalbant's loach or brook loach. It is a demersal fish i.e. a ground fish that lives and feeds on or near the bottom of the waterbodies. They occupy the floors or beds of the water bodies which usually consist of mud, sand, gravel, or rocks. This species has 10-12 rarely 13 crossbars; the caudal fin is emarginated; the upper face of the head is uniformly dark and unspotted; the lateral line is shorter, usually not reaching near the caudal fin base; the dark brown stripe on the base of the caudal fin is not continuous, but always divided in a dorsal spot and a much longer, lower fragment that extends from above the middle of the fin to the ventral side. Adults can reach up to 8.1 cm in total length, with males and unsexed individuals typically smaller. They weigh up to 3.4 grams. They have a medium resilience with a minimum population doubling time estimated between 1.4 to 4.4 years.

351. **Feeding Habits.** This is an Omnivore fish, foraging on riverbeds, using barbel-equipped mouths to detect and capture prey. They primarily feed on small aquatic invertebrates, algae, and organic detritus, especially when invertebrate prey is scarce. Typically, they dwell at the bottom of water bodies, contributing to the ecosystem's biodiversity.

352. **Optimum Temperature for its Survival.** *Paraschistura punjabensis* thrives in water temperatures ranging from 15°C to 25°C.

353. **Habitat Type.** This species inhabits clear and fast-flowing streams and rivers with rocky or gravelly substrates. This species prefers well-oxygenated waters with moderate to strong currents. In the study area, this species was mostly caught from contributing streams up and downstream of the Balakot Bridge.

354. **Ecological Role.** *Paraschistura alepidota* plays a crucial role in its ecosystem by helping to control insect populations and contributing to the breakdown of organic matter. Its feeding activities also help to maintain the health and clarity of the water by preventing the overgrowth of algae.

355. **Threats to this Species.** Some of the threats to this fish species include but are not limited to the following.

- Habitat destruction through mining and quarrying
- Dam construction and water management projects that may alter river flow and habitats

- Pollution from agricultural runoff, industrial discharges, and domestic waste
- Climate change, such as temperature and precipitation changes
- Invasive non-native/alien species / problematic species.
- Capture, harvesting, and overfishing in some regions may pose a threat.

356. **Conservation Actions Needed.** Conservation actions needed for this species are:

- research into the distribution of the species;
- population assessment and population trends;
- ecological studies;
- assessment of its harvesting level as ornamental species;
- assessment of its trade level
- public awareness campaigns

357. **Distribution Range.** This species is found primarily in freshwater environments and is a demersal fish. This Subtropical fish is found in Asia, specifically in Pakistan and India. In Pakistan, it is known from the basin of the Jhelum River, a northern tributary of the Sutlej River, and a left tributary of the middle Indus. It is the easternmost species of the group. This species serves as an important part of freshwater ecosystems in its native range, contributing to local biodiversity and ecological balance.

iii. Kashmir Hillstream Loach (*Triplophysa kashmirensis*)

Family **:** Nemacheilidae

IUCN Status **:** CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

Triplophysa kashmirensis occurs in India and Pakistan, mainly in the Kashmir Valley and KP province in Pakistan. The species is threatened by various anthropogenic factors, such as dams, hydropower projects, pollution, and mining, which impact its highly specific habitat.

Population Trend: Decreasing

Special Concern: Threatened Species

358. **Introduction:** *Triplophysa kashmirensis*, also known as the Kashmir loach or Kashmir Hill stream loach, is a critically endangered freshwater fish species found in the cold, fast-flowing streams and rivers of the Kashmir region. Its elongated body, flattened head, and barbels around the mouth make it well-adapted to its benthic lifestyle. The species' body color ranges from brown to olive, with darker spots providing camouflage against the rocky riverbed. Its small scales and slippery texture aid in movement through swift currents.

359. **Feeding Habits.** It is an Omnivore fish and feeds on small aquatic invertebrates, algae, and detritus, using its specialized mouthparts to scrape food from substrates. It feeds predominantly during twilight or night, opportunistically, taking advantage of available food resources.

360. **Optimum Temperature for its Survival.** It prefers cold-water environments, generally thriving at temperatures between 10°C to 20°C.

361. **Habitat Type.** This species inhabits Freshwater Rivers and streams, particularly those with fast-flowing and well-oxygenated waters. It is often found in mountainous and hilly regions. In the study area, although it was recorded in the Kunhar River, up and downstream of the Balakot Bridge, however, mainly sampled from the tributary streams of the river downstream of the BTHPP dam site.

362. **Ecological Role.** *Triplophysa kashmirensis* plays a crucial role in its ecosystem by helping to control insect populations and contributing to the breakdown of organic matter. Its feeding activities also help to maintain the health and clarity of water by preventing the overgrowth of algae.

363. **Threats to this Species.** Some of the major threats to this species are given below.

- Habitat destruction through Mining and quarrying
- Dam construction and hydro-power projects that may alter river flow and habitats
- Pollution from agricultural runoff, industrial discharges, and domestic waste
- Invasive/alien species / problematic species

364. **Distribution Range.** *Triplophysa kashmirensis* occurs within India and Pakistan, mainly within the area of the Kashmir Valley. It has been recorded in north-eastern Pakistan, in Jhelum Valley, Kunhar River in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Neelam Valley in AJK. In India, it has been recorded in Jammu and Kashmir in the Jhelum in Sopur, Lidder, and Sindh rivers, Wular and Anchar lakes, and Mundri Wallah.

365. **Conservation Actions Needed.** Some conservation actions are listed below.

- Research into the distribution of the species
- Population assessment and population trends
- Ecological studies
- Public awareness campaigns
- Ex-Situ Conservation
- Captive Breeding & Release Program

iv. Naseeri loach (*Paraschistura naseeri*)

Family **:** Nemacheilidae

IUCN Status **:** ENDANGERED

Paraschistura naseeri has most recently been assessed for *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* in 2020. *Paraschistura naseeri* is listed as Endangered under criteria A3c.

Population Trend: Decreasing

Special Concern: Threatened Species

366. **Introduction.** *Paraschistura naseeri* is a small ray-finned fish in the Nemacheilidae family. It is 5-8 cm long, with an elongated and cylindrical body. Its color is pale with darker markings and bands. It has well-developed pectoral and pelvic fins for movement in streams and rivers. Its reproduction rate is likely high, with multiple spawning events during its breeding

season. The specific lifespan of this species is not well-documented. Its elongated and slender body, slightly flattened head, and series of barbells around its mouth help it sense food. Its color ranges from light brown to olive, with darker spots providing camouflage. Its small scales and streamlined body enable it to maneuver in fast-flowing waters. Despite being too small for consumption, it is used as an ornamental fish.

367. **Feeding Habits.** It is an Omnivore fish and feeds on small aquatic invertebrates, algae, and detritus, found at the bottom of rivers and streams. Its specialized physical traits and diverse diet enable it to thrive in dynamic, nutrient-variable environments.

368. **Optimum temperature for its survival.** It prefers cooler, well-oxygenated waters typically found in mountain streams and rivers. Optimal temperature ranges for this fish species fall between 15°C and 20°C.

369. **Habitat Type.** This species is typically found in mountain streamlets with stony beds, fast-flowing streams, and rivers with rocky or gravelly substrates, typically found in mountainous regions. In the study area, this species was recorded from nullahs d/s of the BTHPP dam site.

370. **Ecological Role.** *Paraschistura naseeri* plays an important role in its ecosystem by helping to control insect populations and contributing to the breakdown of organic matter. Its feeding activities also help to maintain the health and clarity of the water by preventing the overgrowth of algae.

371. **Threats to this Species.** Some of the threats to this species are listed below.

- Habitat loss due to sand and gravel mining.
- Water extraction.
- Dam construction under hydro-power projects.
- Overfishing in its limited habitat.
- Pollution from agricultural runoff, industrial discharges, and domestic waste.
- Introduction of exotic species and disrupting ecological balance by out-competing native species.

372. **Distribution Range.** *Paraschistura naseeri*, an endemic species of fish, is found in three river systems in the KP province of Pakistan. The species is primarily found in the Swat, Doar, Indus River, Hazara, and the Swat and Bajaur districts in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

373. **Conservation Actions Needed.** Following are a few of the actions proposed for the conservation of this species.

- Research into the distribution of the species
- Population assessment and population trends
- Ecological studies
- Public awareness campaigns
- Ex-Situ Conservation

- Captive Breeding & Release Program

v. Singhat (*Schistura macrolepis*)

Family **:** Nemacheilidae

IUCN Status **:** ENDANGERED

Schistura macrolepis has most recently been assessed for *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* in 2020. *Schistura macrolepis* is listed as Endangered under criteria A2c+3c.

Population Trend: Decreasing

Special Concern: Threatened Species

374. **Introduction.** *Schistura macrolepis* is a species of ray-finned fish, a stone loach, found in freshwater streams and rivers in South and Southeast Asia. It has an elongated body, large scales, brown to gray body color, and well-developed barbells around its mouth.

375. **Feeding Habits.** It is a bottom-dwelling and Omnivore fish known for its burrowing behavior that enables it to navigate and forage in its natural habitat. It feeds on small aquatic invertebrates, algae, and detritus; and in an aquarium setting, it may consume prepared foods like sinking pellets and live or frozen foods. Its opportunistic feeding behavior allows it to adapt its diet based on food resources in its environment, enabling it to thrive in fast-flowing, nutrient-variable waters. It uses its barbells to efficiently search for food among gravel and rocks.

376. **Optimum Temperature for its Survival.** This species thrives in temperatures ranging from 22°C to 28°C. It can tolerate a range of temperatures but may not do well outside this optimal range.

377. **Habitat Type.** This species is typically found in mountain streams with clear and fast-flowing water and stony beds, and rivers with rocky or gravelly substrates, typically found in mountainous regions. It prefers well-oxygenated waters and is often found in the riffles and shallows of these streams. In the study area, this species of fish was caught from the Kunhar River and its contributing streams d/s of the BTHPP dam site.

378. **Ecological Role.** *Schistura macrolepis* plays an important role in its ecosystem by helping to control insect populations and contributing to the breakdown of organic matter. Its feeding activities also help to maintain the health and clarity of the water by preventing the overgrowth of algae.

379. **Threats to this Species.** Major threats to this species include:

- habitat loss due to sand and gravel mining;
- water abstraction for various purposes;
- dam construction projects; and
- pollution from agricultural runoff, industrial discharges, and domestic waste

380. **Distribution Range.** *Schistura macrolepis* is adapted to plains and sandy banks. It is restricted to three sites in the Indus and Chenab rivers. This species is endemic to Pakistan, with records at three localities on both sides of the middle Indus River. It was previously described as rare in the Punjab Province of Pakistan.

381. **Conservation Actions Needed.** Some of the conservation actions proposed are given below.

- Research into the distribution of the species
- Population assessment and population trends
- Ecological studies
- Public awareness campaigns
- Ex-Situ Conservation
- Captive Breeding & Release Program

vi. Common / Asala / Alwan Snow Trout (*Schizothorax richardsonii*)

Family **:** Cyprinidae

IUCN Status **:** VULNERABLE

Schizothorax richardsonii has most recently been assessed for *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* in 2010. *Schizothorax richardsonii* is listed as Vulnerable under criteria A2acd+3cde+4acde.

Population Trend: Decreasing

Special Concern: Threatened Species

This threatened species is facing severe food competition from the introduced Brown Trout. A separate fish hatchery is needed for this indigenous fish species to ensure its safe survival in the area.

382. **Introduction.** The common snow trout, also known as "Asala" or "Asela," has a streamlined body with smooth skin covered in small scales for respiration, a short blunt head, a longer upper jaw with a hard papillated structure called the adhesive organ, and two pairs of barbells smaller than the eye diameter. The common snow trout has territorial behavior, chasing intruders to defend their limited food resources and shelter. Common snow trout has great commercial and cultural value to the local communities. The species has a streamlined body, small scales, and lipidosis on its ventral part, allowing it to move efficiently against the torrential flow.

383. **Feeding Habits.** *Schizothorax richardsonii* is an Omnivore fish and likely includes a variety of food sources such as small invertebrates, algae, detritus, and zooplankton.

384. **Optimum Temperature for its Survival.** Water temperature is a key factor in their geographical distribution and dispersal. They can remain active in near-zero temperatures during December and January. Prefers cooler waters typically found in mountain streams, often ranging from 15°C to 25°C.

385. **Habitat Type.** This species is typically found in mountain streams with clear, well-oxygenated, and fast-flowing water and stony beds, and rivers with rocky or gravelly substrates, typically found in mountainous regions. In the study area, these species were recorded in the Kunhar River upstream as well as downstream of the BTHPP dam site and tributaries.

386. **Ecological Role.** *Schizothorax richardsonii* plays an important role in its ecosystem by helping to control insect populations and contributing to the breakdown of organic matter.

Its feeding activities also help to maintain the health and clarity of the water by preventing the overgrowth of algae.

387. **Threats to this Species.** Major threats to this species include:

- habitat fragmentation due to the construction of small dams and hydropower projects;
- the introduction of an alien fish species, Brown Trout (Salmo trutta) in its habitats has caused major damage to this species;
- sand and gravel mining;
- pollution from agricultural runoff, industrial discharges, and domestic waste;
- overfishing; and
- climate change has forced the species for local migrations towards higher elevations.

388. **Distribution Range.** The common snow trout is a species of fish native to the Himalayan region, particularly rivers with moderate flow speed. It thrives in fast-flowing water, clutching onto rocks and stones at the bottom of the streams. Common snow trout is found in India, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan, and Afghanistan, and is the most common in the Himalayas.

389. **Conservation Actions Needed.** Following are few of the actions proposed for the conservation of this species.

- Research into the distribution of the species.
- Population assessment and population trends.
- Ecological studies.
- Public awareness campaigns.
- Ex-situ conservation.
- Implementation of captive breeding & release program.

vii. Chirruh Snow trout (*Schizothorax esocinus*)

Family **:** Cyprinidae

IUCN Status **:** VULNERABLE

Chirruh Snow trout (*Schizothorax esocinus*) has most recently been assessed for *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* in 2020. *Schizothorax esocinus* is listed as Vulnerable under criteria A2cde+3cde.

Population Trend: Decreasing

Special Concern: Threatened Species

It is also facing severe food competition from the introduced Brown Trout. A separate fish hatchery is needed for this indigenous fish species to ensure its safe survival in the area.

390. **Introduction.** *Schizothorax esocinus*, also known as the Chirr or Snow Trout, is a freshwater fish native to the Himalayan region. It has an elongated body, pointed snout, and fleshy lips for scraping algae and biofilm. Mostly herbivorous, it can grow up to 60 cm and has a silvery body shape. Its streamlined body helps it navigate strong currents in cold, fast-flowing

rivers and streams. It matures in the third summer and migrates to cold water streams for spawning before returning to warmer lakes. The breeding occurs from April to June.

391. **Feeding Habits.** *Schizothorax esocinus* is an omnivore that eats small aquatic invertebrates like insect larvae, worms, and crustaceans. It thrives in Mountain Rivers due to its grazing adaptations and flexible diet. Found in mountain streams, rivers, and gravel-bottomed rivers, it feeds on bottom detritus and migrates to tributary streams for spawning.

392. **Optimum Temperature for its Survival.** Water temperature is a key factor in their geographical distribution and dispersal. *Schizothorax esocinus* thrives in cold waters, with an optimum temperature range of 10°C to 20°C.

393. **Habitat Type.** This species is typically found in mountain streams with clear, well-oxygenated, and fast-flowing water and alpine lakes. Often found at high altitudes, ranging from 1,500 to 3,000 meters above sea level. In the study area, the species was observed and sampled in the Kunhar River and its contributing streams up and downstream of the Balakot HPP dam site.

394. **Ecological Role.** *Schizothorax esocinus* plays an important role in the ecosystem by helping to control insect populations and contributing to the breakdown of organic matter. Its feeding activities also help to maintain the health and clarity of the water by preventing the overgrowth of algae.

395. **Threats to this Species.** Some of the threats to this species are listed below.

- Habitat fragmentation due to the construction of small dams and hydropower projects.
- The introduction of an alien fish species, Brown Trout (Salmo trutta) in its habitats has caused major damage to this species.
- Pollution from agricultural runoff, industrial discharges, and domestic waste
- Overfishing.
- Climate change has also forced the species for local migrations towards higher elevations.

396. **Distribution Range.** *Schizothorax esocinus*, is found in Pakistan, India, Nepal, and China. It is found in the northern regions, particularly in rivers and streams of the Himalayas, Karakoram, and Hindu Kush ranges. Also distributed in parts of Afghanistan, India (Kashmir region), and China (Tibet).

397. **Conservation Actions Needed.** The proposed conservation actions are given below.

- Research into the distribution of the species.
- Population assessment and population trends.
- Ecological studies.
- Public awareness campaigns.
- Ex-situ conservation.
- Implementation of the captive breeding & release program

viii. Brown Trout (*Salmo trutta fario*)

Family **:** Salmonidae

IUCN Status **:** LEAST CONCERN

Brown Trout (*Salmo trutta*) has most recently been assessed for *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* in 2010. *Salmo trutta* is listed as Least Concern.

Population Trend **:** Unknown

Special Concern **:** Economically Important Species / Problem Species

This species has posed severe competition to the indigenous Snow trout and has dominated it in the whole of its distribution range.

398. **Introduction.** *Salmo trutta fario*, also known as the river trout or brown trout, is a freshwater predatory fish found in rivers. It prefers cool, fast-flowing, oxygen-rich, clear waters with gravel or sandy riverbeds with temperatures ranging from 12°C to 20°C. Depending on the supply of food, river trout measure 20 to 80 cm (0.7–2.6 ft) in length. Exceptionally, they may be up to 1 m (3.3 ft) long and weigh up to over 13 kg (29 lb), although they usually attain an average weight of up to 2 kg (4.4 lb). Their back is olive-dark brown and silvery blue, red spots with light edges occur towards the belly, and the belly is whitish yellow. They can live for up to 18 years.

399. **Feeding Habits.** The brown trout, *Salmo trutta fario*, has diverse feeding habits based on their life stage and habitat. Juvenile brown trout primarily consume aquatic insects, while adult brown trout are opportunistic feeders, preying on various organisms, crustaceans, mollusks, and smaller fish. They also consume terrestrial insects in some habitats.

400. **Optimum Temperature for its Survival.** The optimum temperature for the brown trout (*Salmo trutta fario*) generally ranges between 12°C to 20°C. This range allows for the best growth and activity levels. Temperatures significantly outside this range can stress the fish, impacting their health and survival.

401. **Habitat Type.** Brown trout typically inhabits cold, clear, and well-oxygenated waters. It is often found in fast-flowing streams and rivers as well as in cool and deep lakes. The trout thrives in environments with abundant cover, such as overhanging vegetation, submerged logs, and boulders. In the study area, brown trout were caught from the Kunhar River upstream of the Sukki Kinari HPP. It is worthwhile to mention here that no trout was caught from the section of river d/s of the BTHPP dam site.

402. **Ecological Role.** Every single species has a specific role in the ecosystem but this introduced fish is negatively affecting the indigenous fish species. Due to its introduction in colder waters in the northern areas of Pakistan, the population of indigenous Snow trout has reduced to a level that has shifted to the Threatened Category.

403. **Threats to this Species.** Brown trout is a unique species that remains in its habitat and leaves its home stream for smaller upstream headwaters to reproduce. Despite not being considered a Threatened Species, some individual stocks are under stress due to habitat degradation, overfishing, and artificial propagation. Increased warm water temperatures in high summer can reduce dissolved oxygen levels, leading to "summer kills" of local

populations. Eutrophication of rivers due to pollution, often from agricultural fertilizers, can exacerbate this issue. Overfishing occurs when anglers fail to identify and return mature female fish, resulting in fewer eggs released back into the system when the remaining fish spawn.

404. **Distribution Range.** Brown trout is native to Europe, including Portugal, Russia, and Lapland. It is highly prevalent in Europe, West Asia, and parts of North Africa. It has been introduced globally as a game fish and has become one of the most invasive species outside its native range. It is a potamodromous and migratory fish, inhabiting large lakes with calm, stratified deep water. It forms fluvial populations in large rivers and sometimes shallower creeks and alpine streams. Both morphs migrate upstream during reproductive seasons. Their native range extends from Iceland in the North Atlantic to the Aral Sea tributaries in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

4.2.8.4 Catch per Unit Effort (2016-17 Survey)

405. Catch per unit effort is the number of specimens captured with a particular sampling method applied in a given time or sampling unit at a particular location. **Exhibit 4-98** shows the catch per unit effort for various capture techniques used. The effort in the case of cast nets (20 castings, fifteen each of two mesh sizes spread over a defined stretch of about 100 – 200 m), electrofishing (150 m^2 area), and gill nets (setting at evening and taking down in the morning means over-nightly adjusted) varied. To facilitate comparison, catch per unit effort at each site based on combined catch from more than one capturing method is calculated and presented in **Exhibit 4-98.**

Exhibit 4-98: Catch per Unit Effort, July 2016, February 2017 and May 2017 Surveys

River/ Tributary	Sampling ID	Location	Cast Net	Gill Net			Electrofishing	Total
				50	62.5	75		
			Fish Captured/ 20 castings	Fish Captured/ Overnight netting	Fish Captured/ Overnight netting	Fish Captured/ Overnight netting	Fish Captured/ 150 sq. m	
July 2016 Survey								
Kunhar River	K138.9	Near Tranna Village at Kunhar River	13	N	N	N	N	**13**
Kunhar River	K143.9	Upstream Banda Balola Village at Kunhar River	19	N	N	N	27	**46**
Kunhar River	K145.4	Downstream Banda Balola at Kunhar River	40	N	N	N	N	**40**
Total			**72**	-	-	-	**27**	**99**
February 2017 Survey								
Kunhar River	K110.6	Upstream Paras Town	–	5	-	1	–	**6**
Kunhar River	K117.5	Kunhar River near the Confluence of Barniali Nullah	–	1	3	1	–	**5**
Kunhar River	K126.9	Kunhar River near Sangar Town	3	2	1	-	–	**6**
Kunhar River	K139.0	Kunhar River near the Confluence of Shisha Nullah	12	N	N	N	16	**28**
Barna Nullah	BAR5.2	Barna Nullah near the Confluence of Kunhar River	–	N	N	N	60	**60**
Barniali Nullah	BA4.3	Barniali Nullah near the Confluence of Kunhar River	–	N	N	N	3	**3**
Bhonja Nullah	BH6.0	Bhonja Nullah Near Bhonja Village	2	N	N	N	12	**14**
Ghanol Nullah	GH4.1	Ghanool Nullah near Ghanool Village	–	N	N	N	–	**0**
Jalora Nullah	JA6.7	Jalora Nullah	–	N	N	N	31	**31**
Shisha Nullah	SH1.6	Shisha Nullah near the Confluence of Kunhar River	–	N	N	N	62	**62**
Total			**17**	**7**	**17**	**6**	**184**	**215**
May 2017 Survey								

River/ Tributary	Sampling ID	Location	Cast Net	Gill Net			Electrofishing	Total
				50	62.5	75		
			Fish Captured/ 20 castings	Fish Captured/ Overnight netting	Fish Captured/ Overnight netting	Fish Captured/ Overnight netting	Fish Captured/ 150 sq. m	
Kunhar River	K110.6	Upstream Paras Town	2	N	N	N	–	2
Kunhar River	K117.5	Kunhar River near the Confluence of Barniali Nullah	5	N	N	N	–	**5**
Kunhar River	K126.9	Kunhar River near Sangar Town	41	N	N	N	–	**41**
Kunhar River	K139.0	Kunhar River near the Confluence of Shisha Nullah	30	N	N	N	116	**146**
Barna Nullah	BAR5.2	Barna Nullah	–	N	N	N	77	**77**
Barniali Nullah	BA4.3	Barniali Nullah near the Confluence of Kunhar River	–	N	N	N	5	**5**
Bhonja Nullah	BH6.0	Bhonja Nullah Near Bhonja Village	9	N	N	N	9	**18**
Ghanol Nullah	GH4.1	Ghanool Nullah near Ghanool Village	–	N	N	N	7	**7**
Jalora Nullah	JA6.7	Jalora Nullah	8	N	N	N	167	**175**
Shisha Nullah	SH1.6	Shisha Nullah near the Confluence of Kunhar River	7	N	N	N	66	**73**
Total			**102**	N	N	N	**447**	**549**

N = Not Sampled

4.2.8.5 Fish Migration and Movement Patterns

406. During the low flow season (December and January), the main water channel contracts, but the flow in the river remains swift due to the steep river gradient. Thus, the oxygen concentration is high in winter and hence is not a limiting factor. However, the combination of low water temperature and the fast current make the river almost unfit for the survival of most of the fish species. This forces them to migrate and the species adopt different modes of migration to cope with the severe winters in the mountainous areas.

407. Three types of migration take place at the onset of the winter season, longitudinal, lateral, and local migration. Longitudinal migration is long-distance migration, shown by fish that have strong pectoral fins and streamlined bodies such as Alwan Snow Trout *Schizothorax richardsonii* and Kunar Snow Trout *Schizothorax labiatus*. To avoid the extreme cold conditions, the Alwan Snow Trout migrate downstream in different parts of Kunhar River, side Nullahs which are comparatively warm, and also take refuge in crevices and trenches in the slow-moving areas of the river.

408. Lateral and local migration is demonstrated by fish which have no strong pectoral fins and their bodies are also not streamlined enough to cope with the flow of the river. Thus the species of the genera *Schistura* and *Triplophysa* show lateral migration which means these species move from the main river channel to side streams and nullahs having comparatively higher temperature and slower water currents. Other reasons for these lateral migrations also include foraging for food at night. Some of the species inhabiting the main river show lateral migrations during night time to avoid food competition with other species in the main river and enjoy the available food in tributary streams and nullahs of the main river. Such lateral migrations are shown on daily basis and the species return back to their habitat in the early morning to avoid disturbances and anthropogenic activities during the day time. The species exhibiting lateral migrations also occupy the crevices, boulder areas and trenches along the riverbed. The species *Glyptosternum reticulatm* show local short migration and move to more suitable habitats occurring within the main river channel. These fish have adhesive apparatus in their thoracic region, which helps them to cling to the rock crevices and underneath large boulders where the water current is correspondingly lower.

409. During February – March, when the temperature of the Kunhar River starts to rise (7 °C – 9 °C), fish that have moved to side streams (lateral migration) return to the main river channel. The sub-mountainous fish fauna, which have a moderate temperature tolerance, now start their upstream migration which is of variable distances depending on their temperature preference.

410. During May and June, when the water temperature rises to 13-15°C, changes occur in the fish distribution in the Kunhar River. With the rise in temperature in summer, and precipitation in the catchment, the floods in the nullahs bring loaches to the River including Kashmir Hillstream Loach. This situation remains persistent during summer up to the advent of monsoon. With the onset of cold weather, the cool water fish fauna gradually starts to migrate downstream to spend winter in suitable areas where they can find warmer water habitats. However, some fish that are trapped in warmer side pools fed by springs and side streams/nullahs cannot migrate downstream and instead overwinter in these areas.

411. The Brown Trout and Rainbow Trout (cold water species) which inhabit the upper reaches of the river most of the year, also start downstream migration at the end of November and the start of December. The temperature at the upper reaches drops to 4-5°C and during this season these species can be found up to Balakot. They spend winter in these areas and then they start upstream migration during early springs when the temperature is 7-8°C in the main river.

4.2.8.6 Fish Indicators and their Flow–related Needs

412. The following four species were selected as indicators for E-Flow assessment using the Downstream Response to Imposed Flow Transformations (DRIFT) model.

- Alwan Snow Trout *Schizothorax richardsonii*
- Kashmir Hill Stream Loach *Triplophysa kashmirensis*
- Nalbant's Loach *Schistura nalbanti*
- Rainbow Trout *Oncorhynchus mykiss*

413. All species selected as indicators demonstrate a comparatively higher degree of specialization in habitat preference in the Aquatic Study Area. In other words, the habitat range of these species was observed to terminate either moving upstream or downstream within the Aquatic Study Area. Changes in flow regime are therefore likely to have a comparatively higher level of impact on these species.

A. Alwan Snow Trout (*Shizothorax richardsonii*)

414. Preferences for flow-dependent habitat, breeding, and migratory behavior of the *Schizothorax richardsonii* are summarized in **Exhibit 4-99. Exhibit 4-100** summarizes the annual cycle of breeding and growth of the *Schizothorax richardsonii.*

Exhibit 4-99: Preferences for Flow Dependent Habitat, Breeding, and Movement of the Schizothorax richardsonii

Parameter	Adults	Juveniles	Spawning
Depth	0. 5 – 1. 5 m	0. 1 – 0. 5m	0. 1 – 0. 3 m
Velocity	1 – 3 m/s	0 – 0. 5 m/s	1 – 2 m/s
Habitat	Swift running water with rocky beds	Quiet parts of the streams or in the side branches of the main streams	Spawns on gravelly / stony ground or on fine pebbles with gravel size of 50-60 mm
Substrate	Rocky/Cobbly/Gravely	Cobble/Gravel	Gravel
Temperature	14 – 20 °C	14 – 20 °C	18 – 22 °C
Dissolved O_2	6 – 8 mg/l and can survive 5-6 mg/l	6 – 8 mg/l	6 – 8 mg/l
Food	Insect larvae and eggs, Detritus	Micro-invertebrates	–
Breeding Period and Trigger	May-June in the Flood Season. Breeding is triggered by rise in temperature after the Dry Season. Spawning in side channels in shallow waters (10-30 cm) with boulders and low currents.		
Movement Pattern	Shows limited movement.		
Movement Timing	Limited movement to side channels for spawning.		
Movement Triggers	Availability of side pools with shallow waters, rise in temperature		

Parameter	Adults	Juveniles	Spawning
Other Flow-related Needs	Is sensitive to pollution. Can tolerate turbidity.		

Exhibit 4-100: Annual Cycle of Breeding and Growth of the *Schizothorax richardsonii*

Months	Flow Conditions	Fish Behavior
May – June	Flood Season	Breeding is triggered by snow melting and rise in turbidity. Fish move to breeding grounds in shallow side pools, and channels of the river with cobbles. Eggs hatch in this period, and fries and fingerlings remain in shallow waters in side channels under the cobbles.
July – October	Flood Season – Transition-2 and Dry Onset	Spent fish move to areas with boulders, cobbles in their general preferred habitat ranging from a depth of 0. 5 – 1. 0 m. Fries and fingerlings remain in the side channels. Both adult and young fish feed actively in this period to gain fat for wintering.
November – March	Dry Season	Fish move mainly to crevices under cobbles or in pools for overwintering. Food intake drops and also supplemented by fat reserves for survival.
April	Transition-1	Fish become active, take maximum food and move to areas where it can get maximum food.

B. Kashmir Hillstream Loach (*Triplophysa kashmirensis*)

415. Preferences for flow-dependent habitat, breeding, and migratory behavior of the *Triplophysa kashmirensis* are summarized in **Exhibit 4-101.** The annual Cycle of Breeding and Growth of the *Triplophysa kashmirensis* is shown in the **Exhibit 4-102** below.

Exhibit 4-101: Preferences for Flow–dependent Habitat, Breeding, and Movement of the *Triplophysa kashmirensis*

Parameter	Adults	Juveniles	Spawning
Depth of Water	Banks, shallow riffles (<0. 75 m)	Shallow side pools (<0. 75 m)	Shallow side channels and pools (<0. 30 m)
Velocity	Low to moderate (0 – 2 m/s)	Low to moderate (0 – 2 m/s)	Low to moderate (0 – 2 m/s)
Habitat	Pools, riffles, glides	Banks	Pools, riffles
Substrate	Rocky, stony	Cobbles	Stones, cobbles
Temperature	8 – 14 °C	10 – 12 °C	10 – 12 °C
Dissolved O_2	6–8 mg/l	6–8 mg/l	6–8 mg/l
Food	Earthworms, larvae, slime	Micro–invertebrates	–
Spawning Period	June–August		
Breeding Period and Trigger	May–August in the Flood Season. Breeding is triggered by a rise in temperature after the Dry Season. Breeds both in river as well as in tributaries in suitable habitat.		
Movement Pattern	Does not show any significant movement except for breeding, when it moves to shallow side pools.		
Movement Triggers	Rise in water temperature, swollen river and expansion of habitat.		
Other Flow–related Needs	Is sensitive to pollution.		

Exhibit 4-102: Annual Cycle of Breeding and Growth of the *Triplophysa kashmirensis*

Months	Flow Conditions	Fish Behavior
June – August	Flood Season	Breeding is triggered by snow melting and a rise in turbidity. Fish move to breeding grounds in shallow side pools, and channels of the river with cobbles and gravely beds. Eggs hatch in this season, and fries and fingerlings remain in shallow waters in side channels.
September – October	Transition–2 and Dry Onset	Spent fish move to the banks of the mainstream. Fingerlings remain in shallow side channels. Both adult and young fish feed actively in this period.
November – March	Dry Season	Fish move mainly to crevices for overwintering. Food intake drops significantly as fish is inactive and also utilizes fat reserves for survival.
April – May	Transition–1 and Flood Season	Fish emerge and move to banks, avoiding fast flows, in search of food to get ready for the breeding season.

C. Nalbant's Loach (*Schistura nalbanti*)

416. Preferences for flow-dependent habitat, breeding, and migratory behavior of the *Schistura nalbanti* are summarized in **Exhibit 4-103. Exhibit 4-104** summarizes the annual cycle of breeding and growth of the *Schistura nalbanti.*

Exhibit 4-103: Preferences for Flow Dependent Habitat, Breeding, and Movement of the *Schistura nalbanti*

Parameter	Adults	Juveniles	Spawning
Depth of Water	Banks, shallow riffles (<0. 5 m)	Shallow side pools (<0. 5 m)	Shallow side channels and pools (<0. 30 m)
Velocity	Low to moderate (0–2 m/s)	Low to moderate (0–2 m/s)	Low to moderate (0–2 m/s)
Habitat	Pools, riffles, glides	Banks	Pools, riffles
Substrate	Rocky, stony	Cobbles	Stones, cobbles
Temperature	8 – 20 °C	10 – 20 °C	10 – 20 °C
Dissolved O2	6 – 8 mg/l	6 – 8 mg/l	6 – 8 mg/l
Food	Earthworms, larvae, slime	Micro–invertebrates	–
Spawning Period	June – August		
Breeding Period and Trigger	May-August in the Flood Season. Breeding is triggered by a rise in temperature after the Dry Season. Breeds both in rivers as well as in tributaries in suitable habitat.		
Movement Pattern	Does not show any significant movement except for breeding, when it moves to shallow side pools.		
Movement Triggers	Rise in water temperature, swollen river, and expansion of habitat.		
Other Flow–related Needs	Is sensitive to pollution.		

Exhibit 4-104: Annual Cycle of Breeding and Growth of the *Schistura nalbanti*

Months	Flow Conditions	Fish Behavior
June – August	Flood Season	Breeding is triggered by snow melting and a rise in turbidity. Fish move to breeding grounds in shallow side pools, and channels of the river with cobbles and gravely beds. Eggs hatch in this season, and fries and fingerlings remain in shallow waters in side channels.
September – October	Transition–2 and Dry Onset	Spent fish move to the banks of the mainstream. Fingerlings remain in shallow side channels. Both adult and young fish feed actively in this period.
November – March	Dry Season	Fish move mainly to crevices for overwintering. Food intake drops significantly as fish is inactive and also utilizes fat reserves for survival.
April – May	Transition–1 and Flood Season	Fish emerge and move to banks, avoiding fast flows, in search of food to get ready for the breeding season.

D. Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)

417. Preferences for flow-dependent habitat, breeding, and migratory behavior of the Rainbow Trout are summarized below in **Exhibit 4-105. Exhibit 4-106** summarizes the annual cycle of breeding and growth of the Rainbow Trout.

Exhibit 4-105: Preferences for Flow-dependent Habitat, Breeding, and Migratory Behavior of the Rainbow Trout *Oncorhynchus mykiss*

Parameter	Adults	Juveniles	Spawning
Depth of Water	Deep (>0.75 m)	Shallow (<0.75 m)	Shallow (0.15 - 0.75 m)
Velocity	Medium to high (>2 m/s)	Low to medium (0-2 m/s)	Low to medium (0-2 m/s)
Habitat	Riffles, pools, glides	Closer to the banks	Riffles
Substratum	Cobbles, also stony to gravely beds	Stony to gravely	Fine gravel
Temperature	6-12°C	6-12°C	<7°C
Dissolved O_2	8-10 mg/l	8-10 mg/l	10 mg/l
Food	Fish (Kashmir hill stream loach, high altitude loach), invertebrates	Invertebrates	–
Breeding Period and Trigger	Breeds in October through December in the Dry Season in continuous moderate flows. Breeding is triggered by a drop in temperature below 6-7˚C, typically in October.		
Movement Pattern	Migrates to tributaries and travels to suitable breeding grounds in the river to avoid competition and to find shallow clear waters suitable for breeding. Migrates back to the main river for wintering.		
Movement Timings	October-November for breeding, November for wintering.		
Movement Triggers	Change in flow pattern, reduction in turbidity, fall or rise in water temperature.		
Other Flow-related Needs	Is sensitive to pollution and therefore to poorly diluted effluents.		

Exhibit 4-106: Annual Cycle of Breeding and Growth of the Rainbow Trout *Oncorhynchus mykiss*

Months	Flow Conditions	Fish Behavior
October-December	Dry Season	Breeding is triggered by a drop in temperature below 7-8 °C. The fish move to breeding sites in the main river and the tributaries to lay eggs in beds of fine gravel (redds[50]) in riffle flow.
January-February	Dry Season	Fries emerge after about 70 days and stay in the nursery grounds, mainly in side streams and shallow water, where food is available and the current speed is low. Adult fish migrate back from tributaries into deeper water in the mainstream for survival in the Dry Season.
March-April	Dry Season-Transition Season 1	Fingerlings/juveniles stay in shallow waters near the banks and avoid fast-flowing water.
May-July	Flood Season, Snow Melt	Fish avoid turbid waters, and move to clear waters in side streams as well as tributaries.
August-September	Flood Season-Transition Season 2	Fish have relatively uniform distribution in the river and tributaries and concentrate on feeding areas

4.2.8.7 Threats to Fish Fauna[51]

418. During the three surveys carried out in 2016 and 2017, and a final survey conducted during May 2024, a number of observations were made which were identified as threats to the fish fauna in the Aquatic Study Area. Among major threats identified during the surveys, habitat fragmentation and habitat loss is on top of the list. This is due to the construction of dams across the river, sand and gravel mining and aquatic pollution due to anthropogenic activities. These threats were noted and have been stated for four indicators of fish species (**Exhibit 4-107**) along with the locations at which they were observed. Data on river-dependent activities, including sand mining and fishing, within the Aquatic Study Area, was collected as part of the socioeconomic baseline for this study. The results of this are provided in **Section 4.3.8**, *River-Dependent Socioeconomic Activities*.

Exhibit 4-107: Threats to Fish Species

S/No	Fish Species Most Threatened	Locations	Threat
1.	Nalbant's Loach	Tributaries of the Kunhar River Lower reaches of the main Kunhar River	Sand Mining City Runoff
2.	Kashmir Hillstream Loach	Kunhar River Tributaries of the Kunhar River	Sand Mining City Run-off
3.	Alwan Snow Trout	Kunhar River Tributaries of the Kunhar River	Sand Mining Fishing City Run-off
4.	Himalayan Catfish	Kunhar River Tributaries of the Kunhar River	Sand Mining Fishing City Run-off

4.2.8.8 Macro-Invertebrates

419. Benthic macro-invertebrates are an important part of the food chain in aquatic ecosystems, especially for fish. Many invertebrates feed on algae and bacteria, which are at the lower end of the food chain. Some shred and eat leaves and other organic matter that

50 A spawning nest made by a fish, especially a salmon or trout.
51 For detailed threats to the fish species of special concern, refer to Volume D of the EIA report.

enters or is produced in the water. Because of their abundance and position as 'intermediaries' in the aquatic food chain, benthos play a critical role in the natural flow of energy and nutrients.[52]

420. Stream regulation by damming of rivers and ensuing impoundment are some of the most frequent causes of depletion of biological diversity of aquatic ecosystems resulting in interference with the natural process of dispersal.[53,54] Some authors have described several beneficial aspects of water regulation and impoundment, but the loss of aquatic habitat and the associated species and populations cannot be underestimated. Any variation in the community structure of primary producers is reflected in subsequent changes in higher components of the food chain e.g., benthic macro-invertebrates and fish fauna.[55]

421. The composition of invertebrate communities varies along and between rivers, with the main influences on distribution and abundance being current velocity, water temperature, substratum type, stability of both aquatic and riparian vegetation, dissolved substances, competition, and human practices. Large, stable substrata–such as boulders and cobbles–support larger, more productive invertebrate populations than do unstable gravels and sand. On mobile bottoms, such as gravel and sand, invertebrates are readily displaced and may be at risk through mechanical damage. A decrease in substratum size results in lower macro-invertebrate diversities and production.

422. Aubert, 1959[56] reported twenty species of stoneflies (extremely pollution intolerant organisms) belonging to seven genera from Pakistan (Hindukush including Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral; Karakorum including Neelum valley, Kaghan valley; Rawalpindi including Murree). He reported six species of stoneflies species from the Neelum Jhelum area which include *Nemoura* (*Amphinemura*) *mirabilis* (Muzaffarabad after the confluence of the Neelum and Jhelum Rivers), *Nemoura* (*Amphinemura*) *schmidi* (Kel, Neelum Valley), *Nemoura* (*Amphinemura*) *skardui* (Rampur Neelum Valley), *Nemoura* s. s. *lilami* (Kel, Neelum Valley), *Nemoura* s. s. *polystigma* (Lilam, Neelum Valley) and *Cholroperla kishanganga* (Kel, Neelum Valley).

423. Unpublished data collected[57] indicates that the benthic macro-invertebrate families observed in the study for the ecological baseline of NJHP also occur at the outlet zones of the lakes in the Kaghan Valley (Dudipatsar Lake, Gittidas wetland complex, and Lulusar Lake) and outlets of the lakes in the Neelum Valley (Patlian Lake and Rattigali Lake).

424. Based on a conversation with Mishkatullah, a macro-invertebrate specialist with the Pakistan Museum of Natural History, there is no peer-reviewed information on benthic invertebrates of the Kunhar River. Unpublished research by Mishkahullah indicates that most of the benthic macro-invertebrate fauna of Kunhar River is similar to that of the outlet zone of

52 Williams D. D. and Feltmate, B. W. 1992. Aquatic Insects. CAB International Wallingford, Oxon. 360 pp.
53 Richter, B.D., Braun, D.P., Mendelson, M.A., Master, L. L. 1997. Threats to imperiled freshwater fauna. Conservation Biology. 11, 1081-1093.
54 Zalewski, M., Janauer, G. A., Jolankai, G., 1997. Ecohydrology. IHP-V, UNESCO. 7, 7-18.
55 Ibid
56 Aubert, J. 1959: Plécoptères du Pakistan. Memoires de la Societe vaudoise des Sciences naturelles, 75, Vol. 12, fasc. 3:65-91.
57 Personal communication with Mishkatullah, Macro-invertebrate specialist in Pakistan Museum of Natural History

the lakes of Kunhar watershed e.g., Dudipatsar Lake, Gettidas wetland complex, Lulusar Lake, Saif-ul-Maluk Lake.

425. During the May 2017 Survey, a total of three locations were sampled to determine the abundance and diversity of macro-invertebrate fauna in the Aquatic Study Area. These Sampling Locations are located along the main Kunhar River. They are shown in **Exhibit 4-72**. The abundance and species diversity is shown in **Exhibit 4-108.** A map of the distribution of the abundance and species diversity is shown in **Exhibit 4-109**.

Exhibit 4-108: Macro-invertebrate Abundance and Richness, April 2016 Survey

S/No	Taxa	K139.0 (Downstream of Balakot Town)	K126.9 (Upstream of Balakot Town)	K110.6 (Upstream of Paras)	Total
1	*Acentrella sp.*	5	3	10	18
2	*Amphinemoura sp.*	1			1
3	*Atherix sp.*	1	1		2
4	*Baetis sp.*	45	82	110	237
5	*Belpharicera sp.*		1	3	4
6	*Chironomidae sp.*	10	24	26	60
7	*Elmidae sp.*	1	2	2	5
8	*Epeorus sp.*			1	1
9	*Heptagenia sp.*	1	1		2
10	*Hydropsyche sp.*	2		3	5
11	*Indonemoura sp.*	1	6	35	42
12	*Lepidostomatidae sp.*	1	1		2
13	*Tipulidae sp.*		8		8
14	*Rhithrogena sp.*	52	105	65	222
15	*Rhyacophila sp.*		2		2
16	*Simuliidae sp.*	12	10	6	28
Abundance		132	246	261	**639**
Species Richness (No. of species per sampling location)		12	13	10	

426. Principal observations are summarized below.

i. A total of 16 macro-invertebrate taxa were identified during the May 2017 Survey. Identification was at the sub-family/family level.

ii. Abundance was found to be higher at Sampling Locations upstream of Balakot Town.

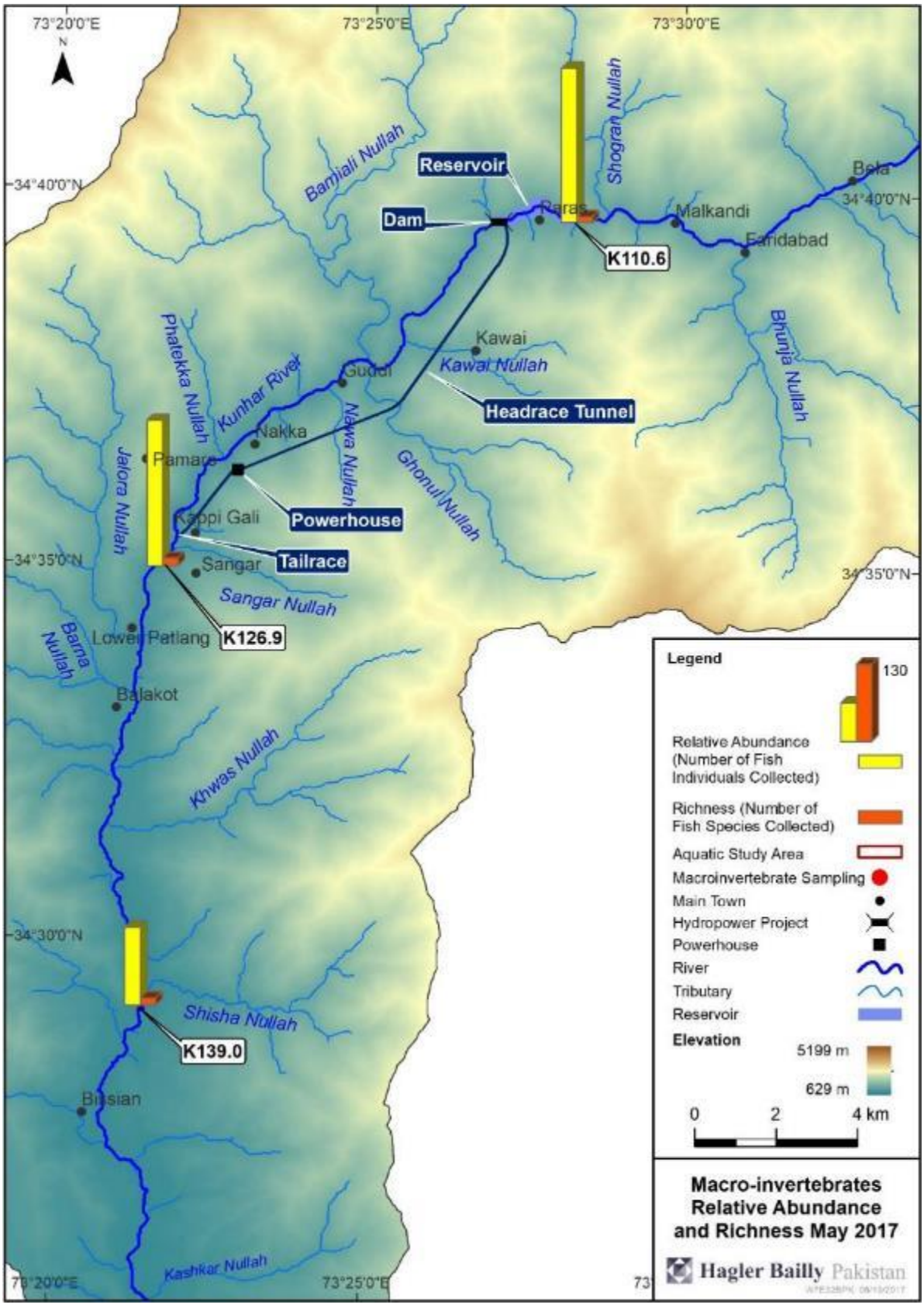
iii. Maximum macro-invertebrate abundance was found at Sampling Location K110.6, located upstream of Paras. The second highest abundance was observed at Sampling Location K126.9 located near Sangar, upstream of Balakot Town. The lowest abundance was observed at Sampling Location K139.0, located downstream of Balakot Town. The most abundant macro-invertebrate taxon was *Baetis sp* followed by *Rhithrogena sp*, both of which were much higher in abundance compared to the third most abundant taxon, *Chironomidae*. This is a common observation around the world as these taxa can live in a variety of habitats including running and standing water. Ten pollution-intolerant taxa (*Rhithrogena sp., Epeorus sp., Acentrella sp., Rhyacophila sp., Lepidostomatidae, Belpharicera sp., Atherix sp., Elmidae, Amphinemoura sp., and Indonemoura sp.*) were observed indicating good water quality. Three of the taxa observed are moderately pollution tolerant including *Hydropsyche sp*., *Simuliidae,* and *Tipulidae*.

iv. Species richness was observed to be about the same across all Sampling Locations.

v. Maximum richness was seen at Sampling Location K126.9 located near Sangar. Based on a conversation with a macro-invertebrate expert[58] the abundance of the taxa more pollution-tolerant taxa, such as *Chironomidae*, is low because of the absence of industry discharging into this stretch as well as the fast flow of the river during the summer season. The macro-invertebrate expert also noted that during summer the habitat is more suitable for macro-invertebrates compared to winter. During winter the flow of water is lower and more waste accumulates. This leads to less-pollution-tolerant taxa being adversely affected.

58 Personal communication with Mishkatullah, Macro-invertebrate specialist in Pakistan Museum of Natural History

Exhibit 4-109: Distribution of Macro-invertebrate Abundance and Richness, May 2017 Survey



427. **Macro-Invertebrate studied during the May 2024 Survey.** Aquatic macro-invertebrates include insects, worms, molluscs, crustacians, etc., and play a crucial role in the aquatic ecosystem. They make a rich source of food for several aquatic species including the loaches. Overall, 15 species of macro-invertebrates were recorded from the study area as shown in **Exhibit 4-110.** These belong to three phyla, five orders, nine families, and 15 genera. All the specimens were identified up to the genus level except the one belonging to the Family Lymaeidae and Phylum Mollusca. All the macro-invertebrates were found in the tributary streams of the Kunhar River which are the potential habitats of Loaches including the Critically Endangered Kashmir Hillstream Loach (*Triplophysa kashmirensis*). The recorded 15 species of macro-invertebrates were observed in almost every stream in the study area and their existence in the tributaries streams of the Kunhar River reflects a healthy habitat for loaches.

Exhibit 4-110: Macro-Invertebrates Recorded from the Study Area

Sl No	Phylum	Order	Family	Genus	Species
1	Insecta (Arthropoda)	Ephemeroptera	Heptageniidae	*Epeorus*	*Epeorus sp.*
2	Insecta (Arthropoda)	Ephemeroptera	Heptageniidae	*Heptagenia*	*Heptagenia sp.*
3	Insecta (Arthropoda)	Ephemeroptera	Heptageniidae	*Ephemera*	*Ephemera sp*
4	Insecta (Arthropoda)	Ephemeroptera	Heptageniidae	*Ironodes*	*Ironodes sp.*
5	Insecta (Arthropoda)	Ephemeroptera	Heptageniidae	*Cinygma*	*Cinygma sp.*
6	Insecta (Arthropoda)	Dipteria	Dolichopodae	*Dolichopodi*	*Dolichopodi sp.*
7	Insecta (Arthropoda)	Dipteria	Rhagionidae	*Atherix*	*Atherix sp.*
8	Insecta (Arthropoda)	Odonta	Aeshnidae	*Aeshna*	*Aeshna sp.*
9	Insecta (Arthropoda)	Odonta	Lestidae	*Lestes*	*Lestes sp.*
10	Insecta (Arthropoda)	Odonta	Gomphidae	*Ophiogomphus*	*Ophiogomphus sp.*
11	Insecta (Arthropoda)	Coleoptera	Elmidae	*Promoresia*	*Promoresia sp.*
12	Insecta (Arthropoda)	Lepidoptera	Elmidae	*Parargyractis*	*Parargyractis sp.*
13	Crustacea (Arthropoda)	-	-	*Potamon*	*Potamon sp.*
14	Mollusca	-	Lymaeidae	-	-
15	Mollusca	-	Planorbidae	*Gyralus*	*Gyralus sp.*

4.2.8.9 Riparian Habitat

428. The range of vegetation cover in the Riparian habitat type was observed to be between 1.48% and 0.52%. The average plant count was 27.50 per Sampling Location. Floral diversity in this habitat type was 3.25 species per Sampling Location. The dominant species include *Parthenium hysterophorus*. *Conyza Canadensis* and *Rumex dissectus*. Exceptionally high floods can cause extreme variations, with floodplain and bank vegetation completely removed, floodplains eradicated and new floodplains formed.

429. The vegetation cover, plant count, and diversity by habitat type are provided in **Exhibit 4-111**. The phytosociological attributes are provided in **Exhibit 4-112**. Photographs of riparian vegetation are shown in **Exhibit 4-113.**

430. Average and maximum cover for riparian habitat types is relatively low compared to that for terrestrial habitat types. The riparian zone is generally well defined in the Study Area as the gradients along the river banks are steep, and the impact of flood flow on the vegetation can be seen as a clearly defined line (see photograph at R1 in **Exhibit 4-113**). The riparian vegetation is naturally sparse as it is eroded by floods when the velocity of water is high. It is further degraded by the extraction of wood and grazing along the banks that are easily accessible to the local community.

Exhibit 4-111: Vegetation Cover, Plant Count and Diversity in Riparian Habitat Type, May 2017 Survey

Habitat Types	Plant Cover (%)			Plant Count (No. of Plants per Sampling Location)			Diversity (Average no of species per Sampling Location)
	Avg	Max	Min	Avg	Max	Min	
Riparian	0.91%	1.48%	0.52%	27.50	58	14	3.25

Exhibit 4-112: Phyto-sociological Attributes of Plant Species in Habitats, May 2017 Survey

Species Name	D1, Density	D3, Relative Density	C1, Average Cover	C3, Relative Cover	F1, Frequency	F3, Relative Frequency	IVI, Importance Value Index
Riparian							
Conyza canadensis	1.92	20.91	0.01	10.99	0.50	15.00	15.63
Dalbergia sissoo	0.75	8.18	0.06	21.01	0.33	10.00	13.07
Dodonaea viscosa	0.08	0.91	0.05	1.80	0.08	2.50	1.74
Ficus carica	0.33	3.64	0.03	4.97	0.25	7.50	5.37
Mentha longifolia	0.33	3.64	0.01	1.69	0.08	2.50	2.61
Parthenium hysterophorus	1.58	17.27	0.02	17.10	0.75	22.50	18.96
Phragmites karka	0.67	7.27	0.02	5.07	0.08	2.50	4.95
Ricinus communis	0.08	0.91	0.02	0.83	0.08	2.50	1.41
Rumex dissectus	1.17	12.73	0.03	14.22	0.58	17.50	14.81
Solanum surrattense	0.08	0.91	0.02	0.91	0.08	2.50	1.44
Sonchus asper	0.33	3.64	0.02	2.48	0.25	7.50	4.54
Traxicum sp.	0.17	1.82	0.01	0.96	0.17	5.00	2.59
Typha elephantina	1.67	18.18	0.02	17.99	0.08	2.50	12.89
Total	**9**	**100**	**0.34**	**100**	**3.33**	**100**	**100**

D1: Density
The number of individuals of a species counted on a unit area.

D3: Relative density
The proportion of a density of a species to that of a stand as a whole.

C1: Average cover in sq m for a single species

C3: Relative cover
The proportion of the total cover of a species to the sum of the cover of all the species in the area.

F3: Relative frequency
The proportion of the total frequency of a species to the sum of the frequency of all the plants of all species in the area.

F1: Frequency
Percentage of sampling plots in which a given species occurs.

IVI: Importance value index
It can be obtained by adding the values of relative density, relative cover, and relative frequency and dividing it by three will give the importance value IVI of the species

Exhibit 4-113: Riparian Habitat


Riparian Habitat at R1 (K110.6, upstream of Paras)


Riparian Habitat at R2 (R2 K117.5 near Gudd Villagei)


Riparian Habitat at R3 (R3 K126.9 near Sangar Village)


Riparian Habitat at R4 (R4 K139.0 downstream of Balakot town)

4.2.9 Terrestrial Ecology

431. Sampling was carried out within the Terrestrial Study Area to determine the presence of species and habitats of importance to biodiversity. A literature review was also carried out to determine the biodiversity of the wider area. The results of both the surveys and the literature review are reported in this section.

4.2.9.1 Terrestrial Flora

4.2.9.1.1 Overview (2016-17 Survey)

432. This area is mountainous and comprises the outer ranges of the Himalayas. The elevation within the region ranges from 600 m to 4,800 m. The Terrestrial Study Area has an elevation range of 1,000 m to 1,500 m.[59]

59 Nasir, Yasin J., and Rubina A. Rafiq. "Wild flowers of Pakistan." Karachi: Oxford University Press xxxiii, 298p., 104p. of plates-illus., col. illus. ISBN195775848 (1995).

433. There is limited research available on the flora of Balakot. However, within Mansehra District, research has been carried out on floristic diversity as well as ethnobotany.

434. Mansehra District is reported to have a forest cover of 25%. It consists mainly of Himalayan Moist Temperate Forest, typical of the Lower Kaghan Valley and Shogran. It is a mix of deciduous and coniferous forests and has high rainfall during the monsoon season. Plants species include Quercus *dilatata*, Acer *caesium*, Poplar *Populus ciliate*, Taxus *baccata*, Kail *Pinus wallichiana* with undershrubs such as Berberis *lyceum*, Honeysuckle *Lonicera alpigena*, Viburnum *nervosum*, Nazar Panra *Skimmia laureola*, as well as Fragaria, Viola, and Impatiens species.[60]

435. The Himalayan Forest grazing lands located within an elevation of 1,000 m to 2,000 m have a forage productivity of 200-2,000 kg/ha.[61]

436. A study to investigate the floristic diversity in Dilbori, located 30 km northwest of Balakot Town within the Mansehra District, was carried out in 2016.[62] The study reported a total of 104 species of plants belonging to 88 genera and 54 families. Of these, 97 (93%) plant species belonged to angiosperms, 3 (3%) species to gymnosperms, 3 (3%) were fungal species, and 1 (1%) was a Pteridophytic species. None of the species are Endangered or Critically Endangered based on the IUCN Red List. One species, *Plantago lanceolata*, is listed as Vulnerable and two species, *Juglans regia* and *Lathyrus odoratus*, are listed as Near Threatened.

4.2.9.1.2 Study of Vegetation (Flora) Conducted During May 2024[63]

437. An updated study of vegetation/flora in the study area was conducted to find out the existing plant diversity including trees, shrubs, herbs, climbers, grasses, and sedges. The study also aimed to find out any potential threats to the diverse flora of the area from the Project execution and suggest mitigating measures in case of any threats to the existing plant species.

4.2.9.1.2.1 Survey Findings

438. Over 287 plant species were recorded from the study area. These include 42 species of trees, 49 species of shrubs, 163 species of herbs, 09 species of climbers, 20 species of grasses, and 04 species of sedges. These 287 plant species belong to 79 families,111 species are annual and the rest 176 species are perennial. None of the recorded plant species is threatened according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

4.2.9.1.3 Habitat Types in the Terrestrial Study Area

439. Habitat classification approaches are subjective, devised to assist in the understanding of ecological systems, the functions of those systems, and the interrelationship with species.

60 United Nations Development Programme, Pakistan (UNDP), Forests & Biodiversity Information/Data Report, [not dated].

61 Hamid Sarfraz, Ashiq Ahmad Khan, Dr. Nasim Javed, Dr. Shahid Ahmad, Dr. Inam ur Rahim & Dr. M. Rafiq, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan, Final Draft, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH Registered offices, Islamabad, June 26, 2016

62 Junaid Ahmed, Inayat Ur Rahman1, Abbas Hussain Shah1, Farhana Ijaz, Zulfiqar Khan1, Niaz Ali, Said Muhammad, Zeeshan Ahmed and Muhammad Afzal, First Floristic Checklist of Dilbori (Oghi), District Mansehra, KP, Pakistan, J. Appl. Environ. Biol. Sci., 7(3)41-48, 2017

63 For further details, refer to Volume E of the EIA Report (updated).

Classically, wildlife habitat is described as containing three basic components: cover, food, and water (Morrison et al 2006)[64] with vegetation as the core descriptive component.

440. Habitats in the Terrestrial Study Area were classified relying primarily on vegetation type. Following this classification approach, three types of habitats were defined: Scrub Forest, Pine Forest, and Agricultural Land. Satellite imagery from ***Google Earth™*** was used to initially delineate the spatial distribution of habitat types within the Terrestrial Study Area and this habitat characterization was confirmed during the field surveys. The use of the term Scrub Forest for a habitat type is appropriate because Scrubland is defined as a "diverse assortment of vegetation types sharing the common physical characteristics of dominance by shrub."[65] Most of the Terrestrial Study Area classified as a Scrub Forest habitat type is covered by shrubs, with some herbaceous species and even fewer tree species. The relative percentages of each habitat type in the Terrestrial Study Area are provided in **Exhibit 4-114**. Photographs of different habitat types in the Terrestrial Study Area are shown in **Exhibit 4-115.**

Exhibit 4-114: Habitat Types for the Terrestrial Sampling Locations

Habitat Type	Area (km^2)	Percentage
Agricultural Area	5.4	20
Scrub Forest	12.7	48
Pine Forest	6.7	26
River	1.4	6
Total	**26.2**	**100**

441. The area acquired for the Project is calculated as 75 ha. Based on ***Google Earth™*** satellite imagery, within this acquired area, the different types of habitat present include 18 ha of Agricultural Area habitat, 48 ha of Scrub Forest habitat, and 9 ha of Pine Forest habitat.

Exhibit 4-115: Photographs of different habitat types in the Terrestrial Study Area, May 2017 Survey



Agricultural Area



Scrub Forest

64 Morrison, M.L, Marcot, B., Mannan, W. 2006. *Wildlife–Habitat Relationships: Concepts and Applications*. Island Press, Washington, D.C.

65 Encyclopaedia Britannica, < https://www.britannica.com>, accessed October 27, 2016



Pine Forest

442. During the May 2017 survey, a total of 42 species of plants were observed in the Terrestrial Study Area. None of the species observed in the area around the Project site were found to be globally/nationally threatened, endemic, or protected, except Common Walnut *Juglans regia*, which is Near Threatened based on the IUCN Red List.[66]

443. The vegetation cover, plant count, and diversity by habitat type are provided in **Exhibit 4-116.** The phytosociological attributes for the species in the two habitat types for the May 2017 Survey are provided in **Exhibit 4-117**.

Exhibit 4-116: Vegetation Cover, Plant Count, and Diversity by Habitat type, May 2017 Survey

S/No	Habitat Types	Plant Cover (%)			Plant Count			Diversity (Average no of species per Sampling Location)
		Average	Maximum	Minimum	Average	Maximum	Minimum	
1.	Agricultural Area	5.3	6.6	4.0	42.50	61	24	7.50
2.	Scrub Forest	6.4	10.8	4.2	49.50	81	27	4.60
3.	Pine Forest	13.9	18.8	6.8	23.00	34	16	5.33

66 The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2014.3. <http://www.iucnredlist.org>. Downloaded on 25 May 2017.

Exhibit 4-117: Phyto-sociological Attributes of Plant Species in Habitats, May 2017 Survey

Species Name	D1, Density	D3, Relative Density	C1, Average Cover	C3, Relative Cover	F1, Frequency	F3, Relative Frequency	IVI, Importance Value Index
Agricultural Area							
Ailanthus altissima	0.33	1.18	0.76	9.60	0.33	4.17	4.98
Berberis sp.	4.33	15.29	0.10	16.19	1.33	16.67	16.05
Cannabis sativa	1.33	4.71	0.01	0.75	0.33	4.17	3.21
Carissa opaca	1.00	3.53	0.00	0.01	0.33	4.17	2.57
Conyza canadensis	0.67	2.35	0.02	0.54	0.33	4.17	2.35
Ficus carica	0.33	1.18	0.49	6.19	0.33	4.17	3.85
Fragaria vesca	5.00	17.65	0.01	2.64	0.33	4.17	8.15
Indigofera sp.	2.00	7.06	0.08	6.25	0.67	8.33	7.21
Juglans regia	0.67	2.35	1.73	43.39	0.67	8.33	18.02
Launaea procumbens	1.33	4.71	0.02	0.89	0.67	8.33	4.64
Malvastrum coromandelianum	3.33	11.76	0.00	0.54	0.33	4.17	5.49
Oxalis corniculata	4.00	14.12	0.01	0.79	0.33	4.17	6.36
Punica granatum	1.00	3.53	0.22	8.12	0.67	8.33	6.66
Rumex dantatus	1.67	5.88	0.04	2.44	1.00	12.50	6.94
Rumex dissectus	1.33	4.71	0.03	1.67	0.33	4.17	3.51
Total	**28**	**100**	**3.53**	**100**	**8.00**	**100**	**100**
Scrub Forest							
Acacia modesta	0.47	2.36	0.37	9.04	0.27	4.82	5.41
Ailanthus altissima	0.87	4.38	0.20	9.00	0.40	7.23	6.87
Asparagus sp.	0.13	0.67	0.04	0.27	0.13	2.41	1.12
Berberis sp.	1.00	5.05	0.12	6.30	0.47	8.43	6.60
Cannabis sativa	3.60	18.18	0.01	1.41	0.33	6.02	8.54
Capsella bursa-pastoris	0.20	1.01	0.02	0.22	0.13	2.41	1.21
Conyza canadensis	1.07	5.39	0.01	0.52	0.27	4.82	3.58
Convolulus arvensis	0.53	2.69	0.01	0.31	0.07	1.20	1.40
Cotinus coggyria	0.20	1.01	0.06	0.58	0.07	1.20	0.93
Daphne mucronata	0.07	0.34	0.07	0.24	0.07	1.20	0.59
Dodonaea viscosa	0.07	0.34	0.09	0.33	0.07	1.20	0.62
Ficus carica	0.40	2.02	0.89	18.55	0.20	3.61	8.06
Fragaria vesca	1.00	5.05	0.01	0.37	0.13	2.41	2.61
Indigofera sp.	0.73	3.70	0.10	3.80	0.33	6.02	4.51

Species Name	D1, Density	D3, Relative Density	C1, Average Cover	C3, Relative Cover	F1, Frequency	F3, Relative Frequency	IVI, Importance Value Index
Juglans regia	0.07	0.34	3.55	12.29	0.07	1.20	4.61
Justicia adhatoda	0.33	1.68	0.08	1.46	0.07	1.20	1.45
Launaea procumbens	0.07	0.34	0.01	0.03	0.07	1.20	0.52
Malva parviflora	0.27	1.35	0.01	0.08	0.13	2.41	1.28
Melia azedarach	0.13	0.67	0.48	3.32	0.13	2.41	2.13
Mentha piperita	1.33	6.73	0.01	0.36	0.07	1.20	2.77
Morus nigra	0.20	1.01	0.28	2.92	0.13	2.41	2.11
Oxalis corniculata	2.67	13.47	0.00	0.30	0.20	3.61	5.79
Olea ferruginea	0.07	0.34	0.54	1.88	0.07	1.20	1.14
Pinus roxburghii	0.20	1.01	0.38	3.89	0.13	2.41	2.44
Populus ciliata	0.33	1.68	0.54	9.37	0.13	2.41	4.49
Robinia pseudoacacia	0.53	2.69	0.11	2.98	0.40	7.23	4.30
Rumex dantatus	0.13	0.67	0.02	0.16	0.13	2.41	1.08
Rumex dissectus	2.13	10.77	0.08	9.01	0.53	9.64	9.81
Lamium album	0.53	2.69	0.01	0.30	0.07	1.20	1.40
Solanum nigrum	0.07	0.34	0.04	0.15	0.07	1.20	0.56
Sonchus asper	0.07	0.34	0.03	0.12	0.07	1.20	0.55
Traxicum sp.	0.33	1.68	0.02	0.41	0.13	2.41	1.50
Total	**20**	**100**	**8.21**	**100**	**5.53**	**100**	**100**
Pine Forest							
Acer caesium	0.13	1.74	0.02	0.06	0.07	1.89	1.23
Ailanthus altissima	0.40	5.22	0.05	0.54	0.13	3.77	3.18
Berberis sp.	0.40	5.22	0.11	1.25	0.13	3.77	3.42
Capsella bursa-pastoris	0.07	0.87	0.03	0.06	0.07	1.89	0.94
Cedrus deodara	0.27	3.48	2.06	15.77	0.20	5.66	8.30
Conyza canadensis	0.20	2.61	0.02	0.09	0.07	1.89	1.53
Cotinus coggyria	0.07	0.87	0.21	0.40	0.07	1.89	1.05
Ficus carica	0.53	6.96	0.27	4.16	0.33	9.43	6.85
Fragaria vesca	0.33	4.35	0.02	0.15	0.07	1.89	2.13
Indigofera sp.	0.20	2.61	0.06	0.34	0.20	5.66	2.87
Launaea procumbens	0.27	3.48	0.01	0.11	0.07	1.89	1.82
Mallotus philippensis	0.07	0.87	0.43	0.83	0.07	1.89	1.20
Melia azedarach	0.13	1.74	0.89	3.42	0.13	3.77	2.98
Picea smithiana	0.07	0.87	0.64	1.23	0.07	1.89	1.33

Species Name	D1, Density	D3, Relative Density	C1, Average Cover	C3, Relative Cover	F1, Frequency	F3, Relative Frequency	IVI, Importance Value Index
Pinus roxburghii	0.93	12.17	1.45	38.78	0.53	15.09	22.02
Pinus wallichiana	0.47	6.09	1.83	24.44	0.27	7.55	12.69
Punica granatum	0.13	1.74	0.30	1.14	0.13	3.77	2.22
Robinia pseudoacacia	0.47	6.09	0.29	3.82	0.27	7.55	5.82
Rumex dissectus	0.93	12.17	0.08	2.01	0.27	7.55	7.24
Silybum marianum	0.20	2.61	0.02	0.13	0.07	1.89	1.54
Solanum nigrum	0.07	0.87	0.24	0.45	0.07	1.89	1.07
Sonchus asper	0.33	4.35	0.03	0.26	0.20	5.66	3.42
Urtica dioica	1.00	13.04	0.02	0.54	0.07	1.89	5.16
Total	**8**	**100**	**9.06**	**100**	**3.53**	**100**	**100**

D1: Density
The number of individuals of a species counted on a unit area.

C1: Average cover in sq m for a single species

C3: Relative cover
The proportion of the total cover of a species to the sum of the cover of all the species in the area.

F3: Relative frequency
The proportion of the total frequency of a species to the sum of the frequency of all the plants of all species in the area.

D3: Relative density
The proportion of the density of a species to that of a stand as a whole.

F1: Frequency
Percentage of sampling plots in which a given species occurs.

IVI: Importance value index
It can be obtained by adding the values of relative density, relative cover, and relative frequency and dividing it by three will give the importance value IVI of the species

4.2.9.1.3.1 Agricultural Area

444. Agricultural Area habitat type constitutes 20% of the Terrestrial Study Area. The range of vegetation cover is between 6.6% and 4.0%. The average plant count is 42.50, which is the lowest of all habitat types. Floral diversity is 7.50 species per Sampling Location, which is the highest out of all habitat types.[67] The dominant species include *Juglans regia*, *Berberis sp.*, and *Fragaria vesca*. Photographs of some plant species found in this habitat type are shown in **Exhibit 4-118**.

67 Average number of species per Sampling Location with a single Sampling Location being three 5m by 5m quadrats on a 500m transect, making it an area of 300 m^2.

Exhibit 4-118: Plant Species in Agricultural Area, May 2017 Survey



Indigoferra spp. at T3



Convolvulus arvensis at T3



Asparagus spp. at T3

4.2.9.1.3.2 Scrub Forest

445. As per the assessment made in 2017, Scrub Forest habitat type is the dominant habitat in the Terrestrial Study Area, constituting 48%. The range of vegetation cover is between 10.8% and 4.2%. The average plant count is 49.50, which is the highest out of all habitat types. The floral diversity is 4.60 species per Sampling Location, which is lower than the Agricultural Area habitat but more than that of the Pine Forest habitat type. The dominant species include *Rumex dissectus* followed by *Cannabis sativa* and *Ficus carica*. Photographs of some plant species found in this habitat type are shown in **Exhibit 4-119**.

Exhibit 4-119: Plant Species in Scrub Forest, May 2017 Survey



Lamium album at T5



Populus ciliata at T5



Carissa opaca at T2



Juglans regia at T2



Rumex dissectus at T4



Daphne mucronata at T9



Oxalus corniculata at T12



Cannabis sativa at T12



Justicia adhatoda at T12



Mentha piperita at T12



Morus nigra at T12



Acacia modesta at T12



Ficus carica at T12 *(not in quadrat)*

4.2.9.1.3.3 Pine Forest

446. Pine Forest habitat type constitutes 26% of the Terrestrial Study Area. The range of vegetation cover is between 18.8% and 6.8%. The average plant count is 23.00, which is the lowest out of all habitat types. The floral diversity is 5.33 species per Sampling Location, which is lower than the Agricultural Area habitat but higher than that of the Scrub Forest habitat type. The dominant species in this habitat type include *Pinus roxburghii*, *Pinus wallichiana*, and *Cedrus deodara*. Photographs of some plant species found in this habitat type are shown in **Exhibit 4-120**.

Exhibit 4-120: Plant Species in Pine Forest, May 2017 Survey



Pinus Wallachiana at T7



Acer caesium at T1



Urtica dioica at T1



Cotinus coggyria at T8



Ailanthus altissima at T8

4.2.9.1.4 Discussion

447. The indicators, including plant cover, plant count, and diversity per Sampling Location describe the floral conditions within each habitat type.

448. Within Pine Forest habitat the average and maximum plant cover is higher than in the other two habitat types. The plant count within the Pine Forest habitat type is lower than in the other two habitat types indicating that the number of plants in this habitat type is fewer and the higher cover is provided by the more frequent presence of species with large canopies such as *Pinus roxburghii* and *Pinus wallichiana*. The species diversity per Sampling Location is highest for Agricultural Area habitat type indicating that within this habitat type, there is greater species diversity as compared to the Pine Forest and Scrub Forest habitat types. The lowest species diversity is in the Pine Forest habitat type.

4.2.9.1.5 Invasive Species

449. An alien or non-native plant or animal species is introduced beyond its original range of distribution. Invasive alien species are non-native species that may become invasive or spread rapidly by outcompeting other native plants and animals when they are introduced into a new habitat that lacks their controlling factors as determined by natural evolution.[68]

450. Studies have indicated that 700 alien species are found in Pakistan. Of these six are considered to have extremely invasive nature including Paper Mulberry *Broussonetia*

68 International Finance Corporation, 2012, Guidance Note 6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

papyrifera, Mesquite *Prosopis juliflora*, Common Water Hyacinth *Eichhornia crassipes*, Giant Salvinia *molesta*, Parthenium Weed *Parthenium hystrophorus*, and Lantana *camara*.[69]

451. Paper Mulberry, having East Asian origin is an invasive species in the Himalayan foothills which not only threatens the natural vegetation of Islamabad but has also become a prime source of pollen allergy to about 46% of people in Islamabad.[70] The species Parthenium Weed, originating in the Gulf of Mexico and Central South America, was introduced in India and later invaded Pakistan. It is an aggressive weed in wastelands, roadsides, water courses, and plantations. It can thrive well in high-temperature zones; the global warming scenario will even favor this invader.[71] The species has replaced the native vegetation and shows vigorous growth by forming thick continuous mats along the roadsides in many cities of the country where the climatic conditions are favorable. It is also one of the major weeds in disturbed areas causing allergies.[72] Other invasive species found in northern Pakistan include Ailanthus *altissima*, Black Locust *Robinia pseudoacacia,* and *Lantana camara*.[73]

452. A study conducted in District Manshera, Pakistan in 2006, identified 63 weed species belonging to 32 families as being common in agricultural areas.[74] Of these, 23 weeds were perennial, 37 were annual and three were parasitic. Two species C*uscuta reflexa* and *Viscum album* were found to be major parasitic weeds on trees. *Viscum album* was found to be damaging the Near Threatened species Common Walnut *Juglans regia* while C*uscuta reflexa* was found to be growing in all kinds of trees and bushes.

453. An analysis of invasive species in the Riparian habitat and the habitat types in the Terrestrial Study Area was carried out. A total of seven invasive species were identified.

4.2.9.1.6 Riparian Vegetation

454. In the Riparian habitat, a total of three invasive species were identified including Parthenium Weed *Parthenium hysterophorus*, Common Weed *Phragmites karka,* and Castor Oil Plant *Ricinus communis*. Based on their IVI, Parthenium Weed (18.96) is the dominant species in the Riparian habitat.

4.2.9.1.7 Terrestrial Study Area

455. In the Terrestrial Study area, a total of four invasive species were identified, in all three habitat types. In the Agricultural Area habitat type, two invasive species were observed including Tree-of-heaven *Ailanthus altissima,* and Cannabis *sativa* both with low IVIs of 4.98 and 3.21 respectively. This indicates that invasive species are not dominant in this habitat type. In the Scrub Forest habitat, all four invasive species were observed including Tree-of-heaven, Cannabis, Pink Cheeseweed *Malva parviflora,* and Black Locust *Robinia pseudoacacia*. Cannabis and Tree-of-heaven have the second and fourth highest IVIs of 8.54 and 6.87 respectively in this habitat type indicating that they are dominant species in the Scrub

69 Mohammad Niaz, May 4, 2009, Invasive alien species: A threat to biodiversity, Dawn News, accessed November 8, 2016
70 Ibid
71 Ibid
72 National Environment Information Management System (NEIMS), United Nations Development Program, May 4, 2010, Forests and Biodiversity Information/Data Report, National Environment Information Management System (NEIMS), United Nations Development Program
73 Ibid
74 Ghulam Mujtaba Shah, Mir Ajab Khan, Checklist of Noxious Weeds of Distract Mansehra, Pakistan, Pak. J. Weed Sci. Res. 12 (3): 213-219, 2006

Forest habitat. The other two have lower IVIs. In Pine Forest habitat all four invasive species were observed. Both had relatively low IVI values in this habitat type with Black Locust having the sixth highest IVI of 5.82 and Tree-of-heaven having the tenth highest IVI of 3.18. This indicates invasive species are not dominant in this habitat type.

456. The habitat types with the highest number of invasive species, totaling four, are Scrub Forest and Pine Forest. Two invasive species in these habitat types, Cannabis and Tree-of-heaven, are also among the dominant species in this plant community. In Riparian habitat, the invasive species Parthenium Weed is dominant, having the highest IVI in the plant community.

4.2.9.1.8 Risk Assessment

457. Most of the Project-related activities will take place on the Scrub Forest habitat type, however, there will also be Project-related activity on Agricultural Areas and the Pine Forest habitat type. The invasive species already present in the Scrub Forest habitat type include Tree-of-heaven, Cannabis, Pink Cheese weed, and Black Locust, of which the first two are dominant in that habitat type. Project-related activity in the Riparian habitat type will increase the risk of spreading of Parthenium Weed, which is already dominant in that habitat type. Disturbance of areas covered within these habitat types increases the risk of the spread of these invasive species, in particular. However, other invasive species can also spread and colonize the disturbed areas as Project-related activities such as transport of equipment and waste can facilitate their spread, along with natural modes of dispersion such as being carried on the bodies of birds and other animals, as well as through wind and water.

458. The risk of each species within the Terrestrial Study Area was assessed based on the following categories:

- Importance Value Index (IVI)
- Relative Cover

459. The invasive species were ranked based on IVI[75], in Riparian habitat and all other Terrestrial Habitats combined for the Terrestrial Study Area. The habitat types in Terrestrial Habitats include Scrub Forests, Pine Forest, and Agricultural Areas. The ranking is presented in **Exhibit 4-121**.

Exhibit 4-121: Importance Value Index (IVI)

Ranking	Terrestrial Habitats (Agriculture Area, Scrub Forest, and Pine Forest habitats)	Riparian Habitat
1.	*Cannabis sativa*	Parthenium Weed *Parthenium hysterophorus*
2.	Tree-of-heaven *Ailanthus altissima*	Common Weed *Phragmites karka*
3.	Black Locust *Robinia pseudoacacia*	Castor Oil Plant *Ricinus communis*
4.	Pink Cheeseweed *Malva parviflora*	

75 A composite index calculated using relative frequency, density and cover

460. The results of the ranking show that in Riparian habitat, Parthenium Weed is dominant followed by Common Weed and Castor Oil Plant. In Terrestrial Habitats the dominant species is Cannabis followed by Tree-of-heaven, Black Locust, and Pink Cheeseweed.

461. The ranking based on relative cover is presented in **Exhibit 4-122.** The overall relative cover of all invasive species compared to that of all the plant species was 7.85% in Terrestrial Habitats and 23.00% in Riparian habitat.

Exhibit 4-122: Relative Cover (C3)

Ranking	Terrestrial Habitats (Agriculture Area, Scrub Forest, and Pine Forest habitats)	Riparian Habitat
1.	Tree-of-heaven *Ailanthus altissima*	Parthenium Weed *Parthenium hysterophorus*
2.	Black Locust *Robinia pseudoacacia*	Common Weed *Phragmites karka*
3.	*Cannabis sativa*	Castor Oil Plant *Ricinus communis*
4.	Pink Cheeseweed *Malva parviflora*	

462. The results of the ranking based on relative cover show that in Terrestrial Habitats the highest relative cover is for Tree-of-heaven followed by Black Locust, Cannabis, and Pink Cheeseweed. In Riparian habitats, the highest cover is for Parthernium Weed followed by Common Weed and Castor Oil Plant.

463. The habitat most at risk is the Riparian Habitat. This is because species cover for invasive species is higher in this than in Terrestrial Habitats. The dominant species in this habitat type is Parthenium Weed (based on IVI) which spreads as a result of disturbance. This indicates that Riparian habitat type is more disturbed than other habitat types.

4.2.10 Ethnobotany

464. Ethnobotany is the systematic study of the relationships between plants and people.[76] The popularity of herbal drugs is on the rise in many developed countries of the world, while in developing countries like Pakistan; medicinal plants contribute significantly to the income sources of people living in remote areas.[77]

465. Pakistan is among the top eight exporting countries of medicinal and aromatic plants in the world, exporting plants worth US$ 5.45 million per year. Over 60% of the total exports originate from the Hindukush-Himalayas regions of the country.[78]

466. The country on the whole has a serious problem with the loss of floral richness and diversity. Deforestation, followed by heavy grazing/browsing by domestic livestock; and unsustainable uses of various forms are the major factors behind the rapid loss of floral resources.[79]

76 New World Encyclopedia, http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Ethnobotany, accessed April 13, 2017
77 Hassan Sher, Haidar Ali And Shafiqur Rehman, Identification And Conservation of Important Plant Areas (IPAS) For The Distribution Of Medicinal, Aromatic And Economic Plants In The Hindukush-Himalaya Mountain Range, Pak. J. Bot., 44: 187-194, Special Issue May 2012
78 Hassan Sher, Haidar Ali And Shafiqur Rehman, Identification And Conservation of Important Plant Areas (IPAS) For The Distribution Of Medicinal, Aromatic And Economic Plants In The Hindukush-Himalaya Mountain Range, Pak. J. Bot., 44: 187-194, Special Issue May 2012
79 Ibid

467. Studies have been carried out on the ethnobotanical value of plants in the Mansehra District. The areas selected for the studies that are closest to the Terrestrial Study Area and representative of the fauna include Siran, Shogran, and Kaghan Valleys.

468. Studies have shown that Siran has about 123 species, while Shogran hosts 117 species having high ethnobotanical and medicinal importance.[80]

469. Within Siran Valley, a study carried out in 2006 reported the ethno-medicinal uses of 80 plant species belonging to 49 families. Of these, cultivated medicinal plants consist of 21 species with the rest being wild plants.[81]

470. Within Shogran Valley, 50 plant species were selected to observe their pharmacological values. The study found that the plants were used for medicinal applications in skin treatment, as diuretics, expectorants, digestive, anti-inflammatory, and respiratory disorders. The species *Abies pindrow*, *Achillea millefolium*, *Cedrus deodara*, *Stellaria media*, *Trigonella foenumgraecum,* and *Urtica dioica* have therapeutic applications for the treatment of a variety of ailments.[82]

471. Within Kaghan Valley, studies were conducted in 2009 and 2010. These found 102 important plant species belonging to 93 genera and 61 families. Many of these plants were found to have more than one local use. These included use as fuel wood, forage/fodder, medicinal, edible, shelter-making, timber wood, and furniture wood.[83]

4.2.11 Mammals

472. The forests of the area provide a habitat for mammal species including Yellow-throated Marten *Martes flavigula*, Giant Red Flying Squirrel *Petaurista*, Flying Squirrel *Hylopetes fimbriatus*, Leopard Cat *Prionailurus bergalensis*. Grey Langur *Semnopithecus entellus*, Rhesus Macaque *Macaca mulatta*, Common Leopard *Panthera pardus*, Himalayan Black Bear *Ursus thibetanus*, Grey Goral *Nemorhaedus goral*, Porcupine *Hystrix indica*. Murree Vole *Hyperacrius wynnei*. Turkestan Rat *Rattus turkestanicus*, Long-tailed Field Mouse *Apodemus sylvaticus*. Whiskered Bat *Myotis muricola* and Grey Long-eared Bat *Plecotus austriacus*.[84,85]

473. Some of the species reported are included in the IUCN Red List 2014.[86] The Musk Deer *Moschus leucogaster* and Himalayan Grey Langur *Semnopithecus ajaxlis* are listed as Endangered, Black Bear *Ursus thibetanus* is listed as Vulnerable while the Common Leopard *Panthera pardus* and Grey Goral *Naemorhedus goral* are listed as Near Threatened.[87]

80 Ibid
81 Ghulam Mujtaba Shah and Mir Ajab Khan, Check List of Medicinal Plants of Siran Valley Mansehra-Pakistan, Ethnobotanical Leaflets 10: 63-71. 2006.
82 Ume Ummara, Tasveer Zahra Bokhari, Adeela Altaf, Uzma Younis, Altaf Ahmed Dasti, Pharmacological Study of Shogran Valley Flora, Pakistan, International Journal of Scientific & Engineering Research, Volume 4, Issue 9, September, 2013
83 Muhammad Rashid Awan, Zafar Iqbal, Syed Muqarab Shah, Zafar Jamal, Gul Jan, Muhammad Afzal, Abdul Majid and Alia Gul, Studies on traditional knowledge of economically important plants of Kaghan Valley, Mansehra District, Pakistan, Journal of Medicinal Plants Research Vol. 5(16), pp. 3958-3967, 18 August, 2011
84 United Nations Development Programme, Pakistan (UNDP), Forests & Biodiversity Information/Data Report, [not dated].
85 Hamid Sarfraz, Ashiq Ahmad Khan, Dr. Nasim Javed, Dr. Shahid Ahmad, Dr. Inam ur Rahim & Dr. M. Rafiq, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan, Final Draft, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH Registered offices, Islamabad, June 26, 2016
86 The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2014.3. <http://www.iucnredlist.org>. Downloaded on 25 May 2017.
87 Ibid

474. Sampling was carried out at 17 Sampling Locations during the May 2017 Survey to study the mammalian species abundance and diversity within the Terrestrial Study Area and Riparian habitat. The locations of these are shown in **Exhibit 4-70**. The results of the surveys, based on the sightings or signs of the mammals observed during the survey carried out for this study are provided in **Exhibit 4-123**. A summary of the results by habitat type is provided in **Exhibit 4-124** which presents data on the signs and sightings of mammals (excluding rodents), abundance, and diversity for the May 2017 Survey. Photographs of the signs of the Asiatic Jackal are shown in **Exhibit 4-125**. An Asiatic Jackal was sighted between Sampling Locations T8 and T10 at night time (34°35'32.8"N, 73°22'41.9"E).

Exhibit 4-123: Abundance of Mammal Signs and Sightings, May 2017 Survey

S/ No	Scientific Name	Common Name	IUCN Status[88]	Agricultural Area		Scrub Forest		Pine Forest		Riparian	
				Sightings	Signs	Sightings	Signs	Sightings	Signs	Sightings	Signs
	Canidae										
1.	*Canis aureus*	Asiatic Jackal	Least Concern		2				3	1	1
2.	*Vulpes*	Red Fox	Least Concern			1					
	Hystricidae										
3.	*Hystrix indica*	Indian Crested Porcupine	Least Concern						1		1
	Herpestidae										
4.	*Herpestes javanicus*	Small Asian Mongoose	Least Concern					1			

88 The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2014.3. <http://www.iucnredlist.org>. Downloaded on 25 May 2017.

Exhibit 4-124: Signs/Sightings Data for Mammals (excluding Rodents) Abundance and Diversity by Habitat Type, May 2017 Survey

Habitat	No. of Sampling Locations	Total Signs/ Sightings	Average Signs/Sightings per Sampling Locations (Density)	No. of Species
Agricultural Area	2	2	1.00	1
Scrub Forest	6	1	0.17	1
Pine Forest	5	5	1.00	3
Riparian	4	2	0.50	2
Total	**17**	**10**	**0.59**	**4**

Exhibit 4-125: Signs of Mammals, May 2017 Survey





Scat of Jackal at T11

475. The locals in the Terrestrial Study Area were questioned about the sighting of wildlife species in the vicinity of the Terrestrial Study Area. They stated that the area's Asiatic Jackal, Red Fox, Common Leopard, and Wild Boar are very common. They emphasized the fact that Wild Boar is damaging crops. The mammals reported to be harmful to livestock included the Asiatic Jackal, and Common Leopard. The SFDO, Balakot, Sarmad Shah stated that the Black Bear is also common in the area.

4.2.11.1 Small Mammals

476. Trapping for small mammals was carried out at three sampling locations, one for each habitat type. The locations and coordinates are provided in **Exhibit 4-126.** Photographs of small mammal traps are shown in **Exhibit 4-127.** No small mammals were captured.

Exhibit 4-126:Small Mammal Trapping Locations, May 2017 Survey

Habitat	Closest Sampling Location	Latitude	Longitude
Agricultural Area	T11	34°34'54.30"	73°22'7.90"
Scrub Forest	T12	34°35'20.60"	73°22'11.5"
Pine Forest	T8	34°36'04.79"	73°22'54.25"

Exhibit 4-127: Small Mammal Traps, May 2017 Survey





477. **Results of the mammalogical studies conducted during May 2024**. Overall 21 species of mammals belonging to six orders, 12 families, and 21 genera were recorded from the project area as shown in **Exhibit 4-128.**

Exhibit 4-128: Mammals Recorded from the Study Area (May 2024)

S/No	Common Name	Zoological Name	Family	Order
1	Long-eared Hedgehog	*Hemiechinus collaris*	Erinaceidae	Insectivora
2	Tibetan Red-toothed Shrew	*Sorex thibetanus*	Soricidae	Insectivora
3	House Shrew	*Suncus murinus*	Soricidae	Insectivora
4	Fulvous Fruit Bat	*Rousettus leschenaultii*	Pteropodidae	Chiroptera
5	Flying Fox	*Pteropus giganteus*	Pteropodidae	Chiroptera
6	Yellow House Bat	*Scotophilus heathii*	Vespertilionidae	Chiroptera
7	Least Pipistrelle	*Pipistrellus savii*	Vespertilionidae	Chiroptera
8	Cape Hare	*Lepus capensis*	Leporidae	Lagomorpha
9	Five-striped Palm Squirrel	*Funambulus pennantii*	Sciuridae	Rodentia
10	Indian Crested Porcupine	*Hystrix indica*	Hystricidae	Rodentia
11	Himalayan Field Mouse	*Apodemus rusiges*	Muridae	Rodentia
12	House Rat	*Rattus rattus*	Muridae	Rodentia
13	House Mouse	*Mus musculus*	Muridae	Rodentia
14	Short-tailed Mole Rat	*Nesokia indica*	Muridae	Rodentia
15	Indian Gerbil	*Tatera indica*	Muridae	Rodentia
16	Indian Desert Gerbil	*Meriones hurrianae*	Muridae	Rodentia
17	Asiatic Jackal	*Canis aureus*	Canidae	Carnivora
18	Common Red Fox	*Vulpes vulpes*	Canidae	Carnivora
19	Yellow-throated Marten	*Martes flavigula*	Mustellidae	Carnivora
20	Small Indian Mongoose	*Herpestes javanicus*	Herpestidae	Carnivora
21	Wild Boar	*Sus scrofa*	Bovidae	Artiodactyla

478. **Ecological role of mammals.** Every single species whether it is a plant or animal has a significant role in nature and plays its part in keeping the ecosystem in equilibrium. Among the recorded species of mammals some species are primary consumers, some are secondary consumers and some are scavengers and all have important role at their level to maintain the ecosystem. If a few pairs of house rat or house mouse or field mouse are allowed to flourish without any threat, their population may reach in millions within 2-3 year. Nature has deputed carnivore species like cats, foxes etc. to keep hunting the rodents and limit their populations according to the needs of the ecosystem. Similarly, the mongooses are playing their part by limiting the populations of snakes, lizards and many insects. The role of Common red fox is also to keep the populations of different rodents within limits. Asiatic jackal and Wild boar are scavengers in the project area and hence responsible for removing the dead organic matter from environment and keeping it clean. The disturbances in the ecosystem we observe today are due to the fact that the ecological roles of a number of wildlife species has been taken by the human being which is unnatural and will end in the collapsing of the whole ecosystem. In other words, man is changing and replacing the God made natural system with an artificial system. However, the existing mammalian fauna in the project area is neither facing any threat from nature nor it will face from the project activities. Rather a few mammalian species are considered nuisance due to being agricultural pests like the Indian crested porcupine, wild boar, Asiatic jackal.

479. **Conservation status of mammals.** According to IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (IUCN 2024), all the recorded mammals in the study area have been categorized as "Least Concern" with either stable or increasing population trend as shown in **Exhibit 4-129.**

Exhibit 4-129: Conservation Status of the Mammals Recorded in the Study Area (May 2024)

S/No	Recorded Mammals	Zoological Name	IUCN Status (2024)	Population Trend (2024)
1	Long-eared Hedgehog	*Hemiechinus collaris*	LC	Unknown
2	Tibetan Red-toothed Shrew	*Sorex thibetanus*	LC	Stable
3	House Shrew	*Suncus murinus*	LC	Stable
4	Fulvous Fruit Bat	*Rousettus leschenaultii*	LC	Stable
5	Flying Fox	*Pteropus giganteus*	LC	Unknown
6	Yellow House Bat	*Scotophilus heathii*	LC	Increasing
7	Least Pipistrelle	*Pipistrellus savii*	LC	Unknown
8	Cape Hare	*Lepus capensis*	LC	Stable
9	Five-striped Palm Squirrel	*Funambulus pennantii*	LC	Stable
10	Indian Crested Porcupine	*Hystrix indica*	LC	Stable
11	Himalayan Field Mouse	*Apodemus rusiges*	LC	Stable
12	House Rat	*Rattus rattus*	LC	Unknown
13	House Mouse	*Mus musculus*	LC	Stable
14	Short-tailed Mole Rat	*Nesokia indica*	LC	Unknown
15	Indian Gerbil	*Tatera indica*	LC	Unknown

S/No	Recorded Mammals	Zoological Name	IUCN Status (2024)	Population Trend (2024)
16	Indian Desert Gerbil	*Meriones hurrianae*	LC	Increasing
17	Asiatic Jackal	*Canis aureus*	LC	Stable
18	Common Red Fox	*Vulpes vulpes*	LC	Stable
19	Yellow-throated Marten	*Martes flavigula*	LC	Stable
20	Small Indian Mongoose	*Herpestes javanicus*	LC	Stable
21	Wild Boar	*Sus scrofa*	LC	Increasing

4.2.12 Avifauna

480. Surveys for bird diversity and abundance were carried out in the Terrestrial Study Area in May 2017. A total of 17 Sampling Locations were visited with 13 in terrestrial habitat types and four in Riparian habitat types. A summary of the results by habitat type including the bird abundance and diversity is provided in **Exhibit 4-130**. The field data is provided in **Appendix J**.

Exhibit 4-130: Total Sightings, Density and Diversity by Habitat Type, May 2017 Survey

Habitat	No. of Sampling Points	Total Sightings	Density (Average no of species per Sampling Location)	No. of Species
Agricultural Area	2	370	165	15
Scrub Forest	6	981	164	25
Pine Forest	5	675	135	22
Riparian	4	785	196	16
Total	**17**	**2,771**	**163**	**48**

481. A total of 2,771 individuals belonging to 48 species were observed. Maximum abundance was observed at Sampling Location T4, located in Scrub Forest habitat. Abundant bird species observed at this Sampling Location included the Common Chiffchaff, the Common Kestrel, and the Indian Golden Oriole.

482. Maximum diversity was observed at Sampling Location T13, located in the Pine Forest habitat. A total of 15 bird species were observed at this Sampling Location.

483. Abundant bird species in the Terrestrial Study Area included the Common Raven *Corvus* corax, the Bank Myna *Acridotheres ginginianus*, the White-cheeked Bulbul *Pycnonotus leucotis*, Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus*, and Great Tit *Parus major*.

484. Of the bird species observed, none are Endangered or Critically Endangered based on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.[89] One species, the Rufous-vented Prinia *burnesii*, observed during the May 2017 Survey, is listed as Near Threatened. Also, four

89 IUCN 2015. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2015-4*. <http://www.iucnredlist.org>, accessed May 29, 2017.

species observed during the May 2017 Survey are listed on the CITES Species Appendices[90] including the Black Kite *Milvus migrans*, the Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*, the Common Crane *Grus grus,* and the European Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*, all listed in Appendix II. All four species show migratory behavior and congregatory behavior based on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species database.[91]

485. Some of the bird species photographed within the Terrestrial Study Area and Riparian habitat are shown in **Exhibit 4-132** and **Exhibit 4-133**, respectively.

486. A list of bird species reported from the Terrestrial Study Area is provided in **Appendix K**. Information about the species listed as Near Threatened, the Rufous-vented Prinia is provided below.

487. The locals reported the presence of Vultures in the area; however, none were observed during the May 2017 Survey.

4.2.12.1 Rufous-vented Prinia burnesii

488. Adults of this species have streaked upper parts, whitish lores/eye-rings with a broad tail and rufous vent. Residents occur frequently along margins of larger rivers/lakes and especially in irrigation-barrage seepage zones. The species favors extensive tracts of reeds and cane grass.[92] The global population has not been quantified but the species is described as locally numerous in the Indus floodplain in Pakistan and locally frequent in parts of India. A moderately rapid and ongoing decline is suspected, owing to habitat loss and degradation.[93]

4.2.12.2 Pheasants and Western Tragopan

489. There are three pheasant species of importance reported from the Terrestrial Study Area which include the Cheer Pheasant, the Kokhlass Pheasant, and the Kalij Pheasant. The Western Tragopan is also reported from here. Of these, the Cheer Pheasant and the Western Tragopan are listed as Vulnerable while the Kokhlass and Kalij are listed as Least Concern.[94] None of these species were observed during the May 2017 Survey.

490. **Birds recorded during the May 2024 Survey.** A total of 111 bird species belonging to 17 orders were recorded. Most of the birds, especially the resident and summer breeders, were observed directly in different habitats in the study area whereas, for recording the winter visiting birds, secondary data was consulted. The recorded birds included 50% resident birds, 29% winter visitors, 11% summer breeders, and 10% passage migrants or irregular year-round visitors according to Grimmett *et al*. (2008). None of the recorded birds is Threatened or endemic to Pakistan. All the recorded birds have been categorized as “Least Concern” by IUCN Red List of Threatened Species **Exhibit 4-131.**

90 UNEP-WCMC. SPECIES+ CITES database. <http://www.speciesplus.net/species>, accessed May 29, 2017

91 IUCN 2015. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2015-4*. <http://www.iucnredlist.org>, accessed May 29, 2017.

92 Grimmett, R., Roberts, T., and Inskipp, T. 2008. Birds of Pakistan, Yale University Press.

93 BirdLife International. 2017. Laticilla burnesii. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2017: e.T22735835A111367374. Downloaded on 01 June 2017.

94 IUCN 2015. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2015-4*. <http://www.iucnredlist.org>, accessed May 29, 2017.

Exhibit 4-131: Birds Recorded during the May 2024 Survey and their Conservation Status

S/No	English Names	Zoological Names	Category	Status IUCN 2022
Order 1: Galliformes				
1	Common Quail	*Coturnix coturnix*	Passage migrant	Least Concern
2	Grey Francolin	*Francolinus pondicerianus*	Resident	Least Concern
3	Black Francolin	*Francolinus francolinus*	Resident	Least Concern
4	See see Partridge	*Ammoperdix griseogularis*	Resident	Least Concern
5	Chukar	*Alectoris chukar*	Resident	Least Concern
Order 2: Anseriformes				
6	Gadwal	*Anas strepera*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
7	Eurasian Wigeon	*Anas penelope*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
8	Mallard	*Anas platyrhynchos*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
9	Common Teal	*Anas crecca*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
10	Northern Pintail	*Anas acuta*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
11	Northern Shoveler	*Anas clypeata*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
Order 3: Piciformes				
12	Yellow-crowned Woodpecker	*Dendrocopos mahrattensis*	Resident	Least Concern
13	Himalayan Woodpecker	*Dendrocopos himalayensis*	Resident	Least Concern
Order 4: Coraciiformes				
14	Common Hoopoe	*Upupa epops*	Resident	Least Concern
15	Indian Roller	*Coracias benghalensis*	Resident	Least Concern
16	European Roller	*Coracias garrulus*	Passage migrant	Least Concern
17	White-throated Kingfisher	*Halcyon smyrnensis*	Resident	Least Concern
18	Pied Kingfisher	*Ceryle rudis*	Resident	Least Concern
19	Green Bee-eater	*Merops orientalis*	Resident	Least Concern
20	Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	*Merops persicus*	Summer Breeder	Least Concern
Order 5: Cuculiformes				
21	Asian Koel	*Eudynamys scolopacea*	Summer Breeder	Least Concern
22	Greater Coucal	*Centropus sinensis*	Resident	Least Concern
Order 6: Psittaciformes				
23	Rose-ringed Parakeet	*Psittacula krameri*	Resident	Least Concern

S/No	English Names	Zoological Names	Category	Status IUCN 2022
Order 7: Apodiformes				
24	House Swift	*Apus affinis*	Resident	Least Concern
Order 8: Strigiformes				
25	Spotted Owlet	*Athene brama*	Resident	Least Concern
26	Eurasian Eagle Owl	*Bubo bubo*	Resident	Least Concern
Order 9: Caprimulgiformes				
27	Eurasian Nightjar	*Caprimulgus europaeus*	Summer breeder	Least Concern
Order 10: Columbiformes				
28	Rock Pigeon	*Columba livia*	Resident	Least Concern
29	Laughing Dove	*Streptopelia senegalensis*	Resident	Least Concern
30	Eurasian Collared Dove	*Streptopelia decaocto*	Resident	Least Concern
Order 11: Gruiformes				
31	Common Moorhen	*Gallinula chloropus*	Resident	Least Concern
32	Common Coot	*Fulica atra*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
Order 12: Charadriiformes				
33	Common Snipe	*Gallinago gallinago*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
34	Common Greenshank	*Tringa nebularia*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
35	Green Sandpiper	*Tringa ochropus*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
36	Common Sandpiper	*Actitis hypoleucos*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
37	Red-Wattled lapwing	*Vanellus indicus*	Resident	Least Concern
Order 13: Accipitriformes				
38	Black-shouldered Kite	*Elanus caeruleus*	Resident	Least Concern
39	Black Kite	*Milvus migrans*	Resident	Least Concern
40	Himalayan Griffon Vulture	*Gyps himalayensis*	Resident	Least Concern
41	Eurasian Sparrow hawk	*Accipiter nisus*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
42	Shikra	*Accipiter badius*	Resident	Least Concern
43	White-eyed Buzzard	*Butastur teesa*	Resident	Least Concern
44	Long-legged buzzard	*Buteo rufinus*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
45	Common buzzard	*Buteo buteo*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
46	Tawny Eagle	*Aquila rapax*	Resident	Least Concern
Order 14: Falconiformes				

S/No	English Names	Zoological Names	Category	Status IUCN 2022
47	Common Kestrel	*Falco tinunculus*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
48	Peregrine Falcon	*Falco peregrinus*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
Order 15: Podicipediformes				
49	Little Grebe	*Tachybaptus ruficollis*	Resident	Least Concern
Order 16: Ciconiiformes				
50	Little Egret	*Egretta garzetta*	Passage migrant	Least Concern
51	Cattle Egret	*Bubulcus ibis*	Resident	Least Concern
52	Grey Heron	*Ardea cinerea*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
53	Indian Pond Heron	*Ardeola grayii*	Resident	Least Concern
Order 17: Passeriformes				
54	Bay-backed Shrike	*Lanius vittatus*	Summer breeder	Least Concern
55	Southern Grey Shrike	*Lanius meridionalis*	Summer breeder	Least Concern
56	Long-tailed Shrike	*Lanius schach*	Summer breeder	Least Concern
57	Rufous Tree pie	*Dendrocitta vagabunda*	Resident	Least Concern
58	Yellow-billed Blue Magpie	*Urocissa flavirostris*	Resident	Least Concern
59	House Crow	*Corvus splendens*	Resident	Least Concern
60	Common Raven	*Corvus corax*	Resident	Least Concern
61	Large-billed Crow	*Corvus macrorhynchos*	Resident	Least Concern
62	Eurasian Golden Oriole	*Oriolus oriolus*	Passage migrant	Least Concern
63	Black Drongo	*Dicrurus macrocercus*	Resident	Least Concern
64	Ashy Drongo	*Dicrurus leucophaeus*	Summer breeder	Least Concern
65	Asian Paradise-Flycatcher	*Terpsiphone paradisi*	Summer breeder	Least Concern
66	Brown Dipper	*Cinclus pallasii*	Resident	Least Concern
67	Blue rock Thrush	*Monticola solitarius*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
68	Blue rock Whistling Thrush	*Myophonus caeruleus*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
69	Eurasian Blackbird	*Turdus merula*	Resident	Least Concern
70	Mistle Thrush	*Turdus viscivorus*	Resident	Least Concern
71	Bluethroat	*Luscinia svecica*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
72	Indian Robin	*Saxicoloides fulicata*	Resident	Least Concern
73	Black Redstart	*Phoenicurus ochruros*	Winter visitor	Least Concern

S/No	English Names	Zoological Names	Category	Status IUCN 2022
74	White-capped Water Redstart	*Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*	Summer breeder	Least Concern
75	Pied Bushchat	*Saxicola caprata*	Resident	Least Concern
76	Common Stonechat	*Saxicola torquata*	Summer breeder	Least Concern
77	Common Myna	*Acridotheres tristis*	Resident	Least Concern
78	Jungle Myna	*Acridotheres fuscus*	Resident	Least Concern
79	Bar-tailed Treecreeper	*Certhia himalayana*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
80	Great Tit	*Parus major*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
81	Plain Martin	*Riparia paludicola*	Resident	Least Concern
82	Wire-tailed Swallow	*Hirundo smithii*	Summer breeder	Least Concern
83	Barn Swallow	*Hirundorustica*	Summer breeder	Least Concern
84	White-eared Bulbul	*Pycnonotus leucotis*	Resident	Least Concern
85	Red-vented Bulbul	*Pycnonotus cafer*	Resident	Least Concern
86	Himalayn Bulbul	*Pycnonotus leucogenys*	Resident	Least Concern
87	Black Bulbul	*Hypsipetes leucocephalus*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
88	Rufous-fronted Prinia	*Prinia buchanani*	Resident	Least Concern
89	Plain prinia	*Prinia inornata*	Resident	Least Concern
90	Common Tailorbird	*Orthotomus sutorius*	Resident	Least Concern
91	Common Chiffchaff	*Phylloscopus collybita*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
82	Common Babbler	*Turdoides caudatus*	Resident	Least Concern
93	Jungle Babbler	*Turdoides striatus*	Resident	Least Concern
94	Crested Lark	*Galerida cristata*	Resident	Least Concern
95	Eurasian Skylark	*Alauda arvensis*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
96	Oriental Skylark	*Alauda gulgula*	Summer breeder	Least Concern
97	Purple Sunbird	*Nectarinia asiatica*	Summer breeder	Least Concern
98	House Sparrow	*Passer domesticus*	Resident	Least Concern
99	Spanish Sparrow	*Passer hispaniolensis*	Passage migrant	Least Concern
100	White wagtail	*Motacilla alba*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
101	White-browed wagtail	*Motacilla maderaspatensis*	Resident	Least Concern
102	Yellow wagtail	*Motacilla flava*	Passage migrant	Least Concern

S/No	English Names	Zoological Names	Category	Status IUCN 2022
103	Paddyfield pipit	*Anthus rufulus*	Resident	Least Concern
104	Tree pipit	*Anthus triviallis*	Summer breeder	Least Concern
105	Water pipit	*Anthus spinoletta*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
106	Rufous-breasted Accentor	*Prunellastrophiata*	Summer breeder	Least Concern
107	Baya weaver	*Ploceus philippinus*	Resident	Least Concern
108	Indian Silverbill	*Lonchura malabarica*	Resident	Least Concern
109	Common Rosefinch	*Carpodacus erythrinus*	Passage migrant	Least Concern
110	Red-mantled Rosefinch	*Carpodacus rhodochlamys*	Resident	Least Concern
111	Rock Bunting	*Emberiza cia*	Winter visitor	Least Concern

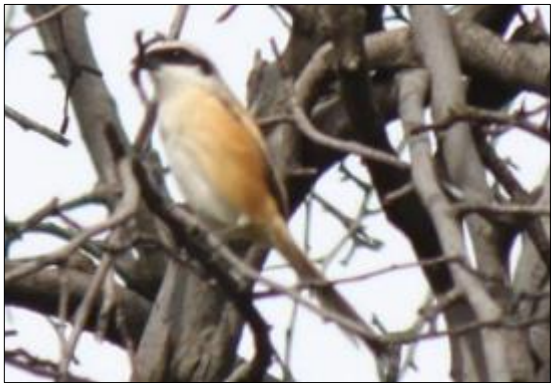
Exhibit 4-132: Bird Species in the Terrestrial Study Area, May 2017 Survey



Jungle Myna near T2



Black Drongo at T2



Long-tailed Shrike at T3



Striated Laughing Thrush at T3



Oriental Magpie Robin at T3



Great Tit at T3



Siberian Stonechat at T8



Himalayan Bulbul near T13



Long-tailed Minivet at T13



Yellow-crowned Woodpecker at T13

Exhibit 4-133: Bird Species in Riparian Habitat, May 2017 Survey



Blue Whistling Thrush at R1



Grey Bushchat near R2



Asian Black Bulbul at R2



Black Drongos at R2



White Wagtail at R3



Little Egret at R4

4.2.13 Herpetofauna

491. A total of 17 Sampling Locations were sampled during the May 2017 Survey. The locations of these Sampling Locations have been shown in **Exhibit 4-70**.

492. A summary of the Sampling Locations by habitat type, number of sightings, density, and number of species is shown in **Exhibit 4-134.**

Exhibit 4-134: Herpetofauna Abundance and Diversity by Habitat Type, May 2017 Survey

Habitat	No. of Sampling Locations	Total Signs/ Sightings	Average Signs/Sightings per Sampling Location (Density)	No. of Species
Agricultural Area	2	7	3.50	3
Scrub Forest	6	23	3.83	2
Pine Forest	5	26	5.20	4
Riparian	4	7	1.75	3
Total	**17**	**63**	**3.71**	**6**

493. A total of 63 reptile and amphibian specimens belonging to six species were observed in the combined Terrestrial Study Area and Riparian habitat. The highest density of herpetofauna was observed in the Pine Forest habitat (average of 5.20 signs/sightings per Sampling Location). The greatest diversity was also observed in the Pine Forest habitat with a total of four species. The highest abundance was observed at Sampling Location T1 in the Pine Forest habitat with 20 individuals sighted. The second highest abundance was observed at Sampling Location T4 in the Scrub Forest habitat with 16 individuals sighted.

494. Of the species observed in the May 2017 Survey, none are of conservation importance based on the IUCN Red List and three are listed on the CITES Appendices. These include the Jan's Cliff Racer *Platyceps rhodorachis* (I), the Caspian Cobra *Naja oxiana* (II) and Checkered Keelback *Xenochrophis piscator* (III). None of the species observed are endemic. Photographs of some of the reptile species observed are shown in **Exhibit 4-135**.

495. A complete list of herpetofauna species reported from the Terrestrial Study Area, based on information from Rafaqat Masroor, a herpetofauna specialist with the Pakistan Museum of Natural History (PMNH), is provided in **Appendix K**.

Exhibit 4-135: Herpetofauna Species, May 2017 Survey



Agrore Valley Rock Agamas *Laudakia agrorensis* at T1



Asian Garden Lizard Calotes versicolor and its burrows at T4



Agrore Valley Rock Agama *Laudakia agrorensis* at T5



Asian Garden Lizard *Calotes versicolor* at T12

4.2.13.1 Findings of Amphibian Studies Conducted During May 2024

496. Applying all the possible direct and indirect observation methods, eight species of amphibians, belonging to three families and six genera were recorded. These amphibians belong to the Order Anura and include three toad and five frogs **(Exhibit 4-136).**

Exhibit 4-136: Amphibians Recorded from the Study Area (May 2024)

S/ No	Common Name	Zoological Name	Genus	Family	Order
1	Indus valley toad	*Bufo stomaticus*	Bufo	Bufonidae	Anura
2	Ladakh Toad	*Bufo latasti*	Bufo	Bufonidae	Anura
3	Hazara Toad	*Bufo melanostictus*	Bufo	Bufonidae	Anura
4	Ant Frog	*Microhyla ornata*	Microhyla	Microhylidae	Anura
5	Alpine Cricket Frog	*Fegervarya limnocharis*	Fegervarya	Ranidae	Anura
6	Indian Bullfrog	*Hoplobatrachus tigerinus*	Hoplobatrachus	Ranidae	Anura
7	Hazara Stream Frog	*Paa hazarensis*	Paa	Ranidae	Anura
8	Burrowing Frog	*Sphaeroteca breviceps*	Sphaeroteca	Ranidae	Anura

497. **Observation records of amphibians.** All of the recorded eight amphibian species were observed directly whereas the indirect evidences like presence of eggs in water, presence of tadpoles and froglets, mating calls of frogs and toads and interviews with local

residents, hunters and officials of wildlife and forest departments also confirmed their existence **(Exhibit 4-137).**

Exhibit 4-137: Observation Records of Amphibians (May 2024)

S/No	Species Observed	Direct Observation	Indirect Observations				
			Eggs	Tadpoles	Froglets	Mating calls	Interviews with locals
1	Indus valley toad	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓
2	Ladakh Toad	✓	-	-	-	-	✓
3	Hazara Toad	✓	-	✓	✓	-	✓
4	Ant Frog	✓	-	-	-	-	✓
5	Alpine Cricket Frog	✓	✓	-	-	✓	✓
6	Indian Bullfrog	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓
7	Hazara Stream Frog	✓	-	-	-	-	✓
8	Burrowing Frog	✓	-	-	-	-	✓

498. **Food and feeding habits of the recorded amphibians.** All the recorded amphibians are nocturnal in feeding habits i.e. all come out at dusk for feeding and remain inactive during day time. Food and feeding habits of the recorded amphibian species is given in the **Exhibit 4-138.**

Exhibit 4-138: Food and Feeding Habits of the Recorded Amphibians

S/No	Recorded Amphibians	Zoological Name	Feeding Habit	Food Items
1	Indus valley toad	*Bufo stomaticus*	Nocturnal	Small insects like flies, mosquitoes, and small worms
2	Ladakh Toad	*Bufo latasti*	Nocturnal	Ants and other soft-bodied small sized insects
3	Hazara Toad	*Bufo melanostictus*	Nocturnal	Aquatic insects, beetles, flies, tadpoles, dragonflies, grasshoppers
4	Ant Frog	*Microhyla ornata*	Nocturnal	Insects, small worms, centipedes, millipedes, juvenile frogs and toads
5	Alpine Cricket Frog	*Fegervarya limnocharis*	Nocturnal	Ants and other soft-bodied small sized insects
6	Indian Bullfrog	*Hoplobatrachus tigerinus*	Nocturnal	Insects, mice, shrew, young frogs, earthworms, roundworms, juvenile snakes and small birds.
7	Hazara Stream Frog	*Paa hazarensis*	Nocturnal	Insects, small worms, centipedes, millipedes, juvenile frogs and toads
8	Burrowing Frog	*Sphaeroteca breviceps*	Nocturnal	Ants and other soft-bodied small sized insects

499. **Conservation status of the recorded amphibians.** According to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (IUCN 2024), none of the recorded eight amphibian species is threatened. All the recorded species have been categorized as “Least Concern” and all have stable population trends (**Exhibit 4-139**).

Exhibit 4-139: Conservation Status of the Recorded Amphibians (May 2024)

S/No	Common Name	Zoological Name	Conservation Status (2024)	Population Trend (IUCN, 2024)
1	Indus valley toad	*Bufo stomaticus*	LC	Stable
2	Ladakh Toad	*Bufo latasti*	LC	Stable
3	Hazara Toad	*Bufo melanostictus*	LC	Stable
4	Ant Frog	*Microhyla ornata*	LC	Stable
5	Alpine Cricket Frog	*Fegervarya limnocharis*	LC	Stable
6	Indian Bullfrog	*Hoplobatrachus tigerinus*	LC	Stable
7	Hazara Stream Frog	*Paa hazarensis*	LC	Stable
8	Burrowing Frog	*Sphaeroteca breviceps*	LC	Stable

4.2.13.2 Findings of the Reptilian Studies Conducted During May 2024

500. Globally, about 11,700 reptilian species have been recorded so far including over 3,000 snakes, 7,000 lizards, over 350 chelonians, and 24 crocodiles. Pakistan hosts more than 210 reptiles including 83 snakes, 110 lizards, 15 turtles and tortoises, and two crocodilians. The reptilian fauna of the Balakot Hydropower Project study area consists of an assemblage of different species including lizards and snakes.

501. During the May 2024 survey, a total of 24 species of reptiles, belonging to one order, 10 families, and 20 genera were recorded. The recorded reptiles include 12 lizards and 12 snakes **(Exhibit 4-140).**

Exhibit 4-140: Reptiles Recorded from the Study Area (May 2024)

S/ No	Zoological Name	Common Name	Genus	Family	Order
1	*Calotes Versicolor*	Common Tree Lizard	*Calotes*	Agamidae	Squamata
2	*Laudakia Agrorensis*	Agrore Valley Agama	*Laudakia*	Agamidae	Squamata
3	*Laudakia Melanura*	Black Rock Agama	*Laudakia*	Agamidae	Squamata
4	*Laudakia Pakistanica*	North Pakistan Agama	*Laudakia*	Agamidae	Squamata
5	*Laudakia Tuberculata*	Blue Rock Agama	*Laudakia*	Agamidae	Squamata
6	*Eublepharis Macularius*	Fat-Tailed Gecko	*Eublepharis*	Eublepharidae	Squamata
7	*Hemidactylus Flaviviridis*	House Gecko	*Hemidactylus*	Gekkonidae	Squamata
8	*Hemidactylus Brookii*	Spotted Barn Gecko	*Hemidactylus*	Gekkonidae	Squamata
9	*Ophisops Jerdonii*	Rugose Spectacled Lacerta	*Ophisops*	Lacertidae	Squamata
10	*Eutropis Dissimilis*	Striped Grass Skink	*Eutropis*	Scincidae	Squamata
11	*Scincella Himalayana*	Himalayan Skink	*Scincella*	Scincidae	Squamata

S/ No	Zoological Name	Common Name	Genus	Family	Order
12	*Varanus Bengalensis*	Bengal Monitor Lizard	*Varanus*	Varanidae	Squamata
13	*Eryx Johnii*	Common Sand Boa	*Eryx*	Boidae	Squamata
14	*Amphiesma Stolatum*	Striped Keel-Back Snake	*Amphiesma*	Colubridae	Squamata
15	*Boiga Trigonata*	Common Cat Snake	*Boiga*	Colubridae	Squamata
16	*Oligodon Arnensis*	Banded Kukri Snake	*Oligodon*	Colubridae	Squamata
17	*Platyceps Rhodorachis*	Cliff Racer	*Platyceps*	Colubridae	Squamata
18	*Psammophis Leithii*	Sindhi Ribbon Snake	*Psammophis*	Colubridae	Squamata
19	*Ptyas Mucosa*	Rope-Snake	*Ptyas*	Colubridae	Squamata
20	*Spalerosophis Diadema*	Blotched Diadem Snake	*Spalerosophis*	Colubridae	Squamata
21	*Xenochrophis Piscator*	Checkered Keel-Back	*Xenochrophis*	Colubridae	Squamata
22	*Bungarus Caeruleus*	Common Krait	*Bungarus*	Elapidae	Squamata
23	*Naja Oxiana*	Brown Cobra	*Naja*	Elapidae	Squamata
24	*Echis Carinatus*	Saw-Scale Viper	*Echis*	Viperidae	Squamata

502. **Conservation status of the recorded reptiles**. Among the recorded 24 reptiles, three species; including two lizards and one snake have NEAR THREATENED conservation status with a decreasing population trend, and rests of the 21 species are categorized as LEAST CONCERN with stable population trend **(Exhibit 4-141).**

Exhibit 4-141: Conservation Status of the Recorded Reptiles (May 2024)

S/ No	Zoological Name	Common Name	IUCN (2024)	Population Trend
1	*Calotes Versicolor*	Common Tree Lizard	LC	Stable
2	*Laudakia Agrorensis*	Agrore Valley Agama	LC	Stable
3	*Laudakia Melanura*	Black Rock Agama	LC	Stable
4	*Laudakia Pakistanica*	North Pakistan Agama	LC	Stable
5	*Laudakia Tuberculata*	Blue Rock Agama	LC	Stable
6	*Eublepharis Macularius*	Fat-Tailed Gecko	LC	Stable
7	*Hemidactylus Flaviviridis*	House Gecko	LC	Stable
8	*Hemidactylus Brookii*	Spotted Barn Gecko	LC	Stable
9	*Ophisops Jerdonii*	Rugose Spectacled Lacerta	LC	Stable
10	*Eutropis Dissimilis*	Striped Grass Skink	LC	Stable
11	*Scincella Himalayana*	Himalayan Skink	LC	Stable
12	*Varanus Bengalensis*	Bengal Monitor Lizard	NT	Decreasing
13	*Eryx Johnii*	Common Sand Boa	NT	Decreasing
14	*Amphiesma Stolatum*	Striped Keel-Back Snake	LC	Stable
15	*Boiga Trigonata*	Common Cat Snake	LC	Stable
16	*Oligodon Arnensis*	Banded Kukri Snake	LC	Stable

S/ No	Zoological Name	Common Name	IUCN (2024)	Population Trend
17	*Platyceps Rhodorachis*	Cliff Racer	LC	Stable
18	*Psammophis Leithii*	Sindhi Ribbon Snake	LC	Stable
19	*Ptyas Mucosa*	Rope-Snake	LC	Stable
20	*Spalerosophis Diadema*	Blotched Diadem Snake	LC	Stable
21	*Xenochrophis Piscator*	Checkered Keel-Back	LC	Stable
22	*Bungarus Caeruleus*	Common Krait	LC	Stable
23	*Naja Oxiana*	Brown Cobra	NT	Decreasing
24	*Echis Carinatus*	Saw-Scale Viper	LC	Stable

4.2.14 Habitat Assessment

503. Habitats can be classified as either natural or modified; ranging from pristine, undisturbed natural habitat at one end of the scale, through different degrees of modification or disturbance, up to highly modified or degraded areas that support an artificial assemblage of plants and animals. Despite a habitat being modified, it may support valuable biodiversity, including endemic or threatened species. Subsets of these habitat types are critical habitats and legally protected areas, both of which more commonly consist of natural or slightly modified habitats.[95]

4.2.14.1 Natural and Modified Habitats

504. ADB guidelines require the classification of the Study Area into Natural and Modified Habitats based on the definitions provided below.[96]

505. **Natural Habitat:** Natural habitat is an area of land and/or water where biological communities are formed largely by native plant and animal species, and where human activity has not essentially modified the area's primary ecological functions. Examples of natural habitats are more common in remote and difficult to access areas such as mountains, or areas that have been protected over an extended period such as established national parks. However, natural habitats are not only those that are untouched or pristine. Both natural and modified habitats may contain high biodiversity values, and can also be considered as critical habitat. The extent of human disturbance is therefore not always an indicator of its biodiversity values or the presence of critical habitat[97].

506. Projects should not significantly convert or degrade natural habitat unless: (i) there are no technically and financially feasible alternatives; (ii) a comprehensive analysis demonstrates that the overall benefits from the project will substantially outweigh the project costs, including environmental costs; and (iii) any conversion or degradation is appropriately reduced or mitigated.[98]

95 Asian Development Bank (ADB), Environment Safeguards, A Good Practice Sourcebook Draft Working Document, December 2012.
96 Ibid
97 Ibid
98 Ibid

507. **Modified Habitat:** Modified habitat is altered natural habitat, often formed by the removal of native species during resource harvesting, land use conversion and/or the introduction of alien species of plants and animals. Agricultural land, plantations and urban areas are common examples of modified habitat. Modified habitats usually have a lower biodiversity value than natural habitat, but can still harbor endangered species, contain areas of rare remnant vegetation or provide unique ecosystems. In addition, biodiversity values can be high in the transition zone between modified habitat and undeveloped natural habitat, as many species are able to find suitable ecological niches and these areas can serve as breeding grounds for adaptive variations. The SPS requirements on biodiversity apply to areas of modified habitat that have significant biodiversity values, as determined in the environmental assessment[99].

508. The Aquatic Study Area is considered a Modified Habitat because of the changes in environmental flows because of the regulation of the river. In the case of the Kunhar Valley, this is due to the development of the under-construction Sukki Kinari HPP(884 MW), upstream of the Balakot HPP (300 MW) and the presence of the Patrind HPP (150 MW) downstream of the Project.

509. The Terrestrial Study Area is considered a Modified Habitat because human activity has modified the land use and vegetation within most of it, even at higher elevations. There are patches of forests, mainly on very steep slopes, where access by people is limited. The locals report that wild animals such as the Common Leopard and Black Bear are common in the area, especially at higher elevations.

4.2.14.2 Critical Habitat

510. Critical habitat is an area that has high biodiversity value and may include sites that are legally protected or officially proposed for protection e.g. areas that meet the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) classification criteria, the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance, and United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) world natural heritage sites. Critical habitat includes:[100]

- habitat required for the survival of critically endangered or endangered species
- areas with special significance for endemic or restricted-range species
- sites that are critical for the survival of migratory species
- areas supporting globally significant concentrations or numbers of individuals of congregatory species
- areas with unique assemblages of species that are associated with key evolutionary processes or provide key ecosystem services
- areas with biodiversity that have significant social, cultural, or economic importance to local communities

99 Ibid
100 Ibid

511. Critical Habitat is also a requirement under the International Finance Corporation's (IFC) Performance Standards (PS).[101] The IFC is financing the development of several HPPs in the Jhelum-Poonch Basin including the Gulpur HPP, Karot HPP, and Kohala HPP. It is also involved in a basin-wide assessment of the impact of HPP development and is planning on carrying out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in the basin. Therefore, to maintain consistency with the criteria used for Critical Habitat Assessment, IFC PS6 has been applied. There is no conflict between IFC PS6 and ADB guidelines. The two are similar in their criteria with the IFC providing thresholds for assessment.

512. Critical Habitat Assessment as per IFC PS6 requires the defining of a Discrete Management Unit (DMU). This is based on: "For Criteria 1 through 3, the project should determine a sensible boundary (ecological or political) which defines the area of habitat to be considered for the Critical Habitat Assessment. This is called the "discrete management unit," an area with a definable boundary within which the biological communities and/or management issues have more in common with each other than they do with those in adjacent areas (adapted from the definition of discreteness by the Alliance for Zero Extinction). A discrete management unit may or may not have an actual management boundary (e.g., legally protected areas, World Heritage sites, KBAs, IBAs, community reserves) but could also be defined by some other sensible ecologically definable boundary (e.g., watershed, interfluvial zone, intact forest patch within a patchy modified habitat, seagrass habitat, coral reef, concentrated upwelling area, etc.). The delineation of the management unit will depend on the species (and, at times, subspecies) of concern."[102]

513. DMUs have been defined for each species under consideration in Criteria 1 through 3.

514. The criteria for Critical Habitat Assessment based on IFC PS6 along with their application to the biodiversity within the Aquatic Study Area is provided below:

A. Habitat of significant importance to Critically Endangered and/or Endangered species:

515. According to IFC's Guidance Note 6, Tier 1 sub-criteria for Criterion 1 are defined as follows[103].

- Habitat required to sustain ≥ 10 percent of the global population of an IUCN Red-listed Critically Endangered (CR) or Endangered (EN) species where these are known, regular occurrences of the species and where the habitat could be considered a discrete management unit for that species.
- Habitat with known, regular occurrences of CR or EN species where the habitat is one of 10 or fewer discrete management sites globally for that species.

516. Tier 2 Sub-criteria for Criterion 1 are defined as follows.

- Habitat that supports the regular occurrence of a single individual of an IUCN Red-listed CR species and/or habitat containing regionally important concentrations of

101 International Finance Corporation (IFC). January 2012. Policy on Social and Environmental Sustainability, Performance Standard 6: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources, The World Bank Group.
102 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources, Criterion 3, Guidance Note 6, International Finance Corporation, 1 January 2012
103 Ibid

an IUCN Red-listed EN species where the habitat could be considered a discrete management unit for that species.

- Habitat of significant importance to CR or EN species that are wide-ranging and/or whose population distribution is not well understood and where the loss of such a habitat could potentially impact the long-term survivability of the species.
- As appropriate, habitat containing nationally/regionally important concentrations of an EN, CR, or equivalent national/regional listing.

517. Although not a single Threatened species was identified during the previous icthyological surveys undertaken in July 2016, February and May 2017, however, in the recent icthyological survey conducted during May 2024, a total of 16 fish species were identified including seven Threatened species. The Threatened species include; one Critically Endangered; Kashmir Hillstream Loach (*Triplophysa kashmirensis*), two Endangered species; Naseeri loach (*Paraschistura naseeri*) and Singhat (*Schistura macrolepis*) and four Vulnerable species; Stone loach (*Paraschistura alepidota*), Nalbant's loach (*Paraschistura punjabensis*), Alwan Snow Trout (*Schizothorax richardsonii*) and Chirruh Snow trout (*Schizothorax esocinus*). The Kashmir Hill Stream Loach (*Triplophysa kashmirensis*) which exists in the Project area and whose IUCN status was "Not Assessed" at that time of the previous survey, has recently been assessed as "Critically Endangered" (IUCN, 2024) therefore, the criterion of Critical Habitat trigger.

B. Habitat of significant importance to endemic and/or restricted-range species:

518. According to IFC's GN6, Tier 1 sub-criteria for Criterion 2 are defined as follows.

- Habitat is known to sustain ≥ 95 percent of the global population of an endemic or restricted-range species where that habitat could be considered a discrete management unit for that species (e.g. a single-site endemic[104]).

519. Tier 2 sub-criteria for Criterion 2 are defined as follows.

- Habitat is known to sustain ≥ 1 percent but < 95 percent of the global population of an endemic or restricted-range species where the habitat could be considered a discrete management unit for that species, where data are available and/or based on expert judgment.

520. The Aquatic Study Area is of significant importance to endemic species and restricted-range species. There are two endemic fish species found here including the Kashmir Hillstream Loach and the Nalbant's Loach, both of which were reported during the surveys carried out in February 2017. These species are also restricted range species, as defined by Guidance Note (GN) 6[105] for IFC 6. GN 6 states that for freshwater systems, a guideline for the extent of occurrence is 20,000 sq km. Species in freshwater systems with an extent of occurrence less than 20,000 sq km are considered restricted-range species. The extent of occurrence for the Kashmir Hillstream Loach and the Nalbant's Loach is less than 20,000 sq

104 An endemic species is defined as "one that has ≥ 95 percent of its global range inside the country or region of analysis" as stated in GN79 of Guidance Note 6, Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources. International Finance Corporation, January 2012

105 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources, Guidance Note 6, International Finance Corporation, 1 January 2012

km, therefore, each species can be considered a restricted range species. The DMU for Nalbant's Loach and Kashmir Hillstream Loach is shown in **Exhibit 4-142**. It has been determined based on the maximum range of the species upstream of the Project, and from there to the dam of the existing Patrind HPP. The ranges of both species extend into the Jhelum River as well, however, the presence of the dam of the Patrind HPP has created a barrier. Based on expert judgment, the habitat in the DMU is known to sustain ≥ 1 percent but < 95 percent of the global population of both species, therefore, Tier 2 sub-criteria for Criterion 2 is triggered, making this a Critical Habitat. The distributions of the two species are shown in **Exhibit 4-143** and **Exhibit 4-144**, along with their extent of occurrence and their area. The area for the extent of occurrence of the Nalbant's Loach is 13,635 sq km and that of the Kashmir Hillstream Loach is 13,475 sq km. No endemic and/or restricted-range species were observed in the Terrestrial Study Area.

Exhibit 4-142: Discrete Management Unit for the Nalbant's Loach and Kashmir Hillstream Loach

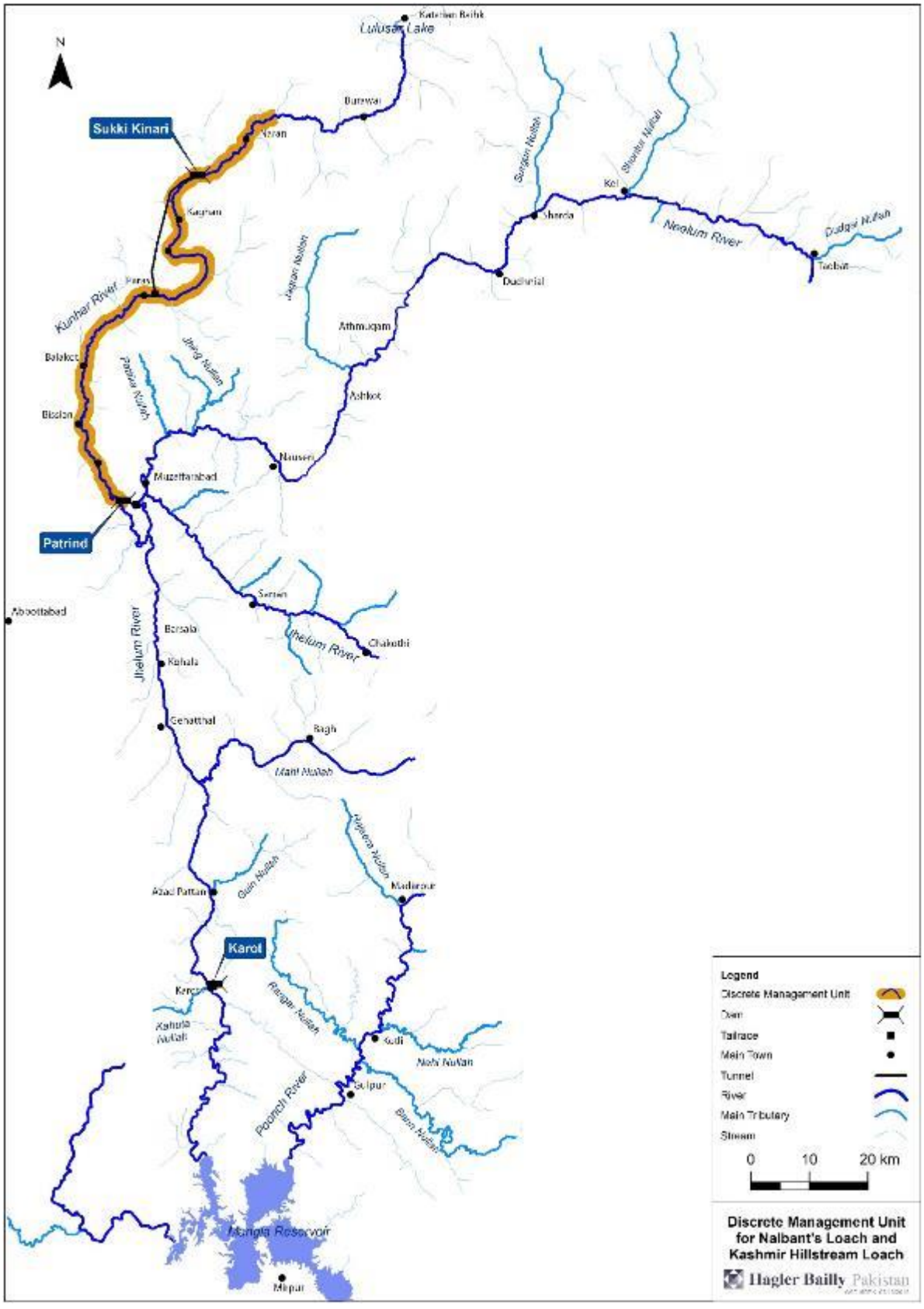


Exhibit 4-143: Distribution of the Nalbant's Loach

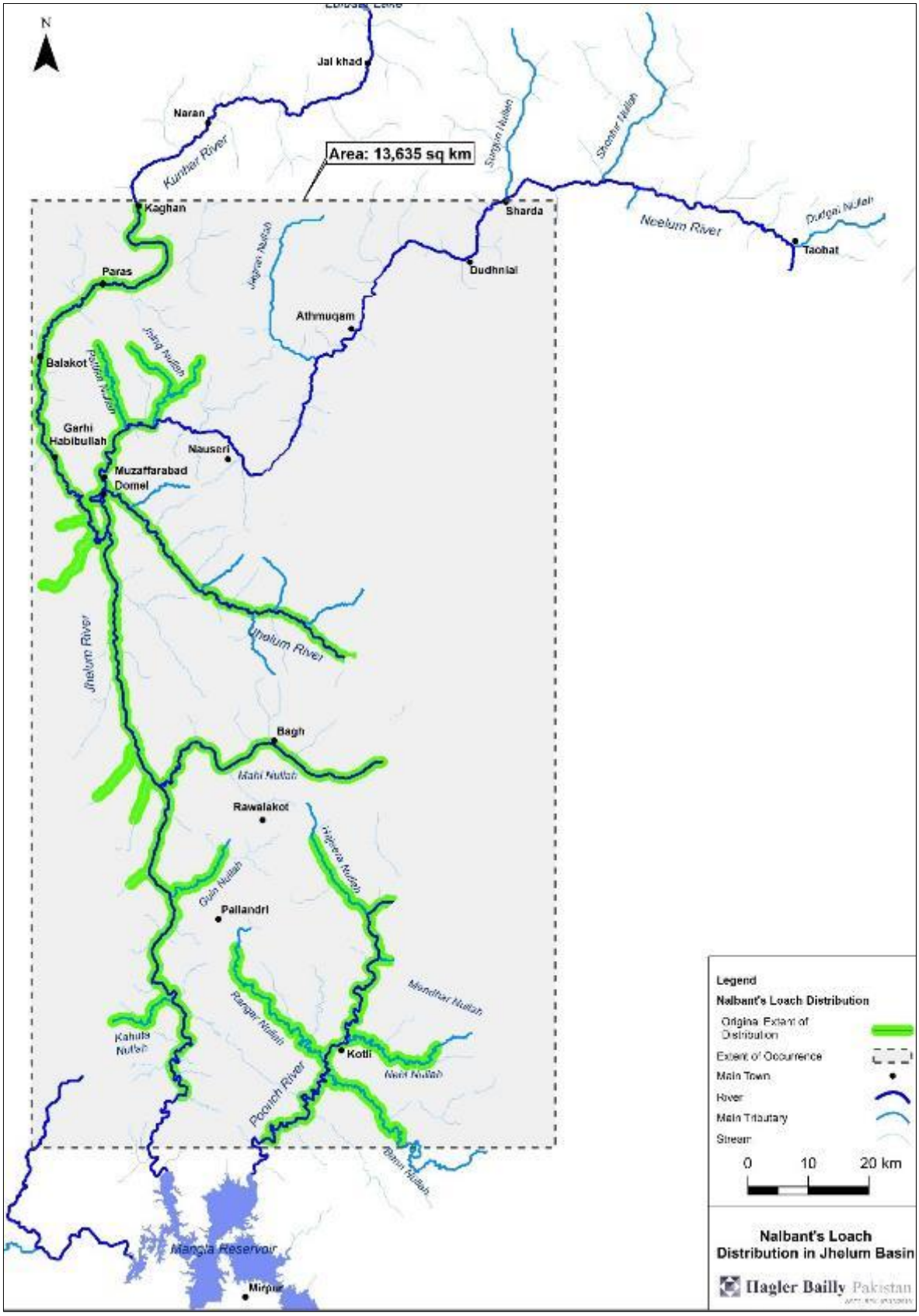
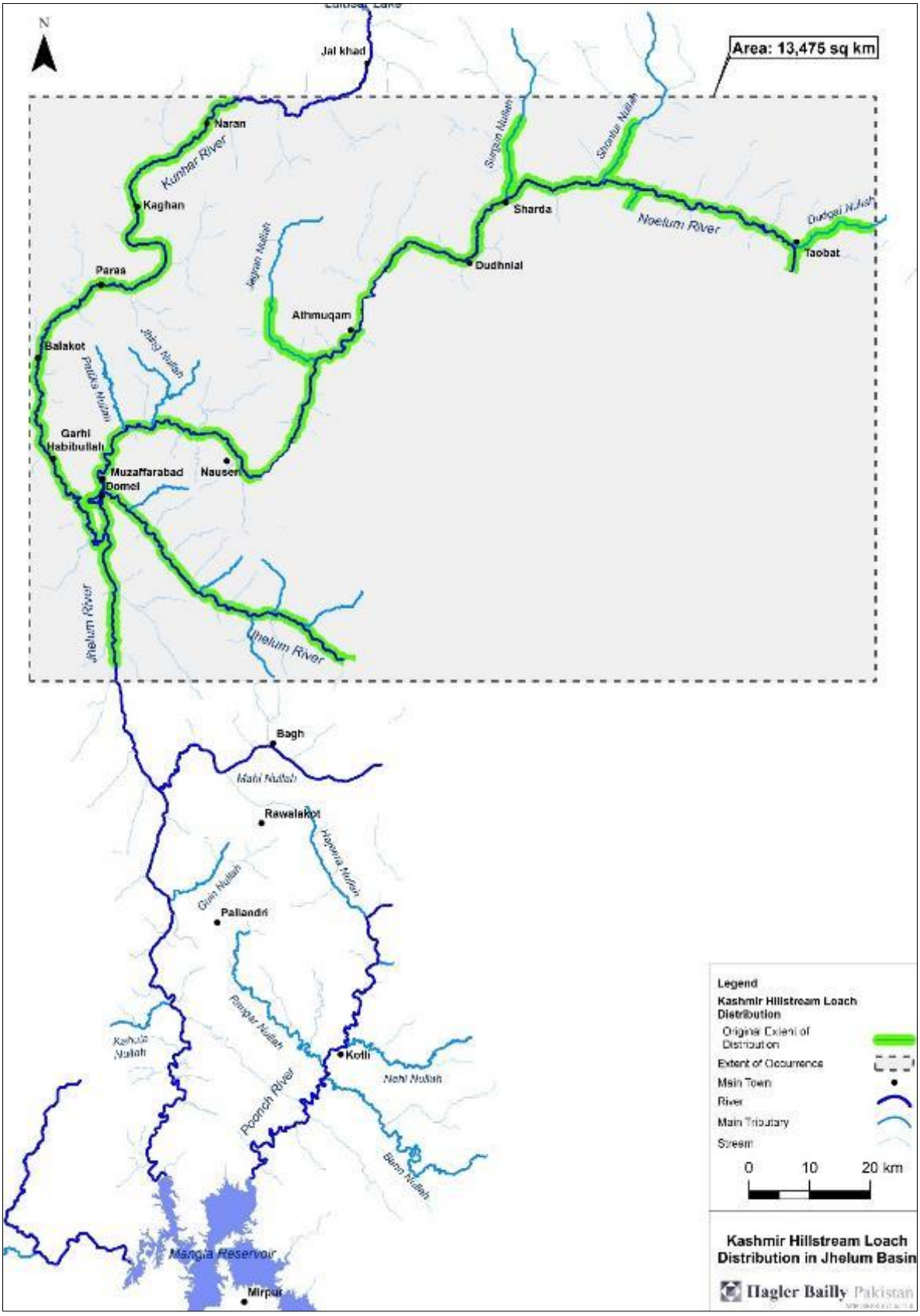


Exhibit 4-144: Distribution of the Kashmir Hillstream Loach



C. Habitat supporting globally significant concentrations of migratory species and/or congregatory species:

521. According to IFC's GN6, Tier 1 sub-criteria for Criterion 3 are defined as follows:

- Habitat is known to sustain, on a cyclical or otherwise regular basis, ≥ 95 of the global population of a migratory or congregatory species at any point of the species lifecycle where that habitat could be considered a discrete management unit for that species.

522. Tier 2 sub-criteria for Criterion 3 are defined as follows.

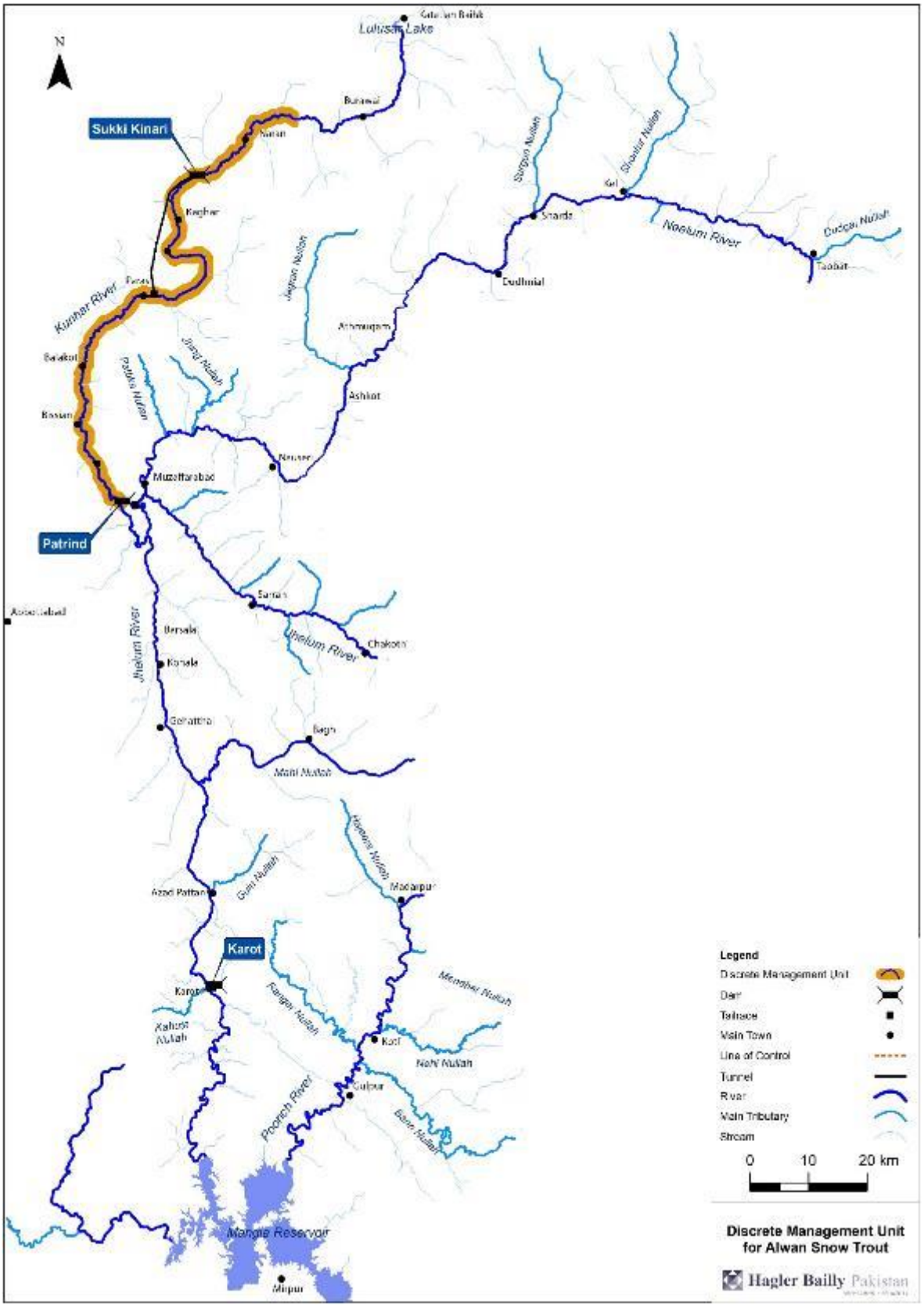
- Habitat known to sustain, on a cyclical or otherwise regular basis, ≥ 1 percent but < 95 percent of the global population of a migratory or congregatory species at any point of the species' lifecycle and where that habitat could be considered a discrete management unit for that species, where adequate data are available and/or based on expert judgment.
- For birds, habitat that meets BirdLife International's Criterion A4 for congregations and/or Ramsar Criteria 5 or 6 for Identifying Wetlands of International Importance.
- For species with large but clumped distributions, a provisional threshold is set at ≥5 percent of the global population for both terrestrial and marine species.
- Source sites that contribute ≥ 1 percent of the global population of recruits.

523. The Aquatic Study Area is not home to significant concentrations of migratory species and/or congregatory species. No congregatory species were reported to be present in the Aquatic Study Area. A migratory fish species, Alwan Snow Trout, was found during the February and May 2017 surveys. The DMU for the Alwan Snow Trout is shown in **Exhibit 4-145**. It extends from the maximum range of the Alwan Snow Trout upstream of the Project, to the dam of the Patrind HPP. The DMU for this species has been chosen based on its distribution in the Kunhar River. The species is migratory and moves into the Jhelum River as well. However, the presence of the dam of the Patrind HPP has blocked its migratory route in the Jhelum River. This species is also found in India, Nepal and Bhutan.[106] Based on expert judgment, the habitat within the DMU consists of less than 1% of the global population of the species. As a result, it does not trigger Tier 1 or Tier 2 criteria, therefore, this species does not trigger Critical Habitat.

524. Within the Terrestrial Study Area, five migratory bird species were found including the Common Chiffchaff, Common Kestrel, Laughing Dove, Little Egret, and White Wagtail. Of these two are congregatory including the Common Kestrel and Little Egret. However, all five bird species are widespread and their populations do not trigger Tier 1 or Tier 2 sub-criteria for Criterion 3. As a result, they do not trigger Critical Habitat.

106 Vishwanath, W. 2010. Schizothorax richardsonii. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2010: e.T166525A6228314. http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2010-4.RLTS.T166525A6228314.en. Downloaded on 07 June 2017.

Exhibit 4-145: Discrete Management Unit for Alwan Snow Trout



D. Highly threatened and/or unique ecosystems:

525. There is no information that indicates the Study Areas, or any part of them, are a highly threatened and/or unique ecosystem. Furthermore, there is no information that indicates the Study Areas are part of a threatened or unique ecosystem.

E. Areas with unique assemblages of species or which are associated with key evolutionary processes or provide key ecosystem services:

526. There is no information that indicates the Study Areas, or any part of them, are associated with key evolutionary processes or provide key ecosystem services. While the species are functioning components of ecosystems, there are no unique assemblages of species or associations of key evolutionary processes in the Study Areas.

4.2.14.3 ADB's Guideline for Critical Habitat Assessment not covered by IFC PS6

F. Areas with biodiversity that has significant social, cultural, or economic importance to local communities:

527. The last criteria provided in the ADB guidelines on Critical Habitat Assessment is not covered by the criteria under IFC PS6. The stretch of the Kunhar River within the Aquatic Study Area is part of the wider area that is important for sports fishing. Based on a conversation with Mohammad Tanvir, Assistant Director, Fisheries, District Mansehra, this stretch of the Kunhar River is stocked with fish, and over 100 permits, called Daily Trout Angling (DTA) licenses, are issued annually. The fishing season is from March to October after which fishing is not allowed due to the breeding season. This activity contributes to the local economy. However, data collected as part of the socioeconomic baseline indicates that sports fishing in the Aquatic Study Area is not of social, cultural, or economic importance to the local communities. Therefore, this criterion does not trigger Critical Habitat.

4.2.14.4 Conclusion

528. The February and May 2017 surveys revealed the presence of two endemic and restricted-range fish species within the Aquatic Study Area which include the Kashmir Hillstream Loach and the Nalbant's Loach. In addition to these, a long-distance migratory fish species, the Alwan Snow Trout, has also been reported. Five migratory bird species have also been observed during these surveys, with two of them being congregatory. Although no Critically Endangered or Endangered species were observed during the EIA studies undertaken from 2016 to 2017, however, the status of the Kashmir Hill Stream Loach (*Triplophysa kashmirensis*) was subsequently updated from " Not Assessed" to "Criticially Endangered" (IUCN, 2024). Consequently, in 2024, additional studies were conducted in the Project area for fish diversity and distribution assessment in the Kunhar River and contributing streams in the 90 km long study area with an emphasis on CR fish species. Details of such studies and findings thereof have been given in Volumes D and E of the updated EIA report.

529. Based on the expert judgment, it has been determined that the Aquatic Study Area is of special significance for endemic and restricted-range fish species, therefore, the DMUs for these fish species, shown in **Exhibit 4-145**, is designated as Critical Habitat under IFC PS6. The migratory and congregatory bird species are widespread globally and their populations do not trigger Critical Habitat. This determination is consistent with the criteria for Critical Habitat under ADB's Environmental Safeguards, 2012.

4.3 Socioeconomic Environment

530. This section describes the existing socioeconomic conditions in settlements located in the socioeconomic Study Area of the Project.

4.3.1 Study Area

531. The Study Area is delineated using the following buffers and extents:

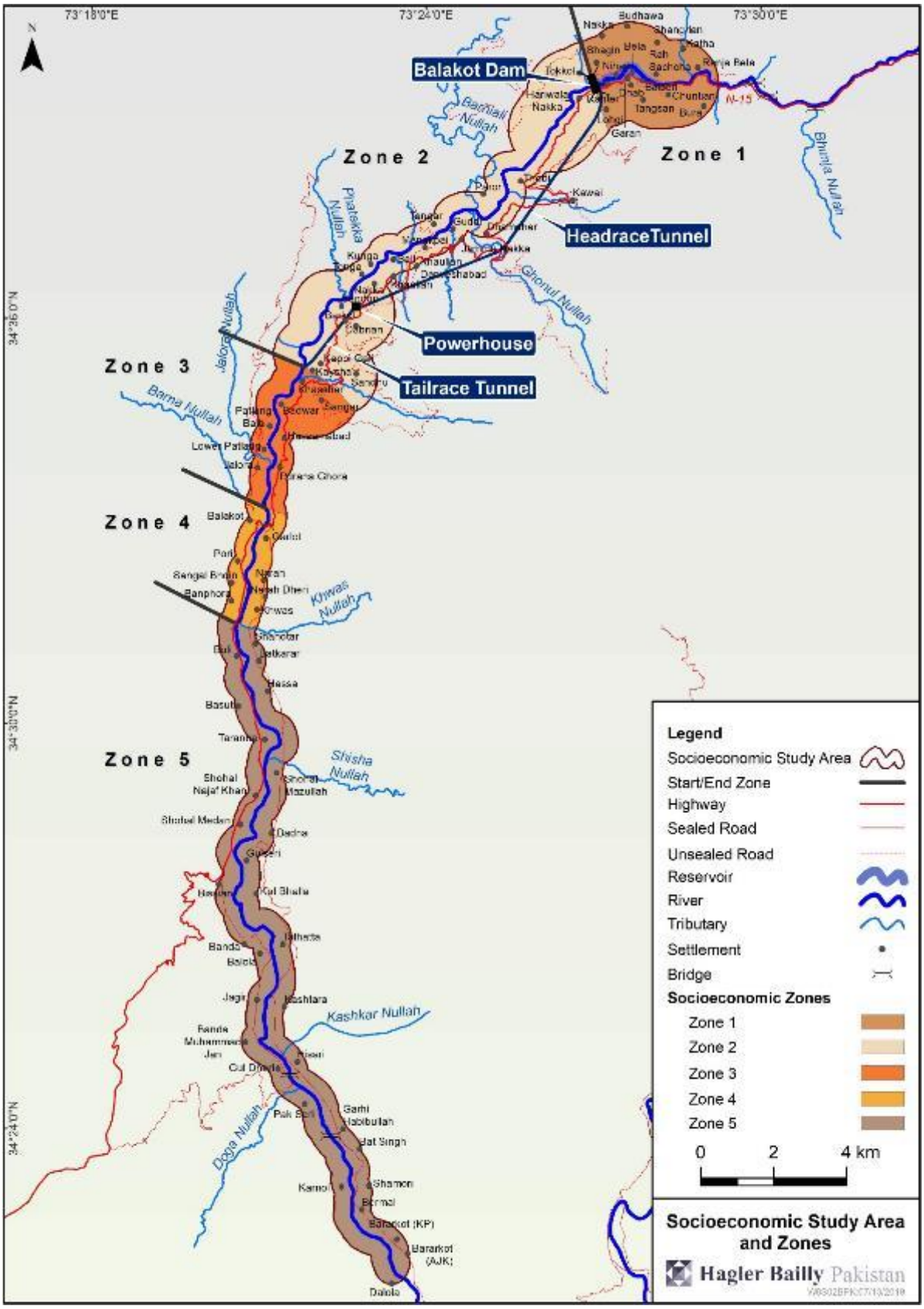
- **500 m buffer on each side of the river**: along reaches that may be impacted due to the Project, and the zone where there is river dependence (either through the use of driftwood, use of sediment as building materials) is a zone of 500 m of the river.
  - All settlements with a center within the 500 m buffer are included.
  - All settlements with more than 50% of their land area within the 500 m buffer are also included.
- **1 km buffer around Project facilities:** for coverage of communities that will be directly impacted through either resettlement or construction-related impacts. However, spoil disposal areas are not included in the study area as at the time of the socioeconomic survey spoil disposal areas were not identified.
- **Upstream Extent:** selected as tailrace tunnel of Sukki Kinari HPP, upstream of the dam, as the dam as a barrier may affect communities reliant on ecological resources (such as fish).
- **Downstream Extent:** The downstream extent of the Study Area is at the start of the reservoir of the Patrind HPP.

532. Keeping in view the expected variation between rural and urban areas, impact due to the Project, flow variations along different reaches of the Kunhar River due to tributaries, as well as changes due to other hydropower projects, the Study Area is divided into different zones along the Kunhar River:

- **Zone 1:** Upstream of Balakot Dam (including Balakot Reservoir Area)
- **Zone 2:** Downstream of Balakot Dam up to Upstream of Balakot Tailrace Outlet
- **Zone 3:** Downstream of Balakot Tailrace Outlet up to Upstream of Balakot City
- **Zone 4:** Balakot City along Kunhar River
- **Zone 5:** Downstream of Balakot City up to the reservoir of Patrind Hydropower Project
- **Zone 6:** One-kilometer buffer around the Project facilities

533. **Exhibit 4-146** shows the socioeconomic Study Area and Zones.

Exhibit 4-146: Socioeconomic Study Area and Zones[107]



[107] Zone 6 has not been shown on the map.

4.3.2 Methods of Data Collection

534. Primary data was collected at the settlement level by administering settlement-level questionnaires and specific questionnaires for other aspects of interest.

4.3.3 Socioeconomic Aspects of Interest

535. Socioeconomic aspects of interest include the following.

- **Demography:** a description of the sample population and its characteristics, such as dependency ratio, population pyramid, and sex ratio.
- **Infrastructure:** information on existing social and physical infrastructure, such as roads, police facilities, electricity availability, water and sanitation and postal services.
- **Health:** information on key health issues prevailing in the area and access to health facilities.
- **Education:** information on educational institutions and their accessibility.
- **Livelihood:** information on key occupations and income sources.
- **Income and poverty:** discussion on incomes, use of natural resources, expenditures, and debts.
- **Dependence on ecosystem services:** such as dependence on ecological/natural resources, including the river, of the area as the source of livelihood, enjoyment or to meet day-to-day requirements.
- **Gender:** All the socioeconomic information was gathered disaggregated by gender and vulnerability.

4.3.4 Surveys

536. The settlement level survey was completed by a social development expert appointed by HBP, given the complex and qualitative nature of information to be obtained in a semi-literate environment. Information was obtained in discussion with a group of 4 to 5 key informants including, but not limited to:

- union council (local government) heads;
- educated persons (with Higher School Certificate as the minimum level of education attained);
- school teachers;
- local government representatives and leaders; and
- community-based organizations active in the area

537. The levels at which the survey was conducted are as follows.

- **Rural settlement survey:** was undertaken in selected settlements within each socioeconomic zone, excluding the Balakot zone. A pilot survey was carried out prior to the start of the rural settlement survey. Based on the pilot survey results, settlements for rural settlement surveys were selected based on their use of the river (fishing, sand mining, domestic uses, and irrigation) and the potential impacts of the Project. Detailed interviews were conducted with key informants (male and

female) to gather information on the selected settlement's social and economic setup including gender issues, with a focus on infrastructure and livelihoods;

- **Business owner survey:** was implemented to obtain information on the costs and benefits of the river-dependent businesses, such as sand mining;
- **Urban focus group discussions:** were implemented in Balakot city. Information on the livelihoods, incomes, household demographics, and household recreational activities was obtained through discussions with local government representatives and community groups.

538. The socioeconomic survey plan is provided in **Appendix L.**

4.3.5 Socioeconomic Conditions in the Study Area

4.3.5.1 Rural Settlements

539. The word "settlement" is the term used to describe the unit studied based on the assumption that a settlement is a cluster of houses where residents share a geographic area, and commute with the resources through a cultured pattern that they have developed in due course of time for the purpose. Settlements are "a city, town, village ghost or other agglomeration of buildings where people live and work."[108] The word village is usually used for similar social concepts but is intentionally avoided because it refers to a more permanent residential pattern with the major concentration of the population sharing a heritage as well as the structured pattern of life for longer periods. "A village is a small settlement usually found in a rural setting. It is generally larger than a "hamlet" but smaller than a "town". Some geographers specifically define a village as having between 500 and 2,500 inhabitants."[109] Ideally, a settlement usually consists of 5 to 30 houses whereas a village begins when settlements are merged or create a common identity in due course of time. In this study the neighborhoods are termed settlements, to create a unit of similar size and bring homogeneity in the study unit. **Exhibit 4-147** shows the average size of surveyed settlements by zones.

Exhibit 4-147: Average Size of Surveyed Settlements by Zones

Zone	Number of Surveyed Settlements	Minimum Number of Households	Maximum Number of Households	Average Number of Households
1	8	8	120	46
2	7	4	75	21
3	4	3	37	23
4	0	0	0	0
5	11	17	1500	301
6	1	59	59	59
Total	**31**			**128**

Source: Field Survey March–April 2017 and June–July 2018

108 Dutta, Biswanath; Fausto Giunchiglia; Vincenzo Maltese (2010). "A Facet-Based Methodology for Geo-Spatial Modeling". *GeoSpatial Semantics: 4th International Conference, GeoS 2011, Brest, France* (PDF). p. 143

109 Accessed on June 03, 2017 2215PST and retrieved from https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/village/

540. Based on **Exhibit 4-147**, it can be seen that the reservoir area falling in Zone 1 is inhabited by smaller settlements with the average number of houses in a settlement as 46, ranging from 8 households at Chuntian to 120 households at Barian Paras. A common trend observed in the Study Area is that on the right side of the river, most settlements are small, having few houses with most settlers being recent. Zone 2, studied through 7 settlements, had a similar pattern of a minimum of four houses to a maximum of 75 households in a settlement with an average of 24 houses per settlement. Zone 3 has a settlement with only three households. The maximum number of households in any settlement of the Zone was found to be 37, making the average number of households 23 for the four settlements visited. Zone 4 includes Balakot city where a settlement survey was not conducted. However, consultation and river-dependent surveys were conducted. No rural settlements were visited or found in this Zone, falling within the parameters set for the study.

541. Zone 5 comprises settlements downstream of Balakot city. The 11 settlements visited were inhabited by a minimum of 17 households and a maximum of 1,500 households. The settlement with 1,500 households was exceptional as it was the urban center of Balakot. In Zone 6, only one settlement was studied, where the labor colony is to be established. It is inhabited by 59 households.

4.3.5.2 Household Size

542. The term ‘household’ is used for a structure wherein one or more than one family is residing. A household in most of these cases was owned by more than one family but practically resided by a single family as other owners such as siblings of the same parent were living away from the household mainly in cities for their businesses and jobs. However, they were claiming residential rights as inherited through kinship.

543. As provided in **Exhibit 4-148**, the average household size in the Study Area was 6.2 individuals, with a minimum of 3.5 and a maximum of 10. Out of all the rural settlements, Zone 5 had the highest average household size followed by Zone 3. The average household size in rural areas was found to be smaller than that in the urban area of Balakot. The reasons could be multiple as not explored yet but we can assume, that the destruction of the irrigation system in the 2005 earthquake is one, if not the only, cause of this shift in residential pattern.

Exhibit 4-148: Average Household Size

Zone	Number of Surveyed Settlements	Minimum Household Size	Maximum Household Size	Average Household Size
1	8	5.0	7.5	6.1
2	7	3.5	8.0	6.1
3	4	3.8	10.0	6.4
4	0	-	-	-
5	11	4.3	10.0	6.5
6	1	5.5	5.5	5.5
Total	**31**			**6.2**

Source: Field Survey March–April 2017 and June–July 2018

Note: Zone 4 is Balakot city. As it is an urban area, rural settlement surveys were not conducted here.

4.3.5.3 Migration Trends

544. People in the pastoral communities within the Study Area have a trend of seasonal migration, with one home close to the river and one at higher elevations. They move their herds to the mountains for grazing.

545. In and out migration was observed to be insignificant over the past 7 years. The majority of out-migration took place after the earthquake in 2005 initially temporarily but later with more permanent settlers.

546. **Exhibit 4-149** shows migration trends and patterns in the Study Area. Overall out-migration was higher than in-migration. In Zone 3 in-migration is highest compared to all other zones (7.7%) followed by Zone 2 (3.0%).

Exhibit 4-149: Migration Trends and Patterns

Zone	In Migration %	Out Migration %
1	0.9%	0.4%
2	3.0%	0.1%
3	7.7%	0.0%
4	0.0%	0.0%
5	0.2%	1.4%
6	1.5%	0.0%
Total	**0.59%**	**1.15%**

Source: Field Survey March–April 2017 and June–July 2018

4.3.5.4 Castes

547. A caste is a social group identity in which individuals get through their status as a close class separated from other classes by distinctions of hereditary status or profession. It is different from the open class system for the reason that in the open class system, one may change identity through wealth but in a cast, it is forever and hereditary. In Balakot and adjoining Project settlements, it not only represents an individual's familial ties but also political affiliations and social standing.

548. **Exhibit 4-150** shows the distribution of the population in the Study Area on the basis of caste. Within the Study Area Gujjars (30%) make up the highest proportion followed by Syed (12%) while other small groups comprise 29%.

Exhibit 4-150: Distribution of Population on a Caste Basis

Castes	Percent in Zone						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	Study Area
Syed	71%	1%	0%	0%	11%	0%	12%
Awan	7%	7%	0%	0%	7%	0%	6%
Gujjar	5%	87%	52%	0%	26%	57%	30%
Raja	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%
Mughal	4%	1%	24%	0%	6%	27%	7%
Qureshi	1%	3%	8%	0%	10%	0%	9%

Castes	Percent in Zone						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	Study Area
Pathan	1%	0%	0%	0%	5%	16%	5%
Other	10%	1%	17%	0%	34%	0%	29%
	100%	**100%**	**100%**	**0%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**

Source: Field Survey March–April 2017 and June–July 2018

4.3.5.5 Languages Spoken

549. **Exhibit 4-151** shows the main languages spoken in the Study Area by zone, as a percentage. The predominant language is Hindko, however, Gojri is also widely spoken. Urdu, the language of communication is also understood everywhere, especially amongst the youth. Based on observations from consultations, the Syed families have Hindko as their primary language; the professional workers have Pashto whereas the pastoral inhabitants speak Gojri. The youth of non-Hindko opt for Urdu as a secondary language.

Exhibit 4-151: Main Languages Spoken in Study Area by Zones %

Language	1	2	3	4	5	6
Primary						
Urdu	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	0%
Pashto	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	10%
Punjabi	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Pahari	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Hindko	99%	27%	46%	0%	71%	30%
Gojri	0%	73%	54%	0%	25%	60%
Other	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Secondary						
Urdu	100%	45%	66%	0%	97%	60%
Pashto	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Punjabi	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Pahari	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Hindko	0%	38%	34%	0%	0%	40%
Gojri	0%	17%	0%	0%	3%	0%
Other	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Source: Field Survey March–April 2017 and June–July 2018

550. **Exhibit 4-152** shows the distribution of the enrolled population by education levels.

Exhibit 4-152: Distribution of Enrolled Population by Education Levels by Zones

S/No	Education Level	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Primary (Nursery to Class V) for Boys	284	250	0	0	1,342	0
2	Primary (Nursery to Class V) for Girls or Co-Ed	203	25	68	0	250	27
3	Middle (Class VI to VIII) for Boys	126	83	6	0	898	21
4	Middle (Class VI to VIII) for Girls or Co-Ed	71	0	23	0	130	0
5	Secondary (Class IX to X) for Boys	72	50	27	0	675	15
6	Secondary (Class IX to X) for Girls	31	2	1	0	48	0
7	Intermediate College for Boys/Girls	59	56	17	0	553	3
8	Degree College for Boys	40	25	0	0	192	0
9	Degree College for Girls	32	0	0	0	105	0
10	Technical and Vocational Training Institutes for Boys	5	0	1	0	21	0
11	Technical and Vocational Training Institutes for Girls	2	0	0	0	12	0
12	Madrassah	44	16	0	0	232	0

Source: Field Survey March–April 2017 and June–July 2018

551. **Exhibit 4-153** shows the distribution of the enrolled population by gender, education levels and zones.

Exhibit 4-153: Distribution of Enrolled Population by Gender, Education Levels and Zones

S/No	Zone	1		2		3		4		5		6	
	Gender	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1	Primary (Nursery to Class V) for Boys	213	71	149	101	–	–	–	–	635	707	–	–
2	Primary (Nursery to Class V) for Girls or co–ed	–	203	3	22	28	40	–	–	132	118	12	15
3	Middle (Class VI to VIII) for Boys	90	36	44	39	6	–	–	–	414	484	8	13
4	Middle (Class VI to VIII) for Girls or co–ed	10	61	–	–	7	16	–	–	85	45	–	–
5	Secondary (Class IX to X) for Boys	50	22	25	25	14	13	–	–	327	348	6	9
6	Secondary (Class IX to X) for Girls	8	23	–	2	–	1	–	–	10	38	–	–
7	Intermediate College for Boys/Girls	36	23	30	26	12	5	–	–	243	310	2	1
8	Degree College for Boys	32	8	13	12	–	–	–	–	126	66	–	–
9	Degree College for Girls	–	32	–	–	–	–	–	–	20	85	–	–
10	Technical and Vocational Training Institutes for Boys	5	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	21	–	–	–
11	Technical and Vocational Training Institutes for Girls	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	12	–	–	–
12	Madrassah	14	30	10	6	–	–	–	–	125	107	–	–
13	Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

Source: Field Survey March–April 2017 and June–July 2018

552. **Exhibit 4-154** shows the percent of surveyed settlements reporting access to healthcare facilities by zone.

Exhibit 4-154: Percent of Surveyed Settlements Reporting Access to Health Facilities by Zones

S/No	Facilities	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Dispensary	0%	14%	0%	0%	64%	0%
2	BHU	63%	57%	0%	0%	73%	0%
3	Health Center	0%	0%	0%	0%	9%	0%
4	Rural Health Center (RHC)	38%	14%	25%	0%	55%	0%
5	Hospital	75%	57%	75%	0%	55%	100%
6	Immunization (e.g. Polio drops)	25%	0%	50%	0%	55%	0%
7	LHV/LHW (Lady Health Visitors/Lady Health Workers)	25%	0%	50%	0%	55%	0%
8	Trained Midwife (dai)	0%	0%	0%	0%	18%	0%
9	Untrained Midwife (dai)	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
10	Pharmacy	50%	0%	0%	0%	45%	0%

Source: Field Survey March–April 2017 and June–July 2018

553. No disease was reported as an epidemic. The most common diseases reported in the adult male and female populations included flu/fever followed by tuberculosis, diabetes, and goiter. The prevalence of these is within a negligible proportion of the population. In children, ages 15 and under, the most common disease was reported as typhoid, goiter, and jaundice followed by flu/fever. Typhoid was reported across all settlements among adults and children. **Exhibit 4-155** shows the reported incidence of common diseases in the Study Area, as a percentage.

Exhibit 4-155: Reported Incidences of Diseases %

S/No	Zones	1			2			3			4			5			6
		M	F	C U 15	M	F	C U 15	M	F	C U 15	M	F	C U 15	M	F	C U 15	M
1	Flu/Fever	50%	30%	70%	100%	100%	100%	25%	25%	25%	0%	0%	0%	100%	100%	100%	10%
2	Malaria	1%	1%	0%	5%	5%	8%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%	3%	7%	0%
3	Chicken Pox	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
4	Typhoid	12%	18%	18%	12%	11%	9%	10%	10%	10%	0%	0%	0%	4%	4%	7%	0%
5	Diarrhea/ Dysentery	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
6	Tuberculosis	5%	8%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%
7	Goiter	5%	7%	13%	5%	5%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
8	Jaundice	6%	3%	7%	6%	3%	0%	5%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%	3%	1%	0%
9	Diabetes	5%	4%	0%	9%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	14%	11%	0%	0%
10	Other	5%	5%	0%	7%	10%	0%	0%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	50%	50%	0%	0%

Source: Field Survey March–April 2017 and June–July 2018

4.3.6 Physical Infrastructure

554. The presence of roads, communication networks, and other infrastructure are indicators of development in a region. The survey determined that there is much scope for development in the Study Area, as access to various infrastructures is low in most parts.

4.3.6.1 Roads and Transportation

555. The settlements situated on the left bank of the Kunhar River in the Study Area are well connected to the rest of Pakistan through the carpeted Kaghan-Balakot highway. No road is available on the right bank, however, at some points, there are jeepable tracks. The communities residing on the right bank are connected to the left bank through suspension bridges and unsealed roads. In most cases, people have to walk a maximum of 2 km to reach the Kaghan-Balakot highway. **Exhibit 4-156** shows the percentage of each type of road, blacktop and unsealed, by zone.

Exhibit 4-156: Roads in Transport Services %

S/No	Nature of Facility	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Blacktop Road	13%	29%	0%	0%	55%	100%
2	Unsealed Road	25%	14%	0%	0%	9%	100%

Source: Field Survey March–April 2017 and June–July 2018

4.3.6.2 Water Supply Sources

556. All surveyed settlements in Zones 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6, reported having access to a public potable water supply system comprising a central water storage system, where water collects from a mountain spring and is supplied to the community via a pipeline up to a central point in the community. Distances of the settlements to sources of water range from 500 m to 2 km.

557. The irrigation system, which collapsed in the earthquake in 2005, could not be rehabilitated at large. Agricultural has shifted towards being rainfed. Previously the area was known for rice production.[110] Most communities in all zones identified water supply infrastructure as a need especially the revival of their irrigation channels to reduce dependency on rain-fed agriculture.

558. The dependence on the main Kunhar River for drinking is negligible in all zones. The river water is used for agriculture and feeding animals as reported in some settlements. **Exhibit 4-157** shows the water supply source by zone.

Exhibit 4-157: Zone-wise Water Supply by Source %

S/No	Zone wise Source of Water Supply	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6
1	Public water supply (government/municipal)	75%	29%	75%	0%	73%	100%
2	Spring/s	88%	100%	100%	0%	73%	100%
3	Well/s	0%	14%	0%	0%	55%	0%
4	Kunhar River	25%	0%	0%	0%	18%	0%
5	Tributaries of Kunhar River	0%	0%	25%	0%	0%	0%

Source: Field Survey March–April 2017 and June–July 2018

110 Rice production needs flow of water in reasonable amounts and it was reported from all most all settlements in deep valleys on river banks that they had the practice of rice production before the earthquake in 2005.

4.3.6.3 Sanitation and Waste Disposal

559. The Study Area with all settlements visited reports the availability of septic tanks for disposal of human waste. Pit latrine system was available in very few settlements, especially in Zones 1 and 2. The fields in respective settlements currently serve as the ultimate drain for wastewater and contaminated seepage associated with household water use in the area. However, in Zone 1 at some points almost all settlements in Zone 5 were observed using the Kunhar River, for drainage. This has increased contamination levels (see **Section 4.1.7**, *Water Resources*), presumably more in the winter, as the capacity of the river to flush the contaminants reduces in that season. There was no municipality sewerage system observed with proper drainage to save the river from contamination. **Exhibit 4-158** shows the type of sanitation by zone, as a percentage.

Exhibit 4-158: Type of Sanitation by Zone %

S/No	Type of Sanitation	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6
1	Pit Latrine	0%	14%	0%	0%	0%	0%
2	Pit Latrine with Slabs	50%	14%	0%	0%	0%	0%
3	Septic Tanks	50%	71%	100%	0%	91%	100%
4	Open Latrine	0%	14%	0%	0%	9%	0%
5	Municipal Sewage System	0%	0%	0%	0%	9%	0%
6	Open Drains	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
7	Other	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Source: Field Survey March–April 2017 and June–July 2018

4.3.6.4 Power and Fuel Source

560. As shown in **Exhibit 4-159,** the three major fuel sources in the Study Area include electricity, fuelwood, and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). Natural gas is not supplied in the entire Kaghan Valley.

561. All settlements in the Study Area are connected to the main grid. Electricity is mainly used for lighting purposes and running household electrical appliances. For cooking and, water and space heating purposes, fuelwood and LPG are interchangeably used, depending on the availability and whichever is more economical.

562. Fuelwood is commonly used as a source of fuel. Communities source fuelwood from communal forests, paying only for the transportation cost. In urban areas, fuelwood comes through markets. The suppliers source it from the communal forests but charge cutting, gathering, and other labor charges, in addition to transportation. In Balakot and Garhi Habibullah supply of fuelwood is monitored by the government and managed through permits, in other zones this is informal communal activity. The local government discourages the collection of fuel wood from forests to prevent deforestation.

Exhibit 4-159: Fuel Sources by Zone %

S/No	Fuel Source	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Electricity	75%	71%	75%	0%	91%	100%
2	Fuelwood (Gathered)	100%	86%	75%	0%	27%	100%
3	Fuelwood (Market)	13%	0%	25%	0%	100%	0%
4	LPG	100%	14%	75%	0%	91%	100%
5	Kerosene	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
6	Diesel	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
7	Other (Solar)	13%	0%	25%	0%	0%	0%

Source: Field Survey March–April 2017 and June–July 2018

563. **Exhibit 4-160** shows access to communication infrastructure by zone, as a percentage.

Exhibit 4-160: Zone-wise Access to Communication Infrastructure %

S/No	Types of Communication Facilities	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Telephone	0%	0%	0%	0%	18%	0%
2	Mobile Phone Service	100%	100%	100%	0%	73%	100%
3	Post Office	33%	14%	0%	0%	73%	0%

Source: Field Survey March–April 2017 and June–July 2018

564. The peaceful law and order situation in the Study Area, the prevalence of law enforcement agencies and related services is poor. In all zones except Zone 5, the majority of settlements did not have access to a police facility. Police check posts are only present on the main Kaghan Highway. Police check posts and monitor incoming traffic to tourist areas, to determine the purpose of visitors to the valley. **Exhibit 4-161** shows the provision of police facilities by zone, as a percentage.

Exhibit 4-161: Provision of Police Facilities %

S/No	Police Facility	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6
1	Police Station	38%	0%	0%	0%	73%	0%
2	Police Check post	0%	14%	0%	0%	36%	0%

Source: Field Survey March–April 2017 and June–July 2018

565. Banks and markets are available mainly in Balakot city. Shops are present on the main Kaghan Highway. The shops provide for the day-to-day needs of the local communities or to supply travelers and tourists. For major purchases, all settlements in the survey area depend mainly on Balakot city, which is the hub of economic activity in the region. There were one or two shops of basic groceries found in each settlement mostly belonging to households having transportation facility or jeep owners of the respective settlement. **Exhibit 4-162** shows the access to other facilities by zone, including banking and markets, as a percentage.

Exhibit 4-162: Access to Other Facilities %

S/No	Other facility	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6
1	Bank	0%	0%	0%	0%	73%	0%
2	Market	0%	14%	25%	0%	91%	0%

Source: Field Survey March–April 2017 and June–July 2018

566. **Exhibit 4-163** shows the employment within the Study Area. More than 50% of the total employable population is employed while 25% are unemployed. The remaining are students, retired, and others (such as labor and small business operators).

Exhibit 4-163: Employment within the Study Area %

S/ No	Employment Status	1	2	3	4	5	6	Overall
1	Employed	56%	54%	61%	0%	51%	80%	55%
2	Unemployed	19%	30%	25%	0%	26%	10%	25%
3	Student	8%	5%	10%	0%	17%	0%	11%
4	Retired	11%	10%	7%	0%	6%	10%	8%
5	Other	30%	13%	0%	0%	5%	0%	18%

Source: Field Survey March–April 2017 and June–July 2018

4.3.7 Sources of Livelihood

567. **Exhibit 4-164** shows the sources of livelihood as a percentage, by zone in the Study Area. The major source of income for the settlements in Zones 1 to 5 was the dependency of its members living in major cities of the country. The local livelihood report shows main sources are agriculture, wage labor, private and government services, and skilled workers. Several households have more than one source of income.

568. Subsistence agriculture, collection of wood, and sand for construction, and seasonal services in tourism-based hotel industry were the major contributors to the economy. People are also engaged in wood carving, driving, and services in security agencies.

Exhibit 4-164: Sources of Livelihood %

S/No	Livelihood Sources	1	2	3	4	5	6	Overall
1	Private Service	10%	19%	31%	0%	17%	30%	18%
2	Agriculture (Land owner)	13%	19%	8%	0%	43%	5%	25%
3	Agriculture (Wage laborer)	18%	21%	5%	0%	8%	10%	14%
4	Agriculture (Share Cropper)	11%	7%	13%	0%	7%	30%	9%
5	Fishing (Own business)	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
6	Fishing (Labor)	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
7	Sediment mining (wage Laborer)	8%	0%	9%	0%	4%	0%	5%
8	Other wage laborer	20%	13%	10%	0%	26%	0%	18%
9	Livestock (owner)	0%	50%	0%	0%	3%	10%	11%
10	Livestock (herder)	0%	15%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%
11	Business (Hotel/restaurant)	9%	5%	0%	0%	7%	0%	5%
12	Trade/business	11%	5%	8%	0%	15%	5%	11%
13	Skilled workers	8%	28%	8%	0%	12%	5%	14%
14	Skilled artisans	21%	11%	10%	0%	4%	0%	10%
15	Government service (Health)	1%	2%	1%	0%	3%	0%	2%
16	Government service (Education)	7%	5%	5%	0%	7%	5%	6%
17	Government service (Other)	19%	8%	3%	0%	9%	0%	8%
18	Other	15%	0%	0%	0%	4%	0%	8%

Source: Field Survey March–April 2017 and June–July 2018

4.3.7.1 Household income

569. **Exhibit 4-165** show the distribution of households in surveyed settlements by level of income. More than half of the households earn less than PKR 25,000 per month but more than PKR 10,000. A slight departure is observed in Zone 6, where 50% of the households were earning up to PKR 50,000 per month.

Exhibit 4-165: Household Income Levels by Zones (PKR/month) %

S/No	Income Level	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total average
1	Less than 10,000	17%	14%	12%	0%	17%	0%	12
2	10,000 – 25,000	57%	74%	63%	0%	36%	50%	56
3	25,000 - 50,000	19%	11%	26%	0%	20%	50%	25
4	50,000 – 75,000	5%	1%	0%	0%	19%	0%	5
5	More than 75,000	3%	1%	0%	0%	8%	0%	2

Source: Field Survey March–April 2017 and June–July 2018

570. **Exhibit 4-166** shows the average land holding by zone in the Study Area. The average landholding in all settlements ranges from 4 to 7 kanals per household. The urban settlements or settlements near the main Kaghan Road both in Zone 3 and 5 had an average of 3 kanals per household. The maximum landholding was reported as 7.67 kanal per household, found in Zone 2.

Exhibit 4-166: Average Landholding by Zones (Kanal)

Landholding	1	2	3	4	5	6
Average Land holding (Kanal)	3.94	6.71	3.31	-	3.23	5.00

Source: Field Survey March–April 2017 and June–July 2018

4.3.7.2 Farming

571. **Exhibit 4-167** shows the crops grown by season in the Study Area. The agricultural economy is purely subsistence in nature. Almost all people own farmlands both as personal property or as sharecroppers, produce from which is however 100% self-consumed. Rice is produced commercially in Zone 5. The crops grown in the Study Area are season-specific. The data in **Exhibit 4-167** shows that maize/corn is the product of summer while wheat is cultivated in winter across the Study Area. Farming is mainly rainfed, with almost no dependence on river water for irrigation.

Exhibit 4-167: Crops Grown by Season Zone-wise

S/No	Seasonal Crops	1	2	3	4	5	6
Summer							
1	Wheat	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
2	Maize/Corn	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
3	Grass	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
4	Rice	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
5	Other (Vegetables)	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Winter							

S/No	Seasonal Crops	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Wheat	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
2	Maize/Corn	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
3	Grass	No	No	No	No	No	No
4	Rice	No	No	No	No	No	No
5	Other (Vegetables)	No	No	No	No	Yes	No

Source: Field Survey March–April 2017 and June–July 2018

572. **Exhibit 4-168** shows the proportion of crops sold in the Study Area. As discussed elsewhere, the local agricultural production is mainly for domestic consumption and only maize/corn or vegetables are reported as being sold (mostly in local markets or in the neighborhood).

Exhibit 4-168: Proportion Sold by Crop by Zone

S/No	Nature of Crop	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Wheat	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
2	Maize/Corn	9%	3%	0%	0%	8%	0%
4	Rice	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
5	Other (Vegetables)	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Source: Field Survey March–April 2017 and June–July 2018

573. **Exhibit 4-169** shows the average yield by type of crop in the Study Area. Average yield is reported to be highest in Zone 1 followed by Zone 2 and Zone 5.

Exhibit 4-169: Average Yield by Type of Crop by zone (Mound/Kanal)

S/No	Yield Type	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Wheat	5.9	3.6	2.3	-	4.3	4.0
2	Maize/Corn	7.0	3.7	2.7	-	4.3	6.0
4	Rice	-	-	-	-	5.0	-
5	Other (Vegetables)	7.8	6.5	-	-	5.0	-

Source: Field Survey March–April 2017 and June–July 2018

4.3.7.3 Livestock Rearing

574. As can be seen in **Exhibit 4-164**, more than half of the employed population is engaged in livestock rearing. Trends in livestock rearing were found to be consistent across zones. Most of the animals owned are poultry and cattle. The average value per animal is given in **Exhibit 4-170**. Livestock owners engage herders to rear goats and sheep, whereas poultry, cows, and buffalo are reared at home.

Exhibit 4-170: Distribution of Livestock by Animal Type

S/No	Livestock Type	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
1	Bullock/Buffalo	30	42	7	-	923	2	1,004
2	Cow	269	231	54	-	534	80	1,168
3	Goat	493	481	170	-	878	280	2,302

S/No	Livestock Type	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
4	Sheep	-	8	-	-	16	-	24
5	Donkey	-	1	6	-	58	-	65
6	Horse	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	Camel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: Field Survey March–April 2017 and June–July 2018

575. **Exhibit 4-171** shows the average value of livestock by type of animal in the Study Area.

Exhibit 4-171: Average Value of Livestock by Type of Animal, PKR

S/No	Type of Animal	1	2	3	4	5	6	Mean
1	Bullock/Buffalo	75,714	90,000	95,000	-	131,818	80,000	102,586
2	Cow	52,000	49,286	53,750	-	60,455	65,000	55,032
3	Goat	11,500	12,857	15,500	-	14,300	18,000	13,500
4	Sheep	-	12,000	-	-	22,500	-	19,00
5	Donkey	13,500	13,000	120,000	-	27,500	-	33,750
6	Horse	60,000	-	-	-	150,000	-	105,000

Source: Field Survey March–April 2017 and June–July 2018

576. **Exhibit 4-172** shows the average time spent by livestock by the river-side in the Study Area. The dependency for livestock on Kunhar River was found to be small, on average 1.6 hours out of 24 hours in all zones.

Exhibit 4-172: Average time Spent by Livestock by the River-side by Zone (hours/day)

Time	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Average Time (Hours)	0.6	2.8	2.0	-	1.6	-	1.6

Source: Field Survey March–April 2017 and June–July 2018

4.3.8 River-Dependent Socioeconomic Activities

577. Rural settlement surveys were undertaken in selected settlements with river dependence or within 1 km of Project facilities. Detailed consultations and village profiling were conducted in each settlement to collect data on livelihood and dependency on natural resources including on the Kunhar River for the settlements residing on both sides of the river. The slopes on the right side are steep and there is no access along the river especially from Zone 1 to 3. On the left bank of the river, there is a road parallel to the river. This suits people to collect sediment. Even if the same is practiced on the right side of the river, the same is transported through the local indigenous system of “pulley” through a lifter to the roadside first and then onward transportation to other settlements. River-dependent socioeconomic activities are, however, limited in the Study Area.

4.3.8.1 Sediment Mining

578. Sediment (sand, gravel, and cobble) mining is carried out throughout the Study Area. The mineable sediment resource is being extracted to meet small-scale construction demand, involving the construction and maintenance of local residential and commercial buildings as

well as roads. Miners in the Balakot area reported that the import of sediment varies from year to year depending on the status of the construction industry.

579. The mining techniques are crude, involving the use of labor for dredging. No mechanical extraction was observed anywhere in the Study Area except Jagir (Thanda Mor) where sand is extracted through an excavator. The sand and gravel are mined using shovels and spades and are loaded onto animals and vehicles, from where it is transported to the roadside.

580. **Exhibit 4-173** shows the transportation means and their typical capacities. The sediment is then piled up along the road and sold to the trucks that are passing by to collect sand for larger supply orders or in some cases loaded on a jeep and sold in nearby villages. The cable trollies are operated by an electric motor (powered by diesel electric generators) or diesel engines. Miners in most cases undertake sand mining on their lands along the riverbank.

Exhibit 4-173: Modes of Transportation of Sediment

Means	Capacity (m^3/trip)
Donkey	0.03
Horse	0.14
Jeep	1.42
Mini-truck	2.83
Tractor Trolley	2.8-4.2
Truck	8.5-11
Cable trolley	0.3

Source: Field Survey March–April 2017 and June–July 2018

581. Photographs of mining activities are shown in **Exhibit 4-174**.

Exhibit 4-174: Sand Mining Methods



Sand transportation by Jeep



Transporting sand and gravel using tractor trolleys



Sand Mining trough at Bararkot



Sand mining with excavator



Sand Deposit near Jagir (Tanda Mor)



Chak dam to collect sand near Jalora

582. The extraction operation is carried out in areas where the flow of the river is gentle, the width is wide, or where due to the meandering of the river, sand bars are created. The operation continues throughout the year except in the flood season.

583. The mining operations are of different sizes ranging from 100 m^3/year to 2,080 m^3/year. Small- and medium-scale operations are typically family businesses. Families from nearby villages set-up the sediment extraction which is usually run by family members. The land on the riverbank, in most of the cases, is also owned by the family. However, in some cases, it is rented. In most cases, the labor is hired locally but at times it is also provided by the family. In this way, earnings from sediment mining operations remain primarily within the local economy. The reported selling price of the sediment varies considerably, from as low as PKR 500/secra to as much as PKR 2,000/secra.[111] To ensure even comparison, the roadside price is considered for the economic analysis.

584. **Exhibit 4-175** summarizes the estimates for sediment mined along the main Kunhar River in the Study Area. The amount of sediment extracted per km stretch of the river is highest in Zone 5, followed by Zone 4. Of the total sediment mined annually, the majority (98%) is extracted in Zone 5, between the stretch from Shahator Village (2.5 km downstream of Balakot Town) to Dalola Village, located at the upstream end of the reservoir of Patrind HPP.

585. Based on an analysis of data collected as part of the environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) of Kohala HPP, sediment extraction is expected to increase as has been observed along other rivers in the basin, including the Jhelum and Neelum Rivers, from 2013 to 2016.

111 A *secra* or *sekra* is equal to 100 cubic feet or about 2.83 cubic meter.

Exhibit 4-175: Sand Mining Statistics

Description	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Total
Number of HH	548	334	161	1500	9038	11569
River stretch (km)	4.2	13.5	4.6	3.5	22.1	47.9
Estimated number of mining businesses (Nos)	20	-	5	40	221	286
Volume extracted annually per business (m^3)	130	-	150	100	2,080	2,460
Total extracted annually in the zone (m^3)	2,600	0	750	4,000	459,680	467,030
Sand mined m^3/per km stretch of river	619	0	163	1,143	20,800	9,750
Estimated number of persons involved	20	-	15	40	444	519
Percentage of HHs involved in sand mining	4%	0%	9%	3%	5%	4%
Estimate value (million Rs)	4.2	-	1.6	6.2	156.8	168.7
Payment to labor (million Rs)	-	-	2.0	-	18.5	20.5
Total annual income from all sources (million Rs)	158.04	76.88	41.37	607.42	3,809.29	4,693.0
Income as a percent of total income	2.63%	0.00%	3.77%	1.03%	4.12%	3.60%

Source: Field Survey March–April 2017 and June–July 2018

586. The sand mining intensity map is shown in **Exhibit 4-176**.

4.3.8.2 Fishing

587. Fishing for self-consumption was observed in the Study Area. Fishing as a business was not observed in any of the zones except in Zone 5 at Balakot. Even here it was on a small scale to meet the local restaurant clientage. The fishing season lasts between six months throughout the year, depending on the fish species caught. Seasonal permits for fishing using rods and cast nets are issued by the Tehsil administration or Fisheries and Wildlife Departments at Mansehra. However, most of the fish caught for self-consumption and business are caught without permits as enforcement is very weak. The most common fish species caught include the Alwan Snow Trout, Rainbow Trout, and Brown Trout. Fishing activities are shown in **Exhibit 4-177.**

588. Based on the data collected for this study, about 88% of the fish is self-consumed whereas the rest is sold commercially. As fishing is carried out illegally, i.e. without obtaining permits from the Fisheries Department, KP, fishermen are reluctant to share information on the fishing activities and volume of fish caught. The statistics presented in **Exhibit 4-178** are based on the analysis of information gathered from the sampled fishermen in the Study Area. During informal discussions with locals, it was observed that some people also use illegal practices like blasting and poisoning to catch fish which means fishing is higher than reported.

589. Based on an analysis of data collected as part of the ESIA of Kohala HPP, fishing pressure is expected to increase as has been observed along other rivers in the basin, including the Jhelum and Neelum Rivers, from 2013 to 2017. An increasing trend in fishing pressure was also highlighted by Mohammad Tanvir, Assistant Director, Mansehra of the Fisheries Department, government of KP.

Exhibit 4-176: Sand Mining Intensity

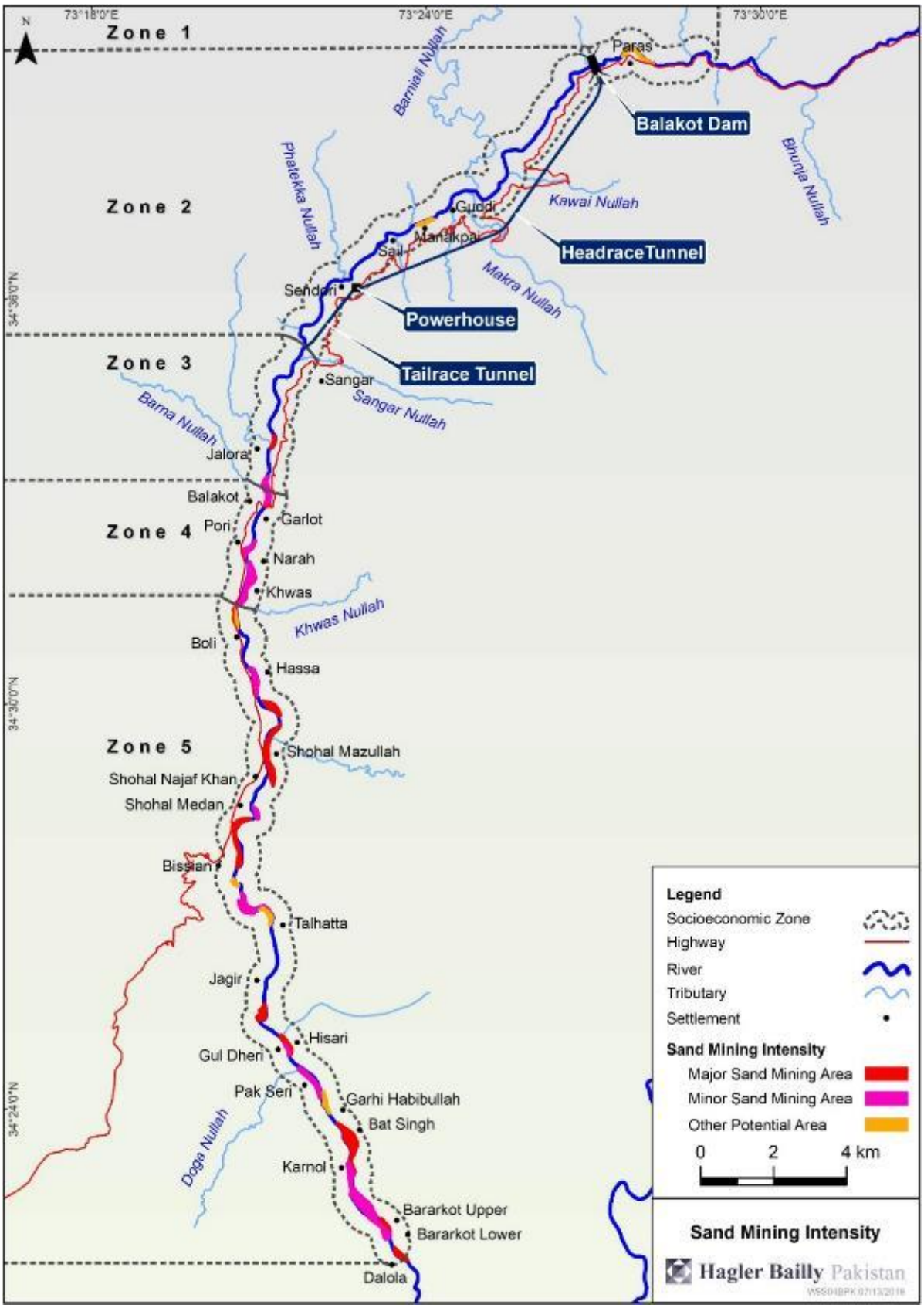


Exhibit 4-177: Fishing



Gill Netting downstream of Bissian



Cast Netting upstream of Bissian



Fishing with Rod at Talhatta



Fishing at Karnol



Alwan Snow Trout Caught at upstream Bissian



Fishing at upstream Garhi Habibullah

Exhibit 4-178: Fishing Statistics

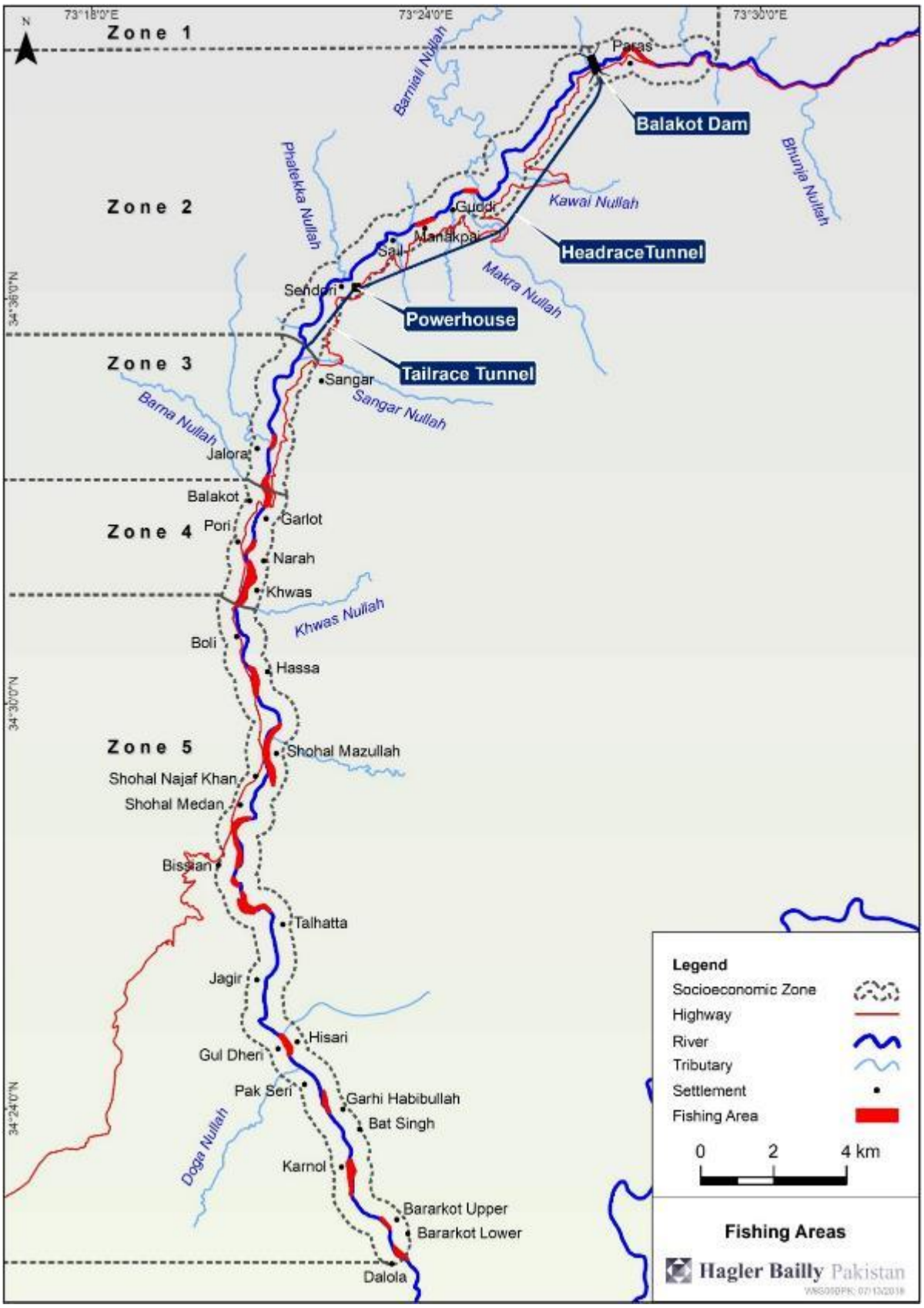
Description	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Total
Number of HH	548	334	161	1500	9038	11569
Number of fishermen	13	3	4	33	181	234
Total fish catch per year (Maund)	2	2	1	20	51	76
River stretch (km)	4.2	13.5	4.6	3.5	22.1	47.9
Average fish catch per year per capita, kg	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2
Fish catch kg/per km stretch of river	19.0	5.9	4.3	228.6	92.3	63.0
Self-consumed	100%	100%	100%	80%	85%	88%
Percentage of households engaged in fish catching (Entire Zone)	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%
Percentage of households engaged in fish catching (Fishing Settlements)	9%	8%	13%	2%	5%	4%
Estimated total income from fishing (Rs)	-	-	-	88,000	400,400	488,400

Description	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Total
Total annual income from all sources (million Rs)	158.04	76.88	41.37	607.42	3,809.29	4,684.6
Income as percent of total income	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%

Source: Field Survey March–April 2017 and June–July 2018

590. A map showing intensity of fishing on Kunhar River in the Study Area is shown in **Exhibit 4-179.**

Exhibit 4-179: Fishing Areas



4.3.8.3 Driftwood Used as Fuel

591. Fuel wood is the main source of energy for domestic cooking and heating. Respondents reported that fuel wood is collected from the farmlands and dead-fallen trees in the forests. There is limited dependence on driftwood collected from the riverbanks as the source of fuel wood except in settlements at the peripheries of Balakot where the river flows through more plain areas creating room for such activities.

4.3.8.4 Tourism and Recreational Activities

592. Recreational dependence on the river was reportedly low in all the zones. During the survey, the respondents did not cite riverside fishing, boating or picnics as a major recreational activity. However, the roadside hotel owners reported that riverside recreation was popular to a certain extent among the tourists from other areas.

4.3.9 Profile of the Affected Villages[112]

593. The Project will affect six settlements (Bela Balseri, Nehan, Rahtar, Bela Sacha, Sangar, and Ghanool). All these settlements are situated in Tehsil Balakot of district Mansehra. The socio-economic profile is based on the survey carried out in six affected villages four at the dam site i.e., Bela Balseri, Nehan, Rahtar, and Bela Sacha, while powerhouse, access road, tailrace, staff colony, switch yard, surge shaft and access road to surg shaft are situated at Sangar and Ghanool. Land records were only organized by the DRD while no changes in the land record could be made after the cut-off date. However, based on the lists provided by the revenue department, the RFST collected the data from all the stakeholders of land and other affected assets. All the affected households will be compensated and support will be provided in the resettlement of the DPs. Data that was missing in the draft LARP has been reflected in the updated LARP. Most of the affected settlements were situated along the national highway N–15 and linked through unsealed roads. Electricity and communication services were available in the affected settlements. Schools and health facilities (BHUs) were also available within or near the affected villages. The source of drinking water was perennial springs water. Communities have installed pipes to bring water to their houses. Services like hospital, police Profile of Affected Households

4.3.10 Distribution and Demography of Affected Households

594. A total of 215 houses were affected by the project, 185 belonged to Paras settlement, 25 houses belonged to Sangar and 5 houses were affected at the Bela Sacha settlement. A total of 191 households own 185 houses in Paras, 25 households own 25 houses in Sangar, and 5 households own 5 houses affected by the project at Bela Sacha. The number of households whose land was affected at village Paras was 411 HHs, the number of HHs whose land was affected at village Bela Sacha was 47, the number of households whose land was impacted at village Sangar was 1719 HHs while the number of HHs at village Ghanool was 144 (including those not available at site or non-resident, not interested, died).

[112] Field Survey by RFST Feb–December 2021

Exhibit 4-180: Village-wise Distribution of Affected Households available at Site

Settlement	Houses			Land			Total Affected HHs	%age of Total Male	%age of Total Female
	Affected Households	Male	Female	Affected Households	Male	Female			
Nihan	48	39	9	52	10	6	100	**49.00**	**15.00**
Bela Balsehri	81	77	8	49	10	9	140	**90.14**	**14.43**
Ratar	66	59	3	67	6	17	133	**67.51**	**15.78**
Chuntiya	0	0	0	27	4	1	27	**14.81**	**3.70**
Sagri	0	0	0	11	5	1	11	**45.45**	**9.09**
Bela Sacha	7	6	1	40	6	1	47	**18.77**	**3.13**
Sangar	25	23	2	534	326	208	559	**81.32**	**39.21**
Ghanool	0	0	0	64	39	25	64	**60.94**	**39.06**
Total	**227**	**204**	**23**	**844**	**406**	**268**	**1081**	**37.56**	**24.79**

Source: Field Survey by RFST Feb–December 2021

595. The surveyed AHs have a total of 3202 population in sectional LARP 1. Of these, 55.06% (1763) were male and 44.94% (1439) were female. On average, each household comprises 5.14 members. The female-to-male ratio of the AHs was 1**:** 0.81 while the surveyed AHs have a total of 2069 population in Sectional LARP 2. Of these, 50.7% were male and 49.3 % were female. On average, each household comprises 4.52 family members shown in **Exhibit 4-181**. The female-to-male ratio of the AHs was 1: 0.9.

Exhibit 4-181: Settlement–wise Distribution of Surveyed Households and Sex Ratio

Location	Affected Households	% of AHs to total HHs of the Village	Sex & Population				Total Population	
			Male	%	Female	%	Total	Average Household Size
Houses								
Nihan	48	22.64	126	51.43	119	48.57	245	5.1
Bela Balsehri	91	42.92	250	49.90	251	50.10	501	5.51
Rehtar	66	31.13	181	49.59	184	50.41	365	5.53
Bela Sacha	7	3.30	11	42.31	15	57.69	26	3.71
Total	212	100	568	49.96	569	50.04	1137	5.36
Land								
Nihan	52	24.53	108	49.32	111	50.68	219	4.21
Bela Balsehri	49	23.11	72	50.70	70	49.30	142	2.9
Rehtar	67	31.6	155	50.00	155	50.00	310	4.63
Chuntiya	27	12.74	18	60.00	12	40.00	30	1.11

Location	Affected Households	% of AHs to total HHs of the Village	Sex & Population				Total Population	
			Male	%	Female	%	Total	Average Household Size
Sagri	11	5.19	39	59.09	27	40.91	66	6
Bela Sacha	40	18.87	89	53.94	76	46.06	165	4.13
Houses								
Sangar	25	100	67	58.26	48	41.74	115	4.6
Ghanool	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	25	100	67		48		115	4.6
Land								
Sangar	534	89.3	1477	55.28	1195	44.72	2672	5
Ghanool	64	10.7	219	52.77	196	47.23	415	6.48

Source: Field Survey Feb-December 2021

4.3.11 Age-wise Distribution of Households

596. **Exhibit 4-182** given below shows age wise distribution of the household population of all four mouzas of the project-affected area. The male and female within the bracket of 10-19 years of age was 76%, 20-29 was 8.6%, 30-39 was 19.26%, 40-49 was 20.21%, 50-59 was 21.93%, 60-69 was 14.01%, 70-79 was 5.82%, 80-89 was 2.19%, 90 and above was 0% while 7.15 % respondent that they don't know about the age of their HHs members.

Exhibit 4-182: Age wise Distribution of Households

Age in Years	Nihan		Bela Balsehri		Ratar		Chuntiya		Bela Sacha		Sagri		Sangar		Ghanool		Total Male	Total Female	Total	% age
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	A	B	A+B	
10-19	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	**5**	**3**	**8**	**0.76**
20-29	4	1	7	1	19	7	0	2	4	4	1	1	21	17	3	1	**59**	**32**	**91**	**8.67**
30-39	24	8	20	6	26	8	0	1	9	3	1	1	64	28	4	9	**148**	**54**	**202**	**19.26**
40-49	8	5	31	6	18	8	2	0	6	0	1	2	89	35	3	5	**158**	**54**	**212**	**20.21**
50-59	7	5	26	10	14	11	4	4	7	1	1	1	84	43	13	5	**156**	**74**	**230**	**21.93**
60-69	10	3	8	1	8	7	7	0	6	2	0	1	51	36	8	2	**98**	**49**	**147**	**14.01**
70-79	0	1	9	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	19	17	6	3	**39**	**22**	**61**	**5.82**
80-89	2	1	2	1	2	0	1	3	0	1	0	0	5	3	2	0	**14**	**9**	**23**	**2.19**
90 & above	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Not Given	12	9	0	10	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	14	29	0	0	**27**	**48**	**75**	**7.15**
Total	**67**	**33**	**104**	**36**	**91**	**42**	**16**	**11**	**34**	**13**	**5**	**6**	**348**	**211**	**39**	**25**	**704**	**345**	**1049**	**100**

4.3.12 Social Profile of the Affected Households

597. The major castes of the AHs were Gujjar (19.37%), Kathna (1.31%), Khokar (0.79%), Mady khel (8.12 %), Mian (1.31%), Mughal (2.09%), Mulana (1.83), Pathan (5.50%), Qureshi (3.40%) and Rajpoot (4.19%), Kashmeri (0.52), Sunni (1.05%), Swati (0.52%) and Syed (50.00%) as presented in **Exhibit 4-183.**

Exhibit 4-183: Castes of Affected Households

Social Groups/Caste	Percentage
Gujjar	19.37
Kathna	1.31
Khokar	0.79
Mady Khel	8.12
Mian	1.31
Mughal	2.09
Mulana	1.83
Pathan	5.50
Qureshi	3.40
Rajpoot	4.19
Kashmeri	0.52
Sunni	1.05
Swati	0.52
Syed	50.00
Total	**100**

Source: Field Survey Feb – December 2021

4.3.13 Educational Level and Literacy Rate

598. The literacy rate of the project area affected population has been given in the table below.

Exhibit 4-184: Literacy Rate of Affected HH

Literacy level	Male		Female		Total	Overall Ratio %
	Nos	%	Nos	%		
Illiterate	164	**15.17**	287	**26.55**	**451**	**41.72**
Literate	551	**50.97**	79	**7.31**	**630**	**58.28**
Total	715	**66.14**	366	**33.86**	**1081**	**66.14**

Source: Field Survey Feb–Dec 2021

599. As provided in **Exhibit 4-185**, among literate people, 0.37% received education from Madrasa, 16.13% less than primary education, 15.85% up to primary level, 9.36% passed matric level, 7.78% education up to intermediate level, 6.77% reached up to graduate level and 1.95% higher education i.e., post-graduation and above.

Exhibit 4-185: Education Level of Affected Population

Education Level	Total Number of Persons			
	Male	Female	Total	Percentage
Illiterate	164	287	**451**	**41.72%**
Madrassah	2	2	**4**	**0.37%**
No or Less than Primary	122	52	**174**	**16.13%**
Primary (Class 5 to Class 9)	159	16	**171**	**15.85%**
Matric (Class 10)	89	12	**101**	**9.36%**
Intermediate (FA/FSc)	83	1	**84**	**7.78%**
Graduate (BA/BSc)	72	1	**73**	**6.77%**
Other	16	5	**21**	**1.95%**
Total	**707**	**376**	**1079**	**100%**

Source: Field Survey Feb–December 2021

4.3.14 Culture, Religion, Ethnic Minority and Indigenous Structures

600. None of the cultures, religion, ethnic minorities and indigenous households were affected by the project.

4.3.15 Gender

601. Twenty-two women-headed households will be affected by the Project. Taking into account the socio-economic vulnerabilities of women-headed households, these AHs will be provided with vulnerability allowance, livelihood restoration support, and imparting of training to make them capable of starting their own business or employment in the project. These women will be given priority in project-based employment to ensure that they were not marginalized in the process of land acquisition and project implementation.

4.3.16 Land Ownership and Land Holding Size

602. As provided in **Exhibit 4-186** minimum land of a household at Paras was 0.00010 Kanal and the maximum was 215 Kanal with an average of 0.48 Kanal per household. While minimum land of a household at Bela Sacha was 0.0031 Kanal and the maximum was 24.33 Kanal with an average of 1.38 Kanal per household. (**Exhibit 4-186)** provides the number of households with different sizes of agricultural lands.

Exhibit 4-186: Land Holding Size of Affected Households

Settlement	Minimum (Kanal)	Maximum (Kanal)	Average (Kanal)
Paras	0.00010	215	0.48
Bela Sacha	0.0031	24.33	1.38
Sangar	0.0083	24.0667	0.5201
Ghanool	0.0125	2.8250	0.2305

Source: DRD record and Field Survey Feb – December 2021

4.3.17 Occupation and Production System

603. Majority of the working-age population surveyed were without any gainful employment because of low level of education, and lack of industry in the area. As shown in **Exhibit 4-187**, of the people with gainful employment, about 6.67% were employed in the Government sector, 8.06% were employed in the Private Sector, 2.96% were self-employed,

working as artisans, 32.59 % were working as a skilled laborer, 3.98% were self-own trade and business, 1.57% Income generating farming, 0.83% Non-income generating subsistence farming, 0.28 % were non-income generating livestock rearing, 3.61 % were unemployed and seeking jobs, 1.20 % were not employed willingly, 1.02% were student against those still studying and not working, and 37.22 % were others i.e. Housewives etc. Out of the total income-earning population, about 41.8% were female and 58.2% were male gender, which was one reason for being without gainful employment. Women were culturally restricted from the labor market or other sources of employment or from working in public and were rarely engaged in farming. As observed by the RFST women were mostly involved in livestock caring.

Exhibit 4-187: Occupational Profiles of Affected Population

Primary Occupation	Nihan	Bela Balsehri	Ratar	Bela Sacha	Sagri	Chuntiya	Sangar	Ghanool	Total	% age
Employed in Government	8	14	2	2	0	0	38	8	**72**	**6.67%**
Employed in private sector	8	16	17	1	0	3	36	6	**87**	**8.06%**
Self-employed working as Artisan	5	8	9	2	0	2	6	0	**32**	**2.96%**
Working as skilled or unskilled laborer)	16	34	46	12	5	8	214	17	**352**	**32.59%**
S-STB (Self owned trade and business	12	11	10	4	0	0	5	1	**43**	**3.98%**
I-FAR Income generating farming	4	6	1	1	0	0	2	3	**17**	**1.57%**
N-FAR (non-income generating subsistence farming)	3	1	1	0	0	0	4	0	**9**	**0.83%**
N-LIV (non-income generating livestock rearing)	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	**3**	**0.28%**
UNE (Unemployed and seeking jobs)	9	8	3	10	0	3	6	0	**39**	**3.61%**
NEM (Not employed willingly)	0	2	0	0	0	0	10	1	**13**	**1.20%**
STU (Student against those still studying and not working)	2	3	2	0	0	0	3	1	**11**	**1.02%**
Other	32	36	42	15	6	11	233	27	**402**	**37.22%**
Total	**100**	**140**	**133**	**47**	**11**	**27**	**558**	**64**	**1080**	**100%**

Source: Field Survey by RFST, Feb – December 2021

4.3.18 Source of Household Income

604. For the majority of the population i.e. (54.95%) the source of income was employment in the private and public sector (salaried jobs), 1.76 % HHs earned their income from Family Sources, 1.20 % from Farming, 1.39 % from Livestock, 1.67 % from Business, 0.19% from Rent Arts & Craft Making 38.85 % from Other multiple sources.

Exhibit 4-188: Annual Income of Affected Households

Livelihood Sector	No. of Persons	
	Total	% of the Total Working Population
Salaried	594	54.95
Family Sources	19	1.76
Farming	13	1.20
Live Stock	15	1.39
Business	18	1.67
Rent Arts & Craft Making	2	0.19
Other	420	38.85
Total	**1081**	**100.00**

4.3.19 Livelihood Sources with Average Annual Income

605. **Exhibit 4-189** below is livelihood sector with average annual income per HH in PKR. The average income from salaries was PKR 662,054, family sources 368,529, farming 370,406, livestock 565,172, business 1,116,266, rent, art and craft making 627,625, and others 327,388.

Exhibit 4-189: Livelihood Sectors and Average Annual Income

Livelihood Sector	Average Annual Income (PKR)/ HH		
	Minimum	Maximum	Average
Salaried	96,000	20,160,000	662,054
Family Sources	20,000	2,400,000	368,529
Farming	4,800	6,000,000	370,406
Live Stock	18,000	2,400,000	565,172
Business	30,000	12,000,000	1,116,266
Rent Arts & Craft Making	70,000	3,600,000	627,625
Other	4,000	3,000,000	327,388
	4,000	**20,160,000**	**645,739**

Source: Field Survey Feb – December 2021

4.3.20 Average Income, Expenditures, and Saving

606. As per information collected directly from the affected person and their family members the per person per month calculated average income in Pakistani Rupees (PKR) was 72,582, per person per month average expenditures was 39,782 while per person per month savings was PKR 32,800.

Exhibit 4-190: Income and Expenditures of Affected Households

Income Level PKR/Person/Month	Average income	Average Expenditures	Average Saving
less than 50,000	23,486	21,766	1,720
50,001 to 150,000	80,042	52,598	27,444
150,001 to 250,000	179,722	124,169	55,554
250,001 to 350,000	301,333	94,444	206,889
350,001 and above	772,667	194,238	578,428
Average	**72,582**	**39,782**	**32,800**

Source: Field Survey by RFST, Feb – December 2021

4.3.21 Poverty Level

607. Several groups of the population, by their socio-economic realities, were considered socially vulnerable and thus in need of special consideration so that they were not disproportionately affected by the Project. These groups included (a) poor households (HHs under the national poverty line); (b) female-headed households (FHH); (c) HHs headed by elderly people and (c) households headed by disabled persons. The RFS revealed that out of available 458 affected households, a total of 51 HHs were vulnerable, out of which, 22 AHs were female-headed households and 29 males headed HHs were below the national poverty line.

608. Of the surveyed AHs, the proportion of households living under the estimated national poverty line was 11.1% while, that earning between PKR 3031 to 5000 per person per month was 19%; between PKR 5001 – 10000 a total of 14%, and 10001 and above was 55% which was considered as higher income level as given in **Exhibit 4-191**.

Exhibit 4-191: Income Level and %age of Affected Households Above and Below the Poverty Line

Income Level PKR/Person/Month	Percentage
Up to 3,030 (national poverty line)	11.14%
3,030 to 5,000	19.00%
5,001 to 10,000	14.41%
10,001 and above	55.46%
Total	**100%**

Source: Field Survey Feb – December 2021

4.3.22 Housing

609. **Exhibit 4-192** shows that the majority of the AHs (74.18%) live in brick houses with CGI (Corrugated Galvanized Iron) sheet (Tin) roofs (semi–*pucca*). 2.18% living in Kaccha houses (walls made of mud and stones with CGI roofs while 23.27% lived in Pucca houses with cemented brick walls and RCC roofs.

Exhibit 4-192: Construction Type of Houses

Village	Pucca	% age	Semi Pucca	% age	Katcha	% age	Other	% age	Total
Nihan	14	26%	38	70.37%	1	1.85%	1	1.85%	**54**
Bela Balsehri	33	30%	76	68%	2	2%	0	0%	**111**
Ratar	13	17%	62	83%	0	0%	0	0%	**75**
Sangar	2	7.41	22	81.48	3	11.11	0	**0**	**27**
Bela Sacha	2	25%	6	75%	0	0%	0	0%	**8**
Total	**64**	**23.27%**	**204**	**74.18%**	**6**	**2.18%**	**1**	**0.36%**	**275**

Source: Field Survey Feb – November, 2021

610. On average, one house consists of four rooms, one kitchen, and one bathroom. As given in **Exhibit 4-193**, 36.41% of the houses were small (up to 5 Marla), 32.72% of the houses were medium (6–10 Marla) and 30.88% of the houses were large (more than 10 Marla).

Exhibit 4-193: Covered Area of Houses

Village	Covered Area (No. of Houses)			
	Less than 5 Marla	6-10 Marla	11-15 Marla	Total
Nihan	12	10	20	42
Bela Balsehri	26	31	24	81
Ratar	33	18	11	62
Sangar	8	11	8	27
Bela Sacha	0	1	4	5
Total	**79**	**71**	**67**	**217**
Percentage	**36.41%**	**32.72%**	**30.88%**	**100%**

Source: Field Survey Feb – November, 2021

4.3.23 Household Assets

4.3.23.1 Appliances

611. **Exhibit 4-194** below shows the appliances owned by the affected households. Out of 458 surveyed households, a total of 205 households have appliances for their domestic use.

Exhibit 4-194: Appliances Owned by Affected Households

Appliances	No. of Appliances	No. of AH
Television	138	134
Radio	37	37
Elec Room Heater	64	60
Elec Water Heater	60	59
Refrigerator	114	114
Freezer	9	9
Washing Machine	175	170
Elec Iron	197	184
Electric Fan	437	179

Appliances	No. of Appliances	No. of AH
Sewing Machine	132	123
Generator	38	32
Computer	46	45
Total	**1447**	**205**

Source: Field Survey Feb – November, 2021

4.3.23.2 Livestock

612. The type of livestock owned by the AHs in the Project affected area include buffaloes, cows, calves, goats, sheep, oxen, and chicken (**Exhibit 4-195**). Out of 458 HHs, a total of 194 HHs were having livestock in their houses. 41.28% of AHs kept livestock production for self–consumption, 12.34% of AHs for commercial and self–consumption, while, only 3.62% of AHs were keeping the livestock for commercial purposes. During consultations with the affected communities, the team observed that the majority of the APs prefer to stay back in the adjacent surrounding areas. It is concluded that there will be no major impact on AHs whose livelihood is linked with livestock production.

Exhibit 4-195: Livestock Owned by Affected Households

Livestock	No. of Livestock and Use		
	Self	Commercial	Both
Buffaloes	1	3	7
Cows	28	3	18
Calf	5	0	1
Goats/Sheep	80	5	13
Lamb	0	0	1
Oxen	2	1	0
Donkey	0	0	0
Horse	1	0	0
Chickens	76	5	18
Other	1	0	0
Total	**194**	**17**	**58**
Percentage	**41.28%**	**3.62%**	**12.34%**

Source: Field Survey by RFST, Feb – December, 2021

4.3.23.3 Vehicles

613. Type of vehicles owned by AHs include motorcycles, cars, jeeps, buses, truck, and pickups (**Exhibit 4-196**) A total of 49 AHs have vehicles in the project-affected area. Out of a total 32 vehicles are for personal use, 14 are for commercial use, and 3 both for personal and commercial use.

Exhibit 4-196: Vehicles Owned by Affected Households

Type	Number of Vehicles			
	Personal	Commercial	Both	Total
Car	25	4	0	**29**
Motor Cycle/Bike	5	0	0	**5**

Type	Number of Vehicles			
	Personal	Commercial	Both	Total
Truck	0	2	0	**2**
Pick Up	0	0	1	**1**
Jeep/Vellay Jeep	2	8	2	**12**
Total	**32**	**14**	**3**	**49**

Source: Field Survey by RFST, Feb – December 2021

4.3.23.4 Water and Sanitation

614. The main source of drinking water for the AHs was the spring water. Several households installed water supply pipelines on a self-help basis while others are fulfilling their need from the pipelines laid and owned by the PHE. The project-affected area is rain-fed so, the farmers have their main reliance on rain for growing their crops. There was no public, private, or civil canal network available for irrigation purposes as the land is situated on the hells which is distributed in terraces for agriculture.

615. There was no proper sanitation system in the Project area. Some people discharge their sewerage on the land to the agricultural fields or the streams. In a few cases, soak pits were used for sewerage discharge. Some of the surveyed AHs have a pit latrine while several have flush latrines in their houses.

4.3.23.5 Fuel Sources

616. The fuel sources commonly used by AHs were electricity, fuel wood, and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) as given in **Exhibit 4-197**. Out of the total surveyed households, 190 AHs use electricity for 3 purposes i.e. lighting (190 Ahs), space heating (9 Ahs), and water heating (15 Ahs). A total of 119 AHs were gathering fuel woods from the nearby communal jungles. Fuel woods were largely used for three purposes i.e. space heating, water heating, and cooking. Also, 116 AHs purchased fuel woods from the nearby market while 183 AHs purchased LPG from the nearby market which they were using for cooking purposes only.

Exhibit 4-197: Fuel Sources used by Affected Households

Fuel Sources	No. of AHs	Uses				Total	%
		Lighting	Space heating	Water heating	Cooking		
Electricity	190	190	9	15	1	**215**	**19.69%**
Fuel Wood (Gathered)	119	3	115	117	119	**354**	**32.27%**
Fuel Wood (Market)	116	0	112	114	114	**340**	**30.99%**
LPG	183	3	6	3	172	**184**	**16.77%**
Kerosene	3	3	0	0	0	**3**	**0.27%**
Total		**199**	**242**	**249**	**406**	**1097**	**100%**

Source: Field Survey by RFST, Feb – December 2021

4.3.24 Family Health

4.3.24.1 Births and Deaths

617. During the last two years, the AHs had 123 live births and 25 still births (**Exhibit 4-198**. A total of 37 persons died, including 22 infants under the age of 0 to 9 years, 3 persons between the age of 20 to 29 years age, 2 persons between the age of 40 to 49 years, 4 persons between the age of 50 to 59 years, 2 persons between the age of 60 to 69 years and 4 persons above the age of 70 years (see **Exhibit 4-199**).

Exhibit 4-198: Births during last 2 years

Births	Nos	Nos of HHs
Live	123	102
Stillbirth	25	18

Source: Field Survey by RFST, Feb – December 2021

Exhibit 4-199: Deaths during last 2 years

Age	Nos of Death
Up to 9	22
10-19	0
20-29	3
30-39	0
40-49	2
50-59	4
60-69	2
70 & Above	4
Total	**37**

Source: Field Survey by RFST, Feb – December 2021

4.3.24.2 Serious Illnesses

618. Serious illnesses in the AHs in the last two years include asthma, cancer, diabetes, heart disease, hepatitis, jaundice, paralysis and tuberculosis (**Exhibit 4-200**). During individual interviews the respondents mentioned about 108 patients during the last two years whereby, 18 patients were treated, 78 had persistent, 4 got disabled, while 1 lost their jobs due to serious illness, 6 died and 1 got no treatment.

Exhibit 4-200: Serious Illness and Outcome

Illness	No. of Persons and Outcome						
	Treated	Persisting	Disability	Lost job or occupation	Death	No Treatment	Total
Tuberculosis	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Hepatitis	2	0	0	0	0	0	**2**
Asthma	0	4	0	0	1	0	**5**
Jaundice	2	1	0	0	0	0	**3**
Tetanus	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Paralysis	0	3	2	0	0	0	**5**

Illness	No. of Persons and Outcome						
	Treated	Persisting	Disability	Lost job or occupation	Death	No Treatment	Total
Diabetes	1	15	0	0	1	0	**17**
Cancer	0	1	0	0	0	1	**2**
Heart Disease	5	14	0	0	2	0	**21**
Typhoid	1	0	0	0	0	0	**1**
Abscess	0	0	1	0	0	0	**1**
Back Pain	0	3	0	0	0	0	**3**
Blood Pressure	1	3	0	0	0	0	**4**
Breathing	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Joint Aches	0	11	0	0	0	0	**11**
Kidney Problem	4	11	0	1	2	0	**18**
Disable	1	5	0	0	0	0	**6**
Chest Infection	1	0	0	0	0	0	**1**
Eye	0	2	0	0	0	0	**2**
Liver Problem	0	1	0	0	0	0	**1**
Lung	0	1	0	0	0	0	**1**
Neck	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Shoulder Problem	0	0	1	0	0	0	**1**
Skin	0	1	0	0	0	0	**1**
Stomach	0	1	0	0	0	0	**1**
Throat Problem	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Uric Acid	0	1	0	0	0	0	**1**
Shyatica	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Total	**18**	**78**	**4**	**1**	**6**	**1**	**108**

Source: Field Survey by RFST, Feb – December 2021

4.3.24.3 Accidents

619. **Exhibit 4-201** shows the type of accidents that occurred in the last two years in the AHs. A total of 19 accidents took place in the last two years in the project-affected area. As a result of the accidents, one person was blind in one eye, six persons fell from a height, one person burned, and 11 persons faced road accidents. Three out of a total of four persons were treated successfully while 1 is persisting.

Exhibit 4-201: Accidents and Outcome

Type of Accident	No. of Persons and Outcome						
	Treated	Persisting	Disability	Lost job or Occupation	Death	No Treatment	Total
Blind from one eye	0	1	0	0	0	0	**1**
Burns	0	1	0	0	0	0	**1**
Car Accident	0	0	0	0	1	0	**1**
Fall From Height	2	3	0	0	0	0	**5**
Fall From Tree	0	0	0	0	1	0	**1**

Type of Accident	No. of Persons and Outcome						
	Treated	Persisting	Disability	Lost job or Occupation	Death	No Treatment	Total
Road Accident	4	3	0	0	3	0	**10**
Total	**6**	**8**	**0**	**0**	**5**	**0**	**19**

Source: Field Survey Feb – December, 2021

4.3.24.4 Common Illnesses

620. As provided in the **Exhibit 4-202**, common illnesses reported by the surveyed households were Tuberculosis, Diarrhea, Breathing Problems, Jaundice, Skin Diseases, Cold & Flu, Stomach Diseases, Joint aches, Tetanus, Paralysis, Diabetes, Cancer, Heart Problems, and others. A total of 692 person got ill in the last two years out of which, 35.40% were adult men above the age of 15 years, 36.23% were women above the age of 15 years, 16.47% were children in the age bracket between 6-14 years while 11.85% were infant within the age bracket of 0-5 years.

Exhibit 4-202: Common Illness

Common Illness	Age Group				Total
	Adult men (Above 15 years)	Adult Women (Above 15 years)	Children (6 to 14 years)	Infants (0 to 5 years)	
Tuberculosis	2	1	0	0	**3**
Diarrhea	2	2	3	3	**10**
Breathing Problems	3	0	0	0	**3**
Jaundice	2	1	0	0	**3**
Skin Diseases	4	1	1	0	**6**
Cold & Flu	125	120	102	69	**416**
Stomach Diseases	6	13	5	9	**33**
Joint aches	46	45	1	1	**93**
Tetanus	0	1	0	0	**1**
Paralysis	2	1	0	0	**3**
Diabetes	18	21	0	0	**39**
Cancer	1	1	0	0	**2**
Heart Problems	20	16	1	0	**37**
Others	14	28	1	0	**43**
Total	**245**	**251**	**114**	**82**	**692**
Percentage	**35.40**	**36.27**	**16.47**	**11.85**	

Source: Field Survey Feb – December, 2021

5 ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES

621. A key component in the EIA process is the consideration of alternatives. Most guidelines use terms such as 'reasonable', 'practicable', 'feasible', or 'viable' to define the range of alternatives that should be considered. Essentially there are two types of alternatives.

i. Incrementally different (modifications) alternatives to the Project.

ii. Fundamentally (totally) different alternatives to the Project.

622. Alternatives are essentially, different ways in which the developer can feasibly meet the Project's objectives, for example by carrying out a different type of action, choosing an alternative location, or adopting a different technology or design for the project. At the more detailed level, alternatives merge into mitigating measures where specific changes are made to the project design or to methods of construction or operation to avoid, reduce, or remedy environmental effects. All EIA systems also require developers to consider mitigation (i.e. measures to avoid, reduce, and remedy significant adverse effects).

623. Alternatives and mitigation thereof cover a spectrum ranging from a high level to very detailed aspects of Project design. The "No Project" scenario must also be considered as the baseline against which the environmental effects of the Project should be considered.

624. This section presents an analysis of the following alternatives from the perspective of economic and environmental considerations.

i. No project option.

ii. Alternative options for power generation.

iii. Environmental flow and management alternatives.

iv. Options for transportation of equipment to the project site.

5.1 No Project Option

625. The No Project alternative will have the following economic and environmental consequences.

- Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Pakistan are going through an acute power shortage. In KP, there is a gap between supply and demand of over 1,600 MW. The proposed Project will contribute to the supply of much-needed power to reduce the current gap. Thus in the absence of this project, the gap in power supply and demand will continue to grow.
- Environmentally, this Project will contribute towards improving the air quality as in the long run it will displace fossil fuels used in power generation such as coal and fuel oil which increase the concentrations of pollutants in the air in the surrounding areas.
- The E-Flow assessment conducted for the Project indicates that under the Business-as-Usual (BAU) management scenario, fish populations over 31 years are expected to reach a fraction of Present Day levels with Nalbant's Loach and Kashmir Hillstream Loach populations declining to over 50% and 70% of Present Day level, respectively, even without the construction of new HPP, given the

present level of pressures on the ecosystem related to economic uses of river resources.

- The Wildlife and Fisheries Departments presently have very limited numbers of watchers available to patrol the entire stretch of the river and associated tributaries.
- Illegal fishing is widely prevalent, and unregulated mining of sediment mining is on the increase. In the absence of the Project and without a sustainable resource base for protection as envisioned under the Project, the ecology of the Kunhar River runs a high risk of decline corresponding to a BAU management scenario as discussed above.
- Under the BAU management scenario with poor protection as at present, the ecosystem integrity of the river will deteriorate significantly over the next 31 years (**Section 7.2**, *Impact Assessment: Aquatic Ecology*). As discussed, the Project aims to achieve 'net gain' for Nalbant's Loach and Kashmir Hillstream Loach consistent with ADB and IFC guidelines for the management of biodiversity when projects are located in Critical Habitats. A Biodiversity Action Plan (see **Volume C** of the EIA report) has been prepared and will be implemented as a part of the Project to achieve this objective.

626. Therefore, unless an economically and environmentally more viable option can be found, which appears unlikely, the 'no project' option will have a negative impact on the economy as well as on the environment in the Kunhar River.

5.2 Alternative Technologies and Scale for Power Generation

627. The alternatives to the proposed run-of-the-river (RoR) hydropower project include power generation from LNG/imported natural gas-based combined cycle gas turbines (CCGTs), coal-fired steam plants, and fuel-oil-based diesel engines. In addition, other technologies such as nuclear, wind, and solar renewable energy power plants could also be considered as alternatives. An analysis of the life cycle average cost of generation from the competing technologies was carried out to assess the least cost generation alternative of the project.

628. **Exhibit 5-1** illustrates the calculation of the life cycle average cost for the competing technologies for power generation in Pakistan. The analysis was carried out at the Brent crude oil price of USD 50/BBL, coal price ex mine of USD 40/ton, and delivered price of LNG indexed to Brent Crude at USD 9.86/MMBTU[113]. The cost data of alternatives for thermal power generation were taken from recent industry experience in Pakistan.

629. **Exhibit 5-2** shows the comparison of the cost of generation from various technology alternatives. The cost of power generation for the proposed large-size RoR hydropower project is presently comparable to that for LNG and coal-based options based on the cost of power generation. The cost of power generation for large hydropower projects is also lower than that for wind energy and solar PV projects where power generation is intermittent and weather dependent, and requires backup fossil fuel-based power generation capacity to maintain supply in the grid. Larger hydropower projects such as the Diamer-Basha Dam that have also

113 MMBTU stands for one million British Thermal Units (BTU). A BTU is a measure of the energy content in fuel. One BTU is equivalent to 1.06 Joules.

the capacity for water storage can produce power at a slightly lower cost than the smaller RoR hydropower projects. Such large projects, however, generally involve extensive resettlement and technical studies, tend to be delayed for these reasons can take 7-12 years to complete, and frequently face cost overruns[114]. In addition, investment is difficult to mobilize in Pakistan at present due to the risk rating of the country. Given the risk of delays and cost overruns in larger dams, shortage of power in the country, and investment constraints, the Project as a large capacity RoR that can be completed in five years is an acceptable option amongst currently available alternatives in terms of technology and scale of projects.

114 Should we build more large dams? The actual costs of hydropower megaproject development, Atif Ansara, Bent Flyvbjergb, Alexander Budzierb, Daniel Lunnc, Energy Policy, Volume 69, June 2014

Exhibit 5-1: Life Cycle Average Cost of Power Generation from the Project Alternatives

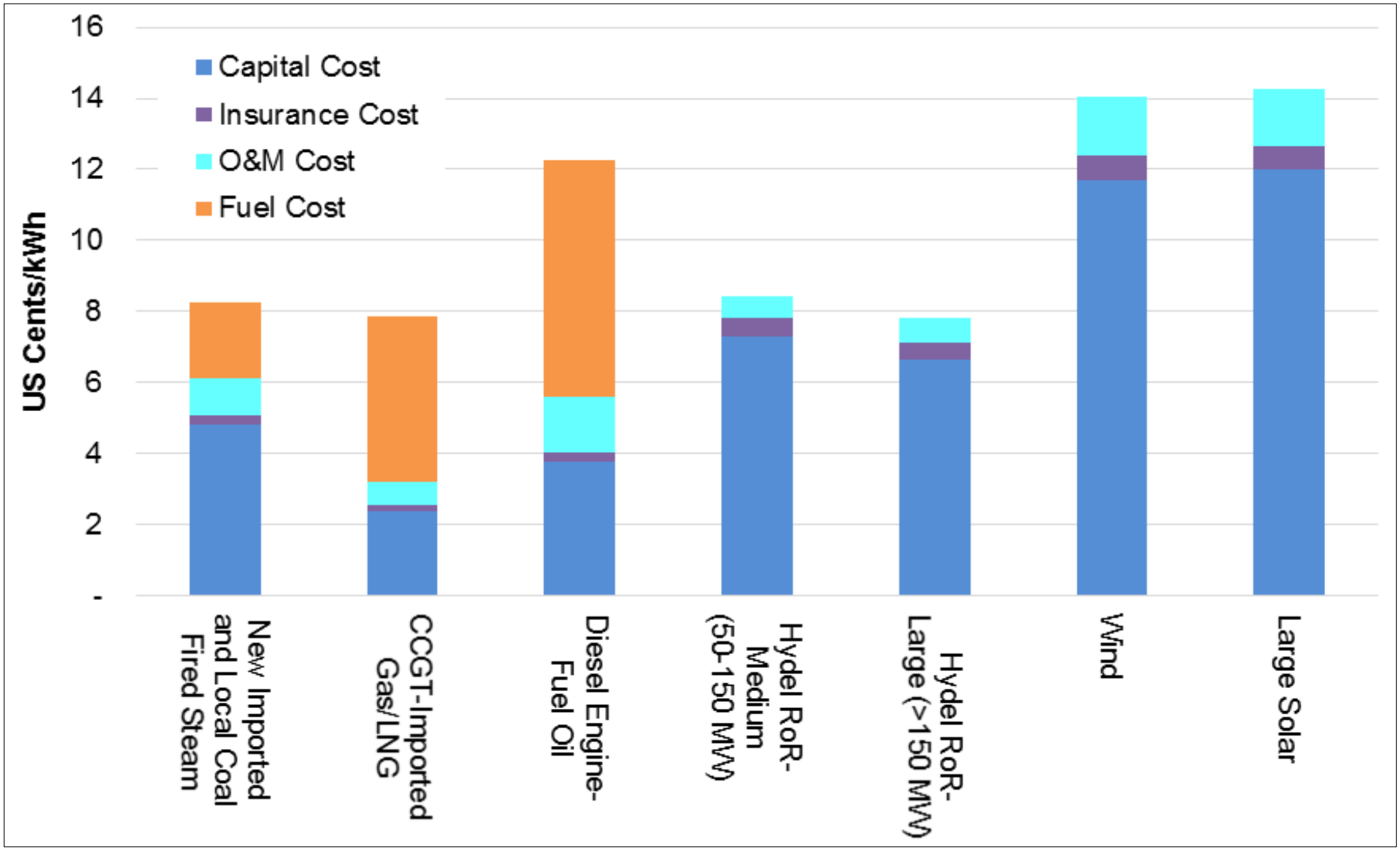
Cost Parameters	Cost Units	New Imported and Local Coal Fired Steam	CCGT-LNG/Imported Gas	Diesel Engine-Fuel Oil	Hydel RoR-Medium (50-150 MW)	Hydel RoR-Large (>150 MW)	Wind	Solar
Assumptions								
Project Life	Years	30	30	25	30	30	20	20
WACC/IRR		17%	15%	15%	14%	14%	16%	17%
Plant Factor		60%	60%	60%	51%	53%	30%	19%
Plant Efficiency		39.50%	60%	44%				
Insurance (% of Capital Cost)		1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Fuel Price	$/MMBtu	2.46	9.86	8.62	-	-	-	-
Power Plant Capital Cost	$/kW	1,473	826	1,283	2,286[115]	2,180	1,842	1,067
Annualized Capital Cost	$/kW	253	126	199	370	311	311	190
Annual Insurance Cost	$/kW	15	8	13	23	22	18	11
Life Cycle Average Cost								
Capital Cost	Cents/kWh	4.81	2.39	3.78	7.31	6.66	11.68	11.99
O&M Cost	Cents/kWh	1.04	0.66	1.57	0.59	0.68	1.69	1.59
Insurance Cost	Cents/kWh	0.28	0.16	0.24	0.51	0.47	0.69	0.67
Fuel Cost	Cents/kWh	2.12	4.66	6.68	-	-	-	-
Average Cost of Generation	Cents/kWh	8.25	7.88	12.28	8.41	7.80	14.07	14.26[116]

Source: Hagler Bailly Pakistan Estimates

115 Total investment for a medium scale hydropower project is estimated at $315 million, of which about 70% is for the plant and equipment, corresponding to about $2,200/kW

116 No project has yet been awarded on this tariff, therefore NEPRA's previously determined levelized tariff of US Cents 17.00/kWh should be considered.

Exhibit 5-2: Comparison of Cost of Power Generation from the Project Alternatives



5.3 Environmental Flow Assessment

630. Hagler Bailly Pakistan, with the support of Southern Waters, conducted an E-Flow assessment for the Jhelum River upstream and downstream of the proposed dam. The objectives of the E-Flow assessment were to assess the implications of alternative operational and management scenarios for the Project on the ecology of the river over the life of the Project. The Downstream Response to Imposed Flow Transformations (DRIFT) decision support system (DSS) developed by Southern Waters was used for E-Flow assessment, with special emphasis on the impact of fish species of conservation importance. The specialist report based on which these sections have been prepared is presented as Environmental Flow Assessment for the Balakot Hydropower Development Project (see **Volume C** of the EIA report) and is referred to as 'E-Flow Report' in this section**.**

5.3.1 E-Flow Assessment Process

631. The DRIFT model used adopts a holistic E-Flow assessment approach. An overview of the DRIFT methodology is provided in Appendix A of the E-Flow Report. The DRIFT model has been widely applied in South Africa and has been used in Pakistan for the E-Flow assessment of several hydropower projects in the Jhelum Basin. These include the Kishenganga and Neelum-Jhelum HPPs on the Neelum River, the Gulpur HPP on the Poonch River, and KAHPP and KOHPP on the Jhelum River.

5.3.2 Scenarios Assessed

632. The modelled operational E-Flow scenarios include:

- Baseline hydrology without the Project
- Environmental release of 1.5 m^3/s with baseload operation
- Environmental release of 1.5 m^3/s with peaking operation
- Environmental release of 3.5 m^3/s with baseload operation
- Environmental release of 4.5 m^3/s with baseload operation
- Environmental release of 4.5 m^3/s with peaking operation
- Environmental release of 6.1 m^3/s with baseload operation
- Environmental release of 6.1 m^3/s with peaking operation

633. Four management scenarios, which represent the predicted river condition in 51 years[117], under different levels of protection/management were considered. The protection levels considered were:

- **Business as Usual Protection (BAU):** increase non-flow-related pressures in line with current trends, i.e. 2017 pressures double in intensity over the next 51 years.
- **Low Protection (LP):** maintain 2017 levels of non-flow-related pressures on the river; i.e., no increase in human-induced catchment pressures over time.

117 This is the length of the 3 historical hydrological record that was used in the assessment.

- **Moderate Protection (MP):** reduce 2017 levels of non-flow-related pressures by 50%, i.e., the decline in pressures (relative to 2017) over time.
- **High Protection (HP)**: reduce 2017 levels of non-flow-related pressures by 90%, i.e., the decline in pressures (relative to 2017) over time[118].

634. Impact assessment scenarios considered in this assessment, which are a combination of protection and flow scenarios, are presented in **Exhibit 5-3.**

Exhibit 5-3: Impact Assessment Scenarios and IDs

Dam Operation Type		Baseline	Baseload Operation				Peaking Operation		
Environmental Flow m^3/s Release			1.5)	3.5	4.5	6.1	1.5	4.5	6.1
Protection Level	Business as Usual (BAU)	BaseBAU	–	B3BAU	–	–	–	–	–
	Low Protection (LP)	BaseLP	–	B3LP	–	–	–	–	–
	Moderate Protection (HP)		–	B3MP	–	–	–	–	–
	High Protection (HP)		B1HP	B3HP	B4HP	B6HP	P1HP	P4HP	P6HP

'– 'scenario was not assessed

5.3.3 Predicted Change in Fish Abundance

635. Predicted percentage changes in abundance or populations of indicator fish species compared to present-day populations after the construction of the dam are presented in this section. Predictions for the flow-dependent indicators change from year to year, depending on variations in flows. The average value over the last 20 years of the 51-year hydrological time series is presented in this report which takes into account natural wet and dry cycles.

5.3.4 Alwan Snow Trout

636. Predicted changes in abundances for the Alwan Snow Trout are presented in **Exhibit 5-4** and illustrated in **Exhibit 5-5**. Key observations are summarized below:

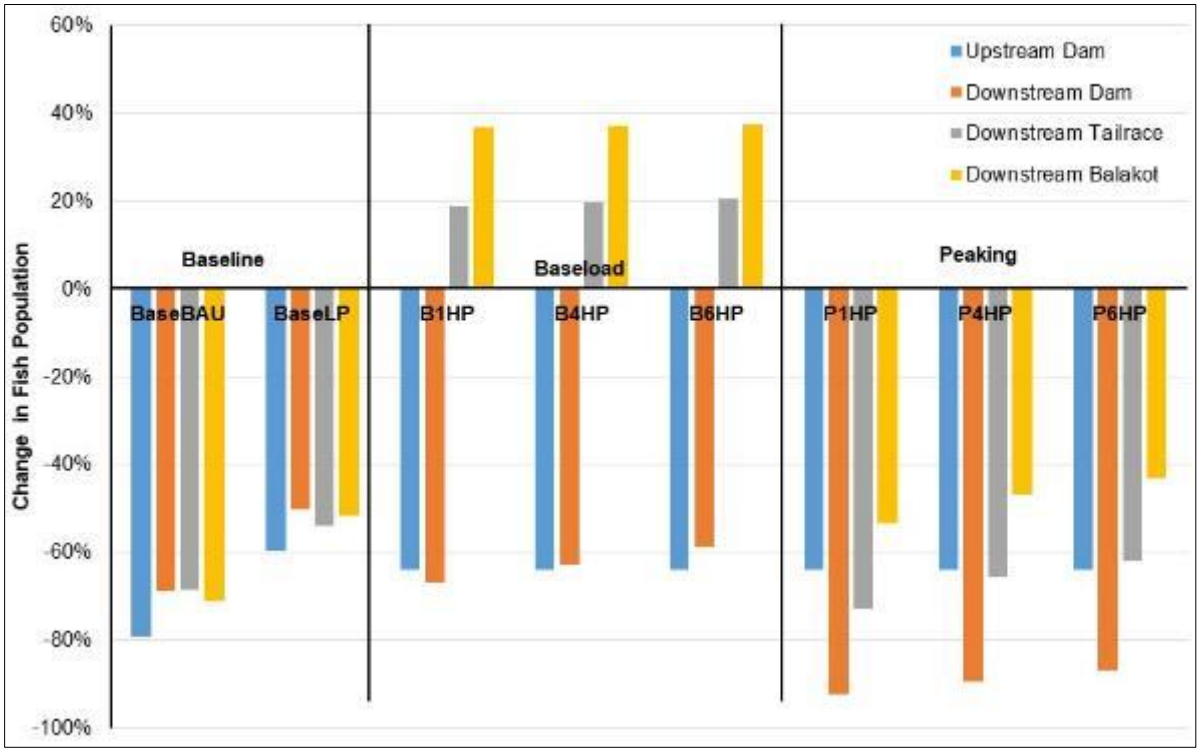
- upstream of the dam this fish is trapped in the winter season and is unable to migrate down to lower reaches of the Kunhar and Jhelum Rivers where the water is slightly warmer. There is a significant loss in the population of this fish on account of the stress created by the barrier presented by the dam.
- Downstream of the dam, this fish is affected by the low flows. Peaking further downstream has a knock-on effect on the population of this fish as it suffers serious losses on account of variations in flows associated with a peaking operation.
- This fish can benefit from a baseload operation and protection, which partially offsets the impact of the loss of continuity due to the dam.

118 Experience in neighboring rivers has shown that it is easier to impose a complete ban on activities such as illegal fishing and mining than it is to reduce these activities by half.

Exhibit 5-4: Alwan Snow Trout Predicted Change in Population[119]

Scenario ID	Environmental Flow	Protection	Upstream Dam	Downstream Dam	Downstream Tailrace	Downstream Balakot
BaseBAU	Baseline hydrology	Business as Usual	-79.2	-68.8	-68.7	-71.2
BaseLP	Baseline hydrology	Low	-59.8	-50.2	-54	-51.6
B3BAU	3.5 m^3/s	Business as Usual	-100	-100	-75.6	-73
B3LP	3.5 m^3/s	Low	-99.7	-100	-64.9	-54.4
B3MP	3.5 m^3/s	Moderate	-75.5	-78	-1.4	17.7
B1HP	1.5 m^3/s	High	-64.1	-66.9	18.6	36.9
B3HP	3.5 m^3/s	High	-64.1	-64.8	19	37
B4HP	4.5 m^3/s	High	-64.1	-62.9	19.5	37.1
B6HP	6.1 m^3/s	High	-64.1	-58.8	20.4	37.3
P1HP	1.5 m^3/s	High	-64.1	-92.2	-73.0	-53.5
P4HP	4.5 m^3/s	High	-64.1	-89.4	-65.8	-46.7
P6HP	6.1 m^3/s	High	-64.1	-86.8	-62.1	-43.2

Exhibit 5-5: Alwan Snow Trout Predicted Change in Population



119 All figures are predicted percentage changes in population compared to Present Day over a 51 year period. Red: greater than 70% reduction from Present Day, Orange: 40% to 70% reduction from Present Day, and Green: increase over Present Day

5.3.5 Nalbant's Loach

637. Predicted abundances for the Nalbant's Loach are presented in **Exhibit 5-6** and graphed in **Exhibit 5-7.** Key observations are summarized below:

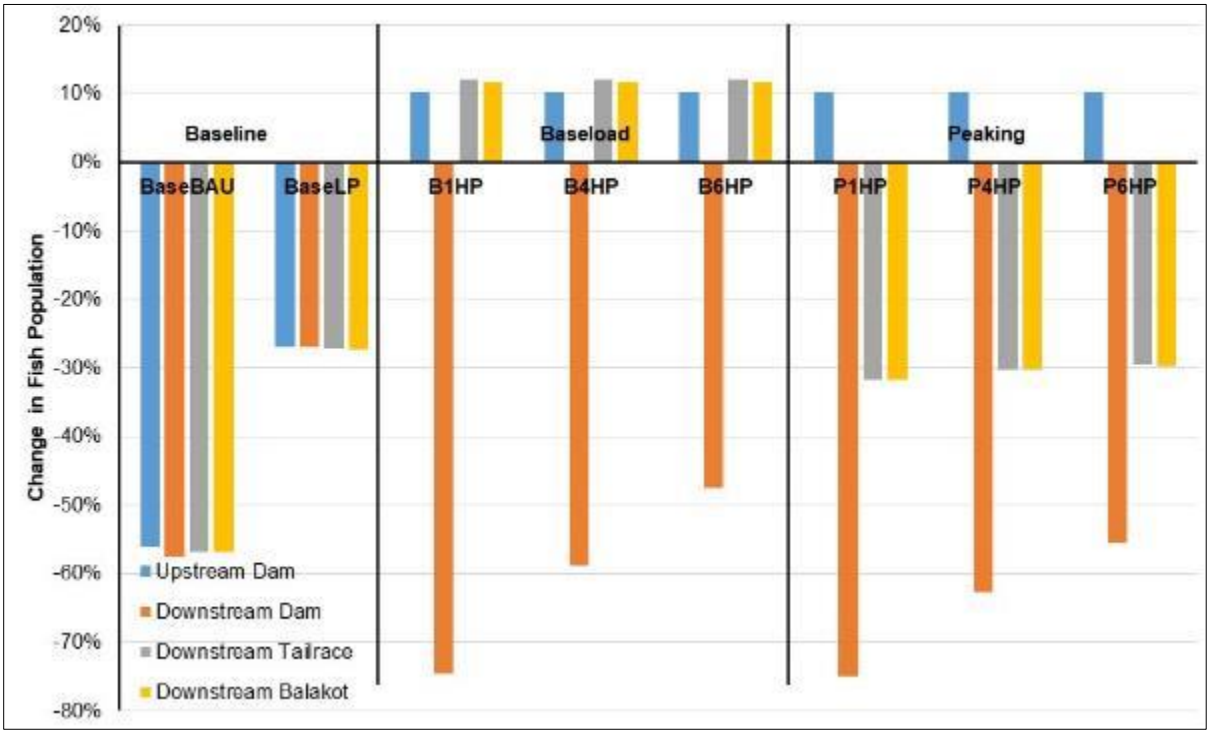
- This is a surface water fish and prefers side channels and tributaries. It is therefore less affected by variations in flow in comparison to the Kashmir Hillstream Loach discussed in the next section.
- This fish is impacted significantly by a peaking operation under which it is subjected to wide variations in habitat availability. The impact, however, is much lower in comparison to Alwan Snow Trout which remains in deeper pools in winter and is affected more by changes in velocities generated by peaking, which could dislodge this fish from the pools.

Exhibit 5-6: Nalbant's Loach Predicted Change in Population[120]

Scenario ID	Environmental Flow	Protection	Upstream Dam	Downstream Dam	Downstream Tailrace	Downstream Balakot
BaseBAU	Baseline hydrology	Business as Usual	-56.2	-57.6	-56.8	-56.9
BaseLP	Baseline hydrology	Low	-26.9	-26.9	-27.1	-27.3
B3BAU	3.5 m^3/s	Business as Usual	-56.8	-100	-55.6	-56.1
B3LP	3.5 m^3/s	Low	-27.5	-94.6	-25.9	-26.3
B3MP	3.5 m^3/s	Moderate	3	-70.4	5.7	5.2
B1HP	1.5 m^3/s	High	10.3	-74.7	12	11.7
B3HP	3.5 m^3/s	High	10.3	-64	12	11.7
B4HP	4.5 m^3/s	High	10.3	-58.8	12	11.7
B6HP	6.1 m^3/s	High	10.3	-47.5	12	11.7
P1HP	1.5 m^3/s	High	10.3	-75.0	-31.7	-31.8
P4HP	4.5 m^3/s	High	10.3	-62.7	-30.3	-30.3
P6HP	6.1 m^3/s	High	10.3	-55.5	-29.6	-29.7

120 All figures are predicted percentage changes in population compared to Present Day over a 51-year period. Red: greater than 70% reduction from Present Day, Orange: 40% to 70% reduction from Present Day, and Green: increase over Present Day

Exhibit 5-7: Nalbant's Loach Predicted Change in Population



5.3.6 Kashmir Hillstream Loach

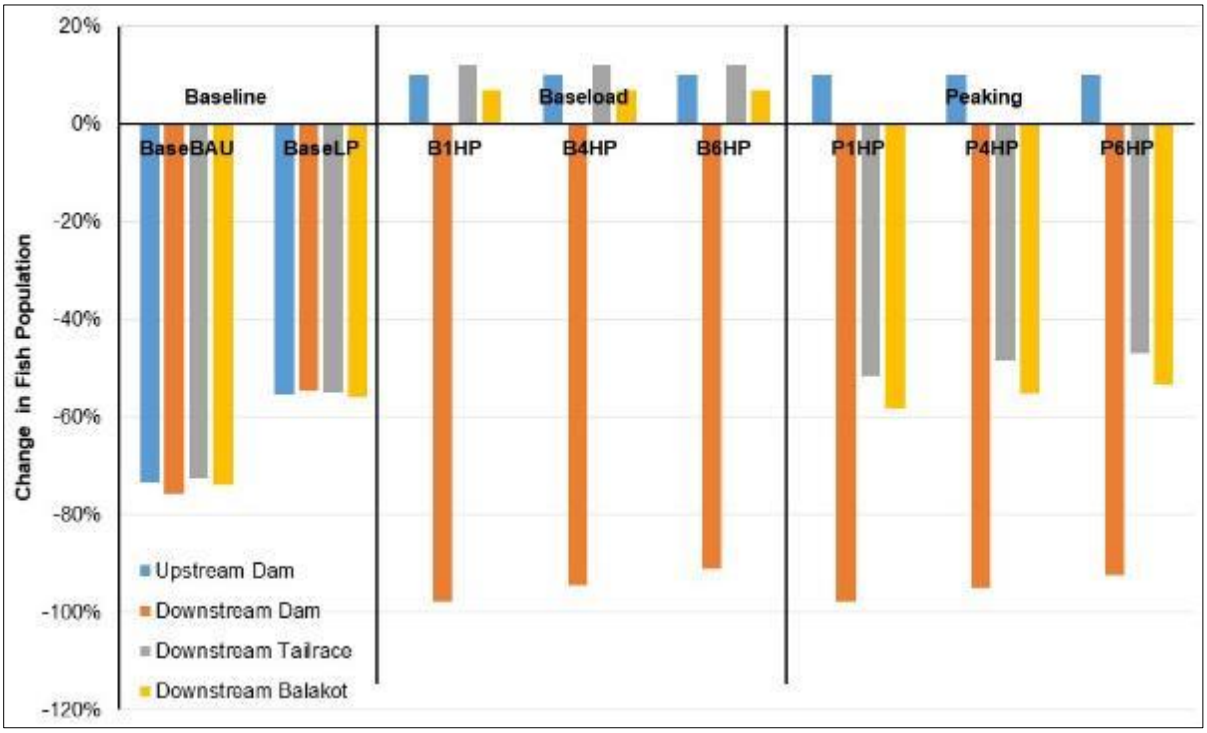
638. Predicted abundances for the Kashmir Hillstream Loach are presented in **Exhibit 5-8** and graphed in **Exhibit 5-9**. Key observations are summarized below:

- The fish is sensitive to flow changes and therefore shows a sharp decline in the low flow section downstream of the dam, even with protection in place. Increasing E-Flow in the range studied does not significantly increase its population in this segment.
- This fish is nonmigratory, therefore, under baseload conditions, High Protection improves fish populations downstream of the tailrace.
- Under peaking operation, this fish shows slight gains over the BAU baseline downstream of the tailrace, although these gains are much lower than those under baseload operation.

Exhibit 5-8: Kashmir Hillstream Loach Predicted Change in Population[121]

Scenario ID	Environmental Flow	Protection	Upstream Dam	Downstream Dam	Downstream Tailrace	Downstream Balakot
BaseBAU	Baseline hydrology	Business as Usual	-73.5	-75.9	-72.8	-73.9
BaseLP	Baseline hydrology	Low	-55.5	-54.8	-55	-56.1
B3BAU	3.5 m^3/s	Business as Usual	-75.9	-100	-72.3	-73.3
B3LP	3.5 m^3/s	Low	-59.2	-100	-54.4	-55.5
B3MP	3.5 m^3/s	Moderate	-2.4	-97.8	2.5	0.8
B1HP	1.5 m^3/s	High	10	-97.9	11.9	6.8
B3HP	3.5 m^3/s	High	10	-96	11.9	6.8
B4HP	4.5 m^3/s	High	10	-94.6	11.9	6.8
B6HP	6.1 m^3/s	High	10	-91.3	11.9	6.8
P1HP	1.5 m^3/s	High	10	-97.8	-51.8	-58.4
P4HP	4.5 m^3/s	High	10	-95	-48.5	-55.2
P6HP	6.1 m^3/s	High	10	-92.4	-47	-53.6

Exhibit 5-9: Kashmir Hillstream Loach Predicted Change in Population



121 All figures are predicted percentage changes in population compared to Present Day over a 51-year period. Red: greater than 70% reduction from Present Day, Orange: 40% to 70% reduction from Present Day, and Green: increase over Present Day

5.3.7 Impact on Fish Abundance under Alternative Management and Operational Options

639. The impacts on fish species will vary with their habitat requirements, migratory behavior, and current pressures on the ecosystem.

5.3.8 Impact of Increasing Protection Levels

640. **Exhibit 5-10** shows the impact of variations in protection levels on fish populations. For illustrative purposes, the impacts are shown for the segment downstream of the tailrace under baseload operation where variations in flow will be minimal, in comparison to the baseline. The barrier effect of the dam on the migratory fish, however, will apply. The following is a summary of observations.

- Under the Business-as-Usual (BAU) Scenario, without the dam in place, the decline in fish populations will average 66% of present-day populations due to pressures related to unregulated fishing and sediment mining whereas the decline is predicted at 45% under the Moderate Protection (MP) baseline.
- After the Project is put in place with Moderate Protection (MP), fish populations will improve by an average of about 70% compared to the BAU baseline and 48% compared to the MP baseline. The increase is expected to be highest for the non-migratory Kashmir Hillstream Loach.
- With High Protection (HP), fish populations are predicted to improve by an average of 80% compared to the BAU Scenario. The increase is expected to be highest for the Alwan Snow Trout at close to an 88% increase over the baseline.
- Increasing protection from Moderate Protection to High Protection results in an increase in population by an average of 12%, irrespective of the baseline scenario chosen for comparison.

Exhibit 5-10: Impact of Variation in Protection on Fish Population, Downstream of Tailrace (Baseload Generation with E-Flow of 3.5 m^3/s)

Fish	Projected Change in Population (% change from Present Day Populations)					
	Baseline		With Project			
	BAU	LP	B3BAU	B3LP	B3MP	B3HP
Biophysical Results						
Alwan Snow Trout	-68.7	-54	-75.6	-64.9	-1.4	19.0
Nalbant's Loach	-56.8	-27.1	-55.6	-25.9	5.7	12.0
Kashmir Hillstream Loach	-72.8	-55	-72.3	-54.4	2.5	11.9
Average	**-66.1**	**-45.4**	**-67.8**	**-48.4**	**2.3**	**14.3**
Incremental Gain compared to Business as Usual Baseline, %						
Alwan Snow Trout			-6.9	3.8	67.3	87.7
Nalbant's Loach			1.2	30.9	62.5	68.8
Kashmir Hillstream Loach			0.5	18.4	75.3	84.7
Average			**-1.7**	**17.7**	**68.4**	**80.4**
Incremental Gain compared to Low Protection Baseline, %						
Alwan Snow Trout			-21.6	-10.9	52.6	73.0

Fish	Projected Change in Population (% change from Present Day Populations)					
	Baseline		With Project			
	BAU	LP	B3BAU	B3LP	B3MP	B3HP
Nalbant's Loach			-28.5	1.2	32.8	39.1
Kashmir Hillstream Loach			-17.3	0.6	57.5	66.9
Average			**-22.5**	**-3.0**	**47.6**	**59.7**

Red: greater than 70% reduction from the Present Day, Orange: 40% to 70% reduction from the Present Day, and Green: increase over the Present Day

5.3.9 Impact of Increasing E-Flow

641. **Exhibit 5-11** shows the impact of increasing E-Flow on fish species immediately downstream of the d where the impact of lower releases from the dam will be significant. Given the high anthropogenic pressures on the fish, the benefit of E-Flow can be realized only if the river is protected. Under BAU the gains due to increasing E-Flow are close to 0%. For example, with an E-Flow of 3.5 m^3/s under BAU all fish indicators show a 100% decline (not shown below, see previous section for BAU results). Therefore, figures in Exhibit 5-11 are presented for the high-protection scenario. In other words, E-Flow releases can be considered of little consequence in the absence of protection of the river. The following is a summary of observations:

- The Kashmir Hillstream Loach is most affected by the lower flows in the reach downstream of the dam, and decline is predicted at over 90% for the range of E-Flows considered. Increasing E-Flow also benefits this fish the least.
- The Alwan Snow Trout benefits from the increased E-Flow, however, the impact of increasing E-Flow on the population of this fish is limited as they are overshadowed by the impact of the barrier to its migration created by the dam.
- The Nalbant's Loach is least affected by lower flows. However, increasing E-Flows benefits this fish the most, with loss in population declining by about 27% as E-Flow is increased from 1.5 to 6.1 $m^3s/$.

Exhibit 5-11: Impact of Variation in Flow on Fish Population, Downstream of Dam with High Protection

Description	Change in Population, %				Incremental gain, % by increasing Environmental Flow		
Flow Scenario	B1HP	B3HP	B4HP	B6HP	1.5 to 3.5 m^3/s	3.5 to 4.5 m^3/s	4.5 to 6.1 m^3/s
E-Flow , m^3/s	1.5	3.5	4.5	6.1			
Alwan Snow Trout	-66.9	-64.8	-62.9	-58.8	2.1	1.9	4.1
Nalbant's Loach	-74.7	-64	-58.8	-47.5	10.7	5.2	11.3
Kashmir Hillstream Loach	-97.9	-96	-94.6	-91.3	1.9	1.4	3.3

Red: greater than 70% reduction from the Present Day, Orange: 40% to 70% reduction from the Present Day, and Green: increase over the Present Day

5.3.10 Impact of Baseload vs Peaking Generation

642. Shifting from peaking to baseload operation has a large positive effect on fish populations as shown in **Exhibit 5-12**. In the case of baseload operation, the hydrology of the

river downstream of the tailrace largely remains close to natural. Comparison is provided for an E-Flow of 4.5 m^3/s for illustrative purposes. With High Protection, fish populations can be restored to above present-day levels.

Exhibit 5-12: Impact of Baseload vs. Peaking Operation on Fish Population, Downstream of Tailrace

Fish	Change in Population, %		Incremental gain, %
	P4HP	B4HP	Peaking to baseload
Alwan Snow Trout	-46.7	37.1	84
Nalbant Loach	-30.3	11.7	42
Kashmir Hillstream Loach	-55.2	6.8	62

Red: greater than 70% reduction from the Present Day, Orange: 40% to 70% reduction from the Present Day, and Green: increase over the Present Day

5.3.11 Net Gain Calculations

643. Net gain was calculated based on the length of the reach represented by the E-Flow site multiplied by the predicted change in abundance at that particular E-Flow site. Distribution of fish populations between the main river and the tributaries was also taken into account, as both the main river and tributaries will benefit from protection (see **Exhibit 5-13**).

Exhibit 5-13: Current Distribution of Fish between River and Tributaries

Fish	Main River	Tributary
Alwan Snow Trout	70%	30%
Nalbant's Loach	30%	70%
Kashmir Hillstream Loach	100%	0%

644. As the hydrology of the tributaries will be unchanged, the tributaries will gain from protection only. The estimated impact of protection at EF Site 4 under baseload operation where flows remain unaffected was used as a proxy for the impact of protection in tributaries.

645. The segment of the river upstream of the dam will be impacted by peaking releases from the Sukki Kinari HPP before the construction of the Project, and fish populations will suffer a high loss in this reach of the river. Following the construction of the Project, the fish that are adapted to a flowing river will not be able to adjust to the non-flow reservoir conditions with a greater depth of water, and will practically be eliminated from the reservoir. Net gain was therefore calculated for the reaches downstream of the dam represented by EF Sites 2, 3, and 4.

646. The predicted abundances were compared against baselines with two different levels of protection (BAU Protection and Low Protection). These dynamic baselines represent the expected fish abundances in the absence of the Project. Lastly, net gain against the Present Day (i.e. static baseline) is also presented.

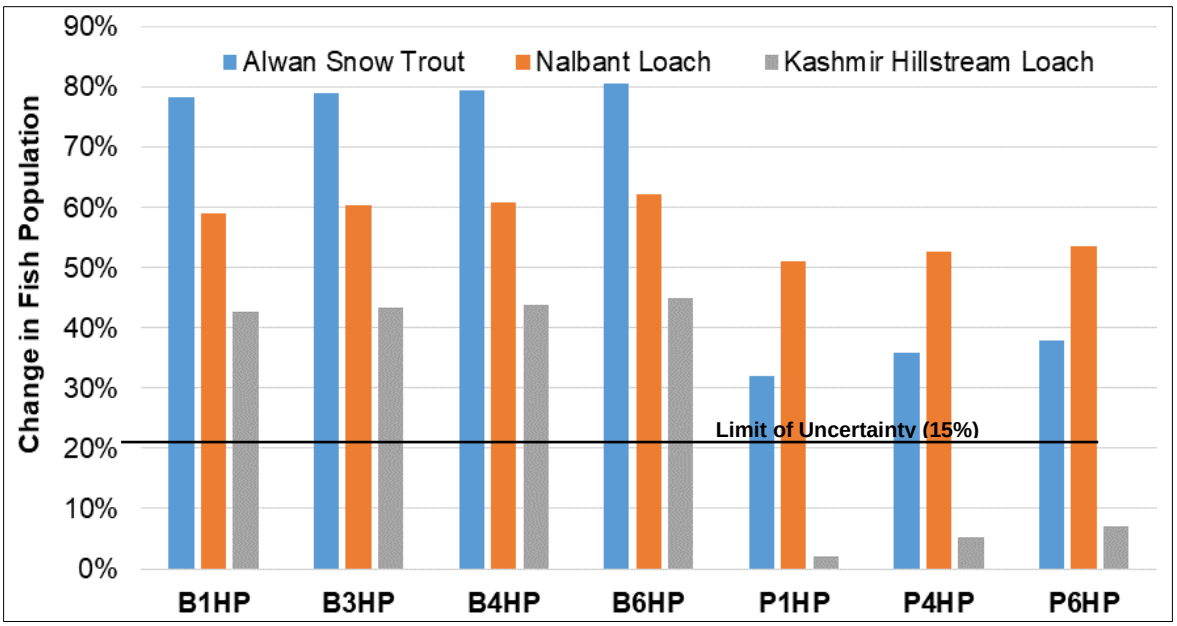
647. The resultant net gain under each scenario is summarized in **Exhibit 5-14,** and illustrated in **Exhibit 5-15** and **Exhibit 5-16**. Predictions of the DRIFT model are subject to an

uncertainty of the order of 15% above and below the predicted mean[122], which is indicated as a line in the graphs.

Exhibit 5-14: Summary of Net Gain Calculations for Selected Scenarios

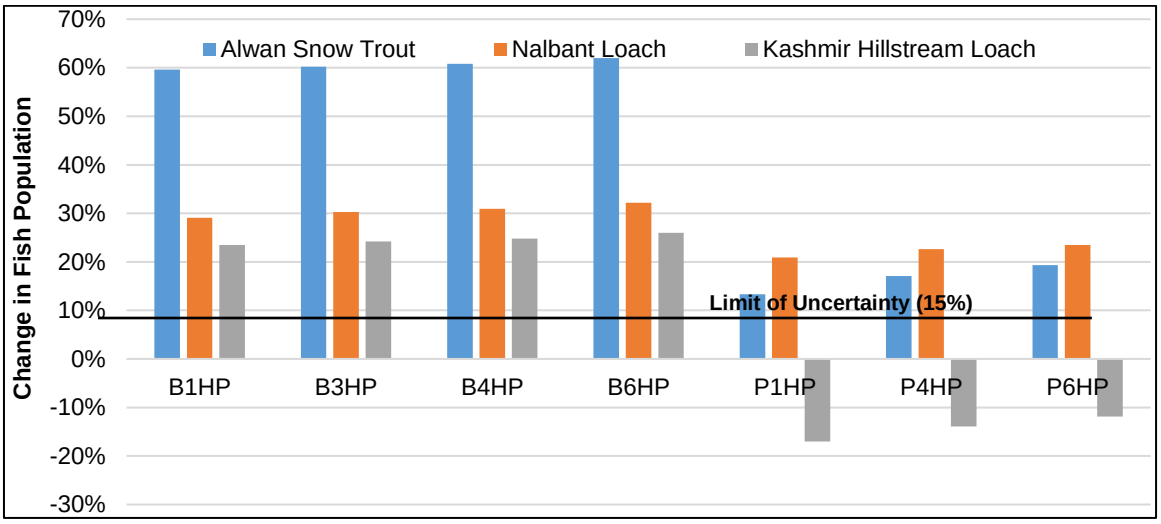
Operation	Baseload				Peaking		
Environmental Flow (m^3/s)	1.5	3.5	4.5	6.1	1.5	4.5	6.1
Scenario ID	B1HP	B3HP	B4HP	B6HP	P1HP	P4HP	P6HP
Against Business as Usual Baseline							
Alwan Snow Trout	78.3	78.9	79.5	80.7	32.0	35.8	38.0
Nalbant Loach	59.1	60.4	60.9	62.2	51.0	52.6	53.5
Kashmir Hillstream Loach	42.6	43.3	43.8	45.0	2.1	5.2	7.1
Against Low Protection Baseline							
Alwan Snow Trout	59.6	60.2	60.8	62.0	13.3	17.1	19.3
Nalbant Loach	29.1	30.3	30.9	32.2	20.9	22.6	23.5
Kashmir Hillstream Loach	23.5	24.2	24.8	26.0	-17.0	-13.9	-11.9
Against Present Day							
Alwan Snow Trout	8.3	8.9	9.5	10.7	-38.0	-34.2	-32.0
Nalbant Loach	2.0	3.2	3.8	5.0	-6.2	-4.6	-3.6
Kashmir Hillstream Loach	-32.0	-31.2	-30.7	-29.5	-72.5	-69.4	-67.4

Exhibit 5-15: Net Gain Against BAU Baseline for Selected Scenarios



122 Based on results from Kohala Hydropower Plant Environmental Flow Assessment, Technical Report. Southern Waters in Association with Hagler Bailly Pakistan, November 2016

Exhibit 5-16: Net Gain Against Low Protection Baseline for Selected Scenarios



5.3.12 Impact on the Power Generation

648. The following key assumptions are incorporated into the calculation of power loss under the different operational scenarios:

- Impact on power generation was calculated based on the water diverted through the turbines and did not take into account the turbine efficiency at varying flows.
- The operating rules of the Project are detailed in the **Environment Flow Assessment Report for the Balakot Hydropower Development Project** (see **Volume C** of the EIA report**)**, for which the power generation is calculated.
- Baseline power generation (i.e. 0% power loss) is taken as the peaking scenario with an E-Flow of 1.5 m^3/s as designed
- The Project is designed to produce 1143 GWh per year in the baseline scenario (see point above) and the price of power is taken as 0.11 $.kWh. No premium is assigned to peaking power generation.

Exhibit 5-17: Power Loss Under E-Flow Scenarios

Operation	E-Flow (m^3/s)	Scenario ID	Power Loss	Monetary Loss per year, USD Million
Peaking	1.5	P1	0.0%	-
	4.5	P4	2.1%	$2.78
	6.1	P6	3.5%	$4.59
Baseload	1.5	B1	0.2%	$0.31
	3.5	B3	2.5%	$3.28
	4.5	B4	3.8%	$4,94
	6.1	B6	5.7%	$7.42

649. Power loss vs net gain is plotted in **Exhibit 5-18** when calculated against the BAU baseline and in **Exhibit 5-19** when calculated against the Low Protection baseline.

Exhibit 5-18: Power Loss vs Net Gain Against Business as Usual Baseline

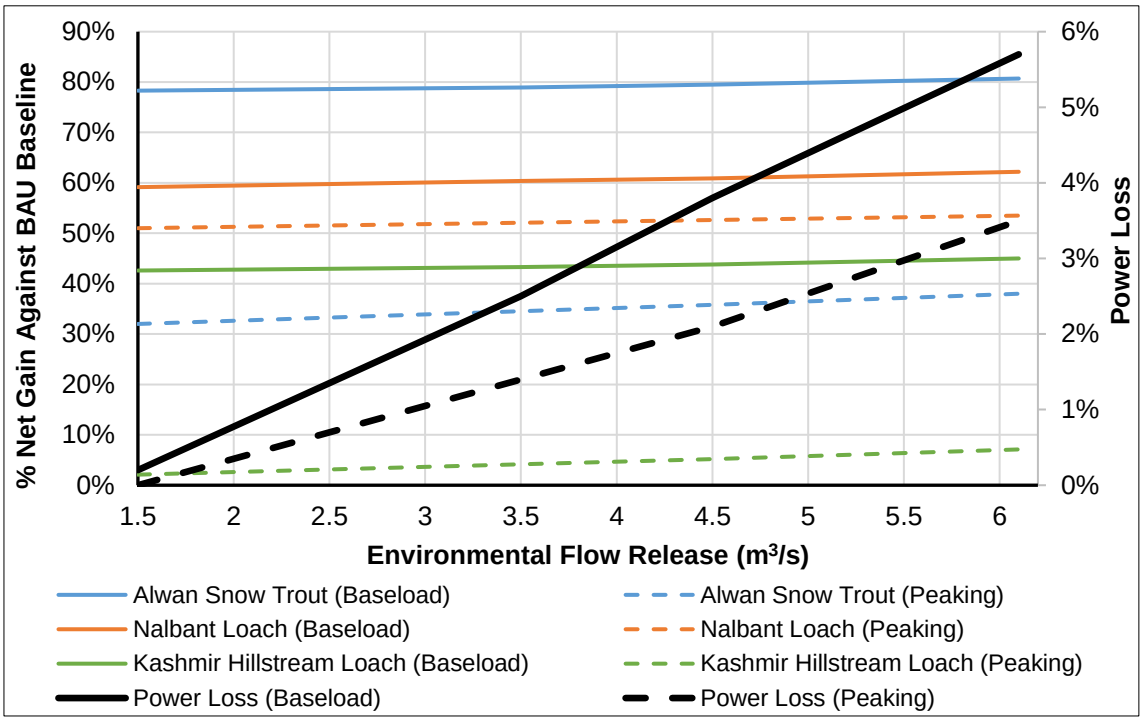
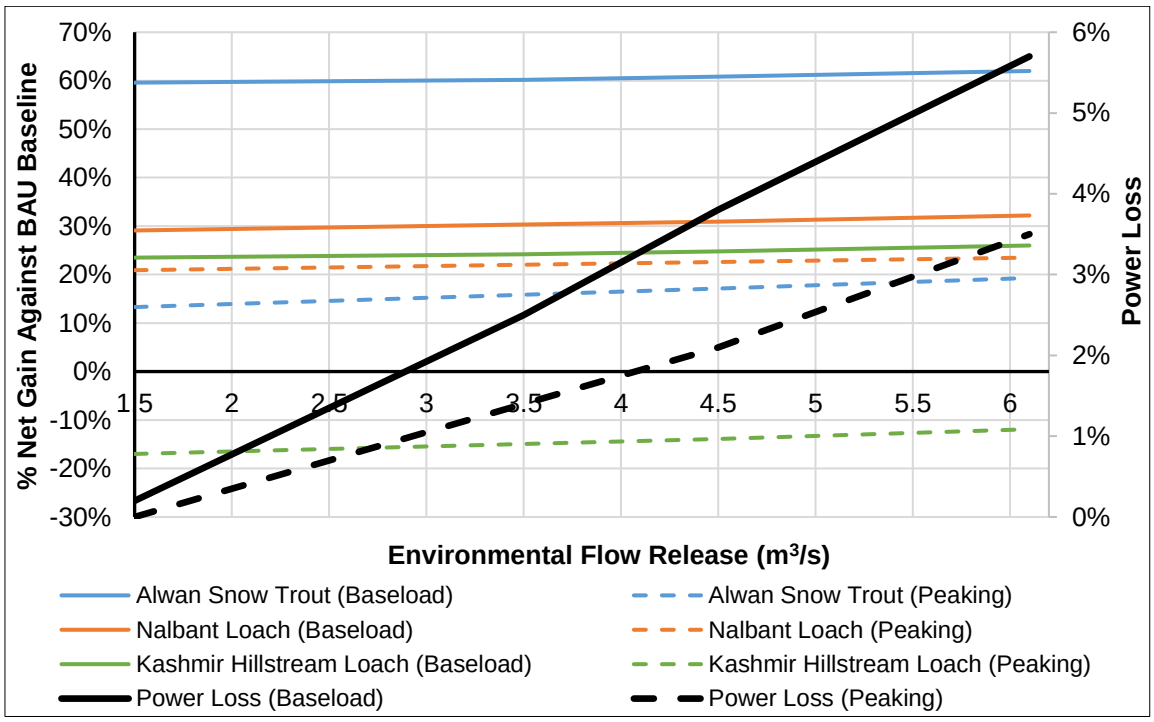


Exhibit 5-19: Power Loss vs Net Gain Against Low Protection Baseline



5.3.13 Conclusions

650. Two operational scenarios were recommended for consideration by the stakeholders:

- **Preferred Case:** Baseload operation with an E-Flow of 1.5 m^3/s and High Protection (corresponding to scenario B1HP)
- **Alternate Case:** Peaking operation with an E-Flow of 6.1 m^3/s and High Protection (corresponding to scenario P6HP)

651. With a baseload operation, it will be possible to meet the requirement of net gain in population of fish species that trigger Critical Habitat, with a margin for uncertainties in predictions of E-Flow modeling of the order of 15% above and below the predicted mean change in populations, and a more conservative baseline of Pro1 level of protection against which net gain is calculated.

652. With a peaking operation and E-Flow release of 6.1 cumec, there will be a loss in power generation of the order of 3.5% compared to the loss under a baseload operation with an E-Flow release of 1.5 cumec. While the basic requirement of net gain will be met assuming a BAU Baseline, there will be a limited margin for accommodating uncertainties in E-Flow modeling predictions. The net gain requirement will not be met assuming a conservative baseline with a Low Protection level of protection.

653. A peaking operation will produce power to meet the demand on the national power grid during evening peak hours. Peaking power is presently priced at a premium of about 30% for high-end residential and commercial customers with three-phase connections. However, the power purchase tariff for the generation companies remains at a flat rate, and no premium for peaking power is available to the power producer. This notwithstanding, the power purchaser, Central Power Purchase Agency Guarantee Ltd. (CPPA-G), and system operator, National Power Control Centre (NPCC) of National Transmission and Dispatch Co. Ltd. (NTDCL) under the current framework of Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) retain the right to ask the hydropower producers to operate in peaking mode when technically feasible. Operation on a baseload will therefore require appropriate amendments in the PPA.

654. Following the approval of EIA and Biodiversity Action Plan by KPEPA, a baseload operation- if opted for will become a legally binding requirement for the Project. Amendments in the PPA will therefore have a policy and legal basis, which will be binding on the power purchaser as well as the electricity regulator, the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA).

655. As, under the circumstances, the plant has been designed to operate in peaking mode, and the “Environmental Approval” has been granted by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Protection Agency (KPEPA) for the **Alternate Case** i.e. Peaking operation with an E-Flow of 6.1 m^3/s and High Protection, hence, no such amendments as indicated above are needed.

6 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE, CONSULTATION, AND PARTICIPATION

656. As part of the EIA process, consultations were undertaken with communities and institutions that may have interest in the proposed Project or may be affected by its execution. This section documents the consultation process for the EIA of the proposed Project and summarizes its results. The consultation process was designed to be consistent with the relevant national legislation and the ADB Guidelines[123] on Information Disclosure, Consultation, and Participation.

6.1 Regulatory Requirements

657. Public consultation is mandated under national environmental law. The Pak-EPA, under Regulation 6 of the IEE-EIA Regulations 2000, has issued a set of guidelines of general applicability and sectoral guidelines indicating specific assessment requirements. These guidelines have been adopted by the EPA KP for use in its jurisdiction. This includes Guidelines for Public Consultation, 1997 (the 'Guidelines'), which are summarized below.

- **Objectives of Public Involvement:** 'To inform stakeholders about the proposed project, to provide an opportunity for those otherwise unrepresented to present their views and values, providing better transparency and accountability in decision making, creating a sense of ownership with the stakeholders'.
- **Stakeholders:** 'People who may be directly or indirectly affected by a proposal will be the focus of public involvement. Those who are directly affected may be project beneficiaries, those likely to be adversely affected, or other stakeholders. The identification of those indirectly affected is more difficult, and to some extent, it will be a subjective judgment. For this reason, it is good practice to have a very wide definition of who should be involved and to include any person or group who thinks that they have an interest. Sometimes it may be necessary to consult with a representative from a particular interest group. In such cases, the choice of representative should be left to the group itself. Consultation should include not only those likely to be affected, positively or negatively, by the outcome of a proposal but should also include those who can affect the outcome of a proposal.
- **Mechanism:** 'Provides sufficient relevant information in a form that is easily understood by non-experts (without being simplistic or insulting), allow sufficient time for stakeholders to read, discuss, consider the information and its implications and to present their views, responses should be provided to issues and problems raised or comments made by stakeholders, selection of venues and timings of events should encourage maximum attendance'.
- **Timing and Frequency:** Planning for the public consultation program needs to begin at a very early stage; ideally it should commence at the screening stage of the proposal and continue throughout the EIA process.

123 Asian Development Bank (ADB), Environmental Safeguards: A Good Practice Sourcebook Draft Working Document, December 2012.

- **Consultation Tools:** Some specific consultation tools that can be used for conducting consultations include; focus group meetings, needs assessment, semi-structured interviews; village meetings, and workshops.
- **Important Considerations:** 'The development of a public involvement program would typically involve consideration of the following issues; objectives of the proposal and the study; identification of stakeholders; identification of appropriate techniques to consult with the stakeholders; identification of approaches to ensure feedback to involved stakeholders; and mechanisms to ensure stakeholders' considerations are taken into account'.

6.2 Lender's Requirements

658. Information disclosure, consultation, and participation are key elements of stakeholder engagement and essential for the successful management of a project's environmental and social impacts. ADB's requirements for community engagement are focused on the engagement of affected people.[124]

659. Disclosure of relevant information about the proposed project and its potential impacts will help stakeholders to understand the impacts, risks, and opportunities of the Project. Relevant information, including that documented in environmental assessment reports, should be provided in a place, language, and form that is accessible and understandable to affected people and other stakeholders. This process commences early in the project cycle and continues throughout the life of the project.[125]

6.3 Consultation Methodology

660. Consultations with the Project stakeholders were undertaken in April, May, and June 2017. The main document for distribution to stakeholders during the consultations was the Background Information Document (BID) which informed them about the EIA process and provided a background about the Project. The BID was made available in English (**Appendix M**) and Urdu (**Appendix N**) to suit the language preferences of different stakeholders. Meetings with institutional stakeholders were arranged in Mansehra, Peshawar, and Islamabad.

6.4 Stakeholders Consulted

661. The stakeholders i.e. community, government departments, and non-government organizations were consulted in two phases. The phase-1 consultation process was initiated in 2017 and continued till 2019 i.e. till completion of the EIA studies. The second phase of consultation, initiated in September 2020, will continue until the project's completion and operation. The details of these consultations have accordingly been given separately.

6.5 Phase-1 Consultation Details

662. Following is a brief of the consultation carried out with the stakeholders till the completion of the EIA studies in 2019. These consultations were conducted by the previous EIA Consultants i.e. Hagler Bailly Pakistan (PVT) Limited.

124 Asian Development Bank (ADB), Environmental Safeguards: A Good Practice Sourcebook Draft Working Document, December 2012.
125 Ibid

6.5.1 Community Stakeholders

663. Stakeholders are groups or individuals that can affect or take effect from a project's outcome. Affected Communities include population that is likely to be affected by the Project activities. Potential impacts of the Project on the local environment include disturbances and changes to the physical and biological environment, such as, land transformation, noise disturbances, and air and water quality issues. These disturbances can result in indirect socioeconomic impacts, such as physical or economic displacement. These impacts are expected to reduce with the increased distance from the Project facilities. A basin-wide study approach was used for the EIA of the Project; therefore 35 rural communities were consulted along the Kunhar River. In addition to the Potentially Affected Communities, nomad communities frequenting the area, local government and local Non-Government Organization (NGO) officials were also consulted.

664. **Exhibit 6-1** lists the community stakeholders consulted. Consultation was conducted in a representative number of communities while ensuring that people from various segments of the society participated in the consultation, to ensure proper coverage of possible stakeholder concerns. **Exhibit 6-2** shows the location of stakeholders consulted near the Project site.

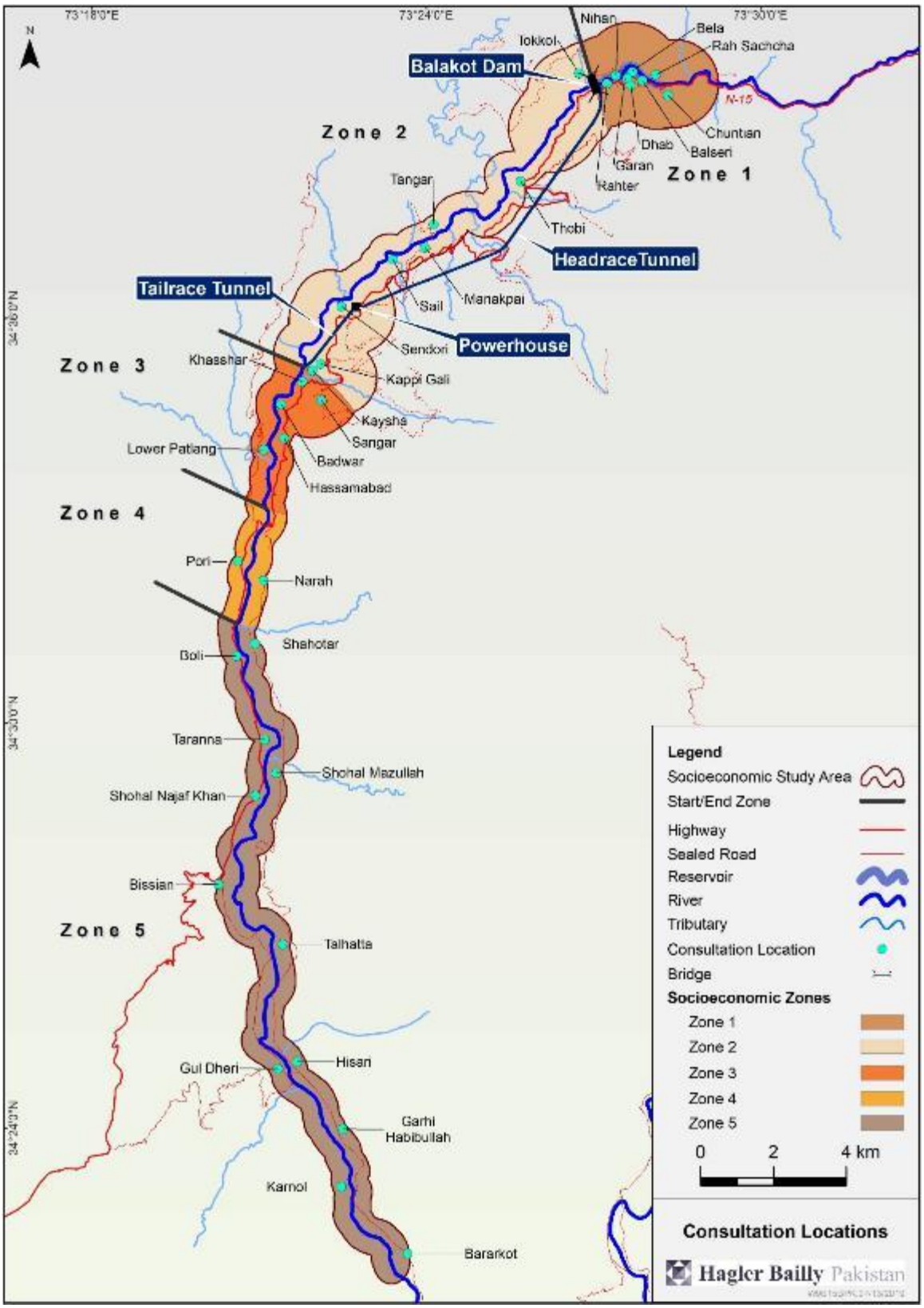
Exhibit 6-1: List of Community Stakeholders Consulted

Zones	Stakeholders	Consultation Group	Date Consulted
1	Balseri	M, F	3-May-17
	Bela	M, F	2-May-17
	Chuntian	M, F	4-May-17
	Dhab	M, F	4-May-17
	Garan	M, F	4-May-17
	Nihan	M, F	2-May-17
	Rah Sachcha	M, F	5-May-17
	Rahter	M, F	3-May-17
2	Kappi Gali	F	6-May-17
	Tokkol	M, F	6-May-17
	Kaysha	M	5-May-17
	Manakpai	M, F	7-May-17
	Sail	M	7-May-17
	Sendori	M, F	8-May-17
	Tangar	F	7-May-17
	Thobi	M, F	5-May-17
3	Badwar	M, F	10-May-17
	Hassamabad	M	9-May-17
	Khasshar	M	9-May-17
	Lower Patlang	M, F	9-May-17
	Sangar	M	9-May-17
4	Poli	M	19-May-17
	Narah	M	19-May-17
5	Bararkot	F	17-May-17
	Bissian	M	10-May-17

Zones	Stakeholders	Consultation Group	Date Consulted
	Boli	M, F	10-May-17
	Garhi Habibullah	M, F	11-May-17
	Gul Dheri	M, F	14-May-17
	Hisari	M, F	10-May-17
	Karnol	M, F	15-May-17
	Shahotar	M, F	10-May-17
	Shohal Mazullah	M, F	18-May-17
	Shohal Najaf Khan	M, F	11-May-17
	Talhatta	M, F	16-May-17

Note: M = Male and F = Female

Exhibit 6-2: Consultation Locations



6.5.2 Institutional Stakeholders

665. The institutional stakeholders consulted for the Project include relevant government agencies, NGOs, and private sector organizations. The list of stakeholders consulted is given in **Exhibit 6-3**.

Exhibit 6-3: List of Institutional Stakeholders

Stakeholders	Date Consulted
Government and Related	
Environmental Protection Agency, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	April 10, 2017
Forest Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	April 27, 2017
Wildlife Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	April 27, 2017
Fisheries Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	April 27, 2017
Social Welfare Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	May 19, 2017
Kaghan Development Authority	May 22, 2017
Tourism Corporation, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	June 12, 2017
Revenue Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	July 4, 2017
Deputy Commissioner, Mansehra, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	July 4, 2017
NGOs	
World Wildlife Fund – Pakistan	April 12, 2017
Himalayan Wildlife Foundation	April 19, 2017
Adventure Time Pakistan	May 2, 2017
Private Sector	
Star Hydropower (Pvt.) Ltd	April 12, 2017
International Finance Corporation (IFC)	May 26, 2017
Educational Institutions	
Archaeology Department, Hazara University	April 27, 2017
Archaeology Department, University of Peshawar	May 30, 2017

6.5.3 Consultations Mechanism

666. The consultation mechanism for institutional stakeholders is provided below.

6.5.4 Community Consultation

667. The Potentially Affected Communities (PAC) were visited and consultations were conducted with the community members within their settlements to encourage and facilitate their participation. Representatives, notables, and other interested groups from the Potentially Affected Communities were invited. In most of the consultations, women also participated, however, where required, separate consultations were conducted with community women.

6.5.5 Institutional Stakeholder Consultation

668. Letters to inform experts/institutional stakeholders about the objective of the consultation process and to arrange meetings with the stakeholders were dispatched in advance. A Background Information Document (BID) was enclosed with the letters for the information of the stakeholders.

669. For institutional consultation, HBP organized meetings in Islamabad, Peshawar, and Mansehra for government departments and agencies, academics and NGOs, and private

sector companies. Invitations for the meetings were sent two weeks before the meetings and these were followed up with phone calls to ensure maximum participation.

670. The stakeholders were asked to share their concerns about the Project and Project-related activities along with any recommendations about management and mitigation measures.

6.5.6 Summary of Consultations

6.5.6.1 Community Consultation

671. **Exhibit 6-4** summarizes the key concerns emerging from community consultations and explains how each concern is addressed in the EIA. The detailed log of consultations is provided in **Appendix P.** Photographs of the consultation are shown in **Exhibit 6-5**.

6.5.6.2 Institutional Consultation

672. The key concerns emerging from institutional stakeholder consultations are summarized in **Exhibit 6-6.** The detailed log of consultations is provided in **Appendix P.**

Exhibit 6-4: Summary of Concerns Expressed in Community Consultations

Concerns Expressed by Stakeholders	How they are Addressed
Use of natural resources by locals	
Sand mining and fishing sites will be submerged affecting community wellbeing.	A biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) for the Project has been developed to regulate sediment mining and fishing. The Eflow recommended for the Project will increase fish populations downstream of the Project, thereby, increasing fish catch (see **Volume C** of the EIA report).
The locals in the village collect both sand and wood debris from the river. Dam construction would block the downstream flow of the river and limit the wood and sand supply.	A biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) for the Project has been developed to regulate sediment mining and fishing. The Eflow recommended for the Project will increase fish populations downstream of the Project, thereby, increasing fish catch (see **Volume C** of the EIA report).
Women said they use the river for a variety of purposes including catching fish, washing clothes, and gathering wood. After the construction of the dam, they may not be able to do this.	A biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) for the Project has been developed to regulate sediment mining and fishing. The Eflow recommended for the Project will increase fish populations downstream of the Project, thereby, increasing fish catch (see **Volume C** of the EIA report). There is almost no river water use in the low-flow area. There is a chance that springs above the tunnel will dry up during or after the tunneling. A hydro census was carried out as part of the EIA above the tunnel alignment. Restoration of water supply is proposed for the settlements where there will be impacts on springs and a budget has been included for this in the EMP.
Dam construction would increase water levels and block the river's downstream flow of driftwood that is primarily used as fuelwood by locals. Locals will then cut forest trees, resulting in deforestation.	Based on surveys, a very small number of people in the Study Area use driftwood, therefore, this is not a major impact.
Disturbances due to construction activities	
Land sliding will increase due to tunnel boring and walls of houses will be damaged due to vibrations from tunnel boring	Addressed in the mitigation measures in **Section 7**

Concerns Expressed by Stakeholders	How they are Addressed
Environmental issues will increase due to excavation, vehicles, and operation of other heavy machinery	Addressed in the mitigation measures in **Section 7**
The dust from the tunnel boring activity would cause diseases and environmental problems.	Addressed in the mitigation measures in **Section 7**
Traffic increase due to project activity would result in congested roads.	Addressed in the mitigation measures in **Section 7**
Machinery and vehicles used in project activities would cause environmental problems.	Addressed in the mitigation measures in **Section 7**
The dam will lead to increased river temperatures and will disrupt the sewage dilution process of the river.	No change in the water flow rate is anticipated in Balakot, the main town downstream of the dam, therefore this impact is not likely to be significant.
Due to catastrophic flood, or breakage of dam, we might suffer, what is the backup plan for our village?	A contingency plan is being developed for such a situation.
Water supply from the springs and streams may dry out as a result of project construction.	There is almost no river water use in the low-flow area. There is a chance that springs above the tunnel will dry up during or after the tunneling. A hydro-census was carried out as part of the EIA above the tunnel alignment. Restoration of water supply is proposed for the settlements where there will be impacts on springs and a budget has been included for this in the EMP. Addressed in the mitigation measures in **Section 7**
This village has no relevance to the river but is fully dependent on stream water for drinking purposes. Both humans and animals are fed through this natural resource, after tunnel formation water table will reduce that affect our drinking water from streams.	Addressed in the mitigation measures in **Section 7**
The vibrations created by blasting for tunnels will damage house walls and make land unstable.	Addressed in the mitigation measures in **Section 7**
Project construction activities would deteriorate the natural beauty of the village.	Addressed in the mitigation measures in **Section 7**
Women expressed their fear about the effects of tunnel boring. Their houses can be affected, landslides will increase and there may be more earthquakes in their area.	If the houses are affected, they will be compensated by the Project.
The link between the right and the left bank of the river will be broken due to the submergence of the suspension bridges.	Access will be provided wherever it is disturbed.
Loss of agricultural land	
Agricultural land will be affected due to an increase in the water level in the reservoir which will affect incomes.	Affected Households will be compensated properly.
Compensation for locals	

Concerns Expressed by Stakeholders	How they are Addressed
We need high priority in employment opportunities in the project activities and no outsider is to be allowed to work on the project unless the local human resource is accommodated to the level of local satisfaction.	Priority in jobs and labor will be given to the locals.
The government should provide free electricity to local communities in exchange for their support and cooperation.	There is no such policy in the country.
Appropriate negotiation is required between affected people and the government to resettle the affectees of the project.	The resettlement process will be undertaken with the full participation of the affected community.
Villagers will not be happy with resettlement. However, if resettlement is necessary then alternative villages or houses should be built for them.	Noted.
All the decisions that are related to community land ownership should be displayed in the DC office accordingly.	Agreed.
We are requesting free Chinese and English Language courses for our children so that they may get new opportunities of job according to market demand	The proponents will consider supporting any such effort.
Women quoted the example of payment problems with the developers of Sukki Kinari HPP and that people are not satisfied with the payments that the government offered as resettlement costs.	Market prices of affected assets will be provided for this Project.
There was a major fear amongst the community that the government would not fulfil its promises in the land acquisition case keeping in mind the situation with the Sukki Kinari HPP.	Point noted
Social issues due to the movement of labor	
Non–village residents with different cultures will come to the area because of the project and damage the community's culture.	A clause will be added in the contractor's contract documents that they will be confined to their camps and will not breach the privacy of local communities.
We came to know that a labor camp is proposed to be constructed near Dhab Village, we don't allow construction labor camp because it will create social issues due to the increase of in-migration of labor for project construction. Labor camps should be outside of community settlements.	The design of the project is also being reviewed and if it is found possible design will be changed to avoid resettlement.
Our communal forest and other social fabric get destroyed.	A full compensation package is being developed under the Land Acquisition and Resettlement Plan
Social security risk will increase due to the increase of in-migration of labor for project construction.	Addressed in the mitigation measures in **Section 7**
Women suggested that the government construct the dam elsewhere and that their plans should not affect residential settlements.	The design of the Project is being reviewed and if possible, the design will be changed to avoid resettlement. If not, then people will be compensated for resettlement.
Women opposed the construction of the Project because they were concerned about its adverse consequences, especially since the negative effects of the earthquake in 2005 and floods in 2010. They are unhappy about relocation and loss of land, and fruit orchards. They insisted that if they are	A comprehensive resettlement plan has been prepared to relocate and rehabilitate affectees.

Concerns Expressed by Stakeholders	How they are Addressed
to be relocated, they want to be provided not only with property but also similar environmental conditions.	

Exhibit 6-5: Photographs of Community Consultations



At Balseri



At Bela



At Dhab



At Garan



At Nihan



At Rah Sachcha



At Garan



At Nihan



At Rah Sachcha



At Rahter



At Manakpai



At Sail



At Sendori



At Tangar



At Thobi



At Badwar



At Hassamabad



At Garhi Habibullah



At Bissian



At Boli



At Shohal Mazullah



At Gul Dheri



At Talhatta



At Hisari



At Shahotar



At Karnol



At Bararkot (JK)



At Manakpai



At Gul Dheri

Exhibit 6-6: Summary of Concerns Expressed and Management Measures Recommended

Concerns Expressed by Stakeholders	How they are Addressed
Disturbance to the aquatic ecosystem	
The Project will result in disturbance to the existing ecosystem.	Noted. This is the reason for the preparation of a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) (see **Volume C** of the EIA report) which addresses these changes and provides measures for mitigating them and restoring or improving the ecosystem.
Removal of trees and deforestation of thick forests	
The presence of thick forests, including Reserve Forests, was highlighted. A key concern is the disturbance to these areas and the clearance of forests for the Project.	Mitigation measures during the construction phase will include minimization of disturbance to forest areas and emphasis on finding alternatives to clearing forested areas where possible. Along with this, re-planation of and support to native species as well as prevention of the spread of alien invasive species will be included. During the operational phase, mitigation measures will include avoidance of disturbance to forest areas by workers.
The Forest Department, KP thinks that the Project footprint does not include large forested areas, therefore, it is not expected to degrade significant forest habitat. In particular, there is no concern concerning Reserved Forests as the nearest ones are not located within or adjacent to the Project infrastructure. The habitat is already fragmented due to human activity. The locals have modified the habitat.	Noted. The information regarding Reserved Forests is especially useful for the EIA. The fragmented habitat was observed by the field team carrying out terrestrial ecology surveys. The terrestrial habitat has, therefore, been designated as Modified Habitat under IFC PS6.
The Forest Department is in favor of the Project as it will generate much-needed electricity with limited damage to forested areas. Compensatory replantation is recommended for the loss of any trees due to Project-related activities. The Forest Department has not decided on the ratio of replantation yet.	Noted. Compensatory re-plantation has been included as a requirement in the EMP in a ratio of 1:10.
Downstream impacts and modification of environmental flows	
Operational impacts are a concern for multiple stakeholders including the EPA KP and the other developers in the basin. It is important to know the modification to environmental flows (E-Flows) as a result of Project operations. It is also important to know the plans for peaking and flushing including their timing and quantities of water and sediment which will be released. Recommendations included the following:	The environmental flow due to the Project will be determined using a holistic environmental flow assessment. The methodology has been explained to the stakeholders and their concerns and opinions about it have been documented. The E-Flow assessment is completed and the results have been

Concerns Expressed by Stakeholders	How they are Addressed
Communication between developers was emphasized as important by the representative of Star Hydropower (Pvt.) Ltd. The representative from EPA KP expressed the need to plan for the use of fish ladders. This opinion was shared by the representatives of the Fisheries Department. It was noted as important not only to use a fish ladder but also to look into ways to improve the efficiency of fish ladders beyond 25-30%.	shared and discussed with the stakeholders. Based on the assessment, an E-Flow of 1.5 m^3/s at baseload operation is recommended with High Protection (see Environmental Flow Assessment Report in **Volume C** of the EIA report)
The environmental flow agreed upon needs to be maintained.	The E-Flow will be maintained as agreed. Monitoring of the environmental flow is part of the monitoring plan in the EMP.
Changes downstream of the dam can result in sites of archaeological importance being affected, especially if there is flooding.	Under the Antiquities Act, 2016 in KP, PEDO needs to obtain clearance from the Director of Directorate of Archaeology and Museum, KP by the requirement under the Act to obtain clearance for any major project including hydropower.
A robust impact assessment is required to not only assess the impacts on the Kunhar River but also downstream in the Jhelum River. In particular, the impacts of peaking flows and sediment discharges need to be addressed.	Impacts downstream of Patrind HPP are not within the scope of the EIA of the Project. The major impacts on that part of the Kunhar River and downstream of the confluence, into Jhelum River are due to the Patrind HPP. The impacts downstream of Patrind HPP have been discussed qualitatively, as part of the CIA of the Project, using information from the ESIA of Patrind HPP.
The EIA should review the impacts on downstream projects for multiple scenarios, relating to construction activities, failure of cofferdam, accidental release of excavated materials, and muck.	These impacts are considered in various sections.
The cumulative impact assessment is required which takes into consideration impacts in the basin on endemic and endangered aquatic species. This includes impacts in the lower Jhelum River as well.	In the case of the CIA, for impacts downstream of the confluence, qualitative assessment using information from the EIA of Patrind HPP has been carried out. The Patrind HPP will have major impacts at and downstream of the confluence, therefore, assessment of these impacts is part of the environmental assessment for Patrind HPP.
The cumulative impact assessment should also review the (provincial/state) transboundary issues relating to ecological, social, legal, and jurisdictional aspects of the project.	The Patrind HPP creates a barrier at the downstream end of the Kunhar River, close to the confluence with the Jhelum River. Therefore, downstream of the confluence, the impacts of Patrind HPP are of concern.
The ESIA should take advantage of previous data collection and analyses that may be found in ESIAs and river basin planning documents for other hydropower developments.	Noted. Data from previous work done in the basin has been used, for example, in the ecology baseline.

Concerns Expressed by Stakeholders	How they are Addressed
The overall ESIA process should essentially be an impact and risk-based assessment.	Noted. The EIA process is an impact and risk based assessment.
Climate Change	
The ESIA analysis may also review the project for impacts and risks on and from climate change.	A climate change risk assessment is included in the EIA.
Spawning grounds	
The spawning grounds for fish fauna will be affected due to changes in flows. As a result, native species will be impacted. Most importantly the Alwan Snow Trout, a migratory species, and the two endemic species, Nalbant's Loach and Kashmir Hillstream Loach will be affected.	Noted. The presence of these species has been confirmed as part of sampling carried out for the Ecological Baseline of the EIA. A Critical Habitat Assessment, under IFC PS6, in line with that recommended in ADB SPS 2009, was carried out and is presented in the Ecological Baseline. The three fish species mentioned were taken into consideration. Based on the criteria provided in the Critical Habitat Assessment guidelines, the biodiversity values for which Critical Habitat is determined include the two endemic species, Nalbant's Loach and Kashmir Hillstream Loach. The Project is required to show Net Gain for both species and a BAP (see **Volume C** of the EIA report) has been developed that recommends measures to achieve this.
The use of hatcheries is recommended by the Fisheries Department.	Experimental breeding of the Kashmir Hillstream Loach is recommended in the BAP (see **Volume C** of the EIA report).
The ESIA may also develop a framework for an integrated fish monitoring plan, biodiversity management, and sand and gravel mining management.	A monitoring and evaluation framework is included in the BAP developed for this Project. It monitors fish fauna as well as other aspects of the aquatic ecology and environment. Measures to manage biodiversity are a part of the EMP and the BAP. Management of sand and gravel mining is included in the BAP.
Fishing licenses	
Fishing licenses are provided for fishing in the area being occupied by the Project. The development will affect fishing in the area.	Offsets for loss in fish populations are proposed as part of the BAP. Implementation of measures proposed in

Concerns Expressed by Stakeholders	How they are Addressed
	the BAP will result in increased fish populations elsewhere in Kunhar River.
Submergence of certain areas is a concern	
The submergence of areas due to water level rise and the creation of the reservoir is a concern because it will affect both biodiversity (in particular vegetation) and the locals.	Re-plantation of trees is recommended to compensate for the loss of vegetation.
The loss of habitat due to submergence is a concern for the Wildlife Department, KP. This will affect the flora and fauna of the riparian zone as well as cause modification of the habitat due to the creation of a wetland.	As noted above, re-plantation is recommended as part of the EMP. This will restore habitat lost as a result of submergence by the reservoir.
The Wildlife Department recommends that the reservoir be declared a Protected Area. The Fisheries Department recommends using the reservoir for stocking of fish. However, it is important to prevent the spread of invasive fish fauna. A safe area for fish within the reservoir is recommended and if access to the reservoir is restricted to the public, the option of pond sharing with the Fisheries Department, KP should be considered.	No native fish species will be able to live in the reservoir as the water temperature will be too low. The stocking of introduced species is not recommended as they adversely affect the populations of native fish species.
Adverse impacts on the local community	
The presence of a colony and camps for workers and laborers will present challenges. These include the regulation of activities to prevent pollution of the environment, proper waste disposal, and restrictions on workers partaking in illegal activities especially those damaging to the environment such as exploitation of wildlife and introduction of invasive species.	Strict regulations and the training of workers will be recommended as part of the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) to limit potentially damaging activities including poaching, introduction of alien invasive species, and exploitation of wildlife.
The representative from HWF stated that a commitment should be made to provide locals with as many jobs related to the Project as possible. These include technical jobs for which training should be started as soon as possible.	Priority will be given to the affected households/locals in project jobs and labor.
Sediment should be sourced locally and contracts for sediment extraction and provision should be with the locals, not outsiders.	To the extent possible, contracts will be given locally.
There should be an agreement with the government to provide 24-hour electricity daily to the community being affected by the Project.	Noted. However, it is not in the jurisdiction of PEDO.
The maximum benefit of the Project should be to the locals. The resettled people, in particular, should be wealthier with an improved quality of life.	LARP will be planned on the principle that the living standards of affected households will remain the same after the project implementation.
Under social assessments, the EIA should include an analysis of human rights, community benefit sharing, conflicts, and security, etc.	These have been covered under the Social and Poverty Analysis Report
The ESIA may also develop a framework for conflicts & security management plans, livelihood restoration, etc. that would require joint implementation by key stakeholders.	The grievance redressal mechanism and livelihood restoration plan will be included in the EIA
Resettlement is a concern especially as there is commercial infrastructure in the Project area	

Concerns Expressed by Stakeholders	How they are Addressed
All displaced households should be rehabilitated.	All the displaced households will be rehabilitated according to the Land Acquisition and Resettlement Plan (LARP).
Public infrastructure such as Basic Health Units (BHU) should be relocated.	Public infrastructure will be relocated by the project, it is planned in the LARP.
Graves should be managed with the consent of the communities.	Graves management is addressed in the LARP. Either the graves will be shifted or they will be made permanent at their current locations.
The Project should provide special assistance to vulnerable households.	Vulnerable households will receive special assistance and it is included in the entitlement plan of the LARP
Households whose livelihood is affected should be provided with vocational training to get benefits from the project.	Vocational trainings is included in the Livelihood Restoration Plan, which is a part of the LARP.
The representative from SHCL highlighted that a market will have to be relocated as a result of the Project, therefore, resettlement is a major and sensitive issue that will need to be addressed carefully.	A land acquisition and resettlement action plan is being developed to address the related impacts.
People who are relocated are likely to move downward based on the trend in this area. This is a positive move from the forest conservation perspective, as it leaves areas higher up free from disturbance.	Noted.
The NGO, HWF, wants to see the quality of life improve for those resettled. Value should be added to their lives. The HWF representative recommended that the new housing provided should be based on comprehensive planning. A sectoral approach should be taken such as that adopted for Islamabad. The infrastructure should be a model for other villages in the Kaghan Valley. A town planner should be hired for the work and there should be residential, commercial, and amenities plots.	Relocation of houses will be based on the consent of the local communities. Most of the households consulted have opted for cash compensation and self-relocation however, project-managed relocation will also be considered in the planning. As part of project-managed relocation, all the basic facilities will be provided to the affected people. As a policy principle, at least pre-project living standards of the affected households will be maintained.
Impacts on terrestrial ecology and species of conservation importance	
Construction phase disturbances are concern for terrestrial wildlife more so than operational phase disturbances. Air and noise pollution, in particular, are important to address. The Project is located in areas that have Reserve Forests. Disturbance of these forests will affect the wildlife associated with these forests as well as the activities and resources of the locals that depend on them. The area was highlighted as being 'critical' for wildlife by the representative of the WWF. Species of conservation importance include Taxus spp., Himalayan Grey Langur, Black Bear, Western Tragopan, the Long tailed Tip, Khalij Pheasant, Kokhlas Pheasant. Vulture spp., Common Leopard	A Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) (see **Volume C** of the EIA report) has been prepared to address the challenges associated with the impacts on biodiversity due to the Project. The measures are aimed at achieving net gain depending on the biodiversity, in particular, the species of conservation identified as being impacted by the Project.

Concerns Expressed by Stakeholders	How they are Addressed
and ungulates spp. including Ibex, Muntjak Deer, and Grey Goral. The risk of local extinctions was highlighted. Seasonal risks to wildlife are also present because of the presence of altitudinal migrants which descend into areas in and around the Project infrastructure during the winter. The representative from the WWF emphasized that Himalayan biodiversity has a slow growth rate and does not recover rapidly. Recommended mitigation measures for the wildlife included the following: Timing construction activities to minimize disturbance to wildlife. Preference should be given to constructing during winter when animals are less active. Strict controls on the exploitation of wildlife by Project staff. Protection of forests upstream of the dam. Forest targeted restoration and conservation. Avoiding removal of Taxus spp. Investments in watershed management programs. Regular checks on water quality. Focused studies on Taxus spp., Western Tragopan, and Musk Deer. The Wildlife Department, KP also noted some of the species mentioned above along with the Chakhor. They are especially concerned about the Khalij Pheasant as this is an important area for it. The HWF is interested in contributing to protection of biodiversity.	
Flushing and Sediment Management	
Flushing will be carried out which will impact the fish fauna of the reservoir. However, it is noted that flushing will be done in the flooding seasons when flushing is necessary anyways. The flushing schedule should be shared with the public so that people know about water level changes.	Will be done before operational phase of the project
The analysis of alternatives should cover different approaches to sediment management. This could range from different designs (e.g., dedicated sluicing gates low in the dam vs spillway releases) to different release regimes (e.g., multiple releases in the high-water season vs one or two release periods) to different levels of cooperation and coordination among cascade hydropower operators (e.g., synchronization of releases by upstream and downstream projects to unilateral scheduling of sediment releases).	Point noted.
Peaking	
The analysis of alternatives should cover different approaches to peaking flows, from run-of-river to two- to four-hour daily peaking discharges.	The analysis of alternatives has covered both baseload and peaking scenarios. The daily discharges covered include five- hours of daily peaking discharges

Concerns Expressed by Stakeholders	How they are Addressed
Seasonal limitations on peaking should be considered as well.	This has been taken into consideration. Peaking will only be done from September to April, i.e. the dry season.
Developers are encouraged to consult with relevant authorities to discuss the possibility that the Project be operated as a run-of-river project without peaking discharges during the entire year or key biodiversity periods of the year.	An E-Flow Assessment (see Environmental Flow Assessment Report in **Volume C** of the EIA report) has been carried out for the Project. It has recommended two E-Flows including: An E-Flow of 1.5m^3/s with the Project operating at baseload or An E-Flow of 6.1m^3/s with peaking operations with an associated loss of 3.5% power generation compared to 1.5m^3/s at baseload Both options achieve net gain in biodiversity values for which Critical Habitat is designated provided High Protection is implemented as a non-flow related measure.
Water level	
The NGO Adventure Time Pakistan are concerned about changes to the water level due to the Project. The activity of White Water Rafting is carried out only on the Kunhar River in Pakistan, in two areas, one of which is the stretch between Balakot Town and Garhi Habibullah. From the point of view of the sport, a higher water level in this stretch is preferable.	The fluctuation in water levels as a result of peaking will be attenuated due to inflows from the tributaries, therefore, in this stretch, the water level is not expected to be significantly impacted.
Impact on tourism	
The impacts on tourism are expected to be positive because of the development of a reservoir. In the Khanpur Dam, for example, activities for children are organized.	The reservoir is likely to be off-limits to the public, however, a section of it may be open for tourism.
The Tourism Corporation, KP (TCKP) stated that there is a lack of data on tourism with the Corporation and only recently their capacity for data collection and other activities has increased. Therefore, they are in the process of data collection.	Noted.
The TCKP has plans to develop the area for tourism and will propose to donors like the World Bank. If the Project can provide any assistance, that would be welcome.	Noted.
Historical value	
The District of Mansehra is rich in history. More than 1,000 sites have been identified in it. This area has been important as a historic trade route and Buddhist archaeology is important here. The Archaeology Department of Hazara University recommends conducting surveys to determine the archaeological value in the area. If any artifacts of importance are found, excavations can be done.	Under the Antiquities Act, 2016 in KP, PEDO needs to obtain clearance from the Director of Directorate of Archaeology and Museum, KP by the requirement under the Act to obtain clearance for any major project including hydropower.

Concerns Expressed by Stakeholders	How they are Addressed
Assessing the area, keeping in view the dam, is important. Any information gained should be shared with the public. The Provincial Antiquities Act has been revised in 2016 and should be taken into consideration.	
The Archaeology Department, University of Peshawar has no primary or secondary data on the Project area and can, therefore, not comment on the archaeological value of the site.	Noted.
Waste disposal	
Waste generated as a result of the Project should be quantified. This includes the excavated soil and rock material which requires off-site disposal.	This is outside the scope of the EIA. It is being done as part of the feasibility study.
Potential sites for safe disposal of muck should be reviewed for risks of washout, land sliding, etc. Consideration of a detailed Muck Disposal Plan during the construction phase is also recommended.	This can only be done when information on the location of these sites is available which is being done as part of the feasibility study.
Jurisdiction of the Kaghan Development Authority (KDA)	
The Project falls in an area that is entirely within the jurisdiction of the KDA. The KDA supports this move by the Provincial Government of KP to increase energy generation in the province but insists that this should be done in coordination with the KDA.	As part of PEDO's responsibilities outlined in the EMP (**Section 9**, *Environmental Management Plan*), it will, Support local government in the implementation of infrastructure projects and Support NGOs specializing in the development of infrastructure to assist local government.
The KDA has a number of development plans in the area that can be affected by the Project and Project-related impacts. These plans include facilities for sanitation, drainage, waste disposal, garbage collection, firefighting, park development for families and children, etc. Project-related impacts can increase commercial activity in the area, thereby, putting pressure on these services. For example, increased activity will result in increased pollution and waste generation. Keeping in view these plans and functions of the KDA, it is important to coordinate with the KDA. The KDA functions as a service provider, building control agency, and executing agency for any scheme in the area.	As part of PEDO's responsibilities outlined in the EMP (**Section 9**, *Environmental Management Plan*), it will, Support local government in the implementation of infrastructure projects and Support NGOs specializing in the development of infrastructure to assist local government.
The natural beauty of the area, with all of its flora and fauna is important for the KDA, which is aiming at preserving these as a priority. Therefore, conservation of natural resources is important.	Biodiversity management has been considered as part of the EMP (see **Section 9**, *Environmental Management Plan*) and a BAP (see **Volume C** of the EIA report) has been developed to address impacts on biodiversity.
By legislation, the KDA is the owner of the area, and coordination with the KDA is required for public as well as private sector Projects.	As part of PEDO's responsibilities outlined in the EMP (**Section 9**, *Environmental Management Plan*), it will, Support local government in the implementation of infrastructure projects and Support NGOs specializing in the development of infrastructure to assist local government.

Concerns Expressed by Stakeholders	How they are Addressed
The KDA must be kept up-to-date on all developments and that information be shared with the KDA promptly.	As above.
Building the capacity of the KDA is recommended. Specifically, the KDA wants to build financial capacity so that it can function more effectively as a service provider.	As above.
Management in Coordination with the Hydropower Industry	
The developers are encouraged to participate in the Hydropower Developers' Working Group and participate in supporting future activities of the Working Group. This could take the form of participating in Group meetings, direct contributions to various initiatives, as well as participating in or even leading certain activities. To that end, the IFC would very much appreciate it if you would provide to us with contact information for the Project management.	Noted. Participation of PEDO in the Hydropower Developers' Working Group is recommended in the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) (see **Volume C** of the EIA report) for the Project.
Non-Project-related pressures	
There are numerous non-Project-related pressures on wildlife including the following: Habitat loss and fragmentation due to the expansion of human settlements Human-wildlife conflict especially with predators like the Common Leopard and Black Bear. After the major earthquake in the area, people have moved to lower elevations resulting in increased habitat for these species. As a result, their populations have expanded and they have expanded their range. On the aquatic ecosystem, these pressures include human population growth causing an increase in pollution and effluent discharge into the river. This has resulted in an increase in pH in some areas, making them unsuitable for fish fauna. There is also increased noise pollution from road construction. Abrupt changes in the ecosystem are a concern that can result from climate change, for example.	The BAP will address issues associated with biodiversity management and protection. An increase in the capacity for watch and ward is part of the BAP which will contribute to both aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity protection. A part of the BAP is an M&E plan that will monitor water quality and, therefore, pollution levels in the river. A climate change assessment is part of the EIA.
The violations of wildlife laws, including those against aquatic biodiversity, are being enforced by the Wildlife Department.	Noted. Any additional watch and ward system established as part of this Project, under the BAP, will be implemented in coordination with the Wildlife Department, KP
The Fisheries Department, KP has divided the Kunhar River into six zones. Of these, one zone is a sanctuary where no disturbance is allowed and where there are a greater number of fish watchers than in other zones. However, the zonation has changed due to increased pollution as fish are not traveling into areas they previously were. In addition to this, the implementation of watch and ward is difficult because more people are visiting these areas as compared to the past.	An M&E plan, which includes data collection on water quality, is part of the BAP developed for this Project. It will collect data to determine if levels of pollution are above acceptable thresholds. Adaptive management is recommended as part of the BAP to address issues associated with unacceptably high levels of pollution.
Release of sewage into river is an existing issue	
The existing issue of sewage being dumped into the river, both from residential discharge and commercial discharge, was highlighted as a key concern. It was emphasized that the Project should not contribute further to this and if possible, contribute to its mitigation.	Proper waste disposal procedures will be part of the requirements of the Project both during the construction and operation phases. At this stage

Concerns Expressed by Stakeholders	How they are Addressed
	options for sewage treatment and reduction of the effluent discharged into the river will be assessed.
Lack of data on wildlife	
There is a lack of data on wildlife especially on key species like the Common Leopard and the Indian Palm Civet. The Wildlife Department, KP only has data on game animals and lacks the capacity for data collection. This was also the view of the Fisheries Department concerning fish fauna. In particular, the impacts of pollution on fish fauna are a concern. It was noted by the fisheries Department that the growth of fish has not altered over the past few years and no abnormal growth has been observed. However, this is only based on observation, not based on data collection and research.	Data on wildlife has been collected and reported in the Ecological Baseline for the EIA. This included data collection on vegetation, mammals, birds, herpetofauna, fish fauna, and macro-invertebrates. A BAP (see **Volume C** of the EIA report) has been prepared which includes a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan to collect data on wildlife that will be impacted by the Project, with a focus on aquatic ecology, mainly fish fauna. The M&E plan also includes data collection on water quality and other physical environmental aspects.
The Wildlife Department recommended data collection in extensive detail including on entomology in the area.	Data is being collected for the baseline of the EIA of the Project. Data collection is focused on biodiversity likely to be affected by the Project, not on all biodiversity present in the area. Aquatic insects are being surveyed because they will be impacted. Terrestrial are not being impacted; therefore, they will not be surveyed.
The Fisheries Department recommends weekly monitoring of pH. At the moment the Department only collects data on temperature.	An M&E plan, which includes data collection on water quality, is part of the BAP (see **Volume C** of the EIA report) developed for this Project.
Lack of staff	
The Wildlife Department lacks the staff to effectively implement watch and ward. There is a need to build departmental capacity.	An increase in the number of watchers is recommended under the BAP along with financing for the increased capacity.
Lack of awareness amongst the locals	
There is a lack of awareness amongst the locals about the importance of wildlife and a lack of understanding about the sustainable use and economic benefits of wildlife.	The BAP includes measures to increase awareness amongst the locals regarding the importance of protecting biodiversity and engaging them in conservation activities.

6.5.7 Consultations on Environmental Flow Assessment

673. Stakeholder consultations were held to discuss the Environmental Flow Assessment carried out for the Project (see Environmental Flow Assessment Report in **Volume C** of the EIA report). Two consultations were held. The first one was held before the E-Flow Assessment to explain the process to stakeholders and document their views before starting the assessment. The second one was held after the E-Flow Assessment to explain and discuss the results of the DRIFT DSS. The following stakeholders were invited and subsequently attended the consultations.

- Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO)
- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Environmental Protection Agency
- World Wide Fund for Nature-Pakistan
- KP Wildlife Department
- KP Forest Department
- KP Department of Fisheries
- Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Peshawar
- Directorate General (Extension), Livestock and Dairy Development

674. The process of the E-Flow assessment was described, and the results of the E-Flow assessment were shared with the participants. Also, the behaviors of different fish species and how they are likely to be impacted by the Project were described in detail. Recommendations for alternatives available for the management of the Project operations to minimize the impact on aquatic fauna were presented. Pressures on the river system including fishing and sediment mining, and disposal of urban effluents and solid waste into the river were described. The strategy for the management of biodiversity developed for the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) of the Gulpur HPP and subsequently adopted in the BAP/Management Plan of Karot and Kohala HPPs was described, and it was suggested that the approach that has been tested in implementation of BAP of Gulpur HPP should be adopted. This includes a watch and ward protection of the river, sustainable management of sand and gravel mining, a watershed management program, and research on aquatic biodiversity.

675. The main concerns expressed by stakeholders and responses to them are provided in **Exhibit 6-7.** Photographs of the consultations are provided in

676. **Exhibit 6-8.** The logs for the consultations are provided in **Appendix Q**. The presentations given are provided in **Appendix R**.

Exhibit 6-7: Summary of Main Concerns Expressed by Stakeholders and Responses

Concerns Expressed by Stakeholders	How they are Addressed
What is the ratio of environment to economic weightage in the calculations in DRIFT? How does it work?	DRIFT does not provide a single number for required environmental flow but rather allows stakeholders to make that decision by providing results for each scenario. DRIFT is used as an optimization tool.
What about the 2010 flood? The graphs do not show high flood values.	The 2010 flood did not significantly impact the Kunhar River.
Climate Change, new seasons, and fluctuations will be considered in DRIFT. In the last 5 years, the hydrology of the river seems to have changed.	The climate change models are not reliable. 51 years of flow data is used to design dams and climate change models are incorporated in risk assessment to see the effect. Using only the last 7 years data for dam design data is not sufficient.
Cumulative impacts of HPPs are a serious concern, how will these be addressed	A cumulative impact assessment is part of the EIA. The approach suggested in the CIA of Kohala HPP is suggested to be followed. The basin-wide impacts have been studied at a high level in the IFC-sponsored Hydropower Strategy for the Jhelum-Poonch Basin, the second phase of which is to start soon. The stakeholders in KP will be kept informed and will be contacted for participation by IFC in the course of implementation of the second phase of the basin-wide initiative.
Will it be possible to construct a fish ladder?	Given the dam height of the order of over 60 meters, it will not be technically feasible to construct a fish ladder. Genetic studies and physical transport of fish from downstream to upstream of the dam will be recommended of genetic studies show the impacts of isolation.

Exhibit 6-8: E-Flow Consultations at the PEDO Office, Peshawar





677. Following are the key conclusion points recorded during the consultation meeting.

- The approach to mitigation and management of cumulative impacts at the basin level was endorsed.
- The institutional and financial model where the government departments supervise and provide legal cover and independent non-government or private sector qualified organizations are contracted by PEDO to implement the BAP was endorsed.
- Inclusion of environmental costs as Project costs for inclusion in power tariff was accepted.

6.6 Phase-2 Consultation Details

678. The socio-environmental team of the Project Management Consultant (PMC) initiated consultation with the community and government and non-government organizations in September 2020 which continued till the updation of the EIA report. Although details of these consultation meetings have been given in respective semi-environmental and social monitoring reports however, the following is a short brief of the major environmental portfolio consultation meetings held with the stakeholders till November 2024.

6.6.1 Community Consultation Meeting

679. On February 7 and 8, 2021, the AIIB environmental due diligence team along with the DD of PEDO and EE of the PMC visited the project dam, powerhouse, and colony sites and held meetings with the project area community.

680. During these meetings, the EE explained various socio-environmental aspects of the project considered in the EIA report while the team clarified queries of the community. The major concerns expressed by the community and how they were addressed are detailed below.

Exhibit 6-9: **Summary of Main Concerns Expressed by Community and Responses**

Concerns Expressed by Stakeholders	How they are Addressed
The community is worried that the proponent of the project may not purchase land at the prevailing market rates.	The land for the project will be acquired under the provision of the Land Acquisition Act 1894 however, Section 17 of this Act will not be invoked. The land will be acquired as per prevailing documented market rates.
The affected people have small land holdings and cannot afford to move from the project area to other areas without sound monetary assistance	Monetary compensations will be made to the eligible affectees promptly before their displacement.
The affected community will not leave their houses unless the project proponent pays sufficient compensation	Affectees will not be displaced unless the due compensation is made to them.
The material contracts and the jobs in the project should be given to the locals on a priority basis.	The EPC Contractor will be made bound to offer jobs to the eligible locals as per their experience and qualifications. As materials will be tested in the laboratory hence, if qualified, the EPC Contractor will be encouraged to purchase the locally available construction materials.
Before initiation of the land acquisition process, the concerned government department(s) and project team should consult the affected community and should not acquire land from those who are not the actual owners of the land	Continued consultation with the stakeholders will be undertaken through the entire project development phase whereby the community will be consulted appropriately.
The land should be acquired as commercial land as most of the buildings in the Paras village are commercial buildings	Permanent land acquisition will be made under the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act 1894 and as per the record maintained by the revenue department or the quarter concerned of the government department. The type of land will be decided as per the record or as per assessment by the concerned committee.

Exhibit 6-10: Consultation Meeting with the Project Area Community




Consultation meetings with the community in Paras Village

6.6.2 Public Hearing (Consultation Meeting with the Stakeholders)

681. The Public Hearing event of the BTHPP (300 MW) was held on April 12, 2021, at the Nehan High School Paras, which was attended by local representatives, affectees, and the general public at large alongside Deputy and Assistant Directors from Peshawar and Abbottabad offices of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Protection Agency (KPEPA), District Police officers, officers from health and education departments. PEDO was represented by the Deputy Director Environment whereas the Project Management Consultant (PMC) was represented by Environmental and Resettlement experts. From Hagler Bailly Pakistan, Environmental and Social experts participated in the event.

682. Proceedings of the event started with a recitation of the Holy Quran followed by the Deputy Director KPEPA speech, wherein he highlighted the purpose of the event vis-a-vis various legal obligations to be fulfilled by the stakeholders. Assistant Director KPEPA North also shed light on the Agency's ongoing interventions in the District in general and in the project area in particular. The Deputy Director PEDO, expounded various initiatives taken by the PEDO for harnessing the province's renewable energy resources and the upcoming future projects. He also explained the Balakot project's background and its current status.

683. Environmental and Social experts of Hagler Bailly Pakistan delivered a detailed presentation highlighting the project impacts on the socio-environmental resource base of the area and various mitigation/prevention measures proposed. On behalf of the locals, Tanveer Shah, a member of the local committee, briefly highlighted concerns about the valuation of land, built-up property, and the project impacts on the affectees' livelihood.

684. At the end of the event, participants asked several questions, mostly regarding compensation against land, built-up property, and pollution of the Kunhar River caused by the Sukki Kinari Hydropower Project. Respective experts of PMC, officials from KPEPA, and PEDO responded to the related questions while most of the affectees concerns were clarified on the spot. Regarding the matter of the Kunhar River pollution, the Deputy Director KPEPA apprised the participants that soon a team of Environmental Monitoring will be deputed for lab testing of the Kunhar River water.

685. The concerns expressed by the locals were subsequently addressed by the KPEPA in its "Environmental Approval" issued on July 6, 2021, in respect of the EIA report.

Exhibit 6-11: Public Hearing Consultation Meeting with the Stakeholders



Public Hearing Event at Nehan Paras Dam Site

6.6.1 Consultation on Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)

686. Two types of BAPs have been prepared as part of the EIA studies i.e. (i) Basin-wide BAP, and (ii) Project-specific BAP. Basin-wide BAP has geographical coverage of the entire Jhelum Basin whereas the project-specific BAP will be implemented in the Area of Management which is a 45 km stretch of the Kunhar River starting from 4 km upstream of the Balakot dam axis and ends at 5 km upstream of the Patrind HPP (150 MW) reservoir.

687. Since, February 2022, a series of consultation meetings have been held with the stakeholders of the Basin-wide BAP and project-specific BAP whereby two separate consultation reports were prepared and submitted to ADB for their information and record. Following is the synopsis of these consultation meetings.

6.6.1.1 Consultation on Basin-wide BAP[126]

688. As stated above, the Basin-wide BAP has geographical coverage of the entire Jhelum Basin whereby hydropower operators in the Basin, namely Neelum Jhelum, Azad Pattan, Mahal, Kohala, Karot, and those in the Kunhar River Basin i.e. from Batta Kundi to Patrind HPPs, have been identified in the project approved EIA report as prospective financiers of the Basin-wide BAP. Other primary stakeholders include environmental agencies of the Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJ&K), the Federal Government of Pakistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab provinces as well as their respective Wildlife and Fisheries departments.

689. As Basin-wide BAP implementation is a new intervention for PEDO/PIU, therefore, it was recommended to the Balakot HPP (300 MW) financers that primary stakeholders should be consulted to get first-hand information regarding BAP interventions undertaken by them in the Jhelum Basin. Also, such consultation will enable PIU to:

i. assess the stakeholder's response towards financing IRRE and WMO;

[126] For details, Basin-wide BAP Consultation report is referred.

ii. record their views and recommendations regarding the proposed interventions; and

iii. collect information regarding BAP provisions in their respective projects.

690. In the context of the foregoing, the Deputy Director Health, Safety & Environment (HSE) and Gender of the PIU and EE of the PMC held consultation meetings with the prospective financers of the proposed IRRE and WMO; Wildlife & Fisheries department and Environmental Agency of the Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJ&K) as per schedule given in **Exhibit 6-12.**

Exhibit 6-12: Schedule of the Consultation Meeting with the Basin-wide BAP Stakeholders (Prospective Financiers)

Date	Organization/Department Consulted	Meeting Venue	Participants
August 16, 2022	Wildlife and Fisheries, Govt. of AJ &K	Office of the Director Wildlife and Fisheries, Govt. of AJ &K	Director Wildlife & Fisheries and his team
	Environmental Protection Agency Govt. of AJ&K	Office of the Director EPA, Govt. of AJ &K	Director EPA and his team
August 18, 2022	Neelum Jhelum Hydropower Company (Private) Limited	Head Office of NJHPC* at Islamabad	Chief Executive Officer, NJHPC and his team
August 23, 2022	Azad Pattan HPP	CGGC office at EOBI Building Islamabad	Assistant Manager Project Development, Azad Pattan HPP
August 26, 2022	Kohala, Mahal and Karot HPPs	Main office at Serena Business Complex Islamabad	Socio-Environmental Team of the three projects namely Kohala, Mahal and Karot HPPs
September 15, 2022	Patrind HPP	Star Hydropower office, Islamabad	Senior Manager E&S Patrind HPP

*NJHPC = Neelum Jhelum Hydropower Company (Private) Limited

6.6.1.1.1 Findings of the Consultation Meetings

691. Findings of the consultation meetings, carried out in the context of the Basin-wide BAP implementation, are synopsized as hereunder.

i. Although, participants of the consultation meetings had awareness of the project-specific BAP interventions in the Area of Management, however, no such awareness was witnessed in the context of the Basin-wide BAP.

ii. As apprised by the meeting participants, there exists provision of the Basin-wide BAP in some of the projects like Kohala, Azad Pattan, Karot HPPs, etc. however, so far, no step has been taken by any of the project proponents towards process initiation, mainly due to uncertainty of cost compensation.

iii. Also, there are operational projects in the Jhelum Basin where no BAP obligations exist. Neelum Jhelum and Patrind HPPs are the two projects in the instant case.

iv. Though, with the active support of the Wildlife and Fisheries Department, Govt. of AJ&K, the project-specific BAP interventions in the Area of Management are

currently being undertaken in Gulpur and Karot HPPs, still, the Basin-wide BAP felt to be quite new for participants of the consultation meetings.

v. In spite of the fact that the Basin-wide BAP arrangement and its objectives were openly appreciated by most of the participants, however, due to uncertainty of cost compensation, lack of commitment and enthusiasm felt when it comes to the monetary contributions by the stakeholders

vi. Apparently, unless IRRE and WMO establishment and associated recurring costs compensation are not guaranteed in the COD tariff, monetary contributions by the Jhelum Basin hydropower developers appear obscure.

6.6.1.1.2 Recommendations

692. Consequent upon assessment of the consultation findings, PIU of the Balakot HPP (300 MW) recommended the following, to the competent authority at PEDO and the project financers i.e. ADB and AIIB, as a future course of action in the context of the proposed Basin-wide BAP.

i. The PEDO environmental and social section should take a lead role in efforts towards materialization of the Basin-wide BAP. In this regard, the PIU and PMC will provide full support to the PEDO core environmental team. Through such an arrangement, PEDO will ensure its long-term commitment to BAP provisions and the establishment of IRRE and WMO.

ii. The estimated budget for the Basin-wide BAP, contained in the approved EIA report, shall remain part of Project PC-1 and shall be reflected in the project Tariff Petition enabling PEDO to utilize it as part of its contribution to the establishment and operation of the aforementioned institutions.

iii. Due to the uncertainty of cost compensation in the project's tariff, and foreseeable delay in the development of several projects identified in the Jhelum Basin including those proposed on the Kunhar River, the project team should concentrate on the project-specific BAP to initiate implementation of the protection and conservations measures in the Area of Management.

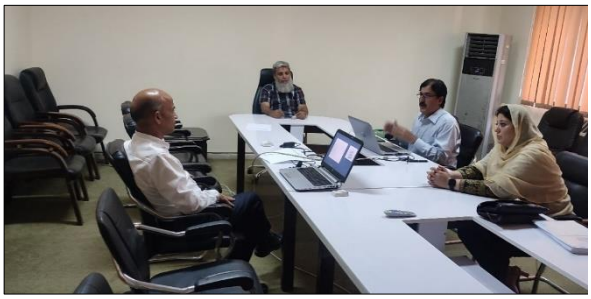
Exhibit 6-13: Basin-wide BAP Consultation Glimpses



Meeting with Director EPA, Govt. of AJ&K



Meeting with Director Wildlife and Fisheries, Govt. of AJ&K



Meeting with CEO NJHPC



Meeting with Assistant Manager Azad Pattan HPP



Meeting with the Socio-Environmental Team of Kohala, Mahal and Karot HPPs



Meeting with Senior Manager E&S, Patrind HPP

6.6.1.2 Consultation on Project-Specific BAP

693. As stated above, the project-specific BAP will be implemented in the Area of Management which is a 45 km stretch of the Kunhar River starting from 4 km upstream of the Balakot dam axis and ending at 5 km upstream of the Patrind HPP reservoir.

694. The PMC's Environmental Expert and the Deputy Director (PEDO) visited the Wildlife, Fisheries, and Forest department offices at District Mansehra and delivered presentations on BAP, followed by similar presentations to the heads of the departments as per schedule given below**.**

Exhibit 6-14: Project Specific-BAP Consultation Meetings Schedule

Activity	Schedule	Venue
BAP presentation on: • objectives; • institutional arrangement; • human, financial, and logistical resources; • implementation arrangement; and • composition of Management Committee	February 16, 2022	DFO Wildlife office, Mansehra
	February 17, 2022	DFO Forest office Jaba, Mansehra
	February 18, 2022	Deputy Director Fisheries Office, Mansehra
	March 22, 2022	Director General Fisheries Office, Peshawar
		Chief Conservator Office, Peshawar

695. Details of the aforementioned consultation meetings were documented in the form of a Project-specific BAP Consultation report and submitted to ADB on May 20, 2022, for information and record.

696. Thereafter, during the period from June 7, 2022, to August 3, 2023, a series of meetings were held with the Fisheries and Wildlife departments of the government of KP on

the issue of independent implementation organization and finalization of various modalities enabling the PIU/PEDO to initiate implementation of the project-specific BAP.

697. Following is the synopsis of the consultation meetings held on the project-specific BAP.

i. Under the provisions of the “Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Fisheries and Aquaculture Act, 2022” and the “Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Biodiversity (Protection, Preservation, Conservation, and Management) Act 2015, protection of aquatic and wildlife is the mandate of the respective departments, refraining them to extend such mandate to an independent organization or whosoever aimed for protection of aquatic fauna and wildlife.

ii. Active and decades-long presence of both the departments in the area with the commendable knowledge of habitat, and strong linkages with the society are some of the advantages to replace the role of implementation organization as envisaged in the original BAP.

iii. Long-term sustainable protection activities in the post-project construction period, to ensure continued net gains, was yet another justification provided in support of the proposed changes.

iv. Capacity building of the departments through successful interventions will provide them opportunities to extend and establish linkages with international donor agencies, financing conservation and habitat protection activities.

v. Due to legal constraints, the Fisheries and Wildlife departments of the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa recommended that the role of the implementation organization be eliminated from the BAP institutional arrangement.

vi. KP Biodiversity and Wildlife Board, being a high forum chaired by the Chief Minister of KP, shall have no role in the implementation of BAP interventions at the field level.

vii. Membership of the project-specific BAP Management Committee should be reduced whereas the committee should be chaired by the Director General Fisheries of KPK.

698. In light of the above, the PMC furnished a proposal for “ Revision in Project specific BAP Implementation Arrangement” and submit to the quarter concerned at ADB for review and approval thereof. The proposal was subsequently approved by the ADB on May 22,2023.

699. The above changes are also one of the reasons for the EIA updation.

700. On August 3, 2023 a meeting of the Fisheries and Wildlife departments of the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was held in PEDO House Peshawar to finalize various modalities enabling PIU/PEDO to enter into the Project-specific BAP implementation agreement(s) with the aforesaid departments. As result of the meeting, both departments notified their focal persons with whom the project staff identified field offices for the project specific BAP interventions in the Area of Management.

Exhibit 6-15: Consultation Meetings with the Fisheries and Wildlife Department



Consultation meeting with DG Fisheries and his team



Consultation meeting with the DFO (HQ) Wildlife

6.7 Future Consultations

701. Further consultations to be undertaken as part of the Project EIA process have been outlined in the **Stakeholder Engagement Plan** in **Appendix O**.

702. The Project management will continue community engagement activities throughout the life of the plant. Visits will be undertaken in all the communities twice or more times a year, depending on the number of concerns raised under each consultation. Ongoing community engagement activities relevant to the EIA include:

- ongoing reporting on progress on the implementation of environmental and social management measures identified during the EIA process and recording of comments on the effectiveness of these measures;
- updating communities about new Project developments and recording comments on these; and,
- ongoing operation of the grievance redress mechanism (**Stakeholder Engagement Plan** in **Appendix O**).

703. An overview of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan is provided in **Exhibit 6-16.**

Exhibit 6-16: List of Stakeholders and their Relevance for the EIA and the Project

Stakeholder Group	Stakeholders	Engagement Method	Frequency
Regulatory Institutions	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Protection Agency (KP EPA)	Face-to-face meetings. Periodic reports	Annually or earlier, if required
Government Institutions	Fisheries Department, KP Wildlife Department, KP Forest Department, KP Revenue Department, KP Agriculture Department, KP Social Welfare Department, KP	Face-to-face meetings. Periodic reports	Annually or earlier, if required
Non-Governmental Organizations and Civil Society Organizations	There are several NGOs operating in KP. Some of these include: Sarhad Rural Support Program Aga Khan Rural Development Program The NGOs working on protection and management of wildlife and natural resources: World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Himalayan Wildlife Foundation (HWF)	Notification of availability of information on the website Invitation to public events	As and when the information is available or the meeting is held
Communities being relocated	Communities with river-dependent livelihoods and being relocated/resettled	Meetings with the communities Visit to homes	On an ongoing basis during the

Stakeholder Group	Stakeholders	Engagement Method	Frequency
		Group meetings Sharing of documents in Urdu	resettlement process
Communities within a 500 m buffer of the river	Communities with river-dependent livelihoods	Meetings with the communities Group meetings	At least once every year
Communities within 1 km of the Project infrastructure	Communities that may be directly impacted by the Project	Meetings with the communities Group meetings Sharing of documents in Urdu	At least once every six months

7 PROJECT IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

704. During the scoping stage of the EIA process, several potential environmental and social impacts of the Project were identified. The baseline surveys were conducted keeping in consideration the potential impacts. In this section, the potential environmental and social impacts are evaluated. The impacts have been identified based on consideration of the information presented in previous chapters. To avoid unnecessary repetition of supporting information, cross-referencing to previous sections is given where necessary. Following the impact assessment, the mitigation measures related to each impact category is presented.

705. The cross-boundary impacts of the Project on neighboring countries are not expected to be significant and are therefore not discussed below. Details are presented in **Appendix U**.

7.1 Introduction

706. The general methodology used for impact assessment is described in this section. It describes the process of impact identification and definition, significance rating, mitigation, management, and good practice measures.

7.1.1 Impact Identification and Definition

707. There are several guidelines and textbooks on the identification and description of environmental and social impacts. These documents use various tools in an attempt to define a comprehensive and consistent method to capture the potential impacts of a proposed Project. However, it is now widely recognized by EIA practitioners that impact evaluation is not a purely objective and quantitative exercise. It has a subjective element; often based on judgment and values as much as scientific criteria. Recognizing this, a uniform system of impact description is used to enable the reviewers to understand how impacts have been interpreted. The description of each impact will have the following features.

- A definition of the impact using an impact statement identifying the Project activity or activities that cause the impact, the pathway or the environmental parameter that is changed by the activity, and the potential receptors of the impact (aspect-pathway-receptor).
- Description of the sensitivity and importance value of the receiving environment or receptors (based on the stakeholder consultations undertaken).
- Extent of change associated with the impact.
- Rating of the significance of the impact.
- Description of appropriate mitigation and management measures and potential effectiveness of the proposed measures.
- Characterization of the level of uncertainty in the impact assessment.

708. The significance of an impact is determined based on the product of the consequence of the impact and the probability of its occurrence. The consequence of an impact, in turn, is a function primarily of three impact characteristics:

- magnitude
- spatial scale

- timeframe

709. **Magnitude** is determined from quantitative or qualitative evaluation of a number of criteria including:

- sensitivity of existing or reasonably foreseeable future receptors
- importance value of existing or reasonably foreseeable future receptors, described using the following.
  - Inclusion in government policy.
  - Level of public concern.
  - Number of receptors affected.
  - Intrinsic or perceived value placed on the receiving environment by stakeholders.
  - Economic value to stakeholders.
- severity or degree of change to the receptor due to impact, measured qualitatively or quantitatively, and through comparison with relevant thresholds that is:
  - legal thresholds—established by law or regulation;
  - functional thresholds—if exceeded, the impacts will disrupt the functioning of an ecosystem sufficiently to destroy resources important to the nation or biosphere irreversibly and/or irretrievably;
  - normative thresholds—established by social norms, usually at the local or regional level and often tied to social or economic concerns;
  - preference thresholds—preferences for individuals, groups, or organizations only, as distinct from society at large; and
  - reputational thresholds—the level of risk a company is willing to take when approaching or exceeding the above thresholds

710. **Spatial scale** is another impact characteristic affecting impact consequence. The spatial scale of impacts can range from localized (confined to the proposed Project site) to extensive (national or international extent). They also may vary depending on the component being considered.

711. The impact **timeframe** is the third principal impact characteristic defining impact consequence and relates to either its duration or its frequency (when the impact is intermittent). Impact duration can range from relatively short (less than four years) to long (beyond the life of the Project). Frequency ranges from high (more than 10 times a year) to low (less than once a year). These timeframes will need to be established for each Project based on its specific characteristics and those of the surrounding environment.

712. Once the impact consequence is described based on the above impact characteristics, the **probability of impact** occurrence is factored in to derive the overall impact significance. The probability relates to the likelihood of the impact occurring, not the probability that the source of the impact occurs. For example, a continuous Project activity may have an unlikely probability of impact if there are no receptors within the area influenced by that activity.

713. The **reversibility of each impact** at the end of construction and operation is important, as these impacts may need ongoing management after operation. The reversibility of each impact at the end of construction and operation will be noted and described alongside the three primary characteristics of magnitude, spatial scale, and duration.

714. The characteristics are outlined in **Exhibit 7-1.**

Exhibit 7-1: Characteristics Used to Describe Impact

Characteristics	Sub-components	Terms used to describe the impact
Type		Positive (a benefit), negative (a cost), or neutral
Nature		Biophysical, social, cultural, health or economic Direct, indirect or cumulative
Phase of Project		Construction, operation, decommissioning, or post-closure
Magnitude	Sensitivity of receptor	High, medium, or low capacity to accommodate change High, medium, or low conservation importance Vulnerable or threatened Rare, common, unique, endemic
	Importance, or value of receptor	High, medium, or low concern to some or all stakeholders High, medium, or low value to some or all stakeholders (for example, for cultural beliefs) Locally, nationally or internationally important Protected by legislation or policy
	Severity or degree of change to the receptor	Gravity or seriousness of the change to the environment Intensity, influence, power, or strength of the change Never, occasionally, or always exceeds relevant thresholds
Spatial scale	Area affected by impact - boundaries at local and regional extents will be different for biophysical and social impacts.	Area or Volume covered Distribution Local, regional, transboundary, or global
Timeframe	Length of time over which an environmental impact occurs or frequency of impact when intermittent	Short-term or long term Intermittent (what frequency) or continuous Temporary or permanent Immediate effect (impact experienced immediately after causative project aspect) or delayed effect (effect of the impact is delayed for a period following the causative project aspect)
Probability - likelihood or chance an impact will occur		Definite (impact will occur with a high likelihood of probability) Possible (impact may occur but could be influenced by either natural or project-related factors) Unlikely (impact unlikely unless specific natural or Project related circumstances occur)
Reversibility/Sustainability		Potential for recovery of the endpoint from a negative impact Reversible or irreversible Sustainability for positive impacts
Effectiveness of management measures (will management measures reduce impact to an acceptable level)		Indication of what could occur in the absence of management measures Effectiveness of proposed measures
Confidence in impact evaluation (degree of certainty in the significance ascribed to the impact)		Scientific uncertainty – limited understanding of ecosystem (or community) and processes governing change

Characteristics	Sub-components	Terms used to describe the impact
		Data uncertainty – restrictions introduced by incomplete or incomparable information, or by insufficient measurement techniques Policy uncertainty – unclear or disputed objectives, standards, or guidelines

7.1.2 Impact Significance Rating

715. The impact significance rating process serves two purposes: firstly, it helps to highlight the critical impacts requiring consideration in the approval process; secondly, it serves to show the primary impact characteristics, as defined above, used to evaluate impact significance. The impact significance rating system is presented in **Exhibit 7-2** and described as follows.

- **Part A**: Define impact consequence using the three primary impact characteristics of magnitude, spatial scale, and duration.
- **Part B**: Use the matrix to determine a rating for impact consequence based on the definitions identified in Part A and
- **Part C**: Use the matrix to determine the impact significance rating, which is a function of the impact consequence rating (from Part B) and the probability of occurrence.

716. Using the matrix, the significance of each described impact is rated.

Exhibit 7-2: Method for Rating the Significance of Impacts

PART A: DEFINING CONSEQUENCE IN TERMS OF MAGNITUDE, DURATION AND SPATIAL SCALE *Use these definitions to define the consequence in Part B*			
Definition		Criteria	
MAGNITUDE		Negative	Positive
	Major	A large number of receptors affected Receptors highly sensitive and/or are of conservation importance Substantial deterioration, nuisance, or harm to receptors expected Relevant thresholds often exceeded Significant public concern was expressed during the stakeholder consultation The receiving environment has an inherent value to stakeholders	A large number of receptors affected Receptors highly amenable to positive change Receptors likely to experience a big improvement in their situation Relevant positive thresholds often exceeded
	Moderate	Some receptors affected Receptors slightly sensitive and/or of moderate conservation importance Measurable deterioration, nuisance, or harm to receptors Relevant thresholds occasionally exceeded Limited public concern was expressed during the stakeholder consultation Limited value attached to the environment	Some receptors affected Receptors likely to experience some improvement in their situation Relevant positive thresholds occasionally exceeded
	Minor	No or limited receptors within the zone of impact Receptors not sensitive to change Minor deterioration, nuisance, or harm to receptors Change not measurable or relevant thresholds never exceeded Stakeholders have not expressed concerns regarding the receiving environment	No or limited receptors affected Receptors not sensitive to change Minor or no improvement in the current situation Change not measurable Relevant positive thresholds never exceeded No stakeholder comment expected
TIMEFRAME (determine specific to each Project)		Duration of continuous aspects	Frequency of intermittent aspects
	Short-term/ low frequency	Less than 4 years from the onset of the impact	Occurs less than once a year
	Medium-term/ frequency	More than 4 years from the onset of impact up to end of life of the project (approximately 30 years)	Occurs less than 10 times a year but more than once a year

	Long term/ high frequency	Impact is experienced during and beyond the life of the project (greater than 30 years)	Occurs more than 10 times a year
SPATIAL SCALE (determine specific to each project)		Biophysical	Socio-economic
	Small	Within the project fence line or 200 m of unfenced facilities	Within the municipality in which the activity occurs
	Intermediate	Within the district in which the facilities are located	Within the province in which the activity occurs
	Extensive	Beyond the district in which the facilities are located	Beyond the province in which the activity occurs

PART B: DETERMINING CONSEQUENCE RATING
Rate consequence based on the definition of magnitude, spatial extent and duration

MAGNITUDE	TIMEFRAME	SPATIAL SCALE		
		Small	Intermediate	Extensive
Minor	Short-term / low-frequency	Low	Low	Medium
	Medium-term / frequency	Low	Low	Medium
	Long term / high frequency	Medium	Medium	Medium
Moderate	Short-term / low-frequency	Low	Medium	Medium
	Medium-term / frequency	Medium	Medium	High
	Long term / high frequency	Medium	High	High
Major	Short-term / low-frequency	Medium	Medium	High
	Medium term / frequency	Medium	Medium	High
	Long-term / high frequency	High	High	High

PART C: DETERMINING SIGNIFICANCE RATING
Rate significance based on consequence and probability

		CONSEQUENCE		
		Low	Medium	High
PROBABILITY (of exposure to impacts)	Definite	Low	Medium	High
	Possible	Low	Medium	High
	Unlikely	Low	Low	Medium

7.1.3 Mitigation, Management, and Good Practice Measures

717. Using the matrix, the significance of each described impact is initially rated. This initial rating assumes the management measures inherent in the Project design and described in the Project description (**Section 3**) are in place. For example, if a fuel store has secondary containment, the initial impact rating takes this into account.

718. Wherever the Project is likely to result in an unacceptable impact on the environment, additional mitigation measures are proposed (over and above the inherent design measures included in the Project description). In addition, good practice measures may be proposed however these are unlikely to change the impact significance. In the case of positive impacts, management measures are suggested to optimize the benefits to be gained. Where mitigation measures are required, the impact will be rated again to show the residual impact after the implementation of management controls.

719. The following mitigation hierarchy will be utilized in selecting practical mitigation measures for unacceptable impacts as follows (in order of preference).

- Avoid the impact wherever possible by removing the cause(s).
- Reduce the impact as far as possible by limiting the cause(s).
- ameliorate the impact by protecting the receptor from the cause(s) of the impact.
- Providing compensatory measures to offset the impact, particularly where an impact is of high significance and none of the above are appropriate.

720. A rating of impact considering mitigations will be carried out to highlight the effectiveness of proposed management measures designed to mitigate or enhance the impact, and by characterizing the level of confidence or uncertainty in the assessment.

721. For each of the impacts identified, a table will be filled in **Exhibit 7-3.**

Exhibit 7-3: Impact Assessment Template

Impact 01: Loss of riverine ecosystem due to inundation by Project reservoir								
Applicable Project Phase		*Construction*						
Initial Impact Rating	Magnitude	Duration	Scale	Consequence	Probability	Significance	+/-	Confidence
	Moderate	Long Term	Extensive	High	Definite	High	-	High
Mitigation Measures:								
Residual Impact Rating	Magnitude	Duration	Scale	Consequence	Probability	Significance	+/-	Confidence
	Major	Long Term	Extensive	High	Definite	High	+	High

7.1.4 Impact Grouping

722. The impacts in this chapter are grouped as follows:

- **Ecology**
  - 7.2 Aquatic Ecology
  - 7.3 Terrestrial Ecology

- **Physical Environment**
  - 7.4 Ambient Air Quality
  - 7.5 Blasting and Vibration
  - 7. 6 Hydrology and Water Quality
  - 7. 7 Construction Noise
  - 7.8 Soil, Topography, Land Stability
  - 7.9 Aesthetics
  - 7.10 Traffic and Roads
- **Socioeconomic Environment**
  - 7.11 Livelihood and Well-being
  - 7.12 Socio-cultural impacts
- **Cross-thematic Aspects**
  - 7.13 Cumulative impact assessment
  - 7.14 Climate change

7.2 Aquatic Ecology

723. The potential impacts on the ecology and biodiversity of Kunhar River, under the selected environmental flow release and management configuration, are presented below. The methodology for selecting the configuration is presented in **Section 5.3**, *Environmental Flow Assessment*.

724. An E-Flow scenario of 1.5 m^3/s with baseload operation is recommended as the preferred option in the E-Flow Assessment Report (see **Volume C** of the EIA report). Under this option, there is the highest net gain in populations of key fish species with the implementation of High Protection. An alternative scenario with an E-Flow of 6.1 m^3/s and peaking operation was also considered. However, this is not recommended as it results in a loss of power generation as well as a lower net gain, even with High Protection.

725. Consistent with ADB and IFC Guidelines, the Project was designed to achieve a net gain in biodiversity given the location of the Project in a Critical Habitat (**Section 4.2.14,** *Habitat Assessment*). The E-Flow with baseload operation is preferable because the impacts on the ecological resources are lower. Given the high anthropogenic pressures on the fish, the benefit of E-Flow can be realized only if the river is protected. In other words, E-Flow releases can be considered of little consequence in the absence of protection of the river. In the case of baseload operation, the river downstream of the tailrace is not significantly changed, and therefore with protection fish populations can be restored to above present-day numbers.

726. The aquatic ecological resources of the Study Area are described in **Section 4.2.8,** *Ecology Baseline: Aquatic Ecology.* The impacts are summarized below:

- **Impact 01:** Change in the ecological integrity of the Kunhar River in the Area of Management following the implementation of the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) (see **Volume C** of the EIA report).
- **Impact 02:** Loss of riverine ecosystem due to inundation by Project reservoir.

- **Impact 03:** Degradation of the river ecosystem in the low-flow segment downstream of the Project dam.
- **Impact 04:** Alteration of the River Ecosystem Downstream of the Tailrace

7.2.1 Change in the Ecological Integrity of Kunhar River Through Implementation of the Biodiversity Action Plan

Impact 01: Change in the Ecological Integrity through the implementation of the BAP (see **Volume C** of the EIA report)								
Applicable Project Phase			*Construction and Operation*					
Initial Impact Rating	Magnitude	Duration	Scale	Consequence	Probability	Significance	+/-	Confidence
	Major	Long Term	Extensive	High	Definite	High	+	High

727. Project construction and operation are likely to have a significant negative impact on the ecological integrity in the 40.3 km segment of the river downstream of the Project tailrace to the upstream end of the reservoir of Patrind HPP under the Business-as-Usual protection scenario.

728. According to the E-Flow Assessment carried out as part of the Project EIA, (see **Section 5.2** of t**he E-Flow Assessment Report** in **Volume C** of the EIA report), Project operation with an E-Flow of 3.5 m^3/s (which is higher than the recommended E-Flow of 1.5 m^3/s) and Business-as-Usual protection, the populations of all three fish species of conservation importance - Nalbant's Loach, Kashmir Hillstream Loach and Alwan Snow Trout – show a decline of more than 70%. However, with the implementation of a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) (see **Volume C** of the EIA report), the overall ecological integrity of the Kunhar River within the Area of Management of the BAP is predicted to improve compared to the projected baseline conditions despite Project construction and operation. **Exhibit** 7-4 presents the gain/loss in population of key fish species due to the implementation of the BAP with High Protection. Habitat distribution between tributaries and the main river was taken into account in calculating the weighted gain. The assessment consists of operation of Project with an E-Flow of 1.5 m^3/s as compared to the Pre-Project Baseline with Business-as-Usual Protection. The key findings are as follows.

- Gains in fish populations are the highest downstream of Balakot where river flow is less affected by the Project, closely followed by gains downstream of the tailrace.
- Native fish populations are adapted to flowing rivers and will not survive in the reservoir created by the dam. The reported decrease is over and above the decrease due to the decline in fish populations under the Business-as-Usual baseline.

Exhibit 7-4: Summary of Net Gain in Abundance of Key Fish Species with Implementation of the BAP, Compared to Pre-Project Baseline with Business-as-Usual Protection

E-Flow	**Downstream of Dam**	**Downstream of Tailrace**	**Downstream of Balakot**	**Tributaries**	**Weighted Average Net Gain**
Length (km)	*4.5*	*15.4*	*24.9*	-	Weighted Sum
Alwan Snow Trout	1.9	87.3	108.1	107.3	78.3
Nalbant's Loach	-17.1	68.8	68.6	68.9	59.1

Kashmir Hillstream Loach	-22	84.7	80.7	-	42.6

Green = Net Gain, Red= Net Loss

729. Following the construction of the Project and implementation of High Protection, there is a weighted average net gain of 78.3%, 59.1%, and 42.6% for the Alwan Snow Trout, Nalbant's Loach, and Kashmir Hillstream Loach respectively compared to that under the Business-as-Usual protection. The BAP includes the recommendation for experimental captive breeding of the Kashmir Hillstream Loach. This is the species that shows the lowest weighted average net gain.

730. In addition to setting the E-Flow at 1.5 m^3/s and High Protection, basin-wide measures, mainly the establishment and operation of an Institute for Research in River Ecology (IRRE) and a Watershed Management Program (WMP) have also been included, triggered by the Cumulative Impact Assessment (see **Section 7.14**, *Cumulative Impact Assessment*) and the BAP. The establishment of the IRRE and WMP is subject to the approval of associated costs in the tariff by NEPRA.

7.2.2 Loss of Riverine Ecosystem due to Inundation by Project Reservoir

Impact 02: Loss of riverine ecosystem due to inundation by Project reservoir								
Applicable Project Phase	*Construction and Operation*							
Initial Impact Rating	Magnitude	Duration	Scale	Consequence	Probability	Significance	+/-	Confidence
	Major	Long Term	Intermediate	High	Definite	High	-	High
Mitigation measures:								
1. Implementation of the BAP (see **Volume C** of the EIA report) which includes the following: i. Subsistence fishing using rods and cast nets with limited weights will be allowed through a permitting system. ii. Illegal fishing activities will be banned using a watch and ward system. In particular, destructive fishing practices will be prevented to minimize damage to sensitive habitats. iii. Sediment mining will be regulated to prevent the destruction of fish habitat. iv. Physical transportation of migratory and non-migratory fish from downstream to upstream of the dam if needed to prevent genetic isolation in the long term. v. Experimental captive breeding of fish species of conservation importance on which the impacts of the Project are significant, and stocking in river reaches where populations need to be restored.								
Residual Impact Rating	Magnitude	Duration	Scale	Consequence	Probability	Significance	+/-	Confidence
	Major	Long Term	Intermediate	High	Definite	High	-	High

731. A segment of the river of length 4.5 km upstream of the Project dam will be inundated by the Project reservoir, where the river will cease to exist. The fish that require riffle habitat such as the Nalbant's Loach and Kashmir Hillstream Loach will not survive in the reservoir. Net gain for these fish species will be achieved by offsetting the loss in its population in the reservoir with the increase in population achieved in other segments of the river through the implementation of the BAP. The segment of the river upstream of the reservoir will be impacted by peaking releases from Sukki Kinari HPP. The results of the E-Flow Assessment for this segment have not been used to calculate the net gain given in **Exhibit 7-4** because of the impact of peaking releases from the Sukki Kinari HPP.

732. While the ecosystem will change from riverine to lake, a new ecosystem will be created which will support life forms that are adapted to it. Wetland conditions created in the reservoir may also support some resident and migratory birds as has happened in the case of Mangla Reservoir.

7.2.3 Degradation of the River Ecosystem in the Low-Flow Segment Downstream of the Project Dam

Impact 03: Degradation of the river ecosystem in the low-flow segment downstream of the Project dam								
Applicable Project Phase	*Construction and Operation*							
Initial Impact Rating	Magnitude	Duration	Scale	Consequence	Probability	Significance	+/-	Confidence
	Major	Long Term	Intermediate	High	Definite	High	-	High
Mitigation measures:								
Implementation of the BAP. (However, even with an E-Flow of 1.5 m^3/s and High Protection, the losses in fish populations cannot be mitigated in this river segment. These losses will be offset by gains in other segments of the river).								
Residual Impact Rating	Magnitude	Duration	Scale	Consequence	Probability	Significance	+/-	Confidence
	Major	Long Term	Intermediate	High	Definite	High	-	High

733. The dam will create a barrier resulting in fragmentation of habitat. The habitat downstream of the dam will be exposed to lower flows due to the diversion of the river flow into the power generation tunnels. With an E-Flow of 3.5 m^3/s and a Business-as-Usual scenario, all species show a decline in population of 100%. With an E-Flow of 1.5 m^3/s and High Protection, there will still be a decline in fish populations from the baseline for the three species present in this stretch, however less than 100%. The species that shows gain against the baseline Business-as-Usual scenario in this segment is the Alwan Snow Trout (1.9%). The other two species show a loss. However, the Alwan Snow Trout is also affected by the blockage of connectivity upstream and conditions downstream due to its migratory behavior.

734. It should be noted that downstream of the dam, major impacts include reduction of sediment and water abstraction through diversion which are not relieved due to E-Flows.

7.2.4 Alteration of the River Ecosystem Downstream of the Tailrace

Impact 04: Degradation of the River Ecosystem Downstream of the Tailrace								
Applicable Project Phase	*Construction and Operation*							
Initial Impact Rating	Magnitude	Duration	Scale	Consequence	Probability	Significance	+/-	Confidence
	Major	Long Term	Intermediate	High	Definite	High	-	High
Mitigation measures:								
1. Implementation of the BAP (see **Volume C** of the EIA report) which includes the following: i. Subsistence fishing using rods and cast nets with limited weights will be allowed through a permitting system. ii. Illegal fishing activities will be banned using a watch and ward system. In particular, destructive fishing practices will be prevented to minimize damage to sensitive habitats. iii. Sand and gravel mining will be regulated to prevent the destruction of fish habitat. iv. Physical transportation of migratory and non-migratory fish from downstream to upstream of the dam if needed to prevent genetic isolation in the long term.								

v. Experimental captive breeding of fish species of conservation importance on which the impacts of the Project are significant, and stocking in river reaches where populations need to be restored.								
Residual Impact Rating	Magnitude	Duration	Scale	Consequence	Probability	Significance	+/-	Confidence
	Moderate	Long Term	Intermediate	High	Definite	High	+	High

735. The E-Flow Assessment carried out as part of the EIA of the Project concluded that the river habitat downstream of the tailrace tunnel will be affected due to the changes in flow as a result of the release of water from the tailrace tunnel (see **Section 5.2** of t**he E-Flow Assessment Report** in **Volume C** of the EIA report). Under baseload operation with an E-Flow of 3.5 m^3/s and Business-as-Usual, the populations of the Alwan Snow Trout, Nalbant's Loach, and Kashmir Hillstream Loach show declines over 50%. With peaking operation with an E-Flow of 6.1 m^3/s the declines will be similar.

736. Under baseload operations, the river downstream of the tailrace is not significantly changed and with High Protection (through the implementation of the BAP) fish populations can be restored to the above present-day numbers. The gain over the baseline Business-as-Usual scenario with an E-Flow of 1.5 m^3/s and High Protection is positive for all three species. For the Alwan Snow Trout, it is 87.3%, for the Nalbant's Loach it is 68.8% and for the Kashmir Hillstream Loach, it is 84.7%.

737. The baseload scenario downstream of the tailrace and downstream of Balakot Town closely approximates the baseline hydrology. Therefore, an increase in protection increases fish abundance in these sections. Downstream of Balakot Town, gain over the baseline Business-as-Usual scenario is 108.1% for the Alwan Snow Trout is, 68.6% for the Nalbant's Loach, and 80.7% for the Kashmir Hillstream Loach.

7.3 Terrestrial Ecology

738. The Project is a run-of-river hydropower project and will require the construction of a dam on the Kunhar River. The Project, with a design capacity of 300 MW, will use the water resources of the Kunhar River for power generation.

739. A map showing the location of the proposed Project facilities is provided in **Section 1** (*Introduction*). The major structures associated with the Project include the dam, powerhouse, headrace tunnel, tailrace tunnel, surge tank, switch yard, storage yards, labor camps, staff colony, and access roads. A detailed description of the Project is provided in **Section 3** (*Project Description*). A low flow section of a length of about 12 km will be created downstream of the dam, between the dam and the tailrace tunnel. The permanent footprint of the proposed Project includes the area that will be acquired for the dam, reservoir, powerhouse, roads, and some other facilities. A temporary footprint includes the land that will be required or disturbed due to the facilities that will be developed during the construction phase in the dam, powerhouse, and the parts of the stretch of land between Sangar and Paras Village.

740. The Area of Habitat Loss is defined as the areas that will be occupied due to the construction and operation of Project infrastructure.127 It has been demarcated taking into consideration the footprint of each Project facility and a 50 m zone around each facility, as well as the area that will be submerged under water due to the formation of the reservoir (**Exhibit 7-5).** The Area of Habitat Loss is estimated at 2.1 km^2.

127 This includes temporary facilities

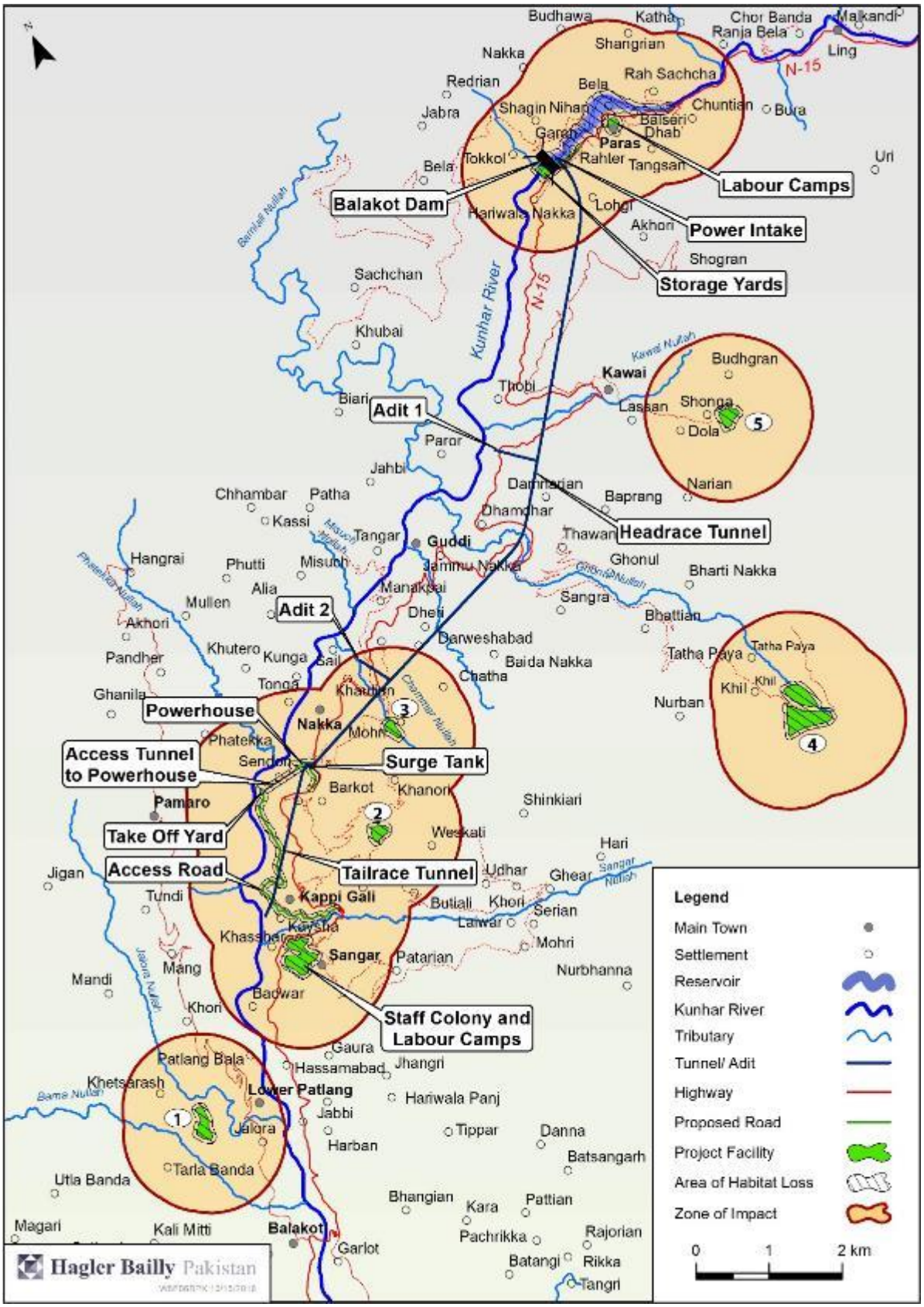
741. The Zone of Impact for Terrestrial Ecological Resources (referred to in this section as the Zone of Impact) consists of the Project facilities and a 1 km potential impact zone around these facilities to account for an area in which the ecological resources may be impacted by Project-related disturbances such as sound, light, and vibrations during construction and operations (**Exhibit 7-5**).

742. The Zone of Impact and Area of Habitat Loss include the spoil disposal zones. Although, these zones have not been finalized yet, however, the indicative zones have been considered as part of the Zone of Impact and Area of Habitat Loss.

743. The terrestrial ecological resources of the Study Area are described in **Section 4.2.6** (*Ecology Baseline*: *Terrestrial Ecology*). The aspects affecting ecology and biodiversity in the Terrestrial Study Area are discussed below.

- **Impact 05:** Terrestrial habitat loss caused by construction related activities.
- **Impact 06:** Decline in abundance and diversity of terrestrial flora and fauna caused by construction related activities.
- **Impact 07:** Project operation leading to animal disturbance, displacement and decline.

Exhibit 7-5: Zone of Impact and Area of Habitat Loss



7.3.1 Terrestrial Habitat Loss

<table>
<tr><td colspan="9">Impact 05: Terrestrial habitat loss caused by construction related activities</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Applicable Project Phase</td><td colspan="7">Construction</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Initial Impact Rating</td><td>Magnitude</td><td>Duration</td><td>Scale</td><td>Consequence</td><td>Probability</td><td>Significance</td><td>+/-</td><td>Confidence</td></tr>
<tr><td>Minor</td><td>Short Term</td><td>Small</td><td>Low</td><td>Possible</td><td>Low</td><td>-</td><td>High</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="9">Mitigation measures:
1. Provide awareness training to staff and contractors on prevention of injury of animals; identification of likely species found on site; identifications of animal hazards (such as venomous snakes); and what to do if dangerous animals are encountered.
2. Encourage personnel to report sightings of wildlife of conservation importance or incidents of poaching to PEDO.
3. Minimize disturbance to, or movement of, soil and vegetation.
4. Prevent soil damage and erosion.
5. Prevent Alien Invasive Species (AIS) establishment on exposed stored soil (do not store bare soil near known sources of AIS). Invasive species management is recommended based on the risk assessment presented in Section 4.2.7, Description of the Environment, where the invasive species identified in the Project area have been ranked based on the risk they pose. The habitat most at risk is the Riparian Habitat. The species that are the highest risk include Parthenium Weed, Common Weed, and Castor Oil Plant (see Section 4.2.7, Description of the Environment).
6. Train and raise awareness regarding AIS among Project staff and contractors.
7. Retain as much natural vegetation as possible.
8. Solid waste should only be disposed of at designated sites and a Waste Management Plan developed and implemented.
9. Minimize the Project footprint, clearly delineate and restrict access beyond work sites and other areas to be disturbed.
10. Within the quarry and borrow areas, activities will be restricted to areas at a distance from perennial water channels to avoid disturbances to them including the risk of siltation.</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Residual Impact Rating</td><td>Magnitude</td><td>Duration</td><td>Scale</td><td>Consequence</td><td>Probability</td><td>Significance</td><td>+/-</td><td>Confidence</td></tr>
<tr><td>Minor</td><td>Short Term</td><td>Small</td><td>Low</td><td>Possible</td><td>Low</td><td>-</td><td>High</td></tr>
</table>

744. Site clearance and construction of Project infrastructure such as the powerhouse, dam, and the inlets and outlets of the tunnels will result in immediate and direct modification of land and loss of approximately 1.15 km^2 (75 hectares) of terrestrial habitat leading to loss of plants and displacement of animals in this area. There will be a permanent modification of land within the footprint of specific Project facilities and its ancillaries but the loss will be less severe in the areas that lie adjacent to and immediately outside the Project facilities. In addition, once the Project begins operations, an area of approximately 0.256 km^2 (25.6 hectares) will become submerged due to the formation of a reservoir upstream of the dam (**Section 3,** *Project Description*). The submerged terrestrial habitat will be converted into aquatic habitat. The habitat loss and fragmentation resulting from Project infrastructure will lead to displacement of terrestrial species.

745. Land disturbance due to construction-related activities will lead to a localized reduction in food, shelter, and range for mammals, birds, and herpetofauna (reptiles and amphibians). Surface stripping will result in the removal of vegetation cover and may cause accidental death of small mammals and reptiles. The more mobile species will be able to move away from the area before preliminary earthworks. However, the less mobile species, especially herpetofauna species, will not be able to relocate. Food supplies in the form of seeds,

vegetation, and prey species will be negatively affected on a localized basis (only within the Project infrastructure facilities and its ancillaries).

746. The Area of Habitat Loss (total of 2.1 km^2) consists largely of mixed pine and scrub forest and riparian habitat. The dominant plant species in the Forest habitat type (74% by area) include *Pinus wallichiana*, *Cedrus deodara*, *Rumex dissectus*, *Ficus carica,* and *Cannabis sativa*. The dominant plant species in the Agricultural Areas habitat type (20% by area) include *Juglans regia*, *Berberis sp.*, and *Fragaria vesca*. Within the Area of Habitat Loss there is also riparian habitat in which the dominant plant species include *Parthenium hysterophorus*. *Conyza canadensis* and *Rumex dissectus*. *Parthenium hysterophorus* is an invasive species and the others are widespread plant species in the wider area. The May 2017 Survey identified seven invasive species in both Terrestrial and Riparian Habitats including Cannabis *sativa*, Tree-of-heaven *Ailanthus altissima*, Black Locust *Robinia pseudoacacia*, Pink Cheeseweed *Malva parviflora*, Parthenium Weed *Parthenium hysterophorus*, Common Weed *Phragmites karka* and Castor Oil Plant *Ricinus communis*. Some of the plant species found in the Area of Habitat Loss have a socio-economic value for the local communities. Species found in the Agricultural Area habitat type have food value while some of the wild plant species (in the Scrub Forest, Pine Forest habitat types, and Riparian habitat types) have a variety of uses including use for their medicinal properties, firewood, and grazing of livestock. For example, the species *Cedrus deodara* and *Urtica dioica*, are used for therapeutic application. Plants also have value as firewood and for grazing livestock. However, all these species are common and abundant in the wider area. Habitat loss caused by construction of Project infrastructure will not have any significant impact on the overall population of these vegetation species though individual plants are likely to suffer harm.

747. Mammal species observed in this Area of Habitat Loss include the Asiatic Jackal *Canis aureus*, the Red Fox *Vulpes*, the Indian Crested Porcupine *Hystrix indica*, and the Small Asian Mongoose *Herpestes javanicus*. Abundant bird species observed included the Common Raven *Corvus corax*, the Bank Myna *Acridotheres ginginianus*, the White-cheeked Bulbul *Pycnonotus leucotis*, Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus*, and Great Tit *Parus major*. No vulture species were observed during the May 2017 Survey. The habitats being disturbed are also not considered critical to the breeding, nesting, or feeding of vulture species. Abundant herpetofauna included the Agrore Valley Rock Agama *Laudakia agrorensis* and the Asian Garden Lizard *Calotes versicolor*. No flora or fauna species of conservation importance were found or reported from this Area of Habitat Loss. No critical habitat, threatened or unique ecosystem was identified in this area. The habitats found in the Area of Habitat Loss are homogenous and widespread. They hold no significance for the survival of endemic or restricted-range species.

748. Even though there will be irreversible short-term harm to some ecological receptors (individuals), the species will not suffer as the area of habitat occupied by the Project infrastructure will be small. Therefore, the magnitude of impact is considered minor.

7.3.2 Impacts on Biodiversity due to Construction Activities

Impact 06: Decline in abundance and diversity of terrestrial flora and fauna caused by construction related activities.

Applicable Project Phase	*Construction*

	Magnitude	Duration	Scale	Consequence	Probability	Significance	+/-	Confidence
Initial Impact	Minor	Short Term	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-	High

Mitigation measures:

1. Large flood lights should not be installed outside 50 m of the Project fence.
2. Lights should be directed towards Project facilities and not towards the natural habitats.
3. Regulations for Project staff and contractors to avoid illegal poaching to be incorporated in contract documents.
4. Provide awareness training to staff and contractors on: the prevention of injury of animals; identification of likely species found on site; identifications of animal hazards (such as venomous snakes); and what to do if dangerous animals are encountered.
5. Provide adequate knowledge to the workers on relevant government regulations and punishments for illegal poaching and trade in animals and plants.
6. Encourage personnel to report sightings of wildlife of conservation importance or incidents of poaching to PEDO.
7. Enforce speed limits in ecologically sensitive areas if identified.
8. Project staff and contractors to report kills of large mammals particularly designated species of conservation concern.
9. Train and raise awareness regarding AIS among Project staff and contractors.
10. The Contractor shall prepare an Environmental Training Plan for all construction workers: the Plan shall address the following items:

All Contractor's employees shall be required to comply with environmental protection procedures and they shall be able to provide evidence that they attended the training sessions detailed in the Plan;
The Plan shall educate all construction workers on the following issues but not limited to them: fire arm possession, traffic regulations, illegal logging and collection of non-timber forestry products, non-disturbance of resettlement communities, hunting and fishing restrictions, waste management, erosion control, health and safety issues, all prohibited activities, the Code of Conduct requirements and disciplinary procedures, and general information on the environment in which they will be working and living;
Establishment of penalties for those who violate the rules;
Proposed methods for conducting the training program, which shall include formal training sessions, posters, data in newsletters, signs in construction and camp areas, and 'toolbox' meetings.

11. Equipment emitting excessive noise in comparison with other similar equipment will not be allowed to operate.
12. Equipment under use will be regularly maintained, tuned, and provided with mufflers to minimize noise levels.
13. Equipment in a poor state of maintenance, particularly without effective noise control will be checked to determine if it can be improved, and replaced with less noisy equipment as soon as practicable.
14. Blowing of horns will be prohibited in all sensitive areas except under emergency conditions.
15. Project staff and contractors to report kills of large mammals particularly designated species of conservation concern.
16. Source goods/materials locally where possible.
17. Minimize disturbance to, or movement of, soil and vegetation.
18. Compensatory trees will be planted. The EPC Contractor will plant a minimum of ten trees for each tree removed from the acquired land.
19. PEDO will monitor and maintain the vegetation until it is established.
20. Prevent soil damage and erosion.
21. Prevent AIS establishment on exposed stored soil (do not store bare soil near known sources of AIS).
22. Train and raise awareness regarding AIS among Project staff and contractors. See **Section 4.2.7** of the Ecology Baseline.
23. Solid waste should only be disposed of at designated sites.
24. Implementation of Biodiversity Action Plan.

	Magnitude	Duration	Scale	Consequence	Probability	Significance	+/-	Confidence
Residual Impact	Minor	Short Term	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-	High

749. Construction of Project infrastructure such as the powerhouse, dam, and tunnels will result in disturbance to the floral and faunal species in the Zone of Impact around the Project facilities (**Exhibit 7-5**) due to blasting, noise, vibrations, illumination, and the introduction of alien species. Pollution may increase due to vehicles and machinery, spillage of fuels or chemicals, emissions, and noise. Increased movement of vehicles will increase the risk of incidences of vehicle collisions with wildlife.

750. Habitat loss, habitat fragmentation, and sensory disturbances may result in a decrease in species abundance and possibly change species diversity within the Zone of Impact. In addition, the spatial and temporal distribution of species will also be affected as a result of loss of habitat integrity due to habitat fragmentation and degradation. Habitat alteration and disturbance may increase the likelihood of the spread of alien invasive species such as Parthenium Weed, Castor Oil Plant, and Cannabis. The three habitat types (**Section 4.2,** *Ecology Baseline*) found in this Zone of Impact will be affected. The Agricultural Area habitat type was observed to contain the highest diversity of plant species per sampling location while the Scrub Forest habitat type had the highest overall species diversity. No terrestrial critical habitat was identified in the Zone of Impact and it does not contain any threatened or unique ecosystem. Moreover, the habitats found in this Area of Habitat Loss are homogenous and widespread. They hold no significance for the survival of endemic or restricted-range species.

751. In addition to direct land disturbance, the site fencing may present a barrier to movement, resulting in habitat fragmentation for small and medium-sized mammals as well as the herpetofauna found in the Terrestrial Study Area.

752. Seed sources for re-establishing plants will remain available from adjacent lands (driven by wind). The areas around the Zone of Impact provide similar habitats to the habitat already existing at the site. Therefore, repopulation by flora and fauna is likely to occur in the areas not occupied by the Project infrastructure, once disturbance associated with construction is stopped.

753. Rules to regulate hunting exist. However, they are seldom enforced. Improved access to the site as a result of the Project may indirectly increase the incidence of poaching. To prevent further exacerbation of existing impacts and prevent poaching by Project staff and contractors, awareness training will be provided along with information on the penalties for poaching (in terms of the Project's policies and KP wildlife protection laws). Long-term impacts are therefore unlikely. By working with local government agencies, particularly the KP Fisheries and Wildlife Departments, PEDO can implement measures to enhance conservation in the area. An increase in Project-related traffic may increase the incidence of road animal kills.

754. Inadequate management and disposal of waste from the construction site and camping locations can lead to the deterioration of soil and habitat quality with consequent negative impacts on the flora and fauna.

755. In addition, the biodiversity may be disturbed due to loss of soil productivity caused by contamination from oil spills and leakages from Project vehicles and machinery, uncontrolled discharge of wastewater, and stormwater runoff from the Project site. Soils disturbed due to vegetation stripping and exposure as a result of Project-related construction activities will be more easily eroded by the forces of wind and water. This eroded soil will have lower

productivity due to loss of topsoil. In addition, the eroded soil may damage the aquatic ecological resources by siltation of the river.

756. At a local scale, a decrease in biodiversity and ecological function caused by construction-related disturbances is of minor magnitude near the Project facilities. Moreover, because of the homogenous and widespread distribution of species, the area-wide impact on biodiversity is also minor.

7.3.3 Impacts on Terrestrial Biodiversity due to Project Operation

<table>
<tr><td colspan="9">Impact 07: Project operation leading to animal disturbance, displacement, and decline.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">Applicable Project Phase</td><td colspan="6">Operations</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Initial Impact Rating</td><td>Magnitude</td><td>Duration</td><td>Scale</td><td>Consequence</td><td>Probability</td><td>Significance</td><td>+/-</td><td>Confidence</td></tr>
<tr><td>Minor</td><td>Long Term</td><td>Small</td><td>Medium</td><td>Possible</td><td>Medium</td><td>-</td><td>High</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="9">Mitigation measures:
1. Large flood lights should not be installed outside 50 m of the Project fence.
2. Lights should be directed towards Project facilities and not towards the natural habitats.
3. Provide awareness training to staff and contractors on: the prevention of injury of animals; identification of likely species found on site; identifications of animal hazards (such as venomous snakes); and what to do if dangerous animals are encountered.
4. Incorporate regulations for Project staff and contractors to avoid illegal poaching in contract documents.
5. Provide adequate knowledge to the workers on relevant government regulations and punishments for illegal poaching.
6. Encourage personnel to report sightings of wildlife of conservation importance or incidents of poaching to PEDO.
7. Project staff and contractors to report kills of large mammals particularly designated species of conservation concern.
8. Train and raise awareness regarding AIS among Project staff and contractors. See Section 4.2.7 of the Ecology Baseline.
9. The Contractor shall prepare an Environmental Training Plan for all construction workers. Solid waste should only be disposed of at designated sites.
10. Implementation of Biodiversity Action Plan.</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Residual Impact Rating</td><td>Magnitude</td><td>Duration</td><td>Scale</td><td>Consequence</td><td>Probability</td><td>Significance</td><td>+/-</td><td>Confidence</td></tr>
<tr><td>Minor</td><td>Medium</td><td>Small</td><td>Low</td><td>Possible</td><td>Low</td><td>-</td><td>High</td></tr>
</table>

757. The operation of the hydropower plant and associated activities will result in some potential disturbances to species, which may exacerbate the effects of habitat loss and decreased species abundance. In addition, the spatial and temporal distribution of species will also be affected as a result of loss of habitat integrity due to habitat fragmentation and degradation. These disturbances include noise and light. As plant operation will be continuous, the disturbances will also be continuous and affect both diurnal and nocturnal wildlife. The lighting required for operation and safety at the Project site can influence nocturnal foraging behaviors as well as disrupt the sleep patterns of crepuscular and nocturnal species. However, because no threatened ecosystem or species of conservation importance is reported from the Zone of Impact, the magnitude of this impact is considered minor.

7.4 Ambient Air Quality

758. The ambient air quality will be affected by the Project activities primarily during the construction phase. In this section, the impacts of construction activities on ambient air quality

and the associated air emissions are identified, high-risk areas including, nearby receptors and tourist spots are located and suggested mitigation measures are presented.

759. The baseline air quality is described in **Section 4.1.8** (*Ambient Air Quality*). It shows that, compared to NEQS and IFC-EHS limits, the concentrations of NO_X, NO, NO_2, and SO_2 are low, whereas dust concentrations (PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$) are high. Furthermore, emission of particulate matter is a greater concern from construction activities than gaseous pollutants. Therefore, the focus of the impact assessment is on the quantification and mitigation of dust emissions. The main impact is identified below.

Impact 08: An increase in ambient and ground level concentration of air pollutants from construction activities and vehicular movement may cause health impacts to the community.

Applicable Project Phase	*Construction*							
Initial Impact Rating	Magnitude	Duration	Scale	Consequence	Probability	Significance	+/-	Confidence
	Moderate	Medium Term	Small	Medium	Possible	Medium	-	High

Mitigation measures:

1. Develop and implement an Air Pollution Control Plan.
2. Prepare a Site Specific Environmental Management Plan (SSEMP) (see **Section 9,** *Environmental Management Plan*) for each construction site that must outline areas to be cleared, vegetated areas to be protected or fenced, solid waste disposal locations, and sprinkling locations. All appropriate measures indicated in the Generic Construction Site Environmental Management Plan (CSEMP) in **Section 9** (*Environmental Management Plan*) should be incorporated into the SSEMP.

Fugitive and exhaust emissions from transport vehicles

3. Cover all trucks hauling soil, sand, and other loose materials or require all trucks to maintain at least two feet of freeboard (i.e., the minimum required space between the top of the load and the top of the trailer).
4. Install and maintain all vehicles and machinery with appropriate emission control equipment.
5. Regularly maintain vehicles and equipment to keep emissions in check.
6. Smoke from internal combustion engines should not be visible for more than ten seconds.
7. To the extent possible, use new and low-emission equipment and vehicles.
8. Purchase best quality fuel and lubes and where possible use lead-free oil and lubes.
9. Sprinkle water on all unsealed roads used by Project vehicles that are within 200 m of any settlement.
10. Cover loads and long-term piles of friable material to reduce fugitive dust emissions.
11. Reduce traffic speeds on all unpaved surfaces to 15 miles per hour or less.
12. Paved roads shall be swept frequently if soil material has been carried onto adjacent paved, public thoroughfares from the Project site.
13. Install wheel washers where vehicles exit onto paved roads from unpaved.
14. Wheel washing of vehicles leaving the site.
15. Wash vehicles/equipment before each trip.
16. Use catalytic converters on vehicles, an emission control device, used to convert harmful pollutants to less harmful pollutants e.g. converts the nitrogen oxides back into nitrogen and oxygen.
17. Appropriate maintenance of vehicles and machinery.

Fugitive dust emissions from blasting

18. Indicate the limits of clearing land with highly visible markers.
19. Leave a layer of about 5 m of undisturbed softs above the top of the overburden blasts. This will act as a blanket to contain air blasts, dust and fly rock.
20. Sprinkle water on the area where blasting is done to settle down the particulate matter emissions.

Fugitive dust emissions from quarry areas

21. Indicate the limits of clearing land with highly visible markers.
22. Avoid earth stripping or moving in periods of dry and windy weather.
23. Carry out dust-generating activities where maximum protection can be obtained through topography or in areas where prevailing winds will blow dust away from sensitive areas/uses.
24. Water spraying of conveyors/conveyor transfer points, stockpiles and roads.

25. Covering of fine dry loads or spraying of loads before exiting the site, and if necessary regular cleaning of public roads in the vicinity of the entrance.

Fugitive dust emissions from concrete batching plants

26. Suspend earthwork operation when wind speed exceeds 20 km/hr. in areas within 500 m of any settlement.
27. The whole process of weighing and mixing would be performed in a fully enclosed environment.
28. The mixers should be equipped with dust collectors.
29. Site the concrete batching plant out of prevailing high winds to minimize dust emissions.
30. The prevailing wind direction should be considered to ensure that bunkers and conveyors are sited in the leeward direction to minimize the effects of the wind.
31. The provision of natural or artificial wind barriers – such as trees, fences, and landforms – to help control the emission of dust from the plant should be considered.
32. Batching plants should be sited on land that is not flood-prone.
33. Batching plants should be kept as near natural sinks to minimize emissions to the ambient environment.
34. All stacks to be vertical and at least 3 m above ground.

Fugitive dust emissions from aggregate production and handling system

35. Suspend operation when wind speed exceeds 20 km/hr. in areas within 500 m of any settlement.
36. The prevailing wind direction should be considered to ensure that aggregate handling systems are located in the leeward direction to minimize the effects of the wind.
37. Sprinkle water on all exposed surfaces, particularly those close and up-wind of settlements.

Wind-blown dust from exposed surfaces such as bare land and waste dumping sites

38. Cover all exposed surfaces, particularly those close and up-wind of settlements.
39. All grading operations on a project should be suspended when winds exceed 20 miles per hour.
40. Minimize disturbance to, or movement of, soil and vegetation.
41. Sprinkle water on all exposed surfaces, particularly those close and up-wind of settlements.
42. Retain as much natural vegetation as possible.

Wind-blown dust from stockpiles of dusty materials such as sand and other minerals

43. On-site dirt piles or other stockpiled PM should be covered, windbreaks installed and water and/or soil stabilizers employed to reduce wind-blown dust emissions.
44. Adequately wet, cover with plastic, or provide with windshield all stockpiles to reduce dust emission.
45. Sprinkle water on all exposed surfaces, particularly those close and up-wind of settlements.
46. Minimize disturbance to, or movement of, soil and vegetation.
47. Prevent soil damage and erosion.
48. Retain as much natural vegetation as possible.

Residual Impact Rating	Magnitude	Duration	Scale	Consequence	Probability	Significance	+/-	Confidence
	Minor	Short Term	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-	High

7.4.1 Emission Sources

760. **Exhibit 7-6** shows the list of all possible emission sources along with their description.

Exhibit 7-6: Inventory of Emission Sources

Source/Activity	Zone of Impact	Mitigation/Monitoring Measures
Fugitive and exhaust emissions from transport vehicles Transport emissions include emissions from vehicles moving on roads and from their exhausts. As the vehicle moves on the road, due to friction between the vehicle's tire and the road, the dust particles come into suspension which causes dust (PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$) emissions. Exhaust emissions include emissions attributable to engine-related processes such as fuel combustion and particles that exit the tailpipe.	**General Guidelines:** A buffer of 50 meters (m) along the route(s) used by construction vehicles as given in the Guidance on the Assessment of Dust from Demolition and Construction document by the Institute of Air Quality Management, 2014.[128] **Project Specific Zone:** The total quarried material to be transported to the required destinations is 250,000 cubic meters (m^3). The total spoil quantity to be transported to the spoil dumping sites is 1.1 million m^3. The material will come to the Project site from different areas of Pakistan through N-15. From N-15 the material will go to the construction sites through access roads. The material generated on-site both as raw material and as waste material will go to their final destination points through site access roads to dam and powerhouse sites, quarry areas, and waste dumping sites. The buffer zone around the transport corridor that includes the N-15 and access roads is provided below**.** **Additional Assessment Required:** If additional access roads are required for transport from quarries or to waste disposal sites then receptors within 50 m of the road should be assessed for sensitivity.	Cover all trucks hauling soil, sand, and other loose materials or require all trucks to maintain at least two feet of freeboard (i.e., the minimum required space between the top of the load and the top of the trailer). Install and maintain all vehicles and machinery with appropriate emission control equipment. Regularly maintain vehicles and equipment to keep emissions in check. Smoke from internal combustion engines should not be visible for more than ten seconds. To the extent possible, use new and low-emission equipment and vehicles. Purchase the best quality fuel and lubes and where possible use lead-free oil and lubes. Sprinkle water on all unsealed roads used by Project vehicles that are within 200 m of any settlement. Cover loads and long-term piles of friable material to reduce fugitive dust emissions. Reduce traffic speeds on all unpaved surfaces to 15 miles per hour or less. Paved roads shall be swept frequently if soil material has been carried onto adjacent paved, public thoroughfares from the Project site. Install wheel washers where vehicle exit onto paved roads from unpaved. Wheel washing of vehicles leaving the site. Wash vehicles/equipment before each trip.

128 Guidance on the Assessment of Dust from Demolition and Construction document by Institute of Air Quality Management, 2014. http://www.iaqm.co.uk/text/guidance/construction-dust-2014.pdf

Source/Activity	Zone of Impact	Mitigation/Monitoring Measures
		Use catalytic converters on vehicles, an emission control device, used to convert harmful pollutants to less harmful pollutants e.g. converts the nitrogen oxides back into nitrogen and oxygen. Appropriate maintenance of vehicles and machinery.
Fugitive dust emissions from blasting Tunnels, adits, and underground powerhouse will be excavated through drilling and blasting. Air quality due to blasting will be degraded near the mouth of these sites where the blasting will be near the surface. Along the length of the tunnel and the underground powerhouse etc. air quality will not be affected as this is far underground. Blasting may also take place to extract materials at the quarry sites.	**General Guidelines:** A buffer of 200 m from the point of blasting where there is high risk of dust emissions according to the Impact Evaluation of Blasting, 2009.[129] **Project Specific Zone:** This zone for the tunnel and adit mouths is shown below**.**	Indicate the limits of a clearing land with highly visible markers. Leave a layer of about 5 m of undisturbed soft above the top of the overburden blasts. This will act as a blanket to contain air blast, dust, and fly rock. Sprinkle water on the area where blasting is done to settle down the particulate matter emissions.
Fugitive dust emissions from quarry areas Quarry areas are used to excavate stones, rocks, sand, gravel, and aggregate from the ground. This includes stripping of topsoil, blasting of area, crushing and screening of aggregates, and loading of excavated material from quarries to stockpiles.	**General Guidelines:** A buffer of 500 m from the quarry areas where there is a high risk of dust emissions as discussed in the Guidelines for Planning Authorities for Quarries and Ancillary Activities, 2004.[130] **Project Specific Zone:** According to the Feasibility Study, marble and limestone outcrops are exposed along the road while traveling from the proposed dam site to Naran. These exposures can be considered for the development of rock quarry for obtaining coarse aggregates. Samples were collected from marble deposits at Mahandri and limestone deposits at Paras.	Indicate the limits of a clearing land with highly visible markers. Avoid earth stripping or moving in periods of dry and windy weather. Carry out dust-generating activities where maximum protection can be obtained through topography or in areas where prevailing winds will blow dust away from sensitive areas/uses. Water spraying of conveyors/conveyor transfer points, stockpiles, and roads.

129 Impact Evaluation of Blasting, Vlakfontein Opencast Project, 2009 http://www.srk.co.za/files/File/South Africa/publicDocuments1/Vlakfontien/Appendix%27s/Appendix%20V%20Vibrations%20and%20Blast%20Impact%202010/EIA_Blasting_Vlak_09%20Rev%203.pdf

130 Guidelines for Planning Authorities for Quarries and Ancillary Activities, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2004. http://www.housing.gov.ie/sites/default/files/migrated-files/en/Publications/DevelopmentandHousing/Planning/FileDownLoad%2C1606%2Cen.pdf

Source/Activity	Zone of Impact	Mitigation/Monitoring Measures
Wind erosion from exposed surfaces also leads to dust emissions.	In this area, either small existing quarries can be expanded or new rock quarries can be developed for the production of coarse aggregates. The following factors should be considered for selection of the rock quarries: a) It should be located in the proximity to the power complex; b) Availability of open areas near the quarries to set up crushing plants and stockpiles for aggregates; c) Good quality and sufficient quantities of rock should be available to meet the Project requirements; d) Favorable topographic conditions for safe quarrying and other operations; and e) Quarrying operations should not interfere with construction activities. The total quarried material to be transported to the required destinations are 250,000 cubic meters (m^3). Quarries should be located further than 500 m from sensitive receptors such as homes, schools, mosques etc.	Covering of fine dry loads or spraying of loads before exiting the site, and if necessary regular cleaning of public roads in the vicinity of the entrance.
Fugitive dust emissions from concrete batching plants Concrete batching plants are where ingredients such as sand, cement, water, and aggregate are mixed to form concrete. This consists of various activities such as storage of raw materials in bunkers and stockpiles, transfer of raw materials by front-end loaders, conveyors, hoppers and loading of materials to the trucks.	**General Guidelines:** A buffer of 100 m between batching plants and sensitive land uses as included in the Recommended Buffer Distances for Industrial Residual Air Emissions, 1990.[131] **Project Specific Zone:** The location of concrete batching plants is not available in the Feasibility Study. Batching plants should be located further than 100 m from sensitive receptors such as homes, schools, mosques etc.	Suspend earthwork operation when wind speed exceeds 20 km/hr. in areas within 500 m of any settlement. The whole process of weighing and mixing would be performed in a fully enclosed environment. The mixers would all be equipped with dust collectors, no dust emission would be expected. Siting the concrete batching plant out of prevailing high winds minimizing dust emissions. The prevailing wind direction should be considered to ensure that bunkers and conveyors are sited in the leeward direction to minimize the effects of the wind. The provision of natural or artificial wind barriers – such as trees, fences, and

131 Environmental Guidelines for the Concrete Batching Industry, http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/~/media/Publications/628.pdf

Source/Activity	Zone of Impact	Mitigation/Monitoring Measures
		landforms – to help control the emission of dust from the plant should be considered. Batching plants should be sited on land that is not flood prone.
Fugitive dust emissions from aggregate production and handling system Sand and gravel are typically mined in a moist or wet condition by open pit excavation or dredging. After mining, the materials are transported to the processing plant where they material is dried, screened, and crushed which is a source of particulate matter emissions. Typically, the dust associated with aggregate operations consists of particles from exposed soil and rock.	**General Guidelines:** A buffer of 1000 m between the point of operations and sensitive land uses.[132] **Project Specific Zone:** Locations of the quarries are not available in the Feasibility Study. Fine aggregate production should be minimized and directly extracted where possible. Final aggregate handling and production systems should be located further than 1000 m from sensitive receptors such as homes, schools, mosques, etc. In case the above is not possible, then homes within this zone should either be temporarily relocated or mitigation measures strictly implemented in this zone.	Suspend operation when wind speed exceeds 20 km/hr. in areas within 500 m of any settlement. The prevailing wind direction should be considered to ensure that aggregate handling systems are located in the leeward direction to minimize the effects of the wind. Sprinkle water on all exposed surfaces, particularly those close and up-wind of settlements.
Wind-blown dust from exposed surfaces such as bare land and waste dumping sites Waste dumping sites are not themselves an emission source but unloading the waste (dumping) onto dump sites results in dust emissions.	**General Guidelines:** A buffer of 250 m between waste dumping sites (after completion this site will turn into a landfill site) and residential development as given in IFC-EHS Guidelines Waste Management Facilities, 2007.[133] **Project Specific Zone:** Final waste dumping sites should be located further than 250 m from sensitive receptors such as homes, schools, mosques, etc.	Cover all exposed surfaces, particularly those close and up-wind of settlements. All grading operations on a project should be suspended when winds exceed 20 miles per hour. Minimize disturbance to, or movement of, soil and vegetation. Sprinkle water on all exposed surfaces, particularly those close and up-wind of settlements. Retain as much natural vegetation as possible.
Wind-blown dust from stockpiles of dusty materials such as sand and other minerals	**Project Specific Zone:** Location of stockpile areas are not available in the Feasibility Study.	On-site dirt piles or other stockpiled PM should be covered, wind breaks installed and

132 http://environment.govmu.org/English/Documents/env%20guidelines/29/30Stone.pdf
133 IFC-EHS Guidelines Waste Management Facilities, 2007, http://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/1cd72a00488557cfbdf4ff6a6515bb18/Final+-+Waste+Management+Facilities.pdf?MOD=AJPERES

Source/Activity	Zone of Impact	Mitigation/Monitoring Measures
Wind erosion erodes the exposed surfaces of stockpiles resulting in dust emissions.		water and/or soil stabilizers employed to reduce wind-blown dust emissions. Adequately wet, cover with plastic, or provide with wind shield all stockpiles to reduce dust emission. Sprinkle water on all exposed surfaces, particularly those close and up-wind of settlements. Minimize disturbance to, or movement of, soil and vegetation. Prevent soil damage and erosion. Retain as much natural vegetation as possible. Additional mitigation measures for stockpiles are discussed in **Section 7.8** *(Soil, Topography and Land Stability)***.**

7.4.2 Identification of HIGH-RISK Areas

761. A buffer is provided around each source (called a '*Zone of Impact*') and identified receptors that are within the Zone of Impact and are prone to be affected by the possible increase in pollutant levels due to the construction activities. Identified receptors along with associated risk and proposed air quality sampling locations are presented in **Exhibit 7-7**.The zones are shown in **Exhibit 7-8 to Exhibit 7-10**.

Exhibit 7-7: Receptors in Risk Areas

Zone of Impact	Nearby Villages and Affected Receptors	Risk	Exhibit Reference
Dam site	None	**Low:** Due to the absence of any sensitive receptor.	**Exhibit** 7-8
Adit's mouth	Few houses One graveyard in Khaulian One mosque in Khaulian	**High:** Due to the presence of many sensitive receptors and also as the $PM_{2.5}$ levels exceed the NEQS and the PM_{10} levels are very close to the NEQS leaving very narrow room for construction activities to add up over the baseline levels.	**Exhibit 7-9**
Powerhouse site	Few houses in Dabrian and Sendori villages Picnic spot near Dabrian		**Exhibit 7-10**
Waste dumping sites	Few houses at waste dumping sites 1 and 3 None in the case of waste dumping sites 2,4 and 5	**High—**at waste dumping sites 1 and 3: Due to the presence of many sensitive receptors and also as the $PM_{2.5}$ levels exceed the NEQS and the PM_{10} levels are very close to the NEQS leaving very narrow room for construction activities to add up over the baseline levels. **Low**— at waste dumping sites 2,4 and 5: Due to the absence of any sensitive receptor.	**Exhibit 7-11**

Exhibit 7-8: Zone of Impact—Dam Site

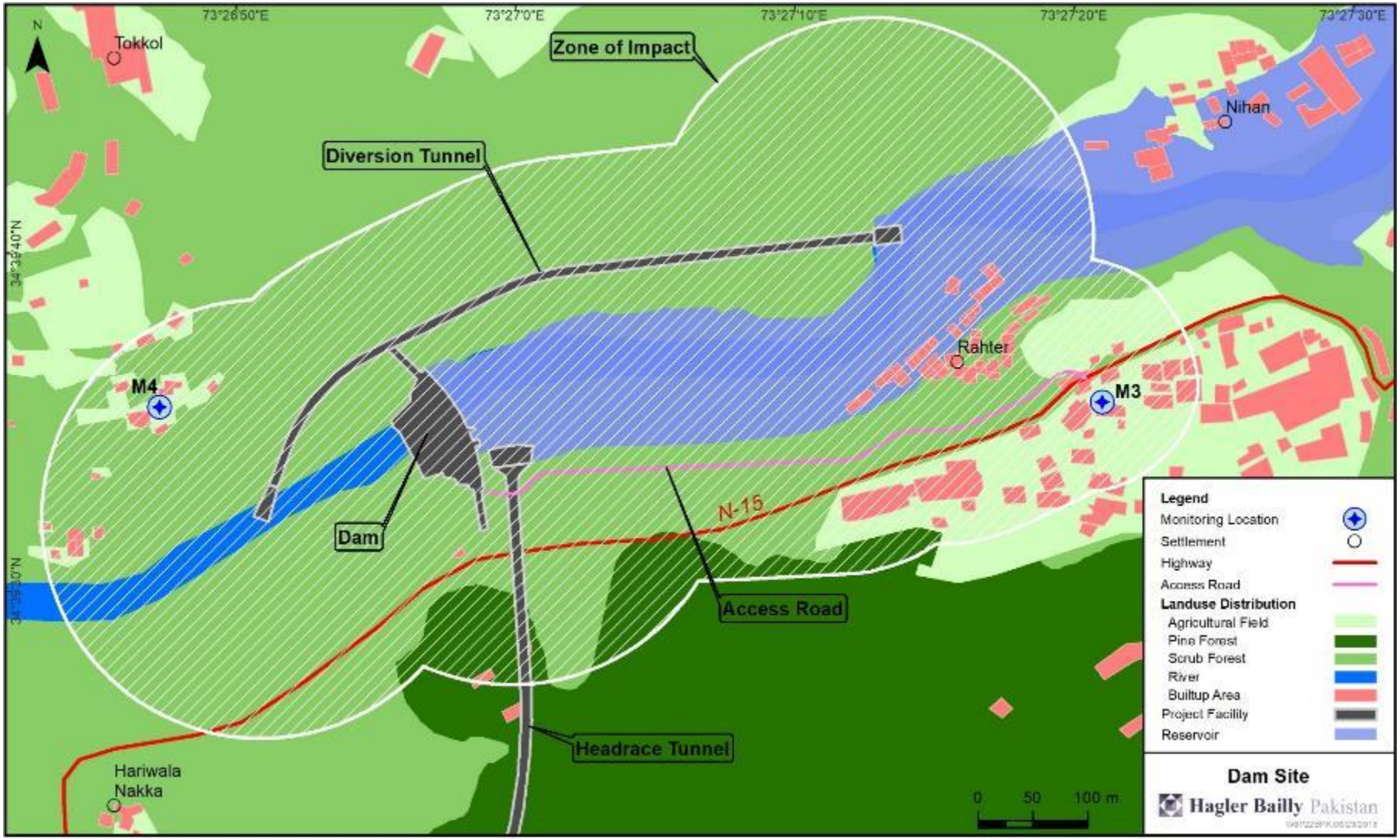
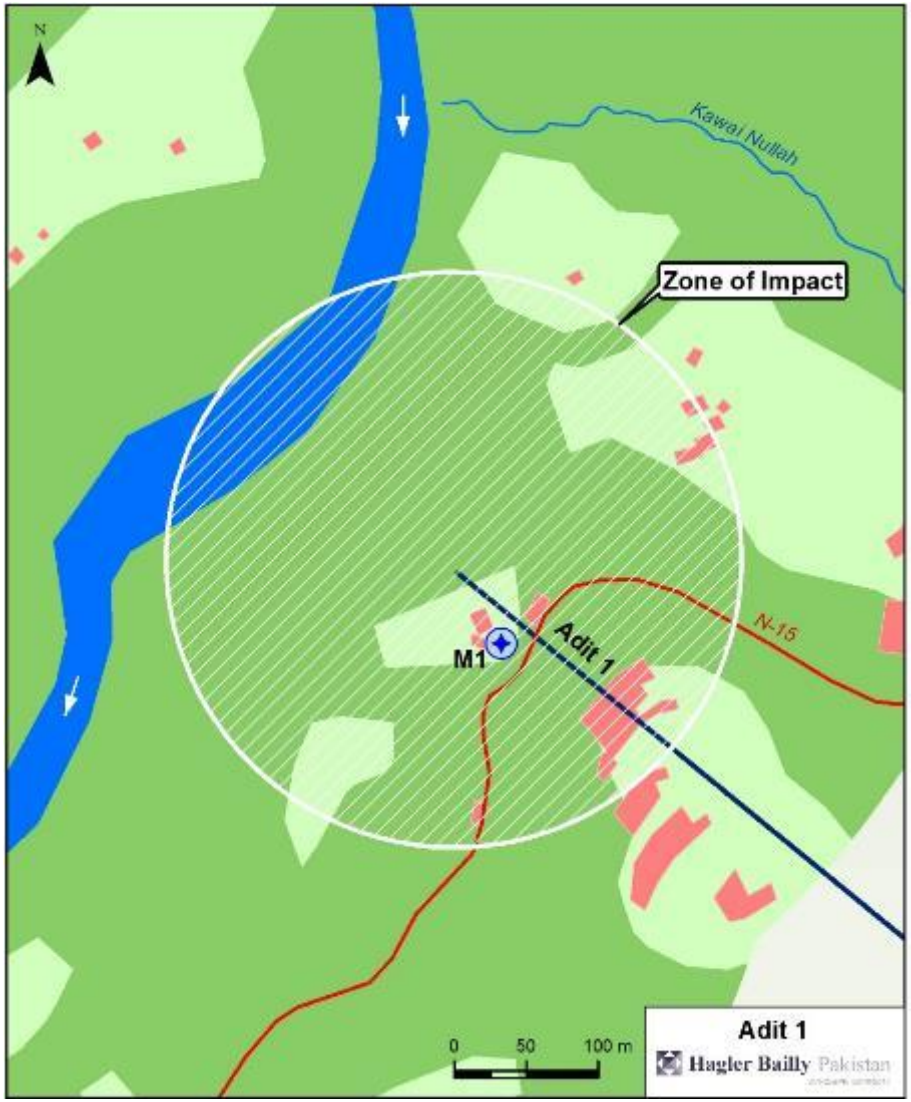


Exhibit 7-9: Zone of Impact—Adits



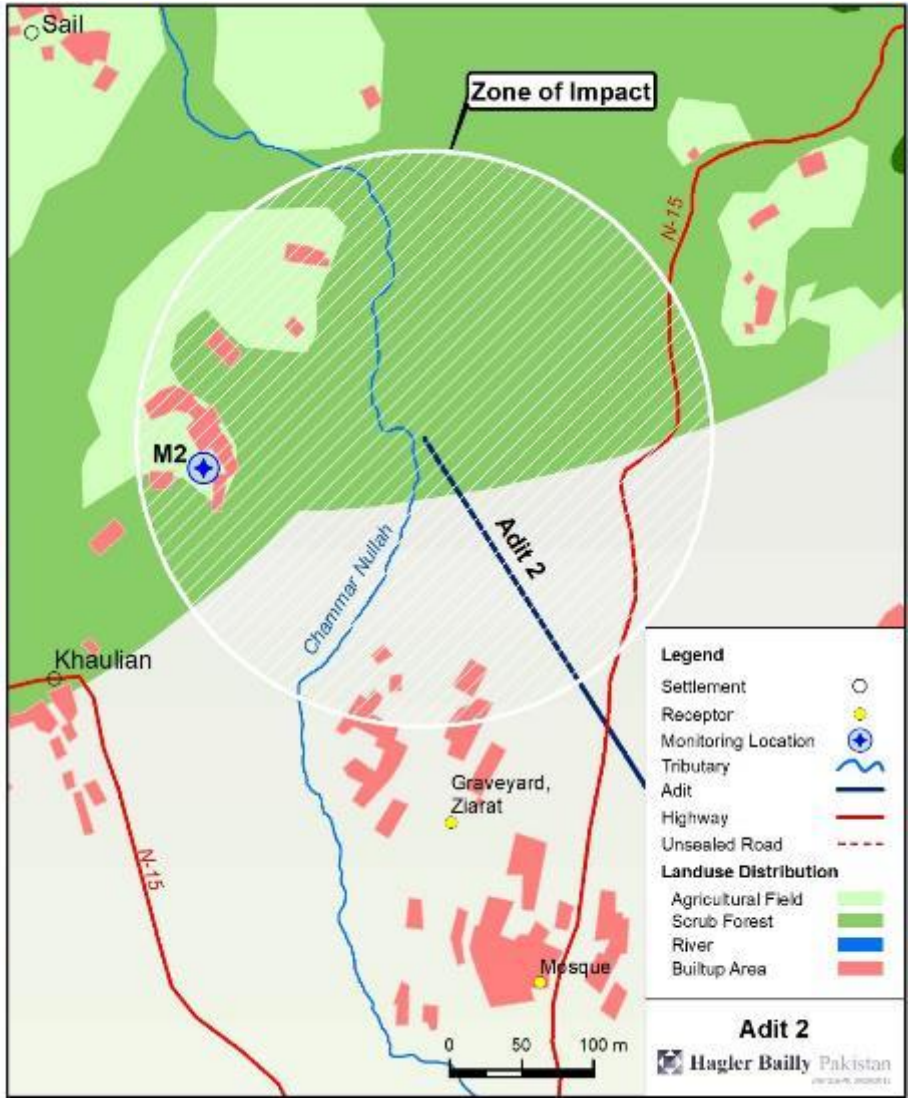


Exhibit 7-10: Zone of Impact—Powerhouse Site

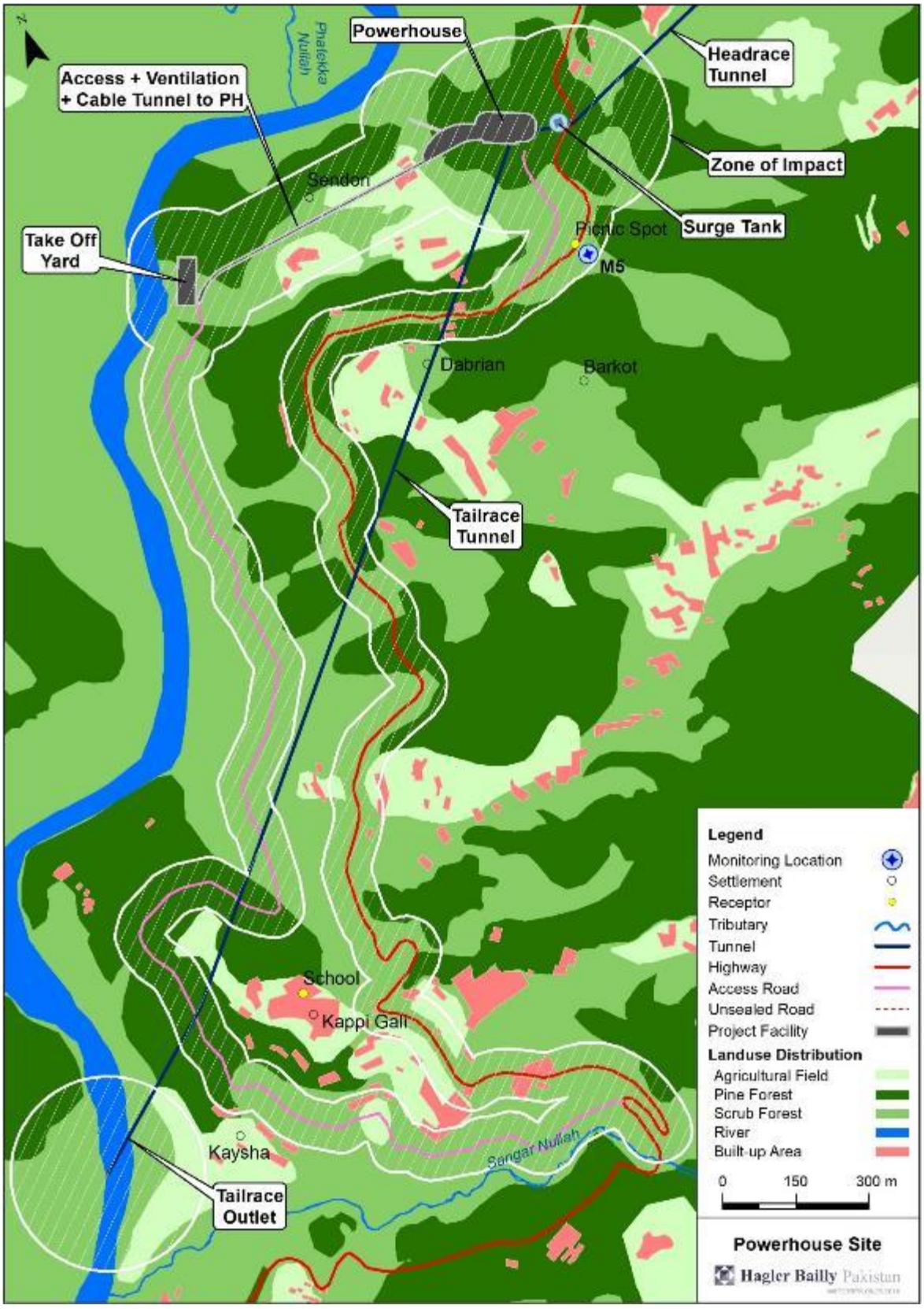
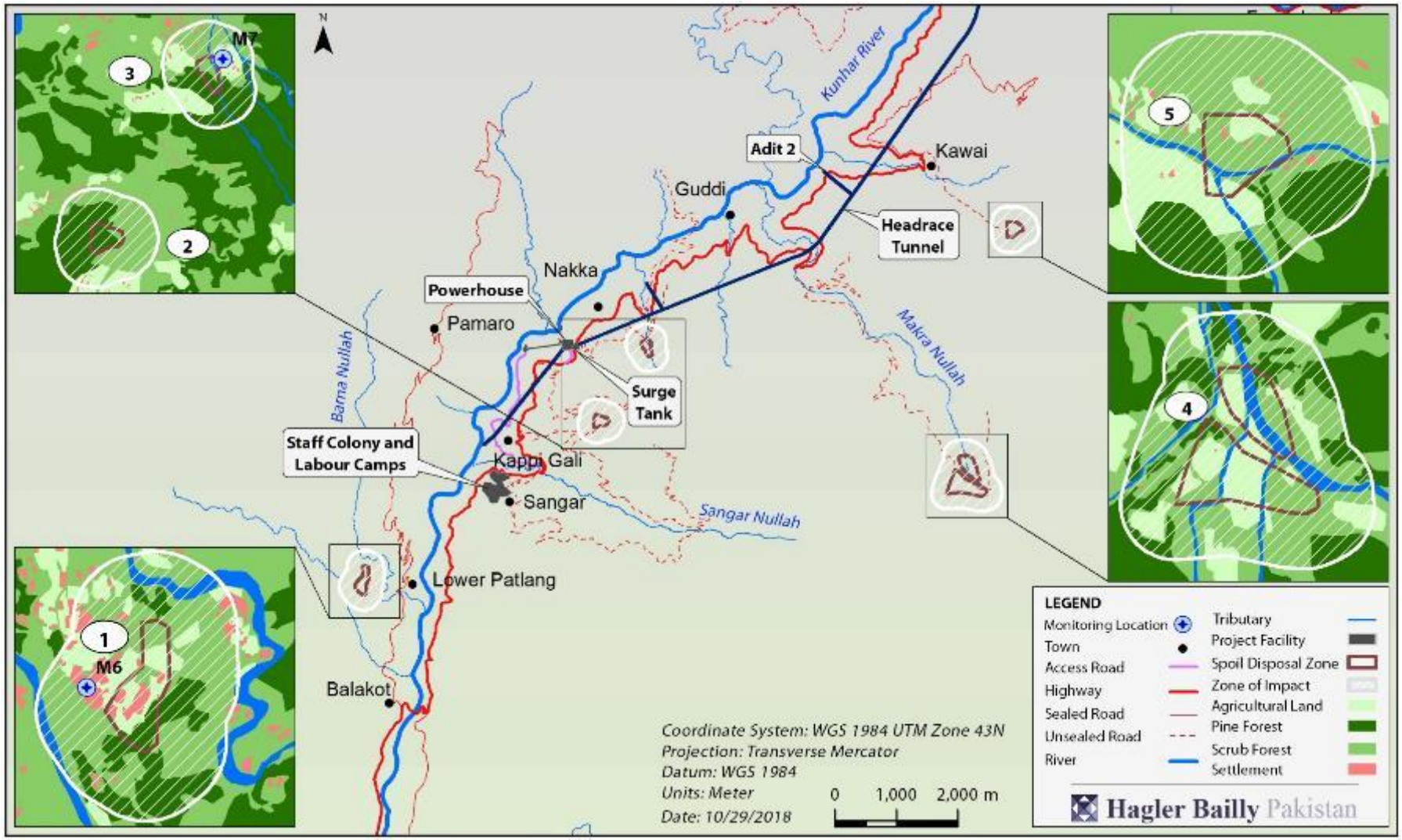


Exhibit 7-11: Zone of Impact—Waste Dumping Sites



7.5 Blasting and Vibration

762. The major risks of blasting and vibration due to the Project are:

- Impact 09: Vibration from construction activities including blasting may disturb (including annoyance, sleep disturbance, and potential damage to structures) local communities.
- Impact 10: Blasting may pose a health hazard due to flying debris.

763. Damage to springs from blasting is discussed in the next section.

7.5.1 Vibration from Construction Activities

Impact 09: Vibration from blasting during the construction phase may disturb local communities.

Applicable Project Phase		*Construction*						
Initial Impact Rating	Magnitude	Duration	Scale	Consequence	Probability	Significance	+/-	Confidence
	Moderate	Medium Term	Intermediate	Medium	Possible	Medium	-	High

Mitigation measures:

1. Develop a Blasting and Explosives Management Plan and Vibration Monitoring Plan.
2. Conduct a pre-construction survey of structures at risk of vibration impacts on households.
3. In the initial stages, the blasting-induced vibration shall be measured as a function of maximum instantaneous charge and distance from the blasting site. This data shall be then used to refine the Blasting Induced Vibration Risk Zones based on the adopted criteria.
4. Using, the refined Blasting Induced Vibration Risk Zones maps and the tunnel boring schedule, the Supervision Consultant in consultation with the PEDO and the Construction Contractor, shall identify the houses that will be affected and the impact duration and schedule.
5. For the houses that will fall in the Structural Damage Risk Zone, a temporary relocation plan will be developed. An amendment to the Land Acquisition and Resettlement Plan (LARP) (see **Volume 8**) will be commissioned for this purpose. Before the start of blasting, all residents of houses in the Structural Damage Risk Zone will be relocated as per the LARP (see **Volume 8**).
6. A survey will be undertaken in both zones, to determine the pre-blasting conditions of the buildings. The survey will be commissioned by the Supervision Consultant who will identify and record any existing damage to the structures. The survey will cover the following aspects:
   i. overall condition of the structures, both exterior and interior;
   ii. documentation of defects observed in the structure using digital imagery along with notes, measurements, and sketches;
   iii. documentation of pre-existing cracks using digital imagery along with notes, measurements, and sketches.
7. Following completion of the blasting, the survey will be repeated in the Structural Damage Risk Zone to determine the condition of the buildings and verify that they are safe for re-occupation. If the buildings are safe, the residents will be allowed to return to their houses following any necessary damage repairs. If the buildings are damaged beyond repair, compensation will be paid to the owners as per the LARP. If there are any claims or reports of damage in the Cosmetic Damage Risk Zone, the affected house will be surveyed against the pre-project survey and repairs will be undertaken as appropriate.
8. The following are key mitigation measures for the management of blasting:
   i. Blasting will be scheduled during the day only.
   ii. Local communities will be informed of the blasting timetable in advance and will be provided adequate notice of when blasts are required outside of the planned schedule.
   iii. A Blasting Management Plan will be developed by the Construction Contractor. The Plan will be reviewed and approved by the Supervision Contractor before the initiation of the blasting work.
   iv. Throughout the blasting activity, vibration sensors will be installed at strategic locations to monitor the impact of blasting and to ensure that the vibration levels are within the adopted criteria. The monitoring plan will be part of the Blasting Management Plan.
   v. Unscheduled blasting will be strictly prohibited in any case.
   vi. Meaningful contact with the community shall be maintained and their grievance shall be attended promptly. In this regard:

- a meaningful community engagement plan will be developed. The plan will cover identifying the affected community; the key contact persons; frequency of engagement; the information to be shared; the responsibilities to manage the plan; and the notice period to be given to the community for various blasting-related generating activities;
- the Grievance Redress Mechanism will be used to record, investigate, and respond to any complaints. Investigation of the complaints will be undertaken by the Supervision Consultant.
- develop a Vibration Monitoring Plan that will include monitoring of vibration levels and frequency around the blasting sites. The objectives of the monitoring will be to:
  - ensure that vibration levels in the communities are within the adopted criteria levels;
  - maintain a record of vibration to settle any potential conflicts; and

9. Monitor changes in the vibration levels due to possible changes in the rock formation and take appropriate corrective actions.

Residual Impact Rating	Magnitude	Duration	Scale	Consequence	Probability	Significance	+/-	Confidence
	Minor	Short Term	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-	High

764. Sources of vibration include construction equipment movement, pile driving, compaction, hammering (hydraulic or pneumatic), and operation of batching plant and generators. Another source of vibration will be the blasting to be undertaken for tunneling. The propagation of vibration from construction activities is different from the vibration from blasting. The construction activities are undertaken essentially on the ground surface and spreads basically as two-dimensional waves. In contrast, the tunneling is undertaken below the surface and spreads in three dimensions. For this reason, the impact of the two is assessed separately.

765. In the case of ground vibrations, the level of vibration is measured by the Peak Particle Velocity (PPV) with units of millimeters of movement per second. The proposed criteria for damage to buildings are shown in **Exhibit 7-12.** These are derived from British Standard BS 6472 and are German Standards DIN 4150-3:1999.

Exhibit 7-12: Criteria for Structural Damage Due to Vibration

Risk Zone	PPV Range
No Damage Likely	PPV < 5 mm/s
Cosmetic damage risk zone	PPV 5 to 15 mm/s
Structural damage risk zone	PPV > 15 mm/s

I. Vibration Impact of Construction Activities on the Surface

766. **Exhibit 7-13** indicates the approximate vibration levels that may be expected for various vibration sources.

767. These levels are well below the threshold of any possibility of damage to structures due to vibrations from typical construction activities related to rollers, compactors, and the movement of construction equipment.

Exhibit 7-13: Approximate Vibration Levels for Various Sources

Activity	Typical levels of ground vibration
Vibratory rollers	Up to 1.5 mm/s at distances of 25 m Higher levels could occur at closer distances; however, no damage would be expected for any building at distances greater than approximately 12 m (for a medium to heavy roller)
Hydraulic rock breakers (Levels typical of a large rock breaker operating in hard sandstone)	4.50 mm/s at 5 m 1.30 mm/s at 10 m 0.4 mm/s at 20 m 0.10 mm/s at 50 m
Compactor	20 mm/s at distances of approximately 5 m, 2 mm/s at distances of 15 m. at distances greater than 30 m, vibration is usually below 0.3 mm/s
Bulldozers	1 to 2 mm/s at distances of approximately 5 m. at distances greater than 20 m. vibration is usually below 0.32 mm/s
Air track drill	4 to 5 mm/s at a distance of approximately 5 m, and 1.5 mm/s at 10 m. at distances greater than 25 m, vibration is usually below 0.6 mm/s and at 50 m or more, vibration is usually below 0.1 mms
Truck traffic (over normal (smooth) road surfaces)	0.01 to 0.2 mm/s at the footing of buildings located 10 to 20 m from a roadway
Truck traffic (over irregular surfaces)	0.1 to 2.0 mm/s at the footings of buildings located 10 m to 20 m from a roadway

Source: Northern Expressway Environmental Report: Noise and Vibration Technical Paper. 2007. http://www.southroad.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/file/0019/13780/Noise_and_Vibration_Technical_Paper.pdf

II. Vibration Impact of Tunnel Construction

768. Blasting for construction results in noise as well as ground vibrations that cannot be confined to the site. As blasting is an occasional activity it does not affect the ambient noise limits evaluated but can be disturbing to local communities with short-term noise exceeding 10 dBA. Single noisy events such as blasting can be audible over a large area.

769. Although each incident is short-term in nature, the repetitiveness of the noise may give rise to complaints if not managed sensitively. The subjective reaction to a single disturbing noise event will depend on the activities being undertaken by the receptor and how the program for noisy events is communicated to identified receptors. For example, a large noise event at nighttime may give rise to complaints, whereas at any other time it would be accepted.

770. The Project will conduct construction blasting consistent with Pakistan and international safety standards. Open pit blasting will be conducted using standard mining industry practices and procedures for securing personnel and equipment. This includes evacuating the blast area to a distance of at least 500 m to avoid any damage from fly rock.

771. The PPV is directly related to the size of the blast and the distance from the blast—the closer to the blast the greater the vibration. PPV is calculated as follows:

$$PPV = K\,(R/Q^{0.5})^{B},$$

where:

PPV = peak particle velocity (mm/s);

K = site constant (1140)

R = distance to point of concern (m);

Q = maximum instantaneous charge weight (40 kg, see **Exhibit 7-14**);

B = rock properties constant (-1.6).

Exhibit 7-14: Instantaneous Charge Weight Calculation

Parameter	Value	Explanation
Tunnel cross-section (m^2)	65	From design drawings. The headrace tunnel is 8 m by 8.80 m horseshoe shape.
Borehole depth (m)	5	Assumed, based on personal communication with road construction engineer
Rock removed in one blast cycle (m^3)	325	
Rock type	Hard	
Powder factor (kg/m^3)	0.8	For hard rock[134]
Total charge weight (kg)	260	Powder factor x rock removed in one blast
Maximum instantaneous charge weight (kg)	40	Estimated from typical borehole pattern and personal communication with road construction engineer

772. A PPV of 15 mm/s is calculated to occur about 95 m from the edge of the blasting source (in all directions) and a PPV of 5 mm/s is calculated to occur about 190 m from the edge of the blasting as shown in **Exhibit 7-15**.

Exhibit 7-15: Calculated PPV as a Function of Distance from the Blast Site

PPV (mm)	R (m)
547.7	10
180.7	20
94.4	30
59.6	40
41.7	50
31.2	60
24.3	70
19.7	80
16.3	90
14.9	95
13.8	100
11.8	110
10.3	120
9.0	130
8.0	140
7.2	150
6.5	160
5.9	170
5.4	180
4.9	190
4.5	200

134 Dyno Nobel. Blasting and Explosives Quick Reference Guide. 2010.

773. Extensive blasting will be undertaken during the construction of the headrace tunnels. In **Exhibit 7-16** it can be seen that the headrace tunnel is at a depth of less than these critical distances in certain areas along its length. The depth profile for the construction adit is provided in **Exhibit 7-17** and **Exhibit** 7-18. It can be seen that it is close to the ground level in several locations.

Exhibit 7-16: Depth Profile of the Headrace Tunnel

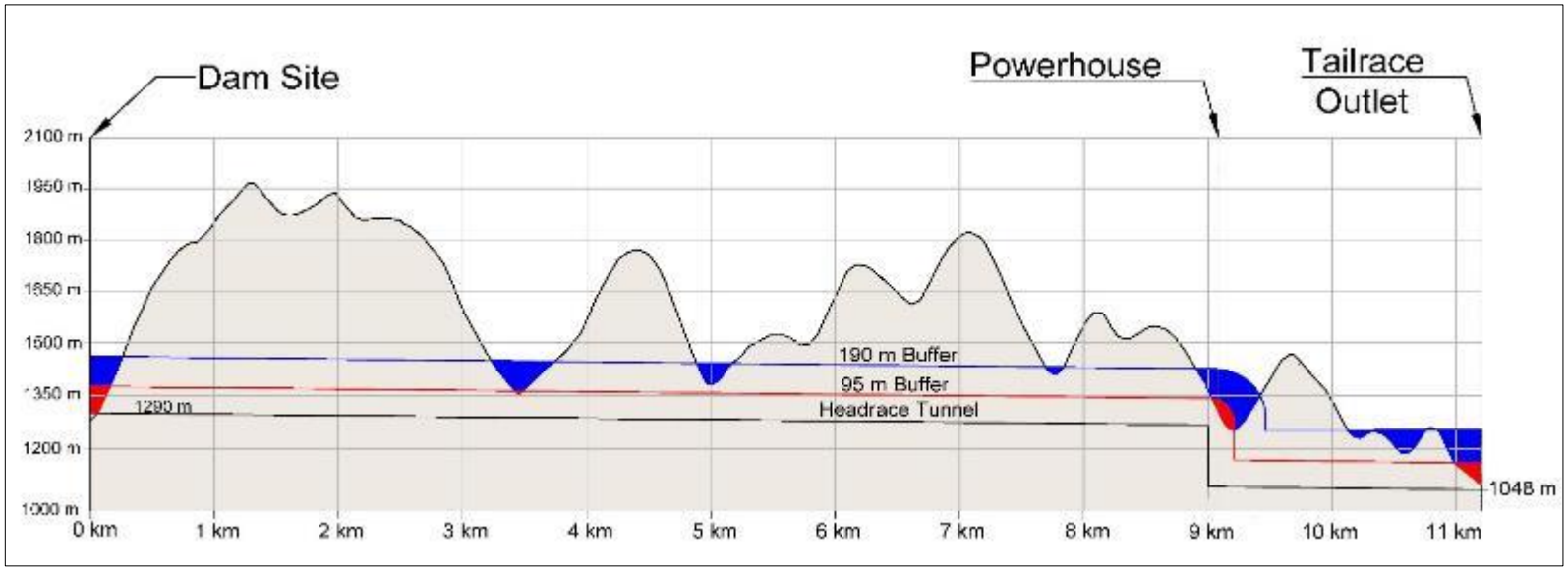


Exhibit 7-17: Depth Profile of Construction Adit 1

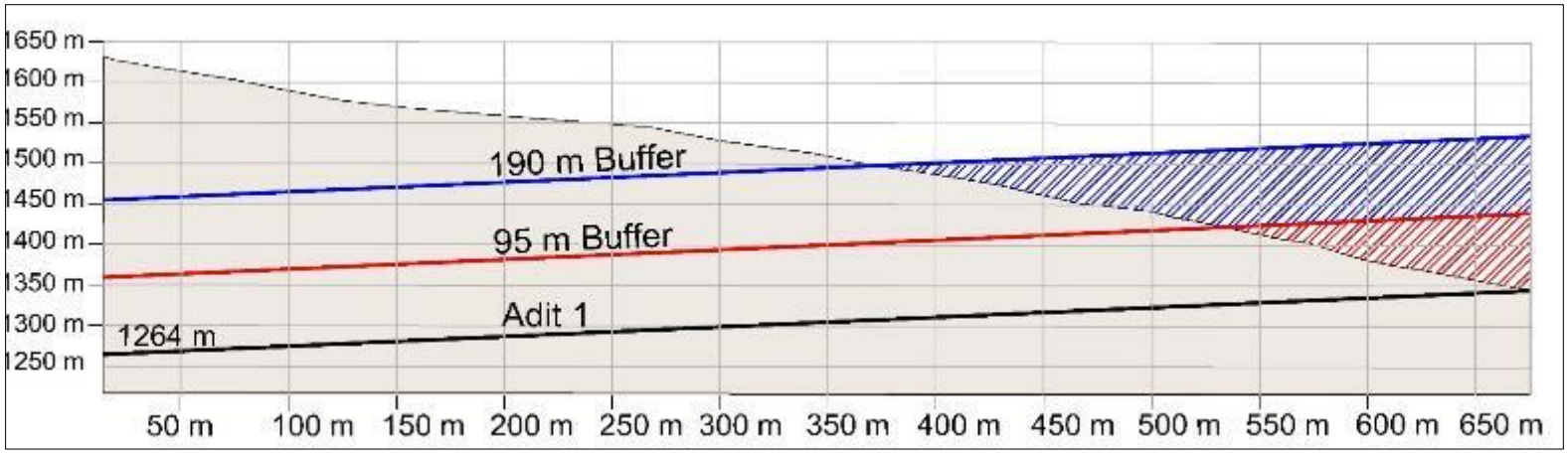
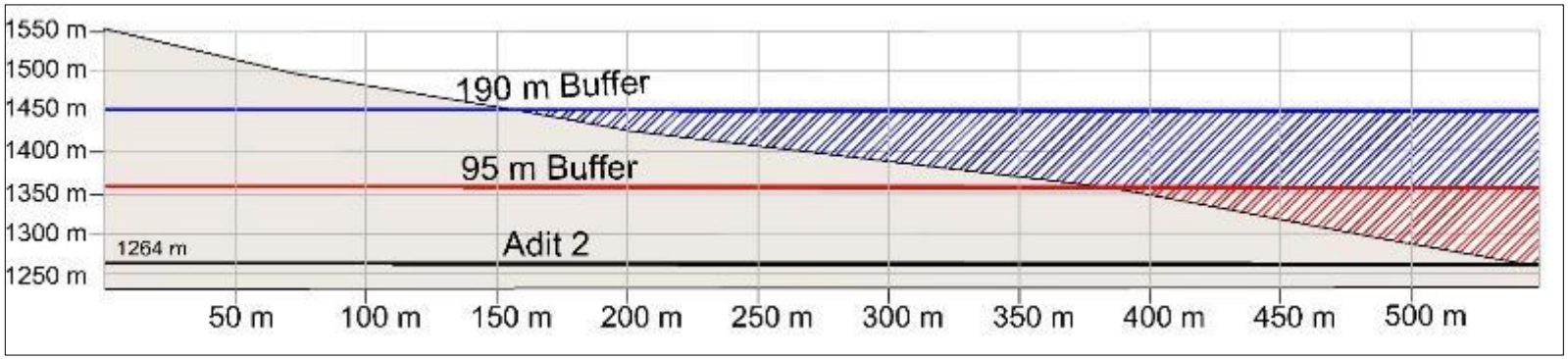


Exhibit 7-18: Depth Profile of Construction Adit 2



774. The following procedure is proposed for addressing the vibration concerns.

- Identify potential problem areas surrounding the Project sites.
  - The boundaries of risk zones are drawn without taking into consideration the variation in elevation of the terrain. The actual boundaries are likely to be closer to the tunnels.
  - The risk zone boundaries take into consideration, the location of the construction adits and their elevation profiles.
  - The complete lengths of the access tunnels for the powerhouse are included in the Structural Risk Zone.
- Based on the above criteria the total houses identified for preconstruction surveys include:
  - 120 structures of which 13 are within 95 m (structural damage risk zone).
  - The locations of these structures are illustrated in **Exhibit** 7-19 and **Exhibit 7-20.**
  - **Appendix S** presents an index of structures within the risk zones, including detailed maps, and coordinates for each structure.

III. Mitigations Measures

a. Overall Approach

775. The PPV is predicted using a semi-empirical model which is the best alternative in the absence of measured field data. Although there is reasonable confidence in the predicted value, the norm is to measure field data to assess vibration levels. In the initial stages, the blasting-induced vibration shall be measured as a function of maximum instantaneous charge and distance from the blasting site. This data shall be then used to refine the Blasting Induced Vibration Risk Zones based on the adopted criteria.

776. Early during the construction phase, the construction contractor shall develop a detailed tunnel blasting plan as part of the overall construction schedule. The plan shall specify, to a reasonable level of accuracy, the schedule for boring.

777. Using, the refined Blasting Induced Vibration Risk Zones maps and the tunnel boring schedule, the Supervision Consultant in consultation with the Roads Department and the Construction Contractor, shall identify the houses that will be affected and the impact duration and schedule.

778. For the houses that will fall in the Structural Damage Risk Zone, a temporary relocation plan will be developed. An amendment to the Land Acquisition and Resettlement Plan (LARP) will be commissioned for this purpose. Before the start of blasting, all residents of houses in the Structural Damage Risk Zone will be relocated as per the implementation-ready LARP.

Exhibit 7-19: Vibration Risk Area 1

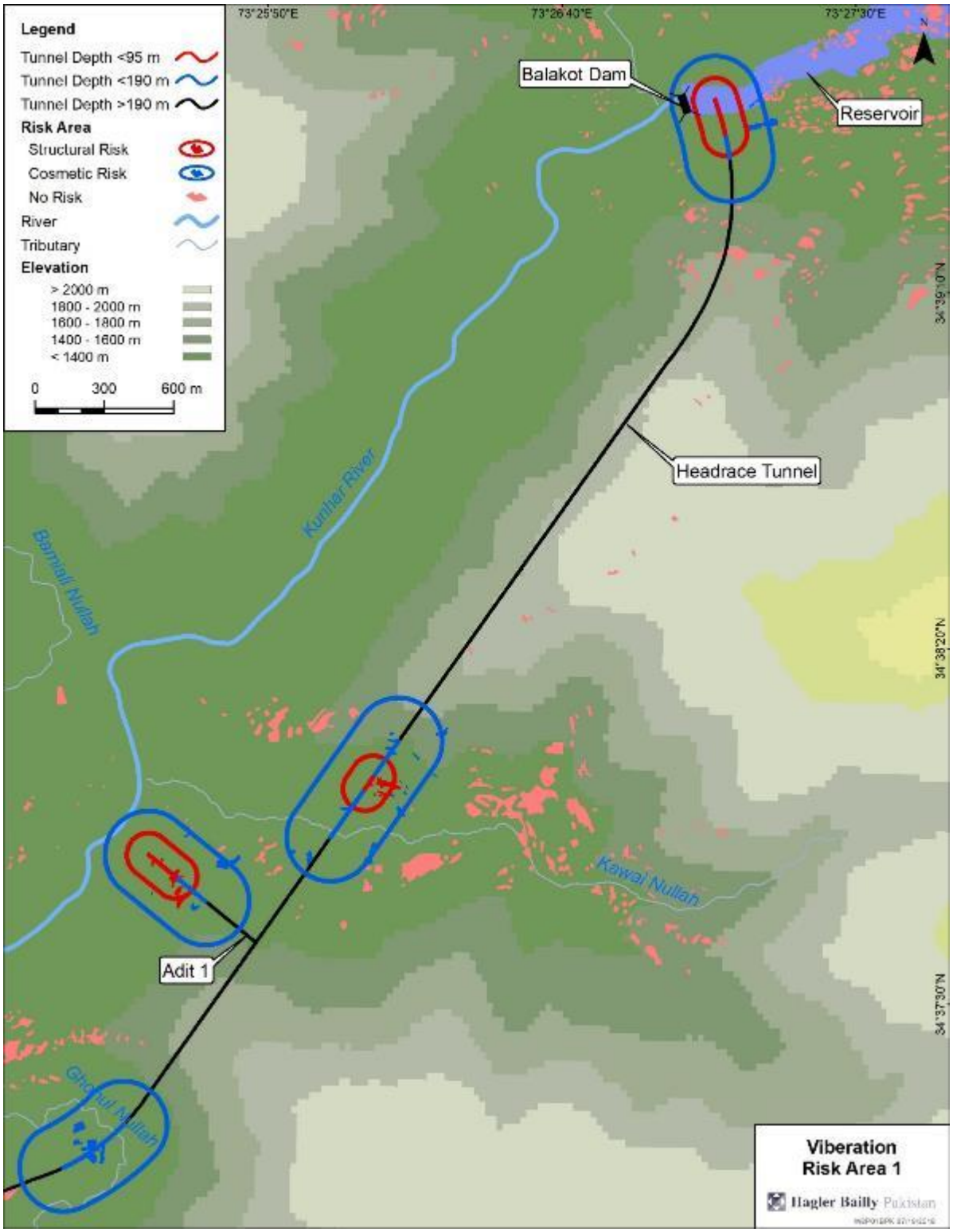
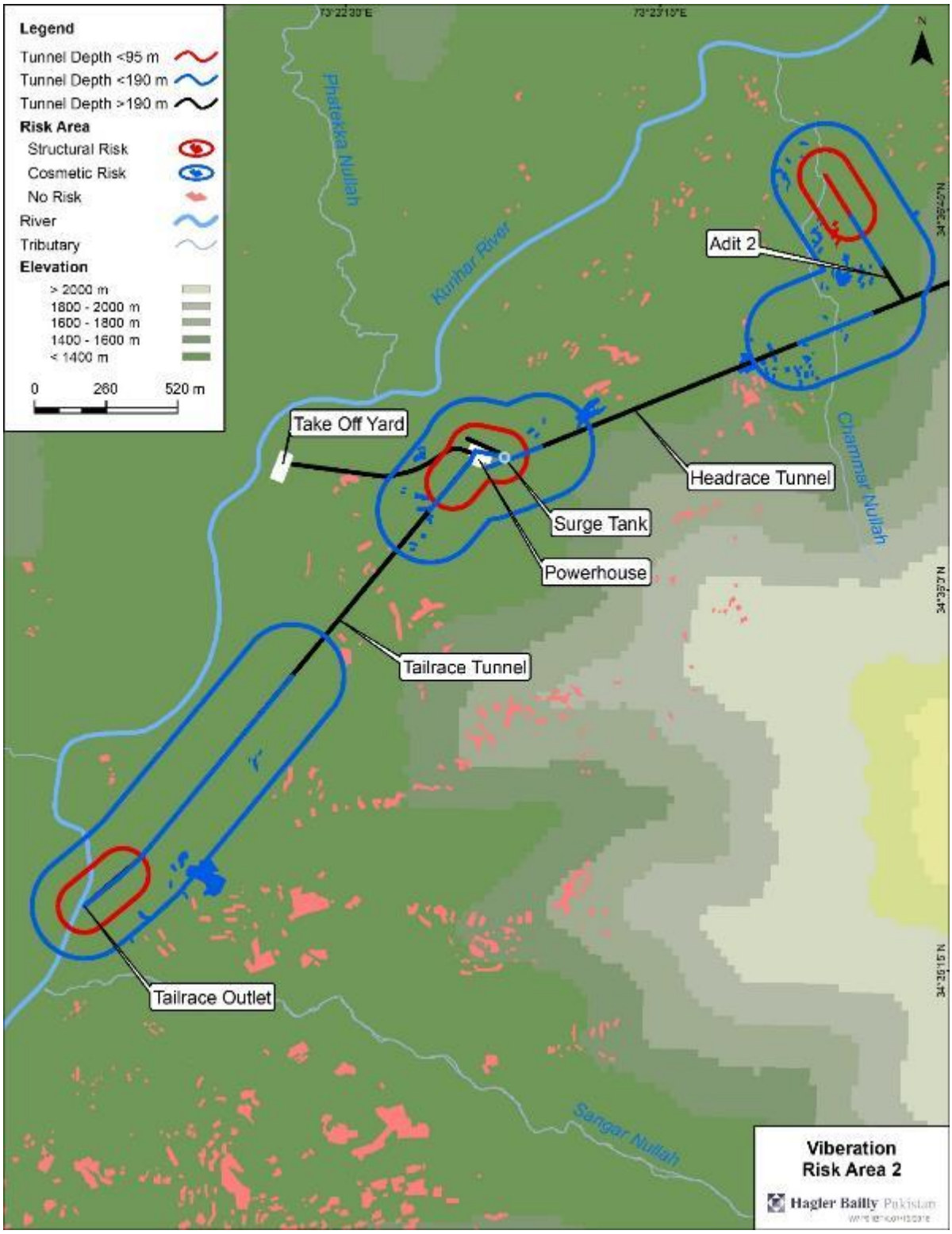


Exhibit 7-20: Vibration Risk Area 2



779. A survey will be undertaken in both zones, to determine the pre-blasting conditions of the buildings. The survey will be commissioned by the Supervision Consultant and will identify and record any existing damage to the structures. The survey will cover the following aspects.

- Overall condition of the structures, both exterior and interior.

- Documentation of defects observed in the structure using digital imagery along with notes, measurements, and sketches.
- Documentation of pre-existing cracks using digital imagery along with notes, measurements, and sketches.

780. The survey will be accompanied by consultations with the affected household to explain the extent and reason for the survey, and the process for reporting any grievances regarding vibration impacts. The households should be provided with materials that summarize the grievance redress process.

781. Following completion of the blasting, the survey will be repeated in the Structural Damage Risk Zone to determine the condition of the buildings and verify that they are safe for re-occupation. If the buildings are safe, the residents will be allowed to return to their houses following any necessary damage repairs. If the buildings are damaged beyond repair, compensation will be paid to the owners as per the LARP.

782. If there are any claims or reports of damage in the Cosmetic Damage Risk Zone, the affected house will be surveyed against the pre-project survey and repairs will be undertaken as appropriate.

b. Mitigation Plan

783. The following are key mitigation measures for the management of blasting.

- Blasting will be scheduled during the day only.
- Local communities will be informed of the blasting timetable in advance and will be provided adequate notice of when blasts are required outside of the planned schedule.
- A Blasting Management Plan will be developed by the Construction Contractor. The Plan will be reviewed and approved by the Supervision Contractor before the initiation of the blasting work.
- Throughout the blasting activity, vibration sensors will be installed at strategic locations to monitor the impact of blasting and to ensure that the vibration levels are within the adopted criteria. The monitoring plan will be part of the Blasting Management Plan.

784. Unlike other construction activities, it is recognized that the impact of blasting on the community can be significant or can be perceived as significant by the community. It is therefore vital that regular and meaningful contact with the community shall be maintained and their grievance shall be attended to promptly. In this regard:

- a meaningful community engagement plan will be developed. The plan will cover identifying the affected community; the key contact persons; frequency of engagement; the information to be shared; the responsibilities to manage the plan; and the notice period to be giving to the community for various blasting related generating activities.

- the Grievance Redress Mechanism will be used to record, investigate, and respond to any complaints. Investigation of the complaints will be undertaken by the Supervision Consultant.

c. Vibration Monitoring

785. The vibration Monitoring Plan will include monitoring of vibration levels and frequency around the blasting sites. The objectives of the monitoring will be to:

- ensure that vibration levels in the communities are within the adopted criteria levels;
- maintain a record of vibration to settle any potential conflicts; and
- monitor changes in the vibration levels due to possible changes in the rock formation and take appropriate corrective actions.

786. Vibration data will be documented, reviewed, and preserved. It will be regularly shared with ADB, PEDO and EPA, KP as part of the monthly progress report.

7.5.2 Fly Rock from Blasting

787. Fly rock is an unexpected projection of material from the blast site to any area beyond the designated safety area. Fly rock occurs when the amount of explosive energy is greater than that required to break the mass of rock between the blast position and the free face, the excess energy projects the rock debris beyond the safety area. Uncontrolled fly rock from blasting can travel hundreds of meters, with known cases up to 1000 m. This range is for extreme cases where very little blasting control is applied and is due to over-charging of holes or under-burdening of holes.

788. Use of large diameter blast holes for small benches, variation in burden due to overbreak of toe or back crack that results in uneven face, drilling deviation, inadequate burden, and too closing spacing are the possible causes of fly rock.

789. Even though fly rock consumes only 1% of the explosive energy used in a blast it is more serious than any other damage caused by blasting.

<table>
<tr><td colspan="9">Impact 10: Blasting may pose a health hazard due to flying debris.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Applicable Project Phase</td><td colspan="7">Construction</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Initial Impact Rating</td><td>Magnitude</td><td>Duration</td><td>Scale</td><td>Consequence</td><td>Probability</td><td>Significance</td><td>+/-</td><td>Confidence</td></tr>
<tr><td>Moderate</td><td>Short Term</td><td>Intermediate</td><td>High</td><td>Possible</td><td>Medium</td><td>-</td><td>High</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="9">Mitigation measures:
1. A minimum buffer of 500 m should be provided between the settlements and point of blasting.
2. Leave a layer of about 5 m of undisturbed softs above the top of the overburden blasts. This will act as a blanket to contain air blasts, dust, and fly rock.
3. Ensure that the holes are correctly collared concerning the back-break/inclination of the face and also that digging alongside the initiation face is well controlled.
4. Inadequate forward displacement of the front row burden arising out of the undercharging of these holes will result in fly rock from vertical catering of the rear holes.
5. Where fly rock poses a serious problem, the stemming length should not be less than the hole burden. Also, an effective stemming material like crushed angular rock should be used to prevent premature venting of explosion gases through the stemming column.
6. The forward fly rock could be fairly controlled to the commonly used 'inline open loop' pattern. The maximum inter-row delay interval consistent with the absence of cut-off helped in minimizing the fly rock formation. As a thumb rule, an inter-row delay of 4-8ms/m of burden could be used for this purpose.
7. Adequate care should be taken while connecting the delay devices in the holes/rows and the initiation sequence properly checked before firing to avoid initiation of blast holes out of sequence.
8. Blasts designed on a face length-to-width ratio in the range of 3 to 4 produce minimum fly rock.</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Residual Impact Rating</td><td>Magnitude</td><td>Duration</td><td>Scale</td><td>Consequence</td><td>Probability</td><td>Significance</td><td>+/-</td><td>Confidence</td></tr>
<tr><td>Minor</td><td>Short Term</td><td>Small</td><td>Low</td><td>Possible</td><td>Low</td><td>-</td><td>High</td></tr>
</table>

7.6 Hydrology and Water Quality

790. The major risks to local hydrology and water quality due to the Project are related to water availability and contamination.

- **Impact 11:** Alterations of the natural passage of springs due to blasting for tunnels may disrupt the water supply for mountain spring users.
- **Impact 12:** Use of local water resources for construction activities may reduce the water availability for local communities
- **Impact 13:** Contamination of surface and groundwater due to discharge from the construction activities and sewage from the construction camps may affect agricultural productivity and human health.

7.6.1 Changes to Groundwater Patterns

<table>
<tr><td colspan="9">Impact 11: Alterations of natural passage of springs due to blasting for tunnels may disrupt the water supply for mountain spring users.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">Applicable Project Phase</td><td colspan="6">Construction</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Initial Impact Rating</td><td>Magnitude</td><td>Duration</td><td>Scale</td><td>Consequence</td><td>Probability</td><td>Significance</td><td>+/-</td><td>Confidence</td></tr>
<tr><td>Moderate</td><td>Long Term</td><td>Intermediate</td><td>High</td><td>Possible</td><td>High</td><td>-</td><td>High</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="9">Mitigation measures:
1. Record the location of the springs especially those in areas proximal to where the underground headrace tunnel will be closer to the ground level (see Exhibit 7-21 and Exhibit 7-22).
2. Monitor flow for located springs and maintain records.
3. Update spring survey before initiation of tunnel and other underground construction activities.
4. Support the community in the development of alternate water supply schemes through local NGOs.
5. Ensure the availability of water to the communities and the access of the communities to the water resources being used by them is not adversely affected.</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Residual Impact Rating</td><td>Magnitude</td><td>Duration</td><td>Scale</td><td>Consequence</td><td>Probability</td><td>Significance</td><td>+/-</td><td>Confidence</td></tr>
<tr><td>Minor</td><td>Medium</td><td>Intermediate</td><td>Low</td><td>Possible</td><td>Low</td><td>-</td><td>High</td></tr>
</table>

791. Heavy construction activities especially the blasting activities for the headrace tunnel (see **Section 7.5** *Blasting and Vibration*) and excavation may cause alterations to the groundwater flow patterns in areas proximal to where the underground headrace tunnel will be close to ground level.

792. There are numerous settlements on the ridges across which the headrace tunnel will be constructed and those are dependent on the springs for daily water use. These changes will only cause negative impacts when they occur where people or ecological systems are using the water. Areas where the headrace tunnel is proximal to the ground are discussed in **Section 4.1.7** *(Water Resources)*. 6 mountain springs are at high risk out of which 2 springs are used by schools and hospitals. These springs are located in areas where blasting for tunnel construction will be close to the surface are shown in **Exhibit** 7-21 and **Exhibit 7-22**. Three springs (2 of which are within the High-Risk area) are used by schools and hospitals (marked as red in the **Exhibit** 7-22). All of these springs should be closely monitored.

Exhibit 7-21: High Risk Areas for Mountain Springs A

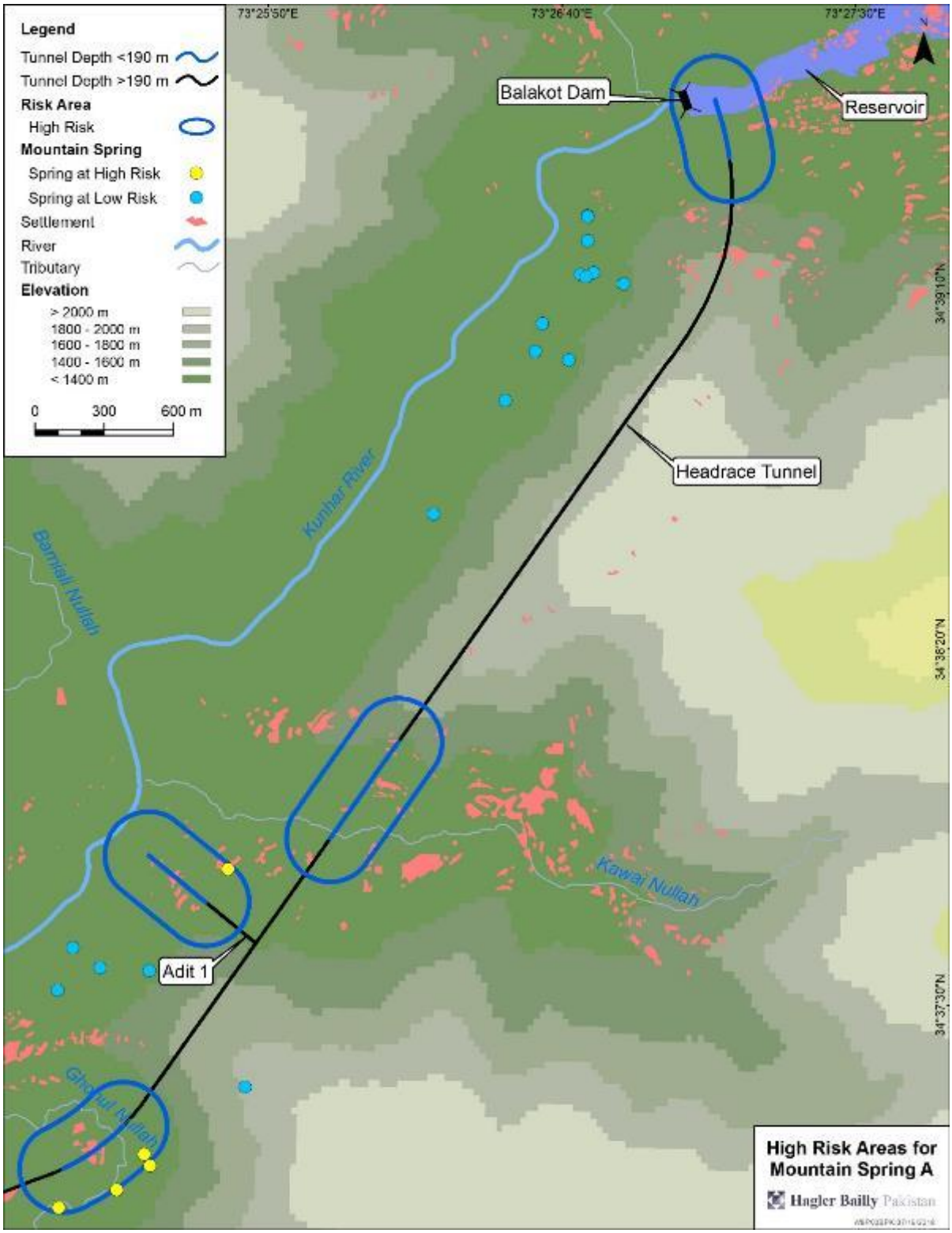
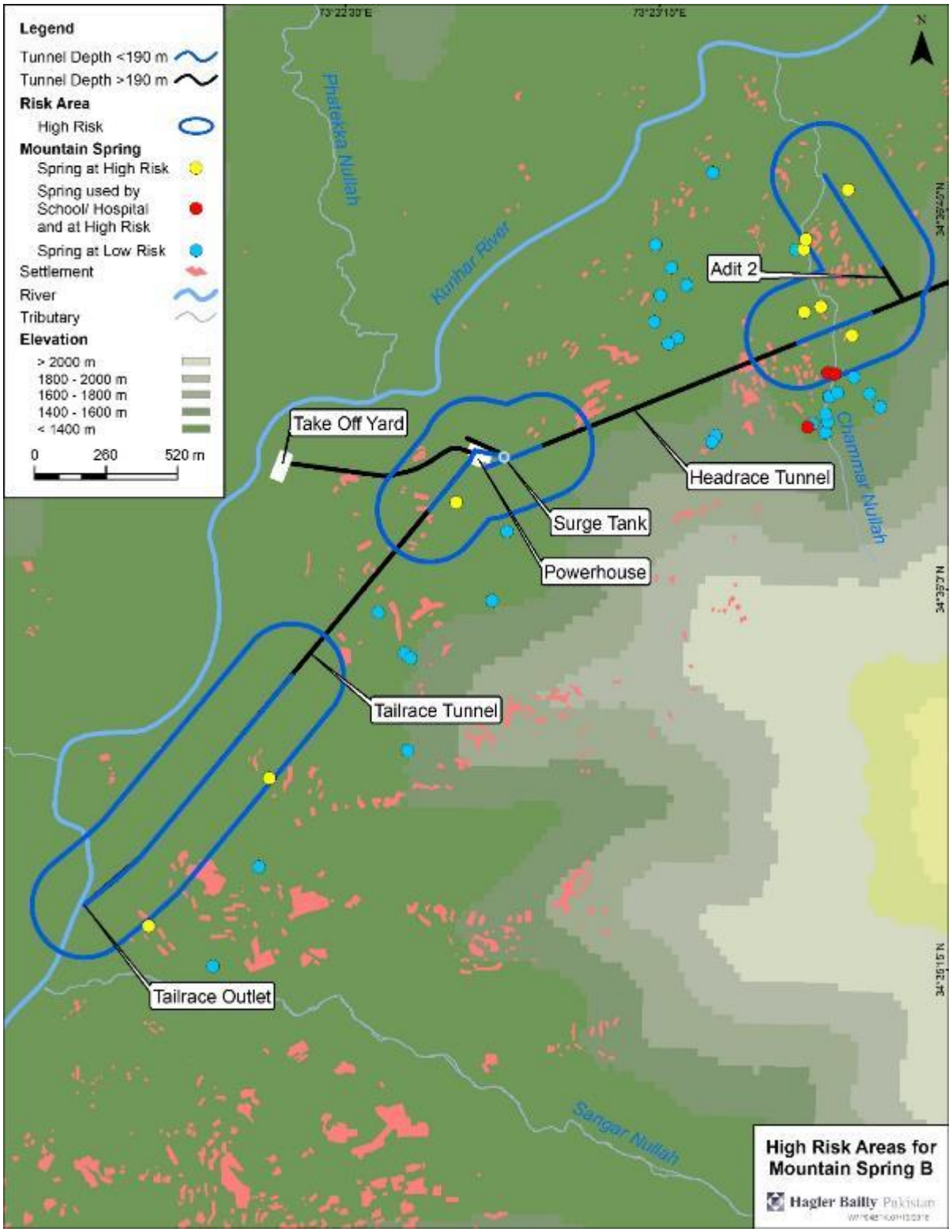


Exhibit 7-22: High Risk Areas for Mountain Springs B



7.6.2 Water Resource Depletion

Impact 12: Use of local water resources for construction activities may reduce the water availability for local communities.								
Applicable Project Phase			*Construction*					
Initial Impact Rating	Magnitude	Duration	Scale	Consequence	Probability	Significance	+/-	Confidence
	Moderate	Short Term	Intermediate	Medium	Possible	Medium	-	High
Mitigation measures:								
1. Develop a Water Sourcing and Abstraction Plan. 2. Source water for construction from authorized abstraction sources agreed between the local communities, local government, and EPC contractor. 3. Water conservation techniques will be developed and implemented by the EPC contractor. 4. Access of the community to water sources shall be kept clear so that the community's ability to meet its water requirements is not compromised. 5. Exercise care while moving heavy machinery to avoid damage or blockage of natural waterways and channels. 6. Maintain records of water usage in all Project activities. 7. Incorporate the above measures in the Construction Site Environmental Management Plan (see **Section 9,** *Environmental Management Plan*).								
Residual Impact Rating	Magnitude	Duration	Scale	Consequence	Probability	Significance	+/-	Confidence
	Minor	Short Term	Small	Low	Unlikely	Low	-	High

793. The main source of drinking water in the area is spring water located in the hydro census (see **Section 4.1.7,** *Water Resources*). Water demand for the construction site and camp may take water away from other users if not controlled. Unauthorized abstraction from shallow springs could reduce the yield available or block access for other users, leading to resentment and increasing the risk of hardship.

7.6.3 Contamination of Surface and Groundwater from Construction Activities

Impact 13: Discharge from construction activities can potentially result in the contamination of groundwater and surface water.								
Applicable Project Phase			*Construction*					
Initial Impact Rating	Magnitude	Duration	Scale	Consequence	Probability	Significance	+/-	Confidence
	Moderate	Short Term	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-	High
Mitigation measures: 1. Develop and implement a Water Quality Management Plan. 2. Prepare and implement a Spill Prevention and Response Plan and induct to the staff for any incident of spill. 3. Provide and use spill prevention trays at refueling locations. 4. The runoff from maintenance workshops will be collected by impervious channels and be passed through oil water separators (OWS) before final disposal. The sludge and oil collected at the OWS will be disposed of properly. 5. Build separate impervious pits (with concrete walls and a proper shed) at the construction sites for temporary handling and storage of contaminated soil and water if encountered during construction such as sludge from OWS. 6. Keep all fuel storage tanks and lubricating oil drums in secondary containment impervious pits with impervious shed walls. 7. Avoid on-site maintenance of construction vehicles and equipment, as far as possible. 8. Regularly inspect construction vehicles and equipment to detect leakages. 9. Store fuels and lubricants in covered and dyked areas, underlain with impervious lining. 10. Spill control kits (shovels, plastic bags, and absorbent materials) will be available near fuel and oil storage areas, vehicle parking, and vehicle maintenance areas as well as at construction sites. 11. Remove contaminated soil from the site and dispose in a manner to ensures the protection of water sources. 12. Construct the bottom of any soak pit or septic tank at least 100 meters away from springs and water bores. 13. Maintain records of spills and volume of removed contaminated soil.								

14. Maintain record of remedial measures taken. 15. Use silt traps to prevent contamination of river and streams. 16. Incorporate the above measures in the Construction Site Environmental Management Plan (see **Section 9,** *Environmental Management Plan*).								
Residual Impact Rating	Magnitude	Duration	Scale	Consequence	Probability	Significance	+/-	Confidence
	Minor	Short Term	Small	Low	Unlikely	Low	-	High

794. A major risk to water bodies during construction is accidental spills of fuels, lubricants, reagents, and other potentially hazardous chemicals.

7.7 Construction Noise

795. Construction noise is a component of environmental noise associated with construction activities. Construction noise is the noise that arises from an activity at a construction site. It includes:

- noise from the operation of construction machinery and equipment for the construction activities including excavation and demolition work, site preparation work, foundations and concrete placement, erection of metal structures, installation of mechanical and electrical equipment, and building maintenance or repair work;
- noise from the movement of vehicles within, entering, or leaving a construction site; and
- noise from blasting.

796. The noise generated through these activities can be categorized as below.

- Airborne noise: Noise that travels through the air and is caused by general construction and construction traffic.
- Ground borne noise: Noise that is generated through rumbling sound caused by vibration due to impact-induced construction activities such as blasting, pile driving tunneling, and movement of heavy transportation such as trucks.
- Air blast noise: Noise generated through blasting, also known as blast overpressure, which is the pressure wave (or pulse) transmitted through the air as the result of an explosion. Air blasts may have both acoustic effects in terms of overpressure and vibration effects in terms of airborne and ground borne vibration.

797. Construction noise emanates from the source and propagates through the atmosphere. There are numerous factors influencing the noise level received at a sensitive receptor including:

- directivity of the source;
- atmospheric absorption (attenuation is a function of temperature, humidity, and frequency within the atmosphere);
- meteorological influences (attenuation or enhancement due to surface temperature and humidity, vertical temperature profile, wind speed and direction);
- ground absorption (influence of hard or soft ground types on propagation); and
- topography and structures (attenuation due to intervening buildings and terrain features.

Impact 14: An increase in ambient noise levels due to the operation of construction equipment, movement of construction traffic and blasting may create a nuisance for nearby communities and visiting tourists.

Applicable Project Phase			*Construction*					
Initial Impact Rating	Magnitude	Duration	Scale	Consequence	Probability	Significance	+/-	Confidence
	Moderate	Short Term	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-	High

Mitigation measures:

1. Develop a Noise and Vibration Control Plan.
2. **Noise generated from construction sites from construction activities**
   - Select the quietest available plant and equipment that can economically undertake the work required.
   - Undertake maintenance of the equipment as simple maintenance can reduce noise levels by as much as 50%. Parts may become loose, creating more noise because of improper operation or scraping against other parts. Grinding noises may also occur as a result of inadequate lubrication.
   - Equipment under use will be regularly maintained, tuned, and provided with mufflers to minimize noise levels.
   - Use visual alarms in preference to audible alarms.
   - Enclose noisy equipment.
   - Provide noise attenuation screens, where appropriate.
   - Build an enclosure around the noise source so that noise is contained. The enclosure should be free from gaps made of dense material and be lined with noise-absorbing material like glass or polyester batts.
   - Locate noisy equipment behind parking lots or parks.
   - Close liaison with the community and regular monitoring of the noise levels in the community are key to the successful implementation of the above mitigation measures. Specifically, inform communities of all major construction activities three days in advance.
3. **Construction noise from traffic**
   - Fit and maintain appropriate mufflers on earth-moving and other vehicles on the site.
   - Mobile plants such as excavators, front-end loaders, and other diesel-engine equipment should be fitted with residential-class mufflers and other silencing equipment, as applicable.
   - Haul roads within the site should have as low a gradient as possible, and paving should be considered if practicable where noise-sensitive receptors are likely to be affected;
   - Owners and operators of existing facilities should implement special noise reduction measures, such as erecting purpose-built acoustic barriers, restricting opening hours and maintaining transport vehicle
4. **Construction noise from on-site plant operations and equipment**
   - All fixed plants at the work sites will be appropriately selected, and where necessary, fitted with silencers, acoustical enclosures and other noise attenuation measures.
   - Modify the equipment or the work area to make it quieter by substituting existing equipment with quieter equipment; retro-fitting existing equipment with damping materials, mufflers, or enclosures; erecting barriers; and maintenance.
   - Shift to a quieter construction process for example pile driving is very loud as compared to boring which is a much quieter way to do the same work.
   - Combine noisy operations to occur in the same period. The total noise level produced will not be significantly greater than the level produced if the operations were performed separately.
   - All plants and equipment should be regularly maintained.
   - Move static plant and equipment as far as possible from sensitive boundaries, as work allows. A distance of four times further away lowers the noise by 12 dBA. A reduction of 10 dBA will sound half as loud.
   - Sound attenuation measures should be used for plant and equipment such as baffles and specialized mufflers, acoustic enclosures, or partial enclosure housings.
   - Acoustic barriers need to be designed and purpose-built if needed. Vegetated buffer zones can also be planted to mitigate noise from operations using suitably selected native plantings local to the area.
   - Reduce workers' exposure to high noise levels by keeping moving workers away from the noise source; restricting access to areas; rotating workers performing noisy tasks; and shutting down noisy equipment when not needed.
   - Use earplugs to reduce workers' exposure to high noise levels.
5. **Noise generated from the blasting in quarry areas**
   - Using vibratory piling instead of impact piling.
   - Conveyor belts and crushing/screening equipment can be housed to provide acoustic screening.
   - Sound-reduction equipment fitted to machinery must be used and maintained properly.

- Erect earth mounds around the site boundary can provide acoustic as well as visual screening.
- Soft ground (e.g. grassland and cultivated fields) attenuation can sometimes have a greater impact in reducing noise than barrier attenuation, especially if the ground supports sound-absorbing vegetation.

6. Noise emissions from concrete batching

- Locate noisy equipment away from potential sources of conflict.
- Locate noisy equipment behind sound barriers or sound absorbers – for example, gravel stockpiles or constructed barriers.
- Install silencing devices to all pressure-operated equipment.

Residual Impact Rating	Magnitude	Duration	Scale	Consequence	Probability	Significance	+/-	Confidence
	Minor	Short Term	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-	High

7.7.1 Existing Conditions

798. There is no continuous major anthropogenic source of noise in the communities. Intermittent sources include farm equipment and traffic. River noise is only the continuous source present at the construction sites of the Project. Noise baseline conditions at the Project construction sites in the villages are between 40 dBA and 60 dBA for daytime and 37 dBA and 53 dBA for nighttime. The detailed noise levels are presented in **Section 4.1.10** (*Noise Levels*).

7.7.2 Criteria for Determining Significance

799. The World Bank guidelines and NEQS for noise require that the sound level in residential areas should not exceed 55 dBA during the day and 45 dBA during the night as presented in **Exhibit** 7-23**.** World Bank guidelines also state that noise impacts should not exceed the levels presented in **Exhibit 7-23** or result in a maximum increase in background levels of 3 dB at the nearest receptor location off-site.

Exhibit 7-23: NEQS and IFC Guidelines on Ambient Noise Levels

Specific Environment	Maximum Allowable Log Equivalent (Hourly Measurements), in dB A			
	IFC-EHS limit Day (7:00-22:00)	IFC-EHS limit Night (22:00-7:00)	NEQS Day (6:00-22:00)	NEQS Night (22:00-6:00)
Residential, institutional, educational	55	45	55	45
Industrial	75	65	70	70
Commercial	65	55	70	70

7.7.3 Impact Analysis

800. The analysis presented in this section is based on the approach recommended by the Federal Highway Administration of the US Department of Transportation for assessment of construction noise.[135]

135 Highway Construction Noise: Measurement, Prediction, and Mitigation, Reagan, J. A. and C. A. Grant, Special Report. US. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration.

801. Precise prediction of noise due to construction activity at a given location at a given time requires the list of all equipment that is operational at the time and the following information regarding each piece of equipment.

- The maximum and minimum noise levels, measured at a reference distance from the equipment, during a work cycle
- The fraction of time it operates at maximum level during a work cycle
- The usage factor, i.e., the number of hours during the day when the equipment is operational
- The distance of the equipment from the receptor
- Potential noise barriers and other topographic features that attenuate the sound.
- Atmospheric conditions—the wind speed and direction, humidity, and barometric pressure—also affect the propagation of sound, however, for short distances the effect of these is insignificant compared to other variables.

802. Construction noise levels at the nearest receptor in the nearby village, located approximately 350 m from the boundary of the construction site, would fluctuate depending on the type, number, distance from the receptor, and duration of use of various pieces of construction equipment. In this analysis, first, the noise level due to each piece of equipment, that is likely to be used in the construction, is calculated. The peak noise levels of construction equipment mainly used at a typical construction site, are shown in **Exhibit 7-24**. The list includes all equipment except vehicles and some minor pieces of equipment. Using this data, the expected noise level, $L_{eq(8\text{-}hr)}$, is calculated. The predicted noise levels are shown in **Exhibit 7-25**. It shows that the highest equivalent noise level for an 8-hour shift due to a single piece of equipment at a receptor 500 m from the source will be about 52 dBA. This is under no-mitigation conditions and assumes no attenuation due to ground features.

803. When more than one piece of equipment is working simultaneously, the noise level at the receptor will increase. Generally speaking, the noise level will increase by 3 dBA due to the first equipment. The increase due to the subsequent addition of equipment will gradually decrease from 3 dBA. So if five equipment, each producing 52 dBA at the receptor, are working simultaneously, the resulting noise level will be around 59 dBA. The attenuation due to topographic factors could be up to 5 dBA. Good maintenance of equipment with the installation of noise mufflers can reduce the noise by another 5 dBA.

Exhibit 7-24: Construction Equipment Noise Ranges (dBA)

Equipment	Peak Noise Range at 15.2 m	Typical Peak Sound Level in a Work Cycle[a]	Typical 'Quieted Equipment' Sound Level[b]	Construction Phase		
				Earthworks	Structures	Installation
Batching plant	82-86	84	81		Y	
Concrete mixers	76-86	85	82		Y	
Cranes	70-94	83	80		Y	Y
Excavators	74-92	85	82	Y		
Tractors and trolleys	77-94	88	85	Y	Y	Y

Equipment	Peak Noise Range at 15.2 m	Typical Peak Sound Level in a Work Cycle[a]	Typical 'Quieted Equipment' Sound Level[b]	Construction Phase		
				Earthworks	Structures	Installation
Water bowsers	85-93	88	85	Y	Y	Y
Graders	72-92	85	82	Y		
Bulldozers	65-95	80	75	Y		
Paver	87-89	88	80	Y		
Pumps	68-72	76	75	Y	Y	Y
Diesel generators	72-82	78	75	Y	Y	Y
Vibrators	68-82	76	75	Y	Y	
Drilling machines	82-98	90	87		Y	Y
Compressors	74-84	81	71		Y	
Dumpers	77-96	88	83	Y	Y	Y
Road rollers	73-77	75	72	Y		

Sources: Noise from Construction Equipment and Operations, Building Equipment, and Home Appliances. USEPA; Bolt, Beranek, and Newman, 1971.

Notes:

[a] Where typical value is not cited in the literature, the mean of the peak noise range is assumed

[b] Quieted equipment can be designed with enclosures, mufflers, or other noise-reducing features. Where data is not available, a 3 dB reduction is assumed

804. It can be seen that some equipment complies with the NEQS and IFC-EHS limits when they are operated on an individual basis. Night-time construction activities may exceed the limits for certain construction equipment as shown in **Exhibit 7-25**. It is, therefore, predicted that the resultant noise levels at the receptors when the construction work is carried out at a distance of 350 m from the receptor could be in the range 50-55 dBA. In areas where the baseline noise level is high, say 60 dBA, the increase will be less than 2 dBA and thus barely noticeable. Note that the above statement is valid if there is a continuous non-fluctuating noise source. As the noise levels of construction equipment vary considerably, the community can easily notice the variation. However, the overall noise level, $L_{eq,}$ is likely to be within the predicted limit.

805. In addition to inherent fluctuation in equipment, the other factors that can increase the noise levels in the community include simultaneous operation of a very large number of equipment, equipment working in close vicinity of the dwellings, and receptors located on elevated areas thus eliminating attenuation due to topography, and receptors located downwind of the equipment.

Exhibit 7-25: Predicted Noise Level for Construction Equipment (dBA)

Equipment	Equivalent Noise Level in an 8-hr Shift at Receptor 250-500 m from Source	Individual Compliance	
		Daytime	Nighttime
Batching plant	59	No	No
Concrete mixers	59	No	No
Cranes	54	Yes	No

Equipment	Equivalent Noise Level in an 8-hr Shift at Receptor 250-500 m from Source	Individual Compliance	
		Daytime	Nighttime
Excavators	54	Yes	No
Tractors and trolleys	49	Yes	No
Water bowsers	49	Yes	No
Graders	45	Yes	Yes
Bulldozers	45	Yes	Yes
Paver	45	Yes	Yes
Pumps	45	Yes	Yes
Diesel generators	43	Yes	Yes
Vibrators	43	Yes	Yes
Drilling machines	43	Yes	Yes
Compressors	43	Yes	Yes
Dumpers	43	Yes	Yes
Road rollers	43	Yes	Yes

7.7.4 Mitigation

806. Noise mitigation measures for each construction activity are presented in **Exhibit** 7-26. As the final location of the construction equipment is not known at this stage a safe buffer distance for loud construction activities is also provided in the Exhibit to guide the final location of the Project construction infrastructure.

Exhibit 7-26: Mitigation Measures for Controlling Noise

Source/Activity	Zone of Impact	Mitigation Measures
Noise generated from construction sites from construction activities Construction activities include removal of topsoil and overburden, excavation with machinery, drilling and blasting of rock, crushing and screening of aggregates, transport of raw materials and finished products within the site and on public roads, etc.		**Source Mitigation** Select the quietest available plant and equipment that can economically undertake the work required. Undertake maintenance of the equipment as simple maintenance can reduce noise levels by as much as 50%. Parts may become loose, creating more noise because of improper operation or scraping against other parts. Grinding noises may also occur as a result of inadequate lubrication. Equipment under use will be regularly maintained, tuned, and provided with mufflers to minimize noise levels. Use visual alarms in preference to audible alarms **Pathway Mitigation** Enclose noisy equipment. Provide noise attenuation screens, where appropriate. Building an enclosure around the noise source so that noise is contained. The enclosure should be free from gaps made of dense material and be lined with noise-absorbing material like glass or polyester batts. Locate noisy equipment behind parking lots or parks. **Receiver Mitigation** Close liaison with the community and regular monitoring of the noise levels in the community are key to the successful implementation of the above mitigation measures. Specifically, Inform communities of all major construction activities three days in advance, Discuss noise control measures with the community through informal and formal meetings, and Implement a complaint registering, tracking, and redressal mechanism and undertake on-demand monitoring also in case of any complaints.
Construction noise from traffic Heavy vehicles on access routes can create disturbing noise when entering and exiting the facility. The siting of such facilities needs to consider the traffic routes the vehicles will travel, preferably not through built-up residential areas.	The EPA Guidance for the Assessment of Environmental Factors (Separation Distances between Industrial and Sensitive Land Uses) requires that a minimum separation distance of 1,000	**Source Mitigation** Mobile plants such as excavators, front-end loaders and other diesel-engine equipment should be fitted with residential-class mufflers and other silencing equipment, as applicable. **Pathway Mitigation** Haul roads within the site should have as low a gradient as possible, and paving should be considered if practicable where noise-sensitive receptors are likely to be affected; **Receiver Mitigation**

Source/Activity	Zone of Impact	Mitigation Measures
	meters be provided.[136] Main transport routes to the facility should avoid residential or sensitive use areas.	Owners and operators of existing facilities should implement special noise reduction measures, such as erecting purpose-built acoustic barriers, restricting opening hours, and maintaining transport vehicles.
Construction noise from on-site plant operations and equipment The extent to which plant and equipment may disturb neighboring properties will depend on local circumstances and the nature, level, or frequency of the sound emitted, its duration, and the time at which it is made.	The EPA Guidance for the Assessment of Environmental Factors (Separation Distances between Industrial and Sensitive Land Uses) requires a minimum separation distance of 1,000 meters.[137]	**Source Mitigation** All fixed plants at the work sites will be appropriately selected, and where necessary, fitted with silencers, acoustical enclosures, and other noise attenuation measures. Modify the equipment or the work area to make it quieter by substituting existing equipment with quieter equipment; retro-fitting existing equipment with damping materials, mufflers, or enclosures; erecting barriers; and maintenance. Shift to a quieter construction process for example pile driving is very loud as compared to boring which is a much quieter way to do the same work. Combine noisy operations to occur in the same period. The total noise level produced will not be significantly greater than the level produced if the operations were performed separately. All plants and equipment should be regularly maintained. **Pathway Mitigation** Move static plant and equipment as far as possible from sensitive boundaries, as work allows. A distance of four times further away lowers the noise by 12 dBA. A reduction of 10 dBA will sound half as loud. Sound attenuation measures should be used for plant and equipment such as baffles and specialized mufflers, acoustic enclosures, or partial enclosure housings. Acoustic barriers need to be designed and purpose-built if needed. Vegetated buffer zones can also be planted to mitigate noise from operations using suitably selected native plantings local to the area. **Receiver Mitigation** Reduce workers' exposure to high noise levels by keeping moving workers away from the noise source; restricting access to areas; rotating workers performing noisy tasks; and shutting down noisy equipment when not needed. Use earplugs to reduce workers' exposure to high noise levels.
Audible noise generated from the blasting in quarry areas	A buffer zone of one kilometer (1 km) is to be maintained around existing	**Source Mitigation** Using vibratory piling instead of impact piling.

136 Environmental guidelines for construction and demolition, department of environment and conservation, 2009 http://www.sulo.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Environmental_Guidelines_for_Construction_Demolition_Recycling_Facilities_Sep_2009.pdf
137 Ibid.

Source/Activity	Zone of Impact	Mitigation Measures
Blasting (which occurs at quarries, but not in sand and gravel pits) can give rise to vibration, audible noise, fly rock, and dust. Nonetheless, vibration transmitted through the ground and pressure waves through the air ("air overpressure") can shake buildings and people and may cause nuisance. Audible noise accompanies overpressure.	quarry sites to ensure the protection of adjacent areas from quarrying activities in Draft Noise Management Guideline, 1996.[138]	Conveyor belts and crushing/screening equipment can be housed to provide acoustic screening. Sound-reduction equipment fitted to machinery must be used and maintained properly; **Pathway Mitigation** Erect earth mounds around the site boundary can provide acoustic as well as visual screening. Soft ground (e.g. grassland and cultivated fields) attenuation can sometimes have a greater impact in reducing noise than barrier attenuation, especially if the ground supports sound-absorbing vegetation;
Noise emissions from concrete batching Concrete batching plants are where ingredients such as sand, cement, water, and aggregate are mixed to form concrete. This consists of various activities such as storage of raw materials in bunkers and stockpiles, transfer of raw materials by front-end loaders, conveyors, hoppers, and loading of materials to the trucks.		**Source Mitigation** Locate noisy equipment away from potential sources of conflict Locate noisy equipment behind sound barriers or sound absorbers – for example, gravel stockpiles or constructed barriers Install silencing devices on all pressure-operated equipment

138 http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/ni/2002-247/20020404-2973/pdf/2002-247.pdf

7.8 Soil, Topography and Land Stability

807. The impacts associated with soil topography and land stability are discussed in this section. A detailed description of the geology, land use, and soil quality is provided in **Section 4.1.4** (*Geology, Soils and Seismic Hazards*). The impacts are summarized below.

- **Impact 15:** Contamination of soil as a result of the accidental release of solvents, oils, and lubricants can degrade soil fertility and agricultural productivity.
- **Impact 16:** Land clearing, excavation, tunnel boring, and other construction activities may loosen the topsoil in the Project area resulting in loss of soil, accelerated soil erosion, and landslides, especially in the wet season.
- **Impact 17:** Increased erosion and sediment load entering the river as a consequence of failure of spoil dumping sites.

7.8.1 Soil Quality

Impact 15: Contamination of soil as a result of the accidental release of solvents, oils, and lubricants can degrade soil fertility and agricultural productivity.								
Applicable Project Phase			*Construction*					
Initial Impact Rating	Magnitude	Duration	Scale	Consequence	Probability	Significance	+/-	Confidence
	Moderate	Medium	Intermediate	Medium	Possible	Medium	-	High
Mitigation measures: 1. Prepare a Spill Prevention and Response Plan and induct the staff for any incident of spill. 2. Appropriately mark fuel tanks by content and store in dyked areas with an extra 10% of the storage capacity of the fuel tank. The area will be lined with an impervious base. 3. Install grease traps on the site, wherever needed, to prevent the flow of oily water. 4. Spill cleaning kit (shovels, plastic bags, and absorbent materials) will be available near fuel and oil storage areas. 5. Carry cleanup kits in all fuel trucks. 6. Fueling should only take place over impermeable surfaces, other hazmats should be stored and used over impermeable surfaces. 7. The bottom of any soak pit or septic tank shall be at least 10 m above the groundwater table. The distance can be reduced, based on the soil properties, if it is established that distance will not result in contamination of groundwater.								
Residual Impact Rating	Magnitude	Duration	Scale	Consequence	Probability	Significance	+/-	Confidence
	Minor	Medium	Intermediate	Low	Unlikely	Low	-	High

808. Oil spills during the construction process will result in contamination of soil as well as groundwater. Due to the hilly nature of the Project area, soil contamination on the construction site has the potential to travel to surrounding areas and contaminate the soil. Such spills can occur during the construction process when tankers will access the area for refueling of excavation and other construction machinery.

809. Improper handling of oils, lubricants, and other such solvents may result during machinery refueling. Storage in areas with no lining and low-quality storage containers poses another threat of soil contamination. The impact will be minimized by adopting mitigation measures and extra caution during refueling and machinery maintenance at on-site workshops.

7.8.2 Soil Erosion

Impact 16: Land clearing, excavation, tunnel boring, and other construction activities may loosen the topsoil in the Project area resulting in loss of soil and possible acceleration of soil erosion and land sliding, especially in the wet season.

Applicable Project Phase	*Construction*

	Magnitude	Duration	Scale	Consequence	Probability	Significance	+/-	Confidence
Initial Impact Rating	Moderate	Short Term	Small	Low	Definite	Low	-	High

Mitigation measures:

1. Develop an Erosion Control Plan.
2. Limit vegetation loss to demarcated construction areas.
3. Cover areas such as muck disposal area, batching plant, labor camp and quarry sites after the closure with grass and shrubs.
4. Adopt slope stabilization measures such as adequate vertical and horizontal drains, drainage along roadsides, cross drainage, and retaining walls.
5. Monitor slope movements around excavation work areas.
6. Salvage, store, and reuse all topsoil at all construction sites.
7. The height of the stockpile will be minimized to the extent possible by increasing the size of the land for the stockpile.
8. Topsoil will be carefully stripped to ensure that it is not mixed with subsoil.
9. The stockpiles will be revegetated to minimize loss of soil quality, minimize weed infestation, maintain soil organic matter levels, and maintaining soil structure and microbial activity.
10. Topsoil stockpiles will be signposted for easy identification and to avoid any inadvertent losses.
11. The establishment of declared plants on the stockpiles will also be monitored and control programs implemented as required.
12. The topsoil will be treated with temporary soil stabilization and erosion control measures.
13. During the removal of the topsoil stockpile for the restoration of project-affected areas, it is preferred that the soil is removed in layers (less than 0.5 m thick) under a gradual process.
14. The top layer will be mixed with the remainder of the stockpile to ensure that living organisms are distributed throughout the topsoil material at the time of final placement. The use of micro-organism inoculates may be necessary to re-establish micro-organisms in topsoil material.
15. Select local species for plantation to restore the biodiversity of the area in consultation with Forest Department after completion of respective activities.

	Magnitude	Duration	Scale	Consequence	Probability	Significance	+/-	Confidence
Residual Impact Rating	Minor	Short Term	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-	High

810. The top cover of soil on the slopes around the Project facilities is mainly sand and fine clay. Any excavation work during the construction activities, whether permanent or temporary, would lead to loss of soil. Excavated material collected during the boring of the diversion tunnels will be used for the construction of a cofferdam to divert water. Furthermore, construction will require excavation for the powerhouse, tunnels, and other project facilities. These activities will result in the loss of soil. Erosion of soil can also occur from the removal of vegetation cover, runoff from unprotected excavated areas, muck disposal sites, and quarry sites. Excavations on slopes would also decrease its stability. Given the topography of the area, unprotected excavations on sloping grounds may lead to landslides, especially during the rainy season. Major landslides will disturb the slopes of the area and may also alter the bed of the Kunhar River.

811. It is expected that a moderate level of risk is associated with the type of construction activities that are likely to take place. The current land formation is fairly stable sandstone therefore no major risk is associated with regard to slope stability. The duration of the risk is expected to be short and the spatial scale of risk is small because the excavation effects are

not likely to affect areas further than 200 meters from the Project facilities. The probability of this risk is estimated to be definite due to extensive excavation activities expected for the dam, powerhouse, and most importantly the tunnels.

812. Topsoil from the Project site will be stockpiled for use during the restoration process. As the topsoil will be stockpiled for use during the restoration process, it retain its advantageous chemical, physical, and biological properties. Generally, the soil is adversely affected during storage if the depth of the stockpile is more than 3 m. Anaerobic conditions are created in the deeper depths, which results in a decrease in microbial activity in the stockpiled soil and consequently adversely affects the biological properties. The mitigation measures proposed to ensure the regeneration of biological activity in the topsoil are provided and will be followed.

7.8.3 Spoil Disposal Areas

Impact 17: Failure of spoil dumping sites resulting in increased erosion and sediment load entering river.

Applicable Project Phase	*Construction and Operation*							
Initial Impact Rating	Magnitude	Duration	Scale	Consequence	Probability	Significance	+/-	Confidence
	Moderate	Long Term	Intermediate	High	Possible	High	-	High

Mitigation measures:

1. Dumping sites should have a flood prevention design for a 20-year flood.
2. The water drainage works consist of the masonry structures and shall be designed to drain a 5-year rainfall every 10 minutes.
3. Where constructed tailing hold structure will be of galvanized woven wire mesh gabions
4. All five dumping sites will undergo vegetation restoration works comprising of surface leveling, covering, and forest/grass planting or agricultural land rehabilitation
5. Develop a Spoil Disposal Plant that includes the following measures:
   - Slope movements will be monitored around excavation work areas.
   - Restore to the maximum extent possible the hydrological regime and reinstate natural drainage of the land (including provisions to maintain the water balance of the site and protect it from flooding where appropriate)
   - Reinstate topsoil (in case it was stripped before construction activities)
   - Revegetate sites with suitable native plant species
   - Drain spoil piles to prevent the concentration of flow and to prevent rill and gully erosion
   - Separate organic material (e.g., roots, stumps) from the dirt fill and store separately. Place this material in long-term, upland storage sites, as it cannot be used for fill.
   - Store “clean” material in a short-term disposal site (stockpile) if it will likely be re-used for fill.
   - Where feasible, recycle asphalt material in embankments and shoulder backing. Place these materials where they will not enter the stream system. Asphalt that is 5 years old is considered “inert” (that is, all oils washed off).
   - Do not add excess unusable material to permanently closed sites.
   - Spread material is not to be re-used in compacted layers, generally conforming to the local topography. Design the final disposal site reclamation topography to minimize the discharge of concentrated surface water and sediment off the site and into nearby watercourses.
   - Cover the compacted surfaces with a 6-inch layer of organic or fine-grained soil, if feasible.
   - After placement of the soil layer, track walk the slopes perpendicular to the contour to stabilize the soil until vegetation is established. Track walking creates indentations that trap seeds and decrease erosion of the reclaimed surfaces.
6. Revegetate the disposal site with a mix of native plant species. Cover the seeded and planted areas with straw compost, mulched with straw at a rate of 1 to 1 ½ tons per acre. Apply jute netting or similar erosion control fabric on slopes greater than 1:2 if the site is erosive.
7. Locate stockpiles away from drainage lines, at least 10 meters away from natural waterways, and where they will be least susceptible to wind erosion.
8. Ensure that stockpiles and batters are designed with slopes no greater than 1:2 (vertical\ horizontal).
9. Besides these measures, erosion can also be minimized by regular rehabilitation of areas not in use for Project activities during construction. These will include regrading and immediate revegetation

(using fast-growing species and different functional groups of plants for keeping soil in place) of slopes to minimize erosion.
10. Install erosion and sediment control measures, if possible before construction commences. Identify drainage lines and install control measures to handle predicted stormwater and sediment loads generated in the mini-catchment.
11. Establish an adequate inspection, maintenance, and cleaning program for sediment run-off control structures. Ensure that contingency plans are in place for unusual storm events.
12. Continually assess the effectiveness of sediment control measures and make necessary improvements.
13. Keep temporary disposal sites out of wetlands, adjacent riparian corridors, and ordinary high-water areas as well as high-risk zones, such as 100-year floodplains and unstable slopes.
14. Anticipate sufficient storage area with no risk of sediment delivery for piles that may slump. Stress cracks indicate that the pile is at risk of slumping.
15. Cover the trucks that will be used for the transportation of spoil material to disposal sites.

Residual Impact Rating	Magnitude	Duration	Scale	Consequence	Probability	Significance	+/-	Confidence
	Moderate	Medium Term	Intermediate	Medium	Unlikely	Low	-	High

813. In the event of the failure of a waste dumping site, there can be a danger to downstream communities and sediment can be released into the river impacting the ecology. Sites not revegetated or rehabilitated can be a constant source of fugitive dust emissions due to wind erosion from the surface. Critical mitigation measures listed above ensure spoil units are stable for the coming decades and centuries.

814. Spoil disposal zones under consideration are shown in **Section 3.5**. A comparison of these zones was done as part of the EIA based on the land use within each zone. **Exhibit 7-27** shows the different land uses including habitat types, in each zone.

Exhibit 7-27: Land Use in Spoil Disposal Zones

Disposal Zones	Area (m^2)	Agriculture Land	Pine Forest	River	Settlement	Barren Land
1	60,859	40%	19%	0%	17%	24%
2	37,316	0%	79%	0%	0%	21%
3	30,376	0%	35%	12%	0%	52%
4	220,083	41%	4%	15%	0%	39%
5	48,434	25%	0%	10%	2%	63%

815. The following impacts can be expected.

- The three zones 1, 4, and 5 will have significant socioeconomic impacts as compared to other zones. This is because of the presence of a large percentage of settlements associated with physical displacement and agricultural land associated with economic displacement i.e. livelihood. Of the three; Zone 1 will have the highest socioeconomic impact (settlements: 17% and agricultural land: 40%) followed by Zone 4 and Zone 5.
- The two zones 2 and 3 will have a significant impact on the ecology as compared to other zones. This is because of the presence of a large percentage of forests associated with terrestrial ecology. Of the two; Zone 2 will have the highest impact on ecology as 79% of it is used by forests.

- The three zones 3, 4, and 5 will pose the greatest impact to river ecology as parts of the area in these are stretches of river where spoil can contaminate the water quality, if proper mitigation measures are not taken.

816. Based on the above discussion, spoil disposal in Zone 3 will have the least impact followed by Zone 2 as land in these zones is not used by the community for settlements or agriculture. However, Zone 2 has 79% Pine Forest and is, therefore, important for terrestrial biodiversity.

7.9 Aesthetics

817. Visual impacts are the effects on people of the changes in available views through intrusion or obstruction and whether important opportunities to enjoy views may be improved or reduced. Visual impact to nearby receptors of the Project include:

- **Impact 18:** Deterioration of aesthetics and visual amenity of nearby receptors due to construction activities, including vehicular movement on roads, may cause disturbance in aesthetics for tourists, businesses, and nearby communities.
- **Impact 19:** Deterioration of aesthetics and visual amenities of nearby receptors due to low flow in the river may affect the scenic value of the area.
- **Impact 20:** Permanent change in aesthetics of the area due to the reservoir, dam, and powerhouse.

818. **Section 4.1.5** (*Visual Character*) describes the existing visual (aesthetic) character of the site. The area largely consists of mountainous valleys with large trees and bushes of heights greater than 2 m. The mountainous landscape and deep gorges greatly restrict visibility to a maximum of 0.5 to 1.5 km at receptor locations. The area is a popular tourist location (see **Section 4.3.4** *River Dependent Socioeconomic Activities*) due to its aesthetic beauty due to the mountains, forests, rivers, and streams.

7.9.1 Degradation of Aesthetic Value of the Area due to Construction Activities

Impact 18: Deterioration of aesthetics and visual amenity of nearby receptors due to construction activities, including vehicular movement on roads, may cause disturbance in aesthetics for tourists, businesses, and nearby communities.								
Applicable Project Phase	*Construction*							
Initial Impact Rating	Magnitude	Duration	Scale	Consequence	Probability	Significance	+/-	Confidence
	Minor	Short Term	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-	High
Mitigation measures: 1. Minimize disturbance to, or movement of, soil and vegetation. 2. Backfill to original levels. 3. Reshaping to match with surrounding topography. 4. Reinstate vegetation around construction sites.								
Residual Impact Rating	Magnitude	Duration	Scale	Consequence	Probability	Significance	+/-	Confidence
	Minor	Short Term	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-	High

819. The construction phase's visual impact will be local and temporary. The construction will take place at the powerhouse site and dam site. The activities during construction that will affect the aesthetics of the area include excavation, stacking of material onto stockpiles, and dumping at the waste disposal areas. Borrow pits and quarry areas are to be excavated, and useful material will be stacked to stockpiles whereas waste and spoils will be dumped to waste disposal areas.

820. Quarries and borrow areas may leave a permanent scar on the hillsides as once they are opened, will likely continue to stay in use and as a result change the surrounding landscape. Access roads, tunnel faces[139] and adits' will necessitate the clearing of vegetation for their construction. Some of the access roads to construction sites will be entirely new and permanent and some will be reconstructed to accommodate the additional construction traffic load which will also alter the landscape of the area. The tunnel faces and adits during the construction phase will be obvious cuts into the mountainsides, many of which will be likely to be visible to residents, especially those on opposing sides of the valleys. For all of these features during the construction phase, there will be an impact on vegetation, as additional areas will be cleared around the feature to provide a working area. These activities will result in the creation of artificial and unnatural features in the landscape. Localized light pollution will also be an issue during construction.

7.9.2 Degradation of Aesthetic Value of the Area due to Low Flow Section

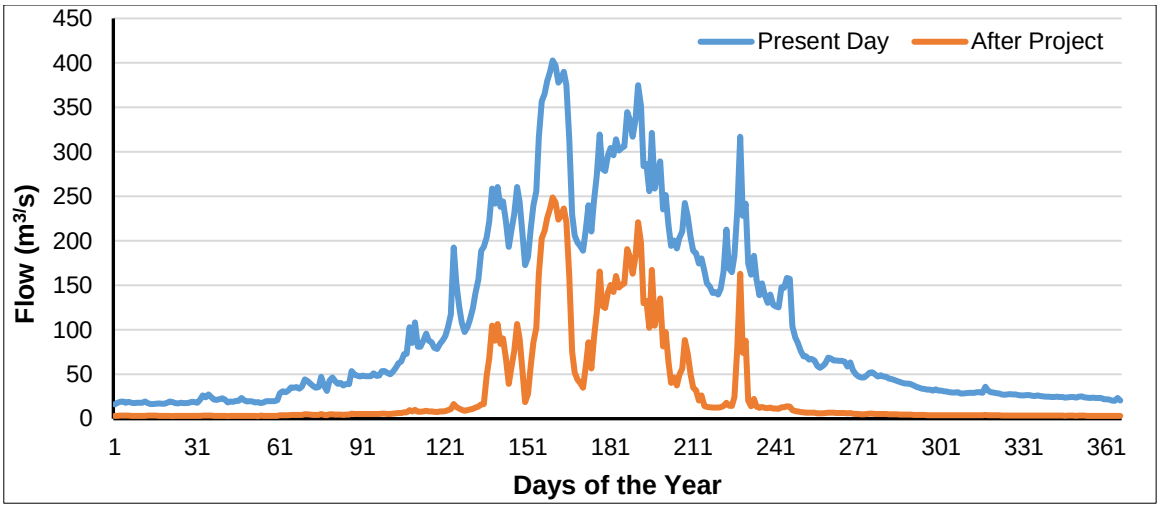
Impact 19: Deterioration of aesthetics and visual amenities of nearby receptors due to low flow in the river may affect the scenic value of the area.								
Applicable Project Phase	*Operation*							
Initial Impact Rating	Magnitude	Duration	Scale	Consequence	Probability	Significance	+/-	Confidence
	Minor	Medium	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-	High
Mitigation measures: 1. Ensure environmental flow release.								
Residual Impact Rating	Magnitude	Duration	Scale	Consequence	Probability	Significance	+/-	Confidence
	Minor	Medium	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-	High

821. The section from the dam to the tailrace will be impacted by water abstraction from the diversion tunnels. The impact will be most visible during the dry season in the winter as only environmental flow will be released downstream of the dam. In the summer overflows from the dam will be released from the spillway. However, even during this season abstraction will be at its maximum.

822. **Exhibit 7-28** shows the level of drop in the low-flow section[140] for 1960. The minimum 5-day flow during the dry season is presently 17.6 m^3/s[141] which will reduce to 2.9 m^3/s after the Project begins operation. The mean flood peak in the low flow section is 330 m^3/s which will reduce to 174 m^3/s after the Project.

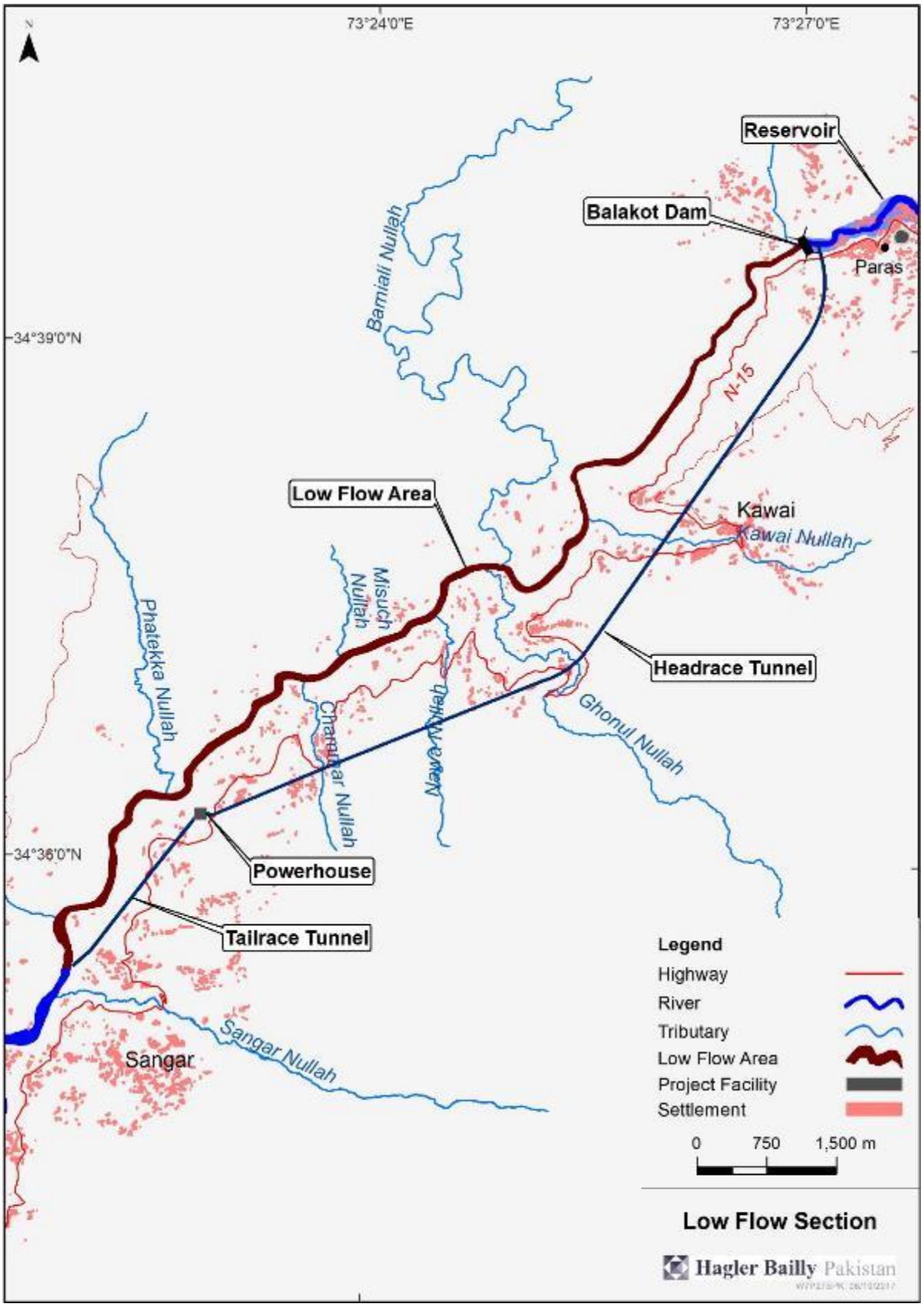
139 Working face of tunnels
140 With an E-Flow of 1.5 m^3/s
141 Median value over the 51 year hydrological period.

Exhibit 7-28: Comparison of Baseline and Post Project Hydrograph in the Low Flow Section, 1960



823. The extent of the low-flow section is shown in **Exhibit 7-29.** This area has low occupancy and limited use in tourism due to poor access. Therefore, the aesthetic impact due to diversion is expected to be limited.

Exhibit 7-29: Low Flow Section



7.9.3 Permanent Change in Visual Character due to Project Facilities

Impact 20: Permanent impact in aesthetics due to proposed developments.								
Applicable Project Phase	*Operation*							
Initial Impact Rating	Magnitude	Duration	Scale	Consequence	Probability	Significance	+/-	Confidence
	Minor	Medium	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-	High
Mitigation measures: 1. Develop and implement a Site Rehabilitation and Landscaping Plan. 2. Use colors that better integrate with the landscape. 3. Disguise elements with vegetation where possible. 4. Retain as much natural vegetation as possible.								
Residual Impact Rating	Magnitude	Duration	Scale	Consequence	Probability	Significance	+/-	Confidence
	Minor	Medium	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-	High

824. There will be a long-term visual impact due to the construction of the dam and powerhouse, and the formation of the reservoir.

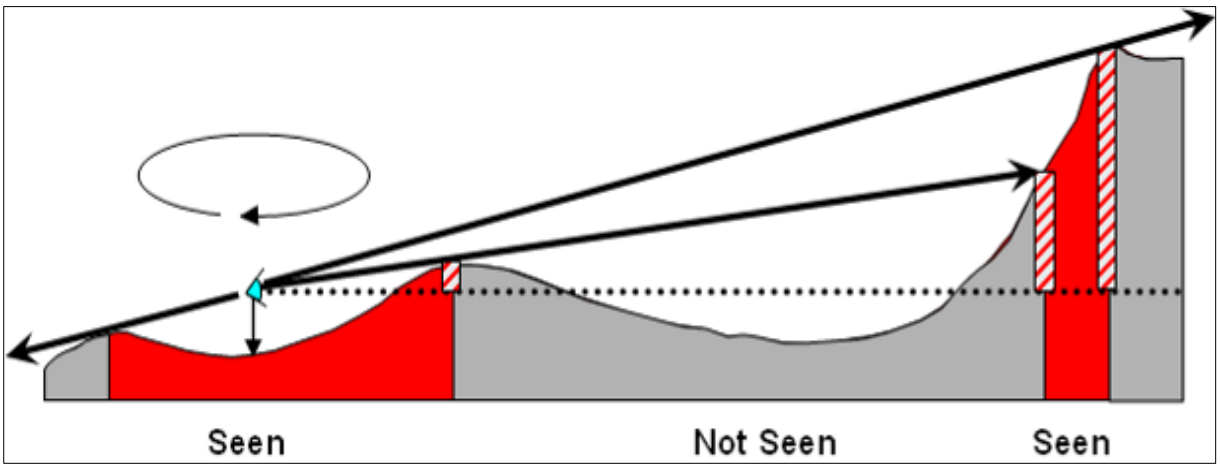
825. The impact due to the reservoir is subjective as it may be argued that a reservoir is visually appealing and the land use is compatible with the surroundings. Natural lakes in the area are popular tourist attractions.

826. The penstock and powerhouse will be underground limiting its visual impact.

827. **Viewshed of Proposed Project:** A viewshed is a geographical area that is visible from a location. It includes all surrounding points that are in line of sight with that location. The areas from where the reservoir and powerhouse can be viewed were calculated through the Viewshed Analysis Tool (VAT) function of ArcGIS.

828. The VAT uses the elevation value of each cell of the DEM to determine visibility to or from a particular cell. The VAT calculates all the points that are in the line of sight (shown in **Exhibit 7-30**) and excludes all that are blocked by the presence of features such as buildings, trees, and hedgerows.

Exhibit 7-30: Graphical Depiction of a Viewshed



829. For the analysis, a zone of visual influence was taken as 50 meters around the reservoir. This is defined as the extent of potential visibility to or from a specific area or feature. The effect of the canopy layer[142] was not incorporated, therefore, the actual viewsheds will be more limited than those presented.

830. The villages within 500 m of the reservoir and the viewshed include Balseri, Garan, Hariwala Nakka, Rah Sachcha, Shagin, Tangsan, Paras, Chuntian, Dhab, Rahter, Nihan, and Tokkol.

831. The villages within the viewshed but further than 500 m from the reservoir include Budhawa, Bura, Lohgi, Nakka, Shangrian, Jhabra, Bela, Uri, Chapra, Kashe, and Rai Ponian. Of these, the villages Shangrian and Uri are the least Project site visible areas.

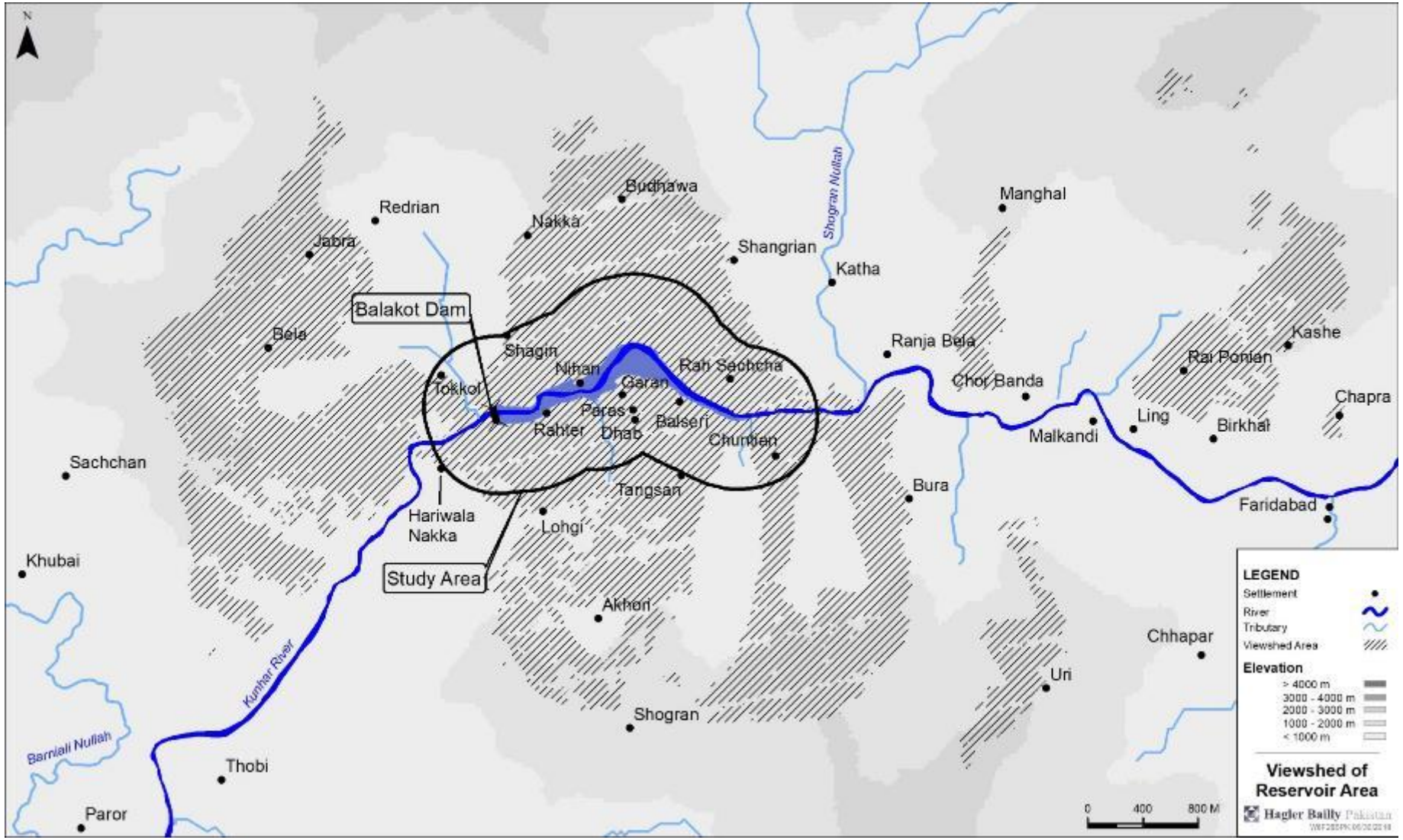
832. A summary of the land use and tourism potential within the 500 m buffer and viewshed of the reservoir and dam is presented in **Exhibit 7-31**. The viewshed of the reservoir and dam is shown in **Exhibit 7-32**.

Exhibit 7-31: Details of the Reservoir and Powerhouse

Parameter	Forest	Agriculture	Settlement	River
Land use distribution	74%	14%	8%	4%
Relative occupancy	Low	Medium	High	Nil
Tourism use and potential	Medium	Nil	Nil	Low

142 Canopy layer is the uppermost layer of the forest.

Exhibit 7-32: Viewshed of the Reservoir and Dam



7.10 Traffic and Roads

833. Three categories of roads will be used to transport material and equipment to the Project facilities. These are as follows:

7.10.1 Project External Roads

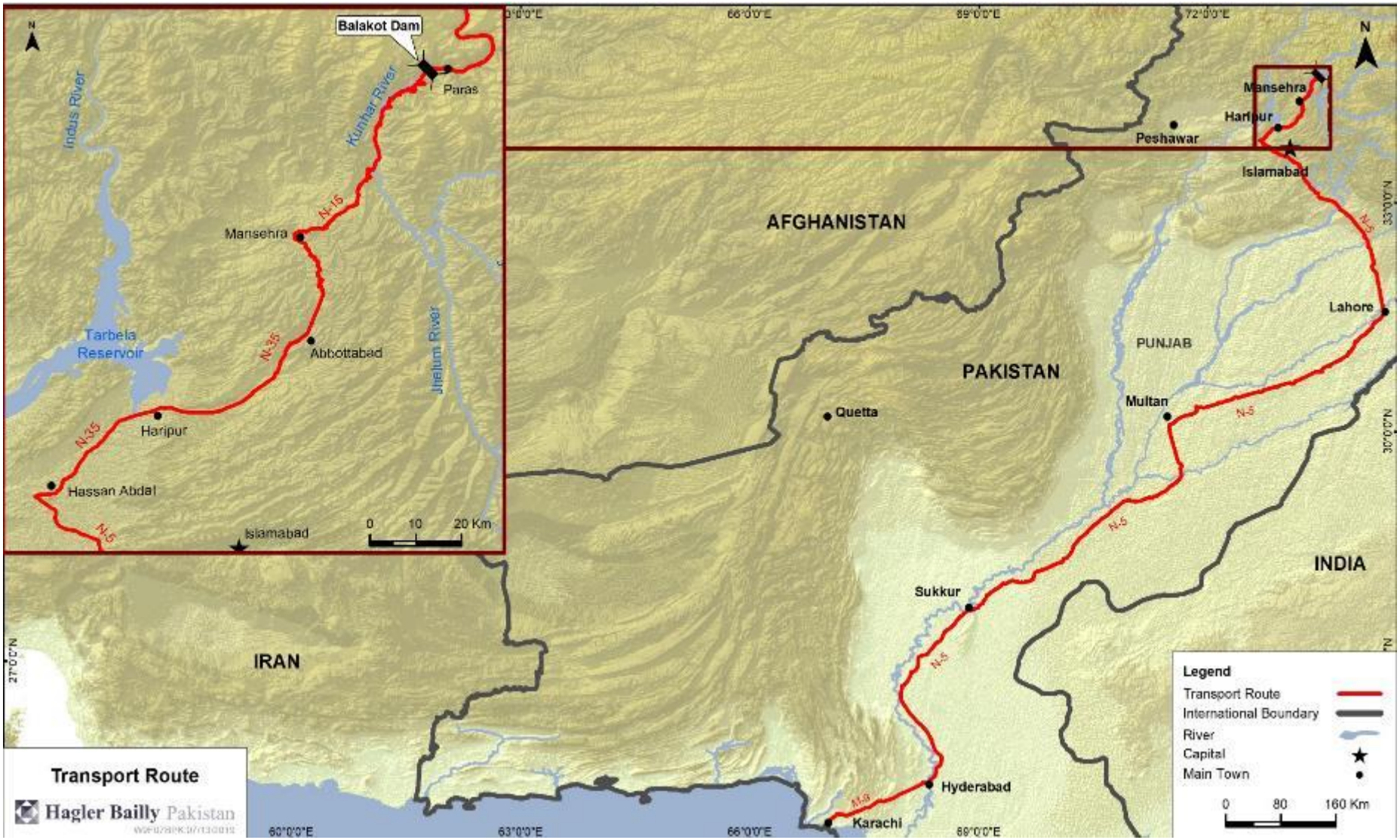
834. The roads connecting the major cities (Karachi and Islamabad) to the Project site and transporting materials up to the Balakot are called Project access roads. The construction materials (cement and steel) required for the construction of the Project include:

- **Cement:** It will be required for carrying out construction of the Project structures of the order of million cubic meters. The factories that produce ordinary Portland cement, sulphate-resistant cement, and low alkali cement and are close to the Project site are Maple Leaf Cement at Mianwali, Bestway Cement at Hattar, DG Cement at Kallar Kahar and Lafarge Cement at Kallar Kahar. Of these, the cement factory nearest to the Project is located in Hattar, White cement is also produced by Anwaar Zaib Cement Factory, located near Karachi, and Kohat Cement Factory located near Kohat. Slag cement is also required by the Project and Pakistan Steel Mills, located near Karachi is the only significant source of producing slag in Pakistan. There are other factories located around Karachi that produces Portland blast-furnace slag cement mainly by BS 146 including Dadabhoy Cement, Essa Cement, Attock Cement, Zeal Pak Cement, Pakland Cement, Javedan Cement, Thatta Cement, and Star Slag Cement Industry.
- **Steel:** Reinforced steel is required of the order of million tons. Several re-rolling mills in the country produce reinforcing steel in the form of both plain and deformed bars of tensile strength ranging from 40 ksi per square inch (ksi) to 60 ksi. There is no factory producing re-rolling reinforcing steel bars in the near vicinity of the Project site. The nearest location from where the reinforcing steel bars of the desired specification are available is Islamabad. Both hot and cold rolled reinforcing steel bars are available from Islamabad in the desired quantity. The major source of steel billets for the re-rolling mills is Pakistan Steel Mills located near Karachi. Steel sheets of various thicknesses are also produced by the Pakistan Steel Mills at Karachi, which can be used to fabricate steel formwork. These can also be used for fabricating steel liners and other miscellaneous items required in connection with the construction activities. Alternatively, steel items can be imported from abroad. The most likely source of supply of steel could be neighboring countries such as People's Republic of China and Iran.

835. The materials and equipment purchased from People's Republic of China will be shipped to Karachi by sea and from Karachi transported by Project access roads to the Project area.

836. The transport route is shown in **Exhibit 7-33**. The alternative routes are discussed in **Section 5** *(Analysis of Alternatives)*.

Exhibit 7-33: Transport Route



837. The traffic due to the Project will be generated during the construction phase of the Project. The construction traffic volume, on the site's external roads, will be due to:

- external supplies of construction material and equipment to the powerhouse and dam sited through trucks;
- movement of construction material from one construction facility to another through trucks; and
- Movement of staff among powerhouse and dam site through buses.

838. The construction generated traffic (**Exhibit 7-34**) will mainly consist of heavy traffic and minor contribution of light traffic due to the Project which was assumed to be 10% of heavy traffic.

Exhibit 7-34: Construction Traffic Volume

Item	Amount (m^3)	Density (ton/m^3)	Total (million tons)
Quarried material	250,000	2.4	0.6
Spoil material	1,100,000	1.33	1.5
Total			**2.1**

839. Total external traffic is 2.1 million tons as described above. This will be transported via dump trucks with a capacity of 15-20 tons 6.5 years of Project completion. As a worst-case scenario, the capacity of one truck is assumed to be 15 tons and 310 active days are considered. On average, there will be 70 truck trips per day. As a worst-case scenario, 40% peaking factor was used which will result in 98 truck trips per day.

7.10.2 Project Access Roads

840. The project's internal access roads have been discussed in detail in **Section 3** of the report. These Project access roads are made for each specific purpose and originate from N-15. The traffic volume on these roads will be dependent on the total material required and disposed to destined sites and capacity of trucks.

7.10.3 Impact Analysis

841. The major risks of traffic on existing and proposed roads due to the Project are:

- **Impact 21:** Improved accessibility due to the construction of Project access roads.
- **Impact 22:** Increase in congestion, due to increased traffic volume will cause delays.
- **Impact 23:** An increase in traffic volume will deteriorate the air quality.
- **Impact 24:** Increased risk to community safety due to increased traffic volume during the construction phase near communities.
- **Impact 25:** Degradation of the pavement due to use by heavy construction traffic.

7.10.4 Accessibility

Impact 21: Improved accessibility due to construction of Project access roads.								
Applicable Project Phase	*Construction*							
Initial Impact Rating	Magnitude	Duration	Scale	Consequence	Probability	Significance	+/-	Confidence
	Minor	Short Term	Small	Low	Possible	Low	+	High
Mitigation measures: 1. Consult communities during the final design and location of site access roads. 2. Allow communities to use new site access roads.								
Residual Impact Rating	Magnitude	Duration	Scale	Consequence	Probability	Significance	+/-	Confidence
	Minor	Short Term	Small	Low	Possible	Low	+	High

842. Land that is adjacent to roads has greater value due to its accessibility. Mountainous terrain in the area is difficult to traverse and the construction of new site access roads will improve connectivity in the area.

7.10.5 Congestion

Impact 22: An increase in congestion, due to increased traffic volume will cause delays.								
Applicable Project Phase	*Construction*							
Initial Impact Rating	Magnitude	Duration	Scale	Consequence	Probability	Significance	+/-	Confidence
	Minor	Short Term	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-	High
Mitigation measures: 1. Develop and implement a Traffic Management Plan. 2. Make roundabouts for the congestion points. 3. Retain as much natural vegetation as possible to reduce the impact of smoke due to vehicles. 4. The vehicles going on the spoil routes and passing through the communities must be completely covered to avoid dust emissions. 5. Strictly implement speed limits and defensive driving policies.								
Residual Impact Rating	Magnitude	Duration	Scale	Consequence	Probability	Significance	+/-	Confidence
	Minor	Short Term	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-	High

843. Traffic congestion is a condition that results as road use increases and is characterized by slower speeds, longer trip times, and increased vehicular queueing. There will be a significant congestion problem at Paras and Kappi Gali. This is due to the traffic exchange between N-15 and Project access roads. There will be a large traffic volume resulting in more vehicles, more time on the road, more idling, and more smoke emissions.

7.10.6 Air Pollution

Impact 23: An increase in traffic volume will deteriorate the air quality.								
Applicable Project Phase	*Construction*							
Initial Impact Rating	Magnitude	Duration	Scale	Consequence	Probability	Significance	+/-	Confidence
	Minor	Short Term	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-	High
Mitigation measures: 1. Keep speeds slow (30 km/hr) on unsealed roads. 2. Sprinkle water on unsealed roads that are used for construction traffic. 3. Retain as much natural vegetation as possible to reduce the impact of smoke due to vehicles. 4. The vehicles going on the spoil routes and passing through the communities must be completely covered to avoid dust emissions. 5. Strictly implement speed limits and defensive driving policies. 6. Promptly and properly repair and maintain roads that are subject to damage by Project activities.								
Residual Impact Rating	Magnitude	Duration	Scale	Consequence	Probability	Significance	+/-	Confidence
	Minor	Short Term	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-	High

844. The increase in traffic volume will increase environmental pollution (more noise, more emissions, and more fuel consumption). It will deteriorate ambient air quality around villages and will result in high noise. As the vehicle will be in the queue it continues to result in exhaust emissions and continuous engine-generated noise.

7.10.7 Community Safety

Impact 24: Increased risk to community safety due to increased traffic volume during the construction phase near communities.								
Applicable Project Phase	*Construction*							
Initial Impact Rating	Magnitude	Duration	Scale	Consequence	Probability	Significance	+/-	Confidence
	Minor	Short Term	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-	High
Mitigation measures: 1. Develop and implement a Traffic Management Plan. 2. Identify suitable times to transport equipment. 3. Road safety awareness education will also be included during community visits or information sessions so that communities can be familiarized with common road signs and the types of vehicles and equipment that will be moving through the area. 4. Keep speeds slow (30 km/hr) where there is traffic exchange between roads. 5. Make roundabouts for the congestion points. 6. Designate traffic wardens on roads on the transport route to manage traffic during school hours. 7. Construction traffic will not travel during school starting and ending hours on designated road segments in front of schools on the transport route. 8. Strictly implement speed limits and defensive driving policies. 9. Maintain vehicles, especially brakes.								
Residual Impact Rating	Magnitude	Duration	Scale	Consequence	Probability	Significance	+/-	Confidence
	Minor	Short Term	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-	High

845. As traffic volume increases, the traffic flow becomes unstable and any minor disturbance can lead to major damage. The traffic generated by the Project may worsen the condition of local road surfaces, thereby decreasing road safety for communities. Increased traffic could increase road accidents and injuries, as drivers may be unfamiliar with sharing the roads with trucks, and truck drivers may have difficulty seeing at night. Increased number of vehicles on the road increases the chances of accidents due to any oil leakage going to the Project site. This potential impact would be particularly prevalent during construction, where a higher number of equipment and materials delivery vehicles would be traversing the Project area.

846. On N-15, congestion can be a problem for locals residing in Paras, and Kappi Gali.

7.10.8 Pavement Condition

Impact 25: Degradation of the pavement due to use by heavy construction traffic.								
Applicable Project Phase	*Construction*							
Initial Impact Rating	Magnitude	Duration	Scale	Consequence	Probability	Significance	+/-	Confidence
	Minor	Short Term	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-	High
Mitigation measures: Promptly and properly repair and maintain roads that are subject to damage by Project activities.								
Residual Impact Rating	Magnitude	Duration	Scale	Consequence	Probability	Significance	+/-	Confidence
	Minor	Short Term	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-	High

7.11 Livelihood and Well-being

847. During the consultation for the Project, the community expressed a need for provision of transparent and merit-based employment to the locals and investment in the community infrastructure. Sediment mining was identified as one of the means of livelihood in the area and there was a concern that the Project would result in the loss of this resource.

848. A summary of the possible impacts on the livelihood and well-being of the surrounding communities is as follows.

- **Impact 26:** Direct, indirect, and induced employment at the local levels, resulting in increased prosperity and well-being due to higher and stable incomes of people.
- **Impact 27:** Increase in the stock of skilled human capital due to the transfer of knowledge and skill under the Project resulting in enhanced productivity of the local labor.
- **Impact 28:** Increase in recreational and subsistence fishing due to increase in catch of fish following the creation of favorable habitats for the fish in the Kunhar River.
- **Impact 29:** Loss of income from sediment mining due to change in the pattern of sediment deposition following construction of the dam.
- **Impact 30:** Loss of assets and livelihood as a result of land acquired for the Project.

7.11.1 Employment

Impact 26: Direct, indirect and induced employment at the local levels, resulting in increased prosperity and wellbeing due to higher and stable incomes of people.								
Applicable Project Phase			*Construction and Operation*					
Initial Impact Rating	*Magnitude*	*Duration*	*Scale*	*Consequence*	*Probability*	*Significance*	*+ /-*	*Confidence*
	Minor	Long term	Extensive	Medium	Possible	Medium	+	High
Enhancement measures: 1. Ensure preferential recruitment of local candidates provided they have the required skills and qualifications. 2. Include an assessment of the contractor's demonstrated commitment to domestic and local procurement and local hiring in the tender evaluation process. 3. Coordinate recruitment efforts related to non-skilled labor, including for non-skilled labor positions required by contractors. **Good practice measures:** 4. Determine what is considered to be 'fair and transparent' in recruitment and the distribution of jobs between different community groups, in consultation with local communities and their leaders.								
Enhanced Impact Rating	*Magnitude*	*Duration*	*Scale*	*Consequence*	*Probability*	*Significance*	*+ /-*	*Confidence*
	Moderate	Long term	Extensive	High	Definite	High	+	Medium

849. In Mansehra District, education levels of the population are generally higher as demonstrated by the literacy level of more than 71% (**Section 4.3.3**, *Socioeconomic Conditions in the Study Area*), compared to the KP average of 50% and the Pakistan national average of 59%.[143] The skill set of the local community will be developed through vocational institutions and training centers in the Project Area. Presently, around 5% of the local community is dependent on sediment mining and fishing. Other sources of income include businesses, daily wage labor, and employment. During community consultations, some of the women expressed an interest in gaining access to office-based employment opportunities in the project jobs.

850. The incomes of people employed by the Project are likely to lead to improved nutritional status, better housing, access to education, and improvement in the overall well-being of their families. Poverty cycles in poor families could be broken if children in the families become better educated and have more livelihood options than their parents had. The Project will employ several persons during the construction and operation phases. The Project will directly and through indirect and induced mechanisms contribute to alleviating poverty and vulnerability in KP, and to the prosperity and well-being of the people employed by the Project.

7.11.2 Training and Skill Development

Impact 27: Increase in the stock of skilled human capital due to the transfer of knowledge and skill under the Project resulting in enhanced productivity of the local labor.								
Applicable Project Phase			*Construction and Operation*					
Initial Impact Rating	*Magnitude*	*Duration*	*Scale*	*Consequence*	*Probability*	*Significance*	*+ /-*	*Confidence*
	Minor	Long term	Intermediate	Medium	Possible	Medium	+	Low
Enhancement measures:								

143 http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2405883116300247 cited on June 2017

1. Support a 'vocational training program' to assist local people to qualify for semi-skilled positions focusing on issues such as procurement, involvement of vulnerable groups in Project opportunities, and continual professional development of staff.

Good practice measures:

2. Assist local people having practical skills but lacking qualifications to obtain their certificates and thus increase their employment opportunities.
3. Support initiatives promoting a culture of learning in local communities.
4. Plan and implement the training program for vulnerable groups to encourage their participation in economic opportunities created by the Project.
5. Assist employees and local communities to improve basic personal financial life skills through training and awareness campaigns, respectively.
6. Consider further training programs to prepare retrenched workers to seek employment in sectors not related to dam construction.

Residual Impact Rating	*Magnitude*	*Duration*	*Scale*	*Consequence*	*Probability*	*Significance*	*+ /-*	*Confidence*
	Moderate	Long term	Extensive	High	Possible	High	+	Low

851. The Project will result in the training and skill development of local and domestic labor, especially during the construction phase of the Project. Financial and technical investment by foreign companies is generally seen as a positive opportunity for developing countries as their technology is usually more advanced compared to locally available technology.

852. The knowledge and skills acquired by the local community will be of value to the labor force of the country at national and local levels. The creation and injection of highly trained workers, qualified in multiple skills, into the economy will improve the productivity of the workforce and the benefits will extend to other firms and industries. This impact can therefore stretch to micro- and macro-economic levels.

853. For the enhancement of employment benefits at the local and domestic levels, various training programs will be implemented by PEDO. The training programs will focus on maximization of participation of the local community in the construction and operational phases of the Project.

7.11.3 Enhancement of Subsistence and Recreational Fishing

Impact 28: Increase in recreational and subsistence fishing due to an increase in catch of fish following the creation of favorable habitats for the fish in the Kunhar River.

Applicable Project Phase	Construction and Operation

Initial Impact Rating	*Magnitude*	*Duration*	*Scale*	*Consequence*	*Probability*	*Significance*	*+ /-*	*Confidence*
	Minor	Long term	Extensive	Low	Possible	Low	+	High

Mitigation measures:

1. Ensure implementation of the BAP (see **Volume C** of the EIA report).

Residual Impact Rating	*Magnitude*	*Duration*	*Scale*	*Consequence*	*Probability*	*Significance*	*+ /-*	*Confidence*
	Minor	Long term	Extensive	Low	Possible	Low	+	Medium

854. Estimates for the consumption of fish caught from the Study Area are provided in **Section 4.3.8**, (*River Dependent Socioeconomic Activities*). Income from fishing as a percentage of total income across the zones ranges from 0.011% in Zone 5 to negligible, with an average value of 0.010% and a maximum level of dependence of 0.011%. Fishing is only carried out for recreational purposes. Some people sell part of their catch, however, income from fishing is an insignificant part of their livelihood. The Fisheries Department, KP issues

permits for recreational and subsistence fishing using rods and cast nets. However, the bulk of the fishing at present is carried out using prohibited gill nets, a practice that cannot be considered sustainable. Under the Business-as-Usual scenario with poor protection of the river combined with impacts of the Project (see **Volume C** of the EIA report) fish of subsistence and recreational value such as Alwan Snow Trout will practically be wiped out in 31 years both upstream and downstream of the dam. However, following implementation of the BAP and High Protection levels (see **Volume C** of the EIA report) populations of these fish will be maintained at levels where it will be possible to support recreational and subsistence fishing.

7.11.4 Sediment Mining

Impact 29: Loss of income from sediment mining due to change in the pattern of sediment deposition following construction of the dam.								
Applicable Project Phase	*Operation*							
Initial Impact Rating	*Magnitude*	*Duration*	*Scale*	*Consequence*	*Probability*	*Significance*	*+ /-*	*Confidence*
	Major	Long term	Extensive	High	Definite	High	-	High
Mitigation measures: Sediment Mining and Management Guidelines will be prepared and implemented as a part of BAP (see **Volume C** of the EIA report), which will identify possible sand and gravel mining spots along the Kunhar River to meet community needs without harming the river ecology.								
Residual Impact Rating	*Magnitude*	*Duration*	*Scale*	*Consequence*	*Probability*	*Significance*	*+ /-*	*Confidence*
	Minor	Medium	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-	Low

855. Sediment mining is carried out throughout the length of the main Kunhar River and its tributaries. The mineable sediment resource is being extracted to meet small-scale construction demand, involving the construction and maintenance of local residential and commercial buildings as well as roads. Demand for large-scale projects is met through imports from Lawrencepur near Attock, about 60 km west of Islamabad and other areas.

856. Sediment mining will be affected by the Project. The development of the hydropower project will result in changes in flows, including sediment flows, thereby, affecting sediment deposition. Community dependence on sediment mining is significant based on the statistics presented earlier in **Section 4.3.8 (***River-Dependent Socioeconomic Activities*). The income, as a percentage of total income, ranges from 1.03% to 4.12% in various zones of the river with the average across the zones being 3.6%. Several persons also depend on daily wages from sediment mining businesses for their livelihoods. Income dependence for sediment mining is of significance.

857. The total quantity of sediment being mined from the socioeconomic Study Area is estimated at 467,030 m^3 per year. Given a total bed load sediment flow of 2,714,000 m^3/year[144], present demand for sediment is estimated at 17% of the sediment available. The availability of sediment to meet the demand of the communities is not likely to be an issue for the foreseeable future. PEDO as a part of the BAP, will prepare and implement sediment

144 Mirza Associates Engineering Services (Pvt.) Ltd. (Lead Consultant), December 2013, Feasibility Study of Balakot Hydropower Development Project, Volume I Main Report for Pakhtunkhwa Hydel Development Organization

mining management guidelines to minimize the impact of the Project and the extraction of sediment by the community on the river ecology while meeting the requirements of the community.

7.11.5 Land Acquisition

Impact 30: Loss of assets and livelihood as a result of land acquired for the Project.								
Applicable Project Phase	*Design and Construction*							
Initial Impact Rating	*Magnitude*	*Duration*	*Scale*	*Consequence*	*Probability*	*Significance*	*+ /-*	*Confidence*
	Major	Long term	Extensive	High	Definite	High	-	High
Mitigation Measures: See LARP (**Volume 8**)								
Residual Impact Rating	*Magnitude*	*Duration*	*Scale*	*Consequence*	*Probability*	*Significance*	*+ /-*	*Confidence*
	Minor	Medium	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-	Low

858. Land acquired for the Project can potentially have serious effects on the well-being of the community. It is estimated that about 221 households may have to relocate as a result of the Project. The LARP prepared for the Project identifies the potential social issues and proposes measures to avoid adverse impacts.

7.12 Socio-Cultural Impacts

859. The Project stakeholders expressed concerns about the potential sociocultural changes that can be induced by the Project including enhancement or possible degradation of the social and economic landscape, and hindrance in the mobility of the people due to the location of Project facilities such as the construction camp. Key impacts are listed below and discussed in this section.

- **Impact 31:** Increase in population due to in-migration of job seekers (in-migrants) leading to pressure on existing social infrastructure and services.
- **Impact 32:** Disputes over distribution of Project employment within and between Study Area inhabitants and the in-migrants resulting in social unrest.
- **Impact 33:** Potential social unrest in the Study Area due to conflicting socio-cultural norms amongst the inhabitants and in-migrants.
- Impact 34: Damage to the graveyard.

7.12.1 Pressure on Social Infrastructure and Services

Impact 31: Increase in population due to in-migration of job seekers (in-migrants) leading to pressure on existing social infrastructure and services in the Study Area.								
Applicable Project Phase	*Construction*							
Initial Impact Rating	*Magnitude*	*Duration*	*Scale*	*Consequence*	*Probability*	*Significance*	*+ /-*	*Confidence*
	Moderate	Medium	Intermediate	Medium	Possible	Medium	-	Medium
Good practice measures: 1. Development of a Grievance Redressal Mechanism								

2. Encourage local communities to use the grievance procedure for concerns related to the deterioration of local services. 3. Support local government in the implementation of infrastructure projects. 4. Support NGOs specializing in the development of infrastructure to assist the local government.								
Residual Impact Rating	*Magnitude*	*Duration*	*Scale*	*Consequence*	*Probability*	*Significance*	*+ /-*	*Confidence*
	Minor	Medium	Intermediate	Low	Possible	Low	-	Medium

860. There is a potential for an influx of job seekers in the Study Area due to the jobs created by the Project. Some service providers to the Project may open new offices in Balakot City. The potential in-migration in Balakot City due to the Project will be negligible in comparison to the present population of the city. The influx of job seekers will pose pressure on the availability of infrastructure and services, such as those about education, health care and medication, water, and communication in the Project area.

7.12.2 Conflicts Due to Provision of Employment to Outsiders

Impact 32: Disputes over the distribution of Project employment within and between Study Area inhabitants and the in-migrants resulting in social unrest.								
Applicable Project Phase		*Construction*						
Initial Impact Rating	*Magnitude*	*Duration*	*Scale*	*Consequence*	*Probability*	*Significance*	*+ /-*	*Confidence*
	Moderate	Medium	Intermediate	Medium	Possible	Medium	-	High
Good practice measures: 1. Implement PEDO Stakeholder Engagement Plan including: a. maintaining regular communication with local communities and other stakeholders to minimize tensions arising from Project activities; b. maintaining a grievance procedure, and encouraging and facilitate stakeholders to use the mechanism to express concerns; and c. providing sufficient resources to the community relations officers to enable them to monitor negative perceptions and associated tensions, and to address them in a timely fashion.								
Residual Impact Rating	*Magnitude*	*Duration*	*Scale*	*Consequence*	*Probability*	*Significance*	*+ /-*	*Confidence*
	Minor	Short term	Intermediate	Low	Possible	Low	-	Medium

861. A potential source of conflict is real or perceived unequal access to Project opportunities. Complaints can be expected from local communities residing in the Study Area if the distribution of jobs among local communities is perceived to be unfair. Objections can also be expected if people from outside the Study Area are seen to usurp opportunities created by the Project, as the Study Area inhabitants may consider themselves as the rightful owners of the Project benefits owing to their vicinity to the Project. This increases the need for open communication between PEDO and the various community heads, as well as within the community heads themselves.

7.12.3 Conflicting Socio-Cultural Norms

Impact 33: Potential social unrest in the Study Area due to conflicting socio-cultural norms amongst the inhabitants and in-migrants.								
Applicable Project Phase	*Construction*							
Initial Impact Rating	*Magnitude*	*Duration*	*Scale*	*Consequence*	*Probability*	*Significance*	*+ /-*	*Confidence*
	Minor	Short term	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-	Medium
Enhancement measures: 1. Refer to measures under Impact 32.								

862. The influx of job seekers in the Study Area could give rise to ethnic and cultural diversity in the Study Area. There could be cultural conflicts between the immigrants and the Study Area inhabitants due to their conflicting traditions and norms. The likelihood of this impact is low given that Project facilities are not located in the immediate vicinity of local communities and where the facility borders local communities, proper fencing and barriers are provided to avoid unnecessary interaction.

7.12.4 Graveyard Management

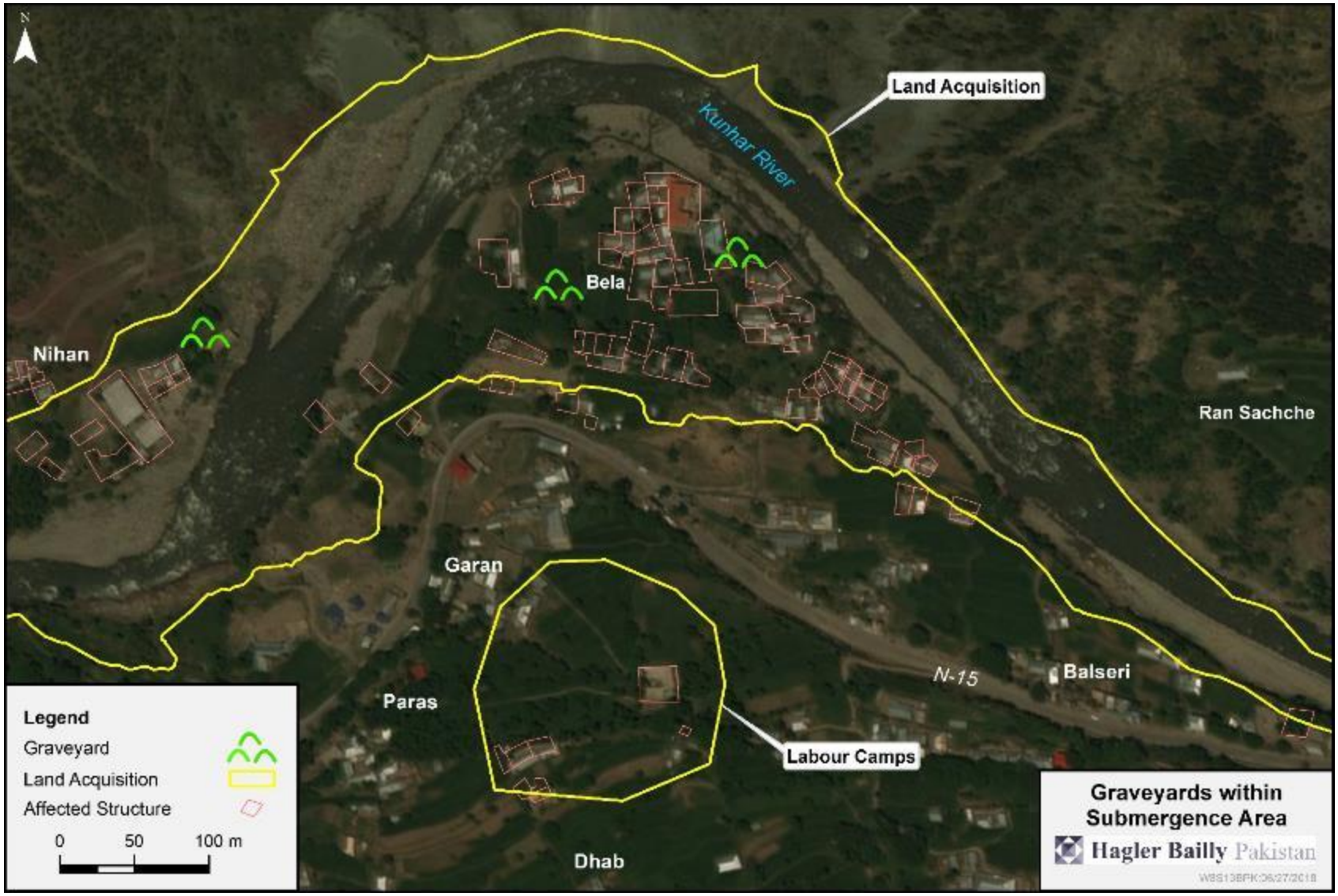
Impact 34: Submergence of the graveyards.								
Applicable Project Phase	*Construction*							
Initial Impact Rating	*Magnitude*	*Duration*	*Scale*	*Consequence*	*Probability*	*Significance*	*+ /-*	*Confidence*
	Moderate	Medium	Intermediate	Medium	Possible	Medium	-	High
Mitigation measures: 1. Plaster the graves with mud or cement. 2. If relocation of the graveyard cannot be avoided, it shall be managed through the local religious authorities.								
Residual Impact Rating	*Magnitude*	*Duration*	*Scale*	*Consequence*	*Probability*	*Significance*	*+ /-*	*Confidence*
	Minor	Short term	Intermediate	Low	Possible	Low	-	Medium

863. Three graveyards have been identified in the area that will be submerged (see **Exhibit 7-35**). Two graveyards are in Bela Balseri and one is in Nihan settlement. Culturally and religiously, a graveyard has a sanctity in the eyes of the people of the area. It is therefore important to handle this aspect by recognizing its sensitivity. The hierarchy of measures to manage the graves based on the consultation with the local communities is as:

i. plaster the graves with mud or cement;

ii. if relocation of the graveyard cannot be avoided, it shall be managed through the local religious authorities

Exhibit 7-35: Graveyards in the Project Area



7.13 Occupational Health and Safety Impacts and Mitigation Measures

864. Construction activities will involve operations that pose risks to the health and safety of the contractor's staff as well as the surrounding communities. **Exhibit 7-36** shows some of the activities, and their corresponding impacts which may result in ill health, injury, or in extreme cases death.

Exhibit 7-36: Healtha and Safety Risks at Construction Site

Activity	Potential Risk
Working at height	Injury/death from fall
Working near water	Death by drowning (only during flood season)
Operation of heavy construction plant/machinery	Injury/death
Movement of vehicles and plant	Injury/death from traffic accident
Excavation works	Injury/death from a slip of earth material
Earthworks	Ill health due to dust or injury/death following an accident caused due to poor visibility
Use of hazardous substances	Ill health/injury/death from improper handling
Manual handling	Injury from improper lifting
Working in the vicinity of heavy plant	Injury/ill health due to high noise or emissions
Inhabitation of construction camp	Ill health due to poor quality or unhygienic camps
General site works	Injury from slips and trips

7.13.1 Mitigation Measures at Camps and Work Sites

865. The following general mitigation measures should be adopted to mitigate work-related risks to the health and safety of the workforce.

i. The Contractor shall submit to the Engineer, for approval, a site layout plan, identifying work areas, accommodation, kitchen, dining area, sanitary facilities, location of generators, plant and vehicle parking, transport and pedestrian routes through the camp, evacuation routes, emergency exits, batching plants, storage areas, waste facilities, etc.
ii. The contractor shall provide all basic requirements in the site facilities.
iii. In case of new construction, the contractor shall obtain structural review and approval from the Engineer.
iv. All equipment, causing noise and smoke, shall be placed at least 25 m away from the camp facility.
v. The contractor's staff accommodation must structurally be sound and shall be provided with lighting and ventilation. Accommodation must be situated at least 25 m from the nearest generator.
vi. The Contractor's staff accommodation must be located such that it is not at risk from flooding.
vii. The Contractor shall submit to the Engineer, for approval, a shut-down procedure, identifying indicators required for prompt shutting down of various works activities. Also, securing approval of an emergency evacuation plan from the Engineer is mandatory. The contractor shall practice the evacuation plan once a year.

viii. Evacuation routes shall be maintained unobstructed at all times. At least two emergency exits are to be provided from each building and the camp itself.
ix. Fire extinguishers shall be provided within the camps, offices, and at work sites. Fire extinguishers should be inspected monthly and maintained as necessary.
x. Separate latrines and washing facilities for males and females, with total isolation by wall or by location, shall be provided. Female toilets should be marked in a language understood by those using them to avoid miscommunication. Suitable and sufficient washing facilities, including showers, shall be provided or shall be made available at readily accessible places within the immediate vicinity of every sanitary facility. Washing facilities shall include the supply of clean water, soap, or other suitable means of cleaning and towels or other suitable means of drying. Rooms containing washing facilities shall sufficiently be ventilated and kept in a clean and orderly condition.
xi. Exposure of workers to hazardous materials shall strictly be avoided unless sufficient protective measures have not been put in place.
xii. An adequate and reliable supply of safe drinking water shall be made available at readily accessible and suitable places including site temporary offices. The contractor shall take samples from each supply of drinking water for testing at a licensed laboratory before its intended use. The results obtained shall comply with NEQS and WHO standards or whichever are stringent.
xiii. The contractor shall provide and maintain adequate hygienic kitchens which shall be sheltered and separated from the living quarters. Kitchens shall include raised and washable surfaces suitable for food preparation. The contractor shall provide and maintain adequate hygienic dining areas for staff as well.
xiv. Flooring (including flooring and work surfaces) in camps, kitchens, dining areas, and workshops should be solid and easy to clean. Flooring for work camps must be float-finished concrete or better.
xv. Workplaces and camps should be provided with both natural & artificial light. Artificial lighting should be powered by a generator in the event of power cuts or if there is no provision of power from the National Grid.
xvi. The contractor will hire a PMDC-registered qualified doctor and will establish an adequately equipped, and properly staffed dispensary at camp or any other location as may deemed be appropriate. First Aid will be administered free of charge to all persons at the Site, including personnel of the Engineer and the Employer. The nature, number, and location of facilities furnished and the contractor's staff for administering First-Aid treatment shall, as a minimum, meet the requirements of the Health Service of the Government of Pakistan. Also, dispensaries shall adequately be stocked with medicines.

866. When there is potential for exposure to drowning, the risk assessment must be carried out under the Hazard Management Procedure. Environmental conditions like wind speed, rainfall, snow, etc. must be considered while conducting the risk assessment. To protect the workers, who work near or in the stream, the contractor will provide and use suitable and adequate measures as listed below.

a) Guard rails, fencing, safety nets, and safety harnesses to prevent workers from falling into the river/stream.

b) Mandatory usage of lifebuoys, and life jackets.
c) Availability of rescue workers and transportation facility at the work site.
d) Provision of gangways, bridges, footbridges, and other walkways or workplaces over water which will:
   - possess adequate strength and stability;
   - be sufficiently wide to allow safe movement of workers;
   - have level surfaces free from protruding knots, bark, nails, bolts, and other tripping hazards;
   - when natural lighting is insufficient, adequate illumination will be provided;
   - be provided at appropriate points with sufficient lifebuoys, lifelines, and other lifesaving equipment;
   - where practicable and necessary to prevent danger, be provided with toe-boards, guard rails, hand ropes, etc.;
   - be kept clear of tackle, tools, and other obstructions;
   - be strewn with sand, ashes, or the like when made slippery by oil or snow; and
   - if necessary, be equipped with ladders that will be sound, of sufficient strength and length, and be securely lashed to prevent slipping.

xvii. Floating operational equipment will be provided with sufficient and suitable rescue equipment such as lifelines, gaffs, and ring buoys.
xviii. Iron decks will be studded or have some other type of non-slip surface.
xix. As far as practicable, all deck openings including those for buckets will be fenced.
xx. A safe walkway will be provided at each place of work with adequate provision of protection from falls.
xxi. Workers will be embarked and disembarked only at suitable and safe landing places.
xxii. Regular head counts will be undertaken of workers involved in such operations. All areas will be inspected daily for protection, slippery, oily, and other hazards.

7.13.1.1 Provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

867. To ensure the safety of employees, the Contractor will provide Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) like safety boots, helmets, masks, gloves, protective clothing, goggles, full face eye shields, and ear protection to all workers. It will be the responsibility of all the employees to use PPE and keep them safe, and clean, and replace the damaged ones with new ones after the given timeframe.

868. The following criteria will be adopted in context with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

- PPE will be purchased from a qualified manufacturer.
- PPE will be provided to employees/workers according to their profession.
- Broken or damaged PPE will be replaced with a new one.

- Training/education will be given to workers before their first use. The foreman/supervisor will monitor the PPE usage of his/her team during work.
- The HSE team will do regular inspections of PPE usage at the site, advise the worker and foreman to rectify the problem of PPE usage immediately when observed, then impart training and issue warning letters to relevant persons according to the situation.

869. Selection of PPE will be based on the hazard and risk ranking described in **Exhibit 7-37.**

Exhibit 7-37: Personal Protective Equipment

Objective	Workplace Hazards	Suggested PPE
Face and eye protection	Flying particles, liquid chemicals, gases or vapors, light radiation	Safety glass with side shields, protective shades, etc.
Head protection	Falling objects, inadequate height clearance	Helmets with top and side impact protection
Hearing protection	Noise	Ear plugs or ear muffs
Foot protection	Falling or rolling object, pointed object	Safety shoes and boots
Hand protection	Hazardous material, cut or laceration, vibration, and extreme temperatures	Gloves made of rubber or synthetic material, leather, steel, insulating material, etc.
Fall protection	Working at height and hill slopes, other structures above 1.5 m	Safety harness, Guard rail system
Respiratory protection	Dust, fog, fumes, mist gases, smoke, vapors	Facemask with appropriate filters for dust removal and air purification (chemical, mist, vapors, and gases)

7.13.1.2 OHS Training

870. The Contractor will carry out OHS training and communication programs for all his staff with special attention to visitors and new employees. The record will be maintained with photographic evidence of all training for the monthly progress report to be submitted to the supervisory engineer.

- For new staff, the Contractor HSE Department will hold comprehensive OHS Induction Training prior to sending them to the site to improve their OHS awareness and knowledge.
- All employees will undergo general environmental awareness training and training about their responsibilities under the SSEMP. The training will ensure that all employees understand their obligations to exercise due diligence for environmental matters.
- All construction workers will be trained in basic sanitation and health care issues.
- All construction workers will be trained in general health and safety matters and on the specific hazards of their work. Training will be according to the workers' profession including firefighting, manual handling, electrical safety, work at height training, use of PPE and First aid, etc.

871. The Contractor will hold regular drills for firefighting, emergency rescue, and natural disasters to augment the staff skills to cope with any untoward situation.

872. The need for additional or revised training will be identified and implemented from the outputs of monitoring and reviewing the SSEMP. Records of all training will be maintained which should include at minimum:

- who was trained?
- when the person was trained?
- the name of the trainer and a general description of the training content.
- collect and keep photographic evidence.

873. The Contractor will impart regular three hours of training to his workforce in the profession as given in the **Exhibit 7-38.**

Exhibit 7-38: Health & Safety Training

S/No	Training Program	Training Frequency
1	Engineering Explosives Storage Training	Once every three months
2	Engineering Explosives Transportation Training	Once every three months
3	Training on the use of engineering explosives	Once every three months
4	Earthwork excavation equipment personnel training	Once every six months
5	Earthwork Transportation Training	Once every six months
6	Earthwork dumping and rolling training in slag yard	Once every six months
7	Slope Support Training	Once every six months
8	Slope Shotcrete Construction Training	Once every three months
9	Dam Concrete Pour Safety Training	Once every three months
10	Safety training for concrete pouring in underground caverns	Once every six months
11	Formwork and rebar construction safety training	Once every six months
12	Welding job training	Once every three months
13	Grouting Work Environment Safety Training	Once every three months
14	Anchor cable construction safety training	Once every three months
15	Heavy lifting safety training	Once every six months
16	Large machinery installation and safety training	Once every three months
17	Safety training for hazardous work at heights	Once every six months
18	Metal Structure Installation Safety Training	Once every three months
19	Mixing plant installation safety training	Once every three months
20	Mixing plant-safe operation training	Once every three months
21	Toxic and Hazardous Substance Storage, Use and Destruction Training	Once every six months
22	Falling Object Safety Training	Once every three months
23	Toxic and harmful gas protection training	Once every six months

S/No	Training Program	Training Frequency
24	On-site personnel labor protection equipment wearing training	Once every six months
25	On-site personnel rights protection training	Once every six months
26	Fire emergency training in the office area	Once every three months
27	Emergency drill training	Once every three months
28	Flood control drill training	During flood season
29	Personnel emergency evacuation training	Once every three months
30	Anti-terrorism emergency drill	Once every three months

874. **OHS Orientation Training:** Provision will be made to provide OHS orientation trainings to all new employees to ensure they are apprised of the basic site rules of work at/on the site and of personal protection and preventing injuries to the fellow employees.

875. Training will consist of basic hazard awareness, site specific hazards, safe work practices, emergency procedures for fire, evacuation, and natural disaster as appropriate. Any site-specific hazard or color coding in use should be thoroughly reviewed as part of orientation training.

876. **Visitors Orientation:** If visitors to the site get access to areas where hazardous conditions or substances may be present, a visitor orientation and control program will be established to ensure visitors do not enter hazard areas unescorted.

877. The Contractor will prepare a leaflet for visitors to notice them the safety matters need attention and how to use PPE properly for protecting themselves.

878. **New Task Employee and Contractor Training:** The supervisory engineer should ensure that workers and Contractor have received adequate training and information enabling them to understand work hazards and to protect their health from hazardous ambient factors that may be present. The training will adequately cover:

- knowledge of materials, known hazards in the operation of equipment and tools and how they are controlled;
- potential risks to health; and
- precautions to prevent exposures, hygiene requirements, wearing and use of protective equipment and clothing, appropriate response to operations extremes, incidents and accidents.

879. **Annual OHS Training:** As evident from the **Exhibit 7-39,** annual training will be scheduled for the Contractor, PIU, and PMC relevant staff. The Contractor will organize and facilitate two-day training at the Site whereby trainer(s) will make detailed presentations and will conduct field demonstrations. Training activities for employees and visitors will be adequately monitored and documented (curriculum, duration, and participants) - Emergency exercises, including fire drills will be documented adequately. Service providers and contractors will be contractually required to submit to the employer adequate training documentation before the start of their assignment.

Exhibit 7-39: Annual OHS Training

S/No	Training Subject	Trainer	Participants
Day-1 (Workshop/Presentations)			
1	Occupational Health and Safety, First Aid and BLS, Fire Fighting, Tool Box Talk Training, Emergency Rescue and Recovery, etc.	i. Qualified Trainer ii. Red Cross/ Rescue 1122	i. PIU relevant staff ii. PMC relevant staff iii. EPC Contractor's site supervisors
Day-2 (Field Demonstrations)			
2	First Aid administration, Fire Fighting, Incident response, Emergency evacuation drill, Emergency response demonstration, etc.	i. Qualified Trainer ii. Red Cross/ Rescue 1122	i. PIU relevant staff ii. PMC relevant staff iii. EPC Contractor's site supervisors

7.13.1.3 Provision of Medical Facilities

880. A medical dispensary, with essential medicines and equipment, will be established at the Contractor's main camp where paramedic staff headed by the qualified and PMDC registered MBBS Doctor will be available 24/7 during the currency of the contract. The establishment of a fully equipped dispensary, the provision of an ambulance, and the hiring of medical staff are all part of the camp establishment. The ambulance will be fully equipped with all standard equipment. First Aid Boxes will also be provided at each active work site and camp. These facilities will equally be available for the employer's and supervisory engineer's staff working at the site.

881. The Contractor will document and report occupational accidents, diseases, and incidents. In case of serious injury or illness, that needs hospitalization or further tests/investigations, the injured/ patient will be shifted to the nearby hospital as mentioned in the Emergency Response Plan for further treatment.

7.13.2 Works Specific Hazards and Mitigation Measures

882. Before carrying out any construction activities, the Contractor will carry out a Risk Assessment of the site and Job Safety Analysis (JSA). The various hazards associated with construction activities are grouped into physical, chemical, and biological hazards and are described hereunder.

7.13.2.1 Physical Hazards

883. Physical hazards represent the potential for accident injury or illness due to repetitive exposure to mechanical action or work activity. Single exposure to physical hazards may result in a wide range of injuries from minor and medical aid only to disabling catastrophic and/or fatal. Multiple exposures over prolonged periods can result in disabling injuries of comparable significance and consequences.

884. **Rotating and Moving Equipment:** Injury or death can occur from being trapped, entangled, or struck by machinery parts due to unexpected starting of equipment or unobvious movement during operations. In this regard, the Contractor will adopt the following protective measures to avoid such mishaps.

- Designing machines to eliminate trap hazards and ensure that extremities are kept under normal operating conditions. Examples of proper design considerations include two hand-operated machines to prevent amputations or the availability of emergency stops dedicated to the machine and placed in strategic locations. Where a machine or equipment has an exposed moving part or exposed pinch point that may endanger the safety of any worker, the machine or equipment will be equipped with and protected by a guard or other device that prevents access to the moving part or pinch point. Guards will be designed and installed in conformance with appropriate machine safety standards.
- Turning off, disconnecting, isolating, and de-energizing (Locked Out and Tagged Out) machinery with exposed or guarded moving parts or in which energy can be stored (e.g., compressed air electrical components) during servicing.
- Designing and installing equipment, where feasible, to enable routine service such as lubrication, etc.

885. **Excessive Noise:** Noise pollution at work sites comes from the activities that take place during construction and the equipment that is used, such as bulldozers, air compressors, hammers, loaders, pavement breakers, and dump trucks. Eliminating noisy processes or substituting them for less noisy processes is the best way of dealing with noise on a work site. If this is not possible, the best option is to evacuate people from noisy areas. The following measures will be adopted to cope with noise issues.

- No employee will be exposed to noise levels greater than 65 dB (A) for more than 8 hours per day without hearing protection. In addition, no unprotected ear will be exposed to a peak sound pressure level (instantaneous) of more than 140 dB.
- The use of hearing protection equipment will be ensured when the equivalent sound level over 8 hours reaches 65 dB (A) as hearing protection is preferred for any period of noise exposure over 65 dB (A). Hearing protective devices will be capable of reducing sound levels at the ear to at least 65 dB (A).
- The EPC Contractor will also arrange job rotation for the workers who work in harmful level noisy conditions.
- Alongside issuance of hearing protective devices, use of acoustic insulating materials, isolation of the noise source, and other engineering controls will be investigated and will be implemented where feasible.
- Periodic medical hearing check-ups will be performed on workers who are exposed to high noise levels.

886. **Vibration:** Exposure to hand-arm vibration from equipment such as hand and power tools or whole-body vibrations from surfaces, on which the worker stands or sits, will be controlled through choice of equipment, installation of vibration dampening pads or devices, and limiting the duration of exposure. Exposure levels will be checked based on daily exposure time and data provided by equipment manufacturers.

887. **Electrical Shock:** Exposed or faulty electrical devices, such as circuit breakers panels, cables, cords, and hand tools, can pose a serious risk to workers. Overhead wires can be

struck by metal devices such as poles or ladders and by vehicles with metal booms. Vehicles or grounded metal objects, brought into proximity with overhead wires, can result in arcing between the wires and the object without actual contact. To avert incidents caused by electric shock, the EPC Contractor will take the following precautionary measures.

- Marking all energized electrical devices and lines with warning signs.
- Locking out (de-charging and leaving open with a controlled locking device) and tagging out (warning signs placed on the lock) devices during service or maintenance.
- Checking all electrical cords, cables, and hand power tools for frayed or exposed cords while following manufacturer recommendations for the maximum permitted operating voltage of the portable hand tools.
- Double insulating/grounding all electrical equipment used in an environment that may become wet' using equipment with ground fault interrupter (GFI) protected circuits.
- Protecting power cords and extension cords against damage from traffic by shielding or suspending above-traffic areas.
- Appropriate labeling of service rooms housing high voltage equipment (electrical hazard) and where entry is controlled or prohibited.
- Establishing “No Approach” zones around or under high-voltage power lines.
- Rubber tired construction or other vehicles that come into direct contact with or arcing between high voltage wires may need to be taken out of service for periods of 48 hours and have the tires replaced to prevent catastrophic tire and wheel assembly failure potentially causing serious injury or death.
- Conducting detailed identification and marking of all buried electrical wiring before any excavation work.

888. **Eye Hazards:** Solid particles from a wide variety of engineering operations and or a liquid chemical spray may strike a worker in the eye causing an eye injury or permanent blindness. The Contractor is recommended to implement the following measures to prevent eye injury.

- Use of machine guards or splash shields and or face and eye protection devices such as safety glasses with side shields goggles and or a full-face shield. Specific Safe Operating Procedures (SOPs) will be adopted for the use of sanding and grinding tools and/or when working around liquid chemicals.
- Moving areas, where the discharge of solid fragments, liquid, or gaseous emissions can reasonably be predicted (e.g., discharge of sparks from a metal cutting station, pressure relief valve discharge) away from places expected to be occupied or transited by workers or visitors.
- Where machine or work fragments could present a hazard to transient workers or passers-by, extra area guarding or proximity-restricting systems will be implemented.
- Provisions will be made for persons to wear prescription glasses either through the use of glasses or prescribed hardened glasses.

889. **Welding/Hot Works:** Welding creates an extremely bright and intense light that may seriously injure a worker's eyesight. In extreme cases, blindness may result. Additionally, welding may produce noxious fumes to which prolonged exposure can cause serious chronic diseases. The Contractor will take the following measures to eliminate risks associated with the welding works.

- Provision of proper eye protection such as welder goggles and/or a full-face eye shield for all personnel involved in or assisting welding operation.
- Additional methods may include the use of welding barrier screens around the specific workstation (a solid piece of light metal, canvas, or plywood designed to block welding light from others).
- Devices to extract and remove noxious fumes at the source may also be required.
- Special hot work and fire prevention precautions and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) will be implemented if welding or hot cutting is undertaken outside established welding workstations.
- Special procedures will be adopted for hot work on tanks or vessels that have contained flammable materials.

890. **Construction Vehicles Driving and Site Traffic:** Poorly trained or inexperienced industrial vehicle drivers have an increased risk of accidents with other vehicles, pedestrians, and equipment. Construction vehicles and delivery vehicles as well as private vehicles at the site also represent potential collision scenarios. The construction vehicle driving and site traffic safety practices that the Contractor will adopt primarily include the following.

- Training and licensing construction vehicle operators in the safe operation of specialized vehicles such as loaders, and dozers including safe speed limits.
- Defensive Driving Training to be conducted for all the drivers.
- Ensuring drivers undergo medical surveillance.
- Ensuring moving equipment with restricted rear visibility is outfitted with audible backup alarms.
- Establishing rights-of-way, site speed limits, vehicle inspection requirements, operating rules, and procedures.

891. **Work in Extreme Temperature:** Exposure to hot or cold working conditions in indoor or outdoor environments can result in temperature stress-related injury or death. Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to protect against other occupational hazards that may accentuate and aggravate heat-related illnesses. Permanent work in extreme temperatures will be avoided through the implementation of engineering controls and ventilation. Where this is not possible, short-term outdoor work temperature-related stress management procedures will be implemented:

- monitoring weather forecasts for outdoor work to provide warnings of extreme weather and schedule work accordingly;

- adjustment of work and rest periods according to temperature stress management procedures such as providing easy access to adequate hydration such as drinking water or electrolyte drinks depending on the temperature and workloads;
- providing temporary shelters to protect against the elements during working activities or for use as rest areas; and
- restricting the circulation of delivery and private vehicles to defined routes and areas, giving preference to 'one-way' circulation, where needed.

892. **Working at Heights:** Fall prevention and protection measures will be implemented whenever a worker is exposed to the hazard of falling more than two meters, into operating machinery, into water or other liquid, into hazardous substances, or through an opening in a work surface. Fall prevention/protection measures may also be warranted on a case-specific basis when there are risks of falling from lesser heights. In this regard, the following protection measures will be adopted.

- Installation of guardrails with mid rails and toe boards at the edge of any fall hazard area.
- Proper use of ladders and scaffolds by trained employees.
- Use of fall prevention devices including safety belts and lanyards, travel limiting devices to prevent access to fall hazard areas, or fall protection devices such as full body harnesses used in conjunctions with shock absorbing lanyards or self-retracting inertial fall arrest devices attached to fixed anchor point or horizontal lifelines.
- Appropriate training in the use of serviceability and integrity of the necessary PPE.
- Inclusion of rescue and/or recovery plans and equipment to respond to workers after an arrested fall.

7.13.2.2 Chemical Hazards

893. Chemical hazards represent the potential for illness or injury due to single acute exposure or chronic repetitive exposure to toxic, corrosive, sensitizing, or oxidative substances. They also represent a risk of uncontrolled reaction including the risk of fire and explosion if incompatible chemicals are inadvertently mixed. Chemical hazards will effectively be prevented through a hierarchical approach that includes:

- replacement of the hazardous substance with a less hazardous substitute;
- implementation of engineering and administrative control measures to avoid or minimize the release of hazardous substances into the work environment keeping the level of exposure below internationally established or recognized limits;
- keeping the number of employees exposed or likely to become exposed to a minimum;
- communicating chemical hazards to workers through labeling and marking according to national and internationally recognized requirements and standards including the International Chemical Safety Cards (ICSC), Materials Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) or equivalent;

- any means of written communication will be in easily understood language and be readily available to exposed workers and first aid personnel; and
- train workers about the use of available information (such as MSDSs), safe work practices, and appropriate use of PPE.

894. **Air Quality:** Poor air quality due to the release of contaminants into the workplace can result in possible respiratory irritation, discomfort, or illness to workers. The Contractor will take the following measures as a minimum to maintain air quality in the work area.

- Maintaining levels of contaminant dust, vapors, and gases at work sites at concentrations below those recommended by NEQS/WHO.
- Developing and implementing work practices to minimize the release of contaminants into the work environment.
- Direct piping of liquid and gaseous materials, minimized handling of dry powdered materials, enclosed operations, local exhaust ventilation at emission release points, vacuum transfer of dry material rather than mechanical or pneumatic conveyance, indoor secure storage, and sealed containers rather than loose storage.

895. **Fire and Explosions:** Fires and explosions resulting from ignition of flammable materials or gases can lead to loss of property as well as possible injury or fatalities to project workers. Prevention and control strategies include:

- storing flammables away from, ignition sources and oxidizing materials, entry and exit points of buildings, facility ventilation intakes or vents;
- the storage facility will have natural or passive floor and ceiling level ventilation and explosion venting;
- use of spark-proof fixtures;
- be equipped with fire extinguishing devices and self-closing doors and constructed of materials made to withstand flame impingement for a moderate period;
- containers shall be stored in such a way as to ensure ventilation;
- defining and labeling fire hazard areas to warn of special rules (e.g., prohibition in the use of smoking materials, cellular phones, or other potential spark-generating equipment); and
- providing specific worker training in handling flammable materials and in fire prevention or suppression.

896. **Corrosive, Oxidizing, and Reactive Chemicals:** Corrosive, oxidizing, and reactive chemicals present similar hazards and require similar control measures as flammable materials. However, the added hazard of these chemicals is that inadvertent mixing or intermixing may cause serious adverse reactions. This can lead to the release of flammable or toxic materials/gases and may lead directly to fires and explosions. These types of substances have the additional hazard of causing significant personal injury upon direct contact regardless of any intermixing issues. The following controls will be observed in the work environment when handling such chemicals.

- Corrosive, oxidizing, and reactive chemicals will be segregated from flammable materials and other chemicals of incompatible class.
- Workers, who are required to handle corrosive, oxidizing, or reactive chemicals, will be provided with specialized training and provided with and wear appropriate PPE (gloves, apron, splash suits, face shields or goggles, etc.).
- Where corrosive, oxidizing, or reactive chemicals are used, handled, or stored; qualified first aid will be ensured at all times. Appropriately equipped first-aid stations will be easily accessible throughout work sites and eye-wash stations and/or emergency showers will be provided close to all workstations where the recommended first-aid response is immediate flushing with water.

7.13.2.3 Biological Hazards

897. Biological agents represent the potential for illness or injury due to single acute exposure or chronic repetitive exposure. Biological hazards will be prevented most effectively by implementing the following measures.

- If the nature of the activity permits, the use of any harmful biological agents will be avoided and replaced with an agent that, under normal conditions of use, is not dangerous or less dangerous to workers. If the use of harmful agents cannot be avoided, precautionary measures will be adopted.
- Risk of exposure will be kept as low as possible and will be maintained below internationally established and recognized exposure limits.
- Work processes, engineering, and administrative controls will be designed, maintained, and operated to avoid or minimize the release of biological agents into the working environment. The number of employees exposed or likely to become exposed will be kept at a minimum.
- The employer will review and assess the known and suspected presence of biological agents at the place of work and implement appropriate safety measures monitoring training and training verification programs.
- Measures to eliminate and control hazards from known and suspected biological agents at the place of work will be designed, implemented, and maintained in close cooperation with the local health authorities and according to recognized international standards.

7.13.3 Special Hazardous Environment

898. Special hazardous environments are work situations where all of the previously described hazards may exist under unique or especially hazardous circumstances. Accordingly, extra precautions or rigor in the application of precautions will be required. Such special environmental circumstances are described below.

899. **Confined Space:** A confined space is defined as a wholly or partially enclosed space not designed or intended for human occupancy and in which a hazardous atmosphere could develop as a result of the contents, location, or construction of the confined space or due to

work done in or around the confined space. A "permit required" confined space is one that also contains physical or atmospheric hazards that could trap or engulf the person.

900. Confined spaces can occur in enclosed or open structures or locations. Serious injury or fatality can result from inadequate preparation to enter a confined space or in attempting a rescue from a confined space. Prior to entry into a permit-required confined space, the following will strictly be observed.

- Before performing confined space work, employees who participate in the confined space entries including supervisor, entrants, and attendants, will receive training. Testing will be carried out by a competent person using a suitable gas detector that is correctly calibrated.
- Adequate and appropriate rescue and or recovery plans and equipment will be in place before the worker enters the confined space.
- Process or feed lines into the space will be disconnected or drained and blanked and locked out.
- Mechanical equipment in the space will be disconnected, de-energized, locked out, and braced as appropriate.
- The atmosphere within the confined space will be tested to ensure the quality of the air meets NEQS/WHO guiding values.
- If the atmospheric conditions are not suitable for the workers, the confined space will be ventilated until the target safe atmosphere is achieved or entry will only be undertaken with appropriate and additional PPE.
- The Contractor will ensure and will implement the use of the necessary PPE as well as the serviceability and integrity of the PPE.

901. **Alone and Isolated Worker:** Alone and isolated worker is a worker out of verbal and line of sight communication with a supervisor, other workers, or other persons capable of providing aid and assistance for continued periods. The Contractor will ensure that all PPE and safety measures are in place before the worker starts work. Continued verbal contact will be established with the worker and will also ensure that the worker can summon emergency aid.

902. If the worker is potentially exposed to highly toxic or corrosive chemicals, emergency eye-wash and shower facilities will be equipped with audible and visible alarms to summon aid whenever the eye-wash or shower is activated by the worker and without intervention by the worker.

903. **Worker's Camp:** The potential OHS issues associated with the workers' camp consist of:

- electrical shock risk
- fire risk
- health and hygiene issues

904. To avoid the above potential OHS issues, the Contractor will utilize the qualified and capable electrical material. The health and hygiene facilities will be built in the camp, including a dispensary, washroom, washing pad, etc. whereas fire extinguishers will be provided at the appropriate places in the camp.

905. The Contractor will take adequate actions to educate all staff regarding occupational health and safety issues and also provide awareness through:

- giving lectures;
- audio - visual presentations; and
- social media etc.

906. Training will be conducted to create awareness in the camp about health, hygiene, fire protection, firefighting, and electrical safety. Moreover, the EPC Contractor will keep the camps tidy and ensure disinfection in camps regularly, especially in the dispensary, mess room, and washrooms, to prevent infecting diseases. Adequate heating and cooling facilities will also be provided in the camp. Periodic inspections will be conducted to highlight unsafe actions/conditions to rectify them on a priority basis.

7.14 Cumulative Impact Assessment

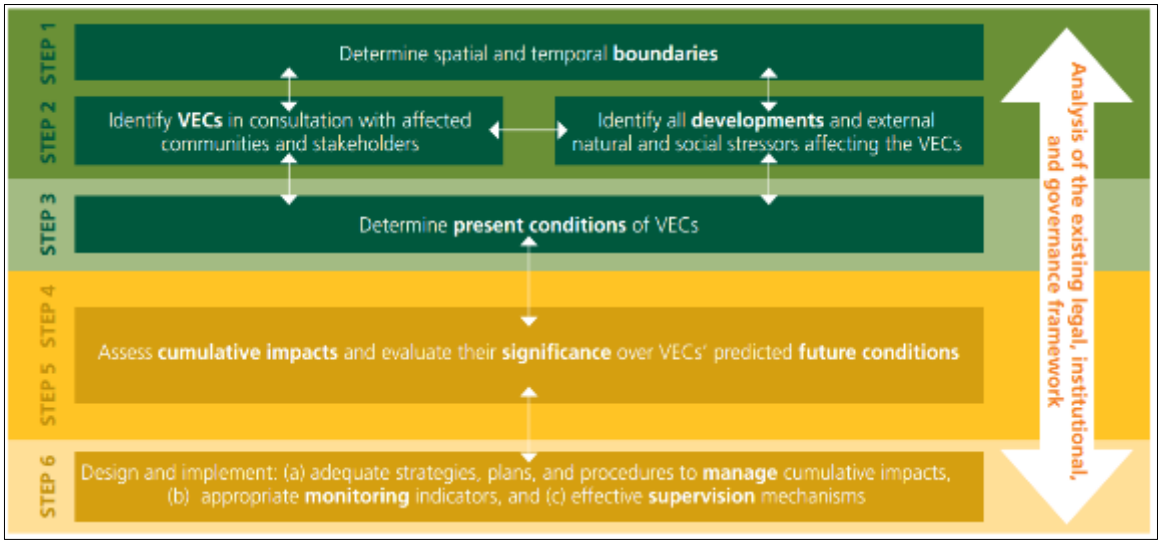
907. Cumulative impacts are those that result from the incremental impact of a project or developments when assessed in combination with other existing and reasonably foreseeable future developments in a rationally set geographical and temporal scale. The overall objectives of cumulative impact assessment (CIA) studies are to:

- ensure that the proposed and likely future developments' cumulative social and environmental impacts and risks do not exceed a threshold that could compromise the sustainability of Valued Environmental and Social Components (VECs)[145];
- ensure that the proposed and future developments' value and feasibility are not limited by cumulative social and environmental impacts and risks; and
- support the development of regional governance structures for decision-making and managing cumulative impacts.

908. The methodology used for the CIA of the Project has been adapted from the guidelines of IFC.[146] The key steps of the study are shown in **Exhibit 7-40** below. Key in the methodology is the identification and mapping of VECs.

145 The IFC Good Practice Handbook on Good Practice Handbook—Cumulative Impact Assessment and Management: Guidance for the Private Sector in Emerging Markets. 2014 defines VECs as environmental and social attributes that are considered to be important in assessing risks; including physical features, habitats, wildlife populations (e.g. biodiversity), ecosystem services, natural processes (e.g., water and nutrient cycles, microclimate), social conditions (e.g. health, economics), or cultural aspects (e.g., traditional spiritual ceremonies).
146 International Finance Corporation. 2014. Good Practice Handbook—Cumulative Impact Assessment and Management: Guidance for the Private Sector in Emerging Markets

Exhibit 7-40: Study Steps



Source: International Finance Corporation. Good Practice Handbook—Cumulative Impact Assessment and Management: Guidance for the Private Sector in Emerging Markets. 2014

909. The study area selected for the CIA (CIA Study Area) is shown in **Exhibit 7-41** and includes the entire length of the Kunhar River from Lulusar Lake down to its confluence with the Jhelum River, a total length of 116.3 km. Significant tributaries which are important breeding areas for fish are also included in the CIA Study Area as the tributaries and the main river constitute an integrated and interdependent ecosystem. The temporal scope of the CIA spans 51 years up till the year 2068 corresponding to the period for hydrological daily data is available for the Project location. This accounts for the first 7 years of construction of the Project and a further 46 years of its operation. As the results for E-Flow modeling show, the fish populations reach equilibrium levels in this period and the impacts of the Project, management measures, as well as those associated with variations associated with natural hydrological cycles level off. The Environmental Flow Assessment Report for the Balakot Hydropower Development Project is provided in **Volume C** of the EIA report.

7.14.1 Major Existing, Under Construction, and Planned Hydropower Projects on the Kunhar River

910. There are several hydropower projects at different stages of development on the Kunhar River within the CIA Study Area. Furthest downstream, near the Kunhar – Jhelum confluence the Patrind HPP is already constructed and operating. Upstream of the Project, between Kaghan and Naran the Sukki Kinari HPP is presently under construction. Upstream of Naran Town, the Naran HPP and the Batakundi HPP are still in the planning stage. The developments, their planned capacity, and current status are shown in Exhibit 7-42**.**

Exhibit 7-41: CIA Study Area

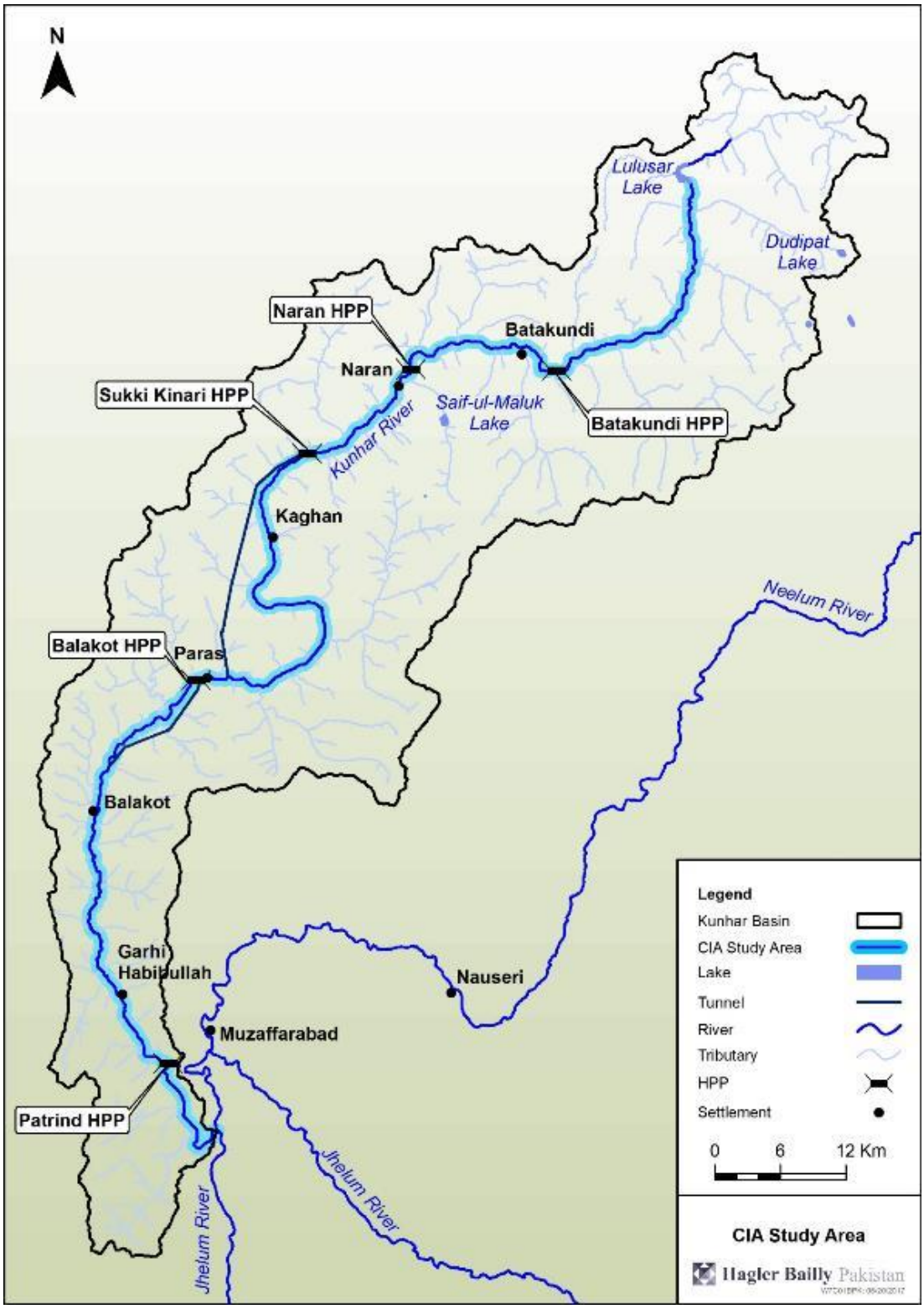
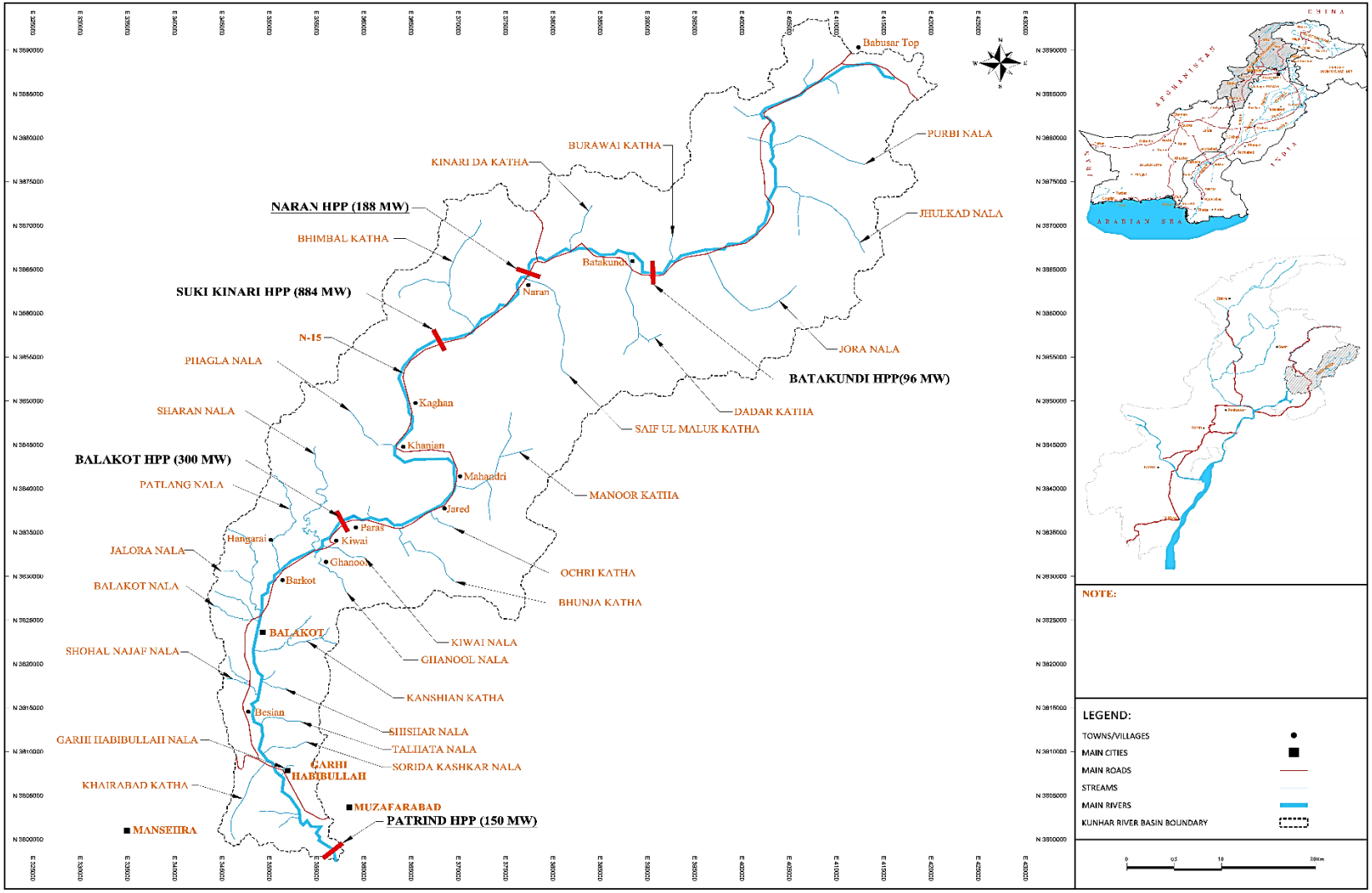


Exhibit 7-42: Locations, Capacities, and Status of Major Hydropower Projects on the Kunhar River



7.14.2 Ecosystem Services Review

911. Ecosystem Services, as defined by the World Resources Institute (WRI), 'are the benefits that people get from nature. Examples include fresh water, timber, climate regulation, recreation, and aesthetic values.[147] Ecosystem services are an important class of VECs as the livelihoods of the communities depend on them. Identification of ecosystem services was carried out through a review of the socioeconomic baseline for the Project (see **Section 4.3**, *Socioeconomic Baseline*). The following ecosystem services were identified:

- Provisioning Services: fishing, sand mining, driftwood use as a fuel, domestic uses of river water, and pumping of river water by river-side restaurants; and
- Cultural Services: tourism and recreation.

912. **Fishing:** Fishing areas along the main Kunhar River are marked in **Exhibit 4-179** in **Section 4.3.8** (*River-Dependent Socioeconomic Activities*). The fishing season lasts about six months during the summer and seasonal permits for fishing using rods and cast nets are issued by the Fisheries Department, KP. However, the number of permits issued is small and most fishing in the Kunhar River is conducted illegally as enforcement is weak. The creation of barriers and reservoirs along the river will alter river connectivity and habitat, thereby impacting fish populations in the Kunhar River Basin. According to field surveys community dependence on fishing is not significant and only 2% of households in the area engage in fishing. Income from fishing as a percentage of total income in the area is only 0.01%, with the majority of fish catch being self-consumed. Considering the very small contribution of fishing to the CIA Study Area economy, fishing as a socioeconomic activity was not categorized as a priority VEC. This is not related to the ecological importance of certain fish species in the Kunhar River, which is discussed in the next section.

913. Based on an analysis of data collected as part of the ESIA of Kohala HPP, fishing pressure is expected to increase as has been observed along other rivers in the basin, including the Jhelum and Neelum Rivers, from 2013 to 2016. An increasing trend in fishing pressure was also highlighted by Mohammad Tanvir, Assistant Director, Mansehra of the Fisheries Department, KP.

914. As apprised by the Fisheries Department District Mansehra office during the Phase-2 consultation meetings, downstream of the Sukki Kinari HPP, the commercial fishing practice in the Kunhar River has almost vanished due to the scarcity of fish population in the River. Except in the Patrind reservoir where commercial fishing is undertaken by the licensees, all fishing activities in the Kunhar River are carried out by individuals, who do not possess permits, and who do subsistence fishing. The fish population in the Kuhar River has been greatly affected by the frequent floods in the River and the anthropogenic pressure on the river in the form of discharge of sewage from the valley and dumping of solid waste into the River.

915. The recently assessed critically endangered fish species, namely the Kashmir Hillstream Loach, is primarily found in the Kunhar River contributing streams and is not being caught by the locals due to its small size as reported by the Fisheries department and locals. Also, as reported by the Fisheries department officials, and as confirmed by the locals, this

147 Ranganathan. J, Raudsepp-Hearne C, Lucas N, Irwin F, Zurek M, Bennet K, Ash N, West P. 2008. Ecosystem Services A Guide for Decision Makers, World Resources Institute

species has no commercial or economic value in the area and is not caught from the River. Usually, these fish species remain in the streams unless taken down to the Kunhar River by the flood in the nullahs. The various conservation and protection measures proposed for this critically endangered fish species have been given in Volume D of the EIA report.

916. **Sediment Mining from River Bed:** Sediment (sand, gravel, and cobble) mining is carried out in some areas along the length of the main Kunhar River. Surveys for the socioeconomic baseline reported on sand mining activities within the socioeconomic Study Area which extends from 4 km upstream of Paras to Dalola Village. Field surveys showed that 98% of the sediment mined is extracted from the stretch of river between Shahator Village and Dalola Village, downstream of Balakot Town. An improved road network could potentially open up additional areas for sediment mining, as has been the case in other basins in the area. Sediment is mined to meet small-scale construction demand related to the construction and maintenance of local residential and commercial buildings. The sediment is mined manually using shovels and spades and is loaded onto animals, vehicles, or cable trollies, of using which it is transported to the roadside. The laborers involved in the sand mining depend on daily wages from this activity for a large part of their income.

917. The mining operations are of different sizes ranging from 100 m^3/year to 2,080 m^3/year. Small- and medium-scale operations are typically family businesses. Families from nearby villages set up sediment extraction operations which are mostly run by family members. In most cases the labor is hired locally but, in some cases, it is also provided by the family. In this way, the earnings from the sediment mining operation remain primarily within the local economy. **Exhibit 4-175** in **Section 4.3.8** (*River-Dependent Socioeconomic Activities*) shows the sediment mining areas in the CIA Study Area. The development of the hydropower projects in the Kunhar Basin will result in changes in flows, including sediment flows, thereby, affecting sediment deposition. Community dependence on sediment mining as a percentage of total income is low. Surveys carried out as part of the socioeconomic baseline for the EIA of the Project found that income from sediment mining as a percentage of the total income was 3.6%, although for individual households involved in sand mining the contribution may be much higher, as there are several family-owned sand mining businesses. Considering the small contribution of sediment mining to the overall local economy of the area, it was not considered a priority VEC.

918. Although it is comprehended that due to regulated releases of sediment d/s of the Sukki Kinari HPP and the Balakot HPP, and the increase in the construction activities in the valley, the demand for sand and coarse aggregate mining will increase in the future, once these projects are put in operation however, keeping in view comparatively the small sizes of the reservoirs of these two projects at fore, in the future, there appears no significant impact on the sediment mining d/s of the Balakot City. Also, it is worthwhile to mention here that these are not storage reservoirs rather storage will be done for the peaking operation mainly during the low flow season. Additionally, during the high flow season, continued flushing will be done d/s of the dams hence, there will almost be no impact on the quantum of sediment d/s of the Balakot HPP during this season. Furthermore, several contributing streams in the Kunhar Valley, downstream of the Balakot HPP in around 300 to 350 sq.km catchment, carry sediment to the Kunhar River, whenever precipitation occurs in the valley. This will significantly

compensate for the regulated sediment releases; hence, the sediment mining practices d/s of Balakot City will not be affected to a visible extent.

919. Based on an analysis of data collected as part of the ESIA of Kohala HPP, sediment extraction is expected to increase as has been observed along other rivers in the basin, including Jhelum and Neelum Rivers, from 2013 to 2016.

920. **Driftwood:** Fuel wood is the main source of energy for domestic cooking and heating. Respondents, interviewed as part of the EIA of Project reported that fuel wood is collected from several sources, including trees growing on farmland, dead and fallen trees in forests, and driftwood along the river, mainly in spring when the water flow increases. Driftwood use as a fuel is likely to be affected by the Project. Dams will trap driftwood in normal flow conditions, which will affect the availability of driftwood downstream of any dam sites. However, there is limited dependence on driftwood collected from the riverbanks as the source of fuel wood, and community dependence on driftwood was therefore not considered significant. The use of driftwood as fuel was therefore not considered a priority VEC.

921. **Community use of River Water:** River water is not fit for drinking as it carries effluents from settlements located in the catchment of the river. The main sources of water for communities are springs and streams flowing from higher elevations in the valley. There is very limited pumping of water from the river as water is generally available from springs and streams flowing down the valley slopes, and river water use for agriculture is very limited. Community use of river water was therefore not considered a priority VEC.

922. **Recreation and Tourism:** Recreational dependence on the river varies greatly from one stretch of the Kunhar River to the other (see **Section 4**, *Socioeconomic Baseline*). Although recreation and tourism are not a major socioeconomic activity in the Project area or further downstream, a large number of tourists do visit the riverside towns of Kaghan and Naran further upstream during the summer. A large number of hotels and restaurants in these areas are located at the riverside, and tourists also undertake river-related activities such as fly fishing for trout. Through the provision of accommodation, food, and other services local communities in these areas derive a very significant portion of their annual income from recreation and tourism. Recreation and tourism were therefore considered a priority VEC in the CIA.

7.14.3 Priority VECs

923. Valued Environmental Components (VECs) are defined as “fundamental elements of the physical, biological or socio-economic environment that are likely to be the most sensitive receptors to the impacts of a proposed project or the cumulative impacts of several projects”.[148] They may include:

- physical features, habitats, wildlife populations (e.g., biodiversity);
- ecosystem services (e.g., fishing, timber, food, aesthetic values);
- natural processes (e.g., water and nutrient cycles, microclimate);

148 Cadinale, Pablo, and Lorne Greig. 2013."Cumulative Impact Assessment and Management: Guidance for Private Sector in Emerging Markets." In *Good Practice Handbook*: International Finance Corporation and ESSA Technologies Ltd

- social conditions (e.g., health, economics); or
- Cultural aspects (e.g., traditional spiritual ceremonies).[149]

924. While VECs may be directly or indirectly affected by a specific development, they often are also affected by the cumulative effects of several developments.

925. Priority VECs have been identified through the Ecosystem Services Review in **Section 7.14.3** (*Priority VECs*) and from ecological studies conducted as part of the EIA. The ecological studies identified two fish species of conservation importance in the Aquatic Study Area (which stretches both upstream and downstream of the Project infrastructure) based on their endemism and restricted range. These include the Nalbant's Loach and Kashmir Hillstream Loach. As detailed in Volume E of the EIA report, Kashmir Hillstream Loach has been assessed as a Critically Endangered fish species (IUCN 2024). Because of the presence of these species, river ecology with emphasis on fish fauna was identified as a priority VEC. More detailed information on river ecology can be found in **Section 4.2.5**, (*Aquatic Ecology*).

926. The biodiversity values identified as important and the ecosystem services considered important were combined to develop a list of prioritized VECs for this study. The prioritized VECs for this CIA are:

- river ecology with emphasis on fish fauna
- recreation and tourism

927. River ecology was included as a VEC as the survival of fish fauna depends on the integrity of the river ecosystems. Recreation and tourism were included as major changes to the natural environment and aesthetics of the Kaghan and Naran area could result in a drop in tourist numbers, having a major negative impact on the local economy.

7.14.4 Overview of Changes in Flow and Inundation of Habitats

928. Even though these cascading hydropower projects are not net consumers of water, the timing, as well as the allocation of water flow, will be modified on the Kunhar River from the Batakundi HPP to the confluence of the Kunhar River with the Jhelum River as follows:

- 19.1 km or 16% of the river will be lost as a result of inundation,
- 79.8 km or 69% will be impacted by reduced dry season flows, and
- 17.4 km or 15% will be impacted by peaking flows.

929. It can be concluded that the cumulative impacts from the operation of all HPPs will cause loss and degradation of riverine aquatic habitat along the entire length of the Kunhar River between the Batakundi reservoir and the Kunhar – Jhelum River confluence, a total length of 89.5 km.

930. Thus, the potential cumulative impact on river habitat is likely to be significant if not managed or mitigated.

149 Ibid

7.14.5 Impact on Fish Fauna

931. This cumulative assessment is based on the assessment of environmental flows[150] (E-Flows) for the Project (see **Section 5**, *Analysis of Alternatives*). The assessment takes into account the prevailing non-flow pressures on the aquatic ecosystem, including selective and non-selective fishing, sediment mining on the river bed, and nutrient enrichment in the river due to effluent disposal from communities and harvesting of riparian vegetation. Four levels of protection were assessed, which are:

- Protection Level BAU = Business as usual, increase non-flow-related pressures in line with 2017 trends, i.e., 2017 pressures double in intensity over the next 51 years.
- Protection Level 1 (Pro 1) = maintain 2017 levels of non-flow-related pressures on the river; i.e., no increase in human-induced catchment pressures over time.
- Protection Level 2 (Pro 2) = reduce 2017 levels of non-flow-related pressures by 50% over the next 5 years and then keep stable at that level for the next 46 years.
- Protection Level 3 (Pro 3) = reduce 2017 levels of non-flow-related pressures by 90% over the next 5 years and then keep stable at that level for the next 46 years.

932. In the case of each result obtained from the assessment of impacts under various E-Flow scenarios for the Project using the DRIFT DSS model were extrapolated to the other HPPs.[151] Three scenarios were assessed in the E-Flow assessment for the Project.

7.14.5.1 Environmental Management Scenarios

933. A 'Business as Usual' (BAU) scenario predicts the health of the river ecosystem in the absence of any additional dams (both planned and under construction). However, the non-flow pressures discussed above are maintained at Business-as-usual levels. It also considers the presence of the already constructed Patrind HPP.

934. A 'Baseline Management' (BM) scenario predicts the health of the river ecosystem after the construction of all five dams, with the following operational and environmental management measures in place.

- The project will operate with a constant baseload flow and an E-Flow of 1.5 m^3/s.
- Sukki Kinari HPP, Naran HPP, and Batakundi HPP will operate following a peaking regime.
- Patrind HPP will continue to operate with a baseload flow, however, this has no impact on the Kunhar River as its powerhouse is located on the Jhelum River and the impacts of peaking will occur in the Jhelum River.
- Protection Level 3, will be implemented in the Project Area of Management.
- Protection Level Business As Usual (BAU) will be implemented in the Patrind HPP, Sukki Kinari HPP, Naran HPP, and Batakundi HPP areas of management.

150 Environmental flows describe the quantity, timing, and quality of water flows required to sustain freshwater and estuarine ecosystems and the human livelihoods and well-being that depend on these ecosystems

151 Modeling of the impacts of an additional four HPPs using DRIFT was outside the scope of this study.

935. An 'Enhanced Management' (EM) scenario predicts the health of the river ecosystem after the construction of all five dams, with the following operational and environmental management measures in place.

- Project, Naran HPP and Batakundi HPP will operate with a constant baseload flow.
- Sukki Kinari HPP will operate following a peaking regime.
- Patrind HPP will continue to operate with a baseload flow, however, this has no impact on the Kunhar River as its powerhouse is located on the Jhelum River and the impacts of peaking will occur in the Jhelum River.
- Protection Level 3 will be implemented in the areas of management of all HPPs

936. The estimated likely consequences of the accumulation of these impacts on the Alwan Snow Trout, Nalbant's Loach, and Kashmir Hillstream Loach that illustrate the range of impacts on fish fauna are summarized in **Exhibit 7-43**. These impacts have been extrapolated from the results of the E-Flow modeling carried out for the Project.

7.14.5.2 Alwan Snow Trout

937. **BAU Scenario:** The Alwan Snow Trout faces heavy selective fishing pressures, which are expected to increase significantly under the business-as-usual scenario. This is predicted to reduce Alwan Snow Trout populations by around 70% throughout the Kunhar River.

938. **BM Scenario:** The expected impact of all dams will result in the complete elimination of the Alwan Snow Trout in most of the Kunhar River. The only exception under this scenario is the stretch between the Project dam to Patrind reservoir, where a 25% decrease compared to current levels is expected. This stretch will continue to support Alwan Snow Trout populations because of the 1.5 m^3/s E-Flow from the dam to the powerhouse, and the base flow from the powerhouse to the Patrind reservoir.

939. **EM Scenario:** Under Enhanced Management strict protection is applied throughout the river basin and baseload flow is maintained from all dams except Sukki Kinari. However, the barrier effect of the dams combined with reduced flows, especially between dams and powerhouses is enough to eliminate the Alwan Snow Trout in most of the river. River sections downstream of the Project dam continue to support fish populations largely due to the dam's E-Flow. Other sections or river, such as the Sukki Kinari dam to the tailrace and Patrind reservoir to the Jhelum confluence retain significantly depleted populations of the Alwan Snow Trout (reduction of 65 to 70%).

7.14.5.3 Nalbant's Loach

940. **BAU Scenario:** The Nalbant's Loach is currently only found downstream of the Sukki Kinari dam site. Under the Business as Usual scenario, the Nalbant's Loach population reduced by 60% compared to current populations. The Nalbant's Loach is sensitive to pollution, and the growing impact of runoff from human settlements and habitat degradation due to activities such as sand mining will result in a reduced population under BAU.

941. **BM Scenario:** The Baseline Management scenario representing the impact of all five dams results in the elimination of the Nalbant's Loach from most stretches of the river due to the combined effect of human impacts and changes in hydrology. However, between the Project dam to the tailrace, there is a 70% decline, and between the Project tailrace to Patrind

reservoir, there is a 10% increase. This increase in the Nalbant's Loach population is a result of this stretch of river retaining sufficient water flow due to the E-Flow from the Project dam and baseload flow from the powerhouse, combined with reduced human impacts due to the conservation measures in the Project implemented under BM.

942. **EM Scenario:** Under the Enhanced Management scenario, increased protection throughout the river basin results in other stretches retaining some of the Nalbant's Loach population. The stretch between the Sukki Kinari dam and its tailrace and the Patrind dam and the Jhelum confluence retain 30% of the current population. The Project dam to tailrace and Project tailrace to Patrind reservoir remain unchanged from the BM scenario.

7.14.5.4 Kashmir Hillstream Loach

943. **BAU Scenario:** The Kashmir Hillstream Loach distribution is similar to that of the Nalbant's Loach, and it is only found downstream of the Sukki Kinari dam site. Under the Business as Usual scenario, the Kashmir Hillstream Loach population will reduce by 70% in all stretches where it is currently found. The Kashmir Hillstream Loach is sensitive to human impacts such as habitat degradation and water pollution, and growing population pressure and its associated impacts will result in a reduced population under BAU.

944. **BM Scenario:** Under the Baseline Management scenario changes in hydrology combined with human impacts result in the elimination of the Kashmir Hillstream Loach from most stretches of the Kunhar River. Downstream of the Project dam, where an E-Flow is maintained, 10% of the existing population will remain. Between the Project tailrace and the Patrind reservoir the combination of E-Flow from the dam, baseload flow from the powerhouse, and increased protection in this area are expected to result in a 10% increase in the population.

945. **EM Scenario:** Increased protection under Enhanced Management results in the Sukki Kinari dam to tailrace and Patrind Dam to confluence sections retaining 10% of the current Kashmir Hillstream Loach populations. The Project dam to tailrace (90% reduction) and Project tailrace to Patrind reservoir (10% increase) sections remain unchanged from the BM scenario.

Exhibit 7-43: Cumulative Impact of Planned HPPs on the Population of Alwan Snow Trout, Nalbant's Loach and Kashmir Hillstream Loach

			Alwan Snow Trout, %			Nalbant's Loach, %			Kashmir Hillstream Loach, %		
			BAU	BM	EM	BAU	BM	EM	BAU	BM	EM
Lulusar Lake to Batakundi Reservoir	River	26.8									
Batakundi reservoir	Submergence	2.8	-70	-100	-100						
Batakundi dam to tailrace	Low Flow	5.1	-70	-100	-100						
Batakundi tailrace to Narran reservoir	Peaking	9.9	-70	-100	-100						
Naran reservoir	Submergence	3.5	-70	-100	-100						
Naran dam to tailrace	Low Flow	5.5	-70	-100	-90						
Naran tailrace to Narran reservoir	Peaking	6	-70	-100	-100						
Sukki Kinari reservoir	Submergence	3.1	-70	-100	-100						
Sukki Kinari dam to tailrace	Low Flow	38.6	-70	-100	-70	-60	-100	-70	-70	-100	-90
Sukki Kinari tailrace to Project reservoir	Peaking	1.5	-70	-100	-100	-60	-100	-100	-70	-100	-100
Project reservoir	Submergence	4.5	-70	-100	-100	-60	-100	-100	-70	-100	-100
Project dam to tailrace	Low Flow	15.4	-70	-25	-25	-60	-70	-70	-70	-90	-90
Project tailrace to Patrind reservoir	Baseload	24.9	-70	-25	-25	-60	10	10	-70	10	10
Patrind reservoir	Submergence	5.2	-70	-100	-65	-60	-100	-100	-70	-100	-100
Patrind dam to Jhelum River Confluence	Low Flow	15.2	-70	-100	-65	-60	-100	-70	-70	-100	-90

Note: BAU: Business as Usual (No protection or construction of additional dams)

BM – Baseline Management

EM – Enhanced Management

Green = any increase from the present day. White = 0% to -40%. Orange = -40% to -70%. Red = -70% to -100%. Grey is outside the natural range of the fish

7.14.5.5 Overall Impact on Ecosystem Integrity

946. This section summarizes the cumulative impact of the proposed HPPs on the overall ecosystem condition and integrity of the Kunhar River and draws from the impact on VECs outlined above. The categories used to describe the Kunhar River's Present Ecological State[152] are based on modification from the natural, with the natural condition seen as the reference condition (see **Exhibit** 7-44). The estimated cumulative impact of the proposed HPPs on overall river and tributary conditions is discussed below.

Exhibit 7-44: Definitions of the Present Ecological State (PES) Categories

A	Unmodified, natural	As close as possible to natural conditions.
B	Largely natural	Modified from the original natural condition but not sufficiently to have produced measurable change in the nature and functioning of the ecosystem/community.
C	Moderately modified	Changed from the original condition sufficiently to have measurably altered the nature and functioning of the ecosystem/community, although the difference may not be obvious to a casual observer.
D	Largely modified	Sufficiently altered from the original natural condition for obvious impacts on the nature and functioning of the ecosystem/community to have occurred.
E&F	Completely modified	Important aspects of the original nature and functioning of the ecosystem community are no longer present. The area is heavily negatively impacted by human interventions.

947. **Present-Day Situation:** At present, sections of Kunhar River upstream of Patrind reservoir are largely natural, and fall within Category B (see **Exhibit 7-44** for category descriptions). Downstream, sections of the river between the Patrind reservoir and the Jhelum confluence are already affected by the construction and operation of the Patrind dam, and these sections have therefore been placed in Category B/C.

948. **Business-as-Usual Scenario:** Under the BAU scenario (i.e. no HPPs, no environmental control measures) it is expected that there will be significant degradation of the entire stretch of river, from Lulusar Lake down to the Jhelum River confluence. This degradation would result from environmental stressors related to growing population pressure, such as increasing water pollution and habitat degradation. It is expected that the upper reaches of the river, close to Naran and upstream, would degrade to Category C/D, whereas the more populated downstream sections would degrade to Category D over time.

7.14.5.6 Impact of Sequential Implementation of HPPs with Baseline Management

949. The impacts of each additional HPP are discussed below.

i. Patrind HPP degrades the ecosystem integrity of the river from Patrind dam to Jhelum River confluence to Category E due to reduced water flow.

ii. With the addition of Sukki Kinari HPP, the entire stretch of the river from Sukki Kinari reservoir down to the Jhelum confluence degrades to Category E due to a combination of peaking flows, low flows, and submergence in different sections of the river.

152 Hagler Bailly Pakistan and Southern Waters. July 2016. Environmental Flow Assessment for Kohala Hydropower Project Volume 3: Environmental Flow Assessment Technical Report. Pakistan.

iii. The project will inundate an additional 2.8 km of the river but will include an E-Flow from the dam, a baseload flow from the powerhouse, and Pro 3 level protection in the area. As a result, the section of the river downstream of the Project dam improves from Category E to Category C/D until the tailrace, and the section from the tailrace to Patrind Reservoir improves from Category E to Category B.

iv. Naran HPP results in the degradation of an additional 15 km of river. A stretch of 3.5 km gets inundated and the remaining 11.5 km section from the dam to the tailrace and tailrace to Sukki Kinari reservoir gets degraded to Category E due to low flow and peaking.

v. Batakundi HPP affects an additional 17.8 km of river, with 2.8 km inundated, and 15 km degraded to Category E as a result of low flows and peaking.

950. **Enhanced Management Scenario:** Under the Enhanced Management scenario, Project, Naran HPP and Batakundi HPP will be operated with a baseload flow, ensuring there is some water flow between their powerhouses and the next reservoir. Also, the entire Kunhar River from Lulusar Lake to the Jhelum confluence will be managed at a Pro 3 protection level, significantly reducing human impacts such as water pollution and habitat degradation. The result of these measures on ecosystem integrity is:

i. sections of river between all of the dams to their tailrace will improve from Category E to Category C or Category C/D; and

ii. sections of the river between tailraces and reservoirs, where there is now some water flow due to baseload flow will improve from Category E to Category B. The only exception is Sukki Kinari HPP, which will operate using a peaking regime, because of which the section between Sukki Kinari HPP tailrace and Project reservoir will remain at Category E

951. A score for overall ecosystem integrity in the CIA Study Area was calculated by:

- assigning the following scores to ecological categories as defined in **Exhibit 7-44:**
  - Ecological Category F 0%
  - Ecological Category E 20%
  - Ecological Category D 40%
  - Ecological Category C 60%
  - Ecological Category B 80%
  - Ecological Category A 100%
- calculating a weighted average score for the CIA Study Area based on the score for ecological integrity in each segment of the river and the length of the segment**.**

952. **Exhibit 7-45** illustrates the calculated changes in overall ecosystem integrity for the CIA Study Area with the sequential implementation of the HPPs.

i. Starting with a Present Day score of 78% corresponding to ecosystem integrity of B, the ecosystem integrity deteriorates to D, or a score of about 43% under the BAU scenario without any project. This deterioration is due to poor protection and

increasing pressures on the ecosystem from fishing, sediment mining, and deterioration in water quality over time.

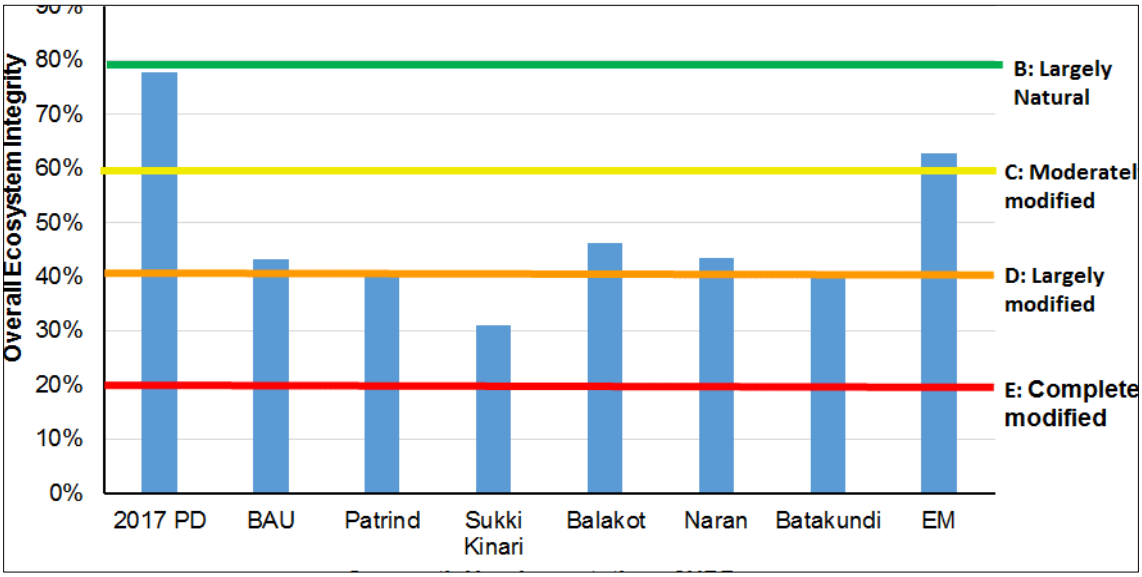
ii. With Patrind HPP added, the overall score drops to 40%, still within Category D. However with the addition of Sukki Kinari the score reduces further to 31%, which is Category D/E. This reduction is due to the impacts downstream of the Sukki Kinari dam.

iii. Since the Project includes an E-Flow, baseload flow, and Pro 3 level protection (within the Project area), the addition of this HPP improves the overall ecosystem integrity to a score of 46%, or Category C/D.

iv. The addition of Naran HPP brings the score down to 43% and Batakundi HPP brings it further down to 40% or Category D.

953. Finally, with the implementation of the Enhanced Management scenario, the ecosystem integrity can be improved to a score of about 63%, corresponding to an ecological integrity slightly higher than Category C. This is a significant improvement over the BAU and BM scenarios.

Exhibit 7-45: Predicted Ecosystem Integrity in the CIA Study Area with Sequential Implementation of Hydropower Projects



7.14.6 Livelihoods Related to Recreation and Tourism

954. There is expected to be a significant impact on recreation and tourism in the Kaghan and Naran areas as a result of the construction and operation of Sukki Kinari HPP and Naran HPP. Of the two riverside towns, Naran is the bigger center for recreation and tourism. According to the Tourism Corporation of KP, there are currently over 135 hotels operating in and around Naran. Tourism in the area is seasonal, with most tourists visiting during the months of June, July, and August. During these months, a very significant proportion of local people work in tourism-related activities including the running of hotels and restaurants, labor in hotels and restaurants, provision of transport services, and work as tourist guides. Through the provision of accommodation, food, and other services local communities in these areas

derive a very significant portion of their annual income from recreation and tourism during the three summer months.

955. Although initially it was felt that the construction of Sukki Kinari HPP and Naran HPP would have significant negative impacts on the tourism industry of the area due to the major changes to the natural environment as a result of access road, dam, and powerhouse construction, inundation, and changes in hydrology (reduced flows, peaking), a detrimental impact on the aesthetics of the area and activities such as recreational fishing however, the construction phase impacts of the Sukki Kinari HPP have largely been subsidized. Access road conditions have significantly improved due to the construction of the diversion tunnel, which has been operational since 2023.

956. Also, during the EIA studies carried out for the BTHPP (300 MW), it was felt that the dam operations will create potential safety issues since peaking operations may result in accidents and fatalities as unaware tourists may swept into the river by sudden increases in water flow downstream of powerhouses. However, due to the construction of the BTHPP (300 MW), the affected stretch of the Kunhar River has been increased several folds. Also, the river stretch d/s of the BTHPP (300 MW) tailrace is quite wide, as in some areas d/s of the Balakot Bridge, the width of the river reaches three to four hundred meters on average. This increase in width will eliminate the impact of the sudden increase in the flow as the river will flow over a larger area.

957. In an area such as Naran with a well-established tourism sector, there is a very high dependency on recreation and tourism for income. Any reduction in the number of tourists will have very serious socioeconomic consequences. Therefore, guidelines and mitigation measures must be proposed and prepared as a part of the Sukki Kinari HPP and Naran HPP BAP/BMPs to minimize the impact of the developments on tourism in the area.

7.14.7 Management Strategy and Measures

958. As defined in **Section 7.14.5** *(Impact on Fish Fauna)*, the following two management scenarios were considered for the development of the strategy to manage cumulative impacts:

i. Baseline Management

ii. Enhanced Management

959. **Baseline Management Scenario:** The significant defining aspects and possible outcomes under this scenario are summarized below.

- The Wildlife Department, KP has limited environmental management and monitoring capacity and will rely primarily on the hydropower industry to manage environmental impacts on an individual basis.
- Non-sustainable sand and gravel mining practices will continue resulting in the loss of river habitats
- The Minerals Development Department, KP (MDDKP) does not have the means, and resources in place to regulate the mining from the river beds.
- The regulatory framework is essentially that of reliance on the environmental regulator, KPEPA, which has limited monitoring and enforcement capacity given the limited number of staff and technical capacity.

- Cities, towns, villages, and residential areas continue to discharge effluents and solid waste into the streams in the CIA Study Area.
- Fishing activities by local communities remain unregulated and continue non-sustainable harvesting practices.

960. The long-term outcome of this scenario in terms of prioritized VECs will be a high level of degradation of the river habitat and ecosystems resulting in substantial and irreversible loss of ecosystem functions and services. Some parts of the river ecosystems protected under the BAP/BMP developed for hydropower projects such as Project will survive and improve due to improved protection and surveillance supported by the projects.

961. Under this scenario, the number of tourists visiting the Kaghan and Naran area is likely to decrease as the area's aesthetics and activities such as recreational fishing are negatively affected.

962. **Enhanced Management Scenario:** Under this scenario, the owners of hydropower projects located within the CIA Study Area would individually and collectively fulfill their environmental and social responsibilities as mandated by law, and manage their corporate and reputational risks. Principal actions and measures recommended for implementation are listed below.

- Preparing guidelines for EIAs for hydropower projects, or adopting accepted best international practices for preparation of EIAs.
- Preparing guidelines for BMP/BAPs, or adopting accepted best international practices for preparation of BMP/BAPs.
- Preparing BAP/BMPs mandatory for hydropower developers in the Kunhar Basin.
- Making it a requirement for HPPs to achieve a net gain for key fish species in the Kunhar Basin
- Preparing and implementing guidelines for E-Flow assessments, or adopting accepted best international practices for preparation of BAP/BMPs.
- Regulating fishing and sediment mining activities by local communities in collaboration with industry to ensure that sustainable harvesting practices are introduced and established.
- Working with industry to maintain effective watch and ward (patrolling) and regulatory pressure on communities to maintain harvesting at sustainable levels.
- Establishing an institution to conduct research for the development of measures to mitigate the impact of hydropower dams on river ecology.
- Establishing a watershed management program to manage water quality in the basin.

963. Principal Actions and Measures by the Hydropower Industry include but not limited to:

- designing and operating HPPs to balance power generation benefits and environmental impacts including setting of environmental flows and operating powerhouses at baseload, thereby avoiding peaking operations;

- preparation and implementation of Biodiversity Action/Management Plans in their respective area of impact, inclusive of supporting protection, conducting monitoring and evaluation, and adaptive management;
- maintaining and updating environmental flow assessment models to continuously improve the understanding of ecosystems and to predict the impacts of operations on river ecosystems;
- setting up detailed hydrology and sediment transport models for prediction of the impact of operations on the deposition of sediments, and consequentially on ecosystems and ecosystem services;
- supporting watershed management in the basin to reduce erosion in the catchments and flow of pollutants into the river and tributaries;
- supporting research and development to mitigate the impacts of hydropower projects and to improve environmental management; and
- building up an environmental management capacity to manage environmental impacts on an individual and collective basis.

964. The long-term outcome of this scenario in terms of river ecosystems and ecosystem services will be maintenance and most likely enhancement of ecosystem functions and services in selected segments of the river, and sustainable livelihoods. Under this scenario, there is a likelihood of achieving an increase of about 10% (over the current baseline) in the population of endemic fish species in certain sections of the river.

965. The transition from the present Baseline Management to this scenario will require extensive and sustained effort over some time, and will essentially consist of building upon initiatives that have already been identified and partly tested by the Wildlife Department, KP in other parts of the province. The following management approach is proposed to achieve this transition.

i. An **environmental management framework** consisting of a set of preventive measures and management measures in the CIA Study Area to maintain a balance among:
   - maintenance of ecosystem services that are important for local livelihoods and well-being;
   - protection of ecosystems and biodiversity, consistent with the policies of the government and commitments made by the country under conventions such as Ramsar and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

ii. An **institutional and policy framework** that strengthens key departments in KP and defines the roles, responsibilities, and mandates of participating institutions in environmental management of the CIA Study Area.

iii. A **financial management framework** that generates and provides funds for environmental management and defines mechanisms for transparent and effective utilization of funds.

iv. A **monitoring and evaluation framework** that relies on continuous professional, scientific and independent monitoring of the extent to which the environmental management objectives are being achieved and identifies causes of poor performance or failure.

7.14.8 Institutional Arrangements for Implementation

966. The suggested roles and responsibilities of identified institutions can be categorized as follows.

- **Leadership and Enforcement:** Ministry of Water and Power and the KP Government.
- **Coordination and Management:** Collectively by the industry through a Hydropower Advisory Committee that is recognized by the Ministry of Water and Power and the government of KP and includes members of the government as well as the community
- **Implementation:** The Wildlife and Fisheries Departments government of KP.
- **Capacity Building:** WWF, HWF
- **Management Support:** KPEPA, district administrations, and MDDKP
- **Research:** Pakistan Museum of Natural History, Pakistan Council for Research on Water Resources
- **Observation and Management Support:** IFC, ADB

7.14.9 Options for Financial Management

967. It is assumed that actions within the scope of ESIAs/EIAs for which the projects have independent responsibility will be financed by the projects from their capital and operating budgets as approved by the electricity regulator. The following is an outline of the proposed financial mechanism to support the implementation of collective actions proposed by the CIA. These include:

- administrative costs for the Hydropower Advisory Committee
- Institute for Research on River Ecology
- Watershed Management Program

968. The proposed financial mechanism consists of:

- a fund for environmental management titled the Kunhar Basin Environmental Management Fund can be set up under the Hydropower Advisory Committee and jointly managed by the industry and the KP government;
- the Advisory Committee will decide on where to use the funds, and how to maintain accountability and transparency; and
- inflows into the fund can include mandatory and voluntary contributions from the hydropower industry and contributions from donors.

7.14.10 Monitoring and Evaluation

969. Following the Pressure-State-Response framework, the framework for monitoring changes in VECs is described in the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework included in the BAP of the Project (see **Volume C** of the EIA report). In addition to regular reviews by industry at individual levels and sharing of the results with the stakeholders, the Management Institution should review the M&E reports at least once a year.

7.14.11 Adaptive Management

970. The framework for adaptive management of cumulative impacts has the following three components.

i. The first component consists of evaluating the accuracy of the predicted environmental impacts. The corresponding goal is to improve the predictive capability of the models such as those for air quality, hydrodynamics, sedimentation, and water quality, and methods used to identify and quantify project-induced impacts.

ii. The second component consists of assessing the effectiveness of the proposed actions and measures.

iii. The final component is the modification of actions and measures as needed to ensure that environmental impacts remain within a range that is acceptable to stakeholders.

971. Suggested indicators and their thresholds for assessing the actual impact of the Project are included in the BMP/BAP, which can be expanded to the rest of the CIA Study Area. The goal for this component is to implement whatever modifications are needed in actions and measures to keep the levels of observed environmental effects below the thresholds and within the range acceptable to the stakeholders.

972. The proposed Advisory Committee can advise the Ministry of Water and Power and the KP government on adaptive management decisions at the basin level following the review of monitoring and evaluation reports.

7.15 Climate Change Risk

973. A climate change risk assessment carried out in collaboration by Aqualogous, Team Consultants, and Hagler Bailly Pakistan, included as part of the Feasibility Study, indicates the following based on analysis of multiple models, as well as literature.

- General potential increase in annual precipitation associated with increase in summer Monsoon precipitation.
- Decrease in winter and spring precipitation.
- Likely increase in the Probable Maximum Flood, based on the Maximum Precipitable Water.

974. The changes will have consequences on dam operations covered under the scope of the Feasibility Assessment. Concerning environmental impact, i.e. impact on receptors, the following impacts with the dam in place, in conjunction with climate change are likely.

- Decreased environmental flow release downstream of the dam, particularly during low flow conditions in winter, based on assessed future greenhouse gas emissions scenarios and climate change models utilized by the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (AR5).
- Increase risk of dam failure due to increase in Probable Maximum Precipitable water, and thereby Probable Maximum Flood, under high greenhouse gas concentration scenarios (representative concentration pathway 8.5) by 2070-2100.

975. Concerning the risk of decreased environmental flow releases, the design is resilient to climate change, since low-level outlets are available and can be utilized to release environmental flow.

976. In addition, concerning increase in Probable Maximum Precipitation, based on consultation with dam engineers, the dam is already over-designed and has an increase of 30-35% in probable maximum precipitation peak, a conservative estimate based on a 30-35% increase in maximum precipitable water, and the dam break risk assessment considers similarly large floods, that are unlikely to cause the failure of the dam. Therefore, concerning environmental impacts on receptors, in alignment with the impact assessment methodology (**Section 7.1**), the dam is resilient to climate change.

7.16 Impact of Transmission Lines

977. A preliminary assessment of the environmental and social impacts associated with the transmission line was carried out using ***Google Earth™*** satellite imagery and available geographic information on the wider area in which the transmission line will be located. Given the total length of the transmission line of approximately 720 m, the erection of 2 to 4 towers is likely to be required. The location of towers can be adjusted in detailed design to minimize the risk of land sliding and erosion. There is no reserve forest at the location of the transmission line. Moreover, it can be observed from **Exhibit 3.24** in **Section 3** that the proposed transmission line will neither affect any built-up structure nor any agricultural land.

978. The terrestrial biodiversity of the area is similar to the biodiversity in the Terrestrial Study Area for this EIA. The transmission line will have impacts on terrestrial vegetation and less mobile species, mainly herpetofauna species. It will also disturb the habitat of small mammals and ground-nesting birds. However, no species of conservation importance are found in the terrestrial habitat in this area. Construction phase impacts on terrestrial habitats will be temporary and localized, other than the permanent changes they might introduce in the local landscape and land use. Operation phase impacts on terrestrial ecology will be minor, except on avifauna. The operation of power lines or transmission lines has been associated with two major negative impacts on avifauna – collision and electrocution.

979. Based on an initial assessment, the socioeconomic impacts of the transmission line are expected to be insignificant as the proposed transmission line will not affect any of the privately owned assets, and there are no settlements close to the route of the transmission line. No social issues such as conflicts between outsiders and locals are therefore anticipated.

980. Until the transmission line alignment is finalized it will not be possible to assess the associated environmental or social impacts accurately. Some of the issues that may require

detailed examination and the development and implementation of effective mitigation measures are likely to include the following.

- Land acquisition,
- Impacts from the influx of workers,
- Impacts on cultural and religious sites,
- Visual impacts,
- Disturbance due to movement of vehicles, construction equipment and materials,
- Noise, dust and air quality,
- Access issues,
- Vegetation clearance,
- Excavation of soil and impacts on surface water,
- Risk of slope instability,
- Disturbance to wildlife,
- Impacts of continuing right-of-way maintenance.

Exhibit 7-46: Summary of Impacts

ID	Aspect	Impact	Phase	Stage	Magnitude	Timeframe	Spatial Scale	Consequence	Probability	Significance	+/-
1	Aquatic Ecology	Change in the Ecological Integrity through the implementation of the BAP (see **Volume C** of the EIA report)	C, O	Init	Major	Long Term	Extensive	High	Definite	High	+
2	Aquatic Ecology	Loss of riverine ecosystem due to inundation by Project reservoir	C, O	Init	Major	Long Term	Intermediate	High	Definite	High	-
				Res	Major	Long Term	Intermediate	High	Definite	High	-
3	Aquatic Ecology	Degradation of the river ecosystem in the low-flow segment downstream of the Project dam	C, O	Init	Major	Long Term	Intermediate	High	Definite	High	-
				Res	Major	Long Term	Intermediate	High	Definite	High	-
4	Aquatic Ecology	Degradation of the River Ecosystem Downstream of the Tailrace	C, O	Init	Major	Long Term	Intermediate	High	Definite	High	-
				Res	Moderate	Long Term	Intermediate	High	Definite	High	+
5	Terrestrial Ecology	Terrestrial habitat loss caused by construction-related activities	C	Init	Minor	Short Term	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-
				Res	Minor	Short Term	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-
6	Terrestrial Ecology	The decline in abundance and diversity of terrestrial flora and fauna caused by construction-related activities.	C	Init	Minor	Short Term	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-
				Res	Minor	Short Term	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-
7	Terrestrial Ecology	Project operation leads to animal disturbance, displacement, and decline.	O	Init	Minor	Long Term	Small	Medium	Possible	Medium	-
				Res	Minor	Medium	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-
8	Ambient Air Quality	An increase in ambient and ground level concentration of air pollutants from construction activities and vehicular movement may cause health impacts to the community.	C	Init	Moderate	Medium Term	Small	Medium	Possible	Medium	-
				Res	Minor	Short Term	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-
9	Blasting and Vibration	Vibration from blasting during the construction phase may disturb local communities	C	Init	Moderate	Medium Term	Intermediate	Medium	Possible	Medium	-
				Res	Minor	Short Term	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-
10			C	Init	Moderate	Short Term	Intermediate	High	Possible	Medium	-

ID	Aspect	Impact	Phase	Stage	Magnitude	Timeframe	Spatial Scale	Consequence	Probability	Significance	+/-
	Blasting and Vibration	Blasting may pose a health hazard due to flying debris.		Res	Minor	Short Term	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-
11	Hydrology and Water Quality	Alterations of the natural passage of springs due to blasting for tunnels may disrupt the water supply for mountain spring users.	C	Init	Moderate	Long Term	Intermediate	High	Possible	High	-
				Res	Minor	Medium	Intermediate	Low	Possible	Low	-
12	Hydrology and Water Quality	Use of local water resources for construction activities may reduce the water availability for local communities.	C	Init	Moderate	Short Term	Intermediate	Medium	Possible	Medium	-
				Res	Minor	Short Term	Small	Low	Unlikely	Low	-
13	Hydrology and Water Quality	Discharge from construction activities can potentially result in the contamination of groundwater and surface water.	C	Init	Moderate	Short Term	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-
				Res	Minor	Short Term	Small	Low	Unlikely	Low	-
14	Construction Noise	An increase in ambient noise levels due to the operation of construction equipment, movement of construction traffic and blasting may create nuisance for nearby communities and visiting tourists.	C	Init	Moderate	Short Term	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-
				Res	Minor	Short Term	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-
15	Soil, Topography, and Land Stability	Contamination of soil as a result of the accidental release of solvents, oils, and lubricants can degrade soil fertility and agricultural productivity.	C	Init	Moderate	Medium	Intermediate	Medium	Possible	Medium	-
				Res	Minor	Medium	Intermediate	Low	Unlikely	Low	-
16	Soil, Topography and Land Stability	Land clearing, excavation, tunnel boring, and other construction activities may loosen the topsoil in the Project area resulting in loss of soil and possible acceleration of soil erosion and land sliding, especially in the wet season.	C	Init	Moderate	Short Term	Small	Low	Definite	Low	-
				Res	Minor	Short Term	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-
17	Soil, Topography, and Land Stability	Failure of spoil dumping sites results in increased erosion and sediment load entering river.	C	Init	Moderate	Long Term	Intermediate	High	Possible	High	-
				Res	Moderate	Medium Term	Intermediate	Medium	Unlikely	Low	-
18	Aesthetics		C, O	Init	Minor	Short Term	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-

ID	Aspect	Impact	Phase	Stage	Magnitude	Timeframe	Spatial Scale	Consequence	Probability	Significance	+/-
		Deterioration of aesthetics and visual amenities of nearby receptors due to construction activities, including vehicular movement on roads, may cause disturbance in aesthetics for tourists, businesses, and nearby communities.		Res	Minor	Short Term	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-
19	Aesthetics	Deterioration of aesthetics and visual amenities of nearby receptors due to low flow in the river may affect the scenic value of the area.	C	Init	Minor	Medium	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-
				Res	Minor	Medium	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-
20	Aesthetics	Permanent impact in aesthetics due to proposed developments.	O	Init	Minor	Medium	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-
				Res	Minor	Medium	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-
21	Traffic and Roads	Improved accessibility due to the construction of Project access roads.	C, O	Init	Minor	Short Term	Small	Low	Possible	Low	+
				Res	Minor	Short Term	Small	Low	Possible	Low	+
22	Traffic and Roads	An increase in congestion, due to increased traffic volume will cause delays.	C	Init	Minor	Short Term	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-
				Res	Minor	Short Term	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-
23	Traffic and Roads	An increase in traffic volume will deteriorate the air quality.	C	Init	Minor	Short Term	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-
				Res	Minor	Short Term	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-
24	Traffic and Roads	Increased risk to community safety due to increased traffic volume during the construction phase near communities.	O	Init	Minor	Short Term	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-
				Res	Minor	Short Term	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-
25	Traffic and Roads	Degradation of the pavement due to use by heavy construction traffic.	C	Init	Minor	Short Term	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-
				Res	Minor	Short Term	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-
26	Livelihood and Well-being	Direct, indirect, and induced employment at the local levels, resulting in increased prosperity and well-being due to higher and stable incomes of people.	C, O	Init	Minor	Long term	Extensive	Medium	Possible	Medium	+
				Res	Moderate	Long term	Extensive	High	Definite	High	+

ID	Aspect	Impact	Phase	Stage	Magnitude	Timeframe	Spatial Scale	Consequence	Probability	Significance	+/-
27	Livelihood and Well-being	Increase in the stock of skilled human capital due to transfer of knowledge and skill under the Project resulting in enhanced productivity of the local labor.	C, O	Init	Minor	Long term	Intermediate	Medium	Possible	Medium	+
				Res	Moderate	Long term	Extensive	High	Possible	High	+
28	Livelihood and Well-being	Increase in recreational and subsistence fishing due to increase in catch of fish following creation of favorable habitats for the fish in the Kunhar River	C, O	Init	Minor	Long term	Extensive	Low	Possible	Low	+
				Res	Minor	Long term	Extensive	Low	Possible	Low	+
29	Livelihood and Well-being	Loss of income from sediment mining due to change in the pattern of sediment deposition following the construction of the dam	O	Init	Major	Long term	Extensive	High	Definite	High	-
				Res	Minor	Medium	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-
30	Livelihood and Well-being	Loss of assets and livelihood as a result of land acquired for the Project	D, C	Init	Major	Long term	Extensive	High	Definite	High	-
				Res	Minor	Medium	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-
31	Socio-Cultural Impacts	Increase in population due to in-migration of job seekers (in-migrants) leading to pressure on existing social infrastructure and services in the Study Area.	C	Init	Moderate	Medium	Intermediate	Medium	Possible	Medium	-
				Res	Minor	Medium	Intermediate	Low	Possible	Low	-
32	Socio-Cultural Impacts	Disputes over the distribution of Project employment within and between Study Area inhabitants and the in-migrants resulting in social unrest	C	Init	Moderate	Medium	Intermediate	Medium	Possible	Medium	-
				Res	Minor	Short term	Intermediate	Low	Possible	Low	-
33	Socio-Cultural Impacts	Potential social unrest in the Study Area due to conflicting socio-cultural norms amongst the inhabitants and in-migrants.	C	Init	Minor	Short term	Small	Low	Possible	Low	-
34	Socio-Cultural Impacts	Submergence of the graveyards.	C	Init	Moderate	Medium	Intermediate	Medium	Possible	Medium	-
				Res	Minor	Short term	Intermediate	Low	Possible	Low	-

8 GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM

981. Timely and effective redress of stakeholder grievances will contribute to bringing sustainability in the operations of a project. In particular, it will help advocate the process of forming and strengthening relationships between project management and the stakeholder community groups and bridge any gaps to create a common understanding, helping the project management to efficiently operate in the area.

982. To register and resolve the grievances of the community in this process, a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) was established in September 2022. The proposed mechanism is based on two–tear grievance redress committees—at the village level and at the Project level. The proposed GRM will help achieve the objectives of sustainability by dealing with the environmental and social issues of the Project promptly.

983. The village–level GRC was established to engage village–level community members/leaders to participate in the decision–making processes and to have the “voices” of the aggrieved person/communities in the grievance redress procedures. This will also enhance local ownership of the Project. Having members based in the village, the village–level GRC will help resolve grievances quickly often without going into lengthy documentation. The local participation will further build local capacity in dispute resolution and decision–making and provide leadership support in the implementation of the Project. Cases that are not satisfactorily resolved or affected persons remain aggrieved, the case will then be forwarded to the Project–level GRC as the prime floor for resolution of the grievances.

984. The purpose of the GRM is to facilitate the resolution of disputes without going into litigation. In this regard, the decision of the Project level GRC will be final within the GRM however, if any disputant remains dissatisfied with the GRC outcome, the disputant can seek redress from a court of law.

985. PEDO is responsible for:

i. establishing the GRM at each village level and the project level. The GRM will be established as soon as PC–1 of a project is approved; and

ii. PIU must ensure that the community is informed of the mechanism to redress complaints.

8.1 Grievance Redress Committees

986. The Grievance Redress Committees (GRCs) are to ensure accessibility, fairness, and independence of the procedures. As stated above, the GRCs have been established at two–levels i.e.:

i. Village GRC, with the scope limited within the village; and

ii. Project GRC, covering all the project-affected villages.

987. The composition of the two committees is shown in **Exhibit 8-1.**

Exhibit 8-1: Members of GRC

Organization	Village GRC	Project GRC
PEDO	Field staff of PIU (PEDO) Chairperson	Representative from PIU (PEDO) Chairperson
Community	One or two elders nominated by the community	One or two elders nominated by the community

988. PEDO has notified GRM and GRCs at the above two levels in 2022, which are operational since then. Copies of the Notification is attached as **Annexure 3** to the report.

8.2 GRC's Scope of Work

989. The scope of work of the GRC includes but not limited to:

i. the village GRC will ensure that all grievances related to social and environmental issues are registered, formally recorded, reviewed, resolved and the concerned person is informed promptly;

ii. the Project GRC will monitor the working of the village GRC and will work as a forum for appeal against the decision of the village GRC;

iii. GRC will not consider complaints related to the procurements or with any matters pending in the court of law; and

iv. in resolving the disputes, the GRCs would take into consideration the following.

- Merit of the complaints/cases received for consideration.
- Evidence to decide on the complaint.
- Witness statements.
- Plausibility of the case in the light of related project activity.
- Applicable laws, environmental guidelines of Pakistan, initial environmental examination and environmental review document of the project, and ADB environmental guidelines.
- Observations made on the field.
- Available information on previous complaints of a similar nature.

8.3 Approval and Orientation of GRC Members

990. The GRC members were selected according to their responsibility and personal integrity. Community members of the village-level GRCs were selected after consultation with the communities. Community members of project-level GRCs were nominated by the affected community. All GRCs members were approved and notified by the Project Director.

991. All GRC members will attend a training and orientation meeting before the commencement of their work. The training will be provided by competent technical experts in social/resettlement and environmental management. The training will address the policy aspects, compliance requirements, expectations of the community, and need for rapport and communication with the affected communities, and finally need for independence and transparent views in dealing with grievances.

8.4 Dissemination of GRCs

992. After notification of all the GRCs, information regarding GRCs were disseminated in all the concerned villages by the Environment and Social Unit of the PIU. Information dissemination comprise the following.

- List of GRC members including address and contact numbers.
- GRC scope of work.
- Grievance redress procedure.

8.5 Grievance Redress Procedure

993. The following procedure will be adopted to resolve grievances received by the GRCs. The grievance mechanism will be made public through public consultations by the Environment and Social Unit of PIU and the Consultant.

8.5.1 Filing of Grievances to Village GRC

994. For grievances related to social and environmental safeguards, the aggrieved person (or their authorized representatives) may file a grievance with the village–level GRC in one of the following ways.

i. Submit a written complaint to any member of the village GRC.

ii. Given the local cultural context, any aggrieved women may submit complaints to GRCs directly or through the head of the household.

995. For complaints registration Complaint Registration Forms will be available with the secretary of the village-level GRCs and complaints will be registered on Grievance Log.

8.5.2 Hearing and Resolution of the Cases by Village GRC

996. The procedure for hearing and resolution of the complaint is as follows.

i. On receipt of a complaint:

   - secretary of village GRC will log the complaint in a register called Complaint Register;
   - contact other members of the GRC to conduct a meeting within 10 calendar days of the logging of the complaint;
   - if needed, request the complainant or his representative to meet the Village GRC on the appointed date to discuss his complaint; and
   - prepare all the relevant information and documents relevant to the complaint before the meeting and provide copies to all members.

ii. The GRC will meet on the appointed date during which it may:

   - deliberate on the nature and circumstances of the complaint;
   - investigate the complaint based on evidence provided by the complainant;
   - meet with the complainant and other persons;
   - visit the site; and

- take a decision.

iii. If the GRC needs extra time to investigate or deliberate on the complaint, the secretary will inform the complainant of the time when a decision is expected. In any case, all complaints shall be resolved within 30 calendar days of logging.

iv. Once the complaint is resolved, the secretary will document the decision and prepare full documentation on the process including minutes of meetings, photographs of visits, documents reviewed, and reasons for the decision.

v. The GRC will ensure that the complainant is fully informed of the decision and is also informed about his/her right to appeal to the Project GRC and the court of law.

vi. In case follow–up action is required, the chairperson of the village GRC will ensure that the actions are taken and documented.

8.5.3 Hearing and Resolution of the Cases by Project GRC

997. The procedure for hearing and resolution of the complaint by the Project GRC is as follows.

i. On receipt of a complaint :

- secretary of Project GRC will request all the concerned; documentation from the secretary of the concerned village GRC;
- contact other members of the Project GRC to conduct a meeting within 15 calendar days of the logging of the complaint to the Project GRC;
- if needed, request the complainant or his representative to meet the Project GRC on the appointed date and place to discuss his complaint;
- if needed, request the members of the village GRC to meet the Project GRC on the appointed date and place; and
- Prepare all the relevant information and documents relevant to the complaint before the meeting and provide copies to all members.

ii. The Project GRC will meet on the appointed date during which it may:

- deliberate on the nature and circumstances of the complaint;
- investigate the complaint;
- meet with the complainant and other persons;
- visit the site; and
- take a decision.

iii. If the GRC needs extra time to investigate or deliberate on the complaint, the secretary will inform the complainant of the time when a decision is expected. In any case, all complaints shall be resolved within 45 calendar days of logging with the Project GRC.

iv. Once the complaint is resolved the secretary will document the decision and prepare full documentation on the process including minutes of meetings, photographs of visits, documents reviewed, and reasons for the decision.

v. The GRC will ensure that the complainant is fully informed of the decision and is also informed about his/her right to appeal to the court of law.

vi. In case follow–up action is required; the chairperson of the Project GRC will ensure that the actions are taken and are documented.

8.5.4 Maintenance and Evaluation of Data by PIU

998. The Project Director (PD) PIU ensures that it receives copies of all complaints, meeting notices, decisions, and documentation related to proceedings of the village and Project GRCs.

999. The PIU is maintaining a complete record of the complaints in a database or tabular form consisting of the following fields.

- Project name.
- Village, union council, tehsil, and district
- Name of complainant.
- Nature of complaint like environmental (tree cutting, Noise, Dust, Waste, Air–Water–Soil Pollution, etc.), social (damage to infrastructure, land, privacy, Favoritism/Nepotism issues, etc), Gender (gender equality, empowerment, privacy, etc.) and non–compliance to the Govt. /Donor provided guidelines.
- Date of logging of complaint with village GRC.
- Date of first meeting of village GRC.
- Information on members attended, number of meetings, meeting with complainant, and site visit.
- Date of decision of village GRC.
- Follow-up actions, responsibilities, and completion with dates.
- Date of logging of complaint with Project GRC.
- Date of first meeting of Project GRC.
- Information on members attended, number of meetings, meeting with complainant, and site visit.
- Date of decision of Project GRC.
- Follow-up–actions, responsibilities, and completion with dates.

1000. The PIU also prepare periodic reports on the GRM reporting, for example:

- number of complaints received and resolved by village GRC, Project GRC, and nature of the complaint;
- the average time it took to resolve the complaint; and
- the fraction of complaints that were resolved at the village GRC level.

9 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

9.1 Introduction to the Environmental Management Plan

1001. The Environmental Management Plan (EMP) summarizes the organizational requirements, management, and monitoring plans to ensure that the necessary measures are taken by PEDO to avoid potentially adverse effects maximize the potential benefits of the Project, and to operate in conformance with applicable laws and regulations of KP, as well as the policies of international financial organizations such as ADB.

1002. Due to the nature and applicability of the EMP, it will also be used for contractual purposes through its inclusion as a part of the bid documents for the EPC contractor who has to adhere to it along with other regulatory requirements. The strict implementation of the EMP and project management's strict enforcement of adequate construction practices and standards will greatly reduce the negative impacts of the Project.

1003. The EMP presented in this section is a component of the overall Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS), for which a framework is provided in **Section 9.2**.

1004. The EMP is based on the baseline conditions (see **Section 4**, *Description of the Environment*), the impact assessment (see **Section 7**, *Anticipated Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures*), and the results of discussions with the stakeholders (see **Section 6**, *Information Disclosure, Consultation, and Participation*). The EMP is prepared for all the identified environmental impacts during the design, construction, and operation of various Project activities. The methodology followed for preparing the EMP includes the following.

- Deriving mitigation/protection measures for identified impacts using impact evaluation methodology.
- Rationalizing and combining a series of mitigation, compensation, and enhancement measures from each identified impact and risk to prepare overall measures.
- Developing a mechanism for monitoring the proposed mitigation measures.
- Estimating budget requirements for implementation, mitigation, and monitoring measures.
- Identifying responsibilities of various agencies involved in the Project for implementation and monitoring of mitigation measures.

1005. Additionally, a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) has been prepared for the enhancement and conservation of biodiversity of the Kunhar River (see **Volume C** of the EIA report), the implementation of which will involve support from KP Wildlife and Fisheries Departments and NGOs.

9.2 Environmental and Social Management System

1006. This section describes the framework for the Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) for the Project.

1007. It is the responsibility of each project company affiliated with PEDO's PIU to establish its own ESMS to define the ESHS principles, objectives, and protection measures that ensure the Project does not cause unacceptable impacts. Contractors in turn will adopt the Project

Company's ESMS; however, PEDO PIU retains ultimate responsibility for the EHS performance of all contractors.

1008. The basic elements of the ESMS for the Project are outlined in **Exhibit 9-1** with more detail on each element, and how it applies, given in the following sections. The elements of the ESMS are discussed under the headings of the "plan-do-check-act" business performance improvement cycle. Emergency planning and response and stakeholder engagement are elements of the ESMS that apply to all steps of the "plan-do-check-act" cycle as shown in **Exhibit 9-1**.

9.2.1 Planning Elements

9.2.1.1 Leadership and Accountability

1009. **Policy:** The Project is being undertaken by PEDO's policies. PEDO will periodically review the scope and effectiveness of these policies. The policies will be documented, maintained, implemented, and communicated to PEDO employees, contractors, suppliers, and the public.

1010. **Legal Requirements and Other Obligations:** The Project's ESMS takes into account both legal and other obligations imposed on the Project. The various types of obligations that need to be considered are shown conceptually in

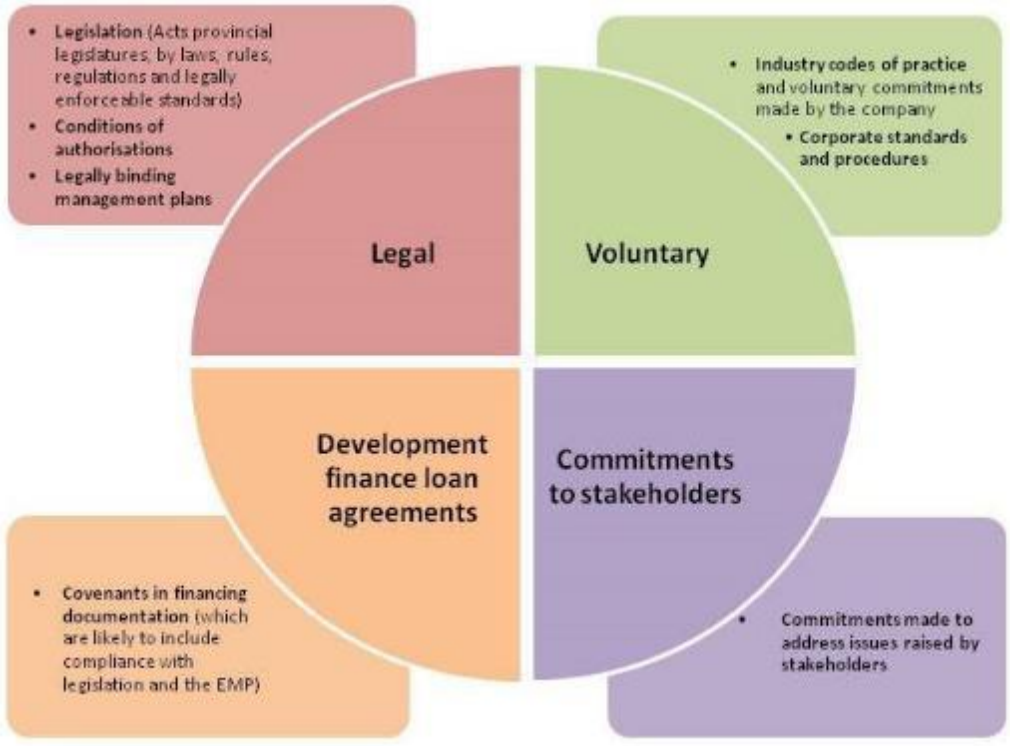
1011. **Exhibit 9-2**.

Exhibit 9-1: Elements of the Project ESMS

<table>
<tr><th rowspan="2">Steps of the "plan-do-check-act" cycle</th><th colspan="3">Elements of the ESMS for the Project</th></tr>
<tr><th>Elements</th><th>Primary function</th><th>Elements applying to all steps of the cycle</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="4">Plan (Chapter 2, Planning Elements)</td><td>Leadership and accountability</td><td>Produce and communicate a statement of PEDO's commitment to environmental and social management
Establish, document, implement, maintain, and improve the Project ESMS</td><td rowspan="8">Stakeholder engagement
An ongoing process, throughout the life of the project. Serves to build and maintain a constructive relationship with communities affected by the Project.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Legal and other requirements</td><td>Identify and provide access to legal requirements and other obligations</td></tr>
<tr><td>Aspect identification and impact assessment</td><td>Identify aspects ("mechanisms" by which project activities impact the environment) and assess associated impacts throughout the Project life (the EIA falls under this element of the ESMS)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Objectives, targets, and plans</td><td>Define objectives, targets, criteria, and actions for the management of potential impacts (the EMP falls under this element of the ESMS)</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="4">Do (Chapter 3, Implementation Elements)</td><td>Roles and responsibility</td><td>Provide sufficient management sponsorship of human and financial resources
Establish roles and responsibilities for implementation</td></tr>
<tr><td>Contractors, suppliers, and vendors</td><td>Consider environmental and social impact management and performance in the selection and management of third-party services</td></tr>
<tr><td>Competence, training and awareness</td><td>Make personnel aware of their responsibilities and enable them to be capable of meeting their responsibilities</td></tr>
<tr><td>Communication</td><td>Maintain internal and external communications to enable effective environmental management</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">Emergency planning, response, and recovery
Maintain emergency response preparedness through the identification of potential environmental emergencies, development</td></tr>
</table>

Steps of the "plan-do-check-act" cycle	Elements of the ESMS for the Project		
	Elements	**Primary function**	**Elements applying to all steps of the cycle**
	Operational controls and maintenance	Implement operational controls and maintain equipment to uphold environmental performance and compliance and manage impacts and risks	
	Documentation and record-keeping	Control and maintain documents and records associated with environmental and social management	
Check (Chapter 4, *Check Elements*)	**Assessing, correcting, and improving performance**	Monitor environmental and social management and performance and take measures to continually improve performance ⟺	
	Non-conformance and incident reporting	Promptly report non-conformances and incidents are promptly reported and corrective and preventative actions to reduce the likelihood of recurrence	
	EMP and ESMS reporting	Report on compliance with the EMP and ESMS performance to senior management, regulatory authorities, and affected communities ⟺	
Act (Chapter 5, *Act Elements*)	**Governance/ management review**	Require site, regional, and senior management to review the suitability, adequacy, and effectiveness of the ESMS and identify improvement actions to facilitate continuous improvement	
	Management of change	Modify the ESMS in response to changes in the Project and to changes in the organization, personnel, operations, and processes ⟺	
⟺	*The arrows show where there is an integral relationship between stakeholder engagement and other elements of the ESMS.*		

Exhibit 9-2: Types of Obligations Relevant to the ESMS



1012. PEDO will identify, document, and maintain a register of legal requirements and other obligations applicable to the Project. It will also:

- manage recurring legal and other obligations (such as inspections, sampling, analysis, and reporting);
- track developing legislation and regulations that may apply to operations and activities to anticipate and prepare for compliance;
- inform employees and others working on behalf of the company of existing and emerging obligations that apply to their job responsibilities; and
- consider the register in the setting and review of objectives, targets, and plans for management of impacts.

9.2.1.2 Aspect Identification and Impact Assessment Throughout the Project Life

1013. A key element of ESMS is the identification of aspects and assessment impacts. The EIA is a part of this element of the ESMS. The impacts identified in the EIA in **Section 7** (*Anticipated Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures*) are addressed in this EMP

1014. Procedures will be set up, implemented, and maintained for the identification of significant environmental aspects and undertaking of impact and risk assessments on an ongoing basis throughout the Project life. These will address:

- aspects not covered by this EIA;
- any impact arising that was not predicted by the EIA or did not develop as predicted by the EIA; and
- any changes in the Project or new developments arising after the completion of this EIA.

9.2.1.3 Objectives, Targets, and Plans for Management Throughout the Life of the Project

1015. This element of the ESMS pertains to the setting of objectives and targets for environmental and social management and plans for the achievement of these objectives and targets at corporate and Project levels. The EMP embodies this element of the ESMS at the Project level.

1016. The primary purpose of the EMP is to guide environmental and social management throughout the life of the Project. The core of the EMP is a statement of environmental and social management objectives and associated management measures. The EMP will be supported by other documentation, such as the original Project design and specific management plans and operating procedures.

1017. The preliminary EMP commitments are derived from the following sources.

- Inherent design or management measures described in the EIA and Project Feasibility Study[153]
- Mitigation and enhancement measures identified in the EIA, which are required to manage identified impacts.
- Good practice management measures, which may not significantly alter the impact rating but are considered standard industry practice for the management of such impacts.

9.2.2 Implementation (do) Elements

1018. Effective implementation and functioning of the EMP depends on adequate human and financial resources, clearly defined responsibilities for environmental and social management, appropriate training, and good communication. An outline of how these features will be managed for the Project is presented below.

9.2.2.1 Roles and Responsibility

1019. PEDO will define, document, and communicate the environmental and social management roles and responsibilities of Project personnel, including contractors, Owners Engineers, and others working on behalf of the company, in all phases of Project implementation from detailed design through to closure, before the start of each phase. Personnel with specific roles and responsibilities will have the authority, and be held accountable for, carrying out these.

1020. The basic roles required to implement the EMP, and establish and maintain the ESMS, are shown in **Exhibit 9-3**. These roles need to be reviewed and incorporated into the organizational structures for the various phases of the Project from detailed design to closure. A key requirement is for the senior environmental management professional to report directly to the on-site senior manager (the Operations/General Manager).

Exhibit 9-3: Key Roles for Environmental and Social Management

Roles	Relevant Responsibilities
Project Director for the Project Implementation Unit (PIU)	Endorse the environmental and social management policy and require it to be communicated to the public Allocate adequate human and financial resources to enable effective functioning and continual improvement of the ESMS Establish and maintain a governance system
Project site management and PIU's senior management	**Compliance** Confirm necessary authorizations (licenses/ permits) have been obtained for the Project Confirm compliance with legal requirements and other obligations regarding environmental and social management Commit contractors and suppliers to meet relevant environmental and social obligations using specific conditions in the contracts of appointment **Roles and responsibility** Define, document, and communicate environmental and social management roles, responsibilities, and authorities Provide sufficient appropriately trained human resources and adequate financial resources to enable effective functioning and continual improvement of the ESMS

153 China Water Resources Beifang Investigation, Design and Research Co. Ltd. (BIDR), Revised Technical Report to Updated Feasibility Study, April 2016

Roles	Relevant Responsibilities
	Hold personnel responsible for meeting their assigned responsibilities **Communication and reporting** Confirm there is adequate ongoing stakeholder engagement Confirm obligations for reporting to regulatory authorities, development financiers, and affected communities are met **Management review** Provide leadership in the pursuit of environmental and social management Examine and review the ESMS periodically to determine its suitability, adequacy, and effectiveness Support action to enhance the ESMS and make improvements in environmental and social management performance
Environmental management	**ESMS** Establish the ESMS, with assistance from the senior management, division managers, and community relations managers Liaise with division managers regarding environmental management roles, responsibilities, and authorities throughout operational divisions Coordinate monitoring and evaluation activities and confirm corrective actions (an action taken to address a non-conformance) are taken to address incidents and non-conformances (a failure to comply with the Project's ESMS) Report progress in the implementation and functioning of the ESMS to senior management, development financiers, regulatory authorities, and stakeholders **EMP** Keep the EMP up to date and confirm it addresses all relevant environmental and social obligations Present the EMP in an appropriate format for communication with regulatory authorities and other stakeholders Present the EMP in an appropriate format for communication with parties responsible for Project execution Compile EMP compliance reports "Sign-off" actions in the EMP and non-conformances once they have been completed
Community relations management	Assist the Environmental Management team with ongoing reporting to stakeholders on EMP and supporting management plans, and progress with implementation of management measures Assist Environmental Manager and division managers with stakeholder communication where awareness and/ or cooperation of stakeholders are required to implement management measures Manage the community grievance mechanism
Division management (Management that oversees certain specified sections in an organization)	Confirm the ESMS and EMP are established, communicated, implemented, and maintained in their respective areas Provide leadership in the pursuit of environmental and social management Identify ways to improve environmental and social performance through daily monitoring of their activities and evaluating implementation Review monitoring results, incidents, and corrective actions taken Evaluate the adequacy and effectiveness of awareness and skills training programs pertinent to environmental and social management Maintain internal communication of environmental and social matters between the Environmental Manager, Community Relations Manager, and other personnel, and promote environmental and social awareness. Examples of key responsibilities of specific Division Managers include: ➢ **Human resources**—Organize in association with the Environment Manager and Community Relations Manager environmental and social-related training, maintain linkages between the ESMS and human resources management systems, as necessary, and manage worker grievance mechanism.

Roles	Relevant Responsibilities
	➢ **Finance**—Track budget/spend data used in implementing and maintaining ESMS in association with the Environment Manager and Community Relations Manager ➢ **Purchasing**—With the support of environment and community relations teams, assess contractors' and suppliers' environmental and social compliance and control the purchase and disposal of hazardous materials ➢ **Maintenance**—Implement a preventive maintenance program for equipment ➢ Health, safety, and security—With the support of community relations teams, confirm safeguarding of personnel and property is carried out without adverse impacts on local communities
All personnel and contractors	Work in accordance with the EMP and supporting documents Report problems or deviations from the ESMS or EMP to division managers and/or environmental managers, as instructed.

1021. **Contractors, Suppliers, and Vendors:** Environmental and social performance, programs and risk management will be considered in the selection and management of contractors, suppliers, and vendors. Contracts will address potential environmental and social liabilities and responsibilities including:

- use of competent, trained staff, including subcontractors;
- consequences for failing to meet obligations;
- monitoring of performance;
- required job-specific, site-specific training;
- compliance with PEDO policies and site standards and applicable legal requirements;
- responsibility for chemicals brought on-site and wastes generated on-site, including closure activities where appropriate; and
- identification of a lead responsible person for both PEDO and the contractor.

1022. Contractors, including their employees and associated subcontractors, will be made aware of the environmental risks, associated controls, procedures, and standards relevant to their work on-site. The activities and performance of contractors will be monitored through the Owner Engineer's Environmental & Social Development Cell (ESDC) against the terms of the contracts.

1023. **Training:** Personnel, including contractors' personnel, working for or on behalf of the Project will receive training to maintain awareness of relevant environmental and social aspects, impacts, and risks associated with the Project and corresponding controls. The training will also maintain awareness of the environmental benefits of improved personal performance and the potential consequences of departure from specified procedures. Visitors to Project sites will receive relevant environmental and social awareness training as part of site induction training.

1024. Personnel, including contractors' personnel, will be made aware of the particular environmental and social management responsibilities that apply specifically to their jobs.

Training needs analyses will be undertaken and personnel will be given adequate training to meet these responsibilities.

1025. The training program comprises the following elements.

- Identification of training needs for all employees specific to their varying responsibilities.
- Development of a training plan and schedule to address defined needs.
- Verification of training programs to confirm consistency with organizational requirements.
- Training of employees and documentation of training received;
- Evaluation of training effectiveness.
- Review and modification of training programs, as required.

1026. Personnel with direct responsibility for the implementation of the EMP and functioning of the ESMS will have additional training to:

- provide them with the knowledge and skills necessary to perform their work;
- maintain their knowledge of relevant environmental and social obligations; and
- enable them to implement specific measures required under the EMP competently and efficiently.

1027. Training requirements and completed training will be documented. Procedures to evaluate the effectiveness of such training will be implemented.

1028. **Communication:** To effectively implement environmental and social management, the relevant managers will maintain lines of internal communication and provide information regarding the EMP, ESMS, and environmental and social management performance, incidents, best practices, lessons learned, and concerns to personnel electronically, notice boards and/or in newsletters. Such communication will be used to inform the personnel of their responsibilities concerning the ESMS and to raise awareness on specific matters. External stakeholder engagement is discussed in **Section 6** *(Stakeholder Engagement)*.

1029. A grievance redress mechanism will be established (**Section 8**, *Grievance Redress Mechanism*) and will provide a means for Project personnel, including contractors' personnel, to anonymously raise environmental and social concerns (this grievance mechanism will be separate from the system dealing with employee grievances that need to be handled by the human resources department).

1030. **Operational Controls:** Operational controls will be implemented to maintain performance and compliance, and to manage impacts and risks. Operational controls may include:

- administrative controls such as performance standards;
- standard operating procedures and work instructions; and
- engineered controls such as pollution control equipment.

1031. Written operational controls are required where their absence could lead to deviation from environmental obligations or objectives and targets. Written operational controls will be part of the EMP supporting documentation.

1032. The adequacy, suitability, and effectiveness of operational controls will be reviewed regularly.

1033. Documentation on the design basis and operating criteria/limits for equipment having the potential to impact environmental performance will be maintained.

1034. Operating equipment, as well as environmental monitoring and measurement devices, will be maintained consistent with manufacturers' specifications and best management practices to reduce the potential for environmental incidents and adverse environmental impacts.

1035. **Documentation and Record Keeping:** Elements of the ESMS will be documented and controlled in accordance with a document control system. Records demonstrating compliance with legal requirements and conformance with the ESMS will also be maintained. PEDO will establish, implement, and maintain procedures for:

- ESMS document control detailing how the creation, review, and updating of various types of documents will be managed and who will be responsible; and
- record identification, storage, protection, retrieval, retention and disposal.

1036. Documentation and record-keeping controls will include:

- measures to enable relevant documents (including those of external origin deemed necessary for planning and operation of the ESMS) and records to be readily available and identifiable (labeled, dated, and properly filed), legible, and protected from damage;
- review, revision, and approval of documents for adequacy by authorized personnel at least once a year;
- making current versions of relevant documents available at locations where operations essential to the effective functioning of the ESMS are performed;
- suitably identifying obsolete documents retained for legal and knowledge preservation purposes; and
- identification and segregation of confidential and privileged information.

9.2.3 Check Elements

1037. Checks are required to confirm the existence of an effective ESMS and compliance with the EMP. Checks include monitoring, site inspections, and formal audits. Linked to this, measures need to be taken to remedy non-conformances and to continually improve environmental performance. These are also classified as "check" elements of the ESMS.

9.2.3.1 Assessing, Correcting, and Improving Performance

1038. **Monitoring Programs:** The aim of monitoring programs is to:

- provide measurements of the environmental and social impacts of the Project;

- ascertain and demonstrate compliance with conditions of approval and other legislation;
- provide sufficient evidence to address any claims made against the Project in respect of environmental and social matters;
- track the performance of the ESMS and progress in the implementation of the EMP;
- track and measure key indicators and other performance measures over time to improve the Project's performance and reduce the likelihood of environmental incidents; and
- inform decision processes for determining management actions.

1039. The monitoring programs cover the physical, biological, and social components of the operation and are integrally linked with the assessment criteria stated in the EMP. Where appropriate and possible, the sampling parameters and locations used in the EIA baseline studies have been retained to provide data continuity.

1040. The monitoring program identifies monitoring parameters, sampling locations, sampling frequency and duration, and detection limits (where appropriate). It includes control sites, where relevant. The focus and extent of monitoring are commensurate with the risk of impacts occurring, the sensitivity of the surrounding areas, and the affected communities' perceptions of risks to their health and environment. For some types of monitoring, thresholds or targets are available, for example, the emission and ambient limits. In other cases, the monitoring results will be compared to the baseline data set gathered as part of this EIA. Lastly, where neither thresholds nor baseline data are available, the initial data collection may form the baseline for future data collection.

1041. Data will be documented and interpreted. Temporal and spatial trends in the data will be discerned and compliance with relevant thresholds will be evaluated. Monitoring reports will be produced to meet internal and external reporting requirements. If monitoring results indicate non-conformance with stipulated thresholds or if a significant deteriorating trend is observed, it will be recorded as a non-conformance and handled by the non-conformance and incident procedure.

1042. Preliminary monitoring programs have been prepared and are presented in the EMP. These provide a framework for monitoring to evaluate performance and assist in predicting and managing impacts. In conjunction with the development of supporting documentation for the EMP, detailed monitoring plans, with appropriate sampling protocols where relevant, may need to be developed. These more detailed supporting documents would include the criteria against which the monitoring results will be compared and the actions required if the criteria or thresholds are exceeded. The supporting documents may also cover:

- sample or data collection methods;
- sample handling, storage, and preservation;
- sample or data documentation;
- quality control;

- data reliability (calibration of instruments, test equipment, and software and hardware sampling);
- data storage and backup, and data protection;
- interpretation and reporting of results; and
- verification of monitoring information by qualified and experienced external experts.

1043. The frequencies and locations of monitoring may need to be adjusted depending on the final Project design and ongoing review of results obtained by the monitoring programs. Therefore, the programs will be reviewed regularly (at least annually) and adjusted, where necessary. Changes to the EMP or obligations register may also result in changes to the monitoring program.

1044. **Site Inspections:** Site inspections will be undertaken regularly in relevant areas of the Project. The inspections will focus on compliance with the EMP and conformance with the ESMS. The inspections will play an important role in increasing awareness of EMP and ESMS requirements.

1045. Continuous observation and monitoring by site and HSE managers and other responsible parties for compliance with the EMP and conformance with the ESMS will be part of their core responsibilities.

1046. Minor non-conformances will be discussed during the inspection and recorded as a finding in the inspection report. Major non-conformances will be reported as incidents. Inspection results will be disclosed at management meetings.

1047. **Formal Audits:** Formal audits will be undertaken at planned intervals in accordance with the requirements of PEDO, PEDO's owners, and regulatory authorities. Procedures for audits will be established, implemented, and maintained. These will cover the audit criteria, scope, frequency, and methods, and will address the responsibilities and requirements for planning and conducting audits, reporting results, and retaining associated records.

1048. Negative findings arising from an audit will be dealt with in accordance with the non-conformance and incident procedure. Results from audits and evaluations of compliance with legal requirements will be reported to site and senior management and subject to management reviews.

1049. **Non-conformances and Incident Reporting:** Non-conformances include the following:

- exceedances of relevant thresholds as identified during routine monitoring;
- non-conformances with the requirements of the EMP or supporting documentation identified during an internal inspection;
- non-conformances identified during an audit or by regulatory authorities, including legal non-conformances;
- events, such as spills, resulting in potential or actual environmental harm;
- events that did or could result in injury to staff, visitors to the site or surrounding communities; and

- significant complaints or grievances received from any source.

1050. Corrective and preventive actions will be identified and implemented in response to these non-conformances. These actions will address the root cause of the non-conformance and will reduce or prevent repeated non-conformances.

1051. A process will be established for the identification, investigation, and tracking of non-conformances, including:

- prioritizing and classifying non-conformances based on the type and severity of the non-conformance;
- recording of non-conformances and the results of corrective and/or preventive actions, including the actions necessary to mitigate or remedy any associated impacts;
- defining results expected from the corrective and/or preventative actions;
- confirming the corrective and/or preventive actions taken to eliminate the causes of the non-conformance are appropriate to the magnitude of the problem and commensurate with the impacts encountered;
- reviewing the effectiveness of the corrective and/or preventive actions taken; and
- implementing and recording required changes in the EMP or monitoring program resulting from corrective and preventive action.

1052. Serious non-conformances will be classified as incidents. Incidents will be promptly reported to appropriate management. PEDO will prepare a guideline on:

- the types of incidents reportable to internal management at the site, Project, and corporate levels, as well as to regulatory authorities and other external stakeholders; and
- standards to be observed when reporting incidents.

1053. The investigation of incidents and evaluation of the effectiveness of existing controls and response actions will be undertaken at a level commensurate with the severity of the incident.

1054. **EMP and ESMS Reporting:** Progress on compliance with the EMP and functioning of the ESMS (environmental and social performance) will be reported to:

- Project site and PEDO senior management;
- development financiers, if required in terms of the loan agreement;
- regulatory authorities, as required; and
- affected communities and other stakeholders who have an interest in the Project.

9.2.4 Act Elements

1055. **Governance/Management Review:** PEDO's senior management will review the EMP and ESMS periodically to determine their suitability, adequacy, and effectiveness. Each management review will initiate a new plan-do-check-act cycle with the enhancement of the

ESMS and continuous improvements in environmental and social management performance. The management review will cover:

- progress and closure of actions from previous management reviews;
- monitoring program findings/ the extent to which objectives and targets have been met;
- findings of audits;
- incidents and the status of corrective and/or preventative actions;
- impact and risk assessments;
- changing circumstances, including changes to operations, Pakistan legislation or guidelines, ownership, and socio-political circumstances;
- legal compliance and compliance with other obligations;
- stakeholder concerns, requests, or complaints;
- adequacy of policies, EMP, monitoring plans, support documents, and overall functioning of the ESMS to meet operational and corporate requirements; and
- recommendations for improvement.

1056. **Management of Change:** Changes to the Project can be expected throughout the life of the Project. These can range from changes to operations and infrastructure, new developments (such as an expansion), changes to personnel and the Company, changes in legislation, and changes to the environment of the Project (such as a new settlement established near Project infrastructure). These changes could result in changes to the significance of environmental and social impacts and risks. This may necessitate updates to existing authorizations/ permits, changes to the EMP, which may have to be approved by regulatory authorities, and general changes to the ESMS framework.

1057. A procedure for the management of change will be established and maintained by PEDO. This will:

- observe the corporate owners' requirements for the management of change;
- identify proposed changes that could alter environmental or social impacts and risks and/ or require new authorizations/ permits or changes to existing authorizations/ permits; and
- define the impact and risk assessments appropriate to different types of changes, which need to be undertaken by competent personnel.

1058. Changes will not be made without the required authorizations/permits in place. The measures identified as necessary to mitigate impacts and risks will be implemented. The various elements of the ESMS will be modified as required in response to the change,

1059. A procedure specifically for changes to the policy/s, EMP, monitoring plans, and supporting documentation will be established. This will detail:

- how the changes are to be recorded;

- who has responsibility for overseeing changes and checking they do not conflict with any planning conditions or other obligations;
- the process of review and sign-off in response to changes; and
- how changes to the EMP should be communicated internally and externally.

9.3 Stakeholder Engagement

1060. Stakeholder engagement provides stakeholders with opportunities to express their views on project risks, impacts, and impact mitigation measures and involves appropriate consideration of the views and responses by project management. **Exhibit 9-4** shows that stakeholder engagement applies to each of the steps of the ESMS "plan-do-check-act" cycle and is an integral part of several ESMS elements. The relationship between stakeholder engagement and these elements is explained further in **Exhibit 9-4**.

Exhibit 9-4: General Overview of the Relationship between Stakeholder Engagement and the ESMS elements

Steps of the "plan-do-check-act" cycle ESMS Elements that Stakeholder Engagement is Integral to		
	ESMS Elements	**Role of Stakeholder Engagement**
Plan	EIA	During the EIA, the focus of stakeholder engagement has been the involvement of stakeholders in project planning and project-approval decision-making processes. It facilitated the identification of stakeholders' concerns so they could be addressed in the Project design and/or EMP. It forms the basis for stakeholder engagement throughout the life of the Project.
	EMP	Stakeholders will be involved in the review and approval of the preliminary EMP. Throughout the life of the Project, there should be ongoing reporting to stakeholders on progress in the implementation of the EMP and supporting management plans that are of interest to them. The EMP and supporting management plans may need to be revised in response to stakeholders' concerns.
	SEP	A stakeholder engagement plan is to be developed. It will detail national regulations and good practices on stakeholder engagement, a summary of previous stakeholder engagement undertaken for this Project required additional consultations, and the structure for future stakeholder engagement.
Do	Communication	Communication with stakeholders will be required to implement some management actions. The communication will be required to raise awareness and/or cooperation of potentially affected communities and other stakeholders. PEDO will determine effective communication methods for making affected communities aware of actions they may need to take to avoid exposure to operation-related hazards and how they can maximize opportunities resulting from the operation.
Check	Assessing, correcting, and improving performance	Participatory monitoring is desirable. This entails the involvement of stakeholders, particularly affected communities, in monitoring and verifying information to check that impact mitigation measures are appropriate.
		Grievances will be handled as incidents and managed through the incident procedure to enable the grievance to be received, documented, addressed and results fed back to the complainants. This procedure will protect the confidentiality of the persons raising the complaint, where necessary. The feedback will be easily accessible and understandable to members of the affected community and/or staff.

Steps of the "plan-do-check-act" cycle ESMS Elements that Stakeholder Engagement is Integral to		
	ESMS Elements	**Role of Stakeholder Engagement**
	Reporting	Stakeholders affected by the Project will be informed of progress in the implementation of the management plans and the effectiveness of management measures.

1061. PEDO has established an initial program of stakeholder engagement for the Project and this will continue throughout the life of the Project. Currently, this program includes disclosure of information and consultation with stakeholders as part of the EIA process.

1062. When the Project enters the construction phase, and throughout the remaining life of the Project, stakeholder engagement will include:

- a grievance mechanism, for receiving concerns about the Project's environmental and social performance and for facilitating the resolution of the concerns (the grievance mechanism applies to Project stakeholders, including potentially affected communities and Project personnel.
- reporting on the implementation of the EMP and relevant supporting management plans;
- opportunities for stakeholders to respond to the information received; and
- constructive dialogue on environmental and social issues and performance.

1063. The stakeholder engagement process will be documented, including:

- maintenance of a stakeholder database with stakeholder details;
- records of information disclosed to stakeholders;
- records of stakeholder engagements; and
- records of inputs from stakeholders and responses to these.

9.3.1 Emergency Preparedness and Response

1064. The Project will implement and maintain an Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP).

1065. **Purpose and Applicability:** This framework is intended to guide how PEDO and its contractors will ensure that they are prepared for emergencies and can respond effectively should they arise. For each stage of a project's project life cycle, PEDO and/or contractor will develop and implement an ERPR that meets the requirements of this framework. PEDO will identify the party responsible for preparing the EPRP. It is expected that most emergencies during construction would take place on the site, so the Plan prepared for the construction period would primarily (but not exclusively) address on-site emergencies. During operation, on the other hand, dam failure or other emergencies could cause significant downstream impacts, so the Plan for the operations period would address a combination of on-site and off-site emergencies and actions.

1066. **Approaches and Activities:** EPRPs for new projects will initially be developed based on the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment or other assessment document that identifies on-site and off-site risks during the project life cycle that could result from an accident

or other emergency, and on a detailed assessment of site activities. The EIA and/or other documents would typically identify specific risk-reduction measures as well, which would become part of the EPRP. EPRPs for existing projects will initially be based on due diligence assessments that evaluate risks of ongoing construction and/or operations, and again will include a detailed assessment of site activities. EPRPs will also be informed by and based upon the best judgment of qualified professionals and the experience gained from ongoing activities. EPRPs will become part of the Project's Environmental Management Plan.

1067. The EPRP will identify various emergencies that could realistically occur, which could include:

- fire or explosion;
- road or site traffic accident;
- spills of hazardous materials such as fuels, chemicals, oil, paint, etc.;
- landslides, mudslides, or rockfalls;
- equipment failure;
- earthquakes (primarily during operation);
- cofferdam failure;
- partial or complete dam failure (impacts of dam break provided as Appendix T) ;
- floods;
- turbine or blade failure; and
- site lockdown due to breach of security, external attack, or any other event.

1068. The EPRP will call for close coordination with local authorities regarding preparing and responding to emergencies that could affect local people or communities. Particularly if there could be serious off-site impacts, EPRPs will describe the coordination process, including PEDO support for community emergency preparedness and response training.

1069. EPRPs will include details for the following elements, which could be different for various types of accidents.

- Organizational and individual responsibilities for both emergency preparedness and emergency response, which could be very different. This would include the roles and responsibilities of responders and decision-makers.
- Measures that need to be taken to prepare for potential emergencies, including equipment, supplies, warning signals, dedicated communication lines, etc.
- Details on how relevant authorities, the public, and third-party emergency response agencies will be informed of potential risks due to emergencies resulting from project activities, and on agreements that have been reached for cooperative responses to emergencies.
- Contact details of all dedicated and non-dedicated emergency response personnel on the site and personnel who are available off-site.

- Contact details of relevant authorities and third parties who will need to be notified for various types of emergencies (nearby residents, landowners, fire brigades, local law enforcement, military, etc.).
- Detailed information on internal and external equipment, personnel, facilities, funding, expert knowledge, and materials that will be required to respond to specific types of emergencies. The EPRP will also need to identify the specialized expertise that may be needed to respond to specific emergencies.
- Procedures for using, inspecting, testing, and maintaining emergency response equipment, which may include equipment under the control of third parties (for example, the local fire brigade or emergency medical teams).
- Clear procedures and protocols for notifications and communications to and within the contractor (if any), local and other authorities, potentially affected people, and other parties.
- Emergency response procedures to be followed, and by whom, for various emergencies.
- Locations of holding/areas for workers and off-site collection points for others, and conditions under which they would be used.
- Pro forma incident report forms.

1070. The EPRP should call for a root-cause analysis following any emergency or near-emergency situation to identify improvements in future preparedness or response. The EPRP, or a separate planning process, should also include measures to ensure business continuity and contingency, including:

- identifying and making contingency arrangements to exploit replacement supplies or facilities – which could include buildings, electricity, water supplies, equipment and vehicles, fuel, etc. -- to allow business continuity; and
- maintaining backups of critical information, including relevant EPRPs that form the EMP, in a secure but accessible location to ensure continuity or restoration of site activities, including implementation of mitigation measures.

1071. **Monitoring and Record Keeping:** The EPRP will describe records that must be kept to document various activities required to maintain emergency preparedness, and the person(s) responsible for maintaining the records. The EPRP will also describe how to notice and details of any imminent or actual emergency will be communicated to the contractor (if any), local authorities, potentially affected people, and other parties.

1072. The EPRP will require periodic inspection/monitoring of the Project site(s) and records, with a focus on areas where accidents or other occurrences could lead to emergencies. The EPRP will need to specify:

- the locations, activities, and records that must be inspected;
- the frequency of inspection;
- the required qualifications of persons who will conduct the monitoring.

- records that must be kept and the person responsible for keeping the records;
- special hazards of inspection, including appropriate cross-references to the Occupational Health and Safety Plan for required and recommended risk reduction measures; and
- reports that will be prepared, to whom the reports are to be submitted for review, and the length of time records will be kept. This could include summary reports or detailed technical reports and could be submitted to company or PEDO management, government agencies, or lenders.

1073. The EPRP will describe how remedial actions will be identified and implemented if monitoring reveals shortcomings in emergency preparedness or recordkeeping, and how follow-up monitoring will be implemented until the requirements of the EPRP are fully met.

1074. **Implementation:** The EPRP will identify and describe the responsibilities of all parties, including PEDO, contractors, and competent authorities. The EPRP must also identify the roles and responsibilities of individual positions within PEDO and the contractor. This will include the chain of command for directing response activities in case of various types of emergencies. This should be shown in an organogram that includes as much detail as possible, down to the person/position.

1075. **Training:** The EPRP will identify training requirements for staff and managers of PEDO and/or contractors, including who will be responsible for conducting the training and who must be trained in what skills. Training will also extend to third parties who may be called upon to respond to emergencies. Training will focus on the assigned responsibilities of the trainees in preparing for emergencies and for responding to emergencies if they occur and will cover the technical and administrative skills needed to perform assigned responsibilities. The EPRP will need to provide emergency preparedness and response training should be closely coordinated with occupational health and safety training. The EPRP should call for at least the following topics to be part of emergency preparedness and response training.

- Providing information necessary for trainees to understand the possible effects of various types of emergencies and an opportunity to contribute effectively, as appropriate, to decisions concerning preparedness and response.
- Providing specific information on appropriate behavior and safety measures to be adopted in case of various types of emergencies.
- The specific responsibilities of the person being trained in case of various types of emergencies.
- Scheduled and unscheduled drills and practice in responding to various types of emergencies, including site evacuation, and procedures to monitor drills closely to verify that staff and managers are aware of their responsibilities and can complete them.

1076. **Relationship to other Plans:** The emergency preparedness and response plan is related to the following plans.

- Spill Prevention and Response Plan.

- Waste Management Plan.
- Blasting and Explosives Control Plan.
- Stakeholder Engagement Plan.
- Dam Safety Review Procedure.
- Site Security Plan.
- Occupational Health and Safety Plan.

1077. **Revision:** The EPRP will be reviewed by PEDO or the contractor as appropriate, at least annually, and whenever there is a significant change in Project or site conditions, or when it is determined that any measure intended to prevent or reduce the probability of emergencies is or may be insufficient to achieve its purpose. The EPRP will also be reviewed following the root-cause analysis that is completed after any emergency or near-emergency. It will be revised when necessary to update or improve emergency preparedness and response, and when it is determined necessary to ensure compliance with applicable standards and good international industry practice.

9.4 Mitigation and Management Plan

1078. This section summarizes, the mitigation measures for the Project as prescribed in the EIA. It divides the responsibilities for the implementation of these measures and describes additional management plans that must be developed to facilitate implementation.

9.4.1 Environmental and Social Mitigation

1079. The mitigation plan includes the following:

- **Impact Reference –** this specifies the impact/s for which the mitigation measure is proposed. The impact reference can be used to look up, if required, details on the assessment of the specific impact in Section 7 (Anticipated Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures). A summary is provided in **Error! Reference s ource not found..**
- **Mitigation Measure –** this summarizes the required mitigation measures as given in the above-referenced chapter to keep environmental impacts at an acceptable level.
- Implementation Measure – these are additional measures that are required for the correct execution of the mitigation measures.
- Monitoring Indicators – these are indicators that should be tracked to ensure compliance.

1080. The mitigation plans are given in **Exhibit 9-6** to **Exhibit 9-8.**

1081. Mitigation measures are further divided by responsibility and are presented in the exhibits indicated in the list below. Each table indicates the management unit which the mitigation measure is expected to fall under. This is to facilitate implementation so that managers can locate their responsibilities completely and efficiently.

Design Phase

- Project Design and Construction Planning (**Exhibit 9-9**)

Construction Sites

- Dam Site Construction Manager (**Exhibit 9-10** and **Exhibit 9-11**)
- Powerhouse Site Construction Manager (**Exhibit 9-11** and **Exhibit 9-13**)
- Headrace Tunnel Construction Manager (**Exhibit 9-11** and
- **Exhibit 9-14**)
- Waste Dump Area Manager (
- **Exhibit 9-10)**
- Quarry Area Manager (
- **Exhibit 9-10**)
- Workshop Manager (
- **Exhibit 9-15**)
- Batching Plant Manager **(Exhibit 9-16**)
- Construction Camp Manager (**Exhibit 9-17**)
- Spoil Disposal Site Manager (**Exhibit 9-18**)

Construction Support

- Transport Fleet Manager (**Exhibit 9-18**)
- Labor Manager (**Exhibit 9-20**)

Other

- Community Liaison Officer (
- **Exhibit 9-21**)
- Project Environmental Manager (
- **Exhibit 9-22**)
- PEDO (**Exhibit 9-23**)
- Owner's Engineer (OE) (**Exhibit 9-24**)

1082. A transmission line connecting the Project to the national transmission system is categorized as an Associated Facility (see **Section 3**). NTDC, the owner of the transmission line, will carry out a separate EIA for this transmission line. Mitigation measures described in the EIA of the transmission line will be reviewed as part of the implementation of EMP.

Exhibit 9-5: Impacts Assessed during the EIA

Impact Reference	Impact
1	Improvement of the river ecosystem through the implementation of the BAP
2	Loss of riverine ecosystem due to inundation by Project Reservoir.
3	Degradation of the river ecosystem downstream of the dam.

Impact Reference	Impact
4	Alteration of the river ecosystem downstream of the Tailrace.
5	Terrestrial habitat loss caused by construction-related activities.
6	The decline in abundance and diversity of terrestrial flora and fauna caused by construction-related activities.
7	Project operation leading to animal disturbance, displacement, and decline.
8	An increase in ambient and ground level concentrations of air pollutants from construction activities and vehicular movement may cause health impacts to the community.
9	Vibration from blasting during the construction phase may disturb local communities.
10	Blasting may pose a health hazard due to flying debris.
11	Construction activities may be causing alterations to groundwater flow patterns.
12	The use of local water resources for construction activities may reduce the water availability for the local communities.
13	Discharge from construction activities can potentially result in the contamination of soil, groundwater, and surface water.
14	An increase in ambient noise levels due to the operation of construction equipment, movement of construction traffic, and blasting may create a nuisance for nearby communities, and visiting tourists.
15	Contamination of soil as a result of the accidental release of solvents, oils, and lubricants can degrade soil fertility and agricultural productivity.
16	Land clearing, excavation, tunnel boring, and other construction activities may loosen the topsoil in the Project area resulting in loss of soil and possible acceleration of soil erosion and land sliding, especially in the wet season.
17	Failure of spoil dumping sites results in increased erosion and sediment load entering the river.
18	Deterioration of aesthetics and visual amenity due to construction activities.
19	Degradation of aesthetic value of the area due to low flow section.
20	Permanent impact in aesthetics due to proposed developments.
21	Improved accessibility due to the construction of Project internal roads.
22	An increase in congestion, due to increased traffic volume will cause delays.
23	An increase in traffic volume will deteriorate the air quality.
24	Increased risk to community safety due to increased traffic volume during the construction phase near communities.
25	Degradation of the pavement due to use by heavy construction traffic.
26	Direct, indirect, and induced employment at the local levels, resulting in increased prosperity and well-being due to higher and stable incomes of people.
27	Increase in the stock of skilled human capital due to transfer of knowledge and skill under the Project resulting in enhanced productivity of the local labor.
28	Increase in recreational and subsistence fishing due to increase in catch of fish following the creation of favorable habitats for the fish in the Kunhar River.
29	Loss of income from sand and gravel mining due to change in the pattern of sediment deposition following the construction of the dam.
30	Loss of assets and livelihood as a result of land acquired for the Project.
31	Increase in population due to in-migration of job seekers (in-migrants) leading to pressure on existing social infrastructure and services in the Study Area.
32	Disputes over the distribution of Project employment within and between Study Area inhabitants and the in-migrants resulted in social unrest.
33	Potential social unrest in the Study Area due to conflicting socio-cultural norms amongst the inhabitants and in-migrants.
34	Submergence of community graveyards.

Exhibit 9-6: Design Phase Mitigation Plan

IR	Impact	Mitigation Measure	When	Responsibility	Monitoring Indicators
1.	Terrestrial habitat loss caused by construction-related activities	Minimize disturbance to, or movement of, soil and vegetation Minimize project footprint. Retain as much natural vegetation as possible. Locate construction facilities based on a knowledge of the soil, slope, and vegetation cover of the area to avoid disturbance to the natural environment.	During detailed design	EPC Contractor	Measures included in design documents
2.	The decline in abundance and diversity of terrestrial flora and fauna caused by construction-related activities.	Locate vehicle yards away from open soils and topsoil stockyard Maximize the use of locally sourced aggregate and borrow material Minimize contact with non-local aggregate and borrow material with native soil. Minimize disturbance to, or movement of, soil and vegetation.	During detailed design	EPC Contractor	Measures included in design documents
3.	Blasting may pose a health hazard due to flying debris.	A minimum buffer of 500 m should be provided between the settlements and the point of blasting.	During detailed design	EPC Contractor	Measures included in design documents
4.	Construction activities may be cause alterations to groundwater flow patterns.	Record the location of the springs especially those in areas proximal to where the underground headrace tunnel will be closer to the ground level	During detailed design	Supervision Consultant	Record of springs
5.	The use of local water resources for construction activities may reduce the water availability for the local communities.	Prepare a Water Sourcing and Abstraction Plan specifying the source, owner, total yield, current usage, allowable quantity, and the duration for which water can be obtained. To the extent possible avoid, and where unavoidable, minimize the use of water from local sources (springs) for the Project where local abstraction is unavoidable: Assess the local source identifying its total yield and current usage. If the abstraction from a single source extends three months, the assessment shall be repeated Fix the allowable quantity to not more than 50% of the available yield (total yield minus current usage) Enter into a formal agreement with the owner for the water source (or government if it is a public source).	During detailed design	EPC Contractor	Agreements between community, government, and contractor Water Sourcing and Abstraction Plan
6.	An increase in ambient noise levels due to the operation of construction equipment, movement of construction traffic, and	Use visual alarms in preference to audible alarms. Locate noisy equipment behind parking lots, parks, or behind sound barriers or sound absorbers – for example, gravel stockpiles or constructed barriers. and away from potential sources of conflict Using vibratory piling instead of impact piling.	During detailed design	EPC Contractor	Measures included in design documents

IR	Impact	Mitigation Measure	When	Responsibility	Monitoring Indicators
	blasting may create a nuisance for nearby communities and visiting tourists.	Erect earth mounds around the site boundary can provide acoustic as well as visual screening.			
7.	Failure of spoil dumping sites results in increased erosion and sediment load entering the river.	Dumping sites should have a flood prevention design for a 20-year flood. A spoil management plan should be developed as described in **Section 9.4.3** which will implement measures to prevent this.	During detailed design	EPC Contractor	Measures included in design documents
8.	Permanent impact in aesthetics due to proposed developments.	Develop and implement a Site Rehabilitation and Landscaping Plan. Use colors that better integrate with the landscape. Disguise elements with vegetation where possible. Retain as much natural vegetation as possible.	During detailed design	EPC Contractor	Measures included in design documents
9.	Improved accessibility due to the construction of Project internal roads.	Consult communities during the final design and location of site access roads.	During detailed design	EPC Contractor	
10.	An increase in congestion, due to increased traffic volume will cause delays.	Make roundabouts for the congestion points. Retain as much natural vegetation as possible to reduce the impact of smoke due to vehicles. Consult the National Highway Authority for implementation of the above measures	During detailed design	EPC Contractor	Measures included in design documents
11.	Loss of assets and livelihood as a result of land acquired for the Project.	See LARP	Before construction	PEDO/Land Acquisition Collector	See LARP (**Volume 8**)
12.	Submergence of the graveyard.	Plaster the graves with mud or cement. If relocation of the graveyard cannot be avoided, it shall be managed through the local religious authorities	During detailed design	PEDO	Measures included in LARP
13.	Impact of climate change in the possible enhancement of flood impacts such as during possible overtopping of the spillway	Ensure minimal damage to the dam structure from the small amount of overtopping of the spillway through design.	During detailed design	PEDO	Measures Included in Climate Risk Report

Exhibit 9-7: Construction Phase Mitigation Plan

IR	Impact	Mitigation Measure	When	Responsibility	Monitoring Indicators
1.	Construction Impacts	The site-specific environmental management plan (SSEMP) (see **Section 9.5.3**) for each site will outline areas to be cleared, vegetated areas to be protected or fenced, slopes to be stabilized, and solid waste disposal locations. Submit all SSEMP to the Owner's Engineer for approval.	At the start of construction	Site Managers of EPC	SSEMPs prepared before initiation of construction
2.	Improvement of the river ecosystem through implementation of the BAP	Implement the BAP (see **Volume C** of the EIA report)	As given in BAP	As given in BAP	As given in BAP
3.	Loss of riverine ecosystem due to inundation by Project Reservoir	Implement the BAP (see **Volume C** of the EIA report)	As given in BAP	As given in BAP	As given in BAP
4.	Degradation of the river ecosystem in the low-flow segment downstream of the Project dam	Offsets to loss of biodiversity by implementation of the BAP (see **Volume C** of the EIA report).	As given in BAP	As given in BAP	As given in BAP
5.	Degradation of the River Ecosystem Downstream of the Tailrace	Implement the BAP (see **Volume C** of the EIA report).	As given in BAP	As given in BAP	As given in BAP
6.	Terrestrial habitat loss caused by construction-related activities.	Provide awareness training to staff and contractors on: prevention of injury of animals; identification of likely species found on site; identifications of animal hazards (such as venomous snakes); and what to do if dangerous animals are encountered. Solid waste should only be disposed of at designated sites and a Waste Management Plan developed and implemented. Prepare an Environmental Training Plan that contains awareness training to staff and contractors on: the prevention of injury of animals; identification of likely species found on site; identification of animal hazards (such as venomous snakes); and what to do if dangerous animals are encountered. Also see the guidelines for the Environmental Training Plan in IR 5.	During construction	EPC Contractor	SSEMPs prepared before initiation of construction Visual confirmation of replantation Waste Management Plan Environmental Training Plan

IR	Impact	Mitigation Measure	When	Responsibility	Monitoring Indicators
		Encourage personnel to report sightings of wildlife of conservation importance or incidents of poaching to PEDO. Minimize disturbance to, or movement of, soil and vegetation. Prevent soil damage and erosion. Prevent Alien Invasive Species (AIS) establishment on exposed stored soil (do not store bare soil near known sources of AIS). The habitat most at risk is the Riparian Habitat. The species that are highest risk include Parthenium Weed, Common Weed, and Castor Oil Plant. Train and raise awareness regarding AIS among Project staff and contractors. Retain as much natural vegetation as possible. Solid waste should only be disposed of at designated sites. Minimize the project footprint, clearly delineate and restrict access beyond work sites and other areas to be disturbed. Within the quarry and borrow areas, activities will be restricted to areas at a distance from perennial water channels to avoid disturbances to them including the risk of siltation.			
7.	The decline in abundance and diversity of terrestrial flora and fauna caused by construction-related activities.	Large floodlights should not be installed outside 50 m of the Project fence. Lights should be directed towards Project facilities and not towards the natural habitats. Regulations for Project staff and contractors to avoid illegal poaching are to be incorporated in contract documents. Provide awareness training to staff and contractors on: prevention of injury of animals; identification of likely species found on site; identifications of animal hazards (such as venomous snakes); and what to do if dangerous animals are encountered. Incorporate regulations for Project staff and contractors to avoid illegal poaching in contract documents. Provide adequate knowledge to the workers on relevant government regulations and punishments for illegal poaching. Encourage personnel to report sightings of wildlife of conservation importance or incidents of poaching to PEDO. Project staff and contractors to report kills of large mammals particularly designated species of conservation concern.	Before and during construction	EPC Contractor	Environmental Training Plan Training Schedule Evidence of trainings and attendance lists Provision of required regulations in contract documents. Evidence of tree planting to required levels and yearly survival records.

IR	Impact	Mitigation Measure	When	Responsibility	Monitoring Indicators
		Train and raise awareness regarding AIS among Project staff and contractors. The Contractor shall prepare an Environmental Training Plan for all construction workers: the Plan shall address the following items: All Contractor's employees shall be required to comply with environmental protection procedures and they shall be able to provide evidence that they attended the training sessions detailed in the Plan; The Plan shall educate all construction workers on the following issues but not limited to them: firearm possession, traffic regulations, illegal logging and collection of non-timber forestry products, non-disturbance of resettlement communities, hunting and fishing restrictions, waste management, erosion control, health and safety issues, all prohibited activities, the Code of Conduct requirements and disciplinary procedures, and general information on the environment in which they will be working and living; Establishment of penalties for those who violate the rules; Proposed methods for conducting the training program, which shall include formal training sessions, posters, data in newsletters, signs in construction and camp areas, and 'toolbox' meetings. Equipment emitting excessive noise in comparison with other similar equipment will not be allowed to operate. Equipment under use will be regularly maintained, tuned, and provided with mufflers to minimize noise levels. Equipment in a poor state of maintenance, particularly without effective noise control will be checked to determine if it can be improved, and replaced with less noisy equipment as soon as practicable. Blowing of horns will be prohibited on all sensitive areas except under emergency conditions. Compensatory trees will be planted. The EPC Contractor will plant a minimum of ten trees for each tree removed from the acquired land.			

IR	Impact	Mitigation Measure	When	Responsibility	Monitoring Indicators
		PEDO will monitor and maintain the vegetation until it is established. Implementation of the BAP.			
8.	Increase in ambient and ground level concentrations of air pollutants from construction activities and vehicular movement may cause health impacts to the community.	Develop and implement an Air Pollution Control Plan Prepare a site-specific environmental management plan (see **Section 9.5.3**) for each construction site and outline areas to be cleared, vegetated areas to be protected or fenced, solid waste disposal locations, and sprinkling locations. Fugitive and exhaust emissions from transport vehicles Cover all trucks hauling soil, sand, and other loose materials or require all trucks to maintain at least two feet of freeboard (i.e., the minimum required space between the top of the load and the top of the trailer). Install and maintain all vehicles and machinery with appropriate emission control equipment. Regularly maintain vehicles and equipment to keep emissions in check. Smoke from internal combustion engines should not be visible for more than ten seconds. To the extent possible, use new and low-emission equipment and vehicles. Purchase the best quality fuel and lubes and where possible use lead-free oil and lubes. Sprinkle water on all unsealed roads used by Project vehicles that are within 200 m of any settlement. Cover loads and long-term piles of friable material to reduce fugitive dust emissions. Reduce traffic speeds on all unpaved surfaces to 15 miles per hour or less. Paved roads shall be swept frequently if soil material has been carried onto adjacent paved, public thoroughfares from the Project site. Install wheel washers where vehicles exit onto paved roads from unpaved. Wheel washing of vehicles leaving the site. Wash vehicles/equipment before each trip.	Before and during construction	EPC Contractor	SSEMP documents prepared before initiation of construction Air Pollution and Control Plan Continuous observation for non-compliance Vehicle and equipment maintenance logs

IR	Impact	Mitigation Measure	When	Responsibility	Monitoring Indicators
		Use catalytic converters on vehicles, an emission control device, used to convert harmful pollutants to less harmful pollutants e.g. it converts the nitrogen oxides back into nitrogen and oxygen. Appropriate maintenance of vehicles and machinery. Fugitive dust emissions from blasting Indicate the limits of a clearing land with highly visible markers. Leave a layer of about 5 m of undisturbed soft above the top of the overburden blasts. This will act as a blanket to contain air blasts, dust, and fly rock. Sprinkle water on the area where blasting is done to settle down the particulate matter emissions. Fugitive dust emissions from quarry areas Indicate the limits of a clearing land with highly visible markers. Avoid earth stripping or moving in periods of dry and windy weather. Carry out dust-generating activities where maximum protection can be obtained through topography or in areas where prevailing winds will blow dust away from sensitive areas/uses. Water spraying of conveyors/conveyor transfer points, stockpiles, and roads. Covering of fine dry loads or spraying of loads before exiting the site, and if necessary regular cleaning of public roads in the vicinity of the entrance. Fugitive dust emissions from concrete batching plants Suspend earthwork operation when wind speed exceeds 20 km/hr. in areas within 500 m of any settlement. The whole process of weighing and mixing would be performed in a fully enclosed environment. The mixers would all be equipped with dust collectors, no dust emission would be expected. Siting the concrete batching plant out of prevailing high winds minimizing dust emissions. The prevailing wind direction should be considered to ensure that bunkers and conveyors are sited in the leeward direction to minimize the effects of the wind.			

IR	Impact	Mitigation Measure	When	Responsibility	Monitoring Indicators
		The provision of natural or artificial wind barriers – such as trees, fences, and landforms – to help control the emission of dust from the plant should be considered. Batching plants should be sited on land that is not flood-prone. Batching plants should be kept as near natural sinks to minimize emissions to the ambient environment All stacks to be vertical and at least 3 m above ground Fugitive dust emissions from aggregate production and handling system Suspend operation when wind speed exceeds 20 km/hr. in areas within 500 m of any settlement. The prevailing wind direction should be considered to ensure that aggregate handling systems are located in the leeward direction to minimize the effects of the wind. Sprinkle water on all exposed surfaces, particularly those close and up-wind of settlements. Wind-blown dust from exposed surfaces such as bare land and waste dumping sites Cover all exposed surfaces, particularly those close and up-wind of settlements. All grading operations on a project should be suspended when winds exceed 20 miles per hour. Minimize disturbance to, or movement of, soil and vegetation. Sprinkle water on all exposed surfaces, particularly those close and up-wind of settlements. Retain as much natural vegetation as possible. Wind-blown dust from stockpiles of dusty materials such as sand and other minerals On-site dirt piles or other stockpiled PM should be covered, windbreaks installed and water and/or soil stabilizers employed to reduce wind-blown dust emissions. Adequately wet, cover with plastic, or provide with windshield all stockpiles to reduce dust emission. Sprinkle water on all exposed surfaces, particularly those close and up-wind of settlements. Minimize disturbance to, or movement of, soil and vegetation. Prevent soil damage and erosion.			

IR	Impact	Mitigation Measure	When	Responsibility	Monitoring Indicators
		Retain as much natural vegetation as possible.			
9.	Vibration from blasting during the construction phase may disturb local communities.	Develop a Blasting and Explosives Management Plan and Vibration Monitoring Plan. Conduct a pre-construction survey of structures at risk of vibration impacts on households. In the initial stages, the blasting-induced vibration shall be measured as a function of maximum instantaneous charge and distance from the blasting site. This data shall be then used to refine the Blasting Induced Vibration Risk Zones based on the adopted criteria. Using, the refined Blasting Induced Vibration Risk Zones maps and the tunnel boring schedule, the Supervision Consultant in consultation with the PEDO and the Construction Contractor, shall identify the houses that will be affected and the impact duration and schedule. For the houses that will fall in the Structural Damage Risk Zone, a temporary relocation plan will be developed. An amendment to the Land Acquisition and Resettlement Plan (LARP) (see **Volume 8**) will be commissioned for this purpose. Before the start of blasting, all residents of houses in the Structural Damage Risk Zone will be relocated as per the LARP. A survey will be undertaken in both zones, to determine the pre-blasting conditions of the buildings. The survey will be commissioned by the Supervision Consultant who will identify and record any existing damage to the structures. The survey will cover the following aspects: • Overall condition of the structures, both exterior and interior. • Documentation of defects observed in the structure using digital imagery along with notes, measurements, and sketches. • Documentation of pre-existing cracks using digital imagery along with notes, measurements, and sketches. Following completion of the blasting, the survey will be repeated in the Structural Damage Risk Zone to determine the condition of the buildings and verify that they are safe for re-	During Construction	EPC Contractor	Blasting and Explosives Control Plan document Blasting timetable available in nearby villages Results of preconstruction survey Availability of GRM

IR	Impact	Mitigation Measure	When	Responsibility	Monitoring Indicators
		occupation. If the buildings are safe, the residents will be allowed to return to their houses following any necessary damage repairs. If the buildings are damaged beyond repair, compensation will be paid to the owners as per the LARP (**Volume 8**). If there are any claims or reports of damage in the Cosmetic Damage Risk Zone, the affected house will be surveyed against the pre-project survey and repairs will be undertaken as appropriate. The following are key mitigation measures for the management of blasting: Blasting will be scheduled during the day only. Local communities will be informed of the blasting timetable in advance and will be provided adequate notice of when blasts are required outside of the planned schedule. A Blasting Management Plan will be developed by the Construction Contractor. The Plan will be reviewed and approved by the Supervision Contractor before the initiation of the blasting work. Throughout the blasting activity, vibration sensors will be installed at strategic locations to monitor the impact of blasting and to ensure that the vibration levels are within the adopted criteria. The monitoring plan will be part of the Blasting Management Plan. Unscheduled blasting will be strictly prohibited in any case. Meaningful contact with the community shall be maintained and their grievance shall be attended to promptly. In this regard: A meaningful community engagement plan will be developed. The plan will cover identifying the affected community; the key contact persons; frequency of engagement; the information to be shared; the responsibilities to manage the plan; and the notice period to be given to the community for various blasting-related generating activities. The Grievance Redress Mechanism will be used to record, investigate, and respond to any complaints. Investigation of the complaints will be undertaken by the Supervision Consultant.			

IR	Impact	Mitigation Measure	When	Responsibility	Monitoring Indicators
		Develop a Vibration Monitoring Plan that will include monitoring of vibration levels and frequency around the blasting sites. The objectives of the monitoring will be to: Ensure that vibration levels in the communities are within the adopted criteria levels; Maintain a record of vibration to settle any potential conflicts; and Monitor changes in the vibration levels due to possible changes in the rock formation and take appropriate corrective actions.			
10.	Blasting may pose a health hazard due to flying debris.	A minimum buffer of 500 m should be provided between the settlements and the point of blasting. Leave a layer of about 5 m of undisturbed soft above the top of the overburden blasts. This will act as a blanket to contain air blasts, dust, and fly rock. Ensure that the holes are correctly collared concerning the back-break/inclination of the face and also that digging alongside the initiation face is well controlled. Inadequate forward displacement of the front row burden arising out of the undercharging of these holes will result in fly rock from vertical catering of the rear holes. Where fly rock poses a serious problem, the stemming length should not be less than the hole burden. Also, an effective stemming material like crushed angular rock should be used to prevent premature venting of explosion gases through the stemming column. The forward fly rock could be fairly controlled to the commonly used 'inline open loop' pattern. The maximum inter-row delay interval consistent with the absence of cut-off helped in minimizing the fly rock formation. As a thumb rule, an inter-row delay of 4-8ms/m of burden could be used for this purpose. Adequate care should be taken while connecting the delay devices in the holes/rows and the initiation sequence properly checked before firing to avoid initiation of blast holes out of sequence. Blasts designed on a face length-to-width ratio in the range of 3 to 4 produce minimum fly rock.	During Construction	EPC Contractor	Blasting and Explosives Control Plan document Blasting timetable available in nearby villages Results of preconstruction survey Availability of GRM

IR	Impact	Mitigation Measure	When	Responsibility	Monitoring Indicators
11.	Alterations of the natural passage of springs due to blasting for tunnels may disrupt the water supply for mountain spring users.	Record the location of the springs especially those in areas proximal to where the underground headrace tunnel will be closer to the ground level i.e. high-risk areas (see **Exhibit 7.21** and **Exhibit 7.22**). Monitor flow for located springs and maintain records. Support the community in the development of alternate water supply schemes through local NGOs Ensure the availability of water to the communities and the access of the communities to the water resources being used by them is not adversely affected.	During construction	EPC Contractor	Flow records of identified springs
12.	The use of local water resources for construction activities may reduce the water availability for the local communities.	Develop a Water Sourcing and Abstraction Plan Source water for construction from authorized abstraction sources agreed between the local communities, local government, and EPC contractor. Water conservation techniques will be developed and implemented by the EPC contractor. Access of the community to water sources shall be kept clear so that the community's ability to meet its water requirements is not compromised. Exercise care while moving heavy machinery to avoid damage or blockage of natural waterways and channels. Maintain records of water usage in all Project activities. Incorporate the above measures in the Construction Site Environmental Management Plan.	Before and during construction	EPC Contractor	Agreements documents for water use. Water Sourcing and Abstraction Plan Water use record documents
13.	Discharge from construction activities can potentially result in the contamination of soil, groundwater, and surface water.	Develop and implement a Water Quality Management Plan Prepare and implement a Spill Prevention and Response Plan and induct to the staff for any incident of the spill. Provide and use spill-prevention trays at refueling locations The runoff from maintenance workshops will be collected by impervious channels and be passed through oil water separators (OWS) before final disposal. The sludge and oil collected at the OWS will be disposed of properly. Build separate impervious pits (with concrete walls and proper shed) at the construction sites for temporary handling and storage of contaminated soil and water if encountered during construction such as sludge from OWS.	During Construction	EPC Contractor	Water Quality Management Plan documents Spill Prevention and Response Plan document Visual implementation of mitigation measures such as the use of spill prevention trays and

IR	Impact	Mitigation Measure	When	Responsibility	Monitoring Indicators
		Keep all fuel storage tanks and lubricating oil drums in secondary containment impervious pits with impervious shed walls. Avoid on-site maintenance of construction vehicles and equipment, as far as possible. Regularly inspect construction vehicles and equipment to detect leakages. Store fuels and lubricants in covered and dyked areas, underlain with impervious lining. Spill control kits (shovels, plastic bags, and absorbent materials) will be available near fuel and oil storage areas, vehicle parking, and vehicle maintenance areas as well as at construction sites. Remove contaminated soil from the site and dispose in a manner to ensures the protection of water sources. Construct the bottom of any soak pit or septic tank at least 100 meters away from springs and water bores. Maintain records of spills and volume of removed contaminated soil. Maintain a record of remedial measures taken. Use silt traps to prevent contamination of river and streams. Incorporate the above measures in the Construction Site Environmental Management Plan.			proper storage of fuel storage. Record of spills and remedial actions taken
14.	An increase in ambient noise levels due to the operation of construction equipment, movement of construction traffic and blasting may create nuisance for nearby communities and visiting tourists.	Develop a Noise and Vibration Control Plan Noise generated from construction sites from construction activities Select the quietest available plant and equipment that can economically undertake the work required. Undertake maintenance of the equipment as simple maintenance can reduce noise levels by as much as 50%. Parts may become loose, creating more noise because of improper operation or scraping against other parts. Grinding noises may also occur as a result of inadequate lubrication. Equipment under use will be regularly maintained, tuned, and provided with mufflers to minimize noise levels. Use visual alarms in preference to audible alarms. Enclose noisy equipment.	During Construction	EPC Contractor	Noise and Vibration Control Plan document Maintenance record of equipment Records of community meetings regarding noise. Noise level monitoring in nearby communities

IR	Impact	Mitigation Measure	When	Responsibility	Monitoring Indicators
		Provide noise attenuation screens, where appropriate. Build an enclosure around the noise source so that noise is contained. The enclosure should be free from gaps made of dense material and be lined with noise-absorbing material like glass or polyester batts. Locate noisy equipment behind parking lots or parks. Close liaison with the community and regular monitoring of the noise levels in the community are key to successful implementation of the above mitigation measures. Specifically, inform communities of all major construction activities three days in advance. Construction noise from traffic Fit and maintain appropriate mufflers on earth-moving and other vehicles on the site. Mobile plants such as excavators, front-end loaders, and other diesel-engine equipment should be fitted with residential-class mufflers and other silencing equipment, as applicable. Haul roads within the site should have as low a gradient as possible, and paving should be considered if practicable where noise-sensitive receptors are likely to be affected; Owners and operators of existing facilities should implement special noise reduction measures, such as erecting purpose-built acoustic barriers, restricting opening hours, and maintaining transport vehicle Construction noise from on-site plant operations and equipment All fixed plants at the work sites will be appropriately selected, and where necessary, fitted with silencers, acoustical enclosures, and other noise attenuation measures. Modify the equipment or the work area to make it quieter by substituting existing equipment with quieter equipment; retro-fitting existing equipment with damping materials, mufflers, or enclosures; erecting barriers; and maintenance. Shift to a quieter construction process for example pile driving is very loud as compared to boring which is a much quieter way to do the same work.			

IR	Impact	Mitigation Measure	When	Responsibility	Monitoring Indicators
		Combine noisy operations to occur in the same period. The total noise level produced will not be significantly greater than the level produced if the operations were performed separately. All plants and equipment should be regularly maintained. Move static plant and equipment as far as possible from sensitive boundaries, as work allows. A distance of four times further away lowers the noise by 12 dBA. A reduction of 10 dBA will sound half as loud. Sound attenuation measures should be used for plant and equipment such as baffles and specialized mufflers, acoustic enclosures, or partial enclosure housings. Acoustic barriers need to be designed and purpose-built if needed. Vegetated buffer zones can also be planted to mitigate noise from operations using suitably selected native plantings local to the area. Reduce workers' exposure to high noise levels by keeping moving workers away from the noise source; restricting access to areas; rotating workers performing noisy tasks; and shutting down noisy equipment when not needed. Use earplugs to reduce workers' exposure to high noise levels. Noise generated from the blasting in quarry areas Using vibratory piling instead of impact piling. Conveyor belts and crushing/screening equipment can be housed to provide acoustic screening. Sound-reduction equipment fitted to machinery must be used and maintained properly. Erect earth mounds around the site boundary can provide acoustic as well as visual screening. Soft ground (e.g. grassland and cultivated fields) attenuation can sometimes have a greater impact in reducing noise than barrier attenuation, especially if the ground supports sound-absorbing vegetation. Noise emissions from concrete batching Locate noisy equipment away from potential sources of conflict. Locate noisy equipment behind sound barriers or sound absorbers – for example, gravel stockpiles or constructed barriers.			

IR	Impact	Mitigation Measure	When	Responsibility	Monitoring Indicators
		Install silencing devices on all pressure-operated equipment.			
15.	Contamination of soil as a result of the accidental release of solvents, oils, and lubricants can degrade soil fertility and agricultural productivity.	Prepare a Spill Prevention and Response Plan and induct to the staff for any incident of spill. Appropriately mark fuel tanks by content and store in dyked areas with an extra 10% of the storage capacity of the fuel tank. The area will be lined with an impervious base. Install grease traps on the site, wherever needed, to prevent the flow of oily water. Spill cleaning kits (shovels, plastic bags, and absorbent materials) will be available near fuel and oil storage areas. Carry cleanup kits in all fuel trucks. Fueling should only take place over impermeable surfaces, other hazmats should be stored and used over impermeable surfaces. The bottom of any soak pit or septic tank shall be at least 10 m above the groundwater table. The distance can be reduced, based on the soil properties, if it is established that distance will not result in contamination of groundwater.	During Construction	EPC Contractor	Spill Prevention and Response Plan document Visual verification of conformance
16.	Land clearing, excavation, tunnel boring, and other construction activities may loosen the topsoil in the Project area resulting in loss of soil and possible acceleration of soil erosion and land sliding, especially in the wet season.	Develop an Erosion Control Plan. Limit vegetation loss to demarcated construction areas. Cover areas such as muck disposal areas, batching plant, labor camps, and quarry sites after the closure with grass and shrubs. Adopt slope stabilization measures such as adequate vertical and horizontal drains, drainage along roadsides, cross drainage, and retaining walls. Monitor slope movements around excavation work areas. Salvage, store, and reuse all topsoil at all construction sites. The height of the stockpile will be minimized to the extent possible by increasing the size of the land for the stockpile. Topsoil will be carefully stripped to ensure that it is not mixed with subsoil. The stockpiles will be revegetated to minimize loss of soil quality, minimize weed infestation, maintain soil organic matter levels, and maintain soil structure and microbial activity.	During Construction	EPC Contractor	Erosion Control Plan document

IR	Impact	Mitigation Measure	When	Responsibility	Monitoring Indicators
		Topsoil stockpiles will be signposted for easy identification and to avoid any inadvertent losses. The establishment of declared plants on the stockpiles will also be monitored and control programs implemented as required. The topsoil will be treated with temporary soil stabilization and erosion control measures. During the removal of topsoil stockpile for restoration of project affected areas, it is preferred that the soil is removed in layers (less than 0.5 m thick) under a gradual process. The top layer will be mixed with the remainder of the stockpile to ensure that living organisms are distributed throughout the topsoil material at the time of final placement. The use of micro-organism inoculates may be necessary to re-establish micro-organisms in topsoil material. Select local species for plantation to restore the biodiversity of the area in consultation with the Forest Department after completion of respective activities.			
17.	Failure of spoil dumping sites resulting in increased erosion and sediment load entering the river	Dumping sites should have a flood prevention design for a 20-year flood. The water drainage works consist of the masonry structures and shall be designed to drain a 5-year rainfall every 10 minutes. Where constructed tailing hold structure will be of galvanized woven wire mesh gabions All five dumping sites will undergo vegetation restoration works comprising surface leveling, covering, and forest/grass planting or agricultural land rehabilitation Develop a Spoil Disposal Plan that includes the following measures: ➢ Slope movements will be monitored around excavation work areas. ➢ Restore to the maximum extent possible the hydrological regime and reinstate natural drainage of the land (including provisions to maintain the water balance of the site and protect it from flooding where appropriate) ➢ Reinstate topsoil (in case it was stripped before construction activities)	During construction	EPC Contractor	Spoil Disposal Plan Document

IR	Impact	Mitigation Measure	When	Responsibility	Monitoring Indicators
		➢ Revegetate sites with suitable native plant species ➢ Drain spoil piles to prevent the concentration of flow and to prevent rill and gully erosion ➢ Separate organic material (e.g., roots, stumps) from the dirt fill and store separately. Place this material in long-term, upland storage sites, as it cannot be used for fill. ➢ Store "clean" material in a short-term disposal site (stockpile) if it will likely be re-used for fill or shoulder widening projects. ➢ Where feasible, recycle asphalt material in embankments and shoulder backing. Place these materials where they will not enter the stream system. Asphalt that is 5 years old is considered "inert" (that is, all oils washed off). ➢ Do not add excess unusable material to permanently closed sites. ➢ Spread material is not to be re-used in compacted layers, generally conforming to the local topography. Design the final disposal site reclamation topography to minimize the discharge of concentrated surface water and sediment off the site and into nearby watercourses. ➢ Cover the compacted surfaces with a 6-inch layer of organic or fine-grained soil, if feasible. ➢ After placement of the soil layer, track walk the slopes perpendicular to the contour to stabilize the soil until vegetation is established. Track walking creates indentations that trap seeds and decrease erosion of the reclaimed surfaces. (See figure on next page.) ➢ Revegetate the disposal site with a mix of native plant species. Cover the seeded and planted areas with straw compost, and mulched with straw at a rate of 1 to 1 ½ tons per acre. Apply jute netting or similar erosion control fabric on slopes greater than 1:2 if the site is erosive. ➢ Locate stockpiles away from drainage lines, at least 10 meters away from natural waterways, and where they will be least susceptible to wind erosion ➢ Ensure that stockpiles and batters are designed with slopes no greater than 1:2 (vertical\ horizontal).			

IR	Impact	Mitigation Measure	When	Responsibility	Monitoring Indicators
		➢ Besides these measures, erosion can also be minimized by regular rehabilitation of areas not in use for Project activities during construction. These will include: Re-grading and immediate re-vegetation (using fast-growing species and different functional groups of plants for keeping soil in place) of slopes to minimize erosion. ➢ Install erosion and sediment control measures, if possible before construction commences. · Identify drainage lines and install control measures to handle predicted storm-water and sediment loads generated in the mini-catchment. ➢ Design and install appropriate erosion and sediment run-off control measures appropriate to site conditions to handle a one-in-two-year storm event (two-year ARI with the intensity of six hours), for temporary structures, and a one-in-fifty-year storm event, for permanent structures. ➢ Establish an adequate inspection, maintenance, and cleaning program for sediment run-off control structures. Ensure that contingency plans are in place for unusual storm events. ➢ Continually assess the effectiveness of sediment control measures and make necessary improvements. ➢ Keep temporary disposal sites out of wetlands, adjacent riparian corridors, and ordinary high-water areas as well as high-risk zones, such as 100-year floodplains and unstable slopes. ➢ Anticipate sufficient storage area with no risk of sediment delivery for piles that may slump. Stress cracks indicate that the pile is at risk of slumping. ➢ Cover the trucks that will be used for the transportation of spoil material to disposal sites. ➢ A spoil management plan should be developed as described in **Section 9.4.3** which will implement measures to prevent this.			
18.	Deterioration of aesthetics and visual amenities of nearby	Minimize disturbance to, or movement of, soil and vegetation. Backfill to original levels. Reshaping to match with surrounding topography.	During detailed design	EPC Contractor	Covers used to disguise equipment, where appropriate.

IR	Impact	Mitigation Measure	When	Responsibility	Monitoring Indicators
	receptors due to construction activities, including vehicular movement on roads, may cause disturbance in aesthetics for tourists, businesses, and nearby communities.	Reinstate vegetation around construction sites.			
19.	Permanent impact in aesthetics due to proposed developments.	Develop and implement a Site Rehabilitation and Landscaping Plan. Use colors that better integrate with the landscape. Disguise elements with vegetation where possible. Retain as much natural vegetation as possible.	During detailed design	EPC Contractor	Site Rehabilitation and Landscaping Plan
20.	An increase in congestion, due to increased traffic volume will cause delays.	Develop and implement a Traffic Management Plan. Make roundabouts for the congestion points. Retain as much natural vegetation as possible to reduce the impact of smoke due to vehicles. The vehicles going on the spoil routes and passing through the communities must be completely covered to avoid dust emissions. Strictly implement speed limits and defensive driving policies.	During construction	EPC Contractor	Traffic Management Plan
21.	An increase in traffic volume will deteriorate the air quality.	Keep speeds slow (30 km/hr) on unsealed roads. Sprinkle water on unsealed roads that are used for construction traffic. Retain as much natural vegetation as possible to reduce the impact of smoke due to vehicles. The vehicles going on the spoil routes and passing through the communities must be completely covered to avoid dust emissions. Strictly implement speed limits and defensive driving policies. Promptly and properly repair and maintain roads that are subject to damage by Project activities.	During construction	EPC Contractor	Traffic Management Plan
22.	Increased risk to community safety due to increased traffic volume during the	Develop and implement a Traffic Management Plan. Identify suitable times to transport equipment. Road safety awareness education will also be included during community visits or information sessions so that communities	During construction	EPC Contractor	Traffic Management Plan

IR	Impact	Mitigation Measure	When	Responsibility	Monitoring Indicators
	construction phase near communities.	can be familiarized with common road signs and the types of vehicles and equipment that will be moving through the area. Keep speeds slow (30 km/hr) where there is traffic exchange between roads. Make roundabouts for the congestion points. Designate traffic wardens on roads on the transport route to manage traffic during school hours. Construction traffic will not travel during school starting and ending hours on designated road segments in front of schools on the transport route. Strictly implement speed limits and defensive driving policies. Maintain vehicles, especially brakes.			
23.	Degradation of the pavement due to use by heavy construction traffic	Promptly and properly repair and maintain roads that are subject to damage by Project activities.	During construction	EPC Contractor	A number of observations of pavement damage in areas with heavy Project-related traffic.
24.	Direct, indirect, and induced employment at the local levels, resulting in increased prosperity and well-being due to higher and stable incomes of people.	**Enhancement measures**: Ensure preferential recruitment of local candidates provided they have the required skills and qualifications. Include an assessment of the contractor's demonstrated commitment to domestic and local procurement and local hiring in the tender evaluation process. Coordinate recruitment efforts related to non-skilled labor, including for non-skilled labor positions required by contractors. **Good practice measures**: Determine what is considered to be 'fair and transparent' in recruitment and the distribution of jobs between different community groups, in consultation with local communities and their leaders.	During construction	EPC Contractor	Contractual documents Number and ratio of local employees to non-local employees
25.	Increase in the stock of skilled human capital due to transfer of knowledge and skill under the Project resulting in enhanced	Support a 'Vocational Training Program' to assist local people to qualify for semi-skilled positions focusing on issues such as procurement, involvement of vulnerable groups in Project opportunities, and continual professional development of staff. Assist local people having practical skills but lacking qualifications to obtain their certificates and thus increase their employment opportunities.	During construction	EPC Contractor	Vocational Training Program document including annual schedule. Budget allocation for trainings.

IR	Impact	Mitigation Measure	When	Responsibility	Monitoring Indicators
	productivity of the local labor.	Support initiatives promoting a culture of learning in local communities. Plan and implement training programs for vulnerable groups to encourage their participation in economic opportunities created by the Project. Assist employees and local communities to improve basic personal financial life skills through training and awareness campaigns, respectively. Consider further training programs to prepare retrenched workers to seek employment in sectors not related to dam construction.			Documentary evidence including photographs and attendance lists of trainings.
26.	Increase in recreational and subsistence fishing due to increase in catch of fish following the creation of favorable habitats for the fish in the Kunhar River.	Implementation of the BAP (see **Volume C** of the EIA report)	As given in BAP	As given in BAP	As given in BAP
27.	Loss of income from sand and gravel mining due to change in the pattern of sediment deposition following construction of the dam.	Sediment Mining and Management Guidelines are prepared and will be implemented as a part of the BAP, which will identify possible sand and gravel mining spots along the Kunhar River to meet community needs without harming the river ecology.	During construction	EPC Contractor	Sediment Mining and Management Plan document Locations visually earmarked for mining promotion and protection as identified in the Sediment Mining and Management Plan.
28.	Loss of assets and livelihood as a result of land acquired for the Project.	See LARP	Before construction	PEDO/Land Acquisition Collector	See LARP
29.	Increase in population due to in-migration of job seekers (in-migrants) leading to	Development of a Grievance Redressal Mechanism Encourage local communities to use the grievance procedure for concerns related to the deterioration of local services.	During construction	EPC Contractor	Grievance register and records

IR	Impact	Mitigation Measure	When	Responsibility	Monitoring Indicators
	pressure on existing social infrastructure and services in the Study Area.	Support local government in the implementation of infrastructure projects. Support NGOs specializing in the development of infrastructure to assist local government.			Influx Management Plan
30.	Disputes over the distribution of Project employment within and between Study Area inhabitants and the in-migrants resulted in social unrest.	Implement PEDO Stakeholder Engagement Plan including: maintaining regular communication with local communities and other stakeholders to minimize tensions arising from Project activities; maintaining a grievance procedure, encouraging and facilitating stakeholders to use the mechanism to express concerns; and providing sufficient resources to the community relations officers to enable them to monitor negative perceptions and associated tensions, and to address them in a timely fashion.	During construction	EPC Contractor	Stakeholder Engagement Plan Minutes of community and stakeholder consultations Provision in budget for activities.
31.	Potential social unrest in the Study Area due to conflicting socio-cultural norms amongst the inhabitants and in-migrants.	Refer to measures under IR 25 (above).		EPC Contractor	
32.	Submergence of graveyards.	Plaster the graves with mud or cement. If relocation of the graveyard cannot be avoided, it shall be managed through the local religious authorities.	Before construction	PEDO	Photographic evidence

Exhibit 9-8: Operation Phase Mitigation Plan

IR	Impact	Mitigation Measure	When	Responsibility	Monitoring Indicators
1	Improvement of the river ecosystem through the implementation of the BAP	Implementation of the BAP (see **Volume C** of the EIA report).	Operation	PEDO	As given in BAP.
2	Loss of riverine ecosystem due to inundation by Project Reservoir				
3	Degradation of the river ecosystem in the low-flow segment downstream of the Project dam				
4	Degradation of the River Ecosystem Downstream of the Tailrace				
7	Project operation leading to animal disturbance, displacement, and decline.	Large floodlights should not be installed outside 50 m of the Project fence. Direct lights towards Project facilities and not towards the natural habitats. Dispose of solid waste only at designated sites. Incorporate regulations for Project staff and contractors to avoid illegal poaching in contract documents. Encourage personnel to report sightings of wildlife of conservation importance or incidents of poaching to PEDO. Provide adequate knowledge to the workers on relevant government regulations and punishments for illegal poaching. Provide awareness training to staff and contractors on: prevention of injury of animals; identification of likely species found on site; identifications of animal hazards (such as venomous snakes); and what to do if dangerous animals are encountered. Implement the BAP (see **Volume C** of the EIA report).	Operation	PEDO	As given in BAP.
19	Deterioration of aesthetics and visual amenities of nearby receptors due to low flow	Ensure environmental flow release.	Operation	PEDO	Environmental flow release records

IR	Impact	Mitigation Measure	When	Responsibility	Monitoring Indicators
	in the river may affect the scenic value of the area				
21	Improved accessibility due to the construction of Project access roads.	Allow communities to use new site access roads.	Operation	PEDO	—
26	Direct, indirect, and induced employment at the local levels, resulting in increased prosperity and well-being due to higher and stable incomes of people.	**Enhancement measures:** Ensure preferential recruitment of local candidates provided they have the required skills and qualifications. Include an assessment of the contractor's demonstrated commitment to domestic and local procurement and local hiring in the tender evaluation process. Coordinate recruitment efforts related to non-skilled labor, including for non-skilled labor positions required by contractors. **Good practice measures:** Determine what is considered to be 'fair and transparent' in recruitment and the distribution of jobs between different community groups, in consultation with local communities and their leaders.	Operation	PEDO	Target documents
28	Increase in recreational and subsistence fishing due to increase in catch of fish following the creation of favorable habitats for the fish in the Kunhar River.	Ensure implementation of the BAP (see **Volume C** of the EIA report).	Operation	PEDO	Interviews with local fishermen and results of monitoring and evaluation as part of the **BAP** (see **Volume C**)
29	Loss of income from sand and gravel mining due to change in the pattern of sediment deposition following construction of the dam.	Sediment Mining and Management Guidelines are prepared and will be implemented as a part of the BAP, which will identify possible sand and gravel mining spots along the Kunhar River to meet community needs without harming the river ecology.	Operation	PEDO	Sediment Mining and Management Plan document Locations visually earmarked for mining promotion and protection as identified in the Sediment Mining and Management Plan.

Exhibit 9-9: Design and Construction Planning EMP Responsibilities

Impact Reference	Mitigation Measures
5	Minimize project footprint
5	Locate construction facilities based on a knowledge of the soil, slope, and vegetation cover of the area to avoid disturbance to the natural environment.
5,6	Minimize disturbance to, or movement of, soil and vegetation.
5,6	Prevent the establishment of alien invasive species (AIS) on exposed stored soil (do not store bare soil near known sources of AIS).
5,6	Retain as much natural vegetation as possible.
6	Source goods/materials locally where possible.
12	Source water for construction from authorized abstraction sources agreed between the local communities, local government, and EPC contractor.
34	Plaster the graves with mud or cement. If relocation of the graveyard cannot be avoided, it shall be managed through the local religious authorities.
20	Develop and implement a Site Rehabilitation and Landscaping Plan.
22	Make roundabouts for the congestion points.

Exhibit 9-10: General Construction Site Manager EMP Responsibilities

Impact Reference	Mitigation Measures
	Site Construction
5, 6, 13, 15, 16, 17	Minimize disturbance to, or movement of, soil and vegetation.
5, 6	Prevent soil damage and erosion.
5,6	Prevent the establishment of AIS on exposed stored soil (do not store bare soil near known sources of AIS).
5, 6, 13, 15, 16, 17	Retain as much natural vegetation as possible.
5. 6. 13, 15, 17	Solid waste should only be disposed of at designated sites.
6,7	Large floodlights should not be installed outside 50 m of the Project fence.
6,7	Lights should be directed towards Project facilities and not towards the natural habitats.
8	Water will be sprinkled on all exposed surfaces, particularly those close and up-wind of the settlements.
17	Slope movements will be monitored around excavation work areas.
17	Slope stabilization measures will be adopted such as adequate vertical and horizontal drains, drainage along roadsides, cross drainage, and retaining walls.
5, 17	Vegetation loss will be limited to demarcated construction areas.
	Resource Use
12	Access of the community to water sources shall be kept clear so that the community's ability to meet its water requirements is not compromised.
11, 13	Care will be taken while moving heavy machinery to avoid damage or blockage of natural waterways and channels.
12	Records of water usage will be maintained.
12	Water conservation techniques will be developed and implemented by the EPC contractor.
12	Water for construction will be sourced from authorized abstraction sources agreed upon between the local communities, local government, and EPC contractor.
	Spill Control
13, 15	Spill prevention trays will be provided and used at refueling locations

Impact Reference	Mitigation Measures
13, 15	Regular inspections will be carried out to detect leakages in construction vehicles and equipment.
13, 15	Fuels and lubricants will be stored in covered and dyked areas, underlain with impervious lining.
13, 15	A spill control kit (shovels, plastic bags, and absorbent materials) will be available near fuel and oil storage areas.
13, 15	Contaminated soil will be removed from the site and disposed in a manner to ensure protection of water sources
13, 15	An emergency plan for spill management will be prepared and inducted to the staff for any incident of spill.
13, 15	The bottom of any soak pit or septic tank will be constructed at least 100 meters away from springs and water bores
13, 15	Record of spills and volume of removed contaminated soil will be maintained.
13, 15	A record of remedial measures taken will be maintained.
	Maintenance
14	Equipment under use will be regularly maintained, tuned, and provided with mufflers to minimize noise levels.
13, 15	On-site maintenance of construction vehicles and equipment will be avoided, as far as possible.
	Noise Control
14	Equipment in a poor state of maintenance, particularly without effective noise control will be checked to determine if it can be improved, and replaced with less noisy equipment as soon as practicable.
14	Equipment emitting excessive noise in comparison with other similar equipment will not be allowed to operate.
10	Schedule blasting outside of hours when people are most disturbed by noise (such as at night).
10	Unscheduled blasting will be strictly prohibited in any case.
	Closure and Completion
18, 19	Areas such as muck disposal areas, batching plants, labor camp, and quarry sites after the closure shall be covered with grass and shrubs.
16	Backfill to original levels.
18, 19, 20	Reshape to match with surrounding topography.
16	Vegetation reinstatement around the dam site. Trees will be planted to replace those submerged by the reservoir.

Exhibit 9-11: Dam Site Construction Site Manager Additional EMP Responsibilities

Impact Reference	Mitigation Measure
	Aesthetics
18, 19	Disguise elements with vegetation where possible.
18, 19	Use colors that integrate with the landscape.
18, 19	Trees will be planted to replace those submerged by the reservoir.
	Blasting and Excavation
16	Indicate the limits of a clearing land with highly visible markers.
8	Leave a layer of about 5 m of undisturbed soft above the top of the overburden blasts. This will act as a blanket to contain air blasts, dust, and fly rock.
8	Sprinkle water on the area where blasting is done to settle down the particulate matter emissions.

Exhibit 9-12: Powerhouse Site Construction Site Manager Additional EMP Responsibilities

Impact Reference	Mitigation Measure
	Blasting
8	Leave a layer of about 5 m of undisturbed soft above the top of the overburden blasts. This will act as a blanket to contain air blasts, dust and fly rock.
8	Sprinkle water on the area where blasting is done to settle down the particulate matter emissions.

Exhibit 9-13: Headrace Tunnel Construction Site Manager Additional EMP Responsibilities

Impact Reference	Mitigation Measure
	Blasting and Excavation
16	Indicate the limits of a clearing land with highly visible markers.
8	Leave a layer of about 5 m of undisturbed soft above the top of the overburden blasts. This will act as a blanket to contain air blasts, dust and fly rock.
8	Sprinkle water on the area where blasting is done to settle down the particulate matter emissions.
9	Blasting will be scheduled during the day only.
9	Local communities will be informed of the blasting timetable in advance and will be provided adequate notice of when blasts are required outside of the planned schedule.
9	A Blasting Management Plan will be developed by the Construction Contractor. The Plan will be reviewed and approved by the Supervision Contractor before the initiation of the blasting work.
9	Throughout the blasting activity, vibration sensors will be installed at strategic locations to monitor the impact of blasting and to ensure that the vibration levels are within the adopted criteria. The monitoring plan will be part of the Blasting Management Plan.
9	Unscheduled blasting will be strictly prohibited in any case.
10	A minimum buffer of 500 m should be provided between the settlements and the point of blasting.
11, 12	Record the location of the springs especially those in areas proximal to where the underground headrace tunnel will be closer to the ground level.
11, 12	Monitor flow for located springs and maintain records.

Exhibit 9-14: Workshop Manager EMP Responsibilities

Impact Reference	Mitigation Measure
	Pollution Control
5, 7, 13, 15	Solid waste should only be disposed of at designated sites.
6,7	Large floodlights should not be installed outside 50 m of the Project fence.
6,7	Lights should be directed towards Project facilities and not towards the natural habitats.
8	Water will be sprinkled on all exposed surfaces, particularly those close and up-wind of the settlements.
	Resource Use
6	Source goods/materials locally where possible.
13	Care will be taken while moving heavy machinery to avoid damage or blockage of natural waterways and channels.
12	Water conservation techniques will be developed and implemented
	Spill Control

Impact Reference	Mitigation Measure
13, 15	Spill prevention trays will be provided and used at refueling locations
13, 15	Regular inspections will be carried out to detect leakages in construction vehicles and equipment.
13, 15	Fuels and lubricants will be stored in covered and dyked areas, underlain with impervious lining.
13, 15	A spill control kit (shovels, plastic bags, and absorbent materials) will be available near fuel and oil storage areas.
13, 15	Contaminated soil will be removed from the site and disposed in a manner to ensure protection of water sources
13, 15	An emergency plan for spill management will be prepared and inducted to the staff for any incident of spill.
13, 15	The bottom of any soak pit or septic tank will be constructed at least 100 meters away from springs and water bores
13, 15	Record of spills and volume of removed contaminated soil will be maintained.
13, 15	A record of remedial measures taken will be maintained.
	Maintenance
14	Equipment under use will be regularly maintained, tuned, and provided with mufflers to minimize noise levels.
13, 15	On-site maintenance of construction vehicles and equipment will be avoided, as far as possible.
	Noise Control
14	Equipment in a poor state of maintenance, particularly without effective noise control will be checked to determine if it can be improved, and replaced with less noisy equipment as soon as practicable.
14	Equipment emitting excessive noise in comparison with other similar equipment will not be allowed to operate.
14	Schedule blasting outside of hours when people are most disturbed by noise (such as at night).
14	Unscheduled blasting will be strictly prohibited in any case.
	Closure and Completion
17	After closure, areas under use shall be covered with grass and shrubs.
17	Backfill to original levels.

Exhibit 9-15: Batching Plant Manager EMP Responsibilities

Impact Reference	Mitigation Measure
	Air Pollution
8	Suspend earthwork operation when wind speed exceeds 20 km/hr. in areas within 500 m of any settlement.
8	The whole process of weighing and mixing would be performed in a fully enclosed environment.
8	The mixers would all be equipped with dust collectors, no dust emission would be expected.
8	Siting the concrete batching plant out of prevailing high winds minimizing dust emissions.
8	The prevailing wind direction should be considered to ensure that bunkers and conveyors are sited in the leeward direction to minimize the effects of the wind.
8	The provision of natural or artificial wind barriers – such as trees, fences, and landforms – to help control the emission of dust from the plant should be considered.
8	Batching plants should be sited on land that is not flood-prone.
8	Suspend operation when wind speed exceeds 20 km/hr. in areas within 500 m of any settlement.
8	The prevailing wind direction should be considered to ensure that aggregate handling systems are located in the leeward direction to minimize the effects of the wind.

Impact Reference	Mitigation Measure
	Air Pollution
8	Sprinkle water on all exposed surfaces, particularly those close and up-wind of settlements.
	Noise Control
14	Locate noisy equipment away from potential sources of conflict.
14	Locate noisy equipment behind sound barriers or sound absorbers – for example, gravel stockpiles or constructed barriers.
14	Install silencing devices to all pressure-operated equipment.
14	Schedule blasting outside of hours when people are most disturbed by noise (such as at night).
14	Unscheduled blasting will be strictly prohibited in any case.
	Closure and Completion
20	After closure, areas under use shall be covered with grass and shrubs.
20	Backfill to original levels.

Exhibit 9-16: Construction Camp Manager EMP Responsibilities

Impact Reference	Mitigation Measure
	Pollution Control
5. 6. 7, 13, 15	Develop and implement a Waste Management Plan
5. 6. 7, 13, 15	Solid waste should only be disposed of at designated sites.
6,7	Large floodlights should not be installed outside 50 m of the Project fence.
6,7	Lights should be directed towards Project facilities and not towards the natural habitats.
8	Water will be sprinkled on all exposed surfaces, particularly those close and up-wind of the settlements.
	Resource Use
6	Source goods/materials locally where possible.
12	Water conservation techniques will be developed and implemented
	Spill Control
13, 15	A spill control kit (shovels, plastic bags, and absorbent materials) will be available near fuel and oil storage areas.
13, 15	The bottom of any soak pit or septic tank will be constructed at least 100 meters away from springs and water bores
13, 15	Record of spills and volume of removed contaminated soil will be maintained.
	Maintenance
14	Equipment under use will be regularly maintained, tuned, and provided with mufflers to minimize noise levels.
	Noise Control
14	Equipment in a poor state of maintenance, particularly without effective noise control will be checked to determine if it can be improved, and replaced with less noisy equipment as soon as practicable.
14	Equipment emitting excessive noise in comparison with other similar equipment will not be allowed to operate.
	Closure and Completion
17	The construction camp after the closure shall be covered with grass and shrubs.

Exhibit 9-17: Spoil Disposal Site Manager EMP Responsibilities

Impact Reference	Mitigation Measures
17	Slope movements will be monitored around excavation work areas.
16, 17	Restore to the maximum extent possible the hydrological regime and reinstate natural drainage of the land (including provisions to maintain the water balance of the site and protect it from flooding where appropriate)
16, 17	Reinstate topsoil (in case it was stripped before construction activities)
16, 17	Revegetate sites with suitable native plant species
16, 17	Drain spoil piles to prevent the concentration of flow and to prevent rill and gully erosion
16	Separate organic material (e.g., roots, stumps) from the dirt fill and store separately. Place this material in long-term, upland storage sites, as it cannot be used for fill.
16	Store “clean” material in a short-term disposal site (stockpile) if it will likely be re-used for fill or shoulder widening projects.
16	Where feasible, recycle asphalt material in embankments and shoulder backing. Place these materials where they will not enter the stream system. Asphalt that is 5 years old is considered “inert” (that is, all oils washed off).
16	Do not add excess unusable material to permanently closed sites.
16	Spread material is not to be re-used in compacted layers, generally conforming to the local topography. Design the final disposal site reclamation topography to minimize the discharge of concentrated surface water and sediment off the site and into nearby watercourses.
16	Cover the compacted surfaces with a 6-inch layer of organic or fine-grained soil, if feasible.
16	After placement of the soil layer, track walk the slopes perpendicular to the contour to stabilize the soil until vegetation is established. Track walking creates indentations that trap seed and decrease erosion of the reclaimed surfaces. (See figure on next page.)
16	Revegetate the disposal site with a mix of native plant species. Cover the seeded and planted areas with straw compost, and mulched with straw at a rate of 1 to 1 ½ tons per acre. Apply jute netting or similar erosion control fabric on slopes greater than 1:2 if site is erosive.
16	Locate stockpiles away from drainage lines, at least 10 meters away from natural waterways and where they will be least susceptible to wind erosion
16	Ensure that stockpiles and batters are designed with slopes no greater than 1:2 (vertical\ horizontal).
16	Besides these measures, erosion can also be minimized by regular rehabilitation of areas not in use for Project activities during construction. These will include: • Re-grading and immediate re-vegetation (using fast-growing species and different functional groups of plants for keeping soil in place) of slopes to minimize erosion,
16	Install erosion and sediment control measures, if possible before construction commences. · Identify drainage lines and install control measures to handle predicted storm-water and sediment loads generated in the mini-catchment.
16	Design and install appropriate erosion and sediment run-off control measures appropriate to site conditions to handle a one-in-two-year storm event (two-year ARI with the intensity of six hours), for temporary structures, and a one-in-fifty-year storm event, for permanent structures.
16	Establish an adequate inspection, maintenance and cleaning program for sediment run-off control structures. Ensure that contingency plans are in place for unusual storm events.
16	Continually assess the effectiveness of sediment control measures and make necessary improvements.
16	Keep temporary disposal sites out of wetlands, adjacent riparian corridors, and ordinary high-water areas as well as high-risk zones, such as 100-year floodplains and unstable slopes.
16	Anticipate sufficient storage area with no risk of sediment delivery for piles that may slump. Stress cracks indicate that the pile is at risk of slumping.

Exhibit 9-18: Transport Fleet Manager EMP Responsibilities

Impact Reference	Mitigation Measures
	Develop and implement a Traffic Management Plan.
	Community Safety
12	Access of the community to water sources shall be kept clear so that the community's ability to meet its water requirements are not compromised.
14	Equipment emitting excessive noise in comparison with other similar equipment will not be allowed to operate.
14	Equipment in a poor state of maintenance, particularly without effective noise control will be checked to determine if it can be improved, and replaced with less noisy equipment as soon as practicable.
14	Blowing of horns will be prohibited on all access roads except under emergency conditions.
24	Prohibiting use of horns particularly pressure horns, in areas where the group is moving.
14	Equipment under use will be regularly maintained, tuned, and provided with mufflers to minimize noise levels.
24	Keep speeds slow where there is traffic exchange between roads.
24	Make roundabouts for the congestion points.
24	Construction traffic will not travel during school starting and ending hours on designated road segments in front of schools on the transport route
24	Designate traffic wardens on roads on the transport route to manage traffic during important hours
	Pollution Control
8	Cover all trucks hauling soil, sand, and other loose materials or require all trucks to maintain at least two feet of freeboard (i.e., the minimum required space between the top of the load and the top of the trailer).
8	Install and maintain all vehicles and machinery with appropriate emission control equipment.
8	Regularly maintain vehicles and equipment to keep emissions in check.
8	Smoke from internal combustion engines should not be visible for more than ten seconds.
8	To the extent possible, use new and low-emission equipment and vehicles.
8	Purchase the best quality fuel and lubes and where possible use lead-free oil and lubes.
8	Sprinkle water on all unsealed roads used by Project vehicles that are within 200 m of any settlement.
8	Reduce traffic speeds on all unpaved surfaces to 15 miles per hour or less.
8	Paved roads shall be swept frequently if soil material has been carried onto adjacent paved, public thoroughfares from the Project site.
8	Install wheel washers where vehicles exit onto paved roads from unpaved.
8	Wheel washing of vehicles leaving the site.
8	Wash vehicles/equipment before each trip.
8	Use catalytic converters on vehicles, an emission control device, used to convert harmful pollutants to less harmful pollutants e.g. converts the nitrogen oxides back into nitrogen and oxygen.
8	Appropriate maintenance of vehicles and machinery.
12, 16	Exercise care while moving heavy machinery to avoid damage or blockage of natural waterways and channels.
14	Fit and maintain appropriate mufflers on earth-moving and other vehicles on the site.
14	Mobile plants such as excavators, front-end loaders and other diesel-engine equipment should be fitted with residential-class mufflers and other silencing equipment, as applicable.

Impact Reference	Mitigation Measures
14	Haul roads within the site should have as low a gradient as possible, and paving should be considered if practicable where noise-sensitive receptors are likely to be affected;
14	Owners and operators of existing facilities should implement special noise reduction measures, such as erecting purpose-built acoustic barriers, restricting opening hours, and maintaining transport vehicle
15	Carry cleanup kits in all fuel trucks.
15	Fueling should only take place over impermeable surfaces, other hazmats should be stored and used over impermeable surfaces.
22	Make roundabouts for the congestion points.
23	Retain as much natural vegetation as possible to reduce the impact of smoke due to vehicles.
24	The vehicles going on the spoil routes and passing through the communities must be completely covered to avoid dust emissions.
24	Strictly implement speed limits and defensive driving policies.
24	Keep speeds slow (30 km/hr) on unsealed roads.
24	Sprinkle water on unsealed roads that are used for construction traffic.
24	Retain as much natural vegetation as possible to reduce the impact of smoke due to vehicles.
24	The vehicles going on the spoil routes and passing through the communities must be completely covered to avoid dust emissions.
24	Road safety awareness education will also be included during community visits or information sessions so that communities can be familiarized with common road signs and the types of vehicles and equipment that will be moving through the area.
24	Make roundabouts for the congestion points.
24	Construction traffic will not travel during school starting and ending hours on designated road segments in front of schools on the transport route.
24	Maintain vehicles, especially brakes.
24	Promptly and properly repair and maintain roads that are subject to damage by Project activities.

Exhibit 9-19: Labor Manager EMP Responsibilities

Impact Reference	Mitigation Measures
	Health and Safety
14	Reduce workers' exposure to high noise levels by keeping moving workers away from the noise source; restricting access to areas; rotating workers performing noisy tasks; and shutting down noisy equipment when not needed.
14	Use earplugs to reduce workers' exposure to high noise levels.
	Community Employment
26, 27	Ensure preferential recruitment of local candidates provided they have the required skills and qualifications.
26, 27	Include an assessment of the contractor's demonstrated commitment to domestic and local procurement and local hiring in the tender evaluation process.
26, 27	Determine what is considered to be 'fair and transparent' in recruitment and the distribution of jobs between different community groups, in consultation with local communities and their leaders.
26, 27	Support a 'vocational training program' to assist local people to qualify for semi-skilled positions focusing on issues such as procurement, involvement of vulnerable groups in Project opportunities and continual professional development of staff.
26, 27	Assist local people having practical skills but lacking qualifications to obtain their certificates and thus increase their employment opportunities.

Exhibit 9-20: Community Liaison Officer EMP Responsibilities

Impact Reference	Mitigation Measures
	Community Water Supply
12	Water for construction will be sourced from authorized abstraction sources agreed upon between the local communities, local government, and EPC contractor.
12	Access of the community to water sources shall be kept clear so that the community's ability to meet its water requirements is not compromised.
12	Support the community in the development of alternate water supply schemes through local NGOs
12	Ensure the availability of water to the communities and the access of the communities to the water resources being used by them is not adversely affected.
14	Close liaison with the community and regular monitoring of the noise levels in the community are key to successful implementation of the above mitigation measures. Specifically: The communities will be informed of all major construction activities at three days in advance. Noise control measures will be discussed with the community through informal and formal meetings.
	Construction Noise
14	A complaint registration, tracking and redressal mechanism will be implemented.
14	Noise levels will be monitored regularly in the community to take timely corrective measures if needed.
14	Inform local communities of the blasting timetable in advance and provide adequate notice of when blasts are required outside of the planned schedule.
	Grievance Procedure
14, 24	Encourage local communities to use the grievance procedure for concerns related to deterioration of local services and environment (including noise)
14, 24	Provide support for the implementation of the PEDO Stakeholder Engagement Plan by:
14, 24	a. maintaining regular communication with local communities and other stakeholders to minimize tensions arising from Project activities;
14, 24	b. maintaining a grievance procedure, and encouraging and facilitate stakeholders to use the mechanism to express concerns; and
14, 24	c. providing sufficient resources to the community relations officers to enable them to monitor negative perceptions and associated tensions, and to address them in a timely fashion.
	Training and Recruitment
26	Coordinate recruitment efforts related to non-skilled labor, including for non-skilled labor positions required by contractors.
27	Support initiatives promoting a culture of learning in local communities.
27	Plan and implement training program for vulnerable groups to encourage their participation in economic opportunities created by the Project.
27	Assist employees and local communities to improve basic personal financial life skills through training and awareness campaigns, respectively.
27	Consider further training programs to prepare retrenched workers to seek employment in sectors not related to dam construction.
	Graveyard Land Acquisition
34	Plaster the graves with mud or cement.
34	If relocation of the graveyard cannot be avoided, it shall be managed through the local religious authorities.

Exhibit 9-21: Project Environmental Manager EMP Responsibilities

Impact Reference	Mitigation Measures
	Community Water Supply
12	Water for construction will be sourced from authorized abstraction sources agreed between the local communities, local government, and EPC contractor.
	Poaching and Wildlife
5,6,7	Encourage personnel to report sightings of wildlife of conservation importance or incidents of poaching to PEDO.
6	Project staff and contractors to report kills of large mammals particularly designated species of conservation concern.
6,7	Regulations for Project staff and contractors to avoid illegal poaching are to be incorporated in contract documents.
6,7	Provide adequate knowledge to the workers on relevant government regulations and punishments for illegal poaching.
	Awareness Training
5,6, 7	Train and raise awareness regarding AIS among Project staff and contractors.
6,7	Provide awareness training to staff and contractors on: prevention of injury of animals; identification of likely species found on site; identifications of animal hazards (such as venomous snakes); and what to do if dangerous animals are encountered.

Exhibit 9-22: PEDO's EMP Responsibilities

Impact Reference	Mitigation Measures
	Ecology
1, 2, 3,4,6,7	Implementation of the BAP (see **Volume C** of the EIA report)
	Community
29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34	Implement the PEDO Stakeholder Engagement Plan, which includes the grievance procedure.
29	Sediment Mining and Management Guidelines will be prepared and implemented as a part of BAP, which will identify possible sand and gravel mining spots along the Kunhar River to meet community needs without harming the river ecology.
24	Support local government in the implementation of infrastructure projects.
24	Support NGOs specializing in the development of infrastructure to assist local government.

Exhibit 9-23: Owner's Engineer EMP Responsibilities

Impact Reference	Mitigation Measures
7	Solid waste should only be disposed of at designated sites.
11	Monitoring records of local springs within 1 km downstream of the Dam Site
11, 12	Maintain records of water release downstream of the river at Dam Site
3, 4	Ensure the release of environmental flow of the river in dry seasons.
17	Develop and implement an emergency response plan.

9.4.2 Specific Environment Management Plans

1083. Nineteen specific management plans that are to be developed to facilitate the implementation of the mitigation measures are detailed in **Exhibit 9-24**. Additional plans may be developed at discretion to further facilitate other areas of mitigation.

1084. It should be noted that these plans (and other required mitigation measures not included within these plans) will be operationalized via Site Specific Environmental Management Plans (SSEMP) that are discussed in detail in **Section 9.5.3**. All construction sites must have an SSEMP prepared by the EPC Contractor and approved by PEDO before any major construction activity is started on the site.

1085. Some of the required plans that have been developed as part of the EIA are described in the following sections.

Exhibit 9-24: Supporting Plans

S/No	Title	Description and Requirements	Responsibility
1	Air Pollution Control Plan	The plan will incorporate mitigation measures described under IR 8 in **Exhibit 9.8.**	EPC Contractor
2	Biodiversity Action Plan	The Study Area for the Project falls in Critical Habitat as defined in the IFC PS6 due to the presence of the endemic and restricted range species the Nalbant's Loach and Kashmir Hillstream Loach. The Project is required to achieve a 'Net Gain' in the population of both species to comply with PS6. There is an increasing threat to river ecology and fish fauna due to increasing levels of illegal fishing and unregulated sand mining in the Project area. The E-Flow assessment of the Project (see **Volume C** of the EIA report) recommended an environmental flow of 1.5 m^3/s downstream of the dam, and the implementation of strict protection measures and management measures to control illegal fishing and regulate sand mining. A Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) has been prepared as a part of the EIA to ensure that the protection measures as assumed in the E-Flow assessment are implemented to protect fish fauna in general and Nalbant's Loach and Kashmir Hillstream Loach, in particular, such that achievement of Net Gain in the populations of these two species is achieved. In addition, management measures triggered by the CIA of the Project and included in the BAP are the establishment of an Institute for Research on River Ecology and a Watershed Management Program (WMP). Together, these are aimed at improving conditions for both aquatic and terrestrial ecology derived from research and development in areas such as captive breeding and restocking, genetic studies, improvements in water quality, afforestation, and land use management, amongst others. The complete plan is presented in the **BAP** in **Volume C** of the EIA report.	As given in BAP

S/No	Title	Description and Requirements	Responsibility
3	Blasting and Explosives Control Plan	The plan will be developed using mitigation measures described under IR 9 and 10 in **Exhibit 9-8.**	EPC Contractor Headrace Tunnel Construction Manager Quarry Area Manager
4	Construction Site Environmental Management Plan	The plan will incorporate mitigation measures for the site.	EPC Contractor All managers for construction sites
5	Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan	This plan will identify emergencies such as fires, landslides, earthquakes, coffer dam failure etc. that could realistically occur and detail the response that is required.	PEDO
6	Environmental Training Plan	This plan will sensitize Project employees on environmental aspects and will incorporate mitigation measures described under IR 5 and, 6 in **Exhibit 9-8..**	Labor Manager Project Environmental Manager
7	Surface Run-Off and Erosion Control Plan	The plan will contain mitigation measures listed under IR 16 in **Exhibit 9-8.**	EPC Contractor
8	Spoil Disposal Plan	Major measures for safe spoil disposal are included in the Project design. The plan will contain these Project design features and additional mitigation measures as listed under IR 17 in **Exhibit 9-8.**	EPC Contractor Disposal Site Manager
9	Noise and Vibration Control Plan	An important feature of effective noise control is regular monitoring in affected communities and a complaint registering and redressal mechanism. Key measures presented in IR 14 in **Exhibit 9-8** should be incorporated into the plan.	Community Liaison Officer
10	Occupational Health and Safety	This plan should seek to meet guidelines followed by ADB, specifically those laid down in the IFC's General EHS Guidelines on Occupational Health and Safety.	Labor Manager
11	Reservoir Clearing Plan	This plan should ensure maximum utilization of cleared material by local communities and limit clearing to where required.	Community Liaison Officer EPC Contractor
12	Sediment Mining and Management Plan	This plan will be based on the guidelines presented in the BAP in **Volume C** of the EIA report.	PEDO
13	Site Rehabilitation and Landscaping Plan	The plan will contain measures listed under IR 18 and 20 in **Exhibit 9-8**	EPC Contractor
14	Spill Prevention and Response Plan	The plan will contain measures listed under IR 13 and 15 in **Exhibit 9-8.**	EPC Contractor
15	Traffic Management Plan	The plan will contain measures listed under IR 22, 23, and 24 in **Exhibit 9-8.**	Transport Fleet Manager
16	Vocational Training Plan	The plan will outline the 'vocational training program' to assist local people to qualify for semi-skilled positions focusing on issues such as procurement, involvement of vulnerable groups in Project opportunities, and continual professional development of staff.	PEDO

S/No	Title	Description and Requirements	Responsibility
17	Waste Management Plan	A waste management plan is a written record of what must be done to achieve the goals you have set for managing construction waste. Where subcontractors have sole responsibility for their waste, they should complete their waste management plan. Each site should have its waste management plan.	All construction site managers especially Construction Camp Manager
18	Water Sourcing and Abstraction Plan	The plan will contain measures listed under IR 12 in both **Exhibit 9-7** and **Exhibit 9-8**.	EPC Contractor
19	Worker Accommodation Management Plan	This plan can draw upon the IFC publication *Workers' accommodation: processes and Standards, A guidance note by the IFC and the EBRD.p*	Labor Manager Construction Camp Managers

9.4.3 Frameworks for Spoil and Quarry Management Plans

1086. The exact location of the quarry and spoil disposal areas will require technical and engineering studies which will be conducted at the detailed engineering stage. Proposed locations for spoil disposal areas are shown in **Section 3.4.2** and a comparison of the impacts of these locations is provided in **Section 7.8.3**. This section provides frameworks for the preparation of the Spoil and Quarry Management Plans. These plans will be prepared for each of the spoil disposal and quarry areas before commencement of quarrying and spoil disposal operations in the construction phase.

9.4.3.1 Spoil Management Plans

1087. This section provides the framework for the development of the Spoil Management Plan (SMP) including the purpose of the plan, mitigation hierarchy, and guidelines for on-site management.

1088. A SMP will be prepared before the commencement of any tunneling works and other works that may generate spoil. The SMP will incorporate detailed information on the handling of spoil generated during construction. It should be consistent with the Traffic Management Plan to allow for ready access to spoil and spoil disposal areas and to avoid disturbance to the non-project traffic.

1089. **Purpose:** The purpose of the SMP is to:

- identify environmental management issues associated with sourcing, handling, transportation, stockpiling, disposal, and reuse of spoil material; and
- document and describe the systems and procedures developed to mitigate environmental impacts specifically to:
  - minimize spoil removal and associated impacts on stakeholders, community, and the environment;
  - maximize the beneficial reuse of spoiled material from the Project; and
- Address the Project objective to provide certainty of delivery by managing spoil in a manner that avoids impacts on construction activities and timing

1090. **Mitigation Hierarchy:** Where feasible and reasonable, spoil should be managed according to the following hierarchy.

- Minimization of spoil generation through design and management.
- Reuse of spoil within the Project.
- Beneficial reuse of spoil outside the Project for environmental and community works.
- Beneficial reuse of spoil outside the Project for site leveling, development, or rehabilitation.
- Disposal of spoil outside the Project for non-beneficial uses (landfilling).

1091. **On-Site Management:** On-site management includes management of stockpiling sites, spoil transport, spoil tracking, and spoil testing for re-use.

1092. **Stockpiles:** On-site management of spoil material stockpiling sites involves planning for stockpiling including selection of stockpiling sites, their accessibility to the road network, management of stockpiles to minimize wind and water erosion, management of stockpiles to minimize dust from exposed surfaces, and management of noise and dust during loading and unloading.

1093. The stockpile sites need to:

- have ready access to the road network;
- be located on leveled land where possible;
- not affect land use of adjacent properties;
- be located in areas so that the erosion control measures can be implemented;
- be located in areas so that flooding does not result in runoff;
- be located in areas such that they do not result in the disturbance of species of conservation importance;
- be positioned in areas where there are minimal visual, noise, and vibration impacts anticipated on nearby residents;
- be located within the Project approved boundary;
- be located in areas such that they do not affect cultural heritage;
- ensure land care and avoid loss of habitat and spread of invasive plant species;
- avoid flooding of trees and waterlogging of soils;
- have contaminated materials stockpiled separately;
- have erosion and sedimentation controls in place; and
- be subjected to regular inspection.

1094. **Spoil Transport:** The following need to be considered for spoil transport.

- Spoil transport/haulage routes should be identified, assessed and if necessary upgraded.
- Haulage routes should be assessed and if necessary upgraded.
- The routes should be selected to minimize impacts on sensitive receptors including people, ecology, and the landscape.
- Transport should be undertaken with minimization of noise and dust.

1095. **Spoil Tracking:** A spoil tracking system should be developed which should include fields such as:

- Date
- Docket Number
- Haulage Company (if other than EPC Contractor)
- Material Classification
- Quantity in Tonnes to be Transported
- Truck Identification Number
- Location of Spoil Generation Site
- Location of Spoil Receival Site

1096. **Spoil Testing:** It is necessary to determine if the waste material is hazardous or non-hazardous and whether or not it requires any special treatment before disposal or re-use. Spoil testing before re-use is important to answer questions such as the following.

- Are manufactured chemicals or process residues present?
- Are sulfidic ores or soil present?
- Are naturally occurring asbestos soils present?
- Is there any other waste present?

9.4.3.2 Quarry Management Plans

1097. Quarrying involves the removal, haulage, processing, stockpiling, and distribution of rock products. Planning a site for quarrying must take account of geological, environmental, and engineering parameters. Rehabilitation and post-quarry land use options must also be considered in planning and developing a quarry.

1098. The framework for the Quarry Management Plan (QMP) includes its environmental objectives, major activities, key management areas, rehabilitation, and site selection guidelines.

1099. **Environmental Objectives:** The environmental objectives of the QMP are to:

- protect water quality;
- reduce the potential for erosion and sedimentation;
- protect the general amenity of the site and surrounding area;
- protect the acoustic environment and surrounding residences to minimize disturbance to people;
- protect air quality;
- ensure land care and avoid loss of habitat and spread of invasive plant species;
- minimize waste and control waste disposal; and
- avoid complaints from the community

1100. **Major Activities:** The major activities of the QMP include:

- demarcation of the area to be quarried;

- an indication of final contours and floor levels including the proposals for the coordination of final levels of adjoining land;
- proposed ultimate drainage of quarried lands and include any water consents that it may be necessary to obtain;
- an indication of the period over which quarrying will continue, and of staged development;
- provision for the disposal and/or stockpiling of overburden, waste, and quarried material, including the area to be used for stockpiling;
- areas for stockpiling topsoil (where applicable);
- provision for screening unsightly features from public view and fencing dangerous or potentially dangerous features;
- description of methods to be employed to prevent contamination of air or natural water and to comply with the noise and vibration provisions of these rules;
- description of methods to be employed to maintain the impact of sensitive ecological resources as identified in the EIA within acceptable limits:
- an indication of the route by which quarried material is to be removed from the lot;
- provision for the progressive restoration of the lot such that the land will be left in such condition that is suitable for the establishment of those uses to which that land may subsequently be put; and
- description of methods to be employed to avoid, remediate, or mitigate any adverse effects of quarrying operations on identified significant places and areas.

1101. **Kye Management Areas:** The following are the key management areas.

- Noise Management
- Stormwater Management
- Air Quality Management
- Traffic Management
- Blasting Management
- Landcare Management
- Oil, Grease, Fuel and Chemical Management
- Ecological Management (if resources of concern exist as identified in the ecological baseline in the EIA or Biodiversity Management Plan)
- Community Relations Management
- Waste Management
- Rehabilitation Management

1102. **Rehabilitation:** Rehabilitation is an essential component of quarry planning and development. Good planning before the commencement of quarrying greatly assists in the management of environmental impacts and provides for efficient operations.

1103. The principal objectives of rehabilitation and landscaping at the proposed quarry will be:

- to reduce the potential for erosion;
- to protect and enhance visual screening;
- to protect the general amenity of the area both during and subsequent to extractive operations;
- to ensure a safe and stable landform;
- to ensure self-sustaining vegetation;
- to protect and enhance the wildlife habitat of the site;
- to improve and maintain habitats in buffer areas surrounding the quarry; and
- to ensure a sustainable post-extraction land use

1104. **Site Selection Guidelines:** The location of the quarry and processing plant needs to be done to maximize noise and dust attenuation as well as visual impact. Careful site selection will:

- reduce the potential environmental impacts and consequently, the need for impact mitigation and ongoing management measures
- reduce levels of public controversy
- avoid potential delays in the approval process.

1105. Principles of the site selection for quarry proposals consideration must be given to whether:

- the land use is permissible;
- environmentally sensitive areas are avoided;
- the use is compatible with nearby land uses; and
- initial site investigations indicate whether the site is fundamentally suitable for a quarry or not

1106. The following steps are recommended for site selection:

- describing the socio-environmental conditions of each site and identifying potential impacts;
- constructing a comparative matrix to evaluate relative site characteristics concerning physical, ecological, and socioeconomic factors; and
- selecting the most suitable site based on the above factors and with stakeholder participation.

1107. Details of the factors that need to be considered for the physical, ecological, and socioeconomic environment are as follows:

Physical Environment

- accessibility by heavy transport vehicles;
- being, or having the potential to be, well-drained;
- resulting in minimal soil loss and erosion;
- not degrading water quality in waterways and aquifers;
- stable enough to attenuate noise and vibration levels;

- screened to minimize dust pollution;
- being restorable to a suitable condition.

1108. Key questions include:

- are the rainfall patterns or prevailing wind directions likely to cause management difficulties?
- are the local climatic conditions (e.g. air movement, rainfall) in combination with the topography likely to result in microclimatic conditions that will adversely increase impacts on the community?
- are there any site constraints that make on-site water management difficult (including both process water and stormwater)?
- are there risks of surface water pollution because of the proximity or pathways to waterbodies?
- can any required separation distances from waterbodies under any existing legislation or guidelines be complied with?
- are there risks of groundwater pollution because of shallow or rising groundwater tables, proximity to groundwater recharge areas, or areas with a high vulnerability to pollution?
- is the site susceptible to flooding?
- are there any topographic or geological characteristics that will cause difficulties in managing impacts (subsidence, slippage, seismic)?
- are the soils highly erodible? Identify any potential sediment management problems;
- are there existing soil problems e.g. contaminated soils, acid sulfate or saline soils?
- can the standard and capacity of the road network accommodate traffic likely to be generated by the proposal?
- can truck traffic avoid residential areas, hospitals, schools, and commercial areas?
- if inadequacies exist, can the road network or traffic management be changed to minimize any impacts, particularly in residential areas?

Ecology

- maintenance of the quality, structure, and functioning of important natural and sensitive ecosystems;
- minimizing impacts on species populations and biodiversity

1109. Key questions include:

- is there sufficient separation from environmentally sensitive areas such as national parks, nature reserves, wetlands, and protection zones?
- can clearing of natural vegetation be avoided?
- can clearing of vegetation of high significance be avoided e.g. vegetation used for visual screening, riparian vegetation, vegetation used as corridors for the movement of fauna?

- are threatened flora or fauna species, populations, and ecological communities or their habitats liked to be affected?

Socioeconomic Environment

- Community Infrastructure
- public goods and services
- aquifers used by local communities
- recreation
- community activities
- aesthetics
- quality of life
- open space and community amenity

1110. Key questions include:

- is the proposal likely to be compatible with surrounding existing or proposed land uses, particularly any residential, special uses (such as schools, hospitals, community buildings), and any sites of outstanding natural or environmental value?
- is there likely to be a problem in meeting sustained compliance with dust, noise, or water quality requirements due to the proximity and nature of nearby land uses?
- is the proposal likely to pose health risks?
- Is the proposal likely to affect the heritage of significance?
- Is the site highly visible?
- Will there be significant visual impacts?

9.5 Implementation Plan

1111. Effective implementation and functioning of the EMP depends on adequate human and financial resources, clearly defined responsibilities for environmental management, appropriate training, and good communication. An outline of how these features will be managed for the Project is presented below.

9.5.1 Contractual Requirements

1112. PEDO will ensure that:

i. EMP is included in the bidding package for the EPC Contractor;

ii. during the bid evaluation the environmental performance of the bidders is taken into consideration;

iii. environmental costs are included in the financial bid of the bidders;

iv. the environmental requirements are included in the contract of the selected EPC Contractor. Any conditions of the environmental clearance from the KP EPA and any subsequent licenses and approvals from KP EPA are also included in the environmental requirements for the contractors; and

v. the contract of the selected EPC Contractor provides for withholding payment for completion of specific works until E&S requirements for those works have been implemented satisfactorily, and penalties for unsatisfactory performance.

9.5.2 Design

1113. The approving authority for the detailed design will:

- Ensure that all environmental aspects are communicated to the EPC;
- The detailed design includes the environmental design;

9.5.3 Site-Specific Environmental Management Plans

1114. EPC's Contractor's managers during the construction phase will operationalize their responsibilities described in **Section 9.4** (*Mitigation and Management Plan*) by developing Site Specific Environmental Management Plans (SSEMP). These will be applied to the actual site where construction activities will occur. Ideally, the preparation of the SSEMP must occur before the contractor is given access to the project site. However, it can be prepared after the access is given but certainly *before* the initiation of site clearance and any major site construction or erection work. At a minimum, the following sites should have an SSEMP prepared separately or a combined SSEMP should be prepared for all of them:

- Dam Site
- Powerhouse Site
- Headrace Tunnel site
- Tailrace Tunnel site
- Waste Dump Areas
- Quarry Areas
- Workshops
- Batching Plants
- Labour Camp

1115. Some of these sites, such as the headrace tunnel may require multiple SSEMPs to cover the entire spatial extent of the development.

1116. All contract documents must include the requirement that SSEMPs be prepared by the contractor, reviewed by PEDO and OE, and approved by ADB before the commencement of construction activities.

1117. The preparation of SSEMP contains the following steps which shall be followed.

- Definition of boundaries
- Identification of environmental values and sensitive receptors of the site and its surrounds
- Definition of construction activities
- Assignment of environmental management measures
- Preparation of site plans
- Preparation of environment work plans

9.5.3.1 Definition of Boundaries

1118. **Definition of Boundaries:** For megaprojects with multiple construction sites, such as a hydropower scheme, there may be several SSEMPs for each site. A hydropower scheme would need to have SSEMPs covering works at the dam site, the powerhouse, the switchyard, the downstream channel, headrace and tailrace tunnels, the intake structures, quarries that supply aggregate, the waste disposal areas, contractor's camps, equipment yards, workers' accommodations, etc. Generally, areas falling under the jurisdiction of a construction manager should have a separate SSEMP. Alternatively, all these plans should be part of SSEMP if prepared one for the entire Project.

1119. **Identification of Sensitive Receptors:** Once the boundaries of a site to be covered by an SSEMP have been defined, the sensitive receptors surrounding the site and the environmental values of the area need to be confirmed.

1120. Areas that can be considered sensitive receptors include:

- forested area;
- water bodies;
- communities (including schools, hospitals, homes);
- agricultural areas;

1121. The physical, ecological, and socioeconomic baselines in **Section 4**, "*Description of the Environment"* provide the necessary details. The information is best presented as an overlay on the detailed engineering drawings or maps for the project.

1122. **Construction Activities:** A schedule of works for the project will have been prepared during the detailed design phase. It is important to understand what the various phases of work are for each site, as different phases will include different activities and thus different environmental management requirements. In this simplified example, the construction of a bridge across a river could have the following schedule of work.

- Site surveying, vegetation clearance
- Site establishment
- Soil stripping and earth movement
- Bridge construction
- Grading approaches
- Surfacing
- Painting and finishing structures
- Landscaping and signage

1123. The planning of the environmental management requirements for the bridge must ensure that the necessary environmental management activities take place at the right time. For example, the site survey should markup areas of vegetation to be removed, trees that must be saved, and the locations of any species of importance. Soil stripping will need to be accompanied by the introduction of erosion-control measures to prevent sediment from entering the river. The concrete pouring and filling of the bridge abutments will require a large number of vehicle movements, so it may be necessary to develop a traffic management plan

to ensure that the vehicles don't disrupt traffic on existing roads. If there are sensitive receptors nearby, there may be a requirement to limit working hours that will require a change in the work schedule. These measures are easy to plan for, but very hard to introduce once the project has started. This, again, emphasizes the need for effective planning of environmental management measures.

1124. **Section 9.4** (*Mitigation and Management Plan*) provides a list of required mitigation measures that must be incorporated into the relevant SSEMPs.

1125. **Site Plan:** A site plan must cover the extent of the construction activity and should contain:

- location and nature of planned work;
- locations of sensitive receptors; and
- locations of required mitigation activities.

1126. Other important features may include:

- indication of North, and scale;
- existing and planned supporting infrastructure (e.g., access roads, water supplies, electricity supplies, etc.);
- contours; and
- drainage systems.

1127. **Work Plan:** The completed SSEMP provides details of all the environmental management requirements for all stages of the construction process. For individual work teams responsible for only a small part of the overall construction work, it can be hard to understand what is required for their particular work components. For example, the work team responsible for stripping soil for the construction areas is not going to be interested in the requirements for pouring concrete for footings and foundations. However, the soil stripping team must know exactly what to clear, what to leave, and where to put stockpiles of soil for later use.

1128. When different work activities are required at different times or different locations, environmental work plans can be prepared. These are similar to the work method statements often produced for major construction projects.

9.5.4 Site Inspection

1129. Site inspections will be undertaken regularly in relevant areas of the Project. The inspections will focus on compliance with the EMP. The inspections will play an important role in increasing awareness of EMP.

1130. Minor non-conformances will be discussed during the inspection and recorded as a finding in the inspection report. Major non-conformances will be reported as incidents. Inspection results will be disclosed at management meetings.

9.5.5 Non-conformance and Incidents

1131. Non-conformances include the following:

- exceedances of relevant thresholds as identified during routine monitoring;
- non-conformances with the requirements of the EMP or supporting documentation identified during an internal inspection;
- non-conformances identified during an audit or by regulatory authorities;
- events, such as spills, resulting in potential or actual environmental harm;
- events that did or could result in injury to staff, visitors to the site or surrounding communities; and
- significant complaints or grievances received from any source.

1132. Corrective and preventive actions will be identified and implemented in response to these non-conformances. These actions will address the root cause of the non-conformance and will reduce or prevent repeated non-conformances.

1133. A process will be established for the identification, investigation, and tracking of non-conformances, including:

- prioritizing and classifying non-conformances based on the type and severity of the non-conformance;
- recording of non-conformances and the results of corrective and/or preventive actions, including the actions necessary to mitigate or remedy any associated impacts;
- defining results expected from the corrective and/or preventative actions;
- confirming the corrective and/or preventive actions taken to eliminate the causes of the non-conformance are appropriate to the magnitude of the problem and commensurate with the impacts encountered;
- reviewing the effectiveness of the corrective and/or preventive actions taken; and
- implementing and recording required changes in the EMP or monitoring program resulting from corrective and preventive action.

1134. Serious non-conformances will be classified as incidents. Incidents will be promptly reported to appropriate management. A guideline will be prepared on:

- the types of incidents reportable to internal management at the site, Project, and corporate levels, as well as to regulatory authorities and other external stakeholders; and
- standards to be observed when reporting incidents.

1135. During construction, environmental monitoring will ensure the protection of air and noise pollution, community relations, and safety provisions. During operation, emissions, air, noise, and wastewater quality monitoring and greenbelt development around the plant will be important parameters of the monitoring program.

1136. The monitoring requirement can only be fulfilled by maintaining the proper documentation records of the findings. Daily checklists, weekly reports, and monthly audits will be taken in accordance with the construction management plan. Based on the EIA

approval a scheduled audit will be conducted by the PEDO and reports will be shared with the regulatory authority and funding agency if required.

9.5.6 Audits

1137. Formal audits will be undertaken at planned intervals in accordance with the requirements of the client and regulatory authorities. Procedures for audits will be established, implemented, and maintained. These will cover the audit criteria, scope, frequency, and methods, and will address the responsibilities and requirements for planning and conducting audits, reporting results, and retaining associated records.

1138. Any negative findings arising from an audit will be treated as an incident and dealt with in accordance with the non-conformance and incident procedure. Results from audits and evaluations of compliance with legal requirements will be reported to site and senior management and subject to management reviews. Usually, environmental regulatory authorities require a quarterly audit report for large-scale projects.

1139. The following audits will be carried out:

- Labor
- Health and Safety
- Environment

9.6 Monitoring Plan

1140. Monitoring of environmental components and mitigation measures during implementation and operation stages is a key component of the EMP to safeguard the protection of the environment. The objectives of the monitoring are to:

- manage environmental issues arising from construction works through closely monitoring evidence for implementation of the mitigation measures and environmental compliance; and
- monitor changes in the environment during various stages of the Project life cycle with respect to baseline conditions.

1141. A monitoring mechanism is developed for identified impact and includes:

- location of the monitoring (near the Project activity, sensitive receptors, or within the Project influence area);
- means of monitoring, i.e. parameters of monitoring and methods of monitoring (visual inspection, consultations, interviews, surveys, field measurements, or sampling and analysis); and
- frequency of monitoring (daily, weekly, monthly, seasonally, annually or during implementation of a particular activity).

1142. The monitoring program will include regular monitoring of construction and commissioning activities for their compliance with the environmental requirements as per relevant standards, specifications, and EMP. The purpose of such monitoring is to assess the performance of the undertaken mitigation measures and to immediately formulate additional mitigation measures and/or modify the existing ones aimed at meeting environmental compliance as appropriate during construction.

1143. The monitoring program will be coupled with a series of supporting procedures, yet to be developed, covering:

- sample or data collection;
- sample handling, sample storage, and preservation;
- sample or data documentation;
- quality control;
- data reliability (calibration of instruments, test equipment, and software and hardware sampling);
- data storage and backup, and data protection;
- interpretation and reporting of results; and
- verification of monitoring information by qualified and experienced external experts.

9.6.1 Specific Monitoring Plan

1144. Environmental monitoring and reporting plans for the construction and operation phases are provided in

1145. **Exhibit 9-21**. Moreover, each supporting plan (as described in **Section 9.4**) includes monitoring and documentation requirements; the same is also true of the SSEMP (as described in **Section 9.5.3**). Therefore, the monitoring plan will also contain the requirements of these additional plans once they have been developed.

1146. The monitoring framework for biodiversity is presented in **Section 9** (*Monitoring and Evaluation Framework*) in the BAP in **Volume C** of the EIA report.

9.6.2 Documentation and Reporting

1147. Monitoring elements of the EMP will be documented and controlled in accordance with a document control system by the OE and communicated to PEDO. Records demonstrating compliance with legal requirements and conformance with the EMP will also be maintained. PEDO through its OE will supervise, establish, implement and maintain procedures.

1148. Documentation and record-keeping controls will include:

- measures to enable relevant documents and records to be readily available and identifiable (labeled, dated, and properly filed), legible, and protected from damage;
- review, revision, and approval of documents for adequacy by authorized personnel at least once a year;
- establishment of the electronic document control version as the ‘authorized version’;
- making current versions of relevant documents available at locations where operations are essential to the effective functioning;
- suitably identifying obsolete documents retained for legal and knowledge preservation purposes; and
- identification and segregation of confidential and privileged information.

1149. Monitoring data will be documented and analyzed to determine temporal and spatial trends and confirm compliance with relevant thresholds. Monitoring reports will be produced to meet internal and external reporting requirements. If monitoring results indicate non-conformance with stipulated thresholds or if a significant deteriorating trend is observed, it will be recorded as a non-conformance and handled by the non-conformance and incident procedure. The following reports will be produced.

- Based on reports provided by the Construction Contractor as listed in **Exhibit 9-25**, quarterly and annual reports will be reviewed by OE/PEDO for monitoring of the physical and social environment and shared with the KPEPA.
- Reports for the biological environment will be produced under the frameworks provided in the BAP.
- Monitoring of NTDC's implementation of mitigation measures as described in the EIA of transmission lines will be carried out as part of the monitoring activities of the EMP.

Exhibit 9-25: Environmental Monitoring Program for Construction and Operation

Aspect	Type of monitoring	Frequency of Monitoring	Location/s	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring and implementation Responsibility	Report Preparation Responsibility	Report Receiving Authority
Construction Phase							
Soil Quality	Visual inspection for any oil and lubricant spills and leakages in the construction area and the presence of oil in the drains at the construction site	Daily	Construction area and drains at the construction site	Monthly report during construction	EPC Contractor, OE, PEDO	EPC Contractor	PEDO, OE and EPA, KP
Soil Erosion	Visual inspection of soil erosion and land sliding, especially in the wet season	Once a month in the dry season. Once a week in the wet season.	Construction sites, rehabilitated areas, and water release points	Monthly report during construction	EPC Contractor, OE, PEDO	EPC Contractor	PEDO, OE and EPA, KP
Waste Disposal	Inspection of waste disposal areas and channels	Weekly	Waste disposal sites,	Quarterly report during construction	EPC Contractor, OE, PEDO	EPC Contractor	PEDO, OE and EPA, KP
Water Resource Depletion	Record of water used and source of water supply for construction, sprinkling, and camp	Daily	Construction sites, truck filling points, and water tanks at camp.	Quarterly report during construction	EPC Contractor, OE, PEDO	EPC Contractor	PEDO and EPA, KP
Community Water Supplies	Monitor flow for springs identified as at risk from tailrace construction.	Monthly	Identified springs in communities.	Quarterly report during construction	EPC Contractor, OE, PEDO	EPC Contractor	PEDO and EPA, KP
Fugitive Dust Emissions	Air quality sampling at social receptors in case any complaints regarding excessive particulate matter in ambient air are received.	As required, in case complaints are received	Social receptors	Report as required, in case complaints are received	EPC Contractor, OE, PEDO	EPC Contractor	PEDO and EPA, KP
Vehicular and Machinery Exhaust Emissions	Visual checks of exhaust emissions from vehicles and batching plant machinery to ensure excess pollutants are not being released	Monthly	Construction sites and batching plant location	Quarterly	EPC Contractor, OE, PEDO	EPC Contractor	PEDO and EPA, KP

Aspect	Type of monitoring	Frequency of Monitoring	Location/s	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring and implementation Responsibility	Report Preparation Responsibility	Report Receiving Authority
Noise Nuisance	Monitoring of the noise levels in the nearest communities against the baseline noise conditions	Once a month and when a complaint is received	Nearest settlements or areas for which complaint is received	Quarterly	EPC Contractor, OE, PEDO	EPC Contractor	PEDO and EPA, KP
Traffic	Random speed checks and inspections and investigations in case of complaints by community	Once a month and in case complaints are received	Different locations and different time	Quarterly	EPC Contractor, OE, PEDO	EPC Contractor	PEDO and EPA, KP
Distribution of Project Employment	When the complaint is received or an issue observed	When a complaint is received	Construction site, camp, and nearby villages	Monthly	EPC Contractor, OE, PEDO	EPC Contractor	PEDO and EPA, KP
Social Unrest due to Conflicting Social Norms	When the complaint is received or an issue observed	When a complaint is received	Construction site, camp, and nearby villages	Monthly	EPC Contractor, OE, PEDO	EPC Contractor	PEDO and EPA, KP
Operation Phase							
Waste Disposal	Inspection of waste disposal areas and channels	Weekly	Dam and Powerhouse sites	Quarterly report	O&M Contractor	O&M	PEDO, and EPA, KP
Environmental Flow	A continuous record of downstream release into the river by dam	Continuous	Dam site	Quarterly report	O&M Contractor	O&M	PEDO, and EPA, KP
Biodiversity Action Plan	As described in BAP	As described in BAP Monitoring is to start at least one year before the start of construction. BAP is to be initiated before the financial close	As described in BAP	As described in BAP	As described in BAP	As described in BAP	As described in BAP

9.7 Roles and Responsibilities of Key Staff

1150. To be effective, this EMP must be viewed as a tool reflecting the contractor's and sub-contractors' overall commitment to environmental protection. This must start at the most senior levels in the organization. Contractor management must provide strong and visible leadership to promote a culture in which all employees share a commitment to environmental awareness and protection. The following are commitments to be achieved by the highest position in Pakistan from PEDO.

- Putting environmental matters high on the agenda of meetings.
- Highlighting the importance of environmental issues in relation to the HSE considerations in business decisions and communication with stakeholders.
- Evaluating environmental aspects, before final decisions are reached.
- Being fully aware of the main environmental hazards associated with the Contractor and Sub Contractor activities and the systems, procedures, and field practices in place to manage these hazards.
- Immediately and visibly responding and being involved in investigating incidents or other abnormal events related to environmental and HS issues.
- Seeking internal and external views on environmental issues; and recognizing their achievement.

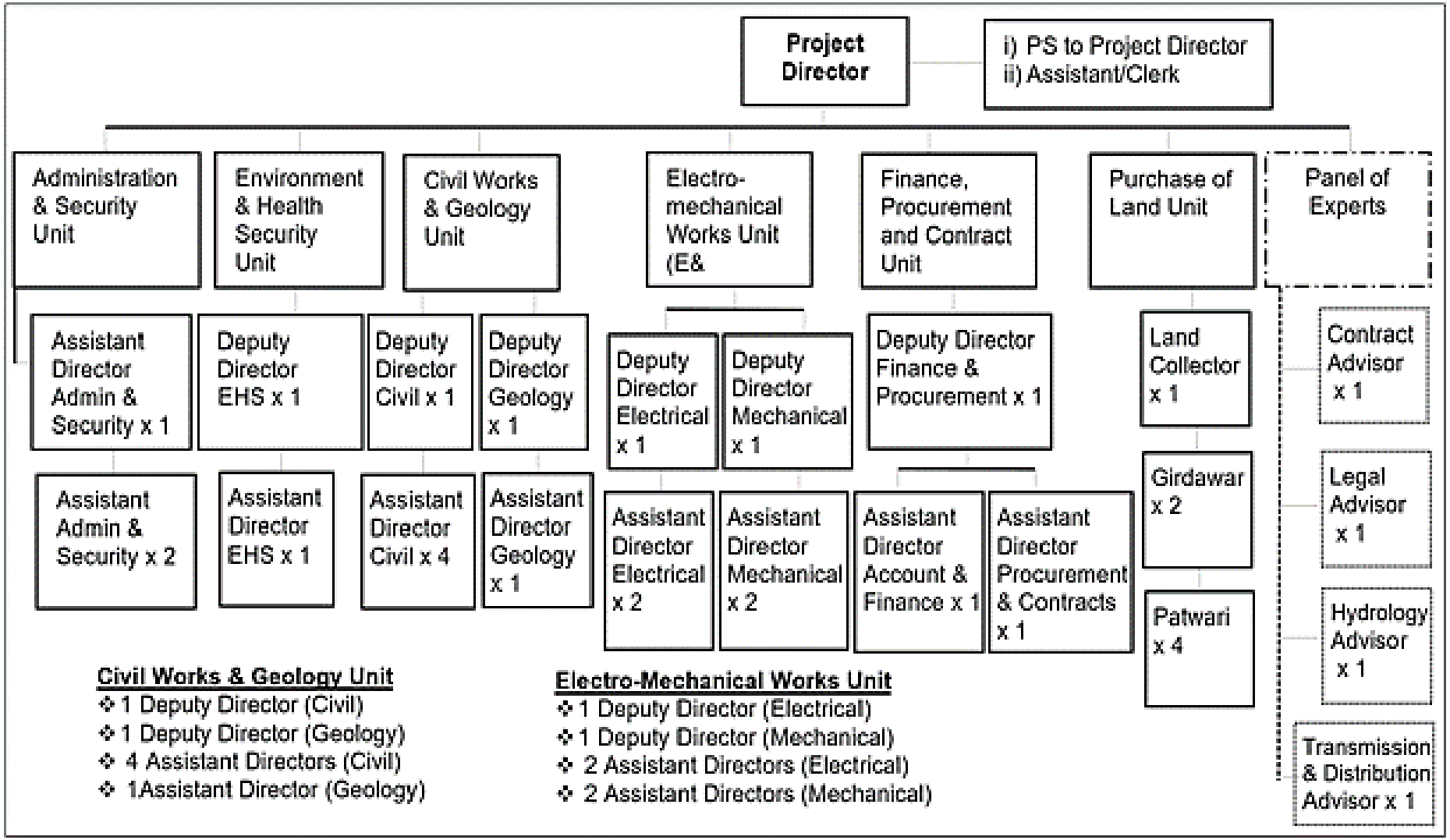
1151. The organizational setup of PEDO for implementation of the EMP is provided in **Exhibit 9-26**. Key roles and responsibilities are described below.

9.7.1 PEDO

1152. With overall responsibility for the Project, PEDO will:

- prepare the ESMS and implement the ESMS and EMP;
- minimize any impact the Project may have on the environment through preparation of this EIA (as being carried out in the design stage);
- appoint responsible contractors who will comply with this EIA;
- approve environmentally safe materials for use on-site in accordance with the EIA'
- ensure all relevant parties receive a copy of the approved EIA and that it is incorporated into all contractual documentation;
- obtain the relevant environmental permits, consents, and authorizations before commencing site works; and
- comply with all requirements of EPA, and KP and obtain NOCs related to the Project;

Exhibit 9-26: Organizational Setup of PEDO for EMP Implementation



9.7.2 Owner's Engineer

1153. Hiring an owner's engineer (OE) in the power industry is a practice that has been considered a standard for the last two decades.[154] The OE is a person or, more appropriately, a team of experts that serves as an independent advocate for the owner. The OE plays a supporting but very critical role as he is the technically trained eyes and ears of the project proponents in the field. It is expected that an OE will also be hired for the Project construction and commissioning phases. The specific roles and responsibilities of the OE will be defined in their contract. Typically, there are several important environmental roles that the OE can undertake on behalf of PEDO.

1154. In general, the following types of tasks can be assigned to the OE:

- prepare technical specifications for the design of environmental elements;
- approval of technical design developed by the EPC Contractor of environmental elements of the Project;
- review and approval of SSEMP;
- environmental Monitoring; and
- review of the environmental monitoring reports and data produced by EPC.

1155. Some role for the OE is suggested in this document. However, before commencement of construction, a formal agreement will be reached between PEDO and the OE on the latter's environmental role and responsibility.

9.7.3 Construction Contractor

1156. The Construction Contractor will prepare a 'Construction Management Plan' (CMP) demonstrating how they will comply with the requirements of mitigation measures proposed in the EMP. After completion of the Construction Contractor's contract, PEDO will be in charge of the operation and maintenance of the Project and will be responsible for compliance with the monitoring plan during operations. The Construction Contractor's general responsibilities will be to:

- ensure the implementation of the EIA/EMP throughout construction works by all contractor personnel and subcontractors;
- ensure that adequate resources are available to implement the requirements of this EMP;
- undertake quarterly environmental audits and report to PEDO on a regular basis;
- to coordinate with PEDO for all correspondence to KPEPA;
- prepare a comprehensive legislation list and ensure compliance with these legislations.

9.7.4 Sub-Contractors

1157. Any Sub-Contractor hired directly or indirectly by the Construction Contractor to carry out Project-related tasks will be designated as a sub-contractor. It will be the responsibility of those sub-contractors, whose activities have at least one interface with identified key environmental aspects, to comply with the EIA at all times. They must also designate sufficient

154 http://www.powermag.com/who-needs-an-owners-engineer/

competent resources to ensure all Sub-Contractor personnel receive the required training. Sub-contractors directly in charge of activities shall be registered and approved. Registration documentation will be provided to PEDO before commencement of any activities. Sub-contractors will be expected to demonstrate proactive behavior towards environmental concerns. It will be their responsibility to provide information requested by PEDO with regard to their scope of activities and to demonstrate compliance with the applicable environmental requirements.

9.7.5 PEDO Personnel

1158. **Project Director:** The Project Director (PD) will manage and superintend all office and site activities for the implementation of the Project. About the EIA and implementation of ESMS and EMP, the PD's responsibilities will include:

- overall responsibility for ensuring implementation of the EMP in compliance with all legal matters regarding the Project;
- development and establishment of adequate Environmental, Safety, and Quality Management teams, who will ensure the development, communication, and implementation of this EIA across the entire Project, including all activities being undertaken by subcontractors and suppliers working on the site, and all personnel visiting the site;
- ensure that the sub-contractor has hired an environmental team to address environmental requirements in accordance with the EIA;
- develop and establish an organizational structure adequate to oversee the whole of the works, including overseeing the appointment of an appropriate qualified HSE Manager and Environmental Manager;
- ensure that adequate resources are available to implement the requirements of this EIA;
- ensure the EIA is reviewed regularly to correspond with ongoing construction activities;
- coordinate with government agencies and bodies regularly to discuss the Project's construction environmental issues and requirements;
- attend regular meetings with the Manager EHS and CSR to discuss the site's environmental issues and requirements.

1159. **Deputy Director Civil:** The deputy director civil will primarily perform the following tasks.

- Taking primary responsibility for all activities on site, including those undertaken by direct or indirectly employed personnel or agencies.
- Ensuring the issue of suitable procedures for the definition of working methods and site regulations that take into consideration the requirements within the EIA.
- Ensuring that construction and erection works are performed in respect of the EIA requirements.

- Attending regular meetings to discuss the site's environmental issues and requirements.

1160. **Deputy Director EHS:** The Deputy Director EHS manages and supervises the Project activities relating to health, safety, and the environment. Following are some of the major responsibilities of the Deputy Director EHS.

- The overall responsibility for the development and implementation of the Project HSE policy/philosophy.
- Coordinating weekly HSE meetings, during which any environmental issues will be discussed and recorded.
- Reviewing and ensuring the implementation of Contingency and Emergency Response Procedures.
- Providing specialized HSE input into engineering, construction, and contracts, ensuring requirements are properly integrated into project planning, design criteria, construction plans specifications, and contracts
- Supporting/leading incident investigations as per project procedure and reporting to all concerned. Follow up and review the corrective and preventive action taken, and close out the incidences.
- Conducting HSE inspections of project construction activities and monitoring compliance with requirements including contractual commitments, permits, and project HSE plan and other applicable HSE requirements and ensuring that the Project HSE inspection plan is implemented.
- Ensuring that all internal as well as external incidents and complaints are appropriately resolved with all applicable forms and records duly filled and maintained.
- Coordinating and organizing regular meetings with the Project Director, Construction Manager, and Environmental Manager to discuss the site's HSE issues and requirements.
- Coordinating the environmental activities with the higher management from time to time.
- Coordinating with the KPEPA, other regulatory authorities, and stakeholders on environmental issues related to the construction of the Project.
- Monitoring construction activities and performance to ensure compliance with the EIA and the effectiveness of control measures adopted.
- Ensuring that no works are carried out outside the construction corridor as defined in the EIA, especially within the protected areas (e.g. forests).
- Ensuring the issue and updating of the Project's environmental plans.
- Coordinating Project document review activities from an environmental standpoint, assuring that the execution of these activities is compatible with the development of the Project and reporting any discrepancies between the environmental requirements and other Project objectives to the Project Director.

- Supplying essential information for the preparation of the environmental control plan for construction.
- Updating KPEPA, regularly on construction information.
- Coordinate the development of environmental monitoring data relevant to construction activities.
- Performing environmental checks and monthly internal audits of onsite activities, in coordination with the HSE Manager.
- Supporting the higher management in relations with the governmental agencies and with the KPEPA on environmental matters.
- Implementing the environmental requirements of the project management system including inspection and reporting.
- Monitoring construction activities and performance to ensure compliance with the Construction Management Plan and the effectiveness of control measures adopted.
- Developing and implementing the environmental training program.
- Conducting staff environmental training, inductions, and Tool Box Talks (TBT).
- Communicate with internal and external parties as required.
- Coordinating daily and weekly site inspections and approving the associated environmental inspection report.
- Reviewing daily and weekly checklists to ensure that appropriate recording of site activities and observations.
- Preparing the monthly environmental reports, quarterly performance reports, and incident reports.
- Reporting of any environmental incidents to the higher management.
- Ensuring that major environmental incidents are reported to KPEPA within a maximum of 3 days.
- Participating in environmental management reviews.
- Reviewing environmental monitoring data.
- Raise non-conformance and issue CAPs reports in coordination with the EHS Manager (PEDO).
- Ascertaining that effective measures and relevant actions are undertaken to avoid or minimize adverse environmental impacts.
- Attending regular meetings with the PD and staff to discuss the site's environmental issues and requirements.
- Ensuring that all internal as well as external environmental incidents, emergencies, and complaints are appropriately resolved with all applicable forms and records duly filled and maintained.
- Regular reviewing of environmental plans and procedures to assess compliance and recommend revisions, where required.

- Review reports provided by the Construction Contractor and submit periodic reports to KPEPA.
- Review BAP reports and submit them to the Management Committee for BAP and to KPEPA.

9.8 Change Management and Document Control

1161. It is possible that some changes in Project design will be required at the time of Project implementation. These can include changes to:

- operations and infrastructure;
- new developments (such as an expansion);
- personnel and the Company;
- legislation; and
- project baseline environmental conditions (such as a new settlement established near Project infrastructure).

1162. These changes could result in changes to the significance of environmental and social impacts and risks. This may necessitate updates to existing authorizations/ permits, changes to the ESMS, which may have to be approved by regulatory authorities, and general changes to the ESMS framework.

1163. The Change Management System recognizes three orders of changes:

1164. **First Order:** A first-order change leads to a significant departure from the project and consequently requires a reassessment of the environmental impacts. A new environmental assessment will be conducted and a revised EIA or IEE for updates will be submitted to the KPEPA for a first-order change in the project.

1165. **Second Order:** A second-order change may result in different project impacts, although the overall magnitude of project impacts would be similar to those assessed in this report. The required action for such changes is to reassess the impact of the activity on the environment and report it to the KPEPA.

1166. **Third Order:** A third-order change or uncertainty is of little consequence to the EIA and IEE findings. In case such a change is made, the only action necessary will be to make the required changes in the EMMP (Construction or Operations) to reflect how the change has been dealt with.

1167. Changes will not be made without the required authorizations/ permits in place. The measures identified as necessary to mitigate impacts and risks will be implemented. The various elements of the ESMS will be modified as required in response to the change.

1168. A procedure specifically for changes to the policy/s, ESMS, underlying management plans, and supporting documentation will be established. This will detail:

- how the changes are to be recorded;
- who has responsibility for overseeing changes and checking that they do not conflict with any planning conditions or other obligations;
- the process of review and sign off in response to changes; and

- how changes to the ESMS and underlying and associated plans should be communicated internally and externally.

9.9 Cost Estimate

1169. The cost estimate for EMP implementation is presented in **Exhibit 9-27**. It is separated into costs to be borne by PEDO and the Construction Contractor.

1170. The cost estimates for control measures and some of the mitigation measures that were already part of the design are not included in the EMP. Also, the cost given herein doesn't include the land acquisition cost which has separately been estimated under the Project LARP.

Exhibit 9-27: Summary of Cost Estimates for EMP and BAP in USD to be borne by PEDO and EPC Contractor

No	Item	Note	Construction Phase			Operation Phase (Annual)
			Capital	Recurring (Annual)	Total (years) 6.5	
1	**Biodiversity Action Plan**		**1,087,576**	**134,387**	**873,516**	**268,492**
1.1	Protection		656,380	32,814	213,291	32,814
1.2	Monitoring and Evaluation of Protection		120,000			18,461
1.3	Implementation of the IRRE	Subject to approval by NEPRA	32,282	17,551	114,082	17,551
1.4	Implementation of the WMP	Subject to approval by NEPRA	153,914	54,022	351,143	169,666
1.5	Monitoring and Evaluation of the IRRE and WMP	Subject to approval by NEPRA		30,000	195,000	30,000
1.6	Setting of M&E system and preparation of Sediment Management Guidlines	Subjecct to approval by NEPAR	125,000			
2	**Implementation of Stakeholders Engagement Plan**			**208,190**	**1,353,235**	**208,190**
3	**Environmental & Social Mitigation Measures**			**310,780**	**2,286,990**	**192,640**
3.1	Salaries and Benefits		–	310,780	1,786,990	192,640
3.2	EHS Training, Surveys, Laboratory Fees, and out-of-pocket expenses				500,000	
4	**External Monitoring**	For the construction phase, this is a lump sum cost for the services for 6.5 years, based on 18 visits. For the operation phase, this is the annual cost based on 2 visits per year	**–**		**284,460**	**31,610**
5	**Instrumental Monitoring and Sampling**		**8,380**	**700**	**12,930**	**9,080**
5.1	Monitoring of vehicles for emissions and noise*			700	4,550	700
5.2	Monitoring of ambient noise levels		2,190		2,190	2,190
5.3	Monitoring of ambient dust levels drinking, surface and waste water		6,190		6,190	6,190
6	**Mitigation Measures**		**961,300**		**961,300**	
6.1	Tree plantation cost	To be determined in consultation with the Forest Department	822,420		822,420	

No	Item	Note	Construction Phase			Operation Phase (Annual)
			Capital	Recurring (Annual)	Total (years) 6.5	
6.3	Springs and water resources		138,880		138,880	
Total (1+2+3+4+5+6)			**2,057,256**	**654,057**	**5,772,431**	**710,012**

10 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

1171. PEDO has proposed the 300 MW Balakot Hydropower Project on the Kunhar River, about 29 kilometers (km) upstream of the town of Balakot in KP province. This Project was evaluated by HBP and its associated team of experts for environmental and social impacts which was subsequently updated by the PMC to reflect the effect of changes made in the: (i) Project design; (ii) implementation of the project-specific BAP: and (iii) assessment of impacts on the Kashmir Hillstream Loach which has recently been assessed as “Critically Endangered” IUCN (2024). The proposed design and construction activities were assessed against the laws of KP, the GoP policies, and ADB Guidelines. Mitigation and management measures were recommended and made part of the Project design.

1172. Environmentally, the most important aspect of the Project is the cumulative impact, of the proposed Project and other hydropower projects in the Jhelum Basin on the aquatic biodiversity of the Basin, including the fish fauna, macro-invertebrates, periphyton biomass, and riparian vegetation. Two species of fish are of conservation importance, namely, the Nalbant’s Loach and Kashmir Hillstream Loach, both of which are endemic and restricted range species, as described above, the latter has recently been assessed as “Critically Endangered”.

1173. A cumulative impact assessment was carried out following the methodology adapted from the guidelines of the IFC. The study area for the assessment included the Kunhar River from Lulusar Lake downstream to the top of the confluence of the Kunhar River and Jhelum River. In addition to the existing Patrind HPP, the other four proposed projects on the Kunhar River, including the Project, were included in the assessment.

1174. The Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) for the Balakot Hydropower Development Project[155] identified fish fauna as a priority biodiversity value. The Discrete Management Unit (DMU) for the Project falls in Critical Habitat as defined in the IFC PS6 mainly due to the presence of the two endemic and restricted range species, the Nalbant’s Loach and Kashmir Hillstream Loach. Although these two species will not be vividly affected by the project intervention as these species are mostly found in the Kunhar River contributing streams still the Project is required to achieve a ‘net gain’ in the population of these two species to comply with PS6. River ecology and fish fauna in the Study Area were also determined to be a priority biodiversity value.

1175. A Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) has been prepared as a part of the EIA to ensure that the protection measures, as described in the E-Flow assessment, are implemented to protect fish fauna in general and the Nalbant’s Loach and Kashmir Hillstream Loach, in particular, such that achievement in net gain in the populations of these two species is achieved.

1176. Socially, the most important aspect is resettlement. 221 households are likely to lose their land and residences. A resettlement action plan has been prepared and separately updated to undertake the resettlement fairly and openly and to minimize social or economic impacts. The basic principles used for resettlement are derived from Pakistani laws and ADB’s SPS 2009 so that the livelihoods and standards of living for all affected households are improved or at least restored.

155 Hagler Bailly Pakistan (HBP), July 2017. Draft Report of the Biodiversity Action Plan for the 300 megawatt (MW) Balakot Hydropower Development Project for the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

1177. All the affected households losing any asset will be compensated according to the replacement cost. Every Project Affected Person (PAP) losing their livelihood resources or places of income generation as a result of Project interventions will be supported with income and livelihood restoration assistance. Moreover, eligible PAPs will also receive resettlement allowances like relocation allowance, vulnerability allowance, severe impact allowance, etc. The Resettlement Action Plan also provides a grievance redress mechanism and a monitoring and evaluation system.

ANNEXURES

Annexure 1: Guiding Note to the Updated EIA Report (R03)

Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW)

District Mansehra

Guiding Note to the updated EIA Report (R03)[156]

General

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report for the Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW) was prepared by Hagler Bailly Pakistan (Private) Limited (HBP) in 2019. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Protection Agency (KPEPA) granted "Environmental Approval" for the report on July 6, 2021.

The current EIA report is an updated version of the approved report furnished by the Project Management Consultants (PMC)[157] for the Balakot HPP (300 MW).

Although the approved report's original structure has been maintained, significant updates have been made to the project description, social baseline, information disclosure and consultation, and BAP sections. Appropriate changes have also been applied to other sections to ensure consistency.

As given in the table below, the Original EIA report was composed of three Volumes and an Executive Summary, while the updated EIA report is composed of five Volumes and an Executive Summary.

Exhibit 1: Original Approved and Updated EIA Report Composition

S/No	Original Approved EIA Report		Updated EIA Report	
	Volume No	Volume Name	Volume No	Volume Name
1	Executive Summary		Executive Summary (updated)	
2	Volume A	Main EIA Report	Volume A	Main EIA Report (updated)
3	Volume B	Appendices	Volume B	Appendices (updated)
4	Volume C	Supporting Studies	Volume C	Supporting Studies (updated)
5	---	----	Volume D	Management Plan for Threatened Fish Species (New)
6	---	----	Volume E	Biodiversity Assessment (New)

[156] The purpose of this guiding note is to facilitate the readers ' comprehension of the updation/changes incorporated in the updated EIA report (R03).

[157] A joint venture of:

vii. DOLSAR Engineering Inc. Co. (Turkey) Lead Firm;
viii. AGES Consultants;
ix. BAK Consulting Engineers;
x. CivTech Associates;
xi. Electra Consultants; and
xii. Techno Legal Consultants (Pvt.) Limited from Pakistan.

Specific

Executive Summary (updated)

Exhibit 2 shows details of the sections where changes/updation are incorporated in the original Executive Summary.

Exhibit 2: Details of Changes/Updation in Executive Summary

Section No.	Section Heading	Subsection No.	Subsection Heading	Updation Details		
				Added New	Existing Updated	Description of Changes/Updation
1	Introduction	1.2	Rationale and Background for EIA Updation			A new section has been incorporated to outline the rationale for updating the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
		1.3	Study Area			A map of the study area where biodiversity and fish surveys were conducted in 2024 has been included in this subsection as Exhibit V.
		1.5	Project Description			The entire subsection has been updated with the most recent project information provided.
		1.6	Stakeholder Consultation			A new subsection 1.6.2 has been added, detailing stakeholder consultations held from September 2020 to November 2024.
		1.8	Overview of Biodiversity Values			This section has been significantly updated with additional information from the 2024 biodiversity and fish survey.
		1.8.1.4	Terrestrial Biodiversity			This subsection has been updated with new information from the 2024 field survey.
		1.15	The Biodiversity Action Plan			This subsection has been updated to reflect the revised BAP implementation arrangements, with all necessary associated changes incorporated accordingly.
		1.15.6	Budget for Implementation			This subsection has been substantially updated to incorporate budget allocations for additional surveys, protection measures, conservation initiatives, and management activities as outlined in the project-specific Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP

Volume A: Main EIA Report (updated)

Exhibit 3 shows details of changes/updation incorporated in the original Volume A: Main EIA Report.

Exhibit 3: Details of Changes/Updation in Volume A: Main EIA Report

Section No.	Section Heading	Subsection No.	Subsection Heading	Updation Details		
				Added New	Existing Updated	Description of Changes
1	Introduction	1.1	Rationale and Background for EIA Updation			A new subsection has been incorporated to outline the rationale for updating the EIA.
		1.3	Project Overview.			Updated Project description, layout, and maps have been provided as part of this update.
		1.5	Study Areas			A map showing the additional study area for the 2024 biodiversity and fish surveys has been provided under Exhibit 1-9.
		1.6	Study Teams			Exhibit 1-11 has been added, which shows details of experts involved in the updation of the EIA report.
2	Policy, Legal, and Administrative Framework	2.1.3	The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Assessment Rules 2021			A new subsection has been added that outlines the rules promulgated by the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
		2.3.2	Key Biodiversity Laws			Exhibit 2-4 has been updated to include “The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Fisheries and Aquaculture Act, 2022.”
		2.4	Federal and Provincial Conservation Strategies			The KP Climate Change Policy of 2022 has been added, and the corresponding update has also been made in Exhibit 2-6.
3	Project Description	3	Project Description			The entire section has been comprehensively updated, incorporating revised maps, key project features, and current project information
4	Description of the Environment	4.1.4.2	Soil Analysis (2022)			In this new subsection, the 2022 instrumental environmental monitoring results and corresponding analysis have been comprehensively documented.
		4.1.7.3.3	Hydro-census Survey (2024)			Updated Hydro-census Survey (2024) information has been provided in the updated report.
		4.1.7.5.2	Water Quality Tests (2022)			In this new subsection, the results and analysis of the 2022 instrumental environmental monitoring have been provided.

Section No.	Section Heading	Subsection No.	Subsection Heading	Updation Details		
				Added New	Existing Updated	Description of Changes
		4.1.8.3	Ambient Air Monitoring (2022)			The results and analysis of the instrumental environmental monitoring undertaken in 2022 have been provided in this new subsection.
		4.1.10.2	Noise Monitoring (2022)			In this new section, the results of the noise level monitoring undertaken in 2022 have been provided with necessary analysis thereof.
		4.2.8.2.4	Results of Fish Survey Conducted in May 2024			A new subsection has been incorporated to present the findings of the 2024 fish population survey.
		4.2.8.3	Species of Special Concern in light of the 2024 Survey			A dedicated subsection has been incorporated to document species of special conservation concern identified during the 2024 field surveys.
		4.2.8.8	Macro-Invertebrates			The section has been updated to incorporate findings from the 2024 macroinvertebrate survey.
		4.2.9.1.2	Study of Vegetation (Flora) Conducted During May 2024			This new subsection has been added to provide additional information on vegetation recorded during the 2024 field surveys.
		4.2.9.1.2.1	Survey Findings			This new subsection presents the comprehensive findings from the 2024 field surveys.
		4.2.11.1	Small Mammals			This subsection has been updated to incorporate the 2024 survey findings and reflect current IUCN Red List status assessments.
		4.2.12	Avifauna			This subsection has been updated to incorporate the 2024 survey findings and reflect current IUCN Red List status assessments.
		4.2.13.1	Findings of Amphibian Studies Conducted During May 2024			This new subsection presents the comprehensive findings from the 2024 field surveys.
		4.2.13.2	Findings of the Reptilian Studies Conducted During May 2024			This new subsection presents the reptiles recorded during the 2024 field surveys.
		4.2.14	Habitat Assessment			The subsection has been updated in a manner to provide more clarity and explanation.
		4.2.14.4	Conclusion			The subsection has been revised through inclusion of the updated available information.

Section No.	Section Heading	Subsection No.	Subsection Heading	Updation Details		
				Added New	Existing Updated	Description of Changes
		4.3.9 to 4.3.24.4	Profile of the affected villages.			New subsections have been added which provide detailed baseline socio-economic conditions of impacted communities, drawn from 2021 survey findings.
6	Information Disclosure, Consultation, and Participation	6.6	Phase-2 Consultation Details			A new subsection has been added to document stakeholder consultations conducted with affected communities, government agencies, and private organizations between September 2020 and November 2024.
7	Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures	7.13	Occupational Health and Safety Impacts and Mitigation Measures			A new subsection has been incorporated to address occupational health and safety (OHS) risks associated with project execution, along with corresponding mitigation measures.
		7.14.1	Major Existing, Under Construction, and Planned Hydropower Projects on the Kunhar River			The subsection has been updated to include a revised map (Exhibit 7-42) and incorporate necessary textual modifications.
8	Grievance Redress Mechanism	8.1	Grievance Redress Committees			This subsection has been updated to incorporate the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) established by PEDO in 2022.
9	Environmental Management Plan	9.9	Cost Estimate			The Environmental Management Plan (EMP) cost estimates have been revised to incorporate the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) and the implementation requirements for the Threatened Species Management Plan.
10	Conclusion and Recommendations	10	Conclusion and Recommendations			The Conclusions and Recommendations section of the EIA report has been substantially revised to incorporate findings from the May 2024 field surveys, including enhanced protective measures for threatened fish species.
Annexures						While the original Volume A contained no annexures, the updated Main EIA Report now includes supplementary annexures as part of the EIA revision process.

Section No.	Section Heading	Subsection No.	Subsection Heading	Updation Details		
				Added New	Existing Updated	Description of Changes
i	Annexure 1		Guiding Note to the Updated EIA Report			The updated EIA report includes a guiding note to facilitate reader's understanding of all modifications incorporated in this version.
ii	Annexure 2		Instrumental Environmental Monitoring Results			Scanned copies of instrumental environmental monitoring results from December 2022 have been included as an annexure to the report.
iii	Annexure 3		GRM Notification			Scanned copies of the GRM notified by the PEDO.

Volume B: Appendices (updated)

Exhibit 4 shows details of changes/updation incorporated in the original Volume B: Appendices.

Exhibit 4: Details of Changes/Updation in Volume B: Appendices

Section No.	Section Heading	Subsection No.	Subsection Heading	Updation Details		
				Added New	Existing Updated	Description of Changes
Appendix D	Hydro-census Field Data (2017-19) and 2024	D.2 and D.3	Hydro-census Field Data (2024)			Results of the hydro-census survey undertaken by the EPC Contractor in 2024 were added to the section. The results of the 2017 hydro-census survey have also been kept in the section for record.

Volume C: Supporting Studies (updated)

Following is the synopsis of changes/updation incorporated in the original Volume C: Supporting Studies

Exhibit 5: Details of Changes/Updation in Volume C: Supporting Studies

Section No.	Section Heading	Subsection No.	Subsection Heading	Updation Details		
				Added New	Existing Updated	Description of Changes
1	Introduction	1.1	Project Overview			Updated Project description, layout, and maps have been provided as part of this update.
		1.2	Other Hydropower Developments on the Kunhar River			The document has been updated to include a new project map and revised information regarding the projects.
9	Regulatory and Institutional Framework	9.1.4	KP Climate Change Policy, 2022			The KP Climate Change Policy, 2022, has been added.
		9.2.8	The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Fisheries and Aquaculture Act, 2022.			A new subsection has been incorporated to address provisions of “The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Fisheries and Aquaculture Act, 2022”.
10	Stakeholder Consultations	10.2.2	Phase 2 Consultation			A new subsection has been incorporated to document stakeholder consultations conducted with government agencies and private sector organizations regarding the BAP between February 2022 and November 2024.
11	Biodiversity Values	11.1	Aquatic Biodiversity			The subsection has been updated for the results of the 2024 biodiversity and fish surveys.
		11.1.10	Macro-invertebrates			This subsection has been updated to incorporate findings from the 2024 field surveys.
		11.2	Terrestrial Biodiversity			The subsection has been updated to incorporate findings of the 2024 field surveys.
		11.2.3	Mammals			The subsection has been updated in light of the 2024 survey findings.
		11.2.4	Birds			This subsection has been updated to incorporate findings from the 2024 field surveys.

Section No.	Section Heading	Subsection No.	Subsection Heading	Updation Details		
				Added New	Existing Updated	Description of Changes
12	Overview of Impacts on Aquatic Biodiversity	12.1	Overview of Impacts of Hydropower Development in Kunhar River			The document has been updated to include a new project map and revised information regarding the projects.
13	Proposed Conservation Measures and Recommendations for the Protection of Endangered Fish Species	13	Proposed Conservation Measures and Recommendations for the Protection of Endangered Fish Species			This section has been comprehensively revised to incorporate budgeted conservation activities for aquatic resource protection, with particular emphasis on critically endangered fish species.
		13.1.6	Existing Watch and Ward Setup			This subsection has been updated to incorporate: the most current data received from relevant government departments; and additional resource requirements for implementing the BAP
14	Institutional Arrangements for Implementation of BAP	14.1	Institutional Arrangement for Management of Protection			This subsection has been updated for the agreed revised Project-specific BAP implementation arrangement.
		14.1.1	BAP Management Committee			The subsection has been updated for the agreed revised Project-specific BAP Management Committee composition.
		14.2	Implementation Arrangement			The subsection has appropriately been updated in light of the revised BAP implementation arrangement.
		14.2.1	KP Wildlife and Fisheries Departments			The subsection has been updated in light of the revised BAP implementation arrangement.
		14.7	Institutional Arrangement for the Project-Specific BAP in the Long Term			Appropriate changes have been made in this subsection to ensure the continuation of the Project-specific BAP activities in the long term.
15	Implementation Plan	15	Implementation Plan			Exhibit 15.1 has been updated in light of the revised BAP implementation arrangement.

Section No.	Section Heading	Subsection No.	Subsection Heading	Updation Details		
				Added New	Existing Updated	Description of Changes
16	Monitoring and Evaluation Framework	16.6	Reports and Reporting Frequency			This subsection has been significantly updated with the addition of Exhibit 16.4 as a dedicated reporting mechanism for BAP implementation.
17	Budget for Implementation	17.6	Summary of BAP Implementation Budget			This subsection has been significantly updated to reflect the budget for additional activities aimed at the protection of the endangered fish species and effective implementation of the Project-specific BAP activities within the designated Area of Management.

Volume D: Management Plan for Threatened Fish Species

This new volume presents findings of the comprehensive ichthyofaunal surveys conducted in 2024 to assess fish diversity and distribution patterns in the Kunhar River and its tributaries. The Volume also evaluates key threats to local fish populations and proposes targeted conservation measures, with particular emphasis on protecting the endangered Kashmir Hillstream Loach (*Triplophysa kashmirensis*).

Volume E: Biodiversity Assessment

This new volume presents key findings of the biodiversity surveys conducted across the Kunhar Valley in 2024 and briefly discusses the emerging threats to the region's native flora and fauna.

Annexure 2: Instrumental Environmental Monitoring Results

Ambient Air Monitoring Results-Particulate Matters

Integrated Environment Laboratory

EPA Accredited

AMBIENT PARTICULATE MATTERS MONITORING REPORT

Reference Number	BHPP/ENV/223-2022	Client Name	China Gezhouba Group Co., Ltd. (CGGC)
Project Name:	Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW)	Monitoring Location:	Dam Site (Paras Valley)
Monitoring Date:	07-12-2022	Reporting Date:	21-12-2022
Source: GPS Coordinates:	Ambient Air 34.660470, 73.455497	Monitoring Instrument:	AQMS 65, Serial # 1310

Sr. No	Time	Parameters		Results (Average 24 Hrs)	
		$PM_{2.5}$	PM_{10}		
		Units		$PM_{2.5}$	PM_{10}
	Hours of Monitoring	($\mu g/m^3$)	($\mu g/m^3$)		
1.	09:00 A.M	19.63	70.97		
2.	10:00 A.M	17.36	71.84		
3.	11:00 A.M	15.44	70.29		
4.	12:00 P.M	14.69	73.58		
5.	01:00 P.M	14.72	72.03		
6.	02:00 P.M	15.08	71.32		
7.	03:00 P.M	15.02	68.79		
8.	04:00 P.M	14.62	67.57		
9.	05:00 P.M	13.52	64.35		
10.	06:00 P.M	12.29	62.83		
11.	07:00 P.M	11.52	61.1		
12.	08:00 P.M	11.92	62.58	13.36 ($\mu g/m^3$)	63.03 ($\mu g/m^3$)
13.	09:00 P M	12.42	59.86		
14.	10:00 P M	12.79	59.13		
15.	11:00 P M	10.53	58.61		
16.	12:00 A M	12.41	55.88		
17.	01:00 A M	11.55	55.35		
18.	02:00 A M	13.12	56.64		
19.	03:00 A M	12.42	57.07		
20.	04:00 A M	12	55.38		
21.	05:00 A M	11.59	56.23		
22.	06:00 A M	10.72	58.51		
23.	07:00 A M	12.4	59.42		
24.	08:00 A M	12.92	63.41		
NEQSAA				35($\mu g/m^3$)	150($\mu g/m^3$)
WHO				15 ($\mu g/m^3$)	45 ($\mu g/m^3$)

NEQSAA: National Environmental Quality Standards for Ambient Air
WHO: World Health Organization
Note:

- Selected measurement units were $\mu g/m^3$ otherwise stated.
- The client is responsible lawful usage of reported data in future.
- The report is not valid for court.

Signature of Analyst: Signature of Chief Chemist

Integrated Environment Laboratory

FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING, ANALYSIS & SURVEYS

Creative House, 3rd Floor, Office # 302, Phase III Chowk, Hayatabad, Peshawar, Pakistan
Tel: 091-5852913 Cell: +92 302 8462412 Email: inenvconsultants@yahoo.com www. iec-consultants.com www. inenvlab.com

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AMBIENT PARTICULATE MATTERS MONITORING REPORT

Reference Number	BHPP/ENV/223-2022	**Client Name**	Ghulam Rasool & Company Pvt. Ltd.
Project Name:	Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW)	**Monitoring Location:**	Adit-1 (Thobi)
Monitoring Date:	08-12-2022	**Reporting Date:**	21-12-2022
Source: **GPS Coordinates:**	Ambient Air 34.636125, 73.428597	**Monitoring Instrument:**	AQMS 65, Serial # 1310

Sr. No	Time	Parameters		Results (Average 24 Hrs)	
		$PM_{2.5}$	PM_{10}	$PM_{2.5}$	PM_{10}
		Units			
	Hours of Monitoring	($\mu g/m^3$)	($\mu g/m^3$)		
1.	09:00 A.M	22.2	65.84		
2.	10:00 A.M	19.93	66.71		
3.	11:00 A.M	18.01	65.16		
4.	12:00 P.M	17.26	68.45		
5.	01:00 P.M	17.29	66.9		
6.	02:00 P.M	17.65	66.19		
7.	03:00 P.M	17.59	63.66		
8.	04:00 P.M	17.19	62.44		
9.	05:00 P.M	16.09	59.22		
10.	06:00 P.M	14.86	57.7		
11.	07:00 P.M	14.09	55.97		
12.	08:00 P.M	14.49	57.45	15.93 ($\mu g/m^3$)	57.90 ($\mu g/m^3$)
13.	09:00 P M	14.99	54.73		
14.	10:00 P M	15.36	54		
15.	11:00 P M	13.1	53.48		
16.	12:00 A M	14.98	50.75		
17.	01:00 A M	14.12	50.22		
18.	02:00 A M	15.69	51.51		
19.	03:00 A M	14.99	51.94		
20.	04:00 A M	14.57	50.25		
21.	05:00 A M	14.16	51.1		
22.	06:00 A M	13.29	53.38		
23.	07:00 A M	14.97	54.29		
24.	08:00 A M	15.49	58.28		
NEQSAA				35($\mu g/m^3$)	150($\mu g/m^3$)
WHO				15 ($\mu g/m^3$)	45 ($\mu g/m^3$)

NEQSAA: National Environmental Quality Standards for Ambient Air
WHO: World Health Organization
Note:

- Selected measurement units were $\mu g/m^3$ otherwise stated.
- The client is responsible lawful usage of reported data in future.
- The report is not valid for court.

Signature of Analyst: *Signature of Chief Chemist*

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AMBIENT PARTICULATE MATTERS MONITORING REPORT

Reference Number	BHPP/ENV/223-2022	Client Name	China Gezhouba Group Co., Ltd. (CGGC)
Project Name:	Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW)	Monitoring Location:	Adit-2 (Ghanool)
Monitoring Date:	09-12-2022	Reporting Date:	21-12-2022
Source:	Ambient Air	Monitoring Instrument:	AQMS 65, Serial # 1310
GPS Coordinates:	34.619787, 73.417525		

Sr. No	Time	Parameters		Results (Average 24 Hrs)	
		$PM_{2.5}$	PM_{10}	$PM_{2.5}$	PM_{10}
		Units			
	Hours of Monitoring	($\mu g/m^3$)	($\mu g/m^3$)		
1.	09:00 A.M	21.87	76.2	15.6 ($\mu g/m^3$)	68.26 ($\mu g/m^3$)
2.	10:00 A.M	19.6	77.07		
3.	11:00 A.M	17.68	75.52		
4.	12:00 P.M	16.93	78.81		
5.	01:00 P.M	16.96	77.26		
6.	02:00 P.M	17.32	76.55		
7.	03:00 P.M	17.26	74.02		
8.	04:00 P.M	16.86	72.8		
9.	05:00 P.M	15.76	69.58		
10.	06:00 P.M	14.53	68.06		
11.	07:00 P.M	13.76	66.33		
12.	08:00 P.M	14.16	67.81		
13.	09:00 P M	14.66	65.09		
14.	10:00 P M	15.03	64.36		
15.	11:00 P M	12.77	63.84		
16.	12:00 A M	14.65	61.11		
17.	01:00 A M	13.79	60.58		
18.	02:00 A M	15.36	61.87		
19.	03:00 A M	14.66	62.3		
20.	04:00 A M	14.24	60.61		
21.	05:00 A M	13.83	61.46		
22.	06:00 A M	12.96	63.74		
23.	07:00 A M	14.64	64.65		
24.	08:00 A M	15.16	68.64		
NEQSAA				35 ($\mu g/m^3$)	150($\mu g/m^3$)
WHO				15 ($\mu g/m^3$)	45 ($\mu g/m^3$)

NEQSAA: National Environmental Quality Standards for Ambient Air
WHO: World Health Organization
Note:

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Signature of Analyst:

Signature of Chief Chemist

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AMBIENT PARTICULATE MATTERS MONITORING REPORT

Reference Number	BHPP/ENV/223-2022	Client Name	China Gezhouba Group Co., Ltd. (CGGC)
Project Name:	Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW)	Monitoring Location:	Adit-3 (Kholian)
Monitoring Date:	10-12-2022	Reporting Date:	21-12-2022
Source:	Ambient Air	Monitoring Instrument:	AQMS 65, Serial # 1310
GPS Coordinates:	34.610253,73.389367		

Sr. No	Time	Parameters		Results (Average 24 Hrs)	
		$PM_{2.5}$	PM_{10}	$PM_{2.5}$	PM_{10}
		Units			
	Hours of Monitoring	($\mu g/m^3$)	($\mu g/m^3$)		
1.	09:00 A.M	9.63	43.36	3.36 ($\mu g/m^3$)	35.42 ($\mu g/m^3$)
2.	10:00 A.M	7.36	44.23		
3.	11:00 A.M	5.44	42.68		
4.	12:00 P.M	4.69	45.97		
5.	01:00 P.M	4.72	44.42		
6.	02:00 P.M	5.08	43.71		
7.	03:00 P.M	5.02	41.18		
8.	04:00 P.M	4.62	39.96		
9.	05:00 P.M	3.52	36.74		
10.	06:00 P.M	2.29	35.22		
11.	07:00 P.M	1.52	33.49		
12.	08:00 P.M	1.92	34.97		
13.	09:00 P M	2.42	32.25		
14.	10:00 P M	2.79	31.52		
15.	11:00 P M	0.53	31		
16.	12:00 A M	2.41	28.27		
17.	01:00 A M	1.55	27.74		
18.	02:00 A M	3.12	29.03		
19.	03:00 A M	2.42	29.46		
20.	04:00 A M	2	27.77		
21.	05:00 A M	1.59	28.62		
22.	06:00 A M	0.72	30.9		
23.	07:00 A M	2.4	31.81		
24.	08:00 A M	2.92	35.8		
NEQSAA				35 ($\mu g/m^3$)	150($\mu g/m^3$)
WHO				15 ($\mu g/m^3$)	45 ($\mu g/m^3$)

NEQSAA: National Environmental Quality Standards for Ambient Air
WHO: World Health Organization
Note:

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Signature of Analyst: Signature of Chief Chemist

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AMBIENT PARTICULATE MATTERS MONITORING REPORT

Reference Number	BHPP/ENV/223-2022	Client Name	China Gezhouba Group Co., Ltd. (CGGC)
Project Name:	Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW)	Monitoring Location:	Powerhouse (Barkot)
Monitoring Date:	11-12-2022	Reporting Date:	21-12-2022
Source:	Ambient Air	Monitoring Instrument:	AQMS 65, Serial # 1310
GPS Coordinates:	34.601812, 73.377145		

Sr. No	Time	Parameters		Results (Average 24 Hrs)	
		$PM_{2.5}$	PM_{10}	$PM_{2.5}$	PM_{10}
		Units			
	Hours of Monitoring	($\mu g/m^3$)	($\mu g/m^3$)		
1.	09:00 A.M	15.61	53.3	9.34 ($\mu g/m^3$)	45.36 ($\mu g/m^3$)
2.	10:00 A.M	13.34	54.17		
3.	11:00 A.M	11.42	52.62		
4.	12:00 P.M	10.67	55.91		
5.	01:00 P.M	10.7	54.36		
6.	02:00 P.M	11.06	53.65		
7.	03:00 P.M	11	51.12		
8.	04:00 P.M	10.6	49.9		
9.	05:00 P.M	9.5	46.68		
10.	06:00 P.M	8.27	45.16		
11.	07:00 P.M	7.5	43.43		
12.	08:00 P.M	7.9	44.91		
13.	09:00 P M	8.4	42.19		
14.	10:00 P M	8.77	41.46		
15.	11:00 P M	6.51	40.94		
16.	12:00 A M	8.39	38.21		
17.	01:00 A M	7.53	37.68		
18.	02:00 A M	9.1	38.97		
19.	03:00 A M	8.4	39.4		
20.	04:00 A M	7.98	37.71		
21.	05:00 A M	7.57	38.56		
22.	06:00 A M	6.7	40.84		
23.	07:00 A M	8.38	41.75		
24.	08:00 A M	8.9	45.74		
NEQSAA				35 ($\mu g/m^3$)	150($\mu g/m^3$)
WHO				15 ($\mu g/m^3$)	45 ($\mu g/m^3$)

NEQSAA: National Environmental Quality Standards for Ambient Air
WHO: World Health Organization
Note:

- Selected measurement units were $\mu g/m^3$ otherwise stated.
- The client is responsible lawful usage of reported data in future.
- The report is not valid for court.

Signature of Analyst: Signature of Chief Chemist

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AMBIENT PARTICULATE MATTERS MONITORING REPORT

Reference Number	BHPP/ENV/223-2022	Client Name	China Gezhouba Group Co., Ltd. (CGGC)
Project Name:	Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW)	Monitoring Location:	Tailrace Upstream (Barkot)
Monitoring Date:	12-12-2022	Reporting Date:	21-12-2022
Source:	Ambient Air	Monitoring Instrument:	AQMS 65, Serial # 1310
GPS Coordinates:	34.596088, 73.374512		

Sr. No	Time	Parameters		Results (Average 24 Hrs)	
		$PM_{2.5}$	PM_{10}	$PM_{2.5}$	PM_{10}
		Units			
	Hours of Monitoring	(µg/m³)	(µg/m³)		
1.	09:00 A.M	11.34	32.67	5.07 (µg/m³)	24.73 (µg/m³)
2.	10:00 A.M	9.07	33.54		
3.	11:00 A.M	7.15	31.99		
4.	12:00 P.M	6.4	35.28		
5.	01:00 P.M	6.43	33.73		
6.	02:00 P.M	6.79	33.02		
7.	03:00 P.M	6.73	30.49		
8.	04:00 P.M	6.33	29.27		
9.	05:00 P.M	5.23	26.05		
10.	06:00 P.M	4	24.53		
11.	07:00 P.M	3.23	22.8		
12.	08:00 P.M	3.63	24.28		
13.	09:00 P M	4.13	21.56		
14.	10:00 P M	4.5	20.83		
15.	11:00 P M	2.24	20.31		
16.	12:00 A M	4.12	17.58		
17.	01:00 A M	3.26	17.05		
18.	02:00 A M	4.83	18.34		
19.	03:00 A M	4.13	18.77		
20.	04:00 A M	3.71	17.08		
21.	05:00 A M	3.3	17.93		
22.	06:00 A M	2.43	20.21		
23.	07:00 A M	4.11	21.12		
24.	08:00 A M	4.63	25.11		
NEQSAA				35 (µg/m³)	150(µg/m³)
WHO				15 (µg/m³)	45 (µg/m³)

NEQSAA: National Environmental Quality Standards for Ambient Air
WHO: World Health Organization

Note:

- Selected measurement units were µg/m³ otherwise stated.
- The client is responsible lawful usage of reported data in future.
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Signature of Analyst:

Signature of Chief Chemist

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AMBIENT PARTICULATE MATTERS MONITORING REPORT

Reference Number	BHPP/ENV/223-2022	**Client Name**	Ghulam Rasool & Company Pvt. Ltd.
Project Name:	Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW)	**Monitoring Location:**	GRC Camp Office (Sanghar)
Monitoring Date:	13-12-2022	**Reporting Date:**	21-12-2022
Source: **GPS Coordinates:**	Ambient Air 34.584562, 73.373878	**Monitoring Instrument:**	AQMS 65, Serial # 1310

Sr. No	Time	Parameters		Results (Average 24 Hrs)	
		$PM_{2.5}$	PM_{10}		
		Units		$PM_{2.5}$	PM_{10}
	Hours of Monitoring	($\mu g/m^3$)	($\mu g/m^3$)		
1.	09:00 A.M	22.37	66.97	16.1 ($\mu g/m^3$)	59.03 ($\mu g/m^3$)
2.	10:00 A.M	20.1	67.84		
3.	11:00 A.M	18.18	66.29		
4.	12:00 P.M	17.43	69.58		
5.	01:00 P.M	17.46	68.03		
6.	02:00 P.M	17.82	67.32		
7.	03:00 P.M	17.76	64.79		
8.	04:00 P.M	17.36	63.57		
9.	05:00 P.M	16.26	60.35		
10.	06:00 P.M	15.03	58.83		
11.	07:00 P.M	14.26	57.1		
12.	08:00 P.M	14.66	58.58		
13.	09:00 P M	15.16	55.86		
14.	10:00 P M	15.53	55.13		
15.	11:00 P M	13.27	54.61		
16.	12:00 A M	15.15	51.88		
17.	01:00 A M	14.29	51.35		
18.	02:00 A M	15.86	52.64		
19.	03:00 A M	15.16	53.07		
20.	04:00 A M	14.74	51.38		
21.	05:00 A M	14.33	52.23		
22.	06:00 A M	13.46	54.51		
23.	07:00 A M	15.14	55.42		
24.	08:00 A M	15.66	59.41		
NEQSAA				35 ($\mu g/m^3$)	150($\mu g/m^3$)
WHO				15 ($\mu g/m^3$)	45 ($\mu g/m^3$)

NEQSAA: National Environmental Quality Standards for Ambient Air
WHO: World Health Organization
Note:

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Signature of Analyst: *Signature of Chief Chemist*

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AMBIENT PARTICULATE MATTERS MONITORING REPORT

Reference Number	BHPP/ENV/223-2022	**Client Name**	Ghulam Rasool & Company Pvt. Ltd.
Project Name:	Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW)	**Monitoring Location:**	Colony Area (Sanghar)
Monitoring Date:	14-12-2022	**Reporting Date:**	21-12-2022
Source: **GPS Coordinates:**	Ambient Air 34.567775, 73.300225	**Monitoring Instrument:**	AQMS 65, Serial # 1310

Sr. No	Time	Parameters		Results (Average 24 Hrs)	
		$PM_{2.5}$	PM_{10}		
		Units		$PM_{2.5}$	PM_{10}
	Hours of Monitoring	($\mu g/m^3$)	($\mu g/m^3$)		
1.	09:00 A.M	10.85	39.39	5.91 ($\mu g/m^3$)	31.45 ($\mu g/m^3$)
2.	10:00 A.M	9.97	40.26		
3.	11:00 A.M	8.05	38.71		
4.	12:00 P.M	7.3	42		
5.	01:00 P.M	7.33	40.45		
6.	02:00 P.M	7.69	39.74		
7.	03:00 P.M	7.63	37.21		
8.	04:00 P.M	7.23	35.99		
9.	05:00 P.M	6.13	32.77		
10.	06:00 P.M	4.9	31.25		
11.	07:00 P.M	4.13	29.52		
12.	08:00 P.M	4.53	31		
13.	09:00 P M	5.03	28.28		
14.	10:00 P M	5.4	27.55		
15.	11:00 P M	3.14	27.03		
16.	12:00 A M	5.02	24.3		
17.	01:00 A M	4.16	23.77		
18.	02:00 A M	5.73	25.06		
19.	03:00 A M	5.03	25.49		
20.	04:00 A M	4.61	23.8		
21.	05:00 A M	4.2	24.65		
22.	06:00 A M	3.33	26.93		
23.	07:00 A M	5.01	27.84		
24.	08:00 A M	5.53	31.83		
NEQSAA				35 ($\mu g/m^3$)	150($\mu g/m^3$)
WHO				15 ($\mu g/m^3$)	45 ($\mu g/m^3$)

NEQSAA: National Environmental Quality Standards for Ambient Air
WHO: World Health Organization
Note:

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Signature of Analyst: *Signature of Chief Chemist*

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AMBIENT GASES MONITORING REPORT

Reference Number	BHPP/ENV/223-2022	Client Name	China Gezhouba Group Co., Ltd. (CGGC)
Project Name:	Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW)	Monitoring Location:	Dam Site (Paras Valley)
Monitoring Date:	07-12-2022	Reporting Date:	21-12-2022
Source:	Ambient Air Gases	Monitoring Instrument:	AQMS 65, Serial # 1310
GPS Coordinates:	34.660470, 73.455497		

Sr. No	Time	Parameters			
		CO	NO	NO_2	SO_2
		Units			
	Hours	(mg/m^3)	($\mu g/m^3$)	($\mu g/m^3$)	($\mu g/m^3$)
1.	09:00 A.M	0.18	5.31	7.76	5.95
2.	10:00 A.M	0.23	6.16	7.94	5.82
3.	11:00 A.M	0.15	6.23	8.21	5.09
4.	12:00 P.M	0.26	6.98	7.12	5.22
5.	01:00 P.M	0.29	6.38	6.99	5.37
6.	02:00 P.M	0.18	6.56	7.1	4.45
7.	03:00 P.M	0.16	7.1	7.46	5.07
8.	04:00 P.M	0.11	6.24	7.61	6.26
9.	05:00 P.M	0.07	5.4	7.13	4.09
10.	06:00 P.M	0.13	5.17	7.25	4.58
11.	07:00 P.M	0.09	5.95	7.83	6.01
12.	08:00 P.M	0.05	6.28	6.94	5.68
13.	09:00 P M	0.01	7.09	7.37	5.25
14.	10:00 P M	0.06	5.37	7.22	4.91
15.	11:00 P M	0.04	4.94	8.05	5.76
16.	12:00 A M	0.11	6.12	7.3	6.04
17.	01:00 A M	0.08	6.19	6.84	4.97
18.	02:00 A M	0.06	5.44	7	4.78
19.	03:00 A M	0.07	7.23	6.88	4.56
20.	04:00 A M	0.08	6.44	6.51	4.87
21.	05:00 A M	0.13	6.2	5.94	5.24
22.	06:00 A M	0.11	5.73	6.8	5.4
23.	07:00 A M	0.13	6.48	7.09	5.69
24.	08:00 A M	0.16	5.72	7.19	5.56
Average Concentration		**0.12**	**6.11**	**7.23**	**5.27**
NEQSAA		**05**	**40**	**80**	**120**
WHO		**04**	**—**	**25**	**40**

NEQSAA: National Environmental Quality Standards for Ambient Air
WHO: World Health Organization

Note:

- Selected measurement units were $\mu g/m^3$ & mg/m^3 otherwise stated.
- The client is responsible lawful usage of reported data in future.
- The report is not valid for court.

Signature of Analyst

Signature of Chief Chemist

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AMBIENT GASES MONITORING REPORT

Reference Number	BHPP/ENV/223-2022	**Client Name**	Ghulam Rasool & Company Pvt. Ltd.
Project Name:	Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW)	**Monitoring Location:**	Adit-1 (Thobi)
Monitoring Date:	08-12-2022	**Reporting Date:**	21-12-2022
Source: **GPS Coordinates:**	Ambient Air Gases 34.636125, 73.428597	**Monitoring Instrument:**	AQMS 65, Serial # 1310

Sr. No	Time	Parameters			
		CO	NO	NO_2	SO_2
		Units			
	Hours	(mg/m³)	(µg/m³)	(µg/m³)	(µg/m³)
1.	09:00 A.M	0.2	4.29	6.09	6.83
2.	10:00 A.M	0.25	5.14	6.27	6.7
3.	11:00 A.M	0.17	5.21	6.54	5.97
4.	12:00 P.M	0.28	5.96	5.45	6.1
5.	01:00 P.M	0.31	5.36	5.32	6.25
6.	02:00 P.M	0.2	5.54	5.43	5.33
7.	03:00 P.M	0.18	6.08	5.79	5.95
8.	04:00 P.M	0.13	5.22	5.94	7.14
0.	05:00 P.M	0.09	4.38	5.46	4.97
10.	06:00 P.M	0.15	4.15	5.58	5.46
11.	07:00 P.M	0.01	4.93	6.16	6.89
12.	08:00 P.M	0.07	5.26	5.27	6.56
13.	09:00 P M	0.03	6.07	5.7	6.13
14.	10:00 P M	0.08	4.35	5.55	5.79
15.	11:00 P M	0.01	3.92	6.38	6.64
16.	12:00 A M	0.13	5.1	5.63	6.92
17.	01:00 A M	0.1	5.17	5.17	5.85
18.	02:00 A M	0.11	4.42	5.33	5.66
19.	03:00 A M	0.09	6.21	5.21	5.44
20.	04:00 A M	0.1	5.42	4.84	5.75
21.	05:00 A M	0.15	5.18	4.27	6.12
22.	06:00 A M	0.13	4.71	5.13	6.28
23.	07:00 A M	0.15	5.46	5.42	6.57
24.	08:00 A M	0.18	4.7	5.52	6.44
Average Concentration		**0.13**	**5.09**	**5.56**	**6.15**
NEQSAA		**05**	**40**	**80**	**120**
WHO		**04**	**---**	**25**	**40**

NEQSAA: National Environmental Quality Standards for Ambient Air
WHO: World Health Organization

Note:

- Selected measurement units were µg/m³& mg/m³ otherwise stated.
- The client is responsible lawful usage of reported data in future.
- The report is not valid for court.

Signature of Analyst:

Signature of Chief Chemist

Integrated Environment Laboratory

FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING, ANALYSIS & SURVEYS

Creative House, 3rd Floor, Office # 302, Phase III Chowk, Hayatabad, Peshawar, Pakistan
Tel: 091-5852913 Cell: +92 302 8462412 Email: inenvconsultants@yahoo.com www. iec-consultants.com www. inenvlab.com

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AMBIENT GASES MONITORING REPORT

Reference Number	BHPP/ENV/223-2022	Client Name	China Gezhouba Group Co., Ltd. (CGGC)
Project Name:	Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW)	Monitoring Location:	Adit-2 (Ghanool)
Monitoring Date:	09-12-2022	Reporting Date:	21-12-2022
Source:	Ambient Air Gases	Monitoring Instrument:	AQMS 65, Serial # 1310
GPS Coordinates:	34.619787, 73.417525		

Sr. No	Time	Parameters			
		CO	NO	NO_2	SO_2
		Units			
	Hours	(mg/m^3)	($\mu g/m^3$)	($\mu g/m^3$)	($\mu g/m^3$)
1.	09:00 A.M	0.13	3.41	4.76	5.72
2.	10:00 A.M	0.18	4.26	4.94	5.59
3.	11:00 A.M	0.1	4.33	5.21	4.86
4.	12:00 P.M	0.21	5.08	4.12	4.99
5.	01:00 P.M	0.24	4.48	3.99	5.14
6.	02:00 P.M	0.13	4.66	4.1	4.22
7.	03:00 P.M	0.11	5.2	4.46	4.84
8.	04:00 P.M	0.06	4.34	4.61	6.03
9.	05:00 P.M	0.02	3.5	4.13	3.86
10.	06:00 P.M	0.08	3.27	4.25	4.35
11.	07:00 P.M	0.06	4.05	4.83	5.78
12.	08:00 P.M	0.04	4.38	3.94	5.45
13.	09:00 P.M	0.05	5.19	4.37	5.02
14.	10:00 P.M	0.03	3.47	4.22	4.68
15.	11:00 P.M	0.04	3.04	5.05	5.53
16.	12:00 A.M	0.06	4.22	4.3	5.81
17.	01:00 A.M	0.03	4.29	3.84	4.74
18.	02:00 A.M	0.02	3.54	4	4.55
19.	03:00 A.M	0.02	5.33	3.88	4.33
20.	04:00 A.M	0.03	4.54	3.51	4.64
21.	05:00 A.M	0.08	4.3	2.94	5.01
22.	06:00 A.M	0.06	3.83	3.8	5.17
23.	07:00 A.M	0.08	4.58	4.09	5.46
24.	08:00 A.M	0.11	3.82	4.19	5.33
Average Concentration		**0.08**	**4.21**	**4.23**	**5.04**
NEQSAA		**05**	**40**	**80**	**120**
WHO		**04**	**---**	**25**	**40**

NEQSAA: National Environmental Quality Standards for Ambient Air
WHO: World Health Organization

Note:

- Selected measurement units were $\mu g/m^3$ & mg/m^3 otherwise stated.
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AMBIENT GASES MONITORING REPORT

Reference Number	BHPP/ENV/223-2022	Client Name	China Gezhouba Group Co., Ltd. (CGGC)
Project Name:	Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW)	Monitoring Location:	Adit-3 (Kholian)
Monitoring Date:	10-12-2022	Reporting Date:	21-12-2022
Source:	Ambient Air Gases	Monitoring Instrument:	AQMS 65, Serial # 1310
GPS Coordinates:	34.610253,73.389367		

Sr. No	Time	Parameters			
		CO	NO	NO_2	SO_2
		Units			
	Hours	(mg/m^3)	($\mu g/m^3$)	($\mu g/m^3$)	($\mu g/m^3$)
1.	09:00 A.M	0.26	4.37	5.18	3.87
2.	10:00 A.M	0.31	5.22	5.36	3.74
3.	11:00 A.M	0.23	5.29	5.63	3.01
4.	12:00 P.M	0.34	6.04	4.54	3.14
5.	01:00 P.M	0.37	5.44	4.41	3.29
6.	02:00 P.M	0.26	5.62	4.52	2.37
7.	03:00 P.M	0.24	6.16	4.88	2.99
8.	04:00 P.M	0.19	5.3	5.03	4.18
9.	05:00 P.M	0.15	4.46	4.55	2.01
10.	06:00 P.M	0.21	4.23	4.67	2.5
11.	07:00 P.M	0.07	5.01	5.25	3.93
12.	08:00 P.M	0.13	5.34	4.36	3.6
13.	09:00 P.M	0.09	6.15	4.79	3.17
14.	10:00 P.M	0.14	4.43	4.64	2.83
15.	11:00 P.M	0.07	4	5.47	3.68
16.	12:00 A.M	0.19	5.18	4.72	3.96
17.	01:00 A.M	0.16	5.25	4.26	2.89
18.	02:00 A.M	0.03	4.5	4.42	2.7
19.	03:00 A.M	0.15	6.29	4.3	2.48
20.	04:00 A.M	0.16	5.5	3.93	2.79
21.	05:00 A.M	0.21	5.26	3.36	3.16
22.	06:00 A.M	0.19	4.79	4.22	3.32
23.	07:00 A.M	0.21	5.54	4.51	3.61
24.	08:00 A.M	0.24	4.78	4.61	3.48
Average Concentration		**0.19**	**5.17**	**4.65**	**3.19**
NEQSAA		**05**	**40**	**80**	**120**
WHO		**04**	**---**	**25**	**40**

NEQSAA: National Environmental Quality Standards for Ambient Air
WHO: World Health Organization

Note:

- Selected measurement units were $\mu g/m^3$ & mg/m^3 otherwise stated.
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Signature of Chief Chemist

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FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING, ANALYSIS & SURVEYS
Creative House, 3rd Floor, Office # 302, Phase III Chowk, Hayatabad, Peshawar, Pakistan
Tel: 091-5852913 Cell: +92 302 8462412 Email: inenvconsultants@yahoo.com www. iec-consultants.com www. inenvlab.com
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AMBIENT GASES MONITORING REPORT

Reference Number	BHPP/ENV/223-2022	Client Name	China Gezhouba Group Co. Ltd. (CGGC)
Project Name:	Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW)	Monitoring Location:	Powerhouse (Barkot)
Monitoring Date:	11-12-2022	Reporting Date:	21-12-2022
Source:	Ambient Air Gases	Monitoring Instrument:	AQMS 65, Serial # 1310
GPS Coordinates:	34.601812, 73.377145		

Sr. No	Time	Parameters			
		CO	NO	NO_2	SO_2
		Units			
	Hours	(mg/m³)	(µg/m³)	(µg/m³)	(µg/m³)
1.	09:00 A.M	0.36	4.53	6.59	6.93
2.	10:00 A.M	0.41	5.38	6.77	6.8
3.	11:00 A.M	0.33	5.45	7.04	6.07
4.	12:00 P.M	0.44	6.2	5.95	6.2
5.	01:00 P.M	0.47	5.6	5.82	6.35
6.	02:00 P.M	0.36	5.78	5.93	5.43
7.	03:00 P.M	0.34	6.32	6.29	6.05
8.	04:00 P.M	0.29	5.46	6.44	7.24
9.	05:00 P.M	0.25	4.62	5.96	5.07
10.	06:00 P.M	0.31	4.39	6.08	5.56
11.	07:00 P.M	0.17	5.17	6.66	6.99
12.	08:00 P.M	0.23	5.5	5.77	6.66
13.	09:00 P.M	0.19	6.31	6.2	6.23
14.	10:00 P.M	0.24	4.59	6.05	5.89
15.	11:00 P.M	0.17	4.16	6.88	6.74
16.	12:00 A.M	0.29	5.34	6.13	7.02
17.	01:00 A.M	0.26	5.41	5.67	5.95
18.	02:00 A.M	0.13	4.66	5.83	5.76
19.	03:00 A.M	0.25	6.45	5.71	5.54
20.	04:00 A.M	0.26	5.66	5.34	5.85
21.	05:00 A.M	0.31	5.42	4.77	6.22
22.	06:00 A.M	0.29	4.95	5.63	6.38
23.	07:00 A.M	0.31	5.7	5.92	6.67
24.	08:00 A.M	0.34	4.94	6.02	6.54
Average Concentration		**0.29**	**5.33**	**6.06**	**6.25**
NEQSAA		**05**	**40**	**80**	**120**
WHO		**04**	---	**25**	**40**

NEQSAA: National Environmental Quality Standards for Ambient Air
WHO: World Health Organization

Note:

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AMBIENT GASES MONITORING REPORT

Reference Number	BHPP/ENV/223-2022	Client Name	China Gezhouba Group Co., Ltd. (CGGC)
Project Name:	Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW)	Monitoring Location:	Tailrace Upstream (Barkot)
Monitoring Date:	12-12-2022	Reporting Date:	21-12-2022
Source:	Ambient Air Gases	Monitoring Instrument:	AQMS 65, Serial # 1310
GPS Coordinates:	34.596088, 73.374512		

Sr. No	Time	Parameters			
		CO	NO	NO_2	SO_2
		Units			
	Hours	(mg/m^3)	($\mu g/m^3$)	($\mu g/m^3$)	($\mu g/m^3$)
1.	09:00 A.M	0.14	3.51	5.18	4.73
2.	10:00 A.M	0.16	4.07	5.54	2.62
3.	11:00 A.M	0.18	4.47	6.19	1.97
4.	12:00 P.M	0.13	3.78	6.54	2.93
5.	01:00 P.M	0.15	5.26	7.02	0.99
6.	02:00 P.M	0.14	5.04	7.19	2.37
7.	03:00 P.M	0.16	4.8	5.99	0.77
8.	04:00 P.M	0.17	4.75	6.23	1.62
9	05:00 P.M	0.13	4.27	3.52	1.67
10.	06:00 P.M	0.14	3.58	3.87	1.62
11.	07:00 P.M	0.15	3.39	4.54	1.7
12.	08:00 P.M	0.16	4.07	4.3	1.4
13.	09:00 P.M	0.13	3.08	3.29	2.06
14.	10:00 P.M	0.12	2.95	3.27	1.66
15.	11:00 P.M	0.14	3.27	3.52	1.38
16.	12:00 A.M	0.15	3.05	3.78	0.97
17.	01:00 A.M	0.16	3.31	3.55	1.37
18.	02:00 A.M	0.13	4.39	3.3	1.62
19.	03:00 A.M	0.12	4.27	3.59	0.77
20.	04:00 A.M	0.11	4.17	3.1	1.1
21	05:00 A.M	0.12	4.61	3.3	0.4
22.	06:00 A.M	0.1	3.38	3.16	0.56
23.	07:00 A.M	0.11	3.8	2.84	0.77
24	08:00 A.M	0.12	2.27	3.2	1.51
Average Concentration		**0.13**	**3.89**	**4.41**	**1.60**
NEQSAA		**05**	**40**	**80**	**120**
WHO		**04**	---	**25**	**40**

NEQSAA: National Environmental Quality Standards for Ambient Air
WHO: World Health Organization

Note:

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Signature of Analyst:

Signature of Chief Chemist

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FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING, ANALYSIS & SURVEYS
Creative House, 3rd Floor, Office # 302, Phase III Chowk, Hayatabad, Peshawar, Pakistan
Tel: 091-5852913 Cell: +92 302 8462412 Email: inenvconsultants@yahoo.com www. iec-consultants.com www. inenvlab.com
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA-KPK) Certified

Integrated Environment Laboratory

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AMBIENT GASES MONITORING REPORT

Reference Number	BHPP/ENV/223-2022	**Client Name**	Ghulam Rasool & Company Pvt. Ltd.
Project Name:	Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW)	**Monitoring Location:**	GRC Camp Office (Sanghar)
Monitoring Date:	13-12-2022	**Reporting Date:**	21-12-2022
Source: **GPS Coordinates:**	Ambient Air Gases 34.584562, 73.373878	**Monitoring Instrument:**	AQMS 65, Serial # 1310

Sr. No	Time	Parameters			
		CO	NO	NO_2	SO_2
		Units			
	Hours	(mg/m^3)	($\mu g/m^3$)	($\mu g/m^3$)	($\mu g/m^3$)
1.	09:00 A.M	0.55	8.17	10.34	11.26
2.	10:00 A.M	0.57	8.73	10.7	9.15
3.	11:00 A.M	0.59	9.13	11.35	8.5
4.	12:00 P.M	0.54	8.44	11.7	9.46
5.	01:00 P.M	0.56	9.92	12.18	7.52
6.	02:00 P.M	0.55	9.7	12.35	8.9
7.	03:00 P.M	0.57	9.46	11.15	7.3
8.	04:00 P.M	0.58	9.41	11.39	8.15
9.	05:00 P.M	0.54	8.93	8.68	8.2
10.	06:00 P.M	0.55	8.24	9.03	8.15
11.	07:00 P.M	0.56	8.05	9.7	8.23
12.	08:00 P.M	0.57	8.73	9.46	7.93
13.	09:00 P M	0.54	7.74	8.45	8.59
14.	10:00 P M	0.53	7.61	8.43	8.19
15.	11:00 P M	0.55	7.93	8.68	7.91
16.	12:00 A M	0.56	7.71	8.94	7.5
17.	01:00 A M	0.57	7.97	8.71	7.9
18.	02:00 A M	0.54	9.05	8.46	8.15
19.	03:00 A M	0.53	8.93	8.75	7.3
20.	04:00 A M	0.52	8.83	8.26	7.63
21.	05:00 A M	0.53	9.27	8.46	6.93
22.	06:00 A M	0.51	8.04	8.32	7.09
23.	07:00 A M	0.52	8.46	8	7.3
24.	08:00 A M	0.53	6.93	8.36	8.04
Average Concentration		**0.54**	**8.55**	**9.57**	**8.13**
NEQSAA		**05**	**40**	**80**	**120**
WHO		**04**	**---**	**25**	**40**

NEQSAA: National Environmental Quality Standards for Ambient Air
WHO: World Health Organization

Note:

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Creative House, 3rd Floor, Office # 302, Phase III Chowk, Hayatabad, Peshawar, Pakistan
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Environmental Protection Agency (EPA-KPK) Certified

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AMBIENT GASES MONITORING REPORT

Reference Number	BHPP/ENV/223-2022	**Client Name**	Ghulam Rasool & Company Pvt. Ltd.
Project Name:	Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW)	**Monitoring Location:**	Colony Area (Snaghar)
Monitoring Date:	14-12-2022	**Reporting Date:**	21-12-2022
Source: **GPS Coordinates:**	Ambient Air Gases 34.587775, 73.366225	**Monitoring Instrument:**	AQMS 65, Serial # 1310

Sr. No	Time	Parameters			
		CO	NO	NO_2	SO_2
		Units			
	Hours	(mg/m^3)	($\mu g/m^3$)	($\mu g/m^3$)	($\mu g/m^3$)
1.	09:00 A.M	0.13	2.48	4.24	4.77
2.	10:00 A.M	0.15	3.04	4.6	2.66
3.	11:00 A.M	0.17	3.44	5.25	2.01
4.	12:00 P.M	0.12	2.75	5.6	2.97
5.	01:00 P.M	0.14	4.23	6.08	1.03
6.	02:00 P.M	0.13	4.01	6.25	2.41
7.	03:00 P.M	0.15	3.77	5.05	0.81
8.	04:00 P.M	0.16	3.72	5.29	1.66
9.	05:00 P.M	0.12	3.24	2.58	1.71
10.	06:00 P.M	0.13	2.55	2.93	1.66
11.	07:00 P.M	0.14	2.30	3.6	1.74
12.	08:00 P.M	0.15	3.01	3.36	1.44
13.	09:00 P M	0.12	2.05	2.35	2.1
14.	10:00 P M	0.11	1.52	2.33	1.7
15.	11:00 P M	0.13	2.21	2.58	1.42
16.	12:00 A M	0.14	2.02	2.84	1.01
17.	01:00 A M	0.15	2.28	2.61	1.41
18.	02:00 A M	0.12	3.03	2.36	1.66
19.	03:00 A M	0.11	3.24	2.65	0.81
20.	04:00 A M	0.1	3.14	2.16	1.14
21.	05:00 A M	0.11	3.58	2.36	0.44
22.	06:00 A M	0.09	2.35	2.22	0.6
23.	07:00 A M	0.1	2.77	1.9	0.81
24.	08:00 A M	0.11	1.24	2.26	1.55
Average Concentration		**0.12**	**2.86**	**3.47**	**1.64**
NEQSAA		**05**	**40**	**80**	**120**
WHO		**04**	**---**	**25**	**40**

NEQSAA: National Environmental Quality Standards for Ambient Air
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Tel: 091-5852913 Cell: +92 302 8462412 Email: inenvconsultants@yahoo.com www. iec-consultants.com www. inenvlab.com
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Ambient Noise Level Monitoring Results

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AMBIENT NOISE MONITORING REPORT

Reference Number	BHPP/ENV/223-2022	Client Name	China Gezhouba Group Co., Ltd. (CGGC)
Project Name:	Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW)	Monitoring Location:	Dam Site (Paras Valley)
Monitoring Date:	07-12-2022	Reporting Date:	21-12-2022
Source:	Ambient Noise	Monitoring Instrument:	Noise Meter-IEC651-Type-2
GPS Coordinates:	34.660470, 73.455497		

Sr. No.	Monitoring Time	Unit	Minimum	Maximum	Leq
1.	09:00 A.M	dB(A)	59.1	61.7	60.4
2.	10:00 A.M		58.9	61.4	60.15
3.	11:00 A.M		58.6	61.2	59.9
4.	12:00 P.M		58.4	61	59.7
5.	01:00 P.M		58.2	60.8	59.5
6.	02:00 P.M		58	60.6	59.3
7.	03:00 P.M		57.8	60.4	59.1
8.	04:00 P.M		57.6	60.1	58.85
9.	05:00 P.M		57.3	59.9	58.6
10.	06:00 P.M		57.1	59.7	58.4
11.	07:00 P.M		56.9	59.5	58.2
12.	08:00 P.M		56.7	59.3	58
13.	09:00 P M		56.5	59.1	57.8
14.	10:00 P M		56.3	58.8	57.55
15.	11:00 P M		56	58.6	57.3
16.	12:00 A M		55.8	58.4	57.1
17.	01:00 A M		55.6	58.2	56.9
18.	02:00 A M		55.4	58	56.7
19.	03:00 A M		55.2	57.8	56.5
20.	04:00 A M		55	57.5	56.25
21.	05:00 A M		54.7	57.3	56
22.	06:00 A M		54.5	57.1	55.8
23.	07:00 A M		54.3	56.9	55.6
24.	08:00 A M		54.1	56.7	55.4

NEQS limit : 45-55 dB
WHO limit: 70 dB

NEQS: National Environmental Quality Standards WHO: World Health Organization
Leq: Log Equivalent Continuous Sound Level

Note:

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- The report is not valid for court.

Signature of Analyst: Signature of Chief Chemist

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FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING, ANALYSIS & SURVEYS

Creative House, 3rd Floor, Office # 302, Phase III Chowk, Hayatabad, Peshawar, Pakistan
Tel: 091-5852913 Cell: +92 302 8462412 Email: inenvconsultants@yahoo.com www. iec-consultants.com www. inenvlab.com

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AMBIENT NOISE MONITORING REPORT

Reference Number	BHPP/ENV/223-2022	**Client Name**	Ghulam Rasool & Company Pvt. Ltd.
Project Name:	Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW)	**Monitoring Location:**	Adit-1 (Thobi)
Monitoring Date:	08-12-2022	**Reporting Date:**	21-12-2022
Source: **GPS Coordinates:**	Ambient Noise 34.636125, 73.428597	**Monitoring Instrument:**	Noise Meter IEC651 Type-2

Sr. No.	Monitoring Time	Unit	Minimum	Maximum	Leq
1.	09:00 A.M	dB(A)	50.4	53.3	51.9
2.	10:00 A.M		50.2	53.1	51.6
3.	11:00 A.M		50	52.9	51.4
4.	12:00 P.M		49.8	52.7	51.2
5.	01:00 P.M		49.6	52.4	51
6.	02:00 P.M		49.3	52.2	50.8
7.	03:00 P.M		49.1	52	50.6
8.	04:00 P.M		48.9	51.8	50.4
9.	05:00 P.M		48.7	51.6	50.1
10.	06:00 P.M		48.5	51.4	49.9
11.	07:00 P.M		48.3	51.1	49.7
12.	08:00 P.M		48	50.9	49.5
13.	09:00 P M		47.8	50.7	49.3
14.	10:00 P M		47.6	50.5	49.1
15.	11:00 P M		47.4	50.3	48.8
16.	12:00 A M		47.2	50.1	48.6
17.	01:00 A M		47	49.9	48.4
18.	02:00 A M		46.8	49.7	48.2
19.	03:00 A M		46.6	49.5	48
20.	04:00 A M		46.4	49.2	47.8
21.	05:00 A M		46.1	49	47.5
22.	06:00 A M		45.9	48.8	47.3
23.	07:00 A M		45.7	48.6	47.1
24.	08:00 A M		45.5	48.4	46.9
NEQS limit : 45-55 dB WHO limit: 70 dB					

NEQS: National Environmental Quality Standards **WHO:** World Health Organization
Leq: Log Equivalent Continuous Sound Level

Note:

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Signature of Analyst:

Signature of Chief Chemist

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Creative House, 3rd Floor, Office # 302, Phase III Chowk, Hayatabad, Peshawar, Pakistan

Tel: 091-5852913 Cell: +92 302 8462412 Email: inenvconsultants@yahoo.com www. iec-consultants.com www. inenvlab.com

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AMBIENT NOISE MONITORING REPORT

Reference Number	BHPP/ENV/223-2022	Client Name	China Gezhouba Group Co., Ltd. (CGGC)
Project Name:	Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW)	Monitoring Location:	Adit-2 (Ghanool)
Monitoring Date:	09-12-2022	Reporting Date:	21-12-2022
Source:	Ambient Noise	Monitoring Instrument:	Noise Meter-IEC651-Type-2
GPS Coordinates:	34.619787, 73.417525		

Sr. No.	Monitoring Time	Unit	Minimum	Maximum	Leq
1.	09:00 A.M	dB(A)	60.6	63.5	62
2.	10:00 A.M		60.4	63.2	61.8
3.	11:00 A.M		60.1	63	61.5
4.	12:00 P.M		59.9	62.8	61.3
5.	01:00 P.M		59.7	62.6	61.1
6.	02:00 P.M		59.5	62.4	60.9
7.	03:00 P.M		59.3	62.2	60.7
8.	04:00 P.M		59.1	61.9	60.5
9.	05:00 P.M		58.8	61.7	60.2
10.	06:00 P.M		58.6	61.5	60
11.	07:00 P.M		58.4	61.3	59.8
12.	08:00 P.M		58.2	61.1	59.6
13.	09:00 P M		58	60.9	59.4
14.	10:00 P M		57.8	60.6	59.2
15.	11:00 P M		47.7	50.6	49.1
16.	12:00 A M		47.4	50.3	48.9
17.	01:00 A M		47.2	50.1	48.7
18.	02:00 A M		47	49.9	48.5
19.	03:00 A M		46.8	49.7	48.3
20.	04:00 A M		46.6	49.4	48
21.	05:00 A M		46.3	49.2	47.8
22.	06:00 A M		46.1	49	47.6
23.	07:00 A M		45.9	48.8	47.4
24.	08:00 A M		45.7	48.6	47.2

NEQS limit : 45-55 dB
WHO limit: 70 dB

NEQS: National Environmental Quality Standards WHO: World Health Organization
Leq: Log Equivalent Continuous Sound Level

Note:

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Creative House, 3rd Floor, Office # 302, Phase III Chowk, Hayatabad, Peshawar, Pakistan
Tel: 091-5852913 Cell: +92 302 8462412 Email: inenvconsultants@yahoo.com www. iec-consultants.com www. inenvlab.com

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AMBIENT NOISE MONITORING REPORT

Reference Number	BHPP/ENV/223-2022	Client Name	China Gezhouba Group Co., Ltd. (CGGC)
Project Name:	Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW)	Monitoring Location:	Adit-3 (Kholian)
Monitoring Date:	10-12-2022	Reporting Date:	21-12-2022
Source: GPS Coordinates:	Ambient Noise 34.610253,73.389367	Monitoring Instrument:	Noise Meter-IEC651-Type-2

Sr. No.	Monitoring Time	Unit	Minimum	Maximum	Leq
1.	09:00 A.M	dB(A)	46.6	49.4	48
2.	10:00 A.M		46.4	49.2	47.8
3.	11:00 A.M		46.2	49	47.6
4.	12:00 P.M		46	48.8	47.4
5.	01:00 P.M		45.7	48.5	47.1
6.	02:00 P.M		45.5	48.3	46.9
7.	03:00 P.M		45.3	48.1	46.7
8.	04:00 P.M		45.1	47.9	46.5
9.	05:00 P.M		44.9	47.7	46.3
10.	06:00 P.M		44.7	47.5	46.1
11.	07:00 P.M		44.4	47.2	45.8
12.	08:00 P.M		44.2	47	45.6
13.	09:00 P.M		44	46.8	45.4
14.	10:00 P.M		43.8	46.6	45.2
15.	11:00 P.M		43.6	46.4	45
16.	12:00 A.M		43.3	46.1	44.7
17.	01:00 A.M		43.1	45.9	44.5
18.	02:00 A.M		42.9	45.7	44.3
19.	03:00 A.M		42.7	45.5	44.1
20.	04:00 A.M		42.5	45.2	43.8
21.	05:00 A.M		42.2	45	43.6
22.	06:00 A.M		42	44.8	43.4
23.	07:00 A.M		41.8	44.6	43.2
24.	08:00 A.M		41.6	44.4	43

NEQS limit : 45-55 dB
WHO limit: 70 dB

NEQS: National Environmental Quality Standards **WHO:** World Health Organization
Leq: Log Equivalent Continuous Sound Level

Note:

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Signature of Analyst: *Signature of Chief Chemist*

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Creative House, 3rd Floor, Office # 302, Phase III Chowk, Hayatabad, Peshawar, Pakistan
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AMBIENT NOISE MONITORING REPORT

Reference Number	BHPP/ENV/223-2022	Client Name	China Gezhouba Group Co., Ltd. (CGGC)
Project Name:	Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW)	Monitoring Location:	Powerhouse (Barkot)
Monitoring Date:	11-12-2022	Reporting Date:	21-12-2022
Source: GPS Coordinates:	Ambient Noise 34.601812, 73.377145	Monitoring Instrument:	Noise Meter-IEC651-Type-2

Sr. No.	Monitoring Time	Unit	Minimum	Maximum	Leq
1.	09:00 A.M	dB(A)	42.4	45.3	43.8
2.	10:00 A.M		42.2	45.1	43.6
3.	11:00 A.M		42	44.9	43.4
4.	12:00 P.M		41.8	44.7	43.2
5.	01:00 P.M		41.5	44.4	42.9
6.	02:00 P.M		41.3	44.2	42.7
7.	03:00 P.M		41.1	44	42.5
8.	04:00 P.M		40.9	43.8	42.3
9.	05:00 P.M		40.7	43.6	42.1
10.	06:00 P.M		40.5	43.4	41.9
11.	07:00 P.M		40.2	43.1	41.6
12.	08:00 P.M		40	42.9	41.4
13.	09:00 P M		39.8	42.7	41.2
14.	10:00 P M		39.6	42.5	41
15.	11:00 P M		39.4	42.3	40.8
16.	12:00 A M		39.1	42	40.5
17.	01:00 A M		38.9	41.8	40.3
18.	02:00 A M		38.7	41.6	40.1
19.	03:00 A M		38.5	41.4	39.9
20.	04:00 A M		38.3	41.1	39.7
21.	05:00 A M		38	40.9	39.4
22.	06:00 A M		37.8	40.7	39.2
23.	07:00 A M		37.6	40.5	39
24.	08:00 A M		37.4	40.3	38.8

NEQS limit : 45-55 dB
WHO limit: 70 dB

NEQS: National Environmental Quality Standards WHO: World Health Organization
Leq: Log Equivalent Continuous Sound Level

Note:

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AMBIENT NOISE MONITORING REPORT

Reference Number	BHPP/ENV/223-2022	Client Name	China Gezhouba Group Co., Ltd. (CGGC)
Project Name:	Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW)	Monitoring Location:	Tailrace Upstream (Barkot)
Monitoring Date:	12-12-2022	Reporting Date:	21-12-2022
Source: GPS Coordinates:	Ambient Noise 34.596088, 73.374512	Monitoring Instrument:	Noise Meter-IEC651-Type-2

Sr. No.	Monitoring Time	Unit	Minimum	Maximum	Leq
1.	09:00 A.M	dB(A)	46.7	49.6	48.1
2.	10:00 A.M		46.5	49.4	47.9
3.	11:00 A.M		46.3	49.2	47.7
4.	12:00 P.M		46.1	49	47.5
5.	01:00 P.M		45.8	48.7	47.2
6.	02:00 P.M		45.6	48.5	47
7.	03:00 P.M		45.4	48.3	46.8
8.	04:00 P.M		45.2	48.1	46.6
9.	05:00 P.M		45	47.9	46.4
10.	06:00 P.M		44.8	47.7	46.2
11.	07:00 P.M		44.5	47.4	45.9
12.	08:00 P.M		44.3	47.2	45.7
13.	09:00 P M		44.1	47	45.5
14.	10:00 P M		43.9	46.8	45.3
15.	11:00 P M		43.7	46.6	45.1
16.	12:00 A M		43.4	46.3	44.8
17.	01:00 A M		43.2	46.1	44.6
18.	02:00 A M		43	45.9	44.4
19.	03:00 A M		42.8	45.7	44.2
20.	04:00 A M		42.6	45.4	44
21.	05:00 A M		42.3	45.2	43.7
22.	06:00 A M		42.1	45	43.5
23.	07:00 A M		41.9	44.8	43.3
24.	08:00 A M		41.7	44.6	43.1

NEQS limit : 45-55 dB
WHO limit: 70 dB

NEQS: National Environmental Quality Standards WHO: World Health Organization
Leq: Log Equivalent Continuous Sound Level

Note:

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Creative House, 3rd Floor, Office # 302, Phase III Chowk, Hayatabad, Peshawar, Pakistan

Tel: 091-5852913 Cell: +92 302 8462412 Email: inenvconsultants@yahoo.com www. iec-consultants.com www. inenvlab.com

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AMBIENT NOISE MONITORING REPORT

Reference Number	BHPP/ENV/223-2022	**Client Name**	Ghulam Rasool & Company Pvt. Ltd.
Project Name:	Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW)	**Monitoring Location:**	GRC Camp Office (Sanghar)
Monitoring Date:	13-12-2022	**Reporting Date:**	21-12-2022
Source: **GPS Coordinates:**	Ambient Noise 34.584562, 73.373878	**Monitoring Instrument:**	Noise Meter-IEC651-Type-2

Sr. No.	Monitoring Time	Unit	Minimum	Maximum	Leq
1.	09:00 A.M	dB(A)	59.6	62.5	61
2.	10:00 A.M		59.4	62.2	60.8
3.	11:00 A.M		59.1	62	60.5
4.	12:00 P.M		58.9	61.8	60.3
5.	01:00 P.M		58.7	61.6	60.1
6.	02:00 P.M		58.5	61.4	59.9
7.	03:00 P.M		58.3	61.2	59.7
8.	04:00 P.M		58.1	60.9	59.5
9.	05:00 P.M		57.8	60.7	59.2
10.	06:00 P.M		57.6	60.5	59
11.	07:00 P.M		57.4	60.3	58.8
12.	08:00 P.M		57.2	60.1	58.6
13.	09:00 P M		57	59.9	58.4
14.	10:00 P M		56.8	59.6	58.2
15.	11:00 P M		56.5	59.4	57.9
16.	12:00 A M		56.3	59.2	57.7
17.	01:00 A M		56.1	59	57.5
18.	02:00 A M		55.9	58.8	57.3
19.	03:00 A M		55.7	58.6	57.1
20.	04:00 A M		55.5	58.3	56.9
21.	05:00 A M		55.2	58.1	56.6
22.	06:00 A M		55	57.9	56.4
23.	07:00 A M		54.8	57.7	56.2
24.	08:00 A M		54.6	57.5	56
NEQS limit : 45-55 dB **WHO limit:** 70 dB					

NEQS: National Environmental Quality Standards **WHO:** World Health Organization
Leq: Log Equivalent Continuous Sound Level

Note:

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Signature of Analyst: *Signature of Chief Chemist*

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FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING, ANALYSIS & SURVEYS
Creative House, 3rd Floor, Office # 302, Phase III Chowk, Hayatabad, Peshawar, Pakistan
Tel: 091-5852913 Cell: +92 302 8462412 Email: inenvconsultants@yahoo.com www. iec-consultants.com www. inenvlab.com
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AMBIENT NOISE MONITORING REPORT

Reference Number	BHPP/ENV/223-2022	**Client Name**	Ghulam Rasool & Company Pvt. Ltd.
Project Name:	Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW)	**Monitoring Location:**	Colony Area (Sanghar)
Monitoring Date:	14-12-2022	**Reporting Date:**	21-12-2022
Source: **GPS Coordinates:**	Ambient Noise 34.587775, 73.366225	**Monitoring Instrument:**	Noise Meter-IEC651-Type-2

Sr. No.	Monitoring Time	Unit	Minimum	Maximum	Leq
1.	09:00 A.M	dB(A)	41.4	43.7	42.5
2.	10:00 A.M		42.5	44.7	43.6
3.	11:00 A.M		40.5	41.3	40.9
4.	12:00 P.M		40.4	43	41.7
5.	01:00 P.M		43.9	46.8	45.3
6.	02:00 P.M		43.9	44.6	44.2
7.	03:00 P.M		40.3	41.5	40.9
8.	04:00 P.M		43	43.4	43.2
9.	05:00 P.M		45.3	47.5	46.4
10.	06:00 P.M		45	45.9	45.4
11.	07:00 P.M		47.5	49.9	48.7
12.	08:00 P.M		41.5	43.4	42.4
13.	09:00 P M		39.5	41	40.2
14.	10:00 P M		43.8	45.6	44.7
15.	11:00 P M		41.5	42.7	42.1
16.	12:00 A M		43.8	44.3	44
17.	01:00 A M		45.5	46.9	46.2
18.	02:00 A M		41	42.4	41.7
19.	03:00 A M		43.4	44.9	44.1
20.	04:00 A M		41.7	44.1	42.9
21.	05:00 A M		40.5	41.5	41
22.	06:00 A M		40	40.9	40.4
23.	07:00 A M		43.8	44.9	44.3
24.	08:00 A M		43.8	42.8	43.3

NEQS limit : 45-55 dB
WHO limit: 70 dB

NEQS: National Environmental Quality Standards **WHO:** World Health Organization
Leq: Log Equivalent Continuous Sound Level

Note:

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Signature of Analyst:

Signature of Chief Chemist

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FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING, ANALYSIS & SURVEYS

Creative House, 3rd Floor, Office # 302, Phase III Chowk, Hayatabad, Peshawar, Pakistan

Tel: 091-5852913 Cell: +92 302 8462412 Email: inenvconsultants@yahoo.com www. iec-consultants.com www. inenvlab.com

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Drinking Water Monitoring Results

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DRINKING WATER ANALYSIS REPORT

Reference Number	BHPP/ENV/223-2022	**Client Name**	China Gezhouba Group Co., Ltd. (CGGC)
Project Name:	Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW)	**Sampling Location:**	Dam Site (Paras Valley)
Sampling Date:	14-12-2022	**Reporting Date:**	21-12-2022
Source:	Spring Water	**Analysis Method**	APHA/USEPA Standard Methods
GPS Coordinates:	34.653167, 73.445678		

Nr.	Parameters	Standard Methods	Units	WHO	NDWQS	Results
1.	pH	APHA-4500H+ B	--	6.5-8.5	6.5-8.5	7.4
2.	Temperature	---	°C	---	----	7
3.	Taste & Odor	In-house	--	Non-Objectionable	Non Objectionable	Non Objectionable
4.	Color	APHA-2120 B/C	TCU	≤ 15	<15	4
5.	Turbidity	APHA-2130 B	NTU	<5	<5	3
6.	Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	APHA-2540 C	mg/L	< 1000	<1000	359
7.	Total Hardness as $CaCO_3$	APHA-2340 C	mg/L	-------	<500	294
8.	Nitrate (NO_3)	APHA-4500NO3 B	mg/L	50	≤50	2.2
9.	Nitrite (NO_2)	APHA-4500NO2 B	mg/L	3	≤3	0.04
10.	Arsenic (As)	APHA-3500As B	mg/L	0.01	≤0.05	N.D.
11.	Nickel (Ni)	ASTM E3047-16	mg/L	0.02	≤0.02	0.001
12.	Antimony (Sb)	APHA-3500Sb B	mg/L	0.005	<0.005	N.D.
13.	Chloride (Cl)	APHA-4500Cl- B	mg/L	250	<250	128
14.	Chlorine	APHA-4500 CL	mg/L		0.5-1.5	0.2
15.	Lead (Pb)	APHA-3500 Pb-B	mg/L	0.01	≤0.05	0.006
16.	Fluoride	APHA-4500F- C	mg/L	1.5	≤1.5	0.73
17.	Aluminum	APHA-3500 Al	mg/L	≤ 0.2	≤0.2	N.D.
18.	Manganese (Mn)	APHA-3500 MN-B	mg/L	0.5	≤0.5	N.D.
19.	Cadmium (Cd)	APHA-3500 Cd-B	mg/L	0.003	0.01	N.D
20.	Barium (Ba)	APHA-3500 Ba B	mg/L	0.3	0.7	0.16
21.	Mercury (Hg)	APHA-3500 Hg-B	mg/L	0.001	≤0.001	N.D.
22.	Copper (Cu)	APHA- 3500 Cu-B	mg/L	2	2	0.03
23.	Zinc (Zn)	APHA- 3500 Zn B	mg/L	3	5	1.01
24.	Boron (B)	APHA 4500 B- C	mg/L	0.3	0.3	N.D.
25.	Chromium (Cr)	APHA 3500 cr B	mg/L	0.05	≤0.05	N.D.
26.	Selenium (Se)	APHA- 3500 Se C	mg/L	0.01	0.01	N.D.
27.	Cyanide (CN)	APHA 4500-CN	mg/L	0.07	≤0.05	N.D.
28.	E-Coli	APHA 9222 D	Number/100 mL	Must not be detectable in any 100 ml sample	0 Number/100 mL	7
29.	Total Coliform	APHA 9222 B	Number/100 mL	Must not be detectable in any 100 ml sample	0 Number/100 mL	13

NDWQS National Drinking Water Quality Standards WHO World Health Organization
N.D Not Detected

Signature of Analyst: Signature of Chief Chemist

Integrated Environment Laboratory

FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING, ANALYSIS & SURVEYS

Creative House, 3rd Floor, Office # 302, Phase III Chowk, Hayatabad, Peshawar, Pakistan

Tel: 091-5852913 Cell: +92 302 8462412 Email: inenvconsultants@yahoo.com www. iec-consultants.com www. inenvlab.com

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DRINKING WATER ANALYSIS REPORT

Reference Number	BHPP/ENV/223-2022	**Client Name**	Ghulam Rasool & Company Pvt. Ltd.
Project Name:	Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW)	**Sampling Location:**	Adit-1 (Thobi)
Sampling Date:	14-12-2022	**Reporting Date:**	21-12-2022
Source: **GPS Coordinates:**	Spring Water 34.636125, 73.428597	**Analysis Method**	APHA/USEPA Standard Methods

Sr. No.	Parameters	Standard Methods	Units	WHO	NDWQS	Results
1.	pH	APHA-4500H+ B	--	6.5-8.5	6.5-8.5	7.7
2.	Temperature	---	°C	---	----	6
3.	Taste & Odor	In-house	--	Non-Objectionable	Non Objectionable	Non Objectionable
4.	Color	APHA-2120 B/C	TCU	≤ 15	<15	6
5.	Turbidity	APHA-2130 B	NTU	<5	<5	4
6.	Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	APHA-2540 C	mg/L	< 1000	<1000	381
7.	Total Hardness as $CaCO_3$	APHA-2340 C	mg/L	-------	<500	217
8.	Nitrate (NO_3)	APHA-4500NO3 B	mg/L	50	≤50	1.9
9.	Nitrite (NO_2)	APHA-4500NO2 B	mg/L	3	≤3	0.06
10.	Arsenic (As)	APHA-3500As B	mg/L	0.01	≤0.05	N.D.
11.	Nickel (Ni)	ASTM E3047-16	mg/L	0.02	≤0.02	0.003
12.	Antimony (Sb)	APHA-3500Sb B	mg/L	0.005	<0.005	N.D.
13.	Chloride (Cl)	APHA-4500Cl- B	mg/L	250	<250	131
14.	Chlorine	APHA-4500 CL	mg/L		0.5-1.5	0.09
15.	Lead (Pb)	APHA-3500 Pb-B	mg/L	0.01	≤0.05	0.001
16.	Fluoride	APHA-4500F- C	mg/L	1.5	≤1.5	0.58
17.	Aluminum	APHA-3500 Al	mg/L	≤ 0.2	≤0.2	N.D.
18.	Manganese (Mn)	APHA-3500 MN-B	mg/L	0.5	≤0.5	N.D.
19.	Cadmium (Cd)	APHA-3500 Cd-B	mg/L	0.003	0.01	N.D.
20.	Barium (Ba)	APHA-3500 Ba B	mg/L	0.3	0.7	0.08
21.	Mercury (Hg)	APHA-3500 Hg-B	mg/L	0.001	≤0.001	N.D.
22.	Copper (Cu)	APHA- 3500 Cu-B	mg/L	2	2	0.07
23.	Zinc (Zn)	APHA- 3500 Zn B	mg/L	3	5	1.06
24.	Boron (B)	APHA 4500 B- C	mg/L	0.3	0.3	N.D.
25.	Chromium (Cr)	APHA 3500 cr B	mg/L	0.05	≤0.05	N.D.
26.	Selenium (Se)	APHA- 3500 Se C	mg/L	0.01	0.01	N.D.
27.	Cyanide (CN)	APHA 4500-CN	mg/L	0.07	≤0.05	N.D.
28.	E-Coli	APHA:9222 D	Number/100 mL	Must not be detectable in any 100 ml sample	0 Number/100 mL	0
29.	Total Coliform	APHA:9222 B	Number/100 mL	Must not be detectable in any 100 ml sample	0 Number/100 mL	0

NDWQS National Drinking Water Quality Standards **WHO** World Health Organization
N D Not Detected

Signature of Analyst: *Signature of Chief Chemist*

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Creative House, 3rd Floor, Office # 302, Phase III Chowk, Hayatabad, Peshawar, Pakistan
Tel: 091-5852913 Cell: +92 302 8462412 Email: inenvconsultants@yahoo.com www. iec-consultants.com www. inenvlab.com
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DRINKING WATER ANALYSIS REPORT

Reference Number	BHPP/ENV/223-2022	Client Name	China Gezhouba Group Co., Ltd. (CGGC)
Project Name:	Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW)	Sampling Location:	Adit-2 (Ghanol)
Sampling Date:	14-12-2022	Reporting Date:	21-12-2022
Source: GPS Coordinates;	Spring Water 34.619387, 73.417288	Analysis Method	APHA/USEPA Standard Methods

	Parameters	Standard Methods	Units	WHO	NDWQS	Results
1	pH,	APHA-4500H+ B	--	6.5-8.5	6.5-8.5	7.3
2	Temperature	---	°C	---	----	8
3	Taste & Odor	In-house	--	Non-Objectionable	Non Objectionable	Non Objectionable
4	Color	APHA-2120 B/C	TCU	≤ 15	<15	5
5	Turbidity	APHA-2130 B	NTU	<5	<5	4
6	Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	APHA-2540 C	mg/L	< 1000	<1000	363
7	Total Hardness as $CaCO_3$	APHA-2340 C	mg/L	------	<500	261
8	Nitrate (NO_3)	APHA-4500NO3 B	mg/L	50	≤50	1.03
9	Nitrite (NO_2)	APHA-4500NO2 B	mg/L	3	≤3	0.07
10	Arsenic (As)	APHA-3500As B	mg/L	0.01	≤0.05	N.D.
11	Nickel (Ni)	ASTM E3047-16	mg/L	0.02	≤0.02	0.005
12	Antimony (Sb)	APHA-3500Sb B	mg/L	0.005	<0.005	N.D.
13	Chloride (Cl)	APHA-4500Cl- B	mg/L	250	<250	138
14	Chlorine	APHA-4500 CL	mg/L		0.5-1.5	0.1
15	Lead (Pb)	APHA-3500 Pb-B	mg/L	0.01	≤0.05	0.004
16	Fluoride	APHA-4500F- C	mg/L	1.5	≤1.5	0.86
17	Aluminum	APHA-3500 Al	mg/L	≤ 0.2	≤0.2	N.D.
18	Manganese (Mn)	APHA-3500 MN-B	mg/L	0.5	≤0.5	N.D.
19	Cadmium (Cd)	APHA-3500 Cd-B	mg/L	0.003	0.01	N.D.
20	Barium (Ba)	APHA-3500 Ba B	mg/L	0.3	0.7	0.12
21	Mercury (Hg)	APHA-3500 Hg-B	mg/L	0.001	≤0.001	N.D.
22	Copper (Cu)	APHA- 3500 Cu-B	mg/L	2	2	0.04
23	Zinc (Zn)	APHA- 3500 Zn B	mg/L	3	5	1.1
24	Boron (B)	APHA 4500 B- C	mg/L	0.3	0.3	N.D.
25	Chromium (Cr)	APHA 3500 cr B	mg/L	0.05	≤0.05	N.D.
26	Selenium (Se)	APHA- 3500 Se C	mg/L	0.01	0.01	N.D.
27	Cyanide (CN)	APHA 4500-CN	mg/L	0.07	≤0.05	N.D.
28	E-Coli	APHA:9222 D	Number/100 mL	Must not be detectable in any 100 ml sample	0 Number/100 mL	0
29	Total Coliform	APHA:9222 B	Number/100 mL	Must not be detectable in any 100 ml sample	0 Number/100 mL	0

NDWQS National Drinking Water Quality Standards **WHO** World Health Organization
N D Not Detected

Signature of Analyst

Signature of Chief Chemist

Integrated Environment Laboratory

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Creative House, 3rd Floor, Office # 302, Phase III Chowk, Hayatabad, Peshawar, Pakistan
Tel: 091-5852913 Cell: +92 302 8462412 Email: inenvconsultants@yahoo.com www. iec-consultants.com www. inenvlab.com
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DRINKING WATER ANALYSIS REPORT

Reference Number	BHPP/ENV/223-2022	Client Name	China Gezhouba Group Co., Ltd. (CGGC)
Project Name:	Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW)	Sampling Location:	Adit-3 (Kholian)
Sampling Date:	14-12-2022	Reporting Date:	21-12-2022
Source: GPS Coordinates;	Spring Water 34.605195, 73.394487	Analysis Method	APHA/USEPA Standard Methods

	Parameters	Standard Methods	Units	WHO	NDWQS	Results
1	pH	APHA-4500H+ B	--	6.5-8.5	6.5-8.5	7.7
2	Temperature	---	°C	---	----	8
3	Taste & Odor	In-house	--	Non-Objectionable	Non Objectionable	Non Objectionable
4	Color	APHA-2120 B/C	TCU	≤ 15	<15	6
5	Turbidity	APHA-2130 B	NTU	<5	<5	4
6	Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	APHA-2540 C	mg/L	< 1000	<1000	377
7	Total Hardness as $CaCO_3$	APHA-2340 C	mg/L	-------	<500	258
8	Nitrate (NO_3)	APHA-4500NO3 B	mg/L	50	≤50	1.06
9	Nitrite (NO_2)	APHA-4500NO2 B	mg/L	3	≤3	0.08
10	Arsenic (As)	APHA-3500As B	mg/L	0.01	≤0.05	N.D.
11	Nickel (Ni)	ASTM E3047-16	mg/L	0.02	≤0.02	0.008
12	Antimony (Sb)	APHA-3500Sb B	mg/L	0.005	<0.005	
13	Chloride (Cl)	APHA-4500Cl- B	mg/L	250	<250	129
14	Chlorine	APHA-4500 CL	mg/L		0.5-1.5	0.03
15	Lead (Pb)	APHA-3500 Pb-B	mg/L	0.01	≤0.05	0.005
16	Fluoride	APHA-4500F- C	mg/L	1.5	≤1.5	0.75
17	Aluminum	APHA-3500 Al	mg/L	≤ 0.2	≤0.2	N.D.
18	Manganese (Mn)	APHA-3500 MN-B	mg/L	0.5	≤0.5	N.D.
19	Cadmium (Cd)	APHA-3500 Cd-B	mg/L	0.003	0.01	N.D.
20	Barium (Ba)	APHA-3500 Ba B	mg/L	0.3	0.7	0.16
21	Mercury (Hg)	APHA-3500 Hg-B	mg/L	0.001	≤0.001	N.D.
22	Copper (Cu)	APHA- 3500 Cu-B	mg/L	2	2	N.D.
23	Zinc (Zn)	APHA- 3500 Zn B	mg/L	3	5	1.3
24	Boron (B)	APHA 4500 B- C	mg/L	0.3	0.3	N.D.
25	Chromium (Cr)	APHA 3500 cr B	mg/L	0.05	≤0.05	N.D.
26	Selenium (Se)	APHA- 3500 Se C	mg/L	0.01	0.01	N.D.
27	Cyanide (CN)	APHA 4500-CN	mg/L	0.07	≤0.05	N.D.
28	E-Coli	APHA:9222 D	Number/100 mL	Must not be detectable in any 100 ml sample	0 Number/100 mL	0
29	Total Coliform	APHA:9222 B	Number/100 mL	Must not be detectable in any 100 ml sample	0 Number/100 mL	0

NDWQS National Drinking Water Quality Standards **WHO** World Health Organization
N D Not Detected

Signature of Analyst *Signature of Chief Chemist*

Integrated Environment Laboratory

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Creative House, 3rd Floor, Office # 302, Phase III Chowk, Hayatabad, Peshawar, Pakistan
Tel: 091-5852913 Cell: +92 302 8462412 Email: inenvconsultants@yahoo.com www. iec-consultants.com www. inenvlab.com
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DRINKING WATER ANALYSIS REPORT

Reference Number	BHPP/ENV/223-2022	Client Name	China Gezhouba Group Co., Ltd. (CGGC)
Project Name:	Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW)	Sampling Location:	Powerhouse (Barkot)
Sampling Date:	14-12-2022	Reporting Date:	21-12-2022
Source: GPS Coordinates:	Spring Water (Sanduri) 34.603747, 73.379525	Analysis Method	APHA/USEPA Standard Methods

Parameters	Standard Methods	Units	WHO	NDWQS	Results
pH	APHA-4500H+ B	--	6.5-8.5	6.5-8.5	7.5
Temperature	---	°C	---	---	7
Taste & Odor	In-house	--	Non-Objectionable	Non Objectionable	Non Objectionable
Color	APHA-2120 B/C	TCU	≤ 15	<15	10
Turbidity	APHA-2130 B	NTU	<5	<5	4
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	APHA-2540 C	mg/L	< 1000	<1000	402
Total Hardness as $CaCO_3$	APHA-2340 C	mg/L	-------	<500	316
Nitrate (NO_3)	APHA-4500NO3 B	mg/L	50	≤50	1.2
Nitrite (NO_2)	APHA-4500NO2 B	mg/L	3	≤3	0.37
Arsenic (As)	APHA-3500As B	mg/L	0.01	≤0.05	
Nickel (Ni)	ASTM E3047-16	mg/L	0.02	≤0.02	0.009
Antimony (Sb)	APHA-3500Sb B	mg/L	0.005	<0.005	
Chloride (Cl)	APHA-4500Cl- B	mg/L	250	<250	105
Chlorine	APHA-4500 CL	mg/L		0.5-1.5	0.1
Lead (Pb)	APHA-3500 Pb-B	mg/L	0.01	≤0.05	0.003
Fluoride	APHA-4500F- C	mg/L	1.5	≤1.5	0.91
Aluminum	APHA-3500 Al	mg/L	≤ 0.2	≤0.2	N.D.
Manganese (Mn)	APHA-3500 MN-B	mg/L	0.5	≤0.5	N.D.
Cadmium (Cd)	APHA-3500 Cd-B	mg/L	0.003	0.01	N.D.
Barium (Ba)	APHA-3500 Ba B	mg/L	0.3	0.7	0.11
Mercury (Hg)	APHA-3500 Hg-B	mg/L	0.001	≤0.001	N.D.
Copper (Cu)	APHA- 3500 Cu-B	mg/L	2	2	0.06
Zinc (Zn)	APHA- 3500 Zn B	mg/L	3	5	1.08
Boron (B)	APHA 4500 B- C	mg/L	0.3	0.3	N.D.
Chromium (Cr)	APHA 3500 cr B	mg/L	0.05	≤0.05	N.D.
Selenium (Se)	APHA- 3500 Se C	mg/L	0.01	0.01	N.D.
Cyanide (CN)	APHA 4500-CN	mg/L	0.07	≤0.05	N.D.
E Coli	APHA:9222 D	Number/100 mL	Must not be detectable in any 100 ml sample	0 Number/100 mL	0
Total Coliform	APHA:9222 B	Number/100 mL	Must not be detectable in any 100 ml sample	0 Number/100 mL	0

NDWQS National Drinking Water Quality Standards **WHO** World Health Organization
N.D Not Detected

Signature of Analyst *Signature of Chief Chemist*

Integrated Environmental Laboratory

SURFACE WATER ANALYSIS REPORT

FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING, ANALYSIS & SURVEYS
Creative House, 3rd Floor, Office # 302, Phase III Chowk, Hayatabad, Peshawar, Pakistan
Tel: 091-5852913 Cell: +92 302 8462412 Email: inenvconsultants@yahoo.com www. iec-consultants.com www. inenvlab.com
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DRINKING WATER ANALYSIS REPORT

Reference Number	BHPP/ENV/223-2022	**Client Name**	Ghulam Rasool & Company Pvt. Ltd.
Project Name:	Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW)	**Sampling Location:**	GRC Camp Office (Sanghar)
Sampling Date:	14-12-2022	**Reporting Date:**	21-12-2022
Source: **GPS Coordinates;**	Spring Water 34.584928, 73.376913	**Analysis Method**	APHA/USEPA Standard Methods

Sr. No.	Parameters	Standard Methods	Units	WHO	NDWQS	Results
1.	pH	APHA-4500H+ B	--	6.5-8.5	6.5-8.5	7.7
2.	Temperature	---	°C	---	----	7
3.	Taste & Odor	In-house	--	Non-Objectionable	Non Objectionable	Non Objectionable
4.	Color	APHA-2120 B/C	TCU	≤ 15	<15	6
5.	Turbidity	APHA-2130 B	NTU	<5	<5	3
6.	Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	APHA-2540 C	mg/L	< 1000	<1000	384
7.	Total Hardness as $CaCO_3$	APHA-2340 C	mg/L	-------	<500	347
8.	Nitrate (NO_3)	APHA-4500NO3 B	mg/L	50	≤50	1.46
9.	Nitrite (NO_2)	APHA-4500NO2 B	mg/L	3	≤3	0.58
10.	Arsenic (As)	APHA-3500As B	mg/L	0.01	≤0.05	
11.	Nickel (Ni)	ASTM E3047-16	mg/L	0.02	≤0.02	0.006
12.	Antimony (Sb)	APHA-3500Sb B	mg/L	0.005	<0.005	
13.	Chloride (Cl)	APHA-4500Cl- B	mg/L	250	<250	117
14.	Chlorine	APHA-4500 CL	mg/L		0.5-1.5	0.05
15.	Lead (Pb)	APHA-3500 Pb-B	mg/L	0.01	≤0.05	N.D
16.	Fluoride	APHA-4500F- C	mg/L	1.5	≤1.5	0.64
17.	Aluminum	APHA-3500 Al	mg/L	≤ 0.2	≤0.2	N.D.
18.	Manganese (Mn)	APHA-3500 MN-B	mg/L	0.5	≤0.5	N.D.
19.	Cadmium (Cd)	APHA-3500 Cd-B	mg/L	0.003	0.01	N.D.
20.	Barium (Ba)	APHA-3500 Ba B	mg/L	0.3	0.7	0.2
21.	Mercury (Hg)	APHA-3500 Hg-B	mg/L	0.001	≤0.001	N.D.
22.	Copper (Cu)	APHA- 3500 Cu-B	mg/L	2	2	0.05
23.	Zinc (Zn)	APHA- 3500 Zn B	mg/L	3	5	1.06
24.	Boron (B)	APHA 4500 B- C	mg/L	0.3	0.3	N.D.
25.	Chromium (Cr)	APHA 3500 cr B	mg/L	0.05	≤0.05	N.D.
26.	Selenium (Se)	APHA- 3500 Se C	mg/L	0.01	0.01	N.D.
27.	Cyanide (CN)	APHA 4500-CN	mg/L	0.07	≤0.05	N.D.
28.	E-Coli	APHA:9222 D	Number/100 mL	Must not be detectable in any 100 ml sample	0 Number/100 mL	0
29.	Total Coliform	APHA:9222 B	Number/100 mL	Must not be detectable in any 100 ml sample	0 Number/100 mL	0

NDWQS National Drinking Water Quality Standards **WHO** World Health Organization
N D Not Detected

Signature of Analyst

Signature of Chief Chemist

Integrated Environment Laboratory

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Creative House, 3rd Floor, Office # 302, Phase III Chowk, Hayatabad, Peshawar, Pakistan
Tel: 091-5852913 Cell: +92 302 8462412 Email: inenvconsultants@yahoo.com www. iec-consultants.com www. inenvlab.com

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Surface Water Monitoring Results (Kunhar River Water)

Integrated Environmental Laboratory

SURFACE WATER ANALYSIS REPORT

Reference Number	BHPP/ENV/223-2022	**Client Name**	China Gezhouba Group Co., Ltd. (CGGC)
Project Name:	Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW)	**Sampling Location:**	Dam Site (Paras Valley)
Sampling Date:	14-12-2022	**Reporting Date:**	21-12-2022
Source: **GPS Coordinates**	Kunhar River 34.660247, 73.451592	**Analysis Method**	APHA/USEPA Standard Methods

Sr. No	Parameters	Analysis Method	Units	NEQS	Results
1)	Temperature	-----	°C	40	5
2)	pH	APHA-4500H+ B	--	6-9	8.3
3)	Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD)	APHA-5220-D	mg/l	150	113
4)	Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD5) at 20 °C	APHA, 5210	mg/l	80	62.8
5)	Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	APHA-2540 C	mg/l	3500	2637
6)	Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	APHA-2540 D	mg/l	200	129
7)	Total Hardness	APHA-2340 C	mg/l	--	164
8)	Oil & Grease	Separation Method	mg/l	10	2.8
9)	Chromium (Hexa & Trivalent)	APHA-3500Cr B	mg/l	1.0	0.61
10)	Total Iron	APHA-3500-Fe-B	mg/l	8.0	3.8
11)	Chloride	APHA-4500Cl- B	mg/l	1000	256
12)	Flouride	APHA-4500F- C	mg/l	10	2.4
13)	Ammonia	ASTM-D1426-15	mg/l	40	4.9
14)	Cadmium	APHA-3500 Cd-B	mg/l	0.1	0.01
15)	Lead	APHA-3500-Pb B	mg/l	0.5	0.08
16)	Arsenic	APHA-3500As B	mg/l	1.0	N D
17)	Copper	APHA-3500Cu B	mg/l	1.0	0.27
18)	Barium	APHA-3500Ba B	mg/l	1.5	0.07
19)	Selenium	APHA- 3500 Se C	mg/l	0.5	N.D
20)	Silver	APHA-3500Ag-B	mg/l	1.0	N.D
21)	Manganese	APHA-3500-Mn B	mg/l	1.5	0.33
22)	Zinc	APHA-3500-Zn B	mg/l	5.0	0.58
23)	Nickel	ASTM E3047-16	mg/l	1.0	0.15
24)	Boron	APHA-4500B-C	mg/l	6.0	N.D
25)	Mercury	APHA-3500 Hg-B	mg/l	0.01	N.D
26)	Sulphide (S^{-2})	APHA-4500 S_2	mg/l	1.0	0.35
27)	Sulphate (SO_4)	APHA-4500-SO_4 C	mg/l	600	429
28)	An Ionic Detergent (as MBAS)	----	mg/l	20	1.1
29)	Phenolic Compound (as Phenol)	APHA-5530-D	mg/l	0.1	0.06
30)	Cyanide (as CN) total	APHA 4500-CN	mg/l	1.0	N.D
31)	E-Coli	APHA:9222 D	Number/100 mL	---	Uncountable
32)	Total Coliform	APHA:9222 B	Number/100 mL	---	Uncountable

NEQS: National Environmental Quality Standards for Liquid Effluents **N.D:** Not Detected

Signature of Analyst: *Signature of Chief Chemist*

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Creative House, 3rd Floor, Office # 302, Phase III Chowk, Hayatabad, Peshawar, Pakistan
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SURFACE WATER ANALYSIS REPORT

Reference Number	BHPP/ENV/223-2022	Client Name	China Gezhouba Group Co., Ltd. (CGGC)
Project Name:	Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW)	Sampling Location:	Tailrace Upstream (Barkot)
Sampling Date:	14-12-2022	Reporting Date:	21-12-2022
Source: GPS Coordinates	Kunhar River 34.5971541, 73.3700751	Analysis Method	APHA/USEPA Standard Methods

Sr. No	Parameters	Analysis Method	Units	NEQS	Results
	Temperature	-----	°C	40	6
	pH	APHA-4500H+ B	--	6-9	7.9
	Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD)	APHA-5220-D	mg/l	150	108
	Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD5) at 20 °C	APHA, 5210	mg/l	80	54.7
	Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	APHA-2540 C	mg/l	3500	2492
	Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	APHA-2540 D	mg/l	200	108
	Total Hardness	APHA-2340 C	mg/l	--	157
	Oil & Grease	Separation Method	mg/l	10	2
	Chromium (Hexa & Trivalent)	APHA-3500Cr B	mg/l	1.0	0.55
	Total Iron	APHA-3500-Fe-B	mg/l	8.0	3.2
	Chloride	APHA-4500Cl- B	mg/l	1000	234
12)	Flouride	APHA-4500F- C	mg/l	10	1.8
13)	Ammonia	ASTM-D1426-15	mg/l	40	3.7
	Cadmium	APHA-3500 Cd-B	mg/l	0.1	0.008
	Lead	APHA-3500-Pb B	mg/l	0.5	0.03
	Arsenic	APHA-3500As B	mg/l	1.0	N D
	Copper	APHA-3500Cu B	mg/l	1.0	N D
	Barium	APHA-3500Ba B	mg/l	1.5	0.04
19)	Selenium	APHA- 3500 Se C	mg/l	0.5	N.D
20)	Silver	APHA-3500Ag-B	mg/l	1.0	N.D
21)	Manganese	APHA-3500-Mn B	mg/l	1.5	0.28
	Zinc	APHA-3500-Zn B	mg/l	5.0	0.37
	Nickel	ASTM E3047-16	mg/l	1.0	0.11
	Boron	APHA-4500B-C	mg/l	6.0	N.D
	Mercury	APHA-3500 Hg-B	mg/l	0.01	N.D
	Sulphide (S^{-2})	APHA-4500 S_2	mg/l	1.0	0.31
	Sulphate (SO_4)	APHA-4500-SO_4 C	mg/l	600	354
28)	An Ionic Detergent (as MBAS)	----	mg/l	20	0.9
	Phenolic Compound (as Phenol)	APHA-5530-D	mg/l	0.1	0.02
	Cyanide (as CN) total	APHA 4500-CN	mg/l	1.0	N.D
	E-Coli	APHA:9222 D	Number/100 mL	---	Uncountable
	Total Coliform	APHA:9222 B	Number/100 mL	---	Uncountable

NEQS: National Environmental Quality Standards for Liquid Effluents **N.D:** Not Detected

Signature of Analyst: Signature of Chief Chemist

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SURFACE WATER ANALYSIS REPORT

Reference Number	BHPP/ENV/223-2022	**Client Name**	Ghulam Rasool & Company Pvt. Ltd.
Project Name:	Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW)	**Sampling Location:**	Colony Area (Sanghar)
Sampling Date:	14-12-2022	**Reporting Date:**	21-12-2022
Source: GPS Coordinates	Kunhar River 34.586503, 73.363695	**Analysis Method**	APHA/USEPA Standard Methods

Sr. No	Parameters	Analysis Method	Units	NEQS	Results
1)	Temperature	-----	°C	40	4
2)	pH	APHA-4500H+ B	--	6-9	8.1
3)	Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD)	APHA-5220-D	mg/l	150	86
4)	Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD5) at 20 °C	APHA, 5210	mg/l	80	42
5)	Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	APHA-2540 C	mg/l	3500	1864
6)	Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	APHA-2540 D	mg/l	200	117
7)	Total Hardness	APHA-2340 C	mg/l	--	161
8)	Oil & Grease	Separation Method	mg/l	10	1.3
9)	Chromium (Hexa & Trivalent)	APHA-3500Cr B	mg/l	1.0	0.41
10)	Total Iron	APHA-3500-Fe-B	mg/l	8.0	2.6
11)	Chloride	APHA-4500Cl- B	mg/l	1000	209
12)	Flouride	APHA-4500F- C	mg/l	10	1.1
13)	Ammonia	ASTM-D1426-15	mg/l	40	2.9
14)	Cadmium	APHA-3500 Cd-B	mg/l	0.1	0.006
15)	Lead	APHA-3500-Pb B	mg/l	0.5	0.01
16)	Arsenic	APHA-3500As B	mg/l	1.0	N D
17)	Copper	APHA-3500Cu B	mg/l	1.0	N D
18)	Barium	APHA-3500Ba B	mg/l	1.5	0.03
19)	Selenium	APHA- 3500 Se C	mg/l	0.5	N D
20)	Silver	APHA-3500Ag-B	mg/l	1.0	N D
21)	Manganese	APHA-3500-Mn B	mg/l	1.5	0.26
22)	Zinc	APHA-3500-Zn B	mg/l	5.0	0.31
23)	Nickel	ASTM E3047-16	mg/l	1.0	0.08
24)	Boron	APHA-4500B-C	mg/l	6.0	N.D
25)	Mercury	APHA-3500 Hg-B	mg/l	0.01	N D
26)	Sulphide (S^{-2})	APHA-4500 S_2	mg/l	1.0	0.29
27)	Sulphate (SO_4)	APHA-4500-SO_4 C	mg/l	600	349
28)	An Ionic Detergent (as MBAS)	-----	mg/l	20	0.4
29)	Phenolic Compound (as Phenol)	APHA-5530-D	mg/l	0.1	0.01
30)	Cyanide (as CN) total	APHA 4500-CN	mg/l	1.0	N D
31)	E-Coli	APHA:9222 D	Number/100 mL	---	Uncountable
32)	Total Coliform	APHA:9222 D	Number/100 mL	---	Uncountable

NEQS: National Environmental Quality Standards for Liquid Effluents **N.D:** Not Detected

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Soil Analysis Results

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SOIL ANALYSIS REPORT

Reference Number	BHPP/ENV/223-2022	**Client Name**	Ghulam Rasool & Company Pvt. Ltd.
Project Name:	Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW)	**Sampling Location :**	Adit-1 (Thobi)
Monitoring Date:	14-12-2022	**Reporting Date:**	21-12-2022
Source:	Soil Sample		

Sr. No.	Parameters		Results
1	Soil Texture	Sand %	14
		Silt%	57
		Clay %	29
		Texture Class	Silty Clay Loam
2	pH		8.1
3	Electrical Conductivity EC (μSm^{-1})		238
4	Phosphorus ($mgkg^{-1}$)		2.01
5	Sodium Absorption Ratio		4.07

μSm^{-1}: Micro siemens/meter

$mgkg^{-1}$: milligram per Kilogram

Signature of Analyst:

Signature of Chief Chemist

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SOIL ANALYSIS REPORT

Reference Number	BHPP/ENV/223-2022	Client Name	China Gezhouba Group Co., Ltd. (CGGC)
Project Name:	Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW)	Sampling Location :	Adit-2 (Ghanol)
Monitoring Date:	14-12-2022	Reporting Date:	21-12-2022
Source:	Soil Sample		

Sr. No.	Parameters		Results
1	Soil Texture	Sand %	08
		Silt%	58
		Clay %	34
		Texture Class	Silty Clay Loam
2	pH		8.1
3	Electrical Conductivity EC (μSm^{-1})		238
4	Phosphorus ($mgkg^{-1}$)		2.01
5	Sodium Absorption Ratio		4.07

μSm^{-1}: micro siemens/meter

$mgkg^{-1}$: milligram per Kilogram

Signature of Analyst

Signature of Chief Chemist

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SOIL ANALYSIS REPORT

Reference Number	BHPP/ENV/223-2022	Client Name	China Gezhouba Group Co., Ltd. (CGGC)
Project Name:	Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW)	Sampling Location :	Adit-3 (Kholian)
Monitoring Date:	14-12-2022	Reporting Date:	21-12-2022
Source:	Soil Sample		

Sr. No.	Parameters		Results
1	Soil Texture	Sand %	17
		Silt%	49
		Clay %	34
		Texture Class	Silty Clay Loam
2	pH		8.0
3	Electrical Conductivity EC (μSm^{-1})		231
4	Phosphorus ($mgkg^{-1}$)		3.2
5	Sodium Absorption Ratio		3.54

μSm^{-1}: micro siemens/meter

$mgkg^{-1}$: milligram per Kilogram

Signature of Analyst

Signature of Chief Chemist

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SOIL ANALYSIS REPORT

Reference Number	BHPP/ENV/223-2022	Client Name	China Gezhouba Group Co., Ltd. (CGGC)
Project Name:	Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW)	Sampling Location :	Powerhouse (Barkot)
Monitoring Date:	14-12-2022	Reporting Date:	21-12-2022
Source:	Soil Sample		

Sr. No.	Parameters		Results
1	Soil Texture	Sand %	12
		Silt%	61
		Clay %	37
		Texture Class	Silty Clay Loam
2	pH		8.1
3	Electrical Conductivity EC (μSm^{-1})		229
4	Phosphorus ($mgkg^{-1}$)		2.9
5	Sodium Absorption Ratio		3.37

μSm^{-1}: micro siemens/meter

$mgkg^{-1}$: milligram per Kilogram

Signature of Analyst:

Signature of Chief Chemist

Environment Laboratory Registered

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SOIL ANALYSIS REPORT

Reference Number	BHPP/ENV/223-2022	**Client Name**	Ghulam Rasool & Company Pvt. Ltd.
Project Name:	Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW)	**Sampling Location :**	GRC Camp Office (Sanghar)
Monitoring Date:	14-12-2022	**Reporting Date:**	21-12-2022
Source:	Soil Sample		

Sr. No.	Parameters		Results
1	Soil Texture	Sand %	16
		Silt%	43
		Clay %	41
		Texture Class	Silty Clay Loam
2	pH		8.0
3	Electrical Conductivity EC (μSm^{-1})		231
4	Phosphorus ($mgkg^{-1}$)		3.2
5	Sodium Absorption Ratio		3.54

μSm^{-1}: Mic.o siemens/meter

$mgkg^{-1}$: milligram per Kilogram

Signature of Analyst:

Signature of Chief Chemist

Integrated Environment Laboratory

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Annexure 3: GRM Notification

PEDO

PAKHTUNKHWA ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION
GOVERNMENT OF KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

Dated Peshawar the 03 /01/2022

NOTIFICATION

No. 38-42 /PEDO/CEO/3[illegible]The Competent Authority is pleased to notify the attached Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) & Grievances Redress Committees (GRCs) at Village level and at Project level for 300MW Balakot Hydropower Project District Mansehra for implementation in true letter & spirit.

The attached GRM is for compliance for 300MW Balakot HPP Project, PEDO.

-Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer
PEDO, Peshawar.

Endst. No. & Date as above.

Copy forwarded for information to:-

1. The Chief Engineer (Development/Plan), PEDO, Peshawar.
2. The Director (P&F) PEDO, Peshawar.
3. The Project Director Balakot HPP (300 MW) District Mansehra
4. PS to CEO PEDO, Peshawar.
5. PA to Director (Admn/HR) PEDO, Peshawar.

Assistant Director (Admin),
PEDO, Peshawar

Notification

Scanned with CamScanner

1 GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM (GRM)

1. The Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO) being carrying out the construction of Balakot Hydropower Development Project (300MW), in District Mansehra of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Pakistan, as an Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Contract, through a proposed loan from Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).

2. The Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW) is category "A" Project as per ADB safeguard criteria, for which a detailed Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) has been developed with the aim to mediate conflicts and response to complaints related to environment and social performance of the project. GRM also provide a forum to general public/community who might believe that they are adversely affected by the ADB/AIIB financed project.

3. The proposed GRM is consist of two–tier Grievance Redress Committees (GRCs) i.e., at village level and at Project level. In both the GRCs, the Project area community represented by the villager's nominated representatives. Having members based in the village, the village–level GRC is helpful in swift resolution of the grievance(s) without indulging in lengthy documentation/legal proceedings. The local participation further build local capacity in dispute resolution and decision–making and provide leadership support in the implementation of the Project.

4. Cases, which are not satisfactorily resolved or affected persons remain aggrieved, the case then forwarded to the Project–level GRC as the prime floor for resolution of the grievances.

5. However, if any disputant remains dissatisfied with the GRC decision/resolution the disputant can seek redress from a court of law.

1.1 Composition of Grievance Redress Committees

6. Under the current arrangements, two village level GRCs have been formed i.e. One at Paras (Dam Site), and the other at Sangar (Powerhouse/Colony Site). Following is the composition of the Village and the Project level GRCs.

Table 11.1: Grievance Redress Committee at Paras (Dam Site)

S/No	Organization	Member
1	Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO)	Deputy Director Social & Resettlement (Chair Person)
2	Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO)	Deputy Director Environment, and Gender (Member)
2	Revenue Department	Concerned Patwari (Member)
3	Dam Site Community	Person Nominated by the Community

Grievance Redress Committee at Sangar

S/No	Organization	Member
1	Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO)	Deputy Director Social & Resettlement (Chair Person)
2	Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO)	Deputy Director Environment, and Gender (Member)

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3	Revenue Department	Concerned Patwari (Member)
4	Powerhouse/Colony Site Community	Person Nominated by the Community

Grievance Redress Committee Project level

S/No	Organization	Member
1	Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO)	Project Director (Chair Person)
2	Revenue Department	LAC or LAC's Representative
3	Powerhouse/Colony Site Community	Two persons Nominated by the Community (One each from Dam and Powerhouse/ Colony Site Villages) *

*The community representation in the Project level GRC shall not be the same as that of the village level GRC.

1.2 GRC's Scope of Work

7. The scope of work of the GRC include the following:

i. The village GRC ensures that all grievances related to social and environmental issues are registered, formally recorded, reviewed, resolved and the concerned person is informed in a timely manner.

ii. The Project GRC monitor the working of the village GRC and work as a forum for appeal against the decision of the village GRC.

iii. GRC-at any level- not consider complaints related to the procurements or with any matters pending in the court of law.

iv. In resolving the disputes, the GRCs take into consideration the following:

- Merit of the complaints/case received for consideration;
- Evidences to take a decision on the complaint;
- Witness statements;
- Plausibility of the case in the light of related project activity;
- Applicable laws, environmental guidelines of Pakistan, initial environmental examination and environmental review document of the project, and ADB/AIIB environmental guidelines;
- Observations made on the field; and
- Available information on previous complaints of similar nature.

1.3 Orientation of GRC Members

8. All GRC members attend a training and orientation meeting prior to commencement of their work. The training is provided by competent technical experts in social/resettlement and environmental management. The training addressed the policy aspects, compliance requirements, expectations of the community, and need for rapport and communication with the affected communities, and finally need for independence and transparent views in dealing with grievances.

1.4 Grievance Redress Procedure

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9. Following procedure is adopted to resolve grievances received by the GRCs.

1.5 Filing of Grievances to Village GRC

10. For grievances related to social and environmental safeguards, the aggrieved person (or their authorized representatives) may file a grievance with the village–level GRC in one of the following ways:

i. Submit a written complaint to any member of the village GRC

ii. Given the local cultural context, any aggrieved women may submit complaints to GRCs directly or through the head of the household.

11. For complaints registration, Complaint Registration Forms are available with the secretary of the village level GRCs and complaints are registered on Grievance Log.

1.6 Hearing and Resolution of the Cases by Village GRC

12. The procedure for hearing and resolution of the complaint are follows.

i. On receipt of a complaint:

- Secretary of village GRC log the complaint in a register called Complaint Register.
- Contact other members of the GRC to conduct a meeting within 10 calendar days of the logging of the complaint.
- If needed, request the complainant or his/her representative to meet the Village GRC on the appointed date to discuss his/her complaint.
- Prepare all the relevant information and document relevant to the complaint prior to the meeting and provide copies to all members.

ii. The GRC meet on the appointed date during which it may:

- Deliberate on the nature and circumstances of the complaint;
- Investigate the complaint based on evidence provided by the complainant;
- Meet with the complainant and other persons;
- Visit the site; and
- Take a decision.

iii. If the GRC needs extra time to investigate or deliberate on the complaint, the secretary informs the complainant of the time when a decision is expected. In any case, all complaints shall be resolved within 30 calendar days of logging.

iv. Once the complaint is resolved, the secretary document the decision and prepare full documentation on the process including minutes of meeting, photographs of visits, documents reviewed, and reasons of the decision.

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v. The GRC ensure that the complainant is fully informed of the decision and is also informed about his/her right to appeal to the Project GRC and to the court of law at any point.

vi. In case follow–up action is required, the chairperson of the village GRC ensure that the actions are taken and are documented.

1.7 Hearing and Resolution of the Cases by Project GRC

13. The procedure for hearing and resolution of the complaint by the Project GRC will be as follows.

i. On receipt of a complaint from:

- Secretary of Project GRC request all the concerned documentation from the secretary of the concerned village GRC.
- Contact other members of the Project GRC to conduct a meeting within 15 calendar days of the logging of the complaint to the Project GRC.
- If needed, request the complainant or his/her representative to meet the Project GRC on the appointed date and place to discuss his/her complaint.
- If needed, request the members of the village GRC to meet the Project GRC on the appointed date and place.
- Prepare all the relevant information and document relevant to the complaint prior to the meeting and provide copies to all members.

ii. The Project GRC meet on the appointed date during which it may:

- Deliberate on the nature and circumstances of the complaint;
- Investigate the complaint;
- Meet with the complainant and other persons;
- Visit the site; and
- Take a decision.

iii. If the GRC needs extra time to investigate or deliberate on the complaint, the secretary informs the complainant of the time when a decision is expected. In any case, all complaints shall be resolved in 45 calendar days of logging with the Project GRC.

iv. Once the complaint is resolved, the secretary document the decision and prepare full documentation on the process including minutes of meeting, photographs of visits, documents reviewed, and reasons of the decision.

v. The GRC ensure that the complainant is fully informed of the decision and is also informed about his/her right to appeal to the court of law.

vi. In case follow–up action is required; the chairperson of the Project GRC ensure that the actions are taken and are documented.

INTERNAL. This information is accessible to ADB Management and staff. It may be shared outside ADB with appropriate permission.

PAKHTUNKHWA ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

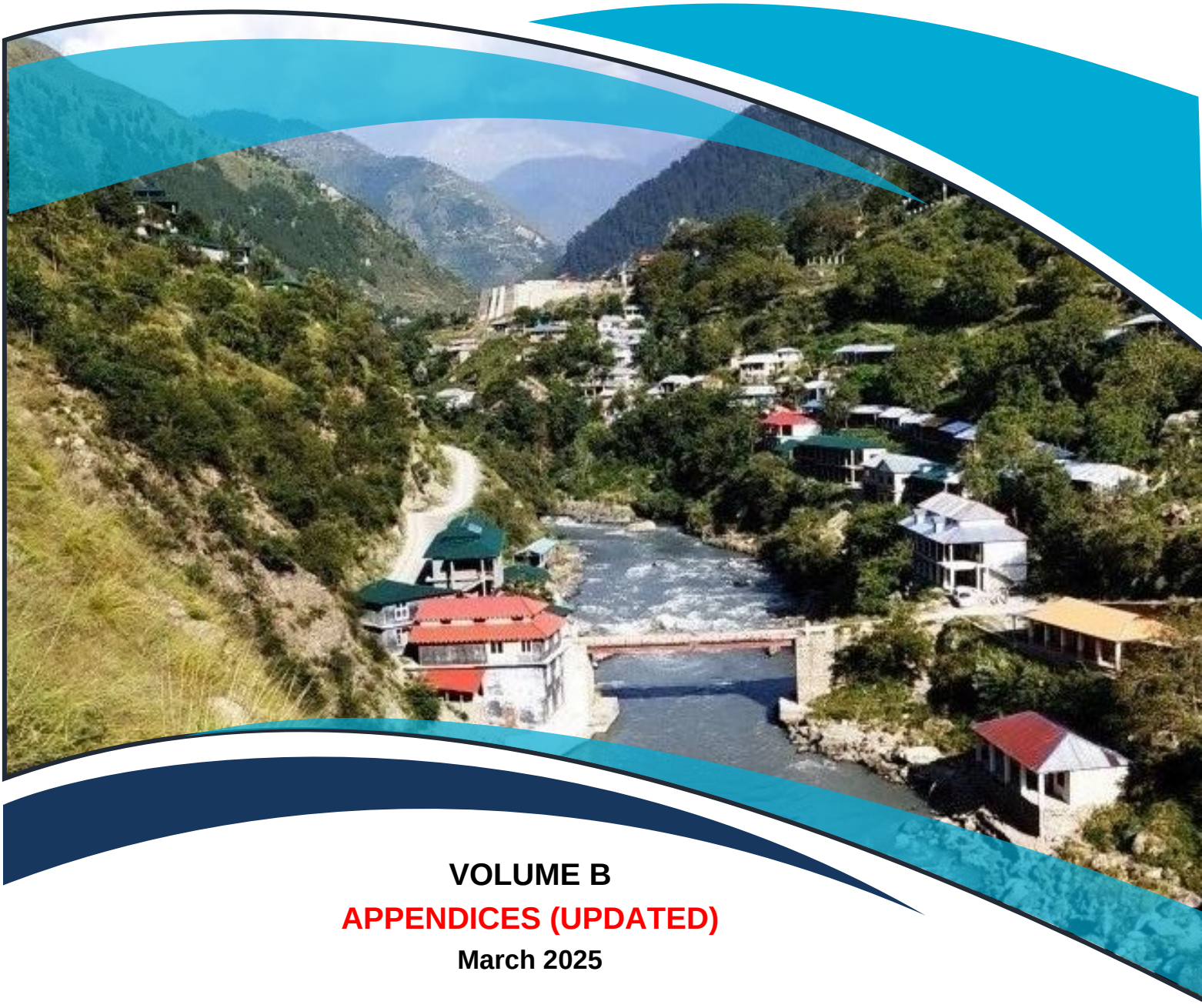
(PEDO)

GOVERNMENT OF KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN

LOAN NO: 4057/8397 (AIIB)-PAK

BALAKOT HYDROPOWER PROJECT (300 MW)
DISTRICT MANSEHRA



VOLUME B

APPENDICES (UPDATED)

March 2025

EMPLOYER

Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO)

PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT (PMC)

A Joint Venture of DOLSAR Engineering Limited (Turkey), AGES Consultants (Pakistan), BAK Consulting Engineers (Pakistan), Civ. Tech Associates, Peshawar, Pakistan (Pakistan), Electra Consultants (Pakistan), and Techno Legal Consultants (Pvt.) Limited (Pakistan)

EPC CONTRACTOR

Joint Venture of China Gezhouba Group Company (CGGC), China &
Ghulam Rasool and Company Pvt. Ltd (GRC), Pakistan

Issue and Revision Record

Rev. No	Date	Prepared by			Checked by	Approved by	Description
00	28-08-2023	Assad Ali KHAN	Environmental Expert	PMC	Muhammad Hussain (Deputy Team Leader/Resident Engineer)	Mehmet CINGISIZ (Project Manager - Team Leader)	The original and disclosed EIA report was updated for design changes and changes in the implementation arrangement of the Project-Specific BAP.
01	21.08.2024	i. Engr. Assad Ali Khan ii. Dr. Waseem Khan iii. Dr. Muhammad Naeem Javaid iv. Mr. Ikramullah v. Dr. Muhammad Saeed Peerzada	i. Environmental Expert ii. Fish Ecologist iii. Fish Biologist iv. Field Biologist v. Plant Taxonomist	PMC	Muhammad Hussain (Deputy Team Leader/Resident Engineer)	Mehmet CINGISIZ (Project Manager - Team Leader)	Additional surveys, with emphasis on the Kashmir Hillstream Loach, were carried out to update the biodiversity section of the EIA report. Two additional volumes, Volumes D and E, were furnished as a result of the field surveys and desk studies.
02	24.12.2024	i. Engr. Assad Ali Khan ii. Dr. Waseem Ahmad Khan iii. Dr. Muhammad Naeem Javaid iv. Mr. Ikramullah v. Dr. Muhammad Saeed Peerzada	i. Environmental Expert ii. Fish Ecologist iii. Fish Biologist iv. Field Biologist v. Plant Taxonomist	PMC	Muhammad Hussain (Deputy Team Leader/Resident Engineer)	Zafer DEMIRSELCUK (Project Manager - Team Leader)	The ADB review comments were incorporated in the submission.
03	26-03-2025	i. Engr. Assad Ali Khan ii. Dr. Waseem Ahmad Khan iii. Dr. Muhammad Naeem Javaid iv. Mr. Ikramullah Dr. Muhammad Saeed Peerzada	i. Environmental Expert ii. Fish Ecologist iii. Fish Biologist iv. Field Biologist Plant Taxonomist	PMC	Muhammad Hussain (Deputy Team Leader/Resident Engineer)	Zafer DEMIRSELCUK (Project Manager - Team Leader)	The ADB additional review comments were incorporated in the submission.

PREFACE

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report for the Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW) was prepared by Hagler Bailly Pakistan (Private) Limited (HBP) in 2019. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Protection Agency (KPEPA) granted "Environmental Approval" for the report on July 6, 2021.

The current EIA report is an updated version of the approved report furnished by the Project Management Consultants (PMC)[1] for the Balakot HPP (300 MW). The updates aim to: (i) incorporate proposed changes to the design of the project's infrastructure facilities as part of the detailed design and implementation arrangements of the Project-specific Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP); and (ii) update the biodiversity section of the EIA report with emphasis on the critically endangered Kashmir Hillstream Loach (Triplophysa kashmirensis).

The approved report's original structure has been maintained, but significant updates have been made to the project description, social baseline, information disclosure and consultation, and BAP sections. Appropriate changes have also been applied to other sections to ensure consistency. Additionally, two new volumes, Volumes D (Management Plan for Threatened Fish Species) and E (Biodiversity Assessment), have been furnished as part of the updated EIA report.

1 A joint venture of:

i. DOLSAR Engineering Inc. Co. (Turkey) Lead Firm;
ii. AGES Consultants;
iii. BAK Consulting Engineers;
iv. CivTech Associates;
v. Electra Consultants; and
vi. Techno Legal Consultants (Pvt.) Limited from Pakistan.

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ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AIIB	Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
amsl	Above Mean Sea Level
BAPs	Biodiversity Action Plans
BTHPP	Balakot Hydropower Project
CGGC	China Gezhouba Group Company (CGGC), China
CMS	Conservation of Migratory Species
CSRM	Country Safeguards Review Mission
DG	Director General
EIA	Environment Impact Assessment
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
EPC	Engineering, Procurement, and Construction
GRC	Ghulam Rasool and Company Pvt. Ltd (GRC)
GWh	Giga Watt hour
HBP	Hagler Bailly Pakistan (Private) Limited
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
km	Kilometer
KPK	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
KPEPA	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Protection Agency
LARP	Land Acquisition and Resettlement Plan
m	Meter
NOCs	No Objection Certificates
PD	Project Director
PEDO	Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization
PIU	Project Implementation Unit
PMC	Project Management Consultants
PMD	Pakistan Meteorological Department

SKHPP	Suki Kinari Hydropower Project
SSEMP	Site-Specific Environmental Management Plan
SPS	Safeguard Policy Statement

APPENDIX A: NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY STANDARDS (NEQS)

Exhibit A.1: NEQS and IFC Guideline Limits for Municipal and Liquid Industrial Effluents1, 2

mg/l, unless otherwise defined

No.	Parameter	Standards			
		Into Inland Waters	Into Sewage Treatment[3]	Into Sea[4]	IFC
1.	Temperature increase[5]	=<3°C	=<3°C	=<3°C	–[13]
2.	pH value	6 to 9	6 to 9	6 to 9	6 to 9
3.	Five–day biochemical oxygen demand (BOD)[5] at 20°C[6]	80	250	80[7]	–
4.	Chemical oxygen demand (COD)	150	400	400	–
5.	Total suspended solids (TSS)	200	400	200	50
6.	Total dissolved solids (TDS)	3,500	3,500	3,500	–
7.	Grease and oil	10	10	10	10
8.	Phenolic compounds (as phenol)	0.1	0.3	0.3	–
9.	Chlorides (as Cl')	1,000	1,000	SC[8]	–
10.	Fluorides (as F')	10	10	10	–
11.	Cyanide total (as CN')	1.0	1.0	1.0	–
12.	Anionic detergents (as MBAS)[9]	20	20	20	–
13.	Sulfates (SO_4)	600	1,000	SC[8]	–
14.	Sulfides (s')	1.0	1.0	1.0	–
15.	Ammonia (NH_3)	40	40	40	–
16.	Pesticides[10]	0.15	0.15	0.15	–
17.	Cadmium[11]	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
18.	Chromium (trivalent and hexavalent)	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.5
19.	Copper[4]	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.5
20.	Lead[4]	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
21.	Mercury[4]	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.005
22.	Selenium[4]	0.5	0.5	0.5	–
23.	Nickel[4]	1.0	1.0	1.0	–
24.	Silver[4]	1.0	1.0	1.0	–
25.	Total toxic metals	2.0	2.0	2.0	–
26.	Zinc	5.0	5.0	5.0	1.0
27.	Arsenic[4]	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.5
28.	Barium[4]	1.5	1.5	1.5	–
29.	Iron	8.0	8.0	8.0	1.0

No.	Parameter	Standards			
		Into Inland Waters	Into Sewage Treatment[3]	Into Sea[4]	IFC
30.	Manganese	1.5	1.5	1.5	–
31.	Boron[4]	6.0	6.0	6.0	–
32.	Chlorine	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.2

Explanations:

1. Dilution of liquid effluents to bring them to the NEQS limiting values is not permissible through freshwater mixing with the effluent before discharging into the environment.
2. The concentration of pollutants in the water being used will be subtracted from the effluent for calculating the NEQS limits.
3. Applicable only when and where sewage treatment is operational and BOD = 80 mg/l is achieved by the sewage treatment system.
4. Provided discharge is not at shore and not within 10 miles of mangroves or other important estuaries.
5. The effluent should not result in a temperature increase of more than 3°C at the edge of the zone where initial mixing and dilution take place in the receiving body. In case the zone is not defined, use 100 m from the point of discharge
6. Assuming minimum dilution 1:10 discharge, a lower ratio would attract progressively stringent standards to be determined by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency. By 1:10 dilution means, for example, that for each one cubic meter of treated effluent, the recipient water body should have 10 cubic meters of water for dilution of this effluent.
7. The value for industry is 200 mg/l
8. Discharge concentration at or below sea concentration (SC)
9. Modified Benzene Alkyl Sulfate assuming surfactant as biodegradable.
10. Pesticides include herbicides, fungicides, and insecticides
11. Subject to total toxic metals discharge should not exceed the level given at S. No. 25.
12. A “-” in the third column indicates that IFC has not provided any guidelines for the parameter or they are to be established by the environmental assessment.
13. IFC General Guidelines describe that “temperature of wastewater before discharge does not increase greater than 3 °C of ambient temperature at the edge of a scientifically established mixing zone which takes into account ambient water quality, receiving water use and assimilative capacity among other considerations”.

Exhibit A.2: NEQS and WHO Standards for Drinking Water Quality

Properties/Parameters	NEQS	WHO Standards	Remarks
Bacterial			
All water intended for drinking (*E.Coli* or Thermotolerant Coliform bacteria)	Must not be detectable in any 100ml sample	Must not be detectable in any 100ml sample	Most Asian countries also follow WHO standards
Treated water entering the distribution system (*E.Coli* or thermo-tolerant coliform and total coliform bacteria)	Must not be detectable in any 100ml sample	Must not be detectable in any 100ml sample	Most Asian countries also follow WHO standards
Treated water in the distribution system *E.Coli* or thermo-tolerant coliform and total coliform bacteria)	Must not be detectable in any 100ml sample	Must not be detectable in any 100ml sample	Most Asian countries also follow WHO standards
	In the case of large supplies, where sufficient samples are examined, must not be present in 95% of the samples taken throughout any 12 months	In the case of large supplies, where sufficient samples are examined, must not be present in 95% of the samples taken throughout any 12 months	
Physical			
Color	≤ 15 TCU	≤ 15 TCU	
Taste	Non-objectionable/Acceptable	Non-objectionable/Acceptable	
Odour	Non-objectionable/Acceptable	Non-objectionable/Acceptable	
Turbidity	< 5 NTU	< 5 NTU	
Total hardness as $CaCO_3$	< 500 mg/L	–	
TDS	< 1000 mg/L	< 1000 mg/L	
pH	6.5 – 8.5	6.5 – 8.5	
Chemical			
Essential Inorganic	**mg/Litre**	**mg/Litre**	
Aluminium (Al)	≤0.2	0.2	
Antimony (Sb)	≤ 0.005 (P)	0.02	
Arsenic (As)	≤ 0.05 (P)	0.01	Standards for Pakistan similar to most Asian developing countries
Barium (Ba)	0.7	0.7	
Boron (B)	0.3	0.3	

Properties/Parameters	NEQS	WHO Standards	Remarks
Cadmium	0.01	0.003	Standards for Pakistan similar to most Asian developing countries
Chloride (Cl)	< 250	250	
Chromium (Cr)	≤ 0.05	0.05	
Copper (Cu)	2	2	
Toxic Inorganic	**mg/Litre**	**mg/Litre**	
Cyanide (CN)	≤ 0.05	0.07	The standard for Pakistan similar to most Asian developing countries
Flouride (F)	≤ 1.5	1.5	
Lead (Pb)	≤ 0.05	0.01	The standard for Pakistan similar to most Asian developing countries
Manganese (Mn)	≤ 0.5	0.5	
Mercury (Hg)	≤ 0.001	0.001	
Nickel (Ni)	≤ 0.02	0.02	
Nitrate (NO_3)*	≤50	50	
Nitrite (NO_2)*	≤ 3 (P)	3	
Selenium (Se)	0.01 (P)	0.01	
Residual chlorine	0.2–0.5 at consumer end 0.5–1.5 at source	–	
Zinc (Zn)	5.0	3	The standard for Pakistan similar to most Asian developing countries
Organic			
Pesticides mg/L		PSQCA No. 4639–2004 Page no. 4 Table No. 3 Serial No. 20–58 may be consulted.**	Annex II
Phenolic compounds (as Phenols) mg/L		≤ 0.002	
Polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (as PAH) g/L		0.01 (By GC/MS method)	
Radioactive			
Alpha Emitters bq/L or pCi	0.1	0.1	
Beta emitters	1	1	

* indicates priority health-related inorganic constituents that need regular monitoring

** PSQCA: Pakistan Standard Quality Control Authority

Exhibit A.3: NEQS for Gaseous Emissions

mg/Nm3, unless otherwise defined

No.	Parameter	Source of Emission	Standards
1.	Smoke	Smoke opacity is not to exceed	40% or 2 on the Ringlemann Scale or equivalent smoke number
2.	Particulate matter[1]	(a) Boilers and furnaces:	
		i) Oil–fired	300
		ii) Coal-fired	500
		iii) Cement kilns	300
		(b) Grinding, crushing, clinker coolers and related processes, metallurgical processes, converters, blast furnaces and cupolas	500
3.	Hydrogen chloride	Any	400
4.	Chlorine	Any	150
5.	Hydrogen fluoride	Any	150
6.	Hydrogen sulfide	Any	10
7.	Sulfur oxides[2, 3]	Sulfuric acid/sulfonic acid plants	5,000
		Other plants except power plants operating on oil and coal	1,700
8.	Carbon monoxide	Any	800
9.	Lead	Any	50
10.	Mercury	Any	10
11.	Cadmium	Any	20
12.	Arsenic	Any	20
13.	Copper	Any	50
14.	Antimony	Any	20
15.	Zinc	Any	200
16.	Oxides of nitrogen[3]	Nitric acid manufacturing unit	3,000
		Gas–fired	400
		Oil–fired	600
		Coal-fired	1,200

1. Based on the assumption that the size of the particulate is 10 microns or more.
2. Based on 1 percent sulfur content in fuel oil. Higher content of sulfur will cause standards to be pro-rated.
3. In respect of emissions of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides, the power plants operating on oil and coal as fuel shall in addition to National Environmental Quality Standards (NEQS) special above, comply with the following standards.

Exhibit A.4: NEQS for Sulfur Dioxide and Nitrogen Oxides for Power Plants Operating on Oil and Coal

A. Sulfur Dioxide

Sulfur Dioxide Background Levels (mg/m³)			**Standards**	
			Criterion I	**Criterion II**
Background Air Quality (SO_2 basis)	*Annual Average*	*Maximum 24–Hour Interval*	*Max. SO_2 Emissions (TPD)*	*Max. Allowable 1–Year Average Ground Level Increment to Ambient (mg/m³)*
Unpolluted	< 50	< 200	500	50
Moderately polluted[1]				
Low	50	200	500	50
High	100	400	100	10
Very polluted[2]	> 100	> 400	100	10

1. For intermediate values between 50 and 100 μg/m³ linear interpretation should be used.
2. No project with sulfur dioxide emissions will be recommended.

B. Nitrogen Oxides

Annual arithmetic mean of ambient air concentrations of nitrogen oxides (expressed as NO_2) should not exceed		100 □g/m³ (0.05 ppm)
Maximum emission levels for stationary source discharges, before mixing with the atmosphere: For fuel-fired steam generators		
	Liquid fossil fuel	130 ng/J of heat input
	Solid fossil fuel	300 ng/J of heat input
	Lignite fossil fuel	260 ng/J of heat input

Exhibit A.5: NEQS for Motor Vehicle Exhaust and Noise

No.	Parameter	Standards (Maximum Permissible Limit)		Measuring Method
1.	Smoke	40% or 2 on the Ringelmann Scale during engine acceleration mode.		To compare with the Ringlemann chart at a distance of 6 meters or more.
2.	Carbon Monoxide	Emission Standards:		
		New Vehicles	Used Vehicles	
		4 .5%	6%	Under idling conditions: Nondispersive infrared detection through the gas analyzer.
3.	Noise	85 db (A)		Sound–meter at 7.5 meters from the source.

Exhibit A.6: NEQS for Motor Vehicle Exhaust and Noise

Exhibit A.6.a: for passenger Cars and Light Commercial Vehicles (g/Km)

Type of Vehicle	Category/Class	Tiers	CO	HC+ NO_x	PM	Measuring Method	Applicability
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Passenger Cars.	M 1: with reference mass (RW).	Pak-II, IDI	1.0	0.7	0.08		All imported and locally manufactured
	up to 2500 kg. Cars with RW over 2500 kg. to meet NI Category standards	Pak-II DI	1.0	0.9	0.10	NEDC (ECE 15+ EUDCL)	Diesel vehicles with effect from 01-07-2012
Light Commercial Vehicles	NI-I (RW<1250 Kg)	Pak-II IDI	1.0	0.70	0.08		
		Pak-II DI	1.0	0.90	0.10		
	NI-II(1250kg< RW < 1700 Kg)	Pak-II IDI	1.25	1.0	0.12		
		Pak-II DI	1.25	1.3	0.14		
	NI-III(RW< 1700 Kg)	Pak-II IDI	1.50	1.2	0.17		
		Pak-II DI	1.50	1.6	0.20		

Exhibit A.6.b: for Heavy Duty Diesel Engines and Large Goods Vehicles (g/kWh)

Type of Vehicle	Category/ Class	Tiers	CO	HC	NOx	PM	Measuring Method	Applicability
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Heavy-Duty Diesel Engines	Turks and Buses	Pak-II	4.0	1.1	7.0	0.15	ECE-R-49	All Imported and locally manufactured diesel vehicles with the effect 1-7-2012
Large goods Vehicles	N2(2000 and up	Pak-II	4.0	7.0	1.10	0.15	EDC	

Exhibit A.6.c: Emission Standards for Petrol Vehicles (g/km)

Type of Vehicle	Category/ Class	Tier	Co	HC+ NOx	Measuring Method	Applicability
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Passenger Cars	M 1: with reference mass (RW). up to 2500 kg. Cars with RW over 2500 kg. to meet NI Category standards	Pak-II	2.20	0.5	NEDC (ECE 15+ EUDCL)	All imported and new models * locally manufactured petrol vehicles with effect from 1st July 2009**
Light Commercial Vehicles	NI-I (RW<1250 kg) NI-NI-II (1250kg> kg RW < 1700 Kg)	Pak-II Pak-II	2.20 4.0	0.5 0.65		
	NI-III(RW> 1700 kg)	Pak-II	5.0	0.08		
Motor Rickshaws & Motor Cycles	2,4 strokes < 150 cc	Pak-II	5.5	1.5	ECER 40	
	2,4 strokes > 150cc	Pak-II	5.5	1.3		

Exhibit A.7: NEQS and IFC Environmental Quality Standards for Ambient Air

Pollutants	Time–weighted Average	Concentration in Ambient Air	
		NEQS	IFC[2]
Sulpher Dioxide (SO_2)	Annual Average*	80 µg/m^3	–
	24 hours**	120 µg/m^3	125 µg/m^3
Oxide of Nitrogen as (NO)	Annual Average*	40 µg/m^3	–
	24 hours**	40 µg/m^3	–
Oxide of Nitrogen as (NO_2)	Annual Average*	40 µg/m^3	40 µg/m^3
	24 hours**	80 µg/m^3	–
O_3	1 hour	130 µg/m^3	–
Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM)	Annual Average*	360 µg/m^3	–
	24 hours**	500 µg/m^3	–
Respirable particulate Matter. PM $_{10}$	Annual Average*	120 µg/m^3	70 µg/m^3
	24 hours**	150 µg/m^3	150 µg/m^3
Respirable Particulate Matter. PM $_{2.5}$	Annual Average*	15 µg/m^3	35 µg/m^3
	24 hours**	35 µg/m^3	40 µg/m^3
	1 hour	15 µg/m^3	–
Lead (Pb)	Annual Average*	1 µg/m^3	–
	24 hours**	1.5 µg/m^3	–
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	8 hours**	5 mg/m^3	–
	1 hour	10 mg/m^3	–

* Annual arithmetic mean of minimum 104 instruments in a year taken twice a week 24 hourly at a uniform interval

** 24 hourly /8 hourly values should be met 98% of the time in a year. 2% of the time, it may exceed but not on two consecutive days.

*** Annual average limit of 40 µg/m^3 or background annual average concentration plus allowable allowance of 9, whichever is low.

NEQS standards effective: 1st Jan 2013

SEQS standards effective: 1st July 2014

Exhibit A.8: NEQS for Noise

No.	Category of Area/Zone	Effective from 1st July, 2010		Effective from 1st July, 2012	
		Limit in dB(A) Leq			
		Day time	Night time	Day time	Night time
1.	Residential area (A)	65	50	55	45
2.	Commercial area (B)	70	60	65	55
3.	Industrial area (C)	80	75	75	65
4.	Silence zone (D)	55	45	50	45

Note:

1. Day time hours: 6 .00 am to 10.00 pm

[2] International Finance Corporation, "General EHS Guidelines: Environmental Air Emissions and Ambient Air Quality', World Bank Group

2. Night Time hours: 10.00 pm to 6.00 am
3. Silence zone: Zones that are declared as such by the competent authority. An area comprising not less than 100 meters around hospitals, educational institutions, and courts and courts.
4. Mixed categories of areas may be declared as one of the four above–mentioned categories by the competent authority.

*dB(A) Leq: time-weighted average of the level of sound in decibels on scale A which is relatable to human hearing.

Exhibit A.9: IFC Guidelines for Noise

No.	Receptor	One Hour Leq dB(A)	
		Day time 07:00 – 22:00	Night time 22:00 – 07:00
1.	Residential; institutional; educational[1]	55	45
2.	Industrial; Commercial	70	70

Note: For acceptable indoor noise levels for residential, institutional, and educational settings refer to WHO (1999)

APPENDIX B: PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT SURVEY PLAN

B.1 Physical Environment Study Area

1. The Study Area selected for the study takes account of sensitive receptors[3] that are most likely to be impacted by the Project's development activities. The area of influence for the physical environment is generally within the valley around the Project Dam and Powerhouse sites.

2. The following surveys are planned:

- Visual Character
- Air Quality
- Noise
- Traffic
- Water Quality (on-site testing and sampling for lab analysis)
- Hydro census

3. The Project location is shown in

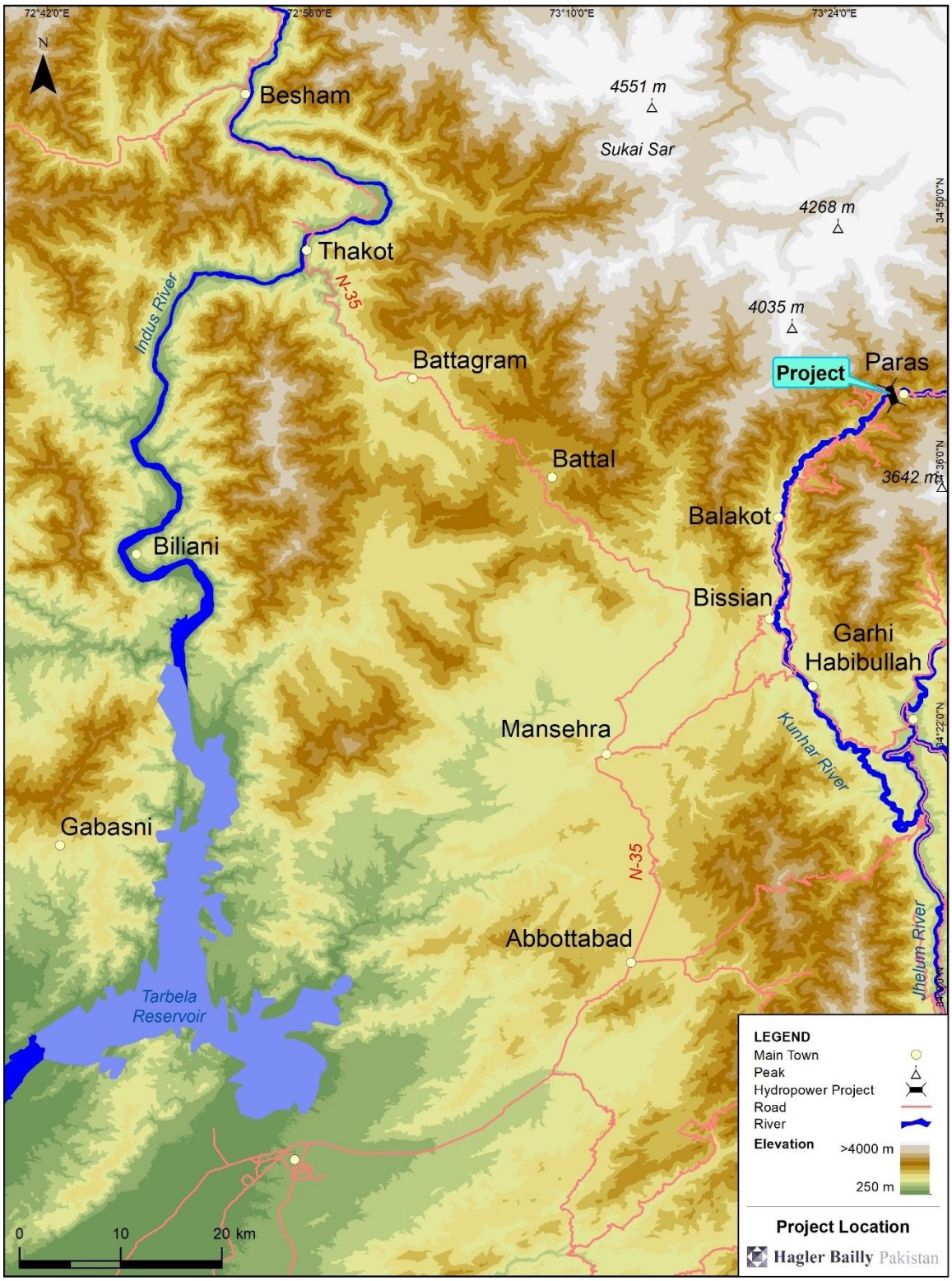
4.

5.

[3]Sensitive receptors include, but are not limited to, residential areas, schools, places of worship etc. These are areas where the occupants are more susceptible to the adverse effects of an anthropogenic activity such as noise, air emissions, traffic influx, privacy issues etc.

6. Exhibit B.1.

Exhibit B.1: Project Location



B.2 Visual Baseline

7. A visual baseline survey will be carried out to establish the current aesthetic and visual conditions. The details of sampling locations are given in **Exhibit B.2** and are shown in

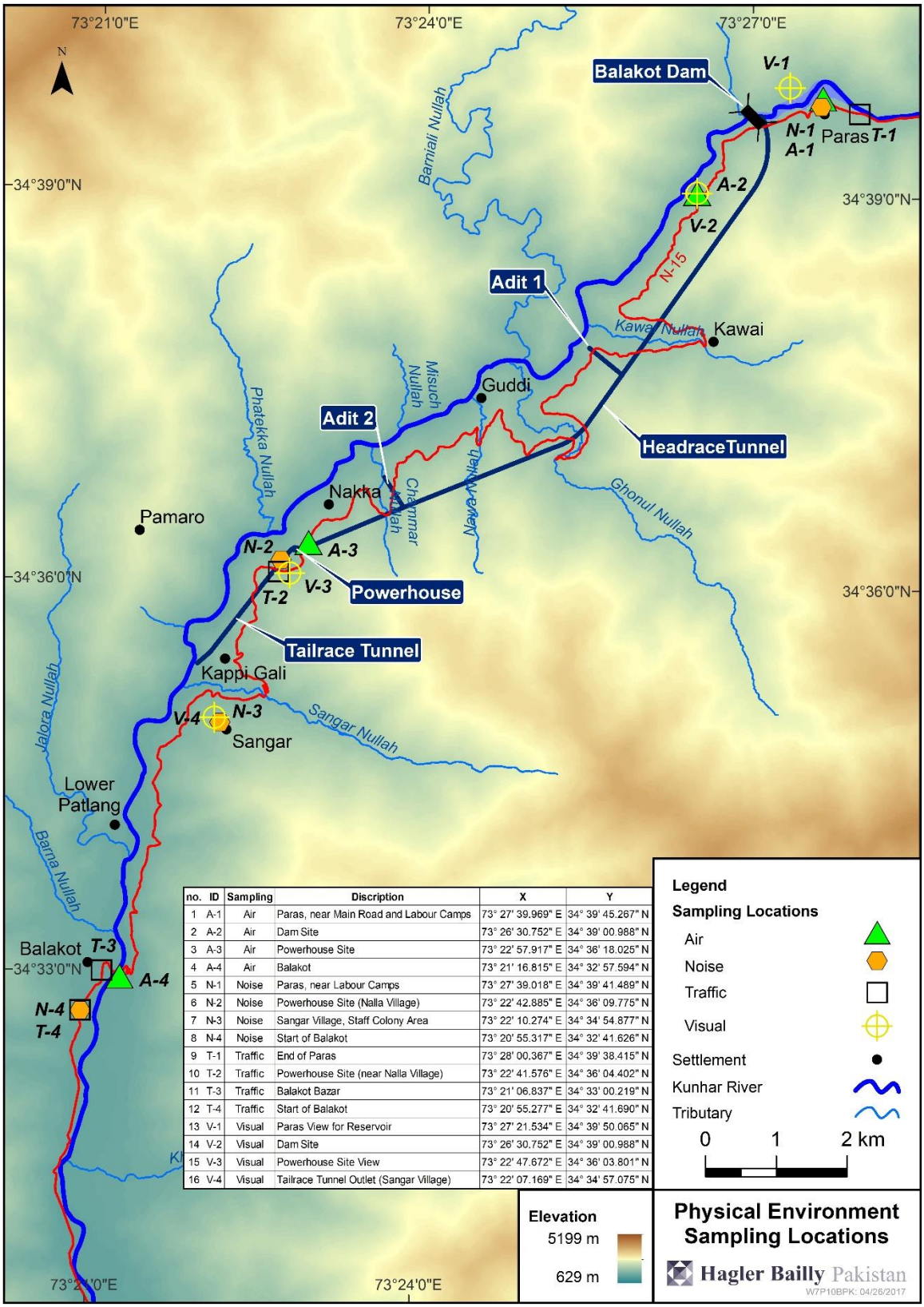
8. **Exhibit B**.3**.**

Exhibit B.2: Proposed Visual Survey Locations

Sample ID	Coordinates	Location Description
V1	34° 39' 50.065" N 73° 27' 21.534" E	Paras view (reservoir)
V2	34° 39' 00.988" N 73° 26' 30.752" E	Dam site view
V3	34° 36' 03.801" N 73° 22' 47.672" E	Powerhouse site view
V4	34° 34' 57.075" N 73° 22' 07.169" E	Trailrace Tunnel outlet view (Sangar village)

Note: Actual locations will vary slightly based on site conditions

Exhibit B.3: Physical Environment Survey Locations



no.	ID	Sampling	Discription	X	Y
1	A-1	Air	Paras, near Main Road and Labour Camps	73° 27' 39.969" E	34° 39' 45.267" N
2	A-2	Air	Dam Site	73° 26' 30.752" E	34° 39' 00.988" N
3	A-3	Air	Powerhouse Site	73° 22' 57.917" E	34° 36' 18.025" N
4	A-4	Air	Balakot	73° 21' 16.815" E	34° 32' 57.594" N
5	N-1	Noise	Paras, near Labour Camps	73° 27' 39.018" E	34° 39' 41.489" N
6	N-2	Noise	Powerhouse Site (Nalla Village)	73° 22' 42.885" E	34° 36' 09.775" N
7	N-3	Noise	Sangar Village, Staff Colony Area	73° 22' 10.274" E	34° 34' 54.877" N
8	N-4	Noise	Start of Balakot	73° 20' 55.317" E	34° 32' 41.626" N
9	T-1	Traffic	End of Paras	73° 28' 00.367" E	34° 39' 38.415" N
10	T-2	Traffic	Powerhouse Site (near Nalla Village)	73° 22' 41.576" E	34° 36' 04.402" N
11	T-3	Traffic	Balakot Bazar	73° 21' 06.837" E	34° 33' 00.219" N
12	T-4	Traffic	Start of Balakot	73° 20' 55.277" E	34° 32' 41.690" N
13	V-1	Visual	Paras View for Reservoir	73° 27' 21.534" E	34° 39' 50.065" N
14	V-2	Visual	Dam Site	73° 26' 30.752" E	34° 39' 00.988" N
15	V-3	Visual	Powerhouse Site View	73° 22' 47.672" E	34° 36' 03.801" N
16	V-4	Visual	Tailrace Tunnel Outlet (Sangar Village)	73° 22' 07.169" E	34° 34' 57.075" N

B.2.1 Equipment and Methods

9. The photographs will cover a 180º view in the direction of the Project activities. Data collection will include:

- Photographs from at least three locations at each site using a tripod, covering a 180-degree view from each location.
- Record of bearings using a compass, in degrees, for the photographs.
- GPS coordinates of the locations, and marking of locations on a map.
- The height and distance of significant topographical features, if any, will be estimated using Google Earth.

10. The following materials and equipment will be utilized:

- Camera
- Map
- Compass (with correction for magnetic north vs map north)
- GPS
- Tripod
- Visual Survey Form (see B.9, Survey Forms)

B.3 Air Quality

11. An air quality survey will be carried out to establish the current ambient conditions. The survey will cover the following Project components.

- Dam and reservoir
- Powerhouse
- Access roads
- Major construction infrastructure areas

Objectives of the Air Quality Survey

12. The general objective of the air quality baseline is to collect data on air quality in the airshed, particularly the area that is likely to be affected by the project to develop baseline air quality and do mitigation planning.

13. Specific objectives of the sampling are:

- Measurement of the current pollutant levels in ambient air in areas that will not (or insignificantly) be affected by existing sources of emission;
- Measurement of the current pollutant levels at the community receptors; and
- Measurement of the impact of the existing sources (traffic, fuel wood burning on air quality.

14. The following pollutants are selected for evaluation based on the expected emissions from the planned operations and the level of risk to human health posed by these pollutants:

- Sulfur dioxide (SO2)

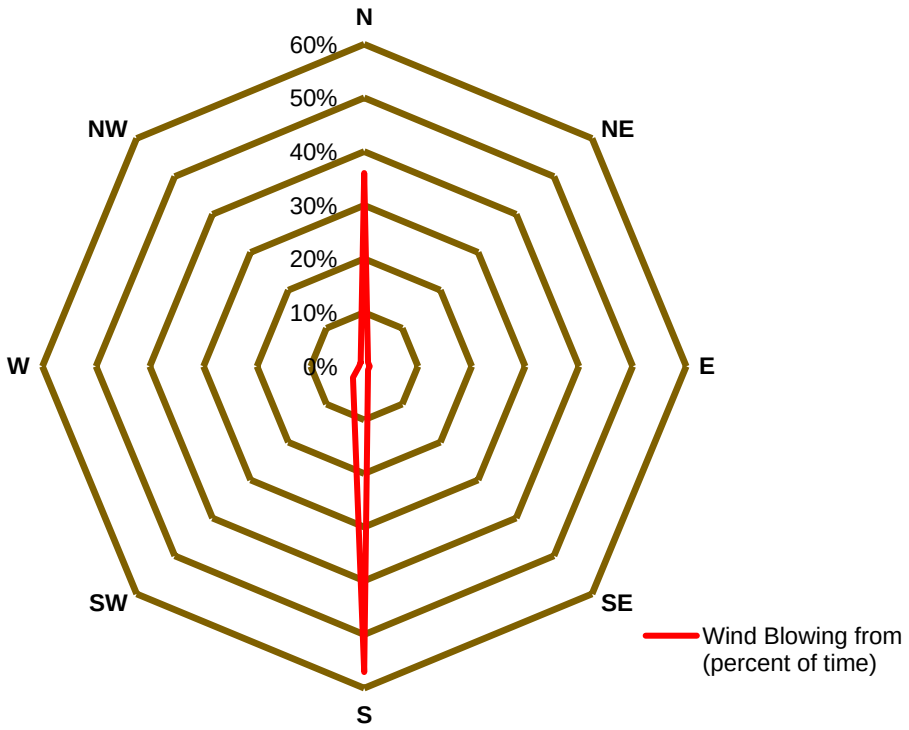
- Nitrogen oxides (NOx)
- Respirable particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5

15. Ambient air quality measurements will be compared against applicable NEQS and international standards such as IFC and WHO standards.

Selection of Sites

16. Intermittent wind data from the Murree weather station is available between 2006 and 2015 (see **Exhibit B.4**). It indicates that most winds blow towards the south and northwest.

Exhibit B.4: Wind Rose of 20 Year Data from Balakot Weather Station (1996 – 2016)



17. A portable weather meter will be used on-site to measure local weather conditions during the monitoring period.

18. **Exhibit B**.5 provides sample location and rationale for selection. The locations are mapped in

19. **Exhibit B**.3.

Exhibit B.5: Proposed Air Quality Sampling Locations

Sample ID	Coordinates	Parameters	Notes and Justification
A1	34° 39' 45.267" N 73° 27' 39.969" E	NO_x, SO_2, PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$	Paras, near the main road and labor camps. People at Paras village, are affected by construction camps and activities.
A2	34° 39' 00.988" N 73° 26' 30.752" E	NO_x, SO_2, PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$	Construction sites and camps at the dam site.
A3	34° 36' 18.025" N 73° 22' 57.917" E	NO_x, SO_2, PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$	Construction sites and camps at powerhouse site.
A4	34° 32' 57.594" N 73° 21' 16.815" E	NO_x, SO_2, PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5.5}$	People in Balakot town, are affected by construction traffic.

Note: Actual locations will vary slightly based on site conditions

B.3.1 Equipment and Methods

20. The following materials and equipment will be utilized:

- Passive diffusion tubes
- Low-volume air sampler
- Particulate matter forms (see B.9, Survey Forms)

21. The method, duration of sampling, and lab for analysis are given in **Exhibit B.6**.

Exhibit B.6: Air Quality Sampling Equipment and Parameters

Parameter	Equipment	Duration of Sampling	Expected Lab for Analysis
NOx, and NO_2	Passive Diffusion Tubes	2-3 Weeks	Gradko Lab, UK
SO_2	Passive Diffusion Tubes	2-3 Weeks	Gradko Lab, UK
PM_{10}	Low Volume Sampler	24 Hours	HBP Lab
$PM_{2.5}$	Low Volume Sampler	24 Hours	HBP Lab

Quality Assurance and Quality Control

22. The following QA/QC measures will be implemented during the survey:

- A blank and a duplicate passive diffusion tube will be sent for analysis for each parameter
- A defined sampling protocol will be used

Fixing Diffusion Tubes.

- Select erecting points, preferably a place with good air flow around the tube, for example, a branch of a small tree.
- Holds the tubes 5 or 6 cm out from the face of whatever structure they are attached to they will be fine. This is to ensure good airflow around the tube.

- Ensure that the tube is out of access to children
- Ensure safety by requesting a resident to look after if the tube fixing comes to the notice of the locals, others is not required.

B.4 Noise

23. The noise baseline surveys will be conducted to document the ambient noise levels in the Study Area in a manner that can be used for the assessment of the noise impact of the proposed Project on sensitive receptors.

24. Ambient noise levels will be recorded at six locations for 24 hours duration at each location. Sampling locations are selected largely based on possibly affected receptors about indicative Project location (see **Exhibit B.1**). Additional details on the justification of each selected sampling site are provided in **Exhibit B.7**. The sampling sites are mapped in

25. **Exhibit B**.3.

Exhibit B.7: Proposed Noise Sampling Locations

Sample ID	Coordinates	Duration	Notes and Justification
N1	34° 39' 41.489" N 73° 27' 39.018" E	24-hour	Noise levels far from rivers and near labour camps.
N2	34° 36' 09.775" N 73° 22' 42.885" E	24-hour	Baseline noise levels near houses of Nalla village.
N3	34° 34' 54.877" N 73° 22' 10.274" E	24-hour	Near construction site, camps and Sangar village.
N4	34° 32' 41.626" N 73° 20' 55.317" E	24-hour	Baseline traffic noise levels on the main road (Balakot).

Note: Actual locations will vary slightly based on site conditions

B.4.1 Equipment and Methods

26. Cirrus Research plc.'s sound level meter, Model CR: 1720 will be used for recording noise levels. The instrument meets the International standards IEC 61672-1:2002, IEC 660651:1979, IEC 60804:2001, IEC 61260:1995, IEC 60942:1997, IEC 61252:1993, ANSI S1.4-1983, ANSI S1.11-1986, ANSI S1.43-1997 where applicable. The instrument has a resolution of 0.1 dB.

27. A calibrator will be used to ensure calibration of the instrument every time before use. A windshield will be used for all measurements. Measurements will be for a continuous 24-hour period.

28. The following materials and equipment will be utilized:

- Noise Meter
- Tripod
- Calibrator
- Wind Shield
- Noise Survey Form (see B.9, Survey Forms)

B.4.2 Quality Assurance and Quality Control

29. The following QA/QC measures will be implemented during the survey:

- A person will be present during the entire reading period to make sure that nothing interferes with readings.
- Data will be transferred to a computer at the end of each reading period to check for any anomalies and issues
- Audio recording will be activated for readings above 70 dB so that the source can be identified.
- A tripod and windshield will be used during noise measurements

- Measurement location will be 1.5 m above the ground and no closer than 3 m from any reflecting surfaces (e.g. wall) as per IFC guidelines.

B.5 Traffic

30. The baseline traffic survey will be undertaken to evaluate the current traffic conditions on the routes that could be used for project-related transportation of goods and services during construction and operation. The road route connecting the project site to Islamabad forms the "Transport Corridor" of the Project.

31. The Transport Corridor will run along:

- National Highway N-5 from Islamabad to Hassan Abdal
- National Highway N-35 from Hassan Abdal to Mansehra
- National Highway N-15 from Mansehra to Balakot and onward to Paras

32. The traffic counts will be conducted only at route N-15 as all the project facilities are located along this route. The details of the selection of each sampling location are given in

33.

35. Exhibit B.8 and shown in

36. **Exhibit B**.3. At each sampling site (

37. **Exhibit B**.3), one person will be stationed to count the traffic in both directions. The traffic survey form (see **B.9,** *Survey Forms*) will be utilized in this.

Exhibit B.8: Proposed Traffic Count Locations

Sample ID	Coordinates	Notes and Justification
T1	34° 39' 38.415" N 73° 28' 00.367" E	Pre-project traffic baseline at Paras.
T2	34° 36' 04.402" N 73° 22' 41.576" E	Pre-project traffic baseline before entry to powerhouse site.
T3	34° 33' 00.219" N 73° 21' 06.837" E	Traffic baseline at marketplace at Balakot.
T4	34° 32' 41.690" N 73° 20' 55.277" E	Pre-project traffic baseline at Balakot.

Note: Actual locations will vary slightly based on site conditions

B.6 Water Quality

38. A baseline survey will be carried out to establish the river water quality within the Study Area. Water quality sampling for lab analysis will be carried out in the Study Area. On-site water quality testing will be carried out alongside the water quality sampling. **Exhibit B.9** describes the sample locations and rationale for their selection. The proposed locations for sampling are shown in

39.

40.

41. Exhibit B.10**.**

42.

43. **Exhibit B**.11 details the water quality parameters that will be tested.

Exhibit B.9: Proposed Water Quality Sampling Locations

ID	Coordinates	Description	Parameters
W1	34°39'53.08" N 73°27'42.02" E	Near reservoir	On-site testing
W2	34°37'56.53" N 73°25'43.54" E	On Kawai Nullah, a tributary of Kunhar River	On-site testing
W3	34°37'17.46" N 73°24'9.29" E	Downstream of dam	On-site testing and lab analysis
W4	34°34'53.07" N 73°21'25.18" E	Upstream of Balakot and downstream of tailrace	On-site testing
W5	34°31'41.77" N 73°20'52.73" E	Downstream of Balakot	On-site testing

Note: Actual locations will vary slightly based on site conditions

Exhibit B.10: Proposed Water Quality Sampling Locations

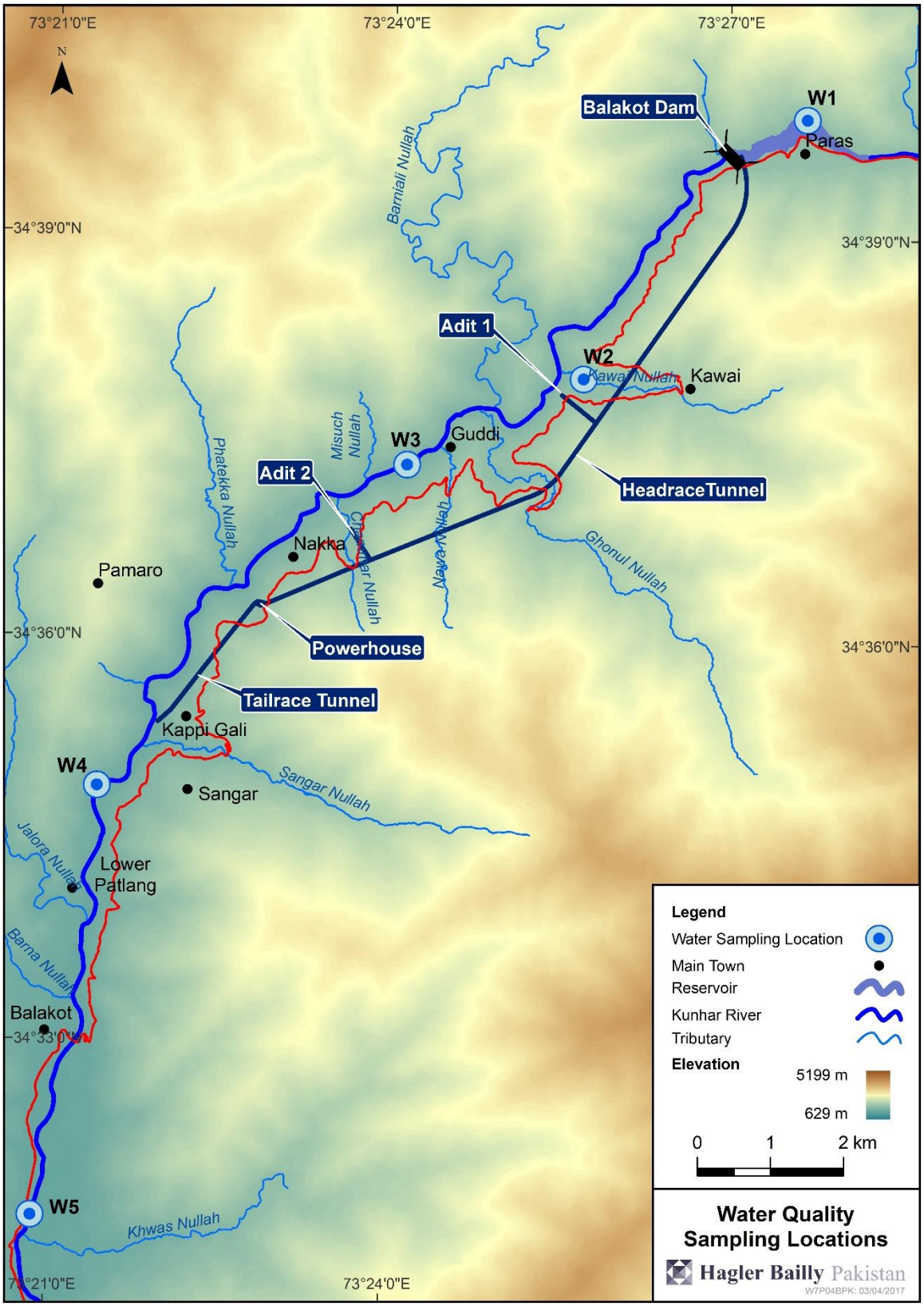


Exhibit B.11: Water Quality Testing Parameters

Parameters	Lab
On-site testing:	
pH, electrical conductivity (EC), dissolved oxygen (DO), temperature	HBP Personnel (on site)
Lab analysis:	
General: turbidity, total suspended solids (TSS), total dissolved solids (TDS), hardness, pH, EC, BOD_5, COD, alkalinity (as $CaCO_3$)	Sampling and analysis will be carried out by HBP.
Major ions: Na, Ca, K, SO_4, Cl, F, NO_3, CO_3^{2-}/HCO_3^-	
Metals (Total): Aluminum, Antimony, Arsenic, Barium, Boron, Cadmium, Chromium, Copper, Iron, Lead, Magnesium, Manganese, Mercury, Nickel, Selenium, Silver, Tin, Zinc	
Biological: Suite of tests (total colony count, total coliforms, fecal E. Coli, Fecal Streptococci/Entercocci)	Aga Khan University Hospital Clinical Laboratories

Equipment and Methods

44. The following materials and equipment will be utilized:

- Field water quality testing meters (pH, electrical conductivity, dissolved oxygen, temperature)
- Water sampling containers
- Field parameters record form
- Packing and handling materials
- Water Quality Survey Forms (see **B.9**, Survey Forms)

Quality Assurance and Quality Control

- Quality Control (QC) samples will include:
  - 1 trip blank
  - 1 field duplicate

45. The complete analytical suite[4] of EPA-approved methodologies that will be used are listed in

46.

47.

48. **Exhibit** B.12. The parameters that will be analyzed will depend on the concerns associated with the water sample. These will be selected before the submission of the samples for testing.

[4]Selected based on National Standards for Drinking Water Quality, National Environmental Quality Standards for Municipal and Liquid Industrial Effluents and Previous similar studies in the region.

Exhibit B.12: Method References for Water Quality Parameters

Parameter	Analytical Method (Expected)	Unit	Minimum Detection Limit
General (11 Parameters)			
Temperature	Field test	^{o}C	-5.0
pH	Field test US EPA 150.1	na	0.01
Electrical Conductivity	Field test APHA 2510 B	µS/cm	1
Dissolved Oxygen	Field test	mg/l	0.01
TDS	APHA 2540 C	mg/l	10.0
TSS	APHA 2540 D	mg/l	4.0
Turbidity	HACH 8237	FAU	0
Alkalinity as $CaCO_3$	APHA 2320 B	mg/l	1.0
Hardness as $CaCO_3$	APHA 2340 B	mg/l	1.0
BOD_5	US EPA 405.1	mg/l	5.0
COD	US EPA 410.2	mg/l	4.0
Major Ions (8 parameters)			
Sodium	APHA 3120 B	mg/l	0.1
Calcium	APHA 3120 B	mg/l	0.1
Potassium	APHA 3120 B	mg/l	0.1
Sulfate	APHA 4500-SO42- E	mg/l	1.0
Chloride	APHA 4500-Cl- E	mg/l	1.0
Fluoride	APHA 4500-F-C	mg/l	0.1
Carbonate/bicarbonate	APHA 2320 B	mg/l	1.0
Nitrate	APHA 4500-NO3- H	mg/l	0.01
Metals (18 Parameters)			
Antimony	ICP-OES	mg/l	0.05
Aluminum	ICP-OES	mg/l	0.001
Arsenic	ICP-OES	mg/l	0.001
Barium	ICP-OES	mg/l	0.001
Boron	ICP-OES	mg/l	0.001
Cadmium	ICP-OES	mg/l	0.001
Chromium	ICP-OES	mg/l	0.001
Copper	ICP-OES	mg/l	0.001

Parameter	Analytical Method (Expected)	Unit	Minimum Detection Limit
Iron	ICP-OES	mg/l	0.01
Lead	ICP-OES	mg/l	0.001
Magnesium	APHA 3120 B	mg/l	0.1
Manganese	ICP-OES	mg/l	0.001
Mercury	ICP-OES	mg/l	0.001
Nickel	ICP-OES	mg/l	0.001
Selenium	ICP-OES	mg/l	0.001
Silver	ICP-OES	mg/l	0.02
Tin	ICP-OES	mg/l	0.001
Zinc	ICP-OES	mg/l	0.01
Biological (4 parameters)			
Total Colony Count			
Total Coliforms	APHA 9221 B		< 2 MPN/100 ml
Fecal E.coli	APHA 9221 F		< 2 MPN/100 ml
Fecal Streptococci /Enterococci	APHA 9230 B		< 2 MPN/100 ml

B.7 Hydro-census

49. A groundwater well census will be carried out to map the water resources within the Study Area as springs may be impacted (drying and impact to water quality) due to tunnel boring which. Hydro-census Study Area is shown in

50.

51.

52.

53.

54. Exhibit B.13.

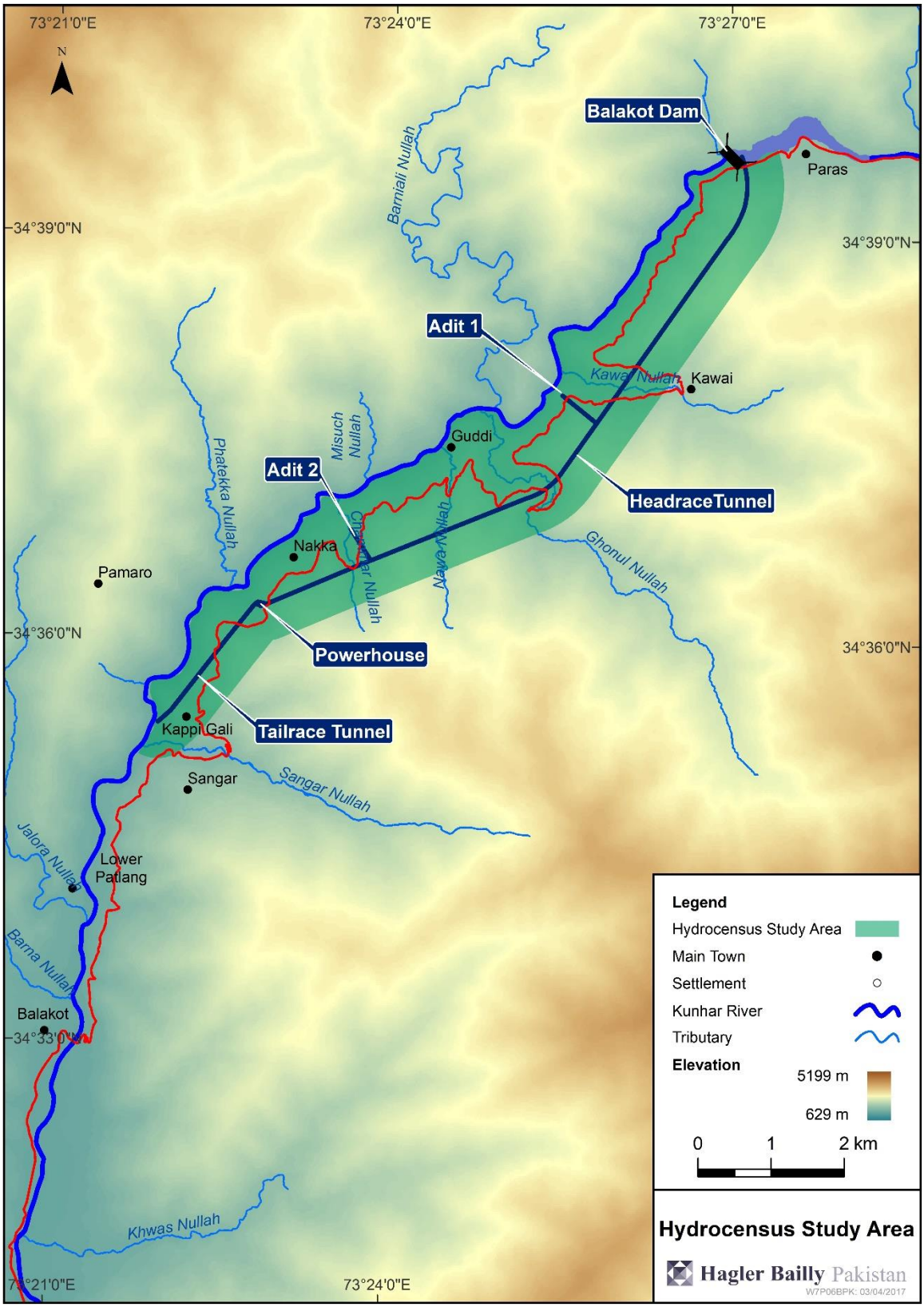
Equipment and materials:

55. The following equipment will be required

- Measuring tape

- Hydro-census form (see B.9, Survey Forms)

Exhibit B.13: Hydro-census Study Area



B.8 Team and Timeline

56. This section presents the responsibilities (**Exhibit B.14**) for the various components of the proposed field survey.

Exhibit B.14: Team and Responsibilities

Name	Responsibility	Advisor
Hassan Bukhari	Survey Methodology and Plan	Aziz Karim
Hassan Bukhari	Visual Survey	Hidayat Hasan
	Air Quality Survey	
	Noise Survey	
	Traffic Survey	
Saeed Nawaz	Water Quality Sampling	Aziz Karim
	Hydro-census	
Waris Ali	Field Support	
Khalil Ejaz Awan	Logistics	

B.9 Survey Forms

Survey forms are as follows:

Visual Survey Form

Location ID: _____

Village Name: _____

Location description: _____

	Coordinates		Marked on Map (Y/N)	Picture IDs			Comments
	Northing	Easting		Mid-point direction	Bearing left	Bearing right	
Location 1							
Location 2							
Location 3							
Location 4							

Particulate Matter Field Survey Form

ID	Location	Filter ID	PM Type	Coordinates		Start			End			Run Time (hrs)	Flow (L/min)
				Northing	Easting	Date	Time	Meter	Date	Time	Meter		

Noise Monitoring Form

Location		**Latitude**		**Longitude**	
Date	dd/mm/yy	Monitoring Period		Start Time _____ End Time _____	
Weather Condition		Wind Speed and Direction			
Name and Model of Device					
Calibration Date and Method		(dd/mm/yy and method)			
Picture ID					
Name of Field Operator:					
Wind Shield	y/n	Tripod	y/n	Distance from: ground	m	Nearest reflector	m

57. Details of barriers between noise source and monitoring location; details of reflective surfaces near monitoring device.

Name/Type	Height (meters)	Length (meters)	Width (meters)	Location (with respect to both, noise source and sound meter)	Picture ID

58. Additional Verified Sources of Noise during the Monitoring Period

No	Name of Source	Distance from the monitoring device	Direction from the monitoring device
1			
2			
3			
4			

Additional Comments:

Traffic Survey Form

Location				Direction														
Date	MM/DD/YY			Time: From				HH : MM am/pm				To	HH : MM am/pm					

Cars																		
Pick-ups																		
Bikes																		
Buses																		
Trucks	Truck (2 Axle)																	
	Truck (3 Axle)																	
	Truck (4 Axle)																	
	Truck (5 Axle)																	
	Truck (6 Axle)																	
Tractor																		
Trailer																		
Others																		

Water Quality Survey Form

SR	ID	Date	Time	Location	Coordinates		Field Testing parameters				Lab	Comments
					N	E	pH	Temp	EC	DO		
1												
2												
3												
4												
5												
6												
7												

Hydro-census Survey Form

Well No.	Village	Neighborhood	Owner of the Well	Installation Year	Well Total Depth	Water level	Well Elevation	Stick-up of the Well	Field Testing		W.P	Northing	Easting	Well Type	Diameter	Casing	Bottom	Users type		Number of well Users	Approx. amount of extraction	Water extraction
					m	*m*	*m*	*m*	*pH*	*Conductivity (□S)*	*Temp. °C*		*N*	*E*					*Human*	*Livestock*	*Houses*	*per day (liters)*	*Technique Used*

APPENDIX C: SOIL QUALITY

See following pages.

APPENDIX D: HYDRO-CENSUS FIELD DATA (2017-19) AND 2024

See following pages.

Exhibit D.1: Hydro-census Field Data (2017-19)

ID	Date	Time	Latitude	Longitude	Altitude (m)	Village	Owner	Temp (ºC)	pH	Conductivity (µs/cm)	Human Drinking	Human Other Use	Livestock use	Livestock	Total Households	Water Use per HH (Liters)	Active From	Extraction Method	Comments
S-5	4/12/17	1135	34.62989	73.42936	1358	Kawai	Mahmood Shah	16	7.5	472	Yes	Yes	Yes	150	30	900	1916	Pipe and Manual	10 pipes (0.5-inch diameter) installed on spring (water tanks), the flow remains constant throughout the year. Above 100 years old spring.
S-6	4/12/17	1210	34.64386	73.43882	1392	Kawai	Syed Qasim Shah	14	8.4	378	Yes	Yes	No	–	16	50	1916	Manual	Water use for vehicle washing, flow remains constant throughout the year.
S-7	4/12/17	1230	34.64834	73.44213	1438	Kawai	Rafique Shah	16	8.4	386	Yes	Yes	No	–	6	50	1916	Manual	Water use for vehicle washing, flow remains constant throughout the year. Spring is 100 meters away, couldn't reach spring due to the non-availability of the walking track.
S-8	4/12/17	1315	34.65027	73.4435	1432	Kawai	Syed Abdul Sattar Shah	17	8.4	385	Yes	Yes	No	–	5	50	1916	Manual	Water use for vehicle washing, The spring is 150 meters away, due to sliding & non-availability of a walking track couldn't reach at spring
S-9	4/12/17	1330	34.65137	73.44383	1388	Kawai	Syed Abdul Sattar Shah	16	8.3	348	No	No	No	–	–	–	1965	Manual	No one using spring water
S-10	4/12/17	1345	34.6533	73.4456	1370	Kawai	Syed Ghulam Muhammad Shah	16	8.3	315	Yes	Yes	No	–	50	20	1997	Manual	Water is used only in Ramadhan, flow decreases up to 30% in winter
S-11	4/12/17	1400	34.6534	73.4462	1380	Kawai	Syed Ghulam Muhammad Shah	15	8.3	333	Yes	Yes	No	–	100	100	1947	Manual	Water uses for vehicle washing and flow remain constant throughout the year. Spring is 50 meters away, but due to the non-availability of a walking track couldn't reach at spring.
S-12	4/12/17	14:20	34.6556	73.4459	1372	Paras	Noor Hussain Shah	16	8.2	395	Yes	Yes	No	–	500	20	1967	Pipe and Manual	A pipeline was installed in 2014 for water supply for boy's high school Paras. Flow decreases by 50% in winter.
S-13	4/12/17	1630	34.62671	73.42209	1272	Domanian	Iqbal Khan	16	7.9	338	Yes	Yes	Yes	10	5	100	1972	Manual	Water reduces by 50% in winter
S-14	4/13/17	1345	34.59344	73.3725	1355	Kappi Gali	Khalid Khan	18	8.2	362	Yes	Yes	Yes	3	30	300	1816	Manual	Spring is more than 200 years old, water remains constant throughout the year.
S-15	4/13/17	1510	34.62139	73.43033	1807	Thawan	Feroz / Ghulam Qadir	14	7.8	466	Yes	Yes	Yes	140	40	200	1916	Manual	Spring is more than 100 years old, spring dry in the 2005 earthquake & 2007 again. 100 houses in Thawan, including these 40 houses are using another water supply scheme coming from Aar 7 km from This village.
S-17	4/13/17	1700	34.61655	73.4216	1607	Ghonul	Liaqat Ali	17	8.0	460	No	Yes	No	–	2	50	1916	Manual	Water use for vehicle washing, flow reduces by 50% in winter.
S-18	4/13/17	1715	34.61728	73.42434	1459	Ghonul	Saeed	18	8.4	345	No	Yes	No	–	4	50	1956	Manual	Water use for vehicle washing, springs in above 50 years old, and water flow reduces by 50% in winter.
S-19	4/13/17	1730	34.61824	73.42588	1376	Ghonul	Noor ur Rehman	15	8.5	384	Yes	No	No	–	1	200	1965	Pipe	Water flow reduces by 50% in winter.
S-20	4/13/17	1745	34.6187	73.42561	1422	Ghonul	Noor ur Rehman	16	8.5	354	No	No	No	–	–	–	1965	Manual	No usage of water, flow reduces 50% in winter. Spring is more than 50 years old.
S-27	4/15/17	1300	34.62586	73.42572	1525	Dhamdhar	Mubarak ur Rehman	NA	NA	NA	No	No	No	–	–	–	1916	Manual	Dry spring in the 2005 earthquake, due to dryness 25 houses shifted to the lower side. Active in the rainy season.
S-29	4/15/17	1400	34.62505	73.42139	1364	Dhamdhar	Latif Khan	NA	NA	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes	7	1	500	2014	Pipe	Spring is 50 meters down the side of the road (from saved GPS coordinates). Non-availably of walking tack, couldn't reach at Spring. Flow remains constant throughout year
S-30	4/15/17	1525	34.62594	73.42338	1382	Dhamdhar	Mubarak ur Rehman	21	8.3	313	No	No	No	–	–	–	1965	Manual	Dead flow spring, spring inactive from 2005 earthquake.
S-33	4/15/17	1655	34.61251	73.41356	1779	Riyan	Ilyas Riyan	12	8.0	261	Yes	Yes	Yes	120	25	300	1816	Manual	Spring is more than 200 years old, flow reduces to 30% in winter, Riyan has also a supply line coming from Baida 1 km away.

ID	Date	Time	Latitude	Longitude	Altitude (m)	Village	Owner	Temp (ºC)	pH	Conductivity (µs/cm)	Human Drinking	Human Other Use	Livestock use	Livestock	Total Households	Water Use per HH (Liters)	Active From	Extraction Method	Comments
S-36	4/15/17	1825	34.61505	73.41434	1576	Jammu Nakka	Muhammad Miskeen	16	7.5	421	Yes	Yes	Yes	12	3	400	1916	Manual	Spring is dry in May, and active in March
S-37	4/15/17	1835	34.61523	73.41536	1562	Jammu Nakka	Ali Zaman	14	7.9	232	Yes	Yes	Yes	200	35	300	1816	Manual	Water flow remains constant throughout the year. Spring is more than 200 years old.
S-38	4/15/17	1852	34.61843	73.41308	1530	Jammu Nakka	Noor ur Rehman	14	8.1	222	Yes	No	Yes	50	9	200	1865	Manual	Water flow is constant throughout the year, spring is more than 150 years old.
S-42	4/16/17	1210	34.61799	73.40511	1414	Darweshabad	Sher Zaman	18	8.0	328	No	No	No	–	–	–	2000	Manual	Spring is dry in winter and active in Mar. Spring is on the road, no one is using this water.
S-43	4/16/17	1300	34.62106	73.40651	1277	Mankpai	Mubarak Rehman	17	8.4	312	Yes	Yes	Yes	40	12	350	1916	Pipe	Spring has a constant flow, more than 100 years old spring. Another spring was found nearly 15 meters from this spring.
S-44	4/16/17	1330	34.62104	73.40671	1181	Mankpai	Mubarak Rehman	17	8.4	316	Yes	Yes	Yes	10	3	200	1916	Manual	The flow remains constant, spring is more than 100 years old.
S-46	4/16/17	1627	34.60539	73.39392	1497	Khaulian	Haji Haroon	NA	NA	NA	No	No	Yes	–	–	–	NA	Manual	Spring is active in May and dry in September. Spring is totally dry. Only animals drink this water.
S-47	4/16/17	1645	34.60527	73.39373	1538	Khaulian	Ali Zaman	18	8.2	247	Yes	Yes	Yes	20	1	1000	1916	Manual	Spring has a constant flow; spring water is used for animals and in school (1000 children). Spring is more than 100 years old.
S-48	4/16/17	1700	34.6051	73.39443	1525	Khaulian	Haji Haroon	15	8.1	297	Yes	Yes	Yes	80	15	400	1916	Pipe	Spring is more than 100 years old. Water flow reduces by 50% in winter.
S-49	4/16/17	1710	34.60545	73.39452	1486	Khaulian	Haji Haroon	16	8.2	328	Yes	Yes	Yes	60	10	300	1916	Pipe	Water flow reduces by 50% in winter. Residents installed pipelines at their own expense in 2007.
S-51	4/16/17	1800	34.60598	73.39659	1535	Mohri	Aziz	14	7.9	347	Yes	Yes	Yes	40	27	500	1866	Pipe and Manual	This spring is more than 150 years old, water is reduced by 50% in winter. This water is also supplied through pipeline to Khaulian (Cheeran wala Nakka)
S-52	4/16/17	1815	34.6064	73.39616	1496	Mohri	Aziz	14	8.3	235	Yes	Yes	Yes	90	50	500	1916	Pipe	The water of the spring is supplied through the pipeline to 45 houses of Khaulian Darweshabad and 5 houses of Khaulian Cheeran wala Nakka. Flow reduces by 50% in winter.
S-53	4/16/17	1830	34.60571	73.39442	1490	Khaulian	Mir Wali	15	8.2	293	Yes	No	Yes	150	60	500	1916	Pipe	The water of the spring supplies to Nakka Sehal Lambi Pati village 3 km away. NGO installed a pipeline in 2007. Flow reduces by 50% in winter.
S-54	4/16/17	1840	34.6063	73.39452	1443	Khaulian	Yaqoob	14	8.4	278	Yes	Yes	Yes	10	4	200	1966	Manual	Flow reduces by 50% in winter.
S-55	4/16/17	1845	34.60628	73.39457	1508	Khaulian	Yaqoob	13	7.8	328	Yes	Yes	Yes	90	45	400	1916	Pipe	This spring is the second source of Khaulian Darweshabad 3 km away from spring. Flow reduces by 50% in winter.
S-56	4/16/17	1856	34.60642	73.39488	1323	Khaulian	Miskeen	15	8.1	378	Yes	Yes	Yes	5	2	400	1916	Pipe	Spring is more than 100 years old. Water supplies to 1 house and 1 Jamia Mosque. Flow reduces by 50% in winter.
S-57	4/17/17	1110	34.60695	73.39553	1440	Khaulian	Miskeen	14	8.1	344	No	No	Yes	–	–	–	1966	Manual	For more than 50 years spring, spring has been active from April to September, only animals drink this water, animal quantity is not confirmed as the spring is in a hilly area.
S-58	4/17/17	1152	34.60707	73.39449	1371	Khaulian	Rasheed	17	7.6	505	Yes	Yes	No	–	1	1000	1916	Pipe	Spring water use in primary school (150 children) through a pipeline installed by an NGO in 2008. Water flow reduces by 50% in winter.
S-59	4/17/17	1205	34.60704	73.39476	1443	Khaulian	Rasheed	16	8.0	336	Yes	Yes	No	–	1	500	1916	Pipe	Spring water use in the hospital at Khaulian Darweshabad 500 meters away from the spring. The pipeline was funded by an NGO in 2008. Water flow reduces by 50% in winter.
S-60	4/17/17	1218	34.60831	73.39543	1530	Khaulian	Abdul Wahid	17	7.9	463	Yes	Yes	Yes	100	25	1000	1916	Pipe	Spring is more than 100 years old, water flow reduces by 50% in winter. Khaulian Darwesabad residents installed a pipeline in April 2017.
S-61	4/17/17	1240	34.60906	73.39352	1349	Khaulian	Muhammad	16	7.9	314	Yes	No	No	–	15	50	1916	Manual	Spring water is used in Ramzan only by Khaulian residents. Flow reduces by 50% in winter.

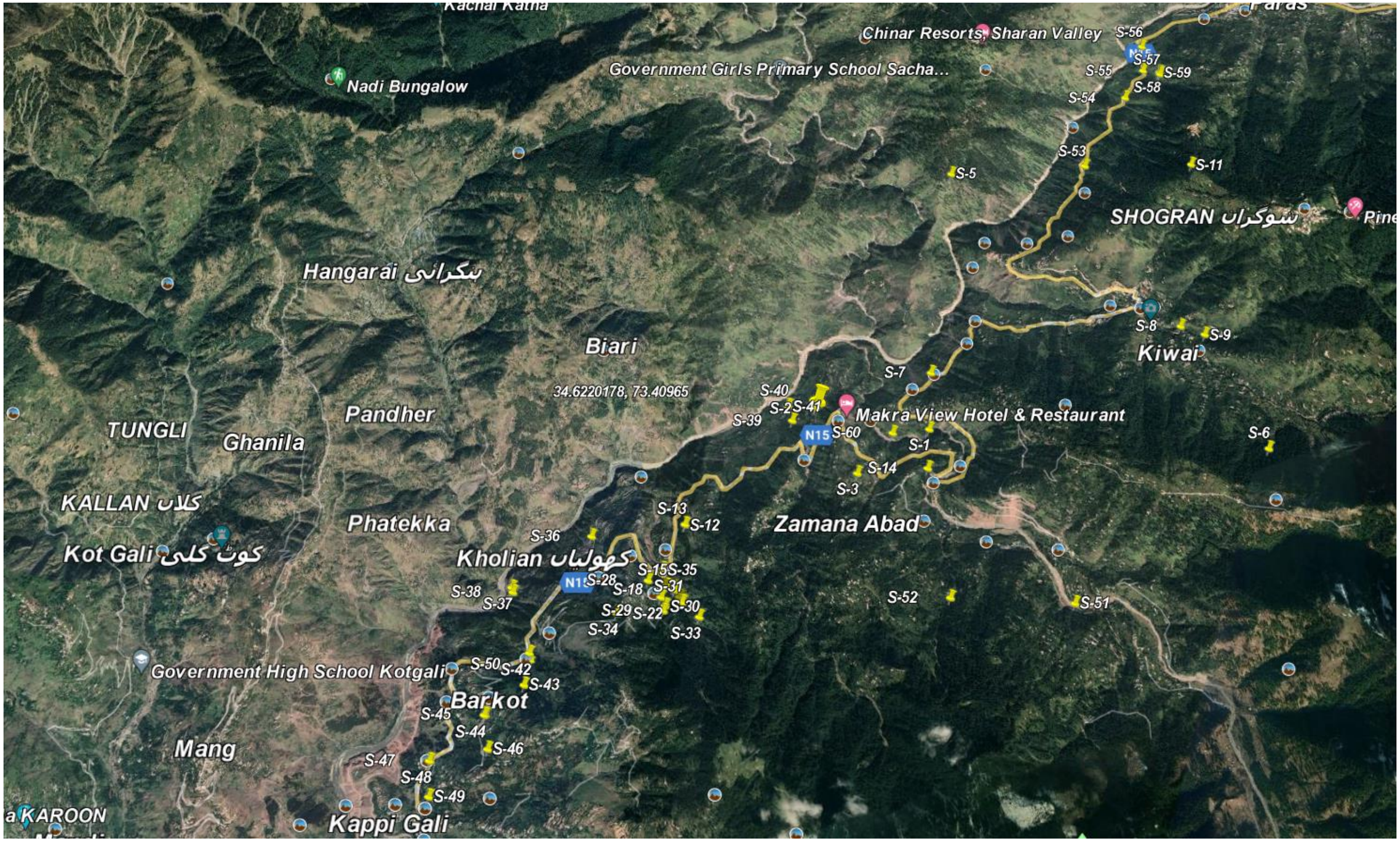
ID	Date	Time	Latitude	Longitude	Altitude (m)	Village	Owner	Temp (ºC)	pH	Conductivity (µs/cm)	Human Drinking	Human Other Use	Livestock use	Livestock	Total Households	Water Use per HH (Liters)	Active From	Extraction Method	Comments
S-62	4/17/17	1250	34.60925	73.39417	1355	Khaulian Darweshabad	Abdul Wahid	18	8.4	457	No	No	No	–	–	–	1916	Manual	No usage of water from this spring. Spring is more than 100 years old. Flow reduces by 50% in winter.
S-63	4/17/17	1310	34.61112	73.39345	1272	Khaulian Darweshabad	Mian Noorani	19	8.1	386	No	No	No	–	–	–	1986	Manual	The spring is more than 30 years old. No usage of water from this spring, spring is dry in winter.
S-64	4/17/17	1322	34.6111	73.39313	1289	Khaulian Darweshabad	Abdul Rasheed	19	8.5	316	No	No	No	–	–	–	1966	Manual	No usage of spring, spring is dry in winter. Spring is more than 50 years old.
S-65	4/17/17	1328	34.61146	73.39353	1309	Khaulian Darweshabad	Abdul Rasheed	18	7.5	387	Yes	No	No	–	5	50	1916	Manual	Flow reduces by 50% in winter; 5 nearby houses use this water in Ramzan. Spring is more than 100 years old.
S-66	4/17/17	1420	34.6131	73.39517	1284	Khaulian Darweshabad	Abdul Qadir	18	8.2	266	Yes	No	No	–	10	50	1916	Manual	Spring water is used for drinking only, flow reduces by 50% in winter. Spring is more than 100 years old.
S-67	4/18/17	940	34.60814	73.38847	1357	Khaulian Darweshabad	Wali Rehman	18	7.7	354	No	No	No	–	–	–	1986	Manual	Spring is more than 30 years old, no usage of spring water. Spring active from April to October
S-68	4/18/17	1000	34.60795	73.38812	1412	Khaulian Darweshabad	Mir Wali	15	8.2	363	Yes	Yes	Yes	120	50	400	1816	Pipe	The spring is more than 200 years old, water flow reduces by 50% in winter. The public health department installed a pipeline in 1980.
S-69	4/18/17	1020	34.60865	73.38755	1300	Khaulian Darweshabad	Fazal e Haq	17	7.5	435	Yes	No	No	–	3	50	1916	Manual	Spring water is used for drinking only, flow reduces by 50% in winter. Spring is more than 100 years old.
S-70	4/18/17	1030	34.60953	73.38777	1289	Khaulian Darweshabad	Muhammad Ameen	18	8.1	319	Yes	No	No	–	3	50	1916	Manual	The spring is more than 100 years old. Spring water is used for drinking. Flow reduces by 50 % in winter.
S-71	4/18/17	1045	34.60989	73.38879	1271	Khaulian Darweshabad	Muhammad Ameen	19	8.3	253	Yes	Yes	Yes	6	2	250	1916	Pipe	Spring is more than 100 years old, water flow reduces by 50% in winter. Water is suppled through a pipeline installed by residents in 2014 at their expense.
S-72	4/18/17	1100	34.61045	73.38819	1238	Khaulian Darweshabad	Ghulam Nabi	19	7.7	260	No	No	No	–	–	–	N/A	Manual	No usage of spring water, water flow reduces by 50% in winter. This spring is more than 50 years old.
S-73	4/18/17	1118	34.61119	73.38755	1200	Khaulian Darweshabad	Aziz ur Rehman	21	8.3	315	Yes	Yes	Yes	120	40	400	1716	Pipe and Manual	This spring is more than 300 years old. Water flow remains the same throughout the year. The public health department installed a pipeline in 1986 for supply of water.
S-74	4/18/17	1130	34.61359	73.38978	1204	Nakka	Rehmat Ullah	17	8.0	360	Yes	Yes	Yes	60	20	300	1916	Pipe and Manual	The spring is more than 100 years old, water flow remains constant throughout the year. NGO installed a pipeline in 2007 for suppling water.
S-75	4/18/17	1237	34.60495	73.39005	1577	Khaulian	M. Shafique / M. Latif	13	7.9	242	Yes	Yes	Yes	2	1	200	1916	Manual	Spring is more than 100 years old. The flow remains constant throughout the year.
S-77	4/18/17	1306	34.60473	73.38991	1641	Khaulian	Qari Younas	19	8.5	250	Yes	Yes	Yes	6	1	200	1965	Pipe	Spring water flow reduces by 50% in winter. The spring is more than 50 years old. This house has also a supply line coming from Baida Nakka.
S-78	4/18/17	1341	34.60168	73.38181	1369	Dabrian	Haroon	19	8.2	293	Yes	Yes	No	–	1	300	1966	Pipe	Spring water use in a hotel, flow is reduced by 50% in winter. Water is supplied through a pipeline from 2015, installed by the hotel owner at his expense.
S-80	4/18/17	1452	34.60261	73.37977	1284	Sandoori	Latif	17	8.0	285	No	No	Yes	60	17	100	1816	Manual	The spring water is used for animals only. Spring flow reduces by 50% in winter.
S-81	4/18/17	1545	34.5994	73.38125	1560	Damrian	Anayat ur Rehman	13	8.0	278	Yes	Yes	Yes	150	50	600	1916	Pipe	Spring is more than 100 years old. The public health department installed a water supply line in 1980 from Shamber 3 km away from Dabrian, which was damaged in a

ID	Date	Time	Latitude	Longitude	Altitude (m)	Village	Owner	Temp (ºC)	pH	Conductivity (µs/cm)	Human Drinking	Human Other Use	Livestock use	Livestock	Total Households	Water Use per HH (Liters)	Active From	Extraction Method	Comments
																			2005 earthquake. NGO installed a water supply line in 2007. Flow reduces by 50% in winter.
S-82	4/18/17	1610	34.59895	73.37673	1470	Dabrian	Abdul Rasheed	17	7.7	503	Yes	Yes	Yes	50	25	300	1916	Pipe and Manual	The public health department installed a water supply line in 1985 which was damaged in the 2005 earthquake. The residents installed a water supply line in 2007 at their own expense. The spring water flow reduces by 50% in winter. The spring is more than 100 years old.
S-83	4/18/17	1625	34.59762	73.3778	1506	Dabrian	Shabbir Mian	17	7.8	288	Yes	Yes	Yes	100	10	1000	1816	Pipe	The spring is more than 200 years old. Water flow reduces by 50% in winter. Due to the large quantity of animals, more water is consumed.
S-84	4/18/17	1635	34.59746	73.37807	1523	Dabrian	Abdul Hameed	20	8.5	328	Yes	Yes	Yes	20	4	150	1916	Pipe	Spring is more than 100 years old, flow is reduced by 50% in winter.
S-85	4/18/17	1705	34.59442	73.37799	1548	Dabrian	Zahoor	18	7.9	330	Yes	Yes	Yes	20	50	200	1916	Pipe and Manual	Spring is more than 100 years old, spring water is reduced by 50% in winter. Four houses have a supply line installed by them at their own cost while 46 houses take water manually.
S-98	4/19/17	1650	34.58722	73.37037	1126	Kappi Gali	Haji Ghulam Mubarak	20	7.9	360	Yes	No	No	–	5	50	1966	Manual	The spring is more than 50 years old, flow reduces by 50% in winter. The spring water is used for drinking only.
S-99	4/19/17	1716	34.58852	73.36779	1186	Kappi Gali	Aziz / Zia ul Haq	20	7.8	500	Yes	No	No	–	15	50	1916	Manual	The spring is more than 100 years old, water flow reduces by 50% in winter. The spring water is used for drinking only.
S-101	4/20/2017	1315	34.59051	73.37214	1263	Kappi Gali	Bakhtiyar	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1990	Manual	The spring was active for fifteen years, the spring was located in Nullah, land was backfilled with gravel and stone by land lord in 2006. Before 2006 Kappi Gali 10 houses used this spring water.
S-104	6/20/2018	NA	34.65295	73.44764	NA	Hariwala Nabba (Machi Ban)	Shabbir Shah	22	7.8	358	Yes	Yes	No	30	140	230	1910	Pipe	Consistent water flow throughout the year. It is also used for car wash on roads.
S-105	6/20/2018	NA	34.64995	73.445092	NA	Hariwala Nabba (Jabba Paras)	Peer Zaman Shah	20	7.7	438	Yes	Yes	No	40	160	320	1910	Pipe	No comments.
S-106	6/21/2018	NA	34.65462	73.44590	NA	Harriwal a Nabba	Gulam Ahmed Shah	22	7.9	401	Yes	Yes	No	10	70	300	1910	Pipe	Water is utilized by two nearby villages. Seventy houses dependent upon water usage through this spring
S-107	6/21/2018	NA	34.65556	73.44588	NA	Harriwal a Nabba	Gulam Ahmed Shah	21	7.3	498	Yes	Yes	No	10	70	300	1910	Pipe	No comments.
S-108	6/21/2018	NA	34.65322	73.44584	NA	Harriwal a Nabba	Abdul Sttar Shah	23	7.7	405	Yes	Yes	No	15	20	180	1910	Pipe	No comments.

NA means data is not available

– means the value reported is zero

Exhibit D.2: Hydro-census Field Observation Points on Google Imagery (2024)



Legends: The Yellow pin spots indicate Spring Sources.

Exhibit D.3: Hydro-census Field Data (2024)

S/No	Date	Latitude	Longitude	Location	Village	Distance from Tunnel Alignment in Meter	Flow Rate (One liter/ per Second)	Utilization	Households Dependent on Spring Water	Extraction Method	Geological Assessment of Water Sources	Elevation Difference b/w Spring Source & Tunnel in Meter	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures	Pictures
1	9/9/2023	34.620178	73.420965	Adit-2 Magazine	Ghanool	200	1 liter /22 second	Drinking water	Magazine Staff	Manual	The source is located in the Muree Formation i.e. subordinate bedding of, SS & AST, deformation occurs due to active tectonics of the area.	100	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-01
2	9/9/2023	34.620181	73.420883	R10-Near First Culvert	Ghanool	217	1/39 sec	Drinking water	10	Manual	The source is located in the Muree Formation i.e. subordinate bedding of, SS & AS., deformation occurred due to active tectonics of the area.	250	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-02
3	15/10/2023	34.61643	73.421365	N-15 above A2 access road	Ghanool	260	1/32 sec	Drinking water	8	Manual	The source is located in the Muree Formation i.e. subordinate bedding of, SS & AST, deformation occurs due to active tectonics of the area.	255	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-03
4	15/10/2023	34.617184	73.424504	N-15 above A2 access road	Ghanool	518	1/26 sec	Drinking water	12	Manual	The source is located in the Muree Formation which is overlaid by overburden	528	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-04
5	15/10/2023	34.618589	73.425624	N-15 above A2 access road	Ghanool	449	1/12 sec	Drinking water	15	Manual	The source is located in the Muree Formation mainly AST, which is overlaid by overburden.	195	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-05
6	15/10/2023	34.618531	73.425655	N-15 above A2 access road	Ghanool	305	1/35 sec	Drinking water	20	Manual	The source is located in the Muree Formation mainly AST, which is overlaid by overburden.	147	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-06
7	15/10/2023	34.62505	73.42139	Dhamdhar	Ghanool	400	1/07 sec	Drinking water/livestock/ domestic use	56	Manual	The spring source is completely covered by overburden. No lithology is exposed on the surface.	132	Very low probability of spring flow reduction		S-07
8	15/10/2023	34.629171	73.447081	Safdar Shah-Spring	Kawai-Manhas	294	1/13 sec	Drinking water/livestock/ domestic use	50	Manual	Water is flowing underground; the area is covered by cultivated fields and vegetation hence, no lithology is exposed on the surface	294	Very low probability of spring flow reduction	If the water source is affected, water will be provided through the pipe from an alternate water source.	S-08
9	15/10/2023	34.628441	73.449454	Syed per Muhammad - Spring	Kawai-durband	1557	1/10 sec	Drinking water/livestock/ domestic use	35	connected with pipe and Manual	The spring source is completely covered by overburden and vegetation. No lithology is exposed on the surface.	333	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-09
10	15/10/2023	Signal Issue	----------	Rafiq Shah-Spring	Kawai Menhas	1740	1/5 sec	Drinking water/livestock/ domestic use	30	connected with pipe and Manual	The spring source is completely covered by overburden and vegetation as such no lithology is exposed on the surface.	260	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-10

S/No	Date	Latitude	Longitude	Location	Village	Distance from Tunnel Alignment in Meter	Flow Rate (One liter/ per Second)	Utilization	Households Dependent on Spring Water	Extraction Method	Geological Assessment of Water Sources	Elevation Difference b/w Spring Source & Tunnel in Meter	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures	Pictures
11	15/10/2023	34.626441	73.449852	Syed Qasim Ali Shah-Spring	Kawai-Dola	2530	1/7 sec	Drinking water/livestock/ domestic use	20	Manual	The source is located in the Muree Formation which is overlaid by overburden & vegetation cover	507	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-11
12	15/10/2023	34.612169	73.3966104	Syed Mahmood Shah -Spring-**1**	Kawai	142	1/32 sec	Drinking water/livestock/ domestic use	40	Manual	The source is located in the Muree Formation which Is surrounded & overlaid by overburden.	135	Very low probability of spring flow reduction	If the water source is affected, water will be provided through the pipe from the Nearest water source.	S-12
13	15/10/2023	34.612169	73.3966105	Syed Mahmood Shah -Spring-**2**	Kawai	142	1/8 sec	Drinking water/livestock/ domestic use	45	Manual	The source is located in the Muree Formation mainly AST, which is overlaid by overburden.	141	Very low probability of spring flow reduction		S-13
14	21/10/2023	34.619882	73.415258	At-N-15 Navay Wali kasi-double mor	Ghanool	267	1/7 sec	Drinking water	8	Manual	The spring source is completely covered by overburden and vegetation thus no lithology is exposed on the surface.	215	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-14
15	21/10/2023	34.607168	73.394834	Harri-Wala	Kholian	200	1/12 sec	Drinking water/livestock/ domestic use	20	Manual	The spring source is completely covered by overburden and vegetation thus no lithology is exposed on the surface.	268	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-15
16	21/10/2023	34.607042	73.394557	Harri-Wala	Kholian	210	1/9 sec	Drinking water/livestock/ domestic use	7	Manual	The source is located in the Muree Formation i.e. subordinate bedding of, SS & AST	271	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-16
17	21/10/2023	34.607048	73.395586	Rafiq Shah-Harri Wala	Kholian	277	1/7 sec	Drinking water	6	Manual	The spring source is completely covered by overburden and vegetation thus no lithology is exposed on the surface.	185	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-17
18	21/10/2023	34.606847	73.395616	Harri	Kholian	277	1/30 sec	Drinking water	80	Manual	The spring source is completely covered by overburden and vegetation thus no lithology is exposed on the surface.	190	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-18
19	21/10/2023	34.607087	73.395495	Harri	Kholian	230	1/7 sec	Drinking water	10	Manual	The spring source is completely covered by overburden and vegetation thus no lithology is exposed on the surface.	195	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-19
20	21/10/2023	34.607094	73.395496	Darwesh Abad Harri Wala	Kholian	250	Spring source covered	Drinking water/livestock/ domestic use	150	The water source is fully covered with plain cement concrete (Tank)	The spring is located in Nulla. No lithology is exposed while the surrounding is completely covered with vegetation	319	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-20
21	21/10/2023	34.607094	73.395496	Nala Kath	Kholian	350	Spring source covered	Drinking water/livestock/ domestic use	130	The water source is fully covered with plain cement concrete (**Tank**)	The spring is located in the Muree Formation.No lithology is exposed as the surrounding is completely covered with vegetation	325	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-20
22	21/10/2023	34.60625	73.39431	Harri Wala	Kholian	305	1/20 sec	Drinking water/livestock/ domestic use	15	Manual	The spring is located in Nulla. No lithology is exposed while the surrounding is completely covered with vegetation	332	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-22

S/No	Date	Latitude	Longitude	Location	Village	Distance from Tunnel Alignment in Meter	Flow Rate (One liter/ per Second)	Utilization	Households Dependent on Spring Water	Extraction Method	Geological Assessment of Water Sources	Elevation Difference b/w Spring Source & Tunnel in Meter	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures	Pictures
23	21/10/2023	34.606297	73.3942291	Imran Khan-Harri Wala	Kholian	350	1/13 sec	Drinking water/livestock/ domestic use	4	Connected with pipe and manual	The source is located in the Muree Formation mainly sandstone which is overlaid by overburden & vegetation cover.	290	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-23
24	21/10/2023	34.60629	73.396098	Thrangrian to cheer Wala	Kholian	346	1/4 sec	Drinking water/livestock/ domestic use	80	connected with pipe and Manual	The spring is located in Nulla. No lithology is exposed while the surrounding is completely covered with vegetation.	336	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-24
25	21/10/2023	34.606289	73.396095	Chaian to Nakka	Kholian	380	Spring source covered	Drinking water/livestock/ domestic use	150	Source Covered	The spring source is completely covered by overburden and vegetation/ no lithology is exposed on the surface.	310	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-25
26	21/10/2023	34.606289	73.396095	Chaian to Cheer Wala	Kholian	354	Spring source covered	Drinking water/livestock/ domestic use	30	Source Covered	The spring source is completely covered by overburden and vegetation thus no lithology is exposed on the surface.	345	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-26
27	21/10/2023	34.606289	73.396095	Harri Wala	Kholian	389	Spring source covered	Drinking water/livestock/ domestic use	40	Source Covered	The spring source is completely covered by overburden	345	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-27
28	21/10/2023	34.607598	73.39304	Harri Wala	Kholian	80	1/40 sec	Drinking water/livestock/ domestic use	45	Manual	The spring source is completely covered by overburden and vegetation	318	Very low probability of spring flow reduction	If the water source is affected, water will be provided through the pipe from a nearby water spring.	S-28
29	21/10/2023	34.60517	73.394544	Chian to batian	Kholian	426	Spring source covered	Drinking water/livestock/ domestic use	80	Source Covered	The spring is located in Nulla. No lithology is exposed as the surroundings are completely covered with vegetation and cultivated fields.	350	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-29
30	21/10/2023	34.605571	73.39471	Chian to Harri Wala	Kholian	413	Spring source covered	Drinking water/livestock/ domestic use	40	Source Covered	The geology of the source is not exposed as the source location is covered with overburden and vegetation.	345	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-30
31	21/10/2023	34.605868	73.396328	Mori	Kholian	425	1/14 sec	Drinking water/livestock/ domestic use	25	Manual	The geology of the source is not exposed as the source location is covered with overburden and vegetation.	419	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-31
32	21/10/2023	34.60591	73.396442	Mori to Cheer Wala	Kholian	265	Spring source covered	Drinking water/livestock/ domestic use	35	Source Covered	The geology of the source is not exposed as the source location is covered with overburden and vegetation.	412	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-32
33	21/10/2023	34.604683	73.397995	Mori	Kholian	300	1/12 sec	Drinking water/livestock/ domestic use	20	Manual	No lithology is exposed as the source is located near a stream where the Muree Formation is exposed.	375	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-33

S/No	Date	Latitude	Longitude	Location	Village	Distance from Tunnel Alignment in Meter	Flow Rate (One liter/ per Second)	Utilization	Households Dependent on Spring Water	Extraction Method	Geological Assessment of Water Sources	Elevation Difference b/w Spring Source & Tunnel in Meter	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures	Pictures
34	21/10/2023	34.604983	73.390038	Mori	Kholian	321	Spring source covered	Drinking water	30	Manual	The source is located in the Muree Formation which is overlaid by overburden	366	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-34
35	21/10/2023	34.608514	73.394444	Darwesh Abad	Kholian	70	1/8 sec	Drinking water	40	Connected with pipe and manual	The geology of the source is not exposed as the source location is covered with overburden and vegetation.	192	Low probability of spring flow reduction	If the water source is affected, water will be provided through the pipe from a nearby spring.	S-35
36	24/10/2023	34.611191	73.387468	A3-Near old workshop	Kholian	200	1/32 sec	Drinking water	12	Manual	The source is located in the Muree Formation i.e. subordinate bedding of, SS & AST. Deformation occurred due to active tectonics of the area.	42	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-36
37	24/10/2023	34.607024	73.379842	Powerhouse access road	kholian	87	1/40 sec	Drinking water	4	Manual	The source is located in the Muree Formation i.e. subordinate bedding of, SS & AST. Deformation occurred due to active tectonics of the area.	50	Low probability of spring flow reduction	If the water source is affected, water will be provided through the pipe from a nearby spring.	S-37
38	24/10/2023	34.606654	73.379971	Powerhouse access road	kholian	Nearly above A3 tunnel	1/3 sec	Drinking water	5	Manual	The geology of the source is not exposed as the source location is covered with overburden and vegetation.	13	Low probability of spring flow reduction		S-38
39	24/10/2023	34.62092	73.407301	Manakpai	kholian	150	Spring source covered	Drinking water/livestock/ domestic use	35	Source Covered	The source location is completely covered by vegetation and overburden.	185	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-39
40	24/10/2023	34.621742	73.406452	Manakpai	kholian	140	1/5 sec	Drinking water/livestock/ domestic use	10	Connected with pipe and manual	The geology of the source is not exposed as the source location is covered with overburden and vegetation.	156	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-40
41	24/10/2023	34.622178	73.406884	Manakpai	kholian	100	1/6 sec	Drinking water/livestock/ domestic use	12	Connected with pipe and manual	The geology of the source is not exposed because the source location is covered with overburden and vegetation.	121	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-41
42	24/10/2023	34.60182	73.381761	Dabbrian	Dabrrian	200	1/19 sec	Drinking water	30	Connected with pipe and manual	The geology of the source is not exposed as the source location is covered with overburden and vegetation.	169	Low probability of spring flow reduction	If the water source is affected, water will be provided through the pipe from a nearby spring.	S-42
43	24/10/2023	34.599333	73.38135	Dabbrian	Dabrrian	831	Spring source covered	Drinking water/livestock/ domestic use	25	The water source is fully covered with plain cement concrete (Tank)	The geology of the source is not exposed as the source location is covered with overburden and vegetation	350	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-43

S/No	Date	Latitude	Longitude	Location	Village	Distance from Tunnel Alignment in Meter	Flow Rate (One liter/ per Second)	Utilization	Households Dependent on Spring Water	Extraction Method	Geological Assessment of Water Sources	Elevation Difference b/w Spring Source & Tunnel in Meter	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures	Pictures
44	24/10/2023	34.59701	73.377689	Dabbrian	Dabrrian	1120	1/ 99 Sec	Drinking water/livestock/ domestic use	5	Connected with pipe and manual	The source location is covered with vegetation	323	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-44
45	24/10/2023	34.597059	73.377764	Dabbrian	Dabrrian	772	1/ 240 Sec	Drinking water/livestock/ domestic use	8	Manual	The geology of the source is not exposed as the source location is covered with overburden and vegetation.	298	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-45
46	24/10/2023	34.594419	73.378138	Dabbrian (Nakka)	Dabrrian	986	1/14 Sec	Drinking water	40	Manual	The geology of the source is not exposed because the source location is covered with overburden and vegetation.	314	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-46
47	24/10/2023	34.59353	73.372716	Kapi Gali	Kapi Gali	1500	1/8 Sec	Drinking water	10	Manual	The geology of the source is not exposed as the source location is covered with overburden and vegetation.	356	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-47
48	24/10/2023	34.593556	73.372788	Kapi Gali Jabi	Kapi Gali	1500	1/6 Sec	Drinking water	15	Manual	The source is located in the Muree Formation AST which is highly deformed due to stresses. The water is flowing through cracks in rocks.	164	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-48
49	24/10/2023	34.590835	73.372826	Kapi Gali (Pana Kasi)	Kapi Gali	1800	1/47 Sec	Drinking water	80	Manual	The source is located in the Muree Formation. Lithologically both AST & SS are present. Rocks are highly deformed due to stresses and spring water flowing through cracks. Overburden is also present above the source locations and in the surroundings	124	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-49
50	24/10/2023	34.601448	73.382108	Dabrian	Dabrian	290	Spring source covered	Drinking water/livestock/ domestic use	15	The water source is fully covered with concrete (Tank)	The source location is covered with overburden and vegetation	108	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-50
51	28/10/2023	34.605761	73.43427	Ghanool	Ghanool	1867	1/7 Sec	Livestock	50	Manual	The source is located in the Muree Formation, overlaid by overburden. Both SS and AST are seen on the surface, and deformation of rock can also be seen.	139	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-51
52	28/10/2023	34.60622	73.42227	Dhair	Ghanool	1830	1/8 Sec	Drinking water/livestock/ domestic use	25	Connected with pipe and manual	The source is located in the Muree Formation mainly AST.	450	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-52
53	28/10/2023	34.643951	73.438631	Domania	Domania	219	1/3 Sec	Drinking water and car wash	5	Manual	The source is located in the Muree Formation. Rocks i.e. AST & SS are deformed due to tectonic stresses, and water is flowing along the cracks.	220	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-53

S/No	Date	Latitude	Longitude	Location	Village	Distance from Tunnel Alignment in Meter	Flow Rate (One liter/ per Second)	Utilization	Households Dependent on Spring Water	Extraction Method	Geological Assessment of Water Sources	Elevation Difference b/w Spring Source & Tunnel in Meter	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures	Pictures
54	28/10/2023	34.650539	73.443519	Domania	Domania	417	1/4 Sec	Drinking water	10	Manual	The source is located in the Muree Formation, overlaid by overburden. Both SS and AST are seen on the surface, and deformation of rock can also be seen.	102	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-54
55	28/10/2023	34.653224	73.445716	Domania	Domania	120	1/8 Sec	Drinking water	20	Manual	The source is located in the Muree Formation which is overlaid by overburden and vegetative cover.	120	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-55
56	28/10/2023	34.65562	73.44583	Domania-Machiban	Domania	348	1/15 Sec	Drinking water	23	Manual	The source is located in the Muree Formation which is overlaid by overburden and vegetative cover.	126	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-56
57	28/10/2023	34.652876	73.447498	Paras-Machiban	Paras	325	1/2 Sec	Drinking water/livestock/ domestic use	200	Connected with pipe and manual	The source location geology is comprised of the Muree Formation. AST & SS litho facies are present while rocks are deformed and water is flowing along cracks.	141	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-57
58	28/10/2023	34.653019	73.447497	Paras-Jaba	Paras	291	1/3 Sec	Drinking water/livestock/ domestic use	240	Connected with pipe and manual	The source location geology is comprised of the Muree Formation. AST & SS litho facies are present while rocks are deformed and water is flowing along cracks.	193	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-58
59	28/10/2023	34.653066	73.44746	Paras-Jaba	Paras	220	1/4 Sec	Drinking water/livestock/ domestic use	150	Connected with pipe and manual	The source location is in the Muree Formation AST which is overlied by overburden and vegetation cover.	201	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-59
60	28/10/2023	34.619855	73.417292	Ghanool (A2-Camp)	Ghanool	234	1/3Sec	Drinking water/daily use	A2--Camp resident	Connected with pipe and manual	The source is located in the Muree Formation. Rocks i.e. AST & SS are deformed due to tectonic stresses, and water is flowing along the cracks.	55	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-60
61	28/6/2024	34.596247	73.371504	Kaysha Sangar	Powerhouse Sangar area	62	1/6 Sec	Drinking water	Used by Pedestrian	Manual	The source is located in the Muree Formation. Rocks i.e. AST & SS are deformed due to tectonic stresses, and water is flowing along the cracks.	40	No impact on the reduction of the spring flow		S-61

APPENDIX E: WATER ANALYSIS RESULTS

E.1 Methodology for Water Quality Sampling

59. Water samples were collected with the following steps.

- Water samples were collected directly from the river using a stainless steel sampler.
- Powder-free disposable gloves be worn at all times when transferring water from the sampler to the sample bottles.
- Field physical parameters which include pH, DO, temperature, and electrical conductivity were recorded during the sampling utilizing calibrated meters.
- Bottles with required preservation were used to store samples. The bottles were opened for the minimum amount of time needed to rinse and fill them.
- Sample bottles were rinsed with water from the sampler except for those containers in which the preservative is already in the bottle.
- Sample bottles were filled to the top to eliminate air space.
- Sample bottles were capped as soon as they were filled, placed in plastic bags, and placed into coolers with plenty of ice packs. Photographs of the sampling are shown in **Exhibit E.1.**

Quality Control Samples

60. One duplicate sample was collected as part of the QC check. In addition as part of the lab analysis lab blanks and lab duplicates were also analyzed.

61. The identity of the field duplicate was not known to the testing laboratory. In addition, the lab blanks and duplicates were also utilized and the resulting discrepancy is within acceptable limits.

Sample Handling

- Each sample was given a proper and unique identification.
- Quality control sample was labeled similar to normal samples and identity was kept confidential from the testing laboratory.
- Sample labels included, sample identification, collection date and time, parameter group e.g. metals, nutrients, physical + major ions, etc.; preservative if any was added
- In addition to the above information, the field notes were recorded, GPS coordinates were taken, well depth was measured, and the source was photographed.

Exhibit E.1: Photographs from the Water Sampling



Collection of Kunhar River Sample for analysis



Collection of sample and duplicate

E.2 Water Quality Lab Reports

See the following pages.

APPENDIX F: AIR QUALITY

F.1 Sampling Methodology for Air Quality

62. Particulate matter was sampled using Airmetrics MiniVol Portable Air Samplers. This equipment draws an air sample through an inlet by a vacuum pump at a fixed flow rate. The particulates are filtered using an impactor and collected on a filter paper which is dried and weighed after the sampling to obtain the weight of particulates in the sampled Volume of air.

63. NO, NO_2, and SO_2 were measured using Gradko diffusion tubes. These tubes passively uptake pollutants via diffusion and hence require longer sampling of durations of between 2-4 weeks. The collected pollutants are quantified using ion chromatography.

64. The method, duration of sampling, and laboratory for analysis is summarized in **Exhibit F.1**. Photographs of the particulate matter and diffusion tube sampling sites are shown in

65. **Exhibit F.2.**

Exhibit F.1: Methodology and Duration of Sampling

Parameter	Equipment	Date and Duration of Sampling	Lab for Analysis
NO, NO_2 and SO_2	Passive diffusion tubes	March 19 to April 13, 2017 3 weeks	Gradko Lab, UK
PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$	Low Volume sampler	April 23 to 30, 2017 24 Hours at each location	HBP Lab, Islamabad
Weather data	Kestrel 5500 weather meter	During PM sampling 24 Hours at each location	Field data

Note:

1. Recommended sampling duration is between 2-4 weeks.
2. Weather data includes wind speed and direction, temperature, humidity, and barometric pressure.

Exhibit F.2: Particulate Matter Sampling Site Photographs



Low Volume Sampler and Weather Station at A1



Low Volume Samplers at A2

		
Low Volume Samplers at A3		Low Volume Sampler and Weather Station at A4

F.2 Air Quality Lab Reports

See the following pages.

APPENDIX G: TRAFFIC SURVEY

See the following pages.

	Date	Direction Number	Direction	Time	Bikes	Cars	Pick–up	Buses	Trucks					Tractors	Trailor	Total
									(2 AX)	*(3 AX)*	*(4 AX)*	*(5 AX)*	*(6 AX)*			
Paras to Kaghan																
Weekday	5/4/2017	T1	Paras to Kaghan	07:00 to 08:00	5	16	16	1	7							**45**
Weekday	5/4/2017	T1	Paras to Kaghan	08:00 to 09:00	3	26	22		13		1					**65**
Weekday	5/4/2017	T1	Paras to Kaghan	09:00 to 10:00	7	42	18	1	8							**76**
Weekday	5/4/2017	T1	Paras to Kaghan	10:00 to 11:00	8	36	23	5	10					1		**83**
Weekday	5/4/2017	T1	Paras to Kaghan	11:00 to 12:00	7	42	27	1	6							**83**
Weekday	5/4/2017	T1	Paras to Kaghan	12:00 to 13:00	5	59	35	3	7							**109**
Weekday	5/4/2017	T1	Paras to Kaghan	13:00 to 14:00	9	35	26	1	8							**79**
Weekday	5/4/2017	T1	Paras to Kaghan	14:00 to 15:00	5	36	23	1	5							**70**
Weekday	5/4/2017	T1	Paras to Kaghan	15:00 to 16:00	13	38	34		7					1		**93**
Weekday	5/4/2017	T1	Paras to Kaghan	16:00 to 17:00	8	43	40		7							**98**
Weekday	5/4/2017	T1	Paras to Kaghan	17:00 to 18:00	4	41	33		9							**87**
Weekday	5/4/2017	T1	Paras to Kaghan	18:00 to 19:00	6	40	24		3	1	1					**75**

	Date	Direction Number	Direction	Time	Bikes	Cars	Pick–up	Buses	Trucks					Tractors	Trailor	Total
									(2 AX)	*(3 AX)*	*(4 AX)*	*(5 AX)*	*(6 AX)*			
Weekday	5/4/2017	T1	Paras to Kaghan	19:00 to 20:00	6	34	17	2	4							**63**
Weekday	5/4/2017	T1	Paras to Kaghan	20:00 to 21:00	5	26	8	3	4							**46**
Weekday	5/4/2017	T1	Paras to Kaghan	21:00 to 22:00	2	29	21		7							**59**
Weekday	5/4/2017	T1	Paras to Kaghan	22:00 to 23:00	1	12	6		1							**20**
Weekday	5/4/2017	T1	Paras to Kaghan	23:00 to 00:00	2	12	3		3							**20**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T1	Paras to Kaghan	00:00 to 01:00		14	11		4							**29**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T1	Paras to Kaghan	01:00 to 02:00	1	13	11		6							**31**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T1	Paras to Kaghan	02:00 to 03:00	1	14	8		3							**26**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T1	Paras to Kaghan	03:00 to 04:00		10	9		6							**25**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T1	Paras to Kaghan	04:00 to 05:00		9	4		3							**16**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T1	Paras to Kaghan	05:00 to 06:00		8	5		3							**16**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T1	Paras to Kaghan	06:00 to 07:00	2	12	3		7							**24**
					100	**647**	**427**	**18**	**141**	**1**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**2**	**0**	**1338**
Kaghan to Paras																

	Date	Direction Number	Direction	Time	Bikes	Cars	Pick–up	Buses	Trucks					Tractors	Trailor	Total
									(2 AX)	*(3 AX)*	*(4 AX)*	*(5 AX)*	*(6 AX)*			
Weekday	5/4/2017	T1	Kaghan to Paras	07:00 to 08:00	4	9	17		1							**31**
Weekday	5/4/2017	T1	Kaghan to Paras	08:00 to 09:00	9	29	28		12							**78**
Weekday	5/4/2017	T1	Kaghan to Paras	09:00 to 10:00	4	27	22	2	4					1		**60**
Weekday	5/4/2017	T1	Kaghan to Paras	10:00 to 11:00	9	29	20		1							**59**
Weekday	5/4/2017	T1	Kaghan to Paras	11:00 to 12:00	3	34	19	1	6					1		**64**
Weekday	5/4/2017	T1	Kaghan to Paras	12:00 to 13:00	5	46	25		5	1						**82**
Weekday	5/4/2017	T1	Kaghan to Paras	13:00 to 14:00	7	43	22	4	13							**89**
Weekday	5/4/2017	T1	Kaghan to Paras	14:00 to 15:00	7	35	16		9					1		**68**
Weekday	5/4/2017	T1	Kaghan to Paras	15:00 to 16:00	8	50	33	1	8					1		**101**
Weekday	5/4/2017	T1	Kaghan to Paras	16:00 to 17:00	12	59	43		10					3		**127**
Weekday	5/4/2017	T1	Kaghan to Paras	17:00 to 18:00	9	40	28		9					1		**87**
Weekday	5/4/2017	T1	Kaghan to Paras	18:00 to 19:00	7	40	28		5					1		**81**
Weekday	5/4/2017	T1	Kaghan to Paras	19:00 to 20:00	8	34	15		8							**65**

	Date	Direction Number	Direction	Time	Bikes	Cars	Pick–up	Buses	Trucks					Tractors	Trailor	Total
									(2 AX)	*(3 AX)*	*(4 AX)*	*(5 AX)*	*(6 AX)*			
Weekday	5/4/2017	T1	Kaghan to Paras	20:00 to 21:00	1	20	9		4	1						**35**
Weekday	5/4/2017	T1	Kaghan to Paras	21:00 to 22:00	3	11	9		3							**26**
Weekday	5/4/2017	T1	Kaghan to Paras	22:00 to 23:00	2	12	4		2							**20**
Weekday	5/4/2017	T1	Kaghan to Paras	23:00 to 00:00		12	4		3							**19**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T1	Kaghan to Paras	00:00 to 01:00		18	8		4							**30**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T1	Kaghan to Paras	01:00 to 02:00		24	7		7							**38**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T1	Kaghan to Paras	02:00 to 03:00		14	6		4							**24**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T1	Kaghan to Paras	03:00 to 04:00		14	7		7							**28**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T1	Kaghan to Paras	04:00 to 05:00		4	1		1							**6**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T1	Kaghan to Paras	05:00 to 06:00		8	3		2							**13**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T1	Kaghan to Paras	06:00 to 07:00		11	10		3							**24**
					98	**623**	**384**	**8**	**131**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**9**	**0**	**1255**
Paras to Kaghan																
Weekend	5/7/2017	T1	Paras to Kaghan	07:00 to 08:00	4	19	11	1	6							**41**

	Date	Direction Number	Direction	Time	Bikes	Cars	Pick–up	Buses	Trucks					Tractors	Trailor	Total
									(2 AX)	*(3 AX)*	*(4 AX)*	*(5 AX)*	*(6 AX)*			
Weekend	5/7/2017	T1	Paras to Kaghan	08:00 to 09:00	7	43	19		9							**78**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T1	Paras to Kaghan	09:00 to 10:00	16	50	40	1	20							**127**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T1	Paras to Kaghan	10:00 to 11:00	14	56	38	4	12	1				1		**126**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T1	Paras to Kaghan	11:00 to 12:00	22	55	33	5	9					1		**125**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T1	Paras to Kaghan	12:00 to 13:00	16	64	21		5							**106**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T1	Paras to Kaghan	13:00 to 14:00	13	43	23	2	3							**84**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T1	Paras to Kaghan	14:00 to 15:00	11	45	29		8					1		**94**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T1	Paras to Kaghan	15:00 to 16:00	14	48	38	2	12							**114**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T1	Paras to Kaghan	16:00 to 17:00	11	42	38	1	4							**96**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T1	Paras to Kaghan	17:00 to 18:00	11	44	38	3	5							**101**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T1	Paras to Kaghan	18:00 to 19:00	16	47	40	3	10	2						**118**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T1	Paras to Kaghan	19:00 to 20:00	11	52	33	8	4							**108**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T1	Paras to Kaghan	20:00 to 21:00	1	28	21		3	2						**55**

	Date	Direction Number	Direction	Time	Bikes	Cars	Pick–up	Buses	Trucks					Tractors	Trailor	Total
									(2 AX)	*(3 AX)*	*(4 AX)*	*(5 AX)*	*(6 AX)*			
Weekend	5/7/2017	T1	Paras to Kaghan	21:00 to 22:00	11	24	20		1							**56**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T1	Paras to Kaghan	22:00 to 23:00	7	18	12	1	6							**44**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T1	Paras to Kaghan	23:00 to 00:00		14	13		4							**31**
Weekend	5/8/2017	T1	Paras to Kaghan	00:00 to 01:00		13	13		4							**30**
Weekend	5/8/2017	T1	Paras to Kaghan	01:00 to 02:00		11	7		1							**19**
Weekend	5/8/2017	T1	Paras to Kaghan	02:00 to 03:00		11	6		3							**20**
Weekend	5/8/2017	T1	Paras to Kaghan	03:00 to 04:00		10	6		4							**20**
Weekend	5/8/2017	T1	Paras to Kaghan	04:00 to 05:00		11	6		3							**20**
Weekend	5/8/2017	T1	Paras to Kaghan	05:00 to 06:00	1	12	4		3	2						**22**
Weekend	5/8/2017	T1	Paras to Kaghan	06:00 to 07:00	3	15	12		5							**35**
					189	**775**	**521**	**31**	**144**	**7**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**3**	**0**	**1670**
Kaghan to Paras																
Weekend	5/7/2017	T1	Kaghan to Paras	07:00 to 08:00	5	6	19		13							**43**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T1	Kaghan to Paras	08:00 to 09:00	8	28	26		5							**67**

	Date	Direction Number	Direction	Time	Bikes	Cars	Pick–up	Buses	Trucks					Tractors	Trailor	Total
									(2 AX)	*(3 AX)*	*(4 AX)*	*(5 AX)*	*(6 AX)*			
Weekend	5/7/2017	T1	Kaghan to Paras	09:00 to 10:00	8	41	25		4							**78**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T1	Kaghan to Paras	10:00 to 11:00	13	59	38	4	4							**118**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T1	Kaghan to Paras	11:00 to 12:00	13	60	29	3	9					1		**115**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T1	Kaghan to Paras	12:00 to 13:00	15	62	25	7	22							**131**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T1	Kaghan to Paras	13:00 to 14:00	7	67	32	2	5							**113**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T1	Kaghan to Paras	14:00 to 15:00	9	46	23	1	4							**83**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T1	Kaghan to Paras	15:00 to 16:00	9	69	26	1	10							**115**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T1	Kaghan to Paras	16:00 to 17:00	12	65	23	2	6							**108**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T1	Kaghan to Paras	17:00 to 18:00	6	62	30	3	13							**114**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T1	Kaghan to Paras	18:00 to 19:00	20	62	44	1	8							**135**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T1	Kaghan to Paras	19:00 to 20:00	5	67	24	3	5		1					**105**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T1	Kaghan to Paras	20:00 to 21:00		26	11	2	2							**41**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T1	Kaghan to Paras	21:00 to 22:00	9	26	20	1	10							**66**

	Date	Direction Number	Direction	Time	Bikes	Cars	Pick–up	Buses	Trucks					Tractors	Trailor	Total
									(2 AX)	*(3 AX)*	*(4 AX)*	*(5 AX)*	*(6 AX)*			
Weekend	5/7/2017	T1	Kaghan to Paras	22:00 to 23:00	8	15	12		9							**44**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T1	Kaghan to Paras	23:00 to 00:00		13	7		2							**22**
Weekend	5/8/2017	T1	Kaghan to Paras	00:00 to 01:00		10	12		2							**24**
Weekend	5/8/2017	T1	Kaghan to Paras	01:00 to 02:00		12	8		4	1						**25**
Weekend	5/8/2017	T1	Kaghan to Paras	02:00 to 03:00		11	7		7	1						**26**
Weekend	5/8/2017	T1	Kaghan to Paras	03:00 to 04:00		7	3		5							**15**
Weekend	5/8/2017	T1	Kaghan to Paras	04:00 to 05:00		7	4		3							**14**
Weekend	5/8/2017	T1	Kaghan to Paras	05:00 to 06:00	2	12	11		5							**30**
Weekend	5/8/2017	T1	Kaghan to Paras	06:00 to 07:00		13	7									**20**
					149	**846**	**466**	**30**	**157**	**2**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**1652**

	Date	Direction Number	Direction	Time	Bikes	Cars	Pick–up	Buses	Trucks					Tractors	Trailor	Total
									(2 AX)	*(3 AX)*	*(4 AX)*	*(5 AX)*	*(6 AX)*			
Sendhori to Paras																
Weekday	4/5/2017	T2	Sendhori to Paras	07:00 to 08:00	6	9	12		7	1						**35**
Weekday	4/5/2017	T2	Sendhori to Paras	08:00 to 09:00	6	15	24		12							**57**
Weekday	4/5/2017	T2	Sendhori to Paras	09:00 to 10:00	4	23	32	3	4	2						**68**
Weekday	4/5/2017	T2	Sendhori to Paras	10:00 to 11:00	6	35	37		9							**87**
Weekday	4/5/2017	T2	Sendhori to Paras	11:00 to 12:00	6	39	35	7	9							**96**
Weekday	4/5/2017	T2	Sendhori to Paras	12:00 to 13:00	5	40	32	2	5							**84**
Weekday	4/5/2017	T2	Sendhori to Paras	13:00 to 14:00	6	32	21	4	1							**64**
Weekday	4/5/2017	T2	Sendhori to Paras	14:00 to 15:00	5	40	23	3	1							**72**
Weekday	4/5/2017	T2	Sendhori to Paras	15:00 to 16:00	4	32	25	4								**65**
Weekday	4/5/2017	T2	Sendhori to Paras	16:00 to 17:00	7	36	18		3					1		**65**
Weekday	4/5/2017	T2	Sendhori to Paras	17:00 to 18:00	8	30	26		3							**67**
Weekday	4/5/2017	T2	Sendhori to Paras	18:00 to 19:00	3	35	17	1	2	2						**60**

	Date	Direction Number	Direction	Time	Bikes	Cars	Pick–up	Buses	Trucks					Tractors	Trailor	Total
									(2 AX)	*(3 AX)*	*(4 AX)*	*(5 AX)*	*(6 AX)*			
Weekday	4/5/2017	T2	Sendhori to Paras	19:00 to 20:00	12	30	30	2	4							**78**
Weekday	4/5/2017	T2	Sendhori to Paras	20:00 to 21:00	7	25	9		4							**45**
Weekday	4/5/2017	T2	Sendhori to Paras	21:00 to 22:00	2	12	17		8							**39**
Weekday	4/5/2017	T2	Sendhori to Paras	22:00 to 23:00	3	14	2		2							**21**
Weekday	4/5/2017	T2	Sendhori to Paras	23:00 to 00:00		3	5		3							**11**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T2	Sendhori to Paras	00:00 to 01:00		8	13		5							**26**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T2	Sendhori to Paras	01:00 to 02:00	1	1	9		7							**18**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T2	Sendhori to Paras	02:00 to 03:00		9			4							**13**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T2	Sendhori to Paras	03:00 to 04:00		2	10		5							**17**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T2	Sendhori to Paras	04:00 to 05:00		2	6		5							**13**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T2	Sendhori to Paras	05:00 to 06:00	1	5	3		4							**13**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T2	Sendhori to Paras	06:00 to 07:00	4	16	16		7							**43**
					96	**493**	**422**	**26**	**114**	**5**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**1**	**–**	**1157**
Paras to Sendhori																

	Date	Direction Number	Direction	Time	Bikes	Cars	Pick–up	Buses	Trucks					Tractors	Trailor	Total
									(2 AX)	*(3 AX)*	*(4 AX)*	*(5 AX)*	*(6 AX)*			
Weekday	4/5/2017	T2	Paras to Sendhori	07:00 to 08:00	1	7	14		2							**24**
Weekday	4/5/2017	T2	Paras to Sendhori	08:00 to 09:00	3	21	22		9							**55**
Weekday	4/5/2017	T2	Paras to Sendhori	09:00 to 10:00	5	22	28	2	6	1						**64**
Weekday	4/5/2017	T2	Paras to Sendhori	10:00 to 11:00	2	33	18		1							**54**
Weekday	4/5/2017	T2	Paras to Sendhori	11:00 to 12:00	6	26	16	1	1					2		**52**
Weekday	4/5/2017	T2	Paras to Sendhori	12:00 to 13:00	6	36	22		8	1						**73**
Weekday	4/5/2017	T2	Paras to Sendhori	13:00 to 14:00	9	42	16	1	3							**71**
Weekday	4/5/2017	T2	Paras to Sendhori	14:00 to 15:00	4	45	21		8					3		**81**
Weekday	4/5/2017	T2	Paras to Sendhori	15:00 to 16:00	6	32	30	3	7					1		**79**
Weekday	4/5/2017	T2	Paras to Sendhori	16:00 to 17:00	5	40	24		12							**81**
Weekday	4/5/2017	T2	Paras to Sendhori	17:00 to 18:00	3	28	24		12							**67**
Weekday	4/5/2017	T2	Paras to Sendhori	18:00 to 19:00	7	38	29		6					1		**81**
Weekday	4/5/2017	T2	Paras to Sendhori	19:00 to 20:00	5	33	17		3					1		**59**

	Date	Direction Number	Direction	Time	Bikes	Cars	Pick–up	Buses	Trucks					Tractors	Trailor	Total
									(2 AX)	*(3 AX)*	*(4 AX)*	*(5 AX)*	*(6 AX)*			
Weekday	4/5/2017	T2	Paras to Sendhori	20:00 to 21:00	3	15	14		5							**37**
Weekday	4/5/2017	T2	Paras to Sendhori	21:00 to 22:00	4	7	10		3							**24**
Weekday	4/5/2017	T2	Paras to Sendhori	22:00 to 23:00		16	5		2							**23**
Weekday	4/5/2017	T2	Paras to Sendhori	23:00 to 00:00		6	2		1							**9**
Weekday	4/5/2017	T2	Paras to Sendhori	00:00 to 01:00		5	2		1							**8**
Weekday	4/5/2017	T2	Paras to Sendhori	01:00 to 02:00		2	2									**4**
Weekday	4/5/2017	T2	Paras to Sendhori	02:00 to 03:00		2	2			1						**5**
Weekday	4/5/2017	T2	Paras to Sendhori	03:00 to 04:00		2	3		2							**7**
Weekday	4/5/2017	T2	Paras to Sendhori	04:00 to 05:00			3		1							**4**
Weekday	4/5/2017	T2	Paras to Sendhori	05:00 to 06:00		3	1									**4**
Weekday	4/5/2017	T2	Paras to Sendhori	06:00 to 07:00	2	18	16	3	2							**41**
					71	**479**	**341**	**10**	**95**	**3**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**8**	**–**	**1007**
Sendhori to Paras																
Weekend	7/5/2017	T2	Sendhori to Paras	07:00 to 08:00	3	14	18		6							**41**

	Date	Direction Number	Direction	Time	Bikes	Cars	Pick–up	Buses	Trucks					Tractors	Trailor	Total
									(2 AX)	*(3 AX)*	*(4 AX)*	*(5 AX)*	*(6 AX)*			
Weekend	7/5/2017	T2	Sendhori to Paras	08:00 to 09:00	13	36	26	2	15							**92**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T2	Sendhori to Paras	09:00 to 10:00	7	52	42	3	12					2		**118**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T2	Sendhori to Paras	10:00 to 11:00	19	43	32	1	7						1	**103**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T2	Sendhori to Paras	11:00 to 12:00	14	53	24	1	5					1		**98**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T2	Sendhori to Paras	12:00 to 13:00	14	42	28	1	2							**87**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T2	Sendhori to Paras	13:00 to 14:00	9	44	23	6						1		**83**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T2	Sendhori to Paras	14:00 to 15:00	12	44	22		2					1		**81**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T2	Sendhori to Paras	15:00 to 16:00	5	42	28									**75**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T2	Sendhori to Paras	16:00 to 17:00	12	32	27		4							**75**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T2	Sendhori to Paras	17:00 to 18:00	7	32	14		2	1						**56**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T2	Sendhori to Paras	18:00 to 19:00	5	42	20	1	3	2						**73**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T2	Sendhori to Paras	19:00 to 20:00	6	26	16	2	4							**54**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T2	Sendhori to Paras	20:00 to 21:00	16	20	7	4	3					1		**51**

	Date	Direction Number	Direction	Time	Bikes	Cars	Pick–up	Buses	Trucks					Tractors	Trailor	Total
									(2 AX)	*(3 AX)*	*(4 AX)*	*(5 AX)*	*(6 AX)*			
Weekend	7/5/2017	T2	Sendhori to Paras	21:00 to 22:00		12	12		2	1						**27**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T2	Sendhori to Paras	22:00 to 23:00		7	6		3							**16**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T2	Sendhori to Paras	23:00 to 00:00		8	6		4					1		**19**
Weekend	8/5/2017	T2	Sendhori to Paras	00:00 to 01:00		6	8		4							**18**
Weekend	8/5/2017	T2	Sendhori to Paras	01:00 to 02:00		4	3		1							**8**
Weekend	8/5/2017	T2	Sendhori to Paras	02:00 to 03:00	2	5	4									**11**
Weekend	8/5/2017	T2	Sendhori to Paras	03:00 to 04:00		8	3									**11**
Weekend	8/5/2017	T2	Sendhori to Paras	04:00 to 05:00		6	2		1							**9**
Weekend	8/5/2017	T2	Sendhori to Paras	05:00 to 06:00	1	1	2		2	3						**9**
Weekend	8/5/2017	T2	Sendhori to Paras	06:00 to 07:00	4	21	16		7							**48**
					149	600	389	21	89	7	–	–	–	7	1	1263
Paras to Sendhori																
Weekend	7/5/2017	T2	Paras to Sendhori	07:00 to 08:00	1	8	12		3							**24**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T2	Paras to Sendhori	08:00 to 09:00	4	17	25		10							**56**

	Date	Direction Number	Direction	Time	Bikes	Cars	Pick–up	Buses	Trucks					Tractors	Trailor	Total
									(2 AX)	*(3 AX)*	*(4 AX)*	*(5 AX)*	*(6 AX)*			
Weekend	7/5/2017	T2	Paras to Sendhori	09:00 to 10:00	5	24	26		5							**60**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T2	Paras to Sendhori	10:00 to 11:00	9	38	32	1	5							**85**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T2	Paras to Sendhori	11:00 to 12:00	2	41	24	3	3							**73**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T2	Paras to Sendhori	12:00 to 13:00	6	52	31	7	5					1		**102**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T2	Paras to Sendhori	13:00 to 14:00	9	65	34		15							**123**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T2	Paras to Sendhori	14:00 to 15:00	4	72	40	2	8	1						**127**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T2	Paras to Sendhori	15:00 to 16:00	15	62	20	2	3							**102**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T2	Paras to Sendhori	16:00 to 17:00	15	67	20		15							**117**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T2	Paras to Sendhori	17:00 to 18:00	10	69	34		12							**125**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T2	Paras to Sendhori	18:00 to 19:00	18	82	27	2	9	2						**140**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T2	Paras to Sendhori	19:00 to 20:00	13	41	32	9	7		1					**103**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T2	Paras to Sendhori	20:00 to 21:00	14	52	22	9	11							**108**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T2	Paras to Sendhori	21:00 to 22:00	13	20	9	5	6					1		**54**

	Date	Direction Number	Direction	Time	Bikes	Cars	Pick–up	Buses	Trucks					Tractors	Trailor	Total
									(2 AX)	*(3 AX)*	*(4 AX)*	*(5 AX)*	*(6 AX)*			
Weekend	7/5/2017	T2	Paras to Sendhori	22:00 to 23:00	1	10	4	1	9							**25**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T2	Paras to Sendhori	23:00 to 00:00	2	8	11		1	1						**23**
Weekend	8/5/2017	T2	Paras to Sendhori	00:00 to 01:00		16	4		2							**22**
Weekend	8/5/2017	T2	Paras to Sendhori	01:00 to 02:00	1	5	4		2							**12**
Weekend	8/5/2017	T2	Paras to Sendhori	02:00 to 03:00		3	2		6							**11**
Weekend	8/5/2017	T2	Paras to Sendhori	03:00 to 04:00	1	3	4		8	1						**17**
Weekend	8/5/2017	T2	Paras to Sendhori	04:00 to 05:00		2			1							**3**
Weekend	8/5/2017	T2	Paras to Sendhori	05:00 to 06:00	1	6	2		3							**12**
Weekend	8/5/2017	T2	Paras to Sendhori	06:00 to 07:00	3	13	8		7							**31**
					147	**776**	**427**	**41**	**156**	**5**	**1**	**–**	**–**	**2**	**–**	**1555**

	Date	Direction Number	Direction	Time	Bikes	Cars	Pick–up	Buses	Trucks					Tractors	Trailer	**Total**
									(2 AX)	*(3 AX)*	*(4 AX)*	*(5 AX)*	*(6 AX)*			
Balakot to Dabrian																
Weekday	5/5/2017	T3	Balakot to Dabrian	07:00 to 08:00	36	73	23	8	9	1						**150**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T3	Balakot to Dabrian	08:00 to 09:00	296	100	23	1	7					1		**428**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T3	Balakot to Dabrian	09:00 to 10:00	66	129	47	3	12	1				1		**259**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T3	Balakot to Dabrian	10:00 to 11:00	73	153	57	3	9	1				2		**298**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T3	Balakot to Dabrian	11:00 to 12:00	90	200	158	3						1		**452**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T3	Balakot to Dabrian	12:00 to 13:00	91	181	52	3	5					1		**333**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T3	Balakot to Dabrian	13:00 to 14:00	60	116	38	3	1					1		**219**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T3	Balakot to Dabrian	14:00 to 15:00	75	123	30		2							**230**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T3	Balakot to Dabrian	15:00 to 16:00	97	122	61	4	3					2		**289**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T3	Balakot to Dabrian	16:00 to 17:00	78	157	43		9							**287**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T3	Balakot to Dabrian	17:00 to 18:00	83	143	41	2	1							**270**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T3	Balakot to Dabrian	18:00 to 19:00	78	121	37		5							**241**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T3	Balakot to Dabrian	19:00 to 20:00	105	137	35	1	11							**289**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T3	Balakot to Dabrian	20:00 to 21:00	60	99	23	1	2							**185**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T3	Balakot to Dabrian	21:00 to 22:00	45	43	14		1							**103**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T3	Balakot to Dabrian	22:00 to 23:00	19	45	25									**89**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T3	Balakot to Dabrian	23:00 to 00:00	14	36	29									**79**
Weekday	5/6/2017	T3	Balakot to Dabrian	00:00 to 01:00	6	26	12		3	2						**49**
Weekday	5/6/2017	T3	Balakot to Dabrian	01:00 to 02:00	11	21	13		2	3						**50**
Weekday	5/6/2017	T3	Balakot to Dabrian	02:00 to 03:00	2	22	8		17	2						**51**
Weekday	5/6/2017	T3	Balakot to Dabrian	03:00 to 04:00		16	7		2	1						**26**

	Date	Direction Number	Direction	Time	Bikes	Cars	Pick–up	Buses	Trucks					Tractors	Trailer	**Total**
									(2 AX)	*(3 AX)*	*(4 AX)*	*(5 AX)*	*(6 AX)*			
Weekday	5/6/2017	T3	Balakot to Dabrian	04:00 to 05:00		8	6		1	1						**16**
Weekday	5/6/2017	T3	Balakot to Dabrian	05:00 to 06:00		20	7		1	1						**29**
Weekday	5/6/2017	T3	Balakot to Dabrian	06:00 to 07:00	22	38	20	2	5							**87**
					1,407	**2,129**	**809**	**34**	**108**	**13**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**9**	**–**	**4509**
Balakot to Dabrian																
Weekend	5/7/2017	T3	Balakot to Dabrian	07:00 to 08:00	63	69	45	2	13	2						**194**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T3	Balakot to Dabrian	08:00 to 09:00	79	128	75	5	11					2		**300**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T3	Balakot to Dabrian	09:00 to 10:00	84	142	71	6	18	3				5		**329**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T3	Balakot to Dabrian	10:00 to 11:00	97	127	71	2	4					3		**304**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T3	Balakot to Dabrian	11:00 to 12:00	124	172	67	3	6					3		**375**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T3	Balakot to Dabrian	12:00 to 13:00	105	148	70	2	6					3		**334**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T3	Balakot to Dabrian	13:00 to 14:00	104	109	80		5					2		**300**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T3	Balakot to Dabrian	14:00 to 15:00	91	129	69	20	1					3		**313**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T3	Balakot to Dabrian	15:00 to 16:00	79	123	75	3	10	1				1		**292**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T3	Balakot to Dabrian	16:00 to 17:00	121	138	38	2	7	2						**308**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T3	Balakot to Dabrian	17:00 to 18:00	88	127	48	7	3					2		**275**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T3	Balakot to Dabrian	18:00 to 19:00	93	130	29		13					2		**267**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T3	Balakot to Dabrian	19:00 to 20:00	119	146	68		4					3		**340**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T3	Balakot to Dabrian	20:00 to 21:00	133	175	71	3	13	1						**396**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T3	Balakot to Dabrian	21:00 to 22:00	63	134	60		10	2						**269**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T3	Balakot to Dabrian	22:00 to 23:00	63	100	51		6	2						**222**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T3	Balakot to Dabrian	23:00 to 00:00	34	63	33		7	1						**138**
Weekend	5/8/2017	T3	Balakot to Dabrian	00:00 to 01:00	17	54	31		5							**107**

	Date	Direction Number	Direction	Time	Bikes	Cars	Pick–up	Buses	Trucks					Tractors	Trailer	**Total**
									(2 AX)	*(3 AX)*	*(4 AX)*	*(5 AX)*	*(6 AX)*			
Weekend	5/8/2017	T3	Balakot to Dabrian	01:00 to 02:00	10	32	17		9	3						**71**
Weekend	5/8/2017	T3	Balakot to Dabrian	02:00 to 03:00	4	18	17		4							**43**
Weekend	5/8/2017	T3	Balakot to Dabrian	03:00 to 04:00	2	26	23		4							**55**
Weekend	5/8/2017	T3	Balakot to Dabrian	04:00 to 05:00	4	19	8		4							**35**
Weekend	5/8/2017	T3	Balakot to Dabrian	05:00 to 06:00	13	38	16		7							**74**
Weekend	5/8/2017	T3	Balakot to Dabrian	06:00 to 07:00	35	115	62	2	9	3						**226**
					1,625	**2,462**	**1,195**	**57**	**179**	**20**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**29**	**–**	**5567**
Dabrian to Balakot																
Weekday	5/5/2017	T3	Dabrian to Balakot	07:00 to 08:00	52	89	27	1	1							**170**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T3	Dabrian to Balakot	08:00 to 09:00	51	78	40	3	1							**173**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T3	Dabrian to Balakot	09:00 to 10:00	69	110	41	2	1					1		**224**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T3	Dabrian to Balakot	10:00 to 11:00	55	108	37	5	2					3		**210**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T3	Dabrian to Balakot	11:00 to 12:00	65	137	49	4	4	1						**260**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T3	Dabrian to Balakot	12:00 to 13:00	52	138	35	4						3		**232**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T3	Dabrian to Balakot	13:00 to 14:00	63	98	27		6							**194**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T3	Dabrian to Balakot	14:00 to 15:00	61	105	36	7	1							**210**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T3	Dabrian to Balakot	15:00 to 16:00	71	109	37	3	5					1		**226**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T3	Dabrian to Balakot	16:00 to 17:00	58	130	39		11							**238**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T3	Dabrian to Balakot	17:00 to 18:00	105	176	30	2	12							**325**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T3	Dabrian to Balakot	18:00 to 19:00	72	164	33		24							**293**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T3	Dabrian to Balakot	19:00 to 20:00	69	122	23		7							**221**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T3	Dabrian to Balakot	20:00 to 21:00	29	28	22	2	4	1						**86**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T3	Dabrian to Balakot	21:00 to 22:00	17	42	9		4							**72**

	Date	Direction Number	Direction	Time	Bikes	Cars	Pick–up	Buses	Trucks					Tractors	Trailer	**Total**
									(2 AX)	*(3 AX)*	*(4 AX)*	*(5 AX)*	*(6 AX)*			
Weekday	5/5/2017	T3	Dabrian to Balakot	22:00 to 23:00	2	13	3									**18**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T3	Dabrian to Balakot	23:00 to 00:00		6	3		1							**10**
Weekday	5/6/2017	T3	Dabrian to Balakot	00:00 to 01:00	1	8	2									**11**
Weekday	5/6/2017	T3	Dabrian to Balakot	01:00 to 02:00		3	2		2							**7**
Weekday	5/6/2017	T3	Dabrian to Balakot	02:00 to 03:00		5	4		2							**11**
Weekday	5/6/2017	T3	Dabrian to Balakot	03:00 to 04:00		4	1									**5**
Weekday	5/6/2017	T3	Dabrian to Balakot	04:00 to 05:00		4	3		2							**9**
Weekday	5/6/2017	T3	Dabrian to Balakot	05:00 to 06:00	3	10	5		4							**22**
Weekday	5/6/2017	T3	Dabrian to Balakot	06:00 to 07:00	26	40	21	1	3							**91**
					921	**1,727**	**529**	**34**	**97**	**2**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**8**	**–**	**3318**
Dabrian to Balakot																
Weekend	5/7/2017	T3	Dabrian to Balakot	07:00 to 08:00	60	71	37	1	2					1		**172**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T3	Dabrian to Balakot	08:00 to 09:00	75	190	65		11					1		**342**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T3	Dabrian to Balakot	09:00 to 10:00	56	101	69		16	1				7		**250**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T3	Dabrian to Balakot	10:00 to 11:00	80	123	48		6	1				2		**260**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T3	Dabrian to Balakot	11:00 to 12:00	47	144	49	2	8					1		**251**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T3	Dabrian to Balakot	12:00 to 13:00	37	110	36	1	4					1		**189**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T3	Dabrian to Balakot	13:00 to 14:00	62	147	45	6	23					2		**285**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T3	Dabrian to Balakot	14:00 to 15:00	88	139	68		15	1				4		**315**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T3	Dabrian to Balakot	15:00 to 16:00	46	310	45	7	4							**412**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T3	Dabrian to Balakot	16:00 to 17:00	91	162	65		13					2		**333**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T3	Dabrian to Balakot	17:00 to 18:00	46	133	35	4	11					1		**230**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T3	Dabrian to Balakot	18:00 to 19:00	67	166	60		20					1		**314**

	Date	Direction Number	Direction	Time	Bikes	Cars	Pick–up	Buses	Trucks					Tractors	Trailer	**Total**
									(2 AX)	*(3 AX)*	*(4 AX)*	*(5 AX)*	*(6 AX)*			
Weekend	5/7/2017	T3	Dabrian to Balakot	19:00 to 20:00	61	118	35	6	6							**226**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T3	Dabrian to Balakot	20:00 to 21:00	131	146	59		24	2						**362**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T3	Dabrian to Balakot	21:00 to 22:00	36	113	41	3	2							**195**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T3	Dabrian to Balakot	22:00 to 23:00	23	63	40	1	2	1						**130**
Weekend	5/7/2017	T3	Dabrian to Balakot	23:00 to 00:00	27	65	43	1	2							**138**
Weekend	5/8/2017	T3	Dabrian to Balakot	00:00 to 01:00	6	38	19		5							**68**
Weekend	5/8/2017	T3	Dabrian to Balakot	01:00 to 02:00	2	23	18		2	1						**46**
Weekend	5/8/2017	T3	Dabrian to Balakot	02:00 to 03:00		14	11		3							**28**
Weekend	5/8/2017	T3	Dabrian to Balakot	03:00 to 04:00		11	8	1	2							**22**
Weekend	5/8/2017	T3	Dabrian to Balakot	04:00 to 05:00		17	11		5							**33**
Weekend	5/8/2017	T3	Dabrian to Balakot	05:00 to 06:00	1	29	21		3							**54**
Weekend	5/8/2017	T3	Dabrian to Balakot	06:00 to 07:00	22	65	37	2	8					1		**135**
					1,064	**2,498**	**965**	**35**	**197**	**7**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**24**	**–**	**4790**

	Date	Direction Number	Direction	Time	Bikes	Cars	Pick-up	Buses	Trucks					Tractors	Trailor	Total
									(2 AX)	(3 AX)	(4 AX)	(5 AX)	(6 AX)			
Balakot to Mansehra																
Weekday	5/5/2017	T4	Balakot to Mansehra	07:00 to 08:00	12	87	22	8		5						**134**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T4	Balakot to Mansehra	08:00 to 09:00	27	117	30	2	1	2						**179**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T4	Balakot to Mansehra	09:00 to 10:00	40	153	56	3	6	2				2		**262**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T4	Balakot to Mansehra	10:00 to 11:00	44	102	33	2	1	3				1		**186**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T4	Balakot to Mansehra	11:00 to 12:00	61	152	39	4	5	2						**263**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T4	Balakot to Mansehra	12:00 to 13:00	51	144	32			1				1		**229**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T4	Balakot to Mansehra	13:00 to 14:00	37	151	42	1	2					2		**235**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T4	Balakot to Mansehra	14:00 to 15:00	53	145	39		2	1				1		**241**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T4	Balakot to Mansehra	15:00 to 16:00	67	103	35	3	8							**216**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T4	Balakot to Mansehra	16:00 to 17:00	45	136	26		4							**211**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T4	Balakot to Mansehra	17:00 to 18:00	95	157	25	2	5	2						**286**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T4	Balakot to Mansehra	18:00 to 19:00	66	135	26		10	1						**238**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T4	Balakot to Mansehra	19:00 to 20:00	26	103	18		3							**150**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T4	Balakot to Mansehra	20:00 to 21:00	29	72	23	22		1	1					**148**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T4	Balakot to Mansehra	21:00 to 22:00	16	28	10	1		1						**56**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T4	Balakot to Mansehra	22:00 to 23:00	8	24	8		2	1						**43**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T4	Balakot to Mansehra	23:00 to 00:00	3	19	5		1							**28**
Weekday	5/6/2017	T4	Balakot to Mansehra	00:00 to 01:00	2	20	4									**26**
Weekday	5/6/2017	T4	Balakot to Mansehra	01:00 to 02:00	2	14	2		1							**19**
Weekday	5/6/2017	T4	Balakot to Mansehra	02:00 to 03:00		7	2		1							**10**
Weekday	5/6/2017	T4	Balakot to Mansehra	03:00 to 04:00	1	5	3		2							**11**

	Date	Direction Number	Direction	Time	Bikes	Cars	Pick-up	Buses	Trucks					Tractors	Trailor	Total
									(2 AX)	(3 AX)	(4 AX)	(5 AX)	(6 AX)			
Weekday	5/6/2017	T4	Balakot to Mansehra	04:00 to 05:00		6	2		1							**9**
Weekday	5/6/2017	T4	Balakot to Mansehra	05:00 to 06:00	3	8	10		2							**23**
Weekday	5/6/2017	T4	Balakot to Mansehra	06:00 to 07:00	8	39	7	2	2							**58**
					696	**1,927**	**499**	**50**	**59**	**22**	**1**	**-**	**-**	**7**	**-**	**3,261**
Mansehra to Balakot																
Weekday	5/5/2017	T4	Mansehra to Balakot	07:00 to 08:00	56	132	49	10	14					3		**264**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T4	Mansehra to Balakot	08:00 to 09:00	38	104	37	3	7					2		**191**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T4	Mansehra to Balakot	09:00 to 10:00	103	163	71	5	11					2		**355**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T4	Mansehra to Balakot	10:00 to 11:00	59	101	55	6	3	2						**226**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T4	Mansehra to Balakot	11:00 to 12:00	98	259	95	6	2							**460**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T4	Mansehra to Balakot	12:00 to 13:00	86	201	98	2	3					2		**392**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T4	Mansehra to Balakot	13:00 to 14:00	74	139	70	2	3							**288**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T4	Mansehra to Balakot	14:00 to 15:00	92	170	73	2	3					2		**342**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T4	Mansehra to Balakot	15:00 to 16:00	136	164	75	3	4							**382**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T4	Mansehra to Balakot	16:00 to 17:00	96	144	73		2	2						**317**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T4	Mansehra to Balakot	17:00 to 18:00	82	94	56	3	2							**237**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T4	Mansehra to Balakot	18:00 to 19:00	61	116	45	4	2							**228**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T4	Mansehra to Balakot	19:00 to 20:00	49	59	27	2	2							**139**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T4	Mansehra to Balakot	20:00 to 21:00	48	78	35	1	1							**163**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T4	Mansehra to Balakot	21:00 to 22:00	35	52	27		2							**116**
Weekday	5/5/2017	T4	Mansehra to Balakot	22:00 to 23:00	22	52	26		2							**102**
Weekday	6/5/2017	T4	Mansehra to Balakot	23:00 to 00:00	25	40	32	2	1							**100**
Weekday	6/5/2017	T4	Mansehra to Balakot	00:00 to 01:00	11	25	14		3	2						**55**
Weekday	6/5/2017	T4	Mansehra to Balakot	01:00 to 02:00	4	20	10		2	3						**39**

	Date	Direction Number	Direction	Time	Bikes	Cars	Pick-up	Buses	Trucks					Tractors	Trailor	Total
									(2 AX)	(3 AX)	(4 AX)	(5 AX)	(6 AX)			
Weekday	6/5/2017	T4	Mansehra to Balakot	02:00 to 03:00	3	12	9		1	3						**28**
Weekday	6/5/2017	T4	Mansehra to Balakot	03:00 to 04:00	4	10	10			2						**26**
Weekday	6/5/2017	T4	Mansehra to Balakot	04:00 to 05:00		7	4		2	1						**14**
Weekday	6/5/2017	T4	Mansehra to Balakot	05:00 to 06:00	3	12	12		2	1						**30**
Weekday	6/5/2017	T4	Mansehra to Balakot	06:00 to 07:00	24	41	41	3	2	1						**112**
					1,209	**2,195**	**1,044**	**54**	**76**	**17**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**11**	**-**	**4,606**
Balakot to Mansehra																
Weekend	7/5/2017	T4	Balakot to Mansehra	07:00 to 08:00	20	96	20	3	1							**140**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T4	Balakot to Mansehra	08:00 to 09:00	14	314	39	1	6	2						**376**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T4	Balakot to Mansehra	09:00 to 10:00	27	115	38	1	13	1						**195**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T4	Balakot to Mansehra	10:00 to 11:00	52	145	51		4	3				1		**256**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T4	Balakot to Mansehra	11:00 to 12:00	51	154	44	6	7	1				1		**264**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T4	Balakot to Mansehra	12:00 to 13:00	52	129	54	5	5					1		**246**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T4	Balakot to Mansehra	13:00 to 14:00	50	134	173	1	7					1		**366**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T4	Balakot to Mansehra	14:00 to 15:00	50	153	52	2	5							**262**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T4	Balakot to Mansehra	15:00 to 16:00	56	178	49	4	5	2	1					**295**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T4	Balakot to Mansehra	16:00 to 17:00	45	148	37	8	5							**243**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T4	Balakot to Mansehra	17:00 to 18:00	62	183	44	9	13							**311**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T4	Balakot to Mansehra	18:00 to 19:00	27	131	33	1	12					1		**205**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T4	Balakot to Mansehra	19:00 to 20:00	30	114	26	2	7					2		**181**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T4	Balakot to Mansehra	20:00 to 21:00	33	87	26	2	7					2		**157**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T4	Balakot to Mansehra	21:00 to 22:00	30	69	25	1	3					1		**129**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T4	Balakot to Mansehra	22:00 to 23:00	22	42	19	3	4							**90**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T4	Balakot to Mansehra	23:00 to 00:00	42	65	25		2							**134**

	Date	Direction Number	Direction	Time	Bikes	Cars	Pick-up	Buses	Trucks					Tractors	Trailor	Total
									(2 AX)	(3 AX)	(4 AX)	(5 AX)	(6 AX)			
Weekend	8/5/2017	T4	Balakot to Mansehra	00:00 to 01:00	19	69	18	1	2					1		**110**
Weekend	8/5/2017	T4	Balakot to Mansehra	01:00 to 02:00	23	38	14	2	1							**78**
Weekend	8/5/2017	T4	Balakot to Mansehra	02:00 to 03:00	10	29	10		1							**50**
Weekend	8/5/2017	T4	Balakot to Mansehra	03:00 to 04:00	3	24	7	1	2							**37**
Weekend	8/5/2017	T4	Balakot to Mansehra	04:00 to 05:00	4	19	9	1	3							**36**
Weekend	8/5/2017	T4	Balakot to Mansehra	05:00 to 06:00	3	25	11	2	3							**44**
Weekend	8/5/2017	T4	Balakot to Mansehra	06:00 to 07:00	28	88	22	4	2					1		**145**
					753	**2,549**	**846**	**60**	**120**	**9**	**1**	**-**	**-**	**12**	**-**	**4,350**
Mansehra to Balakot																
Weekend	7/5/2017	T4	Mansehra to Balakot	07:00 to 08:00	45	98	50	3	2	1				1		**200**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T4	Mansehra to Balakot	08:00 to 09:00	42	107	40	6	9							**204**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T4	Mansehra to Balakot	09:00 to 10:00	59	92	56	2	15							**224**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T4	Mansehra to Balakot	10:00 to 11:00	53	137	48	2	8	2				3		**253**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T4	Mansehra to Balakot	11:00 to 12:00	60	135	43	1	4	1				2		**246**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T4	Mansehra to Balakot	12:00 to 13:00	74	134	55	2	3	2						**270**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T4	Mansehra to Balakot	13:00 to 14:00	73	138	51	1	5					1		**269**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T4	Mansehra to Balakot	14:00 to 15:00	77	151	59	2	4	2	1					**296**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T4	Mansehra to Balakot	15:00 to 16:00	66	149	57		6							**278**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T4	Mansehra to Balakot	16:00 to 17:00	53	118	49		4	1				1		**226**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T4	Mansehra to Balakot	17:00 to 18:00	41	134	29	4	2	1						**211**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T4	Mansehra to Balakot	18:00 to 19:00	37	91	49		4							**181**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T4	Mansehra to Balakot	19:00 to 20:00	39	80	47	2	4							**172**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T4	Mansehra to Balakot	20:00 to 21:00	45	83	45	2	4							**179**
Weekend	7/5/2017	T4	Mansehra to Balakot	21:00 to 22:00	48	90	50		3							**191**

	Date	Direction Number	Direction	Time	Bikes	Cars	Pick-up	Buses	Trucks					Tractors	Trailor	Total
									(2 AX)	(3 AX)	(4 AX)	(5 AX)	(6 AX)			
Weekend	7/5/2017	T4	Mansehra to Balakot	22:00 to 23:00	28	39	31	2	3	1						**104**
Weekend	8/5/2017	T4	Mansehra to Balakot	23:00 to 00:00	21	37	20	2	2	2						**84**
Weekend	8/5/2017	T4	Mansehra to Balakot	00:00 to 01:00	10	19	14		2	2						**47**
Weekend	8/5/2017	T4	Mansehra to Balakot	01:00 to 02:00	2	22	11			1						**36**
Weekend	8/5/2017	T4	Mansehra to Balakot	02:00 to 03:00	1	16	10		2	2						**31**
Weekend	8/5/2017	T4	Mansehra to Balakot	03:00 to 04:00	1	14	7		2							**24**
Weekend	8/5/2017	T4	Mansehra to Balakot	04:00 to 05:00	1	14	5	2		3						**25**
Weekend	8/5/2017	T4	Mansehra to Balakot	05:00 to 06:00	2	16	11	3	3	3						**38**
Weekend	8/5/2017	T4	Mansehra to Balakot	06:00 to 07:00	19	34	22	3	4	3						**85**
					897	**1,948**	**859**	**39**	**95**	**27**	**1**	**-**	**-**	**8**	**-**	**3,874**

APPENDIX H: ECOLOGY FIELD SURVEY PLAN

H.1 Objective

66. The objective of the field surveys is to collect data for establishing the ecological baseline for the flora and fauna of the Study Areas. Specifically, the objectives include:

- Qualitative and quantitative assessment of terrestrial vegetation, periphyton, macro-invertebrates, fish, herpetofauna, birds, and mammals.
- Identification of key species, their relative abundances, and their conservation status.
- Reports of wildlife sightings in the Study Area by the resident communities.
- Identification of any additional habitats, and microhabitats in the Study Areas.
- Analysis to further develop the basis for evaluating the potential impacts of Project-related activities on biodiversity, specifically identification and evaluation of critical habitats and ecosystem services in the ecological Study Areas.

H.2 Study Areas and Sampling Sites

67. The ecological surveys will be carried out in two Study Areas, the Aquatic Study Area and the Terrestrial Study Area.

68. The Aquatic Study Area will be the Kunhar River and its tributaries. Only tributaries with a significant perennial flow that supports the breeding of fish will be sampled. The Aquatic Study Area is shown in

69. **Exhibit H**.1 and proposed sampling sites are shown in

70.

71. **Exhibit H**.2**.**

72. The Terrestrial Study Area will comprise of a 1 km buffer around selected locations where Project-related facilities are to be located. Sampling locations have been selected within all habitat types where project facilities will be located. Sampling locations have also been selected at other sites in the Terrestrial Study Area, with representative sampling by proportion of habitat type, with Scrub Forest making up the highest percentage followed by Pine Forest and then Agriculture Area. The Terrestrial Study Area is shown in

73.

74. **Exhibit H**.3 and proposed sampling location and habitat distribution are shown in

75.

76. **Exhibit H**.4**.**

77. The aquatic biological resources that will be studied include:

- Fish fauna
- Macro-invertebrates
- Periphyton
- Riparian vegetation

78. The justification for the selection of the aquatic sampling sites is provided in

79.

80. **Exhibit H**.5**.**

81. **Exhibit H.**6 provides a list of tributaries in which sampling will be carried out.

82. The terrestrial ecological resources include:

- Terrestrial vegetation,
- Terrestrial fauna (mammals, avifauna and herpetofauna)

83. The surveys will be conducted in two seasons i.e. winter and spring. The Winter Survey will be carried out in February 2017, and will include a collection of data on:

- Fish, focusing on abundance in pools where large fish take refuge in the winter season
- Periphyton biomass growing on cobbles and boulders that are abundant in clear water in low flow conditions with good light penetration

84. Spring Survey will be conducted in May 2017 when the temperature of water has risen following snow melt, flows have increased, turbidity is high, and fish are active and responding

to breeding triggers. Terrestrial fauna is also active at this time, and vegetation is growing. Data collection will include;

- Fish, focusing on diversity, distribution, and breeding behavior
- Macro-invertebrates, diversity and abundance
- Riparian vegetation
- Terrestrial vegetation
- Terrestrial fauna (mammal, avifauna and herpetofauna).

85. The two surveys proposed, Winter and Spring, will cover the range of temperatures that the aquatic fauna experiences throughout the year, extending over the resting and active periods of aquatic fauna, dormant and active/growing periods of terrestrial flora and fauna. The data collected will be adequate for the EIA.

Exhibit H.1: Aquatic Study Area

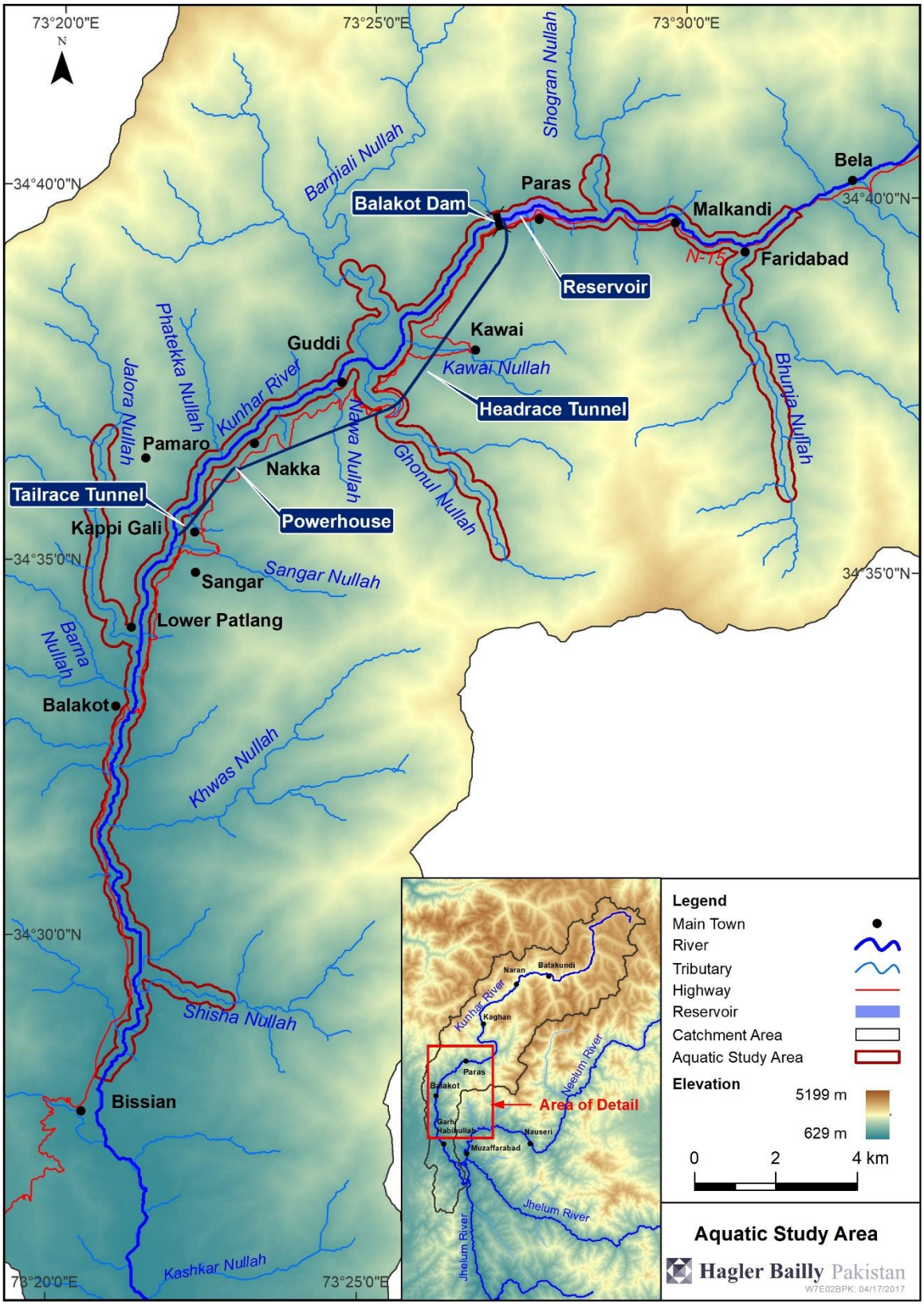
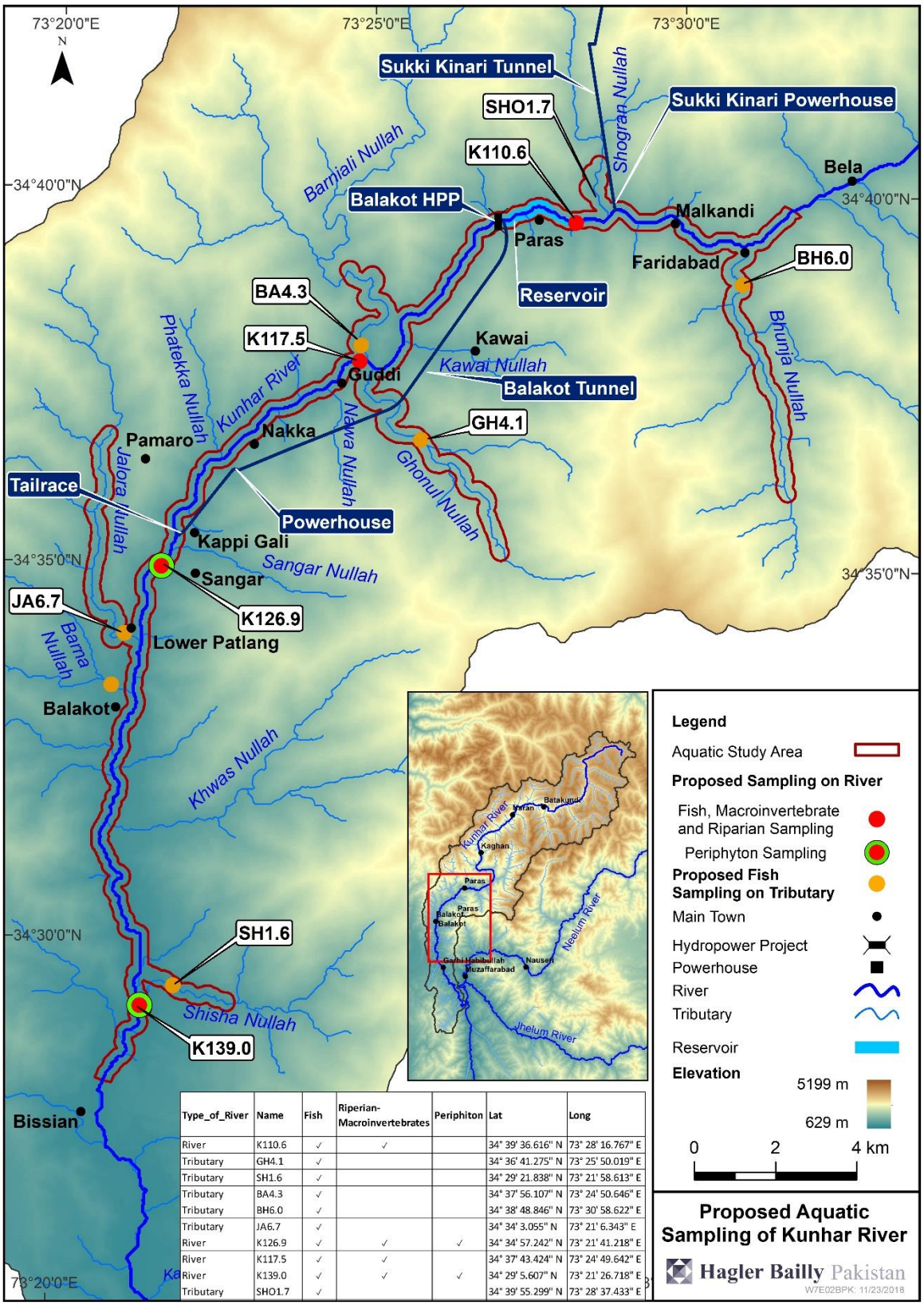


Exhibit H.2: Proposed Sampling Sites for Fish, Macro-invertebrates, Periphyton and Riparian Vegetation



Type_of_River	Name	Fish	Riperian-Macroinvertebrates	Periphiton	Lat	Long
River	K110.6	✓	✓		34° 39' 36.616" N	73° 28' 16.767" E
Tributary	GH4.1	✓			34° 36' 41.275" N	73° 25' 50.019" E
Tributary	SH1.6	✓			34° 29' 21.838" N	73° 21' 58.613" E
Tributary	BA4.3	✓			34° 37' 56.107" N	73° 24' 50.646" E
Tributary	BH6.0	✓			34° 38' 48.846" N	73° 30' 58.622" E
Tributary	JA6.7	✓			34° 34' 3.055" N	73° 21' 6.343" E
River	K126.9	✓	✓	✓	34° 34' 57.242" N	73° 21' 41.218" E
River	K117.5	✓	✓		34° 37' 43.424" N	73° 24' 49.642" E
River	K139.0	✓	✓	✓	34° 29' 5.607" N	73° 21' 26.718" E
Tributary	SHO1.7	✓			34° 39' 55.299" N	73° 28' 37.433" E

Exhibit H.3: Terrestrial Study Area

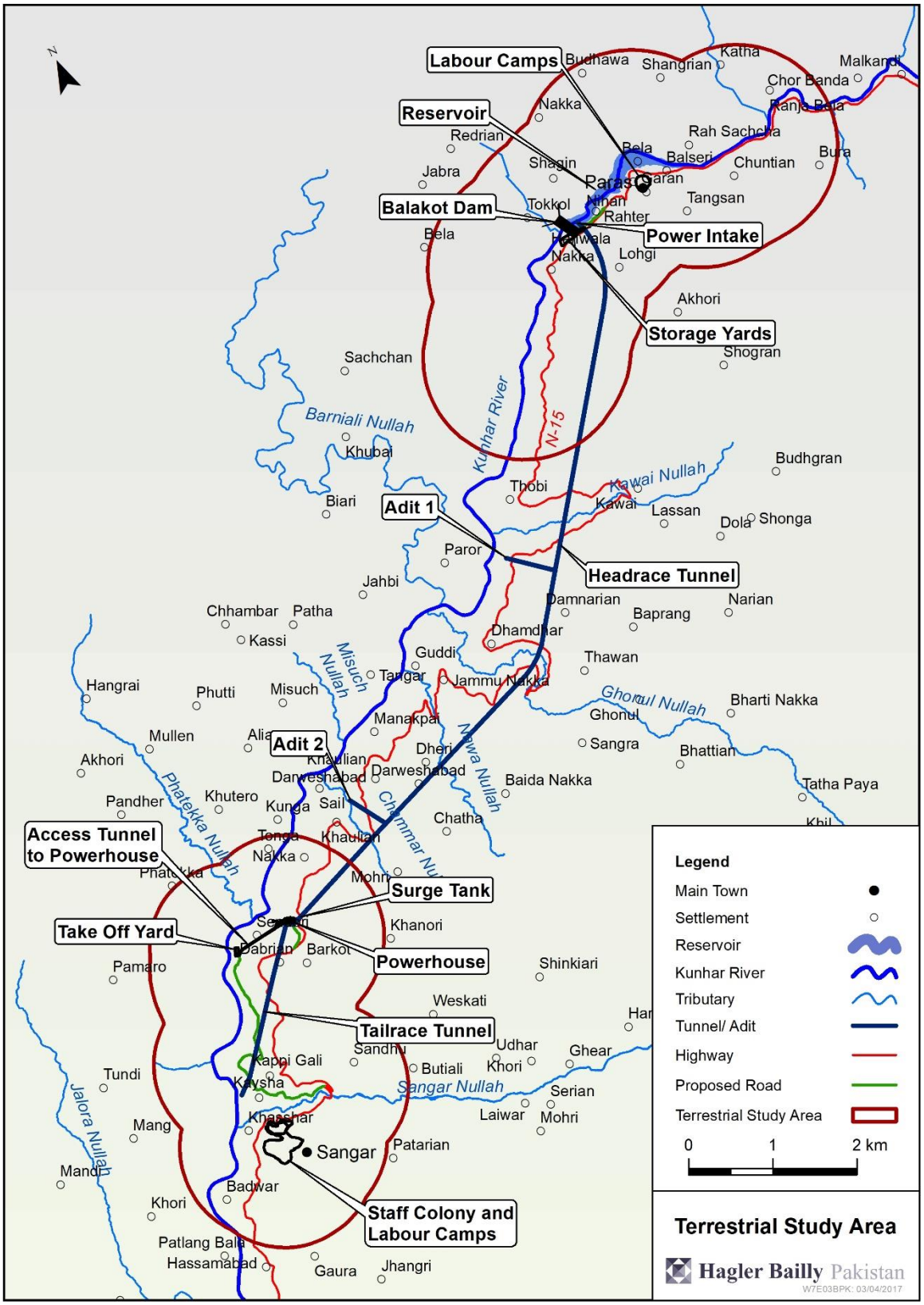


Exhibit H.4: Proposed Sampling Locations for Mammals, Birds, and Terrestrial Vegetation

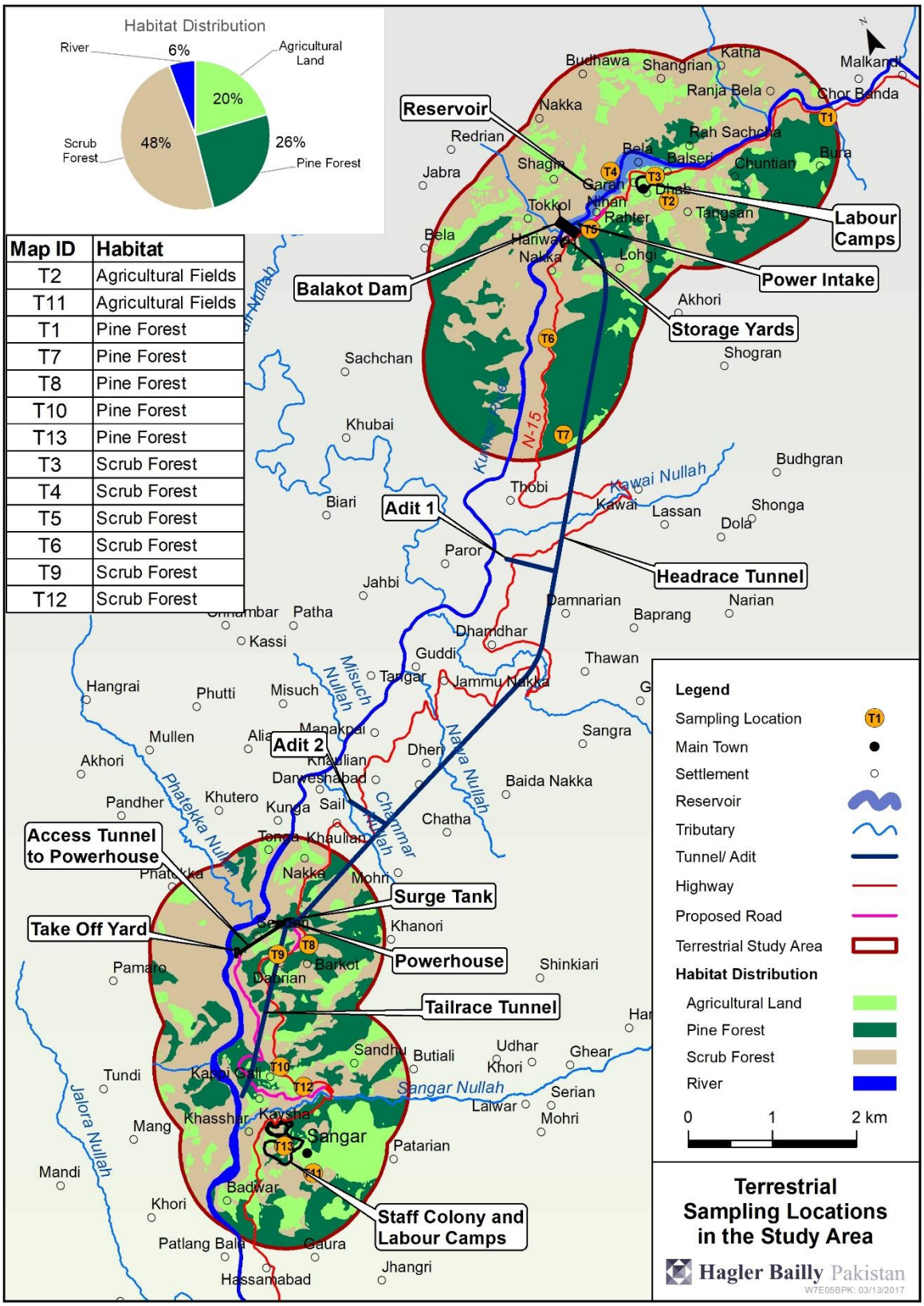


Exhibit H.5: Justifications for Selection of Sampling Sites on Main River

River Segment	Sampling Site ID	Expected impacts from the Project
Upstream of Dam	K110.6,	The site is located upstream of the reservoir of the proposed dam and will be impacted by the barrier to migration created by the dam
Downstream of Dam	K117.5	The site will be impacted by the lower flows due to the diversion of the river flow into the power generation tunnel
Downstream of Diversion Tunnel	K126.9, K139.0	Both temperature and flow of water in this segment will be impacted by variations in flows.

Exhibit H.6: List of Sampling Sites for the Tributaries

Tributary (Local Name)	Sampling Site ID
Shogran Nullah	SH1.7
Bhunja Nullah	BH6.0
Barnialai Nullah	BA4.3
Makra Nullah	MA4.1
Barna Nullah	BAR6.7
Shisha Nullah	SH1.6

86. The locations of the terrestrial ecological sampling sites have been determined based on the two main terrestrial habitat types identified by ***Google Earth™*** satellite imagery including Agricultural Areas and Forests. Forests are further divided into two habitat types i.e. Scrub Forest and Pine Forests. The number of sampling sites has been distributed proportionately between these habitat types within the Terrestrial Study Area, with four sampling sites in each habitat type. The habitat type of each sampling site has been provided in **Exhibit H.7**.

Exhibit H.7: Distribution of Habitat Types

Relative Position of Sampling Location	Sampling Location IDs	Percenatge out of Total Study Area (%)
Scrub Forest	T4, T6, T9, T12, T10	48
Pine Forest	T1, T7, T8, T13	26
Agriculture Area	T2, T3, T11, T14	20
Aquatic Area	-	6

H.3 Methodology

87. The methodology for the field data has been prepared to collect objective data to contribute towards the determination of baseline conditions for assessments of the impacts of the Project. The methods proposed have been tested in similar conditions in the Poonch River located in the Jhelum Basin, as a part of baseline ecological surveys and monitoring of the Gulpur Hydropower Project.

H.3.1 Fish

88. Fish are important components of river ecosystems because they are long-lived and integral to aquatic food webs. They are considered key indicators of environmental change because of their varied life history strategies and their sensitivity to a wide range of hydrologic and water quality conditions.[5,6,7]

H.3.1.1 Methods for Data Collection

89. Fish fauna will be sampled for twice during the study i.e. Winter (February 2017) and Spring (May 2017) seasons. During winter, sampling will be conducted mainly in Kunhar River while two to three tributaries with wadeable depth and flow of water where fish are likely to be found will also be sampled.

90. Methods for data collection of fish will include the use of two different types of nets, gill nets and cast nets, as well as electrofishing. Gill nets will be used in the Winter Survey while gill nets, cast nets, and electrofishing will be used in the Spring Survey depending on the flow of the river and the availability of suitable sampling locations.

Cast Nets

91. Fish fauna will be collected using cast nets at selected sampling sites. Two types of cast nets will be used. Mesh sizes of 25 mm and 30 mm will be used. A total of 30 castings will be carried out, 15 castings per mesh size, spread over a distance of about 90 m, depending on site conditions. The distance between adjacent sites used for cast netting will be 3 to 5 m, within the 90 m stretch.

[5] Kleynhans, C.J. 1999. The development of a fish index to assess the biological integrity of South African rivers. WATER SA-PRETORIA-, 25, 265-278.

[6] Karr, J.R. 1981. Assessment of biotic integrity using fish communities. Fisheries, 6, 21-27.

[7] FauscH, K.D., Lyons, J., Karr, J.R. and Angermeier, P.L. 1990. Fish communities as indicators of environmental degradation. In: Adams, S. M., ed. Biological indicators of fish stress. American Fisheries Society, Symposium 8, 1990 1990 Bethesda, Maryland.

Gill Nets

92. Gill nets are passive devices that are suspended in the water column and capture fish that swim into the mesh of the net. Gill nets of three different mesh sizes (50 mm, 62.5 mm, and 100 mm) will be used in the main River and tributaries with enough water flow and depth that could support the setting up of the gill nets. These nets will be set generally parallel to the river bank. Nets will be installed in depths in the river that just exceed the width of the net. One gill net of the above-mentioned mesh sizes will be used at a sampling location.

Electrofishing

93. Electrofishing uses low pulses of electricity to stun fish before they are caught. Electrofishing is a common scientific survey method used to sample fish populations to determine abundance, density, and species composition. When performed correctly, electrofishing results in no permanent harm to fish, which return to their natural state in as little as two minutes after being stunned.[8]

94. Electrofishing will be employed for sampling in the tributaries where water levels are low and wading is possible. It is proposed that the LR-24 be used for electrofishing.[9] Electrofishing will be carried out in a 150 m^2 area.

95. The fish sampling form is included in **Exhibit H.8**.

[8]Fishery Research - Electrofishing National Park Service, US Department of the Interior.

[9]Available at Smith Root, http://www.smith-root.com/electrofishers/lr-24/

Exhibit H.8: Survey Form - Fish

Sampling Method	☐ Gill Net	☐ Cast Net	☐ Fyke Net	☐ Electrofishing	
ID		W P		Observer(s)	
Date		Start Time		End Time	
	[dd/mm/yy]		[HH:MM]		[HH:MM]
Direction**	**Starting Coordinates**	**End Coordinates**	Cloud Cover	**%**	
Latitude	N	N	Wind	☐ Light ☐ Moderate ☐ Strong	
Longitude	E	E	Precipitation	☐ Light ☐ Moderate ☐ Heavy	
[Deg Min Sec]			Water Temperature		
River Habitats Riverbed Depth of Riverbed	☐ Riffles ☐ Pools ☐ Glides ☐ Rapids ☐ Others/Special Habitats _____ ☐ Sand ☐ Silt ☐ Small Cobbles ☐ Large Cobbles ☐ Boulders ☐ Boulders_____			Locality	
				Mesh Size (mm)	
(Please select only one box for Habitat)					
Elevation (m)		**Temp. (oC)**		**pH**		**DO**		**Turbidity**	

No.	*Species Name*	*Fish Size (cm)*	*Fish Weight (gms)*	*Tag Color ID*	
				Applied	*Recovered*
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					
7.					
8.					
9.					
10.					
11.					
12.					
13.					
14.					
15.					
16.					
17.					
18.					

No.	*Species Name*	*Fish Size (cm)*	*Fish Weight (gms)*	*Tag Color ID*	
				Applied	*Recovered*
19.					
20.					
21.					
22.					
23.					
24.					
25.					
26.					
27.					
28.					
29.					
30.					
31.					
32.					
33.					
34.					
35.					
36.					
37.					
38.					
39.					
40.					
41.					
42.					

H.3.1.2 Statistical Analysis

96. Statistical analysis will be applied to determine fish community structure and species diversity.

Fish Community Composition

97. The surveys will produce a list of species at each sampling site plus related information such as relative abundance (Catch per Unit Effort), fish size and weight.

98. Species Diversity

99. The species diversity will be assessed using

- Species Richness (S): total number of species

H.3.2 Macro-invertebrates

100. Benthic macro-invertebrates are an important part of the food chain in aquatic ecosystems, especially for fish. Many invertebrates feed on algae and bacteria, which are at the lower end of the food chain. Some shred and eat leaves and other organic matter that enters or is produced in the water. Because of their abundance and position as 'intermediaries' in the aquatic food chain, benthos play a critical role in the natural flow of energy and nutrients.[10]

H.3.2.1 Methods for Data Collection

101. Macro-invertebrates will be sampled by adopting the standardized rapid biological assessment sampling techniques (using a multi-habitat approach) developed by Barbour et al 1999.[11] A Surber Sampler or D frame kick net will be used for sampling. Twenty efforts will be taken at each sampling site based on the percent availability of each biotope. For example, if a sampling site comprises of 80% riffle and 20% pool habitat, then 16 efforts of the Surber Sampler will be conducted in the riffles and 4 efforts in the pool (ratio of 80% to 20%).

102. At each sampling site, the collected material will be rinsed using running clean stream water through the net two to three times. The material will be transferred into a large (white) tray or a bucket. The sample will then be transferred to a container and covered with 10% formalin.

103. In the laboratory, each sample will be put into a sieve of 500 μm mesh size and rinsed with running water (to remove traces of formalin). Macro-invertebrates will then be sorted from the samples and identified using a Kyowa Stereozoom Microscope and the identification keys given in Edmondson, 1959[12]; Ali 1967[13], Ali 1970[14], Bouchard 2004.[15]

104. The abundance of macro-invertebrates per square meter will be calculated and the pollution tolerance of the identified taxa will be taken from the HKH bios scoring list (Hindukush

[10]Williams D. D. and Feltmate, B. W. 1992. Aquatic Insects. CAB International Wallingford, Oxon. 360 pp.

[11]Barbour, M.T., J. Gerritsen, B.D. Snyder, and J.B. Stribling. 1999. Rapid Bioassessment Protocols for Use in Streams and Wadeable Rivers: Periphyton, Benthic Macroinvertebrates and Fish, Second Edition. EPA 841-B-99-002. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Office of Water; Washington, D.C.

[12]Fresh-Water Biology Fresh-Water Biology, Second Edition. By hb Ward and gc Whipple (wt Edmondson, Editor). John Wiley and Sons, New York. 1959.

[13]Ali, S.R. 1967. The Mayflies (Order: Ephemeroptera) of Rawalpindi District. Pak. J. Sci. 19 (3): 73-86.

[14]Ali, S.R. 1970. Certain Mayflies of West Pakistan. Pak. J. Sci. 22 (3 & 4): 118-124.

[15]Bouchard, R.W. Jr. 2004. Guide to Aquatic Macroinvertebrates of Upper Midwest. Water Resources Center, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota. 208pp.

Himalayan Score Bio-assessment) (Hartmann *et al.,* Deliverable 10).[16] The Functional Feeding Group of each taxon will be identified.

105. The survey form for macro-invertebrates is given in **Exhibit H.9**.

[16]Hartmann, A., O. Moog, T. Ofenböck, T. Korte, S. Sharma and D. Hering. Deliverable No. 10. ASSESS-HKH Methodology Manual describing fundamentals a application of three approaches to evaluate river quality based on benthic macroinvertebrates: HKH screening, HKH score bioassessment & HKH multimatric bioassessment. 80pp. www.assess-hkh.at

Exhibit H.9: Survey Form – Macro-invertebrates

ID		W P		Observer(s)	
Date			Start Time		End Time
	[dd/mm/yy]			[HH:MM]	[HH:MM]
	Starting Coordinates		End Coordinates	Cloud Cover	%
Latitude	N		N	Wind	☐ Light ☐ Moderate ☐ Strong
Longitude	E		E	Precipitation	☐ Light ☐ Moderate ☐ Heavy
[Deg Min Sec]				Temperature	

River Habitats Riverbed Depth of Riverbed	☐ Riffles ☐ Pools ☐ Glides ☐ Rapids ☐ Sand ☐ Silt ☐ Small Cobbles ☐ Large Cobbles ☐ Boulders _____ ☐ Others/Special Habitats_____ _____	Locality	

(Please select only one box for Habitat)

Elevation (m)		**Temp. (oC)**		**pH**		**DO**		**Turbidity**		**No. of kick nets**	

No.	*Taxa/Species*	*Count*	*Comments*
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			
12.			
13.			
14.			
15.			
16.			
17.			
18.			
19.			
20.			

H.3.3 Periphyton

106. The term periphyton refers to the film of living matter coating almost all surfaces in streams. It is usually dominated by benthic algae, but also includes diatoms, bacteria, fungi and other organic matter. Benthic algae are the primary producers in rivers, providing food for

macro-invertebrates and fish. They respond rapidly to changing conditions, and they are often the first organisms to respond to and recover from stress.

107. Periphyton samples are best collected in the dry season when flows are low and turbidity is minimal with high light penetration that supports the growth of biomass. Periphyton is scoured away in turbid flows in the transition season when flows start increasing due to snow melt.

H.3.3.1 Methods for Data Collection

108. Collection of five stones of similar size from slow-flowing areas of the run will be carried out at each sampling site. All five stones will be collected from locations with similar almost water depths. Only stones with the following measures will be used: the long axis of each selected stone is between 150 mm and 250 mm; the depths is between 20 cm and 40 cm.

109. It will be ensured that:

- the algal sampling area is kept separate from the macro-invertebrate sampling area as the kick sampling technique used for macro-invertebrate sampling dislodges the periphyton;
- only those stones are taken which are from the part of the channel that is inundated all year around.

110. The sampling protocol that will be used for each stone is as follows:

- Measure water depth in situ at each stone location before its removal from the river bed.
- Place a stone in a sampling tray and remove the periphyton by scrubbing and rinsing with clean water (sediment-free) brought to the site, and until no change in the rinsing water is evident.
- Extract a sub-sample of 30 ml from the sample and preserve it in 1 ml Lugol's solution for further identification of algal species.
- The remainder of the sample slurry should be stored on ice in a cooler box in the field, and frozen within 12 hours of collection, for determination of periphyton biomass (ash-free dry weight).
- Measure the dimensions of each stone as the longest axis (i.e. x), the longest horizontal axis perpendicular to x, (i.e. y), and the longest vertical axis of the stone (i.e. z) and note in the format.

111. The survey form for periphyton sampling is given in Exhibit H.10.

Exhibit H.10: Survey Form – Periphyton

ID		W P		Observer(s)	
Date		Start Time		End Time	
	[dd/mm/yy]		[HH:MM]		[HH:MM]
			Cloud Cover	%	
Direction	**Starting Coordinates**		**End Coordinates**		
Latitude	N		N		
Longitude	E		E		
[Deg Min Sec]			Temperature		
Type of River Habitat	☐ Pools ☐ Glides ☐ Riffles ☐ Rapids ☐ Sand ☐ Silt ☐ Small Cobbles ☐ Large Cobbles ☐ Boulders_____ ☐ Others/Specieal Habitats ☐ Nature of river bed _____ Other_____			Water Depth	
(Please select only one box for Habitat)					
Water Attributes				Locality	
Elevation (m)	**Temp. (oC)**	**pH**	**DO**	**Turbidity**	**Others**

Rock	*Rock Dimensions (xyz)*	*Depth (cm) at each stone*
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

H.3.4 Methods for Sample Analysis

112. When defrosted, each sample will be mixed for the measurement of two periphyton biomass indicators (normalized to mg /m^2) i.e. total dry mass, (ash ash-free dry weight (AFDW).

113. The method for determination of AFDW is as follows:

- Measure total dry weight by filtering the sub-sample portion through Whatman GFF 4 glass fiber filter papers which are then dried at 60oC overnight. Then ash the samples in an oven at 400oC for 4 hours. The difference between the dry weight and the weight of the ash is the organic component (i.e. AFDM) of the periphyton.
- AFDW values for each subsample should be adjusted by dividing by 30 and multiplying by the total slurry volume to obtain AFDM values for each stone.

114. Calculate the surface area of each stone using the following equation:

$$\text{Stone Surface Area} = \frac{0.014(xy+xz+yz) + 33.819}{10{,}000}$$

where stone surface area is in m^2 and x, y, and z are the measured stone dimensions in mm.

- Multiply AFDM values for each stone by the surface area of that stone to obtain a density per unit stone surface area.

H.3.5 Riparian Vegetation

115. Riparian vegetation is the plant community sustained by river flow, groundwater, or generally moist conditions along river margins, and is typically distinct in species composition from adjacent terrestrial communities.[17]

116. Riparian vegetation plays a central role in the functioning of riverine ecosystems: bank erosion is reduced through armoring; water quality is maintained through trapping of sediment, nutrients, and other contaminants, and shading regulates river water temperature and thus primary productivity; food is provided for riparian animals in the form of fruits, nuts and leaves, and aquatic macro-invertebrates in the form of leaf litter; the plants themselves offer a diverse array of habitats as well as a corridor for the movement of migratory terrestrial and semi-aquatic animals.[18]

H.3.5.1 Methods for Data Collection

117. The usual means of sampling vegetation for floristic composition is the quadrat. The vegetation in the marginal zone and flood plain in the Study Area will be sampled by the quadrate method, taking 3 quadrates of 5m x 5m at each sampling site. The first quadrat will be taken at the beginning of the transect, the second at 250 meters and the third at 500 m. All sampling points will include representative habitats and topographic and physiographic conditions of the Terrestrial Study Area. Plants from each quadrate will be noted and collected for the assessment of the plant species if required. Additional plant species in the area adjacent to the quadrate will also be noted down and collected to record the occurrence of the species. Cover, relative cover, density, relative density, frequency, relative frequency percentages, and Importance Value Index (IVI) for each species from the study will be calculated by using the following formulae:

118. The Cover and Relative Cover of species will be calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{Cover} = \frac{\text{Total cover (cm) of a species}}{\text{Number of plants of a species}}$$

$$\text{Relative Cover} = \frac{\text{Total cover (sq cm) of all plants of a species x 100}}{\text{Total cover (sq cm) of plants of all species}}$$

[17] Parkyn, Stephanie. (2004). *Review of Riparian Buffer Zone Effectiveness*. Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (New Zealand), www.maf.govt.nz/publications.

[18] PROSSER, I.P. 1999. Identifying priorities for riparian restoration aimed at sediment control. Second Australian stream management conference, 8-11 February. Adelaide, South Australia. Pg 511-516.

The Density and Relative Density of the species in the area will be calculated using the following formulae:

$$\text{Density} = \frac{\text{Total number of individuals of a species in all quadrats taken}}{\text{Total number of quadrats taken}}$$

$$\text{Relative Density} = \frac{\text{Total number of individuals of a species in all quadrats x 100}}{\text{Total number of individuals of all species in all quadrats}}$$

119. The Frequency and Relative Frequency percentages of the species will be determined using the following formulae:

$$\text{Frequency} = \frac{\text{Number of quadrats of occurrence of a species x 100}}{\text{The total number of quadrats layout}}$$

$$\text{Relative Frequency} = \frac{\text{Frequency of a species x 100}}{\text{Total Frequency of all species}}$$

120. The Importance Value Index (IVI) of all the recorded species will be calculated using the following formulae:

$$\text{IVI} = \frac{\text{Relative cover + Relative frequency + Relative density}}{3}$$

121. Plants collected will be identified following the nomenclature from Flora of Pakistan (Nasir and Ali 1972-1994[19], Ali and Qaiser, 1995-to date[20]).

122. Local people will be consulted to gather information about local names, uses, values and cultural values of the plants of the area.

123. The locations for sampling of riparian vegetation will be the same as for aquatic ecological resources shown in

[19]S. I. and Nasir. 1972-1994. Flora of Pakistan Fascicles. Islamabad

[20]Ali, S. I. and Qaiser, M. 1995 to date. Flora of Pakistan Fascicles. Karachi

124. **Exhibit H**.1.

125. The riparian vegetation survey form is included in **Exhibit H.11.**

H.3.6 Terrestrial Vegetation

126. Terrestrial vegetation refers to the plant species that grow on land and are not directly dependent on the river.

H.3.6.1 Methods for Data Collection

127. The usual means of sampling vegetation for floristic composition is the quadrat. The vegetation in the marginal zone, flood plain, and terrestrial habitats in the Study Area was sampled by the quadrat method, taking 3 quadrats of 5m x 5m at each sampling site. The first quadrat was taken at the beginning of the transect, the second at 250 meters and the third at 500 m. All sampling points were sampled to include representative habitats and topographic and physiographic conditions of the Study Area. Plants from each quadrat were noted and collected for the identification of the plant species if required. Additional plant species in the area adjacent to the quadrat were also noted down and collected to record the occurrence of the species. Cover, relative cover, density, relative density, frequency, relative frequency percentages, and Importance Value Index (IVI) for each species from the study were calculated by using the following formulae:

128. The Cover and Relative Cover of species and other indices will be calculated using the formulas listed for riparian vegetation.

Exhibit H.11: Survey Form – Riparian Vegetation/Terrestrial Vegetation

ID		W P		Observer(s)		
Date			Start Time		End Time	
	[dd/mm/yy]			[HH:MM]		[HH:MM]
	Starting Coordinates			**End Coordinates**		
Latitude	N			N		
Longitude	E			E		
[Deg Min Sec]				[Deg Min Sec]		
Habitat	☐ Riparian ☐ Agricultural Fields ☐ Pine Forest ☐ Scrub Forest ☐ Others/Special Habitats _____				Locality	
(Please select only one box for Habitat)						

No.	*Species Name*	*Circumference (Inches)*						
		Count	*1*	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*
1.								
2.								
3.								
4.								
5.								
6.								
7.								
8.								
9.								
10.								
11.								
12.								
13.								
14.								
15.								
16.								
17.								
18.								
19.								
20.								

Note: Quadrate size will be 5 m X 5 m. Three quadrants will be placed. The first will be taken at 0 m, the second at 250 m, and the third at 500 m.

H.3.7 Terrestrial Fauna

129. Terrestrial fauna refers to the animal species that live predominantly or entirely on land. The focus of monitoring the terrestrial fauna will be on the mammals, small mammals, and

birds (particularly the vultures) that are likely to be impacted by Project construction and operations.

H.3.7.1 Methods for Data Collection

130. The methods for data collection for terrestrial mammals have been divided into two categories, small and large mammals. These have been described separately below.

Large Mammals

131. Line transects (500 m by 20 m) will be placed at each sampling site to record all animals or their signs detected. All the animals sighted, or their signs (foot marks, droppings, dens) will be recorded. GPS coordinates of the location and habitat type will also be documented. Samples of feces and photographs of tracks will be taken and conserved for potential subsequent confirmatory analysis. Transects will be started as early as possible in the day and will cover all possible habitat types to avoid bias of stratification.

132. In addition, incidental sightings of all mammals will be recorded; the number of individuals, location, and habitat type will be recorded for each sighting. Anecdotal information regarding specific mammals will be collected from the local people and relevant literature will also consulted.

133. The survey form for large mammals is given in **Exhibit H.12**.

Exhibit H.12: Survey Form – Large Mammals

ID		W P		Observer(s)	
Date		Start Time		End Time	
	[dd/mm/yy]		[HH:MM]		[HH:MM]
	Starting Coordinates		**End Coordinates**		
Latitude	N		N		
Longitude	E		E		
[Deg Min Sec]			[Deg Min Sec]		
Habitat	☐ Riparian ☐ Agricultural Fields ☐ Pine Forest ☐ Scrub Forest ☐ Others/Special Habitats_____			Locality	
(Please select only one box for Habitat)					

No.	*Species Name*	*Distance* (m)*	*Sighting*	*Type of Sign*			*Comments*
				Tracks	*Scats*	*Den*	

* Record Mammals 10 m on each side of the transect line, 500 m long

** Direction of transect towards South

Small Mammals

134. Live trapping for small mammals will be carried out at various sampling sites. Trapped animals will be identified and released alive after taking measurements.

135. A mixture of different food grains mixed with fragrant seeds will be used as bait to attract the small mammals. Wheat and rice will be used as food grains while peanut butter, coriander, oats, and onion will be used for fragrance. Freshly prepared bait will be used on every trapping day. Only a small amount of bait will be put on the rear side of the traps. Care will be taken while putting the bait on the rear side of the trap to make sure that it is placed properly on the trap platform.

136. Sherman traps will be used for the present study to collect live specimens. Thirty to forty traps were set at a specific area in two lines approximately 10 m apart. A colorful ribbon to locate traps the next day will be used to mark each trap. The traps will be set in the evening and checked early the next morning, ensuring that the trapped animals are not killed by heat.

137. Traps will be checked the following morning as early as possible. The trapped animals will be carefully transferred one after the other into an already-weighed transparent polythene bag. Utmost care will be taken to avoid direct handling and harassing the specimens. The species of the trapped animals will be noted. The polythene bag along with the specimen will be weighed and the net weight of the animal will be noted down in a notebook. The sex of the specimens will also be observed and documented carefully. The important relevant data, such as the date of trap setting, date of data collection, habitat, location, elevation, and weather conditions, will be recorded on the spot on a data sheet.

138. The survey form for small mammals is included in **Exhibit H.13**.

Exhibit H.13: Survey Form – Small Mammals

ID		W P		Observer(s)			
Current Date	[dd/mm/yy]	Time	[HH:MM]	Traps Set Date	[dd/mm/yy]		
Coordinates			Cloud cover	**%**	Moon Phase		
Latitude	N		Wind	☐ Light	☐ Moderate	☐ Strong	
Longitude	E		Precipitation	☐ Light	☐ Moderate	☐ Heavy	
[Deg Min Sec]			Temperature				
Grid Size Traps		Distance between traps (m)		Bait			
Habitat	☐ Riparian ☐ Agricultural Fields ☐ Pine Forest ☐ Scrub Forest ☐ Others/Special Habitats _____				Locality		
(Please select only one box for Habitat)							

No.	*Species Name*	*Count*	*Grid* Row	*Grid* Column	*Weight (g)*	*Sex*	*Re-capt.*	*Comments*
1.								
2.								
3.								
4.								
5.								
6.								
7.								
8.								
9.								
10.								
11.								
12.								
13.								
14.								
15.								
16.								
17.								

H.3.8 Herpetofauna

139. The methods for data collection and analysis for herpetofauna are given in this section.

H.3.8.1 Methods for Data Collection

140. Line transects 500 m long and 20 m wide will be placed systematically at each sampling site in the Study Area.

141. An effective way to survey reptiles is by active searching, particularly during the daytime. This method is equally applicable to both nocturnal and diurnal species. The sampling sites will be actively searched for all types of reptiles and amphibians along the line transects. Active searching will also carried out in sampling areas with a focus on suitable microhabitats. The species collected or observed during the survey will photographed with a digital camera and necessary field data will be recorded. The coordinates and elevations will be recorded using GPS, and other features of interest like habitat type will be documented.

142. The presence of signs such as an impression of body, tail or footprints, fecal pellets, tracks, dens, or egg-laying excavations will also be recorded.

143. Samples will be collected and preserved for identification purposes where the species cannot be identified in the field for any reason. Hand-picking (using bare hands or with the help of long forceps or a snake clutch) is the most efficient way of collecting different species of reptiles. For handling snakes, especially poisonous ones, snake clutches/sticks will be used.

144. Preservatives such as 10% formalin solution or 50-70% alcohol or methylated spirits solution in water will be added to just cover the specimens, and the container will be covered and left until the specimens are set. In the case of larger specimens, a slit will be made in the belly and a preservative will be injected to preserve the internal organs.

145. The specimens will be stored in the same preservative in a watertight jar. A waterproof label will be added to the jar, giving details of habitat, date, and collector's name. A label will be tied to the specimen written with permanent Indian ink or a simple carbon pencil.

146. The specimens will be identified with the help of the most recent keys available in the literature (Khan, 2006)[21].

147. A survey form for herpetofauna is included in Exhibit H.14.

[21]Muhammad Sharif Khan. 2006. Amphibians and Reptiles of Pakistan. Krieger Publishing Company, Malabar, Florida, pp. 311.

Exhibit H.14: Survey Form – Herpetofauna

ID		W P		Observer(s)	
Date			Start Time		End Time
	[dd/mm/yy]			[HH:MM]	[HH:MM]
Direction**	**Starting Coordinates**		**End Coordinates**	Cloud Cover	**%**
Latitude	N		N	Wind	☐ Light ☐ Moderate ☐ Strong
Longitude	E		E	Precipitation	☐ Light ☐ Moderate ☐ Heavy
[Deg Min Sec]				Temperature	
Habitat	☐ River Bank ☐ Agricultural Fields ☐ Forest ☐ Range Land ☐ Others/Special Habitats_____			Locality	
(Please select only one box for Habitat)					

No.	*Species Name*	*Distance* (m)*	*Count*	*Comments*
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				
11.				
12.				
13.				
14.				
15.				

Note: See attached list for names of some of the reptile species found in the study area. Please name properly

* Record reptile on the 10 m on each side of transect line, 500 m long

**Direction of transect towards South

H.3.8.2 Methods for Data Analysis

148. The density and diversity of herpetofauna at each sampling site will be calculated.

H.3.9 Avifauna

149. The methods for data collection and analysis are given in this section.

H.3.9.1 Methods for Data Collection

150. Line transects (500 m by 50 m) will be used. The transects will be placed at each sampling site to record all birds observed. Transects will be started as early as possible in the morning and the late afternoon and will cover all possible habitats. The start time and coordinates of the starting point will be recorded. The bird species will be identified using the most recent keys available in the literature.[22] The density and diversity of birds will be calculated.

A survey form for avifauna is included in **Exhibit H.15**.

[22] Grimmett, R., Roberts, T., and Inskipp, T. 2008. Birds of Pakistan, Yale University Press.

Exhibit H.15: Survey Form – Birds

ID		W P		Observer(s)	
Date			Start Time		End Time
	[dd/mm/yy]			[HH:MM]	[HH:MM]
Direction**	**Starting Coordinates**		**End Coordinates**	Cloud Cover	**%**
Latitude	N		N	Wind	☐ Light ☐ Moderate ☐ Strong
Longitude	E		E	Precipitation	☐ Light ☐ Moderate ☐ Heavy
[Deg Min Sec]				Temperature	
Habitat	☐ Riparian ☐ Agricultural Fields ☐ Pine Forest ☐ Scrub Forest ☐ Others/Special Habitats_____			Locality	
(Please select only one box for Habitat)					

No.	*Species Name*	*Distance* (m)*	*Count*	*Comments*
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				
11.				
12.				
13.				
14.				
15.				

Note:

* Record birds 25 m on each side of transect line, 500 m long

**Direction of transect towards South

H.3.9.2 Methods for Data Analysis

151. The species richness (number of species observed) and abundance (number of individuals of each species observed) at the specified sampling sites will be calculated.

H.4 Equipment Required

152. The following equipment will be required for the field surveys:

- 2 GPS
- 2 Cameras
- 2 Measuring Tapes
- 1 Graduated Measuring Rod
- 10 Sampling Collection Bags
- 40 Sherman Traps
- 1 Pair of Binoculars

H.5 Schedule

153. The Winter Survey was carried out between February 24, 2017, and March 1, 2017. The Spring Survey will be carried out between May 7, 2017, and May 19, 2017.

H.6 Team

154. The team for the ecology field survey will consist of the following members:

Team Member	*Responsibility*
Vaqar Zakaria	Quality Control
Dr. M Rafique	Supervisor and Specialist Team Leader: aquatic survey
Ahmad Shoaib	Specialist: aquatic survey; data entry and reporting, field logistics and coordination
Shakeel Ahmad	Aquatic and Mammals survey; data entry
Rafaqat Masroor	Reptile survey; data entry and reporting.
Ghulam Murtaza	Data QA/QC, mammals and bird survey; field logistics; data entry
Mishkatullah	Macro-invertebrate survey; data entry and reporting
Kamran Minai	Quality Control and Reporting

APPENDIX I: GAME RESERVES AND BREEDING OF GAME BIRDS

I.1 Pharana Game Reserve

155. This is located in Pharana with an estimated area of 200 ha. The proposed site is located 15 km west of Mansehra City and easily accessible by road. The climate is warm in summer, and mild in winter, with an annual rainfall of 72 mm.

156. Important flora are Phulai, Kahu, Sanatha, Ber, Shisham, Chir, Kamila, Willow Bekar Dhaman, Pataki Thimer Khirk, Granda Kinthi Sharol. The fauna consists of Chakor, Black Partridge, Grey Partridge, Fox, Porcupine, and Jackal. Pigeon, Wolf, Wild Boar, and Hare.

I.2 Behali Game Reserve

157. This has a total area of 200 ha. The proposed site is located at a distance of 16 km from Mansehra City and is easily accessible by road. The climate is warm in summer, mild in winter and the area receives occasional rainfall during the monsoon season; about 72 mm annually.

158. The flora and fauna is the same as that of Pharana Game Reserve.

I.3 Sheikh Abad Game Reserve

159. This has a total area of 400 ha. The proposed site is located at a distance of 6 km west of Mansehra City and is easily accessible by road. The climatic conditions are similar to of the Pharana and Behali Game Reserves.

160. Important flora include Phulai, Kahu, Sanatha, Ber, Chir, Bekar, Kamila, Willow, Dhaman, Granda, Pataki, and Thimer. The fauna consists of Black Partridge, Grey Partridge, Chakor, Fox, Porcupine, Jackal, Rock Pigeon, Wolf, Hare, Wild Boar, and Quail.

I.4 Bhalli Ghatti Game Reserve

161. This has a total area of 600 ha. The proposed site is located at a distance of 18 km west of Mansehra City and is easily accessible by road. Climatic conditions are similar to Pharana and Behali Game Reserves.

162. The important fauna is Phulai, Kahu, Sanatha, Ber, Chir, Bekar.Kamila, Willow.Pataki, Thimer and Khirk Granda. The important fauna Black Partridge, Grey Partridge, Chakor, Fox, Porcupine, Jackal, Pigeon, Wolf, Hare and Wild boar.

I.5 Jallo Game Reserve

163. This has a total area of 200 ha. The proposed site is located 6 km from Mansehra City and is easily accessible by road. Climatic conditions are similar to Pharana and Behali Game Reserves.

164. The important flora include Phulai, Kahu, Sanatha, Ber, Chir, Bekar, Kamila Willow, Pataki, Thimer, and Khirk Granda. Important fauna consists of Black Partridge, Grey Partridge, Chakor, Fox, Porcupine, Jackal, Pigeon, Wolf, Hare, and Wild Boar.

I.6 Kareer Game Reserve

165. This has a total area of 200 ha. The proposed site is located at a distance of 22 km from Mansehra City and is easily accessible by road. Climatic conditions are similar to Pharana and Behali Game Reserves.

166. The flora includes Phulai, Kahu, Sanatha, Ber, Shisham, Chir, Bekar, Kamila, Willow Pataki and Thimer. The fauna are black Partridge, Grey Partridge, Chakor, Fox, Porcupine, Jackal, Pigeon, Wolf, Hare, and Wild Boar.

I.7 Battal Game Reserve

167. This has a total area of 32 ha. The proposed site is located at a distance of 20 km north of Mansehra City and is easily accessible by road. Climatic conditions are similar to Pharana and Behali Game Reserves.

168. The flora includes Phulai, Kahu, Sanatha, Ber, Shisham, Chir, Bekar, Kamila, Willow Pataki and Thimer. The fauna includes Black Partridge, Grey Partridge, Chakor, Fox, Porcupine, Jackal, Pigeon, Wolf, Hare and Wild boar.

I.8 Palsala Dhanaka Game Reserve

169. This has a total area of 530 ha. The proposed site is located at a distance of 50 km west of Mansehra City and is easily accessible by road. The temperature in summer rises to 36°C, while the winters are not very cold. Rainfall is about 72 mm annually.

170. The flora includes Phulai, Kahu, Sanatha, Ber, Shisham, Chir, Bekar, Kamila, Willow Pataki Thimer, and Granda. The fauna includes Black Partridge, Grey Partridge, Chakor, Fox, Porcupine, Jackal, Pigeon, Wolf, Hare and Wild boar.

I.9 Lassan Thukral Game Reserve

171. This has a total area of 30.8 ha. The proposed site is located at a distance of 18 km west of Mansehra City and is easily accessible by road. Climatic conditions are similar to the Palsala Dhanaka Game Reserve.

172. The flora includes Phulai, Kahu, Sanatha, Ber, Shisham, Chir, Bekar, Kamila, Willow Pataki Thimer, and Granda. The fauna includes Black Partridge, Grey Partridge, Chakor, Fox, Porcupine, Jackal, Pigeon, Wolf, Hare and Wild boar.

I.10 Khawajgan Community Game Reserve

173. The total area is 30.8 ha. The proposed site is located at a distance of 24 km north of Mansehra City and is easily accessible by road. The climate is warm in summer, and mild in winter, with occasional rainfall in the monsoon season with annual rainfall being 72 mm.

174. The flora includes Phulai, Kahu, Sanatha, Ber, Shisham, Chir, Bekar, Kamila, Willow Pataki Thimer, and Granda. The fauna includes Black Partridge, Grey Partridge, Chakor, Fox, Porcupine, Jackal, Pigeon, Wolf, Hare and Wild boar.

I.11 Partridge Breeding Center at Lasan Nawab Mansehra

175. This was established in February 2009. It has a total area of 3,716 square meters. The objectives of establishing it are as follows:

- To provide a secure habitat for the natural breeding of Black, Brown, and Chukar partridges.
- To provide an opportunity for artificial breeding by collecting eggs and hatching them in incubators.
- To ensure a healthy population of partridges for stocking Game Reserves.

I.11.1 Dhodial Pheasantry

176. Dhodial Pheasantry was developed in 1984. Dhodial is located 15 km southwest of Balakot. The objectives of this development are as follows:

- To breed in captivity the Pheasant of KP for re-introduction and stocking.
- Scientific study and research into Pheasants in captivity.
- Education and awareness raising amongst the general public.
- Promotion of Exotic Pheasants amongst aviculturists.
- Linkages of Pheasant Biodiversity with social mobilization of poor communities.

177. There are about fifty-two species of pheasants worldwide, out of which all but one are found in Asia. In Pakistan, there are six types of pheasants Blue Peacock, Kaleej Pheasant, Koklas Pheasant, Cheer Pheasant, Western Tragopan, and Monal Pheasant. The following types of domestic and exotic species of pheasants are found in Dhodial.

- Ring-Necked Pheasant
- Wood Green Pheasant
- White Pheasant
- Silver Pheasant
- Golden Pheasant
- Yellow Golden Pheasant
- Lady Amherst's Pheasant
- Cheer Pheasant
- Reeves Pheasant
- Nepal Kaleej Pheasant
- White Crested Kalij Pheasant
- Temminks Tragopan Pheasant

- Satyr Tragopan Pheasant
- Edward Pheasant
- Brown-eared Pheasant
- Blue-eared Pheasant
- White-eared Pheasant
- Grey-peacock Pheasant
- Humes Bar tailed pheasant
- Siamees Fireback Pheasant
- Mikado Pheasant
- Elliots pheasant
- Imperial Pheasant
- Swinhoes Pheasant
- Monal Pheasant
- Kokhlas Pheasant
- Indian Red Jungle Fowl
- Blue peacock
- Pied Peacock
- White Peacock
- Black Shoulder Peacock

178. In addition to these pheasants, different types of cranes and doves are also present.

179. By its area and the types of pheasants therein, the Dhodial Pheasantry is the largest pheasantry of Asia. It has global fame in connection with the breeding of Chir Pheasants; presently there are fifty-eight pairs of Chir Pheasants. Each year several Chir Pheasants are released in their natural habitats to assist in the rehabilitation of the population.

APPENDIX J: ECOLOGY FIELD DATA

See the following exhibits.

Exhibit J.1: Riparian Vegetation

Location ID	Coordinates		Date	Habitat	Conyza canadensis		Dalbergia sissoo		Dodonaea viscosa		Ficus carica		Mentha longifolia		Parthenium hysterophorus		Phragmites karka	
	Latitude (N)	Longitude (E)			Cover %	Count	Cover %	Count	Cover %	Count	Cover %	Count	Cover %	Count	Cover %	Count	Cover %	Count
R1	34 39 38.28	73 28 16.44	5/22/17	Riparian	0.15	3	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.08	1	0.00	-	0.04	2	0.00	-
R2	34 37 36.35	73 25 16.35	5/22/17	Riparian	0.04	2	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.33	8	0.00	-
R3	34 35 8.84	73 21 48.23	5/22/17	Riparian	0.05	6	0.62	5	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.17	4	0.00	-
R4	34 29 15.62	73 21 22.55	5/22/17	Riparian	0.16	12	0.15	4	0.07	1	0.10	3	0.06	4	0.08	5	0.19	8
						23		**9**		**1**		**4**		**4**		**19**		**8**

Location ID	Coordinates		Date	Habitat	Ricinus communis		Rumex dissectus		Solanum surrattense		Sonchus asper		Traxicum sp.		Typha elephantina		Total Cover	Total count	Species Count
	Latitude (N)	Longitude (E)			Cover %	Count	Cover %	Count	Cover %	Count	Cover %	Count	Cover %	Count	Cover %	Count			
R1	34 39 38.28	73 28 16.44	5/22/17	Riparian	0.00	-	0.22	6	0.03	1	0.00	-	0.02	1	0.00	-	**0.54**	**14**	**6**
R2	34 37 36.35	73 25 16.35	5/22/17	Riparian	0.03	1	0.12	4	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	**0.52**	**15**	**4**
R3	34 35 8.84	73 21 48.23	5/22/17	Riparian	0.00	-	0.19	4	0.00	-	0.07	3	0.02	1	0.00	-	**1.11**	**23**	**6**
R4	34 29 15.62	73 21 22.55	5/22/17	Riparian	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.02	1	0.00	-	0.66	20	**1.48**	**58**	**9**
						1		**14**		**1**		**4**		**2**		**20**	**3.7**	**110**	**13**

Exhibit J.2: Terrestrial Vegetation

Location ID	Coordinates		Date	Habitat	Acacia modesta		Acer caesium		Ailanthus altissima		Asparagus sp.		Berberis sp.		Cannabis sativa		Carissa opaca		Capsella bursa–pastoris		Cedrus deodara		Conyza canadensis		Dodonaea viscosa		Ficus carica		Fragaria vesca		Indigofera sp.		Juglans regia		Launaea procumbens	
	Latitude (N)	Longitude (E)			Cover %	Count	Cover %	Count	Cover %	Count	Cover %	Count	Cover %	Count	Cover %	Count	Cover %	Count	Cover %	Count	Cover %	Count	Cover %	Count	Cover %	Count	Cover %	Count	Cover %	Count	Cover %	Count	Cover %	Count	Cover %	Count
T1	34 39 34.4	73 29 12.7	5/21/17	Pine Forest	0.00	-	0.04	2	0.09	2	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	11.00	4	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.29	4	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.07	4
T2	34 39 29.9	73 27 49	5/21/17	Agricultural Fields	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	1.37	10	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.06	2	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.28	15	0.45	4	3.69	1	0.02	1
T3	34 39 40.7	73 27 48	5/21/17	Scrub Forest	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.06	1	0.10	2	0.02	5	0.00	-	0.06	2	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.12	3	0.04	10	0.67	4	4.74	1	0.00	-
T4	34 39 49	73 27 30	5/21/17	Scrub Forest	0.74	2	0.00	-	0.86	5	0.00	-	0.25	1	0.02	4	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.05	4	0.13	1	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.01	1
T5	34 39 32.2	73 27 10.6	5/21/17	Scrub Forest	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.10	1	0.00	-	0.65	4	0.21	20	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.10	5	0.39	4	0.00	-	0.00	-
T6	34 39 0.5	73 26 31.6	5/21/17	Scrub Forest	0.00	-	0.00	-	1.34	4	0.05	1	0.13	1	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.02	1	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.28	2	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-
T7	34 38 24.2	73 26 19.8	5/21/17	Pine Forest	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.07	3	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.09	1	0.00	-	0.00	-
T8	34 36 4.6	73 22 54.2	5/20/17	Pine Forest	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.28	4	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-
T9	34 39 40.7	73 27 48	5/20/17	Scrub Forest	0.00	-	0.00	-	1.16	3	0.00	-	0.51	5	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.04	10	0.00	-	6.75	1	0.00	-	0.40	3	0.00	-	0.00	-
T10	34 35 26.1	73 22 19.1	5/20/17	Pine Forest	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.04	1	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.14	2	0.00	-	0.00	-
T11	34 34 43.5	73 22 12.6	5/19/17	Agricultural Fields	0.00	-	0.00	-	1.02	1	0.00	-	0.35	3	0.08	4	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.66	1	0.00	-	0.21	2	0.92	1	0.07	3
T12	34 35 15.5	73 22 25	5/20/17	Scrub Forest	2.74	5	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.79	2	0.30	25	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.10	2	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-
T13	34 34 57.6	73 22 5.9	5/20/17	Pine Forest	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.87	6	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	2.61	4	0.11	5	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-
						7		**2**		**20**		**2**		**34**		**58**		**0**		**4**		**4**		**21**		**1**		**15**		**35**		**20**		**3**		**9**

Location ID	Coordinates		Date	Habitat	Malva parviflora		Malvastrum coromandelianum		Melia azedarach		Oxalis corniculata		Picea smithiana		Pinus wallichiana		Populus ciliata		Punica granatum		Robinia pseudoacacia		Rumex dantatus		Rumex dissectus		Lamium album.		Solanum nigrum		Sonchus asper		Traxicum sp.		Urtica dioica		Total Cover %	Total count	Species Count
	Latitude (N)	Longitude (E)			Cover %	Count	Cover %	Count	Cover %	Count	Cover %	Count	Cover %	Count	Cover %	Count	Cover %	Count	Cover %	Count	Cover %	Count	Cover %	Count	Cover %	Count	Cover %	Count	Cover %	Count	Cover %	Count	Cover %	Count			
T1	34 36 36.6	73 29 51	5/21/17	Pine Forest	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.86	1	0.52	1	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.32	1	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.38	15	**13.57**	**34**	**0**
T2	34 39 29.9	73 27 49	5/21/17	Agricultural Fields	0.00	-	0.06	10	0.00	-	0.08	12	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.49	1	0.00	-	0.12	2	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	**6.63**	**58**	**0**
T3	34 39 40.7	73 27 48	5/21/17	Scrub Forest	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.03	10	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.06	2	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.06	1	0.00	-	0.09	3	0.00	-	**6.05**	**44**	**0**
T4	34 39 49	73 27 30	5/21/17	Scrub Forest	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.05	12	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.28	3	0.00	-	1.63	14	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.05	1	0.00	-	0.00	-	**4.08**	**48**	**3**
T5	34 39 32.2	73 27 10.6	5/21/17	Scrub Forest	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.57	1	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.69	2	0.00	-	0.29	1	0.00	-	1.13	11	0.12	8	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	**4.25**	**57**	**1**
T6	34 39 0.5	73 26 31.6	5/21/17	Scrub Forest	0.03	4	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	2.92	3	0.00	-	0.46	2	0.00	-	0.71	7	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.07	2	0.00	-	**6.00**	**27**	**2**
T7	34 38 24.2	73 26 19.8	5/21/17	Pine Forest	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	16.52	6	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.77	2	0.00	-	1.31	12	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	**18.76**	**24**	**2**
T8	34 36 4.6	73 22 54.2	5/20/17	Pine Forest	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.36	1	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.13	4	0.00	-	0.00	-	**0.77**	**9**	**0**
T9	34 39 40.7	73 27 48	5/20/17	Scrub Forest	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.12	2	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	**8.99**	**24**	**2**
T10	34 35 26.1	73 22 19.1	5/20/17	Pine Forest	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	1.90	5	0.00	-	0.10	2	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.05	1	0.00	-	0.00	-	**2.23**	**11**	**5**
T11	34 34 43.5	73 22 12.6	5/19/17	Agricultural Fields	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.37	2	0.00	-	0.14	3	0.18	4	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	**3.99**	**24**	**0**
T12	34 35 15.5	73 22 25	5/20/17	Scrub Forest	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.71	1	0.04	18	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	**4.69**	**53**	**0**
T13	34 34 57.6	73 22 5.9	5/20/17	Pine Forest	0.00	-	0.00	-	2.38	2	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.43	1	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	**6.40**	**18**	**0**
						4		10		4		52		1		7		5		5		15		7		50		8		2		6		5		15	**86.4**	**431**	**31**

Exhibit J.3: Mammals

Transect ID	Date	Coordinates		Habitat	Locality	Canis aureus			Hystrix indica			Vulpes			Herpestes javanicus			Sighting		Signs	
		Latitude (N)	Longitude (E)			Asiatic Jackal			Indian Crested Porcupine			Red Fox			Small Asian Mangoose						
						Sighting	Signs	Total	Sighting	Signs	Total	Sighting	Signs	Total	Sighting	Signs	Total	Total	Species Count	Total	Species Count
T1	05/21/17	34 39 34.4	73 29 12.7	Pine Forest	Paras	–	–	**–**	–	–	**–**	–	–	**–**	1	–	**1**	**1**	**1**	**–**	**–**
T3	05/21/17	34 39 40.7	73 27 48.0	Agricultural Area	Paras	–	1	**1**	–	–	**–**	–	–	**–**	–	–	**–**	**–**	**–**	**1**	**1**
T4	05/21/17	34 39 49	73 27 30.0	Scrub Forest	Paras	–	–	**–**	–	–	**–**	1	–	**1**	–	–	**–**	**1**	**1**	**–**	**–**
T7	05/21/17	34 38 24.2	73 26 19.8	Pine Forest	Paras	–	1	**1**	–	–	**–**	–	–	**–**	–	–	**–**	**–**	**–**	**1**	**1**
T8	05/21/17	34 36 4.6	73 22 54.2	Pine Forest	Sangar	–	1	**1**	–	–	**–**	–	–	**–**	–	–	**–**	**–**	**–**	**1**	**1**
T10	05/21/17	34 35 26.1	73 22 19.1	Pine Forest	Sangar	–	1	**1**	–	–	**–**	–	–	**–**	–	–	**–**	**–**	**–**	**1**	**1**
T11	05/21/17	34 34 43.5	73 22 12.6	Agricultural Area	Sangar	–	1	**1**	–	–	**–**	–	–	**–**	–	–	**–**	**–**	**–**	**1**	**1**
T13	05/20/17	34 34 57.6	73 22 5.90	Pine Forest	Sangar	–	–	**–**	–	1	**1**	–	–	**–**	–	–	**–**	**–**	**–**	**1**	**1**
R2	05/22/17	34 37 36.35	73 25 16.35	Riparian	Kiwai	–	–	**–**	–	1	**1**	–	–	**–**	–	–	**–**	**–**	**–**	**1**	**1**
R3	05/22/17	34 35 8.84	73 21 48.23	Riparian	Near Balakot	1	–	**1**	–	–	**–**	–	–	**–**	–	–	**–**	**1**	**1**	**–**	**–**
						1	**5**	**6**	**–**	**2**	**2**	**1**	**–**	**1**	**1**	**–**	**1**	**3**	**3**	**7**	**7**

Exhibit J.4: Birds

Location ID	Date	Starting		Habitat	Hypsipetes leucocephalus	Terpsiphone paradisi	Acridotheres ginginianus	Hirundo rustica	Dicrurus macrocercus	Phoenicurus ochruros	Milvus migrans	Myophonus caeruleus	Monticola cinclorhynchus	Phylloscopus collybita	Grus	Falco tinnunculus	Corvus corax	Oriolus	Emberiza cia	Pernis apivorus	Parus major	Chloris spinoides	Corvus splendens	Passer domesticus	Oriolus kundoo	Luscinia brunnea	Turdoides striatus	Streptopelia senegalensis	Egretta garzetta
		Latitude	Longitude		Asian Black Bulbul	Asian paradise flycatcher	Bank myna	Barn Swallow	Black drongo	Black redstart	Black/Common kite	Blue whistling thrush	Blue–capped Rock Thrush	Common chiffchaf	Common Crane	Common kestrel	Common raven	Eurasian golden oriole	Eurasian rock bunting	European honey buzzard	Great tit	Himalayan greenfinch	House crow	House sparrow	Indian Golden Oriole	Indian robin	Jungle babbler	Laughing dove	Little egret
T1	5/21/2017	34 36 36.6	73 29 51	Pine Forest	–	–	25	–	–	–	–	–	–	10	–	–	15	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	10	–	–
T2	5/21/2017	34 39 29.9	73 27 49	Agricultural Fields	–	30	–	–	10	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	25	–	–	–	20	–	10	–	25	–	–	–	–
T3	5/21/2017	34 39 40.7	73 27 48	Scrub Forest	–	–	15	–	–	–	50	–	–	–	–	–	25	–	–	–	–	–	10	10	–	–	20	–	–
T4	5/21/2017	34 39 49	73 27 30	Scrub Forest	–	–	10	–	25	–	25	–	–	50	–	50	30	–	–	30	–	–	40	–	50	–	–	–	–
T5	5/21/2017	34 39 32.2	73 27 10.6	Scrub Forest	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	15	–	–	–	10	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
T6	5/21/2017	34 39 0.5	73 26 31.6	Scrub Forest	–	–	–	–	20	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	25	–	–	–	–	–	20	–	–	–	–	–	–
T7	5/21/2017	34 38 24.2	73 26 19.8	Pine Forest	–	–	25	–	–	–	–	–	–	25	–	–	20	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
T8	5/20/2017	34 36 4.6	73 22 54.2	Pine Forest	–	–	25	10	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	30	–	–	–	25	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
T9	5/20/2017	34 39 40.7	73 27 48	Scrub Forest	–	–	–	–	–	30	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
T10	5/20/2017	34 35 26.1	73 22 19.1	Pine Forest	–	–	25	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	10	–	–	–	25	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
T11	5/19/2017	34 34 43.5	73 22 12.6	Agricultural Fields	–	–	20	10	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	50	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
T12	5/20/2017	34 35 15.5	73 22 25	Scrub Forest	–	–	10	–	10	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	30	–	–	–	15	–	–	–	25	–	–	–	–
T13	5/20/2017	34 34 57.6	73 22 5.9	Pine Forest	–	–	10	10	25	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	15	15	–	10	15	–	–	–	25	–	10	–
R1	5/22/2017	34 39 38.28	73 28 16.44	Riparian	–	–	30	–	–	–	–	55	–	–	–	–	25	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
R2	5/22/2017	34 37 36.35	73 25 16.35	Riparian	25	–	25	–	25	–	–	–	40	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	10	–	–	–	–	–	10	–	–
R3	5/22/2017	34 35 8.84	73 21 48.23	Riparian	30	50	30	–	–	–	–	25	–	–	–	–	25	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
R4	5/21/2017	34 29 15.62	73 21 22.55	Riparian	–	–	10	75	25	–	15	–	–	–	50	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	50
					55	**80**	**261**	**105**	**140**	**30**	**90**	**80**	**40**	**85**	**50**	**50**	**325**	**15**	**15**	**30**	**115**	**15**	**80**	**10**	**100**	**25**	**40**	**10**	**50**

Location ID	Date	Coordinates		Habitat	Pericrocotus ethologus	Lanius schach	Copsychus saularis	Zosterops palpebrosus	Cinnyris asiaticus	Pycnonotus cafer	Psittacula krameri	Lanius schach	Phoenicurus erythronotus	Prinia burnesii	Passer rutilans	Pericrocotus brevirostris	Saxicola maurus	Spilopelia chinensis	Garrulax striatus	Prinia crinigera	Eumyias thalassinus	Pycnonotus leucogenys	Motacilla alba	Emberiza stewarti	Urocissa flavirostris	Leiopicus mahrattensis	Motacilla flava	Total	Species Count	Percentages
		Latitude	Longitude		Long-tailed minivet	Long-tailed Shrike	Oriental magpie robin	Oriental white eye	Purple sunbird	Red vented bulbul	Rose ringed parakeet	Rufous-backed or long tailed shrike	Rufous-backed redstart	Rufous-vented prinia	Russet sparrow	Short-billed Minivet	Siberian stonechat	Spotted Dove	Striated laughing thrush	Striated prinia	Verditer flycatcher	White cheeked bulbul	White wagtail	White-capped Bunting	Yellow billed blue magpie	Yellow crowned woodpecker	Yellow Wagtail			
T1	5/21/2017	34 39 34.4	73 29 12.7	Pine Forest	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	15	–	10	–	–	–	–	–	**85**	**6**	**3.07**
T2	5/21/2017	34 39 29.9	73 27 49	Agricultural Fields	–	10	10	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	30	25	–	–	15	–	–	**210**	**11**	**7.58**
T3	5/21/2017	34 39 40.7	73 27 48	Scrub Forest	–	–	–	–	–	–	30	25	–	–	–	–	–	–	30	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	**215**	**9**	**7.76**
T4	5/21/2017	34 39 49	73 27 30	Scrub Forest	–	–	–	–	–	20	–	–	–	20	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	30	–	–	30	–	–	**410**	**13**	**14.80**
T5	5/21/2017	34 39 32.2	73 27 10.6	Scrub Forest	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	5	–	–	–	–	–	**31**	**4**	**1.12**
T6	5/21/2017	34 39 0.5	73 26 31.6	Scrub Forest	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	25	–	–	–	–	5	**95**	**5**	**3.43**
T7	5/21/2017	34 38 24.2	73 26 19.8	Pine Forest	–	–	–	–	10	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	25	–	**105**	**5**	**3.79**
T8	5/20/2017	34 36 4.6	73 22 54.2	Pine Forest	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	25	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	10	–	–	–	–	–	**125**	**6**	**4.51**
T9	5/20/2017	34 39 40.7	73 27 48	Scrub Forest	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	25	–	15	–	–	–	–	–	–	50	–	–	–	**120**	**4**	**4.33**
T10	5/20/2017	34 35 26.1	73 22 19.1	Pine Forest	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	10	–	–	–	**70**	**4**	**2.53**
T11	5/19/2017	34 34 43.5	73 22 12.6	Agricultural Fields	–	–	–	15	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	15	–	–	–	–	–	10	–	–	–	–	–	**120**	**6**	**4.33**
T12	5/20/2017	34 35 15.5	73 22 25	Scrub Forest	10	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	10	–	–	–	–	–	**110**	**7**	
T13	5/20/2017	34 34 57.6	73 22 5.9	Pine Forest	15	–	–	25	–	–	–	–	50	–	–	–	–	15	–	–	–	25	–	–	–	25	–	**290**	**15**	**10.47**
R1	5/22/2017	34 39 38.28	73 28 16.44	Riparian	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	25	–	–	–	–	–	**135**	**4**	**4.87**
R2	5/22/2017	34 37 36.35	73 25 16.35	Riparian	–	–	–	–	–	–	25	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	10	–	–	–	–	–	**170**	**8**	**6.13**
R3	5/22/2017	34 35 8.84	73 21 48.23	Riparian	–	–	–	–	–	–	35	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	10	–	–	–	–	**205**	**7**	**7.40**
R4	5/21/2017	34 29 15.62	73 21 22.55	Riparian	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	50	–	–	–	–	**275**	**7**	**9.92**
					25	**10**	**10**	**40**	**10**	**20**	**90**	**25**	**50**	**45**	**25**	**15**	**15**	**15**	**30**	**15**	**30**	**185**	**60**	**60**	**45**	**50**	**5**	**2,771**	**48**	**96.03**

Exhibit J.5: Herpetofauna

Location ID	Date	Coordinates		Habitat	Locality	Asian Garden Lizard	Agrore Valley Rock Agama	Central Asia Cobra	Jan's Cliff Racer	Bengal Monitor	Checkered Keelback	Total	Species Count	Percentage
		Latitude	Longitude			Calotes versicolor	Laudakia agrorensis	Naja oxiana	Platyceps rhodorachis	Varanus bengalensis	Xenochrophis piscator			
T1	5/21/2017	34 39 34.4	73 29 12.7	Pine Forest	Paras	–	20	–	–	–	–	**20**	**1**	**31.75**
T2	5/21/2017	34 39 29.9	73 27 49	Scrub Forest	Paras	1	3	–	–	–	–	**4**	**2**	**6.35**
T3	5/21/2017	34 39 40.7	73 27 48	Agricultural Area	Paras	–	3	1	–	–	–	**4**	**2**	**6.35**
T4	5/21/2017	34 39 49	73 27 30	Scrub Forest	Paras	1	15	–	–	–	–	**16**	**2**	**25.40**
T5	5/21/2017	34 39 32.2	73 27 10.6	Scrub Forest	Paras	–	1	–	–	–	–	**1**	**1**	**1.59**
T7	5/21/2017	34 38 24.2	73 26 19.8	Pine Forest	Paras	1	1	–	–	–	–	**2**	**2**	**3.17**
T8	5/20/2017	34 36 4.6	73 22 54.2	Pine Forest	Sangar	1	–	–	1	–	–	**2**	**2**	**3.17**
T9	5/20/2017	34 39 40.7	73 27 48	Scrub Forest	Sangar	–	1	–	–	–	–	**1**	**1**	**1.59**
T10	5/20/2017	34 35 26.1	73 22 19.1	Pine Forest	Sangar	–	–	–	–	1	–	**1**	**1**	**1.59**
T11	5/19/2017	34 34 43.5	73 22 12.6	Agricultural Area	Sangar	–	1	1	–	1	–	**3**	**3**	**4.76**
T12	5/20/2017	34 35 15.5	73 22 25	Scrub Forest	Scrub Forest	1	–	–	–	–	–	**1**	**1**	**1.59**
T13	5/20/2017	34 34 57.6	73 22 5.9	Pine Forest	Sangar	–	1	–	–	–	–	**1**	**1**	**1.59**
R1	5/22/2017	34 39 38.28	73 28 16.44	Riparian	Paras	1	–	–	–	–	–	**1**	**1**	**1.59**
R2	5/22/2017	34 37 36.35	73 25 16.35	Riparian	Kiwai	–	2	–	–	–	–	**2**	**1**	**3.17**
R3	5/22/2017	34 35 8.84	73 21 48.23	Riparian	Near Balakot	–	–	–	–	–	1	**1**	**1**	**1.59**
R4	5/21/2017	34 29 15.62	73 21 22.55	Riparian	Below Balar Tarrana	–	3	–	–	–	–	**3**	**1**	**4.76**
						6	**51**	**2**	**1**	**2**	**1**	**63**	**6**	**100.00**

APPENDIX K: SPECIES LIST

K.1 Vegetation

No.	Species Observed	IUCN Status	Invasive	Endemic	CITES Appendices
1.	*Acacia modesta*	Not Assessed			
2.	*Acer caesium*	Not Assessed			
3.	*Ailanthus altissima*	Not Assessed	✓		
4.	*Asparagus sp.*	Data Deficient			
5.	*Berberis sp.*	Not Assessed			
6.	*Cannabis sativa*	Not Assessed	✓		
7.	*Carissa opaca*	Not Assessed			
8.	*Capsella bursa-pastoris*	Not Assessed			
9.	*Cedrus deodara*	Least Concern			
10.	*Conyza canadensis*	Not Assessed			
11.	*Dodonaea viscosa*	Not Assessed			
12.	*Ficus carica*	Least Concern			
13.	*Fragaria vesca*	Not Assessed			
14.	*Indigofera sp.*	Not Assessed			
15.	*Juglans regia*	Near Threatened			
16.	*Launaea procumbens*	Not Assessed			
17.	*Malva parviflora*	Not Assessed	✓		
18.	*Malvastrum coromandelianum*	Not Assessed			
19.	*Melia azedarach*	Not Assessed			
20.	*Oxalis corniculata*	Not Assessed			
21.	*Picea smithiana*	Least Concern			
22.	*Pinus wallichiana*	Least Concern			
23.	*Populus ciliata*	Not Assessed			
24.	*Punica granatum*	Least Concern			
25.	*Robinia pseudoacacia*	Least Concern	✓		
26.	*Rumex dantatus*	Not Assessed			
27.	*Rumex dissectus*	Not Assessed			
28.	*Lamium album*	Not Assessed			
29.	*Solanum nigrum*	Not Assessed			
30.	*Sonchus asper*	Not Assessed			
31.	*Traxicum sp.*	Not Assessed			
32.	*Urtica dioica*	Least Concern			

K.2 Large Mammals

No.	Scientific Name	Common Name	IUCN Status	Endemic	Migratory/ Congregatory Behaviour	CITES Appendices
1.	*Panthera pardus*	Common leopard	Vulnerable			I
2.	*Canis lupus*	Gray wolf	Least Concern			I,II
3.	*Canis aureus*	Asiatic jackal	Least Concern			III
4.	*Vulpes*	Red fox	Least Concern			III
5.	*Sus scrofa*	Wild boar	Least Concern			
6.	*Muntiacus muntjak*	Barking deer	Least Concern			
7.	*Hystrix Indica*	Indian crested porcupine	Least Concern			
8.	*Lepus capensis*	Cape hare	Least Concern			
9.	*Macaca mulatta*	Rhesus monkey	Least Concern			II
10.	*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*	Common Palm Civet	Least Concern			III
11.	*Herpestes javanicus*	Small Asian mongoose	Least Concern			III
12.	*Herpestes edwardsii*	Indian grey mongoose	Least Concern			III
13.	*Eoglaucomys fimbriatus*	Small Kashmir flying squirrel	Least Concern			
14.	*Felis chaus*	Jungle cat	Least Concern			II

K.3 Small Mammals

No.	Scientific Name	Species	IUCN Status	Endemic	Migratory/ Congregatory	CITES Appendices
1.	*Hyperacrius fertilis*	True Vole	Near Threatened			
2.	*Hyperacrius wynnei*	Murree Vole	Least Concern			
3.	*Apodemus rusiges*	Kashmir Field Mouse	Least Concern			
4.	*Mus musculus*	Field Mouse	Least Concern			
5.	*Suncus murinus*	Musk Shrew	Least Concern			

K.4 Birds

No	Scientific Name	Common Name	IUCN status	Endemic	Migratory	Congregatory	CITES Appendices
1.	*Lanius vittatus*	Bay backed shrike	Least Concern				
2.	*Accipiter badius*	Shikra or Indian sparrow hawk	Least Concern				

No	Scientific Name	Common Name	IUCN status	Endemic	Migratory	Congregatory	CITES Appendices
3.	*Accipiter nisus*	Eurasian sparrow hawk	Least Concern				
4.	*Acridotheres ginginianus*	Bank Myna	Least Concern				
5.	*Acridotheres tristis*	Indian myna	Least Concern				
6.	*Acrocephalus concinens*	Blunt winged warbler	Least Concern				
7.	*Aegithalos niveogularis*	White throated tit	Least Concern				
8.	*Aethopyga siparaja*	Crimson sunbird	Least Concern				
9.	*Anthus rufulus*	Paddy field pipit	Least Concern				
10.	*Anthus trivialis*	Tree pipit	Least Concern				
11.	*Apus affinis*	House swift	Least Concern				
12.	*Aquila rapax*	Tawny eagle	Least Concern				
13.	*Athene brama*	Spotted owlet	Least Concern				
14.	*Cercomela fusca*	Brown rock chat	Least Concern				
15.	*Chaimarrornis fuliginosus*	White capped water redstart	Not Assessed		Full Migrant		
16.	*Chloris spinoides*	Himalayan greenfinch	Least Concern				
17.	*Cinnyris asiaticus*	Purple sunbird	Least Concern				
18.	*Clamator jacobinus*	Pied cuckoo	Least Concern		Full Migrant		
19.	*Columba livia*	Rock pigeon	Least Concern				
20.	*Copsychus saularis*	Oriental magpie robin	Least Concern				
21.	*Coracias benghalensis*	Indian roller	Least Concern				
22.	*Corvus corax*	Common raven	Least Concern		Full Migrant		
23.	*Corvus macrorhynchos*	Large billed crow	Least Concern				
24.	*Corvus splendens*	House crow	Least Concern				
25.	*Dendrocitta vagabunda*	Tree pie	Least Concern				
26.	*Dendrocopos auriceps*	Brown fronted woodpecker	Least Concern				
27.	*Dicrurus macrocercus*	Black drongo	Least Concern				
28.	*Egretta garzetta*	Little egret	Least Concern				
29.	*Emberiza cia*	Eurasian rock bunting	Least Concern				
30.	*Emberiza stewarti*	Yellow crowned woodpecker	Least Concern		Full Migrant		
31.	*Eudynamys scolopaceus*	Asian Koel	Least Concern				

No	Scientific Name	Common Name	IUCN status	Endemic	Migratory	Congregatory	CITES Appendices
32.	*Eumyias thalassinus*	Verditer Flycatcher	Least Concern				
33.	*Falco tinnunculus*	Common Kestrel	Least Concern				
34.	*Galerida cristata*	Crested lark	Least Concern		Full Migrant		
35.	*Garrulax striatus*	Striated laughing thrush	Least Concern		Full Migrant		
36.	*Garrulus lanceolatus*	Black headed jay	Least Concern				
37.	*Glaucidium cuculoides*	Asian barred owlet	Least Concern				
38.	*Grus*	Common Crane	Least Concern		Full Migrant	Congregatory (and dispersive)	II
39.	*Gyps bengalensis*	White rumped vulture	Critically Endangered		Full Migrant		
40.	*Gyps himalayensis*	Himalayan griffon vulture	Near Threatened				
41.	*Halcyon smyrnensis*	White throated kingfisher	Least Concern				
42.	*Hirundo rustica*	Barn Swallow	Least Concern		Full Migrant	Congregatory (and dispersive)	
43.	*Hypsipetes leucocephalus*	Asian Black Bulbul	Least Concern				
44.	*Lanius schach*	Rufous-backed or long tailed shrike	Least Concern				
45.	*Lonchura punctulata*	Scaly-breasted munia	Least Concern				
46.	*Lophura leucomelanos*	Kalij pheasant	Least Concern				
47.	*Luscinia brunnea*	Indian robin	Least Concern				
48.	*Melanoperdix niger*	Black partridge	Vulnerable				
49.	*Melophus lathami*	Crested bunting	Least Concern				
50.	*Merops orientalis*	Green bee eater	Least Concern				
51.	*Milvus migrans*	Black kite	Least Concern				
52.	*Mirafra erythroptera*	Indian bush lark	Least Concern				III
53.	*Monticola cinclorhyncha*	Blue-capped Rock Thrush					III
54.	*Motacilla alba*	White wagtail	Least Concern				
55.	*Motacilla flava*	Yellow Wagtail					
56.	*Motacilla madaraspatensis*	White browed wagtail	Not Assessed				
57.	*Myophonus caeruleus*	Blue whistling thrush	Least Concern		Full Migrant		
58.	*Neophron percnopterus*	Egyptian vulture	Endangered				

No	Scientific Name	Common Name	IUCN status	Endemic	Migratory	Congregatory	CITES Appendices
59.	*Oriolus kundoo*	Indian Golden Oriole					
60.	*Oriolus*	Eurasian golden oriole					
61.	*Parus major*	Great tit	Least Concern		Full Migrant		
62.	*Passer domesticus*	House sparrow	Least Concern				
63.	*Passer rutilans*	Russet sparrow				Congregatory (and dispersive)	II
64.	*Pavo cristatus*	Peafowl	Least Concern		Full Migrant	Congregatory (and dispersive)	II
65.	*Perdix*	Grey Partridge	Least Concern		Full Migrant	Congregatory (and dispersive)	II
66.	*Pericrocotus brevirostris*	Short-billed Minivet	Least Concern				II
67.	*Pericrocotus ethologus*	Long-tailed minivet	Least Concern		Full Migrant	Congregatory (and dispersive)	II
68.	*Pernis apivorus*	European honey buzzard	Least Concern		Full Migrant	Congregatory (and dispersive)	II
69.	*Phoenicurus caeruleocephala*	Blue caped redstart	Not Assessed		Full Migrant	Congregatory (and dispersive)	II
70.	*Phoenicurus ochruros*	Black redstart	Least Concern		Full Migrant	Congregatory (and dispersive)	II
71.	*Phylloscopus collybita*	Common chiffchaf	Least Concern		Full Migrant		
72.	*Picus squamatus*	Scaly billed woodpecker	Least Concern				
73.	*Prinia buchanani*	Rufous- fronted prinia	Least Concern				
74.	*Prinia burnesii*	Rufous-vented prinia	Near Threatened				
75.	*Prinia crinigera*	Striated prinia	Least Concern				
76.	*Prinia gracilis*	Graceful prinia	Least Concern				
77.	*Prinia hodgsonii*	Grey brested prinia	Least Concern				II
78.	*Psittacula krameri*	Rose ringed parakeet	Least Concern				II
79.	*Pycnonotus cafer*	Red vented bulbul	Least Concern		Full Migrant	Congregatory (and dispersive)	
80.	*Pycnonotus leucogenys*	White cheeked bulbul	Least Concern				
81.	*Saxicola caprata*	Pied bush chat	Least Concern				
82.	*Saxicola ferrea*	Grey bush chat	Least Concern				

No	Scientific Name	Common Name	IUCN status	Endemic	Migratory	Congregatory	CITES Appendices
83.	*Saxicola leucurus*	White-tailed Stonechat	Least Concern				
84.	*Saxicola maurus*	Siberian stonechat					
85.	*Saxicola torquata*	Common bush chat	Least Concern				
86.	*Spilopelia chinensis*	Spotted Dove					
87.	*Streptopelia orientalis*	Oriental turtle dove	Least Concern				
88.	*Streptopelia senegalensis*	Laughing dove	Least Concern				
89.	*Sturnia pagodarum*	Brahminy Starling	Least Concern				
90.	*Sylvia curruca*	Lesser whitethroat	Least Concern				
91.	*Terpsiphone paradisi*	Asian paradise flycatcher	Least Concern				
92.	*Turdoides caudatus*	Common babbler	Least Concern				
93.	*Turdoides striatus*	Jungle babbler	Not Assessed				
94.	*Upupa epops*	Common hoopoe	Least Concern				
95.	*Urocissa flavirostris*	Yellow billed blue magpie	Least Concern				
96.	*Zosterops palpebrosus*	Oriental white eye	Least Concern				

K.5 Herpetofauna

No	Scientific Name	Common English Name	IUCN status	Endemic	CITES Appendices
1.	*Duttaphrynus melanostictus*	Common Asian Toad	Least Concern		
2.	*Duttaphrynus stomaticus*	Marbled Toad or Indus Valley Toad	Least Concern		
3.	*Euphlyctis cyanophlyctis*	Common Skittering Frog	Least Concern		
4.	*Fejervarya limnocharis*	Indian Paddy Frog	Least Concern		
5.	*Sphaerotheca breviceps*	Indian Burrowing Frog	Least Concern		
6.	*Microhyla ornata*	Ornate Narrow-mouthed frog	Least Concern		
7.	*Uperodon systoma*	Marbled Baloon Frog	Least Concern		
8.	*Calotes versicolor*	Asian Garden Lizard	Not Assessed		
9.	*Laudakia tuberculata*	Kashmir Rock Agama	Not Assessed		
10.	*Laudakia agrorensis*	Agrore Valley Rock Agama	Not Assessed		

No	Scientific Name	Common English Name	IUCN status	Endemic	CITES Appendices
11.	*Cyrtopodion rohtasfortai*	Rohtas Fort Thin-toed Gecko	Not Assessed	✓	
12.	*Hemidactylus flaviviridis*	Yellow-bellied House Gecko	Not Assessed		
13.	*Hemidactylus brookii*	Spotted House Gecko	Not Assessed		
14.	*Ophisops jerdonii*	Punjab Snake-eyed Lacerta	Least Concern		
15.	*Ablepharus pannonicus*	Asian Snake-eyed Skink	Not Assessed		
16.	*Eutropis dissimilis*	Striped Grass Skink	Not Assessed		
17.	*Varanus bengalensis*	Bengal Monitor	Least Concern		I
18.	*Amphiesma stolatum*	Buff-striped Keelback	Not Assessed		
19.	*Lycodon aulicus*	Common Wolfsnake	Not Assessed		
20.	*Oligodon arnensis*	Russet Kukri Snake	Not Assessed		
21.	*Platyceps rhodorachis*	Jan's Cliff Racer	Not Assessed		
22.	*Ptyas mucosus*	Dhaman or Rat Snake	Not Assessed		II
23.	*Sibynophis sagittarius*	Cantor's Black-headed Snake	Not Assessed		
24.	*Spalerosophis atriceps*	Black-headed Royal Snake	Not Assessed		
25.	*Xenochrophis piscator*	Checkered Keelback	Not Assessed		III
26.	*Bungarus caeruleus*	Indian Krait	Not Assessed		
27.	*Naja oxiana*	Central Asia Cobra	Data Deficient		II
28.	*Typhlops madgemintonai*	Kashmir Slender Blindsnake	Not Assessed	✓	
29.	*Typhlops ahsanuli*	Ahsanul;s Wormsnake	Not Assessed		
30.	*Typhlops diardi platyventris*	Kashmir Blindsnake	Not Assessed		
31.	*Daboia russelii*	Russell's Chain Viper	Least Concern		III
32.	*Echis carinatus sochureki*	Sochurek's Saw-scaled Viper	Not Assessed		

APPENDIX L: SOCIOECONOMIC SURVEY PLAN

180. Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO) has planned to construct Balakot Hydropower Development Project (HDIP) or Balakot Hydropower Project (BHPP) to be located on the left bank of Kunhar River in the 12 Km intermediate part from Paras to Sangarh village. The dam site on the Kunhar River is about 17 Km upstream of Balakot town. The powerhouse is to be located on the left bank of the Kunhar River 10 Km upstream of Balakot, near Kapi Gali village. The whole project layout including the headrace tunnel is proposed on the left bank Kunhar River. The maximum and minimum reservoir operating levels will be 1288 and 1283 masl respectively. The installed plant capacity will be 300 MW with a mean annual energy output (average 55 years) of 1,143 GWH.

181. In 2013 a joint venture of Mirza Associates Engineering Services, ILF Beratende Ingeniere ZT GmbH, Innsbruck, Austria, and Berkeley Associates prepared the feasibility study of the project. The Environmental and Social Impact Assessment of the Balakot HPP is a part of the feasibility report. Asian Development Bank is financing BHPP under PPTA 9185 PAK: Hydropower Development Investment Program and has contracted Hagler Bailly Pakistan (Pvt) Ltd (HBP) to carry out the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) including Land Acquisition, required under Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Safeguard Policy Statement (2009, SPS).

182. This document details the socioeconomic survey plan to enable impact assessment.

L.1 Objective

183. The main impact pathways on communities are through:

- Impact on river-dependent communities to alteration inflows and due to barrier effect of dam
- Impact on communities through fugitive dust emissions, blasting, noise, increase in traffic during construction of facilities
- Impact on communities due to land acquisition and resettlement

184. The objective of the socioeconomic baseline surveys is to profile the communities, at the settlement level, such that an impact assessment may be carried out for the Project. The socioeconomic baseline surveys at the settlement level will also provide the initial profile for communities that will likely be resettled as part of the Project. Separate household surveys as part of the Land Acquisition and Resettlement Plan (LARP) will be carried out, and designed based on the information from the settlement level survey, and will address the impact on communities due to land acquisition and resettlement.

L.2 Study Area

185. The Study Area is delineated using the following buffers and extents:

- **500 m buffer on each side of the river**: along reaches that may be impacted due to the Project, and the zone where there is river dependence (either

through the use of driftwood, use of sand and gravel as building materials) is a zone of 500 m of the river.

  - All settlements with a center within the 500 m buffer are included.
  - All settlements with more than 50% of their land area within the 500 m buffer are also included.

- **1 km** buffer around Project facilities: for coverage of communities that will be directly impacted through either resettlement or construction-related impacts.
- Upstream Extent: selected as tailrace tunnel of Suki Kinari HPP, upstream of the dam, as the dam as a barrier may affect communities reliant on ecological resources (such as fish).
- Downstream Extent: The downstream extension of the Study Area is at the start of Patrind HPP Reservoir.

186. Keeping in view the expected variation between rural and urban areas, impact due to the Project, flow variations along different reaches of the Kunhar River due to tributaries, as well as changes due to other hydropower projects, the Study Area is broken down into different zones along the Kunhar River:

- **Zone 1:** Upstream of Balakot Dam (including Balakot Reservoir Area)
- **Zone 2:** Downstream of Balakot Dam up to Upstream of Balakot Tailrace Outlet
- **Zone 3:** Downstream of Balakot Tailrace Outlet up to Upstream of Balakot City
- **Zone 4:** Balakot City along Kunhar River
- **Zone 5:** Downstream of Balakot City up to Patrind Hydropower Reservoir
- **Zone 6:** 1 km buffer around Project facilities

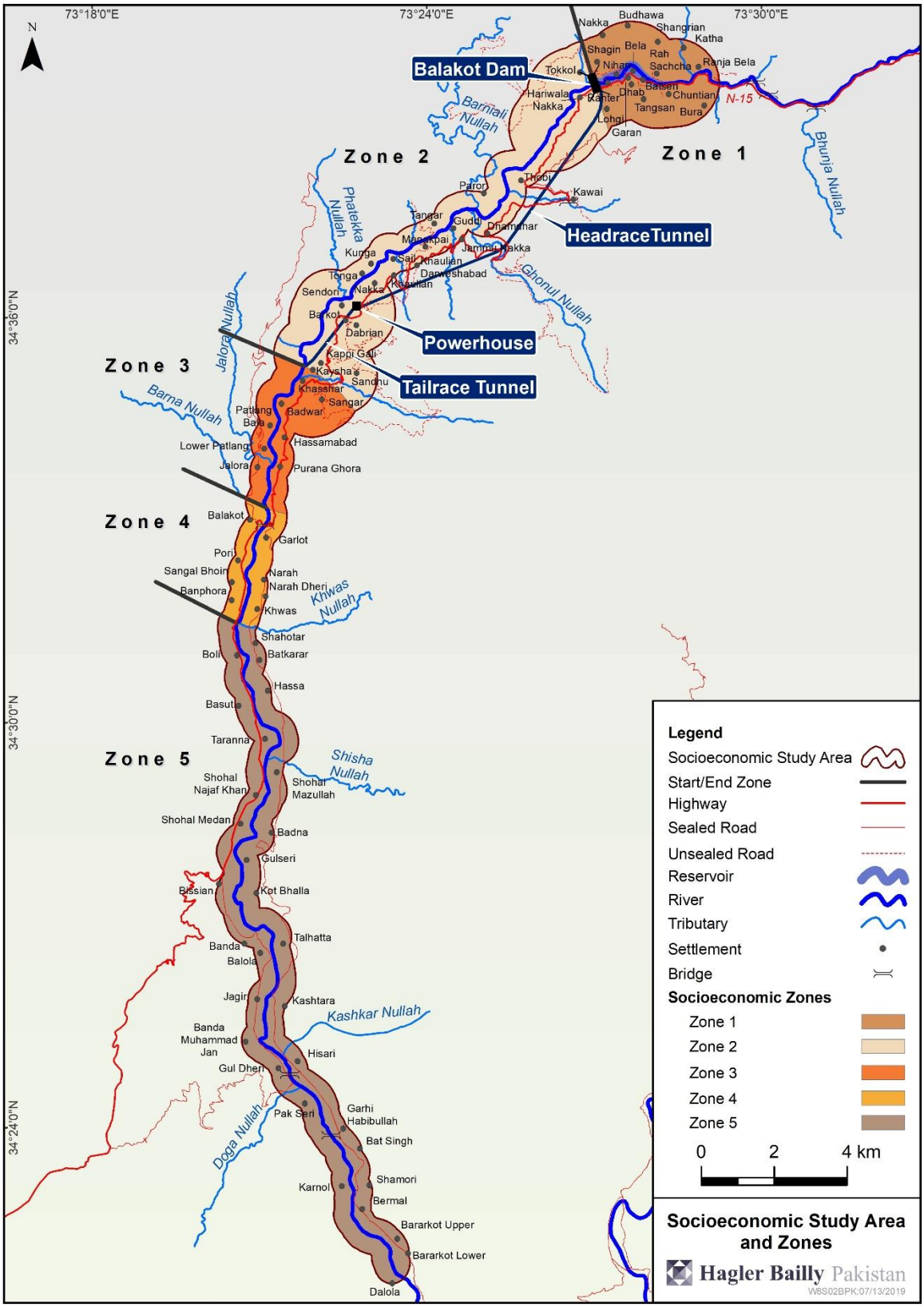
187. Key information about each zone is provided in **Exhibit L.1**.

Exhibit L.1: Preliminary Information on Zones

Key Information	Zones					
	Zone 1	**Zone 2**	**Zone 3**	**Zone 4**	**Zone 5**	**Zone 6**
Number of communities	10	12	10	6	30	12
Type (Rural/Semi-Urban/Urban)	Rural	Rural	Rural	Semi-Urban	Rural and Semi-Urban	Rural
Estimated population	Not available	Not available	Not available	~25,000	Not available	Not available
Potential Impacts	♦ Loss of land, ♦ loss of residence, ♦ loss of income	♦ Reduction in availability of fish, ♦ reduction in the availability of sand and gravel	♦ Reduction in availability of fish, ♦ reduction in the availability of sand and gravel	♦ Reduction in availability of fish, ♦ reduction in the availability of sand and gravel	♦ Reduction in availability of fish, ♦ reduction in the availability of sand and gravel	♦ Pressure on local infrastructure and cultural issues due to in-migration, ♦ increased opportunities for labour
Potential groups to be affected based on preliminary information	♦ Residents, ♦ agricultural community, ♦ shopkeepers	People involved in fishing and sand mining	People involved in fishing and sand mining	People involved in fishing and sand mining	People involved in fishing and sand mining	Local communities

Note: Zone 6 will overlap with Zones 1, 2, and 3.

Exhibit L.2: Socioeconomic Study Area and Zones



L.3 Data Sources

188. Data will be collected through a combination of primary and secondary sources. Key secondary sources of information for the baseline study include a feasibility study of BHPP maps, census reports, and previous ESIA studies conducted by HBP and others in the area.

L.4 Methods of Data Collection

189. Primary data will be collected at the settlement level by administering settlement-level questionnaires and specific questionnaires for other aspects of interest.

L.5 Socioeconomic Aspects of Interest

190. Socioeconomic aspects of interest include the following:

- **Demography:** a description of the sample population and its characteristics, such as dependency ratio, population pyramid, and sex ratio.
- **Infrastructure:** information on existing social and physical infrastructure, such as roads, police facilities, electricity availability, water and sanitation, and postal services.
- **Health:** information on key health issues prevailing in the area and access to health facilities.
- **Education:** information on educational institutions and their accessibility.
- **Livelihood:** information on key occupations and income sources.
- **Income and poverty**: discussion on incomes, use of natural resources, expenditures, and debts.
- **Dependence on ecosystem services:** such as dependence on ecological/natural resources, including the river, of the area as the source of livelihood, enjoyment or to meet day-to-day requirements.
- **Gender:** All the socioeconomic information will be gathered disaggregated by gender and vulnerability.

L.6 Surveys

191. The settlement level survey will be completed by social supervisors appointed by HBP, given the complex and qualitative nature of the information to be obtained in a semi-literate environment. Information will be obtained in discussion with a group of 4 to 5 key informants including, but not limited to, the following:

- Union Council (local government) heads
- Educated persons (with a Higher School Certificate as a minimum level of education attained)
- School teachers
- Local government representatives and leaders
- Community-based organization active in the area

192. The survey forms provided in **Section L.9** and the levels at which the survey will be conducted are as follows:

- **Rural settlement survey:** will be undertaken in selected settlements within each socioeconomic zone, excluding the Balakot zone. A pilot survey will be carried out before the start of the rural settlement survey. Based on the pilot survey results, settlements for rural settlement surveys will be selected based on their use of the river (fishing, sand mining, domestic uses, and irrigation) and potential impacts of the Project. Detailed interviews will be conducted with key informants (male and female) to gather information on the selected settlement's social and economic setup including gender issues, with a focus on infrastructure and livelihoods;
- **Business owner survey:** will be implemented to obtain information on the costs and benefits of the river-dependent businesses, such as sand mining;
- **Urban focus group discussions:** will be implemented in Balakot City. Information on the livelihoods, incomes, household demographics, and household recreational activities will be obtained through discussions with municipal, and other city departments, for information on various river-dependent activities.

Exhibit L.3: Socioeconomic Surveys

Survey Type	Purpose	Coverage and Sampling	Expected Duration	Team Composition
Pilot	Testing forms for relevance and accuracy Identification of settlements Ensuring inclusion of settlements	Selected urban and rural households; selected businesses; one rural settlement	2 days	♦ To be determined
Revision in plan based on pilot	Updating survey plan		1 day	♦ Project Manager
Rural settlement	Settlement's social and economic setup, with a focus on infrastructure and livelihoods	Selected settlements within the zone (marked in **Exhibit L.2**).	Expected 9 to 11 days, assuming two to three settlements are covered per day	♦ Socioeconomic specialist ♦ 1 male and 1 female enumerator ♦ 1 male and 1 female consultation specialist
River-dependent business	To obtain information on the costs and benefits of river-dependent businesses	Minimum two business owners each from small, medium, and large-scale businesses. The number could increase if variation is observed.	To be covered alongside the rural settlement survey	♦ Socioeconomic specialist ♦ Local environmental scientist
City departments urban planning, and focus group	To obtain information on municipal services, tourism, fisheries, and agriculture. To obtain information on livelihoods, incomes, demographics, and recreational activities.	Mainly fisheries and municipal departments and if required, other departments.	2 days	♦ Socioeconomic specialist ♦ Local environmental scientist

L.7 Sampling Technique

193. The pilot survey prior to the main socioeconomic survey will help determine the river-dependent communities along the river within each zone. Based on current knowledge (and lack), there could be up to 48 communities within the Study Area. Based on the scoping survey at least 30% of communities dependent on rivers within each rural zone will be covered through settlement-level surveys with a minimum number of 10 villages, in addition to separate key informant questionnaires that will be utilized across the Study Area, and not limited to selected settlements. This will be revisited based on the analysis and adjustments will be made accordingly.

194. Community consultations will be carried out concurrent with the socioeconomic surveys.

L.8 Survey Team

195. One survey team will be deployed with each survey team comprised of:

- Male social investigator
- Female social investigator
- Consultation specialist
- GIS specialist (as needed)

196. Social investigators will be familiar with the local culture and languages with tertiary education in social sciences or related fields.

L.9 Survey Forms

197. See the following pages.

Household Profile

Questionnaire Number | | | | |

BASELINE SOCIOECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Questionnaire for Household Profile

A. Investigator Information

Name of Investigator(s): _____

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ End Time: _____

Note any pause in interview shall be noted in the Comments section on Page 10

B. Location Information

Primary Structure ID: _____ Settlement: _____ Mauza: _____

Other Structures (with explanation): _____

UC: _____ Tehsil: _____ District: _____

GPS Coordinate: _____º _____' _____" N, _____º _____' _____" E

1. Structure ID should be the same as that on the area map. If the family has more than one structures, list the remaining IDs in the second row with explanation in brackets.
2. GPS coordinate to be provided only where GPS is available
3. Settlement is the name by which the village is identified by the residents
4. Mauza is the revenue village

C. Respondent and Head of Household (HHH) Information

	Respondent	*Head of Household*
Name		
Father/Husband Name		
NIC Number		
Mobile Number		
Gender	☐ Male ☐ Female	☐ Male ☐ Female
Age (Response)		
Year of Birth (as in NIC)		
Relation to HHH	☐ Self ☐ Father ☐ Brother ☐ Son ☐ Other _____	
Education	☐ Illiterate ☐ Madrassah ☐ No or less than Primary ☐ Primary (Class 5 to Class 9) ☐ Matric (Class 10) ☐ Intermediate (FA/FSc)	☐ Illiterate ☐ Madrassah ☐ No or less than Primary ☐ Primary (Class 5 to Class 9) ☐ Matric (Class 10) ☐ Intermediate (FA/FSc)

	☐ Graduate (BA/BSc) ☐ Other _____	☐ Graduate (BA/BSc) ☐ Other _____

If respondent is the head of household, the third column should be left blank

Household Profile

Questionnaire Number | | | | |

D. Demographic Profile

Total Number of Persons in the Family (including HHH) _____

No.	*Name (Including HHH)*	*Relation-ship with HHH*	*Name of Father /Husband*	*Age (Yrs)*	*Gender (M/F)*	*Marital Status*	*Education Level*	*Class (School going child)*	*Primary Occu-pation*	*Second-ary Occu-pation*	*Special Person (Give Detail)*
1.		Self									
2.											
3.											
4.											
5.											
6.											
7.											
8.											

Note: Go to Next Page if HH members are more than 8.

Occupational Codes (See Additional Notes for further explanation**):**

Income Generating **E-GOV** = Employed in government Sector **E-PVT** = Employed in private Sector **S-ART** = Self-employed, working as artisans **S-LAB** = Working as skilled or unskilled laborer **S-STB** = Self owned trade and business **I-FAR** = Income generating farming

Non-income generating **N-FAR** = non income generating subsistence farming **N-LIV** = non income generating livestock rearing

For those not working **UNE** = Unemployed and seeking jobs **NEM** = Not employed willingly **STU** = Student against those still studying and not working

Education Codes **Ill** = Illiterate **Mdr** = Madrassah **No** = No or less than Primary **Prim** = Primary (Class 5 to Class 9) **10** = Matric (Class 10) **Int** = Intermediate (FA/FSc) **Grad** = Graduate (BA/BSc) Other _____

Relationship Self-Father Mother Husband Wife Brother Sister Son Daughter Grandson Granddaughter Daughter-in-law Other

Marital Status Married Unmarried Widowed Divorced

Age Enter whole number only. Round off, where needed; Enter Zero "0" for infants less than 6 months and "1" for infants between 6 months and a year.

No.	*Name (Including HHH)*	*Relation-ship with HHH*	*Name of Father /Husband*	*Age (Yrs)*	*Gender (M/F)*	*Marital Status*	*Education Level*	*Class (School going child)*	*Primary Occu-pation*	*Second-ary Occu-pation*	*Special Person (Give Detail)*
9.		Self									
10.											
11.											
12.											
13.											
14.											
15.											
16.											

Do you have servants, tenants, or other workers living with you? If yes please provide the details

No.	*Name*	*Job*	*Age (Yrs)*	*Gender (M/F)*	*Marital Status*	*Education Level*	*Is he/she paid in cash or in kind or both?*
1.							
2.							
3.							

If the respondent is not part of the household (as listed in Demographic Profile Table) what is his place of residence?
Settlement: _____ Mauza: _____

E. Housing

Ownership Status? ☐ Owned ☐ Rented ☐ Free ☐ Others _____

Construction ☐ Pucca (Bricks/blocks/stones) ☐ Semi Pucca ☐ Katcha ☐ Others _____

Storeys _____ Number of rooms in the house (including bedrooms) _____

Number of bedrooms _____ Number of bathrooms/toilets _____

Number of kitchens _____ Number of rooms/sheds for animals? _____

Approximate plot size of the house (State units) _____

Approximate covered area (State units) _____

When was the house constructed? _____

Covered area is the area of all floors in the house. Plot size is the size of land on which the house is built and includes the court yard, out houses, driveway etc.

F. Available Facilities in the House

Do you have Telephone Connection (landline)? ☐ Yes ☐ No If "Yes", when connected (Year)?

Do you have electricity connection? ☐ Yes ☐ No If "Yes", when connected (Year)?

Do you have Sewerage System? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Sewerage system includes constructed septic tanks and soak pit

Drinking Water Source

☐ Spring ☐ Groundwater ☐ River/Stream ☐ Open Pond

Water Supply System from the source

☐ Pipe ☐ Electric Pump ☐ Hand pump ☐ Carried on Animals
☐ Carried by Family ☐ Tankers ☐ Open channel ☐ Others _____

G. Fuel Sources and Consumption

Type	*Y/N*	*Average Bill/expense (per month)*		*Units Consumed per Month (mention units)*		*Source (For LPG, Purchased wood, and Kerosene, the **Location** of Market; For Gathered Wood, Area where gathered)*	*Uses*			
		Winter	Summer	Winter	Summer		*L*	*SH*	*WH*	*C*
Electricity										
Fuel wood (Gathered)										
Fuel wood (Market)										
LPG										
Kerosene										
Other										

L: Lighting SH: Space heating WH: Water heating C: Cooking

H. Social Profile

Religion _____ Caste _____ Mother Tongue _____

Do you marry children outside your tribe/clan? ☐ Yes ☐ No

How many of the married members of the HH are married to their first cousins? _____

I. Decision Making

Who takes decision in the family on the following issues, and how?

Issue	How the decision is taken	If unilateral who takes the decision? (Indicate member no) If consultative, list the members consulted
Household budget management	☐ Unilateral ☐ Consultative	
Family conflicts	☐ Unilateral ☐ Consultative	
Matrimonial decisions	☐ Unilateral ☐ Consultative	Are daughters consulted in their marriage? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Property and asset management and inheritance	☐ Unilateral ☐ Consultative	

J. Migration Patterns

Years since settled in settlement: _____

If less than 10 years, then previous location: _____

Purpose of relocation from previous place: _____

K. Family Health

Births and Deaths

Number of births in the family in last 2 years Live_____ Stillbirth_____

Deaths in the family in the last 2 years

No	Age	Cause
1		
2		
3		
4		

Serious illnesses

Did any of your family members suffered from any serious illnesses during the past 2 years?

Person	*Illness*	*Outcome*	*Treatment Type*	*Treatment Location*	*Estimated cost of treatment*	*Who paid for treatment?*

Person	*Illness*	*Outcome*	*Treatment Type*	*Treatment Location*	*Estimated cost of treatment*	*Who paid for treatment?*

Illness: Tuberculosis, Hepatitis, Asthma, Jaundice, Tetanus, Paralysis, Diabetes, Cancer, Heart disease,
Others (specify)

Outcome: Treated, Persisting, Disability, Lost job or occupation, Death

Treatment type: Hospitalization, OPD/Clinic, Herbal/Hakeem, Faith healer, Homeopath, Other (specify)

Accidents

Did any of your family members suffered met an accident during the past 2 years?

Person	*Accident*	*Outcome*	*Treatment Type*	*Treatment Location*	*Estimated cost of treatment*	*Who paid for treatment?*

Accidents: Fall from height, Snake bite, Road accident, Burns, Electrocution, Accident at work, Other (specify)

Outcome: Treated, Persisting, Disability, Lost job or occupation, Death

Treatment Hospitalization, OPD/Clinic, Herbal/Hakeem, Faith healer, Homeopath, Other (specify)

Common illnesses

Are the following illnesses common in your family in the specified category (Yes/ No)

Common Diseases (عام بیماریان)		*Men* (مرد)	*Women* (خواتین)	*Adult-Children (6 to 14)* (بالغبچے)	*Children (0 to 5)* (بچے)
Tuberculosis	تپ دق				
Diarrhea	اسہال				
Breathing problems	دمہ				
Jaundice	پیلیا				
Skin diseases	جلد کے امراض				
Cold and flu	بخار اورفلو				
Stomach diseases	پیٹ کے امراض				
Joint aches	جوڑوں کا درد				
Tetanus	تشنج				
Paralysis	فالج				
Diabetes	ذیابیطس				
Cancer	کینسر				
Heart problems	دل کے مسائل				
Other (specify)	دیگر				

L. Family Assets

Appliances

If you own any of the following in your house, Please give the quantity.
(Write quantity in figures in front of each item)

Television _____ Radio _____ Elec Room Heater ___ Elec water heater____

Refrigerator _____ Freezer _____ Washing Machine ___ Elec Iron _____

Electric Fan _____ Sewing Machine _____ Generator _____ Computer _____

Vehicles

If you own any vehicles, please provide the details:

Type	*Make (Year)*	*Model*	*Year Purchased*	*Current Value*	*Use (Commercial/ Personal)*

Include cars, motorcycles, trucks, pick-up, etc.

Livestock

Number of Livestock heads of each type owned by you.

Type	*Buffalo*	*Cow*	Calf	*Goat/ Sheep*	*Lamb*	*Oxen*	*Donkey*	*Horse*	*Chicken*	*Others (specify)*
Number										
Use										
Purpose										
Value Rs./Unit										
Income (State monthly or annual)										

Number:	If the family does not own any animal, enter “Nil”. Do not leave blank.
Use:	**S**: Self **C**: Commercial **B**: Both
Purpose:	**Egg** Production, **Milk** Production, Rearing for **Meat**, Carrying **Load**, **Riding**, etc.
Note:	Annual Income should be zero if the livestock is only for self-use.

Are the animals sent for grazing? ☐ Yes ☐ No. If yes, where _____

Are the animals given fodder? ☐ Yes ☐ No. If yes, what is the monthly cost? _____

Estimated monthly expenses on grazing, feed, fodder and medicine _____

Land holding

Serial	*Land Use*	*In this village (mention units)*	*Overall Land (mention units)*
1	Cultivated area		
2	Uncultivated area		
3	Banjar jadeed (بنجر جدید)		
4	Banjar qadeem (بنجر قدیم)		
5	Ghair mumkin (غیر ممکن)		
6	Fruit orchard area		
7	Other _____		
8	Other _____		
	Total		

Farming implements

Do you own any farming implements? ☐ Yes ☐ No. If yes,

☐ Plough for oxen ☐ Plough for tractor ☐ Spray machine

☐ Tractor ☐ Thresher ☐ Other _____

M. Farming

Agriculture

No.	*Crop*	*Season*	*Area under Cultivation (Specify units)*	*Yield / Units*	*Percent Sold in market*	*Percent Self consumed*
1	Wheat					
2	Maize					

4	Vegetables					
5	Fodder					
6	Other _____					
7	Other _____					

What is the annual expenditures to grow crops in your land? Rabi _____ Kharif _____

What is your average seasonal earning (PKR/Season)? Rabi _____ Kharif _____

Fruit Trees

No.	*Tree*	*Number of trees*	*Annual Production (Specify units)*	*Percent Sold in market*	*Percent Self consumed*
1	Banana (کیلا)				
2	Mulberry (شہتوت)				
3	Apple (سیب)				
4	Persimmon (املوک)				
5	Loquat (لوکاٹ)				
6	Walnut (اخروٹ)				
7	Apricot (خوبانی)				
8	Peach (آڑو)				
9	Orange (مالٹا)				
10	Plum (آلوچہ الوبخارا)				
11	Other _____				
12	Other _____				

What is annual expenditures to grow fruits? _____

What is your average annual earnings from fruits?_____

N. Comments and Notes

Additional Notes

Table D. Demographic Profile

Colum 9 — Class (In case of School going): For all children (15 years or less) either enter the class in which the child is studying or "Nil" in case the child is not going to school.

Special persons Persons with physical or mental disabilities

Occupational Codes: **For income generating occupations**

E-GOV = Employed in **government** Sector—Person employed for a salary by the government. Includes, for example, armed forces, school teachers, forest guards, and service in the municipal and tehsil administration

E-PVT = Employed in **private** Sector— Person employed for a salary by a non-governmental organization on any kind of job. Includes, for example, working for NGOs, private schools, and private clinics

S-ART = Self-employed, working as **artisans**. Earning depends on output of work. Includes, for example, carpet weaving, handicraft making,

S-LAB = Working as skilled or unskilled **laborer**. Includes, for example, farm labors, off-farm labors, electricians, plumbers, mechanics, mason, and bricklayers, well-diggers

S-STB = Self owned **trade and business**. Includes, for example, doctors, all shop owners, barbers, livestock traders, tailors, …

For non-income generating activities

N-FAR = non income generating subsistence farming

N-LIV = non income generating livestock rearing

For those not working

UNE = Unemployed and seeking jobs

NEM = Not employed willingly i.e., of their own choice (can include elderly)

STU = Student against those still studying and not working

This section should be filled separately for every family (defined as persons who maintain separate accounts)

O. Family Economics

Indebtedness

Do you owe any money to others or institutions? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If "Yes", provide details as below:

Source	*Year Borrowed*	*Amount Borrowed (PKR)*	*Purpose*	*Amount Yet to Return (PKR.)*
NGO/Bank (specify)				
Friends/relatives				
Moneylender				
Shopkeeper				
Others _____				

Household Income (Average over last year)

Source	*Average (Rs.)*	*Monthly/Annual*
Salaried Jobs including remittances and pensions		
1.		
2.		
3.		
Family Sources		
Farming		
Livestock		
Business		
Rent		
Arts and craft making		
Other (please specify)		

Expenditures (Average over last year)

Heads of Expenditure	*Average (Rs.)*	*Monthly/Annual*
Food		
Clothing		
Combustion fuel (gas, kerosene, fire wood, etc.)		
Rent or expenditure on dwelling		
Veterinary fees and medicines		
Electricity charges		
Medical		
Education		
Communication		
Transportation		
Social obligations (alms, charity, gifts, burials, weapons, litigations etc.)		
Farm related expenditures		
Other expenditures (Please specify heads below)		

Interviewer

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Key Informant Questionnaire - Fishing

Information on Fishing

Investigator _____ Coordinates:_____

Name of Respondent _____ Contact:_____

Site of fishing, indicate all _____

Name nearest settlement to site of fishing. _____

_____

What is the total fish catch in a year (specify unit)? _____

Duration of fishing season (months) _____

_____

Characterize your fishing as: ☐ small-scale ☐ mid-scale ☐ large-scale

How many other such fishermen are there in this survey zone?

_____

Provide distribution of fish catch by fish species

Species	*Fish catch (per season) (KG)*	*Average weight/fish (KG)*	*Proportion self-consumed (%)*	*Unit Price (specify unit)*

If you sell fish to a commercial business, then specify business (hotel, market) and its location

_____

Distance from fishing point (km) _____ Mode of transport _____

Quantity sold (kg/season) _____

Do you pay any annual tax for fishing? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, mention amount (PKR)? _____

Is there any increase in taxes annually? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, mention %? _____

Provide information about the equipment or means you employ for fishing. Specify if it is yours, rented or shared, and how much of its use is for fishing against other activities. Specify how long does it last and what is its present cost to replace.

Equipment	*Number*	*Ownership (own, rented, shared)*	*Equipment use for fishing (%)*	*Durability (years)*	*Replacement cost*

Variable input costs of production (processing and transportation)

	Summer	*Winter*
Labor days required per year		
Proportion of labor hired (%)		
Labor wages (PKR)		
Other, specify		
_____		
_____		
_____		

If the flows in **River Kunhar** were halved or reduced in the dry season what might be the impact on this business, if any:

_____

_____

_____

_____

Angling

If you provide services as an angler or fishing guide for tourists, then please provide the below information for the last year

	Summer	*Winter*
Number of tourists taken		
Number of days guiding		
Income per day		
Expenditure per day		

Hotel and Restaurants

Note the distance of the facility from the Kunhar River (km): _____

Is the business dependent on a tributary of Kunhar River? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, provide name: _____

Characterize your business as: ☐ small-scale ☐ mid-scale ☐ large-scale

How many other similar scale businesses are there in survey zone?

_____

At one time, how many visitors can the business accommodate? _____

Is the property rented or owned? _____

If owned, specify current value (PKR): _____

If rented, specify monthly rent (PKR)? _____

Provide below details for estimating the gross income for the last one year

	Summer Season	*Winter Season*
Occupancy (average number of people visiting per day)		
Average spending per visitor (PKR)		

Labor costs

Level	*Number of person employed*	*Wage Rate (specify unit)*
Daily Wage Labor		PKR /day
Monthly Labor		PKR /month
Other		

Running costs for the last one year

	Cost (specify unit)
Electricity bill	
Food expenses	
Other costs, specify	

Are the river activities and views important for the guests? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, in what manner and to what extent: _____

_____

If the flows in **River Kunhar** were halved or reduced in the dry season what might be the impact on this business, if any:

Information on Sand/Gravel/Boulder Mining

Investigator _____ Coordinates_____

GPS Number _____ Way Point_____

Name of Respondent _____ Phone Number_____

Role/Title/Responsibility _____

Where do you mine sand/gravel? Name nearest settlement_____

Characterize your business as: ☐ small-scale ☐ mid-scale ☐ large-scale

How many other similar scale businesses there are in survey zone? _____

How much sand/gravel/boulder are mined yearly (specify unit)? _____

Do you transport sand/gravel/boulder to other locations? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, specify location:_____

Distance: _____ Mode of transportation_____

Size of source_____ Loading capacity_____

Provide details below

	Summer	*Winter*
Work period		
a) Daily hours		
b) Day in a month		
c) Months in a year		
Quantity of sand/gravel mined per day (specify unit)		
Sand/gravel price (specify unit)		

What are the reasons for seasonal variation in sand/gravel price? _____

_____

Do you use some of the extracted sand/grave/boulder for yourself? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, what proportion is self-utilized? _____

What are its uses? _____

_____

Do you pay any annual tax for sand/gravel/boulder mining? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, mention amount? _____

Is there any annual increase in taxes? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, mention %? _____

Provide information about the equipment or means you employ for mining sand/gravel. Specify if it is yours, rented or shared, and how much of its use is for sand/gravel mining against other activities. Specify how long does it last and what is its present cost to replace.

Equipment	*Number*	*Ownership (own, rented, shared)*	*Equipment use for sand/gravel mining (%)*	*Durability (years)*	*Replacement cost (PKR)*

Specify how much is spent on labor and fuel for a day of mining. Indicate seasonal variations, if any.

	Average wages per person (PKR)		*Persons hired per day*	
	Summer	*Winter*	*Summer*	*Winter*
Labor				

	Price per unit (specify unit)		*Units consumed per day*	
	Summer	*Winter*	*Summer*	*Winter*
Fuels				

Rural Settlement Questionnaire

Investigator		Settlement Name	
Coordinates		Union Council	
Way Point Number		Tehsil	
		District	

P. Respondent Information

Name(s)	Role/Title/Responsibility	Phone Number

Q. Demography, Ethnicity and Language

Household:	A household may be either a single person or a multi-person household. Household members may be related or unrelated and essentially include people who make common provisions for food and other essentials of living and have no usual place of residence elsewhere.
Masonry:	Houses with brick walls and concrete or tin roof.
Adobe:	Houses made of mud or unbaked bricks of clay and straw.

Total Households		Estimated Population	
Proportion of Houses Adobe (%)		Proportion of Houses Masonry (%)	

Religion	Muslims	%	Other	%
Ethnic/Religious Groups	*Group name*	*Share in population*	*Group name*	*Share in population*
		%		%
		%		%
		%		%

Language	*Share in population as Primary Language (%)*	*Share in population as Second Language (%)*
Urdu		

Are there any conflicts or issues between religious or cultural groups? If so please specify, including redress mechanisms:

R. Occupational and Income Profile

Employment status in settlement

Employment Status	*Share in adult population (%)*
Employed	
Unemployed	
Student	
Retired	

Average Household Income

Average monthly income (PKR)	*Proportion of Households (%)*
Less than 10,000	
10,000 – 25,000	
25,000 – 50,000	
50,000 – 75,000	
More than 75,000	

Occupation	*Share in employed population (%)*	*Description (type of occupation)*
Private Service [23]		
Agriculture (land owner)		
Agriculture (wage laborer)		
Agriculture (share cropper)		
Fishing (own business)		
Fishing (labor)		
Sand/gravel mining (own business)		
Sand/gravel mining (wage laborer)		
Other wage laborer		Please provide detail on type of labor or industry
Livestock (owner)		
Livestock (herder)		
Business (hotel/restaurant)		
Trade/business		Please provide detail on type of trades
Skilled workers (carpenters, metal workers, plumber electricians etc.)		
Skilled artisans (skilled artisans, painters, weavers, potters etc.)		
Government service (Education)		
Government service (Health)		
Government service (Other)		
Other (please specify)		

S. Crop Production

Total land cultivated in settlement (specify unit): _____

What is the average agricultural land holding per farmer in the settlement (specify unit):

_____

What is the cropping pattern? ☐ Single Cropping ☐ Double Cropping_____

Provide information on crop production and income:

Crop name	*Season (Summer/Winter)*	*Total Area Cropped (specify unit*	*Yield per unit land*	*Value of yield per unit*	*Self-Consumption (%)*	*Sold (%)*

[23] Employment in factories/industries and other businesses in other cities

		e.g. canal or acres)	*(specify unit)*	*(specify units)*		

What is the main water source for irrigation of crops?

☐ River ☐ Streams ☐ Groundwater ☐ Rain

To what extent does your crop production depend on the river for water or fertile soils?

Crop Type: _____

☐ none at all ☐ less than 25% ☐ 25% ☐ 25 to 50%

☐ 50% ☐ 50 to 75% ☐ 75% to 100%

Crop Type: _____

☐ none at all ☐ less than 25% ☐ 25% ☐ 25 to 50%

☐ 50% ☐ 50 to 75% ☐ 75% to 100%

Crop Type: _____

☐ none at all ☐ less than 25% ☐ 25% ☐ 25 to 50%

☐ 50% ☐ 50 to 75% ☐ 75% to 100%

Does the dependence vary by crop type? Explain how and indicate variations.

_____

_____

_____

T. Livestock

Provide information on livestock rearing

Items	*Total no. in settlement*	*No sold, bartered or consumed in last 12 months*	*Value per unit (PKR)*
Bullock/Buffalo			
Cow			
Goat			
Sheep			
Donkey			
Horse			
Camel			
Poultry			
Other, specify below			

Are livestock used for work? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, specify type of work and rental rates

Type of Livestock	*Type of Work Farming, Transport (people), Transport (goods)*	*Rental Rates (PKR per day)*
Bullock/Buffalo		
Cow		
Donkey		
Horse		
Others:		

What is the main source of water for livestock? Tick multiple, if apply.

☐ Mountain streams ☐ River ☐ Other _____

What proportion of watering is in the form of drinking at the river?

a. In summer

☐ none at all ☐ less than 25% ☐ 25% ☐ 25 to 50%

☐ 50% ☐ 50 to 75% ☐ 75% to 100% ☐ _____%

b. In winter

☐ none at all ☐ less than 25% ☐ 25% ☐ 25 to 50%

☐ 50% ☐ 50 to 75% ☐ 75% to 100% ☐ _____%

Grade water quality for livestock use for drinking:

a) Summer ☐ Poor ☐ Average ☐ Good

b) Winter ☐ Poor ☐ Average ☐ Good

Is the quality of river water affected by the flow rate? If so in what way:

How much time does livestock spend near the river? _____ Hours per day

Is there a risk of livestock drowning during a flood? Yes ☐ No ☐

Indicate incidences of drowning that occurred in the last five years:

Are there any conflicts with migratory communities passing through the area (Gujjar Bakarwal)? If so please specify why there are conflicts, and how they are solved:

U. Recreation and Recreational Areas

Are there any riverside recreational facilities in or near the settlement? Yes ☐ No ☐

What proportion of the community's recreational activities rely on the Kunhar River (not the tributaries)?

☐ none at all ☐ less than 25% ☐ 25% ☐ 25 to 50%

☐ 50% ☐ 50 to 75% ☐ 75% to 100% ☐ _____ %

What recreational activities, if any, does the community engage in at the River? Tick all that apply:

☐ Fishing ☐ Boating ☐ Eating at Restaurants ☐ Picnic

☐ Other _____

If other, please specify: _____

V. Educational Facilities

Access and Enrolment

Facility Level	*Enrolment*		*Provider (Government, Private, NGO)*	*Location if outside settlement*
	Male	*Female*		
Primary (Nursery to Class V) for Boys				

Facility Level	*Enrolment*		*Provider (Government, Private, NGO)*	*Location if outside settlement*
	Male	*Female*		
Primary (Nursery to Class V) for Girls or Co-Ed				
Middle (Class VI to VIII) for Boys				
Middle (Class VI to VIII) for Girls or Co-Ed				
Secondary (Class IX to X) for Boys				
Secondary (Class IX to X) for Girls				
Intermediate College for Boys/Girls				
Degree College for Boys				
Degree College for Girls				
Technical and Vocational Training Institutes for Boys				
Technical and Vocational Training Institutes for Girls				
Madrassah				
Other				

W. Health

Facility	*Provider (Government, Private, NGO, Other)*	*Location if outside settlement*
Dispensary		
BHU		
Health Center		
Rural Health Center (RHC)		
Hospital		
Immunization (eg. Polio drops)		
LHV/LHW		
Trained Midwife (dai)		
Untrained Midwife (dai)		
Pharmacy		
Other		

Health Status

Common Ailment	*Men (proportion affected %)*	*Women (proportion affected %)*	*Children (age 15 and below) (proportion affected %)*

X. Water Supply and Sanitation

Water Supply (tick all that apply)

☐ Public water supply (government/municipal) ☐ Well/s

☐ Spring/s ☐ River Kunhar

☐ Tributaries of River Kunhar

Distance of Settlement to Source of Water:

Problems in fetching water & management of source (please specify which source is being referred to):

Typical Sanitation (tick all that apply)

Pit Latrine ☐ Pit Latrine with Slabs ☐ Septic Tanks ☐ Open Latrine ☐

Municipal Sewage System ☐ Open Drains ☐

Others (please mention): _____

Y. Fuel Sources and Consumption

Type	*Price (Rs per Unit)*	*Average household usage per month* *(specify unit)*	*Source (e.g. grid, power plant, forest, market)*	*Use (Y/N)*			
				Lighting	*Space heating*	*Water heating*	*Cooking*
Electricity		Rs					
Fuel wood		kg or maund	Forest				

Fuel wood		kg or maund	River				
Fuel wood		kg or maund	Market				
LPG		kg					
Kerosene		Litres					
Diesel		Litres or gallons					
Other							

Z. Infrastructure

	Access (Y/N)	*Location if out of settlement*	*Description*
Electricity			
Telephone			
Mobile Phone Service			
Post Office			
Police Station			
Police Check post			
Blacktop Road			
Unsealed Road			
Regular Public Transport Service (Bus, Pick-up, Jeep, Car)			Provide description
Riverside hotels			
Other hotels			
Recreational			Provide description
Bank			
Market			

AA. Migration Patterns

Out-migration:

Has any household migrated from the settlement in the last 7 years? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, how many: _____ Migrated to:_____

What is the purpose of out-migration?

_____

_____

In-migration:

Has any household settled in the settlement during the last 7 years? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, how many:_____ Migrated from:_____

What are the reasons for in-migration?

_____

_____

BB. Tangible Cultural Heritage

Are there any archaeological sites, shrines, graveyards, or other areas of cultural significance in the zone? If so, please specify location and significance:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

CC. Needs Assessment

(In order of importance)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

APPENDIX M: BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT ENGLISH

198. The following document, called the BID (Background Information Document) was prepared to provide an overview of the Balakot Hydropower Development Project (HDIP) or Balakot Hydropower Project (BAHPP) among the stakeholders. It was shared with the stakeholders in March–April 2017 and June–July 2018 during consultations carried out for the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) of the Project. Some changes have been made in the Project design since then by the Project design consultants. However, these changes are minor and do not change the environmental and social impacts of the Project outlined in this document.

Introduction

199. The Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO) intends to construct a 300-megawatt (MW) run-of-river hydropower plant Balakot Hydropower Development Project (HDIP) or Balakot Hydropower Project (BAHPP) with related infrastructure at Balakot, Mansehra district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Pakistan. The Project is located on the Kunhar River. The Project will help in meeting the current shortfall and in increasing demand of electricity in the region through economical and sustainable means.

200. The Project was identified in 1995 under the study “Identification of Hydropower Potential in Kaghan Valley” by Sarhad Hydel Development Organization (SHYDO) with the technical collaboration of the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) as a 190 MW HPP. A Feasibility Study of the Project[24] (FS) was released in October 2013, which included an environmental and social impact assessment section. However, as the Project is being financed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), it has contracted the services of Hagler Bailly Pakistan (Pvt.) Ltd. (HBP) to carry out an environmental impact assessment (EIA) of the Project and develop a Land Acquisition and Resettlement Plan (LARP) which meets the standards and guidelines prescribed by ADB, and conforms to the environmental legislation of KP.

201. As part of the EIA process, consultations are undertaken with communities and institutions that may have an interest in the Project or may be affected by the Project (the “Stakeholders”) to record their concerns and to address them in the course of project design and preparation of the EIA. The previous EIA effort included consultations with stakeholders. As part of due diligence, consultations are being carried out with community stakeholders, as well as with institutional stakeholders that would like to be re-consulted, and institutional stakeholders that are important and were not previously consulted.

202. For informed consultations with stakeholders, this Background Information Document (BID) has been prepared to provide information on the project design, its setting, the EIA process, potential impacts that will be the subject of the Study, and the process to be followed for environmental impact assessment.

[24]Mirza Associates Engineering Services (Pvt.) Ltd. (Lead Consultant), December 2013, Feasibility Study of Balakot Hydropower Project, Volume I Main Report for Pakhtunkhwa Hydel Development Organization

203. The BID is subject to changes as further information on some aspects of the Project becomes available during the EIA.

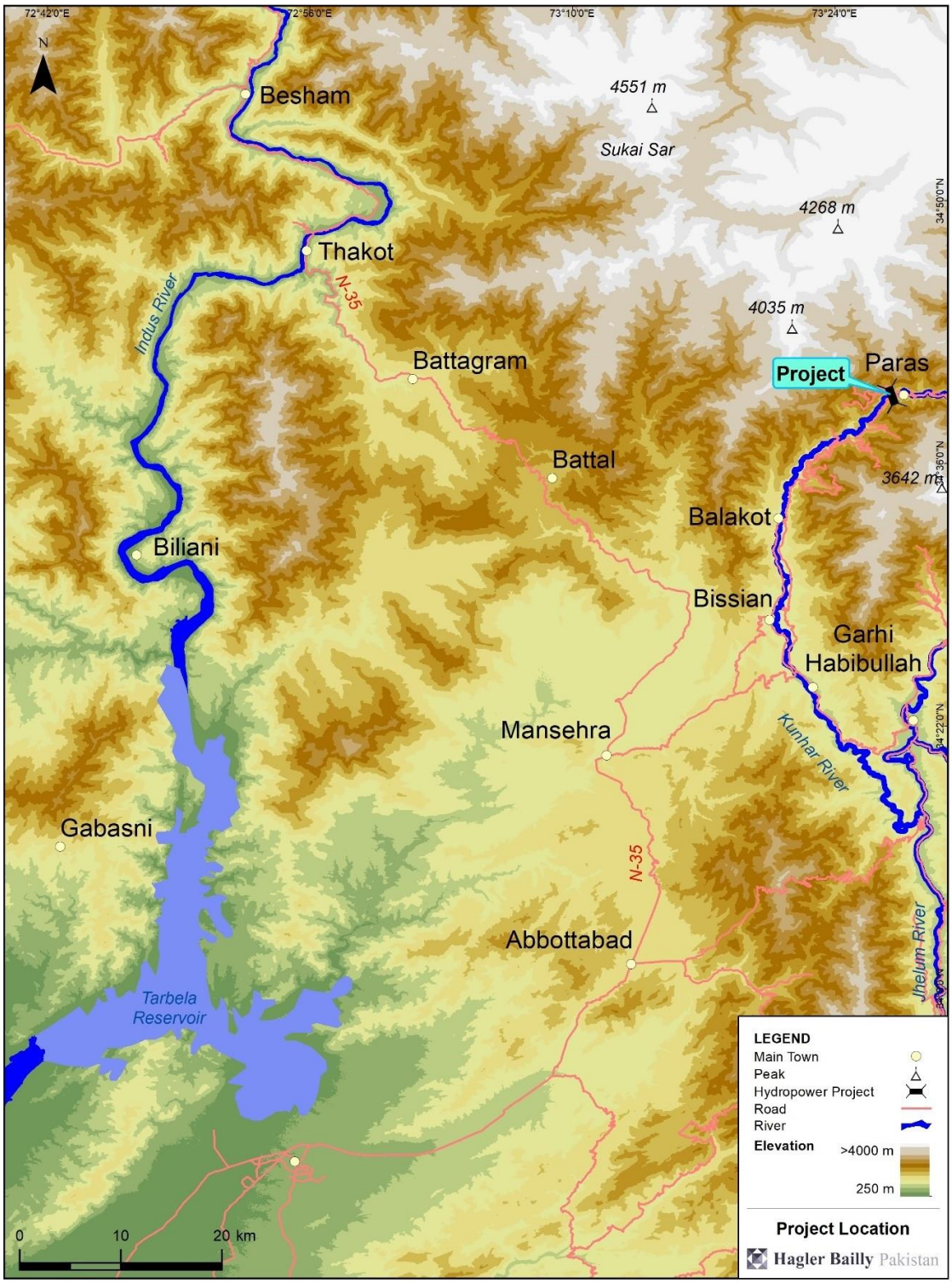
Project Setting

204. The Project is located on the Kunhar River in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province of Pakistan, in the 12 km stretch from Paras to Sangar Village. The hydel power potential available in the 20 km stretch of the river from Paras to Sangar tributary will be utilized for the Project.

205. A map showing the location of the Project is provided in **Exhibit M.1**.

206. All parts of the Project are located on the left bank of the Kunhar River. The dam site (34° 38’ 59”N, 73° 26’ 19”E) is about 17 km upstream of the town of Balakot. The powerhouse (34° 36’ 14”N, 73° 22’ 50”E) is located 10 km upstream of Balakot, near Kapi Gali Village.

Exhibit M.1: Project Location



Project Outline

207. The layout of the Project is provided in **Exhibit M.2**. The main components of the Project are described briefly in **Exhibit M.3**.

Exhibit M.2: Project Layout

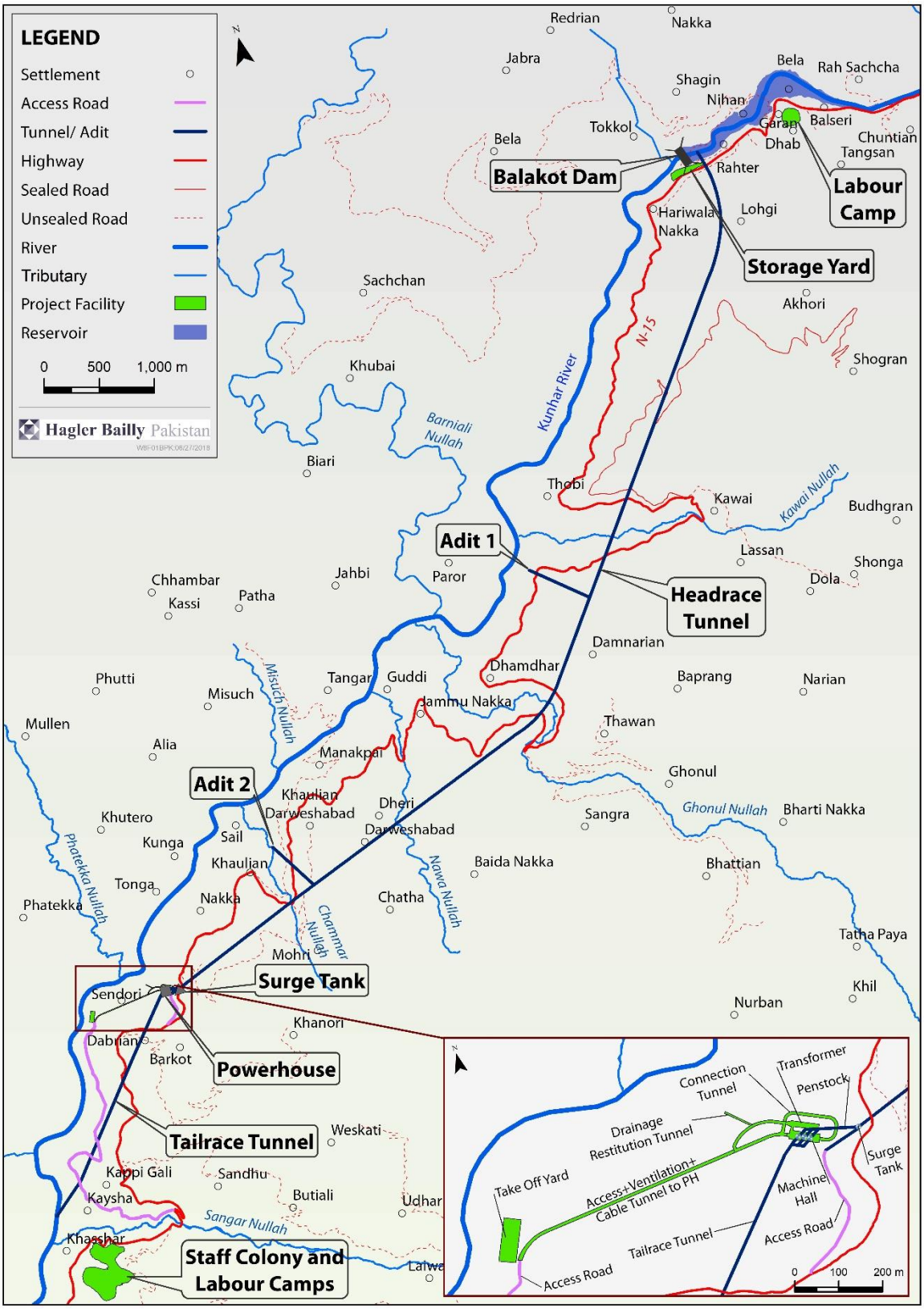


Exhibit M.3: Description of the Project and Facilities

Main Dam It will be a concrete gravity dam, having a height of 78 m from the river bed, comprising low-level/flushing outlets and a gated spillway. It will be equipped with five hydraulically operated radial gates for flood discharge and are set at the crest level of 1,276 meters above sea level (m.a.s.l.). Three circular bottom outlets of diameter 5 m will be provided near the river bed for sediment flushing.
Lateral power intake structure This will be located on the left bank of the river. It will comprise three intakes to take the design discharge. A rectangular 8 m wide by 8 m high control gate equipped with upstream sealing will be provided.
Low-pressure headrace tunnel This will be of length 8,420 m and diameter of 8 m. It will be optimized for considering different diameters for the design discharge
Power Complex An underground power complex has been proposed which will consist of an underground powerhouse cavern, a GIS transformer cavern, a main access tunnel, a cable and ventilation tunnel, and an open switchyard. The powerhouse will be 83.2 m long, 16.2 m wide, and 25 m high from the main inlet valve floor to the arch roof crown.
Key Operational Characteristics The maximum and minimum reservoir operating levels will be 1,288 m.a.s.l and 1,283 m.a.s.l respectively. The installed capacity will be 300 MW with a mean annual energy output (average 51 years) of 1,187 GWh. Sediment flushing will be carried out every year during the summer months when discharge is above 154 cubic meters per second (cumecs). During the low flow periods, the live storage will be used to store water during off-peak hours to improve the flows for power generation in peak hours. It has been estimated that 2.566 million m^3 storage would provide additional flows in four peak hours.
Land Acquisition The Project will require land acquisition of approximately 137.5 acres. Of this, 127.5 acres is for the powerhouse and reservoir while 10 acres is for the Project facilities (including staff colonies). An additional 10 acres will be acquired temporarily for labor camps and contractor offices.
Construction, Requirements, and Waste The total construction period of this Project will be 5 years (60 months). Materials required to carry out the construction of civil works for the project include concrete aggregate, cement, pozzolans, various types of fill materials, construction chemicals, steel products, etc. Deposits for course aggregates have been identified upstream and downstream of the dam site at Mahandri and Paras. Fine aggregate deposits have been established at Paras, Chitta Katha, and Garhi Habibullah. Fine aggregates are being mined in these areas for local use. These sources have a strong potential of being developed into a viable source of fine aggregates. Marble and limestone outcrops are exposed along the road while traveling from the proposed dam site to Naran. These are considered for the development of rock quarries for obtaining course aggregates.

Approach to the EIA and LARP

208. The EIA will be undertaken in compliance with relevant national legislation and keeping in view ADB requirements. The major components of the study include:

- baseline studies to characterize the existing ecological environment in the project area;

- a public consultation process to ensure that project stakeholders are informed of the project development plan and have an opportunity to influence it;
- an analysis of the physical, ecological and socioeconomic impacts of the project, both negative and positive; and,
- suggested mitigation measures to address the identified adverse impacts.

209. Separate from the EIA settlement-level consultations and surveys, household-level consultations and surveys, of land owners and households, will be carried out in the areas identified for land acquisition by PEDO to develop the Resettlement Action Plan for the Project.

210. A brief overview of the conceptual components of an EIA process is given in **Exhibit M.4**, whereas the detailed process to be followed for the study of the ecological impacts of the Project is provided in **Exhibit M.5**. A preliminary list of potential environmental and social impacts of the Project and a list of biodiversity issues that will be investigated during the EIA are provided below.

List of potential environmental and social impacts
♦ Provision of employment to people
♦ Creation of service-sector jobs, procurement of consumables, and outsourcing to local service providers.
♦ Construction-related impacts such as noise and dust
♦ Reduction in power outages and revival of the affected economies
♦ Increase in traffic due to Project-related transportation
♦ Disturbance due to blasting, dust, noise, vibration, road congestion, and safety hazards from heavy traffic
♦ Damage to infrastructure due to blasting and noise nuisance due to blasting, drilling, and batching plant
♦ Changes to existing social and cultural norms
♦ Pressure on existing infrastructure as a result of the influx of job seekers
♦ Impact on sand mining and gravel extraction
♦ Contamination of soil
♦ Transformation of Landscape
♦ Physical displacement of some households resulting in disruption of existing socioeconomic setup
List of potential biodiversity issues
♦ Reduction in water quality and quantity
♦ Changes in the sediment load of river
♦ Changes in the geomorphology of the river
♦ Fragmentation of fish habitat
♦ Damage to natural flora and fauna and river ecosystem
♦ Impact on endangered and migratory species

As impacts on the aquatic ecology due to the project are of importance, HBP, in collaboration with Southern Waters Ecological Research and Consulting, will employ the DRIFT

(Downstream Implications of Flow Transformation) Decision Support System (DSS) approach to assess the changes in flow regime of the river on fish and other river dependent wildlife. DRIFT is a holistic approach that employs a multidisciplinary team to analyze the likely effects on a range of flow scenarios and has been tested in Himalayan rivers. The DRIFT Process is shown in **Exhibit M.6**. it aims to predict changes in the form of three streams of information—ecological, economic, and social—that represent the three pillars of sustainable development. It incorporates a custom-built Decision Support System (DSS) that holds all the relevant data, understanding, and local wisdom about the river provided by the team of river and social specialists.

The four main aims incorporated into the DRIFT process are to:

- Synthesize present relevant knowledge on the river ecosystem;
- Synthesize present relevant knowledge on the use of the river;
- Predict how the river ecosystem could change with water-resource development; and
- Predict how these river changes could affect people and the economy.

Exhibit M.4: Conceptual framework of EIA figure.

Component	Main purpose	Activities related to Stakeholder Consultations
Scoping	• Identify the issues on which the EIA should focus. • Identify project alternatives that should be evaluated during the EIA.	• Identify institutional and community stakeholders • Engage stakeholders and record issues raised • Provide feedback to the EIA team to incorporate stakeholders' concerns in baseline investigations and impact assessment
Baseline investigations	• Collect background information on the environmental and social setting of the project.	• Incorporate additional issues raised during the baseline survey
Impact assessment, studies	• Define the potential impacts of the project • Undertake specialist investigations to predict changes to the environment due to the project • Determine the significance of the potential impacts • Identify measures for the management of the impacts • Determine the residual impacts of the project after incorporation of the management measures. • Evaluate the overall acceptability of the project (from environmental and social perspectives).	• Assess issues raised by stakeholders
Mitigation Measures and Management Plan	• Environmental mitigation and monitoring plan will describe the measures proposed to ensure implementation of the mitigation measures identified during the impact assessment. It will include, for example, specific designs and plans, training requirements, resource requirements, monitoring details (sampling locations, methodology, and frequency), review and reporting requirements, and budget.	• Assess the acceptability and practicability of the proposed mitigation measures
EIA Report Preparation	• After the studies, the EIA team will pull together a detailed assessment of impacts and mitigation measures. This may involve liaising with various specialists to ensure the correct interpretation of information and compile EIA report.	• Provide stakeholders with feedback on the EIA specifically communicate how the project proponent proposes to address the issues raised by the stakeholders.
EIA submittal to regulatory authorities and decision-making	• Submittal and review of the EIA report by regulatory authorities and other interested stakeholders. The reviewers will inform about their decision on the acceptability of the Project from environmental and social perspectives and the conditions of approval for the development	• Attend the public hearings and respond to the issues raised during the public hearings.

Exhibit M.5: Biodiversity Assessment and Management Process figure.

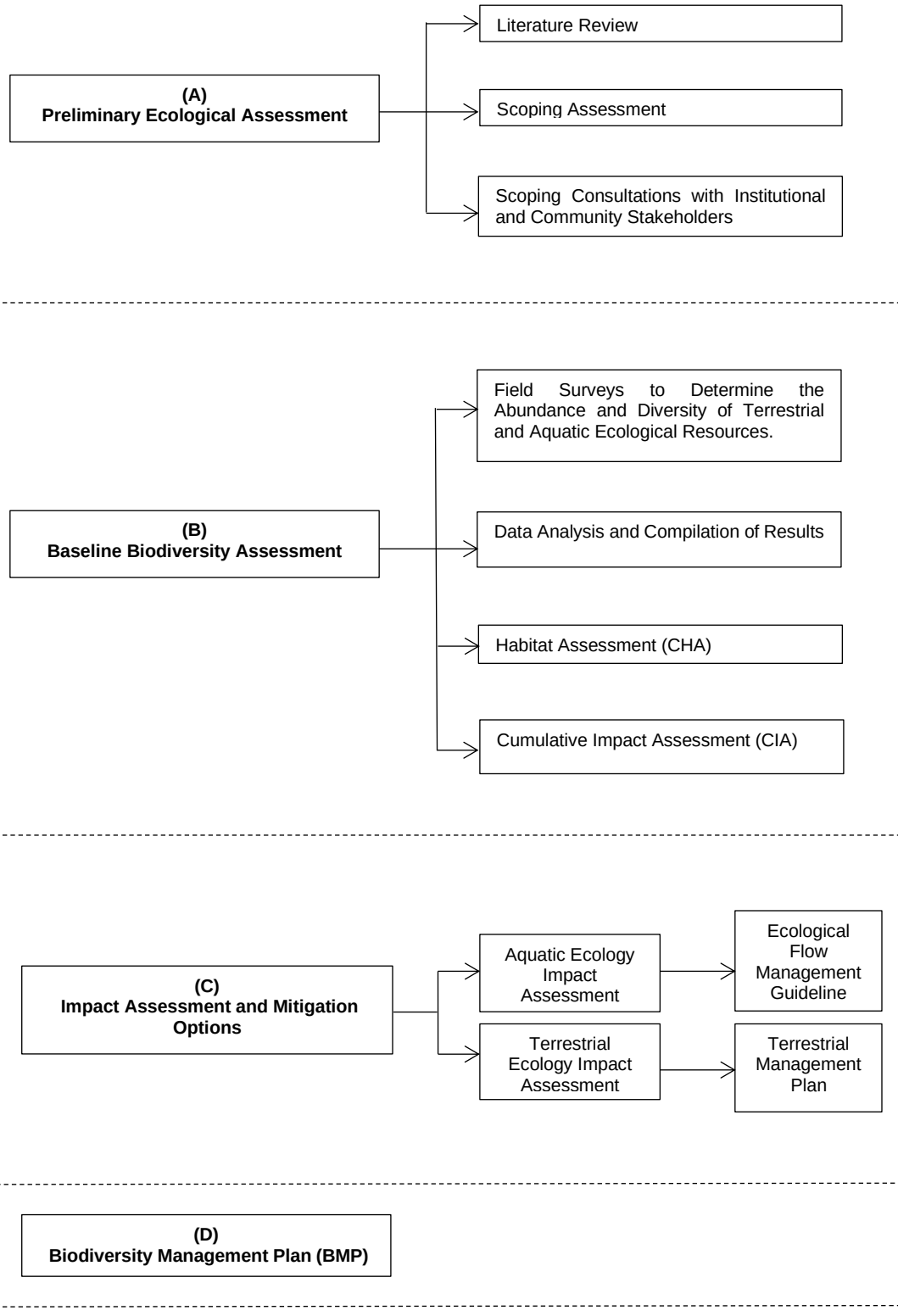
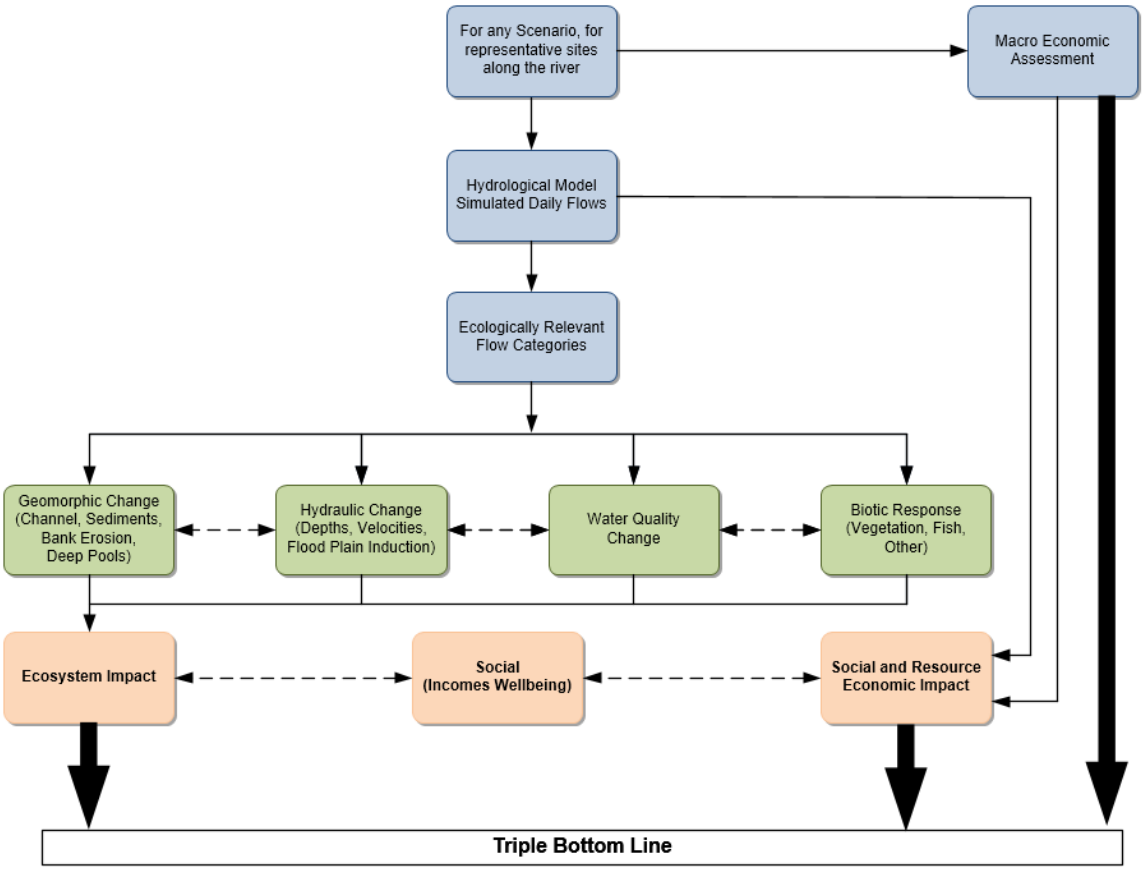


Exhibit M.6: Integrated Scenario Based Approach (DRIFT DSS)



For further information on the study please contact:

Kamran Minai
Hagler Bailly Pakistan
Block 1, Commercial Area
Street 21, F8/2, Islamabad 44000
Tel: +92 51 285 7200-07
Cell: +92 (316) 198 8319
Fax: +92 (51) 261 0208-09
Email: kminai@haglerbailly.com.pk

Vaqar Zakaria
Hagler Bailly Pakistan
Block 1, Commercial Area
Street 21, F8/2, Islamabad 44000
Tel: +92 51 285 7200-07
Cell: +92 (345) 855 3013
Fax: +92 51 285 7208-09
Email: vzakaria@haglerbailly.com.pk

APPENDIX N: BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT URDU

ہائیڈروپاور ڈویلپمنٹ انویسٹمنٹ پراجیکٹ
ماحول پر اثرات کا جا ئزہ ۔بنیادی معلومات

تعارف:

پختونخواہ انرجی ڈویلپمنٹ آرگنائیزیشن (پی ای ڈی او) (Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization) (PEDO) ، خیبر پختونخواہ، پاکستان کے ضلع مانسہرہ میں بالا کوٹ کے مقام پر ایک 300 میگا واٹ کاپن بجلی گھر (پروجیکٹ) ہائیڈرو پاور ڈویلپمنٹ انوسٹمنٹ پروجیکٹ (ایچ ڈی پی پی) یا بالا کوٹ ہائیڈرو پاور پروجیکٹ (بی ایچ پی پی) کی تعمیر کرنے کا ارادہ رکھتی ہے. پروجیکٹ کنہار دریا پر بنے گا اس پروجیکٹ کی وجہ سے موجودہ شارٹ فال پورا کرنے میں اور بجلی کی بڑھتی ہوئی مانگ پورا کر نے میں مدد ملے گی اور خطے میں اقتصادی پائیداری بڑھے گی۔

پیڈو جس کا اُس وقت کا نام سرحد ہائیڈل ڈویلپمنٹ آرگنائزیشن (SHYDO) تھا جرمن ایجنسی (GTZ) کے تکنیکی تعاون سے 1995 میں ایک سٹڈی کی اور 190میگاواٹ کے5 وادی کاغان میں شنا خت کیے ۔

اس منصوبے کے ایک امکانات 5 سٹڈی اکتوبر 2013، میں کی گئی۔ جس میں ماحولیاتی اور سماجی اثرات ہیں ۔اس پروجیکٹ کے لئے ایشیائی ترقیاتی بینک (ADB) کی طرف سے مالی مدد کی جا رہی ہے۔ ADBنےاس پراجیکٹ کی وجہ سے ماحول پر اثرکا جا ئزہ اور زمین کے حصول اور لوگوں کی منتقلی کا پلان بنانے کے لئے ہیگلر بیلی پاکستان (Hagler Bailly Pakistan–HBP) کی خدمات حاصل کی ہیں۔HBP یہ کام ایشیائی ترقیاتی بینک (Asian Development Bank-ADB) کےاصولوں اور معیار کے مطابق اور خیبرپختونخوان (کے پی) کی ماحولیاتی قانون سازی کے مطابق کررہا ہے

حیاتیاتی ماحول پر اثرات کے جائزے کا ایک جزو منصوبے سے ممکنہ طور پر متاثر ہونے والے اور منصوبے میں دلچسپی رکھنے والے افرا د (یعنی سٹیک ہولڈرز) سے مشاورت کرنا، ان کے خدشات کو قلمبند کرنا اور ان کو حل کرنا ہے۔ یہ دستاویز مشاورت کے لئے سٹیک ہولڈرز کو معلومات دینے کے لئے تیار کی گئی ہے۔ پچھلے جائزے(EIA) میں اسٹیک ہولڈرز سے مشاورت بھی شامل تھی ۔تاہم پرا جیکٹ کے ڈیزائن میں تبدیلی اور ADBکے اصولوں کو مد نظر رکھ کر دوبارہ تجزیہ کر نے کی ضرورت محسوس کی گئی ہے۔

اسٹیک ہولڈرز کے ساتھ متعلقہ مشاورت کے لئے, یہ تفصیلی معلومات (Basic Information Document) بنیا دی معلو مات کی دستا ویزتیار کی گئی ہے۔اس دستاویزمیں پراجیکٹ کا ڈیزائن، ممکنہ ماحولیاتی اثرات اورماحولیاتی جائزہ کا طریقہ کار واضح کیا گیا ہے۔تجزیے کے عمل کے دوران پراجیکٹ کے کسی پہلو سے متعلق مزید معلومات حاصل ہونےیا تبدیلی کی صورت میں اس دستاویز میں تبدیلی بھی کی جاسکتی ہے۔

پروجیکٹ کا محل وقوع

یہ پراجیکٹ پاکستان کے صوبہ خیبر پختونخواہ میں دریائے کنہار پر. پارس اور سانگر گاؤں کے درمیان 12 کلومیٹر پرلگایاجا رہا ہے ۔

20 کلومیٹر طویل مین موجودہ نالے ممکنہ منصوبے کے لئے استعمال کئی جائیں گی ۔

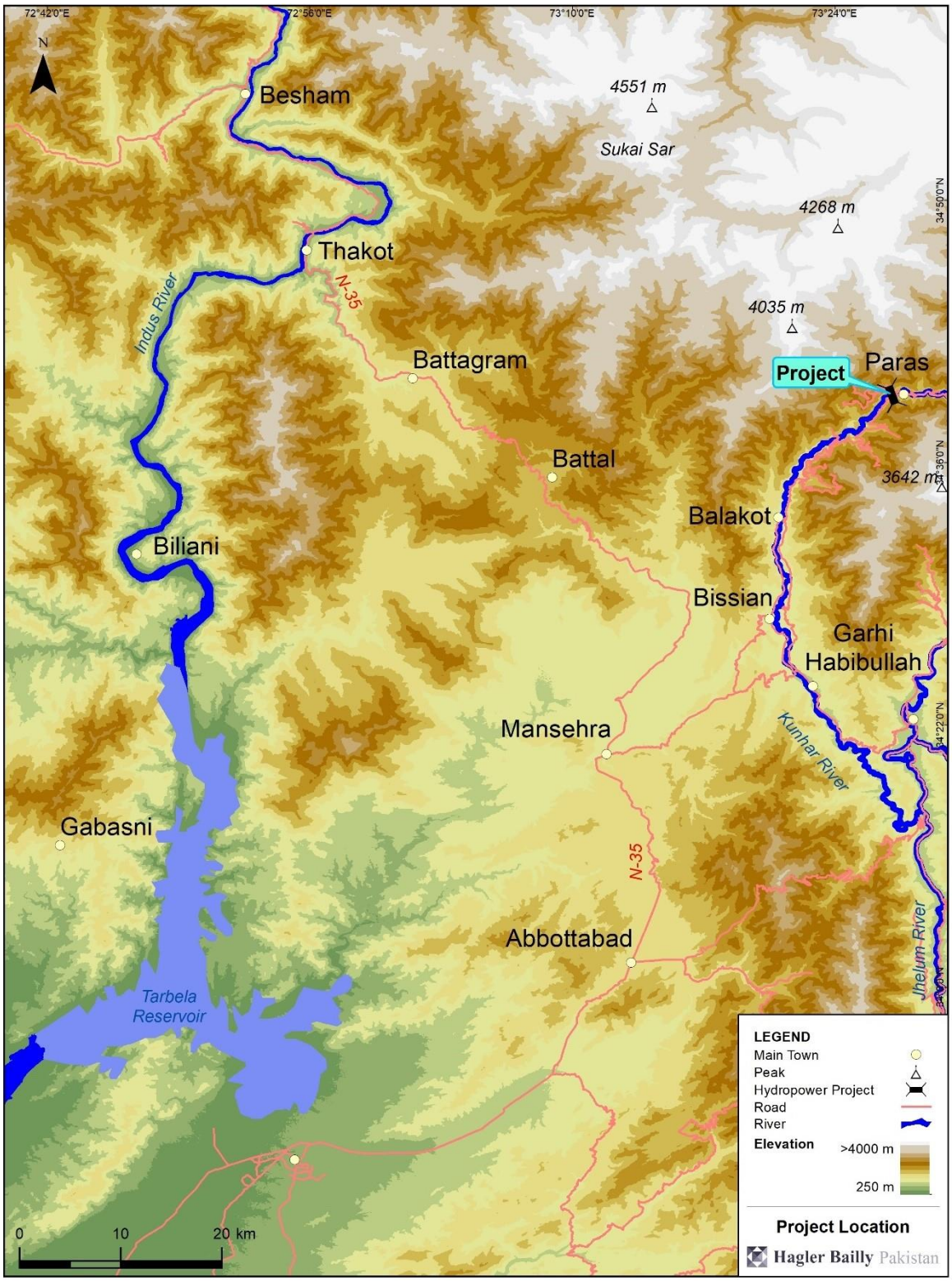
پراجیکٹ کا علاقہ **شکل نمبر 1**میں دکھایا گیا ہے۔

منصوبے کی تمام تعمیرات کنہار دریا کے بائیں کنارے پر واقع ہیں. ڈیم سائٹ (34° 38’ 59”N, 73° 26’ 19”E) بالاکوٹ شہر سے اوپر 17 کلومیٹرکے فاصلے پر اور پاور ہاؤس (34° 36’ 14”N, 73° 10 22’ 50”E) کلومیٹر کے فاصلے پرکپی گلی گاؤں کے قریب واقع ہے

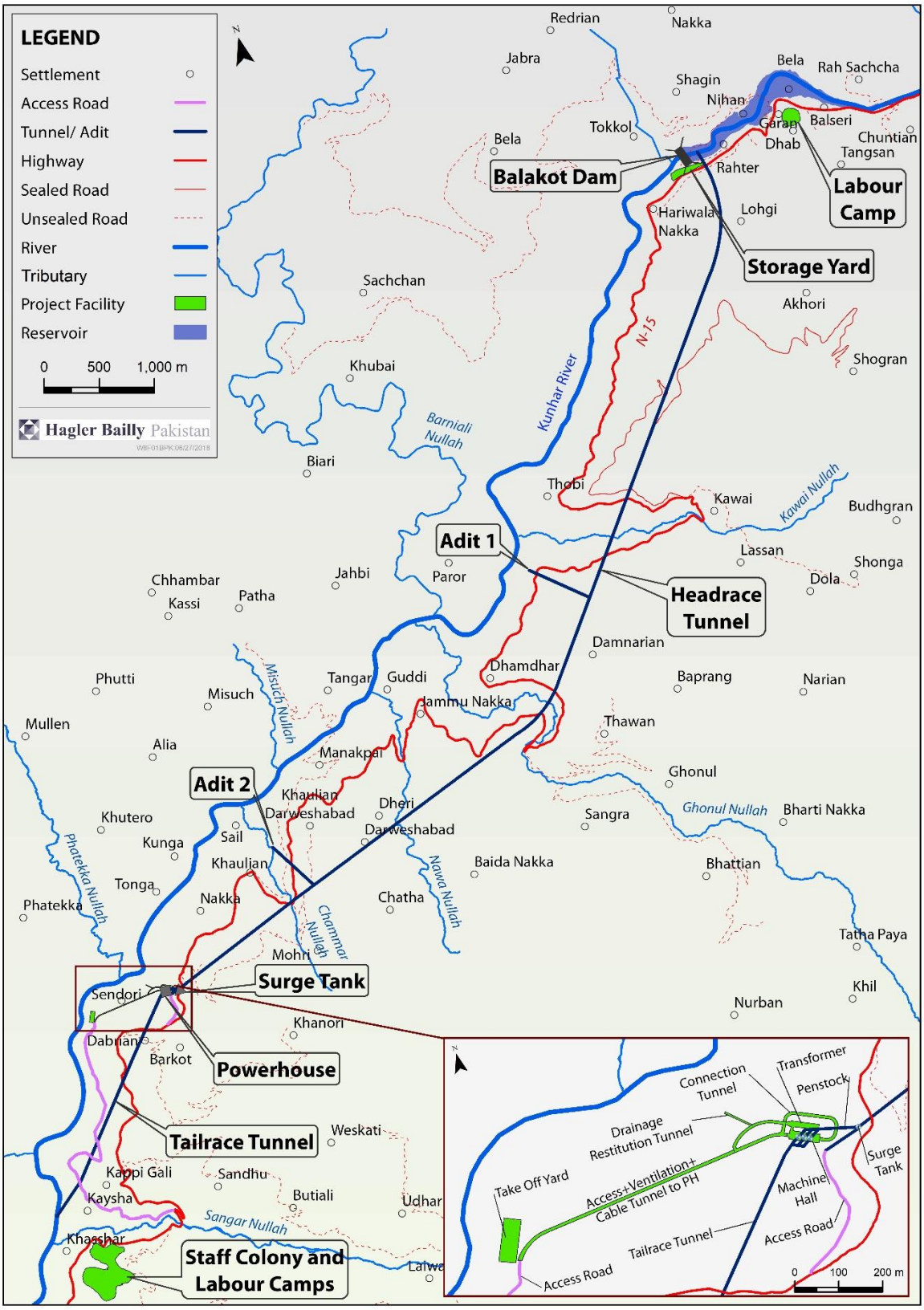
پرا جیکٹ کا خا کہ

پرا جیکٹ کی تنصیبات **شکل نمبر 2** میں دکھائی گئ ہیں اس پرا جیکٹ کی تنصیبات کی تفصیل **شکل نمبر 3** میں دی گئی ہے ۔

شکل نمبر1: منصوبے کا محل وقوع



شکل نمبر2: ہائیڈروپاور ڈویلپمنٹ انویسٹمنٹ پراجیکٹ کی تنصیبات کا خاکہ



شکل نمبر3: تنصیبات پر تفصیلی معلومات

ڈیم

یہ ڈیم کنکریٹ سے بنے گاجس کی اونچائی دریا کے بیڈسے 78 میٹر ہوگی اس میں نیچلی طرف صفائی کی لیئے آؤٹ لیٹ ہو نگے اور اوپر کی طرف اسپل وے ہونگے۔ سیلاب کے پانی کے اخراج کے لیے اس مین پانچ دروازےہونگے جوکہ ہائیڈرولیکل طریقیے سےکھلیں گے یہ دروازے سطح سمندر سے 1276 میٹر کی بلندی پر ہونگے۔ پانچ میٹرگولائی کے تین آؤٹ لیٹ دریا کے بیڈ کے پاس ریت کے اخراج کے لئے بنائے جائینگے۔

لٹرل پاور انٹیک اسٹکچر

یہ دریا کے بائیں کنارے پر بنایا جائے گا یہ تین انٹیکس پر مشتمل ہوگا جو کہ مطلوبہ مقدار میں پانی کو خارج کرے گا اس میں ایک 8 میڑ اونچا ئی اور چوڑائی کا گیٹ دیا جائے گا۔

کم دباؤ کی ہیڈریس سرنگ

یہ 8 میٹر گولائی کی سرنگ ہوگی جس کی لمبائے 8420 میٹر ہوگی یہ پانی کی مختلف مقدار کے اخراج کے لیئے بنائی جائے گی ۔

پاور کمپلیکس

ایک زیر زمین پاورکمپلکس تجویز کیا گیا ہے جوکہ ایک پاور ہاؤس، ایک جی آئی ایس ٹرانسفارمر، ایک رسائی کے لئے سرنگ اور ایک سوئچ یارڈ پر مشتمل ہو گا۔ پاور ہاؤس کی لمبائی 2. 83 میٹر ہوگی ، چوڑائی 16.2 میٹر ہوگی اور یہ آرچ روف کرائون کی طرف مین انلیٹ والو کے فرش سے25 میٹر اونچا ہوگا۔

کچھ خاص خصوصیات

جھیل میں پانی کی زیادہ سے زیا دہ اُنچا ئی سطح سمندر سے 1288میٹر ہو گی اور کم سے کم اُونچا ئی سطح سمندر 1283 ہو گی اس پراجیکٹ کےنصب کرنے کے بعد 300 میگاواٹ توانائی پیدا کرنے کی صلاحیت ہو گی۔ 51 سال میں اوسطً 1187 GWh سالانہ توانائی پیدا کی جائےگی۔جھیل سےریت کا اخراج موسم گرما کے مہینوں میں دوران ہر سال کیا جائے گا جب ڈسچارج فی سیکنڈ 154 کیوبک میٹرسے اوپر ہوگا۔ جب پانی کا کم بہاؤ ہو گا تو اس وقت جمع کیا ہوا پانی ، بجلی کی پیداوار اور پانی کا بہاو برقرار رکھنے کے لئے استعمال کیا جائے گا اندازے کے مطا بق چار گھنٹے میں اضا فی بہا ؤ فراہم
کر نے کے لئے 2.566 ملین کیوب جمع پا نی درکا رہو گا۔

زمین کا حصول

اس پراجیکٹ کے لئے تقریبا 137.5 ایکڑ زمین کی ضرورت ہو گی۔ جس مین سے 127.5ایکڑ پاور ہاؤس اور جھیل کے.لئے، 10 ایکڑ پروجیکٹ کے دیگر تعمیرات (اسٹاف کالونی سمیت) کے لئے اور 10 ایکڑ کیمپوں اور ٹھیکیدار کے دفاتر کے لئے عارضی طور پر حاصل کی جائے گی
.

تعمیراتی،کام اور فضلہ

تعمیراتی کام کے لئے پانچ سال (60ماہ) لگیں گے

تعمیراتی کام کے لئے کنکریٹ، ایگریگیٹ، سیمنٹ، پزولان، بھرائی کے مختلف مواد ، کیمیائے مواد اور اسٹیل کی مصنوعات وغیرہ کی ضرورت ہوگی ، کورس ایگریگیٹ کے زخائر ڈیم سائیٹ سے اوپر اور نیچی مہندری اور پارس گاؤں میں شناخت کئے گئے ہیں۔ فائن ایگریگیٹ کے زخائر پارس، چٹاکٹھا اور گڑھی حبیب اللہ میں قائم کئے جائینگے۔ ان جگھوں پر فائن ایگریگیٹ مقامی استعمال کہ لیئے نکالا جارہا ہےیہ اس قابل ہے کہ فائ ایگریگیٹ کا قابل عمل ذریعہ بن سکے۔

مجوزہ ڈیم سے ناران کے طرف سفر کرتے ہوئے ماربل اور چونےکا پتھر نظر آتا ہے، اسے راک کیوئری بنانے کے لئے سوچا جا رہا ہے ۔
جس سے کورس اگریگیٹ حاصل کیا جائیگا۔

ماحولیاتی تجزئیے کا طریقہ کار اور منتقلی کا منصوبہ

یہ منصوبہ متعلقہ ملکی ماحولیاتی قوانین اور ایشیائی ترقیاتی بینک کے معیارکے مطابق تیار کیا جائے گا۔ اس منصوبے کے اہم جزو مندرجہ ذیل ہیں۔

- منصوبے کے ارد گرد موجودہ ماحول کا ایک جامع مطالعہ
- مشاورت کا عمل تا کہ لوگوں اور اداروں کو منصوبے کے بارے میں آگاہ کیا جا سکے اور ان کو اپنے تاثرات بیان کرنے کا موقعہ دیا جا سکے
- منصوبے کے منفی اور مثبت حیاتیاتی ماحول پر اثرات کا تجزیہ
- شناخت شدہ مضر اثرات سے نمٹنے کے لئے تجویز کردہ اقدامات

♋ زمین مالکان اور گھرانوں کے مالکان کے ساتھ مشاورت کر کے سروے کیا جا ئے گا۔گھروں اور زمین کے مالکان کے لئے زمین کی نشاندہی کی جا ئے گی اورPEDO نئی ضروریات کے مطابق دوبارہ منتقلی کا منصوبہ بنا ئے گی ۔

EIAکے پاکستانی اور بین الاقوامی معیار کے مطابق مطالعہ کے طریقہ کار کو **شکل نمبر 4** میں دکھایا گیا ہے۔ جبکہ حیاتیاتی اثرات کے تفصیلی طریقہ کار کو **شکل نمبر 5**میں دکھایا گیا ہے۔مندرجہ ذیل فہرست ممکنہ سماجی ،ماحولیاتی اور حیاتیا تی اثرات کی نشاندہی کر تی ہے۔

ممکنہ ماحولیاتی اور سماجی اثرات کی فہرست

- لوگوں کو ملازمت کی فراہمی
- تعمیراتی کام کے اثرات مثلاً شور اور دھول
- لوڈ شیڈنگ میں کمی اور ملک کی متاثرہ معیشت کی بحالی
- پراجیکٹ سے متعلقہ نقل و حمل کی وجہ سے ٹریفک میں اضافہ
- بلاسٹنگ سے پیدا ہونے والا خلل، شور، دھول، vibration، سڑکوں پر بھیڑ اور زیادہ ٹریفک کی وجہ سےحادثات کا خطرہ
- بلاسٹنگ سے عمارات کو نقصان اور دھماکے، ڈرلنگ اورbatching plant کی وجہ سے شور
- موجودہ ثقافتی اور سماجی طور طریقوں میں ردوبدل
- موجودہ سہولیات پر کام کر نے کے لئے علا قے میں آنے والوں کا بوجھ
- دریا سے ریت اور پتھر حا صل کر نےمیں ممکنہ مشکلات
- گرد سے آلودگی
- دریا میں پانی کم ہونے سے قدرتی نظارے میں تبدیلی
- گھروں کی منتقلی سے معاشی اور سماجی نظام پر اثرات

حیاتیاتی اثرات کی فہرست

- ڈیم کے بعد دریا میں پانی کی مقدار میں کمی
- پانی میں موجود ریت میں کمی
- دریا کی شکل اور راستےمیں ممکنہ تبدیلی

- دریا میں مچھلیوں پر منفی اثرات
- پانی کے قدرتی ماحول اور آبی حیات کو نقصان
- خطرے سے دو چار (Endangered) حیات اور دورسے آنےوالے آبی پرندوں پر اثرات

HBP آبی حیات پر ممکنہ اثرات کے تجزیے کے لئےDRIFT طریقہ اپنائے گا ۔ جس میں بین الاقوامی ماہرین کی ٹیم تمام ممکنہ اثرات کا جا ئزہ لے گی۔ اور یہ طریقہ کا ہمالیہ کے دریا ؤں پر آزمایا جا چکا ہے ۔ اس کا بنیا دی مقصد دریا میں پا نی کے بہا ؤ میں تبدیلی کی وجہ سے آبی حیات اور دریا سے منسلک لو گوں کی گزر بسر پر ہونے والے اثرات کا جا ئزہ لینا ہو گا۔DRIFTکا عمل **شکل نمبر 6** میں دکھایا گیا ہے۔

DRIFTکے چار اہم مقاصددرج ذیل ہیں۔

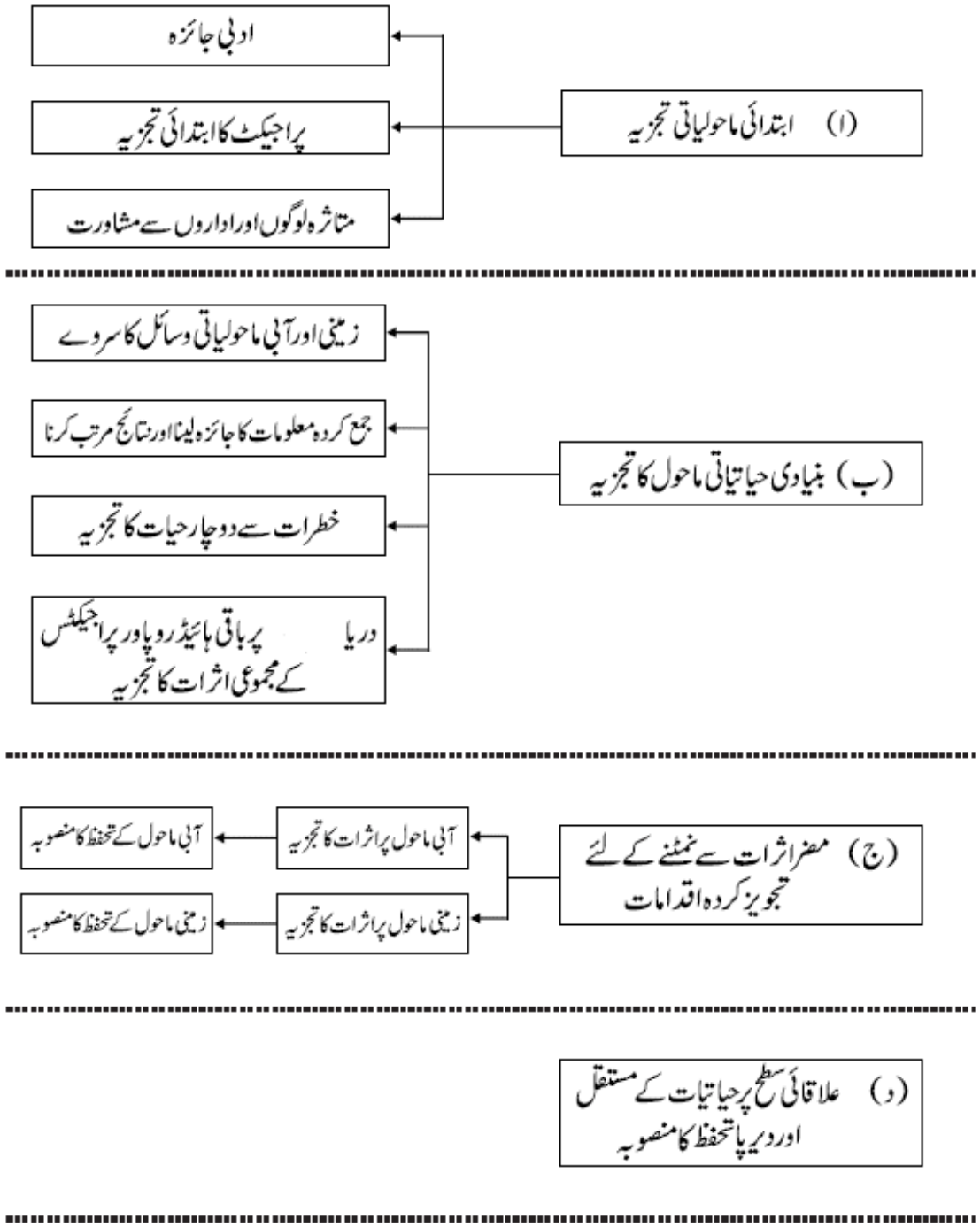
1. دریائی ماحول کی موجودہ معلومات فراہم کرنا
2. دریا کے موجودہ استعمال کی معلومات فراہم کرنا
3. دریا کی تبدیلیوں کے ساتھ دریائی ماحول کی تبدیلی کی پیشن گوئی کرنا
4. دریائی تبدیلیوں سے لوگوں اور معیشت پر اثرات کی پیشن گوئی کرنا

شکل نمبر 4: EIA **کا** عمل کے ممکنہ اجزاء

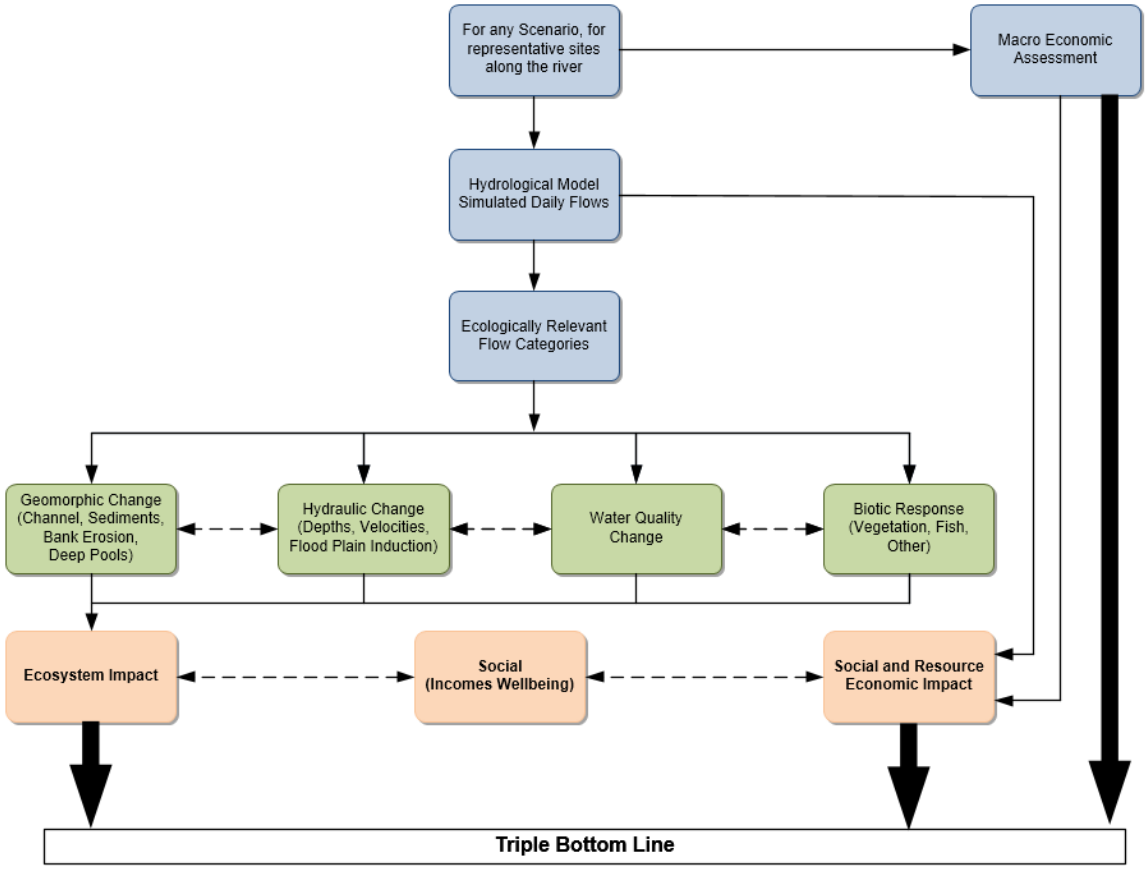
جزو	بنیادی مقصد	اسٹیک ہولڈرز سے مشاورت کی سرگرمیاں
	◄ ان مسائل کا تعین کرنا جن پر EIAمیں خصوصی توجہ مرکوز کرنے کی ضرورت ہے ◄ پراجیکٹ کے متبادلات کا تعین جن کا جائزہ EIAکے عمل کے دوران لیا جائے گا۔	◄ پراجیکٹ سے متاثر ہونے والے افراد اور اداروں (سٹیک ہولڈرز) کا تعین ◄ سٹیک ہولڈرز سے رابطہ کرنا اور ان کی طرف سے اٹھائے گئے مسائل کا اندراج کرنا ◄ EIAٹیم کو اس ردِعمل سے آگاہ کرنا تا کہ بنیادی تحقیقی سرگرمیوں اور اثرات کے جائزے میں ان آراء کو شامل کیا جا سکے
سرگرمیاں	◄ پراجیکٹ کے ماحولیاتی اور معاشرتی محلِ وقوع سے متعلق پس منظری معلومات کی جمع آوری	◄ بنیادی سروے کے دوران سامنے آنے والے مسائل کو شامل کیا جائے
مطالعات	◄ پراجیکٹ کے ممکنہ اثرات کا تعین جو کہ سٹیک ہولڈرزنے مشاورت کے دوران اٹھاے ◄ ممکنہ اثرات کی اہمیت کا تعین اور اثرات سے حل کے لیے اقدامات کی شناخت ◄ انتظامیہ کے ساتھ یا انتظامیہ کے بغیرممکنہ اثرات کی اہمیت کا تعین کرنا ◄ پراجیکٹ کے(ماحولیاتی اور معاشرتی لحاظ سے) مجموعی طور پر قابلِ قبول ہونے کا جائزہ لینا	◄ سٹیک ہولڈرز کی طرف سے سامنے لائے گئے مسائل کا جائزہ
اثرات کو کم کرنے کے اقدامات اور ان کی منصوبہ بندی	◄ اثرات کے جائزے کے دوران ان کو کم کرنے کے اقدامات کا تعین اور ان پر عمل درآمد کو یقینی بنانے کے لیے مجوزہ اقدامات کی تفصیل ماحولیاتی اثرات سے نمنٹنے اور ان کی نگرانی کے منصوبے میں دی جائے گی اور پلا نٹ کو ایشیا ئی ترقیاتی بینک کےSPS 2009 اور قومی قوانین و ظوابط کے مطا بق لا نا ۔ مثال کے طور پر اس میں مخصوص ڈیزائنزاور منصوبے، تربیتی تقاضے، ذرائع کی فراہمی کے تقاضے، نگرانی کی تفصیلات (محلِ وقوع کی نمونہ بندی،طریقہ کار اور تعدّد وغیرہ) ، جائزے اور رپورٹس کے تقاضے اور بجٹ	◄ مخصوص طریقہ کار یا تخفیف کے اقدامات پپر بحث جو اثرات کے جائزے کے دوران ظاہر ہوتے ہیں

جزو	بنیادی مقصد	اسٹیک ہولڈرز سے مشاورت کی سرگرمیاں
تیاری	◄ جائزے کے عمل کی تکمیل کے بعد EIA ٹیم اثرات اور تخفیف کے اقدامات کی تفصیلی تشخیص کرے گی۔ اس میں معلومات کی درست تشریح کو یقینی بنانے کے لیے مختلف ماہرین کے ساتھ رابطہ اورEIA کی رپورٹ مرتب کرنا ہے	◄ سٹیک ہولڈرز کو EIA کی طرف سے جواباً بتایا جائے کہ منصوبے کے تجویز کار کس طرح ان کی طرف سے سامنے لائے گئے مسائل کا حل تلاش کریں گے۔
اداروں کو پیش کیاجانا اور فیصلہ سازی	◄ EIAرپورٹ کا انتظامی اداروں، اور دیگر دلچسپی رکھنے والے افراد یا اداروں کو پیش کیا جانا۔ جائزہ لینے والے افراد اور ادارے بتائیں گے کہ ماحولیاتی اور معاشرتی لحاظ سے پراجیکٹ کے قابلِ قبول ہونے سے متعلق ان کا فیصلہ کیا ہے اور منظوری کن شرائط پر دی جا رہی ہے۔	◄ ادارہ ماحولیات تحفظ ایک عوامی اجتماع منعقد کرے گا جس میں دیکھا جائے گا کہ سٹیک ہولڈرزکے کوئی ایسے خدشات تو باقی نہیں رہ گئے جن کو فیصلہ لینے سے پہلے نہ پرکھا گیاہو

شکل نمبر 5: حیاتیاتی ما حول پر اثرات کے جا ئزے کا تفصیلی عمل



شکل نمبر 6: آبی حیات پر اثرات کے تجزیے کے لئے **DRIFT** ماڈل کا طریقہ کار



مزید معلومات کے لئےرابطہ :

وقار ذکریا، ہیگلر بیلی پاکستان بلاک 1، کمرشل ایریا ، گلی نمبر 21، F-8/2ْ ، اسلام آباد، فون: 07-7200 285 (51) 92+ فیکس: 09-7208 285 (51) 92+ موبائل : 3013 855 (345) 92+ ای میل: vzakaria@haglerbailly.com.pk	کامران مینائی ہیگلر بیلی پاکستان بلاک 1، کمرشل ایریا ، گلی نمبر 21، F-8/2ْ ، اسلام آباد، فون: 07-7200 285 (51) 92+ فیکس: 09-7208 285 (51) 92+ موبائل :8319 298 (316) 92+ ای میل: kminai@haglerbailly.com.pk

APPENDIX O: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN

See following pages.

O.1 Introduction

211. The Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO) intends to construct a 300-megawatt (MW) run-of-river hydropower plant, Balakot Hydropower Development Project (HDIP) or Balakot Hydropower Project (BAHPP) with related infrastructure at Balakot, Mansehra district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Pakistan (**Exhibit O.4**). The Project is located on the Kunhar River about 17 km upstream of the town of Balakot. The Project has been planned to add low-cost electricity to the national grid. The Project will help in meeting the current shortfall and in increasing demand for electricity in the region through economical and sustainable means.

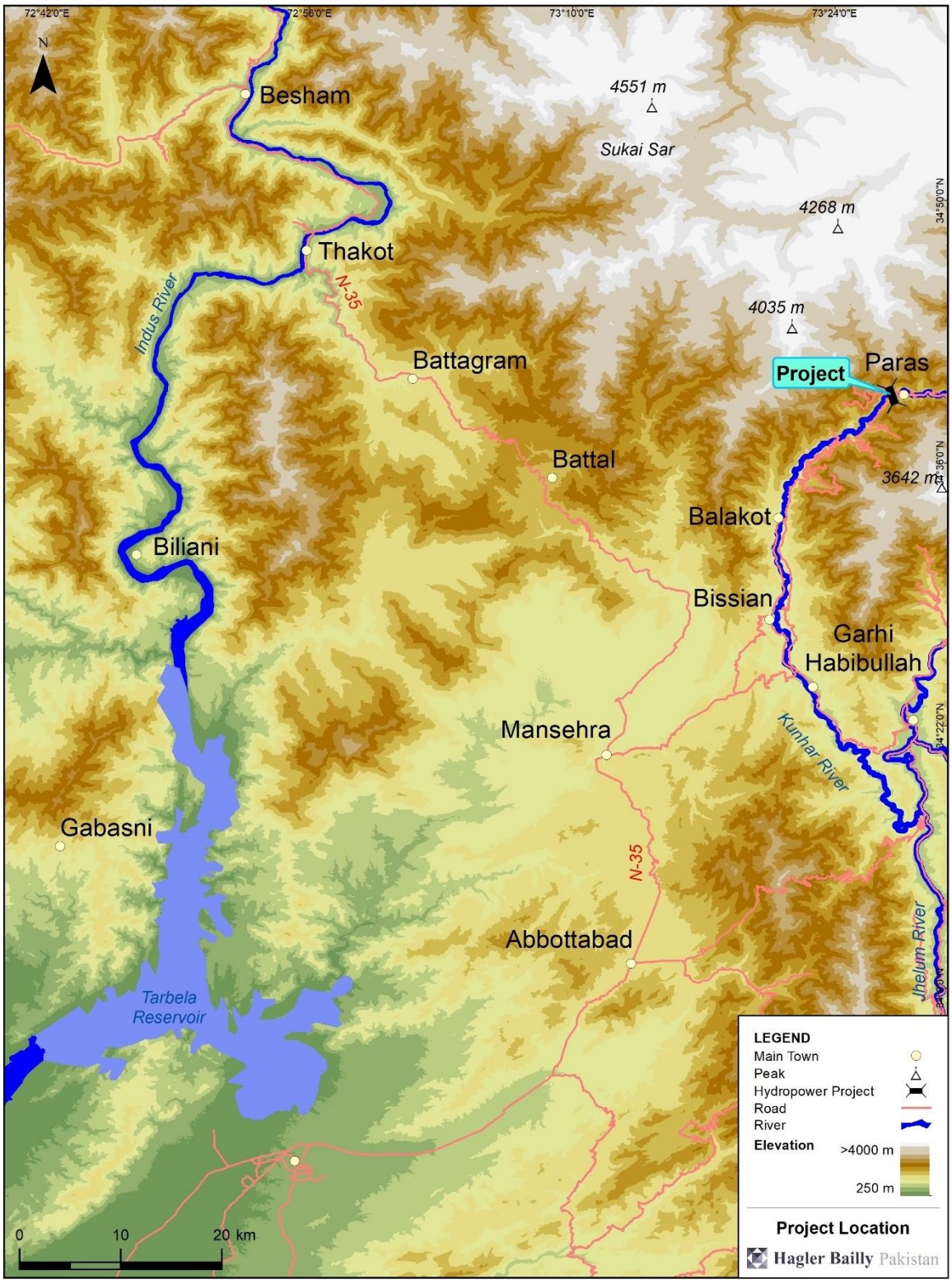
212. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) intends to provide financing for the Project under its Hydropower Investment Development Program. A Feasibility Study of the Project[25] (FS) was released in October 2013, which included an environmental and social impact assessment section. The ADB has contracted the services of Hagler Bailly Pakistan (Pvt.) Ltd. (HBP) to carry out an EIA of the Project which meets the standards and guidelines prescribed by ADB, and conforms to environmental legislation of KP.

213. This document describes the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) for the Project and also covers stakeholder engagement relevant to the EIA. The purpose of the SEP is to define a technically sound and culturally appropriate approach to engage stakeholders at the early stage of the planned developments. The SEP is designed to ensure:

- adequate and timely information is provided to stakeholders, and
- stakeholders have sufficient opportunity to voice their opinions and concerns.

[25]Mirza Associates Engineering Services (Pvt.) Ltd. (Lead Consultant), December 2013, Feasibility Study of Balakot Hydropower Project, Volume I Main Report for Pakhtunkhwa Hydel Development Organization

Exhibit O.4: Project Location



214. Stakeholder engagement will act as a bridge between proposed development proponents (PEDO) and key stakeholders (government and regulatory authorities, affected communities, business owners, and developers in the area).

215. Stakeholder engagement will be an ongoing exercise that will start with the commencement of fieldwork associated with the feasibility study and EIA study. The SEP will

be a dynamic document and will be updated as more information on proposed developments becomes available or additional stakeholders are identified.

216. Initially, the SEP will be used for the involvement of known stakeholders during the EIA; however, it is the intention that this document will be developed further by PEDO, to include some of the wider aspects of stakeholder engagement going forward including the involvement of stakeholders in monitoring the impacts of the Development should decisions to proceed be favorable.

O.1.1 Objectives of Stakeholder Engagement Plan

217. The objectives of EIA stakeholder engagement are to:

- inform stakeholders of the future developments and their consequences;
- aid in the identification of key impacts associated with the development;
- seek input from key stakeholders on planned activities to increase their positive outcomes and avoid or mitigate negative impacts;
- involve stakeholders in decision-making of the EIA and development activities;
- identify appropriate grievance mechanisms; and
- determine how stakeholders can be involved in the monitoring of environmental and social impacts of the Project should it proceed.

O.1.2 Regulatory Controls and Good Practice Guidelines

218. This section describes the applicable national regulations and standards that the stakeholder engagement will comply with, and good practice guidelines by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) that will be kept in view.

O.1.3 Applicable National Regulation

219. The national environmental laws require that only one round of consultations be conducted during the scoping phase of the Project. However, the ADB requires two rounds of consultations during the entire EIA process, during the scoping phase, and a feedback consultation before finalization of the Project's environmental design.

Pakistan Environmental Law

220. The Review of the Initial Environmental Examination and Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 2000 (IEE-EIA Regulations) provides the necessary details on the preparation, submission, and review of IEE and EIA in Pakistan. Under Regulation 6 of the IEE-EIA Regulations, a set of guidelines have been issued for general applicability, and sectoral guidelines produced indicating specific assessment requirements. This includes the Guidelines for Public Consultation, 1997 (the 'Guidelines') summarized below:

- **Objectives of Public Involvement**: To inform stakeholders about the proposed Project, to provide an opportunity for those otherwise unrepresented to present their views and values, provide better transparency and accountability in decision-making, and create a sense of ownership with the stakeholders.

- **Stakeholders:** 'people who may be directly or indirectly affected by a proposal will be the focus of public involvement. Those who are directly affected may be Project beneficiaries, those likely to be adversely affected, or other stakeholders. The identification of those indirectly affected is more difficult, and to some extent, it will be a subjective judgment. For this reason, it is good practice to have a very wide definition of who should be involved and to include any person or group who thinks that they have an interest. Sometimes it may be necessary to consult with a representative from a particular interest group. In such cases, the choice of representative should be left to the group itself. Consultation should include not only those likely to be affected, positively or negatively, by the outcome of a proposal but should also include those who can affect the outcome of a proposal.

221. The range of stakeholders typically includes local people, other affected communities, proponents, government agencies and local councils, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and other influential people.

- **Mechanism:** provide sufficient relevant information in a form that is easily understood by non-experts (without being simplistic or insulting); allow sufficient time for stakeholders to read, discuss, and consider the information and its implications and to present their views; responses should be provided to issues and problems raised or comments made by stakeholders; selection of venues and timings of events should encourage maximum attendance.
- **Timing and Frequency**: planning for the public consultation program needs to begin at a very early stage; ideally it should commence at the screening stage of the proposal and continue throughout the EIA process.
- **Consultation Tools**: some specific consultation tools that can be used for conducting consultations include focus group meetings, needs assessment, semi-structured interviews; village meetings, and workshops.
- **Important Considerations**: The development of a public involvement program would typically involve consideration of the following issues; objectives of the proposal and the study; identification of stakeholders; identification of appropriate techniques to consult with the stakeholders; identification of approaches to ensure feedback to involved stakeholders; and mechanisms to ensure stakeholders' consideration are taken into account.

O.1.3.1 Asian Development Bank Guidelines

222. Public consultation is part of the ADB's governance policy, sector policies such as forestry and fisheries, and safeguard policies on the environment, involuntary resettlement, and indigenous peoples. It is necessary to ascertain the public's views and provide for people's participation in project design and development as a way to improve environmental governance by providing a mechanism to influence decisions about the use and management of natural resources.

223. ADB's safeguard policies on Environment and involuntary Resettlement, Indigenous Peoples recognize the importance of consulting with the project-affected individuals and groups to provide opportunities to raise the community's concerns and issues.

224. The public consultation process is guided by the following principles:

- **Information dissemination**: Sufficient information should be provided in accessible and culturally appropriate ways. Providing information about the benefits and disadvantages of the project at an early stage of the EA process allows people time to think about the issues, consider implications, and formulate their views. An informed public will understand the trade-offs; be able to contribute meaningfully to project design; and have greater trust with the project proponent.
- **Information solicitation**: Asking and listening to the local community, residents, and interested groups about their views and input into the EA yield new insights and site-specific information. Past broken promises or mismanagement may have left a legacy of mistrust. Information solicitation provides the public's experience with authorities and can initiate constructive dialogue.
- **Integration:** Predicting likely direct and indirect impacts, short- and long-term resource use implications, evaluating their significance and risks, and developing appropriate mitigation and monitoring programs require not only the scientific data collected by sampling and modeling but must be based on stakeholder's input and views.
- **Coordination:** The ability to conduct effective public consultation depends on how individual team members appreciate the benefits of consultation, understand their roles, and cooperate with each other. A well-integrated Project Team with well-defined roles and responsibilities can facilitate dialogue with the executive agency to inform the ADB's requirements and gain its commitment to remove any constraints to carry out public consultation throughout the project cycle.
- **Engaging people in dialogue:** Public consultation involves engaging people in dialogue – a two-way flow of information and ideas between the project proponent and the stakeholders with the opportunity for the stakeholders to express their views and concerns. Ensuring the opportunity to participate in dialogue during the early preparation stage of the EA process enables to manage of expectations detects any potential serious conflict and helps resolve issues before they lead to conflict, reducing financial losses due to delays.

225. For category A Projects public consultation needs to be carried out during the early stage of EA preparation and throughout the project implementation to address any environmental issues that affect the local communities, NGOs, governments, and other interested parties. The Environment Policy requires public consultation at least twice: once during the early stages of EIA field work once when the draft EIA report is available, and before loan appraisal by ADB.

226. Public consultation can be applied at various times throughout the EA process to build consultation into project planning and implementation and to monitor consultation activities

throughout the project cycle. While there is no formula for determining when public consultation should be applied, it generally should start early in an EA process.

O.1.3.2 Good Practice Principles

227. The consultations will be undertaken in good faith while remaining impartial. The good practice principles which will be observed during the consultations are as follows:[26]

- Cultural sensitivity – this requires respect, understanding, and appreciation for the customs, institutions, values, and norms of the communities affected by a project.
- Interactive approach – stakeholder engagement should not be limited to the one-way dissemination of information by the project proponent but should include stakeholder input into decision-making processes for the proposed Project.
- Open, transparent, and informative – Project stakeholders should have access to relevant information, in a simple and understandable format.
- Inclusive and equitable – ensure all stakeholder groups are represented, including less represented groups such as women, children, elderly, and the poor.
- Appropriateness and flexibility – stakeholder engagement techniques (surveys, interviews, workshops, etc.) must be appropriate to the specific phase of the ESIA study (scoping consultations, feedback consultations) and the stakeholder groups identified.
- Capacity building – capacity building should be a part of interaction with stakeholders, wherever appropriate and practicable.

O.1.4 Development of SEP

228. It is expected that in the long term, the SEP will provide the basis for strengthening the planning process of PEDO in general and will become a platform through which the PEDO can:

- identify and address the concerns, suggestions, and interests of the stakeholders in the planning, design, and implementation of the Project;
- collect vital information to assess the cumulative impacts of the Project;
- identify appropriate management measures;
- coordinate decisions with other regulatory authorities and institutional stakeholders on whether to approve future developments and corresponding conditions of approval;
- provide a means of receiving any grievances of the public promptly and addressing them to the satisfaction of the community; and

[26] These good practice principles are drawn from WBG Stakeholder Engagement Good Practice Handbook.

- involve stakeholders in monitoring the impacts of the current and future developments.

229. In summary, the SEP will be updated and designed to integrate stakeholder engagement into the core business activities of PEDO. It is envisaged the SEP will help in developing a broad, inclusive, and continuous communication path between PEDO and its stakeholders.

230. This plan will be updated after the EIA study to provide a coordinated strategy for ongoing consultations by PEDO.

O.2 Engagement Activities and Steps

231. The stakeholders for the Project will be involved and consulted, during the course of the EIA study and various phases of the Project development activities, in compliance with the standards and guidelines provided above. The key steps to be followed for the proposed Project's stakeholder engagement are provided in **Exhibit O.2**. Additional details are provided in **Sections O.4** and **O.5**.

232. Given previous consultations as part of the 2013 ESIA, verification consultations will be carried out for the EIA. These will include:

- Community consultations in at least 30% of river-dependent communities within the Socioeconomic Study Area, along with the socioeconomic surveys.
- Community consultations within 100% of communities within a 500 m buffer of Project facilities.
- River-dependent businesses (including sand mining, fishing, and recreation) covered along with the socioeconomic surveys.
- All concerned institutional stakeholders, including government departments and NGOs will be consulted.

Exhibit O.2: Summary of Stakeholder Engagement Activities and Steps

Steps	Description
Stakeholder identification and analysis	♦ Identification of government bodies, regulatory agencies, non-governmental organizations, other investors, and communities which are associated with or have a stake in the Project, or, in general, in the development of hydropower projects in the area. ♦ Analysis of how the identified stakeholders will be affected by or can affect the Project. ♦ Throughout the EIA, and following completion of the EIA, this will remain an ongoing task. See **Annexure A**.
Information disclosure	♦ A background information document (BID) in English and Urdu will be prepared keeping in mind the linguistic limitations of local communities. The document will be shared with the identified stakeholders providing them information about the Project, the purpose of engaging them, and key issues within the area. The BID will be updated, as required, throughout the EIA. ♦ Following completion of the EIA, an updated BID will be kept by PEDO for any additional stakeholders that request information about the Project. See **Annexure B**.
Stakeholder consultation	♦ Stakeholders will be informed before the consultations. The time and venue for the consultations will be shared and agreed with the stakeholders. ♦ Consultations with the communities will be held within the settlements, to the extent possible. Where, due to logistic or security concerns, it is not possible to hold consultations with the community, a nearby community or location will be selected, to facilitate maximum participation. Separate consultations with the female members of the community will be held. ♦ The consultations will be targeted and meaningful i.e. directly related to the proposed Project, while also aiming to distinguish between impacts of development activities of the Project and other nearby developments.

Steps	Description
	♦ The proceedings of the consultation meetings will be recorded.
Reporting to Stakeholders	♦ Feedback consultations will be held to inform the stakeholders about the results of the EIA study and the recommendations for actions to address their concerns and to manage the impacts associated with the proposed developments. ♦ Following feedback consultations for the EIA, this will remain an ongoing task by PEDO.
Ongoing Engagement	♦ PEDO will continue engagement and grievance redress throughout the life of the Project.

O.3 Proposed Structure for Stakeholder Engagement and Grievance Redressal

233. In this section, the proposed structure for stakeholder engagement within PEDO is proposed. This will be discussed with PEDO to further develop and finalize.

234. It is proposed that PEDO sets it as a policy to effectively engage stakeholders during the entire life of the Project. In this regard, it shall constitute the following entities:

- **Public Coordination Unit (PCU),** which will be responsible for proactively engaging stakeholders during the Project development and possible operation, informing stakeholders on developments and changes, receiving suggestions/complaints, maintaining logs, and resolving complaints.
- **Stakeholder Engagement Committee (SEC),** responsible for overseeing the functioning of the PCU as well as the final non-judicial authority on resolving grievances that cannot be resolved by the PCU.
- **Coordination Focal Points (CFPs)**, which will be educated people from each community that can be approached by the PCU to help in engagement and disseminate information, and can be approached by the community members to assist in providing feedback, and communicating their grievances to the Project. The CFPs will be provided training by the Project in facilitating grievance redress.

O.3.1 Function and Structure of Public Coordination Unit

235. The structure of the SEC and PCU is described below.

236. The PCU will be set up as part of the PEDO Project Team. A Community Relations Officer (CRO) of PEDO will lead the unit. During the project development and construction period, it is proposed at least two Community Liaison Officers (CLOs), one male and one female, will be responsible for coordinating correspondence and assisting the (CRO). The CLOs will be responsible for the preparation of documentation including complaints/suggestions/request for information logs and providing community feedback on the company's response to the communities' issues.

237. Given the female community members may have restricted mobility outside of their villages and homes, the female CLO will be required to undertake visits to the local communities. The frequency of visits will depend on the nature and magnitude of activity in an area and the frequency of grievances.

238. Initially, PEDO may wish to hire a single CLO to represent PEDO and report directly to senior PEDO management. During this period CLOs will not enter negotiations or make commitments on behalf of PEDO, and the senior PEDO management will carry out all other functions described below.

O.3.2 Function and Structure of the Stakeholder Engagement Committee

239. The SEC will function as an independent body that will regulate the PCU and the grievance redress process. It will comprise:

- Environmental and social team of PEDO;
- PEDO's senior management responsible for overseeing contractors;

- Two, or more, representatives from the communities residing near the Project location; and
- A representative of the local government (if required).

240. The SEC will meet once every three months to review the performance of the PCU; the frequency can be changed depending on the nature and frequency of issues received. The performance will be gauged in terms of the effectiveness and the timeliness with which community issues are managed. In case there are any unresolved or pending issues, the SEC will deliberate on mechanisms to resolve those and come up with solutions acceptable to everyone.

O.3.3 Coordination Focal Points

241. The coordination focal points (CFPs) will be literate people from each community who will facilitate their community members in reporting grievances to the Project. The CFPs will be provided training by the Project in facilitating grievance redress. Each community will have a male and female CFP appointed for this purpose. However, the CFPs will not be the only community members that can register a grievance; and this facility will be available to every individual in the communities.

O.3.4 Advisory Support to PEDO

242. Stakeholder identification will be carried out as part of the EIA process. Stakeholders likely to be affected by the Project have been identified through an understanding of the potential impacts that may arise from the development activities of the Project and through:

- review of existing published environmental and other studies conducted in the area; experience gained by HBP during previous ESIA studies conducted in the area; and
- satellite imagery for identification of settlements within the Study Area and the wider area.

O.3.5 Framework for On-going Engagement and Grievance Redress by PEDO

243. On-going engagement will be carried out by PEDO in the construction phase and throughout the life of the Project. The stakeholder engagement is expected to include:

- reporting on the implementation of any management plans;
- opportunities for stakeholders to respond to the information received; and
- constructive dialogue on environmental and social issues and performance.

244. The stakeholder engagement process will be documented, including:

- maintenance of a stakeholder database with stakeholder details;
- records of information disclosed to stakeholders;
- records of stakeholder engagements;
- records of inputs from stakeholders and responses to these; and
- grievance redress records and documentation.

Grievance Redress Mechanism Framework

245. The redress of stakeholder grievances through mechanisms that provide an effective avenue for expressing and achieving resolution of stakeholder concerns is critical for the

maintenance of good relations between the project proponent and stakeholders and for the avoidance of potential sources of tension and conflict. In this context, the SEP will help in forming and strengthening relationships between PEDO management and the stakeholder groups, and in bridging any gaps to provide PEDO management a 'social license' to operate in the area.

246. A framework mechanism to handle grievances and complaints from stakeholders is provided below and will be subsequently updated during various phases of the Project development and operation. The purpose of the complaints procedure will be to ensure that complaints from project-affected communities and representatives of their interests are dealt with appropriately, with corrective actions being implemented where needed and the complainants being informed of the outcome. The SEP will aim to ensure grievances are treated without prejudice.

Step 1: Receive and Acknowledge the Complaint

247. Once the PCU receives a complaint, which could be the complainant giving it in person, via letter or email, through a phone call, or a CFP, an acknowledgment of receipt of the complaint will be sent within two working days to the complainant. The complainant will be issued a unique complaint tracking number for their and PCU's record.

Step 2: Investigation

248. The PCU will work to understand the cause of the grievance for which it may need to contact the complainant again for details. The PCU will be required to complete preliminary investigations within five working days of receiving the complaint and send a response to the complainant documenting the results of the investigations and what the PCU plans to do in response.

Step 3: Resolution through PCU

249. Once the PCU has investigated a grievance, it will share with the complainant the proposed course of action to resolve the complaint. If the complainant considers the grievance to be satisfactorily resolved, the PCU will log the complaint as resolved in its record.

250. For minor or less complex grievances, Steps 1, 2, and 3 or Steps 2 and 3 can be merged.

Step 4: Resolution through SEC

251. In case the PCU is unable to resolve the grievance, the matter will be referred to the SEC. Complaints that cannot be resolved within four weeks of filing will by default be referred to SEC. However, the complainant or the PCU can convene the SEC at any point in time, depending on the nature and urgency of the issue.

Operating Principles for PCU

252. The PCU will operate on the principles of transparency, approachability, and accountability. To achieve these, the PCU will be required to:

- be equipped to handle grievances in the local languages;
- be equipped to work through multiple modes of communication, such as emails, by-post and face-to-face meetings at the plant site or requiring visits;

- employ female staff, preferably from the nearby communities, to oversee complaints and issues of the female community members;
- maintain a log of grievances, with a record of the date and time of the complaint logged and stakeholder information, such as name, designation, and contact details;
- provide an opportunity to the stakeholder to revert with their comments on the proposed plan of action;
- keep the stakeholders informed of the progress in grievance resolution;
- obtain stakeholder consent on the mechanism proposed to redress the grievance and document consent; and
- maintain the confidentiality of the stakeholder, if requested so.

Stages of Grievances

253. Once a grievance is logged with the PCU, it could reach the following stages:

Stage 1: It is resolved by the PCU or if not PCU, by the SEC.

Stage 2: If the SEC cannot resolve the issue, it will inform PEDO's senior management accordingly and senior management will organize a special mission to address the problem and identify a solution.

Stage 3: If the stakeholders are still not satisfied with the reply in Stage 3, they may go through local judicial proceedings.

Stakeholder Awareness

254. The stakeholders will be informed of the establishment of the PCU and grievance redress mechanism through a short and intensive awareness campaign. PEDO will share the following with the stakeholders as a part of the awareness campaign:

- objective, function, and the responsibilities of the PCU;
- means of accessing the PCU and the mechanics of registering a grievance at the PCU;
- operating principles of the PCU; and
- contact details.

255. Additional awareness campaigns may be organized, if necessary.

O.4 Stakeholder Identification and Analysis

256. Initial stakeholder identification has been carried out as part of the EIA process. The initial list developed as part of the EIA will be further updated throughout the EIA by HBP, and by PEDO as part of ongoing engagement after completion of the EIA. Stakeholders likely to be affected by the Project have been identified initially through an understanding of the potential impacts that may arise from the development activities of the Project and through:

- review of existing published environmental and other studies conducted in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP);
- experience gained by HBP during previous ESIA studies conducted in KP and nearby areas; and
- satellite imagery for identification of settlements within the Study Area and the wider area.

257. Based on the above, the following groups are identified as those that may have an interest in the Project or may be impacted by the Project development activities:

- Communities within the Socioeconomic Study Area that are likely to be directly impacted by the Project development activities resulting in emissions, dust, noise, vibrations, and possible relocation.
- Key owners and developers of other projects in the vicinity.
- Business owners within the Study Area, and other suppliers or service providers in the vicinity.
- Government and regulatory authorities directly or indirectly connected to or overseeing the activities of the Project.
- Non-governmental organizations that can affect or influence the Project.

258. **Exhibit O.3** illustrates the Socioeconomic Study Area for the EIA which will be the focus of the community consultations.

O.4.1 Institutional Stakeholders

259. The institutional stakeholders have been identified in the following categories:

- Regulatory Agencies
- Government Departments
- Non-governmental Organizations active in the area
- Hydropower Project Developers in the Kunhar Basin
- Other Financiers in the Jhelum Basin

260. The information for representatives in each of the identified stakeholders within each of category is provided in **Exhibit O.4**, along with the stakeholder's relevance to the Project.

Exhibit O.3: Socioeconomic Zones in Study Area

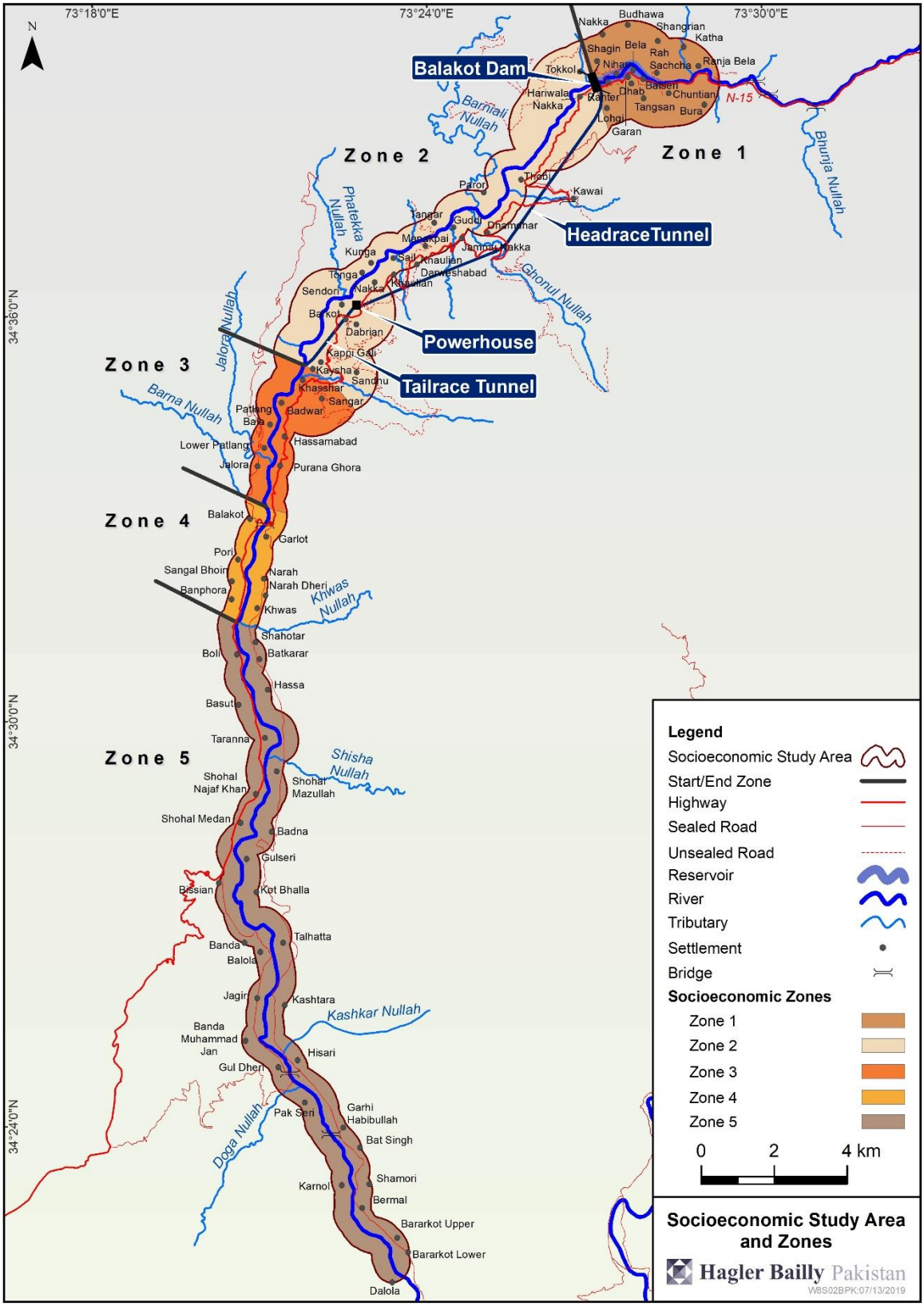


Exhibit O.4: Identified Stakeholders and their Relevance

Stakeholder/Groups	Name	Position	Relevance to the Project
Regulatory Agencies			
Environmental Protection Agency, KP	*Dr. Mohammad Bashir Khan*	*Director General*	*Authority for approval of the EIA*
National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA)	*Himayat Ullah Khan*	*Vice Chairman Member Khyber Pakhtunkhwa*	*Determination of the tariff associated with the Project*
Government Departments			
Wildlife Department, KP	*Syed Mubarak Ali Shah*	*Chief Conservator*	*Interest in the terrestrial wildlife that can be impacted by the Project and associated regulation.*
Fisheries Department, KP	*Dr. Sher Mohammad*	*Director Fisheries*	*Interest in the fish fauna that can be impacted by the Project and associated regulation.*
Fisheries Department, KP	*Arshad Aziz*	*Deputy Director*	
Fisheries Department, KP	*Mohammad Tanvir*	*Assistant Director Fisheries, District Mansehra*	
Forest Department, KP	*Sardar Tamor Ilyas*	*DFO Mansehra*	*Interested in the loss of forested area as a result of the Project and compensatory afforestation.*
Revenue Department, KPK	*Syed Asghar Shah*	*Tehsildar Balakot*	*Responsible for the land to be acquired for the Project facilities, in the interest of the public. Also responsible for the determination of the market price of the acquired land.*
Social Welfare Department, KP			*Interested in the welfare of the communities in the area, especially those that will be affected by the Project*
Non-Government Organizations			
World Wildlife Foundation (WWF)	*Rab Nawaz*	*Country Head - Biodiversity*	*Interested in the wildlife and wildlife habitat that can be impacted by the Project, both terrestrial and aquatic.*
Himalayan Wildlife Foundation (HWF)	*Dr. Anis-ur-Rahman*	*Director*	*Interested in the Himalayan wildlife and its habitat that can be impacted by the Project, both terrestrial and aquatic.*
Sarhad Rural Support Program			*Interested in the impact of the Project on rural communities and support for rural communities in the area.*

Stakeholder/Groups	Name	Position	Relevance to the Project
Aga Khan Rural Development Program			*Interested in the impact of the Project on rural development in the community.*
HPP Developers			
Patrind HPP	*Waqar Ahmad Khan*	*Chief Executive Officer*	*Interested in the basin-level impacts of the Project and the downstream effects, especially those associated with Project design.*
Sukki Kinari HPP	*Muhammad Jamil Dogar*	*Project Director*	*Interested in the basin-level impacts of the Project, especially those associated with Project design.*
Other Financiers in the Jhelum Basin			
International Finance Corporation (IFC)	*Shahid Lutfi*	*Environment Specialist*	*Interested in the development of HPPs in the Jhelum-Poonch Basin, especially the Project's contribution to cumulative impacts.*

O.5 Consultation Approach and Mechanism

261. This section describes the stakeholder consultation approach and mechanism.

262. Consultations will focus on identifying key environmental and social impacts associated with the Project development activities. The recorded concerns of the stakeholders will be addressed in the EIA through proposing appropriate management measures.

263. Project stakeholders will be informed about the Project development activities through the dissemination of a BID. The document will be shared with institutional stakeholders before the consultation, while the document will be shared with the communities during the consultation visit. The BID will be prepared in English and Urdu to match the language requirements of the consulted stakeholders. The BID is attached as **Annexure B**. The BID will be updated after the finalization of the Project design, and on as needed basis thereafter by PEDO.

264. The consultation mechanism to engage industrial, institutional, and community stakeholders has been provided below. Consultations will be carried out in four different phases during the EIA as described below:

Initial Engagement and Scoping Consultations with the Community within the Socioeconomic Study Area	The HBP consultation team, comprising of both male and female consultation specialists will visit communities within the Socioeconomic Study Area for initial engagement and scoping consultations. Separate consultations will be conducted with male and female members of the communities in recognition of the cultural gender sensitivities within Pakistan. The consultations will focus on communicating the Project development activities to be carried out. A Background Information Document (BID) will be shared with the communities providing them with the most up-to-date information on the key Project development activities and location of the Project facilities. In addition to scoping consultations, a needs assessment is included as part of the socioeconomic survey carried out as part of the EIA. The BID will also include the grievance redress mechanism employed by PEDO and contacts in PEDO to register issues (including any grievances). Updated BIDs will be shared with communities based on the final design of the Project. The BID is attached as **Annexure B**.
Additional ongoing consultations with Community within the Socioeconomic Study Area and Outside it	Depending on the outcomes of the initial engagement and scoping consultations, additional consultations will be carried out with communities within the Study Area. Scoping consultations will also be carried out with additional communities identified as important (see **Annexure B**). Following the finalization of the Project layout, updated BIDs will be shared with relevant communities in the Study Area. To ensure maximum participation, field staff will visit or call the communities in advance to inform the residents about the upcoming consultations.

Institutional Consultations	Institutional consultations will be carried out with key institutions identified, as high or medium priority based on stakeholder analysis, concerning the EIA (**see Annexure A).** The provision of background information to key institutional stakeholders (see **Annexure A)** will be undertaken in advance of the consultations through visits, letters, emails or telephone. During the consultations, HBP's consultation team will present information related to Project development and the stakeholder engagement process, and respond to and record any comments and queries from the participants. Wherever possible, combined consultations will be held with institutional stakeholders through representative organizations such that the stakeholders can hear the concerns expressed by others and responses provided if any, and make the consultation more interactive.
Feedback Consultations	Feedback Consultations will have a broad spatial coverage. Communities within the Socioeconomic Study Area and institutional stakeholders will be provided feedback during this phase of consultations. Posters and presentations will be utilized as visual aids for these consultations. Feedback Consultations will focus on communicating the outcome of the EIA process and specifically highlight the expected impacts and proposed management measures. It will aim to address the concerns of stakeholders raised during previous consultations. Feedback consultations will help in confirming the acceptableness and likely effectiveness of the proposed management measures. This feedback consultation will progress in the following manner: Participants will be provided an overview of the process adopted for the EIA study and its key outcomes. Participants will be provided an overview of key issues raised by them and how these have been addressed in the EIA. The consultation team will answer any queries and record any additional concerns. A non-technical summary of the EIA (in English) will be provided to institutional stakeholders.

265. The HBP consultation team will keep a record of the discussions during the consultation meetings. HBP will report the meeting minutes in the form of a table logging the stakeholder issues with names of stakeholders and dates of consultations. A template of the consultation log is provided as **Annexure C** of this document.

O.6 Consultation Schedule

266. The tentative schedule for the community consultations is provided in **Exhibit O.5**.

Exhibit O.5: Tentative Schedule

Consultation Phase	Who	Planned
Initial Engagement and Issues Scoping Consultations	Communities inside and outside the 500 m buffer	March 20, 2017 onwards
Additional Ad-Hoc Consultations	As required	On-going following initial engagement and scoping consultations
Institutional and Business Consultations	Developers of other projects, mainly hydropower projects Local businesses in the Study Area that may be affected	March 31, 2017 onwards
Feedback Consultations	Concerned stakeholders	After completion of the draft EIA
Grievance Redress	All stakeholders	On-going by PEDO
On-going consultations	As required	Following EIA completion by PEDO

267. The tentative schedule for institutional consultations is provided in **Exhibit O.6**, organized by location. In some cases, information is missing. These stakeholders will be located once in the field.

Exhibit O.6: Tentative Schedule

Location	Name	Representative	Position	Tentative Date of Consultation
Islamabad				
1.	*National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA)*	*Himayat Ullah Khan*	Vice Chairman/Member Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Between March 31 and April 07, 2017
2.	*World Wildlife Foundation (WWF)*	*Rab Nawaz*	Country Head - Biodiversity	
3.	*Himalayan Wildlife Foundation (HWF)*	*Dr. Anis-ur-Rahman*	Director	
4.	*Patrind HPP*	*Waqar Ahmad Khan*	Chief Executive Officer	
Peshawar				
1.	*Environmental Protection Agency, KP*	*Dr. Mohammad Bashir Khan*	Director General	Between April 10 and April 14, 2017
2.	*Wildlife Department, KP*	*Syed Mubarak Ali Shah*	Chief Conservator	
3.	*Fisheries Department, KP*	*Dr. Sher Mohammad*	Director Fisheries	
		Arshad Aziz	Deputy Director	
		Mohammad Tanvir	Assistant Director Fisheries, District Mansehra	
4.	*Forest Department, KP*	*Sardar Tamor Ilyas*	DFO Mansehra	
Karachi				
1.	*International Finance Corporation (IFC)*	*Shahid Lutfi*	Environment Specialist	Between March 31 and April 07, 2017
Lahore				
1.	*Sukki Kinari HPP*	*Muhammad Jamil Dogar*	Project Director	Between March 31 and April 07, 2017
Balakot				
1.	*Revenue Department, KP*	*Syed Asghar Shah*	Tehsildar Balakot	Between March 31 and April 07, 2017
2.	*Social Welfare Department, KP*			

ANNEXURE A : INITIAL STAKEHOLDER LIST AND INITIAL ANALYSIS

268. The following list will be continually updated based on field information.

Exhibit 1: List of Institutional Stakeholders and their Relevance for the EIA and the Project

Stakeholder Group	Stakeholder	Relevance to EIA[27]	Relevant to RAP	Relevance to Project Development and Implementation
Regulatory Institutions	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Protection Agency (KP EPA)	KP EPA is the regulatory authority that is mandated to protect the environment and approve or reject Project EIAs.	KP EPA is a key institution involved in the granting of approval for the communities that are being resettled and the areas being used for resettlement	
Government Institutions	Fisheries Department, KP Wildlife Department, KP Forest Department, KP Revenue Department, KP Agriculture Department, KP Social Welfare Department, KP National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA)	The organizations associated with natural resources are important in terms of informing about the important natural resources in the area as well as highlighting the key issues associated with them. The organizations associated with infrastructure are important in terms of Project impacts on their work and relevant infrastructures in the area.	The resettlement may result in the exploitation of natural resources elsewhere, in areas where the communities are resettled.	
Non-Governmental Organizations and Civil Society Organizations	There are several NGOs operating in KP. Some of these include (to be verified during the socioeconomic surveys): ♦ Sarhad Rural Support Program ♦ Aga Khan Rural Development Program The NGOs working on protection and management of wildlife and natural resources: ♦ World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)	The NGOs operating in the Study Area have influence within the communities and can appeal decisions of the regulatory authorities. A number of them have carried out development work which may be impacted due to the Project. The NGOs that are actively working in the Study Area will be consulted as part of the EIA consultations.	The NGOs are involved in community development and can work in the areas to which communities are resettled provided there is effective coordination with them regarding the RAP.	Synergy between work being carried out by NGOs and CSR activities by PEDO can be achieved by collaborating with reputable NGOs that are engaged in the Study Area. Examples of active and reputable NGOs are: ACTED Pakistan for technical and vocational training WWF for wildlife management

[27] Stakeholders that can appeal decision of delegated authority with relevance to ESIA approvals.

Stakeholder Group	Stakeholder	Relevance to EIA[27]	Relevant to RAP	Relevance to Project Development and Implementation
	♦ Himalayan Wildlife Foundation (HWF)			
Key Owners and Developers of Other Hydropower Projects	PEDO Star Hydropower (Pvt.) Limited Star Hydro K Water Global	Developers can appeal the decisions of regulatory authorities.		The Project can benefit from the development experience of other owners and developers by identifying practices that have worked well in local conditions, and by reviewing the lessons learned. A synergistic approach could be achieved with the inclusion of other key owners and developers in the Project planning.
Business Owners within the Study Area	Shopkeepers within the vicinity Businesses that rely on ecosystem services related to the river	Shopkeepers within the vicinity of the Project will be affected due to the Development. Businesses that rely on ecosystem services related to the river may be affected. Potential service providers that may be affected due to the development.	Certain shopkeepers and local businessmen may have to relocate their businesses.	

Stakeholder Group	Stakeholder	Relevance to EIA[27]	Relevant to RAP	Relevance to Project Development and Implementation
Communities within a 500 m buffer of the River (being relocated and likely having river-dependent livelihood)	Communities with river-dependent livelihoods and being relocated/resettled	Community stakeholders within the Study Area are priority communities because they have river-dependent livelihoods. They can appeal decisions of regulatory authorities and may be affected by the Project, more so than institutional stakeholders. They are priority and key stakeholders as they: ♦ Will be resettled ♦ May be vulnerable due to their dependence on natural resources that the Project may impact ♦ May be impacted through Project impacts on air, water, noise, and traffic, and related secondary impacts.	Relevant to the RAP because they will be relocated (household consultations to be carried out during RAP surveys for resettlement)	Throughout implementation, the community stakeholders can be considered development partners and can help the owners fulfill their social obligations and responsibilities. They may also have grievances that need to be addressed by the Project owner.
Communities within a 500 m buffer of the River (not relocated but likely having river-dependent livelihood)	Communities with river-dependent livelihoods	Community stakeholders within the Study Area are priority communities because they have river-dependent livelihoods. They can appeal decisions of regulatory authorities and may be affected by the Project, more so than institutional stakeholders. They are priority and key stakeholders as they: ♦ May be vulnerable due to their high dependence on natural resources that the Project may impact ♦ Concerned about other impacts that may affect them such as potential impacts on	Not relevant to the RAP because they will not be relocated.	Throughout implementation, the community stakeholders can be considered as partners in development and can help the owners fulfill their social obligations and responsibilities. They may also have grievances that need to be addressed by the Project owner.

Stakeholder Group	Stakeholder	Relevance to EIA[27]	Relevant to RAP	Relevance to Project Development and Implementation
		air, water, noise, and traffic, and related secondary impacts.		
Communities within 1 km buffer of Project infrastructure	Communities that may be directly impacted by the Project	These communities may be impacted directly by the Project, particularly during the construction period. Impacts include traffic-related incidents, health impacts due to air quality, noise-related issues, etc.		Throughout implementation, the community stakeholders can be considered as partners in development and can help the owners fulfill their social obligations and responsibilities. They may also have grievances that need to be addressed by the Project owner.

ANNEXURE B : BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

A background information document (BID) is given below:

Background Information Document
Environmental Impact Assessment of the
Balakot Hydropower Development Project

Introduction

269. The Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO) intends to construct a 300-megawatt (MW) run-of-river hydropower plant Balakot Hydropower Development Project (HDIP) or Balakot Hydropower Project (BAHPP) with related infrastructure at Balakot, Mansehra district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Pakistan. The Project is located on the Kunhar River. The Project will help in meeting the current shortfall and in increasing demand of electricity in the region through economical and sustainable means.

270. The Project was identified in 1995 under the study "Identification of Hydropower Potential in Kaghan Valley" by Sarhad Hydel Development Organization (SHYDO) with the technical collaboration of the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) as a 190 MW HPP. A Feasibility Study of the Project[28] (FS) was released in October 2013, which included an environmental and social impact assessment section. However, as the Project is being financed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), it has contracted the services of Hagler Bailly Pakistan (Pvt.) Ltd. (HBP) to carry out an environmental impact assessment (EIA) of the Project and develop a Land Acquisition and Resettlement Plan (LARP) which meets the standards and guidelines prescribed by ADB, and conforms to the environmental legislation of KP.

271. As part of the EIA process, consultations are undertaken with communities and institutions that may have an interest in the Project or may be affected by the Project (the "Stakeholders") to record their concerns and to address them in the course of project design and preparation of the EIA. The previous EIA effort included consultations with stakeholders. As part of due diligence, consultations are being carried out with community stakeholders, as well as with institutional stakeholders that would like to be re-consulted, and institutional stakeholders that are important and were not previously consulted.

272. For informed consultations with stakeholders, this Background Information Document (BID) has been prepared to provide information on the project design, its setting, EIA process, potential impacts that will be the subject of the Study, and the process to be followed for environmental impact assessment.

273. The BID is subject to changes as further information on some aspects of the Project becomes available during the EIA.

Project Setting

274. The Project is located on the Kunhar River in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province of Pakistan, in the 12 km stretch from Paras to Sangar Village. The hydel power potential

[28]Mirza Associates Engineering Services (Pvt.) Ltd. (Lead Consultant), December 2013, Feasibility Study of Balakot Hydropower Project, Volume I Main Report for Pakhtunkhwa Hydel Development Organization

available in the 20 km stretch of the river from Paras to Sangar tributary will be utilized for the Project.

275. A map showing the location of the Project is provided in **Exhibit 2**.

276. All parts of the Project are located on the left bank of the Kunhar River. The dam site (34° 38’ 59”N, 73° 26’ 19”E) is about 17 km upstream of the town of Balakot. The powerhouse (34° 36’ 14”N, 73° 22’ 50”E) is located 10 km upstream of Balakot, near Kapi Gali Village.

Project Outline

277. The layout of the Project is provided in **Exhibit 3**. The main components of the Project are described briefly in **Exhibit 4**.

Exhibit 2: Project Location

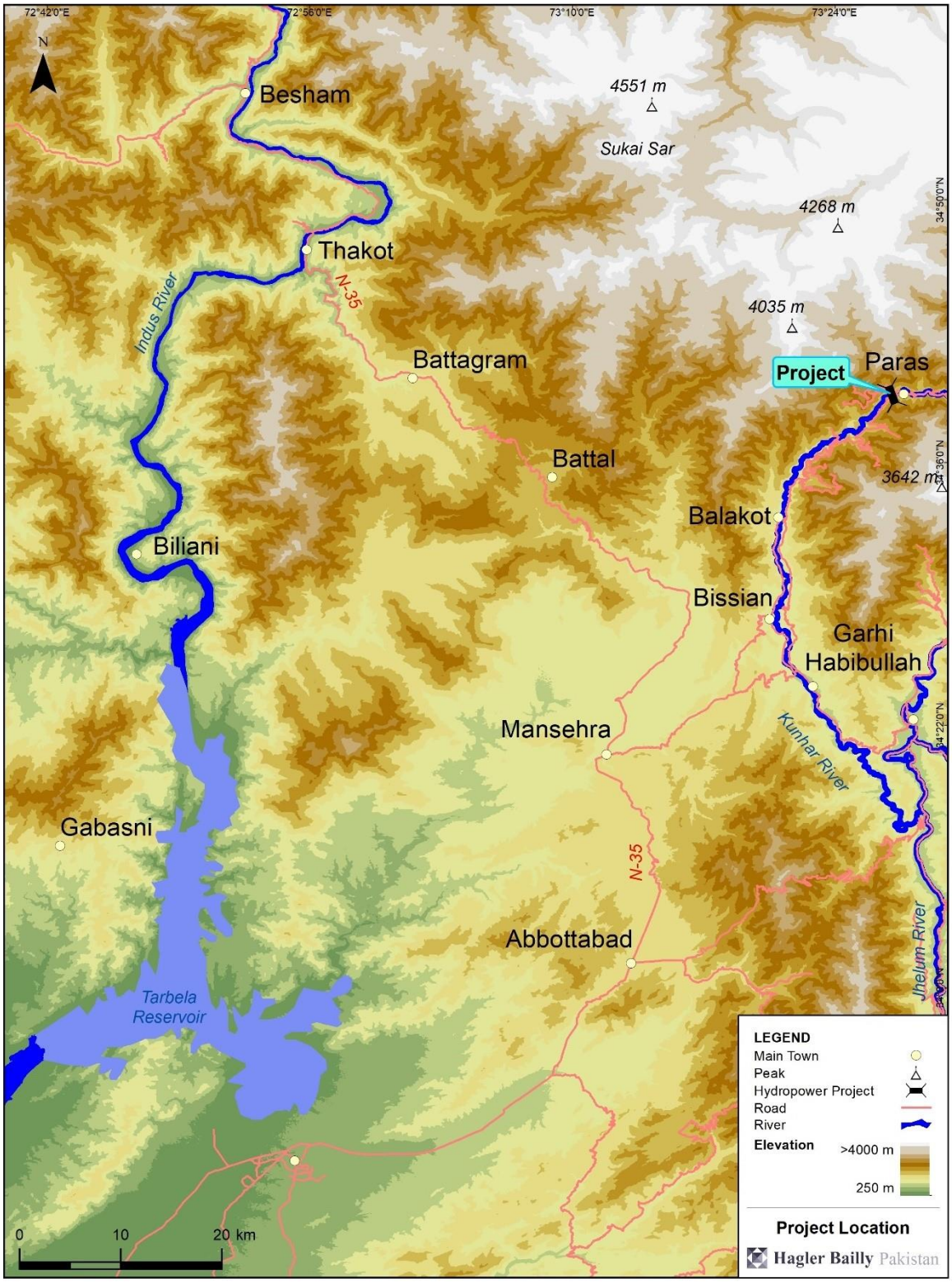


Exhibit 3: Project Layout

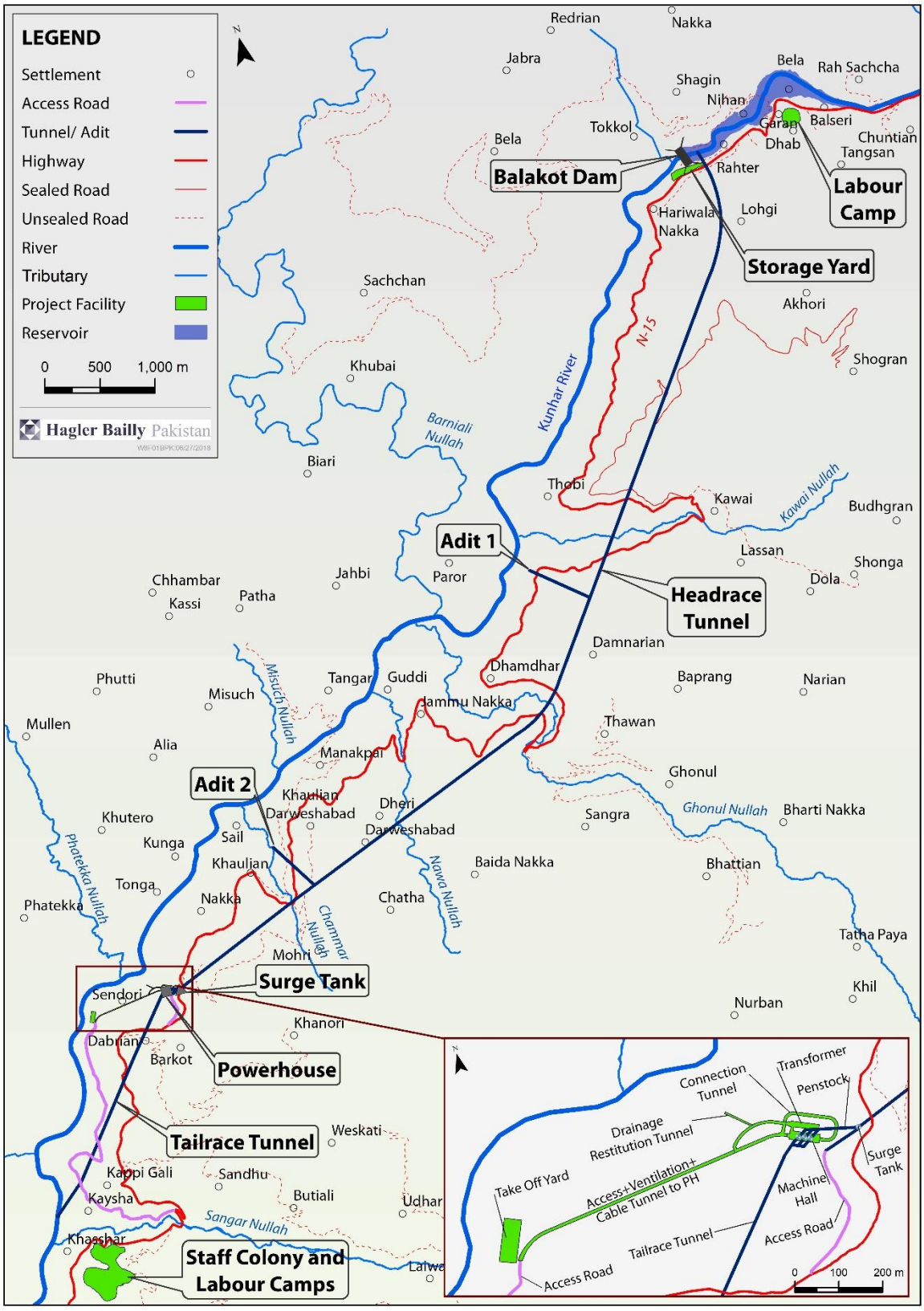


Exhibit 4: Description of the Project and Facilities

Main Dam It will be a concrete gravity dam, having a height of 78 m from the river bed, comprising low-level/flushing outlets and a gated spillway. It will be equipped with five hydraulically operated radial gates for flood discharge and are set at the crest level of 1,276 meters above sea level (m.a.s.l.). Three circular bottom outlets of diameter 5 m will be provided near the river bed for sediment flushing.
Lateral power intake structure This will be located on the left bank of the river. It will comprise three intakes to take the design discharge. A rectangular 8 m wide by 8 m high control gate equipped with upstream sealing will be provided.
Low-pressure headrace tunnel This will be of length 8,420 m and diameter of 8 m. It will be optimized for considering different diameters for the design discharge
Power Complex An underground power complex has been proposed which will consist of an underground powerhouse cavern, a GIS transformer cavern, a main access tunnel, a cable and ventilation tunnel, and an open switchyard. The powerhouse will be 83.2 m long, 16.2 m wide, and 25 m high from the main inlet valve floor to the arch roof crown.
Key Operational Characteristics The maximum and minimum reservoir operating levels will be 1,288 m.a.s.l and 1,283 m.a.s.l respectively. The installed capacity will be 300 MW with a mean annual energy output (average 51 years) of 1,187 GWh. Sediment flushing will be carried out every year during the summer months when discharge is above 154 cubic meters per second (cumecs). During the low flow periods, the live storage will be used to store water during off-peak hours to improve the flows for power generation in peak hours. It has been estimated that 2.566 million m^3 storage would provide additional flows in four peak hours.
Land Acquisition The Project will require land acquisition of approximately 137.5 acres. Of this, 127.5 acres is for the powerhouse and reservoir while 10 acres is for the Project facilities (including staff colonies). An additional 10 acres will be acquired temporarily for labor camps and contractor offices.
Construction, Requirements, and Waste The total construction period of this Project will be 5 years (60 months). Materials required to carry out the construction of civil works for the project include concrete aggregate, cement, pozzolans, various types of fill materials, construction chemicals, steel products, etc. Deposits for course aggregates have been identified upstream and downstream of the dam site at Mahandri and Paras. Fine aggregate deposits have been established at Paras, Chitta Katha, and Garhi Habibullah. Fine aggregates are being mined in these areas for local use. These sources have a strong potential of being developed into a viable source of fine aggregates. Marble and limestone outcrops are exposed along the road while traveling from the proposed dam site to Naran. These are considered for the development of rock quarry for obtaining course aggregates.

Approach to the EIA and LARP

278. The EIA will be undertaken in compliance with relevant national legislation and keeping in view ADB requirements. The major components of the study include:

- baseline studies to characterize the existing ecological environment in the project area;
- a public consultation process to ensure that project stakeholders are informed of the project development plan and have an opportunity to influence it;
- an analysis of the physical, ecological, and socioeconomic impacts of the project, both negative and positive; and,
- suggested mitigation measures to address the identified adverse impacts.

279. Separate from the EIA settlement level consultations and surveys, household-level consultations and surveys, of land owners and households, will be carried out in the areas identified for land acquisition by PEDO to develop the Resettlement Action Plan for the Project.

280. A brief overview of the conceptual components of an EIA process is given in **Exhibit 5**, whereas the detailed process to be followed for the study of the ecological impacts of the Project is provided in **Exhibit 6**. A preliminary list of potential environmental and social impacts of the Project and a list of biodiversity issues that will be investigated during the EIA are provided below.

List of potential environmental and social impacts
♦ Provision of employment to people
♦ Creation of service-sector jobs, procurement of consumables, and outsourcing to local service providers.
♦ Construction-related impacts such as noise and dust
♦ Reduction in power outages and revival of the affected economies
♦ Increase in traffic due to Project-related transportation
♦ Disturbance due to blasting, dust, noise, vibration, road congestion, and safety hazards from heavy traffic
♦ Damage to infrastructure due to blasting and noise nuisance due to blasting, drilling, and batching plant
♦ Changes to existing social and cultural norms
♦ Pressure on existing infrastructure as a result of the influx of job seekers
♦ Impact on sand mining and gravel extraction
♦ Contamination of soil
♦ Transformation of Landscape
♦ Physical displacement of some households resulting in disruption of existing socioeconomic setup
List of potential biodiversity issues
♦ Reduction in water quality and quantity
♦ Changes in the sediment load of river
♦ Changes in the geomorphology of the river
♦ Fragmentation of fish habitat
♦ Damage to natural flora and fauna and river ecosystem

♦ Impact on endangered and migratory species

281. As impacts on the aquatic ecology due to the project are of importance, HBP, in collaboration with Southern Waters Ecological Research and Consulting, will employ the DRIFT (Downstream Implications of Flow Transformation) Decision Support System (DSS) approach to assess the changes in flow regime of the river on fish and other river dependent wildlife. DRIFT is a holistic approach that employs a multidisciplinary team to analyze the likely effects on a range of flow scenarios and has been tested in Himalayan rivers. The DRIFT Process is shown in **Exhibit 7**. It aims to predict changes in the form of three streams of information—ecological, economic, and social—that represent the three pillars of sustainable development. It incorporates a custom-built Decision Support System (DSS) that holds all the relevant data, understanding, and local wisdom about the river provided by the team of river and social specialists.

282. The four main aims incorporated into the DRIFT process are to:

- Synthesize present relevant knowledge on the river ecosystem;
- Synthesize present relevant knowledge on the use of the river;
- Predict how the river ecosystem could change with water-resource development; and
- Predict how these river changes could affect people and the economy

Exhibit 5: Conceptual framework of EIA figure.

Component	Main purpose	Activities related to Stakeholder Consultations
Scoping	♦ Identify the issues on which the EIA should focus. ♦ Identify project alternatives that should be evaluated during the EIA.	♦ Identify institutional and community stakeholders ♦ Engage stakeholders and record issues raised ♦ Provide feedback to the EIA team to incorporate stakeholders' concerns in baseline investigations and impact assessment
Baseline investigations	♦ Collect background information on the environmental and social setting of the project.	♦ Incorporate additional issues raised during the baseline survey
Impact assessment, studies	♦ Define the potential impacts of the project ♦ Undertake specialist investigations to predict changes to the environment due to the project ♦ Determine the significance of the potential impacts ♦ Identify measures for the management of the impacts ♦ Determine the residual impacts of the project after incorporation of the management measures. ♦ Evaluate the overall acceptability of the project (from environmental and social perspectives).	♦ Assess issues raised by stakeholders

Component	Main purpose	Activities related to Stakeholder Consultations
Mitigation Measures and Management Plan	♦ Environmental mitigation and monitoring plan will describe the measures proposed to ensure implementation of the mitigation measures identified during the impact assessment. It will include, for example, specific designs and plans, training requirements, resource requirements, monitoring details (sampling locations, methodology, and frequency), review and reporting requirements, and budget.	♦ Assess the acceptability and practicability of the proposed mitigation measures
EIA Report Preparation	♦ After the studies, the EIA team will pull together a detailed assessment of impacts and mitigation measures. This may involve liaising with various specialists to ensure the correct interpretation of information and compile the EIA report.	♦ Provide stakeholders with feedback on the EIA specifically communicate how the project proponent proposes to address the issues raised by the stakeholders.
EIA submittal to regulatory authorities and decision-making	♦ Submittal and review of the EIA report by regulatory authorities and other interested stakeholders. The reviewers will inform about their decision on the acceptability of the Project from environmental and social perspectives and the conditions of approval for the development	♦ Attend the public hearings and respond to the issues raised during the public hearings.

Exhibit 6: Biodiversity Assessment and Management Process figure.

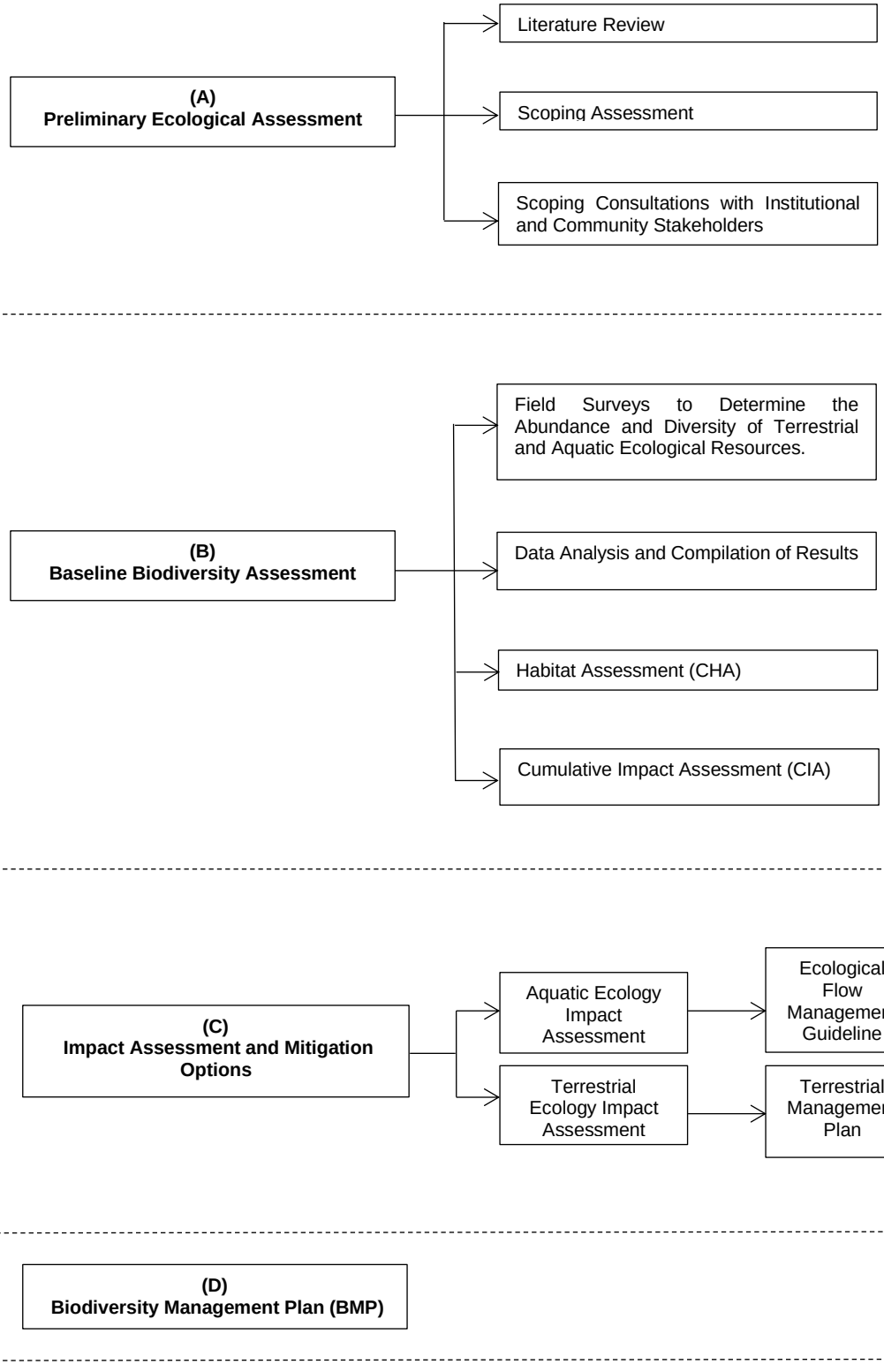
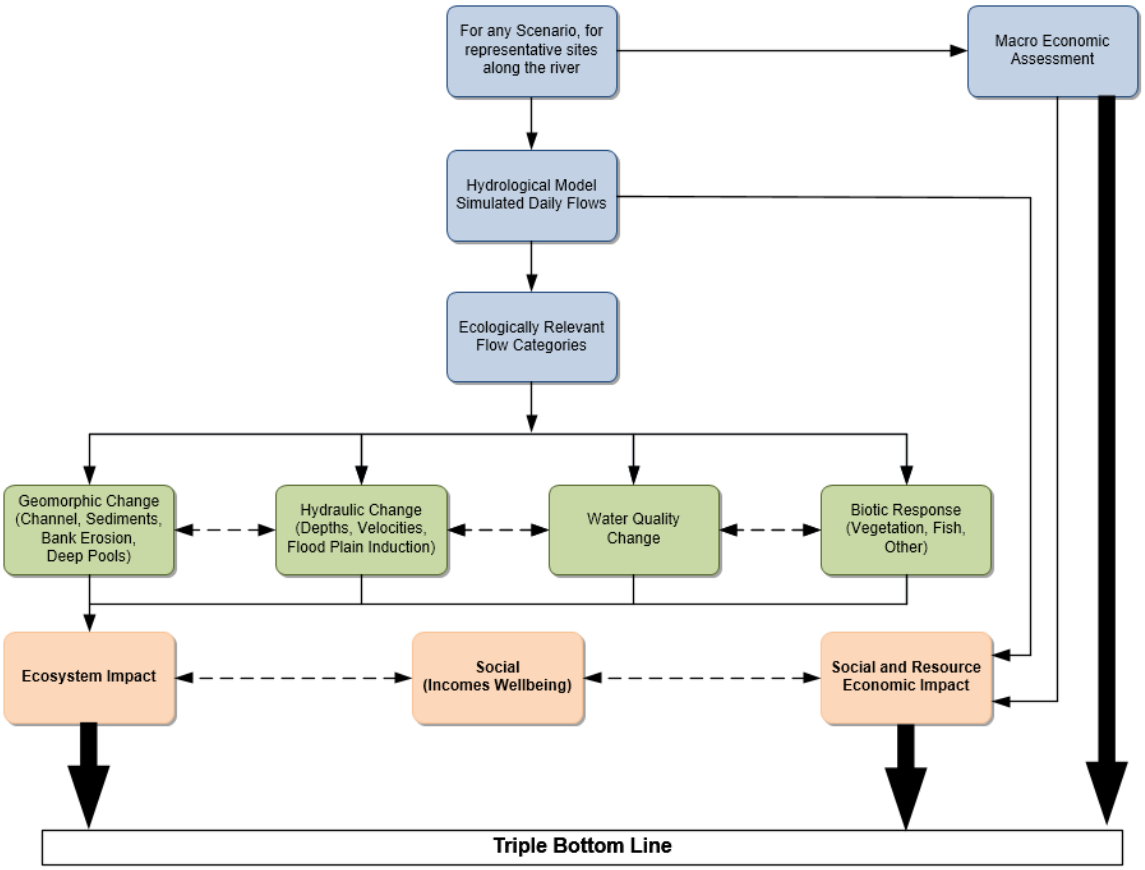


Exhibit 7: Integrated Scenario Based Approach (DRIFT DSS)



For further information on the study please contact:

Syed Hidayat Hasan
Hagler Bailly Pakistan
Block 1, Commercial Area
Street 21, F8/2, Islamabad 44000
Tel: +92 (51) 261 0200-07
Cell: +92 (300) 856 0713
Fax: +92 (51) 261 0208-09
Email: HHasan@haglerbailly.com.pk

Vaqar Zakaria
Hagler Bailly Pakistan
Block 1, Commercial Area
Street 21, F8/2, Islamabad 44000
Tel: +92 51 285 7200-07
Cell: +92 (345) 855 3013
Fax: +92 51 285 7208-09
Email: vzakaria@haglerbailly.com.pk

ANNEXURE C : CONSULTATION LOG TEMPLATE

Record of the Consultation

Stakeholder/s or Settlement		
Consultation	ESIA Consultation or Feedback Consultation	
Date:		
Time:		
Meeting Venue:		
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Contact Number
Conducted by:		
Recorded by:		
Reviewed by:		
Language:		
Preamble:		
Picture/s:		

No.	*Issues, Concerns and Suggestions*	*By*	*Response Provided*

Additional comments:

No.	*Issues, Concerns and Suggestions*	*By*	*Response Provided*

ANNEXURE D : GREIVANCE REDRESS LOG

Complaint No.: _____Settlement: _____Village: _____

Name of Complainant:					
Father/ Husband Name					
NIC Number:					
Contact Address:					
Contact Number:					
Nature of Grievance or Complaint:					
Environmental:		**Social:**		**Gender:**	
Details:					

Complainant		Recipient	
Signature:	_____	Signature:	_____
Name:	_____	Name:	_____
Dated:	_____	Dated:	_____

APPENDIX P: RECORD OF THE CONSULTATION MEETING

P.1 Institutional Consultation Log

283. This document summarizes the institutional consultations undertaken for the EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project (HDIP) or Project (BAHPP).

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder	District Management, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	
Consultation	Stakeholder Consultation for the	
Date:	July 4, 2017	
Time:	01:15 PM	
Meeting Venue:	Office of Deputy Commissioner, Mansehra	
Attended by and contact details:	Mr. Iqbal Hussain, Deputy Commissioner, Mansehra	099-7920 170
	Mr. Faraz Qureshi, Tehsildar Land Acquisition, Mansehra	0334-5620 600
	Salman Shahid Khan	0346-9465 123
	Anwar Fazal Ahmad (AN)	0312-2 pm1 658
Conducted by:	Salman Shahid, Anwar Fazal Ahmad	
Recorded by:	AN	
Language:	Urdu	
Preamble	Mr. Hussain and Mr. Qureshi were briefed about the purpose of the meeting. He was up-to-date about the Project because a Background Information Document had been shared with him.	

Issues Identified

The process of land acquisition will be as under;

- Land records of the area to be affected by the Project will be prepared after the on-ground marking of the affected area.
- The Revenue Department lacks staff so the project should hire land acquisition staff to help the revenue department prepare land records and complete the land acquisition process.
- After the preparation of land records following the request for land acquisition by PEDO, section 4 of LAA 1894 will be issued.

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder	Revenue Department, Mansehra District	
Consultation	Stakeholder Consultation for the	
Date:	July 4, 2017	
Time:	3:45 pm	
Meeting Venue:	Office of Tehsildar, Balakot	
Attended By	Anwar Fazal Ahmad (AN)	0312-9791 658
	Salman Shahid	0346-9465 123
	Mr. Asghar Shah	0342-5603 396
	Mr. Zulfiqar Ali Khan	0301-8121 522
Conducted by:	Salman Shahid (ADB Coordinator), Anwar Fazal Ahmad (AN)	
Recorded by:	AN	
Language:	Urdu	
Preamble	Mr. Shah and Mr. Khan were briefed about the purpose of the meeting. He was up-to-date about the Project because a Background Information Document had been shared with them.	

Issues Identified

The process of land acquisition will be as under;

- Land records of the area to be affected by the Project will be prepared after the on-ground marking of the affected area.
- After the preparation of land records following the request for land acquisition by PEDO, section 4 of LAA 1894 will be issued.

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s	Environmental Protection Agency, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	
Consultation	Stakeholder Consultation for the	
Date	April 10, 2017	
Time	2 pm	
Meeting Venue	EPA, KP Office, Peshawar	
Attended By	Dr. Mohammad Bashir Khan	0300-597 9823
	Syed Hidayat Hasan (HH)	0300 856 0713
	Kamran Minai (KM)	0316 298 8319
	Naimat Khan, PEDO	0333 473 7190
	Salman Shahid Khan, ADB	0346 946 5123
HBP Representatives	HH, KM	
Stakeholder Representatives	Dr. Mohammad Bashir Khan	
Conducted by	HH	
Recorded by	KM	
Language	English, Urdu	
Preamble	Dr. Bashir was briefed about the purpose of the meeting. He was up-to-date about the Project because a Background Information Document had been shared with him. The representatives from PEDO and ADB were also part of the meeting. Dr. Bashir was then asked to share his concerns regarding the Project.	

Issues Identified
Sewage dumping in the river is an existing issue.
Cutting down trees for road construction is a concern. Deforestation of thick forests will occur.
It is important to know the Environmental Flows that will result from the Project.
Fish ladders are recommended.
There will be submergence of certain areas and this is a concern.
A colony will be created for workers and labor which could have adverse impacts.

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s	World Wildlife Fund, Pakistan	
Consultation	Stakeholder Consultation for the	
Date	April 12, 2017	
Time	12 pm	
Meeting Venue	WWF-P Office Islamabad	
Attended By	Rab Nawaz	+92 (344) 254 9384
	Kamran Minai (KM)	+92 (316) 298 8319
	Shakeel Ahmad (SA)	+92 (343) 981 3640
HBP Representatives	KM, SA	
Stakeholder Representatives	Rab Nawaz	
Conducted by	KM, SA	
Recorded by	KM	
Language	English	
Preamble	Rab Nawaz was briefed about the Project and was provided with a Background Information Document which he reviewed before the questions were asked. He was then asked about his concerns regarding the Project and his suggestions for mitigation.	

Issues Identified and Recommendations
Issues and Concerns
Construction Phase disturbances: Reserve forests are a concern, a highly sensitive area for wildlife, Himalayan moist temperate forests. Road construction will result in the loss of forests including reserve forests.
Project Location: The Project is located between Protected Areas. Here diversity is important because there is an overlap between moist temperate and dry temperate forests. A lot of animals will be displaced because of this Project. Areas of importance around the Project include Kaghan, Paras, Siri Pai, Allai, and Kawai.
Species of conservation importance present: These include endemic species and those listed as Endangered or Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List: They belong to the kingdoms of plants, birds, and mammals. This is a very critical area for wildlife. Just above Paras is a very sensitive habitat. In particular, the Himalayan Grey Langur of which there is a very large population here. Black Bear is also found here and signs of Brown Bear have been observed. There are 7-8 important bird species including for example the Western Trogopan, the Long-tailed Tip, Khaleej Pheasant, and Kokhlas Pheasant. Vulture spp. are also found here including the Griffon Vulture. This is also part of the range of the Common Leopard. Deer spp. include Ibex, Muntjak Deer, Grey Goral. Local extinctions are possible.
Seasonal Risks: There is altitudinal migration here. Species come down to this area
Slow development of Himalayan Ecosystems: Himalayan Ecosystems develop over a long period. The impacts of this Project will be short-term but they will be damaging.
Pollution: Air and dust pollution are a concern for wildlife.
Recommended Mitigation and Management Measures
The timing of construction is very important. The winter season is better than the summer season because in winter there is less breeding.

Strict controls on flora and fauna but especially flora from exploitation by workers.
Strict guidelines on avoiding hunting.
Protection of upstream forests is important.
Forest-targeted restoration and conservation is important. This will help by preventing landslides as well.
Taxus species should not be removed.
It is recommended that investments be made in Watershed Management Programs.
A close eye should be kept on water quality.
Focused studies are recommended especially on Taxus species, Western Trogopan, and Musk Deer.

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s	Star Hydro Power Limited (SHPL)	
Consultation	Stakeholder Consultation for the	
Date	April 12, 2017	
Time	3 pm	
Meeting Venue	SHPL Office, Islamabad	
Attended By	Syed Atif Ali Shah	0301 849 8601
	Kamran Minai (KM)	0316 298 8319
HBP Representatives	KM	
Stakeholder Representatives	Syed Atif Ali Shah	
Conducted by	KM	
Recorded by	KM	
Language	English, Urdu	
Preamble	Syed Atif Ali Shah was provided with the Background Information Document and a brief description of the Project was given with details of its key components. As the stakeholder is already involved in the development of hydropower in the Kunhar Basin, the representative had read the feasibility study and was aware of the Project location and certain details.	

Issues Identified and Recommendations
Issues
Resettlement is a concern: There are 116 commercial infrastructures, and a marketplace is being affected.
Operational impacts i.e. peaking and changes in Environmental Flows: The most important concern is the modification to environmental flows that will result due to Project operations; the Patrind HPP is downstream of the proposed Project. Both the timing and quantity of release of water are important. Even a 3-4 hour stoppage of water is a concern. In addition, stoppage of water during testing and Project operation is of concern. It is important to know the mean dry season flow after the Project is in place. Sedimentation and flushing of sediments, including timing and quantity, is also a concern.
Impacts on ecology: There are concerns about the presence of fish species of conservation importance and impacts on river ecology.
Recommendations
Communication between developers: There should be clear communication between developers regarding the timing and level of environmental flows. This includes modification inflows as a result of peaking operations and flushing.

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s:	Himalayan Wildlife Foundation (HWF)	
Consultation	Stakeholder Consultation for the	
Date:	April 19, 2017	
Time:	2 pm	
Meeting Venue:	Hagler Bailly Pakistan Office	
Attended By	Dr Anis-ur-Rahman	0300 854 0471
	Kamran Minai	0316 298 8319
HBP Representatives	Kamran Minai (KM)	
Stakeholder Representatives	Dr Anis-ur-Rahman	
Conducted by:	KM	
Recorded by:	KM	
Language:	English	
Preamble:	Dr Rahman was familiar with the Project based on the Background Information Document provided earlier. He was provided with a brief summary of the key technical aspects of the Project design and number of people to be resettled.	

Issues Identified and Recommendations
Issues
Resettlement: The main concern is the people who will need to be relocated as a result of the Project. Their quality of life needs to improve and they need to have value added to their living standards.
Fish Species of Conservation Importance: The fish species that will be affected by the Project are important.
Recommendations
The new housing provided should be based on comprehensive planning. A sectoral approach should be taken such as that adopted in Islamabad. This resettlement should be a model for other villages in the Kaghan Valley which other people will want to emulate.
A town planner should be contracted to carry out planning for the resettlement and add value to the lives of the people. Professional town planners include Sikander Ajam Associates and Dr. M.K. Pasha. There should be planning to provide residential, commercial, and amenities plots.
The resettlement being done with proper town planning will mean that the value of the properties of the locals increases.
Commitment should be made to provide the locals with as many jobs related to the Project as possible. This includes technical jobs for which training should begin as soon as possible.
The sourcing of the sediment should be from local sources. Contracts and sub-contracts should be given to the locals as far as possible, not to outsiders.
There should be an agreement with the government to provide 24-hour electricity daily to the local community that is being affected by the Project.
The maximum benefits associated with the Project should be to the locals. The resettled staff should be wealthier, not poorer and their quality of life should see a marked improvement.
HWF is interested in any activities and assistance it can provide with the protection of biodiversity.

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s:	Forest Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	
Consultation	Stakeholder Consultation for the	
Date:	April 27, 2017	
Time:	10 am	
Meeting Venue:	Forest Department Office, Mansehra, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	
Attended By:	Sardar Tamor Ilyas, Divisional Forest Officer, Mansehra	+92 (997) 410 020, +92 (331) 800 2000
	Azhar Ali Khan, Conservator of Forests, Lower Hazara	+92 (091) 931 0232
	Kamran Minai (KM)	+92 (316) 298 8319
HBP Representatives:	KM	
Stakeholder Representatives:	Sardar Tamor Ilyas	
Conducted by:	KM	
Recorded by:	KM	
Language:	Urdu	
Preamble:	The stakeholder representatives were briefed about the Project and its impacts. They were familiar with the area and the trends of behavior of the locals.	
Concerns		
Relocation of people: People will be relocated and are likely to want to move downward. This is expected based on past observations and trends in the behavior of the locals; in this area, people with the means to move, for example, due to improved economic status, generally choose to move to lower areas. From the perspective of the Department, this is positive as it leaves more forested areas untouched at higher elevations.		
Existing disturbance: The habitat in this area is already fragmented due to human activity. The locals have modified the forest area and there is a high level of disturbance.		
Project footprint: The forested area in the Project footprint is not of concern because Project-related activities will not result in the degradation of large forested areas.		
Reserve Forests: There are no concerns with Reserve Forests as these will not be affected by the Project. Areas further away from the Project infrastructure have Reserve Forests but these will not be affected by the Project.		
Size of the Project: The Department supports this development because it will generate much-needed electricity for the country. It is viewed as a positive development in addressing national needs.		
Recommendation		
Replantation: Compensatory replantation should be done for any loss of trees due to Project-related activities. The Department will use any funds provided for this purpose.		
Ratio of replantation: The Forest Department does not have any specific ratio of replantation in mind. The Department has not yet decided whether replantation should be done in a 1:3, 1:5, or 1:10 ratio.		

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s:	Archaeology Department, Hazara University	
Consultation	Stakeholder Consultation for the	
Date:	April 27, 2017	
Time:	1 pm	
Meeting Venue:	Archaeology Department, Hazara University	
Attended By	Dr Shakirullah, Assistant Professor	+92 (997) 414 147, +92 (300) 593 8066
	Zafar Ali, Assistant Director, Environment, PEDO	
	Salman Shahid Khan, ADB Project Coordinator	+92 (346) 946 5123
	Kamran Minai (KM)	+92 (316) 298 8319
HBP Representatives	KM	
Stakeholder Representatives	Dr Shakirullah	
Conducted by:	KM, Zafar Ali, Salman Shahid Khan	
Recorded by:	KM, Zafar Ali, Salman Shahid Khan	
Language:	Urdu, English	
Preamble:	Dr Shakirullah was briefed about the Project, including the main infrastructure components and the length of the reservoir area. He was aware of the details of the EIA as described in the Background Information Document.	
Concerns		
Historical Value: Mansehra is very rich in history. Within Manshera, more than one thousand sites of importance have been identified. There is important Buddhist archaeology here. Also, historically, this area has been important for trade routes.		
Downstream impacts: The changes in the flow of the river may be of importance if there are any archaeological sites downstream. In particular, flooding is a concern.		
Legislation: The Provincial Antiquities Act has been revised in 2016 and should be taken into consideration.		
Recommendations		
Need for a survey: It is important to conduct surveys beforehand to determine the archaeological value of an area where development is planned to take place. If there are any archeological artifacts of importance, excavations can be done. Assessing the area, whilst keeping in view the dam, is recommended.		
Sharing of Information: Publication of proper reports is recommended once data is collected.		

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s:	Fisheries Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	
Consultation	Stakeholder Consultation for the	
Date:	April 27, 2017	
Time:	3 pm	
Meeting Venue:	Office of Fisheries Department, Mansehra, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	
Attended By	Mohammad Tanvir, Assistant Director Fisheries, District Mansehra	+92 (303) 492 4722
	Zafar Ali, Assistant Director, Environment, PEDO	
	Salman Shahid Khan, ADB Project Coordinator	0346-946 5123
	Kamran Minai (KM)	0316-298 8319
HBP Representatives	KM	
Stakeholder Representatives	Mohammad Tanvir	
Conducted by:	KM, Zafar Ali, Salman Shahid Khan	
Recorded by:	KM, Zafar Ali, Salman Shahid Khan	
Language:	Urdu, English	
Preamble:	Dr Tanvir was aware of the Project and its details as he had attended an E-flow workshop earlier and had read the Background Information Document.	
Concerns		
Disturbance: The ecosystem already developed will be disturbed due to the Project.		
Spawning grounds: The spawning grounds of fish will be affected due to changes in flows. Native species will be killed due to this. Spawning grounds of the Alwan Snow Trout are a concern. Mr. Zafar noted the importance of the two endemic species.		
Fishing licensing: Fish licenses are provided for fishing in this area. Changes in fish fauna will affect fishing in the area.		
Flushing: This is a concern because it will affect the fish fauna of the reservoir. However, it was noted by Mr. Salman that flushing is normally done in the flooding season when water needs to be released anyway.		
Fish Ladder: Strong fish will be able to move over the ladder but the weaker ones will not. An estimated success rate is 25-30% of the fish making it over.		
Options: Japan has removed a dam due to concerns over fish fauna, but we are not in this position.		
Pressures: Pressures other than those associated with the Project include human population growth which has increased pollution and effluent discharge into the river. The pH of water in some areas has increased as a result of this, making it unsuitable for fish. There is also noise pollution from construction activities, such as the extension of roads.		
Changes in the ecosystem: Abrupt temperature changes affect the ecosystem. Climate Change was mentioned as a possible cause by Mr. Salman and recognized as an issue by Dr Tanvir.		

Zoning: There are six zones of the river. Of these, one area is a sanctuary where no disturbance is allowed and fish watchers are greater in number. This is important because of the increase in fishing pressure (earlier there were 100s of people coming to fish, now 1000s show up). This is partly due to better access as a result of road extension. The zonation has changed due to impacts of pollution as the fish do not travel to areas where they previously did. The Brown Trout is an example, which shows prominent coloration in areas near Jalkhad where the water is less polluted compared to Balakot, where this species shows a less prominent coloration. However, there are differences in the food chain as well, so pollution may not be the cause.
Lack of research: There has been no research on the effects of pollution on fish fauna. Mutations may be a concern although no such abnormalities have been observed. The growth of fish has not changed.
Recommendations
Fish ladder: A fish ladder is proposed to be a part of the dam design. Mr. Zafar stressed the need to explore options to increase the success rate of the fish ladder above 25-30% of the fish making it over. A review of the fish ladder design is recommended.
Flow: The flow needs to be maintained as per the agreement.
Reservoir: The 4.5 km stretch of the reservoir should be used for stocking fish and angling. Mr. Zafar stressed that invasive species should be avoided.
Safe area: A safe area for fish should be established. Mr. Salman stated that an option for pond sharing should looked into.
Hatcheries: An alternative to protection and preservation is the use of hatcheries. These should be supported. The Alwan Snow Trout has been bred successfully in other countries and a hatchery exists in Swat. Mr. Zafar stated that in Pakistan there are limitations on the breeding of fish due to lack of facilities. He thought that, of the two options (in vivo and in vitro), the in vivo option is preferable.
Monitoring: Weekly pH monitoring is recommended. The current data for temperature is to be shared with PEDO.

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s:	Wildlife Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	
Consultation	Stakeholder Consultation for the	
Date:	April 27, 2017	
Time:	4 pm	
Meeting Venue:	Office of Wildlife Department, Mansehra, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	
Attended By	Faiq Khan, DFO, Mansehra	+92 (333) 555 4956
	Zafar Ali, Assistant Director, Environment, PEDO	
	Salman Shahid Khan, ADB Project Coordinator	+92 (346) 946 5123
	Kamran Minai (KM)	+92 (316) 298 8319
HBP Representatives	KM	
Stakeholder Representatives	Faiq Khan	
Conducted by:	KM, Zafar Ali, Salman Shahid Khan	
Recorded by:	KM, Zafar Ali, Salman Shahid Khan	
Language:	Urdu, English	
Preamble:	Mr. Khan was aware of the Project as he had read the Background Information Document.	
Concerns		
Violations: Wildlife violations including those which affect the aquatic habitat are being handled by the Wildlife Department.		
Reservoir: The reservoir is a concern. This is mainly due to the inundation of vegetation and loss of habitat. Due to the reservoir, a wetland will be established which will change bird fauna. There will also be changes to flora and fauna in the riparian zone.		
Lack of data: There is limited data on wildlife especially on key species, such as the Common Leopard and The Indian Palm Civet. There is a focus on game species but a lack of data on those that are not game animals. The department cannot go into minute details of wildlife management and research.		
Infrastructure development: The development of infrastructure will affect the fragile ecosystem.		
Species of importance: This is a very important area for Chakhor and Khaleej Pheasant. The population of the Khaleej Pheasant is of particular concern. Passerine birds are important as well.		
Non-Project related pressures: These include habitat loss and fragmentation due to expansion of settlements, and the human-wildlife conflict, especially for the Common Leopard and the Black Bear. After the earthquake people moved down resulting in more area for these species to occupy. As a result, their populations have increased and hence they extend their ranges and come into conflict with people. As mentioned earlier there is a lack of data on wildlife; species data is needed for baseline development and monitoring. There is only regulation on game species.		
Lack of staff: There is a lack of staff which results in very few watchers.		
Lack of awareness: There is a lack of awareness amongst locals regarding the importance of wildlife. In particular, there is a lack of understanding regarding sustainable use and economic benefits of wildlife.		
Recommendations		

The need for surveys: Detailed wildlife surveys are needed. The Department needs to be included in these. Mr. Zafar stated the importance of government coordination. Entomology should be included in the surveys because the food chain is of importance.
Staff capacity building: There is a need to build the capacity of the staff.
Reservoir: This should be declared a protected wetland.
Closure of areas: There are forested areas that are closed off to all activity. This is to facilitate regeneration. 120 such areas have been established in Kaghan Valley, with each ranging from 40 ha to 100 ha.

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s:	Adventure Time Pakistan	
Consultation	Stakeholder Consultation for the	
Date:	May 2, 2017	
Time:	9 30am	
Meeting Venue:	Telephonic	
Attended By	Nadeem Akhtar, Director	+92 (311) 746 6171
	Kamran Minai (KM)	+92 (316) 298 8319
HBP Representatives	KM	
Stakeholder Representatives	Nadeem Akhtar	
Conducted by:	KM	
Recorded by:	KM	
Language:	English, Urdu	
Preamble:	Nadeem Akhtar had read the Background Information Document and was aware of the Project. The main infrastructure of the Project was explained to him to refresh his memory of the planned development, most importantly the dam itself, the tunnels, and the staff colonies.	
Concerns		
High water level: white water rafting is carried out only along the Kunhar River, in two areas. One is between the stretch from Balakot to Garhi Habibullah and the other is in Naran. Therefore, Adventure Time Pakistan would like a high water level to be maintained in this stretch.		
Positive impact for tourism: In the Khanpur dam Adventure Time Pakistan organizes events for kids including camps where they are taught about first aid, and watersports and where they enjoy still water kayaking. Therefore, the creation of another reservoir is, in the view of the organization, a benefit as it increases opportunities for such activities and draws in more tourists.		
Recommendations		
Sharing of the schedule of the release of water: The schedule for the release of water should be shared with everyone so that people can plan their activities accordingly.		

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s:	Social Welfare Department, KP	
Consultation	Stakeholder Consultation for the	
Date:	May 19, 2017	
Time:	10:30 am	
Meeting Venue:	Office of District Officer Social Welfare, Mansehra	
Attended By	Abdul Rasheed, Social Welfare Officer, Mansehra	0301-8137172
	Yasmeen Saeed, Social Welfare Officer	NA
	Anwar Fazal Ahmad (AN)	0312 979 1658
	Ms. Rizwana Waraich (RW)	0331-539-6334
HBP Representatives	AN, RW	
Stakeholder Representatives	Abdul Rasheed, Social Welfare Officer, Mansehra, and Yasmeen Saeed, Social Welfare Officer	
Conducted by:	AN, RW	
Recorded by:	AN	
Language:	Urdu	
Preamble:	The Background Information Document (BID) has been shared with the organization. They were also briefed about the Project before obtaining their views.	
Concerns		
Impacts on Communities: The Project will have significant impacts on local communities. Several households will be displaced. The following will be submerged: • Boys and girls schools. • Basic Health Unit (BHU). • Graves of the relatives of the affected households.		
Recommendations		
All the displaced households should be rehabilitated.		
Public infrastructure like schools and BHUs should be relocated.		
Graves should be managed with the consent of the communities		
The project should provide special assistance to vulnerable households.		
Households affected by livelihood should be provided with vocational training to get benefits from the project		

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s:	Kaghan Development Authority	
Consultation	Stakeholder Consultation for the	
Date:	May 22, 2017	
Time:	9 am	
Meeting Venue:	Kaghan Development Authority Office	
Attended By	Fidat Tanoli, Assistant Director	0333-4300 019
	Nasir Hayat Babar, Project Director	0300-8593 045
	Kamran Minai (KM)	0316-3988 319
HBP Representatives	KM	
Stakeholder Representatives	Fidat Tanoli, Nasir Hayat Babar	
Conducted by:	KM	
Recorded by:	KM	
Language:	Urdu, English	
Preamble:	The stakeholder representative was aware of the Project details as a Background Information Document (BID) was shared with them. A brief discussion on the spatial scope of the Project and the villages near which Project facilities are planned was done to have a shared understanding of the areas that will be affected.	

Concerns
Jurisdiction: The area in which the Project infrastructure is located falls within the jurisdiction of the Kaghan Development Authority, therefore, the organization is keenly interested in this development. Therefore, the Kaghan Development Authority is a main stakeholder and representative of the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The Kaghan Development Authority supports this move by the Provincial Government to develop energy resources in the area, but it should include the Kaghan Development Authority.
Development: The Provincial Government has plans to promote tourism in this area through the Kaghan Development Authority, in particular, international tourism. The Kaghan Development Authority started a program for solid waste disposal in the area last year. The program aims to cover the area from Balakot to Babusar. It will provide sanitation, drainage, and waste disposal facilities. A water purification scheme is planned to be introduced in Naran. A firefighting scheme is planned. A garbage collection scheme has been started. Further plans include development of Saif-ul-Muluk and Lulupatsar as well as the establishment of a family park in Naran and Shogran.
Natural beauty of the area: We are concerned about the natural beauty including all wild flora and fauna. Preserving and protecting the vegetation is a priority.
Functions: The functions of the Kaghan Development Authority are as a service provider, building control agency, and executing agency for any scheme in the area. Therefore, this development is very important for the Kaghan Development Authority.
Development of Project facilities: As two colonies will be established, there will be increased economic and commercial activity in the area. Therefore, responsibility for the effects of this will need to be taken, for example, controlling pollution. This is the Kaghan Development Authority's area of interest.

Legislation: The Kaghan Development Authority is the owner of the area and coordination with it is required for public sector projects as well as private sector ones.
Recommendations
Sharing of information: Progress on the development of the Project should be shared with the Kaghan Development Authority regularly.
Capacity Building: A fraction of the net income from the Project should be given to the Kaghan Development Authority so that it can function effectively as a service provider. Funding is important. The Kaghan Development Authority will only be bound to provide services if they are taken on board. If the Kaghan Development Authority is provided with funding, they will not have any excuse to provide services.
Environment: The Kaghan Development Authority wants to make this area environmentally friendly.

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s:	International Finance Corporation
Consultation	Stakeholder Consultation for the
Date:	May 26, 2017
Time:	6:50 pm
Meeting Venue:	Communicated by letter
HBP Representatives	Kamran Minai
Stakeholder Representatives	Shahid Lutfi
Language:	English
Preamble:	The Background Information Document (BID) has been shared with the stakeholders. A conversation to discuss the main components of the dam design and the key stakeholders involved was also held. The stakeholders provided their recommendations for the ESIA process and the Project.
Recommendations	
There must be a robust impact assessment that covers the potential impacts of the project on not only the Kunhar River but also the Jhelum River downstream of the confluence of the two rivers. This should address the potential impacts of peaking flows and sediment discharges.	
The alternatives analysis in the ESIA should cover different approaches to peaking flows, ranging from run-of-river to two- or four-hour daily peaking discharges. We also recommend that seasonal limitations on peaking be considered as well. IFC encourages developers to consult with relevant authorities to discuss the possibility that Balakot could be operated as a run-of-river project without peaking discharges during the entire year or key biodiversity periods of the year.	
The alternatives analysis in the ESIA should cover different approaches to sediment management. This could range from different designs (e.g., dedicated sluicing gates low in the dam vs spillway releases) to different release regimes (e.g., multiple releases in the high-water season vs one or two release periods) to different levels of cooperation and coordination among cascade hydropower operators (e.g., synchronization of releases by upstream and downstream projects to unilateral scheduling of sediment releases).	
The ESIA should quantify the excavated soil and rock material that would require off-site disposal. Potential sites for safe disposal of muck material should be reviewed for risks of washout, land sliding, etc. ESIA may also identify a framework to develop a detailed Muck Disposal Plan during the construction stage.	
The ESIA should review the impacts on downstream projects for multiple scenarios relating to construction activities, failure of the cofferdam, and accidental release of excavated materials and muck.	
There will need to be a cumulative impact analysis that considers the cumulative impacts of overall hydropower development in the basin on endemic and endangered aquatic species that are of conservation concern. This would include impacts in the lower Jhelum River as well as in the Kunhar River. The cumulative impact assessment should also review the (provincial/state) transboundary issues relating to ecological, social, legal, and jurisdictional aspects of the project. The ESIA should take advantage of previous data collection and analyses that may be found in ESIAs and river basin planning documents for other hydropower developments.	
The overall ESIA process should essentially be an impact and risk-based assessment, and social assessments should include analysis of human rights, community benefit sharing, conflicts & security, etc. With context to PS4: Community Health, Safety, and Security, ESIA to include some basic analysis and recommendations on dam break/failure.	

The ESIA analysis may also review the project for impacts and risks on and from climate change.
The ESIA may also develop a framework for an integrated fish monitoring plan, biodiversity management, sand and gravel mining management, conflicts & security management plan, livelihood restoration, etc. that would require joint implementation by key stakeholders.
We encourage the developers of the Project to participate in the Hydropower Developers' Working Group and participate in supporting future activities of the Working Group. This could take the form of participating in Group meetings, direct contributions to various initiatives, as well as participating in or even leading certain activities. To that end, we would very much appreciate it if you would provide to us with contact information for Balakot project management.

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s:	Archaeology Department, University of Peshawar	
Consultation	Stakeholder Consultation for the	
Date:	May 30, 2017	
Time:	10 00 am	
Meeting Venue:	University of Peshawar	
Attended By	Dr Mukhtar Ali Durrani, Head of Department, Archaeology Department, University of Peshawar	+92 (91) 922 1048
	Dr Jamil Ahmad Chitrali (JC)	+92 (346) 939 3100
HBP Representatives	JC	
Stakeholder Representatives	Dr Mukhtar Ali Durrani	
Conducted by:	JC	
Recorded by:	JC	
Language:	Urdu, Pashto, English	
Preamble:	The Background Information Document (BID) had been shared with Dr Durrani and he was aware of the Project's details.	
Concerns		
Lack of evidence with the Department: There is a lack of archaeological evidence for the Project area, therefore, the Department is not aware of any sites of concern. This has been determined in consultation with other professors in the Department including Professor Naeem Khan, Professor Ibrahim Shah, and Professor Qazi Naeem.		
Lack of secondary data: There is a lack of secondary data about the area as well.		

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s:	Tourism Corporation, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (TCKP)	
Consultation	Stakeholder Consultation for the	
Date:	June 12, 2017	
Time:	12:30 pm	
Meeting Venue:	Office of TCKP	
Attended By	Dr Jamil Ahmad Chitrali (JC)	+92 (346) 939 3100
	Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad, Managing Director (MD), TCKP	+92 (332) 992 2207
	Ms. Haseena Shoukat, In-charge Marketing, TCKP	+92 (300) 932 1297
	Mr. Johar, PSO to MD, TCKP	+92 (334) 968 6805
HBP Representatives	JC	
Stakeholder Representatives	Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad, Ms. Haseena Shoukat, Mr. Johar	
Conducted by:	JC	
Recorded by:	JC	
Language:	Pashto, Urdu, English	
Preamble:	A Background Information Document (BID) was shared with the staff earlier. They were briefed salient components of the Project.	
Concerns		
Lack of data: The TCKP has no data on tourism in general and in the area where the Project is located.		
Lack of capacity: There is a lack of capacity to deal with major concerns with tourism and with planning-related matters. For a long time, they have been working with only 6 staff. Only recently the staff has been increased to over 100 and these people have been sent into the field to collect data.		
Plans: Plans to increase domestic tourism include establishing a tourist police force and uplift of roads. The corporation is also looking to submit proposals to various donors including the World Bank to facilitate efforts to create job opportunities, and train the local youth on boating, fishing, and domestic hotels. They also intend to explore and develop new picnic spots and increase efforts to conserve nature.		
Recommendations		
Assistance with plans: The corporation is seeking assistance with the successful implementation of its plans.		

P.2 Community Consultation Log (Male)

This document summarizes the community consultations undertaken for the EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project (HDIP) or Project (BAHPP).

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Bela			
Consultation	EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project			
Date:	May 2, 2017			
Time:	15:00			
Meeting Venue:	Bela at the residence of Tanveer			
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Phone Number	Name	Phone Number
	Tanvir Hussain Shah	0346 2100 087	Jaffar Shah	0446 9027 700
	Azhar Shah	0300 5638 861	Mir Hussain	0343 9256 721
	Tanvir Awan	0346 2343 616	Javid Shah	0346 9672 841
Conducted by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad			
Recorded by:	Muhammad Arshad			
Reviewed by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad			
Language:	Urdu (Muhammad Arshad assisted in Hindko where required for local understanding and better communication)			
Permeable:	Dr Jamil introduced the consultation team and stated the purpose of the consultation. He provided a brief description of the Project. They were informed about the different sites and activities of the proposed project and their state of affairs in the proposed plan. The reservoir site, the tunnel range, and other activities like labor colony were disseminated. Later, the participants were requested to share their views on the information shared as per the Basic Information Document or if they heard anything else before this visit.			

No.	Issues, Concerns, and Suggestions
1.	Agricultural land will be affected due to an increase in the water level in the reservoir which will affect incomes.
2.	Change the design of the project to minimize the effects on land and houses.
3.	All the decisions that are related to community land ownership should be displayed in the DC office accordingly. Although the government is not considering our concerns on behalf of our land ownership.
4.	We never sell the property but give it on dowry.
5.	We have very bad experience regarding the Sukki Kinari project regarding land and house compensation so we are requesting you to treat us leniently in the Balakot Hydro Power Project.
6.	Villagers will not be happy with resettlement. However, if resettlement is necessary then alternative villages or houses should be built for them.
7.	Appropriate negotiation is required between affected people and the government to resettle the affectees of the project.
8.	The land record should be updated according to the latest market rate as 50 years back land record was developed but it is not updated yet.
9.	As this village has a very important economic position due to tourism the rate of land and houses should be reasonable concerning other places.
10.	We have very limited land for subsistence agriculture so no one of us is able to sell land.
11.	We need high priority in employment opportunities in the project activities and no outsider is allowed to work in the project unless local would not found.

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Nihan			
Consultation	EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project			
Date:	May 2, 2017			
Time:	11:00			
Meeting Venue:	Nihan at the residence of Waqar Ahmed			
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Phone Number	Name	Phone Number
	Waqar Ahmed Shah	0345 9682 409	Jabbran Shah	0343 3355 593
	Arif Shah	0346 5384 270	Tahir Hussain Shah	0345 9621 179
	Usman Shah	0347 4696 132	Abid Shah	0347 6542 091
Conducted by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad			
Recorded by:	Muhammad Arshad			
Reviewed by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad			
Language:	Urdu (Muhammad Arshad assisted in Hindko where required for local understanding and better communication)			
Permeable:	Dr Jamil introduced the consultation team and stated the purpose of the consultation. He provided a brief description of the Project. They were informed about the different sites and activities of the proposed project and their state of affairs in the proposed plan. The reservoir site, the tunnel range, and other activities like labour colony were disseminated. Later, the participants were requested to share their views on the information shared as per the Basic Information Document or if they heard anything else before this visit.			

No.	*Issues, Concerns, and Suggestions*
1.	Our communal forest and other social fabric get destroyed.
2.	As the land records are not updated for 40 years so undistributed land is a major issue that has provided a source of conflict among the local community.
3.	We will not be happy with resettlement. However, if resettlement is necessary then alternative villages or houses should be built for them within this village with the same socio-cultural environment.
4.	Standard and quality of education like Kaghan model public school is a great opportunity for our children for a little fee. We can't afford this level of education anywhere else.
5.	The dust from waste materials from tunnel boring would cause diseases and environmental problems in nearby communities/ villages.
6.	Social security risk will increase due to the increase of in-migration of labor for project construction.
7.	Project construction activities would deteriorate the natural beauty of the village.
8.	We do not want to move away from their ancestral graveyard, near the village.
9.	Increased inflow of outsiders in the village for project activities would affect the privacy and mobility of local women.

10.	We need high priority in Employment opportunities in the project activities and no outsider is allowed to work in the project unless local would not found.
11.	Free electricity should be provided to the local communities including some long term benefits in project like a share in project income.

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Rahter			
Consultation	EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project			
Date:	May 3, 2017			
Time:	11:00			
Meeting Venue:	Rahter at the residence of Muhammad Faiz			
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Phone Number	Name	Phone Number
	Sardar M Faiz	0346 9636 657	Yasir Shah	0342 9126 586
	Gulam Qadar Shah	0340 8112 338	Imtiaz Hussain	0345 9483 591
	Mukhtar Shah	0342 0554 960		
Conducted by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad			
Recorded by:	Muhammad Arshad			
Reviewed by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad			
Language:	Urdu (Muhammad Arshad assisted in Hindko where required for local understanding and better communication)			
Permeable:	Dr Jamil introduced the consultation team and stated the purpose of the consultation. He provided a brief description of the Project. They were informed about the different sites and activities of the proposed project and their state of affairs in the proposed plan. The reservoir site, the tunnel range, and other activities like labor colony were disseminated. Later, the participants were requested to share their views on the information shared as per the Basic Information Document or if they heard anything else before this visit.			
No.	*Issues, Concerns, and Suggestions*			
1.	Increased inflow of outsiders in the village for project activities would affect the privacy and mobility of local women.			
2.	We need high priority in employment opportunities in the project activities and no outsider is allowed to work in the project unless local would not found.			
3.	Free electricity should be provided to the local communities including some long-term benefits of the project like a share in project income.			
4.	Land records have not been updated for 40 years, undistributed land is the major issue that has provided a source of new conflicts. So land record should be updated before the project starts.			
5.	The dust from waste materials from tunnel boring would cause diseases and environmental problems in nearby communities/ villages.			
6.	We do not want to move away from their ancestral graveyard, near the village.			
7.	Social security risk will increase due to the increase of in-migration of labor for project construction.			

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Balseri			
Consultation	EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project			
Date:	May 3, 2017			
Time:	14:20			
Meeting Venue:	Bela Balseri at the residence of Mubarak Ali Shah			
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Phone Number	Name	Phone Number
	Abdul Rasheed	0344 9530 480	Saraj Ahmed	0347 9475 074
	Nadeem	0346 9608 322	Mubarak Ali Shah	0345 9761 251
Conducted by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad			
Recorded by:	Muhammad Arshad			
Reviewed by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad			
Language:	Urdu (Muhammad Arshad assisted in Hindko where required for Local understanding and better communication)			
Permeable:	Dr Jamil introduced the consultation team and stated the purpose of the consultation. He provided a brief description of the Project. They were informed about the different sites and activities of the proposed project and their state of affairs in the proposed plan. The reservoir site, the tunnel range, and other activities like labor colony were disseminated. Later, the participants were requested to share their views on the information shared as per the Basic Information Document or if they heard anything else before this visit.			

No.	*Issues, Concerns, and Suggestions*
1.	Agricultural land will be affected due to an increase in the water level in the reservoir which will affect incomes.
2.	Change the design of the project to minimize the effects on land and houses.
3.	All the decisions that are related to community land ownership should be displayed in the DC office accordingly. Although the government is not considering our concerns on behalf of our land ownership.
4.	We never sell the property but give it on dowry.
5.	We have very bad experience regarding the Sukki Kinari project regarding land and house compensation so we are requesting you treat us leniently in the Balakot Hydro Power Project.
6.	Villagers will not be happy with resettlement. However, if resettlement is necessary then alternative villages or houses should be built for them.
7.	Appropriate negotiation is required between affected people and the government to resettle the affectees of the project.
8.	Land records should be updated according to the latest market rate as 50 years back land records were developed but it is not updated yet.
9.	As this village has a very important economic position due to tourism the rate of land and houses should be reasonable concerning other places.
10.	We have very limited land for subsistence agriculture so no one of us is able to sell land.
11.	We need high priority in employment opportunities in the project activities and no outsider is allowed to work in the project unless local would not found.

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Garhi Habibullah		
Consultation	EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project		
Date:	May 3, 2017		
Time:	14:20		
Meeting Venue:	Garhi Habibullah at neighborhood council office		
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Designation	Phone Number
	Jhangeer Safeer Khan	Member District councilor	0335-0909-991
	Jamil Asghar Khan	Member Tehsil Councilor	0312-9552546
	Muhammad Nazakat	Nazim village councilor	0300-3005-776
	Muhammad Irtaza	General councilor	0311-5818-041
	Nadim Tariq	General councilor	0331-3636-131
	Muhammad Shamreez	General councilor	0322-9200-251
	Muhammad Tariq	General councilor	0333-5054-069
	Muhammad Tariq	General councilor	0333-5054-069
	Safi Khan	General councilor	0312-5556-356
	Saraj Ahmed Khan	General councilor	0315-6630-345
	Muhammad Ilyas	General councilor	0312-9518-936
	Tanvir Akhtar	Secretary	0313-5056-448
Conducted by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad		
Recorded by:	Muhammad Arshad		
Reviewed by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad		
Language:	Urdu and Hindko were required for local understanding and better communication		
Permeable:	Muhammad Arshad introduced the consultation team and stated the purpose of the consultation. The community/participants were informed briefly about the Project. They were informed about the different sites and activities of the proposed project and their state of affairs in the proposed plan. The reservoir site, the tunnel range, and other activities like labour colony were shared. Later, the participants were requested to share their views on the information shared as per the Basic Information Document or if they heard anything else before this visit.		

No.	*Issues, Concerns, and Suggestions*
1.	Sand mining and fishing sites will be submerged in the river affecting community well-being.
2.	The community needs basic amenities i.e. health, education, roads, and safe drinking water.
3.	The company should provide jobs to local people on a priority basis.
4.	Land sliding will increase due to tunnel boring and walls of houses will be damaged due to vibrations from tunnel boring
5.	Environmental issues will increase due to excavation, vehicles, and operation of other heavy machinery
6.	The dust from the tunnel boring activity would cause diseases and environmental problems.
7.	Traffic increase due to project activity would result in congested roads.
8.	The locals in the village collect both sand and wood debris from the river. Dam construction would block the downstream flow of the river and limit the wood and sand supply.
9.	The government should provide free electricity to local communities in exchange for their support and cooperation.
10.	Dam construction would increase water levels and block the river's downstream flow of driftwood that is primarily used as fuelwood by locals. Locals will then cut forest trees, resulting in deforestation
11.	The dam will lead to increased river temperatures and will disrupt the sewage dilution process of the river.
12.	Machinery and vehicles used in project activities would cause environmental problems.
13.	Non–village residents with different cultures will come to the area because of the project and damage the community's culture.

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Chuntian			
Consultation	EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project			
Date:	May 4, 2017			
Time:	16:30			
Meeting Venue:	Chountian			
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Phone Number	Name	Phone Number
	Fattiha ud din Shah	0347 8488 862	Shazaman Shah	NA
	Mukhtiar Shah	0343 8939 298	Muhammad Majid Shah	0349 8745 712
	Sayyed Taj Hussain Shah	0346 9692 512	Raffqat Shah	0343 9441 984
	Sayyed Sajjid Shah	0346 9654 291	Saffi Ullah	0346 4524 316
Conducted by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad			
Recorded by:	Muhammad Arshad			
Reviewed by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad			
Language:	Urdu (Muhammad Arshad assisted in Hindko where required for local understanding and better communication)			
Permeable:	Dr Jamil introduced the consultation team and stated the purpose of the consultation. He provided a brief description of the Project. They were informed about the different sites and activities of the proposed project and their state of affairs in the proposed plan. The reservoir site, the tunnel range, and other activities like labour colony were disseminated. Later, the participants were requested to share their views on the information shared as per the Basic Information Document or if they heard anything else before this visit.			

No.	*Issues, Concerns, and Suggestions*
1.	As we came to know that a labour camp is proposed to be constructed near “Dabb”, we don’t allow to construction labor camp because it will create social issues due to the increase of in-migration of labor for the project Construction. Labor camps should be outside of community settlement
2.	We have very limited land for subsistence agriculture so no one of us can sell land.
3.	The land records should be updated according to the latest market rate as 50 years back land records were developed but it is not updated yet.
4.	Upgradation of land records should be transparent and should be done with community consultation.
5.	The government should provide free electricity to local communities.
6.	We are requesting free Chinese and English Language Courses for our children so that they may get new opportunities of jobs according to market demand
7.	The dust from waste materials from tunnel boring would cause diseases and environmental problems
8.	Traffic will increase and cause safety problems on roads.

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Dhab			
Consultation	EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project			
Date:	May 4, 2017			
Time:	13:15			
Meeting Venue:	Dhab			
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Phone Number	Name	Phone Number
	Sayyed Ameen	0345 9628 643	Dildar Hussain Shah	0343 9403 271
	Sayyed Muzaffar Hussain	0345 9487 040	Abdu Wahab Shah	Nil
	Sayyed Mukhtiar Ahmed	0345 3874 249	Liaqat Hussain Shah	0346 9647 104
	Sayyed Akhtar Hussain	0342 9556 733	Faiz Hussain Shah	0345 9180 162
	Sayyed Munir Hussain	0437 9474 973	Noor Hussain Shah	0341 1920 002
	Sayyed Saddiqat Ali	0346 9672 379	Fida Hussain Shah	0344 9559 326
Conducted by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad			
Recorded by:	Muhammad Arshad			
Reviewed by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad			
Language:	Urdu (Muhammad Arshad assisted in Hindko where required for local understanding and better communication)			
Permeable:	Dr Jamil introduced the consultation team and stated the purpose of the consultation. He provided a brief description of the Project. They were informed about the different sites and activities of the proposed project and their state of affairs in the proposed plan. The reservoir site, the tunnel range, and other activities like labour colony were disseminated. Later, the participants were requested to share their views on the information shared as per the Basic Information Document or if they heard anything else before this visit.			

No.	*Issues, Concerns, and Suggestions*
1.	We do not allow to construction labor camp inside the village as the increased inflow of outsiders in the village for project activities would affect the privacy and mobility of local women. No one of us will sell land for labor and it is requested to shift the proposed labor camp outside the village.
2.	We have very limited land for subsistence agriculture so no one of us can sell land for labor camps or colony establishments for resettlement of project affectees.
3.	The land records should be updated according to the latest market rate as 50 years back land record was developed but it is not updated yet.
4.	Upgradation of land records should be transparent and should be done with community consultation.
5.	Villagers will not be happy with resettlement. However, if resettlement is necessary then alternative villages or houses should be built for them.

6.	Appropriate negotiation is required between affectees people and government to resettle the affected of the project.
7.	Expressed need for basic amenities i.e. health, education, roads, safe drinking water, etc
8.	We are all socially connected if the community of Nahan, Rattar, and Bela Balseri is shifted, we directly will influenced by the migration of these people. So it is suggested to resettle these communities near our village so that our interaction would be maintained.
9.	We are requesting free Chinese and English Language Courses for our children so that they may get new opportunities of jobs according to market demand
10.	The dust from waste materials from tunnel boring would cause diseases and environmental problems
11.	Traffic will increase and cause safety problems on roads.
12.	The government should provide free electricity to local communities.

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Garan			
Consultation	EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project			
Date:	May 4, 2017			
Time:	10:00			
Meeting Venue:	Garan			
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Phone Number	Name	Phone Number
	Sayed Mubarak Ali Sha	0343 9692 175	Muhammad Iqbal Shah	0346 9610 052
	Muhammad Asif	0346 9645 402	Abdullah Shah	0342 1937 244
	Saeed Shah	NA	Manzoor Ahmed Shah	0347 9356 057
	Faiz Hussain Shah	0342 9137 342	Javid Awan	0343 8907 419
	Muhammad Taj Shah	0346 9692 562	Ibrar Shah	0346 9646 601
Conducted by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad			
Recorded by:	Muhammad Arshad			
Reviewed by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad			
Language:	Urdu (Muhammad Arshad assisted in Hindko where required for local understanding and better communication)			
Permeable:	Dr Jamil introduced the consultation team and stated the purpose of consultation. He provided a brief description of the Project. They were informed about the different sites and activities of the proposed project and there state of affairs in the proposed plan. The reservoir site, the tunnel range and other activities like labour colony were disseminated. Later, the participants were requested to share their views on the information shared as per the Basic Information Document or if they heard anything else prior to this visit.			

No.	*Issues, Concerns and Suggestions*
1.	All the decisions which are related to community land ownership should be displayed in DC office accordingly. Although government is not considering our concerns in behalf of our land ownership.
2.	Community has much concern regarding availability of Patwari for correction of record.
3.	We have very bad experience regarding Sukki Kinari project regarding land and house compensation so we are requesting to treat us leniently in Balakot Hydro Power Project.
4.	Villagers will not be happy with resettlement. However, if resettlement is necessary then alternative village or houses should be built for them.
5.	Appropriate negotiation is required between affected people and government to resettle the affectees of the project.
6.	Land record should be updated according to latest market rate as 50 years back land record was develop but it is not updated yet.
7.	Up-gradation of land record should be transparent and should be done with community consultation.
8.	We have very limited land for subsistence agriculture so no one of us able to sale land.
9.	As we came to know that labour camp is proposed to construct nearby “Dabb”, we don’t allow to construct labor camp because it will creates social issues due to increase of in–migration of labor for project Construction. Labor camp should be outside from community settlement.

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Kaysha UC Kewai	
Consultation	EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project	
Date:	May 5, 2017	
Time:	10:45	
Meeting Venue:	Kaysha, at the residence of Molvi Abdul Haq	
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Phone Number
	Abdul Rehman	03429516183
	Muhammad Bilal	03465430111
	Molvi Abdul Haq	03462343616
Conducted by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad	
Recorded by:	Muhammad Arshad	
Reviewed by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad	
Language:	Urdu (Muhammad Arshad assisted in Hindko where required for local understanding and better communication)	
Permeable:	Dr Jamil introduced the consultation team and stated the purpose of consultation. He provided a brief description of the Project. They were informed about the different sites and activities of the proposed project and there state of affairs in the proposed plan. The reservoir site, the tunnel range and other activities like labour colony were disseminated. Later, the participants were requested to share their views on the information shared as per the Basic Information Document or if they heard anything else prior to this visit.	

No.	*Issues, Concerns and Suggestions*
1.	Water supply from the springs and streams may dry out as result of project construction.
2.	We collects wood logs from river, after tunnel formation we will deprive from this resource.
3.	We are collect and use local river sand for house construction. Due to the proposed tunnel formation sand would get reduced and may directly impact our livelihood. We don't have enough purchasing power and cash economy to carry sand from Balakot market. This will certainly increase our household expenditure. We don't have additional sources of income.
4.	It's not only about sand but also local fish that we hunt for refreshments (not regular food). The project would reduce chances of getting this entertainment and may directly alter our livelihood.
5.	Government should provide free electricity to local communities. Our village is to be benefited from the state development like poor kids taken care by parents
6.	We need basic amenities like any other citizen of Pakistan i.e. Road, health, education, safe drinking water etc.
7.	As we are taking fish for refreshment but due to low flow of water fish would reduce that directly impact our livelihood. We have to purchase fish from market which will certainly increase our household expenditure. We don't have additional sources of income.

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Thobi UC Kewai			
Consultation	EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project			
Date:	May 5, 2017			
Time:	10:45			
Meeting Venue:	Thobi, at the residence of Muhammad Saeed			
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Phone Number	Name	Phone Number
	M.Saeed	0346 9608 321	Imdad Hussain	0346 9618 650
	M.Safdar	0322 7437 290	Muhammad Khursheed	0346 9601 477
	Multan Khan	0345 9623 808	Aizi Ur Rehman	0344 9564 656
	M.Yousaf	0343 9522 143	Safdar	0346 3993 872
	M.Naeem	0349 8400 470	Muhammad Zakar	0346 9623 569
	M.Zaman	0345 4438 367		
Conducted by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad			
Recorded by:	Muhammad Arshad			
Reviewed by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad			
Language:	Urdu (Muhammad Arshad assisted in Hindko where required for local understanding and better communication)			
Permeable:	Dr Jamil introduced the consultation team and stated the purpose of consultation. He provided a brief description of the Project. They were informed about the different sites and activities of the proposed project and there state of affairs in the proposed plan. The reservoir site, the tunnel range and other activities like labour colony were disseminated. Later, the participants were requested to share their views on the information shared as per the Basic Information Document or if they heard anything else prior to this visit.			

No.	*Issues, Concerns and Suggestions*
1.	This village has no relevance to the river but is fully dependent on spring water for drinking purpose. Both human and animals are fed through this natural resource. There is only one spring from where we have constructed our drinking water supply scheme. According to the information provided our vital spring is definitely to be abolished. What you will do for us?
2.	Water supply from the springs and streams may dry out as result of project construction.
3.	Government should provide free electricity to local communities. Our village is to be benefited from the state development like poor kids taken care by parents
4.	Our primary occupation is driving. If required any vehicle or driver give us high priority in Employment opportunities in the project activities.
5.	We need basic amenities like any other citizen of Pakistan i.e. health, education, safe drinking water etc.
6.	Land sliding may increase due to cutting and excavation in quarry areas. We are already suffered in last earthquake, why we are been put into trouble again, now by the state.
7.	The vibrations created by blasting for tunnels will damage house walls and make land unstable.
8.	As we are taking fish for refreshment but due to low flow of water fish would reduce that directly impact our livelihood. We have to purchase fish from market which will certainly increase our household expenditure. We don't have additional sources of income.

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Rah Sachcha			
Consultation	EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project			
Date:	May 5, 2017			
Time:	15:47			
Meeting Venue:	Rah Sachcha			
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Phone Number	Name	Phone Number
	Waqar Ahmed	0433 1965 890	Aqeel Saqab	0348 9727 482
	M.Naseem	0341 9520 243	Saqab	0313 5552 305
	Sayyed Ashfaq Shah	0348 8871 134	Muhammad Rafiq	0347 5420 473
	Muhammad Imtiaz	0345 3835 856	Mushtaq	0348 0017 525
	Usman	0342 9874 305		
Conducted by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad			
Recorded by:	Muhammad Arshad			
Reviewed by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad			
Language:	Urdu (Muhammad Arshad assisted in Hindko where required for local understanding and better communication)			
Permeable:	Dr Jamil introduced the consultation team and stated the purpose of consultation. He provided a brief description of the Project. They were informed about the different sites and activities of the proposed project and there state of affairs in the proposed plan. The reservoir site, the tunnel range and other activities like labour colony were disseminated. Later, the participants were requested to share their views on the information shared as per the Basic Information Document or if they heard anything else prior to this visit.			

No.	*Issues, Concerns and Suggestions*
1.	Population is increasing day by day, we don't have extra land for reallocation of involuntary resettlement. It is suggested that Government should provide plot to affectees at the rate of 4-5 lac in district Mansehra.
2.	Community of Nahian, Bela Balseri have some alternate personal or communal land nearby their village, it would be suitable if Government could help them to reallocate in that place. And provide reasonable rate to affectees.
3.	Its overall approach that our people do not prefer to live in a colony as there is a chance to produce some social issues. So it would be better to give the reasonable rate of houses according to their mode of construction and let them free to resettle.
4.	Government should provide free electricity to local communities.
5.	Expressed need for basic amenities i.e. health, education, road and safe drinking water etc.

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Manakpai			
Consultation	EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project			
Date:	May 7, 2017			
Time:	11:00			
Meeting Venue:	Manakpai			
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Phone Number	Name	Phone Number
	Maskeen	0344 9537 423	Habib ur Rehman	0322 9927 013
	Muhammad Fareed	0343 9532 892	Yasir	0347 3821 394
	Muhammad Yasir	0322 8529 545	Mirza	0340 9137 217
	Raiz	03451028 676	Noor Rehman	0346 9623 650
Conducted by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad			
Recorded by:	Muhammad Arshad			
Reviewed by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad			
Language:	Urdu (Muhammad Arshad assisted in Hindko where required for local understanding and better communication)			
Permeable:	Dr Jamil introduced the consultation team and stated the purpose of consultation. He provided a brief description of the Project. They were informed about the different sites and activities of the proposed project and there state of affairs in the proposed plan. The reservoir site, the tunnel range and other activities like labour colony were disseminated. Later, the participants were requested to share their views on the information shared as per the Basic Information Document or if they heard anything else prior to this visit.			

No.	*Issues, Concerns and Suggestions*
1.	We collects wood logs from river, after tunnel formation we will deprive from this resource.
2.	We are collect and use local river sand for house construction. Due to the proposed tunnel formation sand would get reduced and may directly impact our livelihood.
3.	Water supply from the springs and streams may dry out as result of project construction.
4.	We need for basic amenities i.e. health, education, roads, safe drinking water etc.
5.	The dust from waste materials from tunnel boring would cause diseases and environmental problems
6.	Traffic will increase and cause safety problems on roads.
7.	Government should provide free electricity to local communities.

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Sail			
Consultation	EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project			
Date:	May 7, 2017			
Time:	13:00			
Meeting Venue:	Sail the residence of Shafiq			
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Phone Number	Name	Phone Number
	Sohal	0346 9664 937	Abdul Shakoor	0342 9571 302
	Muhammad Amir	0344 0950 156	Shafiq	0346 9054 188
Conducted by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad			
Recorded by:	Muhammad Arshad			
Reviewed by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad			
Language:	Urdu (Muhammad Arshad assisted in Hindko where required for local understanding and better communication)			
Permeable:	Dr Jamil introduced the consultation team and stated the purpose of consultation. He provided a brief description of the Project. They were informed about the different sites and activities of the proposed project and there state of affairs in the proposed plan. The reservoir site, the tunnel range and other activities like labour colony were disseminated. Later, the participants were requested to share their views on the information shared as per the Basic Information Document or if they heard anything else prior to this visit.			

No.	*Issues, Concerns and Suggestions*
1.	This village has no relevance to the river but is fully dependent on stream water for drinking purpose. Both human and animals are fed through this natural resource, after tunnel formation water table will reduce that affect our drinking water from streams.
2.	As we are taking fish for refreshment but due to low flow of water fish would reduce that directly impact our livelihood. We have to purchase fish from market which will certainly increase our household expenditure. We don't have additional sources of income.
3.	We collects wood logs from river, after tunnel formation we will deprive from this resource.
4.	We are collect and use local river sand for house construction. Due to the proposed tunnel formation sand would get reduced and may directly impact our livelihood. We don't have enough purchasing power and cash economy to carry sand from Balakot market. This will certainly increase our household expenditure. We don't have additional sources of income.
5.	We need for basic amenities i.e. health, education, roads, safe drinking water etc.
6.	The dust from waste materials from tunnel boring would cause diseases and environmental problems
7.	Traffic will increase and cause safety problems on roads.
8.	Government should provide free electricity to local communities.

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Sendori			
Consultation	EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project			
Date:	May 8, 2017			
Time:	11:45			
Meeting Venue:	Sendori at the residence of Muhammad Saeed			
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Phone Number	Name	Phone Number
	Main Gulam Jallani	NA	Muhammad Bashir	NA
	Fida Hussain	NA	Maqbool	0343 9539 718
	Muhammad Rafiq	0345 6539 077	Nasir	0346 5495 420
Conducted by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad			
Recorded by:	Muhammad Arshad			
Reviewed by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad			
Language:	Urdu (Muhammad Arshad assisted in Hindko where required for local understanding and better communication)			
Permeable:	Dr Jamil introduced the consultation team and stated the purpose of consultation. He provided a brief description of the Project. They were informed about the different sites and activities of the proposed project and there state of affairs in the proposed plan. The reservoir site, the tunnel range and other activities like labour colony were disseminated. Later, the participants were requested to share their views on the information shared as per the Basic Information Document or if they heard anything else prior to this visit.			

No.	*Issues, Concerns and Suggestions*
1.	Water supply from the springs and streams may dry out as result of project construction.
2.	Government should provide free electricity to local communities. Our village is to be benefited from the state development like poor kids taken care by parents
3.	Increased inflow of outsiders in the village for project activities would affect the privacy and mobility of local women.
4.	Social security risk will increase due to increase of in–migration of labor for project construction.
5.	Project construction activities would deteriorate the natural beauty of the village.
6.	We need basic amenities like any other citizen of Pakistan i.e. Road, health, education, safe drinking water etc.
7.	The vibrations created by blasting for tunnels will damage house walls and make land unstable.

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Khasshar			
Consultation	EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project			
Date:	May 9, 2017			
Time:	11:15			
Meeting Venue:	Khasshar at the rednece of Muhammad Bashir			
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Phone Number	Name	Phone Number
	Muhmmad Bashir	0346 3993 862	Maqbool Rehman	0346 4114 740
	Muhammad Sajid	NA	Zaheer Maqbool	NA
	Junid Bashir	NA		
Conducted by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad			
Recorded by:	Muhammad Arshad			
Reviewed by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad			
Language:	Urdu (Muhammad Arshad assisted in Hindko where required for local understanding and better communication)			
Permeable:	Dr Jamil introduced the consultation team and stated the purpose of consultation. He provided a brief description of the Project. They were informed about the different sites and activities of the proposed project and there state of affairs in the proposed plan. The reservoir site, the tunnel range and other activities like labour colony were disseminated. Later, the participants were requested to share their views on the information shared as per the Basic Information Document or if they heard anything else prior to this visit.			

No.	*Issues, Concerns and Suggestions*
1	We need basic amenities like any other citizen of Pakistan i.e. electricity, health, education, safe drinking water etc.
2	We collects wood logs from river, after tunnel formation we will deprive from this resource.
3	We are collect and use local river sand for house construction. Due to the proposed tunnel formation sand would get reduced and may directly impact our livelihood.
4	We need high priority in employment opportunities in the project activities.
5	Government should provide free electricity to local communities as they did in the past for many projects similar in nature.

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Sangar	
Consultation	EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project	
Date:	May 9, 2017	
Time:	12:10	
Meeting Venue:	Sangar	
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Phone Number
	Muhammad Asghar	0306 8142 877
	Danish Amin	0311 5430 953
	Liaqat Faried	0331 9303 148
Conducted by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad	
Recorded by:	Muhammad Arshad	
Reviewed by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad	
Language:	Urdu (Muhammad Arshad assisted in Hindko where required for local understanding and better communication)	
Permeable:	Dr Jamil introduced the consultation team and stated the purpose of consultation. He provided a brief description of the Project. They were informed about the different sites and activities of the proposed project and there state of affairs in the proposed plan. The reservoir site, the tunnel range and other activities like labour colony were disseminated. Later, the participants were requested to share their views on the information shared as per the Basic Information Document or if they heard anything else prior to this visit.	

No.	*Issues, Concerns and Suggestions*
1.	As we came to know that labour camp is proposed to construct nearby “Dabb”, we don’t allow to construct labor camp because it will creates social issues due to increase of in–migration of labor for project Construction. Labor camp should be outside from community settlement
2.	We have very limited land for subsistence agriculture so no one of us able to sale land.
3.	Land record should be updated according to latest market rate as 50 years back land record was develop but it is not updated yet.
4.	Up-gradation of land record should be transparent and should be done with community consultation.
5.	Government should provide free electricity to local communities.
6.	We are requesting for free Chinese and English Language Course for our children so that they may get new opportunities of job according to market demand
7.	The dust from waste materials from tunnel boring would cause diseases and environmental problems
8.	Traffic will increase and cause safety problems on roads.

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Lower Patlang	
Consultation	EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project	
Date:	May 9, 2017	
Time:	14:00	
Meeting Venue:	Lower Patlang	
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Phone Number
	Shakoor Hussain	0347 4841 356
	Musabar Hussain	0346 6413 642
Conducted by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad	
Recorded by:	Muhammad Arshad	
Reviewed by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad	
Language:	Urdu (Muhammad Arshad assisted in Hindko where required for local understanding and better communication)	
Permeable:	Dr Jamil introduced the consultation team and stated the purpose of consultation. He provided a brief description of the Project. They were informed about the different sites and activities of the proposed project and there state of affairs in the proposed plan. The reservoir site, the tunnel range and other activities like labour colony were disseminated. Later, the participants were requested to share their views on the information shared as per the Basic Information Document or if they heard anything else prior to this visit.	

No.	*Issues, Concerns and Suggestions*
1.	We need high priority in employment opportunities in the project activities.
2.	We need basic amenities like any other citizen of Pakistan i.e. electricity, health, education, safe drinking water etc.
3.	We collects wood logs from river, after tunnel formation we will deprive from this resource.
4.	We are collect and use local river sand for house construction. Due to the proposed tunnel formation sand would get reduced and may directly impact our livelihood.

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Shahotar			
Consultation	EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project			
Date:	May 10, 2017			
Time:	16:49			
Meeting Venue:	Shahotar at the residence of Masab Umair			
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Phone Number	Name	Phone Number
	Masab Umair	0313 5839 250	M.Pervaiz	0306 5523 747
	Abdul Rehman	0346 9564 302	Muhammad Ayaz	0345 9848 414
	Shahid Hussain	0345 9549 135	Qamar Zaman	0347 9189 878
	Muhammad Afzal	0301 6492 772	M.Saraj	0348 9354 720
	Faiz Ahmed	0340 9370 100	M.Rasheed	0300 9118 638
	Javid Ahmed	0348 9139 389		
Conducted by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad			
Recorded by:	Muhammad Arshad			
Reviewed by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad			
Language:	Urdu (Muhammad Arshad assisted in Hindko where required for local understanding and better communication)			
Permeable:	Dr Jamil introduced the consultation team and stated the purpose of consultation. He provided a brief description of the Project. They were informed about the different sites and activities of the proposed project and there state of affairs in the proposed plan. The reservoir site, the tunnel range and other activities including information about the site of labour colony were disseminated. Later, the participants were requested to share their views on the information shared as per the Basic Information Document or if they heard anything else prior to this visit.			

No.	*Issues, Concerns and Suggestions*
1.	We need high priority in employment opportunities in the project activities and no outsider is to be allowed to work in the project unless local human resource is accommodated to the level of local satisfaction.
2.	We collects wood logs from river, after tunnel formation we will deprive from this resource.
3.	We are collect and use local river sand for house construction. Due to the proposed tunnel formation sand would get reduced and may directly impact our livelihood. We don't have enough purchasing power and cash economy to carry sand from Balakot market. This will certainly increase our household expenditure. We don't have additional sources of income.
4.	It's not only about sand but also local fish that we hunt for refreshments (not regular food). The project would reduce chances of getting this entertainment and may directly alter our livelihood.

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Bissian			
Consultation	EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project			
Date:	May 10, 2017			
Time:	10:50			
Meeting Venue:	Bissian at the residence of Safeer			
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Phone Number	Name	Phone Number
	Muhammad Jaffar	0341 9520 994	Muhammad Iyas	0300 4681 008
	Muhammad Raiz	0342 9658 291	Muhammad Safeer	0312 3568 112
	Javid Khan	0300 5864 840	Sharaz Ahmed	0315 5588 666
	Toufeeq	0334 3234 822		
Conducted by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad			
Recorded by:	Muhammad Arshad			
Reviewed by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad			
Language:	Urdu (Muhammad Arshad assisted in Hindko where required for local understanding and better communication)			
Permeable:	Dr Jamil introduced the consultation team and stated the purpose of consultation. He provided a brief description of the Project. They were informed about the different sites and activities of the proposed project and there state of affairs in the proposed plan. The reservoir site, the tunnel range and other activities including information about the site of labour colony were disseminated. Later, the participants were requested to share their views on the information shared as per the Basic Information Document or if they heard anything else prior to this visit.			

No.	*Issues, Concerns and Suggestions*
1.	We collects wood logs from river, not only fuel wood but some people sell this captured wood into market on commercial rate, after tunnel formation we will deprive from this resource that may directly alter our livelihood.
2.	We need high priority in Employment opportunities in the project activities and no outsider is to be allowed to work in the project unless local human resource is accommodated to the level of local satisfaction.
3.	We are collect and use local river sand for house construction. Due to the proposed tunnel formation sand would get reduced and may directly impact our livelihood. We don't have enough purchasing power and cash economy to carry sand from Balakot market. This will certainly increase our household expenditure. We don't have additional sources of income.
4.	It's not only about sand but also local fish that we hunt for refreshments (not regular food). The project would reduce chances of getting this entertainment and may directly alter our livelihood.

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Badwar			
Consultation	EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project			
Date:	May 10, 2017			
Time:	11:33			
Meeting Venue:	Badwar at Masque			
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Phone Number	Name	Phone Number
	Muhammad Azam	0348 9727 653	Gulam Mustafa	0323 5817 618
	Shafaqat Hussain	0344 2142 837	Gulam Murtaza	0232 4111 499
	Faiz Muhammad	NA	Jhanzab	0344 8569 208
	Ijaz Ahmed	0344 0950 121		
Conducted by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad			
Recorded by:	Muhammad Arshad			
Reviewed by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad			
Language:	Urdu (Muhammad Arshad assisted in Gojri./Hindko where required for local understanding and better communication)			
Permeable:	Dr Jamil introduced the consultation team and stated the purpose of consultation. He provided a brief description of the Project. They were informed about the different sites and activities of the proposed project and there state of affairs in the proposed plan. The reservoir site, the tunnel range and other activities including information about the site of labour colony were disseminated. Later, the participants were requested to share their views on the information shared as per the Basic Information Document or if they heard anything else prior to this visit.			

No.	*Issues, Concerns and Suggestions*
1.	We don't have sufficient agriculture land for, so we have to utilize land on crop sharing for subsistence agriculture at two villages namely Naran and Batakundi for the last 30 years. Now Qasam Shah (land owner and local politician) want to sale out the land to the state for natural park. This will effect our income from agriculture and we may struggle for livelihood.
2.	We collects wood logs from river, after tunnel formation we will deprive from this resource.
3.	We are collect and use local river sand for house construction. Due to the proposed tunnel formation sand would get reduced and may directly impact our livelihood. We don't have enough purchasing power and cash economy to carry sand from Balakot market. This will certainly increase our household expenditure. We don't have additional sources of income.
4.	It's not only about sand but also local fish that we hunt for refreshments (not regular food). The project would reduce chances of getting this entertainment and may directly alter our livelihood.
5.	We need high priority in employment opportunities in the project activities and no outsider is to be allowed to work in the project unless local human resource is accommodated to the level of local satisfaction.
6.	Government should provide free electricity to local communities as they did in the past for many projects similar in nature. Our village is to be benefited from the state development like poor kids taken care by parents
7.	We need basic amenities like any other citizen of Pakistan i.e. health, education, safe drinking water etc

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Hassamabad
Consultation	EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project

Date:	May 9, 2017			
Time:	11:51			
Meeting Venue:	Hassamabad			
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Phone Number	Name	Phone Number
	Muhammad Asghar	0306 8142 877	Liaqat Faried	0331 9303 148
	Danish Amin	0311 5430 953		
Conducted by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad			
Recorded by:	Muhammad Arshad			
Reviewed by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad			
Language:	Urdu (Muhammad Arshad assisted in Hindko where required for local understanding and better communication)			
Permeable:	Dr Jamil introduced the consultation team and stated the purpose of consultation. He provided a brief description of the Project. They were informed about the different sites and activities of the proposed project and there state of affairs in the proposed plan. The reservoir site, the tunnel range and other activities including information about the site of labour colony were disseminated. Later, the participants were requested to share their views on the information shared as per the Basic Information Document or if they heard anything else prior to this visit.			

No.	*Issues, Concerns and Suggestions*
1	We need high priority in employment opportunities in the project activities and no outsider is to be allowed to work in the project unless local human resource is accommodated to the level of local satisfaction.
2	We collects wood logs from river, after tunnel formation we will deprive from this resource.
3	We are collect and use local river sand for house construction. Due to the proposed tunnel formation sand would get reduced and may directly impact our livelihood. We don't have enough purchasing power and cash economy to carry sand from Balakot market. This will certainly increase our household expenditure. We don't have additional sources of income.
4	It's not only about sand but also local fish that we hunt for refreshments (not regular food). The project would reduce chances of getting this entertainment and may directly alter our livelihood.

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Hisari	
Consultation	EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project	
Date:	May 10, 2017	
Time:	13:21	
Meeting Venue:	Hisari at the residence of Kashaf Khan	
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Phone Number
	Kashaf Khan	0347 9900 099
	Fasal	0314 5442 208
	Abid Khan	0312 9875 189
Conducted by:	Muhammad Arshad	
Recorded by:	Muhammad Arshad	
Reviewed by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad	
Language:	Urdu (Muhammad Arshad assisted in Hindko where required for local understanding and better communication)	
Permeable:	Muhammad Arshad introduced the consultation team and stated the purpose of consultation. He provided a brief description of the Project. They were informed about the different sites and activities of the proposed project and there state of affairs in the proposed plan. The reservoir site, the tunnel range and other activities including information about the site of labour colony were disseminated. Later, the participants were requested to share their views on the information shared as per the Basic Information Document or if they heard anything else prior to this visit.	

No.	*Issues, Concerns and Suggestions*
1.	We collects wood logs from river, not only fuel wood but some people sell this captured wood into market on commercial rate, after tunnel formation we will deprive from this resource that may directly alter our livelihood.
2.	We need high priority in employment opportunities in the project activities and no outsider is to be allowed to work in the project unless local human resource is accommodated to the level of local satisfaction.
3.	We hunt fish for refreshments (not regular food). The project would reduce chances of getting this entertainment and may directly alter our livelihood.

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Boli			
Consultation	EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project			
Date:	May 10, 2017			
Time:	16:49			
Meeting Venue:	Boli At Hotel			
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Phone Number	Name	Phone Number
	Shafaqat Hussain	0301 8706 887	Shazad	0345 1028 304
	Altaf hussain	0334 5282 961	Arshad hussain	0301 8140 343
	Muhammad haroon	NA	Muhammad Saeed	0345 1561 521
	Muhammad Irfan	0342 4186 118		
Conducted by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad			
Recorded by:	Muhammad Arshad			
Reviewed by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad			
Language:	Urdu (Muhammad Arshad assisted in Hindko where required for local understanding and better communication)			
Permeable:	Dr Jamil introduced the consultation team and stated the purpose of consultation. He provided a brief description of the Project. They were informed about the different sites and activities of the proposed project and there state of affairs in the proposed plan. The reservoir site, the tunnel range and other activities including information about the site of labour colony were disseminated. Later, the participants were requested to share their views on the information shared as per the Basic Information Document or if they heard anything else prior to this visit.			

No.	*Issues, Concerns and Suggestions*
1.	We need high priority in employment opportunities in the project activities and no outsider is to be allowed to work in the project unless local human resource is accommodated to the level of local satisfaction.
2.	We collects wood logs from river, after tunnel formation we will deprive from this resource.
3.	We are collect and use local river sand for house construction. Due to the proposed tunnel formation sand would get reduced and may directly impact our livelihood. We don't have enough purchasing power and cash economy to carry sand from Balakot market. This will certainly increase our household expenditure. We don't have additional sources of income.
4.	It's not only about sand but also local fish that we hunt for refreshments (not regular food). The project would reduce chances of getting this entertainment and may directly alter our livelihood.

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Shohal Najaf Khan			
Consultation	EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project			
Date:	May 11, 2017			
Time:	13:00			
Meeting Venue:	Shohal Najaf Khan At Hotel			
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Phone Number	Name	Phone Number
	Ahsan Ahmed	0314 9355 555	Nasir Ahmed	0342 5671 234
	Muhammad Javid Qureshi	0345 4878 302	Sohal Khan	0313 0521 852
Conducted by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad			
Recorded by:	Muhammad Arshad			
Reviewed by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad			
Language:	Urdu (Muhammad Arshad assisted in Hindko where required for local understanding and better communication)			
Permeable:	Dr Jamil introduced the consultation team and stated the purpose of consultation. He provided a brief description of the Project. They were informed about the different sites and activities of the proposed project and there state of affairs in the proposed plan. The reservoir site, the tunnel range and other activities including information about the site of labour colony were disseminated. Later, the participants were requested to share their views on the information shared as per the Basic Information Document or if they heard anything else prior to this visit.			

No.	*Issues, Concerns and Suggestions*
1.	Village Shohal has agriculture land, in the past when irrigation system was efficient, the yield of land was much better but after earthquake this irrigation system had vanished as a result farmer suffer if this project established two channels from dame site and provide water to agriculture land that could uplift our economy.
2.	We need high priority in employment opportunities in the project activities and no outsider is to be allowed to work in the project unless local human resource is accommodated to the level of local satisfaction.
3.	We collects wood logs from river, after tunnel formation we will deprive from this resource.
4.	We are collect and use local river sand for house construction. Due to the proposed tunnel formation sand would get reduced and may directly impact our livelihood. We don't have enough purchasing power and cash economy to carry sand from Balakot market. This will certainly increase our household expenditure. We don't have additional sources of income.
5.	It's not only about sand but also local fish that we hunt for refreshments (not regular food). The project would reduce chances of getting this entertainment and may directly alter our livelihood.

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Gul Dhari			
Consultation	EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project			
Date:	May 14, 2017			
Time:	10:36			
Meeting Venue:	Gul Dhari at the residence of Nazar Hussain Shah			
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Phone Number	Name	Phone Number
	Nazar Hussain Shah	0312 9674 871	Akhtar Khan	0345 6320 728
	Sayyed Saqab Hussain	0331 9816 514	Sajjid	0340 0194 792
	Muhammad Saddique	0346 9605 079	Shoukat	0349 9131 891
Conducted by:	Muhammad Arshad			
Recorded by:	Muhammad Arshad			
Reviewed by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad			
Language:	Urdu (Muhammad Arshad assisted in Hindko where required for local understanding and better communication)			
Permeable:	Muhammad Arshad introduced the consultation team and stated the purpose of consultation. He provided a brief description of the Project. They were informed about the different sites and activities of the proposed project and there state of affairs in the proposed plan. The reservoir site, the tunnel range and other activities including information about the site of labour colony were disseminated. Later, the participants were requested to share their views on the information shared as per the Basic Information Document or if they heard anything else prior to this visit.			

No.	*Issues, Concerns and Suggestions*
1.	We need high priority in employment opportunities in the project activities and no outsider is to be allowed to work in the project unless local human resource is accommodated to the level of local satisfaction.
2.	We collects wood logs from river, not only fuel wood but some people sell this captured wood into market on commercial rate, after tunnel formation we will deprive from this resource that may directly alter our livelihood.
3.	We are collect and use local river sand for house construction. Due to the proposed tunnel formation sand would get reduced and may directly impact our livelihood. We don't have enough purchasing power and cash economy to carry sand from Lawrencepur market. This will certainly increase our household expenditure. We don't have additional sources of income.

Record of Consultation

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Tarana	
Consultation	ESIA consultation	
Date:	May 16, 2017	
Time:	15:43	
Meeting Venue:	Tarana at Ever Green Hotel	
Meeting Coordinates:		
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Phone Number
	Noor ur Rehman	03459464303
	Imran	03449518096
	Rasheed	03413279197
Conducted by:	Muhammad Arshad	
Recorded by:	Muhammad Arshad	
Reviewed by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad	
Language:	Urdu and Hindko where required for Local understanding and better communication	
Permeable:	Muhammad Arshad introduced the consultation team and stated the purpose of consultation. He provided a brief description of the Project. They were informed about the different sites and activities of the proposed project and there state of affairs in the proposed plan. The reservoir site, the tunnel range and other activities including information about the site of labour colony were disseminated. Later, the participants were requested to share their views on the information shared as per the Basic Information Document or if they heard anything else prior to this visit.	

No.	*Issues, Concerns and Suggestions*	*Response by*	*Response Provided*
1	We need high priority in Employment opportunities in the project activities and no outsider is to be allowed to work in the project unless local human resource is accommodated to the level of local satisfaction.	Noor ur Rehman	This can be taken up as a reasonable concern.
2	We collects wood logs from river, after tunnel formation we will deprive from this resource.	Noor ur Rehman	Point noted.

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Karnol			
Consultation	EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project			
Date:	May 15, 2017			
Time:	11:10			
Meeting Venue:	Karnol			
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Phone Number	Name	Phone Number
	Muhammad Sadaqat	0344 1098 666	Muhammad Loqman	NA
	Abdul Majid	0345 9549 067	Muhammad Nasir	NA
	Muhammad Yaqoob	0344 1098 555		
Conducted by:	Muhammad Arshad			
Recorded by:	Muhammad Arshad			
Reviewed by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad			
Language:	Urdu and Hindko where required for local understanding and better communication			
Permeable:	Muhammad Arshad introduced the consultation team and stated the purpose of consultation. He provided a brief description of the Project. They were informed about the different sites and activities of the proposed project and there state of affairs in the proposed plan. The reservoir site, the tunnel range and other activities including information about the site of labour colony were disseminated. Later, the participants were requested to share their views on the information shared as per the Basic Information Document or if they heard anything else prior to this visit.			

No.	*Issues, Concerns and Suggestions*
1.	Government should provide free electricity to local communities. Our valley is to be benefited from the state development like poor kids taken care by parents
2.	We need high priority in employment opportunities in the project activities and no outsider is to be allowed to work in the project unless local human resource is accommodated to the level of local satisfaction.
3.	We collects wood logs from river, after tunnel formation we will deprive from this resource.
4.	We are collect and use local river sand for house construction. Due to the proposed tunnel formation sand would get reduced and may directly impact our livelihood.
5.	Its not only about sand but also local fish that we hunt for refreshments (not regular food). The project would reduce chances of getting this entertainment and may directly alter our livelihood.

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Talhatta			
Consultation	EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project			
Date:	May 16, 2017			
Time:	11:02			
Meeting Venue:	Talhatta at the residence of Ashaq Hussain Shah			
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Phone Number	Name	Phone Number
	Ashaq Hussain Shah	034 29833 508	Ali Raza Shah	0321 5464 427
	Asif Hussain Shah	0345 0572 786	Raheel Haider	0344 9082 951
	Naiz Shah	0345 4775 338		
Conducted by:	Muhammad Arshad			
Recorded by:	Muhammad Arshad			
Reviewed by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad			
Language:	Urdu and Hindko where required for local understanding and better communication			
Permeable:	Muhammad Arshad introduced the consultation team and stated the purpose of consultation. He provided a brief description of the Project. They were informed about the different sites and activities of the proposed project and there state of affairs in the proposed plan. The reservoir site, the tunnel range and other activities including information about the site of labour colony were disseminated. Later, the participants were requested to share their views on the information shared as per the Basic Information Document or if they heard anything else prior to this visit.			

No.	*Issues, Concerns and Suggestions*
1	We need high priority in employment opportunities in the project activities and no outsider is to be allowed to work in the project unless local human resource is accommodated to the level of local satisfaction.
2	We collects wood logs from river, after tunnel formation we will deprive from this resource.
3	We are collect and use local river sand for house construction. Due to the proposed tunnel formation sand would get reduced and may directly impact our livelihood.
4	Its not only about sand but also local fish that we hunt for refreshments (not regular food). The project would reduce chances of getting this entertainment and may directly alter our livelihood.

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Shohal Mazullah			
Consultation	EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project			
Date:	May 18, 2017			
Time:	11:00			
Meeting Venue:	Shohal Mazullah at village councilor office			
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Phone Number	Name	Phone Number
	Muhammad Saleem Khan	03458633373	Nayyar ahmed Khan	03125198448
	Muhammad Tariq	03005610926	Munir Ahmed Khan	03135653648
	Muhammad Saraj	03478973942		
Conducted by:	Muhammad Arshad			
Recorded by:	Muhammad Arshad			
Reviewed by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad			
Language:	Urdu and Hindko where required for local understanding and better communication			
Permeable:	Muhammad Arshad introduced the consultation team and stated the purpose of consultation. He provided a brief description of the Project. They were informed about the different sites and activities of the proposed project and there state of affairs in the proposed plan. The reservoir site, the tunnel range and other activities including information about the site of labour colony were disseminated. Later, the participants were requested to share their views on the information shared as per the Basic Information Document or if they heard anything else prior to this visit.			

No.	*Issues, Concerns and Suggestions*
1.	Due to catastrophic flood, or breakage of dame, we might suffer, what is the backup plan for our village?
2.	We need high priority in employment opportunities in the project activities and no outsider is to be allowed to work in the project unless local human resource is accommodated to the level of local satisfaction.
3.	We collects wood logs from river, after tunnel formation we will deprive from this resource.
4.	We are collect and use local river sand for house construction. Due to the proposed tunnel formation sand would get reduced and may directly impact our livelihood.
5.	Its not only about sand but also local fish that we hunt for refreshments (not regular food). The project would reduce chances of getting this entertainment and may directly alter our livelihood.

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Takool	
Consultation	ESIA consultation	
Date:	May 6, 2017	
Time:	16:00	
Meeting Venue:	Takool at the residence of Gulam Qasam	
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Phone Number
	Gulam Qadar	03469619263
	Abdul Shakoor	03457012838
	Abdul Jabran	03425259991
Conducted by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad	
Recorded by:	Muhammad Arshad	
Reviewed by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad	
Language:	Urdu (Muhammad Arshad assisted in Hindko where required for Local understanding and better communication)	
Permeable:	Dr Jamil introduced the consultation team and stated the purpose of consultation. He provided a brief description of the Project. They were informed about the different sites and activities of the proposed project and there state of affairs in the proposed plan. The reservoir site, the tunnel range and other activities like labour colony were disseminated. Later, the participants were requested to share their views on the information shared as per the Basic Information Document or if they heard anything else prior to this visit.	

No.	*Issues, Concerns and Suggestions*	*Response by*	*Response Provided*
1.	Agricultural land will be affected due to an increase in the water level in reservoir which will affect incomes.	Gulam Qadar	
2.	Change the design of project to minimize the effects on land and houses.	Abdul Shakoor	
3.	We have very bad experience regarding Suki Kanari project regarding land and house compensation so we are requesting to treat us leniently in Balakot Hydro Power Project.	Gulam Qadar	
4.	Villagers will not be happy with resettlement. However, if resettlement is necessary then alternative village or houses should be built for them.	Gulam Qadar	
5.	Appropriate negotiation is required between affectied people and government to resettle the affecties of the project.	Gulam Qadar	
6.	Land record should be updated according to latest market rate as 50 years back land record was develop but it is not updated yet.	Gulam Qadar	
7.	We have very limited land for subsistence agriculture so no one of us able to sale land.	Abdul Jabran	
8.	We need high priority in Employment opportunities in the project activites and no outsider is allowed to work in the project unless local would not found.	Gulam Qadar	

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Narah	
Consultation	ESIA consultation	
Date:	May 19, 2017	
Time:	09:45 am	
Meeting Venue:	Narah	
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Phone Number
	Imran Ahmad	03449518096
	Khurshid	
	Muhammad Shoaib	
	Maqbool	0344-5002173
	Abid	0301-5089265
Conducted by:	Muhammad Arshad	
Recorded by:	Muhammad Arshad	
Reviewed by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad	
Language:	Urdu and Hinko where required for Local understanding and better communication	
Permeable:	Muhammad Arshad introduced the consultation team and stated the purpose of consultation. He provided a brief description of the Project. They were informed about the different sites and activities of the proposed project and there state of affairs in the proposed plan. The reservoir site, the tunnel range and other activities including information about the site of labour colony were disseminated. Later, the participants were requested to share their views on the information shared as per the Basic Information Document or if they heard anything else prior to this visit.	

No.	*Issues, Concerns and Suggestions*	*Response by*	*Response Provided*
1	We need high priority in Employment opportunities in the project activities and no outsider is to be allowed to work in the project unless local human resource is accommodated to the level of local satisfaction.	Maqbool	This can be taken up as a reasonable concern.
2	We collects wood logs from river, after tunnel formation we will deprive from this resource.	Abid	Point noted.

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Poli	
Consultation	ESIA consultation	
Date:	May 19, 2017	
Time:	14:45	
Meeting Venue:	Poli	
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Phone Number
	Abdul Rasheed	
	Ghulam Qadir	
	Ali Hassan	
	Ahmad	
	Ilyas	
Conducted by:	Muhammad Arshad	
Recorded by:	Muhammad Arshad	
Reviewed by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad	
Language:	Urdu and Hinko where required for Local understanding and better communication	
Permeable:	Muhammad Arshad introduced the consultation team and stated the purpose of consultation. He provided a brief description of the Project. They were informed about the different sites and activities of the proposed project and there state of affairs in the proposed plan. The reservoir site, the tunnel range and other activities including information about the site of labour colony were disseminated. Later, the participants were requested to share their views on the information shared as per the Basic Information Document or if they heard anything else prior to this visit.	

No.	*Issues, Concerns and Suggestions*	*Response by*	*Response Provided*
1	We need high priority in Employment opportunities in the project activities and no outsider is to be allowed to work in the project unless local human resource is accommodated to the level of local satisfaction.	Abdul Rasheed	*This can be taken up as a reasonable concern.*
2	We collect wood logs from river, after tunnel formation we will deprive from this resource.	Ali Hassan	*Point noted.*

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Taranna	
Consultation	ESIA consultation	
Date:	May 16, 2017	
Time:	15:43	
Meeting Venue:	Taranna at Ever Green Hotel	
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Phone Number
	Noor ur Rehman	03459464303
	Imran	
	Rasheed	03413279197
Conducted by:	Muhammad Arshad	
Recorded by:	Muhammad Arshad	
Reviewed by:	Dr Jamil Ahmad	
Language:	Urdu and Hinko where required for Local understanding and better communication	
Permeable:	Muhammad Arshad introduced the consultation team and stated the purpose of consultation. He provided a brief description of the Project. They were informed about the different sites and activities of the proposed project and there state of affairs in the proposed plan. The reservoir site, the tunnel range and other activities including information about the site of labour colony were disseminated. Later, the participants were requested to share their views on the information shared as per the Basic Information Document or if they heard anything else prior to this visit.	

No.	*Issues, Concerns and Suggestions*	*Response by*	*Response Provided*
1	We need high priority in Employment opportunities in the project activities and no outsider is to be allowed to work in the project unless local human resource is accommodated to the level of local satisfaction.	Noor ur Rehman	*This can be taken up as a reasonable concern.*
2	We collects wood logs from river, after tunnel formation we will deprive from this resource.	Noor ur Rehman	*Point noted.*

P.3 Community Consultation Log (Female)

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Village Balseri Paras	
Consultation	Contact meeting with village council to start resettlement survey	
Date:	May 03, 2017	
Time:	11:30 am	
Meeting Venue:	Village Balseri Paras	
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Name
	Iqra d/o Naseer U Din Qurashi	Tahzeem d/o Abdul Rashid
	Shagufta w/o Basheer Ul Haq Qurashi	Sumera w/o Tanweer
	Shahnaz d/o Saddiq	Shifa w/o Rashid
	Saima w/o Sultan	Saeeda w/o Abdul jabbar
	Waseen w/o Shaukat	Gulham w/o Hamid U din Qurashi
	Nazia w/o Arif	Shanza d/o Sarfraz Ahmed
Conducted by:	Rizwana Ehsan Waraich	
Recorded by:	Rizwana Ehsan Waraich	
Language:	Urdu and Hindko where required for Local understanding and better communication	
Issues Concerns and Suggestions	• Most of the women were not aware about the benefits of the BHPP. So their first response regarding Dam construction was very poor and they did not agree to leave their houses and lands for it. Their immediate response was that first Earthquake 2005 and floods 2010 hit them badly and destroyed their lives, houses, lands and goods. People of the area are still trying to overcome the effects of these disasters and on the other hand government is planning to construct this dam in their area. • Women also added that government has no jobs for their educated and skilled youth, and now they want to destroy the business that they start by using their own resources or through taking loan. • They said that Dam construction news in their area was disturbing for them and they feel fear about losing their houses, lands and goods for ever. They will not ready to leave their beautiful place and atmosphere. • Women suggested if government wants to construct this dam government should select any other place without disturbing the residential settlements. • Women also quoted the example of payment problem with the people of Sukkhi Kinari HPP that people are not satisfied with the payments that government offered as resettlement cost.	

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Village Bararkot	
Consultation	Contact meeting with village council to start resettlement survey	
Date:	May 17, 2017	
Time:	12:15 pm	
Meeting Venue:	Village Bararkot	
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Name
	Shaheena w/o Khalid	Khurshid Begum w/o Mohammad Nazir
	Saba w/o Toqeer	Shazia w/o Ayaz
	Misbah w/o Abdul Ahmed	Nusrat w/o Mohammad Faiz
Conducted by:	Rizwana Ehsan Waraich	
Recorded by:	Rizwana Ehsan Waraich	
Language:	Urdu and Hindko where required for Local understanding and better communication	
Issues Concerns and Suggestions	• Women of the affected area warmly welcomed the project team and they said they have no issue on Dam construction because it did not affect their lives directly. They said being flood affectees they are happy that water will be stored after the dam construction. • They said after Dam construction electricity will be increased and load shading will be controlled in all over the country. • Women told that they have benefits from river but besides that have lot of fear due to flood in the river. They fetch water, catch fish (Not often), collect fuel wood, get sand and river crush and wash clothes from river water. They also take their livestock at the bank of river for grazing and taking water. They also visit the river side in summer to get fresh air. Due to river our weather is always fresh especially during night. Nights cool even in summer. • Women also feel fear about the beauty of the area because after Dam construction their green lands and fruit trees will be destroyed. • There was another fear factor present in the community that if land acquisition is unavoidable they must be compensated at market price so that they can relocate somewhere easily. • People of the area also demand that local labor will be used for Dam construction on market rates. And government will provide jobs for their educated youth in this project.	

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Village Bela (part of Bella Balseri)Paras	
Consultation	Contact meeting with village council to start resettlement survey	
Date:	May 2, 2017	
Time:	10:30 am	
Meeting Venue:	Village Bela	
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Name
	Khadija Zaib w/o Ahmad Nawaz	Bibi Khanfaw w/o Syed Noor Hussain Shah
	Bibi Fatima w/o Nisar Shah	Bibi Zeneet w/o Shauakat Shah
	BiBI Khurshid w/o Syed Manzoor Shah	Bibi Mahraj w/o Late Syed Nazir Shah
	Sajida w/o Syed Nazir Shah	Bibi Murtaza w/o late Nazir Hussain
	BiBi Noor Shabah w/o Syed Mohammad Hussain Shah	Yasmin w/o Asad Mohammad
	Bibi Saidoon Nisa w/o Syed Aurangzaib Shah	Nargess Bibi w/o Syed Mukhtar Shah (Polio Disabled)
Conducted by:	Rizwana Ehsan Waraich	
Recorded by:	Rizwana Ehsan Waraich	
Language:	Urdu and Hindko where required for Local understanding and better communication	
Issues Concerns and Suggestions	♦ Women strongly condemned for the construction of BHPP because they are also affectees of earthquakes 2005 and floods 2010. These two major incidents destroyed their lives, houses and lands. They said that they were not happy to leave their houses, land, and fruit orchards. And if government force them to leave that place then they expect not only the good price of their property but on the other hand government will also provide them the same weather, cool breeze, fresh environment that they have. ♦ People of the area also demand jobs for their educated youth and local labor used for the construction of the Dam. ♦ Women also feel fear about their children education and want batter schooling system in relocated site. ♦ There was also a major fear factor among the community that government did not fulfil their promises in land acquisition case with the mess as they have seen in other projects like Sukki Kineri. ♦ Women also said they get many benefits from river like catching fish, washing clothes, and gathering woods but after the construction of Dam they will not avail these facilities.	

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Village Badwar	
Consultation	Contact meeting with village council to start resettlement survey	
Date:	May 10, 2017	
Time:	10:00 am	
Meeting Venue:	Village Badwar	
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Name
	Shahida d/o Abdul Khawar	Yasmin w/o Mohad Javid
	Samina d/o Fazal Allam	Nazneen w/o Faiz
	Shahnaz d/o Saddiq	Sumera w/o Qaddir
	Manzoor Ahmed	Hoor un Nisa
	Roqia w/o Mian Mohd Safdar	
Conducted by:	Rizwana Ehsan Waraich	
Recorded by:	Rizwana Ehsan Waraich	
Language:	Urdu and Hindko where required for Local understanding and better communication	
Issues Concerns and Suggestions	• Women of the affected area expressed their unhappiness regarding Dam construction, and reluctant to reply. They said that they were not willing to leave their houses and land for any purpose or activity will be held under dam construction because river water is the main source of their livelihood like catching fishes, sand mining, wash clothes and getting woods. • Most of females, head of the households were involved in dry fruit business, agriculture and livestock rearing for livelihood. So due to Dam construction they failed to run their business and fulfill their basic needs. Some of them earn from sewing/stitching of clothes at village level. • Women said that they were not interested in cash compensation against their houses and to resettle at any other place is also impossible for them. • According to the women they were not interested in relocation and they were not interested to know the benefits of the project or dam construction. • Women also requested to Government, not to push them to leave their places. • If land acquisition is unavoidable they must be compensated at market price so that they can relocate somewhere easily.	

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Village Boli	
Consultation	Contact meeting with village council to start resettlement survey	
Date:	May 10, 2017	
Time:	12:30 pm	
Meeting Venue:	Village Boli	
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Name
	Razia w/o Saeed	Khalida w/o Shabir
	Sakina w/o Aziz Ur Rehman	Rabina w/o Liaqat
	Mena w/o Shahzad	Fatima w/o Abdul Hameed
Conducted by:	Rizwana Ehsan Waraich	
Recorded by:	Rizwana Ehsan Waraich	
Language:	Urdu and Hindko where required for Local understanding and better communication	
Issues Concerns and Suggestions	• Most of females, head of the households were involved in dry fruit business, agriculture and livestock rearing for livelihood. So due to Dam construction they failed to run their business and fulfill their basic needs. Some of them earn from sewing/stitching of clothes at village level. • Due to Dam construction their business of dry fruit and agriculture will be destroyed, so they also want some vocational institute in their area where they resettled. • Women said that Dam construction in their area is good news for them but they have some concerns on it, firstly they want free electricity in their area after Dam construction, secondly they want to live within the same village with their relatives at another place. • Women also want that they must be compensated at market price so that they can relocate somewhere easily.	

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Village Garhi Habibullah	
Consultation	Contact meeting with village council to start resettlement survey	
Date:	May 11, 2017	
Time:	10:30 am	
Meeting Venue:	Village Garhi Habibullah	
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Name
	Iram w/o Nadeem Ahmed	Anellao Mohammed Amin
	Suryia w/o Shian Mohammed	Sheza d/o Zakir
	Fazeelat w/o Mohammad Sagheer	Shazia w/o Shakeel Ahmed
	Samina d/ Tofeeq Ahmed	Zainab w/o Naseer Ahmed
	Tayyaba w/o Rizwan	
Conducted by:	Rizwana Ehsan Waraich	
Recorded by:	Rizwana Ehsan Waraich	
Language:	Urdu and Hindko where required for Local understanding and better communication	
Issues Concerns and Suggestions	• Women said that Dam construction in their area is good news for them but they have some concerns on it, firstly they want free electricity in their area after Dam construction, secondly they want to live within the same village with their relatives at another place. • Women also want that they must be compensated at market price so that they can relocate somewhere easily. • Some educated women served as teacher in government schools, so they want same schools in their area after Dam construction to continue their jobs. • Some women run dry fruit business but due to Dam construction their business of dry fruit and agriculture will be destroyed, so they also want some vocational institute in their area after Dam construction. • Women said that they were interested in cash compensation against their houses and to resettle at any other place is also possible for this noble cause of Dam construction in their area. • According to the women they were knows about the benefits of that project and ready to leave their places. • But they must be compensated at market price so that they can relocate somewhere easily.	

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Village Kappi Gali	
Consultation	Contact meeting with village council to start resettlement survey	
Date:	May 06, 2017	
Time:	9:30 am	
Meeting Venue:	Village Kappi Gali	
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Name
	Samina d/o Fazal Allam	Yasmin w/o Mohad Javid
	Shahnaz d/o Saddiq	Nazneen w/o Faiz
	Manzoor Ahmed	Sumera w/o Qaddir
Conducted by:	Rizwana Ehsan Waraich	
Recorded by:	Rizwana Ehsan Waraich	
Language:	Urdu and Hindko where required for Local understanding and better communication	
Issues Concerns and Suggestions	• Women told that they have benefits from river but besides that have lot of fear due to flood in the river. They fetch water, catch fish (Not often), collect fuel wood, get sand and river crush and wash clothes from river water. They also take their livestock at the bank of river for grazing and taking water. They also visit the river side in summer to get fresh air. Due to river our weather is always fresh especially during night. Nights cool even in summer. • Some women run dry fruit business but due to Dam construction their business of dry fruit and agriculture will be destroyed, so they also want some vocational institute in their area after Dam construction. • Women said that Dam construction in their area is good news for them but they have some concerns on it, firstly they want free electricity in their area after Dam construction, secondly they want to live within the same village with their relatives at another place. • Women also want that they must be compensated at market price so that they can relocate somewhere easily. • Some educated women served as teacher in government schools, so they want same schools in their area after Dam construction to continue their jobs.	

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Village Chuntian Paras	
Consultation	Contact meeting with village council to start resettlement survey	
Date:	May 04, 2017	
Time:	10:00 am	
Meeting Venue:	Village Chuntian Paras	
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Name
	Abida Parveen w/o Syed Sallahdin Shah	Tohara Bibi w/o Mohammed Anwaer Shah
	Racesha Bibi w/o Mohi u Din Shah	Bibi Nyghat w/o Maroof Shah
	Bibi Naik un Nisa w/o Ghlum Gilani	Zakia Bibi w/o Sahfiq Hussain Shah
	Bibi Jammat Un Nisa w/o Nazir Hussain Shah	Bibi Khatoon w/o Sarwar Shah
Conducted by:	Rizwana Ehsan Waraich	
Recorded by:	Rizwana Ehsan Waraich	
Language:	Urdu and Hindko where required for Local understanding and better communication	
Issues Concerns and Suggestions	• Women said that they were not happy as being the residents of Chountian due to Dam construction, they were not ready to leave their ancestor's place, because in that area they have their ancestor's grave, houses, land and fruit orchards. Women said that they did not allowed to establish BHPP colony in their settlements. • Most of females, head of the households were involved in dry fruit business, agriculture and livestock rearing for livelihood. So due to Dam construction they failed to run their business and fulfill their basic needs. Some of them earn from sewing/stitching of clothes at village level. • Women said that they were not interested in cash compensation against their houses and to resettle at any other place is also impossible for them. • According to the women they were not interested in relocation and they were not interested to know the benefits of the project or dam construction. • Women also requested to Government, not to push them to leave their places. • If land acquisition is unavoidable they must be compensated at market price so that they can relocate somewhere easily.	

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Village Dhab Paras	
Consultation	Contact meeting with village council to start resettlement survey	
Date:	May 04, 2017	
Time:	12:30 pm	
Meeting Venue:	Village Dhab Paras	
Attended by and contact details:	Name	
	Sh Bibi Khursheed w/o Mukhtar Ahmad Shah	Tahira Bibi w/o Syed Awais Hussain Shah
	Naseem w/o Niamat Ullah	Fakhira Bibi w/o Syed Sabu Hussain Shah
	Zareena w/o Mohammad Saeed	Bibi Tayyaba w/o Syed Munnavar Hussain Shah
	Bibi Ghlum Dua	Bibi Zahida w/o Ghlum Ahmad Shah
	Bibi Mehr Niga w/o Late Ghlum Husain	
Conducted by:	Rizwana Ehsan Waraich	
Recorded by:	Rizwana Ehsan Waraich	
Language:	Urdu and Hindko where required for Local understanding and better communication	
Issues Concerns and Suggestions	• Women of Dhub did not accept the idea of relocation cite in their settlement. They said there was no need of Dam construction, as “Sukhi Kinari” Dam was under construction close to their settlement and most of their land already acquired for sukkhi Kinari Dam. • They said that local residents of Paras were not ready to leave that place at any cost because paras is the most beautiful place in Kaghan Valley. • If land acquisition is unavoidable then all basic facilities like electricity, road, school, college, Masque and hospital should be provided at resettled place. • They said government should provide jobs to local people on priority basics. • They said as they came to know that labor camp was constructed in Dhub, they expressed their unhappiness regarding labor camp because it will create social issues due to migration of outsiders in their area.	

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Village Garan	
Consultation	Contact meeting with village council to start resettlement survey	
Date:	May 04, 2017	
Time:	2:45 pm	
Meeting Venue:	Village Garan	
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Name
	Tanveer Shah (UC Member)	Mohammd Kashif
	Sara w/o Nazir Shah	Toqeer Fatima D/o Nazir Shah
	Mahfooz Bibi w/o M Tarqi Shah	
Conducted by:	Rizwana Ehsan Waraich	
Recorded by:	Rizwana Ehsan Waraich	
Language:	Urdu and Hindko where required for Local understanding and better communication	
Issues Concerns and Suggestions	• Woman said Government should provide free electricity to local communities in exchange for their support and cooperation after Dam construction. • Most of females, head of the households were involved in dry fruit business, agriculture and livestock rearing for livelihood. So due to Dam construction they failed to run their business and fulfill their basic needs. Some of them earn from sewing/stitching of clothes at village level. • Due to Dam construction their business of dry fruit and agriculture will be destroyed, so they also want some vocational institute in their area where they resettled. • Women said that Dam construction in their area is good news for them but they have some concerns on it, firstly they want free electricity in their area after Dam construction, secondly they want to live within the same village with their relatives at another place. • Women also want that they must be compensated at market price so that they can relocate somewhere easily.	

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Village Gul Dheri	
Consultation	Contact meeting with village council to start resettlement survey	
Date:	May 14, 2017	
Time:	11:30	
Meeting Venue:	Village Gul Dheri	
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Name
	Abida Perveen w/o Allyas	Sadaf w/o Ibrar Ahmed
	Samina w/o Mohammad Rafiq	Safia w/o Sameer Ahmad
Conducted by:	Rizwana Ehsan Waraich	
Recorded by:	Rizwana Ehsan Waraich	
Language:	Urdu and Hindko where required for Local understanding and better communication	
Issues Concerns and Suggestions	• Women said that they have no issue about Dam construction but as Ballakot is EQ zone so it could be possibility of dam breakage due to EQ and that could be flooded out the whole Ballakot. • Women said that Dam construction in their area is good news for them but they have some concerns on it, firstly they want free electricity in their area after Dam construction, secondly they want to live within the same village with their relatives at another place, thirdly jobs will be provided the locals of the area. • Village Dehri Women have no direct objection regarding dam construction.	

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Village Hisari	
Consultation	Contact meeting with village council to start resettlement survey	
Date:	May 12, 2017	
Time:	10:45 am	
Meeting Venue:	Village Hisari	
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Name
	Farhat w/o Shaukat Nawaz Khan	Pari
	Farah w/o Kashif Mahmood	Aribaa
	Zubaida w/o Rehman	Sabeen
Conducted by:	Rizwana Ehsan Waraich	
Recorded by:	Rizwana Ehsan Waraich	
Language:	Urdu and Hindko where required for Local understanding and better communication	
Issues Concerns and Suggestions	• Women was happy after listening about the Dam construction. They said that it did not affect their lives directly. Women said being a flood affectees they were happy that water will be stored after Dam construction and there will be lessen in floods. • They said they were willing to give lands for the project but our houses should be avoided if possible. • Government should provide market price for their land and fruit trees. • Labor job and other jobs should be provided by the locals during Dam construction.	

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Village Talhatta	
Consultation	Contact meeting with village council to start resettlement survey	
Date:	May 16, 2017	
Time:	11:30	
Meeting Venue:	Village Talhatta	
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Name
	Sakina Jann w/o Fazal	Nargas w/o Syed Sajjad Shah
	Fazeelat Bibi w/o Sarwar Shah	Zatioon Bibi w/o Ammer Ullah
	Suryia Bibi w/o Sahfaqat Shah	Nabila BiBi w/o Shaukat Hussain
	Sumera w/o Shafiq Hussain Shah	Annela w/o Asif Shah
Conducted by:	Rizwana Ehsan Waraich	
Recorded by:	Rizwana Ehsan Waraich	
Language:	Urdu and Hindko where required for Local understanding and better communication	
Issues Concerns and Suggestions	• Woman express their happiness after listening about the Dam construction. They said that it did not affect their lives directly. Women said being a flood affectees they were happy that water will be stored after Dam construction and there will be lessen in floods. • They said they were willing to give lands for the project but our houses should be avoided if possible. • Government should provide market price for their land and fruit trees. • Due to this project their culture will badly influenced for coming of outsider workers and foreigner. So labor and other jobs should be provided by the locals during Dam construction. • On the other hand some women were not happy for dam construction in their area due to some social issue, they said they cannot work easily in the presence of outsiders and their movement will be limited to their houses only when construction work start.	

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Village Karnol	
Consultation	Contact meeting with village council to start resettlement survey	
Date:	May 15, 2017	
Time:	11:30	
Meeting Venue:	Village Karnol	
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Name
	Surriya w/o Mohammad Rafiq	Samina Bibi w/o Mohammad Parvaiz
	Noreen Bibi w/o Mohammad Sajid	Zareena Bibi w/o Shah Nawaz
	Rukh Taj Bibi w/o Yaqoob	Musraat Bibi w/o Abdullah
	Mehr farooz w/o Abdul Khanan	Zarina Bibi w/o Sain
	Shahnaz Bibi w/o Mohammad Sajwal	
Conducted by:	Rizwana Ehsan Waraich	
Recorded by:	Rizwana Ehsan Waraich	
Language:	Urdu and Hindko where required for Local understanding and better communication	
Issues Concerns and Suggestions	• Women was not happy after listening about the Dam construction. They said that it will affect their lives directly as more flood can come in rainy season. They expressed their fear that in case of EQ these Dams can be broken and will cause a big disaster than we already are facing every year. • They said they often went at river sides for wash clothes, catch fishes and to enjoy cool breeze in summer that will be stopped after Dam construction. We also take our animals at river for grazing and drinking water that will also be affected. • Due to this project their culture will badly influenced for coming of outsider workers and foreigner. So labor and other jobs should be provided by the locals during Dam construction. • According to the women they were not interested in relocation and they were not interested to know the benefits of the project or dam construction. • If land acquisition is unavoidable they must be compensated at market price so that they can relocate somewhere easily.	

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Village Manakpai	
Consultation	Contact meeting with village council to start resettlement survey	
Date:	May 07, 2017	
Time:	10:30 am	
Meeting Venue:	Village Manakpai	
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Name
	Najma w/o Rifaqat	Zatoon w/o Mirza
	Zainab w/o Abdul Rehman	Rakhtaaj Bibi w/o Shaukat
	Sakeena w/o Sher zamman	
Conducted by:	Rizwana Ehsan Waraich	
Recorded by:	Rizwana Ehsan Waraich	
Language:	Urdu and Hindko where required for Local understanding and better communication	
Issues Concerns and Suggestions	• Woman said that their houses were totally destroyed in EQ 2005, still not completed. They said that first EQ 2005 destroyed their lives, houses, lands and goods, still they are trying to overcome the effects of these disasters and now government is planning to construct this dam in their area. • Women added that all the residents are relatives, belong to same family and living in close in knit also help each other in happiness and sorrows, quite helpful in grieves so they can not want to split out. Women expressed their fear that due to crushing of tunnel their houses can be affected, land slide will increase and there will be more earthquake in their area. • According to the women they were not interested in relocation and they were not interested to know the benefits of the project or dam construction. • If land acquisition is unavoidable they must be compensated at market price so that they can relocate somewhere easily.	

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Village Shohal Mazullah	
Consultation	Contact meeting with village council to start resettlement survey	
Date:	May 18, 2017	
Time:	11:45 am	
Meeting Venue:	Village Shohal Mazullah	
Attended by and contact details:	Name	
	Sakina Jann w/o Fazal	
	Yasmeen w/o Mohd Maskeen	
Conducted by:	Rizwana Ehsan Waraich	
Recorded by:	Rizwana Ehsan Waraich	
Language:	Urdu and Hindko where required for Local understanding and better communication	
Issues Concerns and Suggestions	♦ Woman of Muzdallah have no issue on Dam construction in their area, they said their men and youth also help out the project team in dam construction process. ♦ Woman express their happiness after listening about the Dam construction. They said that it did not affect their lives directly. Women said being a flood affectees they were happy that water will be stored after Dam construction and there will be lessen in floods. ♦ They said they were willing to give lands for the project but our houses should be avoided if possible. ♦ Government should provide market price for their land and fruit trees. ♦ Due to this project their culture will badly influenced for coming of outsider workers and foreigner. So labor and other jobs should be provided by the locals during Dam construction.	

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Village Nihan	
Consultation	Contact meeting with village council to start resettlement survey	
Date:	May 02, 2017	
Time:	01:30 pm	
Meeting Venue:	Village Nihan	
Attended by and contact details:	Name	
	Syeda Zaneet d/o Syed Sumandar Shah	Nasreen w/o Abdul Salam
	Bibi Nasreen w/o Syed Mubark Ali Shah	Zohra w/o Waqar Shah
	Bibi Sadiqa w/o Syed Abbas Shah	Gull Naseem w/o Imdad Ali Shah
	Zainah w/o Syed Ummer Shah	Bibi Safien w/o Syed Nazir Hussain Shah
	Habib un Nisa w/o Abdul Qayum	Bibi Rehan w/o Mohammad Rafiq Shah
	Marahaba w/o Mohammad Yousaf	Shamila w/o Syed Bilal
	Zeenat w/o Shaukat	Tayyaba un Nisa w/o Syed Sakhi Shaha
	Shafia Bibi w/o Syed Niaz Hussain Shah	Latif un Nisa w/o Shamas Ur Rehman
Conducted by:	Rizwana Ehsan Waraich	
Recorded by:	Rizwana Ehsan Waraich	
Language:	Urdu and Hindko where required for Local understanding and better communication	
Issues Concerns and Suggestions	♦ Women said that the construction of dam will not only disturbed and destroy their houses, agriculture and livestock system but also affect their family businesses. ♦ Women of the affected area expressed their unhappiness regarding Dam construction, and reluctant to reply. They said that they were not willing to leave their houses and land for any purpose or activity will be held under dam construction because river water is the main source of their livelihood like catching fishes, sand mining, wash clothes and getting woods. ♦ Most of the females, head of the households were involved in dry fruit business, agriculture and livestock rearing for livelihood. So due to Dam construction they failed to run their business and fulfill their basic needs. Some of them earn from sewing/stitching of clothes at village level. ♦ Women said that they were not interested in cash compensation against their houses and to resettle at any other place is also impossible for them. ♦ According to the women they were not interested in relocation and they were not interested to know the benefits of the project or dam construction. ♦ Women also requested to Government, not to push them to leave their places.	

	♦ Link between right and left bank of the river will be broken due to the submergence of the suspension bridges. ♦ If land acquisition is unavoidable they must be compensated at market price so that they can relocate somewhere easily. ♦ Due to this project their culture will be badly influenced because of outsider workers and foreigner coming to their area. So labor and other jobs should be provided to the locals during Dam construction. ♦ Environmental issues will be increased due to excavation, vehicles, and operation of other heavy machinery which will be used in the project.

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Village Rahter	
Consultation	Contact meeting with village council to start resettlement survey	
Date:	May 03, 2017	
Time:	12:45 pm	
Meeting Venue:	Village Rahter	
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Name
	Komal w/o Farooq Ali	Musarat w/o Aurangzaib
	Farhat Bibi w/o Abrar Shah	Ayshia w/o Khalid Shah
	Naheed Bano w/o Syed Liaquat Shah	Bibi Mah Nigar w/o Arslan Ahmed Shah
	Safia Bibi w/o Syed Mukhtar Shah	
Conducted by:	Rizwana Ehsan Waraich	
Recorded by:	Rizwana Ehsan Waraich	
Language:	Urdu and Hindko where required for Local understanding and better communication	
Issues Concerns and Suggestions	Women said that it was sad news for them to leave their houses. But if it is unavoidable than government should pay them handsome amount as compensation of their houses and land. So that they can relocate somewhere easily. They loved their river as they collect sand, fish, wood and cold water from it. Women replied after the construction of dam they will lose it. Water flow will be decreased after dam construction. Women added that while living there they fulfill their most of needs from agriculture fields with grow wheat, maize and vegetables for their whole year food. They said they were rearing livestock, chickens and goats that not only fulfill their dietary needs but also earn money by selling it. Women said they did not want to leave their places because government cannot provide them a suitable place of their choice for living and it was also not easy for them to leave their homes and lands because they have been lived on their forefathers land. Women said they were poor people and cannot afford to live in cities.	

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Village Rah Sachcha	
Consultation	Contact meeting with village council to start resettlement survey	
Date:	May 05, 2017	
Time:	02:00 pm	
Meeting Venue:	Village Rah Sachcha	
Attended by and contact details:	Name	
	Sadia w/o Tauseef Shah	Gilzar w/o Yousaf saddiq
	Rukhsana w/o Mohammed Basher	Shakeela w/o Shafqat
	Najma w/o Majid Shah	Bibi Zahida w/o Ashfaq Shah
	Zeenat w/o Abid Saddiqi	
Conducted by:	Rizwana Ehsan Waraich	
Recorded by:	Rizwana Ehsan Waraich	
Language:	Urdu and Hindko where required for Local understanding and better communication	
Issues Concerns and Suggestions	• Women strongly condemned the construction of BHPP and establishment of colony to resettle affected people in their residential areas and land. Their immediate response was that first EQ 2005, later Sukhi Kinari dam and now this dam disturb their lives. • Women said that people of Nehaan and Bella Balseri have also their lands on mountains so they can shift there and build their houses while people of Rosaach have no alternate land so they did not want to leave their land for Dam construction. • If land acquisition is unavoidable they must be compensated at market price so that they can relocate somewhere easily. • Women of the affected area expressed their unhappiness regarding Dam construction, and reluctant to reply. They said that they were not willing to leave their houses and land for any purpose or activity will be held under dam construction because river water is the main source of their livelihood like catching fishes, sand mining, wash clothes and getting woods. • Women also requested to Government, not to push them to leave their places.	

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Village Sendori	
Consultation	Contact meeting with village council to start resettlement survey	
Date:	May 08, 2017	
Time:	11:30	
Meeting Venue:	Village Sendori	
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Name
	Ghulam Bibi d/o Fida Hussain	Mehr Un Nisa w/o Ghlum Qaiser
	Rehmat Jan w/o Ghlum Nourani	Rehmat Bibi w/o Mohammad Hussain
	Hussain Bano w/o Ghlum Rabani	Noor un Nisa d/o Mian Jumma
Conducted by:	Rizwana Ehsan Waraich	
Recorded by:	Rizwana Ehsan Waraich	
Language:	Urdu and Hindko where required for Local understanding and better communication	
Issues Concerns and Suggestions	• Women said project construction activities would deteriorate the natural beauty of the village because after Dam construction their green lands and fruit trees will be destroyed. • Some woman said they need basic amenities like any other citizen of the country i.e. Road, health, education, safe drinking water etc. • They said after Dam construction electricity will be increased and load shading will be controlled in all over the country. • Women told that they have benefits from river but besides that have lot of fear due to flood in the river. They fetch water, catch fish (Not often), collect fuel wood, get sand and river crush and wash clothes from river water. They also take their livestock at the bank of river for grazing and taking water. They also visit the river side in summer to get fresh air. Due to river our weather is always fresh especially during night. Nights cool even in summer. • People of the area also demand that local labor will be used for Dam construction on market rates. And government will provide jobs for their educated youth in this project.	

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Village Lower Patlang	
Consultation	Contact meeting with village council to start resettlement survey	
Date:	March 09, 2017	
Time:	11:30	
Meeting Venue:	Village Lower Patlang	
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Name
	Shanaz Begum w/o Aurangzeb	Robina w/o Babo Munsif
	Ulgat Bibi w/o Manzoor Hussain	Amber w/o Noor Hussain
	Huma w/o Ashfaq	Arifa
Conducted by:	Sadaf	
Recorded by:	Sadaf	
Language:	Urdu and Hindko where required for Local understanding and better communication	
Issues Concerns and Suggestions	• Women expressed they were not directly affected of Dam construction. They said may be their culture and privacy disturbed due to outsider labor used by in Dam construction. • Most of females, head of the households were involved in dry fruit business, agriculture and livestock rearing for livelihood. So due to Dam construction they failed to run their business because after Dam construction they will be limited within their houses only. • They loved their river as they collect sand, fish, wood and cold water from it. Women replied after the construction of dam they can lose it. Water flow will be decreased after dam construction. • According to the women they were not interested in relocation and they were not interested to know the benefits of the project or dam construction. • Women have no issues with the construction of dam but they said weather will changed and become hotter and water will become dirty.	

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Village Shahotar	
Consultation	Contact meeting with village council to start resettlement survey	
Date:	May 12, 2017	
Time:	10:30 am	
Meeting Venue:	Village Shahotar	
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Name
	Dilshad w/o Sartaj	Naleem w/o Zahid
	Farzan w/o Pervaiz	Sewara d/o Sartaj
	Ambrozia w/o Shahid	Areeba d/o Parwaiz
Conducted by:	Sadaf	
Recorded by:	Sadaf	
Language:	Urdu and Hindko where required for Local understanding and better communication	
Issues Concerns and Suggestions	• Women did not express their concern on Dam construction. They said that it did not affect their lives directly. Women said that Dam construction in their area is good news for them but they have some concerns on it, they want free electricity in their area after Dam construction and they also want to live within the same village with their relatives at another place if government acquired their land and for Dam construction. • Most of females, head of the households were involved in dry fruit business, agriculture and livestock rearing for livelihood. So due to Dam construction they failed to run their business and fulfill their basic needs. Some of them earn from sewing/stitching of clothes at village level. • Due to Dam construction their business of dry fruit and agriculture will be destroyed, so they also want some vocational institute in their area where they resettled. • Woman also demand for free electricity in their village after Dam construction. They also want high priority in employment opportunities in the project activities and no outsider allowed to work in their area.	

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Village Shohal Najaf Khan	
Consultation	Contact meeting with village council to start resettlement survey	
Date:	May 11, 2017	
Time:	01:30 pm	
Meeting Venue:	Village Shohal Najaf Khan	
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Name
	Tahira w/o Manzoor	Rasheeda Bibi w/o Farooq Khan
	Naseem Akhtar w/o Late Manwar Khan	Aiman d/o Javed
	Nabila w/o Ibrar	Asma d/o Sultan
	Hashmat Bibi w/o Javed	Rehana d/o Farooq
	Zubaida w/o Sarwar Sultan	
Conducted by:	Rizwana Ehsan Waraich	
Recorded by:	Rizwana Ehsan Waraich	
Language:	Urdu and Hindko where required for Local understanding and better communication	
Issues Concerns and Suggestions	• Women did not express their concern on Dam construction they were happy and they did not express any affiliation with river. They said that Dam construction will bring some positive changes in their area and problem of load shading will be solved. • Women expressed they were not directly affected of Dam construction. They said they were just trying to overcome EQ 2005 effects. In this regard they take loan for the construction of the house and still unable to payed the loan back. • They loved their river as they collect sand, fish, wood and cold water from it. Women replied after the construction of dam they can lose it. Water flow will be decreased after dam construction. • Women added that while living there they fulfill their most of needs from agriculture fields with grow wheat, maize and vegetables for their whole year food. • They said they were rearing livestock, chickens and goats business that not only fulfill their dietary needs but also they earned money by selling them. • Women said after dam construction there will be less water and they will safe from flood.	

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Village Tokkol	
Consultation	Contact meeting with village council to start resettlement survey	
Date:	May 06, 2017	
Time:	12:15 pm	
Meeting Venue:	Village Tokkol	
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Name
	Bibi Suryia	Iqra Bibi
	Shabana	Sabin Nasa
	Shafiqa Bibi	Riffat
	Nazia	Fouzia
Conducted by:	Rizwana Ehsan Waraich	
Recorded by:	Rizwana Ehsan Waraich	
Language:	Urdu and Hindko where required for Local understanding and better communication	
Issues Concerns and Suggestions	• Women expressed their unhappiness regarding Dam construction of BHPP because they cannot lived without river water as their livelihood is associated with the river like catching of fish, sand mining and getting wood. • They said agricultural land will be affected due to increase of water level in reservoir which will affect their income. • They said they have very bad experience in Sukki Kanari Dam project regarding land and houses compensation so they were requesting to treat them leniently in BHPP. • Woman said land record of their area will be updated according the latest market rates. • Woman said Dam construction is necessary than they expect job/labor for their men as per their qualification. • Takool people have very limited land for subsistence and no one of them like to sale their land, but if land acquisition is unavoidable they must be compensated at market price so that they can relocate somewhere easily.	

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Village Tangar	
Consultation	Contact meeting with village council to start resettlement survey	
Date:	May 07, 2017	
Time:	04:15 pm	
Meeting Venue:	Village Tangar	
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Designation
	Shah Jhan	Councillor
	Zenab	
	Zatoon	
	Sakina	
Conducted by:	Rizwana Ehsan Waraich	
Recorded by:	Rizwana Ehsan Waraich	
Language:	Urdu and Hindko where required for Local understanding and better communication	
Issues Concerns and Suggestions	• Tangar woman were worried due to crushing of tunnels there will be more EQ and land sliding. They shared that few days back a big land sliding occurred that frequency will increase. Due to less water in the river they have loss of getting fuel wood, sand and fishes. • Only benefit of the BHPP that electricity will be produced that will decrease the load shedding they were not the direct beneficiaries so it is no special favor for them. • Woman said if it is necessary than they expect job/labor for their men as per their qualification.	

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s or Settlement	Village Thobi	
Consultation	Contact meeting with village council to start resettlement survey	
Date:	May 05, 2017	
Time:	09:45 am	
Meeting Venue:	Village Thobi	
Attended by and contact details:	Name	Name
	Gulnaz w/o Mubarak Rehman	Samina w/o Mohammad Yousaf
	Samira w/o Akhter Rehman	Shazia w/o Mohammad Safdar
	Nasreen w/o Lal Hussain	
Conducted by:	Rizwana Ehsan Waraich	
Recorded by:	Rizwana Ehsan Waraich	
Language:	Urdu and Hindko where required for Local understanding and better communication	
Issues Concerns and Suggestions	• Woman said this village has no relevance to the river but is fully dependent on spring water for drinking purpose. Both human and animals were fed through this natural resource. There was only one spring from where they have constructed there drinking water supply scheme. According to the information provided that their vital spring is definitely to be abolished. So they were unhappy about the Dam construction. • Woman said that their houses were totally destroyed in EQ 2005, still not completed. They said that first EQ 2005 destroyed their lives, houses, lands and goods, still they are trying to overcome the effects of these disasters and now government is planning to construct this dam in their area. • Water supply from the springs and streams may dry out as result of Dam construction. • Women added that all the residents are relatives, belong to same family and living in close in knit also help each other in happiness and sorrows, quite helpful in grieves so they do not want to split out. • Women expressed their fear that due to crushing of tunnel their houses can be affected, land slide will increase and there will be more earthquake. • They said primary occupation of their men is driving. If project require any vehicle or driver give them high priority in employment opportunities in the project activities.	

APPENDIX Q: ENVIRONMENTAL FLOW ASSESSMENT CONSULTATION

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s:	Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO) Asian Development Bank (ADB) World Wide Fund for Nature-Pakistan Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Wildlife Department KP Forest Department KP Department of Fisheries Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Peshawar	
Consultation	Environmental Flow Assessment Consultation	
Date	April 10, 2017	
Time	10:00 AM to 12:00 PM	
Meeting Venue	Conference room, PEDO Office, Peshawar	
Attended By	Qayyum Zaman (QZ), GM Hydel PEDO	+92 333 9292 325
	Niamat Khan (NK), PD Balakot, PEDO	+92 333 4737 190
	Syed Kamran Hussain (KH), Manager KPK, WWF-Pakistan	+92 346 9114 366
	Zafar Ali (ZA), AD Environment, PEDO	+92 321 9876 702
	M Niaz (MN), DFO Wildlife Department, KP	+92 91 9213 112
	Suleman Khan (SK), SDFO Forest, Forest Department KP	+92 334 8568 733
	Dr Saeeda (DS), Assistant Professor, Environmental Sciences University of Peshawar	+92 91 9216 742
	Ms Shahla (MS), Lecturer, Environmental Sciences University of Peshawar	+92 91 9216 742
	Dr M. Tanveer (MT), DO Fisheries ,Fisheries Department KP	+92 303 4924 727
	Salman Shahid (SS), Project Coordinator, ADB	+92 346 9465 123
HBP Representatives	Hidayat Hasan (HH), Divisional Manager, Environmental Programs, Hagler Bailly Pakistan.	+92 300 8560 713
	Kamran Minai (KM), Environmental Specialist, Environmental Programs, Hagler Bailly Pakistan	+92 316 2988 319
	Hassan Bukhari (HB), Environmental Specialist, Environmental Programs, Hagler Bailly Pakistan.	+92 340 2466 441
	Ahmed Shoaib (AS), Fish Expert, Environmental Programs Hagler Bailly Pakistan	+92 331 4257 400
	Anusha Nisar (AU), Associate, Environmental Programs Hagler Bailly Pakistan.	+92 331 5168 884
Conducted by:	Hassan Bukhari and Hidayat Hasan	
Recorded by:	Anusha Nisar	

Reviewed by	Kamran Minai
Language:	English and Urdu
Preamble:	Letters were sent all stakeholders requesting their attendance for a workshop on Environmental Flow Assessment as part of the EIA of Balakot Hydropower Project. The invitees were provided with Background Information Documents (BID) which introduced and described the key aspects of the Project, in particular the environmental concerns. They were also briefly explained the purpose of Environmental Flow Assessment. The BID also provided details of the methodology being used for Environmental Flow Assessment.

	Issues/Concerns/Recommendation	*Response*
MN	Asked for details and concerns about the construction activity area on the Kunhar River and the length of stretch that would be impacted. .	NK: The main road is more than 100 m above the river, whereas the activity is near the river bed, therefore the activity will not affect the main road and traffic. QZ: Adit 1 is slightly different then what can be seen on the map. The level of Adit 1 is very low compared to the road. HH: New road is proposed to provide access. About a 10 km stretch of river is within the construction area.
NK	The source of construction materials should also be shown on the layout map.	HB: Noted.
ZA	What is the ratio of environment to economic weightage in the calculations in DRIFT? How does it work?	HB: DRIFT does not provide a single number for required environmental flow but rather allows stakeholders to make that decision by providing results for each scenario. NK: DRIFT is used as an optimization tool.
QZ, NK	There is a gauging station near Balakot Town and Paras bridge. Latest data from these stations and the new gauging station near the reservoir will be given to Hagler Bailly Pakistan. Flow data from gauging stations at Batakundi and Naran may also be made available. It is recommended that the latest data after 2010 be incorporated. This data will be provided by PEDO. Patrind HPP wants to digitize the Balakot gauging station. NOC has been issued by PEDO. Nullah and stream data may also be available.	Acknowledged by HBP.
DS	What about the 2010 flood? The graphs do not show high flood values.	QK: the 2010 flood did not significantly impact Kunhar River.
SK	Climate Change, new seasons and fluctuations will be considered in DRIFT? In the last 5 years the hydrology of the river seems to have changed.	HH: The climate change models are not reliable. 51 year flow data is used to design dams and climate change models are incorporated in risk assessment to see the effect. Using only last 7 years data for dam design data is not sufficient.

	Issues/Concerns/Recommendation	*Response*
MT	Brown Trout and Rainbow Trout are present upstream of Balakot. Rainbow Trout is more important commercially than Brown Trout. Spawning grounds for the Rainbow Trout will be affected by the Project.	Noted.
KH	Brown Trout has a commercial value and is being farmed. These can be compensated.	Noted.
MT	What is the size of the reservoir for this Project?	HB: 4.5 km in length.
MT	Will there be fish ladders?	NK: Following the ADB guidelines fish ladder design is already present in the current dam design. It can be shared with the Fisheries Department.
ZA	What are the impacts on vegetation/flora and fauna other than fish? Existing pressures on forests include fuel wood collection which degrades habitat. The Project will further impact embedded flora and fauna.	HH: An ecological survey will be conducted as a part of the EIA.
DS	What are the other overall Project impacts such as impacts on the migratory birds?	HH: Project impact assessment will be conducted as part of the EIA. These concerns will be addressed in separate public consultations. QK: Public consultation is going on. The EIA will be made available to the public when it is approved by EPA-KP.
SK	Will there be any road relocation as was required for Sukki Kinari HPP? Upstream of Paras the Forest area is reserved.	NK: The existing road level is higher than the floodplain. It is estimated that only 1 km will be submerged.
MN	Will this project consider benefits like REDD+ and carbon credit? Are there any schemes to limit or prevent fuel wood collection?	NK: Royalty of 10% of the revenue will be given to the district where the Project is located. The funds that can be utilized for such schemes. These schemes will be designed and considered by the local government.
MN	What about the socioeconomic issues?	HH: Socioeconomic impacts are a part of the EIA study and will be carefully evaluated. NK: Due to this development hospitals, schools and tourism will increase hence benefiting the local area. Local labor will be utilized during the construction phase. This will help improve the economic growth of the area.
MN	Will the consultation be held with the head of the department or local office?	QK: The procedure is to inform the head of the department. If the head of the department wants to include the local office then we will do so.

Record of the Consultation Meeting (Draft)

Stakeholder/s:	Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO) Asian Development Bank (ADB) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Environmental Protection Agency World Wide Fund for Nature-Pakistan KP Wildlife Department KP Forest Department KP Department of Fisheries Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Peshawar Livestock and Dairy Development	
Consultation	Environmental Flow Assessment Consultation	
Date	June 1, 2017	
Time	11:00 AM to 1:00 PM	
Meeting Venue	Conference room, PEDO Office, Peshawar	
Attended By	Qayyum Zaman (QZ), GM Hydel PEDO	+92 333 9292 325
	Wajid Khan (WK), Assistant Director, Environmental Protection Agency, Peshawar	+91 921 0263
	Syed Kamran Hussain (KH), Manager KPK, WWF-Pakistan	+92 346 9114 366
	Zafar Ali (ZA), AD Environment, PEDO	+92 321 9876 702
	Safdar Ali Shah (SA), Chief Conservator, Wildlife Department, KP	+92 333 5040 664
	Muhammad Arif (MA), SDFO Forest, Forest Department KP	+92 340 9893 958
	Dr Saeeda (DS), Assistant Professor, Environmental Sciences University of Peshawar	+92 91 9216 742
	Mohammad Diyar (MD), Director Fisheries, Fisheries Department KP	+92 0302 2984 680
	Salman Shahid (SS), Project Coordinator, ADB	+92 346 9465 123
	Dr. Qazi Zia-ur-Rehman (QR), Senior Veterinary Officer, Directorate General (Extension), Livestock and Dairy Development	+92 333 9121 644
HBP Representatives	Vaqar Zakaria (VZ), Managing Director, Hagler Bailly Pakistan.	+92 300 8560 713
	Buland Akhtar Siddiqui (BA), Information Technology Consultant, Hagler Bailly Pakistan	+92 346 5364 000
Conducted by:	Vaqar Zakaria	
Recorded by:	Buland Akhtar Siddiqui	
Reviewed by	Kamran Minai	
Language:	English and Urdu	
Preamble:	The process of E-Flow assessment was described, and the results of the E-Flow assessment were shared with the participants. The behaviors of different fish species and how they are likely to be impacted by the Project was described. Recommendations for alternatives available for management of the project operations to minimize the impact on aquatic fauna were presented.	

	Pressures on the river system including fishing and sediment mining, and disposal of urban effluents and solid waste into the river were described. The strategy for management of biodiversity developed for BAP the Gulpur HPP and subsequently adopted in the BAP/MP of Karot and Kohala HPPs was described, and it was suggested that the approach that has been tested in implementation of BAP of Gulpur HPP should be adopted. This includes a watch and ward protection of the river, sustainable management of sand and gravel mining, a watershed management program, and research on aquatic biodiversity.

	Issues/Concerns/Recommendation	*Response*
QZ	It may be challenging to operate the power house on baseload as Sukki Kinari HPP will be a peaking operation. The technical feasibility of a baseload operation will have to be investigated.	VZ: This aspect has to be taken into account in the design of the dam. Patrind HPP has been designed for a baseload operation, and it was designed to take peaking releases from SKHPP
MD	Cumulative impacts of HPPs are a serious concern, how will these be addressed	VZ: A cumulative impact assessment is part of the EIA. The approach suggested in the CIA of Kohala HPP is suggested to be followed. The basin wide impacts have been studied at a high level in the IFC sponsored Hydropower Strategy for the Jhelum-Poonch Basin, the second phase of which is to start soon. The stakeholders in KP will be kept informed and will be contacted for participation by IFC in the course of implementation of the second phase of the basin-wide initiative.
MD	Will it be possible to construct a fish ladder?	VZ: Given the dam height of the order of over 60 meters, it will not be technically feasible to construct a fish ladder. Genetic studies and physical transport of fish from downstream to upstream of the dam will be recommended of genetic studies show impacts of isolation.

APPENDIX R: EFLOW PRESENTATIONS

See following pages.

APPENDIX S: INDEX OF STRUCTURES WITHIN BLASTING INDUCED VIBRATION RISK ZONES

284. Structures that lie within blasting induced vibration risk zone are listed in this appendix. See **Section 7.5** *(Blasting and Vibration)* of the EIA report for details.

Exhibit S.1: Structures in Structural Damage Risk Zone

Map ID	Center point Coordinates (Degree Decimal)	
	X	Y
1	34.6301	73.4258
2	34.6299	73.4258
3	34.6114	73.3948
4	34.6117	73.3946
5	34.6120	73.3947
6	34.6286	73.4272
7	34.6289	73.4270
8	34.6295	73.4268
9	34.6301	73.4262
10	34.6328	73.4362
11	34.6329	73.4366
12	34.6332	73.4360
13	34.6333	73.4368

Exhibit S.2: Structures in Cosmetic Damage Risk Zone

Map ID	Centre point coordinates (Degree Decimal)	
	X	Y
14	34.6600	73.4535
15	34.6602	73.4538
16	34.6593	73.4545
17	34.6592	73.4537
18	34.6590	73.4544
19	34.6314	73.4274
20	34.6312	73.4274
21	34.6313	73.4275
22	34.6024	73.3785
23	34.6028	73.3784
24	34.5889	73.3676
25	34.5881	73.3671
26	34.5905	73.3687
27	34.5899	73.3686
28	34.6600	73.4536
29	34.6602	73.4540
30	34.6603	73.4539
31	34.6602	73.4537
32	34.5896	73.3692
33	34.5902	73.3701
34	34.5908	73.3691
35	34.5941	73.3717
36	34.5940	73.3719
37	34.5943	73.3721
38	34.6011	73.3780
39	34.6013	73.3781
40	34.6015	73.3785
41	34.6021	73.3787
42	34.6029	73.3776
43	34.6031	73.3777
44	34.6041	73.3783
45	34.6044	73.3783
46	34.6049	73.3829
47	34.6050	73.3846
48	34.6050	73.3827
49	34.6054	73.3832
50	34.6057	73.3850

Map ID	Centre point coordinates (Degree Decimal)	
	X	Y
51	34.6066	73.3940
52	34.6067	73.3934
53	34.6069	73.3940
54	34.6069	73.3923
55	34.6070	73.3936
56	34.6071	73.3938
57	34.6072	73.3928
58	34.6072	73.3923
59	34.6071	73.3920
60	34.6071	73.3933
61	34.6073	73.3934
62	34.6073	73.3937
63	34.6075	73.3936
64	34.6074	73.3919
65	34.6073	73.3912
66	34.6077	73.3939
67	34.6080	73.3935
68	34.6077	73.3922
69	34.6081	73.3914
70	34.6083	73.3952
71	34.6085	73.3950
72	34.6088	73.3949
73	34.6089	73.3943
74	34.6099	73.3944
75	34.6099	73.3942
76	34.6100	73.3958
77	34.6101	73.3961
78	34.6104	73.3946
79	34.6105	73.3954
80	34.6105	73.3943
81	34.6103	73.3950
82	34.6106	73.3961
83	34.6104	73.3957
84	34.6108	73.3951
85	34.6111	73.3941

Map ID	Centre point coordinates (Degree Decimal)	
	X	Y
86	34.6115	73.3939
87	34.6120	73.3941
88	34.6121	73.3940
89	34.6124	73.3978
90	34.6132	73.3923
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92	34.6140	73.3927
93	34.6142	73.3933
94	34.6146	73.3934
95	34.6185	73.4231
96	34.6186	73.4236
97	34.6190	73.4231
98	34.6191	73.4224
99	34.6197	73.4225
100	34.6283	73.4278
101	34.6289	73.4258
102	34.6300	73.4291
103	34.6303	73.4360
104	34.6302	73.4297
105	34.6303	73.4332
106	34.6305	73.4323
107	34.6308	73.4362
108	34.6323	73.4349
109	34.6322	73.4374
110	34.6328	73.4370
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112	34.6332	73.4377
113	34.6334	73.4374
114	34.6337	73.4390
115	34.6344	73.4381
116	34.6345	73.4371
117	34.6346	73.4369
118	34.6350	73.4371
119	34.6352	73.4370
120	34.6353	73.4394

Exhibit S.3: Structures near Dam Site

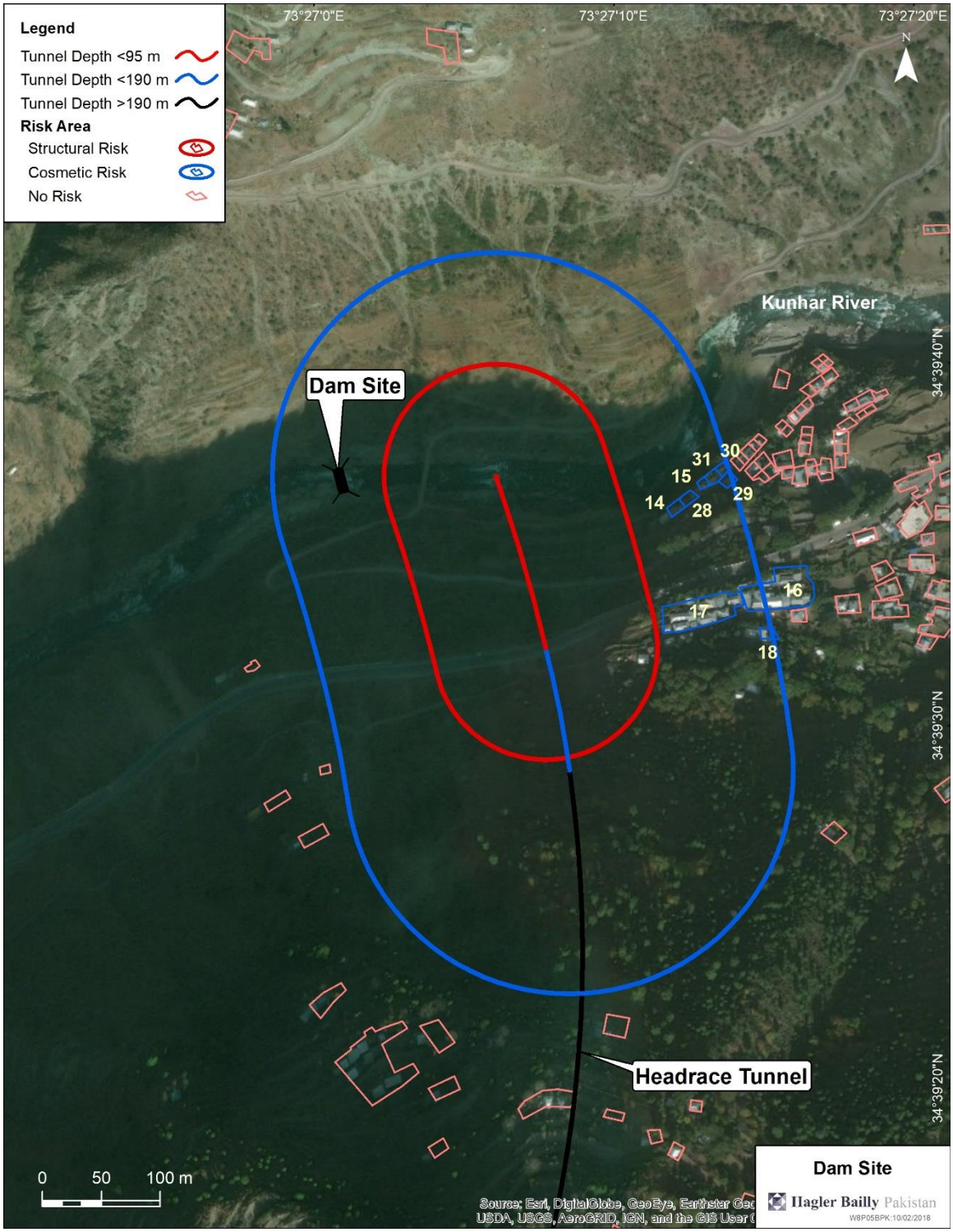


Exhibit S.3: Structures near Adit 1

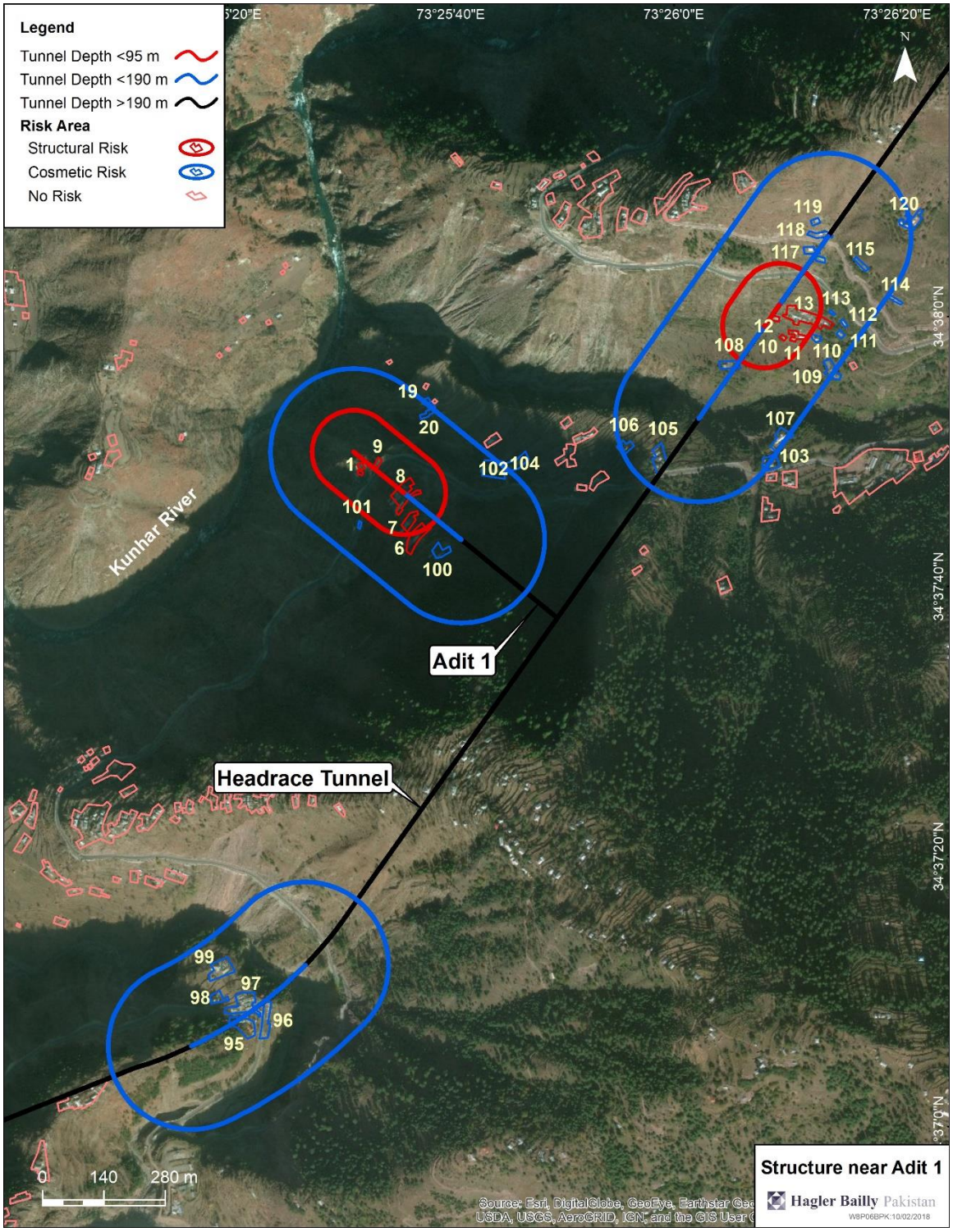


Exhibit S.4: Structures near Adit 2

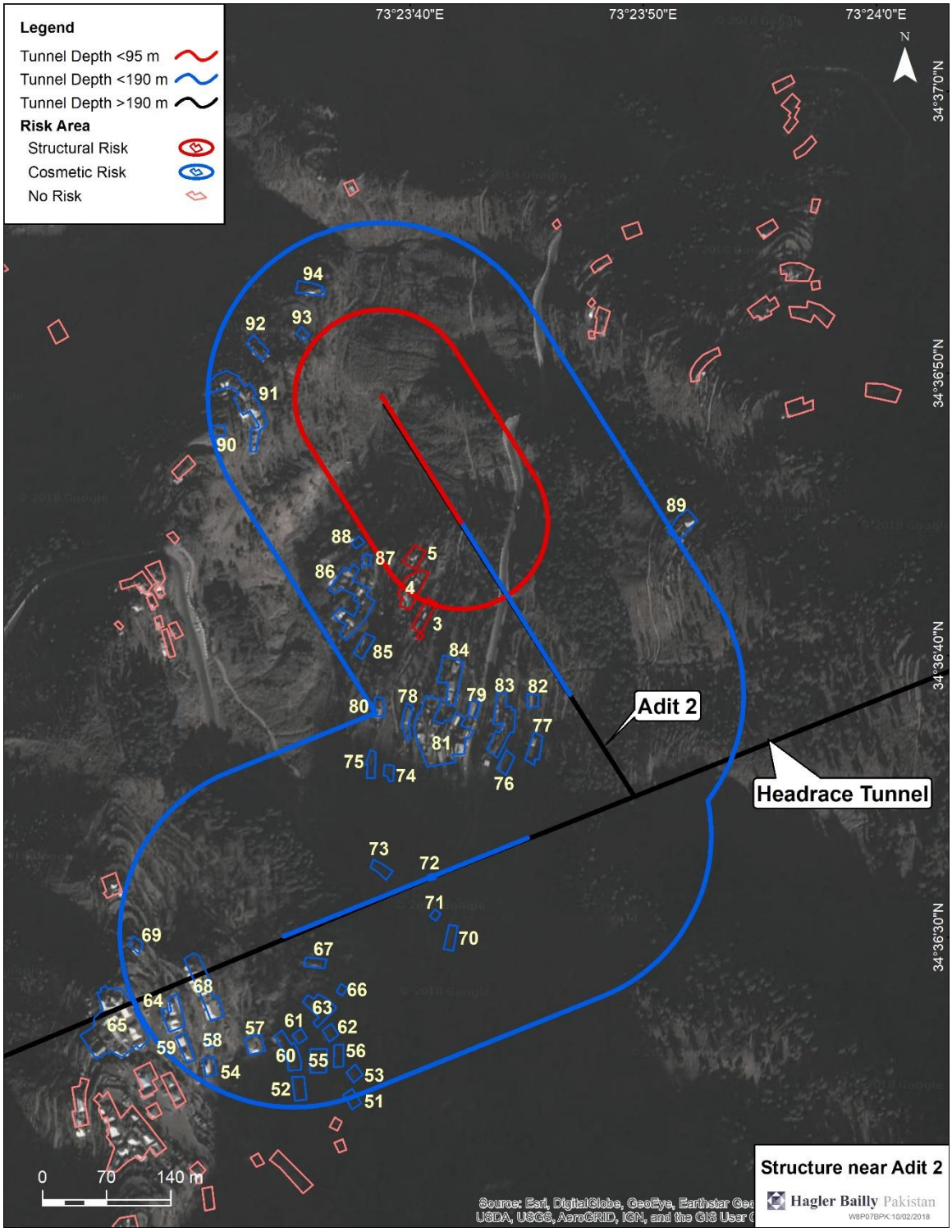
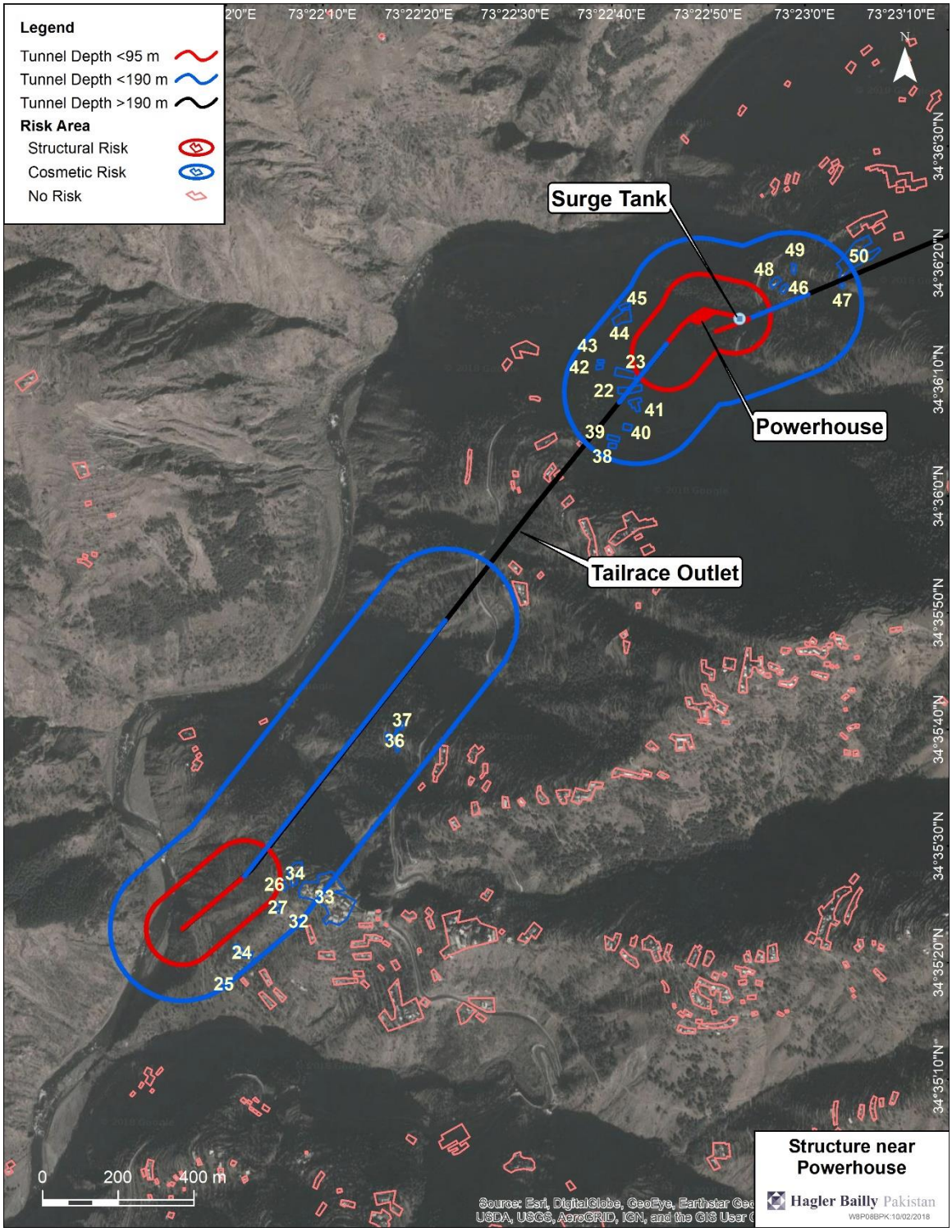


Exhibit S.5: Structures near Powerhouse



APPENDIX T: SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACTS OF DAM BREAK-BHDP

T.1 Introduction

285. The Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO) intends to construct a 300 megawatt (MW) run-of-river hydropower plant at Balakot, in Mansehra District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Pakistan. The Project called Balakot Hydropower Development Project (BHDP) is located on the Kunhar River about 18.6 kilometer (km) upstream of the town of Balakot. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is financing the Project. This appendix provides estimates of socioeconomic impacts as a result of dam break and recommends mitigation and management measures.

T.2 Methodology

286. Socioeconomic impacts of dam break were estimated using ***Google Earth™*** satellite imagery utilizing data on the extent of flood as a result of dam break provided in Dam Break Study[29]. The estimated extent of the flood is provided in **Attachment 1**. The population on risk was estimated using the average household size of 6.2 persons per household[30]. The study area of the Dam Break Study is around the Kunhar River from the Sukki Kinari dam site up to and ends just downstream of the Patrind dam site.

287.

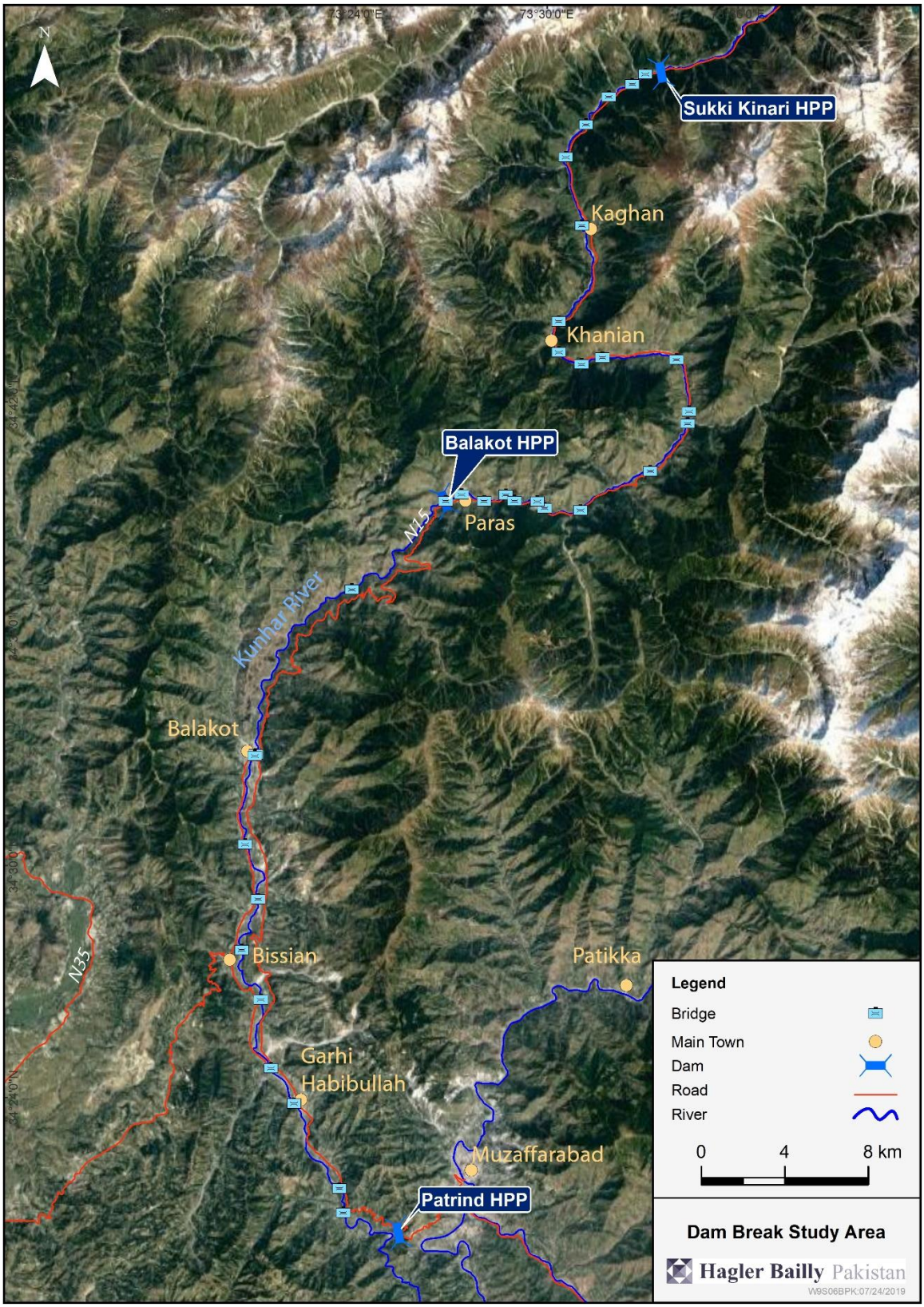
[29] Aqualogus, June 2019, Draft Final Report D2.2B – Feasibility Study for the 300 MW Balakot Hydropower Project Annex XI – Dam Break Study, for the Asian Development Bank and Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization.

[30] **Section 4.3.3** Socioeconomic conditions in the study area.

289. **Exhibit** T.1 shows the study area and infrastructure in the study area. The impacts of dam break were analyzed based on different dam break sceneries provided in the dam break study as below;

- Scenario A (Balakot dam breach):
  - Scenario A-1: “Rainy day” dam failure of Balakot dam (flood-induced dam failure);
  - Scenario A-2: “Sunny day” (normal conditions) dam failure (earthquake-induced dam failure).
- Scenario B (Cascade Dam failure – both Sukki Kinari and Balakot dams breach):
  - Scenario B-1: “Sunny day” (normal conditions) cascade dams’ failure (earthquake-induced dam failure).

Exhibit T.1: Study Area and Infrastructure in the Study Area



T.3 Socioeconomic Impacts of Dam Break

290. Different scenarios of dam break, socioeconomic impacts are provided in the following sections.

T.3.1 Scenario A-1 (Rainy Day, Balakot)

T.3.1.1 Infrastructure at Risk

291. As a result of scenario A-1, 17 km of N 15 (national highway) and Balakot to Muzaffarabad road will be affected including the Balakot bridge on the Kunhar River. These roads connect Mansehra and Muzaffarabad with the Chilas reservoir. Further, there are 10 more bridges on the Kunhar River from the Balakot dam site up to the reservoir of Patrind HPP which connect settlements across the river. With the dam break these bridges will also be affected.

T.3.1.2 Population at Risk

292. As mentioned in the Dam Break Study in scenario A-1, the progression of flood in “wet” conditions is quite rapid, reaching the Balakot town area in approximately 20 min and Patrind in about 1 hour.

293. The estimated socioeconomic impacts of scenario A-1 are provided in **Exhibit T.2**. As mentioned in **Exhibit T.2**, as a result of the dam break houses at risk will be approximately 4,235, commercial buildings at risk will be approximately 217, agricultural land at risk will be approximately 522 hectares, and the human population at risk will be approximately 26,103 persons.

Exhibit T.2: Population at Risk Along Kunhar River (Scenario A-1)

Location	No. of Settlements	Houses	Commercial Buildings	Agricultural Land (Hectares)	Population
Balakot Dam to Balakot City	7	18	7	6.64	112
Balakot City	1	322	138	40.00	1,932
Balakot to Garhi Habibullah	10	1323	22	255.76	8,203
Garhi Habibullah	1	897	15	30.00	5,472
Garhi Habibullah to Patrind Dam	16	1675	35	189.24	10,385
Total	**35**	**4235**	**217**	**521.64**	**26,103**

T.3.2 Scenario A-2 (Sunny Day, Balakot)

T.3.2.1 Infrastructure at Risk

294. As a result of scenario, A-2, 13 km of N 15 (national highway) and Balakot to Muzaffarabad road will be affected including Balakot Bridge on Kunhar River. These roads connect Mansehra and Muzaffarabad with Chilas. Further, there are 10 more bridges on the Kunhar river from the Balakot dam site up to Patrind reservoir which connect settlements on

right bank of the river with settlements on the left bank of the river. With the dam break these connections will also be affected.

T.3.2.2 Population at Risk

295. As mentioned in the Bam Break Study in scenario A-2 the flood wave with peak flow will reach Balakot town in approximately 35 min and Patrind in about 2 hours. The estimated socioeconomic impacts of scenario A-2 are provided in **Exhibit T.3**. As mentioned in **Exhibit T.3** as a result of the dam break houses at risk will be approximately 173, commercial buildings at risk will be approximately 34, agricultural land at risk will be approximately 358 hectares and the population at risk will be approximately 1,049 persons.

Exhibit T.3: Population at Risk along Kunhar River (Scenario A-2)

Location	No. of Settlements	Houses	Commercial Buildings	Agricultural Land (Hectares)	Population
Balakot Dam to Balakot City	7	17	5	2.95	105
Balakot City	1	35	15	7.00	209
Balakot to Garhi habibullah	4	10	0	205.29	62
Garhi Habibullah	1	76	9	3.00	456
Garhi Habibullah to Patrind Dam	16	35	5	140.18	217
Total	**29**	**173**	**34**	**358.42**	**1,049**

T.3.3 Scenario B (Sunny Day, Cascade)

T.3.3.1 Infrastructure at Risk

296. As a result of the scenario, B 21 km of N 15 (national highway) and Balakot to Muzaffarabad road including two main bridges on Kunhar River (at Balakot and Kaghan) will be affected. These roads connect Mansehra and Muzaffarabad with Chilas. Further, there are 31 more bridges on the Kunhar river from the Sukki Kinari dam site to the Patrind reservoir which connect settlements on the right bank of the river with settlements on the left bank of the river. By the Dam break these connections will also be affected.

T.3.3.2 Population at Risk

297. As mentioned in the Bam Break Study in scenario B, flood waves from Sukki Kinari will reach Paras/Balakot dam with a peak flow in approximately 45 min after the upstream (Sukki Kinar) dam full failure. The flood peak will reach Balakot town in about 75 minutes after the full failure of the Sukki Kinari Dam. The estimated socioeconomic impacts of scenario B, are provided in

298.

299.

300. **Exhibit T**.4. As mentioned in

301.

302.

303. **Exhibit T**.4 as a result of the dam break houses at risk will be approximately 3,988, commercial buildings at risk will be approximately 585, agricultural land at risk will be approximately 489 hectares, and population at risk will be approximately 2,4521.

Exhibit T.4: Population at Risk along Kunhar River (Scenario B)

Location	No. of Settlements	Houses	Commercial Buildings	Agricultural Land (Hectares)	Population
Kaghan	1	3	2		18
Kaghan to Khanian	5	7	1	0.88	43
Khanian	1	13	3	0.00	78
Khanian to Balakot City	23	230	25	12.25	1,426
Balakot City	1	327	110	35.00	1,962
Balakot to Garhi Habibullah	10	1114	150	242.63	6,907
Garhi Habibullah	1	682	230	12.00	4,092
Garhi Habibullah to Patrind Dam	16	1612	64	186.69	9,994
Total	**58**	**3988**	**585**	**489.46**	**24,521**

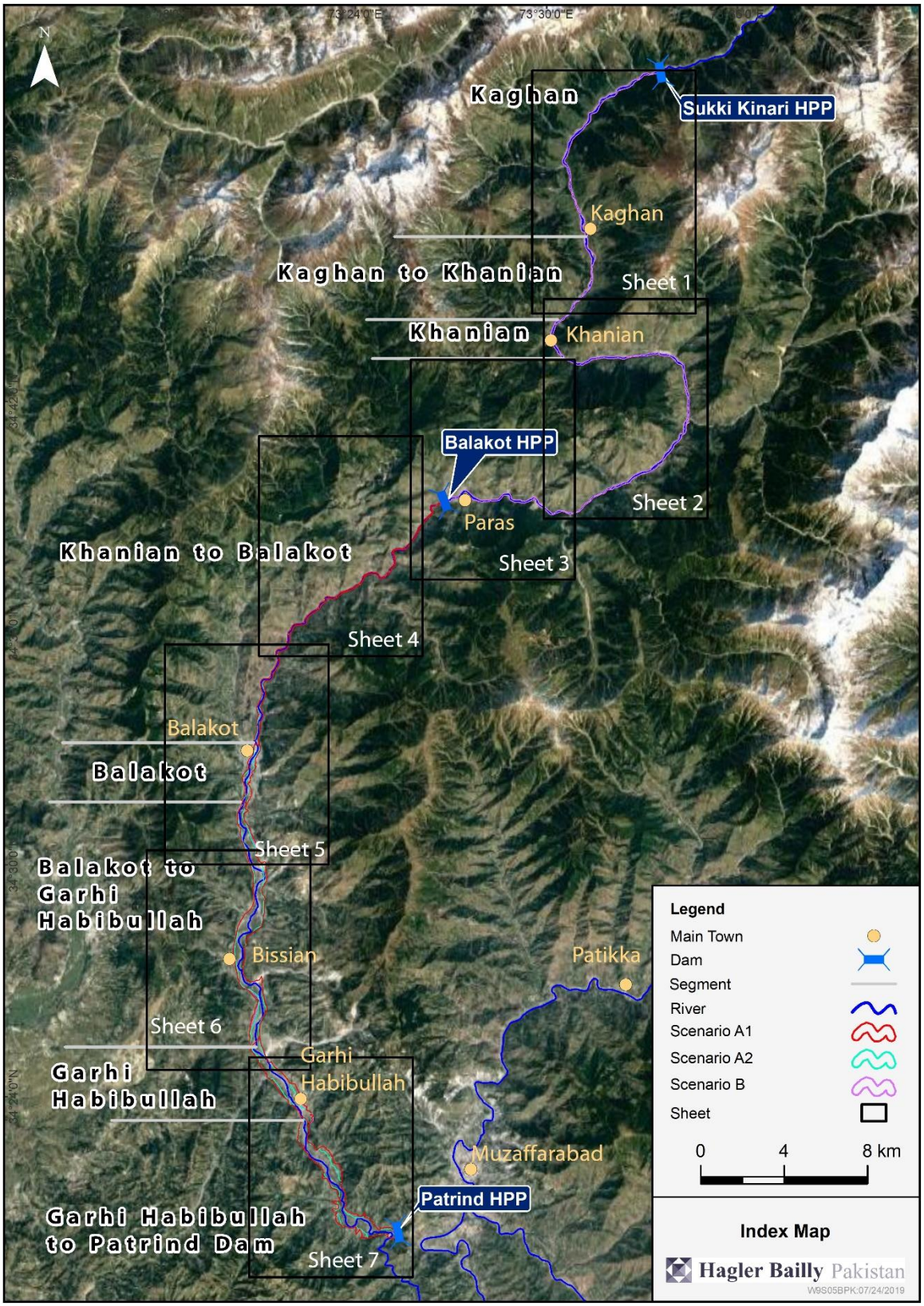
T.4 Recommendations and Management Measures

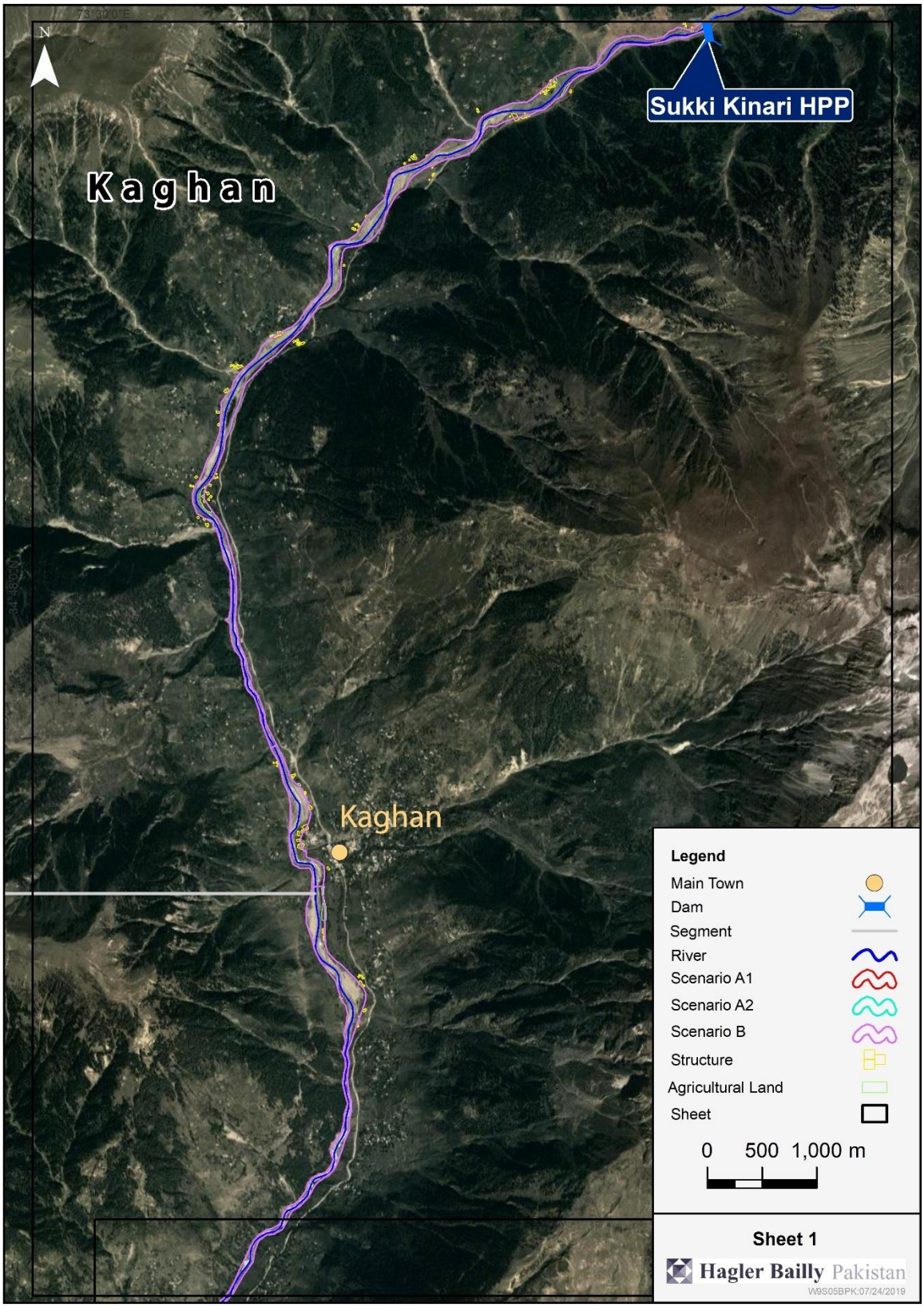
304. The recommended mitigation and management measures include:

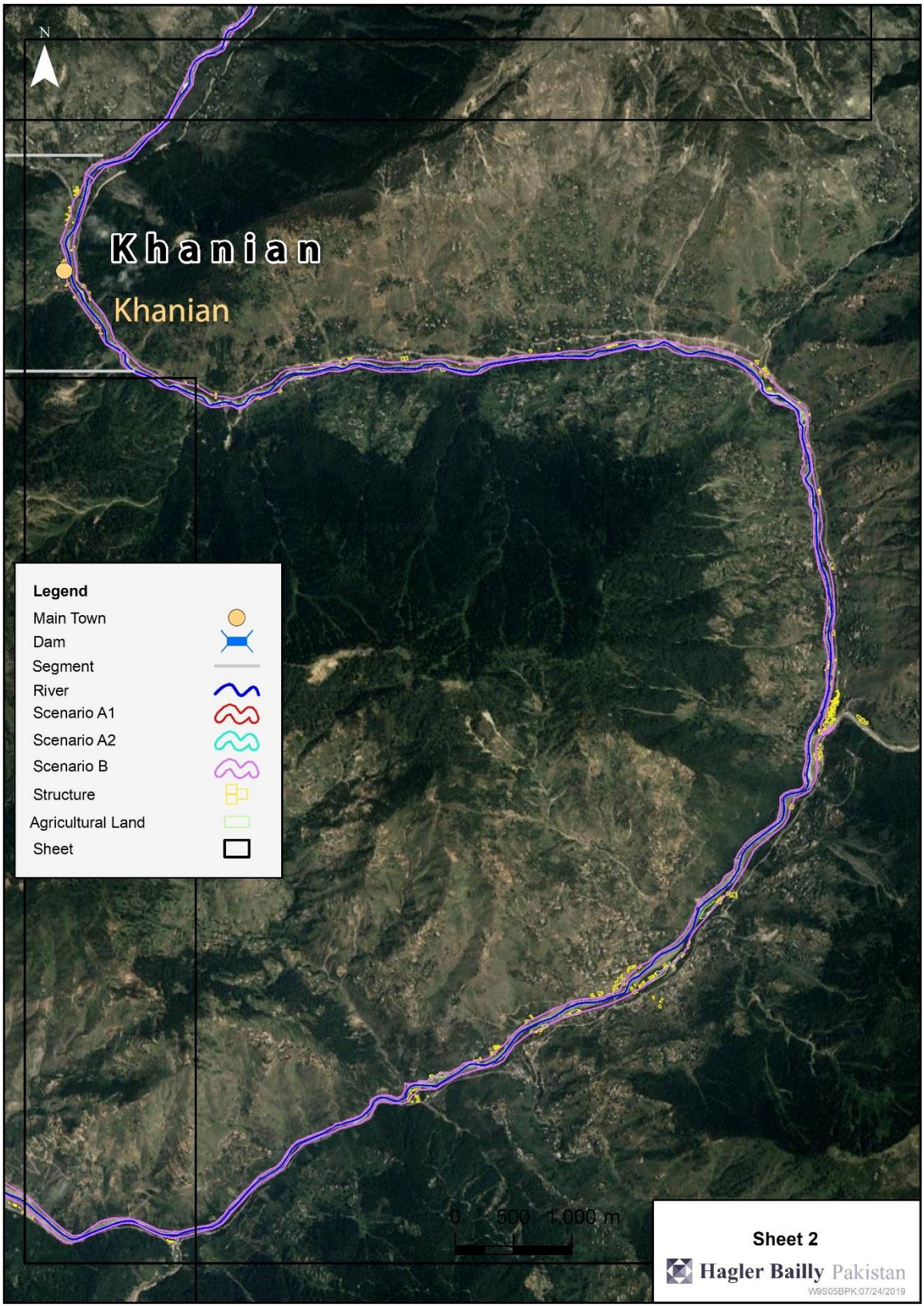
- An Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP) for the Project is included in the Environment Management Plan. The EPRP includes consideration of flooding, as well as potential dam breach situations. The EPRP will be reviewed by PEDO annually and before starting operations. PEDO will also develop an alarm system to alert communities at risk in time in case of emergencies.
- PEDO will coordinate with local administration, upstream HPP operators to avoid dam break, and with downstream HPP operators and communities to minimize impacts of dam break in case of dam break.
- PEDO will maintain a network of climate gauges in the Kunhar catchment to monitor potential floods at Mangla through WAPDA or in conjunction with other hydropower developers. It is recommended PEDO requests and utilizes real-time climate information with a particular focus on flood season (June to August), as well as September when extreme floods are known to occur in the Kunhar catchment. Real-time monitoring of weather conditions that historically persisted before major extreme rainfall events will highlight the potential development of conditions of major storms.

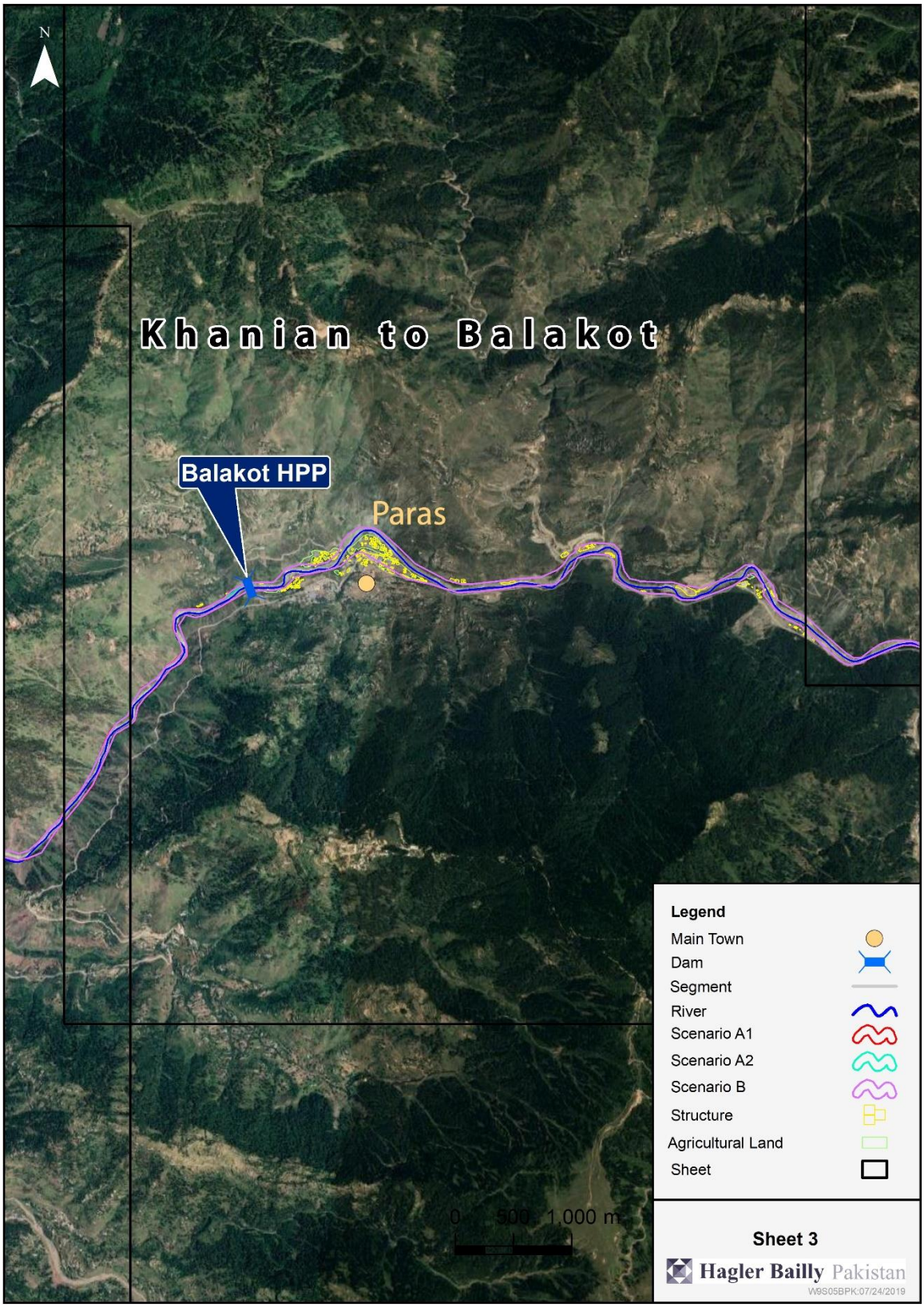
- Automated telemetric flow gauges can be installed and operated in conjunction with Sukki Kinari HPP and Patrind HPP. This will warn PEDO of potential flooding conditions, in addition to being aware of climatic conditions as recommended above.
- Where climatic data and flow data indicate imminent floods, appropriate management measures of the reservoir level will be undertaken by the PEDO. These may include the full opening of gates (including low-level outlets) with the aim of reducing water levels to below Normal Operating Level at Balakot HPP reservoir, to reduce the risk of a dam break, particularly due to overtopping.
- In addition to the management measures solely at Balakot HPP, it is recommended that a flood management strategy is developed by all hydropower project operators in the Kunhar River. This will reduce the risk of dam overtopping failure under flood conditions, in particular.

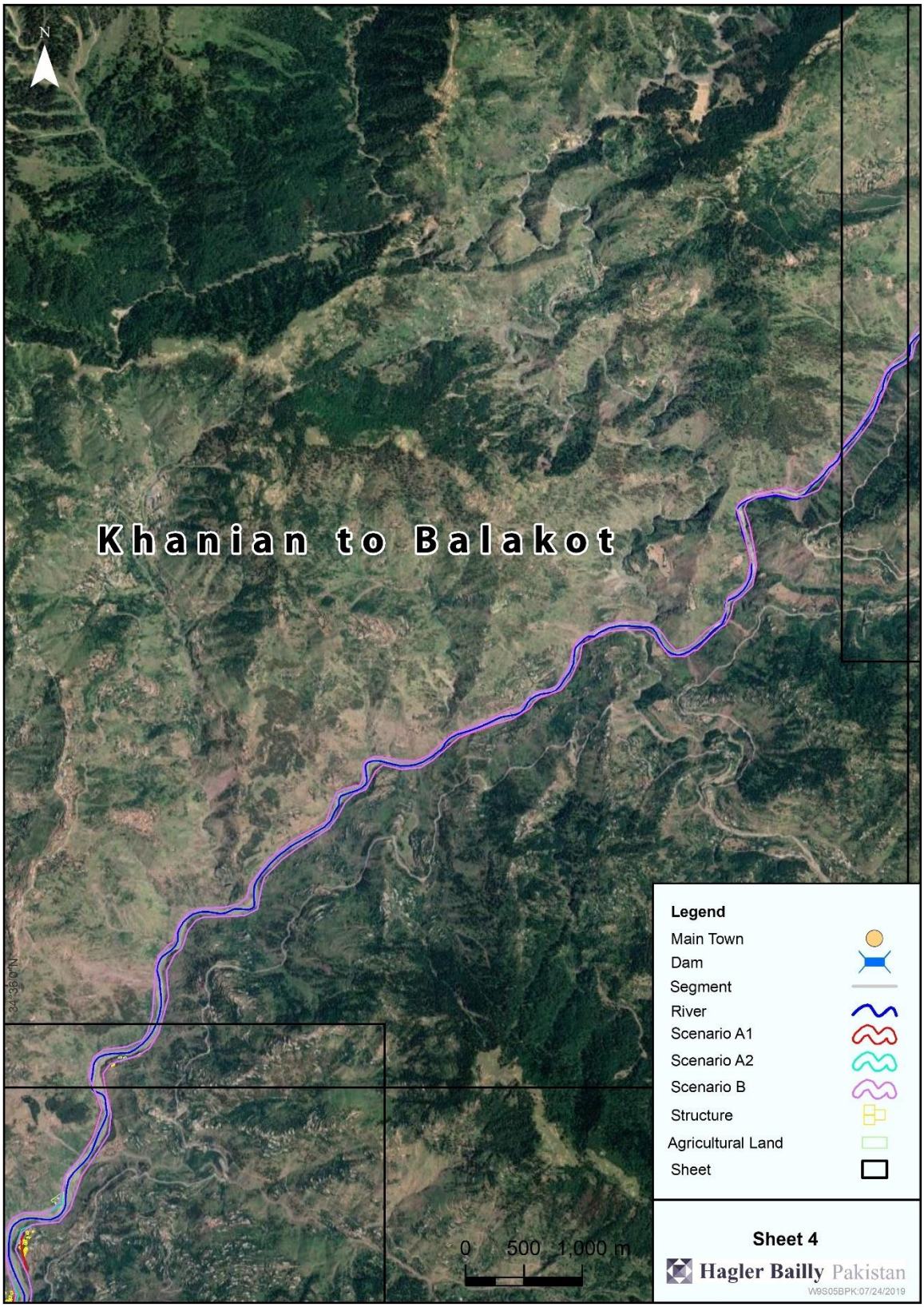
Attachment 1: Estimated Extent of Flood as a Result of Dam Break

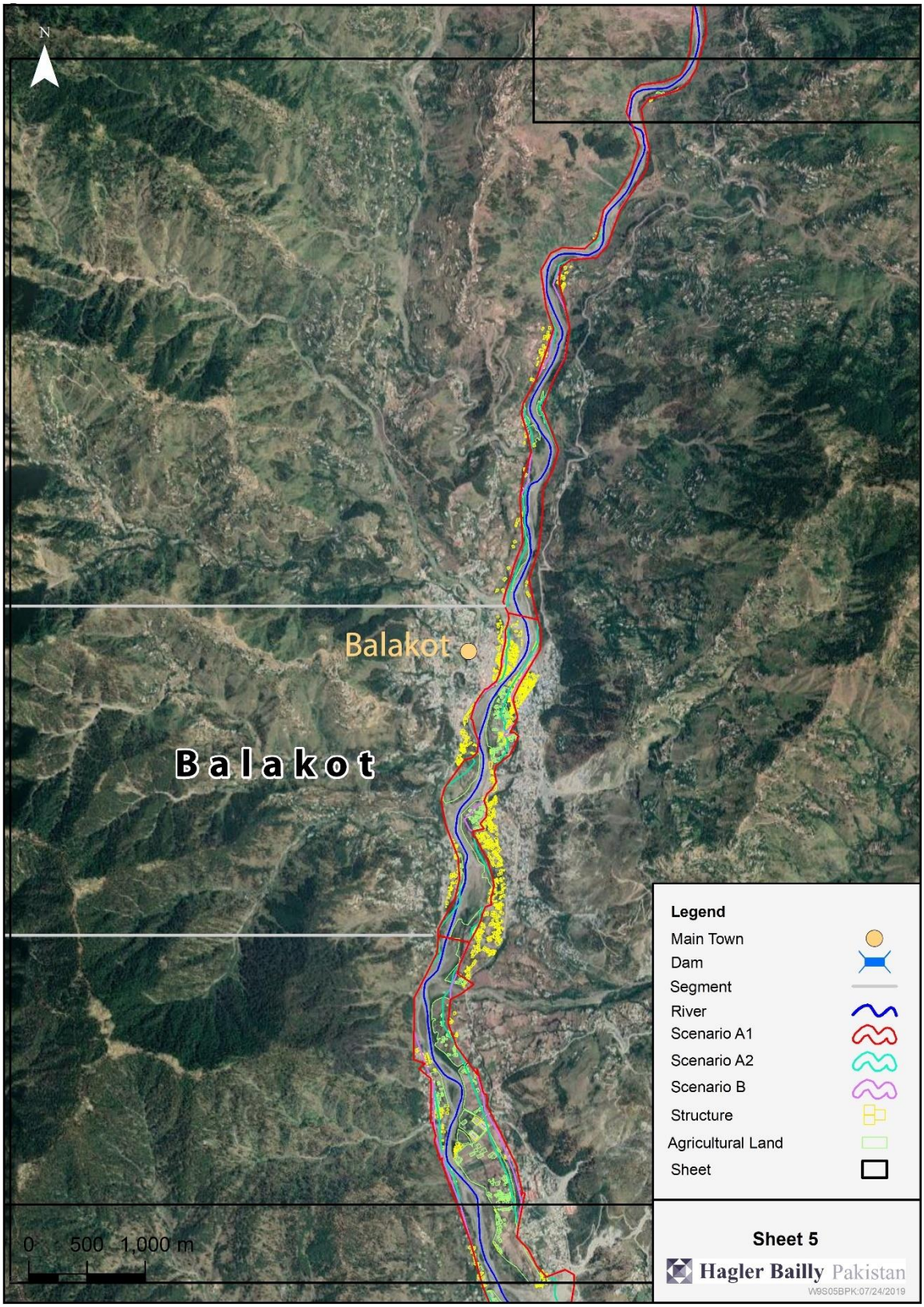


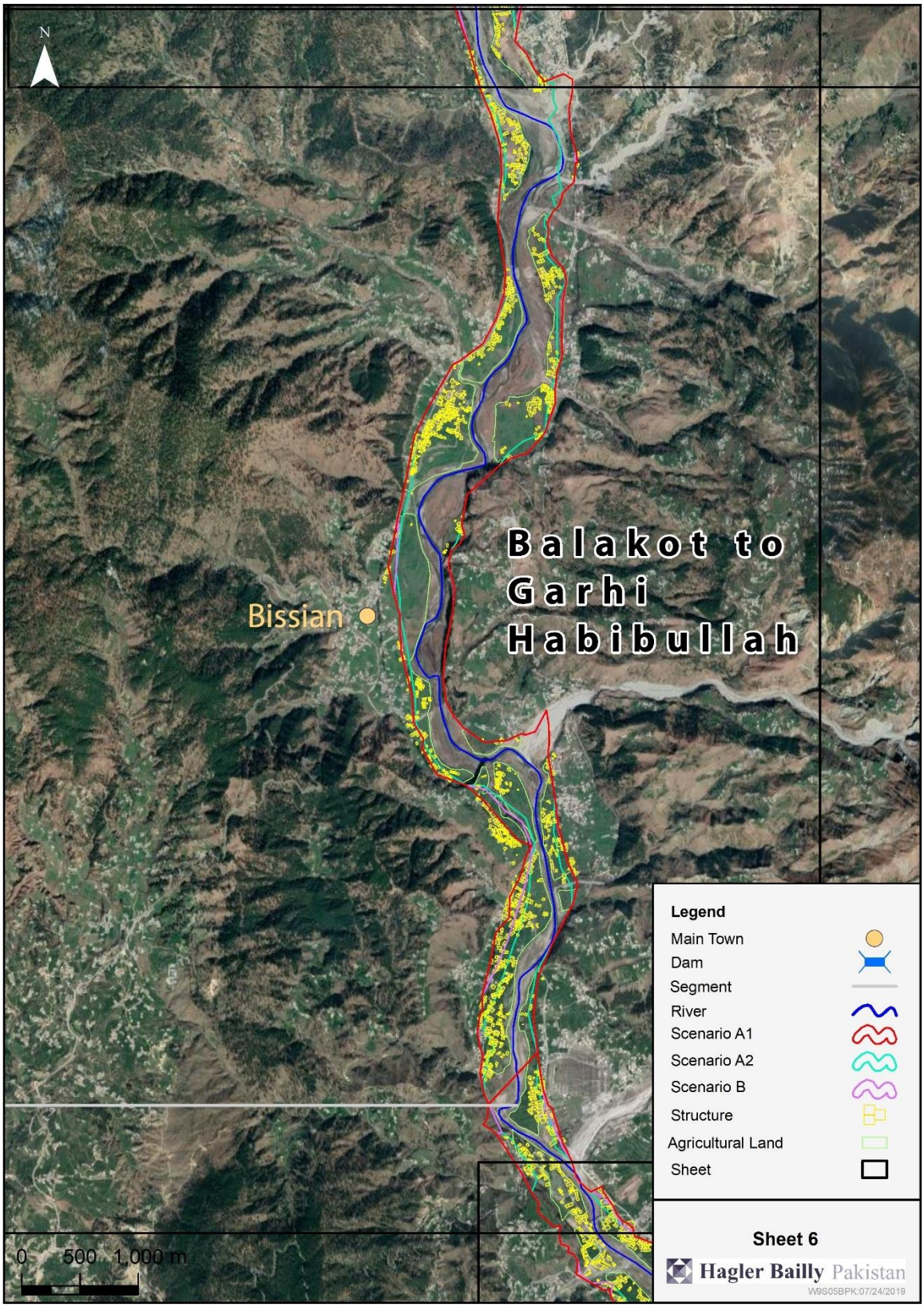

N
Sukki Kinari HPP
Kaghan
Kaghan
Legend
Main Town
Dam
Segment
River
Scenario A1
Scenario A2
Scenario B
Structure
Agricultural Land
Sheet
0 500 1,000 m
Sheet 1
Hagler Bailly Pakistan
W9S05BPK:07/24/2019

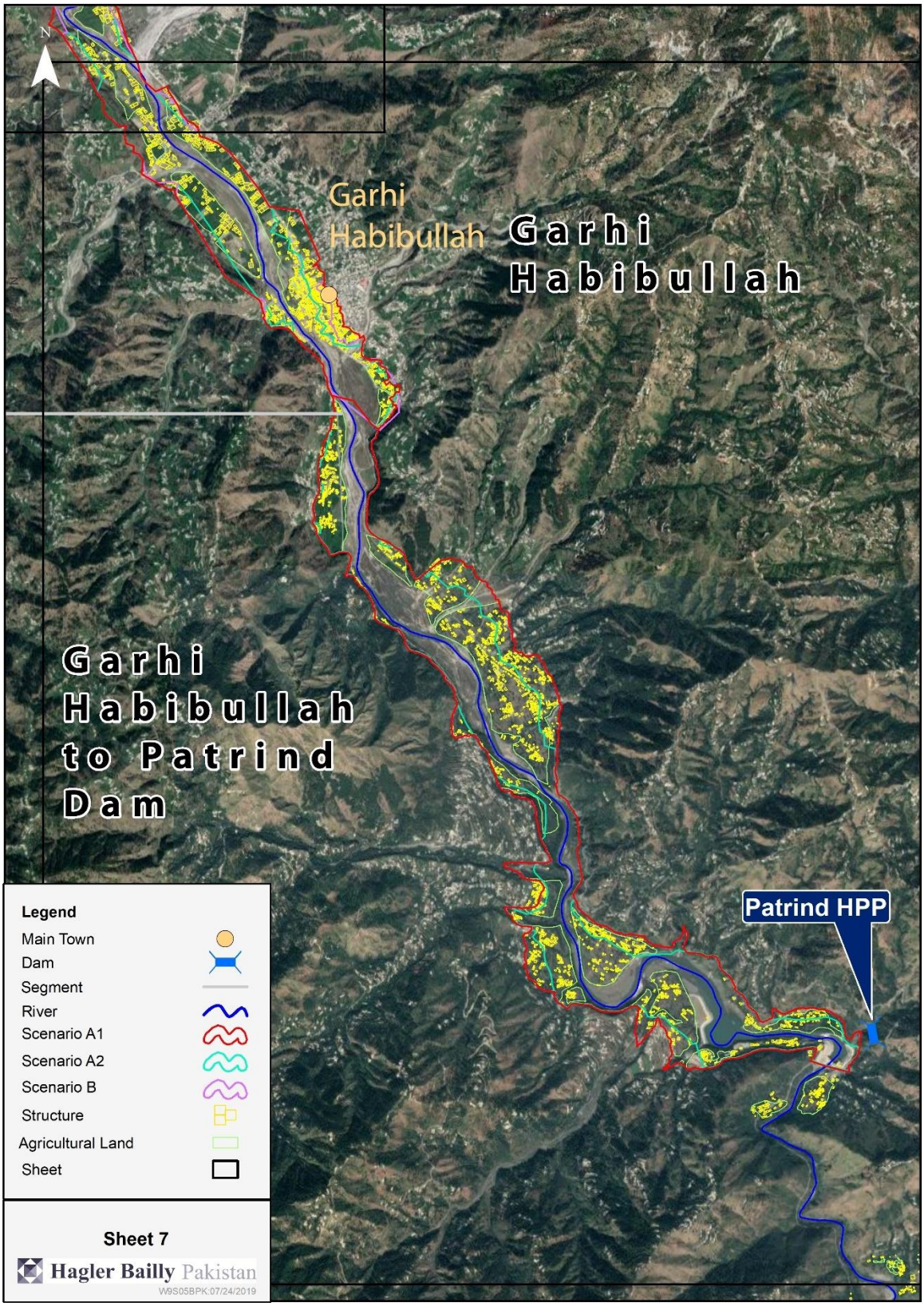

N
Khanian
Khanian
Legend
Main Town
Dam
Segment
River
Scenario A1
Scenario A2
Scenario B
Structure
Agricultural Land
Sheet
0 500 1,000 m
Sheet 2
Hagler Bailly Pakistan
W9S05BPK:07/24/2019


N
Khanian to Balakot
Balakot HPP
Paras
Legend
Main Town
Dam
Segment
River
Scenario A1
Scenario A2
Scenario B
Structure
Agricultural Land
Sheet
0 500 1,000 m
Sheet 3
Hagler Bailly Pakistan
W9S05BPK:07/24/2019


N
Khanian to Balakot
34°36'0"N
Legend
Main Town
Dam
Segment
River
Scenario A1
Scenario A2
Scenario B
Structure
Agricultural Land
Sheet
0 500 1,000 m
Sheet 4
Hagler Bailly Pakistan
W9S05BPK:07/24/2019


N
Balakot
Balakot
Legend
Main Town
Dam
Segment
River
Scenario A1
Scenario A2
Scenario B
Structure
Agricultural Land
Sheet
0 500 1,000 m
Sheet 5
Hagler Bailly Pakistan
W9S05BPK:07/24/2019


N
Balakot to
Garhi
Habibullah
Bissian
Legend
Main Town
Dam
Segment
River
Scenario A1
Scenario A2
Scenario B
Structure
Agricultural Land
Sheet
0 500 1,000 m
Sheet 6
Hagler Bailly Pakistan
W9S05BPK:07/24/2019


N
Garhi Habibullah
Garhi Habibullah
Garhi Habibullah to Patrind Dam
Patrind HPP
Legend
Main Town
Dam
Segment
River
Scenario A1
Scenario A2
Scenario B
Structure
Agricultural Land
Sheet
Sheet 7
Hagler Bailly Pakistan
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PAKHTUNKHWA ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

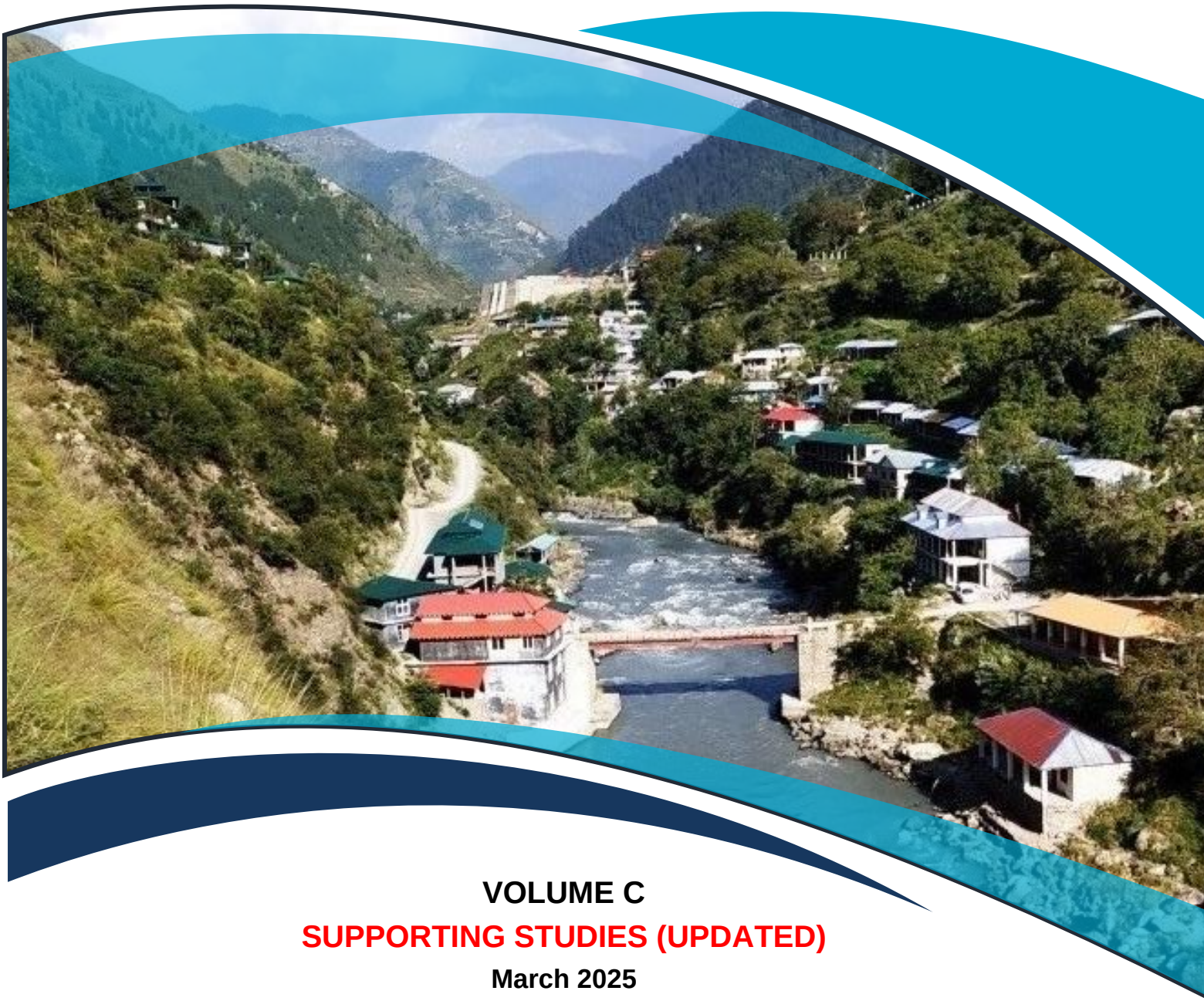
(PEDO)

GOVERNMENT OF KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN

LOAN NO: 4057/8397 (AIIB)-PAK

BALAKOT HYDROPOWER PROJECT (300 MW)
DISTRICT MANSEHRA



VOLUME C

SUPPORTING STUDIES (UPDATED)

March 2025

EMPLOYER

Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO)

PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT (PMC)

A Joint Venture of DOLSAR Engineering Limited (Turkey), AGES Consultants (Pakistan), BAK Consulting Engineers (Pakistan), Civ. Tech Associates, Peshawar, Pakistan (Pakistan), Electra Consultants (Pakistan), and Techno Legal Consultants (Pvt.) Limited (Pakistan)

EPC CONTRACTOR

Joint Venture of China Gezhouba Group Company (CGGC), China &
Ghulam Rasool and Company Pvt. Ltd (GRC), Pakistan

Issue and Revision Record

Rev. No	Date	Prepared by			Checked by	Approved by	Description
00	28-08-2023	Assad Ali KHAN	Environmental Expert	PMC	Muhammad Hussain (Deputy Team Leader/Resident Engineer)	Mehmet CINGISIZ (Project Manager - Team Leader)	The original and disclosed EIA report was updated for design changes and changes in the implementation arrangement of the Project-Specific BAP.
01	21.08.2024	i. Engr. Assad Ali Khan ii. Dr. Waseem Khan iii. Dr. Muhammad Naeem Javaid iv. Mr. Ikramullah v. Dr. Muhammad Saeed Peerzada	i. Environmental Expert ii. Fish Ecologist iii. Fish Biologist iv. Field Biologist v. Plant Taxonomist	PMC	Muhammad Hussain (Deputy Team Leader/Resident Engineer)	Mehmet CINGISIZ (Project Manager - Team Leader)	Additional surveys, with emphasis on the Kashmir Hillstream Loach, were carried out to update the biodiversity section of the EIA report. Two additional volumes, Volumes D and E, were furnished as a result of the field surveys and desk studies.
02	24.12.2024	i. Engr. Assad Ali Khan ii. Dr. Waseem Ahmad Khan iii. Dr. Muhammad Naeem Javaid iv. Mr. Ikramullah v. Dr. Muhammad Saeed Peerzada	i. Environmental Expert ii. Fish Ecologist iii. Fish Biologist iv. Field Biologist v. Plant Taxonomist	PMC	Muhammad Hussain (Deputy Team Leader/Resident Engineer)	Zafer DEMIRSELCUK (Project Manager - Team Leader)	The ADB review comments were incorporated in the submission.
03	26-03-2025	i. Engr. Assad Ali Khan ii. Dr. Waseem Ahmad Khan iii. Dr. Muhammad Naeem Javaid iv. Mr. Ikramullah Dr. Muhammad Saeed Peerzada	i. Environmental Expert ii. Fish Ecologist iii. Fish Biologist iv. Field Biologist Plant Taxonomist	PMC	Muhammad Hussain (Deputy Team Leader/Resident Engineer)	Zafer DEMIRSELCUK (Project Manager - Team Leader)	The ADB additional review comments were incorporated in the submission.

PREFACE

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report for the Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW) was prepared by Hagler Bailly Pakistan (Private) Limited (HBP) in 2019. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Protection Agency (KPEPA) granted "Environmental Approval" for the report on July 6, 2021.

The current EIA report is an updated version of the approved report furnished by the Project Management Consultants (PMC)[1] for the Balakot HPP (300 MW). The updates aim to: (i) incorporate proposed changes to the design of the project's infrastructure facilities as part of the detailed design and implementation arrangements of the Project-specific Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP); and (ii) update the biodiversity section of the EIA report with emphasis on the critically endangered Kashmir Hillstream Loach (Triplophysa kashmirensis).

The approved report's original structure has been maintained, but significant updates have been made to the project description, social baseline, information disclosure and consultation, and BAP sections. Appropriate changes have also been applied to other sections to ensure consistency. Additionally, two new volumes, Volumes D (Management Plan for Threatened Fish Species) and E (Biodiversity Assessment), have been furnished as part of the updated EIA report.

Volume C, this volume, of the updated EIA report is comprised of two main sections i.e. (i) Environmental Flow Assessment; and (ii) Biodiversity Action Plan.

1 A joint venture of:

i. DOLSAR Engineering Inc. Co. (Turkey) Lead Firm;
ii. AGES Consultants;
iii. BAK Consulting Engineers;
iv. CivTech Associates;
v. Electra Consultants; and
vi. Techno Legal Consultants (Pvt.) Limited from Pakistan.

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ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AIIB	Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
BAPs	Biodiversity Action Plans
BID	Background Information Document
BTHPP	Balakot Hydropower Project
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CGGC	China Gezhouba Group Company (CGGC), China
CMS	Conservation of Migratory Species
CSRM	Country Safeguards Review Mission
DG	Director General
EHS	Environmental Health and Safety
EIA	Environment Impact Assessment
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
EPC	Engineering, Procurement, and Construction
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GRC	Ghulam Rasool and Company Pvt. Ltd (GRC)
GSHAP	Global Seismic Hazard Map Project
GWh	Giga Watt hour
HBP	Hagler Bailly Pakistan (Private) Limited
ICOLD	International Commission on Large Dams
IEE	Initial Environmental Examination
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
KP	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
KPEPA	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Protection Agency
NCCP	National Climate Change Policy
NEPPO	Near East Plant Protection Organization
NEQS	National Environmental Quality Standards
NOCs	No Objection Certificates
PD	Project Director
PEDO	Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization
PIU	Project Implementation Unit
PMC	Project Management Consultants

PMD	Pakistan Meteorological Department
SKHPP	Suki Kinari Hydropower Project
SSEMP	Site-Specific Environmental Management Plan
VECs	Valued Ecosystem Components
PEPA	Pakistan Environmental Protection Act
SPS	Safeguard Policy Statement
WAPDA	Water & Power Development Authority
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

Environmental Flow Assessment

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Overview

1. As stated above, the Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW) is a run-of-the-river scheme to be constructed on the Kunhar River in its 12 kilometers (km) stretch from Paras to Sangar village in District Mansehra of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Upon completion, 1143 giga-watt hour (GWh) of clean energy will be delivered to the National Grid every year.

2. The project dam site is located in the Paras village, around 2 km downstream of the Sukki Kinari Hydropower Project (884 MW) tailrace while the powerhouse site is proposed in the Ganhool village of Balakot. The 9.1 km long headrace tunnel of 8 meters (m) diameter will divert 154 m^3/sec design flow of the Kunhar River to the powerhouse to generate 300 megawatts of electricity. The project residential colony is identified in Sangar village. The access road to the dam and power intake is proposed to off-take from the National Highway (N-15) on the left side of the Kunhar River in Paras village.

3. The project location maps, layout, dam, and powerhouse sites are shown from **Exhibit 1.1 to Exhibit 1.5**.

Exhibit 1.1: Project Location in Pakistan



Exhibit 1.2: Project Location in District Mansehra

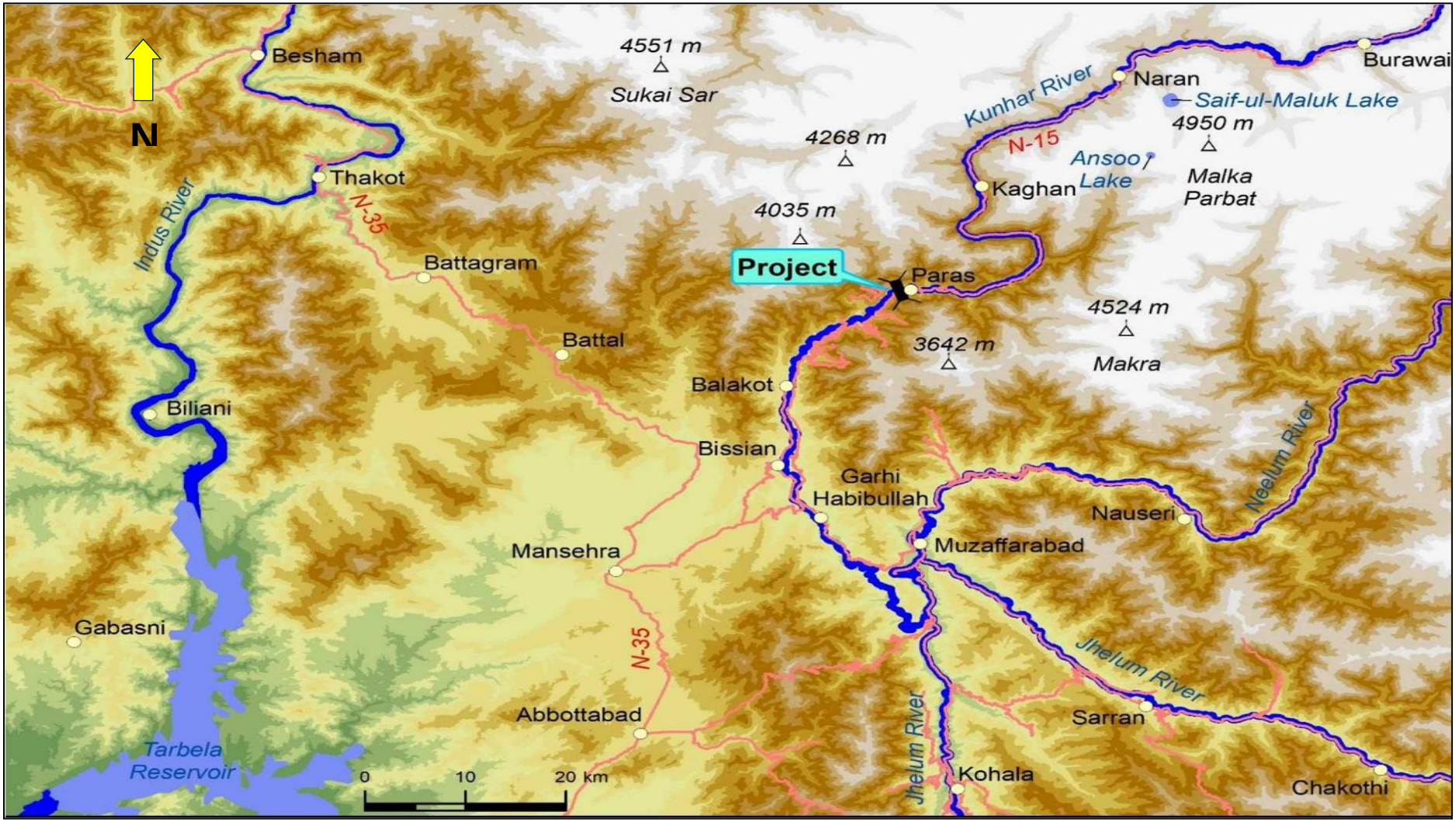


Exhibit 1.3: Project Layout

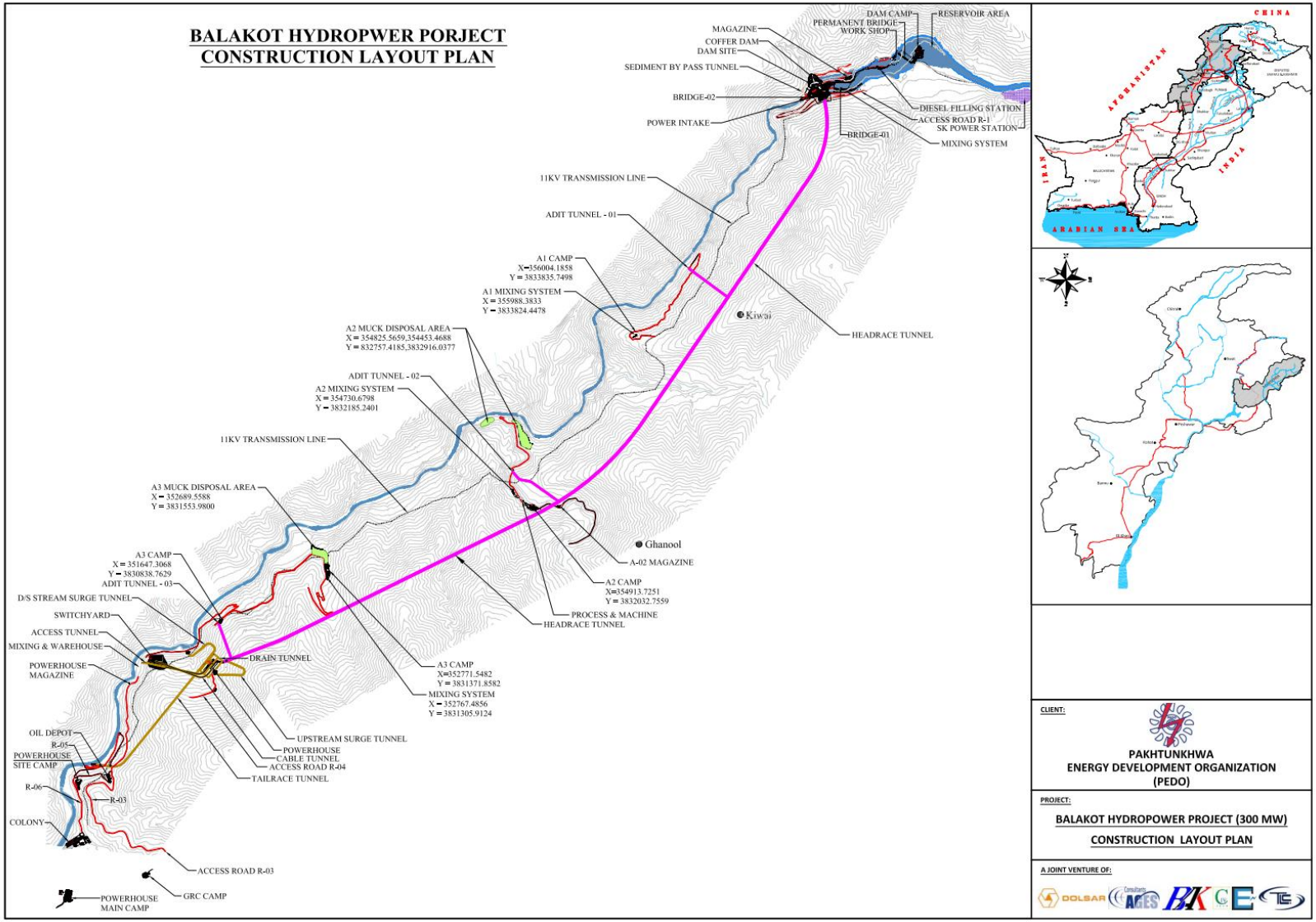


Exhibit 1.4: Project Setting-Dam Site

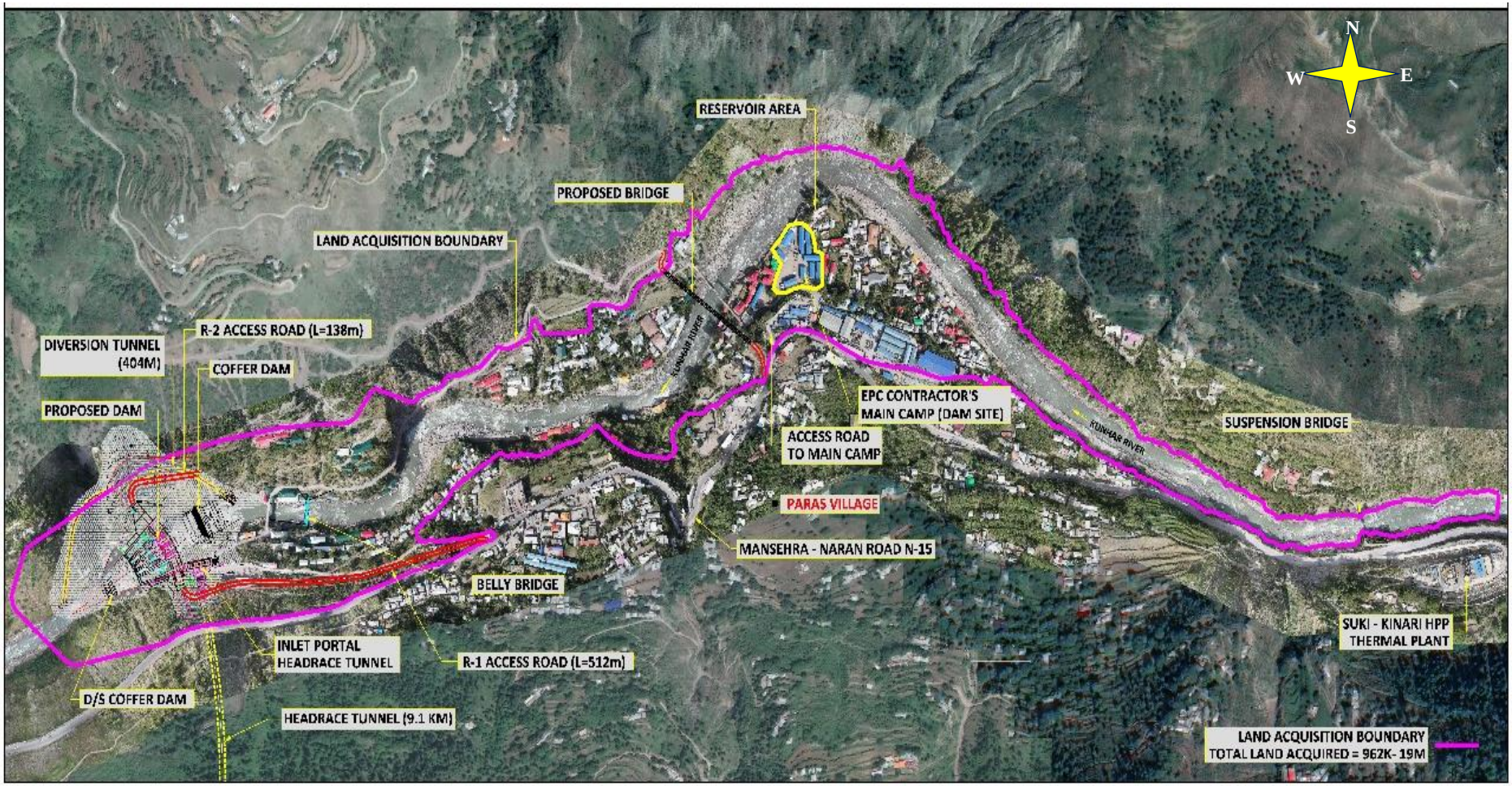
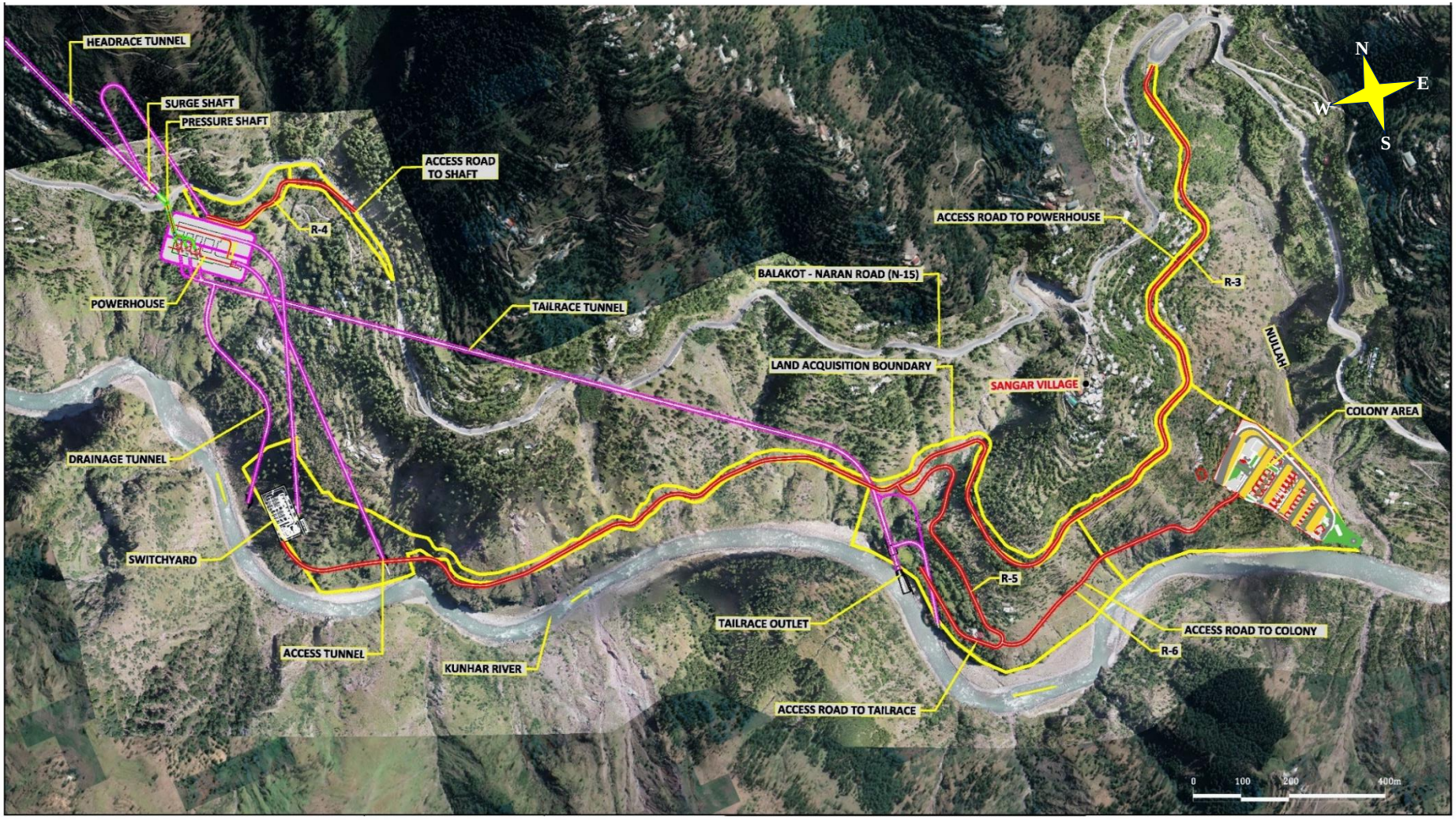


Exhibit 1.5: Project Setting- Powerhouse and Colony Sites



1.2 Other Hydropower Developments on the Kunhar River

4. There are several other major hydropower projects (HPPs), either proposed or under construction on the Kunhar River as shown in Exhibit **1**.**6**. A brief description of these HPPs is discussed below:

5. The following HPPs are under construction and operation:

- **Suki Kinari HPP (SKHPP)** is an 884-MW hydropower project under construction by SK Hydro (Pvt.). The SKHPP dam is located 44.6 km upstream of the Balakot Project dam and has 19.4 km long diversion tunnels for a low flow section of 38.6 km. Its tailrace outlet is 1.5 km upstream of the Project reservoir. The SKHP dam height is 54.5 m above the river bed and the reservoir has a length of 3.1 km
- **Patrind HPP (PHPP)** is a 150-MW hydropower project, being built by Star Hydro Power, and is currently under operation. The diversion from the PHPP enters the Jhelum River just downstream of its confluence with the Neelum River, and upstream of its confluence with the Kunhar River. The PHPP dam height is 43.5 m from the river bed resulting in a 5.2 km long reservoir on the Kunhar River.

6. The following HPPs are proposed:

- **Naran HPP (NAHPP)** is proposed to be, according to its December 2013 feasibility study, a 188 MW HPP 59.2 km upstream of the Balakot HPP (300 MW) dam site. It is proposed to have a dam height of 74 m above the river bed and, a reservoir of the length of 3.5 km. There is a 5.5 km dewatered section.
- **Batakundi HPP (BKHPP)** is proposed to be, according to its December 2013 feasibility study, a 96 MW HPP 77.7 km upstream of the Balakot HPP (300 MW) dam site. It is proposed to have a dam height of 58 m above the river bed and, a reservoir of the length of 2.8 km. The diversion tunnel is 4.96 km long for a 5.1 km dewatered section.

7. All of the HPPs under construction or nearing completion will create barriers to inter alia, fish and sediment movement in the Kunhar Basin. More specifically:

- the PHPP has blocked the passage of migrating fish from the Jhelum River into the Kunhar River;
- SKHPP will operate as a peaking plant as it will discharge peaking flows in the 1.5 km reach between its outfall and the Project reservoir; and
- SKHPP will reduce sediment flow downstream and block fish migrations due to its dam.

8. These influences are not quantitatively modeled into the assessment for the following reasons.

i. The PHPP dam was near completion during the EIA studies hence, its impacts were included in the baseline connectivity and resulting fish abundance.

ii. SKHPP is taken to operate at peaking while its corresponding E-flow assessment is unavailable.

iii. The SKHPP, undertake a peaking operation, which will only be felt in the short section of 1.5 km upstream of the reservoir. Had the Project not been on the horizon, there was a good case for baseload generation at SKHPP.

iv. Connectivity impacts due to Suki Kinari on sediment transport and fish passage are beyond the Study Area for the current assessment.

9. Further discussions on the cumulative impacts of these developments are presented in **Chapter 7** of the **EIA** Report.[2]

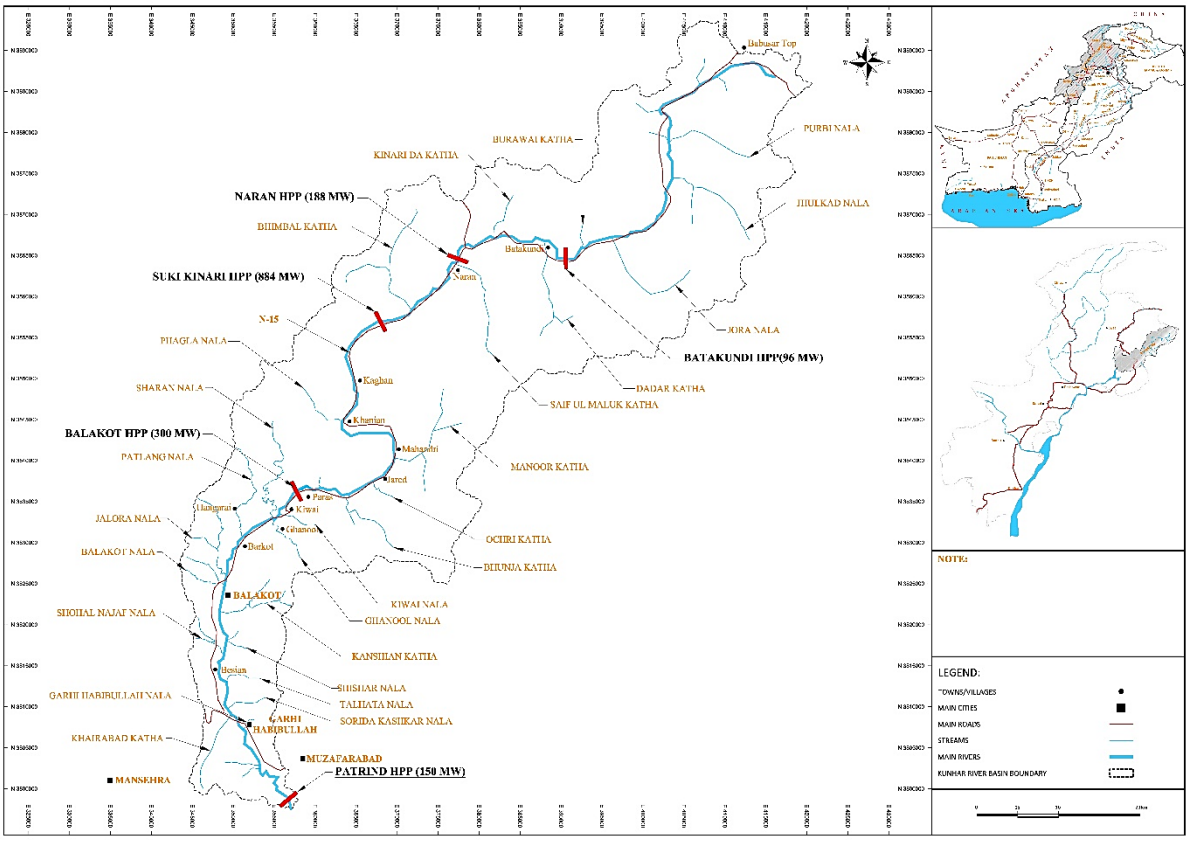
1.3 Objectives of the E-Flow Assessment

10. The objectives of the E-Flow assessment are:

- to assess the environmental (ecological and social) implications of Project operational and management scenarios on the Kunhar River through the development and use of the Downstream Response to Instream Flow Transformations (DRIFT) Decision Support System (DSS) supported by knowledge and understanding of the basin developed as part of the E-Flow assessment for Neelum Jhelum HPP, Karot HPP, and Kohala HPP;
- to provide stakeholders with the above information to facilitate informed decision-making for the selection of environmental flow and protection scenarios; and
- to provide a defensible E-Flow monitoring program for inclusion in the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP).

[2] Hagler Baily Pakistan, 2019, Environmental Impact Assessment of the Balakot Hydropower Development Project, Draft Report, Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO)

Exhibit 1.6: Cascade of Projects on the Kunhar River



1.4 Organization of this Report

11. As stated in the Preface, this report contains two sections i.e. (i) Environmental Flow Assessment; and (ii) Biodiversity Action Plan, while appendices are attached at the end of the report.

1.5 Acknowledgements

12. Southern Waters Ecological Research & Consulting (Southern Waters), developers of the DRIFT DSS, provided backup support and quality control on the DRIFT model. Southern Waters is a specialist company (currently comprising five experienced consultants), based in Cape Town, South Africa, that has established itself as one of the world's leading environmental flow consultancies. Southern Waters has been engaged in assignments in Africa, Asia, and further afield for over 20 years, and has completed over 350 projects for international funding and aid agencies, and for government organizations and private-sector clients.

13. The following reports and associated DRIFT DSS models developed by Southern Waters were drawn upon for the development of this assessment.

- Kohala Hydropower Plant Environmental Flow Assessment, Technical Report. Southern Waters in Association with Hagler Bailly Pakistan, November 2016 for Kohala Hydro Company (Pvt.) Ltd.
- Gulpur Hydropower Project Environmental Flow Assessment, Technical Report. Southern Waters in association with Hagler Bailly Pakistan, March 2014, for Mira Power Limited.

2 E-FLOW STUDY AREA AND ASSESSMENT SITES

14. This section provides the rationale and justification for the selection of the study area and the E-Flow assessment sites selected.

2.1 E-Flow Study Area

15. The study area considers the Project footprint and the changes it will make to the hydrology and connectivity of the river, and the under-construction HPP developments and their impact on the Kunhar River as discussed in **Section 1.3**. For this assessment, the "E-Flow Study Area" includes the Kunhar River from the SKHPP tailrace outlet to the starting point of the PHPP reservoir. This is a 46.3 km stretch on the Kunhar River.

2.2 Catchment Delineation

16. Taking into account the geomorphology, biological variations, social uses of the river, and types and levels of impacts likely to be incurred as a result of dam operation; a catchment delineation exercise was performed results of which are provided in **Exhibit 2.1.**

Exhibit 2.1: Catchment Delineation for BTHPP EF Study Area*

EF Reach	Description	Valley Width	Slope of river	Population Density	River Length (km)
Upstream of Dam	From SKHPP Tailrace to Project Dam	Narrow valley (80 m, average is 240 m)	The steep slope of the river (24.4m per km, the average is 16.9m per km)	Low/ Moderate	6.0
Downstream of Dam	From Project Dam to Tailrace	Narrow valley (90m, average is 240m)	The average slope of the river (16.9 m per km, the average is 16.9 meters per km)	Low population density	15.4
Downstream of Tailrace	From Tailrace to Balakot Town	Wide valley (330m, average is 240m)	The near-average slope of the river (13.1 m per km, the average is 16.9 meters per km)	Moderate population density	4.7
Downstream of Balakot	From Balakot Town to PHPP Reservoir.	Very wide valley (800m, average is 240m)	Less than average slope of the river (7.5 m per km, the average is 16.9 meters per km)	High population density	24.9

* See **Chapter 4** of the **EIA** Report for more information on river water hydrology and river dependence on the population

2.3 E-Flow Sites

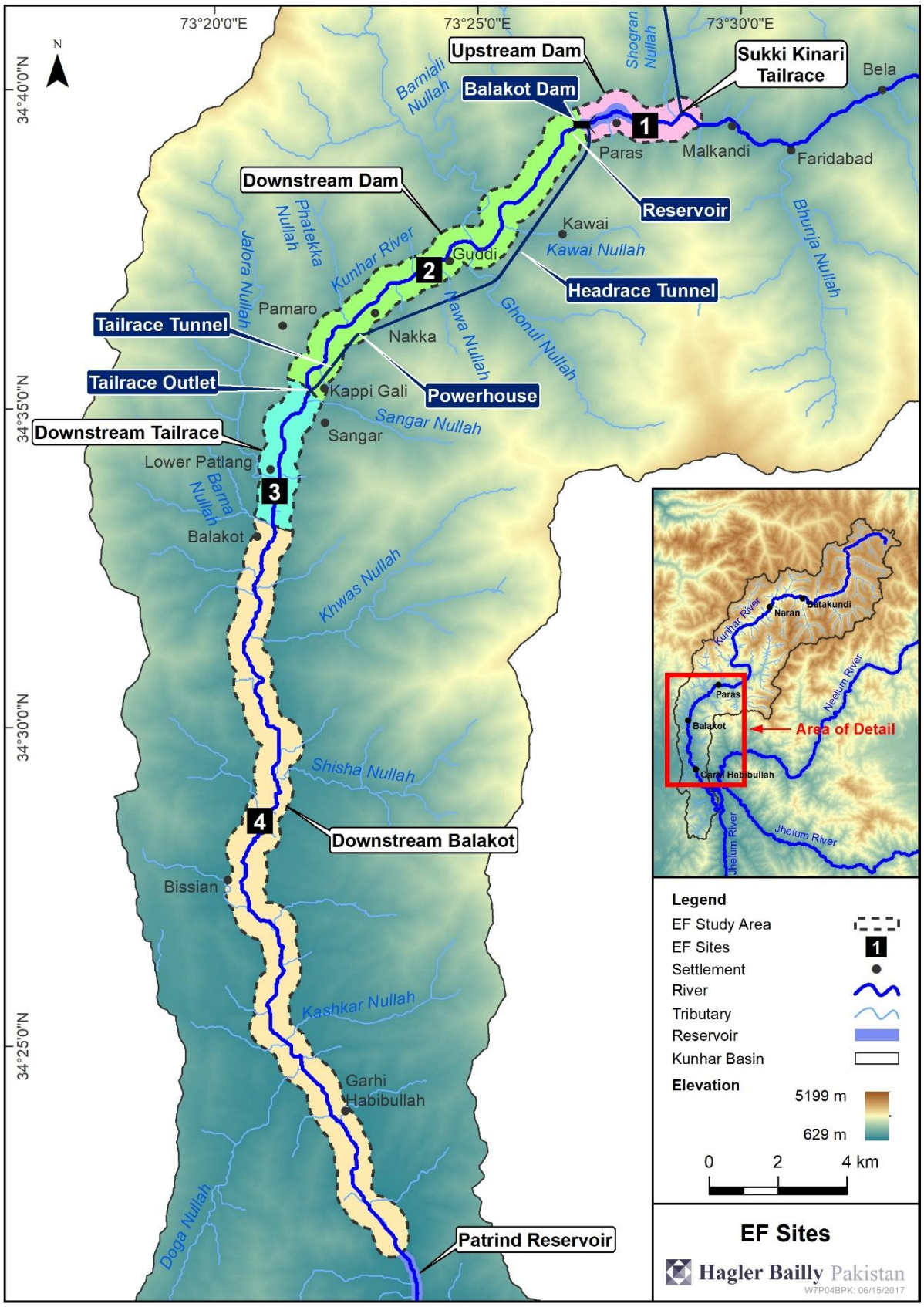
17. An E-Flow assessment site (EF Site) represents a river reach that is sufficiently uniform that it can reasonably be represented by a single site. The sites are selected to characterize the present flow regimes, and that would best describe future changes due to the construction and operation of the Project. DRIFT model results are presented for each E-Flow Site. Each section of river or reach discussed in the catchment delineation was represented by an E-Flow Site. While the site represents the entire reach, hydraulics and hydrology are determined based on the specific location of the site. Exhibit **2.2** provides the coordinates of the selected EF sites.

Exhibit 2.2: Selected E-Flow Sites for Project EF Assessment

Site ID	Site Name	Location	Coordinates
EF Site 1	Upstream Dam	From SKHPP tailrace to mouth of Project dam	73° 28' 13.6" E 34° 39' 36.3" N
EF Site 2	Downstream Dam	From Project dam to tailrace outlet	73° 24' 09.7" E 34° 37' 17.0" N
EF Site 3	Downstream Tailrace	From Project tailrace outlet to Balakot town	73° 21' 18.0" E 34° 33' 46.6" N
EF Site 4	Downstream Balakot	From Balakot town to mouth of PHPP reservoir.	73° 21' 07.0" E 34° 28' 35.7" N

18. The map of the Study Area and the location of the EF Sites used in this assessment are provided in **Exhibit 2.3.**

Exhibit 2.3: E-Flow Study Area and EF Sites



3 ASSESSMENT SCENARIOS

19. Assessment scenarios consist of a combination of flow scenarios (determined by the HPP operation including flow diversion and peaking) and management scenarios (determined by the level of human pressures on the river such as fishing, sediment mining, and nutrient enrichment).

3.1 Flow Scenarios

20. Baseline hydrology was established through gauging data from Garhi Habibullah and Talhata gauging stations as described in **Appendix B**. The record is based on measured data from 1960 to 2010. The historical record is used as a 51-year daily flow future projection to account for natural variations in the flow regime.

21. For Project operational scenarios both baseload and peaking operations were considered. The e-Flow release was varied at 20%, 35%, and 50% of the minimum 5-day dry season flow[3] of 17.4 m^3/s along with the E-Flow release of 1.5 m^3/s as suggested in the feasibility study. Operational scenarios are summarized in **Exhibit 3.1** and provided an ID based on whether the scenario has baseload (B) or peaking (P) operation. Details on the calculation of the hydrological time series resulting from the operational flow scenarios are presented in **Appendix B.**

Exhibit 3.1: Project Dam Operational Scenarios and IDs

Environmental Flow Release	Scenario ID	
	Baseload	Peaking
1.5 m^3/s	B1	P1
3.5 m^3/s	B3	–
4.5 m^3/s	B4	P4
6.1 m^3/s	B6	P6

'– ' scenario was not assessed

3.2 Management Scenarios

22. Anthropogenic pressures on the Kunhar River, which impact the selected indicators include the following.

i. Selective fishing pressure

ii. Non-selective fishing pressure

iii. Sediment mining

iv. Nutrient enrichment

v. Tree cutting:

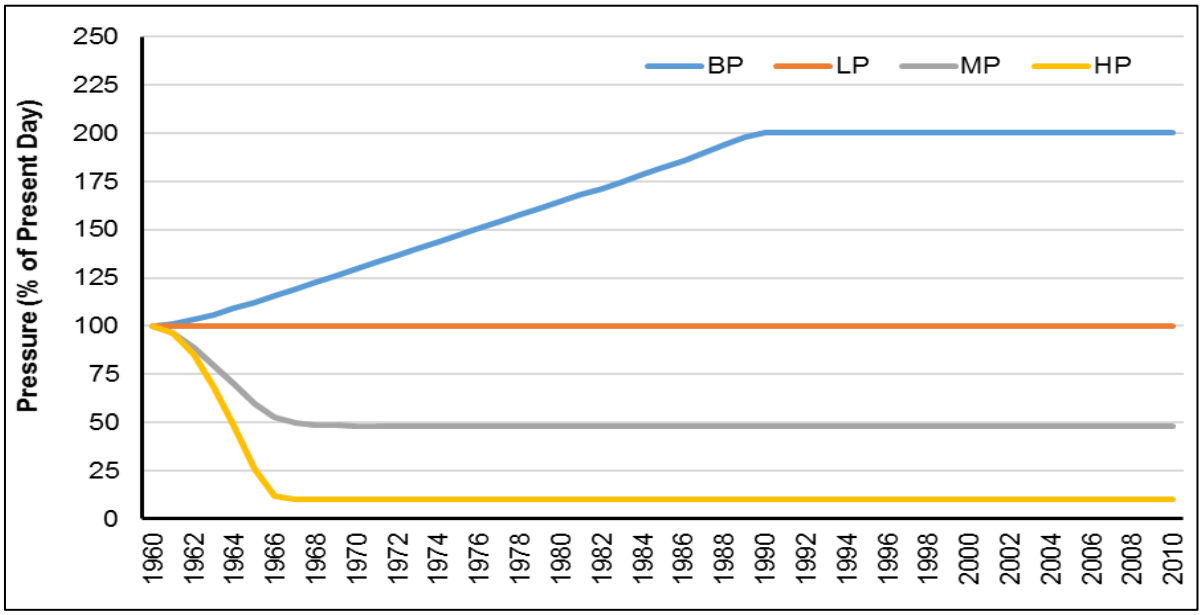
[3] Min 5 day dry season flow is calculated by DRIFT. It calculates the median value of a running 5 day average over the 51 year record.

23. Four management scenarios, which represent the predicted river condition in 51 years[4] under different levels of protection/management were considered. The protection levels considered were:

- **Business as Usual Protection (BAU):** increase non-flow-related pressures[5] in line with current trends, i.e. 2017 pressures double in intensity over the next 51 years;
- **Low Protection (LP):** maintain 2017 levels of non-flow-related pressures on the river; i.e., no increase in human-induced catchment pressures over time;
- **Moderate Protection (MP):** reduce 2017 levels of non-flow-related pressures by 50%, i.e., the decline in pressures (relative to 2017) over time; and
- **High Protection (HP)**: reduce 2017 levels of non-flow-related pressures by 90%, i.e., the decline in pressures (relative to 2017) over time[6].

24. **Exhibit 3.2** shows how the pressure levels are operationalized. For higher protection scenarios (MP and HP), the pressures reach their target levels in 5 years (the estimated time to which the institutional and logistical arrangements are effective) whereas the low protection scenario represents an increase in pressures (due to population growth, increased commercialization of fishing and mining, etc.) take 30 years to reach their target levels.

Exhibit 3.2: Pressure Levels over Time as Incorporated into DRIFT



25. The Project will implement protection measures in its Area of Management as described in the BAP. The Area of Management (see **Exhibit 3.3**) includes the Project reservoir and the section of the Kunhar River down to the next reservoir, which is that of the PHPP. The Area of Management also includes segments of the Barniali Ghonul, Jalora, and

[4] This is the length of the historical hydrological record that was used in the assessment.

[5] The non-flow-related pressures and the management actions proposed to reduce them are discussed in **Section Error! Reference source not found.**.

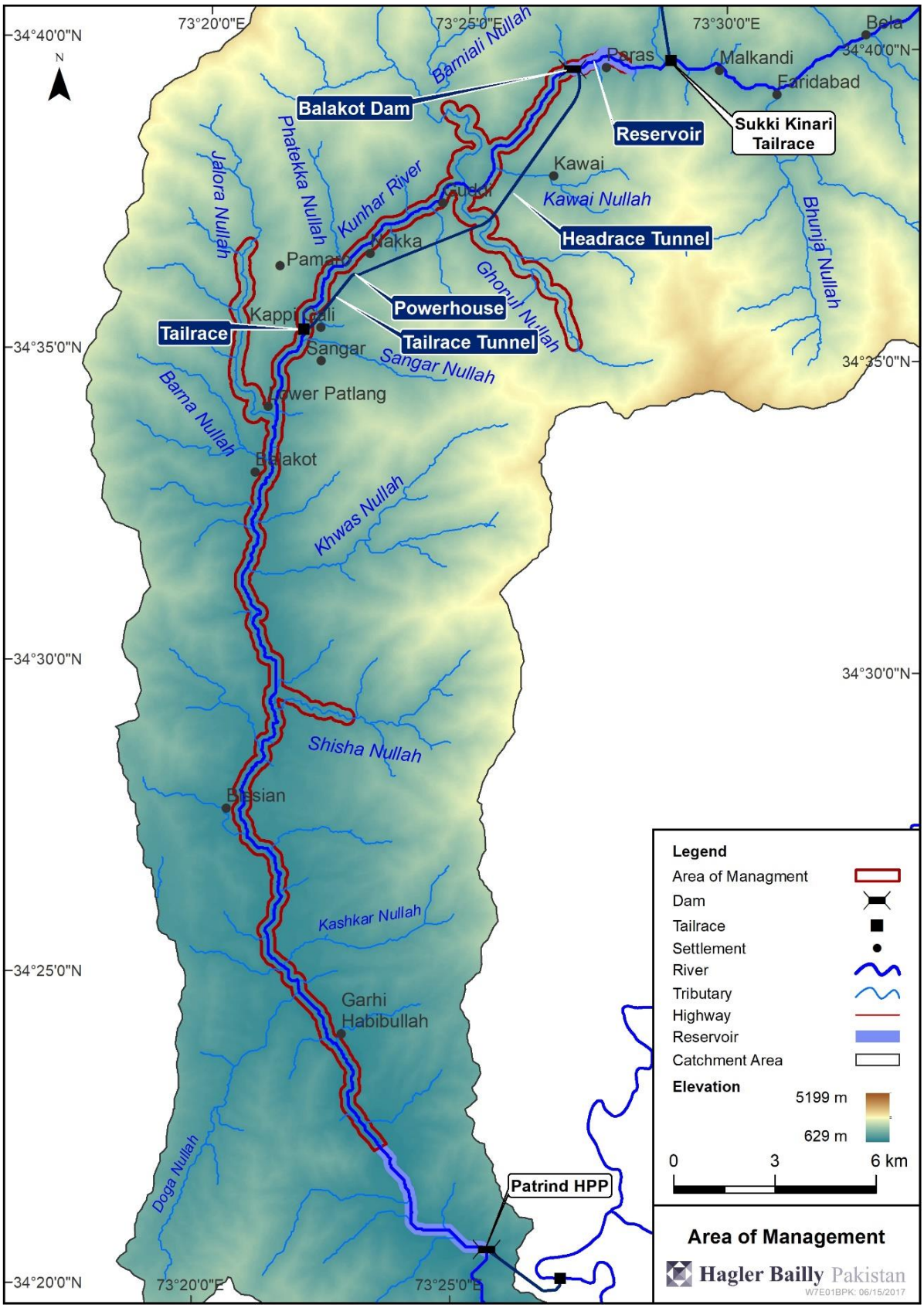
[6] Experience in neighboring rivers has shown that it is easier to impose a complete ban on activities such as illegal fishing and mining than it is to reduce these activities by half.

Shisha Nullahs, however, these are not included in the quantitative assessment. Protection of these nullahs will provide additional benefits over and above those presented in this assessment.

26. The measures required for achieving protection levels are briefly described below.

- For sand and gravel mining, these levels of protection could be achieved by redirecting mining activities to the coarse sediments trapped in the backup (drop) zone of the weirs, and restricting the collection of sediment for commercial uses at other sensitive sites.
- For fishing, the levels of protection could be achieved through banning (and policing) all non-selective fishing, which could result in an 80-90% reduction in these activities. Fishing pressure could also be reduced by redirecting some of the selective fishing to the reservoir. In some cases though, additional protection measures will be needed simply to maintain current levels of use.
- For nutrients, these levels of protection could be achieved through the construction and operation of sewage effluent treatment plants, and other means of reducing the inflow of raw sewage into the rivers.
- For cutting trees, the existing levels of protection are quite high, and current measures in place can be further enhanced.

Exhibit 3.3: Area of Management for Project BAP



3.3 Combined Scenarios for E-flow Assessment

3.3.1 Baseline Scenarios

27. Three dynamic baseline scenarios are established that take into account the existing anthropogenic pressures on the aquatic ecosystem. These are described in **Exhibit 3.4.**

Exhibit 3.4: Baseline Scenarios

Scenario ID	Flow Scenario	Protection Scenario	Explanation
Base BAU	Baseline hydrology	Business as usual protection	Currently, only a few fishing guards are protecting the stretch of the Kunhar River in the Study Area. Non-selective fishing techniques such as poisons and explosives are also practiced. Future growth in both the local and tourist populations is expected to increase fishing and mining pressures on the river. Easy access to the river is available in large parts of the basin.
Base LP	Baseline hydrology	Low Protection	This is a conservative baseline as it stabilizes pressures to current-day levels. Measures taken by the government, NGOs, or other organizations could improve protection and stabilize it to current levels.
Base MP	Baseline hydrology	Moderate Protection	A moderate protection baseline is highly unlikely given current trends. However, this baseline represents the possible state of the river in the presence of protection and the absence of an HPP in the reach.

3.3.2 Impact Assessment Scenarios

28. Impact assessment scenarios considered in this assessment, which are a combination of protection and flow scenarios, are presented in **Exhibit 3.5.**

Exhibit 3.5: Impact Assessment Scenarios and IDs

Dam Operation Type		Baseload Operation (B)				Peaking Operation (P)		
Environmental Flow m^3/s Release		*1.5 (B1)*	*3.5 (B3)*	*4.5 (B4)*	*6.1 (B6)*	*1.5 (P1)*	*4.5 (P4)*	*6.1 (P6)*
Protection Level	Business as Usual (BAU)	–	B3BAU	–	–	–	–	–
	Low Protection (LP)	–	B3LP	–	–	–	–	–
	Moderate Protection (HP)	–	B3MP	–	–	–	–	–
	High Protection (HP)	B1HP	B3HP	B4HP	B6HP	P1HP	P4HP	P6HP

'– ' scenario was not assessed.

4 DRIFT INDICATORS AND INPUTS

29. This section provides an overview of the DRIFT DSS and its configuration specific to this assessment. Background on DRIFT and the general methodology of the model is presented in **Appendix A**.

4.1 List of Indicators

30. The indicators for each specialist discipline used in the DRIFT DSS are given in **Exhibit 4.1**. Although a larger set of hydrology indicators is calculated by DRIFT only those linked to indicators from other disciplines through response curves are presented in the exhibit. Management indicators were added to allow the evaluation of non-HPP-related impacts and are listed in the **Exhibit 4.1.**

Exhibit 4.1: Discipline indicators used in the DRIFT DSS

Discipline	Indicators	Reason for Selection as Indicators
Hydrology	The hydrology and hydraulic indicators are used only as drivers of change in other aspects of the river ecosystem. They are reported in the results only to provide context for an understanding of the ecosystem responses. They are not used for any of the summary information on ecosystem integrity.	
	Mean annual runoff	Indicates the annual abstraction/addition of water, if any.
	Dry season minimum 5-day discharge	Dry season minimum 5-day flows are used as a surrogate for the lowest flows in the dry season
	Dry season onset	Onset and duration of seasons: • link with climatic factors • cues fruiting and flowering • cues migration/breeding • support life-history patterns.
	Dry season duration	The dry season is typically the harshest for aquatic life to survive. This is the time when flows are low, water quality influences potentially stronger and temperatures (either hot or cold) are most challenging. Increases in the duration of this harsh period can have a significant influence on overall chances of survival.
	Dry season average daily volume	Dry periods • promote in-channel growth • support larval stages • maintain intra-annual variability.
	Wet season onset	Onset and duration of seasons: • link with climatic factors • cues fruiting and flowering • cues migration/breeding • support life-history patterns.
	Wet season duration	Important for supporting life stages, such as hatching and growth of young. The wet season is also when most erosion and deposition occur due to the higher shear stress and sediment loads in the river.

Discipline	Indicators	Reason for Selection as Indicators
	Wet season flood volume	Floods: • dictate channel form • flush and deposit sediment and debris • promotes habitat diversity • support floodplains • distribute seeds • facilitate connectivity • control terrestrial encroachment.
	Within-day range in discharge: Wet, transition, and dry seasons	Changes in water level over short periods are important for several reasons: • the shear stress changes rapidly as flow rate changes affecting both the water surface slope and the depth of the river. Thus conditions, for erosion but also animals and plants, change rapidly over this time, often to a point where they can no longer maintain their position in the channel, resulting in wash-aways. • rapid decreases in flow can also lead to stranding of animals as flows recede from an area quicker than the animals can respond. • as water levels decrease, riverbanks may not drain as quickly as the river recedes, leading to an over-pressuring within the banks that reduce bank stability. Flow changes in the dry and transition seasons are included as this is when water resource infrastructure has the potential to exert a large effect on water-level fluctuations. During the wet season, water level changes associated with infrastructure tend to be muted by unregulated inflows. Note: In some cases, maximum instantaneous discharge is used as a driving indicator instead of daily range – but the reasons for using it remain similar to those above.
	Transition 1/2 average daily volume	Dry-wet-dry transitions: • distribute sediments and nutrients flushed from the watershed • distribute seeds • support migration of adults and larvae
	Transition 2 recession shape	Transition 2 recession shape refers to the speed at which the flows change from wet season flows to dry season flows. Under natural conditions, this is usually a relatively gentle transition, but this can change with impoundments. If it is a very quick transition then there can be issues of bank collapse and/or stranding similar to those described for ‘within-day range in discharge’.
Hydraulics	Minimum 5-day dry season hydraulic habitat	Fish breeding habitat was the number of meters of the cross-section where depth is between 0.25 and 0.5 m, and velocity is between 0.1 and 0.7 m^3s^{-1}. These are important habitat depth and velocity ranges for Mahaseer, but also the smaller fish.
	Depth	

Discipline	Indicators	Reason for Selection as Indicators
	Average velocity	Water depth and velocity are key defining variables for aquatic habitats. They also dictate shear stress, which partly controls erosion and deposition.
Geomorphology	The geomorphology indicators represent habitat quality and diversity, and as such provide the basis for biodiversity. “Habitat is defined as a terrestrial, freshwater, or marine geographical unit or airway that supports assemblages of living organisms and their interactions with the non-living environment” (IFC Performance Standard 6).	
	Active channel width	The active channel is the width of the bankful discharge channel and is a useful indicator of channel capacity/size. The Jhelum channel is relatively robust, but small changes in width can be expected due to alterations in flood size and sediment inputs.
	Exposed sand and gravel bars	The availability of exposed bar habitat is included as a geomorphic indicator because it provides important habitat for vegetation, herpetofauna and birds in the dry season, and fish and invertebrates in the wet season. These bars are also targeted by humans for sediment extraction from the river.
	Exposed cobble and boulder bars	
	Median bed sediment size (armoring)	The average bed material sediment grain size is included as a geomorphic indicator due to its importance to ecological processes. The grain-size distribution of bed materials will determine the type(s) of habitat that will exist and be available for aquatic or riparian organisms to occupy or exploit, and shifts in the grain-size distribution will translate into a change in habitat availability and quality. The dry season is targeted for this indicator as this is the season that is most relevant to ecological processes.
	Depth of pools	Pools are important geomorphic features, providing shelter, refuge, and (in some cases) spawning habitat for a variety of fish and other species. The depth of pools indicates the extent of low flow/drought instream habitat refugia.
	Area of secondary channels and backwaters	Secondary channels and backwaters represent important instream habitats and offer refuge during high flow conditions and safety from predation for the young. They are also often preferred breeding areas.
	Suspended sediment load	Suspended sediment load is included as a geomorphic indicator because it affects a range of aquatic functions, including: • rate of erosion/deposition (and hence habitats) • light penetration (and hence plant growth) • visibility (both hunting and hiding) • physical effects, such as clogging or gills.
Water quality	The concentration of sewage in the river in the dry season	Most sewage in the valley is discharged untreated into the rivers. Thus, the dilution of sewage is an important factor in aquatic ecosystem health and concentration of nutrients. This is particularly so for the rivers immediately downstream of Balakot.
	Temperature	Temperature is an important environmental variable for fish and invertebrates. It has a knock-on effect on dissolved oxygen and toxic substances.

Discipline	Indicators	Reason for Selection as Indicators
	Conductivity	Electrical conductivity is an important “system variable” that indicates the concentration of dissolved salts, potentially indicating impacts from mining, irrigation return-flows, and urban/industrial development.
Algae	% Filamentous algae	Algae provide food for instream fauna (fish and invertebrates) and affect habitat quality. Algal growth is favored by reduced water depth and velocity. Higher flows and floods tend to scour the indicator. Changes in nutrient supply and light penetration also have a major impact on algal growth, and as such it is an important indicator of environmental change in its own right. Filamentous algae increase with the increase in bed stability and a reduction in flood frequency. This is because filamentous taxa can outcompete single-celled taxa under stable conditions. Chl biomass tends to increase with bed stability and a reduction in flood frequency (assuming nutrients are not limiting).
	Chl biomass.	
Riparian vegetation	Width of marginal zone	Marginal zone trees are important for bank stabilization, and flood attenuation and provide overhanging shelter to instream fauna, particularly fish.
	Recruitment of marginal zone vegetation	
Macroinvertebrates	Invertebrates constitute an important component of biodiversity, and invertebrate diversity is a useful indicator of environmental stress. They are also a vital food source for fish, birds, and aquatic and semi-aquatic vertebrates	
	EPT abundance	Ephemeroptera, Plecoptera, and Tricoptera are a commonly used grouping of invertebrates used as indicators for good water or habitat quality that tend to respond in a similar manner to changes in discharge and/or sediment supply.
	EPT diversity	
Fish	The fish indicators were chosen based on survey results and stakeholder consultations.	
	Alwan Snow Trout	The fish has is vulnerable status and its population is decreasing due to the introduction of exotics, damming of the rivers, and overfishing. It migrates to different parts of the Neelum, Jhelum, and Kunhar rivers during winter and summer seasons depending upon the seasonal temperature changes and is therefore prone to impacts as a result of any change in temperature regime, flow patterns, and damming. It is a common fish and any change in population due to environmental factors can be easily assessed. It is the main large-sized economically important fish that is also marketed in the area during the summer season. It is listed as Vulnerable in the IUCN Red Data List.
	Kashmir Hillstream Loach	It is an endemic fish only found in the Neelum, Jhelum, and Kunhar rivers. It is mainly a cold-water fish and a carnivore.
	Nalbant Loach	A carnivore feeds on aquatic insect larvae, and its eggs and young ones are preyed upon by other carnivorous fishes. It is an endemic fish. It is socially important as an aquarium fish.

Discipline	Indicators	Reason for Selection as Indicators
	Rainbow Trout	The rainbow trout is an introduced species which has commercial importance. It is bred in fish farms and stocked into the river.
Management	Details for the following management indicators are: • Fishing pressure – selective • Fishing pressure – nonselective • Mining – sand and gravel • Mining – boulders and cobbles • Nutrient enrichment • Tree cutting	

4.2 Hydrology Data

31. 51-year daily baseline hydrology was established through gauging data from Garhi Habibullah and Talhata gauging stations. The record is based on measured data from 1960 to 2010. The hydrological modeling underlying the generation of flow scenarios is explained in the Reservoir Operations Modelling report in **Appendix B**.

4.3 Hydraulic Data

32. Topographic cross-section survey data of the EF Sites were used to model the hydraulics of the sites and the fish hydraulic habitat available over a range of flows. The hydraulic modeling enabled hydraulic indicators to be inserted into the DSS, which were used to estimate changes in habitat. The data used to calculate the hydraulic indicators are presented in the hydraulics specialist report in **Appendix C**.

4.4 Response Curves

33. DRIFT predictions are driven by Response Curves that are constructed between every indicator and its linked indicators. The index of response curves used in the DSS and their explanations are provided in **Appendix D**.

4.4.1 Scoring Methodology

34. The values entered into the Response Curves are known as severity ratings; and are on a continuous scale from -5 (large decrease) to +5 (large increase). These ratings are converted to percentages using the relationships provided in **Exhibit 4.2**. The scale accommodates uncertainty, as each rating encompasses a range of percentages.

35. For each year of the hydrological record, and each ecosystem indicator, the severity rating corresponding to the value of a driving indicator is read off its Response Curve and converted to a percentage change. The severity ratings for each driving indicator are then combined to produce an overall change in abundance for each season, which indicates how the abundance, area, or concentration of an indicator is expected to change under the given flow conditions over time, relative to the changes that would have been expected under baseline conditions in the catchment.

Exhibit 4.2: DRIFT Severity Ratings and their Associated Abundance Change

A negative score means a loss in abundance relative to baseline, and a positive means a gain

Severity Rating	Severity	% Abundance Change
+5	Critically severe	501% gain up to pest proportions
+4	Severe	251-500% gain
+3	Moderate	68-250% gain
+2	Low	26-67% gain
+1	Negligible	1-25% gain
0	None	no change
-1	Negligible	80-100% retained
-2	Low	60-79% retained
-3	Moderate	40-59% retained
-4	Severe	20-39% retained
-5	Critically severe	0-19% retained includes local extinction

4.4.2 Uncertainty

36. As discussed briefly in the previous section, there is an automatic and fixed level of uncertainty to the DRIFT predictions[7], particularly where these predictions concern a condition that is far removed from the baseline. This reflects uncertainty around the response of the indicators to the flow regime under discussion, the uncertainty of their response to the proposed protection measures, and inherent difficulties in predicting the future in dynamic systems.

37. The 90% confidence range is calculated using Hozo *et al.*'s (2005) [8] estimation of sample variance (see formula below). As the difference from the mean in the original full range is not symmetrical about the mean, the 90% confidence range is apportioned according to the original portion of the full range that the upper and lower bounds were, to keep the skewness in the 90% confidence limits. This gives the estimated lower and upper 90% confidence limits around the mean and is illustrated in

$$S^2 = \frac{1}{12}\left(\frac{(1-2m+b)^2}{4} + (b-a)^2\right)$$

Where

m = median

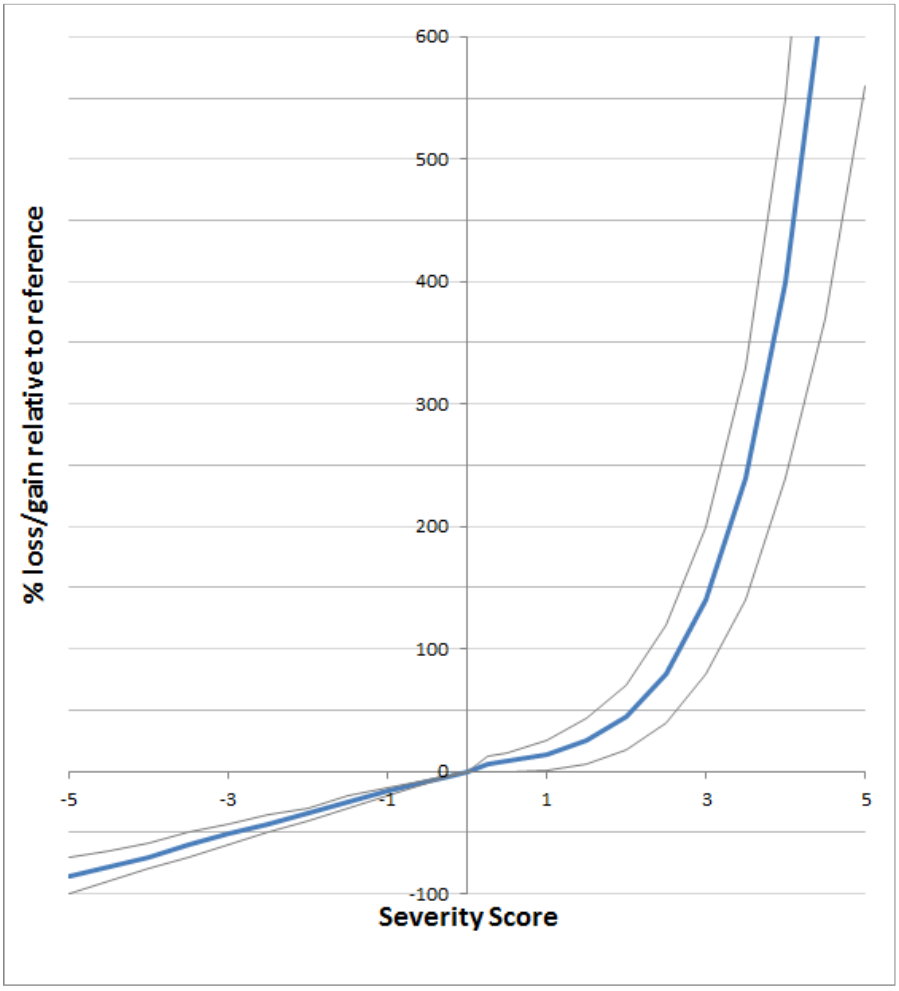
a = the smallest value (minimum)

b = the largest value (maximum)

[7] There is an option in DRIFT for specialists to increase the uncertainty above that automatically applied by DRIFT, but this was not used /needed in this assessment.

[8] Hozo, S.P., Djulbegovic, B. and Hozo, I: 2005. Estimating the mean and variance from the median, range, and the size of a sample. BMC Med Res Methodol, 5:13.

Exhibit 4.3: DRIFT Uncertainty Margins



4.5 Barrier Effects

38. At 58 m, the Project dam and resultant 4.5 km reservoir will present considerable barriers to the in-channel movement of abiotic and biotic components of the river ecosystem. The abiotic components, as well as water, include sediments of different sizes (boulders, cobbles, gravel, sand, mud, and silt). The biotic components include migrating fish, drifting macroinvertebrates, and floating plant seeds. Of these, the following barrier effects were incorporated into the scenarios.

- Trapping of bedload and suspended sediments moving down the river (see **Section 4.5.1**); and
- Barriers to fish movement between over-wintering areas in the lower parts of the Kunhar River and summering areas in the upper parts of the river and tributaries (e.g., Alwan Snow Trout; see **Section 4.5.2**),

4.5.1 Sediment Trapping and Flushing

39. Sediment trapping was estimated based on the methodology used in the consolidated DRIFT DSS for the Jhelum Basin (Pakistan)[9]. Changes in sediment supply were incorporated using the connectivity function in the DSS. Thus, bedload inflows and suspended-sediment

[9] Progress Report, October 2016 *The consolidated DRIFT DSS for the Jhelum Basin,* International Finance Corporation, Hagler Bailly Pakistan and Southern Waters.

inflows were set at 100% for baseline, and at 75% reduction and 40% reduction respectively in the site downstream of Project (EF Site 2) after the construction of the dam. These values are based on the following assumptions.

- The bedload moving down the Kunhar River will be trapped by the dam, so bed sediment concentration downstream will be reduced. It is likely that with distance downstream of a weir, bed sediment concentration will gradually recover, at least in the short term.
- Suspended sediment will also be trapped by the dam, but to a lesser extent than bed sediments, as the particles are smaller and some will travel through the impoundment and over the dam in flood conditions.

40. The current operation rules for the Project are to flush once or twice a year in flood season, or not at all if sediment inflow is low. The DRIFT DSS as configured for this assessment assumes that sediment flushed in flood season will be carried down and dispersed and will not embed downstream habitat. This is particularly true if sediment is flushed twice in the flood season, as the build-up of sediment will be lower than in situations where sediment is flushed once every few years.

4.5.2 Barrier to Fish Movement

41. The influence of the Project dam and reservoir on fish populations at the various sites is partially attributable to the barrier effects created by the HPP on the movement of fish between breeding and feeding areas, or between over-wintering and over-summering areas.

42. For this assessment, migration success was set at 0% for upstream movement and at 5% for downstream movement. This is based on the understanding that:

- as discussed in the BAP (see Volume 2C of the EIA), it is not feasible to provide fish passages on the proposed dam. If this situation changes in the future, then the migration success in the DSS would need to be adjusted and the scenario rerun.
- downstream migration of adults and young-of-year will be limited by:
  - ✓ the Project impoundment, which will be difficult if not impossible for young-of-year to cross as they rely on a current to transport them downstream; and
  - ✓ the diversion to the tunnel and powerhouse, which will attract adult fish.

43. The Alwan Snow Trout is the sole migratory fish to be affected by the Project. The Rainbow Trout, although migratory as well is present upstream of the dam and migrates further upstream, therefore, its migration will not be affected by the dam. The migratory patterns of the Alwan Snow Trout are discussed further below.

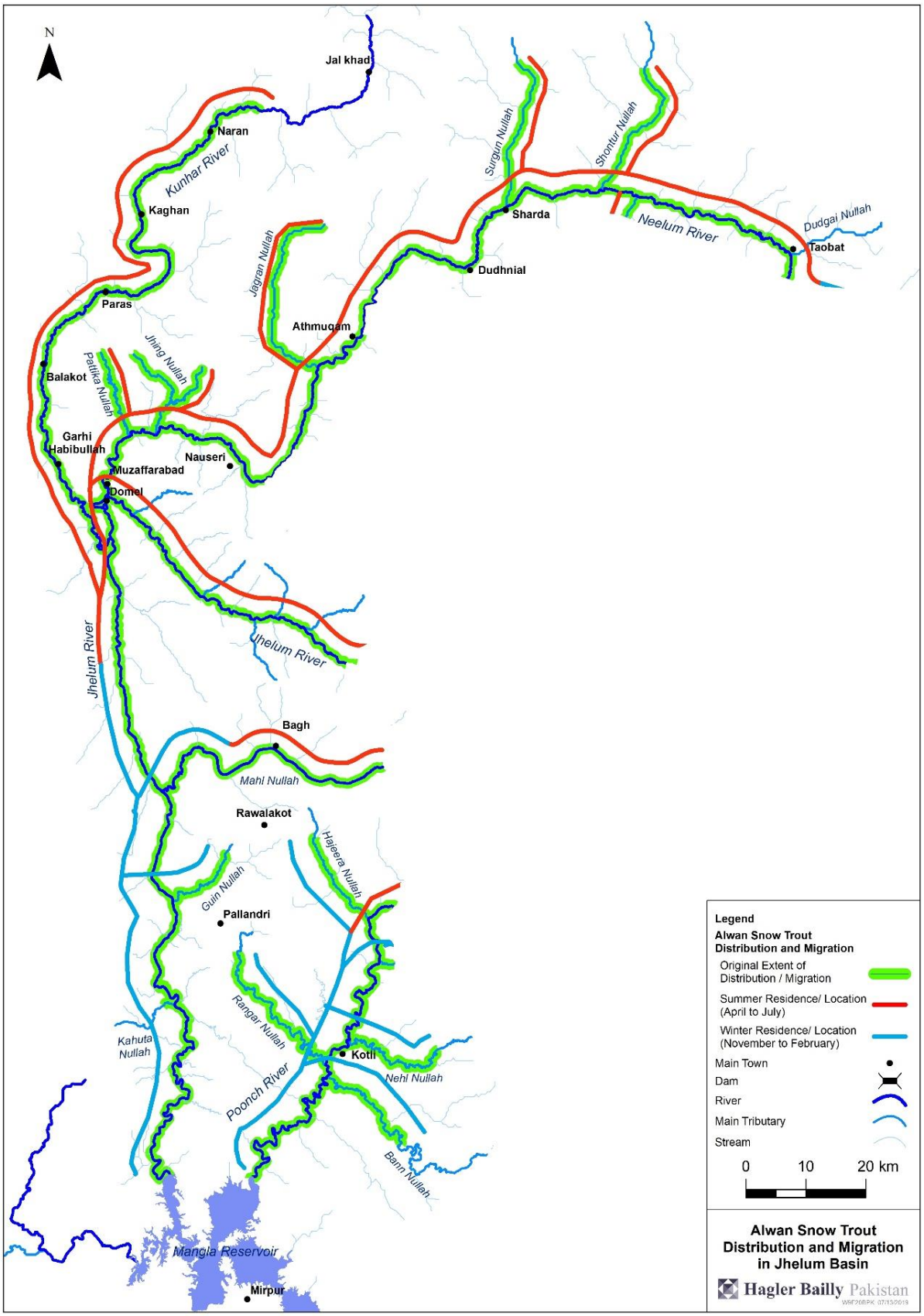
44. The actual impact on the fish populations is dictated by a combination of migration success and dependence on migration. The Alwan Snow Trout is a cold-water fish with a wide range of temperature tolerances (10-25°C), but a narrower temperature tolerance for breeding (12-18 ^{o}C). It migrates up and downstream in the river to avoid temperatures that are either too warm or too cool. They can breed in the main river or the tributaries but breeding will only occur when temperatures are sufficiently warm. If the fish cannot reach warm enough waters they will not breed. The summer temperature regime for the Kunhar River is provided in **Chapter 4** of the EIA Report. The main breeding areas are in the Kunhar River and the Lower Neelum River. The migration pathways of the Alwan Snow Trout are presented in **Exhibit 4.4.**

As can be seen, the Kunhar River is preferred for breeding and not the ideal over-wintering location for the Alwan Snow Trout however, the PHPP has isolated its populations in the Kunhar River.

45. The estimated current breeding dependence (based on expert opinion, supported by fish and habitat surveys, and temperature measurement) of the Alwan Snow Trout on the three distinct reaches created to post the construction of the Project are:

- 5% upstream of SKHPP
- 20% from SKHPP Dam to Project Dam
- 75% from Project Dam to PHPP reservoir

Exhibit 4.4: Alwan Snow Trout Migration Pattern



Source: Hagler Bailly Pakistan, 2017, Draft Report of the Environmental Impact Assessment of Balakot Hydropower Development Project for the Asian Development Bank (ADB)

4.6 Values for Non-Flow-Related Indicators

46. The predicted effects of non-flow-related pressures are reflected as Response Curves under each linked indicator. Selective fishing, for instance, will appear as a Response Curve under each fish indicator, its shape reflecting the current understanding of the original abundance of the indicator, its present abundance, and its expected abundance in 51 years under different protection measures (i.e., predicted end values). The predicted end values are provided in **Exhibit 4.5.**

47. These values were decided in team consultations, and some explanation of them is provided in **Exhibit 4.6.** Essentially, the relevant experts were asked how the abundance of each indicator has changed (if at all) from its known or predicted condition 51 years ago (considered as the historic baseline) and what have been the main drivers of change. They were also asked what abundance level they would expect it to reach in the future under the protection scenarios (BAU, LP, and MP).

48. Thus, in **Exhibit 4.5**, the Alwan Snow Trout, for instance, is shown as 30% more abundant 51 years ago than at present; and is expected to drop to 20% of its present abundance in 31 years if future trends reflect past trends (protection level BAU). Enhancing protection to LP, however, would see its abundance decline more slowly over the 51 years to 40% of present, while protection at MP would increase abundance to 110% of present.

49. The values provided are targets only, as the eventual values predicted by the DSS for these indicators depend on the interaction of a multitude of factors, protection level being just one.

50. To ensure that the DSS results approximate the targets shown in **Exhibit 4.5**, the Response Curves for each non-flow indicator were set at the following values:

BAU = A gradual increase in 2017 pressures from 100% in 2015 to 200% over 30 years and then stable at that level for the next 21 years.

LP = 2017 pressures fixed for the next 51 years.

MP = 2017 pressures halved over the next 5 years and then stable at that level for the next 46 years.

HP = 2017 pressures reduced by 90% over the next 5 years and then stable at that level for the next 46 years[10].

51. All other indicators were switched on and the DSS was calibrated to achieve the target values.

[10] Experience in neighboring rivers has shown that it is easier to impose a complete ban on activities such as illegal fishing and mining than it is to reduce these activities by half.

Exhibit 4.5: Predicted End Values of Selected Indicators under the Management Options

Business as Usual (BAU), Low Protection (LP), Moderate Protection (MP). High Protection is taken as the values 51 years ago. Present Day is 100%
Black: direct impacts, **Grey**: affected by knock-on effects.

Indicator		Present Ecological State at EF sites	51 years ago	Predicted Change in 51 Years under Management Option			Link to Pressures					
				BAU	LP	MP	Fishing Pressure Selective	Fishing Pressure Non-selective	Mining Sand and Gravel	Mining Cobble and Boulder	Eutrophication	Tree Cutting
Geomorphology	Active channel width	A	100	110	105	100						
	Area of silt/mixed deposits	A	100	90	95	100						
	Area of cobble bars	A	100	80	90	100						
	Median bed sediment size (armouring)	A	100	90	93	98						
	Depth of pools	A	100	95	97	100						
	Area of 2º channels and backwaters	A	100	85	95	100						
Water quality	Nutrients in the dry season	B	50	200	140	120						
	Conductivity	A	100	105	104	102						
	Temperature	A	100	100	100	100						
Algae	% Filamentous Algae	A	100	120	110	105						
	Chl a biomass	A	100	120	110	105						
Riparian vegetation	Width of marginal zone	A	100	100	100	100						

Indicator		Present Ecological State at EF sites	51 years ago	Predicted Change in 51 Years under Management Option			Link to Pressures					
				BAU	LP	MP	Fishing Pressure Selective	Fishing Pressure Non-selective	Mining Sand and Gravel	Mining Cobble and Boulder	Eutrophication	Tree Cutting
	Recruitment of marginal zone vegetation	C	120	100	100	110						
Macro-invertebrates	EPT abundance	B	110	85	95	95						
	EPT diversity	A	100	90	93	100						
Fish	Alwan Snow Trout	C	130	20	40	110						
	Kashmir Hillstream Loach	B	110	30	50	105						
	Nalbant Loach	B	110	45	75	105						
	Rainbow Trout	A	100	100	100	100						

Exhibit 4.6: Comments on Trends in Indicators Overtime

	Indicator	Explanation
Geomorphology	Active channel width	There is a possibility that there may be some channel widening associated with cobble bar removal/mining downstream of Balakot.
	Area of silt/mixed deposits	The collection of sediments in Suki Kinari Dam and other dams upstream in the future will lead to a decline in larger sediment fractions.
	Area of cobble bars	A decline in the bars started 200 years ago (associated with accelerated catchment development and increased mining).
	Median bed sediment size (armouring)	Erosion in the catchment and mining has changed the nature of the bed sediments, probably resulting in some infilling of interstitial spaces. However, this will be somewhat offset by the Suki Kinari and other upstream HPPs.
	Depth of pools	Possibly a minor decrease in pool depth as a result of mining activities in the last 10-20 years downstream of Balakot town.

	Indicator	Explanation
	Area of secondary channels and backwaters	Possibly a very minor decrease in secondary channels as a result of a reduction in channel width and loss of cobble bars.
Water quality	Nutrients in the dry season	Nutrients form detergents, fertilizers, and waste from a rapidly growing population in the area. Nutrient concentrations are expected to increase above baseline rates even at half of today's nutrient loading rates.
	Conductivity	There are no major sources of industrial effluent in the area. Nutrient loadings are not expected to be high enough to impact conductivity.
	Temperature	Management impacts are unlikely to affect temperature.
Algae	% Filamentous Algae	There is not a significant population of algae in the main river but there can be substantial stands in the nullahs. The quality of the algae will deteriorate due to an increase in turbidity and impacts due to cobble mining.
	Chl. a biomass	Chl biomass follows trends in algae and so the same trends are predicted.
Riparian vegetation	Width of marginal zone	This may have changed slightly in line with channel widening but is unlikely to have been significant.
	Recruitment of marginal zone vegetation	There is significant protection of trees in KP by government departments
Macro-invertebrates	EPT abundance	Possible minor decreases related to increased nutrients in the river. But this is also negatively affected by non-selective fishing activities such as blasting and poisoning.
	EPT diversity	EPT diversity is not expected to change with this scale of impacts as diversity is relatively resilient.
Fish	Alwan Snow Trout	Alwan Snow Trout is the major food fish in the Himalayas. It is under severe fishing pressure in the region and is also being affected by other anthropogenic influences. Its distribution is estimated to have declined by more than 90% in some areas with an overall reduction of 50% over the last 5-10 years www.iucnredlist.org (as assessed in 2010). The main threats for the species include: ♦ Overfishing for commercial use in hotels/ restaurants: it is one of the most popular fish for eating. The Kunhar River is a popular tourist location with many established restaurants serving fresh fish to visitors/tourists. The use of gill nets is now a common practice in the Jhelum River. The fish is easily available from local poachers at nominal cost and fishing pressures are expanding with increasing population and joblessness in the area. ♦ Destruction of breeding and feeding habitat and nursery grounds due to sand, gravel, and stone mining due to poor enforcement of existing conservation laws. ♦ Fish mortality due to non-selective fishing methods (e.g., use of dynamite, electric currents, and poisons).

	Indicator	Explanation
		• Introduction of exotic fish species like Brown Trout and Rainbow Trout which feed on the eggs, fries, and fingerlings of this species.
	Kashmir Hillstream loach	Kashmir Hillstream Loach has a limited range and is endemic to the Upper Jhelum Basin, which includes the Kunhar, Neelum, and upper Jhelum rivers. The main threats for the species include: • Destruction of breeding and feeding habitat and nursery grounds due to sand, gravel, and stone mining. • Lack of sand-mining regulations/laws/rules and poor enforcement of existing conservation laws. • Fish mortality due to non-selective fishing methods like the use of dynamite, electric currents, and poisons. • Introduction of exotic fish species like Brown Trout and Rainbow Trout which feed on the eggs, fries, and fingerlings of this species.
	Nalbant loach	The impacts are similar to the Kashmir Hillstream Loach. However, this fish has a large population and is present in the tributaries. Furthermore, it has a small size and a high survivability. These factors combined result in less of an impact on the Nalbant's Loach than on the Kashmir Hillstream Loach.
	Rainbow Trout	This is a non-native fish stocked into the river each year and permits are issued for its fishing. As populations are determined by the level of stocking these can be maintained at present levels due to the high commercial demand.

5 BIOPHYSICAL OUTPUTS

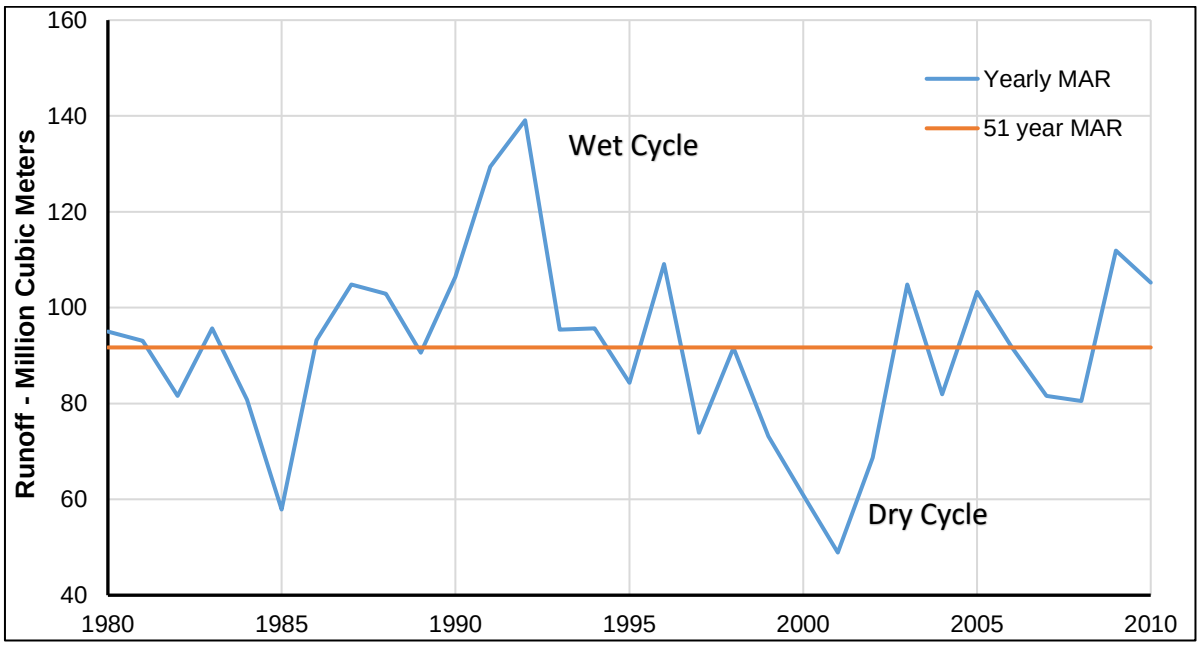
52. This section lists the biophysical results from the DRIFT model. Analysis of results is presented in the next section.

5.1 Reporting Methodology

53. For each scenario, the predicted changes in the river ecosystem are evaluated per site as the estimated mean percentage change from baseline in the abundance, area, or concentration of key indicators.

54. These predictions for the estimated mean percentage change from baseline in the abundance are reported as an average for the last 20 years of the 51-year hydrological record. The 20 years was selected it includes a wet and dry period in the record (see **Exhibit 5.1**), and a slight recovery towards the end of the record (2006-2010).

Exhibit 5.1: Mean Annual Runoff EF Site 2 (Downstream of Dam)



5.2 Biophysical Results

55. The main characteristics of the flow regimes associated with each of the scenarios are presented in **Exhibit 5.2** for EF Sites 1 and 2 and in **Exhibit 5.3** for EF Sites 3 and 4.

56. The biophysical results for each site are presented in Exhibit 5.4 to Exhibit 5.7.

- **EF Site 1 Upstream of Dam**

57. The river section represented by EF Site 1 starts from the SKHPP tailrace and goes up till the Project dam. The reductions in fish populations are predicted mainly due to the barrier effect of the Project as the modeled hydrology is assumed to be the same as before the Project.

- **EF Site 2 Downstream of Dam**

58. This site represents the low-flow section between the dam and the tailrace of the Project. There will be large changes as a result of the Project to the hydrology of this site with

large reductions in mean annual runoff, mean flood peak, and mean flood volume due to the flow diversion. This change in flow also will result in a longer dry season and a shorter wet season in this section.

59. There will be an increase in algae as the low flows result in less dilution of nutrients in this section. There will also be a corresponding decrease in macroinvertebrate abundance. The low flows also reduce the area of secondary channels and backwaters. Due to these impacts, the Kashmir Hillstream Loach is most affected followed by the Nalbant's Loach. The Alwan Snow Trout is further affected by the blockage of connectivity upstream and conditions downstream due to its migratory behavior. The Rainbow Trout is stocked by the Fisheries Department, KP, and is fished, using permits issued by the Fisheries Department, KP.

- **EF Site 3 and 4 Downstream of Tailrace and Downstream of Balakot**

60. The baseload scenario downstream of the tailrace and downstream of Balakot closely approximates the baseline hydrology. Therefore, an increase in protection increases the fish abundance in these sections.

61. In the peaking scenario, there are sharp changes to the hydrology. The dry season minimum flow goes down from 17 m^3/s to between 3 and 9 m^3/s depending on the environmental flow release. Furthermore, the dry season max daily flow goes up to between 161 to 170 m^3/s for a large daily range in flows. These flows are very harmful to fish that are less active during the winter or are overwintering in pools and crevices and are flushed downstream. Therefore, large declines in fish abundance in the peaking scenarios are observed.

Exhibit 5.2: Hydrology Indicators EF Site 1 and 2

Red: greater than 70% change from baseline, **Orange** 40% to 70% change from the baseline. Where baseline values are 0 shading is based on expert judgment of severity

	Units	EF Site 1	EF Site 2						
		All	Baseline	B1	B4.	B6	P1	P4	P6
Mean Annual Runoff	m^3/s	82	92	22	26	28	22	24	26
Mean flood peak	m^3/s	296	330	174	175	175	174	175	175
Mean flood volume	Mm^3	1892	2135	346	344	344	346	344	344
Dry Season									
Dry season onset	calendar week	39	39	29	29	29	29	29	29
Dry season relative onset	weeks	0.00	0.00	-10	-10	-10	-10	-10	-10
Dry season duration	days	183	180	304	309	309	304	304	304
Dry season avg. daily volume	Mm^3/d	2.3	2.5	0.7	1.1	1.3	0.7	1.0	1.1
Min 5-day dry season flow	m^3/s	15.6	17.6	2.9	6.3	8.0	2.9	5.9	7.5
Min 5 day dry season velocity	m/s	1.3	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.2

	Units	EF Site 1	EF Site 2					
		All	Baseline	B1	B4.	B6	P1	P4	P6
Min 5 day dry season Hydraulic Habitat	m	18.3	14.9	6.3	8.1	10.6	6.3	7.6	9.9
Min 5 day dry season Stage	m	1.6	1.5	0.8	0.9	1.1	0.8	0.9	1.1
Dry season min instantaneous flow	m^3/s	14.9	16.7	2.8	6.2	7.9	2.8	5.8	7.4
Dry season max instantaneous flow	m^3/s	60	64	102	102	105	102	105	106
Dry season max rate of change	$m^3/s/min$	1	1	69	49	47	69	66	67
Dry season daily range in flow	m^3/s	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.18	0.24	0.11	0.11	0.11
Transition Season (T1)									
T1 avg. daily volume	Mm^3/d	5.6	6.0	6.2	6.8	6.8	6.2	6.6	6.6
T1 min instantaneous flow	m^3/s	47	51	34	56	56	34	51	51
T1 max instantaneous flow	m^3/s	98	105	130	130	130	130	130	130
T1 max rate of change	$m^3/s/min$	1	1	38	35	33	38	36	36
T1 daily range in flow	m^3/s	0	0	9.95	7.70	7.62	9.95	7.61	7.61
Wet Season									
Wet season onset	calendar week	16	16	22	22	22	22	22	22
Wet season relative onset	weeks	0	0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
Wet season duration	days	130	134	31	30	30	31	30	30
Wet season average daily volume	Mm^3/d	15	16	10	10	10	10	10	10
Flood volume	Mm^3	1953	2164	315	258	258	315	258	258
Max 5-day flood season flow	m^3/s	292	324	170	170	170	170	170	170
Max 5-day flood season velocity	m/s	3.5	3.0	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6
Max 5-day flood season hydraulic habitat	m	35	57	46	46	46	46	46	46
Max 5-day flood season stage	m	4.1	4.4	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5
Min 5 day flood season flow	m^3/s	84	91	77	77	77	77	77	77
Min 5-day flood season velocity	m/s	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1
Min 5-day flood season Hydraulic Habitat	m	29	33	32	32	32	32	32	32

	Units	EF Site 1	EF Site 2						
		All	Baseline	B1	B4.	B6	P1	P4	P6
Min 5-day flood season stage	m	2.6	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7
Wet season min instantaneous flow	m^3/s	73	80	40	40	40	40	40	40
Wet season max instantaneous flow	m^3/s	331	374	203	198	198	203	198	198
Wet season max rate of change	$m^3/s/min$	3	3	60	60	60	60	58	60
Wet season daily range in flow	m^3/s	0	0	14	14	14	14	14	14
Transition Season (T2)									
T2 recession slope	$m^3/s/d$	-1.2	-1.3	-4.4	-4.1	-4.1	-4.4	-4.1	-4.1
T2 avg. daily volume	Mm^3/d	5.2	5.6	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
T2 min instantaneous flow	m^3/s	43	47	21	20	20	21	20	20
T2 max instantaneous flow	m^3/s	81	88	58	58	58	58	58	58
T2 max rate of change	$m^3/s/min$	1	0	22	22	22	22	23	22
T2 daily range in flow	m^3/s	0.0	0.0	8.1	8.0	7.9	8.1	8.0	7.9

Exhibit 5.3: Hydrology Indicators EF Site 3 and 4

Red: greater than 70% change from baseline, **Orange** 40% to 70% change from the baseline. Where baseline values are 0 shading is based on expert judgement of severity
BX represents all baseload scenarios as they are the same.

	Units	EF Site 3					EF Site 4				
		Base	BX	P1	P4	P6	Base	BX	P1	P4	P6
Mean Annual Runoff	m^3/s	94	94	94	94	94	101	101	101	101	101
Mean flood peak	m^3/s	337	337	337	337	337	363	363	363	363	363
Mean flood volume	Mm^3	2174	2174	2174	2174	2174	2336	2336	2336	2336	2336
Dry Season											
Dry season onset	calendar week	39	39	39	39	39	39	39	39	39	39
Dry season relative onset	weeks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dry season duration	days	181	181	181	182	181	181	181	181	182	181
Dry season avg. daily volume	Mm^3/d	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.7
Min 5-day dry season flow	m^3/s	17.9	17.9	18.0	18.0	18.0	19.3	19.3	19.3	19.3	19.3
Min 5-day dry season velocity	m/s	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
Min 5-day dry season Hydraulic Habitat	m	42.9	42.9	42.9	42.9	42.9	21.5	21.5	21.5	21.5	21.5

	Units	EF Site 3					EF Site 4				
		Base	BX	P1	P4	P6	Base	BX	P1	P4	P6
Min 5-day dry season Stage	m	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Dry season min instantaneous flow	m^3/s	17.0	17.0	3.2	6.2	7.8	18.3	18.3	4.4	7.4	9.0
Dry season max instantaneous flow	m^3/s	67	67	161	164	166	71	71	166	169	170
Dry season max rate of change	$m^3/s/min$	1	1	155	155	155	1	1	155	155	155
Dry season daily range in flow	m^3/s	0	0	88	74	66	0	0	88	74	66
Transition Season (T1)											
T1 avg. daily volume	Mm^3/d	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.4	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.9
T1 min instantaneous flow	m^3/s	52	52	8	11	13	56	56	12	16	17
T1 max instantaneous flow	m^3/s	109	109	161	164	166	117	117	166	169	170
T1 max rate of change	m^3/s /min	1	1	154	154	154	1	1	155	155	155
T1 daily range in flow	m^3/s	0.00	0.00	8.79	8.79	8.01	0.00	0.00	9.44	9.44	8.60
Wet Season											
Wet season onset	calendar week	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16
Wet season relative onset	weeks	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Wet season duration	days	133	133	133	133	133	133	133	133	133	133
Wet season average. daily volume	Mm^3/d	17	17	17	17	17	18	18	18	18	18
Flood volume	Mm^3	2212	2212	2211	2211	2211	2377	2377	2376	2376	2377
Max 5-day flood season flow	m^3/s	331	331	331	331	331	355	355	355	355	355
Max 5-day flood season velocity	m/s	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Max 5-day flood season hydraulic habitat	m	77	77	77	77	77	156	156	156	156	156
Max 5-day flood season stage	m	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6
Min 5-day flood season flow	m^3/s	94	94	94	94	94	101	101	101	101	101
Min 5-day flood season velocity	m/s	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6
Min 5-day flood season Hydraulic Habitat	m	69	69	69	69	69	80	80	80	80	80
Min 5-day flood season stage	m	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6
Wet season min instantaneous flow	m^3/s	82	82	79	79	79	88	88	85	85	85

	Units	EF Site 3					EF Site 4				
		Base	BX	P1	P4	P6	Base	BX	P1	P4	P6
Wet season max instantaneous flow	m^3/s	382	382	382	382	382	411	411	411	411	411
Wet season max rate of change	m^3/s /min	4	4	91	91	91	4	4	94	97	97
Wet season daily range in flow	m^3/s	0	0	9	9	9	0	0	10	9	9
Transition Season (T2)											
T2 recession slope	$m^3/s/d$	-1.4	-1.4	-1.4	-1.4	-1.4	-1.5	-1.5	-1.5	-1.5	-1.5
T2 avg. daily volume	Mm^3/d	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2
T2 min instantaneous flow	m^3/s	49	49	47	47	47	52	52	51	51	51
T2 max instantaneous flow	m^3/s	90	90	91	91	91	97	97	98	98	98
T2 max rate of change	$m^3/s/min$	0	0	16	16	16	1	1	18	18	18
T2 daily range in flow	m^3/s	0.0	0.0	2.1	2.1	2.1	0.0	0.0	2.3	2.3	2.3

Exhibit 5.4: Biophysical Results for EF Site 1 (Upstream of Dam)

All figures are predicted percentage changes in population compared to the Present Day over 51-years
Red: greater than 70% reduction from the Present Day, Orange: 40% to 70% reduction from Present Day, and Green: increase over Present Day

	Base BAU	Base LP	Base MP	Base HP	B3BAU	B3LP	B3MP	B1HP	B3HP	B4HP	B6HP	P1HP	P4HP	P6HP
Fish														
Alwan Snow Trout	-79.2	-59.8	22.7	44.3	-100.0	-99.7	-75.5	-64.1	-64.1	-64.1	-64.1	-64.1	-64.1	-64.1
Nalbant Loach	-56.2	-26.9	3.7	11.0	-56.8	-27.5	3.0	10.3	10.3	10.3	10.3	10.3	10.3	10.3
Rainbow Trout	-2.2	-1.5	-0.8	0.7	-3.3	-2.6	-2.0	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5
Kashmir Hillstream Loach	-73.5	-55.5	1.2	13.7	-75.9	-59.2	-2.4	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Macroinvertebrates														
EPT abundance	-16.7	-7.9	-1.7	7.6	-18.3	-9.6	-3.4	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
EPT diversity	-19.1	-5.6	-2.1	5.6	-19.3	-5.8	-2.3	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
Marginal Vegetation														
Width of marginal zone	-4.7	-2.6	-0.8	-0.8	-4.5	-2.4	-0.7	-0.7	-0.7	-0.7	-0.7	-0.7	-0.7	-0.7
Recruitment of marginal vegetation	-3.6	-1.5	10.6	19.3	-4.5	-2.5	9.6	18.3	18.3	18.3	18.3	18.3	18.3	18.3
Algae														
% Filamentous taxa	24.4	12.4	5.9	-1.6	25.8	13.6	7.0	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4
Chl a biomass	18.4	8.6	1.6	-3.4	19.1	9.2	2.2	-2.8	-2.8	-2.8	-2.8	-2.8	-2.8	-2.8
Water Quality														
Conductivity	6.4	5.0	2.3	1.3	7.1	5.8	3.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1
Nutrient concentration (DRY Season)	99.2	38.6	15.1	-52.7	100.6	39.9	16.5	-51.3	-51.3	-51.3	-51.3	-51.3	-51.3	-51.3
Water temperature	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Geomorphology														

	Base BAU	Base LP	Base MP	Base HP	B3BAU	B3LP	B3MP	B1HP	B3HP	B4HP	B6HP	P1HP	P4HP	P6HP
Active channel width	12.2	6.0	-0.3	-0.3	11.7	5.5	-0.7	-0.7	-0.7	-0.7	-0.7	-0.7	-0.7	-0.7
Exposed sand and gravel bars	-9.6	-4.2	0.3	0.8	-7.9	-2.5	2.0	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
Median bed sediment size (armouring)	-9.9	-6.4	-0.2	1.3	-10.0	-6.4	-0.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
Exposed cobble and boulder bars	-18.9	-10.0	0.7	0.7	-18.3	-9.4	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
Depth of pools	-5.0	-2.5	-0.6	-0.6	-6.1	-3.6	-1.6	-1.6	-1.6	-1.6	-1.6	-1.6	-1.6	-1.6
Area of secondary channels, backwaters	-6.9	-4.3	-0.6	-0.6	-8.2	-5.6	-1.9	-1.9	-1.9	-1.9	-1.9	-1.9	-1.9	-1.9

Exhibit 5.5: Biophysical Results for EF Site 2 (Downstream of Dam)

All figures are predicted percentage changes in population compared to the Present Day over a 51-year period
Red: greater than 70% reduction from the Present Day, Orange: 40% to 70% reduction from Present Day, and Green: increase over the Present Day

	Base BAU	Base LP	Base MP	Base HP	B3BAU	B3LP	B3MP	B1HP	B3HP	B4HP	B6HP	P1HP	P4HP	P6HP
Fish														
Alwan Snow Trout	-68.8	-50.2	23.9	41.9	-100.0	-100.0	-78.0	-66.9	-64.8	-62.9	-58.8	-92.2	-89.4	-86.8
Nalbant Loach	-57.6	-26.9	3.8	9.1	-100.0	-94.6	-70.4	-74.7	-64.0	-58.8	-47.5	-75.0	-62.7	-55.5
Kashmir Hillstream Loach	-75.9	-54.8	1.8	11.0	-100.0	-100.0	-97.8	-97.9	-96.0	-94.6	-91.3	-97.8	-95.0	-92.4
Macroinvertebrates														
EPT abundance	-16.1	-7.5	-1.5	7.2	-81.3	-80.0	-77.8	-81.4	-76.4	-73.6	-67.0	-81.5	-75.7	-71.9
EPT diversity	-18.5	-5.6	-2.1	5.2	-37.5	-35.4	-32.8	-32.9	-30.4	-28.3	-22.4	-32.8	-30.6	-28.5
Marginal Vegetation														
Width of marginal zone	-5.0	-2.8	-0.9	-0.9	2.1	2.7	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3

	Base BAU	Base LP	Base MP	Base HP	B3BAU	B3LP	B3MP	B1HP	B3HP	B4HP	B6HP	P1HP	P4HP	P6HP
Recruitment of marginal vegetation	-3.7	-1.5	10.8	20.7	-28.1	-27.5	-16.5	-6.5	-6.5	-6.9	-6.9	-6.5	-6.9	-6.9
Algae														
% Filamentous taxa	20.8	12.0	5.5	-1.4	91.4	87.9	83.3	83.8	81.0	79.2	72.2	83.7	81.2	78.9
Chl a biomass	18.2	8.4	1.4	-3.2	43.9	41.7	37.6	37.4	36.5	35.7	32.7	37.4	36.9	35.9
Water Quality														
Conductivity	6.1	4.8	2.1	0.8	9.9	8.5	5.8	8.1	4.6	2.6	0.2	8.6	4.8	2.9
Nutrient concentration (DRY Season)	99.0	38.3	15.1	-49.5	314.9	254.2	230.9	209.0	166.4	146.1	116.6	215.2	172.1	148.7
Water temperature	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	32.4	32.4	32.4	31.8	32.4	33.0	33.5	31.6	32.4	32.7
Geomorphology														
Active channel width	6.3	12.9	-0.1	-0.1	-17.2	-23.4	-29.7	-29.7	-29.7	-29.7	-29.6	-29.7	-29.7	-29.6
Exposed sand and gravel bars	-3.0	-9.9	0.0	0.5	-1.3	5.1	8.6	14.4	9.1	6.5	2.3	14.8	7.5	3.5
Median bed sediment size (armouring)	-4.9	-7.4	-0.3	-0.3	7.8	10.2	14.9	13.9	14.9	15.4	16.1	13.7	14.8	15.3
Exposed cobble and boulder bars	-10.1	-20.1	0.4	0.4	0.4	10.2	20.9	25.6	20.9	18.6	15.3	26.3	21.5	18.9
Depth of pools	-2.6	-3.9	-0.4	-0.4	-26.0	-24.5	-22.5	-23.0	-22.5	-22.4	-22.1	-23.0	-22.6	-22.4
Area of secondary channels, backwaters	-5.2	-5.9	0.4	0.4	-83.1	-81.7	-76.8	-87.5	-76.8	-71.1	-62.4	-88.2	-73.2	-64.9

Exhibit 5.6: Biophysical Results for EF Site 3 (Downstream of Tailrace)

All figures are predicted percentage changes in population compared to the Present Day over 51-years.
Red: greater than 70% reduction from the Present Day, Orange: 40% to 70% reduction from the Present Day, and Green: increase over the Present Day

	Base BAU	Base LP	Base MP	Base HP	B3BAU	B3LP	B3MP	B1HP	B3HP	B4HP	B6HP	P1HP	P4HP	P6HP
Fish														
Alwan Snow Trout	-68.7	-54.0	20.7	42.1	-75.6	-64.9	-1.4	18.6	19.0	19.5	20.4	-73.0	-65.8	-62.1
Nalbant Loach	-56.8	-27.1	3.7	10.0	-55.6	-25.9	5.7	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	-31.7	-30.3	-29.6
Kashmir Hillstream Loach	-72.8	-55.0	1.7	11.0	-72.3	-54.4	2.5	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9	-51.8	-48.5	-47.0
Macroinvertebrates														
EPT abundance	-16.4	-7.8	-1.7	7.2	-14.5	-5.8	1.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	15.4	15.3	15.3
EPT diversity	-18.8	-5.5	-2.2	5.1	-17.7	-4.4	-1.1	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3
Marginal Vegetation														
Width of marginal zone	-4.7	-2.6	-0.8	-0.8	-1.4	-0.2	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	-1.5	-1.5	-1.5
Recruitment of marginal vegetation	-3.6	-1.6	10.6	19.2	-0.3	0.8	11.9	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	18.4	18.4	18.4
Algae														
% Filamentous taxa	22.4	11.5	5.9	-0.9	25.5	14.6	8.9	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1
Chl a biomass	18.4	8.6	1.6	-3.0	21.4	11.5	4.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
Water Quality														
Conductivity	6.4	5.0	2.3	1.1	1.9	0.5	-2.2	-3.4	-3.4	-3.4	-3.4	-3.4	-3.4	-3.4
Nutrient concentration (DRY Season)	99.5	38.9	15.6	-49.0	99.5	38.9	15.6	-49.0	-49.0	-49.0	-49.0	-48.8	-48.9	-49.1
Water temperature	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.7
Geomorphology														
Active channel width	12.2	6.1	-0.2	-0.2	2.4	-3.8	-10.1	-10.1	-10.1	-10.1	-10.1	2.7	2.6	2.5

	Base BAU	Base LP	Base MP	Base HP	B3BAU	B3LP	B3MP	B1HP	B3HP	B4HP	B6HP	P1HP	P4HP	P6HP
Exposed sand and gravel bars	-9.6	-4.2	1.9	0.8	-25.3	-19.9	-13.8	-14.9	-14.9	-14.9	-14.9	-14.8	-14.8	-14.8
Median bed sediment size (armouring)	-7.0	-6.1	0.2	1.6	5.7	6.6	12.8	14.3	14.3	14.3	14.3	38.5	38.4	38.4
Exposed cobble and boulder bars	-18.7	-10.3	0.4	0.4	-22.3	-13.9	-3.2	-3.2	-3.2	-3.2	-3.2	-3.1	-3.1	-3.2
Depth of pools	-4.3	-2.2	-0.2	-0.2	0.8	3.0	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	10.3	10.2	10.2
Area of secondary channels, backwaters	-3.9	-2.5	2.4	2.4	-13.2	-11.8	-6.9	-6.9	-6.9	-6.9	-6.9	10.2	10.0	9.9

Exhibit 5.7: Biophysical Results for EF Site 4 (Downstream of Balakot)

All figures are predicted percentage changes in population compared to the Present Day over a 51-year.
Red: greater than 70% reduction from the Present Day, Orange: 40% to 70% reduction from the Present Day, and Green: increase over the Present Day

	Base BAU	Base LP	Base MP	Base HP	B3 BAU	B3LP	B3MP	B1HP	B3HP	B4HP	B6HP	P1HP	P4HP	P6HP
Fish														
Alwan Snow Trout	-71.2	-51.6	22.8	42.3	-73.0	-54.4	17.7	36.9	37.0	37.1	37.3	-53.5	-46.7	-43.2
Nalbant Loach	-56.9	-27.3	3.5	9.9	-56.1	-26.3	5.2	11.7	11.7	11.7	11.7	-31.8	-30.3	-29.7
Kashmir Hillstream Loach	-73.9	-56.1	0.0	5.9	-73.3	-55.5	0.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	-58.4	-55.2	-53.6
Macroinvertebrates														
EPT abundance	-16.3	-7.8	-1.6	7.3	-14.8	-6.1	0.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	15.0	15.0	14.9
EPT diversity	-18.6	-5.5	-2.2	5.1	-17.9	-4.8	-1.4	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	6.0
Marginal Vegetation														
Width of marginal zone	-3.9	-2.0	-0.5	-0.5	-2.1	-0.6	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	-2.3	-2.2	-2.2
Recruitment of marginal vegetation	-2.9	-1.0	10.9	19.5	-1.1	0.4	11.7	20.3	20.3	20.3	20.3	17.6	17.7	17.7
Algae														
% Filamentous taxa	21.2	11.5	5.9	-1.0	23.1	13.5	7.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0

	Base BAU	Base LP	Base MP	Base HP	B3 BAU	B3L P	B3M P	B1H P	B3H P	B4H P	B6H P	P1HP	P4HP	P6HP
Chl a biomass	18.3	8.4	1.4	-3.1	20.2	10.3	3.4	-1.2	-1.2	-1.2	-1.2	-1.1	-1.1	-0.9
Water quality														
Conductivity	6.2	4.9	2.2	0.9	3.2	1.9	-0.8	-2.0	-2.0	-2.0	-2.0	-2.1	-2.1	-2.1
Nutrient concentration (Dry Season)	99.4	38.7	15.5	-49.1	99.4	38.7	15.5	-49.1	-49.1	-49.1	-49.1	-49.3	-49.4	-49.5
Water temperature	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0
Geomorphology														
Active channel width	10.1	3.9	-2.4	-2.4	4.5	-1.7	-8.0	-8.0	-8.0	-8.0	-8.0	4.7	4.6	4.6
Exposed sand and gravel bars	-11.1	-3.5	1.0	1.5	-22.9	-15.2	-10.8	-10.2	-10.2	-10.2	-10.2	-10.1	-10.1	-10.1
Median bed sediment size (armouring)	-6.9	-6.0	0.3	1.7	3.9	4.8	11.0	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	36.7	36.6	36.6
Exposed cobble and boulder bars	-18.5	-10.1	0.6	0.6	-21.2	-12.8	-2.1	-2.1	-2.1	-2.1	-2.1	-2.1	-2.2	-2.2
Depth of pools	-4.4	-2.2	-0.3	-0.3	-0.5	1.7	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	9.0	8.9	9.0
Area of secondary channels, backwaters	-7.1	-5.7	-0.8	-0.8	-13.4	-12.0	-7.1	-7.1	-7.1	-7.1	-7.1	-7.0	-7.0	-7.0

6 ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

62. This section presents Net Gain calculations that are used in the BAP to develop biodiversity offsets. It also presents an analysis of the impacts of varying management and operational options. A discussion on the impact on power generation and the overall change to the ecosystem integrity is also discussed.

6.1 Impact of Various Management and Operational Alternatives on Fish Abundance

63. The impacts on fish species will vary with their habitat requirements, migratory behavior, and current pressures on the ecosystem.

6.1.1 Impact of Increasing Protection Levels

64. **Exhibit 6.1** shows the impact of variations in protection levels on fish populations. For illustrative purposes, the impacts are shown for the segment downstream of the tailrace under baseload operation where variations in flow will be minimal, in comparison to the baseline. The barrier effect of the dam on the migratory fish, however, will apply. The following is a summary of observations.

- Under the Business as usual (BAU) Scenario, without the dam in place, the decline in fish populations will average 66% of present-day populations due to pressures related to unregulated fishing and sediment mining whereas the decline is predicted at 45% under the Moderate Protection (MP) baseline.
- After the Project is put in place with Moderate Protection (MP), fish populations will improve by an average of about 70% compared to the BAU baseline and 48% compared to the MP baseline. The increase is expected to be highest for the non-migratory Kashmir Hillstream Loach.
- With High Protection (HP), fish populations are predicted to improve by an average of 80% compared to the BAU Scenario. The increase is expected to be highest for the Alwan Snow Trout at close to an 88% increase over the baseline
- Increasing protection from Moderate Protection to High Protection results in an increase in population by an average of 12%, irrespective of the baseline scenario chosen for comparison.

Exhibit 6.1: Impact of Variation in Protection on Fish Population, Downstream of Tailrace (Baseload Generation with E-Flow of 3.5 m3/s)

Red: greater than 70% reduction from the Present Day, Orange: 40% to 70% reduction from the Present Day, and Green: increase over the Present Day

	Projected Change in Population					
	(% change from Present Day Populations)					
Fish	Baseline		With Project			
	BAU	LP	B3BAU	B3LP	B3MP	B3HP
Biophysical Results						
Alwan Snow Trout	-68.7	-54	-75.6	-64.9	-1.4	19.0
Nalbant Loach	-56.8	-27.1	-55.6	-25.9	5.7	12.0
Kashmir Hillstream Loach	-72.8	-55	-72.3	-54.4	2.5	11.9

	Projected Change in Population					
	(% change from Present Day Populations)					
Average	**-66.1**	**-45.4**	**-67.8**	**-48.4**	**2.3**	**14.3**
Incremental Gain compared to Business as Usual Baseline, %						
Alwan Snow Trout			-6.9	3.8	67.3	87.7
Nalbant Loach			1.2	30.9	62.5	68.8
Kashmir Hillstream Loach			0.5	18.4	75.3	84.7
Average			**-1.7**	**17.7**	**68.4**	**80.4**
Incremental Gain compared to Low Protection Baseline, %						
Alwan Snow Trout			-21.6	-10.9	52.6	73.0
Nalbant Loach			-28.5	1.2	32.8	39.1
Kashmir Hillstream Loach			-17.3	0.6	57.5	66.9
Average			**-22.5**	**-3.0**	**47.6**	**59.7**

6.1.2 Impact of Increasing E-Flow

65. **Exhibit 6.2** shows the impact of increasing E-Flow on fish species immediately Downstream of the Dam where the impact of lower releases from the dam will be significant. Given the high anthropogenic pressures on the fish, the benefit of E-Flow can be realized only if the river is protected. Under Business as Usual, the gains due to increasing E-Flow are close to 0%. For example, with an E-Flow of 3.5 m^3/s under BAU all fish indicators show a 100% decline (not shown below, see previous section for BAU results). Therefore, figures in **Exhibit 6.2** are presented for the High Protection scenario in other words, E-Flow releases can be considered of little consequence in the absence of protection of the river. The following is a summary of observations.

- The Kashmir Hillstream Loach is most affected by the lower flows in the reach downstream of the dam, and decline is predicted at over 90% for the range of E-Flows considered. Increasing E-Flow also benefits this fish the least.
- The Alwan Snow Trout benefits from the increased E-Flow, however, the impact of increasing E-Flow on the population of this fish is limited as they are overshadowed by the impact of the barrier to its migration created by the dam.
- The Nalbant's Loach is least affected by lower flows. However, increasing E-Flows benefits this fish the most, with loss in population declining by about 27% as E-Flow is increased from 1.5 to 6.1 m^3s/.

Exhibit 6.2: Impact of Variation in Flow on Fish Population, Downstream of Dam with High Protection

Red: greater than 70% reduction from the Present Day, Orange: 40% to 70% reduction from the Present Day, and Green: increase over the Present Day

Description	Change in Population, %				Incremental gain, % by increasing Environmental Flow		
Flow Scenario	*B1HP*	*B3HP*	*B4HP*	*B6HP*	*1.5 to 3.5 m^3/s*	*3.5 to 4.5 m^3/s*	*4.5 to 6.1 m^3/s*
E-Flow, m^3/s	1.5	3.5	4.5	6.1			
Alwan Snow Trout	-66.9	-64.8	-62.9	-58.8	2.1	1.9	4.1
Nalbant Loach	-74.7	-64	-58.8	-47.5	10.7	5.2	11.3
Kashmir Hillstream Loach	-97.9	-96	-94.6	-91.3	1.9	1.4	3.3

6.1.3 Impact of Baseload vs Peaking Generation

66. Shifting from peaking to baseload operation has a large positive effect on fish populations as shown in **Exhibit 6.3**. In the case of baseload operation, the hydrology of the river downstream of the tailrace largely remains close to natural. Comparison is provided for an E-Flow of 4.5 m^3/s for illustrative purposes. With High Protection, fish populations can be restored to above present-day levels.

Exhibit 6.3: Impact of Baseload vs. Peaking Operation on Fish Population, Downstream of Tailrace

Red: greater than 70% reduction from the Present Day, Orange: 40% to 70% reduction from the Present Day, and Green: increase over the Present Day

Fish	Change in Population, %		Incremental gain, %
Fish	*P4HP*	*B4HP*	*Peaking to baseload*
Alwan Snow Trout	-46.7	37.1	84
Nalbant Loach	-30.3	11.7	42
Kashmir Hillstream Loach	-55.2	6.8	62

6.2 Net Gain Calculations

67. Net gain was calculated based on the length of the reach represented by the E-Flow site multiplied by the predicted change in abundance at that particular E-Flow site. Distribution of fish populations between the main river and the tributaries was also taken into account, as both the main river and tributaries will benefit from protection (see **Exhibit 6.4**).

Exhibit 6.4: Current Distribution of Fish between River and Tributaries

Fish	Main River	Tributary
Alwan Snow Trout	70%	30%
Nalbant's Loach	30%	70%
Kashmir Hillstream Loach	100%	0%

68. As the hydrology of the tributaries will be unchanged, the tributaries will gain from protection only. The estimated impact of protection at EF Site 4 under baseload operation where flows remain unaffected was used as a proxy for the impact of protection in tributaries.

69. The segment of the river, upstream of the dam, will be impacted by peaking releases from the SKHPP before the construction of the Project, and fish populations will suffer a high loss in this reach of the river. Following the construction of the Project, the fish that are adapted to a flowing river will not be able to adjust to the non-flow reservoir conditions with a greater depth of water, and will practically be eliminated from the reservoir. Net Gain was therefore calculated for the reaches downstream of the dam represented by EF Sites 2, 3, and 4.

70. The predicted abundances were compared against baselines with two different levels of protection (Business as Usual Protection and Low Protection). These dynamic baselines represent the expected fish abundances in the absence of the Project. Lastly, Net Gain against the Present Day (i.e. static baseline) is also presented.

71. Predictions of the DRIFT model are subject to an uncertainty of the order of 15% above and below the predicted mean[11].

72. The resultant Net Gain under each scenario is summarized in **Exhibit 6.5** and detailed in **Exhibit 6.6**.

Exhibit 6.5: Summary of Net Gain Calculations for Selected Scenarios

Red: loss over baseline, White: 0% to 15% increase over baseline, Green: greater than 15% increase over baseline.

Operation	Baseload				Peaking		
Environmental Flow (m^3/s)	1.5	3.5	4.5	6.1	1.5	4.5	6.1
Scenario ID	B1HP	B3HP	B4HP	B6HP	P1HP	P4HP	P6HP
Against Business as Usual Baseline							
Alwan Snow Trout	78.3	78.9	79.5	80.7	32.0	35.8	38.0
Nalbant Loach	59.1	60.4	60.9	62.2	51.0	52.6	53.5
Kashmir Hillstream Loach	42.6	43.3	43.8	45.0	2.1	5.2	7.1
Against Low Protection Baseline							
Alwan Snow Trout	59.6	60.2	60.8	62.0	13.3	17.1	19.3
Nalbant Loach	29.1	30.3	30.9	32.2	20.9	22.6	23.5
Kashmir Hillstream Loach	23.5	24.2	24.8	26.0	-17.0	-13.9	-11.9
Against the Present Day							
Alwan Snow Trout	8.3	8.9	9.5	10.7	-38.0	-34.2	-32.0
Nalbant Loach	2.0	3.2	3.8	5.0	-6.2	-4.6	-3.6
Kashmir Hillstream Loach	-32.0	-31.2	-30.7	-29.5	-72.5	-69.4	-67.4

[11] Based on results from Kohala Hydropower Plant Environmental Flow Assessment, Technical Report. Southern Waters in Association with Hagler Bailly Pakistan, November 2016

Exhibit 6.6: Details of Net Gain Calculations

	Baselines		Project Operational Scenarios									
	Base BAU	**Base LP**	**B3BAU**	**B3LP**	**B3MP**	**B1HP**	**B3HP**	**B4HP**	**B6HP**	**P1HP**	**P4HP**	**P6HP**
Biophysical Results (Red: greater than 70% reduction from the Present Day, Orange: 40% to 70% reduction from the Present Day, and Green: increase over the Present Day)												
River Weighted Average Change in Abundance												
Alwan Snow Trout	-70.0	-51.4	-83.4	-72.7	-20.4	-4.2	-3.3	-2.5	-0.7	-70.3	-64.9	-61.8
Nalbant Loach	-57.2	-27.1	-72.5	-51.9	-23.1	-20.7	-16.7	-14.7	-10.5	-48.0	-42.5	-39.4
Kashmir Hillstream Loach	-74.5	-55.5	-83.2	-72.1	-36.1	-32.0	-31.2	-30.7	-29.5	-72.5	-69.4	-67.4
Tributary Average Change in Abundance												
Alwan Snow Trout	-70.0	-51.4	-71.2	-51.6	22.8	37.3	37.3	37.3	37.3	37.3	37.3	37.3
Nalbant Loach	-57.2	-27.1	-56.9	-27.3	3.5	11.7	11.7	11.7	11.7	11.7	11.7	11.7
Kashmir Hillstream Loach	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net Gain (Red: Net Loss, Black: Net Gain Between 0 and 15%, Green: Net Gain Greater than 15%)												
Against BAU Baseline												
Alwan Snow Trout			-9.8	3.6	62.5	78.3	78.9	79.5	80.7	32.0	35.8	38.0
Nalbant Loach			-4.4	22.5	52.7	59.1	60.4	60.9	62.2	51.0	52.6	53.5
Kashmir Hillstream Loach			-8.7	2.4	38.5	42.6	43.3	43.8	45.0	2.1	5.2	7.1
Against LP Baseline												
Alwan Snow Trout			-28.4	-15.0	43.9	59.6	60.2	60.8	62.0	13.3	17.1	19.3
Nalbant Loach			-34.5	-7.6	22.6	29.1	30.3	30.9	32.2	20.9	22.6	23.5

	Baselines		Project Operational Scenarios									
	Base BAU	**Base LP**	**B3BAU**	**B3LP**	**B3MP**	**B1HP**	**B3HP**	**B4HP**	**B6HP**	**P1HP**	**P4HP**	**P6HP**
Kashmir Hillstream Loach			-27.7	-16.6	19.4	23.5	24.2	24.8	26.0	-17.0	-13.9	-11.9
Against Present Day												
Alwan Snow Trout			-79.8	-66.4	-7.5	8.3	8.9	9.5	10.7	-38.0	-34.2	-32.0
Nalbant Loach			-61.6	-34.7	-4.5	2.0	3.2	3.8	5.0	-6.2	-4.6	-3.6
Kashmir Hillstream Loach			-83.2	-72.1	-36.1	-32.0	-31.2	-30.7	-29.5	-72.5	-69.4	-67.4

6.3 Impact on Power Generation

73. The following key assumptions are incorporated in the calculation of power loss under the different operational scenarios (see **Exhibit 6.7**).

- Impact on power generation was calculated based on the water diverted through the turbines and did not take into account the turbine efficiency at varying flows.
- The operating rules of the Project are detailed in **Appendix B**, for which the power generation is calculated.
- Baseline power generation (i.e. 0% power loss) is taken as the peaking scenario with an E-Flow of 1.5 m^3/s as designed.
- The Project is designed to produce 1,187 GWh per year in the baseline scenario (see point above) and the price of power is taken as 0.11 $.kWh. No premium is assigned to peaking power generation.
- Recovery from the E-Flow turbine is estimated at 20% of the main powerhouse turbine for the same flow of water through the turbine.

Exhibit 6.7: Power Loss under E-Flow Scenarios

Operation	E-Flow (m^3/s)	Scenario ID	Power Loss	Monetary Loss per year, USD Million
Peaking	1.5	P1	0.0%	-
	4.5	P4	2.1%	$2.78
	6.1	P6	3.5%	$4.59
Baseload	1.5	B1	0.2%	$0.31
	3.5	B3	2.5%	$3.28
	4.5	B4	3.8%	$4,94
	6.1	B6	5.7%	$7.42

7 CONCLUSIONS

74. Two operational scenarios are recommended for consideration by the stakeholders.

- Preferred Case: Baseload operation with an E-Flow of 1.5 m^3/s and High Protection (corresponding to scenario B1HP)
- Alternate Case: Peaking operation with an E-Flow of 6.1 m^3/s and High Protection (corresponding to scenario P6HP)

75. With a baseload operation, it will be possible to meet the requirement of Net Gain in the population of fish species that trigger Critical Habitat, with a margin for uncertainties in predictions of E-Flow modeling of the order of 15% above and below the predicted mean change in populations, and a more conservative baseline of LP level of protection against which Net Gain is calculated.

76. With a peaking operation and E-Flow release of 6.1 cumec, there will be a loss in power generation of the order of 3.5% compared to the loss under a baseload operation with an E-Flow release of 1.5 cumec. While the basic requirement of Net Gain will be met assuming a Business as Usual Baseline, there will be a limited margin for accommodating uncertainties in E-Flow modeling predictions. Net Gain requirement will not be met assuming a conservative baseline with a Low Protection level of protection. However, the net gain can be achieved through the implementation of protection activities not only in the Kunhar River but also in the contributing streams for a longer period, and through the involvement of the local communities.

77. A peaking operation will produce power to meet the demand on the national power grid during evening peak hours. Peaking power is presently priced at a premium of about 30% for high-end residential and commercial customers with three-phase connections. However, the power purchase tariff for the generation companies remains at a flat rate, and no premium for peaking power is available to the power producer. This, notwithstanding the power purchaser, Central Power Purchase Agency Guarantee Ltd. (CPPA-G), and system operator, National Power Control Centre (NPCC) of National Transmission and Dispatch Co. Ltd. (NTDCL) under the current framework of Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) retain the right to ask the hydropower producers to operate in peaking mode when technically feasible.

78. As both the Suki Kinari and Balakot HPPs plants have been designed to operate in peaking mode thus, the baseload operation scenario is no longer a viable option.

Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)

8 INTRODUCTION

79. Biological diversity, or biodiversity, is the variability among living organisms from all sources including terrestrial, marine, and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species, and of ecosystems (UN Convention on Biological Diversity, Article 2).[12] Biodiversity provides us with a host of raw materials, foods, and medicines and is the basis for the life support system of our planet by, for example, underpinning the continued availability of clean air and fresh water. Interwoven with these functional aspects are spiritual, cultural, and recreational elements. These elements are more difficult to value, but in many countries and cultures, they are considered to be at least as important as the more functional aspects of biodiversity.

80. Where biodiversity values of importance to conservation are associated with a project site or its area of influence, the preparation of a Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) and/or a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) provides a useful means to focus a project's mitigation and management strategy. The development of a BMP/BAP might be required under a company's biodiversity policy, or International Finance Institutions (IFI or "Lenders") might request a BMP/BAP to help demonstrate compliance with Lender standards. Other parties, such as government agencies, conservation organizations, or Affected Communities, might also be interested in the development of a BAP/BMP to address a specific topic of concern.[13]

8.1 Background and Rationale for Developing BAP

81. A Critical Habitat Assessment was carried out as part of the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) of the Balakot Hydropower Development Project. According to the International Finance Corporation's Performance Standard (IFC PS6)[14], it was determined that the Project is located in a Critical Habitat due to the presence of valued aquatic biological resources, including the restricted range of endemic fish species[15] Nalbant's Loach *Schistura Nalbanti* and Kashmir Hillstream Loach *Triplophysa kashmirensis*, and five other threatened fish species and all the threatened fish species will be affected by Project construction and operation (**Section 7.2** of EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project)[16].

82. In Critical Habitats, Net Gain is required for those values for which Critical Habitat has been designated under IFC PS6[17] which is defined as 'additional conservation outcomes that can be achieved for the biodiversity values for which the critical habitat was designated.' The PS further defines how the Net Gains can be achieved: 'Net Gains may be achieved through the development of a biodiversity offset and/or, in instances where the client could meet the

[12] The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), known informally as the Biodiversity Convention, is an international legally binding treaty. The Convention was opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro on 5 June 1992 and entered into force on 29 December 1993.

[13] Policy on Social and Environmental Sustainability, January 2012. Guidance Note 6: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources, International Finance Corporation. The World Bank Group.

[14] Policy on Social and Environmental Sustainability, January 2012. Performance Standard 6: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources, International Finance Corporation. The World Bank Group.

[15] Endemic refers to endemic to the Jhelum Basin

[16] Hagler Baily Pakistan, 2017, Environmental Impact Assessment of the Balakot Hydropower Development Project, Final Draft Report, Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO)

[17] Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources, Performance Standard 6, International Finance Corporation, 2012

requirements of paragraph 17 of this Performance Standard without a biodiversity offset, the client should achieve Net Gains through the implementation of programs that could be implemented in situ (on-the-ground) to enhance habitat, and protect and conserve biodiversity.'

83. This Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) has, therefore, been prepared to support the corporate commitments of the Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO) for conserving biodiversity as well as to meet the requirements of IFCs PS6 and ADB's Safeguard Policy Statement 2009 for the Balakot Hydropower Development Project.

84. The BAP includes a set of actions for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in a defined area where aquatic biodiversity will be directly impacted by the Project. Specific objectives of the BAP are to ensure that the Project:

- implements the mitigation and monitoring of biodiversity values as proposed in the EIA, and as refined and/or modified by the BAP itself;
- complies with national legislation and policy requirements;
- complies with lenders and other international requirements;
- addresses the concerns and expectations of the stakeholders; and
- implements best practices and sustainable solutions.

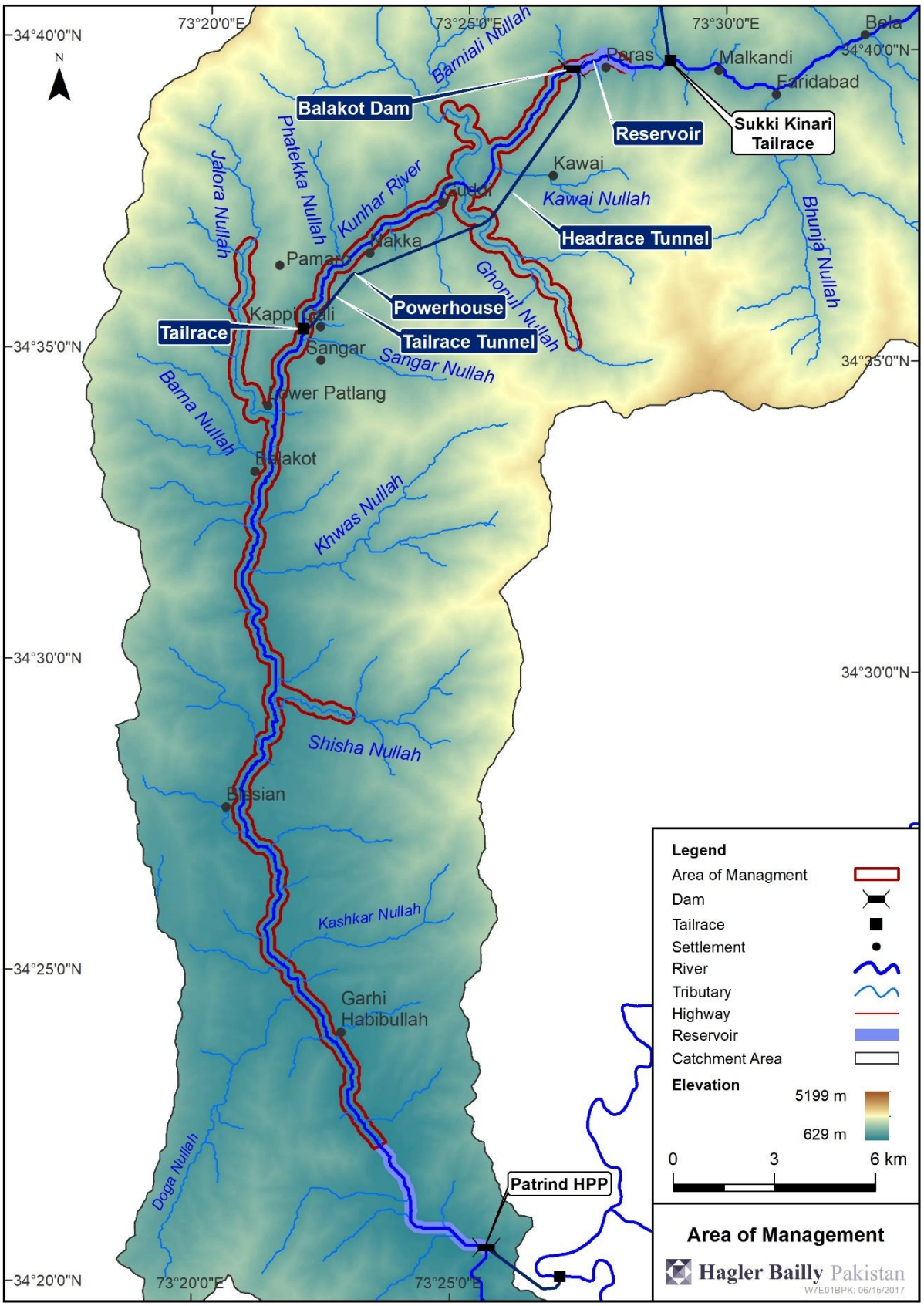
85. The BAP will become effective immediately following approval of the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and will remain in effect through the life of the Project, inclusive of construction and operation until the dam is decommissioned and removed. The biodiversity monitoring will also take place throughout the life of the Project, while the BAP is being implemented.

8.2 Geographic Scope of the Biodiversity Action Plan

86. An overview of the aquatic and terrestrial ecological resources in the Area of Management, including habitat assessment and Critical Habitat Assessment, is provided in **Section 11,** (*Biodiversity Values)* while **Section 12,** (*Impact of Project on Aquatic Biodiversity)* provides a summary of the impact of the proposed Project on the valued aquatic ecological resources in the Area of Management.

87. The selection of the geographic scope of the BAP has been defined to incorporate an area where biodiversity will be directly impacted by the Project. This area is defined as the Area of Management and includes an impact zone of about 45 km length of river. The Area of Management includes the reservoir of the Project, 4 km upstream of where the Project dam will be constructed and extends to 5 km upstream of the Patrind dam but excluding the reservoir of Patrind HPP. The Area of Management also includes segments of the Barniali, Ganhool, Jalora, Shisha, and other important perennial Nullahs. **Exhibit 8.1** illustrates a map showing the Area of Management.

Exhibit 8.1: Geographic Scope of the BAP (Area of Management)



8.3 Regional Overview

88. The Kunhar River originates from the glaciers above Lulusar Lake in the Kaghan Valley of KP. The glaciers of Malka Parbat and Makra Peak and the waters of Saiful Maluk Lake feed

the river. It passes through Jalkhand and meets the Jhelum River at Rarra. The drainage area of the river is 2,535 km^2, with elevation ranging from 600 to 5,000 m.[18] The Kunhar River is one of the biggest tributaries of the Jhelum River Basin and the only main tributary situated entirely in Pakistan's territory. Snowmelt from the Kunhar Basin contributes 65% of the total discharge of the Kunhar River and 20-40% of the Jhelum River at Mangla.[19] The hydrology of the Kunhar River is largely controlled by snowmelt from the Himalayan range in the spring and the southwest monsoon on the Indian subcontinent that brings heavy rains from June to September.[20]

89. The weather in the Area of Management can be categorized into four seasons.

- **Summer (mid-March to mid-June)** is characterized by high temperatures (daily maximum temperature between 19°C and 35°C and daily minimum between 8°C to 21°C) moderate rainfalls with moderate humidity and high-speed wind.
- **Summer monsoon (mid-June to mid-September)** which is characterized by high temperatures (daily maximum temperature between 30°C and 32°C while daily minimum temperature between 17°C and 21°C), significantly high rainfalls with high humidity, and moderate speed-winds.
- **The Post-Monsoon summer (mid-September to mid-November)** is characterized by moderate temperatures (Daily maximum temperature averages between 21°C and 27°C while the daily minimum temperature can be as low as 6°C), low rainfalls with moderate humidity and low-speed winds.
- **Winter (mid-November to mid-March)** has low temperatures (daily maximum temperature averages between 14°C and 16°C while daily minimum temperature averages between 2°C and 4°C), moderate rainfalls, with an increasing amount of rainfall at the end of the winter.

90. The Kunhar River has two temperature regimes. Upstream of Kaghan, the water is cooler with average summer temperatures of 8-10°C, whereas downstream of Kaghan, temperatures are higher and near 12-13°C. The Jhelum River at its confluence with the Kunhar has a temperature of 16-17°C and the cooler waters of the Kunhar have a moderating influence on the Jhelum.[21]

91. The mean annual precipitation in the Area of Management is reported as 1,671 mm. The precipitation is reported to range from 44.7 mm in November to 359 mm in July.[22] Approximately 45% of total rainfall occurs in monsoons with a maximum amount of rainfall observed in July (359 mm).

92. Several hydropower projects are either currently under construction or proposed within the Kunhar River basin (**Exhibit 12.1**). The Patrind Hydropower Project (HPP) located close

[18] Mahmood R, Jia S, Babel M. S., January 16, 2016, Potential Impacts of Climate Change on Water Resources in the Kunhar River Basin, *Water, Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute*, Basel, Switzerland

[19] Ibid

[20] Ibid

[21] Hagler Baily Pakistan, 2017, Environmental Impact Assessment of the Balakot Hydropower Development Project, Final Draft Report, Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO)

[22] Ibid

to the confluence of the Kunhar River with the Jhelum River is already constructed and operating. The Suki Kinari HPP located upstream of the Project is under construction. The Naran and Batakundi HPPs are presently in the planning stages. A Cumulative Impact Assessment of the Project (**Section 7.14 of Volume A**) was conducted to assess the combined impacts of these developments on the biodiversity of the Kunhar River.

8.4 Objectives and Scope of the BAP

93. This section describes the scope of the BAP and actions that will be taken to mitigate the negative impacts of Project operations on the aquatic biodiversity.

8.4.1 Actions to Mitigate the Impact of Changes in Flow Regime and Barrier related by the Dam

94. The BAP includes the following actions to mitigate the direct impact of changes in the flow regime and barrier created by the dam as identified in the EIA.

- Actions to protect fish species of conservation importance, and to achieve Net Gain for species that trigger the Critical Habitat and No Net Loss in biodiversity, where feasible, required in Natural Habitat
- Two operational scenarios are recommended for consideration by the stakeholders: a preferred case that includes a baseload operation with an E-Flow of 1.5 m^3/s and the alternate case for peaking operation with an E-Flow of 6.1 m^3/s (**Section 12**, Impact of Project on Aquatic Biodiversity).
- Implementation of High Protection (HP) to reduce pressures on the biodiversity of the Kunhar River and its tributaries, mainly unregulated fishing and sand mining (**Section 12**, Impact of Project on Aquatic Biodiversity).
- Barrier-related mitigation, i.e., physical transportation of migratory and non-migratory fish from downstream to upstream of the dam if needed to prevent genetic isolation in the long term.
- Experimental captive breeding of fish species of conservation importance on which the impacts of the Project are significant, and stocking in river reaches where populations need to be restored.
- Provide financial assistance to the Fisheries and Wildlife departments of the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for protection and conservation activities with emphasis on critically endangered species and their habitats.

8.4.2 Actions Arising out of Cumulative Impact Assessment

95. A Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) of existing and planned hydropower projects on the ecological resources and ecosystem services of the Kunhar River was undertaken for the EIA of the Balakot Hydropower Development Project **(Section 7.14)**. In addition, a Cumulative Impact Assessment of the hydropower projects on the Jhelum River was undertaken as part of the ESIA of the Kohala Hydropower Project[23]. This BAP, therefore

[23] Hagler Baily Pakistan, 2017, Environmental Impact Assessment of the Kohala Hydropower Project, Draft Report, Kohala Hydropower Company Ltd.

includes some basin-wide measures that are important for the protection of biodiversity in the long term. These include:

- actions to be taken collectively by the hydropower industry and the government to ensure the protection of aquatic biodiversity in the long term; and
- actions that the government can take to further enhance the status of biodiversity.

96. The following is a summary of these actions:

8.4.3 Establishment of an Institute for Research on River Ecology

97. The CIA recommends research and development for selection and installation of fish passages suited to local species, river conditions, and dam designs, captive breeding and re-stocking of fish of conservation importance that are impacted by hydropower projects, assessment of impacts on river biodiversity at sub-basin level, use of environmental flow models such as DRIFT to assess cumulative impacts of hydropower projects, and genetic studies to determine and mitigate risk of in-breeding caused by barriers created by dams. An Institute for Research on River Ecology (IRRE) has been proposed in the CIA prepared for the Karot HPP as a part of the project ESIA, which has been approved by the concerned EPA. The same approach has been incorporated into the BAP prepared for the Kohala HPP.[24] The IRRE is proposed as a basin-wide institution in which all the developers of HPPs in the basin contribute to the establishment and operation of the institute, and jointly benefit from the research outputs. The initiative is the outcome of the International Finance Corporation of the World Bank (IFC) initiative to set up a Hydropower Working Group for the basin, through which the project owners can cooperate and collaborate to collectively manage the basin sustainably. The proposed institute will help the project owners in maintaining ecological databases and research and analysis capabilities that will benefit them individually by lowering their environmental management costs. The role and contribution of PEDO in the establishment and operation of this institution are described in this BAP. PEDO will contribute to the establishment and operation of an Institute for Research on River Ecology (IRRE), subject to the approval of associated costs in the tariff by the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA).[25]

8.4.4 Establishment of Watershed Management Program

98. The Watershed Management Program (WMP) will primarily focus on the improvement of water quality in the Kunhar basin which is critical for the protection of biodiversity in the long term. The institutional and financial model for setting up watershed management institutions will be similar to that proposed for the Institute for Research on River Ecology. The support provided by PEDO and project owners in this case, however, will be limited, as additional support and resources will be mobilized from the participating government departments which will include forests, wildlife, agriculture, and irrigation. Action areas may include, but not be limited to, land use management and reforestation to reduce erosion and risk of landslides and to meet community needs for fuel wood and timber, management of water use, and control

[24] The Karot and Kohala HPPs are investments of the Chine Three Gorges South Asia Investments Ltd. (CSAIL) in which IFC holds and equity position. IFC is also a lender to the Karot HPP.

[25] This is the model for financing of biodiversity actions agreed upon by the Kohala Hydropower Company Ltd. (KHCL) with the GoJK. KHCL will shortly initiate discussions with NEPRA for formal approval of inclusion of all BAP related costs into the project costs for purposes of tariff calculation.

of water quality. As in the case of the IRRE, PEDO will contribute to the establishment and operation of a WMP subject to the approval of associated costs in the tariff by the NEPRA.

8.4.5 Actions and Measures that the Governments can take to Protect and Enhance the Biodiversity in the Kunhar Basin

99. Specific actions recommended by the CIA that will directly benefit the biodiversity in the area of impact of the Kunhar HPP and are in the purview of the government include the requirement for future projects in the basin to achieve Net Gain in the population of key fish species such as the endemic fish species[26] Nalbant's Loach *Schistura Nalbanti* and Kashmir Hillstream Loach *Triplophysa kashmirensis*. In addition to this, where technically and economically feasible, the CIA recommends the operation of other HPP projects such as the Patrind HPP at baseload (an additional Net Gain of about 10% in the population of key fish species can be achieved through this measure downstream of the tailrace of the powerhouse) to avoid the impact of a peaking operation on the river.[27]

1.1 OUTLINE OF BAP

100. The structure of this BAP is as follows:

Section 8 provides instruction to the BAP and its need for BHPP (300 MW).

Section 9 provides the legal, and regulatory requirements and obligations under international treaties

Section 10 provides a summary of the stakeholder consultations.

Section 11 provides an overview of the baseline status of the ecological resources and threats to them.

Section 12 provides a summary of the anticipated impacts of the Project on the aquatic ecological resources of conservation importance

Section 13 provides information about the proposed conservation measures.

Section 14 describes the institutional arrangements for the implementation of the BAP.

Section 15 provides the implementation plan.

Section 16 provides a framework for the monitoring and evaluation of key parameters.

Section 17 provides a budget for implementation of the proposed measures.

Section 18 provides the details of adaptive management that will be used.

[26] Endemic refers to endemic to the Jhelum Basin

[27] Peaking operation of a hydropower plant results in daily variations in flow downstream of the power houses in the low flow or winter season due to storage of water during the day and release for a limited period in the evening to meet the peak power demand. Such imposed variations in flow can be detrimental to the survival of aquatic life in the river.

9 REGULATORY AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

101. The Balakot Hydropower Development Project is located in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) where the Biodiversity Action Plan will be implemented. This section summarizes national and provincial regulatory requirements for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity applicable in the KP province. In addition, the institutional frameworks for the conservation of the ecological resources in the province are described. The international conventions and obligations related to biodiversity that Pakistan has ratified are also included.

9.1 National Regulatory Framework

102. The Pakistan Environmental Protection Act, of 1997 is the basic legislative tool empowering the government to frame regulations for the protection of the environment. The act applies to a broad range of issues and extends to air, water, soil, marine, and noise pollution, as well as to the handling of hazardous wastes. The Act's relevance to biodiversity conservation is primarily through its environmental assessment screening process for proposed projects which makes it mandatory to undertake the environmental assessment before initiation of developmental projects and address biodiversity conservation and protection-related issues. The national regulatory requirements relevant to biodiversity protection and enhancement are outlined below.

9.1.1 The National Biodiversity Action Plan, 2000

103. Pakistan is a signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity and is thereby obligated to develop a national strategy for the conservation of biodiversity. The Government of Pakistan constituted a Biodiversity Working Group, under the auspices of the Ministry of Environment, to develop a Biodiversity Action Plan for the country, which was completed after an extensive consultative exercise. The major aims of the Plan are to create a policy framework that fosters the sustainable use of biological resources; to strengthen and promote National Biodiversity Conservation Programs and develop international and regional cooperation; to create conditions and incentives for biodiversity conservation at the local community level; to strengthen and apply more broadly the tools and technologies for conserving biodiversity; and to strengthen human knowledge, will and capacity to conserve biodiversity.

9.1.2 National Environmental Policy, 2005

104. The National Environmental Policy was implemented in 2005 by the Ministry of Environment, Government of Pakistan. The basic goal of the Policy was to protect, conserve, and restore Pakistan's Environment to improve the quality of life of the citizens through sustainable development and to ensure effective implementation of the Biodiversity Action Plan. The policy covers all sectors and a wide range of means for promoting conservation and environmental protection in water, air and waste management, forestry, and transport. The policy aims to promote the protection of the environment, the honoring of international obligations, sustainable management of resources, and economic growth.

9.1.3 National Climate Change Policy, 2012

105. The National Climate Change Policy, approved by the Government in 2012 has the overall goal 'to ensure that climate change is mainstreamed in the economically and socially

vulnerable sectors of the economy and to steer Pakistan towards climate resilient development'. One of the major objectives of this policy is the conservation of natural resources and long-term sustainability further elaborated through specific measures under forestry, biodiversity, and other vulnerable ecosystems. Concerning forestry, the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) outlines the need to restore and enhance Pakistan's forest cover under sustainable forest management to 'withstand present and probable future impacts of climate change.' Biodiversity-related policy measures include setting national biodiversity indicators and provision of requisite financial resources for the implementation of the BAP (2000).

106. To support the Climate Change Policy, in 2013 the Government prepared a Framework for Implementation of the Climate Change Policy (2014-2030) which lists priority, short-term, medium-term, and long-term actions to be implemented in various sectors.

107. The National Climate Change policy was subsequently updated in 2021 to address the requirements of the Paris Agreement on climate change, Sustainable Development Goals, and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Hence, appropriate measures relating to disaster preparedness, capacity building, institutional strengthening; technology transfer, and international cooperation have also been incorporated as important components of the policy.

9.1.4 KP Climate Change Policy, 2022

108. The KP Climate Change Policy was prepared and approved in 2017. However, due to the revision of the National Climate Change Policy and the inclusion of newly merged districts (Ex FATA) into KP, the policy was revised and updated in 2022. The policy reflects the province's commitment to addressing climate change challenges and advancing sustainable development goals in line with national and international commitments. It serves as a framework for guiding climate action initiatives and promoting resilience-building measures to safeguard the well-being of communities and ecosystems in KP. The Climate Change policy is focused on:

- Mitigation- a process of reducing GHG emissions that contribute to Climate Change. It comprises measures for lowering GHG emissions and improving GHG sinks.
- Adaptation- a process, or combination of actions and measures, that reduces the susceptibility of natural and human systems to the impacts of Climate Change.

9.1.5 Draft National Forest Policy, 2015

109. The objective of the Forest Policy is to 'expand the national coverage of forests, protected areas, natural habitats, and green areas for restoration of ecological functions and maximize economic benefits while meeting Pakistan's obligations to international agreements related to forests.' This policy has recently been approved by the Council of Common Interests but has not yet been ratified by the Parliament.

9.2 Provincial Regulations and Requirements

110. The laws and regulations relevant to biodiversity in KP are summarized below.

9.2.1 The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Wildlife and Biodiversity (Protection, Preservation,

Conservation and Management) Act, 2015

111. This law was enacted to consolidate the laws relating to the protection, preservation, conservation, and management of wildlife in KP. It classifies wildlife by degree of protection, i.e., animals that may be hunted on a permit or special license, and species that are protected and cannot be hunted under any circumstances. The Act specifies restrictions on hunting and trade in animals, trophies, or meat. The Act also defines various categories of wildlife-protected areas, i.e., National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, and Game Reserves. Its objectives include the following:

a. "strengthening the administration of the organization to effectively manage wild animals and their habitats;
b. to holistically manage Protected Areas in a sustainable manner for the best interest of the Indigenous communities and local stakeholders;
c. securing appropriately the goods and services produced from wild animals and their habitats at the level of local communities;
d. fulfilling the obligations envisaged under the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements ratified by the Government of Pakistan;
e. promotion of public awareness and capacity building for proper appreciation of the environmental significance and socio-economic values of wildlife; and
f. conservation of biological diversity and realization of its intrinsic and extrinsic values through sustainable use and community participation."

112. Some parts of the Kunhar River are declared protected to stock fish for sports fishing. This is usually along a 10 km stretch of the river but the protected stretch may vary from year to year. There are also some protected terrestrial areas within the Mansehra District. The Project staff will have to ensure they do not violate the rules and regulations outlined in this Act.

9.2.2 Forest Ordinance, 2002

113. The Forest Ordinance, of 2002 was enacted to protect, conserve, manage, and sustainably develop forests and other renewable natural resources. The Ordinance authorizes provincial forest departments to establish forest reserves and protected forests. It prohibits any person from: setting fires in the forest; quarrying stone; removal of any forest produce; causing any damage to the forest by cutting trees or clearing areas for cultivation; or any other purpose without express permission of the relevant provincial forest department.

114. The Project area is not located in any forest reserve or protected forests established by the provincial forest department. However, it is important to ensure that Project-related activities do not encroach on these forests and that the Project staff do not engage in the collection or trade of forest produce.

9.2.3 Forest Development Corporation Ordinance, 1980

115. The Forest Development Corporation has been established under this ordinance. The corporation functions to "make suitable arrangements for the (i) economic and scientific exploitation of forests; (ii) sale of forest produce; (iii) establishment of primary wood-processing units; (iv) regeneration in areas to be specified by Government; and (v) performance of such other functions as may be assigned to it by Government."

116. Project staff should not violate this ordinance for example engage in the trade of forest products.

9.2.4 Forestry Commission Act, 1999

117. The Act aimed to establish a Forestry Commission to improve the protection, management sustainable development of forests in KP. Under this Act, the Commission was empowered and entrusted to further this aim by taking steps such as giving vision and a framework for the sustainable development of forests in KP, overseeing the process of institutional and legislative reforms in the Department, advocating policies for sustainable development of forests, etc. This Act is not likely to impact this Project directly. However, any initiatives undertaken by the Commission may be of interest to the Project for biodiversity management and mitigation.

9.2.5 Rivers Protection Ordinance, 2002

118. The ordinance was instated given the increasing developments along the rivers in KP to provide for the protection of aquatic ecology, water quality as well as economic and environmental value of the river and their tributaries in KP. The rules laid out in the ordinance relate mainly to encroachment onto the river and pollution of the river. It is important that Project-related activities do not pollute the river and that all construction activities along the river banks be carried out within the area designated for them.

9.2.6 Integrated Water Resources Management Board Ordinance, 2002

119. The Integrated Water Resources Management Board has been established to devise and oversee the implementation of an integrated water resources management strategy aimed at sustainable economic, social, and environmental returns on water resource development. Under the ordinance, a Board has been established, the functions of which include conducting studies to accurately assess the demands of water for consumptive or non-consumptive use including hydropower generation. The Ordinance also provides guidelines for fisheries, water-related sports, environmental sustainability, forestry, lakes, and water bodies. The Managing Director of PEDO is a member of the Board.

120. The Project will need to comply with the policies, rules, and procedures put in place by the Board about watershed management.

9.2.7 NWFP Fisheries Rules 1976

121. This law prohibits the destruction of fish by explosives, poisoning water, and the hunting of protected fish species. The law also forbids the use of net or fixed engine traps without a permit or license. The law grants power to the Director General (DG) of Fisheries to issue permits to catch fish. It protects fish against destruction of fish by explosives, and by poisoning water. This law applied to the Project as there was a possibility of catching fish as sustenance by the Project staff and also makes it obligatory to obtain a license from the fisheries department before commencing any fishing activities.

9.2.8 The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Fisheries and Aquaculture Act, 2022

122. The Act was promulgated for the protection, preservation, conservation, regulation, and management of fisheries biodiversity and aquaculture in the Province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. This Act also deals with the powers of the Director General and his/her authority

to delegate powers to other persons of the department and also deals with powers of other officers. Declaration of water bodies as sanctuaries, imposition of penalties against offenders, and taking necessary actions for the protection and conservation of aquatic lives are some of the main features of this Act.

9.2.9 Federal and Provincial Conservation Strategies

123. Pakistan National Conservation Strategy (PNCS) [28] was prepared jointly by the then-federal Ministry of Environment with assistance from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). It was approved by the federal cabinet in 1992 as the basic policy document on environmental sustainability. The PNCS was the first policy framework for biodiversity and conservation and as such had three objectives: (1) Conservation of natural resources; (2) Sustainable development; (c) Improved efficiency in the use and management of resources. Of these, 'biodiversity conservation' was one of the fourteen program areas for priority work action, and the NCS had a central influence in mainstreaming environmental and sustainability dimensions in other policies, plans, and strategies.

124. The Sarhad Provincial Conservation Strategy (SPCS) [29] was prepared by the Government of KP with assistance from IUCN. It was approved by the provincial cabinet in 1996 and was considered a sustainable development action plan for the KP.

125. Both these documents are no longer used for planning purposes and as such are obsolete as a policy document. However, they can be used where relevant as a guideline.

9.3 Obligations under International Treaties

126. Pakistan is a party to several conventions about biodiversity, including the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention) and the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

127. The CBD defines biodiversity as "the variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine, and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species, and of ecosystems". As a signatory country, Pakistan has a responsibility to:

- safeguard its biodiversity;
- introduce procedures requiring environmental impact assessment (EIA) for projects likely to have significant impacts on biological diversity; and
- introduce legislative provisions that ensure environmental policies and procedures are duly taken into account.

128. A list of international conventions that focus on biodiversity issues is given in **Exhibit 9.1**. With shared goals of conservation and sustainable use of biological resources, the biodiversity-related conventions work to implement actions at the national, regional, and international levels. In meeting their objectives, the conventions have developed several

[28] The Pakistan National Conservation Strategy, 1992.

[29] The Sarhad Provincial Conservation Strategy, 1996, Government of North West Frontier Province in collaboration with IUCN–The World Conservation Union.

complementary approaches (site, species, genetic resources, and/or ecosystem-based) and operational tools (e.g., programs of work, trade permits and certificates, a multilateral system for access and benefit-sharing, regional agreements, site listings, funds).

Exhibit 9.1: International Agreements on Biodiversity and Status of Entry into Force

Convention	Date of Treaty	Entry into Force in Pakistan
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	1993	26 Jul 1994
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)	1975	19 Jul 1976
Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS)	1979	01 Dec 1987
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	2004	02 Sep 2003
Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat	1971	23 Nov 1976
Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (WHC)	1972	08 Dec 2011

9.3.1 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Rio De Janeiro, 1993

129. Convention on Biological Diversity, known informally as the Biodiversity Convention covers ecosystems, species, and genetic resources and also the field of biotechnology. The Convention was opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro on 5 June 1992 and entered into force on 29 December 1993.

130. The Convention has three main goals.

- Conservation of biological diversity.
- Sustainable use of its components.
- Fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources.

131. The objective of the convention is to conserve biological diversity, promote the sustainable use of its components, and encourage equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. Such equitable sharing includes appropriate access to genetic resources, as well as appropriate transfer of technology, taking into account existing rights over such resources and such technology. In other words, its objective is to develop national strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

9.3.2 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Washington, 1975

132. The convention aims to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. It protects certain endangered species from over-exploitation using a system of import/export permits. Through its three appendices, the Convention accords varying degrees of protection to more than 30,000 plant and animal species.

9.3.3 Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), Bonn, 1979

133. The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals also known as the Bonn Convention aims to conserve terrestrial, marine, and avian migratory species

throughout their range. Parties to the CMS work together to conserve migratory species and their habitats by providing strict protection for the most endangered migratory species, by concluding regional multilateral agreements for the conservation and management of specific species or categories of species, and by undertaking cooperative research and conservation activities.

9.3.4 International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, 2004

134. The objectives of the treaty are the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of their use, in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity, for sustainable agriculture and food security. The treaty covers all plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, while its Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing covers a specific list of 64 crops and forages. The treaty also includes provisions on Farmers' Rights.

9.3.5 Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, Ramsar, 1971

135. Popularly known as the Ramsar Convention, provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. The convention covers all aspects of wetland conservation and wise use, recognizing wetlands as ecosystems that are extremely important for biodiversity conservation in general and for the well-being of human communities.

9.4 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

136. At the Millennium Summit in September 2000, several nations, including Pakistan adopted the UN Millennium Declaration, committing their nations to a new global partnership to reduce extreme poverty and setting out a series of time-bound targets. The eight Millennium Development Goals were set to expire by the end of 2015, and therefore the Heads of States met at the United Nations on September 25^{th,} 2015, and adopted a new set of sustainable development agenda (SDG) goals to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity by 2030. The 17 SDGs have specific targets to achieve over 15 years period 2016 -2030. The following two goals deal specifically with conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in water and on land.

- SDG 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development.
- SDG 15. Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss.

9.5 ADB's Safeguard Policy Statement 2009

137. Built upon the three previous safeguard policies the Involuntary Resettlement Policy (1995), the Policy on Indigenous Peoples (1998), and the Environment Policy (2002), the Safeguard Policy Statement was approved in 2009. The safeguard policies are operational policies that seek to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse environmental and social impacts including protecting the rights of those likely to be affected or marginalized by the developmental process.

138. According to Section 8, Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management of ADB's Safeguard Policy Statement 2009, "the borrower/client will assess the significance of project impacts and risks on biodiversity and natural resources as an integral part of the environmental assessment process. The assessment will focus on the major threats to biodiversity, which include the destruction of habitat and the introduction of invasive alien species, and on the use of natural resources in an unsustainable manner. The borrower/client will need to identify measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate potentially adverse impacts and risks and, as a last resort, propose compensatory measures, such as biodiversity offsets, to achieve no net loss or a net gain for the affected biodiversity."

139. Critical Habitat is defined by ADB's SPS 2009 as follows: Critical habitat is a subset of both natural and modified habitat that deserves particular attention. Critical habitat includes areas with high biodiversity value, including habitat required for the survival of critically endangered or endangered species; areas having special significance for endemic or restricted-range species; sites that are critical for the survival of migratory species; areas supporting globally significant concentrations or numbers of individuals of congregation species; areas with unique assemblages of species or that are associated with key evolutionary processes or provide key ecosystem services; and areas having biodiversity of significant social, economic, or cultural importance to local communities. Critical habitats include those areas either legally protected or officially proposed for protection, such as areas that meet the criteria of the World Conservation Union classification, the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization's world natural heritage sites.

140. No project activity will be implemented in areas of critical habitat unless the following requirements are met.

- There are no measurable adverse impacts, or likelihood of such, on the critical habitat which could impair its high biodiversity value or the ability to function;
- The project is not anticipated to lead to a reduction in the population of any recognized endangered or critically endangered species or a loss in the area of the habitat concerned such that the persistence of a viable and representative host ecosystem be compromised; and
- Any lesser impacts are mitigated by paragraph 27, "Mitigation measures will be designed to achieve at least no net loss of biodiversity. They may include a combination of actions, such as post-project restoration of habitats, the offset of losses through the creation or effective conservation of ecologically comparable areas that are managed for biodiversity while respecting the ongoing use of such biodiversity by indigenous peoples or traditional communities, and compensation to direct users of biodiversity."

141. When the project involves activities in a critical habitat, the borrower/client will retain qualified and experienced external experts to assist in conducting the assessment.

142. ADB's safeguard policy framework consists of three operational policies on the environment, indigenous peoples, and involuntary resettlement. A brief detail of all three operational policies has been mentioned below:

143. ***Environmental Safeguard:*** This safeguard is meant to ensure the environmental soundness and sustainability of projects and to support the integration of environmental considerations into the project decision-making process.

144. ***Involuntary Resettlement Safeguard:*** This safeguard has been placed to avoid involuntary resettlement whenever possible; to minimize involuntary resettlement by exploring project and design alternatives; to enhance, or at least restore, the livelihoods of all displaced persons in real terms relative to pre-project levels; and to improve the standards of living of the displaced poor and other vulnerable groups.

145. ***Indigenous Peoples Safeguard:*** This safeguard looks at designing and implementing projects in a way that fosters full respect for Indigenous Peoples' identity, dignity, human rights, livelihood systems, and cultural uniqueness as defined by the Indigenous Peoples themselves so that they receive culturally appropriate social and economic benefits; do not suffer adverse impacts as a result of projects; and participate actively in projects that affect them.

146. ***Information, Consultation, and Disclosure:*** Consultation and participation are essential in achieving the safeguard policy objectives. This implies that there is a need for prior and informed consultation with affected persons and communities in the context of safeguard planning and for continued consultation during project implementation to identify and help address safeguard issues that may arise. The consultation process begins early in the project preparation stage and is carried out on an ongoing basis throughout the project cycle. It provides timely disclosure of relevant and adequate information that is understandable and readily accessible to affected people and is undertaken in an atmosphere free of intimidation or coercion. In addition, it is gender inclusive and responsive and tailored to the needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and enables the incorporation of all relevant views of affected people and other stakeholders into decision-making.

9.6 IFC's Requirements

147. This section summarizes the IFC's requirements and standards that the client is to meet throughout the life of an investment by IFC or other relevant financial institutions. The IFC, established in 1956, is known as the private sector arm of the World Bank Group. IFC's Environment and Social (E&S) requirements for projects are established in IFC's Policy on Environmental and Social Sustainability and embodied within the eight Performance Standards (PS) of 2012.

148. International Finance Corporation applies the Performance Standards to manage social and environmental risks and impacts and to enhance development opportunities in its private sector financing in its member countries eligible for financing. Together, these Performance Standards establish standards that the client is required to meet throughout life by IFC or other relevant financial institutions.

- **Performance Standard 1:** Social and Environmental Assessment and Management System
- **Performance Standard 2:** Labor and Working Conditions
- **Performance Standard 3:** Pollution Prevention and Abatement
- **Performance Standard 4:** Community Health, Safety and Security

- **Performance Standard 5:** Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement
- **Performance Standard 6:** Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management
- **Performance Standard 7:** Indigenous Peoples
- **Performance Standard 8:** Cultural Heritage

149. Even though the Project has not been financed by the IFC, these standards are internationally accepted and recognized to manage social and environmental risks and impacts.

150. The PS relevant to the Biodiversity Action Plan is PS 6, Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources. The PS 6 aims at protecting and conserving biodiversity, the variety of life in all its forms, including genetic, species, and ecosystem diversity, and its ability to change and evolve, which is fundamental to sustainable development. This PS addresses how clients can avoid or mitigate threats to biodiversity arising from their operations as well as incorporate sustainable management of renewable natural resources.

151. Critical Habitat is designated by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) Performance Standards 6[30] and is described as having a high biodiversity value, as defined by:

- habitat of significant importance to Critically Endangered and/or Endangered species;
- habitat of significant importance to endemic and/or restricted-range species;
- habitat supporting globally significant concentrations of migratory species and/or congregatory species;
- highly threatened and/or unique ecosystems; and/or
- areas associated with key evolutionary processes.

152. The determination of critical habitat however is not necessarily limited to these criteria. Other recognized high biodiversity values might also support a critical habitat designation, and the appropriateness of this decision will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Examples are as follows.

- Areas required for the reintroduction of CR and EN species and refuge sites for these species (habitat used during periods of stress (e.g., flood, drought, or fire)).
- Ecosystems of known special significance to EN or CR species for climate adaptation purposes.
- Concentrations of Vulnerable (VU) species in cases where there is uncertainty regarding the listing, and the actual status of the species may be EN or CR.

[30] Policy on Social and Environmental Sustainability, January 2012. Performance Standard 6: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources, International Finance Corporation. The World Bank Group.

- Areas of primary/old-growth/pristine forests and/or other areas with especially high levels of species diversity.
- Landscape and ecological processes (e.g., water catchments, areas critical to erosion control, disturbance regimes (e.g., fire, flood)) required for maintaining critical habitat.
- Habitat necessary for the survival of keystone species.
- Areas of high scientific value such as those containing concentrations of species new and/or little known to science.

153. In areas of critical habitat, the client will not implement any project activities unless all of the following are demonstrated.

- No other viable alternatives within the region exist for the development of the project on modified or natural habitats that are not critical.
- The project does not lead to measurable adverse impacts on those biodiversity values for which the critical habitat was designated, and on the ecological processes supporting those biodiversity values.
- The project does not lead to a net reduction in the global and/or national/regional population of any Critically Endangered or Endangered species over a reasonable period; and
- A robust, appropriately designed, and long-term biodiversity monitoring and evaluation program is integrated into the client's management program.

154. In such cases where a client can meet the requirements defined in the paragraph, the project's mitigation strategy will be described in a Biodiversity Action Plan and will be designed to achieve net gains of those biodiversity values for which the critical habitat was designated. In instances where biodiversity offsets are proposed as part of the mitigation strategy, the client must demonstrate through an assessment that the project's significant residual impacts on biodiversity will be adequately mitigated to meet the requirements outlined above.

9.7 Requirements under the EIA

155. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) conducted by Hagler Bailly Pakistan, provided a detailed account of the biodiversity of the Project area and the possible impacts of the Project on it. The EIA followed the guidelines provided by IFC Performance Standards and highlighted compliance with the following parameters.

- National Biodiversity Action Plan (national BAP) developed in 2000, is a de facto biodiversity policy instrument for the country. It takes care of the required components of the CBD convention;
- IFC PS6 requires that a conservation value is allocated to the ecological features (protected areas, habitats, and species) that are likely to be directly or indirectly impacted by the Project. Under the aforementioned IFC PS6, a project is required to assess the significance of project impacts on all levels of biodiversity as an integral part of the social and environmental assessment process and take into account differing values attached to biodiversity by specific stakeholders. It also

reinforces to assess major threats to biodiversity, especially habitat destruction and invasive alien species.

9.8 Institutional Framework and Responsibilities

156. The natural resources within KP are the responsibility of specific government departments such as wildlife and fisheries departments and forestry departments. Together these form the instructional framework for the governance and regulation of natural biological resources. The relevant departments in KP, their roles, and their relevance to protecting biodiversity are described in this sub-section.

9.8.1 Wildlife Department, KP

157. The Forestry, Environment, and Wildlife Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (referred to as the Wildlife Department, KP) is headed by the Chief Conservator of Wildlife, KP. The Department enforces the provisions of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Wildlife and Biodiversity Act, 2015 to meet its objectives which include strengthening the administration of the organization to effectively manage wild animals and their habitats, to fulfill the obligations of the government under its commitments to managing biodiversity, and promote public awareness for the value of wildlife and conservation. All wildlife is under the jurisdiction of this department.

158. While the protection of fish is under the mandate of the Fisheries Department (see **Section 9.8.2**), legally, all other aquatic wildlife including macro-invertebrates, periphyton, and aquatic habitats fall under the mandate of the Wildlife Department. The Wildlife Department therefore needs to be informed of Project-related impacts on wildlife and they need to agree to related mitigation measures.

9.8.2 Fisheries Department, KP

159. The Fisheries Department, Govt. of KP falls under the Agriculture, Livestock and Cooperatives Department of the province. It is headed by the Director General of Fisheries and represented by the Deputy Director of Fisheries in each district. It has the authority to enforce the laws and regulations provided in the Fisheries Rules, 1976. This includes regulation of fishing methods using permits and licenses, the species that can be caught, and associated penalties for violation of regulations about wild fish.

160. All wild fish fauna are under the jurisdiction of the Fisheries Department; therefore, they need to be informed about any impacts on fish fauna and related mitigation measures need to be agreed with them.

9.8.3 Forest Department

161. The Forest Department KP is headed by the Chief Conservator of Forest with a Divisional Forest Officer in each district. Since its inception, Forest Department has been working for the development and promotion of forestry, soil conservation works, watershed management, wildlife conservation, and sericulture/moriculture.

162. The Forest Department enforces provisions of the Forest Ordinance, 2002 to meet its objectives which include the protection, conservation, management, and sustainable development of forests by engaging the community and defining the role of the government. All forest areas including reserved forests, village forests, protected forests, guzara forests, and wastelands, and produce from forests, are under the jurisdiction of this department. They

need to be informed about impacts on forests and they need to agree with related mitigation measures.

10 STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS

163. Successful implementation of the proposed Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) requires a management strategy centered on effectively understanding the stakeholders and their concerns.

164. As part of the EIA process, consultations were undertaken with communities and institutions that may be interested in the proposed project or may be affected by it. **Section 6** of the EIA of the Balakot Hydropower Development Project documents the consultation process undertaken in two phases and the stakeholders' issues and concerns. The Background Information Document shared with the stakeholders is included in **Appendix A**. The Consultation Logs are included in **Appendix B**.

165. This section provides an overview of the biodiversity-related concerns and suggestions of the institutional stakeholders as well as the relevant NGOs working in the area that have been instrumental in defining the scope and contents of the BAP.

10.1 Objective of Consultations

166. Stakeholders are groups or individuals that can affect or take effect from a project's outcome. SPS 2009[31] and IFC Performance Standards[32] specifically identifies affected people, concerned nongovernment organizations (NGOs), and the government as prospective stakeholders in a project. Public consultation is also mandated under Pakistan's environmental law (Pakistan Environmental Protection Act 1997) as part of the EIA requirements.

167. Stakeholder consultation is a means of involving those affected due to an activity in the decision-making process, to ensure that their concerns are addressed at the design stage. These consultations, if conducted in a participatory and objective manner, are a means of enhancing sustainability and ensuring environmental compliance.

168. The objectives of the consultations held for the BAP of the Project were as follows.

- Provide information to the stakeholders regarding the Project and the anticipated impacts of the Project on the biological resources of the Kunhar River basin.
- Document the concerns of the stakeholders regarding the impact of Project construction and operation on the biological resources of the Kunhar River.
- Gather data and information regarding the dependence of the local communities on these biological resources.
- Ensure involvement of the stakeholders in Project planning, EIA processes, and development of the Biodiversity Action Plan.
- Seek input from the stakeholders and biodiversity experts on the contents of the Biodiversity Action Plan, its implementation mechanism, implementing partners, and monitoring framework.

[31] Safeguard Policy Statement, Asian Development Bank, June 2009

[32] IFC Performance Standards, International Finance Corporation, January 2012

10.2 Summary of Consultations

169. The consultation for the Project was undertaken in compliance with relevant national legislation set by the Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency, IFC Performance Standards on social and environmental sustainability, and the environmental and social safeguards laid out under ADB's safeguard policy (SPS 2009). The details are provided in **Section 6** of the EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project.

170. This section provides a summary of the concerns relevant to biodiversity, ecology, and the Biodiversity Action Plan raised during the institutional consultations. These included consultations carried out in April, May, and June 2017 and June -July 2018, and during the years 2022 to 2024, with government organizations, NGOs, and private sector organizations. Concerns raised by the communities are outlined in **Appendix O;** the Stakeholder Engagement Plan of the EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project has been taken into consideration for the development of the BAP.

10.2.1 Phase 1 Consultation

171. Following is the synopsis of the consultation meetings held with the government departments during April and June 2017.

10.2.1.1 Government Institutions

10.2.1.1.1 Wildlife Department, Govt. of KP

172. **Violations***:* Wildlife violations including those which affect the aquatic habitat are being handled by the Wildlife Department. This should be taken into consideration during the BAP design.

173. **Reservoir**: The reservoir is a concern. This is mainly due to the inundation of vegetation and loss of habitat. Due to the reservoir, a wetland will be established which will change bird fauna. There will also be changes to flora and fauna in the riparian zone.

174. **Lack of data**: There is limited data on wildlife especially on key species, such as the Common Leopard and The Indian Palm Civet. There is a focus on game species but a lack of data on those species that are not game animals. The department lacks the resources to go into extensive details of wildlife management and research.

175. **Infrastructure development**: The development of infrastructure will affect the fragile ecosystem.

176. **Species of importance**: This is a very important area for Chakhor and Khaleej Pheasant. The population of the Khaleej Pheasant is of particular concern. Passerine birds are important as well.

177. **Non-Project related pressures**: These include habitat loss and fragmentation due to the expansion of settlements, and the human-wildlife conflict especially for the Common Leopard and the Black Bear. After the earthquake, people moved to lower-elevation areas allowing more space for wild animals. As a result, the animal populations have increased and hence they extend their ranges and come into conflict with people.

178. **Lack of staff**: There is a lack of staff which results in very few watchers.

179. **Lack of awareness**: There is a lack of awareness amongst locals regarding the importance of wildlife, as well as the economic benefits and sustainable use of wildlife.

180. **The need for surveys**: There is a lack of data on wildlife. Detailed wildlife surveys should be carried out to assess the baseline conditions at the proposed project location. The Wildlife Department should be included in these surveys.

181. **Staff capacity building**: There is a need to build the capacity of the staff of the Wildlife Department.

182. **Closure of areas:** There are forested areas that are closed off to all activity. This is to facilitate regeneration. 120 such areas have been established in Kaghan Valley, with each ranging from 40 ha to 100 ha. However, the proposed Project does not lie in these forests.

10.2.1.1.2 Fisheries Department, Govt. of KP

183. **Disturbance**: The ecosystem already developed will be disturbed due to the Project's construction and operation.

184. **Spawning grounds**: The spawning grounds of fish will be affected due to changes in flows particularly for the endemic fish. Spawning grounds of the Alwan Snow Trout are a concern.

185. **Fishing licensing**: Fish licenses are provided for fishing in this area. Changes in fish fauna will affect fishing in the area.

186. **Flushing**: This is a concern that the flushing of the dam will affect the fish fauna of the reservoir. However, since flushing is normally done in the flooding season the impact may be somewhat less pronounced.

187. **Fish Ladder**: A fish ladder may not be a feasible option for this project. Strong fish may be able to move over the ladder but the weaker ones will not. There is usually an estimated success rate of 25-30% of the fish making it over.

188. **Pressures:** Pressures, other than those associated with the Project, include fishing, and human population growth which has increased pollution and effluent discharge into the river. The pH of water in some areas has increased as a result of this, making it unsuitable for fish. The fishing pressure in the Kunhar River has increased substantially. Earlier, hundreds of people came to fish, and now thousands show up. This is partly due to better access as a result of road extension. Fish distribution has changed in some sections of the river due to pollution. The Brown Trout is an example, which shows prominent coloration in areas near Jalkhad where the water is less polluted compared to Balakot, where this species shows a less prominent coloration. However, there are differences in the food chain as well, so pollution may not be the only cause.

189. **Climate change**: Abrupt temperature changes affect the ecosystem. Climate change may exacerbate the impacts caused by the Project construction and operation.

190. **Lack of research**: There has been no research on the effects of pollution on fish fauna. Mutations may be a concern although such abnormalities have not been observed. The growth of fish has not changed.

191. **Minimum flow**: The flow from the Project needs to be maintained as per the agreement.

192. **Reservoir**: The 2.8 km stretch of the reservoir should be used for stocking fish and angling but invasive species should be avoided.

193. **Hatcheries**: An alternative to protection and preservation is the use of hatcheries. These should be supported. The Alwan Snow Trout has been bred successfully in other countries and a hatchery exists in Swat.

194. **Monitoring:** Weekly pH monitoring of river water is recommended.

10.2.1.1.3 Forest Department, Govt. of KP

195. **Relocation of people**: People will be relocated as a result of the Project and are likely to want to move to lower elevations. From the perspective of the Department, this is positive as it leaves more forested areas untouched at higher elevations.

196. **Existing disturbance**: The habitat in the Project vicinity is already fragmented due to human activity. The locals have modified the forest area and there is a high level of disturbance.

197. **Project footprint**: The forested area in the Project footprint is not of concern because Project-related activities will not result in the degradation of large forested areas.

198. **Reserve forests**: The project is not located in a reserve forest. There are some reserve forests at a distance from the Project infrastructure but these will not be impacted by the Project.

199. **Replantation**: Compensatory replantation should be done for any loss of trees due to Project-related activities. The Department can carry out these activities on behalf of PEDO.

10.2.1.1.4 Environmental Protection Agency, Govt. of KP

200. **Sewage:** Sewage dumping in the river is an existing issue. But with the influx of more Project staff, this will be worsened.

201. **Tree cutting**: Cutting of trees for road construction is a concern. Deforestation of thick forests will occur.

202. **Environmental Flows**: It is important to maintain minimum Environmental Flows from the Project.

203. **Fish ladders:** Fish ladders may be used to conserve the fish.

204. **Submergence of areas**: There will be submergence of certain areas and this is a concern.

205. Terrestrial **ecology impacts**: A colony will be created for workers and labor which could have adverse impacts on terrestrial habitats.

10.2.1.1.5 Kaghan Development Authority

206. **Tourism:** The area in which the Project infrastructure is located falls within the jurisdiction of the Kaghan Development Authority. The Project's impacts on the natural scenic beauty of the area are of concern as changes may impact tourism.

207. **Development of Project facilities**: Economic and commercial activity is likely to increase as a result of Project construction and operation. The ensuing increase in pollution is a cause for concern.

208. **Sharing of information**: Progress on the development of the Project should be shared with the Kaghan Development Authority regularly.

209. **Capacity building:** The Project should contribute to the Kaghan Development Authority to promote capacity building and support the effective working of the organization.

10.2.1.2 Non-Government Organizations

10.2.1.2.1 Himalayan Wildlife Foundation (HWF)

210. Fish **species of conservation importance**: It is important to conserve the fish species of conservation importance in the Kunhar River.

211. **Support**: HWF will be happy to provide advice and support for the protection of biodiversity.

10.2.1.2.2 World Wildlife Fund, Pakistan

212. **Construction phase disturbances**: Road construction for the Project will result in the loss of forests including reserve forests. These forests are Himalayan moist temperate forests and highly sensitive areas for wildlife.

213. **Project location**: The Project is located in the vicinity of Protected Areas. Here floral and faunal diversity is important because there is an overlap between moist temperate and dry temperate forests. Animals will be displaced because of the Project. Areas of importance around the Project include Kaghan, Paras, Siri Pai, Allai, and Kawai.

214. **Terrestrial species of conservation importance**: This is a very critical area for wildlife. Just above Paras is a very sensitive habitat. In particular, there is a very large population of the Himalayan Grey Langur. Black Bear is found here and signs of Brown Bear have also been observed. There are 7-8 important bird species including the Western Tragopan, the Long-tailed Tip, the Khaleej Pheasant, Koklass Pheasant. Vulture species are also found here including the Griffon Vulture. This is also part of the range of the Common Leopard, Ibex, Muntjak Deer, and Grey Goral. Focused studies are recommended especially on Taxus species, Western Tragopan, and Musk Deer.

215. **Seasonal risks**: There is altitudinal migration here. Species come down to the vicinity of the Project area and may be at risk.

216. **Slow development of Himalayan Ecosystems**: Himalayan Ecosystems develop over a long period. The impacts of this Project will be short-term but will damage the ecosystems.

217. **Pollution**: Air and dust pollution are a concern for wildlife.

218. **Timing of construction**: The winter season is better than the summer season for construction because in winter there is less breeding.

219. **Exploitation of flora**: Strict controls on flora and fauna exploitation by Project workers are required, particularly plant species.

220. **Hunting:** Strict guidelines should be given to Project staff on avoiding hunting.

221. **Forest conservation**: Forest restoration and conservation is important. This will also help in preventing landslides. The protection of upstream forests is important. Taxus species should not be removed.

222. **Watershed Management Programs:** It is recommended that investments be made in Watershed Management Programs. A close eye should be kept on water quality.

10.2.1.3 Private Sector

10.2.1.3.1 Star Hydro Power Limited (SHPL)

223. **Operational impacts**: The most important concern is the modification to environmental flows that will result due to the Project operations.

224. **Sediment flushing**: Sedimentation and flushing of sediments, including timing and quantity, is a concern.

225. **Impacts on ecology**: There are concerns about the presence of fish species of conservation importance and impacts on river ecology.

10.2.1.3.2 International Finance Corporation

226. **Impact assessment**: There must be a robust impact assessment that covers the potential impacts of the project on not only the Kunhar River but also the Jhelum River downstream of the confluence of the two rivers. This should address the potential impacts of peaking flows and sediment discharges.

227. **Peaking alternatives**: The alternatives analysis in the EIA should cover different approaches to peaking flows, ranging from run-of-river to two- or four-hour daily peaking discharges. We also recommend that seasonal limitations on peaking be considered as well. IFC encourages developers to consult with relevant authorities to discuss the possibility that Balakot could be operated as a run-of-river project without peaking discharges during the entire year or key biodiversity periods of the year.

228. **Cumulative impact analysis on fish of importance:** There is a need for cumulative impact analysis that considers the cumulative impacts of overall hydropower development in the basin on endemic and endangered aquatic species that are of conservation concern. This would include impacts in the lower Jhelum River as well as in the Kunhar River.

229. **Integrated approach**: There is a need to develop a framework for an integrated fish monitoring plan, biodiversity management, and sand and gravel mining management that will require joint implementation by key stakeholders.

10.2.1.4 Addressing Stakeholder Concerns

230. The following issues related to biodiversity have been addressed in the EIA.

- Environmental flow assessment including impacts of environmental flow on aquatic biodiversity.
- Long-term impacts of the project on the community.
- Impacts on terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity.

- eutrophication effects of reservoir.

231. The following aspects of biodiversity management stated, as important by the stakeholders, and relevant in the Area of Management of the BAP have been addressed in this BAP.

- Environmental flow management.
- Protection of aquatic biodiversity with special attention to the endemic or restricted fish species.
- Capacity building and awareness raising.
- Financing of BAP.
- Monitoring of impacts of the Project on biodiversity.

232. The following aspects of biodiversity management fall outside the scope of the BAP as they include projects and areas located outside of the Area of Management of the BAP (**Section 8.3**, *Geographic Scope of the Biodiversity Action Plan*).

- Cumulative impacts of hydropower projects in the basin (**Section 7.14** of the EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project).
- Basin Level Biodiversity Plan including landscape level strategy and response.
- Master Plan for water bodies given multiple projects.
- Strengthening of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Wildlife and Biodiversity Board.

10.2.2 Phase 2 Consultation

233. Following are the key findings of the consultation meetings held with the government departments, private organizations, and proponents of the projects identified for financing of the BAP. As stated above, these meetings were held from February 2022 to December 2024.

A. Basin-wide BAP

i. Although, participants of the consultation meetings had awareness of the project-specific BAP interventions in the Area of Management, however, no such awareness was witnessed in the context of the Basin-wide BAP.

ii. As apprised by the meeting participants, there exists provision of the Basin-wide BAP in some of the projects like Kohala, Azad Pattan, Karot HPPs, etc. however, so far, no step has been taken by any of the project proponents towards process initiation, mainly due to uncertainty of cost compensation.

iii. Also, there are operational projects in the Jhelum Basin where no BAP obligations exist. Neelum Jhelum and Patrind HPPs are the two projects in the instant case.

iv. Though, with the active support of the Wildlife and Fisheries Department, Govt. of AJ&K, the project-specific BAP interventions in the Area of Management are currently being undertaken in Gulpur and Karot HPPs, still, the Basin-wide BAP felt to be quite new for participants of the consultation meetings.

v. In spite of the fact that the Basin-wide BAP arrangement and its objectives were openly appreciated by most of the participants, however, due to uncertainty of cost

compensation, lack of commitment and enthusiasm felt when it comes to the monetary contributions by the stakeholders

vi. Apparently, unless IRRE and WMO establishment and associated recurring costs compensation are not guaranteed in the COD tariff, monetary contributions by the Jhelum Basin hydropower developers appear obscure.

B. Project Specific BAP

234. Following is the synopsis of the consultation meetings held on the project-specific BAP.

i. Under the provisions of the "Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Fisheries and Aquaculture Act, 2022" and the "Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Biodiversity (Protection, Preservation, Conservation, and Management) Act 2015, protection of aquatic and wildlife is the mandate of the respective departments, refraining them to extend such mandate to an independent organization or whosoever aimed for protection of aquatic fauna and wildlife.

ii. Active and decades-long presence of both the departments in the area with the commendable knowledge of habitat, and strong linkages with the society are some of the advantages to replace the role of implementation organization as envisaged in the original BAP.

iii. Long-term sustainable protection activities in the post-project construction period, to ensure continued net gains, was yet another justification provided in support of the proposed changes.

iv. Capacity building of the departments through successful interventions will provide them opportunities to extend and establish linkages with international donor agencies, financing conservation and habitat protection activities.

v. Due to legal constraints, the Fisheries and Wildlife departments of the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa recommended that the role of the implementation organization be eliminated from the BAP institutional arrangement.

vi. KP Biodiversity and Wildlife Board, being a high forum chaired by the Chief Minister of KP, shall have no role in the implementation of BAP interventions at the field level.

vii. Membership of the project-specific BAP Management Committee should be reduced whereas the committee should be chaired by the Director General Fisheries of KP province.

11 BIODIVERSITY VALUES

235. The biological resources within the area around the Project have been divided into aquatic and terrestrial resources to establish baselines and document threats to them. The baseline status of the biological resources draws on:

- Hagler Bailly Pakistan, June 2019, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Report of the 300 MW Balakot Hydropower Development Project for the Asian Development Bank (ADB); and
- Hagler Bailly Pakistan, September 2016, Biodiversity Strategy for Jhelum-Poonch River Basin – Preparatory Phase, Fish Surveys in Tributaries, for the International Finance Corporation.

11.1 Aquatic Biodiversity

236. As described in **Section 4.2** (*Ecological Baseline*) of the EIA of Project[33], the main aspects of the aquatic biodiversity in the Area of Management include the fish fauna, macro-invertebrates, and riparian vegetation. This section describes the aquatic fauna in the area.

237. The long-distance migratory species Alwan Snow Trout *Schizothorax richardsonii,* Himalayan Catfish *Glyptosternum reticulatum,* and Kashmir Hillstream Loach *Triplopysa Kashmirensis* have widely distributed species and are found in the Kunhar River upstream and downstream of the proposed Project. The species Nalbant's Loach *Schistura nalbanti*, Stone Barb *Schistura alepidota*, Arif's Loach *Shistura arifi,* and Flat Head Catfish *Glyptothorax pectinopterus* are mainly found in Kunhar River and tributaries downstream of the proposed Project dam but they are also recorded from few places upstream. The species, Kunar Snow Trout *Schizothorax labiatus,* is found in the Kunhar River downstream of the proposed dam site. They tend to migrate in summer towards the upper parts of the river. Two introduced species Brown Trout *Salmo trutta fario* and Rainbow Trout *Oncorhynchus mykiss* are found exclusively upstream of the proposed dam. These two are cold water species and of high food value. There is an extensive raceway[34] culture of Rainbow Trout in the areas upstream and downstream of the proposed dam. Alwan Snow Trout (both upstream and downstream of the dam) and Kunar Snow Trout (mostly downstream of the dam) are two other species of food value. They are not cultured but are captured from the river.

238. A total of ten species have been reported from the Kunhar River based on the surveys carried out in February 2017 and May 2017 conducted as part of the EIA of Project as well as the July 2016 surveys conducted as a part of Jhelum-Poonch Biodiversity Strategy – Preparatory Phase,[35] and advice from Dr. Muhammad Rafique, a fish expert with the Pakistan Museum of Natural History (PMNH). Out of these, one species is a long-distance migratory species and two are endemic to the Jhelum Basin. The complete list of fish species, which were reported from the Kunhar River is given in **Exhibit 11.1**, along with information on their IUCN Red List Status, endemism, and migratory behavior.

[33] Hagler Baily Pakistan, 2019, Environmental Impact Assessment of the Balakot Hydropower Development Project, Draft Report, Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO)

[34] Raceway is based on the continuous water flowing through the culture tanks

Exhibit 11.1: List of Species Reported from the Kunhar River (2016-17 Survey)

S/No	Scientific Name	Common Name	IUCN Status	Endemic	Migratory
1.	*Glyptosternum reticulatum*	Himalayan Catfish	Not Assessed		
2.	*Glyptothorax pectinopterus*	Flat Head Catfish	Not Assessed		
3.	*Salmo trutta fario*	Brown Trout	Not Assessed		
4.	*Oncorhynchus mykiss*	Rainbow Trout	Not Assessed		
5.	*Schistura alepidota*	Stone Barb	Not Assessed		
6.	*Schistura arifi*	Arif's Loach	Not Assessed		
7.	*Schistura nalbanti*	Nalbant's Loach	Not Assessed	✓	
8.	*Schizothorax labiatus*	Kunar Snow Trout	Not Assessed		
9.	*Schizothorax richardsonii*	Alwan Snow Trout	**Vulnerable**		✓
10.	*Triplophysa kashmirensis*	Kashmir Hillstream Loach	Not Assessed	✓	

Note: All species, except the Kunar Snow Trout were observed during the surveys (July 2016, February 2017, and May 2017). In the opinion of Dr Muhammad Rafique, a fish expert with the Pakistan Museum of Natural History (PMNH), the Kunar Snow Trout is also present in the Kunhar River.

239. The fish species of special concern recorded during the May 2024 survey are given in the **Exhibit 11.2** while their details have been given in Volume D of the EIA report.

Exhibit 11.2: Species of Special Concern in the Study Area (May 2024 Survey)

S/No	Zoological Name	Common Name	Family	Concern
1	*Paraschistura alepidota*	Stone loach / Stone barb	Nemacheilidae	Threatened (VU)
2	*Paraschistura punjabensis*	Nalbant's loach	Nemacheilidae	Threatened (VU)
3	*Triplophysa kashmirensis*	Kashmir Hillstream Loach	Nemacheilidae	Threatened (CR)
4	*Paraschistura naseeri*	Naseeri loach	Nemacheilidae	Threatened (EN)
5	*Schistura macrolepis*	Singhat	Nemacheilidae	Threatened (EN)
6	*Schizothorax richardsonii*	Alwan Snow Trout	Cyprinidae	Threatened (VU)
7	*Schizothorax esocinus*	Chirruh Snow trout	Cyprinidae	Threatened (VU)
8	*Salmo trutta fario*	Brown trout	Salmonidae	Problem Species

11.1.1 Fish Diversity in the Area of Management

240. The species reported from the Area of Management of the BAP are the ones listed in **Exhibit 11.3**.

241. Most of the fish fauna was observed either in the tributaries or at the confluence of the main river with the tributaries. The tributaries and confluences are considered sites of key intrinsic ecological value with unusual physical characteristics that support an increased

diversity of organisms compared to the mainstream of many rivers.[36] The physical heterogeneity resulting from the interaction of tributaries and main channels has implications for the ecology of river systems because increased habitat heterogeneity leads to an increase in fish biodiversity.[37] Tributary confluence points are often associated with increased productivity due to the supply of nutrients, drift, and detritus from the tributary. The tributaries also increase energy subsidies in the form of organic matter and nutrients increasing taxonomic diversity and productivity of aquatic systems.[38]

[36] Rice, S. P., Kiffney, P., Greene, C. and Pess, G. R. (2008). The ecological importance of tributaries and confluences. In: River Confluences, Tributaries and the Fluvial Network. (eds. Rice, S. P., Roy, A. G. and Rhoads, B. L.), pp. 209-242. John Wiley and Sons.

[37] Downes, B. J., Lake, P. S., Schreiber, A. G. and Glaister, A. (1998). Habitat structure and regulation of local species diversity in a stony upland stream. Ecological Monographs 68, 237-257.

[38] Rice, S. P., Greenwood, M. T. and Joyce, C. B. (2001). Tributaries, sediment sources and the longitudinal organisation of macroinvertebrate fauna along river systems. Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Science 58, 824-840.

Exhibit 11.3: List of Species of Conservation Importance

S/No	Scientific Name	Common Name	IUCN Status	Endemic/ Restricted Range	* Locations where it was captured in the Area of Management (Exhibit 8.1)	Distribution for Endemic/Restricted Range Species	Percentage out of global population in Aquatic Study Area (%)	Migratory	Commercial Importance
1.	*Schistura nalbanti*	Nalbant's Loach	Not Assessed	✓	1. Kunhar River near Sangar 2. Jalora Nullah 3. Barna Nullah 4. Shisha Nullah near Confluence	Widespread but restricted to Jhelum Basin i.e. Downstream areas of Kunhar and Neelum rivers and the whole stretch of Jhelum and Poonch rivers	10-15%		Low
2.	*Triplophysa kashmirensis*	Kashmir Hillstream Loach	Not Assessed	✓	1. Kunhar River near the Confluence of Shisha Nullah	Widespread but restricted to Jhelum Basin i.e. Downstream areas of Kunhar River, throughout Neelum River, and upstream stretch of Jhelum River	25-30%		Low
3.	*Schizothorax richardsonii*	Alwan Snow Trout	Vulnerable		1. Upstream Paras Town 2. Kunhar River near 3. Kunhar River near Sangar 4. Kunhar River near the Confluence of Shisha Nullah 5. Bhonja Nullah Near Bhonja 6. Barniali Nullah near the Confluence of Kunhar River 7. Jalora Nullah 8. Barna Nullah 9. Shisha Nullah near Confluence		<1%	✓	High

Source: Hagler Bailly Pakistan, June 2019, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Report of the 300 MW Balakot Hydropower Development Project for the Asian Development Bank (ADB)

* Detailed Sampling Locations where range-restricted species were captured in the Aquatic Study Area are given in **Section 4.2.5** of the **EIA** of Balakot Hydropower Development Project.

11.1.2 Fish Migration and Movement Patterns in Kunhar River

242. During the low flow season (December and January), the main water channel contracts, but the flow in the river remains swift due to the steep river gradient. Thus the oxygen concentration is high in winter and hence is not a limiting factor. However, the combination of low water temperature and the fast current make the river almost unfit for the survival of most of the fish species. This forces them to migrate and the species adopt different modes of migration to cope with the severe winters in the mountainous areas.

243. Three types of migration take place at the onset of the winter season, longitudinal, lateral, and local migration. Longitudinal migration is long-distance migration, shown by fish that have strong pectoral fins and streamlined bodies such as Alwan Snow Trout *Schizothorax richardsonii* and Kunar Snow Trout *Schizothorax labiatus*. To avoid the extreme cold conditions, the Alwan Snow Trout migrate downstream in different parts of Kunhar River, side nullahs (tributaries) which are comparatively warm, and also take refuge in crevices and trenches in the slow-moving areas of the river.

244. Lateral and local migration is demonstrated by fish that have no strong pectoral fins and their bodies are also not streamlined enough to cope with the flow of the river. Thus the species of the genera *Schistura* and *Triplophysa* show lateral migration as they move from the main river channel and nullah to side streams having comparatively higher temperatures and slower water currents. They also occupy the crevices, boulder areas, and trenches along the river bed. The species *Glyptosternum reticulatum* shows local short migration and moves to more suitable habitats occurring within the main river channel. These fish have adhesive apparatus in their thoracic region, which helps them to cling to the rock crevices and underneath large boulders where the water current is correspondingly lower.

245. During February – March, when the temperature of the Kunhar River starts to rise (7 °C – 9 °C), fish that have moved to side streams (lateral migration) return to the main river channel. The sub-mountainous fish fauna, which have a moderate temperature tolerance, now start their upstream migration which is of variable distances depending on their temperature preference.

246. During May and June, the variations that occur in water temperature become of primary importance in determining fish distribution within the Kunhar River. The water temperature rises to 13-15°C. With the rise in temperature in June, the river upstream and downstream of Balakot is inhabited by Kashmir Hillstream Loach, which together with Alwan Snow Trout becomes the most common species of the river during this season. This situation remains persistent during summer up to the advent of monsoon. With the onset of cold weather, the cool water fish fauna gradually starts to migrate downstream to spend winter in suitable areas where they can find warm water habitats. However, some fish that are trapped in warmer side pools fed by springs and side streams/nullahs cannot migrate downstream and instead overwinter in these areas.

247. The fish species Brown Trout and Rainbow Trout (cold water species), which inhabit the upper reaches of the river most of the year, also start downstream migration at the end of November and the start of December. The temperature at the upper reaches drops to 4-5°C and during this season these species can be found up to Balakot. They spend winter in these

areas and then they start upstream migration during early springs when the temperature is 7-8°C in the main river.

11.1.3 Fish Species Recommended for Consideration in the BAP

248. **Exhibit 11.3**. lists of species of conservation importance based on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, as well as endemic and migratory species expected or reported in the Area of Management. Information about their commercial importance is also provided in this exhibit.

249. The distribution of the three species of conservation importance is shown in **Exhibit 11.4, Exhibit 11.5** and **Exhibit 11.6**. Of the species, two are recommended for consideration in the BAP. These include the endemic or restricted range and threatened species; Nalbant's Loach and Kashmir Hillstream Loach, for which the Kunhar River provides Critical Habitat. More information on the Critical Habitat Assessment carried out for these species is provided in **Section 11.1.9** (*Habitat Assessment)*.

Exhibit 11.4: Distribution of the Nalbant's Loach

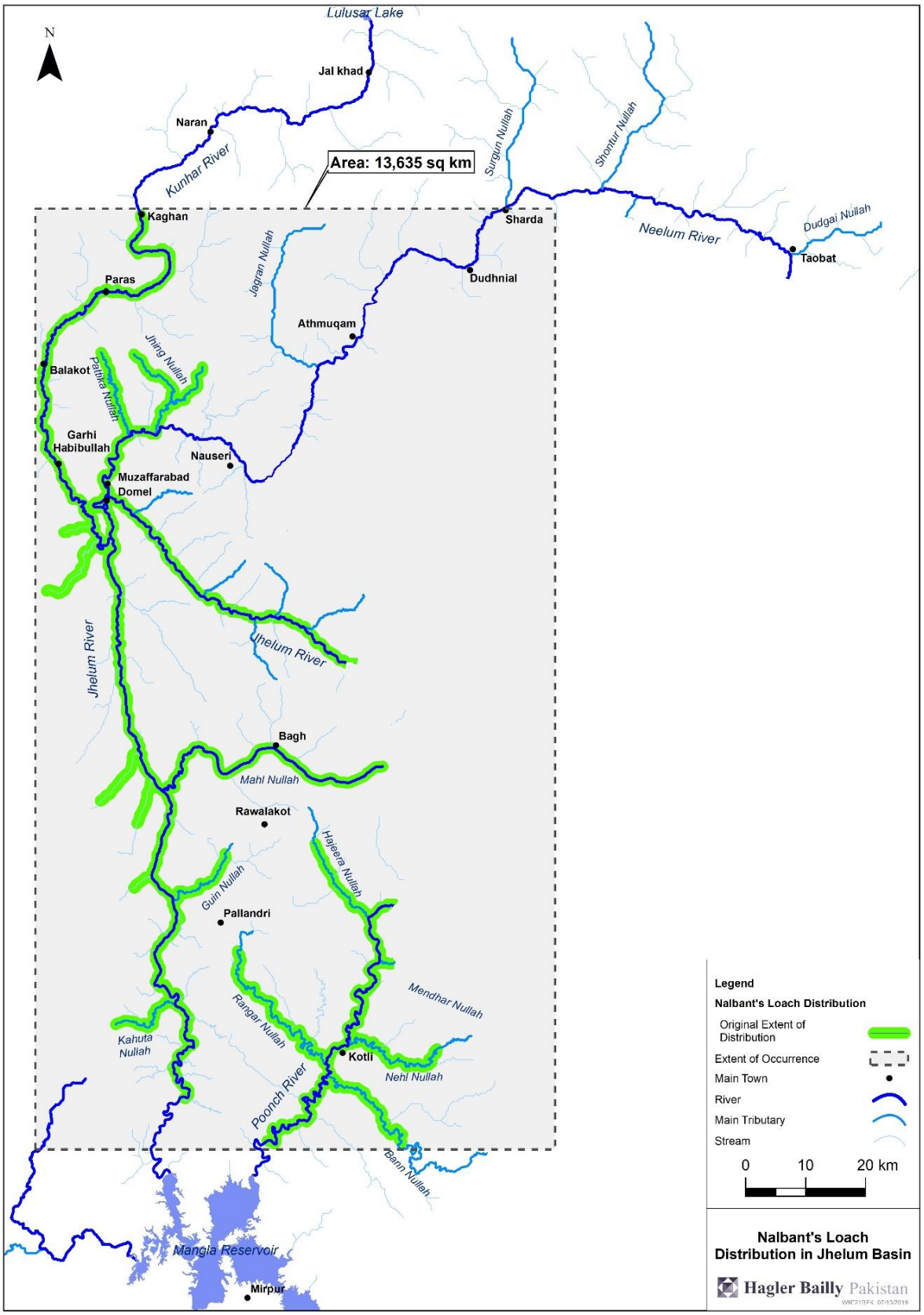


Exhibit 11.5: Distribution of the Kashmir Hillstream Loach

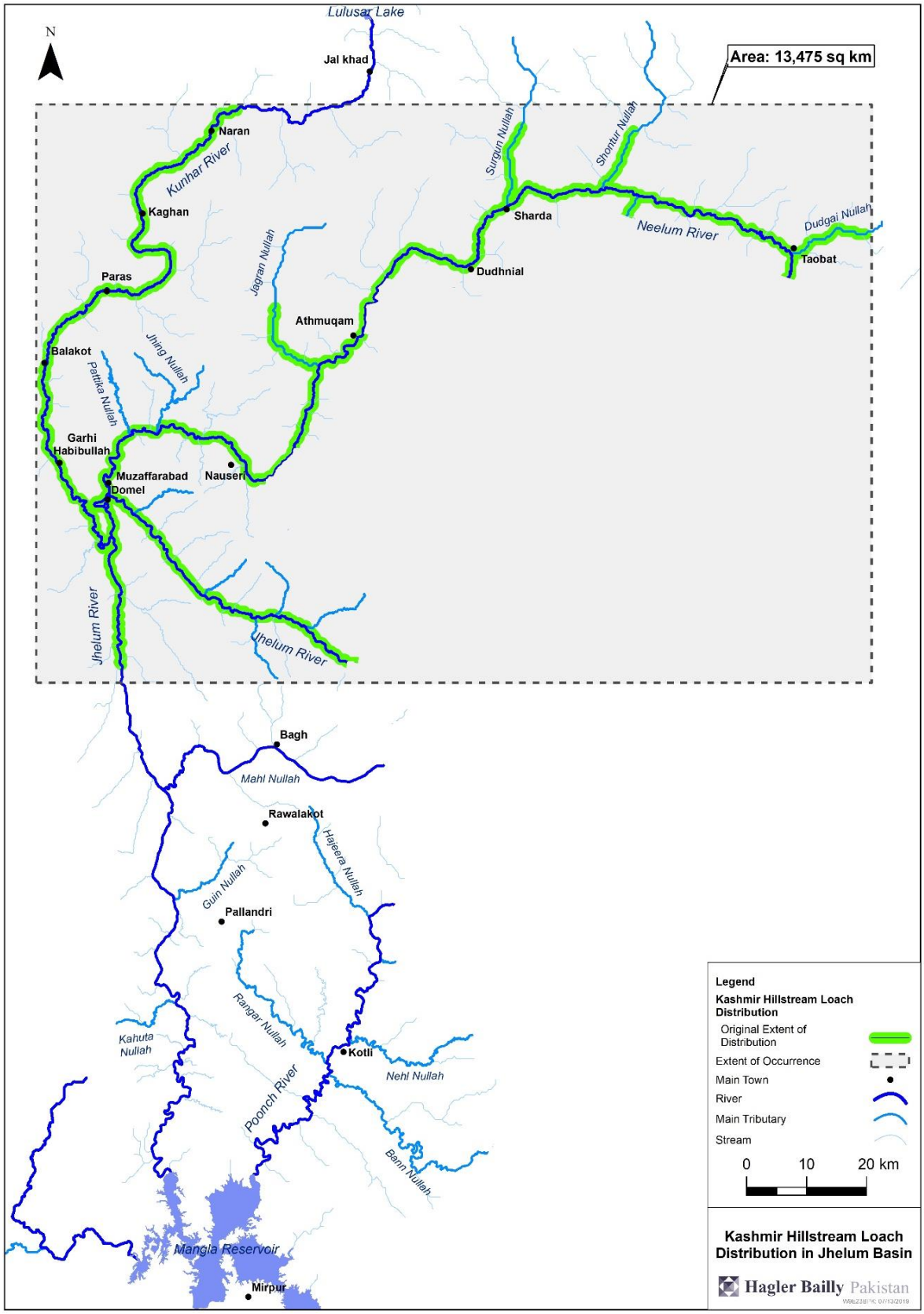
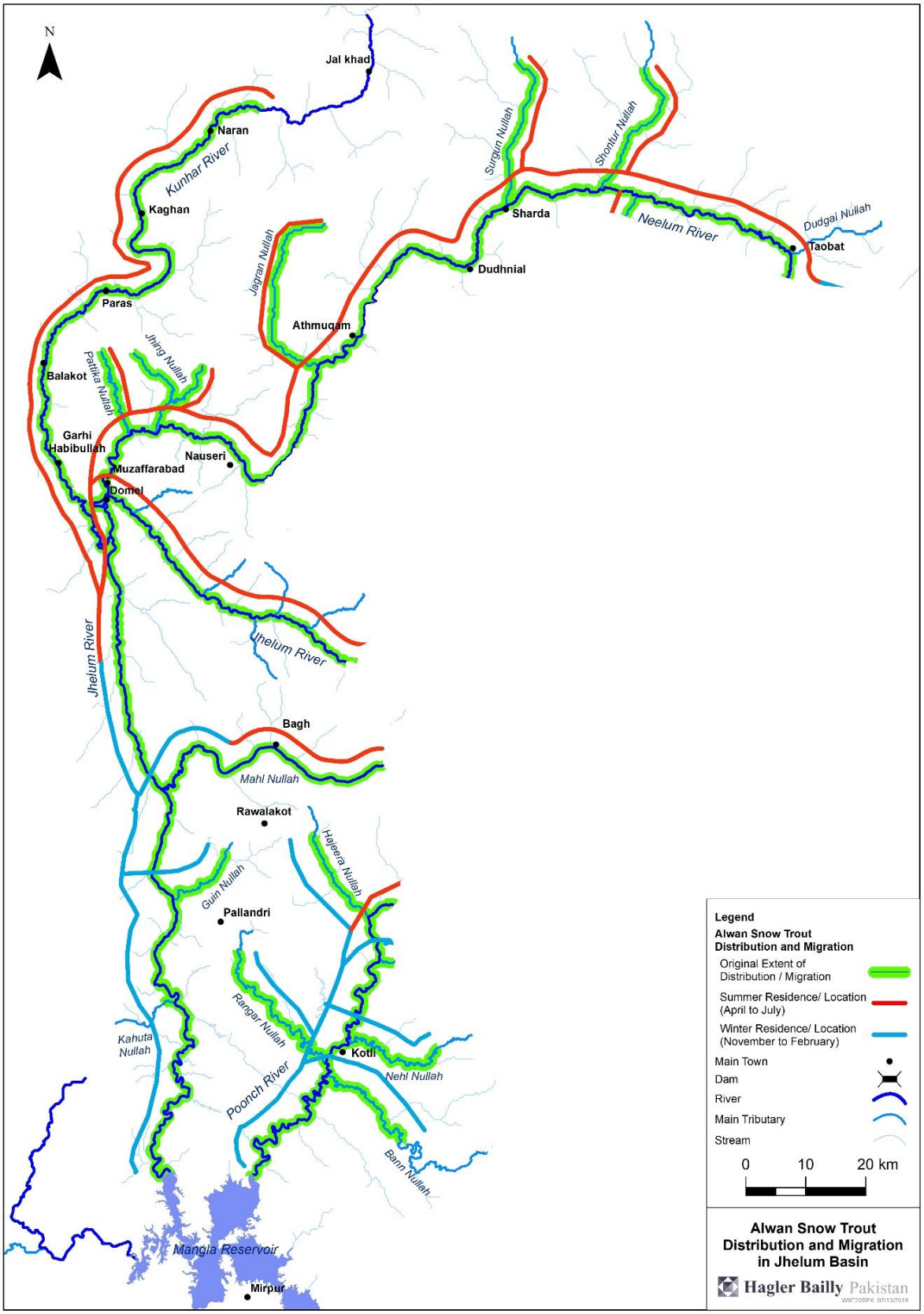


Exhibit 11.6: Distribution of the Alwan Snow Trout



250. The Area of Management is of significant importance to endemic species. There are two endemic and restricted range fish species found here including the Kashmir Hillstream Loach and the Nalbant's Loach, both of which were reported during the surveys carried out in February 2017 and May 2017. But in the fish survey conducted during May 2024, a total of 16 fish species were recorded from the study area with seven species having THREATENED conservation status according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

251. Surveys for fish fauna were carried out in the Kunhar River and its tributaries in July 2016, February 2017, and May 2017 for the EIA of the Project. The results of these surveys are reported in the EIA (**Section 4.2** of the **EIA** of Balakot Hydropower Development Project).

252. During the July 2016 survey, the highest relative abundance of the Kashmir Hillstream Loach was observed at Sampling Location K143.9, located upstream of Banda Balola Village at Kunhar River. No specimens of Nalbant's Loach were observed during the July 2016 Survey. During the February 2017 and May 2017 Surveys, the highest relative abundance of the Kashmir Hillstream Loach was observed at Sampling Location K139.0, located at the main Kunhar River near the confluence of Shisha Nullah. The highest relative abundance for the Nalbant's Loach was observed at Sampling Location BAR5.2, located in Barna Nullah near the confluence of the main Kunhar River. **Exhibit 11.7** and **Exhibit 11.8** show the relative abundance of the Nalbant's Loach and Kashmir Hillstream Loach respectively, observed during the February 2017 and May 2017 Survey. Data from sampling carried out in July 2016 as part of the Biodiversity Strategy for Jhelum Poonch River basin – Preparatory Phase[39] was used to determine the presence of the two species downstream of Bissian. The Kashmir Hillstream Loach was observed downstream of Bissian in sampling carried out in July 2016. This is also shown in **Exhibit 11.8**. The Nalbant's Loach was not observed in the area downstream of Bissian during the July 2016 Surveys.

11.1.4 Migratory Fish Species

253. A single migratory species was reported and was observed in the Kunhar River during the surveys, the Alwan Snow Trout *Schizothorax richardsonii*. It was observed in both the main river and the tributaries. The Alwan Snow Trout is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Its distribution ranges from the Himalayan region of India, Sikkim, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

254. The species migrates to areas of lower elevations during winter to avoid extremely cold conditions at higher elevations. It migrates downstream to different parts of the Jhelum River up to Mangla Reservoir, and to the nullahs, which are comparatively warmer. It also takes refuge in crevices and trenches in the slow-moving areas of the River. During early summers (end of March or start of April), it migrates back to its spawning grounds at higher elevations. It is quite common in the region and has sufficient populations, both upstream and downstream of the Project dam. The dam will create a barrier for the migration of this species, but its population will not be significantly affected as there are sufficient breeding and spawning areas upstream and downstream of the dam.

[39] Hagler Bailly Pakistan, September 2016. Biodiversity Strategy for Jhelum Poonch River basin – Preparatory Phase, for the International Finance Corporation, Washington D.C.

Exhibit 11.7: Abundance of Nalbant's Loach in the Area of Management, February 2017 and May 2017 Survey

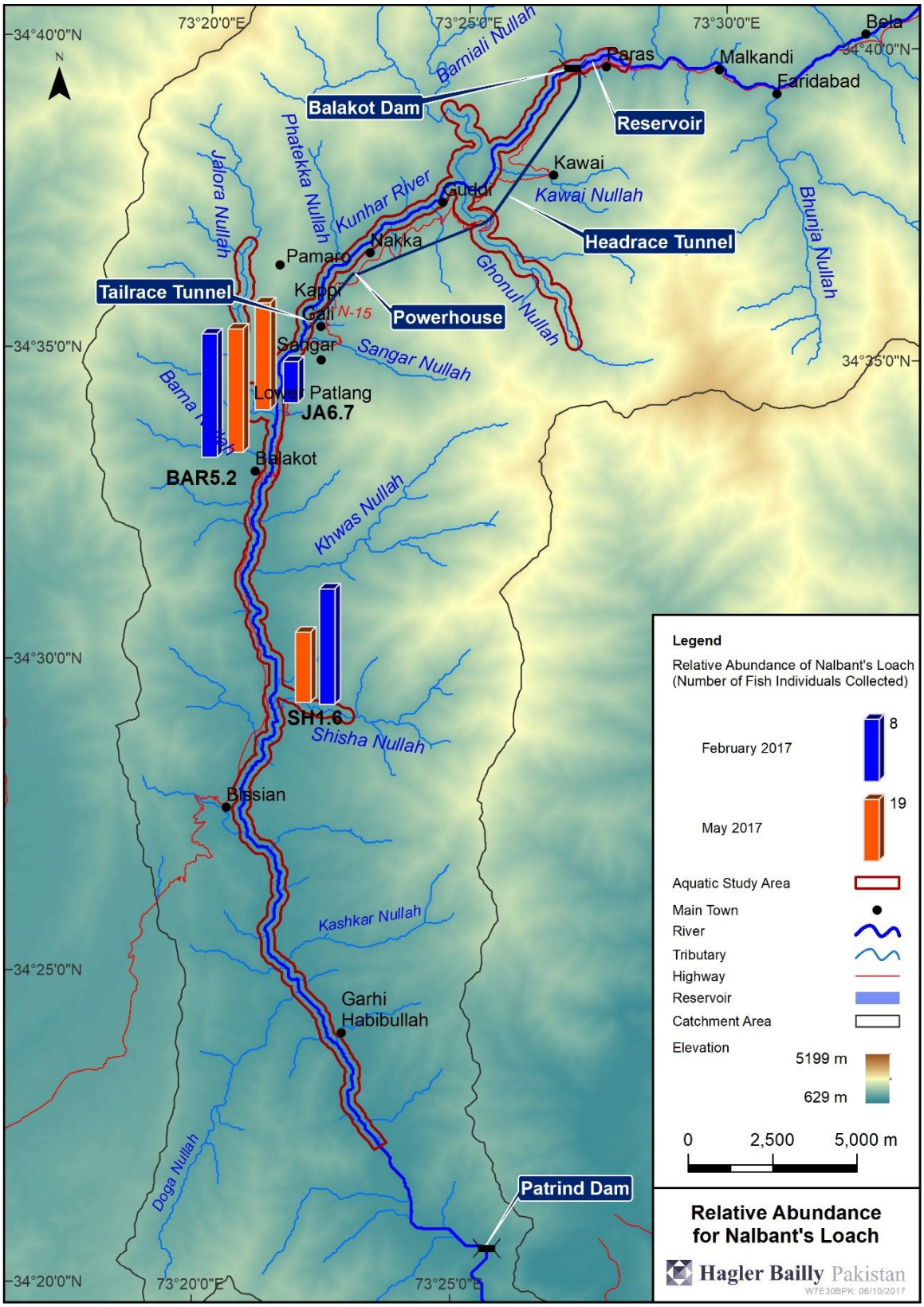
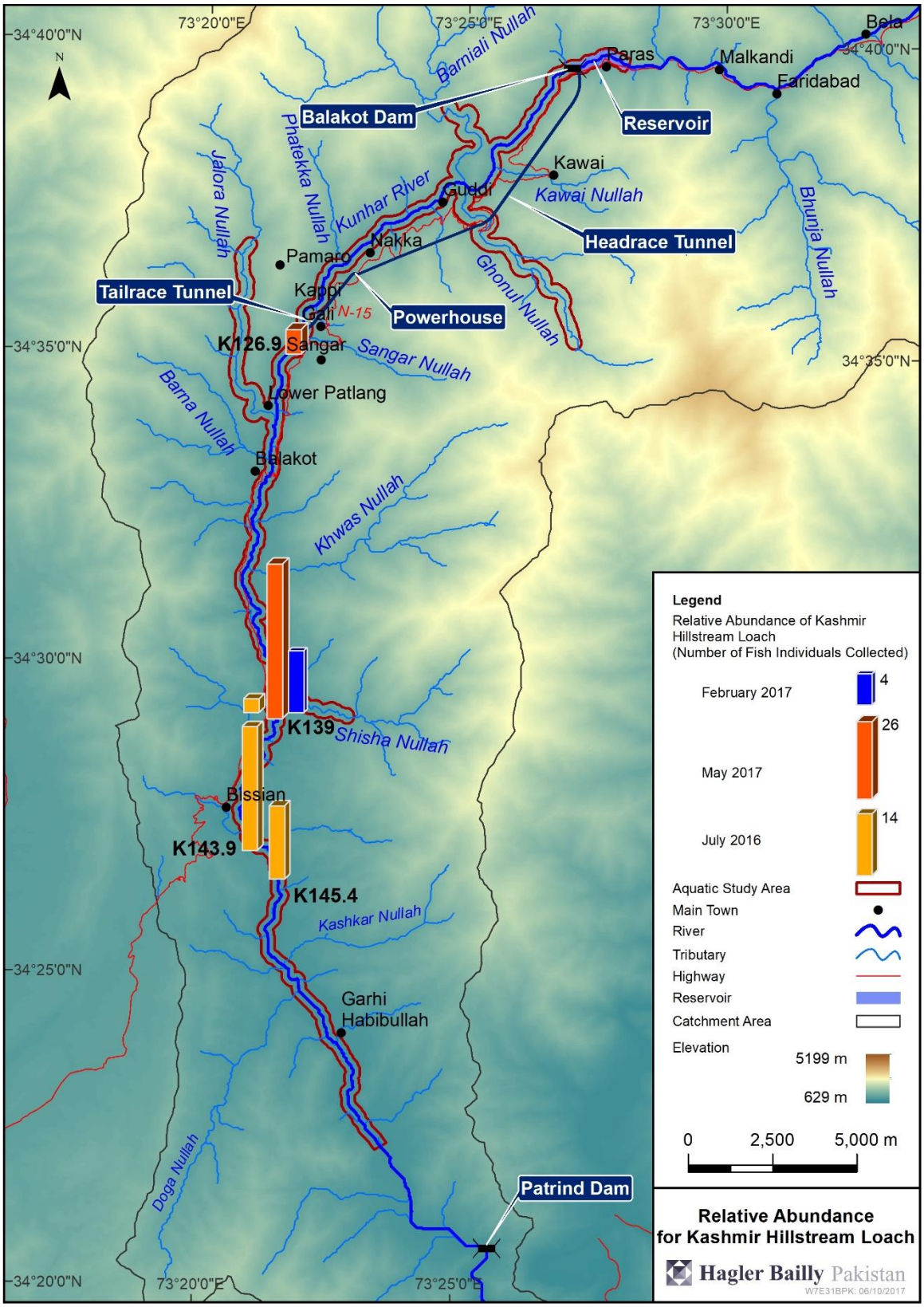


Exhibit 11.8: Abundance of Kashmir Hillstream Loach in the Area of Management, May 2017, February 2017, and July 2016 Survey



255. A total of 436 specimens of the Alwan Snow Trout were observed during the February and May 2017 Surveys, with 161 observed in the main river and 275 observed in the tributaries. A total of 137 specimens of the Alwan Snow Trout were observed during the February 2017 Survey and a total of 299 were observed during the May 2017 Survey. During both surveys, the relative abundance was higher in the tributaries than in the main river. The highest number of specimens, 70, were observed in Jalora Nullah during the May 2017 Survey. The second highest number, 40 specimens, were observed in Shisha Nullah near the confluence during the February 2017 Survey.

256. The Alwan Snow Trout was considered in the habitat assessment carried out as part of the Ecological Baseline for the EIA (**Section 4.2.** of the EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project), under the criteria to assess migratory species. Based on expert judgment about population estimates, the species did not trigger Critical Habitat. More information on the Critical Habitat Assessment carried out for this species is provided in **Section 11.1.6** (*Habitat Assessment*).

257. The surveys carried out for the EIA of the Project identified three species as being of commercial importance. These include the Alwan Snow Trout, Rainbow Trout, and Brown Trout. Both the Brown Trout and Rainbow Trout are stocked in the River by the Fisheries Department, Govt. of KP. The Brown Trout has a lower abundance than the Rainbow Trout. These are also the fish species of commercial importance that occur in the Area of Management.

11.1.5 Threats to Fish Fauna

258. The baseline status for illegal fishing and sand, gravel, and cobble mining was determined by surveys carried out by the socioeconomic survey team in the Socio-economic Study Area. This extends from the tailrace tunnel of Suki Kinari HPP, upstream of the Project dam, to the start of the reservoir of the Patrind HPP, downstream of the Project Dam (see **Section 4.3.1** of the EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project). A part of these surveys was to gather information on river-dependent socioeconomic activities. In summary, pilot surveys were carried out to determine the river-dependent communities along the river. On average 36% of communities within each rural zone were covered through settlement-level surveys. Out of these, 31 communities were surveyed to prepare the socioeconomic baseline.

11.1.6 Illegal Fishing

259. An analysis of the quantity of fish caught in different segments of Kunhar River in the Area of Management, and the income and livelihood dependence of communities on fishing is included in **Section 4.3.8** of the EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project. The intensity of illegal fishing in the Area of Management is illustrated in **Exhibit 11.9**.The entire stretch of the Kunhar River along with its tributaries is subject to illegal fishing. The Fisheries Department, Govt. of KP allows angling and the use of cast nets to catch fish and issues permits for this purpose. The use of gill nets, fine mesh seine nets, and lines are banned. Although, the Fisheries department had issued few permits however, none of the fishermen had any such permits as observed during the surveys carried out for Project EIA.

260. Pools in the River are preferred fishing areas. This is because the relatively deeper areas provide refuge to the larger fish that are the preferred catch. Fishing is limited by the accessibility of locations. The impact of fishing pressure on the river ecosystem is dependent

on the methods used, the number of fishermen, and the location and timing of the fishing activities. In general, fishing in the tributaries, particularly during breeding migrations, is more harmful to fish populations than fishing at other locations and other times of the year. Fishing methods can be categorized into two broad headings[40].

- ***Selective fishing pressure*:** fishing using selective gear such as gill nets, cast nets, and fishing rods. This type of fishing tends to target specific species and adult populations including Alwan Snow Trout and Rainbow Trout.
- ***Non–Selective fishing pressure*:** fishing using non–selective methods such as explosives and poisons. This type of fishing tends to result in large collateral losses of non–target fish and other aquatic species, as well as indiscriminate loss of early fish life stages (fry, fingerlings, eggs, and larvae) especially if done during the breeding season of fish. This includes the loss of fish of conservation and commercial importance such as Alwan Snow Trout, Kashmir Hillstream Loach, and Nalbant's Loach. It may also cause localized habitat destruction. The use of finer nets called gill nets is included in non–selective fishing. Other methods of non-selective fishing include the use of poisons, dynamite, electrocution, and gill nets.

261. Based on an analysis of data collected as part of the ESIA of Kohala HPP, fishing pressure is expected to increase along the Kunhar River, as has been observed along other rivers in the basin, including the Jhelum and Neelum Rivers, from 2013 to 2016. An increasing trend in fishing pressure was also highlighted by Mohammad Tanvir, Assistant Director, Mansehra of the Fisheries Department, Govt. of KP.

262. Photographs of illegal fishing activities and illegal fish caught are shown in **Exhibit 11.10**. Some of the species caught through illegal fishing included the Alwan Snow Trout and Brown Trout. Illegal fishing was observed at sites near Hisari, Karnol, Bissian, and Paras

[40] Hagler Bailly Pakistan, October 2015. Biodiversity Action Plan of Gulpur Hydropower Project prepared for Mira Power Ltd.

Exhibit 11.9: Fishing Intensity

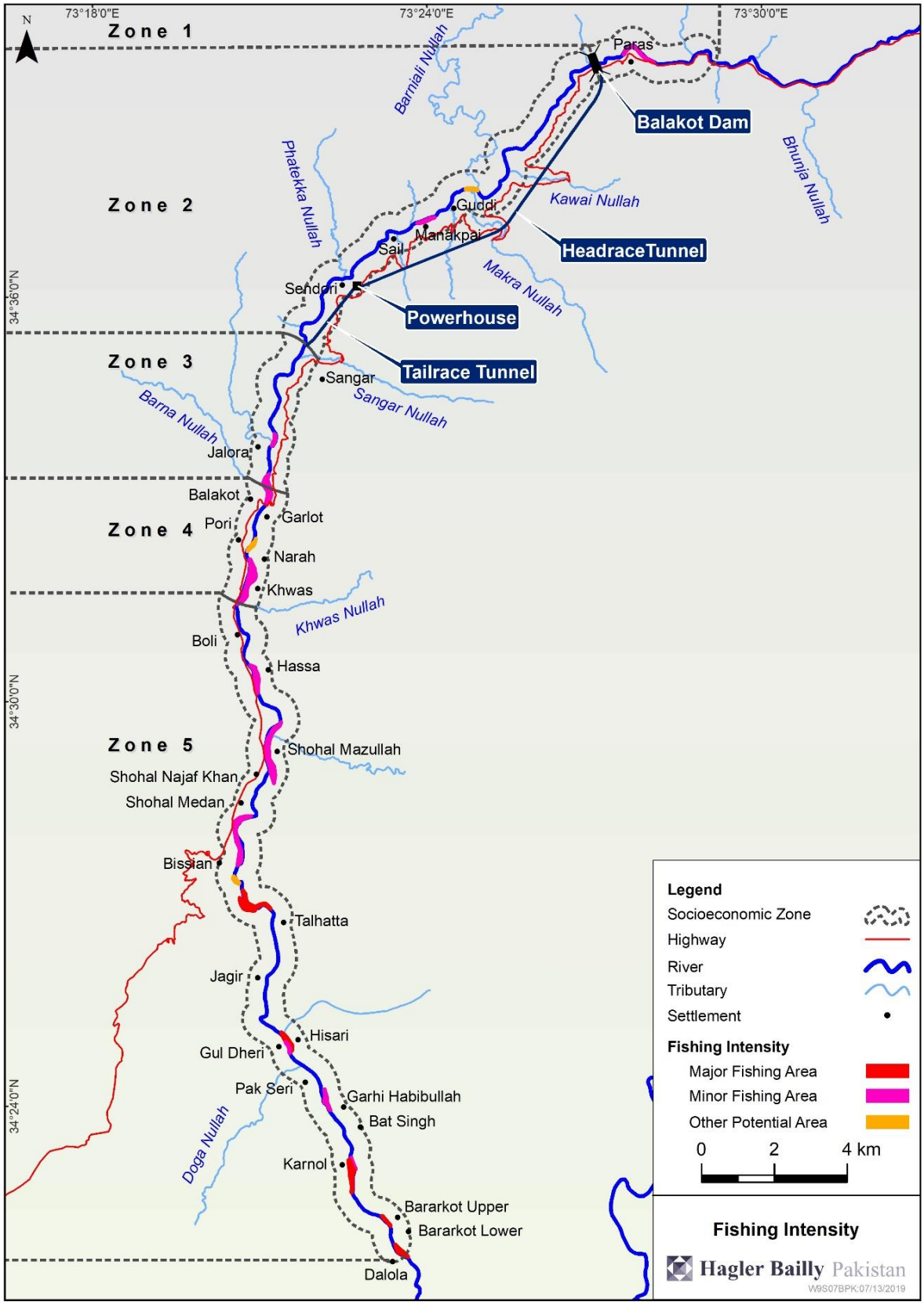


Exhibit 11.10: Illegal Fishing



Illegal fishing using rod at Hisari



Illegal fishing using cast net upstream of Bissian



Illegal fishing using gill net downstream of Bissian



Illegal fish at Paras. Species include Alwan Snow Trout and Brown Trout



Illegal fish at Paras. Alwan Snow Trout observed at Bissian

263. About 2% of the households in the Study Area for the socioeconomic baseline of the EIA are engaged in fishing, and fishing accounts for only 0.01% of their total incomes (**Section 4.3.4** of the EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project). Information collected for the socioeconomic baseline shows that overall 88% of the fish caught is self-consumed which is the reason for the low level of income generated from fishing.

11.1.7 Unregulated Sediment Mining

264. An analysis of sediment (sand, gravel, and cobble) mined in different segments of Kunhar River in the Area of Management, and the income and livelihood dependence of communities on mining is included in **Section 4.3.8** of the EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project. The demand for river sediment is driven by the construction of roads (boulders and cobbles), and new homes (building sand). The expansion of the road network and increased stability and accessibility have led to considerably increased mining activities in the last 10–20 years in similar basins in the region.[41] The improved road network can also open up additional areas for access to sediment mining.

265. In-stream mining results in the destruction of aquatic and riparian habitats through large changes in the river bed and channel morphology. Impacts include bed degradation, bed coarsening, lowered water tables near the streambed, and channel instability. These physical impacts cause the degradation of riparian and aquatic biota.

266. Sediment mining not only destroys aquatic habitats at the point of mining activities but also changes the size and amount of sediment that is distributed downstream, which can affect aquatic habitats in the downstream reaches. Changes to aquatic habitats as a result of mining have knock-on effects on the fish and other biota.

267. Mining results in the physical destruction of fishing grounds and results in the loss of important spawning or nursing ground areas for fish. Fish communities are potentially impacted by changes in turbidity and sediment erosion, transport, and deposition. Increased turbidity can impact fish by reducing their feeding efficiency and increasing their overall physiological stress. Increased sediment loads can disrupt fish reproductive success by interfering with the viability of their eggs and fry.[42]

268. In addition to the fish, the benthic invertebrates that provide food for most of the carnivorous fish of the river are also impacted negatively by mining. A change in the river turbidity, caused by mining, causes a decline in species diversity, abundance, and productivity of the macro-invertebrates.

269. Data collected as part of the socioeconomic baseline in the EIA found that 467,030 m^3 of sediment is mined annually within the socioeconomic Study Area[43] (**Section 4.3.8** of the EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project). The majority (98%) is extracted in Zone 5,

[41] Based on an analysis of data collected as part of the ESIA of Kohala HPP, sediment extraction is expected to increase along the Kunhar River as has been observed along other rivers in the basin including the Jhelum and Neelum Rivers from 2013 to 2016.

[42] M.J Robertson et al, 2006. Effects of Sediment on freshwater fish and Fish Habitats, Canadian Technical Report Of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences 2644

[43] This extends from the tailrace tunnel of Suki Kinari HPP, upstream of the Project dam, to the start of reservoir of the Patrind HPP, downstream of the Project dam.

between the stretch from Shahator Village (2.5 km downstream of Balakot Town) to Dalola Village.

270. **Exhibit 11.11** shows the intensity of sand mining in the socioeconomic Study Area. **Exhibit 11.12** shows photographs of sand mining activities at locations along the Kunhar River, at Hisari, Barakot, Shohal Medan, Tarnol, Bissian, Paras, Garhi Habibullah and Dolal

11.1.8 Water Quality

271. An analysis of water quality and an assessment of impacts on it was carried out as part of the EIA of the Project. The results are provided in **Section 4.1.7** of the EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project. The concerns concerning water quality, as presented in the EIA, are summarized here.

272. The Kunhar River receives wastewater and contaminated seepage associated with household and commercial water use in its catchment. Pollutants associated with human settlements include nitrates, phosphates, and biological oxygen demand (BOD). At present, the population density is relatively low in the catchment and the level of contamination is indicated by a low BOD and high levels of dissolved oxygen.

273. The water quality results found that the water in both the main River and tributaries is bacteriologically contaminated and unsatisfactory for drinking due to fecal contamination. Amongst heavy metals, aluminum was found to be above NEQs and WHO standards at a sampling location near Talhatta, which can be attributed to higher colloidal particles in river water. Contamination levels in the river will increase in the long term with population and economic growth, especially during the dry season when the capacity of the river to flush and dilute contaminants from a large urban area declines. Deforestation and changes in land use patterns will also increase erosion and consequentially turbidity of water in the long term.

Exhibit 11.11: Sand Mining Intensity

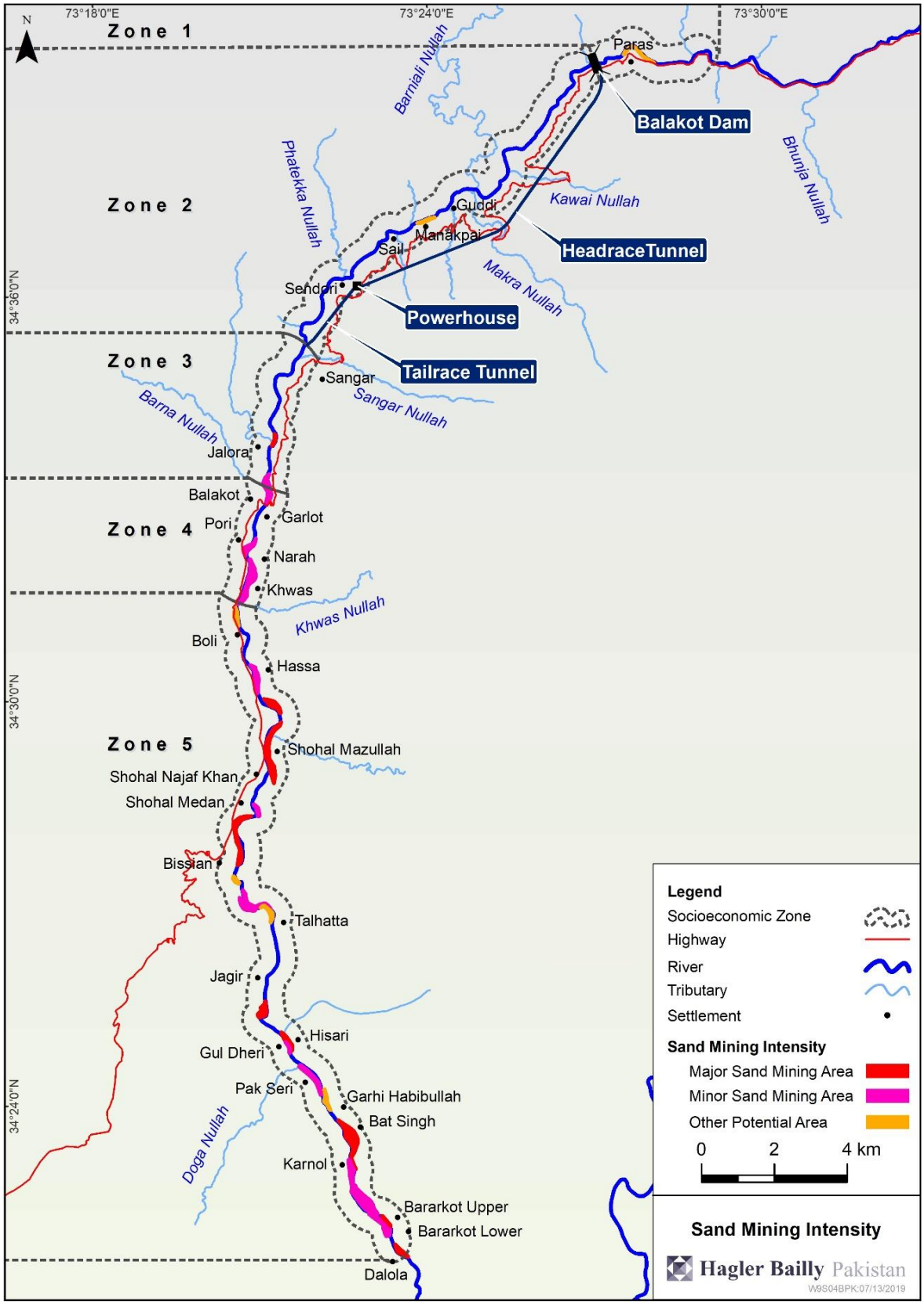


Exhibit 11.12: Photographs of Sand Mining Activities



Boulder mining at Hisari



Sand mining using heavy machinery at Barakot



Sand mining at Shohal Medan



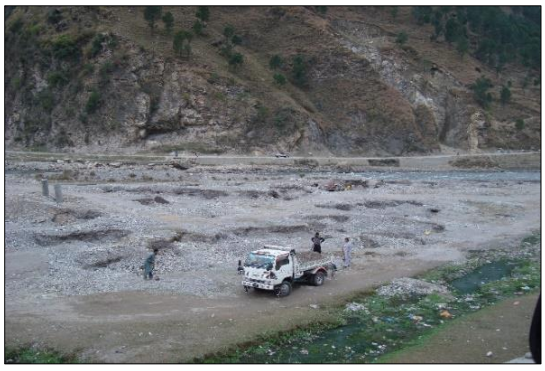
Mining at Tarnol



Sand mining at Bissian



Sand mining evidence at Paras Village



Sand mining at Garhi Habibullah



Sand mining at Dalola Village

11.1.9 Habitat Assessment

274. A habitat assessment was carried out in **Section 4.2.14** of the EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project under the guidelines provided in IFC PS6.[44] It involves assessments to determine whether the Project area is a Natural or Modified Habitat and if the Project is located in a Critical Habitat. These are defined below.

11.1.9.1 Natural Habitat, Modified Habitat, and Requirement of No Net Loss

275. The definitions of Natural Habitat and Modified Habitat are provided below.

276. **Natural Habitat:** Land and water areas where the biological communities are formed largely by native plant and animal species, and where human activity has not essentially modified the area's primary ecological functions.[45]

277. **Modified Habitat:** Natural habitat that has been altered as a result of human activities such as agricultural, forestry, or urban development, or through the introduction of alien species.[46]

278. The Habitat Assessment carried out as part of the Project EIA (see **Section 4.2.14** of the EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project) concluded that both the Aquatic Study Area[47] and the Terrestrial Study Area[48] is a Modified Habitat, not Natural Habitat. Therefore, habitat in the Area of Management is also Modified Habitat.

279. The Aquatic Study Area is considered a Modified Habitat because of the changes in flows as a result of the regulation of the river. This is due to the development of the under-construction Suki Kinari HPP upstream of the Project and the Patrind HPP downstream of the Project.

11.1.9.2 Critical Habitat Assessment and Requirement of Net Gain

Critical Habitat:

280. The criteria for Critical Habitat Assessment are as follows.

- Habitat of significant importance to Critically Endangered and/or Endangered species.
- Habitat of significant importance to endemic and/or restricted-range species.
- Habitat supporting globally significant concentrations of migratory species and/or congregatory species.
- Highly threatened and/or unique ecosystems.

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[44] Hagler Baily Pakistan, August, 2016. Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) Report of the 1,124 MW Kohala Hydropower Project for Kohala Power Company (Pvt) Limited.

[45] International Finance Corporation (IFC). January 2012. Policy on Social and Environmental Sustainability, Performance Standard 6: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources, The World Bank Group.

[46] Ibid

[47] The part of the Kunhar River starting from Faridabad upstream of the Project to Bissian downstream of the Project

[48] The Terrestrial Study Area includes the proposed Project facilities and a 1 km buffer around locations where Project-related facilities are to be located.

- Areas with unique assemblages of species or which are associated with key evolutionary processes or provide key ecosystem services.

281. The biodiversity studies conducted for the Project indicate the presence of valued aquatic biological resources, including the endemic[49] and restricted range[50] Nalbant's Loach *Schistura Nalbanti* and Kashmir Hillstream Loach *Triplophysa kashmirensis*, both of which will be affected by the Project. The Kunhar River provides Critical Habitat for both these species based on Criteria 2, 'Habitat of significant importance to endemic and/or restricted-range species' (see **Section 4.2.14** of the EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project). This is because the Kunhar River provided habitat for:

i. ≥ 1 percent but < 95 percent of the global population of the Nalbant's Loach and Kashmir Hillstream Loach triggering Critical Habitat under Tier 2 sub-criteria for Criterion 2 (habitat to sustain ≥ 1 percent but < 95 percent of the global population of an endemic or restricted-range species where the habitat could be considered a part of the discrete management unit for that species, where data are available and/or based on expert judgment).

282. The Discrete Management Unit (DMU) used for Critical Habitat Assessment for these restricted-range species is shown in **Exhibit 11.13**. These have been determined based on the maximum range of the species upstream of the Project and to the dam of the existing Patrind HPP. The ranges of both species extend into the Jhelum River as well, however, due to the presence of the Patrind HPP, the DMU has not been extended to the Jhelum River. Based on expert judgment, the habitat in this DMU is known to sustain ≥ 1 percent but < 95 percent of the global population of both endemic species, therefore, Tier 2 sub-criteria for Criterion 2 is triggered, making this a Critical Habitat. Loss of such a habitat could potentially impact the long-term survivability of the species.

283. The DMU for the Alwan Snow Trout is shown in **Exhibit 11.14**. It extends from the maximum range of the Alwan Snow Trout upstream of the Project to the dam of the Patrind HPP, which creates a barrier to its migration. This species is also found in India, Nepal and Bhutan.[51] Based on expert judgment, the habitat within the DMU consists of less than 1% of the global population of the species. As a result, the Kunhar River does not provide Critical Habitat for this species.

[49] Endemic refers to endemic to the Jhelum Basin

[50] Having an extent of occurrence of less than 20,000 sq km

[51] Vishwanath, W. 2010. Schizothorax richardsonii. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2010: e.T166525A6228314. http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2010-4.RLTS.T166525A6228314.en. Downloaded on 07 June 2017.

Exhibit 11.13: Discrete Management Unit for the Nalbant's Loach and Kashmir Hillstream Loach

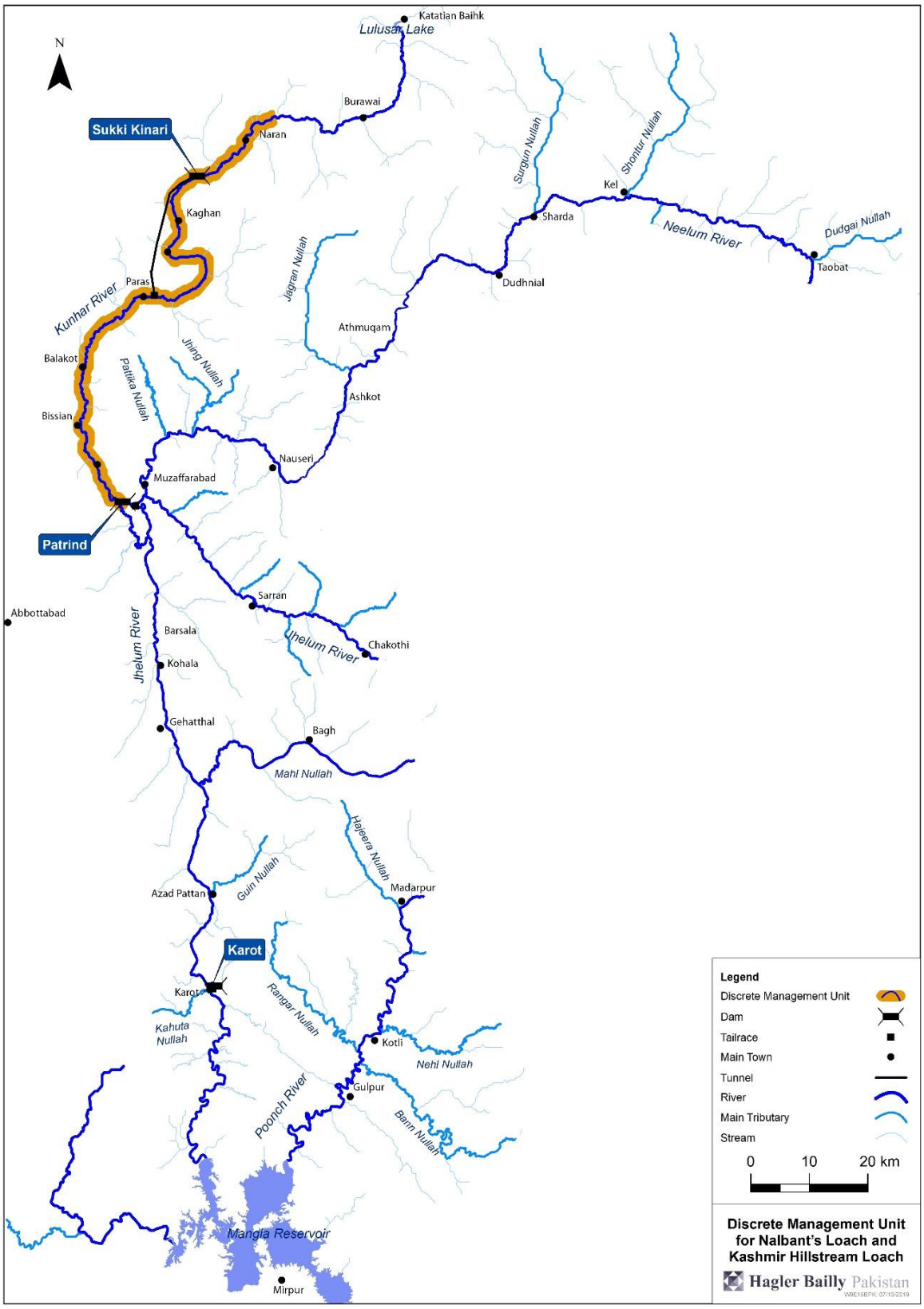
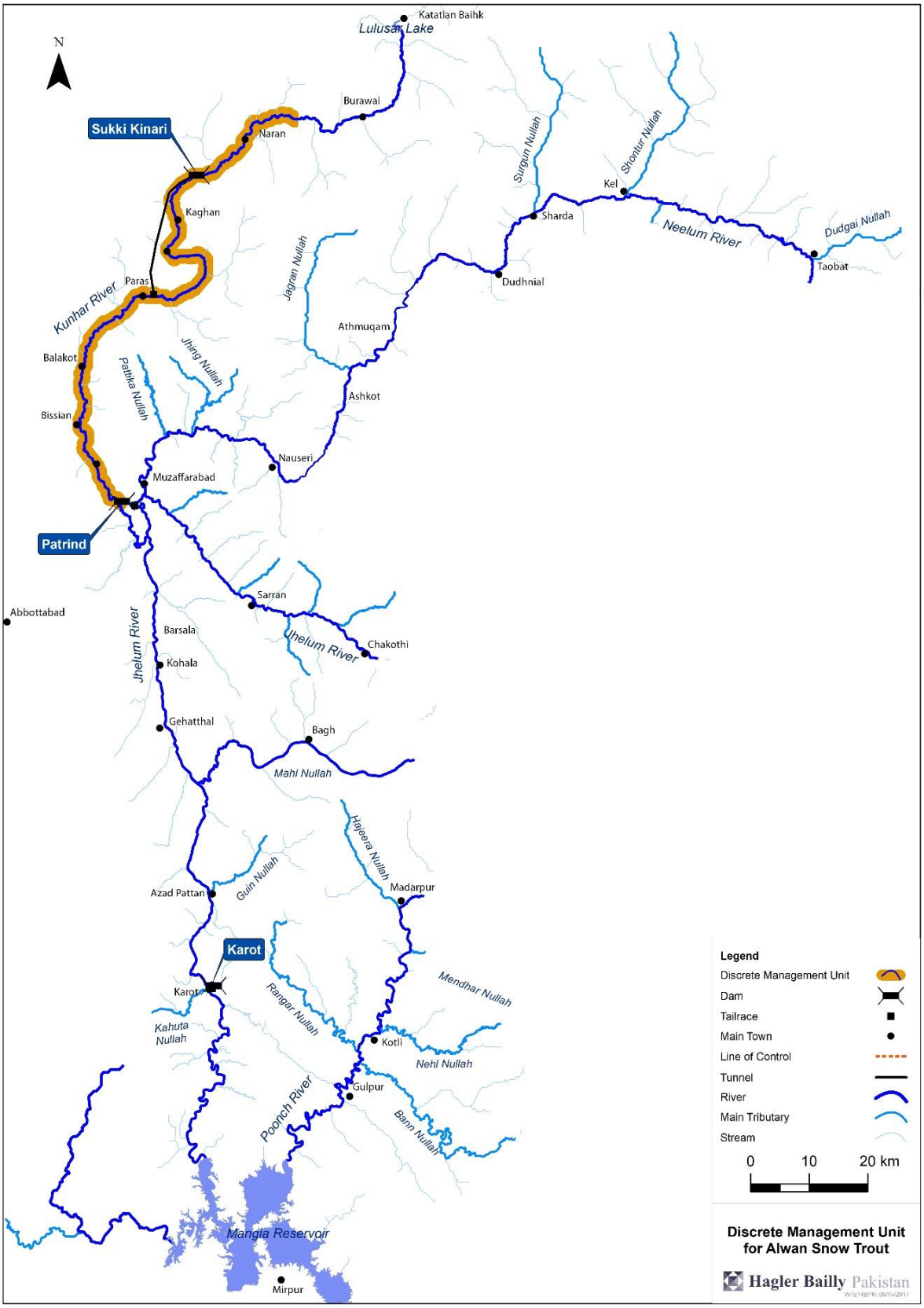


Exhibit 11.14: Discrete Management Unit for the Alwan Snow Trout



284. Once the Project becomes operational, the habitat, downstream of the dam, will be exposed to lower flows due to diversion of the river flow into the power generation tunnel. Habitat upstream of the dam will be affected due to inundation by the reservoir created by the dam. Habitat downstream of the tailrace tunnel will be affected due to the changes in flow as a result of the release of water from the powerhouse.

285. According to IFC PS6, Net Gain is required for those ecological resources for which the DMU provides critical habitat - in this case, the Nalbant's Loach and Kashmir Hillstream Loach.[52] Under PS6 "Net Gains" are defined as "additional conservation outcomes that can be achieved for the biodiversity values for which the critical habitat was designated." The PS further defines how the Net Gains can be achieved: "Net Gains may be achieved through the development of a biodiversity offset and/or, in instances where the client could meet the requirements of paragraph 17 of this Performance Standard without a biodiversity offset, the client should achieve Net Gains through the implementation of programs that could be implemented in situ (on-the-ground) to enhance habitat, and protect and conserve biodiversity." This BAP has therefore been designed to show an increase in population for the two fish species: Kashmir Hillstream Loach and Nalbant's Loach. Even though the Kunhar River does not provide Critical Habitat for the Alwan Snow Trout, the BAP includes measures to conserve this species because it is a migratory species listed as Vulnerable in the IUCN Red List.

11.1.10 Macro-invertebrates

286. The abundance and richness of various macro-invertebrate taxa has been reported in the EIA of Project based on surveys carried out in May 2017 for the EIA (see **Section 4.2.5** of the EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project). The abundance was found to be higher in areas upstream of Balakot Town as compared to downstream. The most abundant macro-invertebrate taxa observed include *Baetis sp* followed by *Rhithrogena sp*. This is a common observation around the world as these taxa can live in a variety of habitats including running and standing water. They also have a relatively high tolerance for pollution, thereby, surviving with increased anthropogenic activity.[53] The abundance of the taxa *Chironomidae* was found to be low.

287. Aquatic macro-invertebrates include insects, worms, molluscs, crustacians, etc., and play a crucial role in the aquatic ecosystem. They make a rich source of food for several aquatic species including the loaches. Overall 15 species of macro-invertebrates were recorded from the study area during the May 2024 survey. These belong to three phyla, five orders, nine families, and 15 genera. All the specimens were identified up to the genus level except the one belonging to the Family Lymaeidae and Phylum Mollusca. All the macro-invertebrates were found in the tributary streams of the Kunhar River which are the potential habitats of Loaches including the Critically Endangered Kashmir Hillstream Loach (*Triplophysa kashmirensis*). The recorded 15 species of macro-invertebrates were observed

[52] Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources, Performance Standard 6, International Finance Corporation, 2012

[53] Hagler Bailly Pakistan, July 2019. Environmental and Impact Assessment (EIA) Report of the 300 MW Balakot Hydropower Development Project for Asian Development Bank (ADB)

in almost every stream in the study area and their existence in the tributaries streams of Kunhar River reflects a healthy habitat for loaches.

11.1.11 Riparian Vegetation

288. The dominant plant species in the riparian zone of the Terrestrial Study Area, reported in the EIA of the Project, include *Parthenium hysterophorus*. *Conyza Canadensis* and *Rumex dissectus* (see **Section 4.2.5** of the EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project). Vegetation cover in the Terrestrial Study Area was reported as ranging between 0.37% and 0.13%, average plant count was 27.50 and floral diversity was reported as 3.25 species per sampling location.

289. The EIA of the Project reported that the riparian vegetation is naturally sparse as it is eroded by floods when the velocity of water is high. It is further degraded by the extraction of wood and grazing along the banks that are easily accessible to the local community.

11.2 Terrestrial Biodiversity

290. The terrestrial biodiversity section briefly describes the terrestrial habitat in the Project area and focuses on plant, mammal, birds, and herpetofauna species. The baseline status for these biological resources has been developed drawing on the information and analysis in the EIA of the Project (see **Section 4.2.6** of the EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project). The Terrestrial Study Area defined for the EIA included the proposed Project facilities and a 1 km buffer around locations where Project-related facilities are to be located

291. The habitat within the area acquired for the Project is designated as Modified Habitat as human activity has modified the land use and vegetation within most of it, even at higher elevations. There are patches of forests, mainly on very steep slopes, where access by people is limited. The locals report that wild animals such as the Common Leopard and Black Bear are common in the area, especially at higher elevations.

292. The EIA of the Project describes the vegetation in the area surrounding the Project. Floristically, the Terrestrial Study Area falls in the Sino-Japanese Region. Within Pakistan, this area is mountainous and comprises the outer ranges of the Himalayas. The elevation within the region ranges from 600 m to 4,800 m. The Area of Management has an elevation range of 1,000 m to 1,500 m.[54]

293. The EIA divided the area around the Project facilities and infrastructure into three main types, Agricultural Area, Scrub Forest, and Pine Forest. The area is dominated by Scrub Forest habitat, with Agricultural Area and Pine Forest habitat occupying about equal percentage of the rest of the area. The Scrub Forest habitat was reported to have a plant cover of 10.8% to 4.2% with a species diversity of 4.60. The Agricultural Area habitat was reported to have a plant cover of 6.6% to 4.0% with a species diversity of 7.50, while the Pine Forest habitat was reported to have a plant cover of 18.8% to 6.8% and species diversity of 5.33.

294. The surveys carried out in May 2017, as part of the EIA studies, identified a total of 32 plant species. None of the species observed in the area around the Project site were found to be globally/nationally threatened species, endemic species or protected species, with the

[54] Nasir, Yasin J., and Rubina A. Rafiq. "Wild flowers of Pakistan."Karachi: Oxford University Press xxxiii, 298p., 104p. of plates-illus., col. illus. ISBN195775848 (1995).

exception of Common Walnut *Juglans regia*, which is Near Threatened based on the IUCN Red List.[55]

295. The dominant species based on habitat type were identified in the EIA. In the Agricultural Area habitat, the dominant species include *Juglans regia*, *Berberis sp.*, and *Fragaria vesca*. In the Scrub Forest habitat the dominant species include *Rumex dissectus* followed by *Cannabis sativa* and *Ficus carica*, while in the Pine Forest habitat, the dominant species include *Pinus roxburghii*, *Pinus wallichiana*, and *Cedrus deo*

296. During the May 2024 survey, overall 287 plant species were recorded from the study area. These include 42 species of trees, 49 species of shrubs, 163 species of herbs, 09 species of climbers, 20 species of grasses, and 04 species of sedges. These 287 plant species belong to 79 families, 111 species are annual, and the rest 176 species are perennial. None of the recorded plant species is threatened according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

11.2.1 Invasive Species

297. An alien or non-native plant or animal species is one that is introduced beyond its original range of distribution. Invasive alien species are non-native species that may become invasive or spread rapidly by out-competing other native plants and animals when they are introduced into a new habitat that lacks their controlling factors as determined by natural evolution[56].

298. A total of seven invasive species were reported in the EIA studies. These include the following.

i. Parthenium Weed *Parthenium hysterophorus*

ii. Common Weed *Phragmites karka*

iii. Castor Oil Plant *Ricinus communis*

iv. Cannabis *sativa*

v. Tree-of-heaven *Ailanthus altissima*

vi. Black Locust *Robinia pseudoacacia*

vii. Pink Cheeseweed *Malva parviflora*

299. A risk assessment was carried out as part of the EIA of the Project (**Section 4.2.9** of the EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project). Most of the Project-related activities will take place in the Scrub Forest habitat. Invasive species found in this habitat type include Tree-of-heaven, Cannabis, Pink Cheeseweed, and Black Locust. The invasive species were ranked based on the Importance Value Index (IVI) and Relative Cover in Terrestrial Habitats (Agriculture Areas, Scrub Forest, and Pine Forest habitats) and Riparian habitats. The dominant invasive species based on IVI and Relative Cover in each habitat type are provided in **Exhibit 11.15** and

[56] International Finance Corporation, 2012, Guidance Note 6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

300. **Exhibit 11.16**.

Exhibit 11.15: Importance Value Index (IVI)

Ranking	Terrestrial Habitats (Agriculture Area, Scrub Forest, and Pine Forest habitats)	Riparian Habitat
1.	Cannabis *sativa*	Parthenium Weed *Parthenium hysterophorus*
2.	Tree-of-heaven *Ailanthus altissima*	Common Weed *Phragmites karka*
3.	Black Locust *Robinia pseudoacacia*	Castor Oil Plant *Ricinus communis*
4.	Pink Cheeseweed *Malva parviflora*	

Exhibit 11.16: Relative Cover (C3)

Ranking	Terrestrial Habitats (Agriculture Area, Scrub Forest, and Pine Forest habitats)	Riparian Habitat
1.	Tree-of-heaven *Ailanthus altissima*	Parthenium Weed *Parthenium hysterophorus*
2.	Black Locust *Robinia pseudoacacia*	Common Weed *Phragmites karka*
3.	Cannabis *Cannabis sativa*	Castor Oil Plant *Ricinus communis*
4.	Pink Cheeseweed *Malva parviflora*	

301. The habitat found to be most at risk is the Riparian Habitat. The dominant species in this habitat type is Parthenium Weed (based on IVI) which spreads as a result of disturbance. This also indicates that the Riparian Habitat is most disturbed.

11.2.2 Ethnobotany

302. Studies have been carried out on the ethnobotanical value of plants in the Mansehra District. The areas selected for the studies that are closest to the Terrestrial Study Area and representative of the fauna include Siran, Shogran, and Kaghan Valleys.

303. Studies have shown that Siran has about 123 species, while Shogran hosts 117 species of plants having high ethnobotanical and medicinal importance.[57] Many of these plants have been found to have more than one local use. These include use as fuel wood, forage/fodder, medicinal, edible, shelter making, timber wood, and furniture wood. Medicinal plants are used in the treatment of skin disorders and respiratory disorders, as diuretics, expectorants, digestives, and anti-inflammatory agents.

11.2.3 Mammals

304. The forests of the area provide a habitat for mammal species including Yellow-throated Marten *Martes flavigula*, Giant Red Flying Squirrel *Petaurista*, Flying Squirrel *Hylopetes fimbriatus*, Leopard Cat *Prionailurus bergalensis*. Grey Langur *Semnopithecus entellus*, Rhesus Macaque *Macaca mulatta*, Common Leopard *Panthera pardus*, Himalayan Black Bear *Ursus thibetanus*, Grey Goral *Nemorhaedus goral*, Porcupine *Hystrix indica*. Murree Vole

[57] Hassan Sher, Haidar Ali And Shafiqur Rehman, Identification And Conservation of Important Plant Areas (IPAS) For The Distribution Of Medicinal, Aromatic And Economic Plants In The Hindukush-Himalaya Mountain Range, Pak. J. Bot., 44: 187-194, Special Issue May 2012

Hyperacrius wynnei. Turkestan Rat *Rattus turkestanicus*, Long-tailed Field Mouse *Apodemus sylvaticus*. Whiskered Bat *Myotis muricola* and Grey Long-eared Bat *Plecotus austriacus*.[58,59]

305. Some of the species reported are included in the IUCN Red List 2017.[60] The Musk Deer *Moschus leucogaster* and Himalayan Grey Langur *Semnopithecus ajaxlis* are listed as Endangered, Black Bear *Ursus thibetanus* is listed as Vulnerable while the Common Leopard *Panthera pardus* and Grey Goral *Naemorhedus goral* are listed as Near Threatened.[61]

306. A total of four mammal species were observed (or signs observed) during the surveys carried out as part of the EIA of Project, none of which are of conservation importance. These species and their IUCN status are listed in **Exhibit 11.17**.

Exhibit 11.17: Abundance of Mammal Signs and Sightings, May 2017 Survey

No	Scientific Name	Common Name	IUCN Status[62]
	Canidae		
1	*Canis aureus*	Asiatic Jackal	Least Concern
2	*Vulpes vulpes*	Red Fox	Least Concern
	Hystricidae		
1	*Hystrix indica*	Indian Crested Porcupine	Least Concern
	Herpestidae		
1	*Herpestes javanicus*	Small Asian Mongoose	Least Concern

307. Locals report that the Asiatic Jackal, Red Fox, Common Leopard, and Wild Boar are common in the area. They emphasized the fact that Wild Boar is damaging to crops. Of these, the mammals reported to be harmful to livestock included the Asiatic Jackal, Common Leopard, Monkey, and Wild Boar. The Sub-Divisional Forest Officer (SDFO), Balakot, Sarmad Shah stated that the Black Bear is also common in the area.

308. No small mammals were trapped during the surveys carried out as part of the EIA of the Project. No sightings or signs of small mammals were found either.

309. During the May 2024 survey, Overall 21 species of mammals belonging to six orders, 12 families, and 21 genera were recorded from the study area. According to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (IUCN 2024), all the recorded mammals in the study area have been categorized as “Least Concern” with either stable or increasing population trend.

58 United Nations Development Programme, Pakistan (UNDP), Forests & Biodiversity Information/Data Report, [not dated].

59 Hamid Sarfraz, Ashiq Ahmad Khan, Dr. Nasim Javed, Dr. Shahid Ahmad, Dr. Inam ur Rahim & Dr. M. Rafiq, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan, Final Draft, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH Registered offices, Islamabad, June 26, 2016

60 The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2014.3. <http://www.iucnredlist.org>. Downloaded on 25 May 2017.

61 Ibid

62 The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2014.3. <http://www.iucnredlist.org>. Downloaded on 25 May 2017.

11.2.4 Birds

310. The resident birds reported from the Terrestrial Study Area include species belonging to the Palearctic zoogeographical region.[63] Bird species breeding in the Palearctic region migrate south to Pakistan and India to overwinter. The bird species in the northern mountains start descending when conditions become extremely cold. These species normally remain in the lower valleys and nearby plains during the winter. In spring they migrate to their breeding grounds in the northern latitudes.[64]

311. The area where the Project is located consists of diverse habitat types including scrub forests, Chir Pine forests, agricultural lands, urban settlements, rocky slopes, and water channels. This provides suitable habitats for both resident and non-resident bird species.

312. Based on the survey for avifauna carried out as part of the EIA of the Project, a total of 48 bird species were reported. The highest abundance and species diversity was found at sampling locations in the Pine Forest habitat type. Abundant bird species include the Common Raven *Corvus corax*, the Bank Myna *Acridotheres ginginianus*, the White-cheeked Bulbul *Pycnonotus leucotis*, Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus*, and Great Tit *Parus major*.

313. Of the bird species reported in the EIA of Project none were found to be of conservation importance based on the IUCN Red List of Species. One species, the Rufous-vented P*rinia burnesii*, observed during the May 2017 Survey is listed as Near Threatened. Also, four species observed during the May 2017 Survey are included in the CITES Species Appendices[65] including the Black Kite *Milvus migrans*, the Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*, the Common Crane *Grus,* and the European Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*, all listed in Appendix II. All four species show migratory behavior and congregatory behavior based on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species database.[66]

314. The locals reported the presence of vultures in the area; however, none were observed during the May 2017 Survey.

315. During the May 2024 survey, A total of 111 bird species belonging to 17 orders were recorded. Most of the birds especially the resident and summer breeders were observed directly in different habitats in the study area whereas, for recording the winter visiting birds, secondary data was consulted. The recorded birds included 50% resident birds, 29% winter visitors, 11% summer breeders, and 10% passage migrants or irregular year-round visitors according to Grimmett *et al*. (2008). None of the recorded birds is Threatened or endemic to Pakistan. All the recorded birds have been categorized as “Least Concern” by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

11.2.5 Herpetofauna

316. Herpetofauna is a term that is used for amphibians and reptiles, collectively. In Pakistan, frogs and toads represent the amphibians whereas; reptiles are represented by crocodilians (crocodiles), chelonians (turtles and tortoises), lacertilians (lizards), and serpents

[63] Z. B. Mirza and H. Wasiq, 2007. A Field Guide to Birds of Pakistan, WWF-Pakistan, Bookland Lahore

[64] Ibid

[65] UNEP-WCMC. SPECIES+ CITES database. <http://www.speciesplus.net/species>, accessed May 29, 2017

[66] IUCN 2015. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2015-4*. <http://www.iucnredlist.org>, accessed May 29, 2017.

(snakes). Amphibians and reptiles are very important animals among the vertebrates and important components of any living system. They may act as excellent biological indicators of any ecosystem.[67]

11.2.6 Threats to Terrestrial Biodiversity

11.2.7 Threats to Vegetation

317. Threats to vegetation include the spread of invasive species and land sliding. The EIA reported the presence of invasive species in the terrestrial habitat within the Project area. The risk of earthquakes and subsequent landslides is also high in the Project area.

318. The invasive species Parthenium Weed, Tree-of-heaven, Black Locust, and Cannabis are widespread in the area. In particular, the species Parthenium Weed is the dominant plant in the Riparian habitat plant community. Other dominant invasive species include Tree-of-heaven and Cannabis which are dominant within the Scrub Forest habitat plant community.

319. Mansehra District is prone to landslides because of climate conditions, and geological and geomorphic characteristics of the region. In October 2005, earthquakes triggered several thousand landslides in the Himalayan region of Northern Pakistan and India.[68]

11.2.8 Human-Wildlife Conflict

320. While the EIA has reported the presence of human-wildlife conflict, the conflict between communities and wildlife has not been identified as an important conservation-related issue within the wider area of the Project. The species reported to be most commonly involved in the human-wildlife conflict include the Asiatic Jackal Canis aureus, the Wild Boar Sus scrofa, and the Red Fox Vulpes. The Common Leopard Panthera pardus has also been reported but to a lesser extent. The Wild Boar has been known to cause crop damage whilst the three predators, Asiatic Jackal, Red Fox, and Common Leopard are known for livestock depredation.

11.3 Protected Areas or Areas of Special Importance for Biodiversity

321. Some aquatic and terrestrial areas near the Project are either protected or of special importance to biodiversity.

322. The part of the Kunhar River above Balakot Bridge (**Exhibit 11.18**) is categorized as protected. This includes the protected status of the river and riparian areas, however, the exact area within the terrestrial areas is not known. There are also terrestrial Protected Areas within the Mansehra District including the Manshi Wildlife Sanctuary, located 5 km away from the dam site, and the Saif-ul-Maluk National Park, located 23.5 km from the dam site.

323. A map showing the terrestrial Protected Areas and areas of special importance for biodiversity is provided in **Exhibit 11.18**. A map showing the Important Bird Areas (IBAs)[69] is shown in **Exhibit 11.19**.

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[67] Mott Macdonald, July 2015. Environmental and Social Impact Assessment of the 720MW Karot Hydropower Project Pakistan for the Karot Power Company (Pvt) Limited

[68] Abbas, Ghulam; Ahmad, Ijaz; Parvez, Shahid, June 2012, Landslide hazard assessment in Mansehra District using remote sensing and GIS, Journal of Himalayan Earth Science;2012, Vol. 45 Issue 2, p1

[69] Places of international significance for the conservation of birds and other biodiversity.

Exhibit 11.18: Map of Protected Areas

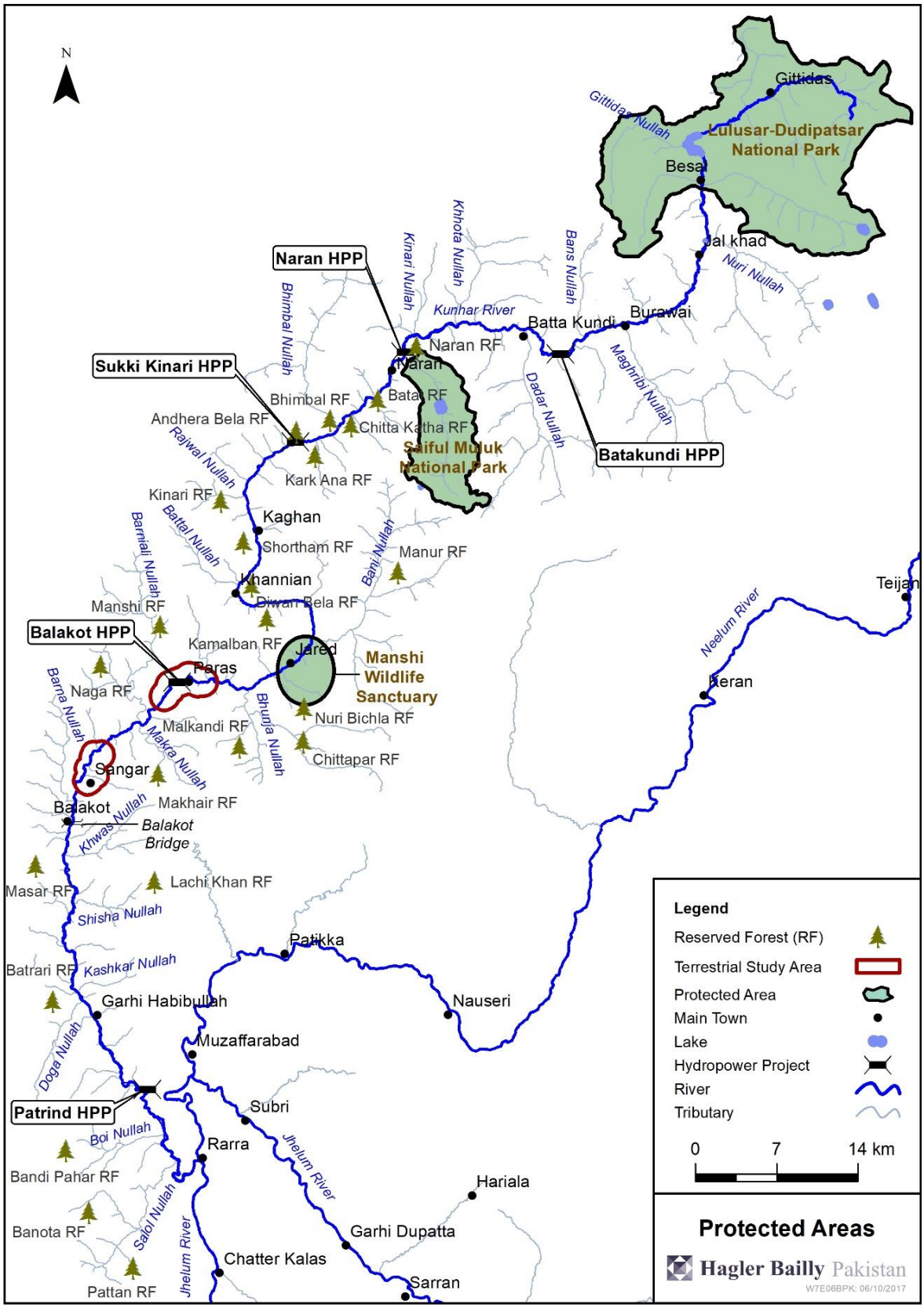
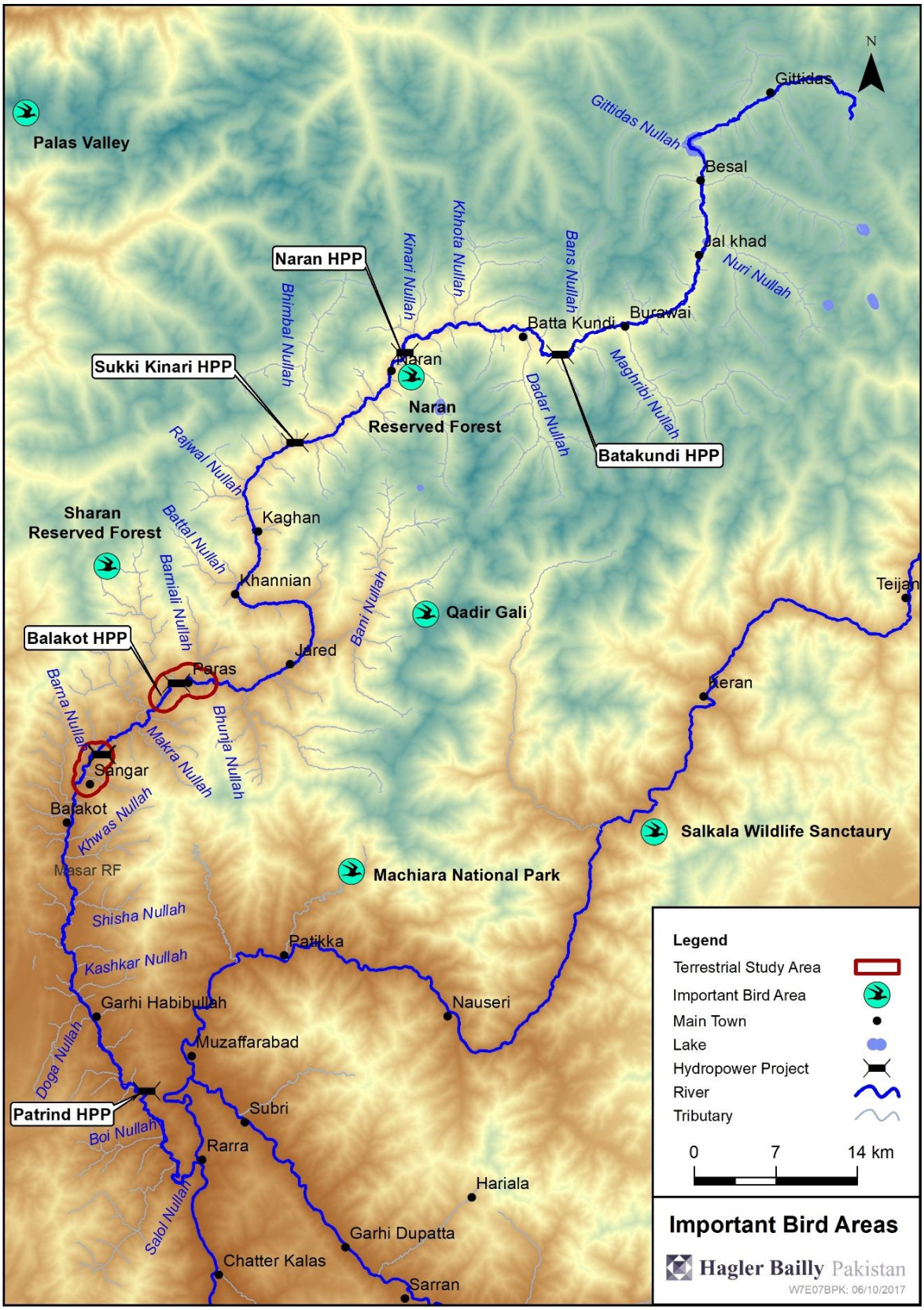


Exhibit 11.19: Map of Important Bird Areas



12 OVERVIEW OF IMPACTS ON AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY

324. An Environmental Flow (E-Flow) assessment for the Kunhar River upstream and downstream of the proposed Project was carried out as part of the EIA[70] studies. The objectives of the E-Flow assessment were to assess the power Project (BHPP) on the ecology of the river over the life of the Project. The Downstream Response to Imposed Flow Transformations (DRIFT) decision support system (DSS) developed by Southern Waters was used for E-Flow assessment, with special emphasis on impact of fish species of conservation importance. A summary is outlined below.

12.1 Overview of Impacts of Hydropower Development in Kunhar River

325. Several hydropower projects are either currently under construction or proposed within the Kunhar River basin. The Project will be part of a cascade of five large hydropower schemes on the Kunhar River. It will be located upstream of the Patrind Hydropower Project and downstream of the Suki Kinari, Naran, and Batakundi Hydropower Projects (HPP) (**Exhibit 12.1**).

326. All hydropower projects mentioned are proposed along the main stem of the Kunhar River. The biodiversity studies conducted for the Project indicate the presence of valued aquatic biological resources, particularly the endemic[71] fish species Nalbant's Loach *Schistura Nalbanti* and Kashmir Hillstream Loach *Triplophysa kashmirensis*, both of which may be affected by the Project. The Critical Habitat Assessment carried out as part of the EIA of the Project determined that the Project is located in a Critical Habitat based on the fact that the River provides 'Habitat of significant importance to endemic and/or restricted-range species' (**Section 11,** *Biodiversity Values*) for two fish species: Nalbant's Loach and Kashmir Hillstream Loach.

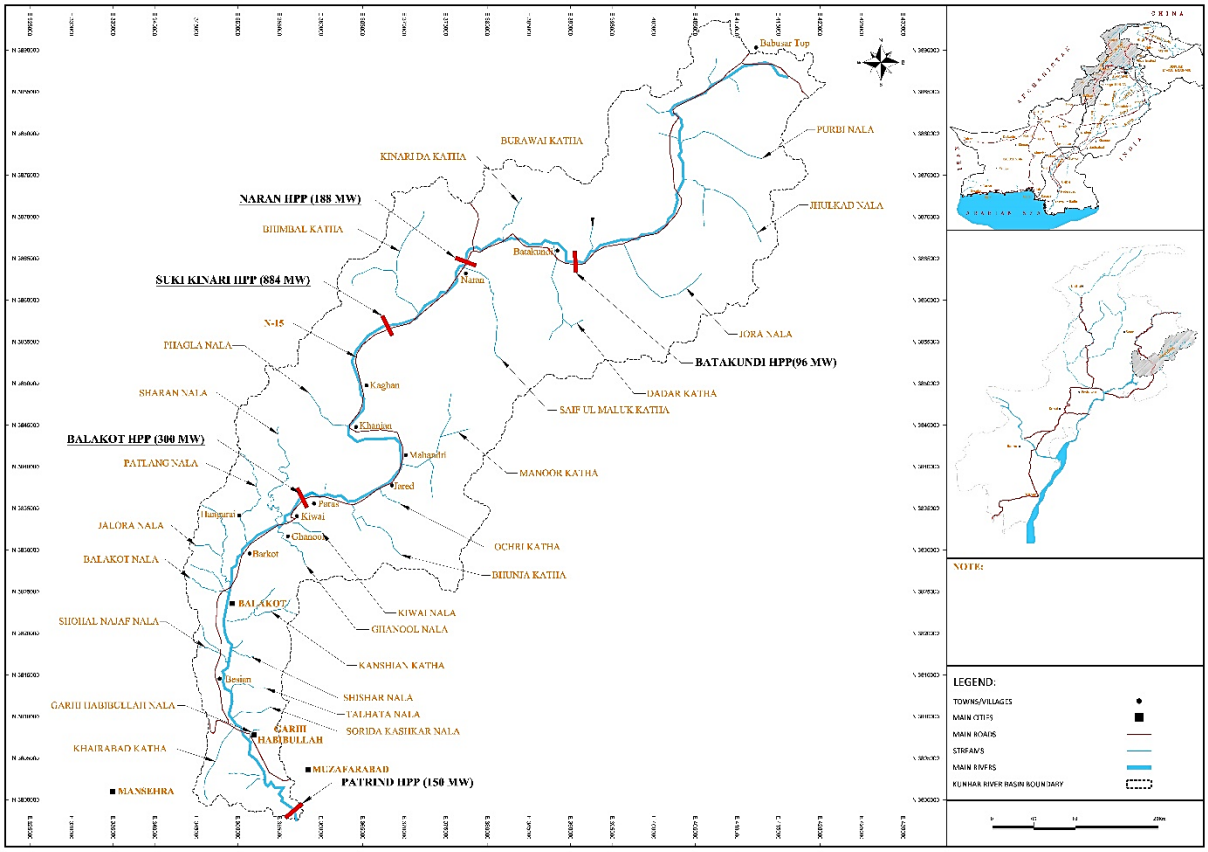
327. All HPPs will have diurnal storage capacity and will have provision for peaking in the dry season. The Patrind HPP is likely to operate as a baseload plant to avoid the impact of peaking operations on river biodiversity.

328. The development of these projects will impact an approximate stretch of 141.2 km of the main Kunhar River. This will alter the natural flow characteristics and habitats of that part of the river. The residence time of water within reservoirs is expected to be low due to limited storage capacity, therefore, deterioration in water quality across all the reservoirs is expected to be minimal with no associated cumulative impacts expected. In the short term, there are likely to be impacts on water quality during the construction phase, which are expected to be localized. However, prolonged construction is likely to cumulatively impact water quality in the longer term.

[70] Hagler Baily Pakistan, 2019, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment of the Balakot Hydropower Development Project, Final Draft Report, Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO)

[71] Endemic refers to endemic to the Jhelum Basin

Exhibit 12.1: Cascade of Hydropower Projects along the Kunhar River



329. Developments of the hydropower projects along the Kunhar River main stem will result in the loss of lotic or flowing water habitats and the creation of lentic or static water systems. The part of the river between the reservoirs will result in changes in flow variability. Changes to fish community compositions will occur with rheophilic[72] species being adversely affected. Species requiring well-oxygenated, flowing water will be limited to the tributaries. Fish species better adapted to lentic habitats will benefit from these habitat changes. The barrier effect of the reservoirs will result in habitat fragmentation and isolation of fish populations. For certain species, this will prevent access to spawning grounds.

12.2 Construction and Selection of Scenarios for Environmental Flow Assessment

330. The Project will have unavoidable impacts on aquatic biodiversity, particularly due to the loss of connectivity of habitats as a result of the construction of the dam and the flushing of sediments from the dam. The other major potential impacts of the Project will be those associated with the creation of a reservoir upstream of the dam and variations in flows downstream of the dam, particularly in dry or low-flow seasons. The environmental flow (E-Flow) assessment for the Project was carried out to assess the impact of flow modifications and the barrier to flow imposed by the Project. **Section 7.2** of the EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project, summarizes the impacts of the Project on fish fauna and other aspects

[72] Preferring or living in flowing water

of the ecosystem under various operational and management scenarios. The fish indicators selected and their flow-related needs are given in **Appendix C.**

331. In addition to flow and barrier-related impacts, there are several non-flow-related pressures on the river ecosystem that are impacting biodiversity. These are described in **Section 3.2** of the Environmental Flow Assessment Report. Of these, the following are the principal ones that were incorporated into the DRIFT E-Flow assessment model.

a. Fishing pressure in terms of quantity of fish caught (linked to all fish indicators and invertebrate indicators).

b. Sediment mining in terms of quantities of sand, gravel, and boulders extracted from aquatic habitats (linked to relevant geomorphological indicators).

c. Nutrient enrichment associated mainly with urban effluents (linked to relevant water quality indicators).

332. Given the dynamic nature of both the impact of the dam as well as the non-flow-related pressures on the river ecosystem, impacts were simulated for a period of 51 years post-commissioning of the dam, corresponding to the 51-year hydrological record available (1963-2014). Several scenarios were simulated to assess the impact on a range of ecosystem indicators. These included:

- **Baseline scenarios,** which included the predicted fish abundance under existing and growing anthropogenic pressures.
- **Minimum E-Flow release scenarios** of 1.5 m^3/s, 3.5 m^3/s, 4.5 m^3/s and 6.1 m^3/s. The E-Flow of 1.5 m^3/s was considered in the feasibility study while the remaining flows correspond to 25%, 35%, and 50% of the minimum 5-day dry season flow.
- **Peaking and baseload scenarios** which took into account the different dam operating rules.

333. The strategy and approach adopted for protection of biodiversity for the Project and incorporated into the BAP prepared for the Project follows the design of the BAP for the Gulpur Hydropower Project[73] which is being implemented on the Poonch River located in the Jhelum Basin. The Poonch River was notified as a national park by the Fisheries and Wildlife Department in 2010 to protect the fish fauna in the river which includes the Endangered Mahaseer and the Critically Endangered Kashmir Catfish. The sensitivity in the case of the Area of Management of the BAP for the Project is comparatively lower as the area is not notified as a national park. However, the issues in protection are similar, and the habitat in both cases is classified as Critical Habitat under IFC PS6. The justification for the selection of scenarios of the four protection levels considered is provided below.

12.2.1.1 Business as Usual Protection (BAU)

334. Present protection levels resulting in an increase in non-flow-related pressures in line with 2017 trends, or a doubling of pressures over 51 years. The number of watchers provided by the Wildlife Department, KP is currently inadequate to provide adequate protection to the Kunhar River and tributaries. Given the current allocation of funds for wildlife protection and

[73] Biodiversity Action Plan for the Gulpur Hydropower Project, prepared by Hagler Bailly Pakistan for Mira Power Company Ltd., October 2015.

keeping in view the acute scarcity of financial resources and competing demands from other sectors, this scenario is likely to continue in the future.

335. Based on an analysis of data for other major rivers in the Jhelum Basin, namely the Jhelum and Neelum Rivers, an increasing trend in sediment mining and fishing pressures in the Kunhar Basin is expected. A survey of fishing activities in the Neelum and Jhelum Rivers was carried out in early 2013 as a part of the E-Flow assessment for the NJHP.[74] While the intensity of extraction at about 7,000 kg/km/year observed in 2016 as a part of the ESIA of the Kohala HPP has increased only slightly just upstream of Muzaffarabad compared to that in 2013, fishing has now spread to the whole of Jhelum River, where it was practically non-existent before, and where it ranges from 700 to 1,300 kg/km/year now. As stated in **Section 11.1.5** (*Threats to Fish Fauna*), there is an expectation that fishing pressure along the Kunhar River will increase in the future. The assumption made in the DRIFT model that fishing pressures would double in the next 51 years under the Business as Usual scenario can therefore be considered as plausible and possibly conservative.

336. Similar to the survey for fishing, a survey of sediment mining activities in the Neelum and Jhelum Rivers was carried out in early 2013 as a part of the E-Flow assessment for the NJHP. In the segments upstream and downstream of the confluence at Muzaffarabad, the increase in the average quantity of sediment mined observed in 2016 as a part of the ESIA for the Kohala HPP ranged from none to 2,500 m^3/km/year, to 20,000 to 25,000 m^3/km/year. In 2013, sediment mining in Neelum River upstream of Muzaffarabad and downstream of Nauseri where the NJHP dam is located was observed to be very high, of the order of 120,000 m^3/km/year. The mining activities that were previously confined mainly to the Neelum River which is possibly easier to mine and has a higher level of sediment flows have now spread all over the Jhelum River. As stated in **Section 11.1.5** (*Threats to Fish Fauna*), there is an expectation that sediment mining along the Kunhar River will increase in the future due to an increase in demand from the construction industry. Based on these observations, the assumption made in the DRIFT model that sediment mining pressures would double in the next 51 years under the Business as Usual scenario can therefore be considered conservative.

12.2.1.2 Low Protection (LP)

337. The 2017 levels of non-flow-related pressures maintained on the river; i.e., no increase in human-induced catchment pressures over time. The pressures related to illegal fishing and unregulated sediment mining are increasing with time in response to the increase in population and demand for ecosystem services driven by economic growth.

12.2.1.3 Moderate Protection (MP)

338. The 2017 levels of non-flow-related pressures were reduced by 50% over the next 5 years and then kept stable at that level for the next 46 years. Experience in the implementation of MP or Moderate Protection scenario in Poonch Basin shows that enforcement has to be near complete for it to be effective, and in reality, the protection effort at Poonch River is now focused on achieving an HP or High Protection level. Maintaining pressures at 50% of the

[74] Environmental Flow Assessment for Neelum-Jhelum Hydroelectric Project, Socioeconomic Baseline and Impact Assessment, prepared for Pakistan Commissioner for Indus Waters, Hagler Bailly Pakistan, Southern Waters, and Anchor Environmental, March 2015.

present day has also been observed to result in a dynamic situation where the level of pressure fluctuates as the violators continuously test and challenge the protection system. Increasing the number of guards is being considered, particularly for protection in the tributaries. There is a high level of emphasis on community awareness and participation, and there is active engagement with the police and judiciary.

12.2.1.4 High Protection (HP)

339. The 2017 levels of non-flow-related pressures were reduced by 90% over the next 5 years and then kept stable at that level for the next 46 years. As indicated above for the MP protection level, this scenario reflects the 'all or nothing' paradigm for protection and is considered as realistic given the experience in the Poonch River.

12.2.2 Conclusions of Environmental Flow Assessment

12.2.2.1 Impact of Protection on Fish Populations

340. Prediction of expected changes in fish populations over a 51-year was based on observed long-term trends in similar rivers in the region where dams have not been constructed. Essentially, the relevant experts provided an estimate of the change in abundance of each indicator (if at all) from its known or predicted condition 31 years ago (considered as the historic baseline) and what have been the main drivers of change. They were also asked what abundance level they would expect it to reach in the future under the three protection scenarios (LP, MP, and HP). The values provided were targets only, as the eventual values predicted by the DRIFT model depended on the interaction of a multitude of factors, protection level being just one.

341. A list of fish species of conservation importance in the Area of Management is provided in **Exhibit 11.3**. These include two species that triggered Critical Habitat, Nalbant's Loach *Schistura Nalbanti* and Kashmir Hillstream Loach *Triplophysa kashmirensis*, for which the impact of the Project is discussed below. Both species are endemic to the Jhelum basin. In addition, biodiversity values in the Kunhar River include the Vulnerable Alwan Snow Trout *Schizothorax richardsonii* which is a migratory fish. The impact of the Project on these three species was studied under the following alternative baseline protection scenarios.

- A Business as Usual Protection or BAU as a baseline was considered because the KP Wildlife Department has only a limited number of guards to patrol the Kunhar River. Illegal fishing is widely prevalent, and unregulated mining of sand and gravel is on the increase. The KP Wildlife Department presently has no plans to improve protection.
- A Low Protection or LP level of protection under which the KP Wildlife Department puts some resources in place in the future to maintain the pressures at the present-day level, though highly unlikely given the present trends, was also considered.

342. The impact of variations in protection levels on fish populations is shown in **Exhibit 12.2**. For illustrative purposes, the impacts are shown for the segment downstream of the tailrace under baseload operation where variations in flow will be minimal, in comparison to the BAU and LP baselines. The barrier effect of the dam on the migratory fish, however, will apply. The following is a summary of observations.

- Under the Business as usual (BAU) Scenario, without the dam in place, the decline in fish populations will average 66% of present-day populations due to pressures related to unregulated fishing and sediment mining whereas the decline is predicted at 45% under the Moderate Protection (MP) baseline.
- After the Project is put in place with Moderate Protection (MP), fish populations will improve by an average of about 70% compared to the BAU baseline and 48% compared to the MP baseline. The increase is expected to be highest for the non-migratory Kashmir Hillstream Loach.
- With High Protection (HP), fish populations are predicted to improve by an average of 80% compared to the BAU Scenario. The increase is expected to be highest for the Alwan Snow Trout at close to an 88% increase over the baseline
- Increasing protection from Moderate Protection to High Protection results in an increase in population by an average of 12%, irrespective of the baseline scenario chosen for comparison.

Exhibit 12.2: Impact of Variation in Protection on Fish Population, Downstream of Tailrace (Baseload Generation with E-Flow of 3.5 m3/s)

Red: greater than 70% reduction from the Present Day, Orange: 40% to 70% reduction from the Present Day, and Green: increase over the Present Day

	Projected Change in Population					
	(% change from Present Day Populations)					
Fish	**Baseline**		**With Project**			
	BAU	**LP**	**B3BAU**	**B3LP**	**B3MP**	**B3HP**
Biophysical Results						
Alwan Snow Trout	-68.7	-54	-75.6	-64.9	-1.4	19.0
Nalbant Loach	-56.8	-27.1	-55.6	-25.9	5.7	12.0
Kashmir Hillstream Loach	-72.8	-55	-72.3	-54.4	2.5	11.9
Average	**-66.1**	**-45.4**	**-67.8**	**-48.4**	**2.3**	**14.3**
Incremental Gain compared to Business as Usual Baseline, %						
Alwan Snow Trout			-6.9	3.8	67.3	87.7
Nalbant Loach			1.2	30.9	62.5	68.8
Kashmir Hillstream Loach			0.5	18.4	75.3	84.7
Average			**-1.7**	**17.7**	**68.4**	**80.4**
Incremental Gain compared to Low Protection Baseline, %						
Alwan Snow Trout			-21.6	-10.9	52.6	73.0
Nalbant Loach			-28.5	1.2	32.8	39.1
Kashmir Hillstream Loach			-17.3	0.6	57.5	66.9
Average			**-22.5**	**-3.0**	**47.6**	**59.7**

12.2.2.2 Assessment of Net Gain and No Net Loss

343. As discussed in **Section 8.2** (*Background and Rationale for Developing BAP*), under IFC PS6, Net Gain is required for the biodiversity values that triggered Critical Habitat, namely the Nalbant's Loach *Schistura Nalbanti* and Kashmir Hillstream Loach *Triplophysa kashmirensis*.

344. **Exhibit 12.3** shows Net Gain/No Net Loss for key fish species for the selected E-Flows under the High Protection scenario assessed in the EIA.

345. Net gain was calculated based on the length of the reach represented by the E-Flow site multiplied by the predicted change in abundance at that particular E-Flow site. Distribution of fish populations between the main river and the tributaries was also taken into account, as both the main river and tributaries will benefit from protection.

346. The predicted abundances were compared against baselines with two different levels of protection (Business as Usual Protection and Low Protection). These dynamic baselines represent the expected fish abundances in the absence of the Project.

347.

348. **Exhibit 12.4** and **Exhibit 12.5** provide an illustration of Net Gain/No Net Loss for the selected scenarios of an E-Flow of 1.5 m^3/s and baseload operation and an E-Flow of 6.1 m^3/s and peaking operation respectively. Predictions of the DRIFT model are subject to an uncertainty of the order of 15% above and below the predicted mean[75], which is indicated as a line in the graphs.

349. The scenarios considered feasible for achieving the required net gain are discussed below:

12.2.2.3 Baseload Generation with E-Flow of 1.5m^3/s and High Protection

350. This scenario is recommended as robust gains are observed for all fish indicator species compared to the BAU baseline. Compared to the more conservative LP baseline the gains are robust and remain positive.

12.2.2.4 Peaking Generation with an E-Flow of 6.1 m^3/s and High Protection

351. If peaking power carries a premium then this option can be considered. Net gains are weak compared to the BAU baseline (with only a 7% gain for the Kashmir Hillstream Loach). This is lower than the 15% limit of uncertainty.

Exhibit 12.3: Assessment of Net Gain/No Net Loss in Key Fish Species

Green = Gain greater than 15%, Red= Net Loss

	Baseload Generation with E-Flow of 1.5m^3/s and High Protection	Peaking Generation with an E-Flow of 6.1 m^3/s and High Protection
Net Gain Against Business as Usual Baseline		
Alwan Snow Trout	79%	38%
Nalbant Loach	60%	54%

[75] Based on results from Kohala Hydropower Plant Environmental Flow Assessment, Technical Report. Southern Waters in Association with Hagler Bailly Pakistan, November 2016

Kashmir Hillstream Loach	43%	7%
Net Gain Against Low Protection Baseline		
Alwan Snow Trout	60%	19%
Nalbant Loach	29%	24%
Kashmir Hillstream Loach	24%	-12%

Exhibit 12.4: Net Gain in Fish Population, Baseload Operation with E-Flow of 1.5 m^3/s and High Protection Scenario

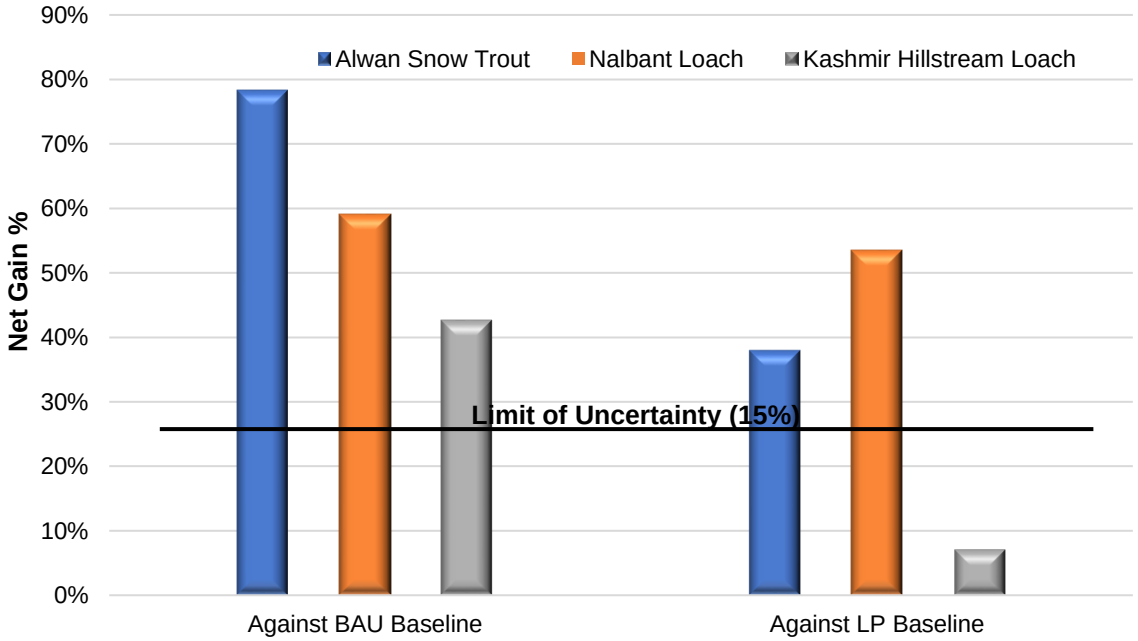
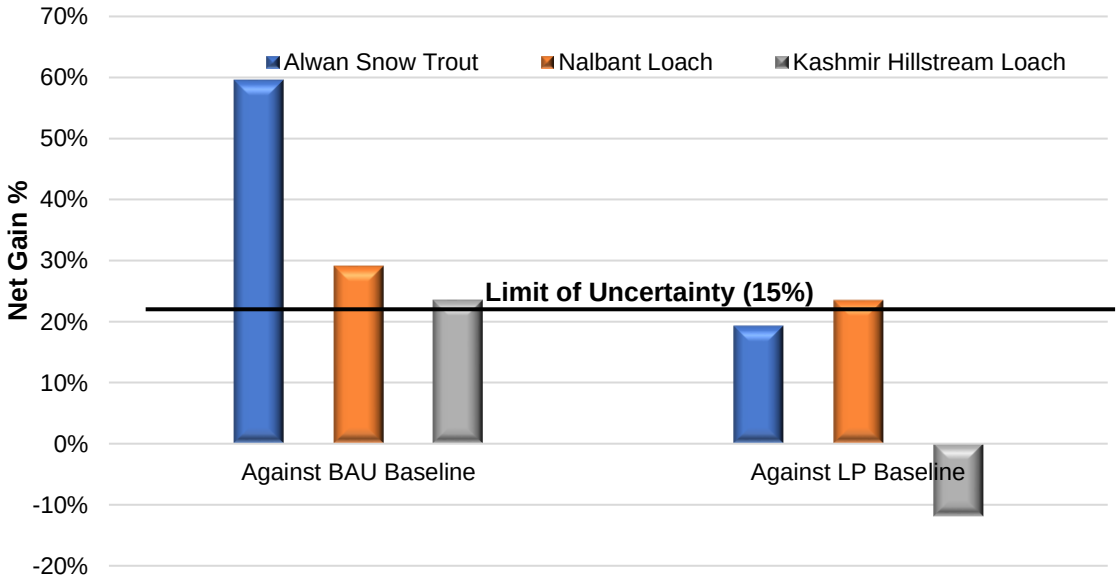


Exhibit 12.5: Net Gain in Fish Population, Peaking Operation with E-Flow of 6.1 m^3/s and High Protection Scenario



13 PROPOSED CONSERVATION MEASURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED FISH SPECIES

352. This Biodiversity Management Plan (BAP) was developed to achieve a 'Net Gain' in biodiversity in alignment with IFC Performance Standard 6 with special attention to fish species of conservation importance. These include the two fish species endemic to the Kunhar and Jhelum Basin: Nalbant's Loach *Schistura nalbanti* and Kashmir Hillstream Loach *Triplophysa kashmirensis* for which the Kunhar River is a critical habitat. Though not required under PS6, the BAP also aims to achieve a no net loss for the migratory fish, Alwan Snow Trout *Schizothorax richardsonii* which is listed as Vulnerable in the IUCN Red List 2017.

353. The E-Flow assessment of the Project evaluated various options to address both flow and non-flow-related pressures on the river ecology in the Area of Management. **Section 11** (*Biodiversity Values*) described major threats to the biological resources in the Area of Management. The CIA (**Section 7.14** of the EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project) describes threats to biodiversity at the basin level and suggests measures for integrated management of biodiversity to strengthen the implementation of the BAP and to further enhance the conservation of biodiversity. This section outlines the necessary measures for the protection and conservation of fish species of conservation importance to achieve target population levels and Net Gain/No Net Loss as specified in the EIA. For the conservation and management of Threatened species, recorded during the May 2024 survey, which include seven Threatened fish species exist in the study area including five loaches belonging to the Family Nemacheilidae and two species of Snow trout belonging to the Family Cyprinidae, the following few recommendations and conservation measures proposed as part of the study, followed by the BAP proposed in the approved EIA report.

I. In-situ conservation of loaches through habitat expansion.

354. Since the ideal habitat of loaches is the hill streams in the study area, therefore, as a conservation measure, it is recommended that loaches must be protected in their habitats. In this regard, small pools and reservoirs should be developed at suitable places in the tributary nullahs of the Kunhar River where loaches exist. This will not only provide safe breeding grounds for the loaches but will also help them stay safe in their habitats during heavy rains and flash floods.

355. As recommended above, small pools will be developed at suitable places in the perennial tributaries of the Kunhar River where loaches exist. Suitable locations for such pools will be identified by the staff of the Fisheries Department involved in the protection and management activities under the implementation of the project-specific BAP activities in the Area of Management. Once identified, the engineer's estimates of such pools will be worked out and will subsequently be constructed as part of the BAP interventions.

356. At this time, the construction of 21 pools is recommended at appropriate locations in around seven perennial nullahs. Preliminary assessment shows that each pool will cost around PKR one million. Thus, a total of **PKR 21 million** for 21 pools will suffice to serve the purpose. The number of nullahs, and pools, and the cost of each pool may be increased or decreased as per site conditions however, the amount of **PKR 21 million** should be the maximum budget reserved for such activity. Such interventions will not only provide safe

breeding grounds for the loaches but will also help them stay safe in their habitats during heavy rains and flash floods.

II. In-situ conservation of loaches through habitat protection.

357. The loaches are distributed mainly in the nullahs and streams in comparatively warmer water downstream of the Sukki Kinari dam site. These loaches are sensitive to human impacts such as habitat degradation through water pollution and the dumping of solid wastes in the streams. The local communities residing along the tributaries of the Kunhar River, where loaches exist, can play a key role in keeping the streams pollution-free. Therefore, a campaign should be launched to remove solid waste from the streams involving the local communities, including students from the schools located in the catchment of the streams.

358. In this regard, yearly awareness-raising and solid waste collection companies are recommended for each tributary where loaches, particularly Kashmir Hillstream loach, are identified. A minimum of 18 such campaigns are recommended till December 2027 i.e. till completion of the Project construction activities. Thereafter, such campaigns should be organized by the Fisheries department from its resources to ensure the continuation of the protection and management activities designed for the protection of loaches in their habitats.

359. A budget of **PKR 3.5 million** is recommended for the awareness and solid waste collection campaigns organized for the Kunhar River tributaries till December 2027. These campaigns will raise awareness among communities to protect the loaches' habitat by keeping the streams free from solid waste dumping.

III. Ex-situ conservation of loaches through commercial breeding.

360. To promote the conservation of ornamental and favorite aquarium fish species, it is recommended that their commercial breeding be encouraged in the study area. This initiative would not only help protect these species but also provide livelihood support to local communities. Further exploration of this aspect should take place once the implementation of protection and management activities, as outlined in the project-specific BAP, begins at the field level. Additionally, the watchers involved in protection and awareness-raising campaigns can play a vital role in this effort and should be utilized effectively.

IV. Awareness raising among local communities.

361. An awareness-raising campaign focused on the environment, ecosystem, and the ecological roles and importance of various fish species is recommended for local communities living in the study area and along the tributary nullahs of the Kunhar River. Although loaches are of the least interest in terms of commercial and food value for fishermen, this campaign will support conservation efforts for loaches in the region. It is essential to educate individuals involved in illegal fishing activities and promote sustainable fishing practices among these communities.

362. The awareness-raising campaigns under the project-specific BAP, along with campaigns for solid waste collection from the streams, would provide significant opportunities that should be leveraged for this purpose.

V. Establishment of a hatchery for Threatened Cyprinids.

363. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province has numerous fish hatcheries operating in both the private and public sectors. Unfortunately, a concerning aspect of these hatcheries is that they predominantly focus on breeding commercially and economically important fish species. None of them have successfully bred any threatened or ecologically significant species, such as the native Alwan Snow Trout (*Schizothorax richardsonii*) or the Chirruh Snow Trout (*Schizothorax esocinus*). Instead, the emphasis has largely been on increasing the production of the invasive Brown Trout, which poses a significant threat to the region's indigenous fish populations.

364. To address this issue, it is recommended that a dedicated fish hatchery be established specifically for the breeding of these two threatened cyprinid species: Alwan Snow Trout and Chirruh Snow Trout. Stocking these threatened species in protected habitats will not only aid in their conservation but will also enhance existing conservation efforts in the area.

365. In this regard, the budget of **PKR 132 million,** allocated for the establishment of a hatchery to meet the requirements of the "Environmental Approval", can be utilized. The operation and maintenance of this hatchery should be undertaken by the department using its own resources. However, the matter should be discussed in detail with the Fisheries Department to develop consensus.

VI. Wildlife sanctuary for Indigenous Snow trout.

366. During the survey, it was noted that numerous trout hatcheries are operating along the Kunhar River, upstream of the Balakot dam site, particularly in the private sector. The primary reason for the establishment of these hatcheries is the growing tourism and the increasing demand for trout meat among visitors. This high demand has prompted the promotion and propagation of Brown trout in the area, including efforts by the KP Fisheries Department. However, this has had a detrimental impact on native and ecologically important fish species, such as the Alwan Snow Trout (*Schizothorax richardsonii*) and the Chirruh Snow Trout (*Schizothorax esocinus*). Therefore, it is strongly recommended that the reservoir of the Balakot dam, which will cover approximately a 2 km stretch of the River, be designated as a "Snow Trout Sanctuary." In this proposed sanctuary, only the stocking of snow trout should be permitted, and the introduction of Brown trout must be prohibited. Furthermore, seasonal surveys and monitoring should be conducted to assess the presence of Brown trout within the sanctuary. If Brown trout are detected, they must be removed from the sanctuary to protect the local ecosystem.

VII. Research on Threatened species.

367. There is a lack of authentic data at the local level regarding the threatened fish species belonging to the families Nemacheilidae (loaches) and Cyprinidae (snow trout). Research on the ecological and biological aspects of these threatened species is necessary. This can be effectively accomplished by involving university researchers. Studies focusing on the distribution, population status, habitat evaluation, and genetic diversity of the threatened fish species in the study area are recommended. Such local-level studies, aimed at generating primary data, are essential for determining the IUCN conservation status of these species. Additionally, it is recommended that the findings of these studies be published in peer-reviewed research journals, so that researchers and members of the Species Survival

Commission (SSC) of the IUCN can benefit from the information, and the latest conservation status of the threatened species can be established.

368. It is recommended that, as part of the BAP interventions, detailed seasonal surveys be conducted over a minimum of two years along a 100 km stretch of the Kunhar River and its contributing streams. The aim is to assess the aquatic diversity and fish species populations, with a particular focus on threatened species. The surveys should include an evaluation of the various threats to these species and their habitats, as well as proposed measures for their protection and conservation.

369. A budget of **PKR 12 million** will be sufficient to cover all expenses related to the survey, including transportation, remuneration, accommodation, laboratory tests, printing, and other associated costs. The survey should be carried out either by a qualified individual consultant or a firm that specializes in conducting such surveys.

VIII. Effective watch & ward system.

370. An effective and efficient watch and ward system is essential for the conservation of threatened fish species in the study area. This system will help reduce the existing anthropogenic pressures on these species, such as illegal fishing, non-selective fishing, fishing during the breeding season, and fishing in the river tributaries. Therefore, the implementation of the measures proposed in the project-specific BAP is strongly emphasized.

IX. Conservation partnership.

371. Involving local communities in conservation is an effective strategy for preserving natural resources. For successful conservation of fisheries resources, it is essential to engage local communities. This involvement can include offering job opportunities for residents as fisheries guards, providing training for fishermen in sustainable fishing practices, and educating community members in aquaculture and fish farming. Additionally, training, particularly for women, can focus on rearing ornamental fish such as loaches and on the marketing and e-marketing of these species. Such initiatives will promote the concept of benefit sharing and contribute to the effective conservation of fisheries resources in the area.

372. In this regard, as discussed with the Fisheries and Wildlife departments, the watchers for protection activities should be hired from the local communities. Both the departments are already working with the communities and have decades-long linkage with them which can effectively be availed during the implementation of the BAP activities.

X. Capacity building of the custodian Fisheries Department.

373. Although the Fisheries Department has technical expertise in fish breeding and rearing, it lacks adequate knowledge in fisheries management and research, particularly in fish ecology, biology, taxonomy, and genomics. These deficiencies could be addressed through collaboration with universities and fisheries research institutes. Additionally, improving infrastructure—by upgrading existing fish hatcheries and establishing new ones for indigenous threatened fish species—would strengthen the Fisheries Department and ultimately lead to better management of the area's fisheries resources.

XI. Control on illegal fishing.

374. Illegal and uncontrolled fishing practices pose a serious threat to the fish population in the study area. The Fisheries Department should work to educate local fishermen about the importance and ecological role of fish through an awareness campaign. The use of fine mesh gill nets results in the capture of all types of fish, including ornamental species, fry, fingerlings, and non-commercial fish, and fishermen need to be encouraged not to catch non-commercial species. Additionally, the use of poisons, electrical devices, and dynamite should be completely prohibited in the area.

375. The streams and tributaries of the Kunhar River serve as habitats and breeding grounds for fish belonging to the Family Nemacheilidae (loaches). Therefore, fishing in these tributaries must be entirely banned. Most fish species have a breeding season that lasts from May to August, so fishing during this period in natural water bodies should also be prohibited.

376. Commercial fishing should not be permitted in the river or its tributaries within the study area. Only subsistence fishing using rods and cast nets, with limited weights, should be allowed through a permitting system. Furthermore, angling should be promoted to attract visitors and enhance the recreational value of the river.

377. It is expected that the implementation of the protection activities and awareness-raising programs under the BAP will enable the Fisheries Department to curtail illegal fishing activities and sensitize the locals, particularly the fish hunters, to refrain from fishing through illicit means.

XII. **Regulation of sand and aggregate mining.**

378. The government should regulate sand and aggregate mining in the study area. Such mining practices should only be permitted in designated areas and conducted sustainably. Additionally, mining should be prohibited in ecologically sensitive areas, such as breeding grounds and habitats for threatened fish species, particularly in the river's tributaries where loaches are typically found

13.1 Protection of Biodiversity

379. The strategy and approach, adopted for the protection of biodiversity for the Project, follows the design of the BAP for the GHPP (Gulpur BAP).[76] Sustainability aspects of biodiversity management were studied in the Gulpur BAP, and the BAP was then designed to manage risks in implementation. The national park referred to in the BAP of GHPP is the Poonch River Mahaseer National Park, inclusive of tributaries that are important breeding areas for fish. The sensitivity in the case of the Area of Management of the BAP for the Balakot Hydropower Development Project is comparatively lower as the area is not notified as a national park. Pressures on biodiversity in Jhelum River are also comparatively lower as the river is wider and deeper which makes fishing and sediment mining relatively difficult. However, the issues in protection are similar, and the habitat in both cases is classified as Critical Habitat. Sustainability aspects that were addressed in the BAP for GHPP included:

[76] Biodiversity Action Plan for the Gulpur Hydropower Project, prepared by Hagler Bailly Pakistan for Mira Power Company Ltd., October 2015

a. **Sustainable livelihoods, including fishing, sediment mining, and tourism:** Adopting an inclusive and participatory approach towards the community such that their livelihoods are protected in balance with the need to protect biodiversity following the principles of sustainable development.

b. **Sustainable financial management:** Ensuring financing for protection and management over the life of the Project with funds provided by the Project.

c. **Institutional strengthening of the JK Fisheries and Wildlife Department (JKFWD:** Providing staff and capacities to JKFWD for protection in the near term, and adding staff and capacities in the Department in the long term to enable the Department to internalize and take over protection and management instead of depending on external capacity.

d. **Institutional arrangements for implementation of BAP:** Recognizing the lack of capacity in JKFWD, contracting with qualified and experienced third parties to deliver protection and to conduct monitoring and evaluation under the supervision of the JKFWD and with oversight from a Management Committee that has representation from the government, the Project owner, and other key stakeholders including the local community.

380. Implementation of the BAP in the Poonch River Basin was initiated in March 2016, while monitoring and evaluation were started in October 2015 to collect data before the creation of a barrier to flow by the construction of a coffer dam. Additional experience in the management of risks will, therefore, be available for adjusting the design of the BAP for the Project by the time its implementation is initiated, which will be sometime towards the end of 2017.

381. A similar approach outlined above will be adopted for the Balakot Hydropower Development Project in the Area of Management and is discussed in detail below. The identification of key threats and their appropriate management is central to keeping the integrity of the Area of Management of the BAP intact. An increase in surveillance and improved watch and ward will:

- curtail illegal fishing including non-selective fishing, fishing in the breeding season of fish, and fishing in river tributaries. (**Section 11.1.5**).
- regulate sediment mining to maintain it at sustainable levels and prevent sediment mining from ecologically sensitive locations (**Section 11.1.5**).

382. The focus of the watch and ward will be on protecting the aquatic ecological resources. However, the improved watch and ward will benefit the terrestrial ecological resources by preventing illegal hunting and killing of large mammals, particularly the Common Leopard and Black Bear.

13.1.1 Measures for Control and Management of Fishing

383. The current practice is that the Fisheries Department, Govt. of KP issues fishing permits to locals and tourists, particularly for trout fishing upstream of Balakot city. To protect the local livelihoods and the tourism industry, this current practice that allows fishing with permits using rods and cast nets can be continued. However, fish catch and populations need

to be monitored (see **Section 16**, *Monitoring and Evaluation*) to ensure that the harvesting remains within the limits of sustainability. The number of permits issued can be regulated to maintain the fish populations.

384. The following measures will be implemented by the Fisheries Department, Govt. of KP (referred to as the Department in this report) with support from the Balakot Hydropower Development Project to conserve the fish populations of the Kunhar River.

- Non-selective fishing using fine mesh gill nets, poisons, and dynamites will be completely controlled in the entire stretch of the Kunhar River.
- Fishing in the tributaries that are breeding grounds for fish will be banned.
- Fishing during the breeding season of the fish (May-August) will be banned.
- Fishing in habitats identified as sensitive, particularly for the fish species of conservation importance will be restricted or banned, with special attention to sections of tributaries that are breeding grounds of fish.
- Commercial fishing will not be allowed either in the river and its tributaries or in the reservoir.
- The above rules and regulations will be strictly implemented with an efficient and effective watch and ward system.
- Subsistence fishing using rods and cast nets with limited weights will be allowed through a permitting system in the reservoir created upstream of the dam, and downstream of the dam when the Fisheries Department, Govt. of KP considers the fish populations to have recovered.
- Angling will be allowed to attract visitors and develop the educational and recreational value of the river when the Fisheries Department, Govt. of KP considers the fish populations to have recovered.
- The Fisheries Department will implement various initiatives including infrastructural developmental activities aimed at the protection of the fish resources, particularly in the contributing streams of the Kunhar River.

13.1.2 Measures for Regulation of Sediment Mining

385. Options for control of the impact of sediment mining include:

- a complete ban on the activity, or
- regulation of the activity to achieve a balance between meeting community needs and reducing its impact on aquatic ecology

386. The total quantity of sediment being mined from the Kunhar River is of the order of 17% of the total sediment load (**Section 7.11.4** of the EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project). Sand mining contributes to the livelihood of about 4% of the households in the Study Area and it accounts for only 3.60% of the total income (**Section 4.3.8** of the EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project). The sand and gravel are sold for use by households in the construction of homes. The locations are determined mainly by the size of sediment deposits,

ease of access, and demand from nearby towns. **Section 11.1.5** (*Threats to Fish Fauna*) includes photographs of mining activities on the Kunhar River.

387. Discussions with local communities indicated that a complete ban on sand and gravel mining would adversely affect households as construction costs would become unaffordable. Once the Project becomes operational, quantities of sediment likely to be deposited upstream of the dam annually will far exceed the preliminary estimates of demand for sediment and probably exceed demand for quite some time to come (see **Section 7.11.4** of the EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project).

388. While the current pressure related to sediment mining is relatively low. However, anticipating growth in extraction as has happened in Poonch and Jhelum Basins in the recent past, an approach similar to the one being followed in the Gulpur BAP is suggested for this BAP. Some initiatives are been undertaken in the Poonch River by the Fisheries and Wildlife Department to control destructive sediment mining practices. These include steps being taken to stop 'wet mining', or mining directly from the flowing river. Notices are being issued in coordination with the Environmental Protection Agency (JK EPA) to stop wet mining. Similar actions are proposed for this BAP of the Kunhar River in the Area of Management and will include the following:

- The M&E Consultant will prepare Sediment Mining Guidelines for the Kunhar River, and its tributaries in the Area of Management that have important breeding areas located in them.
- Sediment mining will only be allowed in designated areas and banned from ecologically sensitive areas such as habitat of fish of conservation importance, and fish breeding locations in tributaries.

389. An Outline for Sediment Mining Management Guidelines is provided in **Appendix D**. The Sediment Mining Guidelines will ensure that a balance is achieved between meeting community needs for sand and gravel as well as the integrity of aquatic habitat in the Area of Management such that the habitat is not excessively damaged due to uncontrolled mining activities on the river bed. Given these considerations, the social risk associated with the management of mining operations is expected to be low.

13.1.3 Awareness and Education

390. Removal of bankside vegetation, illegal fishing, sediment mining, and pollution continues in many parts of the river and its tributaries. One of the reasons for this is that local communities that reside in the Kunhar River basin are largely unaware of the detrimental impacts of their activities on the river ecology. They do not fully appreciate the fact that the area contains resources of conservation and socio-economic importance. Education and awareness, particularly at the local level, is therefore a critical factor in generating support among local communities for conservation and management initiatives.

391. Activities to promote awareness and education related to biodiversity are presented in this section. The activities are designed to contribute to biodiversity conservation through information sharing, education, and capacity building of the concerned population groups i.e. the local communities and visitors. The purpose is to empower people to participate in conservation measures in an informed, committed, and skilled manner, contributing to the

achievement of 'Net Gain' where feasible. The scope of activities covers the Areas of Management and includes aquatic as well as terrestrial biodiversity. Given the nature of the awareness and education activities, it is not possible to focus the plan on the aquatic biodiversity alone which is directly impacted by the Project.

13.1.4 Local Communities

- ***Teacher Training Workshops***

392. Training teachers will ensure that conservation education becomes part of the classroom teaching process and is integrated into the local school system. Gaining the support of school teachers and their students will not only help change the outlook of future community members but also provide a focus for the more immediate spread of information. Respective departments will conduct teacher training workshops in the local schools and provide information to the teachers regarding:

- the aquatic and semi-aquatic ecological resources of the Kunhar Basin.
- threats to these biological resources include over-fishing, use of destructive fishing means, deforestation, and illegal hunting.
- steps that community members can take to minimize the negative impact on the environment and biological resources.

393. The workshops will be delivered using the following tools:

- Slide shows
- Posters and postcards
- Field visits

- ***School Activities***

394. School teachers will organize debates, drawing competitions, and quiz competitions on various aspects of conservation. Respective departments will facilitate these events and present certificates to the winners. The aim will be to raise environmental awareness among school children in a fun and interactive way.

- ***Community Outreach***

395. With the support from the protection staff, respective departments (Wildlife and Fisheries) will conduct non-formal awareness and education programs for the local communities. Separate events will be organized for men and women. During these sessions, the conservation significance of the Jhelum River and its tributaries will be highlighted with recommendations on how the detrimental impact of anthropogenic activities on the biological resources of the area can be minimized.

- ***Visitors and General Public***

396. Awareness and education tools for visitors to the area and the general public will include the items described below.

- ***Posters and Brochures***

397. Posters and brochures will be prepared on the following themes:

- importance of the Kunhar River including pictures of aquatic fauna of conservation importance particularly fish such as Alwan Snow Trout and the endemic fish species Nalbant's Loach and Kashmir Hillstream Loach;
- wildlife of conservation importance including pictures of mammals found in the area such as Musk Deer, Himalayan Grey Langur, Black Bear, Common Leopard, and Grey Goral as well as birds such as Black Kite, Common Kestrel, Common Crane, and European Honey Buzzard; and
- threats to the biological resources of the Kunhar River basin.
- the rules and regulations and do's and don'ts related to Kunhar River.

➢ ***Sign Boards***

398. At least 12 large and 36 small sign boards will be prepared on some of the following themes:

- warning sign not to cause disturbance to, or remove vegetation from, the fish hotspots;
- warning sign not to engage in illegal fishing particularly using gill nets, dynamite, and poisons;
- warning signs not to remove sand and gravel from ecologically sensitive areas such as river tributaries.

➢ ***Media***

399. Involvement of print and visual media would be very helpful in promoting awareness of the importance of conservation. Local and national newspapers as well as local radio channels can be engaged to increase environmental awareness and to promote conservation.

400. Media involvement ensures that reporting is quick, reliable, and unbiased and leads to greater accountability. This could be particularly important if conservation objectives are not being met or there is political influence that impedes the successful implementation of the BAP.

13.1.5 Requirements for Protection

401. Aspects of the watch-and-ward system that require development are:

- additional staff;
- surveillance coverage;
- reporting and information management;
- field offices;
- additional equipment and material ;
- communication and coordination; and
- staff training

13.1.6 Existing Watch and Ward Setup

402. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province, the responsibility for watch and ward of the terrestrial and aquatic ecological resources lies with the Wildlife Department, while the Fisheries Department regulates recreational fishing and is also responsible for the management of water quality.

403. The KP Wildlife Department is headed by the Chief Conservator of Wildlife and supported by two Divisional Forest Officers (DFOs) for Wildlife Headquarters and Wildlife Extension respectively, as well as five Conservators, one each for Malakand Circle, Central Circle, Southern Circle, Hazara circle, and Zoo circle. Each division of the province is headed by one DFO. The Area of Management for the BAP falls in the jurisdiction of the Mansehra Division. Staff reporting to DFO Mansehra includes two Wildlife Officers (BPS-17), one Range Officer (BPS 16) as well as four Deputy Range Officers (BPS-11) and 20 Wildlife Watchers (BPS-07). This staff is responsible for patrolling, surveying, and preventing illegal hunting and fishing.

404. The KP Fisheries Department is headed by the Director of General Fisheries (BPS-20) and supported by one Senior Director of Fisheries (BPS-20) and eight Deputy Directors. There is one Deputy/Assistant Director of Fisheries that heads each division in the province including the Deputy Director (District In-charge) for the Mansehra Division where the Project is located. The field staff in the Mansehra Division is divided into three offices: AWF Office Siran Valley, Camp Office Balakot, Kaghan Valley Camp Office, and ARO Shinu Trout Hatchery. Besides the hatchery staff, there is one Assistant Warden Fisheries (BPS-12), one Head Fisheries Watcher (BPS-9), one Fisheries Supervisor (BPS-11) as well as 12 Head Fisheries Watchers (BPS-9) and 30 Fisheries Watchers (BPS-7). The staff of the KP Fisheries Department regulates fishing methods using permits and licenses, the species that can be caught, and associated penalties for violation of regulations about wild fish.

- ***Additional Staff Requirements under the BAP***

405. Based on the discussions with the stakeholders, a total of 16 additional guards/watchers are required to implement the conservation/protection measures outlined in the BAP. Each watcher will be responsible for patrolling an approximately 5 km stretch of the Area of Management of the Kunhar River. Also required will be two supervisors (one each for Fisheries and Wildlife) who can oversee the tasks assigned to the watchers as well as one Manager/Focal Person (one each for Fisheries and Wildlife).

406. Both departments will be reporting to the BAP Management Committee as outlined in the BAP institutional arrangement.

- ***Patrolling and Reporting***

407. The Watchers will carry out regular patrols of the entire Area of Management, its tributaries, and adjacent terrestrial habitats during both day and night.[77] Their activities will be supervised by the Supervisors. The Watchers will be responsible for enforcing the fisheries and wildlife regulations and reporting violations. All violations will be noted, logged, and reported to the Supervisor every day. In case of an emergency or major violation, the

[77] Most of the illegal fishing takes place in the dark when detection is difficult

Manager/Focal Person will be informed immediately and will visit the site to constitute a team to inquire into and rectify the matter. Both departments will develop a management information system for the collection, analysis, and reporting of watch and ward data.

- ***Management Offices***

408. With the consultation of the Wildlife and Fisheries Department of the Govt. of KP, Two Field Offices will be set up for protection and management under the Project-Specific BAP. However, for both offices, the land will be provided by the respective department. Construction costs as well as required furniture and equipment will be supported by PEDO under the BAP agreement. There will be 4 rooms in the field offices that will include 2 rooms for watch and ward staff, 1 room for office, and a guest room for visitors. There will also be a bathroom, kitchen, and store in each office.

- ***Required Equipment and Materials***

409. For effective implementation of protection measures and efficient watch and ward, the staff will require the following additional equipment and facilities.

- Motorbikes – 18
- Boat, rafts, gear, life jackets – 1
- Uniform – as per requirements within the budget provisions
- Field gear - as per requirements within the budget provisions
- Night Vision Binoculars – 2
- Binoculars - 12
- Global Positioning System (GPS) - 3
- Video Camera - 2
- Digital Cameras – 4
- First Aid Box - 2

410. The following office equipment will be required:

- Computers – 2
- Laptop/Notepads - 2
- Printers – 2

- ***Communication and Coordination***

411. A communication network is vital for the proper functioning of the watch-and-ward system. Each of the two field offices will have a telephone and a computer. Email/internet facilities will be added depending on the availability of communication networks. For field communication, the Watchers will use their cellular phones and a monthly allowance will be given to the Watchers for their phone bills.

- ***Awareness and Education***

412. The basic responsibility for the awareness-raising program will lie with the Fisheries and Wildlife departments of the Govt. of KP. Requirements for education and awareness activities are given in **Exhibit 13.1.**

Exhibit 13.1: Requirements for Promoting Education and Awareness

No	Action	Frequency
1.	**Local Communities:**	
1.1	Teacher training workshops	Semi-annual
1.2	School activities	Semi-annual
1.3	Community outreach programs	Semi-annual
2.	**General Public**	
2.1	Posters and brochures	At the start of the field activities and thereafter, every 5 years.
2.2	Signboards	After every 10 years

- ***Staff Training***

413. Training of new and existing staff is central to the success of implementing the proposed High Protection (HP) Scenario (**Section 12**, *overview of impact on Aquatic Biodiversity*). A course will be designed for the watch and ward team that will include information regarding:

- important biological resources of the area, the conservation importance of these species, and the need for their protection;
- legal framework as well as the applicable rules and regulations;
- guidelines and procedures for patrolling, coordination, and efficient watch-and-ward.

414. The course will be organized by the respective departments and delivered by a leading Biodiversity Expert/Ecologist/Fish Expert; a legal expert; and a senior official of the Department with experience in the management of wildlife in the area.

13.2 Structures to Assist Fish Passage Across the Dam

415. Structures that assist fish to pass dams are variously called fishways, fish ladders, or fish-passes. They are of two types. In the first, the fish swim upstream, aided by the device. In the second, the fish enter a storage compartment and are transferred to the reservoir above the dam without the expenditure of energy on their part.[78]

416. The first group includes pool and weir, and pool and orifice types of fish-pass. Pool and weir type fish-passes are used where the dam to be surmounted is less than 10 m high, while pool and orifice fish-passes may be used up to 40 m. The structures of this group are used mainly by strong swimmers e.g. salmon.[79]

[78] Pavlov D.S., 1989. Structures assisting the migration of non-salmonid fish. USSE. FAO Fish. Tech. Pap. No. 308. Rome, FAO. 997

[79] Ibid

417. The second group includes sluice[80] fish-passes, useful up to 10 m, fish locks, used up to 40m, and mechanical lifts which store and transport fish, and may be used up to any height. Fish-lifts typically comprise:

- a collection gallery,
- an operation chamber containing a fish-retention grid, where fish may be counted and samples taken; and
- a moving and a releasing device.

418. The passage of water through the dam's turbine and the collection gallery creates a plume in the tail-water below the dam. This attracts fish which swim up the plume and enter the collection gallery. After a fixed time interval, the gallery inlet is closed by a retaining and crowding device, which is usually a frame covered with netting. This prevents the fish from drifting back into the tail-water pond. The crowding device is then moved towards the dam when the fish are shepherded into the operation chamber. Subsequently, they move from this chamber into fish-pass sluices, or the containers of fish locks, or hydraulic fish-lifts. The outlet chutes of fish-pass sluices are designed to create conditions that both assist the release of the fish into the reservoir above the dam and favor their onward migration.[81]

419. The first fish passes built in Latin America were pool-and-weir types, used in the northern hemisphere for passing salmonids. More recently, fish locks and mechanical fish lifts based on Russian experience described by Pavlov (1989) have been built for obstacles over 20 m in height.[82]

420. The main advantages of fish lifts compared to other types of fish passage facilities lie in their cost, which is practically independent of the height of the dam, in the little space needed, and in their low sensitivity to variations in the upstream water level. They are also considered to be more efficient for some species, such as shad, which have difficulties in using more traditional fish passes.

421. The main disadvantages lie in the higher cost of operation and maintenance. Furthermore, the efficiency of lifts for small individuals (e.g. young eels) is generally low because sufficiently fine screens cannot be used for operational reasons.[83]

422. In the case of high dams, when there are numerous species of poorly-known variable swimming abilities, migratory behavior, and population size, it is best to initially concentrate mitigation efforts on the lower part of the fish pass, i.e. to construct and optimize the fish collection system including the entrance, the complementary attraction flow and a holding pool which can be used to capture fish to subsequently transport them upstream, at least in an initial stage.[84]

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[80] A sliding gate or other device for controlling the flow of water, especially one in a lock gate.

[81] Pavlov D.S., 1989. Structures assisting the migration of non-salmonid fish. USSE. FAO Fish. Tech. Pap. No. 308. Rome, FAO. 997

[82] Larinier M. Marmulla G., 2003. Fish Passes: Types, Principles and Geographical Distribution an Overview. In**:** Robin L. Welcomme and T. Petr (eds.). *Proceedings of the second international Symposium on the Management of large rivers for fisheries, Volume 2, Sustaining livelihoods and biodiversity in the new millennium*

[83] Ibid

[84] Ibid

423. The height of the dam is about 49 m from the foundation. To make a fish passage workable, a water channel of more than 450 m will be required assuming a slope of 1:10. Construction of the channel will be challenging due to the presence of steep banks at the location of the dam. For reference, in the case of Uri II HPP located on Jhelum River upstream of the LoC, the dam has a height of 52 m, which is probably the reason for the absence of a fish passage, construction of which would have been difficult in any case due to steep slopes of the river banks. On the other hand, the dam of Uri I HPP located further upstream of Uri II has a height of 20 m, the river is very wide and there are no gorges, and a fish passage has been constructed. Documented results for the success of this fish passage are not available.

424. At the Project, even if a fish channel is constructed, it will be challenging for fish to negotiate. Traveling and drifting through an extended water channel under strong pressure from the current will exhaust the fish if they can swim upstream at all, and injure them possibly resulting in mortalities. Moreover, if some of the fish are successful in reaching the reservoir, they will be in new territory, under unfamiliar conditions. Alwan Snow Trout is not a reservoir fish, it will be adversely affected. In Pakistan, there is no experience with the use of fish passages except in river barrages. Even in those cases, they are non-functional and no success has been reported.

425. In the absence of tested and proven techniques for the automatic transportation of fish upstream of the dam to a height of more than 40 m, which is the case with the Project, the physical transport of fingerlings of migratory fish captured downstream to the river upstream of the dam is recommended if technically feasible and financially viable. Experimentation with emerging methods and techniques to transport fish upstream of the dam such as the Whoosh Transport System[85] is recommended in the CIA.

13.3 Other Actions and Measures to Protect and Enhance the Biodiversity in the Kunhar Basin

426. Specific actions recommended in the Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) that will directly benefit the biodiversity in the area of impact of the Project and are in the purview of the government include:

- Requirement for future projects in the basin to achieve Net Gain in population of key fish species such as the endemic fish species Nalbant's Loach and Kashmir Hillstream Loach. This condition can be communicated by the Fisheries Department KP to the KP Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as applicable for future hydropower projects in the section of the Kunhar River that constitutes the habitat for these loaches.
- Where technically and economically feasible, operation of other HPP projects such as the Patrind HPP and Suki Kinari at baseload to avoid the impact of a peaking operation on the river.[86] The imposition of these conditions falls under the mandate

[85] Whoosh Innovations <http://www.whooshh.com/advantages.html>, accessed November 22, 2016

[86] Peaking operation of a hydropower plant results in daily variations in flow downstream of the power houses in the low flow or winter season due to storage of water during the day and release for a limited period in the evening to meet the peak power demand. Such imposed variations in flow can be detrimental to the survival of aquatic life in the river.

of KP EPA, and they can apply this condition after discussion of the technical and economic viability of these conditions with the project owners.

427. The CIA also includes recommendations for actions by the KP government at the basin level to maintain the integrity of the ecosystem. These actions are important as from a regulatory perspective, it would not be rational to apply environmental standards and controls for other hydropower projects that are less stringent than those applied for the Project through the EIA and conditions of environmental approval granted by the KPEPA. Examples of such actions are:

- preparing guidelines for EIAs and BMP/BAPs for hydropower projects following accepted international best practices;
- making preparation of BMPs mandatory for hydropower developers in the Kunhar Basin; and
- preparing and implementing guidelines for E-Flow assessments.

428. The KPEPA has the mandate to take these actions. Consultation with the industry and experts will be required, and the process will benefit from external technical assistance to incorporate best international practices.

13.4 Contributions to Institute for Research on River Ecology

429. The Biodiversity Action Plan for the Kohala Hydropower Project[87] recommends setting up an Institute for Research on River Ecology (IRRE) in the Jhelum River basin. The institute will carry out research and development activities in collaboration with relevant government organizations on river ecosystems, fish breeding behavior, fish genetic studies, fish passages suited to local species, and dam designs as well as an assessment of impacts and cumulative impacts of various hydropower projects in the basin. The IRRE will also include an experimental captive breeding facility for the endemic fish loaches of the Kunhar River.

430. The IRRE will require support from project developers and operators of hydropower projects operating in the Jhelum, Poonch, and Kunhar basins for setting up and managing the institution. It has been proposed that the hydropower project developers in the basin particularly the Karot, Kohala, and Mahl HPPs (**Section 7.14** of the EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project) contribute towards the IRRE given the similar issues they face in biodiversity management. The Balakot Hydropower Development Project will also contribute towards the establishment and operations of the IRRE subject to approval of associated costs in the tariff by NEPRA. The proposed institute will help the project owners maintain ecological databases and research and analysis capabilities that will benefit them individually by lowering their environmental management costs and improving the quality and effectiveness of environmental management.

431. Some issues that the IRRE will focus on include the following:

- captive breeding and stocking of fish of conservation importance that are impacted by projects;

[87] Hagler Bailly Pakistan, 2017, Biodiversity Action Plan for the Kohala Hydropower Project, Kohala Hydro Company Limited.

- genetic studies to determine the risk of in-breeding and actions to reduce the risks;
- assessment of impacts on river biodiversity at the sub-basin level by integrating data collected through the implementation of Monitoring and Evaluation Plans included in the Biodiversity management plans of individual projects;
- use of environmental flow models such as DRIFT to assess cumulative impacts of projects; and
- identification of suitable fish passages for fish to navigate up the river after construction of river obstructions by hydropower projects.

13.4.1 Management Approach

432. The following approach developed in consultation with key experts and professionals is recommended.

i. The Institute will be managed by an independent organization that will report to a Committee that will have representation from the government, the JK, Punjab, and KP that share the river, and the hydropower industry. Management by one of the governments is not considered feasible given the technical nature of the operations, procedural requirements for hiring and incurring expenditures, and the track record of the governments in setting up and managing similar facilities.

ii. The Institute can be set up as an entity registered with one of the governments, or the management can be contracted to a private sector organization or an NGO that has the capability and track record for managing similar operations.

iii. The hydropower industry will appoint a Coordinator which can be one of the participating companies. The Coordinator will be responsible for pooling up financial resources from the participating companies and management of all contracts related to the Institute. The most suitable choice for the Coordinator will be the company on whose premises the Institute is located. The Coordinator can charge administrative fees from the participating companies subject to mutual agreement of the industry.

iv. The institute will be centrally located so it is easily accessible from the participating provinces and the JK.

v. An independent review by international and local experts will be conducted periodically.

vi. The Institute will coordinate with watershed management and basin biodiversity management organizations that may be established collectively by the hydropower industry.

vii. In the long term, the Institute could take over M&E functions for various projects in the basin to displace the M&E entities contracted by individual HPPs under their BMPs in the basin.

viii. Collaborative experiments may be set up at the hatcheries of the wildlife departments located elsewhere, such as the one being constructed at Moli Nullah, the hatcheries in the Neelum Valley, and the hatcheries located in Punjab and KP.

ix. The Institute will collaborate with universities, research institutions, and concerned government departments in other provinces to bring in interns, researchers, and officials on deputation.

x. A detailed design and operation plan for the institute inclusive of budgets and an M&E plan will be developed before implementation.

13.4.2 Design and Requirements

433. The Institute will have a central facility where the research facilities will be maintained.

434. It is assumed that land acquired for temporary facilities at construction sites of hydropower plants, both at dam sites and powerhouses, will become free towards the end of the construction period. One of the HPPs will provide land, utilities, and maintenance support for the Institute. The option of using construction camp buildings for the Institute will also be considered to reduce construction costs. As land for temporary construction facilities will be acquired for the project (no short-term leases are feasible under local regulations) and will become surplus when construction ends, there will be no additional cost to the project for allowing the Institute to use the land.

435. Two locations for IRRE were considered in the Biodiversity Action Plan of Kohala Hydropower project. One at the Kohala Dam, and the other at the powerhouse of Kohala HPP. The main reason for considering these locations is the temperature of water from the Jhelum River (23°C in summer) which falls in the middle of the range of temperatures experienced by the rivers and the tributaries. These include cool water streams such as Neelum and Kunhar Rivers and Jhelum closer to Wular Lake (14-15 ^{o}C in summer), and warmer water in Jhelum River closer to Mangla Reservoir (27 ^{o}C in summer). Water drawn from the reservoir will have low sediment concentration and will thus be suitable for use in the research facilities. The location of IRRE at the site of the powerhouse of Kohala HPP is recommended as it is easily accessible from Punjab, KP, and Islamabad where backup support from other institutions such as the Pakistan Museum of Natural History will be available. The professional staff, along with numbers for each, is listed in **Exhibit 13.2**.

Exhibit 13.2: Professional Staff of IRRE

Staff Member	No.
Director	1
Principal Research Officers	3
Research Officers	6
Technicians/Assistants	6
Admin	1
Accounts	1

436. The land requirement is estimated at 1.5 hectares. It is assumed that power, water supply, and other maintenance services will be provided by the project where the facility is located.

13.5 Watershed Management Program

437. The existing causes of the decline in water quality in the Area of Management are described in **Section 11.1.5** (*Threats to Fish Fauna*). It is proposed to set up a Watershed Management Program (WMP) for the Kunhar River basin that will primarily focus on the improvement of water quality in the basin which is critical for the protection of biodiversity in the long term.[88]

438. The institutional and financial model for setting up watershed management institutions can be similar to that proposed for the IRRE but will be restricted to the Kunhar basin. The support provided by the project owners in this case, however, will be limited, as the hydropower projects on Kunhar River will have a limited impact on the water quality of the river in the construction phase and an insignificant impact during the operation phase. Additional support and resources will have to be mobilized from the participating government departments which will include forests, wildlife, agriculture, and irrigation. It would be also beneficial to route CSR investments through the Institutions to maximize the benefit from investments for both the industry and the communities.

439. The watershed management program will focus on the following areas:

- reforestation to meet community requirements for fuel wood and timber remaining within the limits of sustainable harvesting to reduce erosion and risk of landslides;
- land use management;
- management of water use in both agriculture and households;
- management of water quality including treatment of effluent at households and municipal level and maintaining water quality in open streams that ultimately drain into rivers; and
- in case CSR investments are included, then investments can be made in areas such as clean drinking water, health, livestock, and improvements in agricultural productivity.

440. Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO) will contribute to the establishment and operation of a Watershed Management Plan for the Kunhar basin, subject to the approval of associated costs in the tariff by NEPRA. PEDO will make efforts through the KP Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the departments of fisheries and wildlife to persuade the developers of Patrind, Suki Kinari, Naran, and Batakundi HPPs, located in the Kunhar Basin to adopt a framework for biodiversity management similar to the one proposed in this BAP, and in BAPs/BMPs of other HPPs in Jhelum Basin.

13.5.1 Management Approach

441. The following approach has been developed in consultation with key experts and professionals.

i. The basic approach adopted will be that of the Rural Support Programs (RSPs) in Pakistan which have been successfully tested and scaled up in practically all the

[88] Hagler Bailly Pakistan, 2017, Biodiversity Action Plan for the Kohala Hydropower Project, Kohala Hydro Company Limited.

provinces. The approach is based on social mobilization community participation, and complimentary investments by the community to improve ownership.

ii. Local watershed management institutions (WMIs) will be set up and managed by an independent organization that will report to a Committee that will have representation from the government of KP, and the hydropower industry. Management by governments is not considered feasible given the need for community participation, procedural requirements for hiring and incurring expenditures, and the track record of the governments in setting up and managing similar facilities.

iii. The management can be contracted to a private sector organization or an NGO such as the National Rural Support Program that has the capability and track record for managing similar operations.

iv. A Central Office will coordinate the activities of Field Units and will be responsible for providing technical support to the Field Units and coordination with the government institutions. The Central Office will also be responsible for M&E of Field Units.

v. Field Units will be located in the areas of operations. Co-location of the Central Office with the IRRE is recommended. This will help in lowering the cost of operations, and will also improve coordination with the hydropower industry.

vi. In addition to the government departments, activities will be coordinated with the Implementation Organization responsible for the implementation of the BAP, especially for social mobilization.

vii. An independent review by a local M&E organization will be conducted periodically.

viii. A detailed design of the Watershed Management Program (WMP) will be developed before implementation to develop the plans and budgets.

13.5.2 Design and Requirements

442. A Central Office and about six Field Offices are envisaged, each Field Office is responsible for about two forest ranges as organized under the forest departments. The staffing envisaged for the central office is summarized in **Exhibit 13.3**.

Exhibit 13.3: Staff for Central Office

Staff Member	No
Project Director	1
Coordinator- Forester	1
M&E Specialists	2
Office Assistant	1
Drivers	2
Watershed Management Units	
Coordinator	1
Female Social Mobilizers	2

Staff Member	No
Supervisors	2
Office Assistant	1

14 INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF BAP

443. The institutional model for implementation of the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) of the Kunhar River is more or less similar to the model followed in the BAP for the Gulpur Hydropower Project. The BAP for the Gulpur Hydropower Project is being successfully implemented in the Poonch River Basin which is part of the Jhelum River Basin, and was set up after extensive discussions and consultations with the key stakeholders and a comprehensive assessment of risks under various implementation options. A similar model of BAP has also been proposed for the Kohala Hydropower Project.

14.1 Institutional Arrangement for Management of Protection

444. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), the responsibility for the watch and ward of the terrestrial and aquatic ecological resources lies with the Wildlife Department, while the Fisheries Department regulates recreational fishing and is also responsible for the management of the water quality of the river.

445. As both the departments have a clear mandate of watch and ward in their respective areas hence, under the BAP, both the departments will look after their respective areas.

446. The strategy to be adopted for the management of protection under BAP is outlined below.

i. Putting in place, a protection system for the Area of Management with financing from the Project to fill the gaps in the existing system.

ii. Project-specific BAP implantation by the Fisheries and Wildlife departments of the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

iii. Full assistance by the local district administration and local police.

iv. Both departments will ensure active participation of the project community organization(s) in management and protection activities.

v. Regular oversight and monitoring by a Management Committee, set up for the Project Specific BAP.

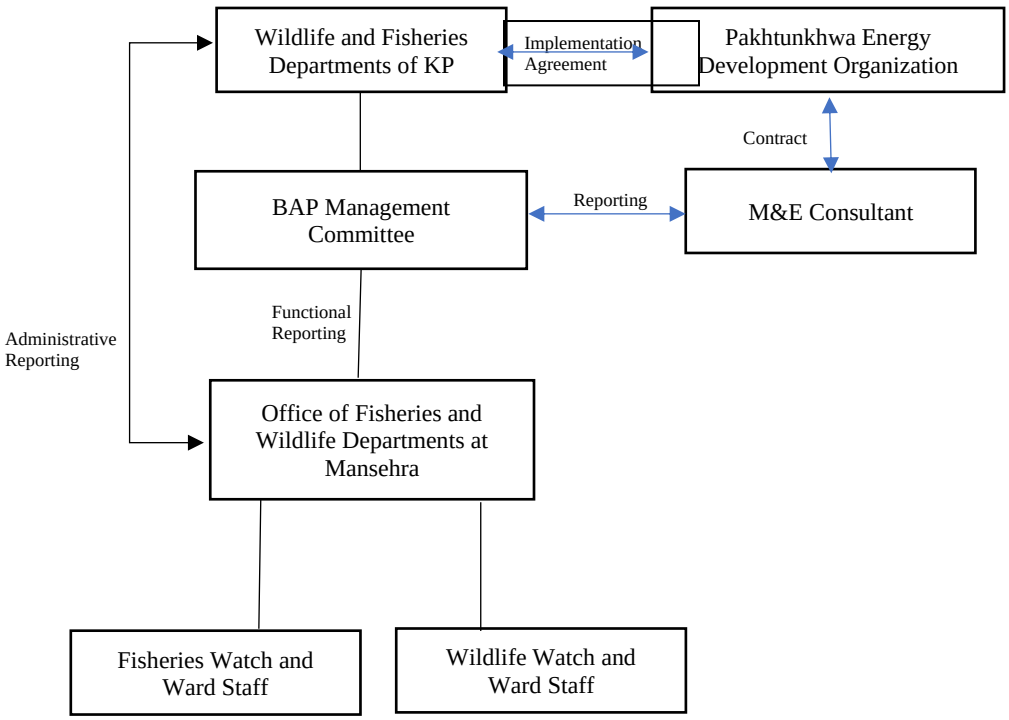
vi. Establishment of field management offices along the Kunhar River to provide a base for the watch and ward staff to operate from.

vii. Monitoring on a long-term basis by an independent Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Consultant.

viii. The institutional arrangement for management and protection in the Area of Management is exhibited hereunder.

447. **Exhibit 14.1** illustrates the institutional and contractual arrangements for the implementation of protection under the Project Specific BAP.

Exhibit 14.1: Project Specific BAP Institutional Arrangements for Management of Protection



14.1.1 BAP Management Committee

448. The BAP Management Committee will be established by the Competent Authority at PEDO/Ministry of Energy and Power, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Following is the Committee composition, finalized with the consent of the respective departments.

i. Director General Fisheries-Chair.

ii. Representative of PEDO – Member

iii. Representative of KP Forest Department – Member

iv. Representative of Fisheries Department- Member

v. Representative of the Wildlife Department

vi. Representative of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – Member

vii. Recognized Expert on Biodiversity/Freshwater Ecology – Member

viii. Representative of District Administration- Member

ix. Representative of Project Area Community-Member

449. The membership of the Management Committee could be amended by mutual consent of the departments and PEDO. Depending on the issues and threats being faced, additional representatives from organizations such as the Police Department and the Mines and Minerals Department may be included by invitation in the Management Committee.

450. Following will be some of the major responsibilities of the BAP Management Committee.

- Reviewing the reports submitted by the offices of the Wildlife and Fisheries departments at District Mansehra.
- Review the reports submitted by the M&E Consultant.
- Organizing and conducting field inspections as and when warranted.
- Conduct and call upon coordination meetings.
- Provide directions to the staff of the Department and the M&E Consultant for improving the effectiveness of the implementation of the BAP.

14.2 Implementation Arrangement

451. Consequent upon securing "Environmental Approval" from the Environmental Protection Agency of the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, PEDO will then agree (s) with the departments (Wildlife and Fisheries departments) for BAP implementation. The agreement(s) shall assign responsibilities to the departments for implementation of the BAP actions, and PEDO to contract and provide the financial and monitoring resources. The PEDO Contract Section will prepare a draft contract and will finalize it in consultation with the respective departments. Once finalized, it would be appropriate to execute separate contracts with the Wildlife and Fisheries Department.

14.2.1 KP Wildlife and Fisheries Departments

452. Responsibilities of the Wildlife and Fisheries departments of the Govt. of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are summarized as follows.

- Enforce provisions of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa respective Acts, and Rules/ Regulations applicable to the Area of Management as authorized in the law.
- Make available existing staff for protection, and coordinate with other government line departments such as police and district administration.
- Engage Community Organization(s) and involve them in the management and protection activities as far as possible under the law and existing practice.
- Assess the adequacy and effectiveness of the wildlife management systems in place for the achievement of the objectives of the BAP.
- Evaluate the pressures on wildlife and fisheries resources in the achievement of the objectives of the BAP and emerging threats (hunting and trapping, fishing, grazing, visitors, traffic, violations of rules, construction of infrastructure, and pollution).
- Use available resources to collect and share data on wildlife and fisheries relevant to the BAP.
- Promote and support the implementation of conservation projects, mobilization of local communities, and coverage in local media.
- Provide land for and facilitate the construction of field offices.
- Place a system for registration and review of complaints and follow-up conducted to address the complaints related to the implementation of the BAP.

- The Fisheries Department will conduct a seasonal survey for two years to assess the fish diversity in the Kunhar River and contributing streams within a 100 km stretch of the River and will identify various threats and propose further mitigation measures.

14.2.2 M&E Consultant

453. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO) will procure the services of a Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Consultant with experience in biodiversity assessment who will be responsible for performing tasks described in **Section 16**, (*Monitoring and Evaluation)*. The M&E Consultant will provide a consolidated picture to PEDO and departments on the BAP effectiveness in the Area of Management. The scope of services to be provided by the M&E Consultant is summarized below:

- conducting field surveys and investigations to assess the effectiveness of implementation of the BAP; and
- preparation of the Semi-annual M&E reports and periodic assessment reports for submission to the PIU/PEDO.

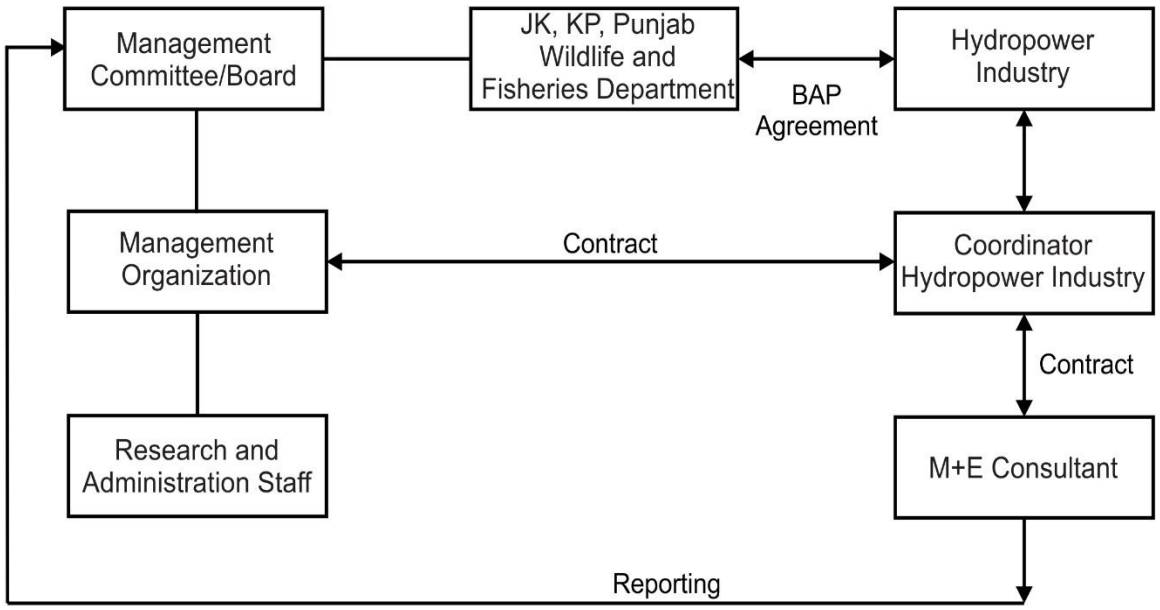
454. The M&E Consultant will engage local biodiversity/ecology specialists and wildlife management specialists for supervision of data collection, analysis, report writing, and advising the department and the PEDO on the improvement of protection strategies and adopting measures for adaptive management. The M&E Consultant will also set up the M&E data collection and reporting system.

14.3 Institutional Arrangements for the Institute for Research on River Ecology

455. As mentioned in **Section 13**, the Biodiversity Action Plan for the Kohala Hydropower Project recommends setting up an Institute for Research on River Ecology (IRRE) in the Jhelum River basin, most probably in JK. The Project will contribute towards the establishment and operations of the IRRE subject to the approval of associated costs in the tariff by NEPRA.

456. **Exhibit 14.2** illustrates the institutional arrangement for the management of the Institute for Research on River Ecology (IRRE) (referred to as ‘Institute’).

Exhibit 14.2: Institutional Arrangement for Management of the Institute for Research on River Ecology



457. Following are the salient features of the proposed arrangement.

- The Institute will be managed by the hydropower industry as an independent Management Organization, which will be the direct beneficiary of its outputs and will provide financing for its establishment and operations.
- The requirement for the hydropower industry, to finance and operate the Institute, will be incorporated into the BAP/BMP agreements entered into by the industry with the respective governments. Similar to the requirements for protection, the responsibilities of the industry and the government will be listed in the agreements. As indicated in **Section 17.3**, the recommended share of PEDO in financing the IRRE given the capacity of the Project is 10%, subject to approval of associated costs in the tariff by NEPRA.
- The hydropower industry will appoint a Coordinator which can be one of the participating companies. The Coordinator will be responsible for pooling up financial resources from the participating companies and management of all contracts related to the Institute. As suggested in **Section 13.4.1** (Management Approach), the most suitable choice for the Coordinator will be the company on whose premises the Institute is located. The Coordinator can charge administrative fees from the participating companies, subject to mutual agreement of the industry.
- The Coordinator will contract a Management Organization which will be an independent corporate entity or a registered NGO. The Management Organization will be responsible for the establishment and operation of the Institute under the direction of the BAP Management Committee (**Section 13.1.2**, Measures for Regulation of Sediment Mining).

- The wildlife and fisheries departments of JK, KP, and Punjab, as well as the respective EPAs will participate in the management of the Institute. The wildlife and fisheries departments will ensure that the terms of the agreements, under which the Institute is established, are fulfilled, while the EPAs will ensure that the conditions of approval to the EIA of the Project related to the institute are complied with.
- An M&E Consultant will be engaged for evaluation of the performance of the Institute under an arrangement, similar to that for evaluation of protection activities. Given the similarities in the technical aspects of monitoring, the responsibility for monitoring the performance of the Institute and that for protection could be entrusted to one entity.

458. A detailed plan for the design and operation of the Institute will be prepared under a contract entered into by the Coordinator with a suitably qualified entity. The plan will be submitted to the Management Committee for approval before implementation.

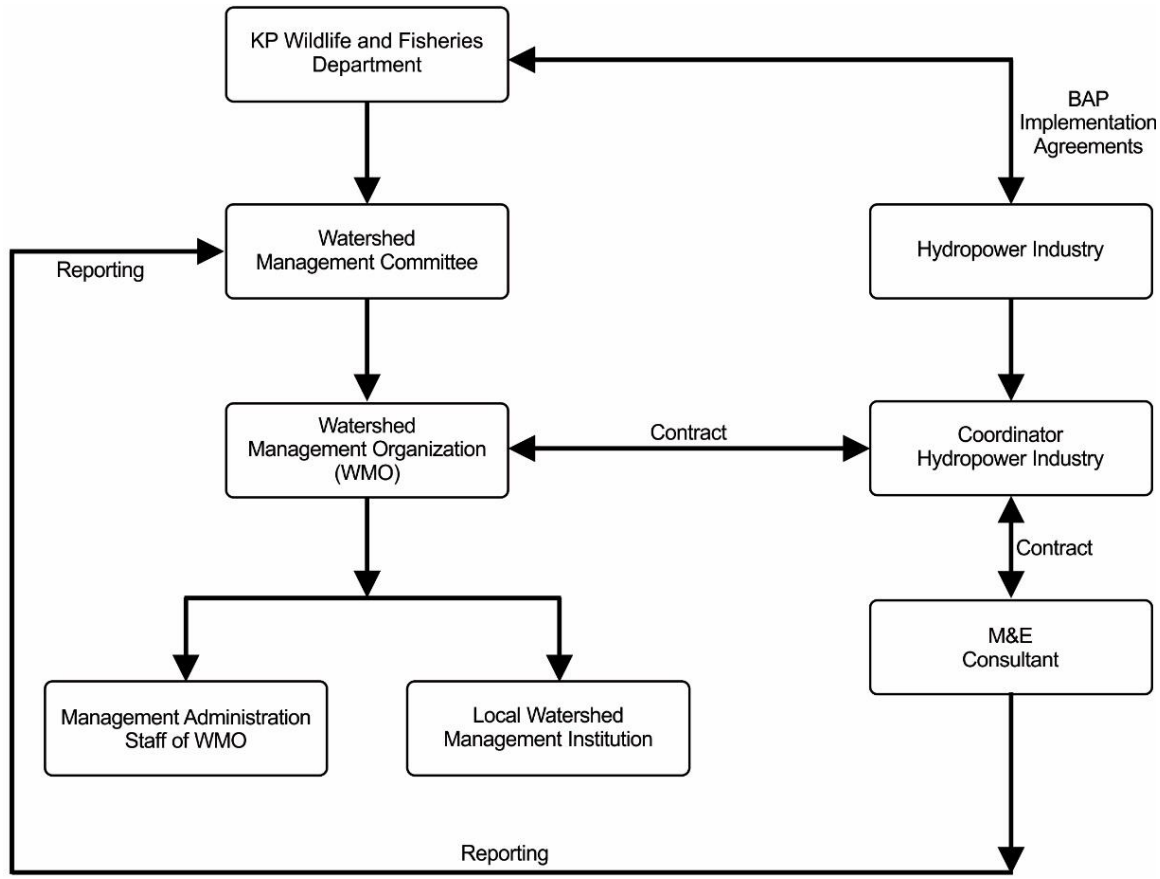
14.4 Institutional Arrangements for Watershed Management

459. **Exhibit 14.3** illustrates the institutional arrangement for watershed management in the Kunhar Basin. The basic approach suggested is similar to that suggested in the previous section for the management of the IRRE. Following are the salient features of the proposed arrangement.

- Management will be entrusted by the hydropower industry to an independent Watershed Management Organization (WMO). As suggested in **Section 13.5,** management can be contracted to a private sector organization or an NGO that has the capability and track record for managing similar operations.
- The requirement for the hydropower industry to finance and operate the watershed management institutions will be incorporated into the BAP/BMP agreements entered into by PEDO with the Departments. Similar to the requirements for protection, the responsibilities of the industry and the government will be listed in the agreements. As indicated in **Section 17.4** (Budget for Watershed Management), the recommended share of PEDO in financing the WMO is 25%, subject to the approval of associated costs in the tariff by NEPRA.
- The hydropower industry will appoint a Coordinator which can be one of the participating companies. The Coordinator will be responsible for pooling up financial resources from the participating companies and management of all contracts related to the WMO. The Coordinator can charge administrative fees from the participating companies subject to mutual agreement of the industry.
- The Coordinator will contract a WMO which will be an independent corporate entity or a registered NGO. The WMO will be responsible for the establishment and operation of the local watershed management institutions under the direction of the Watershed Management Committee.
- In addition to forest and wildlife departments, the Watershed Management Committee will have representation from the district administrations, the hydropower industry through the Coordinator.

- The KP Integrated Water Resources Management Board will oversee the working of the Watershed Management Committee.
- The forest and wildlife departments of JK, KP, and Punjab, as well as the EPAs will play a pivotal role in the management of the WMO. The departments will ensure that the terms of the agreements under which the WMO is established are fulfilled, while the EPAs will ensure that the conditions of approval of the EIA of the Project related to the WMO are complied with.
- An M&E Consultant will be engaged for the evaluation of the performance of the WMO and the local watershed management institutions. Given the similarities in the technical aspects of monitoring, the responsibility for monitoring the performance of protection, the IRRE, and the watershed management activities could be entrusted to one entity.

Exhibit 14.3: Institutional Arrangement for Watershed Management



460. A detailed plan for the design of watershed management will be prepared under a contract entered into by the Coordinator with a suitably qualified entity. The plan will be submitted to the Watershed Management Committee for approval before implementation.

14.5 Review of BAP Implementation

461. The status of implementation of the BAP will be evaluated biannually for the first three years and once every year thereafter to assess its effectiveness and ascertain whether the targets set for Net Gain/No Net Loss in biodiversity as envisaged in the BAP and performance of the IRRE and watershed management institutions as specified in their plans are being

achieved. Recommendations for improvement of the BAP will be presented as a part of assessment reports prepared by the M&E Consultant. The Management Committee will review the recommendations of the M&E Consultant and may amend the implementation plans to improve their effectiveness through changes in actions and activities and allocation of resources.

462. Given the experience gained in the implementation of the BAP for the Gulpur Hydropower Project, in addition to the completion of actions listed in **Section 14**, special attention will have to be paid to the following to manage the risks in the implementation of the BAP.

- PEDO and the Departments should maintain regular contact at the Secretary level to ensure that high-level support from the government is available and leadership is exercised.
- The counterpart staff assigned by the Departments should diligently perform the duties assigned to them. The attitude that the contracted staff of the management and implementation organizations is there to work so the staff assigned by the government need not attend and participate can seriously impact the performance of the organizations and institutions responsible for the implementation of the BAP.
- The meetings of the Management Committee should be held regularly on a quarterly basis and should be properly attended.
- In addition to monitoring by the M&E Consultant, the Environmental Managers of participating hydropower companies should maintain contact with the organization contracted for implementation to review its performance continuously and to ensure that they are properly supported.

14.6 Capacity Building of the KP Wildlife and Fisheries Departments

463. Since both the Wildlife and Fisheries departments of the Govt. of KP play a pivotal role in protecting the aquatic and terrestrial resources of the Kunhar River basin, annual training and capacity building of the staff should be carried out for research, data collection, monitoring of ecological resources as well as management.

14.7 Institutional Arrangement for the Project-Specific BAP in the Long Term

464. The institutional arrangements outlined in **Exhibit 14.1**, and **Exhibit 14.2**, requires continuous coordination between the government departments and M& E Consultants, for management and implementation of BAP. Strong and capable government departments, particularly the Wildlife and Fisheries departments of the Govt. of KP, that integrate all the management functions within them, would again be the appropriate arrangement for long-term sustainable management.

465. The present strategy adopted in the BAP relies on filling the budgetary gaps for the management of biodiversity and aquatic resources whereby the M&E Consultants and the implementation departments will directly be funded by PEDO so as; to fulfill legal requirements; to provide capacity-building opportunities to the departments; and to ensure efficient utilization of the available funds.

466. In the long term, the setup established for management and protection under Project-specific BAP will be taken over by the respective departments which will carry on and manage the implementation of the protection measures to ensure sustainable development and achievement of the BAP long-term objectives.

467. Furthermore, at a later stage, the M&E function could also be managed by the government department, while the budget allocation for M&E Consultants could be transferred to the relevant government department. However, PEDO would be well advised to maintain a position in the Management Committee to ensure that commitments made under the EIA are met.

15 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

468. A list of action items along with responsibilities, requirements, and completion deadlines are provided in **Exhibit 15.1** to facilitate implementation and accountability.

Exhibit 15.1: Key Actions, Responsibilities, and Milestones for Implementation of this BAP

No.	Action	Responsibility	Requirement	Completion Deadline
	Finalization and Signing of the BAP Agreement			
1	Submittal of BAP (Biodiversity Action Plan) by PEDO (Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization) to Govt. of KP (Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) for Approval	PEDO	Immediately on finalization with lenders, forward BAP to Departments and environmental regulators for approval	September 2018 (or earlier if finalized by lenders)
2	Approval of the BAP by the Government of KP	KP Wildlife and Fisheries Departments	Follow up by PEDO to address concerns of the government if any	6 months after the submission of BAP by PEDO
3	The signing of the BAP Implementation Agreement by PEDO with GoKP	PEDO and Government	Follow up by PEDO to address the concerns of the government if any on the agreement draft.	2 months after the approval of BAP by Govt. of KP
	Protection			
1	Award of contract(s) to Wildlife and Fisheries Departments of the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	PEDO	Management of procurement of services	3 months after finalization of Project Specific BAP by ADB/AIIB.
2	Award of Contract to Monitoring and Evaluation Consultant	PEDO	Management of procurement of services	6 months before the construction of the coffer dam
3	Provision of Land by Department for Construction of Field Office	Departments	The KP Government or Fisheries and Wildlife departments will provide land for the construction of a field office at an appropriate location.	Within 6 months signing of the BAP agreement
4	The hiring of additional watch and ward staff	Departments	If needed, additional local staff shall be hired for watch and ward.	Within 6 months signing of the BAP contract(s)
5	Monthly Progress Reports for Protection Submitted to the BAP Management Committee	Departments	District Mansehra offices of Wildlife and Fisheries will furnish such reports while supervisors will provide inputs for the report.	Monthly
6	Semi-annual Watch and Ward Report for Protection Submitted to BAP Management Committee	Departments	The scope of the report is given in Exhibit 16.4	Semi-annual

No.	Action	Responsibility	Requirement	Completion Deadline
7	Semi-annual Meetings of BAP Management Committee to Review Implementation Performance	BAP Management Committee	BAP Management Committee to meet regularly to review performance and provide support and guidance.	Semi-annual
	Institute for Research on River Ecology (IRRE)			
1	Award of Contract for Preparation of Design and Operation Plan for IRRE, subject to approval of associated costs in the tariff by NEPRA.	KHCL*	Management of procurement of services	3 months after the Financial Close of the Kohala Hydropower Project
2	Award of Contract to Management Organization of IRRE (MO IRRE) for setting up and operation of Institute for Research on River Ecology (IRRE)	KHCL	Management of procurement of services	9 months after the Financial Close of the Kohala Hydropower Project
3	Start of Construction of IRRE	MO IRRE	Setting up the infrastructure as specified in the Design and Operation Plan for IRRE	3 months after the award of the contract to MO IRRE
4	Fully Functioning IRRE	MO IRRE	Setting up the institution inclusive of staff and facilities as specified in the Design and Operation Plan for IRRE	1 year after the award of the contract to MO IRRE
5	Quarterly Progress Report for IRRE	MO IRRE	The activities of IRRE will be reported focusing on progress in research and issues.	Quarterly
6	Annual Progress Report for IRRE	MO IRRE	The activities of IRRE will be reported focusing on results in key research areas, issues, plans, and financials.	Annually
7	Quarterly and Annual Meetings of BAP Management Committee to Review Performance of IRRE	BAP Management Committee	BAP Management Committee to meet regularly to review performance and provide guidance to IRRE	Quarterly and Annually
	Watershed Management Program			
1	Award of Contract for Preparation of Design of Watershed Management Program (WMP), subject to approval of associated costs in the tariff by NEPRA.	PEDO	Management of procurement of services	3 months after Financial Close
2	Award of Contract to Watershed Management Organization (WMO)	PEDO	The scope of work for support to be provided will be finalized with the Go KP.	9 months after the financial close

No.	Action	Responsibility	Requirement	Completion Deadline
3	Fully functioning Watershed Management Institutions (WMIs)	WMO	Social mobilization of the communities, formation of WMIs, finalizing watershed management agreements between communities and government.	1 year after the award of the contract to WMO
4	Quarterly Progress Report for WMP	WMO	The activities of WMP will be reported focusing on progress in research and issues.	Quarterly
5	Annual Progress Report for WMP	WMO	The activities of WMP will be reported focusing on results in key research areas, issues, plans, and financials.	Annually
6	Quarterly and Annual Meetings of BAP Management Committee to Review Performance of IOP	Watershed Management Committee	Watershed Management Committee to meet regularly to review performance and provide support and guidance to WMP.	Quarterly and Annually
	Other Actions Arising Out of Cumulative Impact Assessment			
1	Issuance of Guidelines for EIA of Hydropower Projects, BAP/BMPs, Cumulative Impact Assessments (CIA), and E-Flow Assessments	KPEPA	KP EPA to manage the procurement of services for the preparation of guidelines	24 months after signing of BAP agreement
2	Requirement for Hydropower Projects to Achieve Net Gain for Key Fish Species in Kunhar Basin	KPEPA and Fisheries Department	To apply the same conditions for the protection of biodiversity as those in EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project on other hydropower projects that may be planned in the basin.	6 months after approval of EIA for BHPP

*The main responsibility for setting up IRRE will be with Kohala Hydro Company (Pvt.) Ltd (KHCL) as the facility will be located on the land to be provided by KHCL close to the powerhouse of the Kohala Hydropower Project. PEDO will work with (KHCL) and the concerned Environmental Protection Agency to ensure that KHCL meets its commitments under the BAP of the project promptly so the establishment of the IRRE is not delayed.

16 MONITORING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

469. As stated in **Section 8**, the BAP has been prepared to provide a framework and an action plan for achieving Net Gain/No Net Loss consisting of River Kunhar and its tributaries in the Area of Management (**Section 8.2**, *Background and Rationale for Developing BAP*) under IFC Performance Standards and ADB's SPS 2009 (Section 9, Regulatory Framework). This section provides the scope and framework for monitoring and evaluation to determine if the objectives of the BAP are being achieved throughout the life of the Project. The complete Monitoring and Evaluation Plan is given in **Appendix J**. The approach proposed is more or less the same as used in the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan of the Gulpur Hydropower Project and builds on the experience gained in its implementation. This section also outlines the related institutional arrangements, procedures for reporting and review, and budgetary requirements.

470. The monitoring and evaluation framework presented in this section should be considered as an evolving document. The Monitoring and Evaluation Consultant will be expected to review the framework before initiating the activities, and periodically review and improve it as experience is gained in implementation of the BAP. The Monitoring and Evaluation Consultant will also be responsible for finalizing data collection forms and protocols and developing information management systems to support the compilation of data and preparation of reports.

16.1 Analytical Framework for Monitoring and Evaluation

471. To assess whether or not Net Gain in biodiversity has been achieved, comparisons will be made with the Pre-Project conditions (referred to as baseline conditions in **Section 11,** *Biodiversity Values*). Pre-project conditions for assessment of the effectiveness of the BAP will be defined as conditions prevailing in the ecosystems preceding the start of construction activities that could directly impact the aquatic or terrestrial ecosystems. Data and information from the first set of sampling that will form the reference point for the BAP will be used to define the pre-project conditions. Baseline data from the EIA will not be used for assessment of the effectiveness of implementation of the BAP. The reasons for adopting this approach are:

- to screen out any deterioration or improvement in the ecosystems that may have taken place between the time the sampling was done for the EIA, and when the project impacts begin to occur; and
- to further refine the sampling approach given the stakeholder comments received during the preparation of the BAP.

472. A Pressure-State-Response (PSR) framework will be used for monitoring purposes.[89] The PSR framework lays out the basic relationships among:

- the pressures human society puts on the environment;
- the resulting state or condition of the environment; and

[89] Pressure-State-Response Framework and Environmental Indicators, http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/programmes/en/lead/toolbox/refer/envindi.htm

- the response of society to these conditions to ease or prevent negative impacts resulting from the pressures.

16.2 Scope of the Monitoring and Research Programme

473. Following the PSR framework, the framework for monitoring is described in the sections below. Details of the indicator description, method of data collection and analysis, as well as frequency and timing are provided in **Appendix J**, Monitoring and Evaluation Plan.

16.2.1 Monitoring Indicators – Pressure

474. **Exhibit 16.1** summarizes the monitoring requirements for indicators of pressure on biodiversity. The following is an overview of the types of pressures that need to be managed and the associated indicators that can be used to monitor the pressures.

Exhibit 16.1: Framework for Monitoring of Pressure Indicators

Pressure Aspect	Scope/Coverage	What to Monitor	Comments
Harvesting from the river for food	Permitted fishing using cast nets	Number of fishing permits issued in a period	Cast nets are primarily used for subsistence fishing, the Fisheries Department issues permits for the use of cast nets in the Kunhar River.
	Illegal fishing	Number of instances of illegal fishing reported or observed	This includes the use of gill nets, explosives, and poisons for harvesting fish
River-related Recreation and Tourism	Trout species are artisanal and recreationally caught fish species	Number of fishing permits issued for rods in a year	The Department allows recreational fishing in the Kunhar River against permits
Extraction of sand and gravel from riverbeds	Regulated and unregulated mining of sand and gravel from river beds for use as construction materials	Quantity and distribution of sand and gravel mining from river beds	The focus will be on the extent of mining in areas identified as sensitive in the Sediment Management Guidelines
Hunting and trapping of species of concern	Terrestrial Habitats in Area of Management	Species of concern	This will be the responsibility of the KP Wildlife Department at the watershed level. Monitoring on the Project site is covered in the EMMP of the EIA.

16.2.1.1 Pressures on Aquatic Ecology

475. Illegal and unregulated fishing, and sand and gravel mining from the river bed to meet the local demand for construction materials were identified as principal threats to aquatic biodiversity (**Section 11.1.5**, *Threats to Fish Fauna*). The type of indicators proposed for monitoring these pressures are:

- the total amount of fish by species being harvested in a year, for subsistence and recreational purposes, through legal as well as illegal means.

- total amount of sand and gravel extracted from the river and tributaries, separately reported or estimated for extraction through legal means (with permits at designated mining sites) and illegal means (without permits).

476. The above information will be reported every quarter. The implementation departments will prepare systems for the collection and reporting of information related to violations as described in **Section 14**.

16.2.1.2 Pressures on Terrestrial Ecology

477. Monitoring and reporting of pressures on terrestrial wildlife including hunting, trapping, or disturbance for the species of concern such as Common Leopard, and Black Bear will be the responsibility of the KP Wildlife Department.

16.2.2 Monitoring Indicators – State

478. **Exhibit 16.2** summarizes the framework for monitoring the indicators of the state. The M&E Consultant will be responsible for the collection and reporting of information. Information on the following indicators will be collected and reported.

- Hydrology
- Water quality
- Geomorphology
- Fish

479. The method of data collection, frequency and timing of collection as well as data analysis is included in **Appendix J**, Monitoring and Evaluation Plan. The methodologies will be adjusted and adapted over time where required to facilitate assessment as described further in **Section 18,** (*Adaptive Management*). This is particularly true for monitoring fish migration patterns, where, in addition to simple tagging and recapture suggested in **Exhibit 16.2**, there is a need to test and apply advanced techniques such as PIT Telemetry, Active Telemetry, Underwater video, Vaki River watcher, and ARIS camera.

480. Isolation of fish populations between dams and tributaries leading to a drop in genetic diversity is a possible risk that needs to be addressed. Special studies will be required to assess this risk and to formulate remedial measures.

Exhibit 16.2: Framework for Monitoring of Indicators of State

No	Aspects	Indicator	Data required	Method	Monitoring Responsibility
1.	Hydrology	Discharge time series	Average daily discharge	Obtain from gauging stations/loggers utilized for operations. Water level probe (e.g. solonist) and logger	Operator
2.	Water Quality and Temperature	Temperature time series	Temperature of water	Obtain using continuous temperature logger	Operator
		Water quality	The concentration of major anions, cations, and some heavy metals in collected water samples	Methodology for Surface Water Collection in USEPA, Environmental Investigations – SOPs and Quality Assurance Manual	M&E Consultant
3.	Geomorphology	Channel planform	Fixed point photographs at specific locations at monitoring sites downstream of the dam	Fixed point photographs.	M&E Consultant
		Channel shape (cross-section profiles)	Surveyed cross-sectional profiles at monitoring sites downstream of the dam	For the wet section: Use a depth sounder to take measurements of depths at periodic intervals along the width of the channel. For dry section: Use total station to survey cross-sectional topography.	M&E Consultant
		Bed sediment size	Bed-surface sediment size distribution of sensitive habitat at monitoring sites downstream of the dam.	Bed-surface sediment size distribution of sensitive (secondary channel) habitat using the composite of multiple subsamples at each sampling location.	M&E Consultant
		Habitat classification		Based on the visual assessment of the habitat, the suitability of the habitat will be determined, especially for the Kashmir Catfish.	M&E Consultant
4.	Fish	Fish Community composition, and population size distribution	Catch per unit effort and relative abundance of all fish, particularly indicator fish species, species diversity, population size structure, fish size distribution	Gill netting, cast netting, and electrofishing in tributaries where water levels are low Measure the weight, and total length of fish collected	M&E Consultant
		Migration Patterns of Alwan Snow Trout	Locations of tagged (marked) individuals recaptured at different locations later in the seasons	Gill netting and cast netting	
		Fish Health	Number of lesions, lost scales, parasite loads, and deformities in fish	Gill netting, fyke netting, and cast netting in rivers and tributaries	

No	Aspects	Indicator	Data required	Method	Monitoring Responsibility
		Reproductive maturity stage	Stage of gonad development	Dissect fish and identify the stage of gonad development.	
5.	Terrestrial vegetation	Terrestrial vegetation community structure	Vegetation cover, plant count, and diversity as well as the IVI (Importance Value Index) of the plant species	Transect method	M&E Consultant with the assistance of Departments
6.	Terrestrial Fauna	Terrestrial fauna community structure	Species richness (number of species observed) and abundance (number of individuals of each species observed)	Transect method	

16.2.3 Monitoring Indicators – Response

481. **Exhibit 16.3** summarizes the monitoring framework for indicators of response to the implementation of BAP. The M&E Consultant will be responsible for the collection and reporting of information. Information on the following indicators will be collected and reported.

- Institutional capacity
- Awareness among stakeholders and their concerns
- Progress on fish research including fish passage, and watershed management as recommended in the CIA.

482. A combination of qualitative and quantitative techniques will be employed. Reports will be prepared and discussed with the key stakeholders once every year.

Exhibit 16.3: Framework for Monitoring of Response Indicators

Response Aspect	Scope/Coverage	What to monitor	Method
Awareness	Awareness among primary stakeholders including communities and secondary stakeholders including civil society in the Area of Management on the value and importance of biodiversity	The extent and coverage of awareness programs conducted and the effectiveness of the programs	Report on the extent and coverage of awareness programs Sample surveys in target communities to determine the degree of awareness

16.3 Monitoring of IRRE Performance

483. The following areas for research have been identified in this document:

- identification and testing of fish passage technologies;
- estimation of fish populations and behavior of fish particularly the endemic fish species of the Jhelum Basin - Nalbant's Loach and Kashmir Hillstream Loach;
- study of fish migration patterns, focusing on Alwan Snow Trout (of concern in the Area of Management of the BAP of this Project);
- study of genetic diversity of fish species to assess risk of inbreeding collapse.

484. The M&E plan for IRRE will be prepared as a part of the Design and Operation Plan for the IRRE (see **Section 13.4,** *Contributions to Institute for Research on River Ecology*).

16.4 Monitoring of Watershed Management Program

485. The M&E framework for the Watershed Management Program (WMP) will be prepared as a part of the design of the WMP (see **Section 13.5**, *Watershed Management Program*).

16.5 Setting up the Monitoring and Reporting System for Biodiversity Assessment

486. A data collection, monitoring, and reporting system will be set up in the first year of project construction and will define the framework for the production of the Biodiversity Monitoring Reports. This exercise will consist of:

- **Design:**
  - Finalize indicators from the DRIFT database and elsewhere for inclusion in the monitoring program.
  - Finalize monitoring techniques for indicators identified above.
  - Where applicable and possible, in conjunction with PEDO and/or other responsible authorities, review and amend standard monitoring procedures to ensure that internationally accepted norms are adhered to.
  - Finalize design of program: objectives and scope; finalize allocation of tasks, sites, sampling times, methods, and budget.
- **Organization:**
  - Appoint suitable management, analysis, field, and reporting staff.
  - Source accredited laboratories for water quality and sediment analyses. Ensure field data/samples are collected as agreed, and immediately analyzed and formally interpreted/integrated. Develop reporting templates.
  - Set up quality control measures, such as duplicate/blank samples for water quality analysis, cross-check biological species identifications, and identify and appoint reviewers.
- **Site and Infrastructure Setup:**
  - Check data collection and logging systems.
  - Full discipline team visits to each site to establish extent and access, to place markers, and locations for sampling, including fixed-point photographs; cross-sections; and habitat mapping; Establish sampling routines to be followed by technical staff.

16.6 Reports and Reporting Frequency

487. Under the revised arrangement i.e. after the deletion of the role of the Implementation Organization, the departments responsible for implementation of the BAP activities in the Area of Management will prepare periodic progress reports covering the activities undertaken during the reporting period. The scope and frequency of the reports are summarized in **Exhibit 16.4**. These reports will initially be reviewed by the BAP Management Committee and thereafter, will be submitted to the heads of the Fisheries and Wildlife Departments for their further review and onward transmission to the PIU/PEDO.

488. The PIU/PEDO environment section will internally review these reports and also obtain the expert review input of the Monitoring Consultant. Once the review process is completed at the Project level, the reports will be submitted to the ADB and AIIB for their final review and concurrence.

489. Since the PMC currently has limited technical capacity to monitor the BAP field activities and review periodic progress reports, it is recommended that the Project PIU take one of the these actions: (i) strengthen the PMC's environmental section by hiring a BAP expert, or (ii) hire an External BAP Monitoring Consultant, following the same approach used

for the Project environmental monitoring through the recruitment of an External Environmental Monitor (EEM).

490. As the updated monitoring plans for the IRRE and WMO will be devised upon the materialization of the Basin-wide BAP implementation arrangements, hence the reporting requirements contained in the original EIA report **(Exhibit 16.5)** have been maintained without change.

Exhibit 16.4: Monitoring and Evaluation Reports (Protection)

S/No	Title of the Report	Frequency and Timing	Scope	Prepared by	Review by	Further, Review and Recommend by	Approve by
1	[90]Semi-annual Watch and Ward Report	Till the 20th of January and July of each year.	i. Details of watch and ward staff deployed. ii. Essential statistics of hatchery i.e. hatching, diseases, incidents, etc. iii. Details of meetings and site audits, iv. Details of awareness-raising programs and community engagement in the protection activities. v. Details of activities undertaken for habitat protection. vi. Summary of violations and incidences of special concern. vii. Details of field surveys and findings. viii. Details of stocking activities. ix. Summary of achievements, gaps, and recommendations for improvement. x. Identification of unforeseen threats to wildlife and fisheries and proposed mitigation measures. xi. A brief of special events undertaken by the respective departments in the Area of Management (other than those that fall in the BAP's purview).	Field offices of the Wildlife and Fisheries departments. of the Govt. of KP.	BAP Management Committee	Monitoring Consultant and PIU/PEDO	ADB/AIIB
2	[91]Semi-annual Biodiversity Monitoring Report		The scope of the Monitoring Consultant report includes but is not limited to the following. i. Brief of watch and ward activities undertaken during the reporting period.	M&E Consultant	PIU	Environment Social section of PEDO	ADB/AIIB

[90] As given in Exhibit 15.1, in addition to semi-annual watch and ward report, the BAP Management Committee will submit monthly progress report to PIU (on or before 10th of each month) for their review and record.
[91] The Monitoring Consultant will provide detailed methodology for conducting field activities, analysis of data collected and reporting in the Inception Report.

S/No	Title of the Report	Frequency and Timing	Scope	Prepared by	Review by	Further, Review and Recommend by	Approve by
			ii. Details of various types of fishing and hunting permits issued, violations recorded, and fines imposed. iii. Details of sand mining including details of licenses issued, status, and total numbers of aggregate mining plants operating in the area of management and total quantum of aggregates extracted. iv. Assessment of the impacts of sediment releases from the SKHPP (884 MW) and the BTHPP (300 MW) on the Kunhar River's health. v. Details of awareness-raising and capacity-building programs and assessment of their effectiveness. vi. Details of actions taken for the protection of habitat including cleaning companies and status of the implementation measures for the protection of loaches and aquatic and terrestrial habitats. Analysis of the effectiveness of these actions. vii. Brief on the release of environmental flow and analysis of its sufficiency. viii. Field surveys to assess the status of fish abundance in streams and the Kunhar River. ix. Instrumental water quality tests from the streams and the River at the pre-identified points. x. Assessment of the effectiveness of the community engagement in the protection activities i.e. community participation in the protection activities and their feedback. xi. Identification of gaps in the implementation of protection activities and recommendations. xii. identification of unforeseen threats to the flora/fauna and habitat. xiii. Analysis of the Project execution impacts on the aquatic and terrestrial species, particularly on the				

S/No	Title of the Report	Frequency and Timing	Scope	Prepared by	Review by	Further, Review and Recommend by	Approve by
			critically endangered species of the Kashmir Hillstream Loach and their habitats. xiv. Overall assessment of the Project-specific BAP activities in the Area of Management and recommendations to the departments and PEDO for improvement.				

Exhibit 16.5: Monitoring and Evaluation Reports (Basin-wide BAP)[92]

Report No.	Title of the Report	Prepared by	Scope	Review by	Frequency and Timing
	Institute for Research on River Ecology				
1	Mid-Year IRRE Performance Review Report	M&E Consultant	Assessment of performance against plans, with details on specific research activities	BAP Management Committee	July every year
2	Annual IRRE Performance Review Report	M&E Consultant	Assessment of performance against plans, with details on specific research activities	BAP Management Committee	March every year
	Watershed Management Program (WMP)				
1	Mid-Year WMP Performance Review Report	M&E Consultant	Assessment of performance of Watershed Management Institutions against plans	Watershed Management Committee	July every year
2	Annual WMP Performance Review Report	M&E Consultant	Assessment of performance of Watershed Management Institutions against plans	Watershed Management Committee	March every year

[92] The type, number frequency and timing of the reports will be updated once the Basin-wide BAP implementation arrangement is finalized.

17 BUDGET FOR IMPLEMENTATION

17.1 Options for Financing

491. The need for providing supplemental support to the Departments under the BAP framework for biodiversity management in the Kunhar River and its tributaries indicates a shortage of financial resources for biodiversity management in KP. A mechanism to ensure institutional and financial sustainability for the implementation of the BAP is presented in **Section 14** (*Institutional Arrangement for Implementation of BAP)*. **Section 13** (*Proposed Conservation Measures*) presents the basis for the development of the budget. This section provides details of funding required for various actions, activities, and programs recommended in this BAP including Monitoring and Evaluation.

17.1.1 Existing Sources

492. In addition to the budgetary support provided by the government, both the departments generate revenues from the following resources:

- permits for recreational and subsistence fishing issued by KP Fisheries Department for the Kunhar River;
- fines collected for violations of wildlife and fisheries rules issued by the respective department; and
- occasional support from donors and NGOs.

493. The collections from issuing permits and fines for fishing in Kunhar River are very limited. Moreover, no NGO yet has provided support to the Fisheries Department for the protection of aquatic biodiversity in this area. The KP Wildlife and Biodiversity Act 2015 allowed a financial mechanism in the form of a Biodiversity and Wildlife Fund. The Fund was to be opened with such seed money as the Government may determine and later be supplemented by donations and funds raised from national and international organizations; donations from philanthropists, conservationists, and wildlife lovers; receipts from visitors and rental of various facilities in all forms of Protected Areas; resource extraction fee to include licensing fee obtained from sale or auction of any resources extracted from the Protected Area; and any other sources as to be notified by the Government.

494. The Fund is meant to be administered by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Wildlife and Biodiversity Board. The Board is meant to advise the Government on policy decisions relating to the protection, promotion, preservation, conservation, and management of wildlife in the Province; review the progress of development activities in the field of wildlife promotion, protection, preservation, conservation, and management in the Province; and, undertake such other functions as may be prescribed.

17.1.2 Proposed Financing Arrangement

495. The BAP assumes that core costs for supervision of the protection of the ecological resources of the Area of Management in the Kunhar River for staff, infrastructure, and operating costs will be provided by the governments. The funding provided by PEDO and other hydropower projects (for biodiversity protection and management as outlined in this BAP in their respective areas of management) will be supplemental and is expected to fill in critical gaps that arise mainly due to lack of reasources for implementation, and the systems and

procedures for making government funds available for conservation in a timely and efficient manner. This section describes the supplemental support that PEDO and other participating hydropower companies will provide to the Departments[93] to ensure the realization of enhanced protection under the HP scenario in the Area of Management, operation of the IRRE, and watershed management.

17.2 Budget for Protection

496. **Exhibit 17.1** and

497. **Exhibit 17.2** present budgets for one-time capital costs, and annual operating or recurring costs for implementation of protection in the Area of Management. Implementation will be initiated following the financial close of the Project.

17.3 Budget for the Institute for Research on River Ecology

498. **Exhibit 17.3** and **Exhibit 17.4** present budgets for one-time capital costs and annual operating or recurring costs for setting up and operation of the IRRE. The IRRE is proposed as a collaborative effort between the governments and the hydropower units impacting the Jhelum River (including the Kunhar River which is a tributary of the Jhelum River).

499. The Biodiversity Action Plan of the Kohala Hydropower Project assumes equal participation from the five participating hydropower companies, namely the owners of the Neelum Jhelum Hydropower Project (NJHP), Karot Hydropower Project (KHPP), Mahl Hydropower Project (MHPP), Azad Pattan Hydropower Project (APHPP), and Kohala Hydropower Project (KAHP), suggested a contribution of 20% from each of these five HPP project proponents. However, PEDO can also contribute to the IRRE and the corresponding contribution of the other HPPs will go down. The exact contribution of each company can be discussed in its Management Committee and the contributions of each company can be adjusted as the Committee considers appropriate. PEDO can contribute approximately 10% of the budget for the establishment and operation of an Institute for Research on River Ecology (IRRE), subject to the approval of associated costs in the tariff by the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA). Costs are provided in United States Dollars (USD).

17.4 Budget for Watershed Management

500. **Exhibit 17.5** and **Exhibit 17.6** present budgets for one-time capital costs and annual operating or recurring costs respectively for watershed management. Budgets were prepared for the watershed of the Kunhar River Basin extending from the Lulusar Lake to the confluence of the River Kunhar with River Jhelum, corresponding to the Study Area for the Cumulative Impact Assessment (**Section 7.13** of the EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project). The length of the Kunhar River in this watershed is 166 km. Watershed management is proposed as a collaborative effort between the governments and the hydropower units impacting the Jhelum River. The length of the river impacted by the Project is 45 km, extending from the reservoir of the Project, the low flow section downstream of the dam, and the stretch downstream of the tailrace outlet that will be impacted by peaking operations (if carried out).

[93] The BAP assumes that the support for protection in Kunhar River and its tributaries will be provided for the life of the Project, which is defined in the power purchase agreement entered into by PEDO with the government of Pakistan. The tenure of this agreement is 25 years. The BAP also calls for a periodic review of requirements to make adjustments if needed to maintain target protection levels.

It does not include the reservoir of the Patrind Hydropower Project. A contribution of 25% from PEDO to the total budget for watershed management is proposed given the length of the river impacted by the Project. The exact contribution of each company to watershed management in the basin can be discussed in the Watershed Management Committee and the contributions of each company can be adjusted as the Committee considers appropriate. PEDO will contribute to the establishment and operation of the WMP, subject to the approval of associated costs in the tariff by NEPRA.

17.5 Budget for Monitoring and Evaluation

501. The M&E Consultant will prepare reports as outlined in Exhibit 16.4 above. The ecology and water quality surveys will be conducted at least once before the operation of the dam to re-establish the baseline conditions following the monitoring and evaluation setup. Subsequently, the surveys will be conducted as scheduled for the five years following the creation of obstruction in the river to get a better understanding of the impacts of the Project on ecology. The frequency of the surveys may be decreased to once in two or three years, depending on the achievement of Net Gain/No Net Loss and confidence developed in the results.

502. The indicative budget for monitoring and evaluation is given in **Exhibit 17.7**.

17.6 Summary of BAP Implementation Budget

503. A summary of the budgetary requirements for the implementation of the BAP is provided in **Exhibit 17.8**, including the suggested share of PEDO in actions to be taken collectively by the concerned hydropower companies.

Exhibit 17.1: Capital and One Time Costs for Protection

(Exclusive of Taxes) 1USD= 277.99 PKR[94]

Activity	One- Time Capital Cost					
	Number	Unit Cost PKR	Contribution by PEDO		Contribution by Departments	
			Total Cost PKR	Total in USD	Total Cost PKR	Total in USD
1. Staff Training			–	–		
Development of training material for staff	1	60,000	60,000	216	–	–
Delivery of training	2	250,000	500,000	1799	–	–
Subtotal Staff Training			**560,000**	**2,014**		
2. Buildings and Offices			–	–		
Civil works field offices	2	4,500,000	9,000,000	32,375	–	–
Furniture & fixtures for field offices	2	450,000	900,000	3,238	–	–
Subtotal Buildings and Offices			**9,900,000**	**35,613**	**2,000,000**	**7,195**
3. Equipment and Materials						

[94] Exchange rate of USD to PKR on December 18, 2024: https://www.sbp.org.pk/ecodata/rates/war/2024/Dec/18-Dec-24.pdf. However, during the implementation stage, the exchange rate used and approved in the latest version of the Project PC-1 shall prevail for expenditure from the respective head(s).

Activity	One- Time Capital Cost					
	Number	Unit Cost PKR	Contribution by PEDO		Contribution by Departments	
			Total Cost PKR	Total in USD	Total Cost PKR	Total in USD
Motorbikes	18	170,000	3,060,000	11,008	–	–
Field and Office Equipment						
First Aid box	2	10,000	20,000	72	–	–
Boat, rafts, gear, life jackets, uniforms	1	1,000,000	1,000,000	3,597	–	–
Night vision binoculars	2	100,000	200,000	719	–	–
Binoculars	12	6,000	72,000	259	–	–
GPS (Garmin)	3	35,000	105,000	378	–	–
Video camera (Sony)	2	170,000	340,000	1,223	–	–
Cameras	4	90,000	360,000	1,295	–	–
Computers	2	130,000	260,000	935		–
Laptops	2	150,000	300,000	1,079	–	–
Printers	2	45,000	90,000	324	–	–
4.Sign Boards, Brochures, and Posters:						
Posters	3000	80	240,000	863	–	–
Brochures	3000	40	120,000	432	–	–
Signboards (Small)	36	15,000	540,000	1,943	–	–
Signboards (Large)	12	25,000	300,000	1,079	–	–
Subtotal Equipment and Materials			**7,007,000**	**25,206**		**–**
Establishment of Fish Hatchery[95]	Lump sum		132,000,000	1,257,143		
Construction of Pools in the Contributing Streams	Lump sum		21,000,000	200,000		
The Kunhar River Fish Diversity and Population Assessment Survey[96]	Lump sum		12,000,000	114,286		
Total Capital and One-Time Costs			**182,467,000**	**656,380**	**2,000,000**	**7,195**

Exhibit 17.2: Annual Recurring Cost for Protection

(Exclusive of Taxes) 1USD= 277.99 PKR

[95] The matter of fish hatchery establishment is under discussion between the PIU and the Fisheries Department Govt. KP.
[96] Either Fisheries Department or the PIU/PEDO will engage expert(s) or consulting firm for such survey.

Activity	Time Period		Number	Unit Cost PKR	Contribution by PEDO		Contribution by Departments	
					Total Cost PKR	Total in USD	Total Cost PKR	Total in USD
1. Staffing for Watch and Ward								
Supervisors	12	Months	2	60,000	120,000	432	–	–
Fisheries and Wildlife Watchers	12	Months	16	40,000	640,000	2302	–	–
Sub Total, Watch, and Ward Staff					**760,000**	**2,734**		
2. Operating Costs								
Fuel for motorbikes	12	Months	18	9,000	1,944,000	6993	–	–
Running and maintenance of m/bikes	12	Months	18	2,100	453,600	1632	–	–
Printing and stationery	12	Months	2	7,000	168,000	604	–	–
Communication charges	12	Months	2	5,500	132,000	475	–	–
School activities and community outreach programs	1	Year	2	200,000	400,000	1439	–	–
Office utilities	12	Months	2	55,000	1,320,000	4748	–	–
Campaigns for streams cleanness from Solid waste	1	Year	3	1,170,000	3,510,000	12626		
Sub Total for Operating Costs					**7,927,600**	**28,518**		**–**
Total for watch and ward and operating costs					**8,687,600**	**31,251**		
3. Contingency			5%		**434,380**	**1,563**		
Total Annual Recurring Cost					**9,121,980**	**32,814**		**–**

Exhibit 17.3: Capital and One Time Costs for the Institute for Research on River Ecology

Applicable subject to approval in the tariff by NEPRA *(Exclusive of Taxes) 1USD= 277.99 PKR*

Activity	Number	Contribution by Companies in Cash			Contribution by Companies in Kind	
		Unit Cost PKR	Total Cost PKR	Total in USD	Total Cost PKR	Total in USD
1. Buildings and Offices						
Land for facilities	1		–	–	30,000,000	107,918
Civil works	1		25,000,000	89,931	2,000,000	7,195
Furniture & fixtures			3,000,000	10,792	–	–
Subtotal Buildings and Offices			**28,000,000**	**100,723**		
2. Equipment and Materials						
4 WD vehicle	3	17,000,000	51,000,000	183,460	–	–
Office Equipment						
First Aid box	3	10,000	30,000	107.9176	–	–
Boat, rafts, gear, life jackets	3	1,000,000	3,000,000	10791.76	–	–

Activity	Number	Contribution by Companies in Cash			Contribution by Companies in Kind	
		Unit Cost PKR	Total Cost PKR	Total in USD	Total Cost PKR	Total in USD
Lab and research instruments, equipment, and chemicals	1	3,000,000	3,000,000	10791.76		
GPS (Garmin)	3	35,000	105,000	377.7114	–	–
Video Cameras	6	170,000	1,020,000	3669.197	–	–
Desktop Computers	10	90,000	900,000	3237.527		–
Laptops	3	130,000	390,000	1402.928	–	–
Field gear	15	150,000	2,250,000	8093.816		–
Printers	1	45,000	45,000	161.8763	–	–
Subtotal Equipment and Materials			**61,740,000**	**222,094**	**–**	**–**
Design of Institute	**20%**		**12,348,000**	**44,419**		
Total Capital and One-Time Costs			**89,740,000**	**322,817**	**32,000,000**	**115,112**
Contribution by PEDO	**10%**		**8,974,000.00**	**32,281.74**		

Exhibit 17.4: Annual Recurring Cost for Institute for Research on River Ecology

Applicable subject to approval in the tariff by NEPRA *(Exclusive of Taxes)1USD= 277.99 PKR*

Activity	Time Period		Number	Unit Cost PKR	Contribution by Companies in Cash		Contribution by Companies in Kind	
					Total Cost PKR	Total in USD	Total Cost PKR	Total in USD
1. Staffing								
Director	12	Months	1	350,000	4,200,000	15,108	–	–
Principal Research Officers (PRO)	12	Months	3	200,000	7,200,000	25,900	–	–
Research Officers	12	Months	6	100,000	7,200,000	25,900	–	–
Technicians/ Assistants	12	Months	6	60,000	4,320,000	15,540	–	–
Administration	12	Months	1	50,000	600,000	2,158	–	–
Accounts	12	Months	1	50,000	600,000	2,158	–	–
Miscellaneous, security, drivers, and facility maintenance	12	Months	6	40,000	2,880,000	10,360	–	–
Sub Total, Watch, and Ward Staff			**24**		**27,000,000**	**97,126**		
2. Operating Costs								
Fuel and maintenance for the vehicle	12	Months	3	35,000	1,260,000	4,533	–	–
Traveling boarding and lodging charges	12	Months	1	50,000	600,000	2,158	–	–
Printing and stationery	12	Months	1	20,000	240,000	863	–	–
Communication charges	12	Months	24	10,000	2,880,000	10,360	–	–
Students' internship and training programs			8	30,000	240,000	863	–	–
Office utilities	12	Months	4	150,000	7,200,000	25,900	–	–

Activity	Time Period		Number	Unit Cost PKR	Contribution by Companies in Cash		Contribution by Companies in Kind	
					Total Cost PKR	Total in USD	Total Cost PKR	Total in USD
Laboratory supplies	12	Months	1	50,000	600,000	2,158		
Hatchery supplies	12	Months	1	60,000	720,000	2,590		
Depreciation on vehicle and equipment				–	1,001,000	3,601	–	–
Special Studies					**5,350,000**	19,245		
Other expenses	12	Months	1	**75,000**	**900,000**	3,238		
Sub Total for Operating Costs					**20,991,000**	**75,510**	**–**	**–**
3. Management and Overheads			**20%**		**3,998,000**	**2,876**		**–**
Total Annual Recurring Cost					**51,989,000**	**175,512**	**–**	**–**
Contribution by PEDO			**10%**		**5,198,900.00**	**17,551.21**		

Exhibit 17.5: Capital and One Time Costs for Watershed Management

Applicable subject to approval in the tariff by NEPRA *(Exclusive of Taxes)1USD= 277.99 PKR*

Activity	Number	Contribution in Cash			Contribution in Kind	
		Cost Per Unit	Total Cost PKR	Total in USD	Total Cost PKR	Total in USD
1. Buildings and Offices			–	–		
Land for field offices	7	10,000,000		–	70,000,000	251,808
Civil works field offices	7	4,000,000	28,000,000	100,723	–	–
Furniture & fixtures for field offices	7	250,000	1,750,000	6,295	–	–
Subtotal Buildings and Offices			29,750,000	107,018		
2. Equipment and Materials		–	–	–	–	–
Vehicles						
4 WD vehicle	8	17,000,000	136,000,000	489,226	–	–
Motorbikes	12	170,000	2,040,000	7,338	–	–
Field and Office Equipment			0	0		
First Aid box	7	10,000	70,000	252	–	–
GPS (Garmin)	7	35,000	245,000	881	–	–
Cameras	7	170,000	1,190,000	4,281	–	–
Computers	7	90,000	630,000	2,266		–
Laptops	7	130,000	910,000	3,273	–	–
Printers	7	45,000	315,000	1,133	–	–
Subtotal Equipment and Materials			**141,400,000**	**508,651**	**–**	**–**
Total Capital and One-Time Costs			**171,150,000**	**615,670**	**70,000,000**	**251,808**
Contribution of PEDO	**25%**		**42,787,500**	**153,917**	**17,500,000**	**62,952**

Exhibit 17.6: Annual Recurring Cost for Watershed Management

Applicable subject to approval in the tariff by NEPRA *(Exclusive of Taxes)1USD= 277.99 PKR*

Activity	Number	Cost Per Month	Contribution in Cash		Contribution in Kind	
			Total Annual Cost PKR	Total in USD	Total Cost PKR	Total in USD
1. Staffing						
Central Office						
Project Director	1	350,000	4,200,000	15,108	–	–
Coordinator– Forester	1	150,000	1,800,000	6,475	–	–
M&E Specialists	2	150,000	3,600,000	12,950	–	–
Office Assistant	1	40,000	480,000	1,727		
Drivers	2	40,000	960,000	3,453		
Watershed Management Units					–	–
Coordinator	1	100,000	1,200,000	4,317	–	–
Female Social Mobilizers	2	80,000	1,920,000	6,907	–	–
Supervisors	2	60,000	1,440,000	5,180		
Office Assistant	1	40,000	480,000	1,727		
Vehicle Driver	1	40,000	480,000	1,727	–	–
Sub Total, Staff			**16,560,000**	**59,570**		
2. Operating Costs						
Fuel and Maintenance for 4 WD Vehicles	8	40,000	3,840,000	13,813	–	–
Fuel and Maintenance for Motorbikes	12	10,000	1,440,000	5,180		
Other Operational Charges	7	30,000	2,520,000	9,065		
Watershed Investments	6		32,100,000	115,472		
Depreciation on vehicle and equipment		–	2,014,000	7,245	–	–
Sub Total Operating Costs			**41,914,000**	**150,775**	**–**	**–**
3. Management and Overheads	**20%**		**7,980,000**	**5,741**		**–**
Total Annual Recurring Cost			**66,454,000**	**216,087**	**–**	**–**
Contribution of PEDO	**25%**		**16,613,500**	**54,022**		

Exhibit 17.7: Budget for Monitoring and Evaluation

No	Activity	Amount, US $
Capital/One-Time Costs		
Setting up the Monitoring and Reporting System, One Time Cost		40,000
Preparation of Sediment Management Guidelines		85,000
Total Capital/One Time Cost for Setting up M&E System		**125,000**
Total M&E Cost for Protection		
1	Semi-annual Biodiversity Monitoring Reports	105,000

No	Activity	Amount, US $
2	Final Biodiversity Assessment Report	15,000
Total M&E Cost for Protection		**120,000**
Annual M&E Cost		
Estimated M&E Cost for IRRE		**15,000**
Estimated M&E Cost for Watershed Management Program		**15,000**
Total Annual M&E Cost for IRRE and WMO		**30,000**

Exhibit 17.8: Summary of the Budgetary Requirements for Implementation of the BAP

	Total Cost (USD)	Share of PEDO (USD)
Capital/One-Time Cost		
Protection		656,380
Monitoring and Evaluation of Protection		120,000
Institute for Research on River Ecology @ 10% of Total Cost	322,817	32,282
Watershed Management @ 25% of Total Cost	615,670	153,917
Total Capital/One-Time Cost		**962,579**
Annual Recurring Cost		
Protection		32,814
Institute for Research on River Ecology @ 10% of Total Cost	175,512	17,551
Watershed Management Program @ 25% of Total Cost	216,087	54,022
Monitoring and Evaluation of IRRE and WMP		30,000
Total Annual Recurring Cost		**134,387**
Budget Estimate for Capitalization Purposes		
Capital/One-Time Cost		**962,579**
Recurring Cost for 6.5 Years During Construction		873,515
Total Cost for Capitalization		**1,836,094**

18 ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

504. This section outlines the framework for adaptive management that needs to be applied to respond to changing pressures on the ecosystem of the Kunhar River and ecosystem services provided by the river and unforeseen or unexpected outcomes of the mitigation measures applied.

18.1 Adaptive Management Framework

505. Adaptive management is defined as "a framework and flexible decision-making process for ongoing knowledge acquisition, monitoring, and evaluation leading to continuous improvements in management planning and implementation of a project to achieve specified objectives."[97] An adaptive management approach provides a structured process that allows for taking action under uncertain conditions based on the best available science, closely monitoring and evaluating outcomes, and re-evaluating and adjusting decisions as more information is learned. The adaptive management framework encompasses three broad phases: Plan, Do, and Evaluate and Respond. (**Exhibit 18.1**).

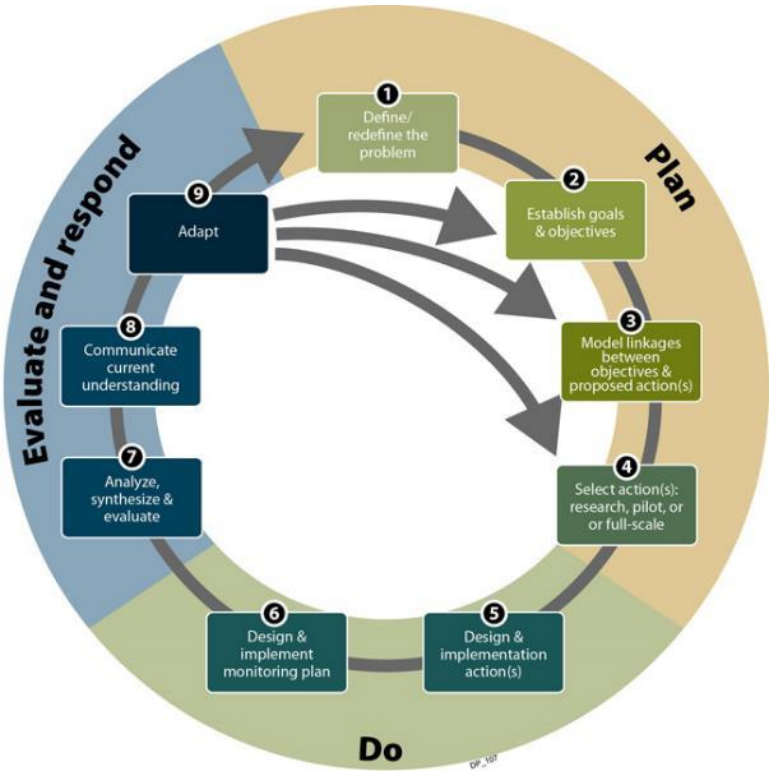
506. The 'Plan' phase of the Biodiversity Action Plan has been completed. Steps 1-4 are listed in **Exhibit 18.1** were completed during the planning stage of the BAP development. Based on this, the objectives of the BAP were identified as follows:

- achieve a 'Net Gain' in biodiversity protection in alignment with IFC PS6 requirements for Nalbant's Loach *Schistura nalbanti* and Kashmir Hillstream Loach *Triplophysa kashmirensis*, which are endemic to the Jhelum and Kunhar Basin.
- implement a 'High Protection' scenario, to put in place a 90% reduction in the current levels of non-flow related pressures on fish populations.

507. Keeping in view these objectives, this BAP has been developed for PEDO on Kunhar River to protect the threatened aquatic ecological resources (steps 5 and 6 in **Exhibit 18.1**).

[97] California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Official website. Available at: http://www.dfg.ca.gov/erp/adaptive_management.asp

Exhibit 18.1: Framework for Adaptive Management



18.2 Analysis and Assessment of BAP Implementation

508. As stated in Step 7 of **Exhibit 18.1**, the success of the BAP will be assessed and analyzed once implementation begins. This will be done using the monitoring and evaluation framework. The objective is to evaluate the extent to which the BAP has contributed to improvements in biodiversity, if any.

509. Conceptually, assessment of the extent to which “Net Gain” in biodiversity has been achieved can be a challenging task as several variables not in the control of the Department and PEDO will contribute to improvement in or worsening of biodiversity in the area of concern, mainly the Kunhar River. Examples are hydrology including major flood and drought events, climate change, quantity, quality, and treatment of wastewater that flows or seeps into the river and tributaries from the population centers in the Jhelum River, and construction of additional hydropower projects on the Kunhar River. A robust approach to setting up the monitoring and reporting system has been separately budgeted for this BAP.

510. Following the Pressure-State-Response framework as described in the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (**Appendix J**), the following approach will be used for the assessment of the Impacts of the BAP:

- review and assessment of trends in pressure indicators once every year;
- review ecosystem state indicators once every year to assess whether the set narrative and numerical targets for the key indicators of state have been achieved. This can be reduced to once in two to three years if the Net Gain targets for biodiversity are achieved;
- review and assessment of trends in response indicators once every year;

- review of the factors that may have contributed to changes in ecosystem indicators and recommendations for adaptive management.

511. Data and information on the capture, hunting, killing, and trapping of wildlife with a focus on fish will be analyzed to determine the extent to which the watch and ward system, strengthened under the BAP, has been effective in reducing the pressures. Trends and developments in planning and construction of infrastructure in the project area, and land use patterns, factors that are primarily not in direct control of the BAP, will be reviewed to identify areas in which policy-level advocacy and interventions can be initiated by the Department and stakeholders. The objective will be to generate a response that can lead to a reduction in pressures in the long term.

512. Indicators of the state of the ecosystem will be monitored using defined sampling procedures and protocols. A quantitative review of trends (e.g. fish captured at a sampling point, and water quality) will be combined with a qualitative explanation of the factors that could be contributing to the trends observed. The factors could include pressures on the system as reflected by the trends in pressure indicators such as hunting and trapping or hydrological and weather-related events such as floods and droughts. An annual assessment of the state of the ecology, both terrestrial and aquatic, will be carried out in this manner.

513. Trends and developments in policy, legal, and institutional frameworks, availability of financing for conservation, and level of awareness among the stakeholders will be assessed to determine their adequacy for supporting conservation and achieving a reduction in pressures in the long term.

18.3 Actions to Adapt

514. **Adaptation** is about taking actions based on the results of monitoring to improve any project. If the project actions did not achieve the expected results, it is because either the assumptions were wrong, the actions were poorly executed, the conditions at the project site have changed, the monitoring was faulty, or some combination of these problems. Adaptation involves changing assumptions and interventions to respond to the new information obtained through monitoring efforts.

515. If an assessment of the BAP reveals that the specified targets, particularly for the ecosystem state indicators are not met and the ‘Net Gain’ as envisaged by the BAP is not being achieved, some examples of corrective actions that may be taken by PEDO are outlined below:

- to compensate for any lack of technical capacity in the M&E Consultant, technical advice and support from international consultants may be arranged;
- if a decline in ecological integrity is attributed to low environmental flow releases (E-Flow) or peaking from the Project, PEDO may revise the minimum E-Flow release and/or peaking arrangement after discussion with stakeholders;
- if the number of game watchers and supervisors assigned for watch and ward responsibilities is inadequate, more finances may be injected for hiring additional game watchers and supervisors;

- similarly if targets are not being achieved due to inadequate equipment for the watch and ward, more finances may be released by PEDO for the procurement of this equipment;
- if the concerned department is unable to provide the required support for BAP implementation due to a lack of technical capacity, training, and capacity-building programs for the department may be initiated;
- political pressure that impedes the successful implementation of the BAP may be managed by approaching the governments of KP through the Secretary or as specified in the Implementation Agreement for the Project between PEDO and the government.
- to minimize opposition from the local communities, Community-Based Organizations may be developed that will involve the locals in conservation and protection activities.
- targets may need to be revised if there is an unexpected large change in climate or hydrology such as unexpected floods or drought. Any changes to the targets will need to be justified and will have to be in line with PEDO's commitment and agreement particularly that of achieving Net Gain, and will have to be approved by the BAP Management Committee.

516. This is only an indicative list. Strategies for adaptive management will be based on analysis of problems and issues as they arise.

18.4 Responsibility

517. PEDO will be responsible for making adaptive management decisions after consultation with relevant parties and stakeholders, including the Project lenders, BAP Management Committee, M&E Consultant, and community stakeholders.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX.A: OVERVIEW OF DRIFT MODEL FOR ENVIRONMENTAL FLOW ASSESSMENT

A.1 Drift Decision Support System

518. The DRIFT Decision Support System (DSS) is programmed using Delphi XE and uses a Nexus DB v3 database. The software is designed for use in all computers running Windows XP and upwards, and the DSS supports both single-user and multi-user modes.

519. The DSS makes use of Google Earth (standard version) and Google kml files.

520. The DRIFT DSS is divided into three sections, each dealing with a different stage in the EF determination process. These are (Brown *et al*. 2013):

i. Set-up,

ii. Knowledge Capture, and

iii. Analysis.

521. The first two sections deal with the population of the DSS and the calibration of the relationships that will be used to predict the ecosystem response to changes in flows. The third section is used to generate results once the first two sections have been populated, and to produce the reports and graphics detailing the predictions for the scenarios under consideration.

522. All hydrological modeling is done outside of the DSS. The DSS is dependent on the outputs of two external models, namely:

- a Hydrological Model used to provide baseline basin hydrology; and
- a Water Resource Model used to predict the changes in the flow regime associated with the existing and proposed water-resource developments under the various scenarios.

523. Additional detail on the DSS, including a User Manual, is available in Brown *et al.* (2013).

A.2 Summary of the DRIFT Process

524. DRIFT (Downstream Response to Imposed Flow Transformations; King *et al.* 2003) was used to evaluate different water management scenarios for the Jhelum River for, *inter alia*, the following reasons:

i. It is a holistic interactive method, which provides the biophysical consequences for the downstream river for various scenarios of flow change. These scenarios can then be used to determine the impact of proposed operating rules for the dam and possible mitigation thereof.

ii. It is a published method (King et al. 2003), with a detailed User Manual (Brown et al., 2008), and as such, has been peer-reviewed.

iii. It has been widely applied in the Southern African Development Community, such as Lesotho (King et al. 2003), Mozambique (Beilfuss and Brown, 2010; Southern Waters 2011), Namibia (Southern Waters 2010), Peru (Norconsult and Southern

Waters 2011), South Africa (e.g. Brown et al., 2006), Tanzania (PBWO/IUCN 2008), Zimbabwe (Brown 2007) and Sudan (Southern Waters 2009). It was used as the basis of a basin-wide EF assessment in the Okavango River Basin (Angola, Namibia, and Botswana; King and Brown 2009), and has been used in Pakistan on the Neelum-Jhelum River (Southern Waters and Hagler-Bailly Pakistan 2013).

iv. It is based on Response Curves constructed from any relevant knowledge including expert opinion and local wisdom and as such is suitable for use in regions where there are few biophysical data available for the flow-related aspects of the rivers, as was the case for the Jhelum River

v. It aims to provide an objective and transparent assessment of the effects of changes in flow on the downstream environment based solely on structured consideration of the biophysical aspects thereof.

525. DRIFT is a data-management tool, that allows data and knowledge to be used to their best advantage in a structured way. Within DRIFT, each specialist, to derive the links between river flow and river condition, uses discipline-specific methods. The central rationale of DRIFT is that different aspects of the flow regime of a river elicit different responses from the riverine ecosystem. Thus, the removal of part or all of a particular element of the flow regime will affect the riverine ecosystem differently than will removal of some other element.

526. In DRIFT, the long-term daily-flow time series is partitioned into parts of the flow regime that are thought to play different roles in sculpting and maintaining the river ecosystem, such as the onset of important flow seasons, which may affect breeding cycles, or the magnitude of the annual flood, which may inundate a floodplain. This makes it easier for ecologists to predict how changes in the flow regime could affect the ecosystem. The 'parts' of the flow regime used in DRIFT are called flow indicators.

- Seasonal/daily variations.
  - ✓ Mean annual runoff
  - ✓ Dry season onset
  - ✓ Dry season minimum 5-day discharge
  - ✓ Dry season duration
  - ✓ Dry season average daily volume
  - ✓ Wet season onset
  - ✓ Wet season minimum 5-day discharge
  - ✓ Wet season duration
  - ✓ Wet season flood volume
  - ✓ Transition 1 average daily volume
  - ✓ Transition 2 average daily volume
  - ✓ Transition 2 recession shape

- Hourly variations (required for sites downstream of the tailrace, which releases flows resulting from peak power generation).
  - ✓ Dry season within a day range in discharge
  - ✓ Dry season maximum instantaneous discharge
  - ✓ Dry season minimum instantaneous discharge
  - ✓ Wet season within a day range in discharge
  - ✓ Wet season maximum instantaneous discharge
  - ✓ Wet season minimum instantaneous discharge
  - ✓ Transition 1 within a day range in discharge
  - ✓ Transition 1 maximum instantaneous discharge
  - ✓ Transition 1 minimum instantaneous discharge
  - ✓ Transition 2 within a day range in discharge
  - ✓ Transition 2 maximum instantaneous discharge
  - ✓ Transition 2 minimum instantaneous discharge.

527. The variability of the flow regime in timing and magnitude, both in its natural state and in any future scenario, was captured automatically through instructions within the hydrological module of the DSS that identify the flow indicators year-by-year. Thus, for the Jhelum River, the time-series are made up of annual time-series of each flow indicator for the 31 years of flow record. This means the specialists can consider a response to a condition for a particular time step rather than thinking of an average response over several years. They can also use data from a particular year or season to calibrate time-series responses.

528. The study process was structured as follows.

a. The study focused on EF sites on the Jhelum Rivers. The flow changes that were evaluated encompass a mixture of:
   i. changes in magnitude;
   ii. changes in duration; and
   iii. changes in timing (e.g., delayed onset of wet season or range of hourly discharge fluctuations).

b. Specialists provided opinions on the consequences of these changes in the form of Response Curves. The disciplines represented were:
   i. water quality
   ii. hydraulics
   iii. geomorphology
   iv. algae
   v. riparian vegetation

vi. invertebrates

vii. fish

viii. socioeconomics.

c. The database was used to evaluate:

i. changes in individual aspects of the ecosystem (e.g. fish, vegetation), for each site and scenario;

ii. changes in the overall condition of the river, for each site and scenario.

529. The basic sequence of activities in the DRIFT DSS can be summarized as follows and has been presented in **Exhibit 18.2.**

i. Collect data for the study at the river.

ii. Augment with expert knowledge of similar river systems and a global understanding of river functioning.

iii. Construct relationships for the expected response of individual ecosystem indicators to changes in aspects of the flow regime (Response Curves).

iv. Use Response Curves to predict time series of abundance changes.

v. Adjust the severity ratings to integrity ratings by assigning a negative sign for a move away from the natural ecosystem condition and a positive for a move towards natural.

vi. Model future changes in catchment hydrology.

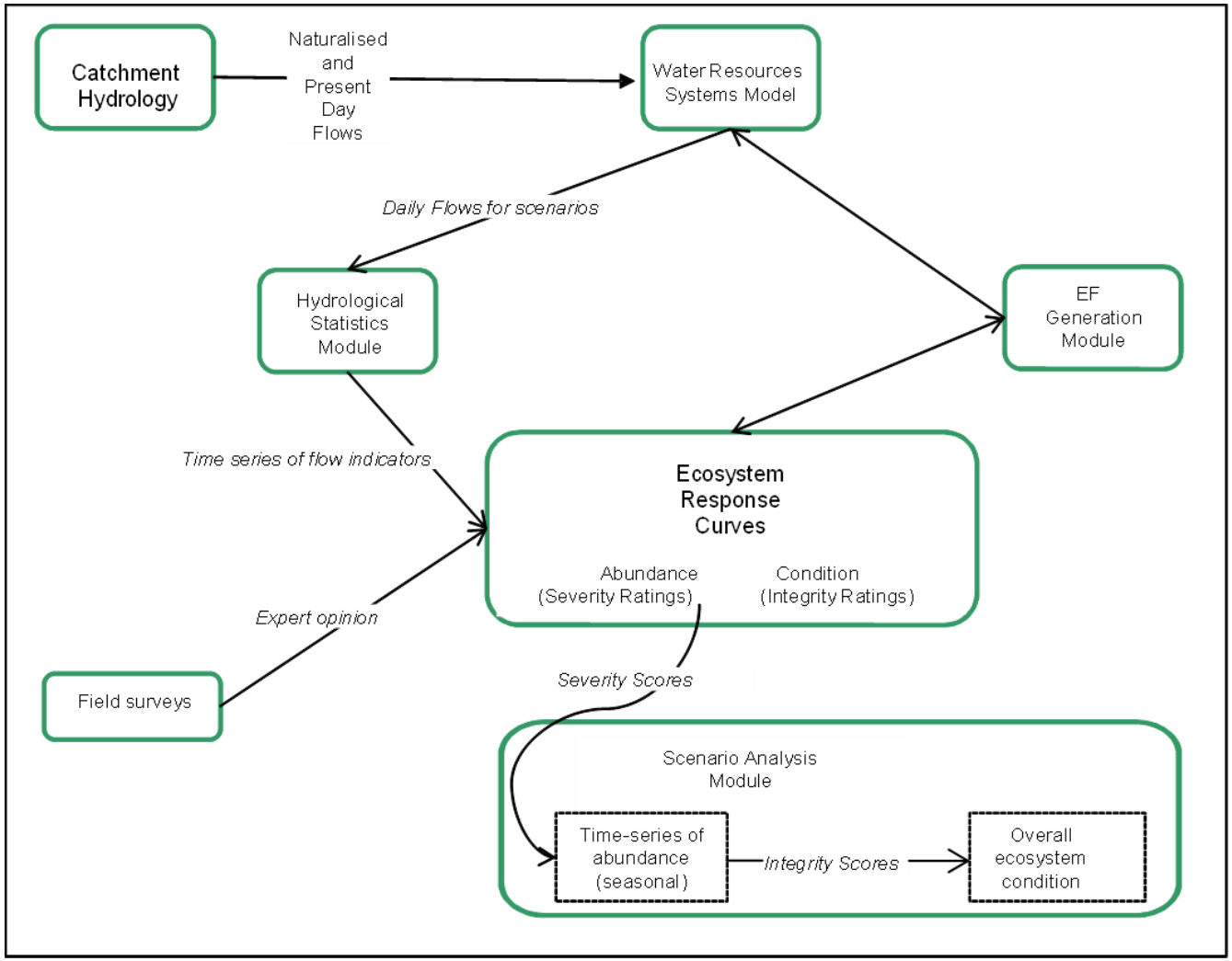
vii. Calculate the annual flow indicator time series.

viii. Use Response curves to calculate severity scores and develop a time series of change in abundance for ecosystem indicators.

ix. Calculate the average severity score for each indicator for the entire hydrological time series.

x. Convert severity scores to Integrity Scores to predict overall ecological condition.

Exhibit 18.2: Flow chart of the DRIFT process



A.3 Response Curves[98]

530. Response Curves depict the relationship between a biophysical or socio-economic indicator and a driving variable (e.g., flow). In this EF assessment, Response Curves linked an indicator to any other indicator deemed to be driving change. The aim is not to ensure that every conceivable link is captured but rather to restrict the linkages to those that are most meaningful and can be used to predict the bulk of the likely responses to a change in the flow or sediment regimes of the river.

531. The number of Response Curves constructed for an EF assessment depends on the level of detail at which a flow assessment is done. These were used to evaluate scenarios by taking the value of the flow indicator for any one scenario and reading off the resultant value for the biophysical indicators from their respective Response Curves. Once this had been done the database combined these values to predict the overall change in each biophysical indicator and the overall ecosystem under each scenario.

a. Construction of the Response Curves

532. The Response Curves used in this project were constructed as follows:

- Draft curves constructed at a workshop in Islamabad attended by Southern Waters and Hagler-Bailly Pakistan team members.
- Draft curves re-evaluated by Southern Waters once the scenarios have been run, and adjusted where deemed necessary.
- Draft curves re-evaluated by Hagler-Bailly Pakistan using these scenarios as reference, and adjusted where deemed necessary.
- Final curves agreed on by Hagler-Bailly Pakistan and Southern Waters.

b. Response Curves and Cumulative Change

533. The time-series approach means that the Response Curves are used to predict the likely seasonal change in an ecosystem indicator in response to the flow/sediment conditions experienced in that, or possibly preceding seasons. For instance, the kind of questions typically asked to facilitate setting the dry season discharge Response Curve for Kashmir catfish are:

- "If the dry season discharge declines from baseline values, what will be the consequences for the abundance of Kashmir catfish?"
  - ✓ Do Kashmir catfish use the main river in the dry season?
  - ✓ Do Kashmir catfish abundances change noticeably over the climatic range covered in the baseline, i.e., are they noticeably more abundant in wet years than in dry years, or vice versa?
  - ✓ What kinds of habitat do adult Kashmir catfish use in the main river?
  - ✓ Do Kashmir catfish breed in the dry season?
  - ✓ Do they breed in the main river or the tributaries?

[98] The bulk of this section is taken from Joubert *et al*., 2009.

- ✓ Where do Kashmir catfish lay their eggs?
- ✓ What sorts of habitat do fry, fingerlings, and juvenile trout use in the main river?
- ✓ At what discharge(s) does the favored habitat(s) disappear?
- ✓ What is the consequence of these habitats not being available for one season?
- ✓ If discharge reaches zero for one season, are there pools that the trout will be able to survive in?
- ✓ Can the Kashmir catfish survive for a dry season in pools?
- ✓ Is water temperature a concern, i.e., would winter temperature be an issue for Kashmir catfish if discharge dropped?
- ✓ What do Kashmir catfish adults/juveniles/fingerlings/fry eat?
- ✓ How will the food base be affected by changes in dry season low flows? Etc.

534. Often, a species (such as Kashmir catfish will be expected to survive even an extremely dry season, with possibly only minor changes (5-10%) in overall abundance if dry season flows drop to zero. If, however, the flows drop to this level in the dry season year after year, then the cumulative effect on catfish populations is likely to be far greater. The time series enables the DSS to capture this cumulative effect.

A.4 Scoring System Used

535. Into the foreseeable future, predictions of river change will be based on limited knowledge. Most river scientists, particularly when using sparse data, are thus reluctant to quantify predictions: it is relatively easy to predict the nature and direction of ecosystem change, but more difficult to predict its timing and intensity. To calculate the implications of loss of resources to subsistence and other users to facilitate discussion and tradeoffs, it is nevertheless necessary to quantify these predictions as accurately as possible.

536. Two types of information are generated for each biophysical indicator, *viz*.:

- Severity ratings, which describe increases/decreases for an indicator in response to changes in the flow indicators, and;
- Integrity ratings, which indicate whether the predicted change is a move towards or away from natural, i.e., how the change influences overall ecosystem condition.

537. The severity ratings are used to construct the Response Curves. The Integrity ratings are used to describe overall ecosystem condition/health.

A.5 Severity Ratings

538. The severity ratings comprise an 11-point scale of -5 (large reduction) to +5 (very large change; Brown *et al*., 2008; **Exhibit 18.3**), where the + or – denotes an increase or decrease in abundance or extent. These ratings are converted to percentages using the relationships provided in **Exhibit 18.3.** The scale accommodates uncertainty, as each rating encompasses a range of percentages; however, greater uncertainty can also be expressed by providing a range of severity

ratings (i.e. a range of ranges) for anyone who predicted change (after King *et al.*, 2003).

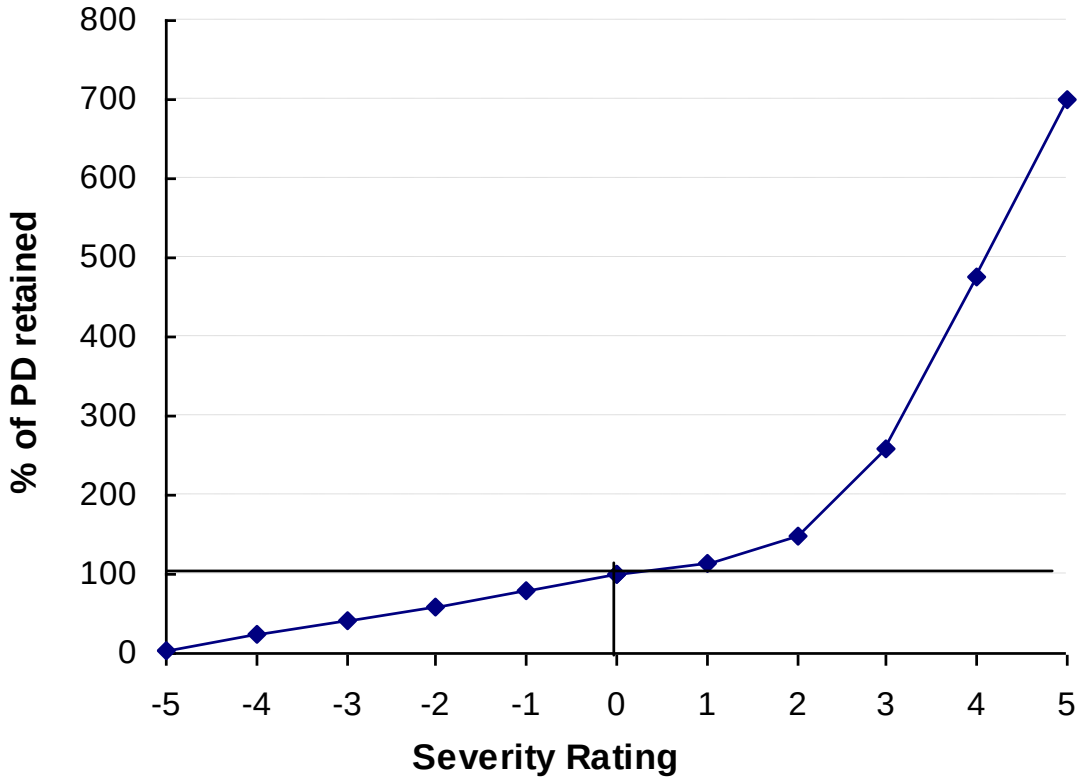
Exhibit 18.3: DRIFT Severity Ratings and their Associated Abundances and Losses – a Negative Score Means a Loss in Abundance Relative to the Baseline, and a Positive, Means a Gain.

Severity rating	Severity	% Abundance change
5	Critically severe	501% gain to ∞ up to pest proportions
4	Severe	251-500% gain
3	Moderate	68-250% gain
2	Low	26-67% gain
1	Negligible	1-25% gain
0	None	no change
-1	Negligible	80-100% retained
-2	Low	60-79% retained
-3	Moderate	40-59% retained
-4	Severe	20-39% retained
-5	Critically severe	0-19% retained includes local extinction

539. Note that the percentages applied to severity ratings associated with gains in abundance are strongly non-linear[99] and that negative and positive percentage changes are not symmetrical (**Exhibit 18.4;** King *et al*. 2003).

[99] The non-linearity is necessary because the scores have to be able to show that a critically-severe loss equates to local extinction whilst a critically severe gain equates to proliferation to pest proportions.

Exhibit 18.4: The Relationship between Severity Ratings (and Severity Scores) and Percentage Abundance Lost or Retained as used In Drift and Adopted for the DSS. (Pd=Present Day and = 100%)



540. For each year of hydrological record, and each ecosystem indicator, the severity rating corresponding to the value of a flow indicator is read off its Response Curve. The severity ratings for each flow indicator are then combined to produce a severity score, which indicates how the abundance, area, or concentration of an indicator is expected to change under the given flow conditions in each year, relative to the changes that would have been expected under baseline conditions in the catchment.

A.6 Identification of Ecologically-relevant Elements of the Flow Regime

541. One of the main assumptions underlying the DRIFT EFs process is that it is possible to identify ecologically relevant elements of the flow regime and isolate them within the historical hydrological record. Thus, one of the first steps in the DRIFT process is to identify the ecologically important flow indicators, which are calculated per season for each year.

A.7 Major Limitations of DRIFT

542. Predicting the effect of flow changes on rivers is difficult because the actual trajectory and magnitude of the change are additionally dependent on so many other variables, such as climate, sediment supply, and human use of the system. Thus, several assumptions underlie the predictions. Should any of these assumptions prove to be invalid, the actual changes may not match the predicted changes. This does not necessarily make the predictions themselves incorrect or invalid, but simply means that the surrounding set of circumstances that support the predictions has changed.

543. The main limitation is the paucity of data. This is a universal problem, as ecosystems are complex and we will probably never have complete certainty of their present and possible future characteristics. Instead, it is essential to push ahead cautiously and aid decision-making, using the best available information. The alternative is that water resource development decisions are made without consideration of the consequences for the supporting ecosystems, eventually probably making management of sustainability impossible. Data paucity is addressed in the DRIFT process by accessing every kind of knowledge available - general scientific understanding, international scientific literature, local wisdom, and specific data from the river under consideration or from similar ones – and capturing these in a structured and transparent process, with the DSS inputs and outputs checked and approved at every step. The Response Curves used (and the reasoning used to construct them) are available for scrutiny within the DSS and they, as well as the DRIFT DSS, can be updated as new information becomes available.

544. A second aspect of the paucity of data is that it is neither known what the river was like in its pristine condition nor exactly how abundant each ecosystem aspect (sand bars, fish, etc.) was then or is now. To address this, all DRIFT predictions are made relative to the baseline situation (there will be a little more, or a lot less, than today, and so on), as explained further below.

545. These inherent uncertainties also mean that the trends and relative position of the scenarios are more reliable predictors of the impacts of the scenarios than their absolute values. Also, DRIFT is designed to predict overall conditions, and focusing on one indicator to the exclusion of others is not recommended.

APPENDIX.B: RESERVOIR OPERATIONS MODELLING

546. The purpose of the hydrological component of the work was to simulate hydrological flow sequences that could result from operations of the HPP under varying environmental flows.

547. To cater to the requirement of DRIFT DSS input requirements, a reservoir operations model was created in the GoldSim® software package. GoldSim® is the premier Monte Carlo simulation software solution for dynamically modeling complex systems in engineering, science, and business. GoldSim® is particularly suited for mass balances, including water balances. For the current model, the Monte Carlo capabilities of GoldSim® were not utilized as these were not necessary.

548. The simulated flow sequences were analyzed to produce ecologically relevant flow indicators that serve as driving variables for the biophysical socio-economic response curves that form the core of the DRIFT approach (see **Environmental Flow Assessment Report**)

549. This report provides a summary of the reservoir operations modeling.

B.1 Approach

550. The specific simulated output derived from GoldSim® Version 12, which is required for DRIFT DSS includes the following.

- Possible range of daily flows at different locations, including upstream of the dam, immediately downstream of the dam and immediately downstream of the tailrace, immediately downstream of the Balakot Town with reservoir operations
- Flows at the E-Flow site using multiple E-Flow scenarios.

B.2 Data

551. The Key Project components proposed for the BHPP and the baseline hydrological input data are provided below.

B.2.1 Dam Design

552. Key dam design parameters utilized in the reservoir operations model are provided in **Exhibit 18.5** below.

Exhibit 18.5: Dam Design Parameters

Parameter	Unit	Value
Full Reservoir Level	m amsl	1290
The volume of the reservoir (as reported) up to FRL	MCM	13.7
Minimum Draw Down level (MDDL)	m amsl	1283
Volume of the reservoir (as reported) up to MDDL	MCM	10
E-Flow Discharge Level	m amsl	1276
Main powerhouse turbine capacity	MW	300
Main powerhouse-rated unit discharge	m^3/s	154
Number of turbines in the main powerhouse	no	4

Parameter	Unit	Value
Minimum turbine flow of the main powerhouse	m^3/s	15.4

B.2.2 Hydrological Baseline

553. The Surface Water Hydrology Project (SWHP), of the Water and Power Development Authority Pakistan (WAPDA) had established gauge and discharge (G&D) stations in the Kunhar basin (see **Exhibit).** Data from the Gari Habibullah gauging station was selected as the primary source of data due to its location and long-term data availability. In 1995, Gari Habibullah G&D station was closed and moved 2 km upstream to Talhata. Flow data available at this station was appended to the Gari Habibullah data by adopting a catchment ratio approach shown below to create a 51-year record of gauging data from 1960 to 2010 (see **Section 5** of the main EIA report).

Exhibit 18.6: Gauging Stations in the Kunhar Basin

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	Catchment Area (km^2)	Period
Gari Habibullah	73.357091°	34.447679°	2,356	1960-1994
Talhatta	73.347018°	34.465495°	2,336	1995-2010

554. The mean monthly flows for Gari Habiullah and Talhata are displayed in **Exhibit 18.7** and **Exhibit 18.8** respectively.

Exhibit 18.7: Mean Monthly Flow at Gari Habibullah (1960-1994)

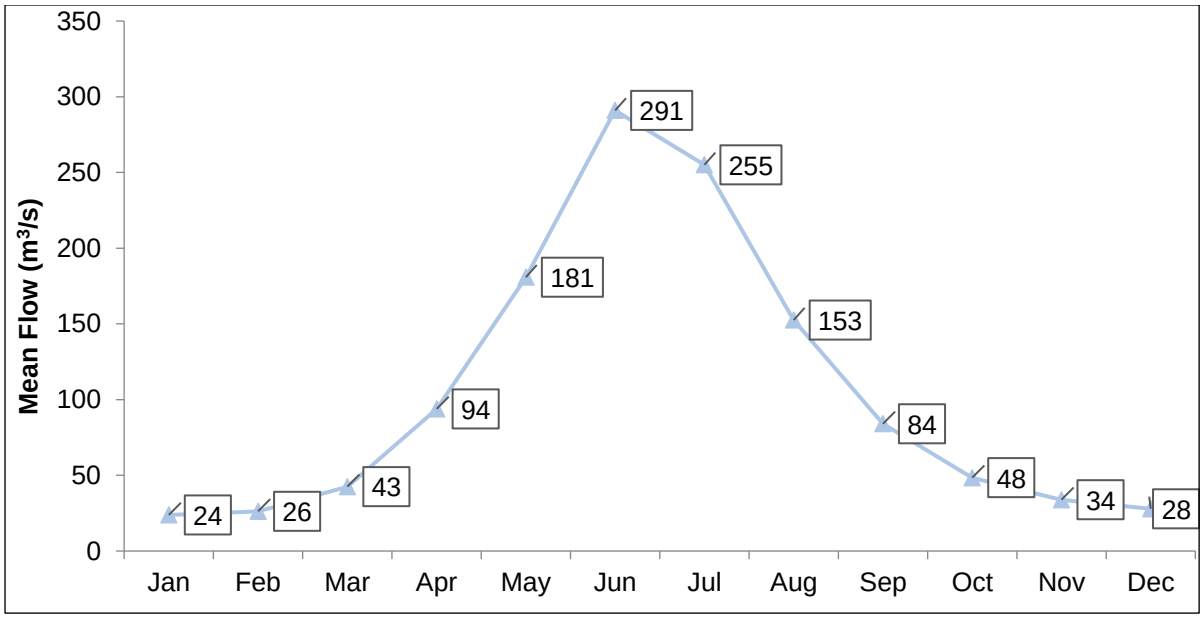
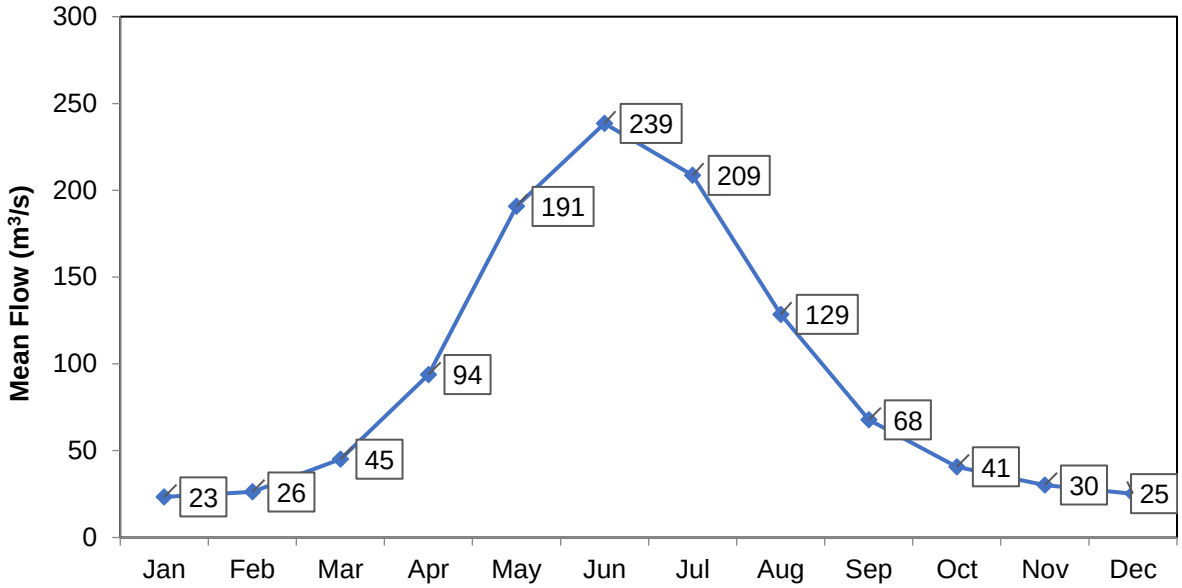


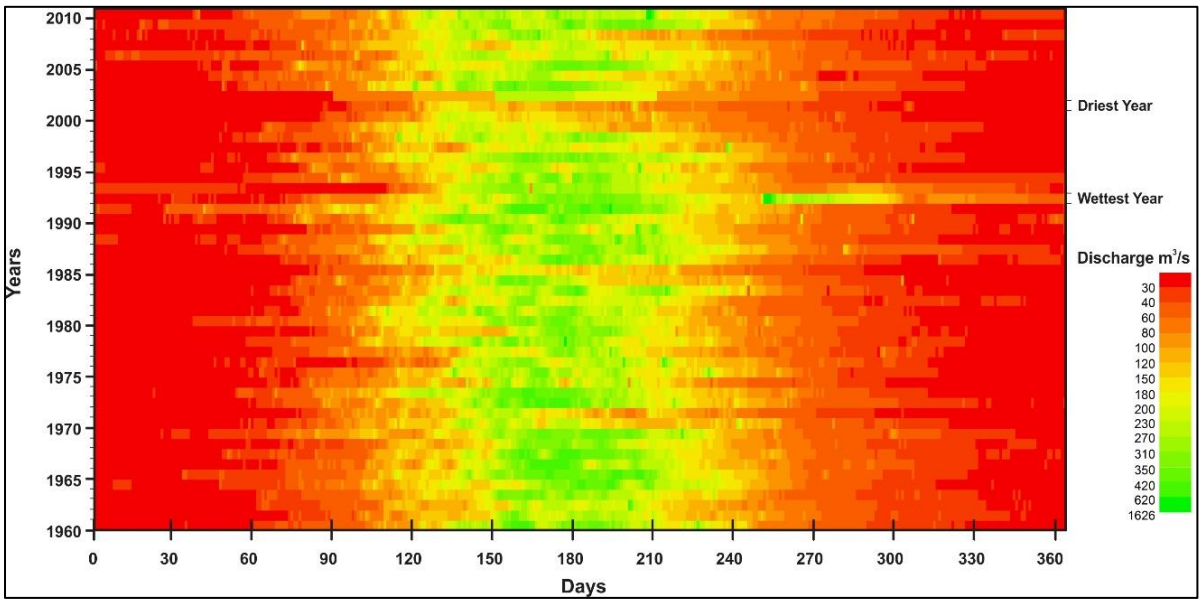
Exhibit 18.8: Mean Monthly Flow at Talhata (1995-2010)



555. Raster mapping of stream flow records provides a visual representation of annual, seasonal, and daily patterns of discharge that can be used (prior to statistical analysis) to develop a broad characterization of differences in flow regimes in sub-systems. This technique was first developed by Keim and Kriegel (1996) and later by Koehler (2004)[100]. It is based on the plotting of an entire stream flow record on a two-dimensional (2-D) map. Each map pixel represents a single daily discharge value. Y coordinate represents the hydrological year and X coordinate represents the day of the year. The gauging data is shown in **Exhibit 18.9** as a raster diagram. The raster diagram clearly shows the flood-pulse nature and well-defined ecological seasons of the Kunhar River system. A high flood occurred in 1992 and a severe drought occurred in 2001 which is indicated in the exhibit.

[100] Moog O. (1993). Quantification of daily hydropower effects on aquatic fauna and management to minimize environmental impacts. Regulated Rivers: Research & Management, 8, 5-14.

Exhibit 18.9: Raster Map of Baseline Gari Habibullah Gauging Station Flow Data



B.2.3 Flow Simulation Sites (E-Flow Sites)

556. The E-Flow assessment for the Project (BHPP) utilizes four sites, called E-Flow (EF sites) for assessment. **Exhibit 18.10** provides a list of the EF sites. Flows are calculated these sites were calculated for the baseline conditions and simulated using GoldSim® for the various operational scenarios (**Section B3**).

Exhibit 18.10: E-Flow sites for BHPP EF Assessment

ID	Site Description	Coordinates	Reach Length	Description
EF Site 1	Upstream Reservoir	73° 28' 13.561" E 34° 39' 36.338" N	From Suki Kinari Tailrace to Project Reservoir	This site is upstream of the reservoir. The flow regime is not affected by BHPP. The Suki Kinari HPP will alter flows at this site, however, this is not incorporated quantitatively into the results.
EF Site 2	Upstream Dam	73° 24' 09.705" E 34° 37' 16.960" N	From Project Dam to Tailrace	This is downstream of the dam. It is drained by the selected environmental flows and the spillway. The streams and nullahs draining into this section are calculated using the catchment area ratio approach (as described in section 1.1.2) using the catchment area from the dam site to the tailrace tunnel.
EF Site 3	Downstream Tailrace	73° 21' 18.015" E 34° 33' 46.565" N	From Tailrace to Balakot Town	This is downstream of the tailrace. The flows in this section are the inflows coming from the EF site 2 and the streams and nullahs draining into this section (calculated using the catchment area ratio approach -as described in section 1.1.2-using the catchment area from the tailrace tunnel to the Balakot town)

ID	Site Description	Coordinates	Reach Length	Description
EF Site 4	Downstream Balakot	73° 21' 06.992" E 34° 28' 35.723" N	From Balakot Town to Patrind Reservoir.	This is downstream of Balakot. The flows in this section are the inflows coming from the EF site 3 and the streams and nullahs draining into this section (calculated using the catchment area ratio approach -as described in section 1.1.2-using the catchment area from the Balakot town to Patrind hydropower reservoir

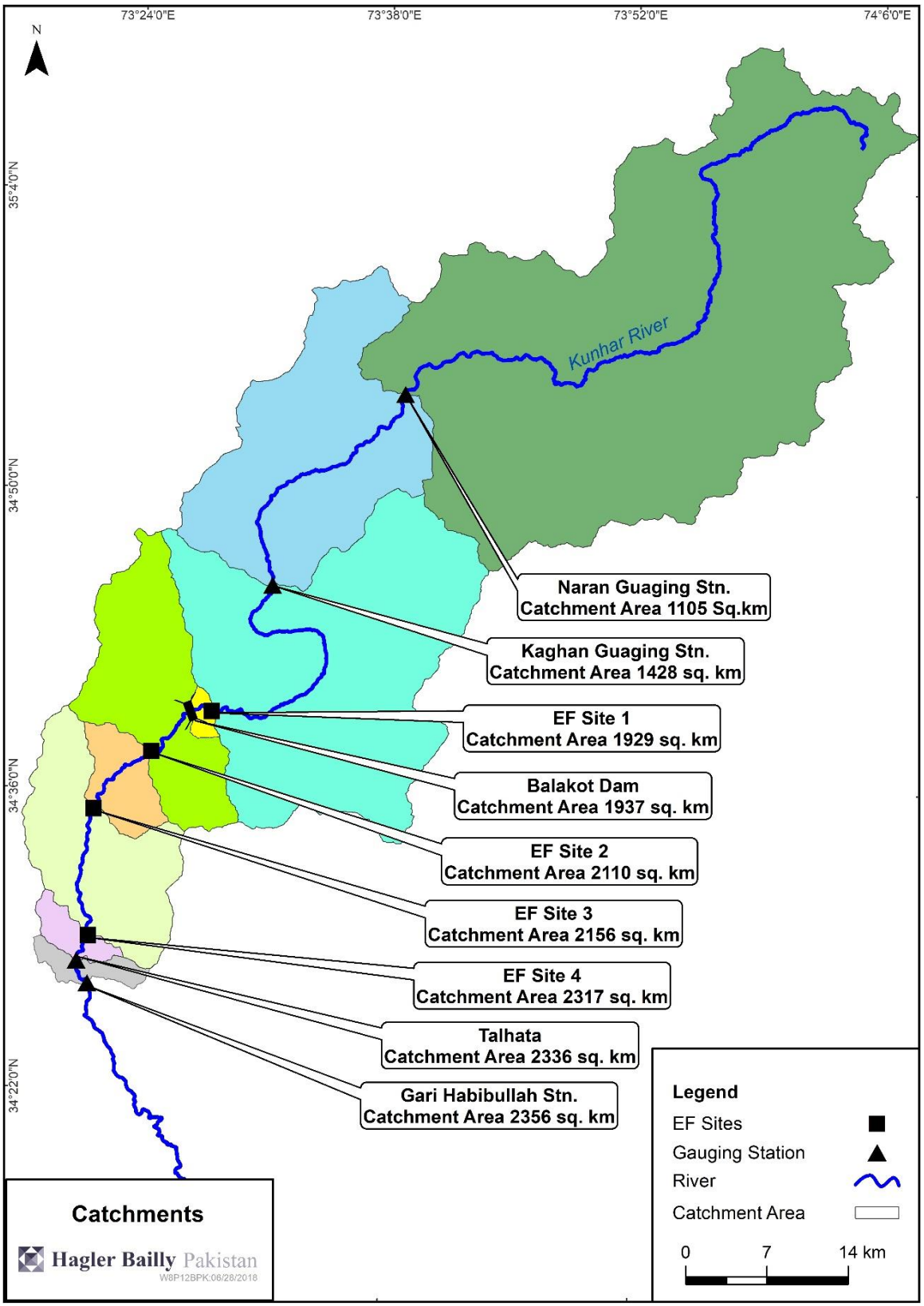
B.2.4 Baseline Calculations for E-Flow Sites and Catchment Contributions

557. To calculate baseline (i.e. without Project) flows at the E-Flow sites, the catchment area ratio method was utilized. Catchment ratios for the designated sites are presented in **Exhibit 18.11** and catchment sizes are shown in **Exhibit 18.12.** The inflows to the dam which were used in calculating diversions were also calculated using this method.

Exhibit 18.11: Catchment Ratios for Calculating Flows at E-Flow Sites

Location	Fraction of Catchment with reference to the Catchment size of Gari Habibullah
EF Site 1	0.819
EF Site 2	0.896
EF Site 3	0.915
EF Site 4	0.983
Dam Site	0.826

Exhibit 18.12: Gauging Station and E-Flow Locations and Catchment Size



B.2.5 Season Delineation

558. The baseline flow was simulated on an hourly time step using GoldSim® Monte Carlo simulation software which were then incorporated into DRIFT DSS. Ecologically important flow indicators are calculated for 'ecological seasons' in DRIFT. In perennial flood-pulse systems, these are usually a dry season and a wet (flood) season, separated by two transition seasons. The seasonal divisions chosen for the EF assessment were:

- Dry season
- Transitional season 1(Dry to Flood))
- Flood season
- Transitional season 2 (Flood to Dry)

559. Owing to the varying nature of the seasons, starting and ending dates are defined for each year of the hydrological time series. The rules for defining the seasons are provided in **Exhibit 18.13**, while the threshold values for season delineation are given in

560. **Exhibit** . A sample hydrograph of a single year, which displays the threshold values and season delineation, is presented in **Exhibit 18.15**.

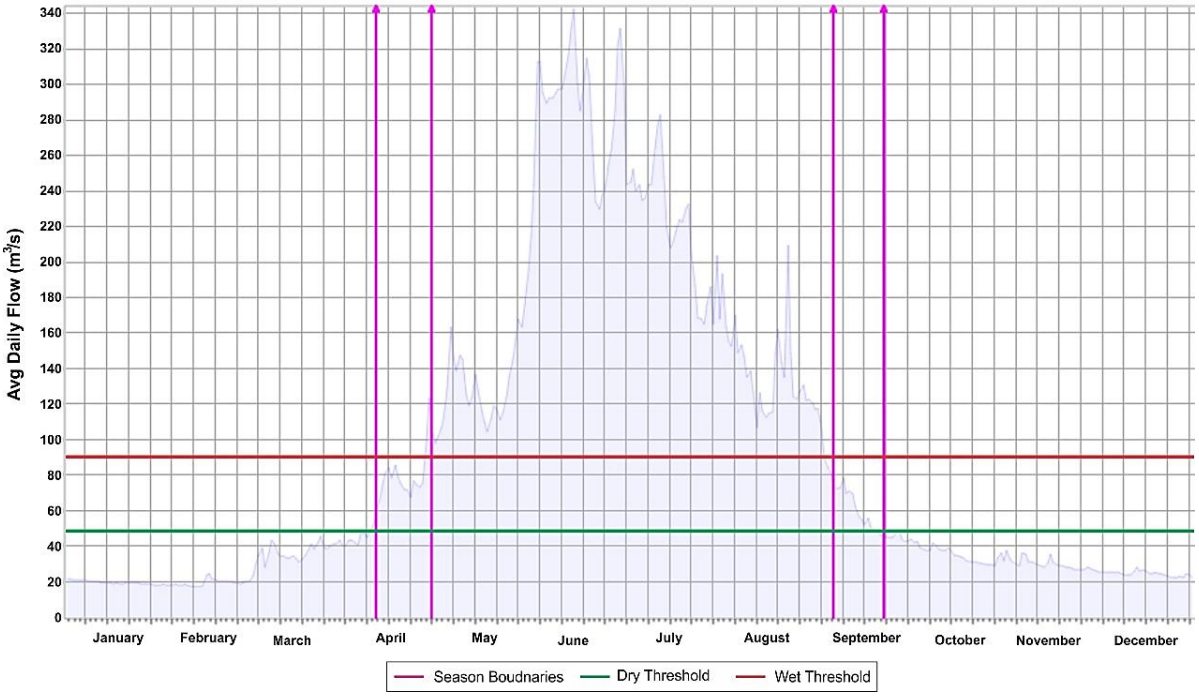
Exhibit 18.13: Rules for Defining the End of the Four Ecological Seasons

Season	Definition
Dry Season	4 x minimum 5-day dry-season discharge
Transition 1	First up-crossing of the mean annual discharge
Flood Season	Last down-crossing of mean annual discharge
Transition 2	Average recession rate over 15 days < 0.7 $m^3 s^{-1} d^{-1}$ OR down-crossing of 4 x minimum 5-day dry season discharge

Exhibit 18.14 Seasonal Threshold Discharge Values (m3 s-1) at E-Flow Sites

	EF1	EF2	EF3	EF4
End of Dry Season and End of Transition 2	45.46	49.72	50.81	54.60
End of Transition 1 and End of Flood Season	83.79	91.66	93.66	100.65

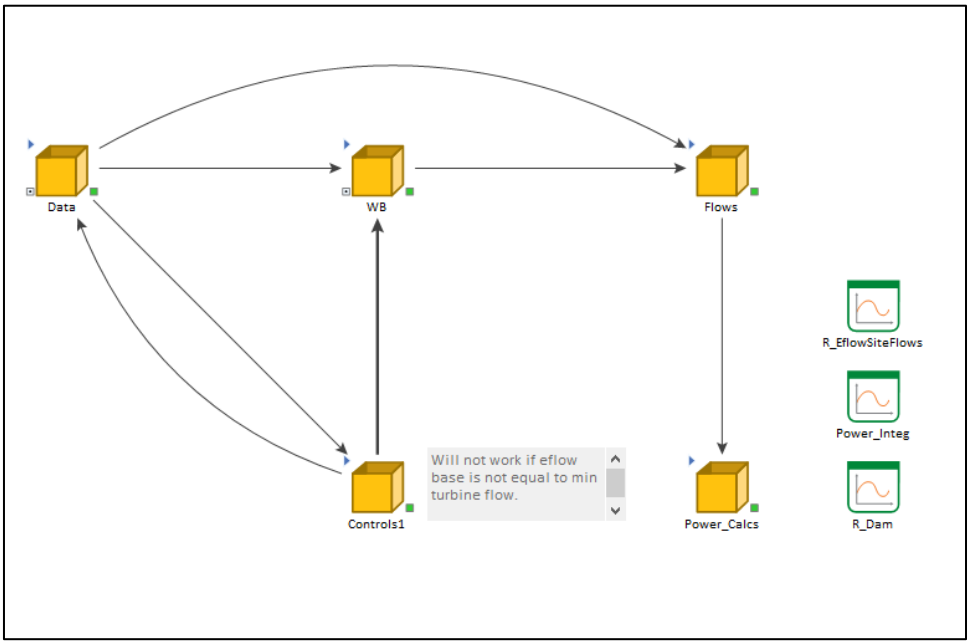
Exhibit 18.15: Hydrograph with Season Delineation at E-Flow Site 2 for Year 1963



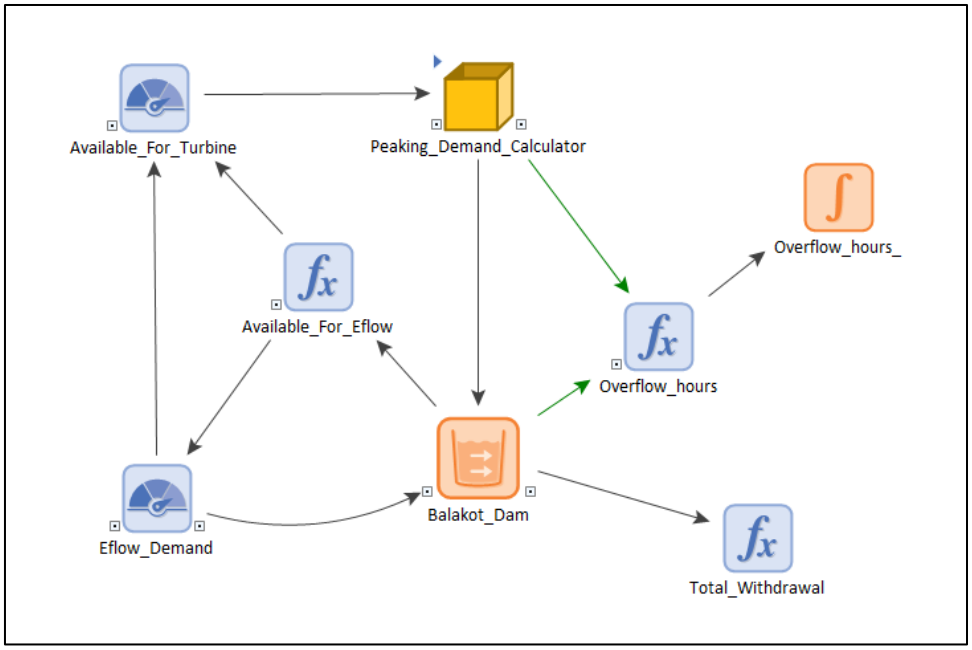
B.3 GoldSim Operation Model

561. The Project design provides for a reservoir extending 4.5 km upstream. This only provides just enough storage to cater to daily peaking flow variations. Apportionment of diversions to the power plant and releases into the river downstream of the headrace are configurable, and form the basis for the identification of operational scenarios at BHPP. The impacts of these scenarios (essentially variations of the operation of the Project) are measured relative to the Baseline (no change from the present) which represents the current situation, i.e. before the construction of BHPP. Part of the model set up in GoldSim® for the Project is depicted in **Exhibit 18.16.**

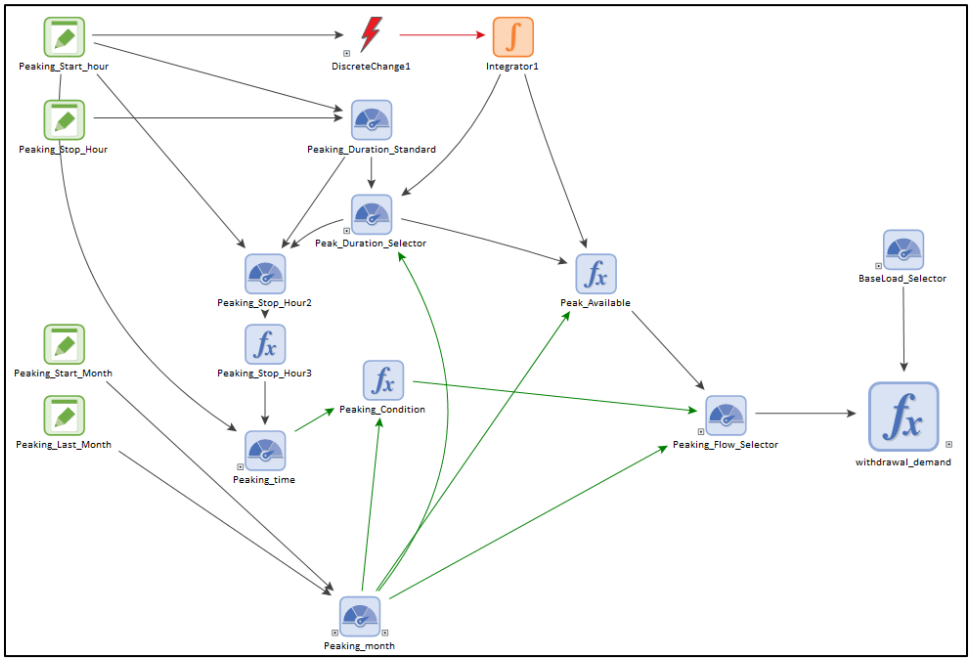
Exhibit 18.16: Screenshots Parts of GoldSim® Model



Main Model



Water Balance



B.3.1 Peaking Demand and Total Peaking Hour Calculations Constraints in Simulation Model

562. The following are the conditions and constraints that govern the Reservoir Operations Model:

i. **Environmental Flow** : is released from the dam at first priority. If inflows are less than the E-Flow, all of the inflow is released.

ii. **Baseload Operation:** The minimum required flow for powerhouse operation (i.e. one turbine operating at 40% design capacity) is 15.4 m^3/s. If incoming flow (after subtracting E-Flow) is below this then incoming flows are released as E-Flow downstream of the

dam. Water is diverted through the headrace tunnels to the powerhouse once the minimum flow requirement is met for the powerhouse operation. Maximum diversion is 154 m^3/s and flows in excess of this are also released downstream of the dam via the spillway.

iii. **Peaking Operation:** peaking months are from March through November other than when the dam operates at baseload. Diversion flows during peaking are calculated based on the dam volume at the start of peaking hours and expected river inflows. Peaking hours are from 5 pm to 10 pm, however, if there is an extra volume of water available peaking duration is extended until the dam reaches its minimum operating level.

iv. **Dam storage:** is taken from the minimum operating level (1283 m amsl) to the flood volume (1290 m amsl), to minimize the loss through the spillway when peaking.

B.4 Results

563. This section discusses the variation in the hydrological flow profile of the simulated scenarios at the selected EF sites as a result of varying values of environmental release and operation mode. These results are compared to the Baseline Scenario to study the impacts associated with BHPP.

B.4.1 Simulated Results: Flows

564. Operation of BHPP will result in releases down the dam, and releases from the tailrace downstream of Sangar, affecting flow regimes at the E-Flow sites in different ways.

- **E-Flow Site 1** (Upstream Dam): The flow regime is not affected by BHPP. The Suki Kinari HPP will alter flows at this site, however, this is not incorporated quantitatively into the results.
- **E-Flow Site 2** (Downstream Dam): Flow regime affected by flow diversions due to BHPP.
- **E-Flow Site 3** (Downstream Tailrace): Flow regime affected by releases from the powerhouse.
- **E-Flow Site 4** (Downstream Balakot): Flow regime affected by releases from the powerhouse dampened by the inflow from additional streams and nullahs

565. A summary of simulated results is presented as hereunder.

- Examples graphs of flow regime at the E-Flow sites for one year (1960) for the scenarios are shown from **Exhibit 18.17** through
- **Exhibit 18.24**.
- Examples graphs out of the Dam outputs (Volumes, Inflows, and Outflows) and the flow regimes at the designated E-Flow sites for one year (1960) for the scenarios are shown from **Exhibit 18.25** through **Exhibit 18.31.**

Exhibit 18.17: Flow at EF Sites (Baseline)

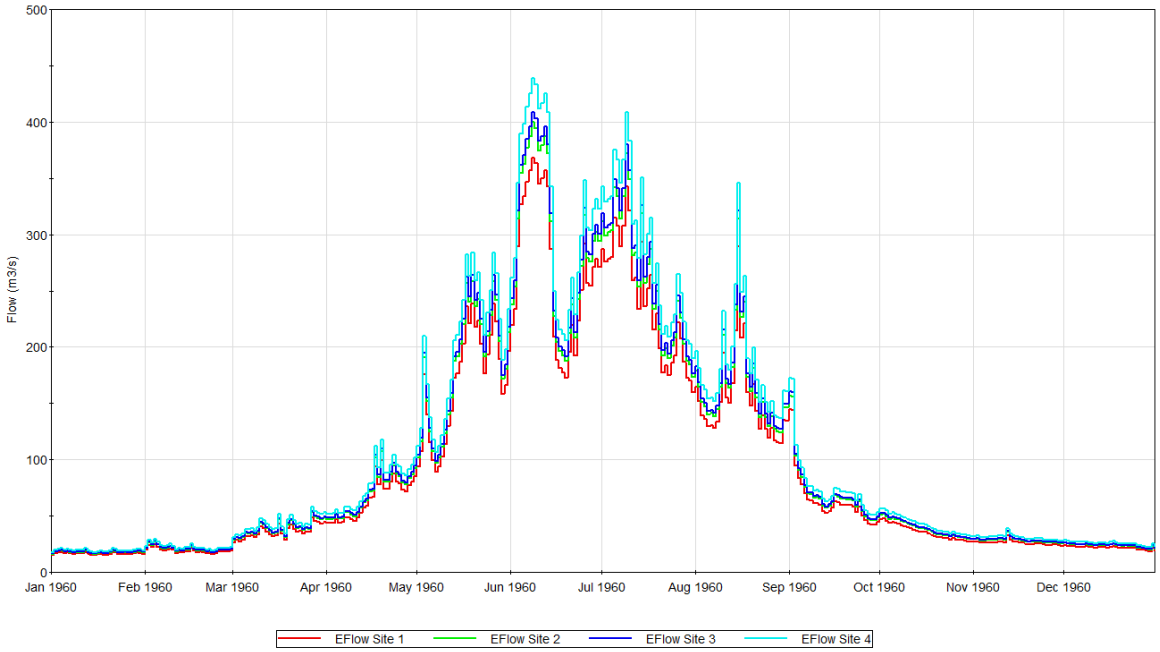


Exhibit 18.18: Flow at EF Sites with Dam Operation – B1 Scenario

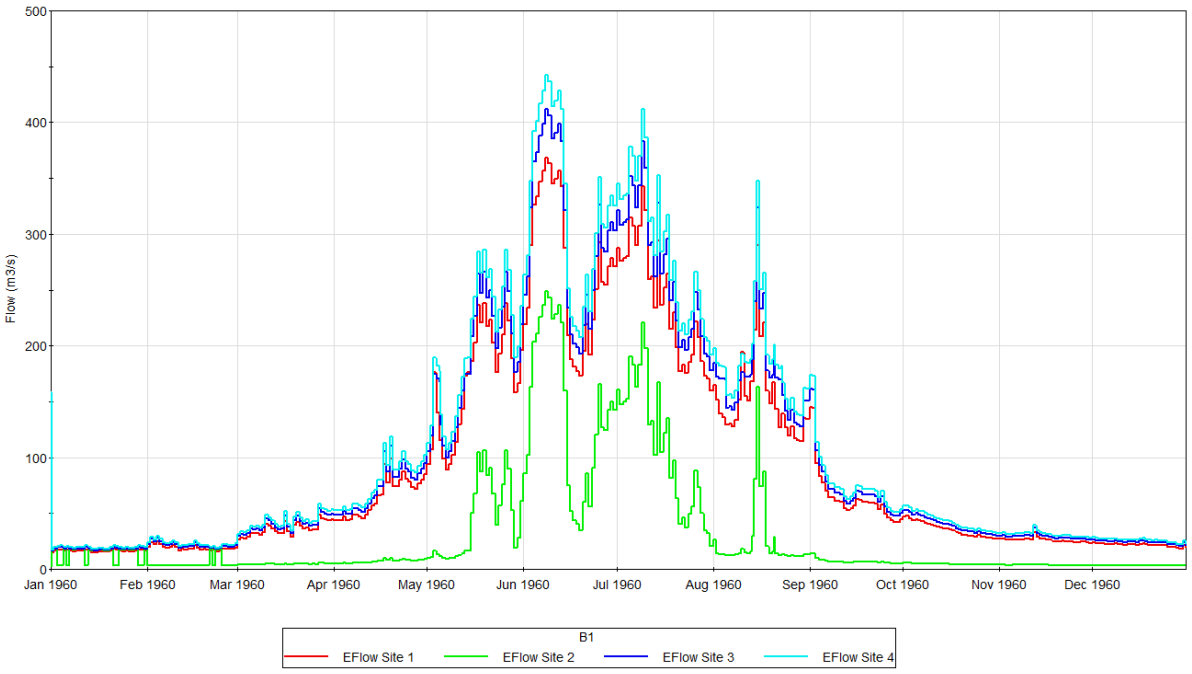


Exhibit 18.19: Flow at EF Sites with Dam Operation – B3 Scenario

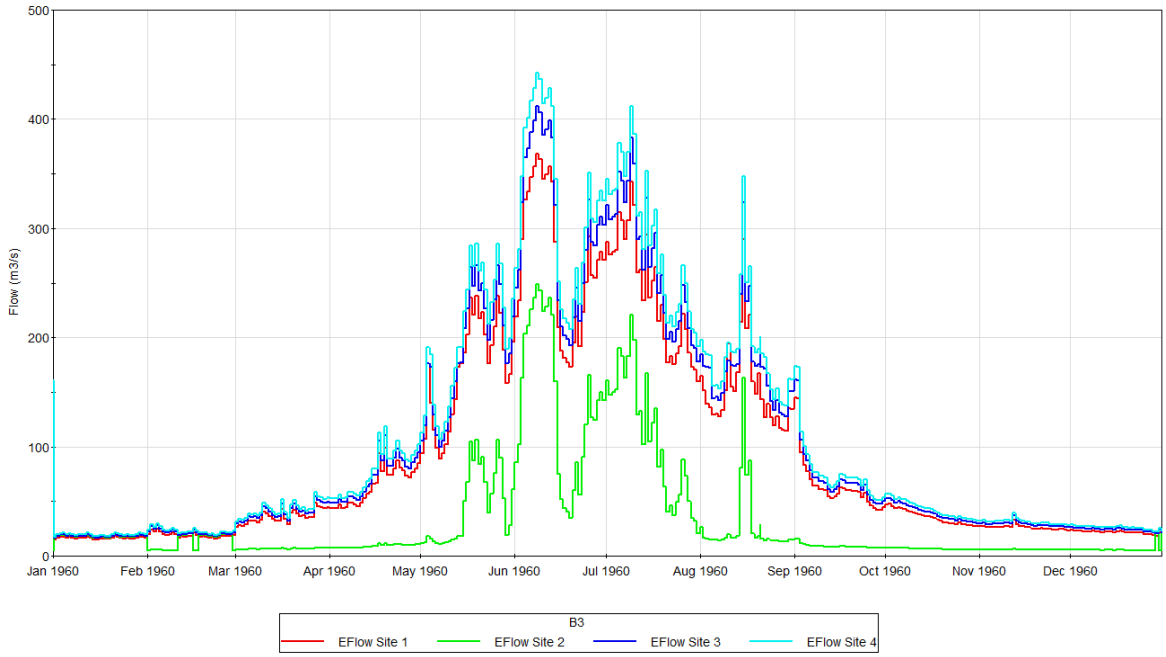


Exhibit 18.20: Flow at EF Sites with Dam Operation – B4 Scenario

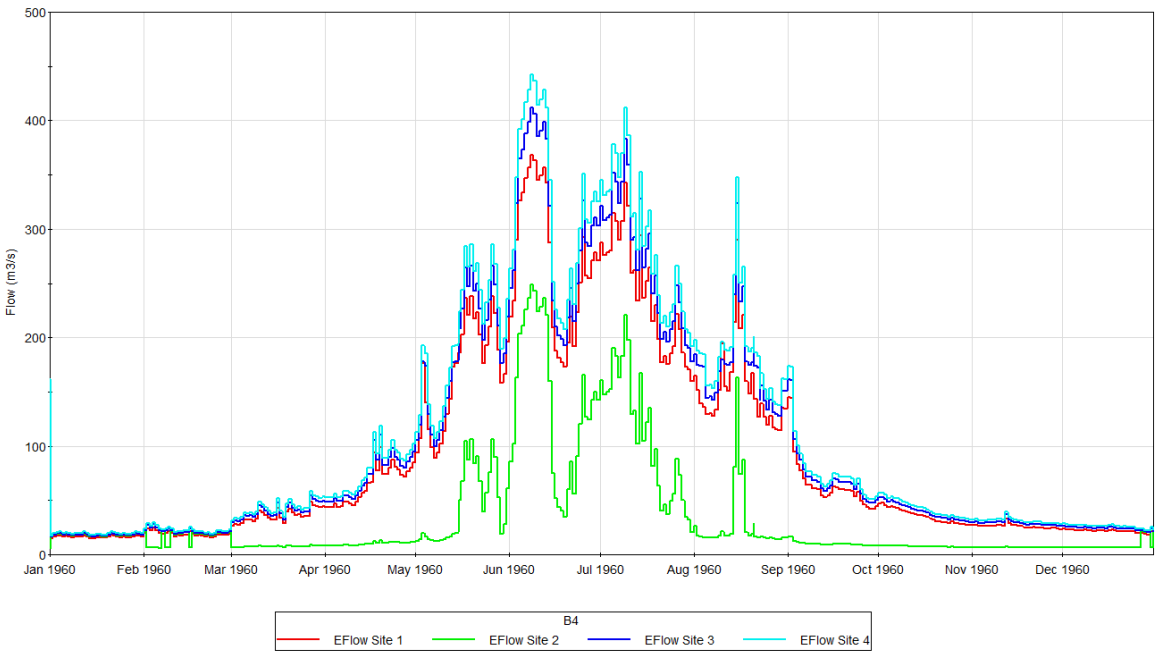


Exhibit 18.21: Flow at EF Sites with Dam Operation – B6 Scenario

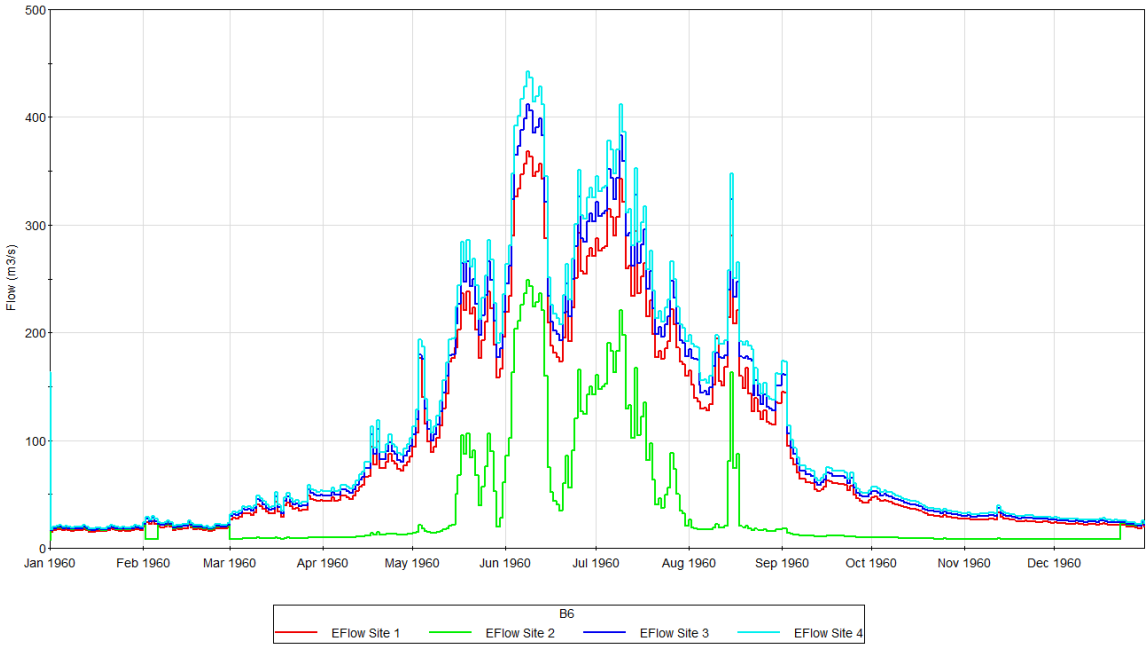


Exhibit 18.22: Flow at EF Sites with Dam Operation – P1 Scenario

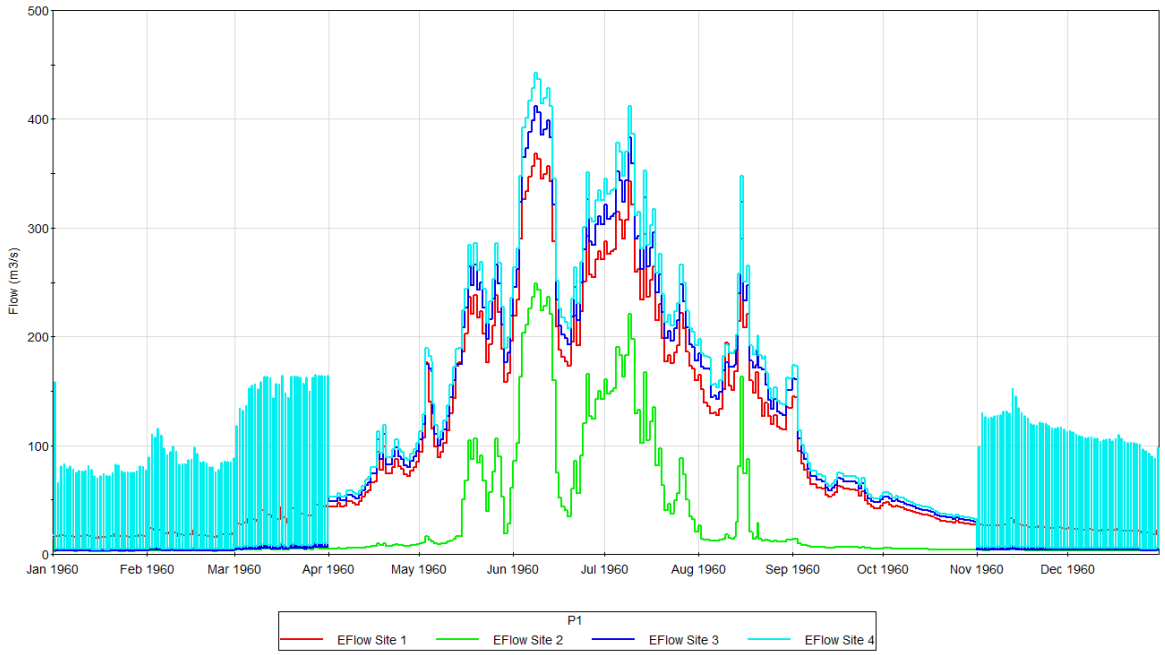


Exhibit 18.23: Flow at EF Sites with Dam Operation – P4 Scenario

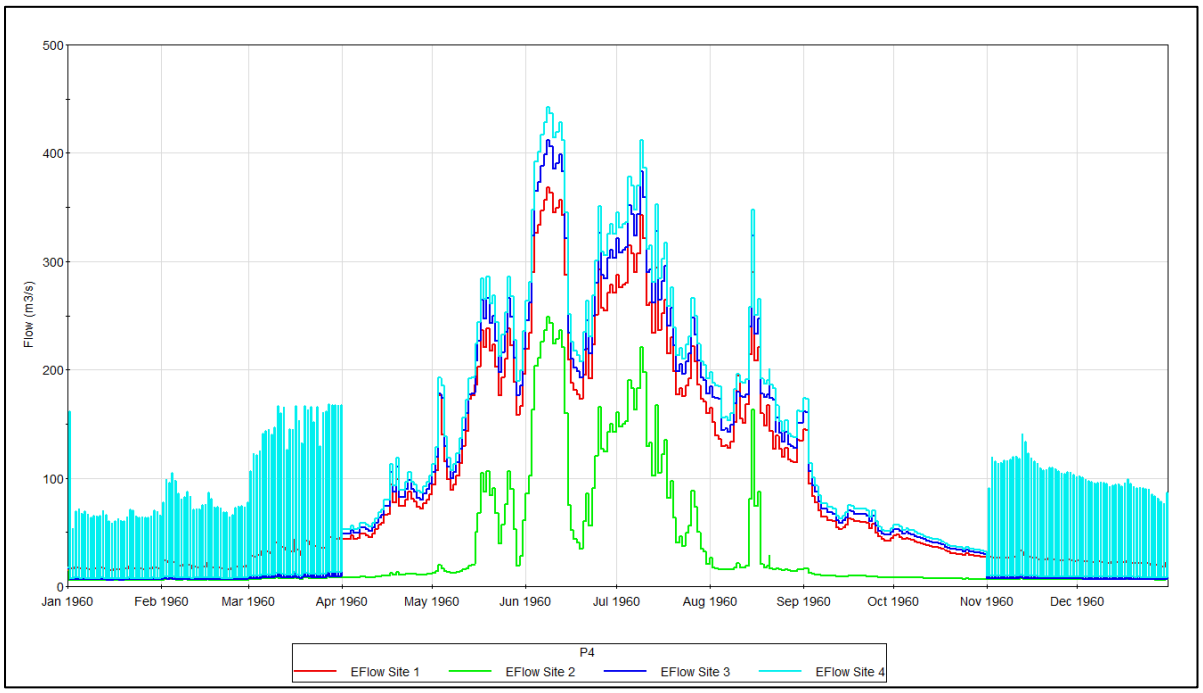


Exhibit 18.24: Flow at EF Sites with Dam Operation – P6 Scenario

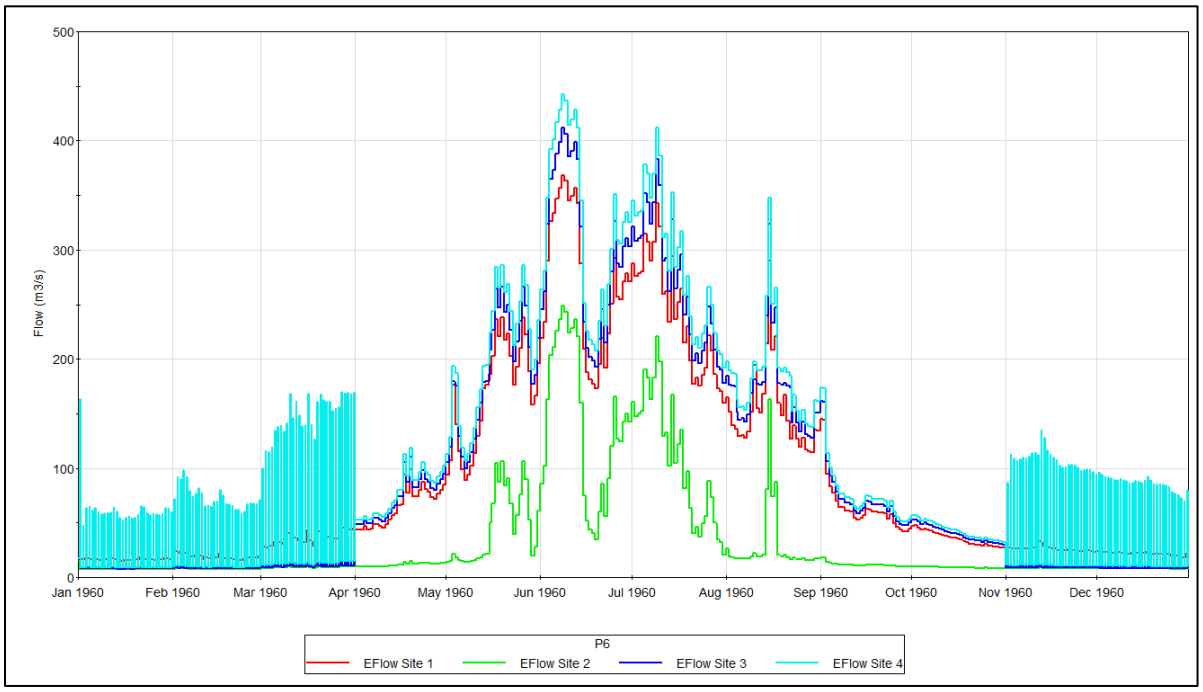


Exhibit 18.25: Dam Volume, Inflows and Outflows using 10-Day, 90% Dependable Flows –B1 Scenario

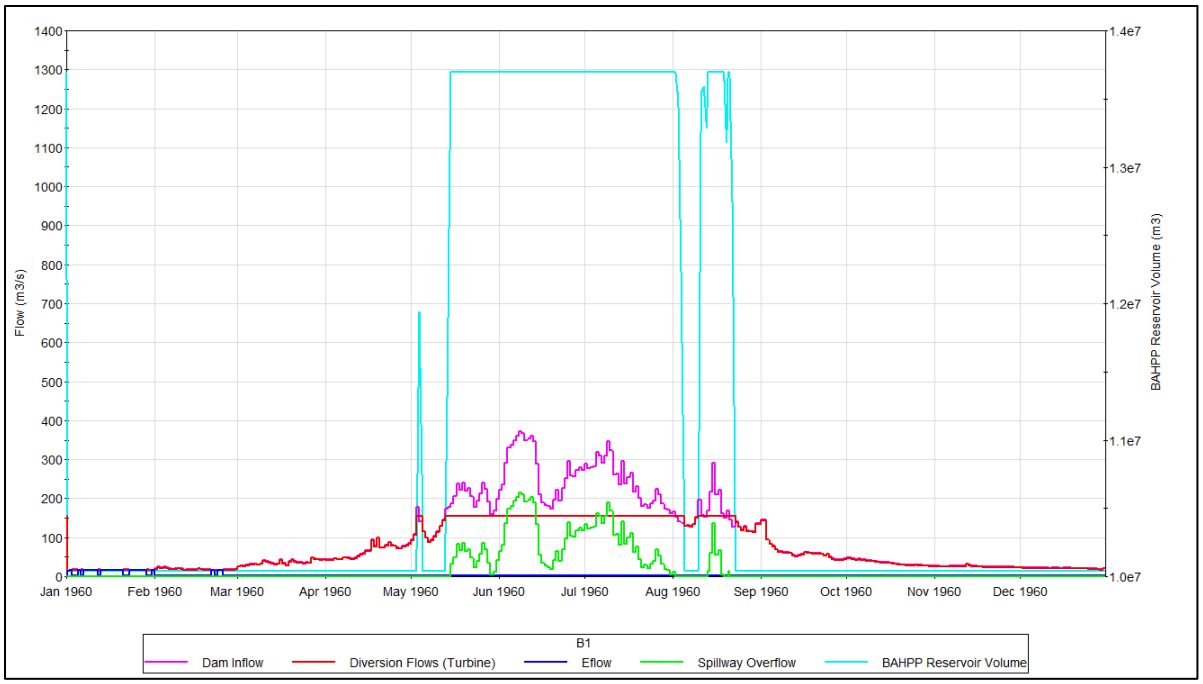


Exhibit 18.26: Dam Volume, Inflows and Outflows Using 10-Day ,90% Dependable Flows –B3 Scenario

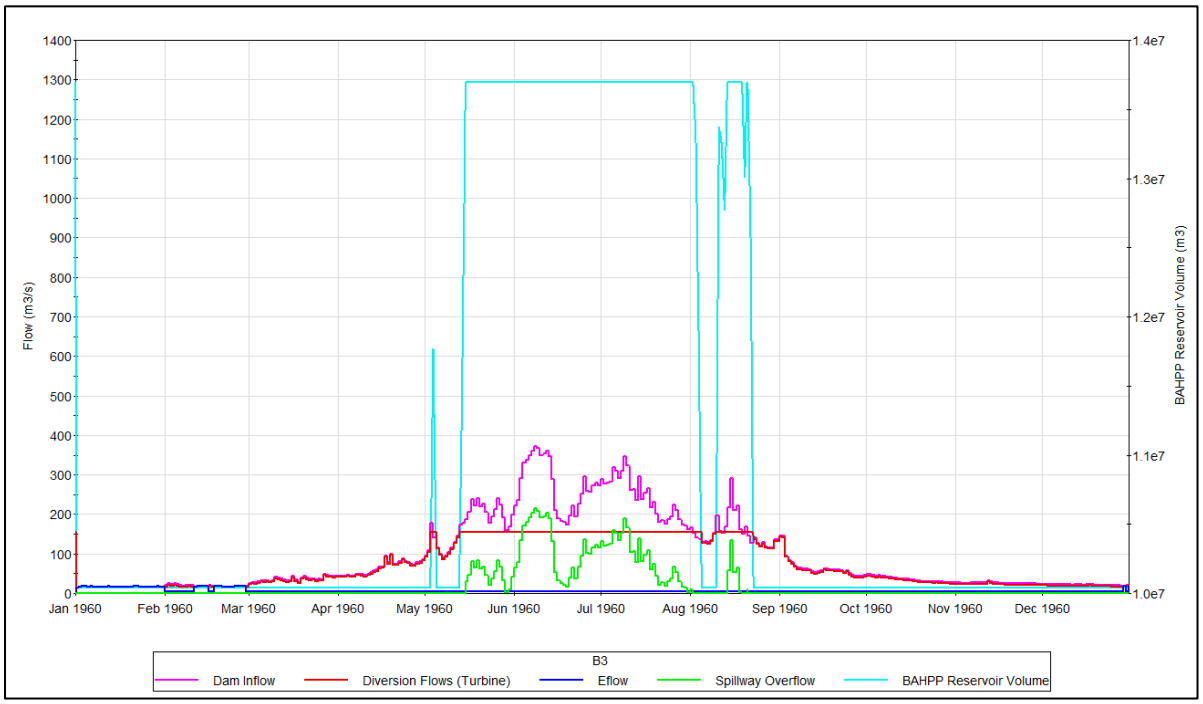


Exhibit 18.27: Dam Volume, Inflows and Outflows Using 10-Day, 90% Dependable Flows –B4 Scenario

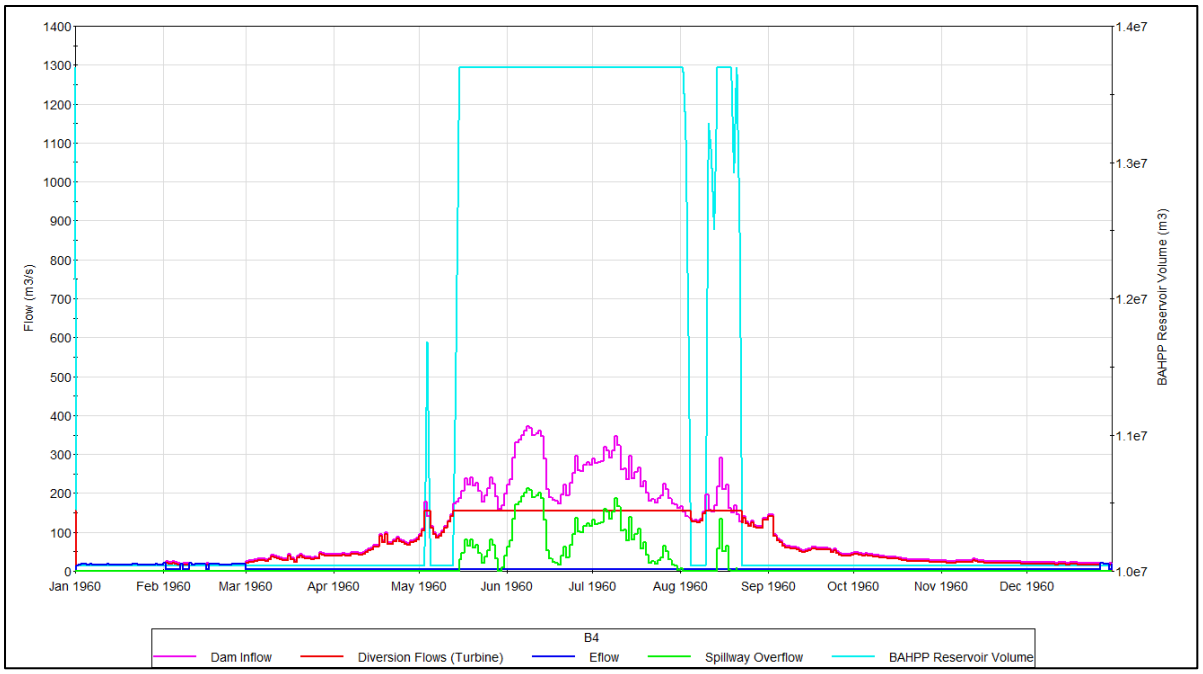


Exhibit 18.28: Dam Volume, Inflows and Outflows Using 10-Day, 90% Dependable Flows –B6 Scenario

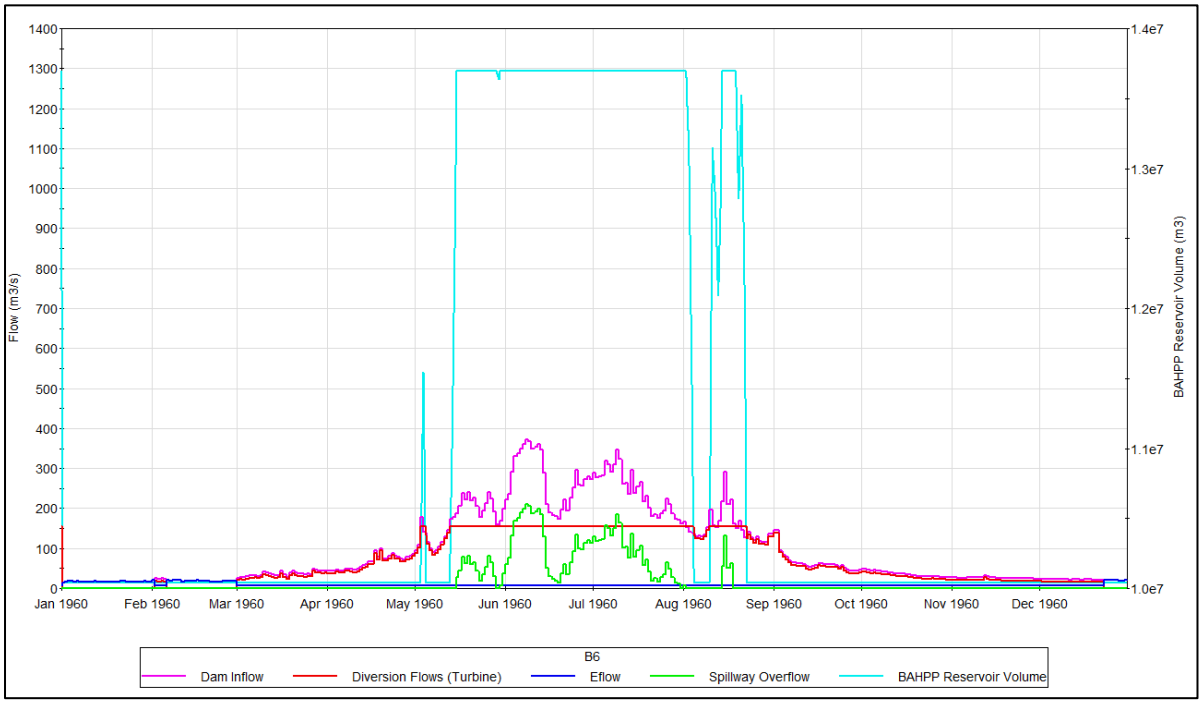


Exhibit 18.29: Dam Volume, Inflows and Outflows Using 10-Day, 90% Dependable Flows –P1 Scenario

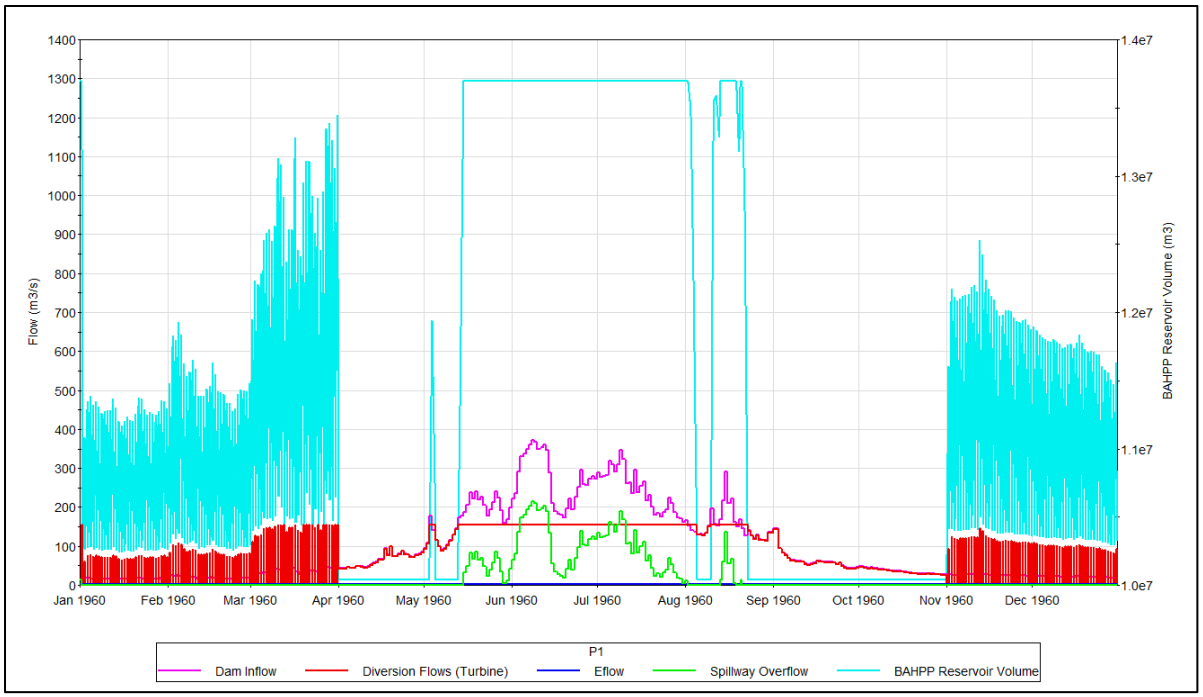


Exhibit 18.30: Dam Volume, Inflows and Outflows Using 10-Day, 90% Dependable Flows –P4 Scenario

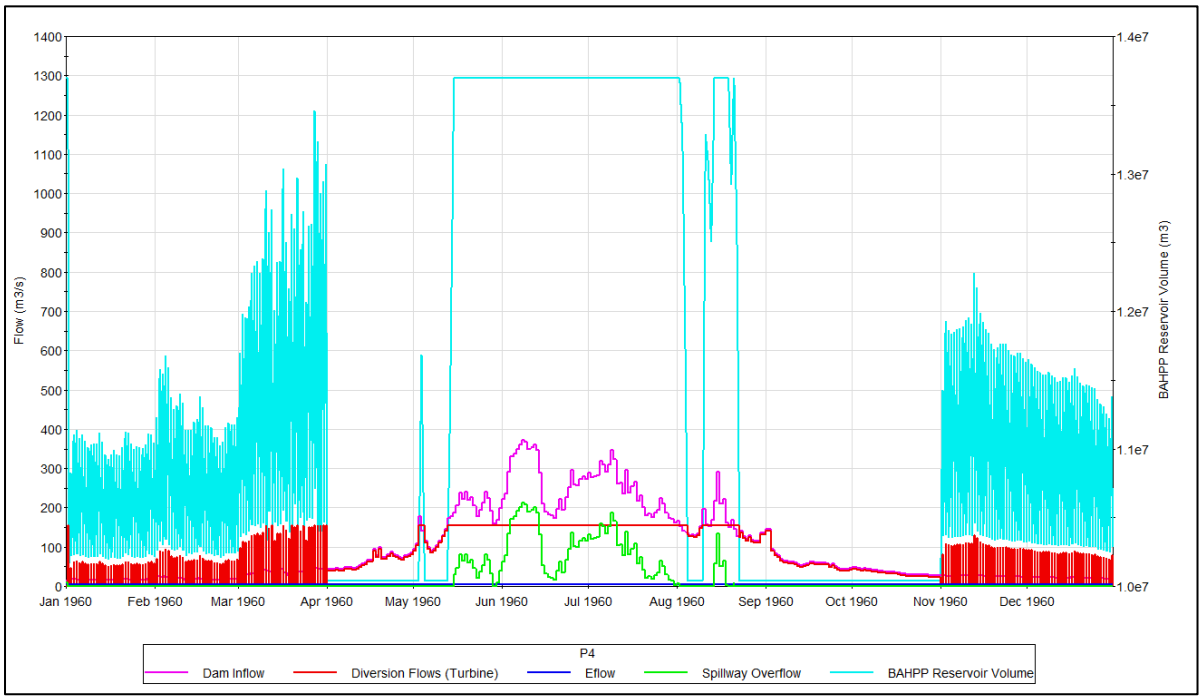
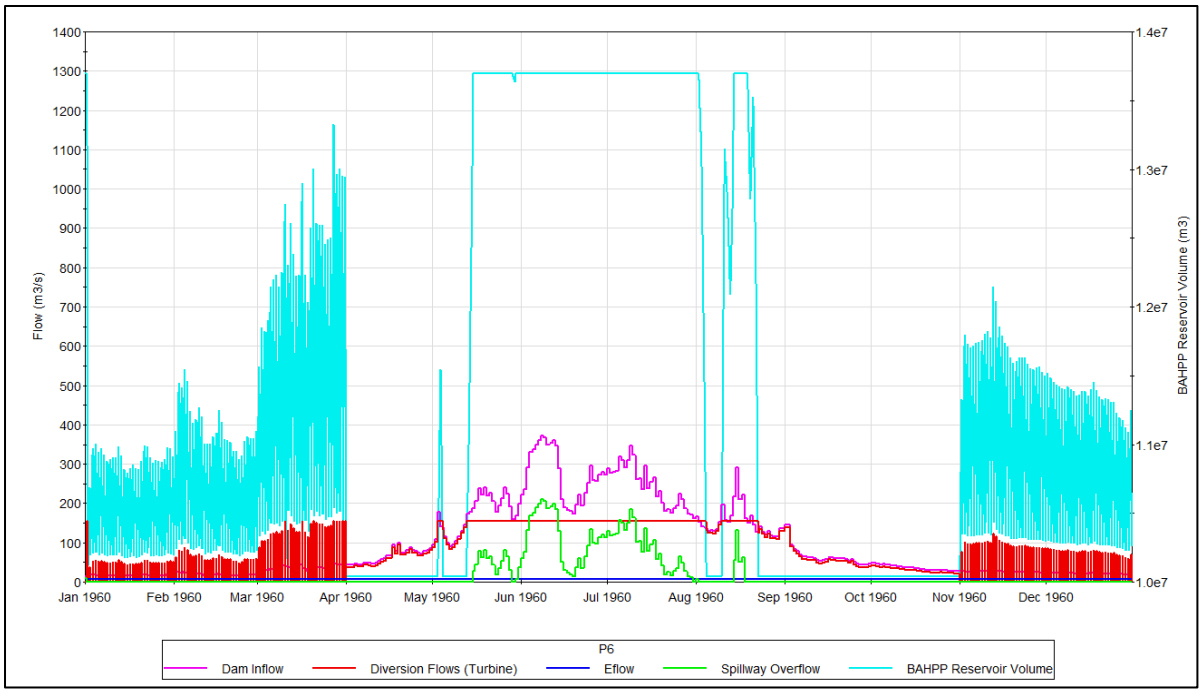


Exhibit 18.31: Dam Volume, Inflows and Outflows Using 10-Day, 90% Dependable Flows –P6 Scenario

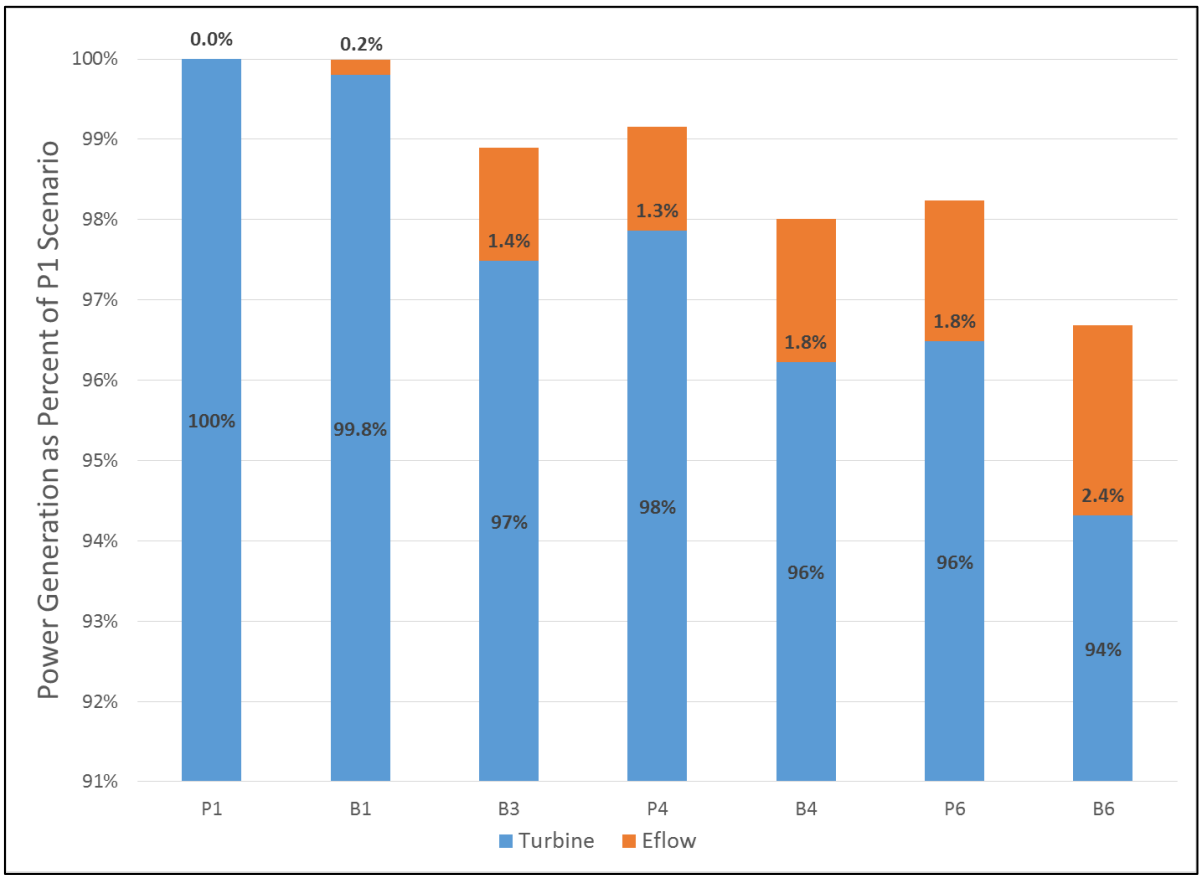


B.4.2 Simulated Results: Power Generation

566. Impact on power generation for the simulated scenarios was calculated based on the water diverted through the turbines and did not take into account the turbine efficiency at varying flows. The Peaking operation scenario with the environmental release of 1.5 m^3/s was taken as the base case (i.e. producing 100% power) and the percentage power generated for the others were calculated (see **Exhibit 18.32**). The current design[101] does not generate electricity from the environmental flow that is released. The potential of power generation from the E-Flow is also indicated in the **Exhibit 18.32**.

[101] As of May 2015

Exhibit 18.32: Power Generation



APPENDIX.C: HYDRAULICS

567. This appendix provides hydraulic information to support the Environmental Flow (EF) assessment along reaches of the Kunhar River impacted by the 'Balakot Hydropower Project' (BHPP) or the 'Balakot Hydropower Development Project'. Hydraulic characteristics of the E-Flow sites are presented which are incorporated into the DRIFT (Downstream Response to Imposed Flow Transformation) DSS (Decision Support System).

C.1 E-Flow Sites

568. Hydraulic parameters at the following EF sites on the Kunhar River were calculated in this assessment:

- EF Site 1 Upstream Reservoir,
- EF Site 2 Downstream Dam,
- EF Site 3 Downstream Tailrace, and
- EF Site 4 Downstream Balakot

C.2 Methodology

569. The topographic river surveys were conducted from April 11 to 14, 2017. The survey locations, and dates, are provided in **Exhibit 18.33** for the four BAHP E-Flow sites. Cross-section data is also available from the Feasibility Study at locations also listed in the exhibit.

570. The above water-level channel topography (at the time of data collection) was surveyed by standard land surveying methods (see

571. **Exhibit 18.34**). For non-wadable conditions, the channel bed was surveyed using the Deeper Smart Sonar Pro+. Depth sounding either took place from a boat or by mounting the sonar equipment on a float and attaching it to a tagline. For wadable sections, a measurement staff was used. Lastly, depth was also verified by using a plumb line which was dropped into the Kunhar River from various bridges. These methods are illustrated in **Exhibit 18.35**.

572. Aerial and site photographs of the cross sections for each site are presented in Exhibit 18.36 to **Exhibit 18.43**.

Exhibit 18.33: Locations of Cross-Section Measurements

E-Flow Site	Cross Section ID	Survey dates*
Upstream of Dam (EF Site 1)	1-1	April 13, 2017
	1-2	April 11, 2017
	1-3	April 13, 2017
	1-4	April 13, 2017
	1-5	FS (BKTU1-A)
	1-6	FS (BKT-G1-A)
	1-7	FS (BKT-D1-A)
	2-1	FS (BKT-D-U1)

E-Flow Site	Cross Section ID	Survey dates*
Downstream of Dam EF Site 2	2-2	FS (BKT-D-U2)
	2-3	FS (BKT-D-D1)
	2-4	FS (BKT-D-D2)
	2-5	April 12, 2017
	2-6	April 12, 2017
	2-7	April 12, 2017
Downstream of Tailrace EF Site 3	3-1	FS (BKT-P-U1)
	3-2	FS (BKT-P-U2)
	3-3	FS (BKT-P-D1)
	3-4	FS (BKT-P-D2)
	3-5	April 14, 2017
	3-6	April 14, 2017
Downstream of Balakot EF Site 4	4-1	April 14, 2017
	4-2	April 14, 2017

* FS indicates cross sectional data from the Feasibility Study

Exhibit 18.34: Survey Level for Measurement of Dry Sections



Exhibit 18.35: Multiple Methods Employed for Measurement of Wet Sections



Rope with 1 meter graduation



Sonar attached to graduated rope



Cross section measurement at EF site 1-1



Depth measurements in wadable areas



Verification of depths by using a rock and plumb line



Sonar measurements from boat

Exhibit 18.36: Cross Section Locations – EF Site 1: Upstream of Dam

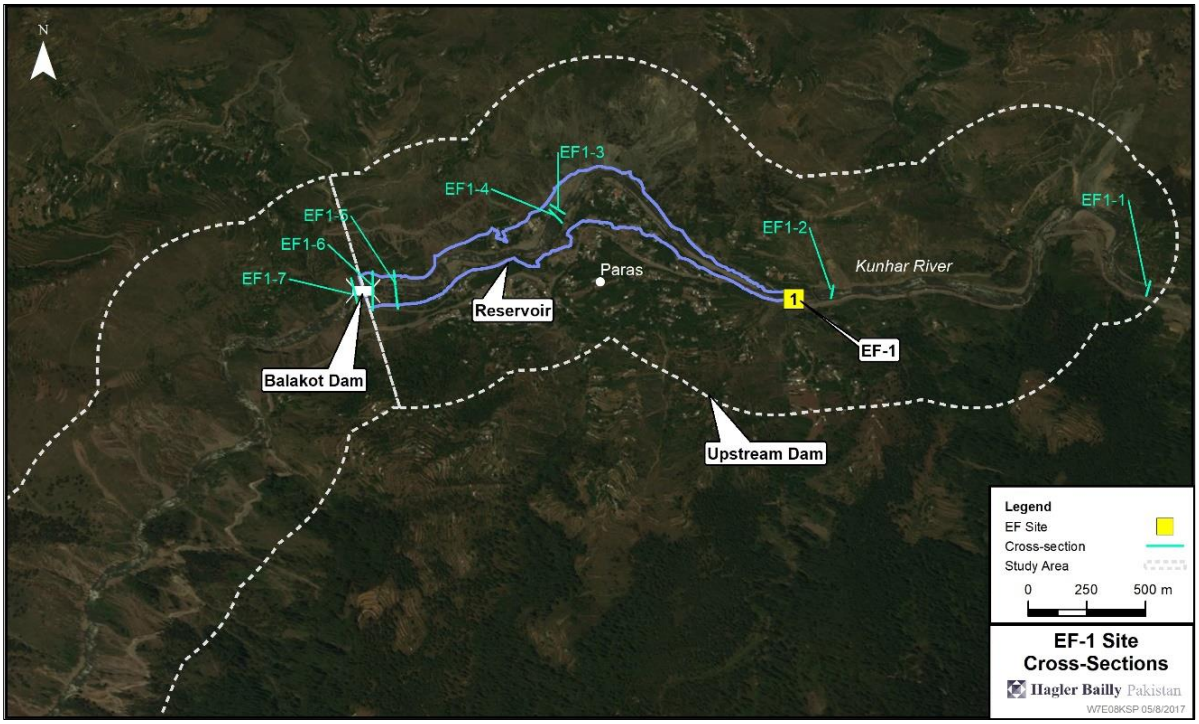


Exhibit 18.37: Cross Section Photographs – EF Site 1: Upstream of Dam



Cross Section 1-1



Cross section 1-2



Cross section 1-3 and 1-4

Exhibit 18.38: Cross Section Locations – EF Site 2: Downstream of Dam 2

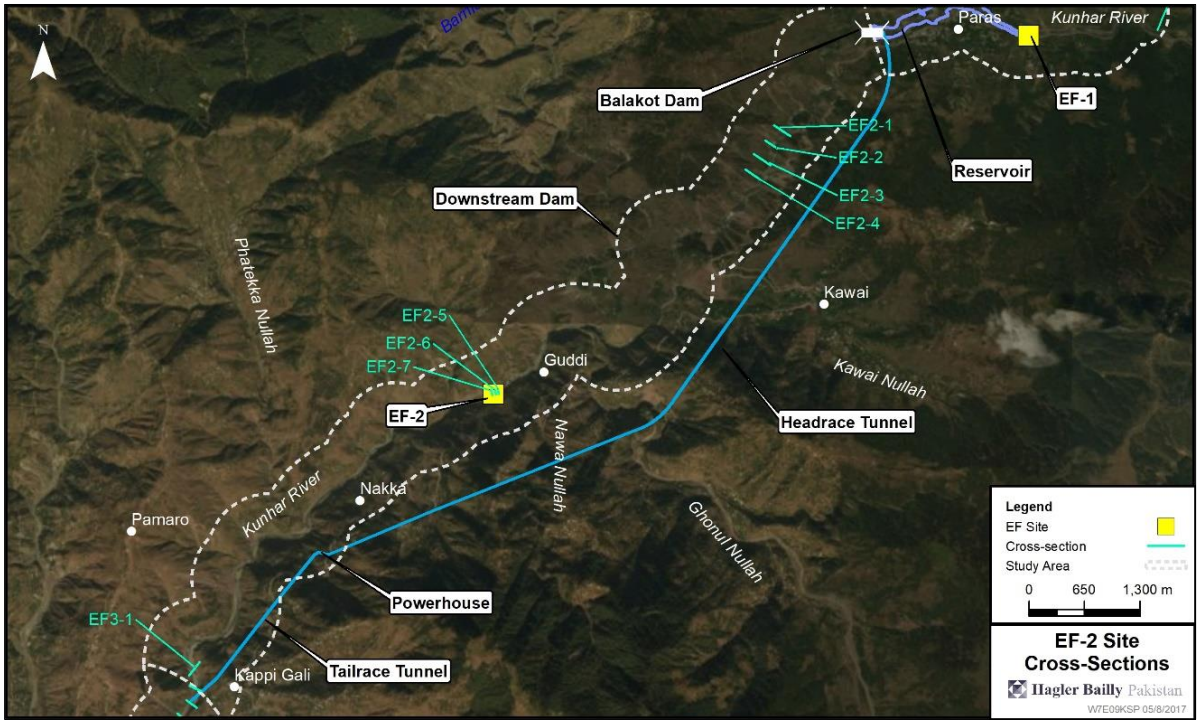


Exhibit 18.39: Cross Section Photographs – EF Site 2: Downstream of Dam



Cross Section 2-5, 2-6 and 2-7



Close up of bridge near cross sections at EF Site 2

Exhibit 18.40: Cross Section Locations – EF Site 3: Downstream of Tailrace

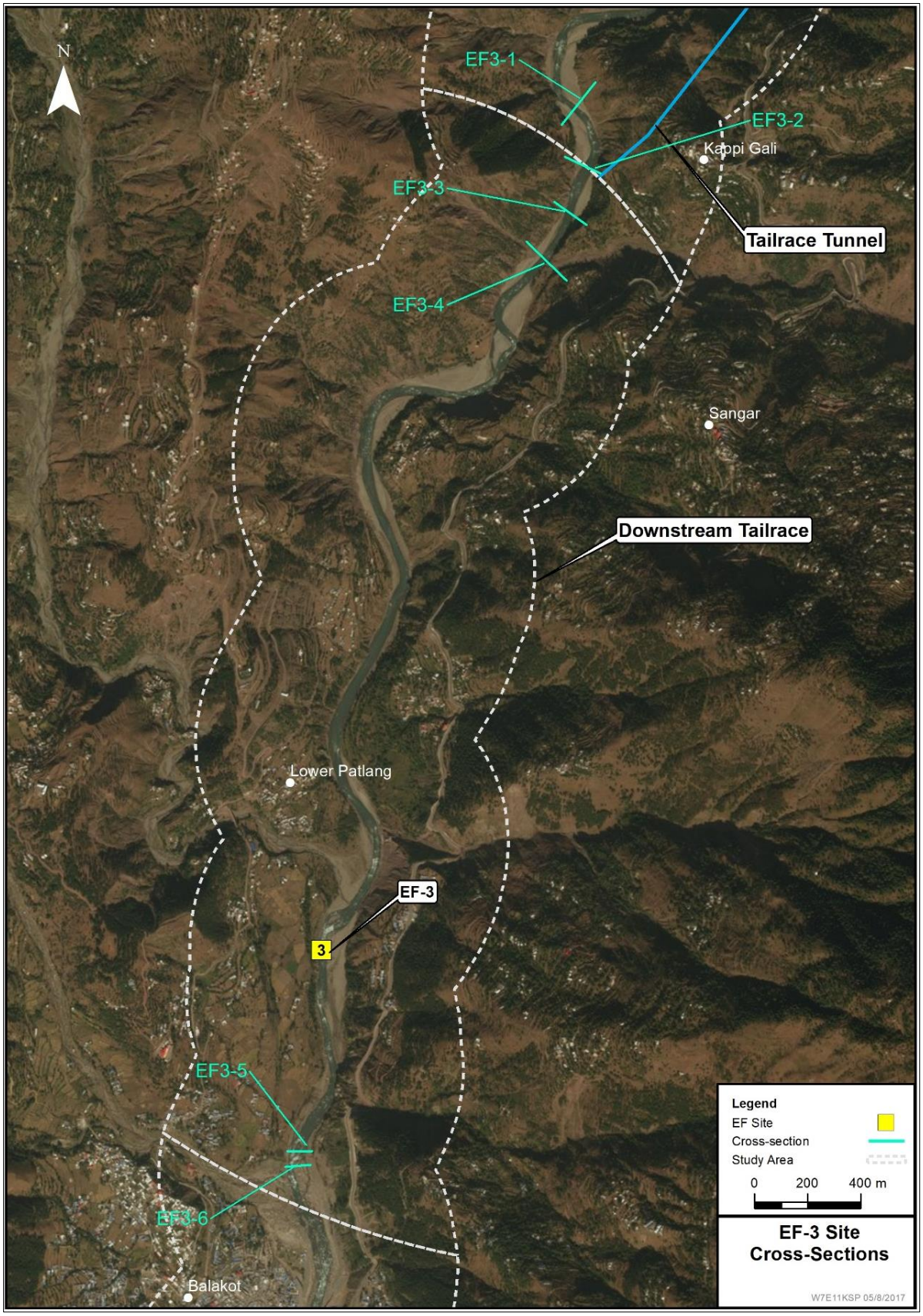


Exhibit 18.41: Cross Section Photographs – EF Site 3: Downstream of Tailrace



Cross Section 3-5 and 3-6

Exhibit 18.42: Cross Section Locations – EF Site 4: Downstream of Balakot

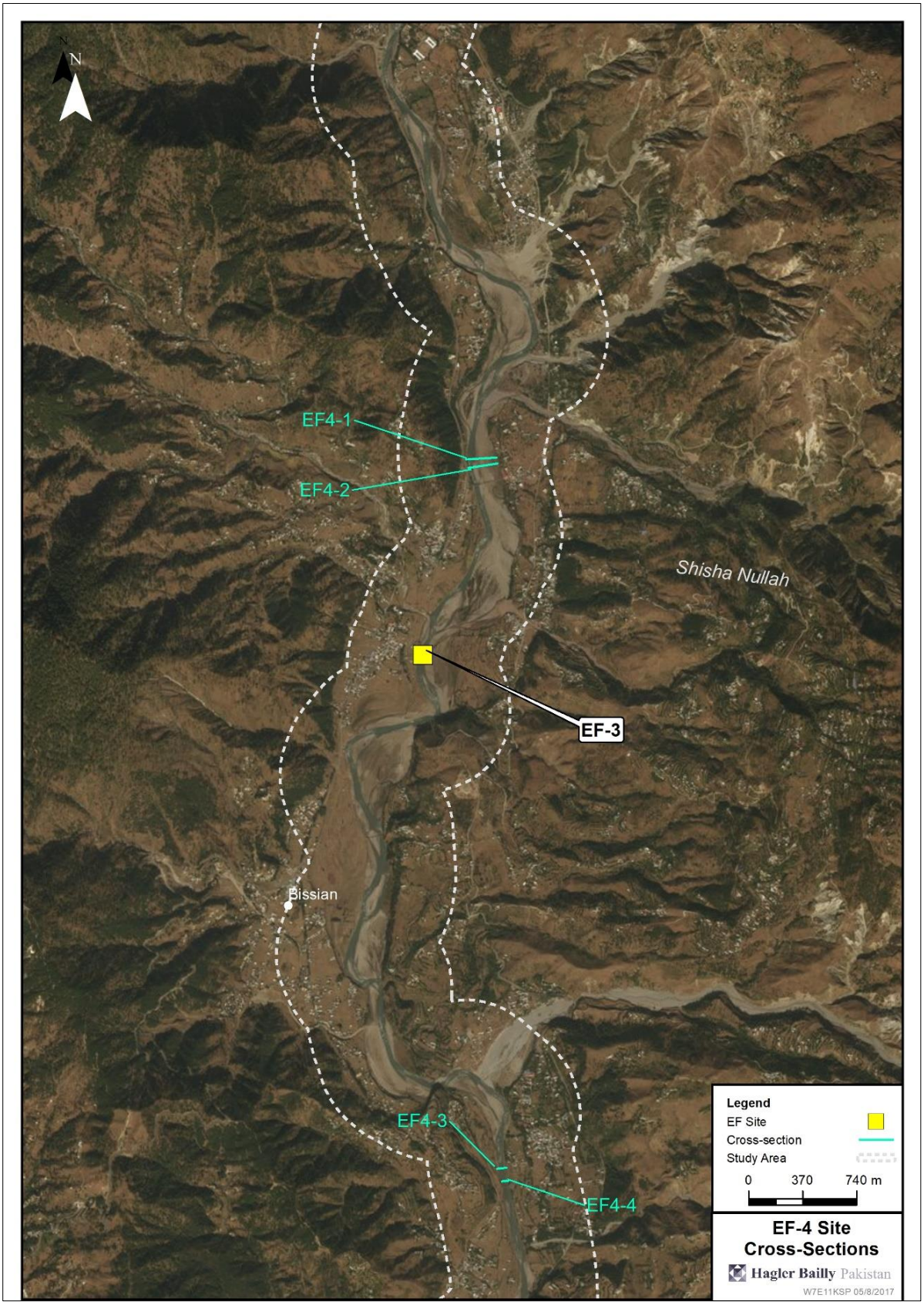


Exhibit 18.43: Cross Section Photographs – EF Site 4: Downstream of Balakot



Cross Section 4-1 and 4-2



C.2.1 Analysis and Hydraulic Modelling

573. Data on gauging station locations and flow calculations for each EF site is presented in **Appendix B**.

574. The hydraulic modeling software, HECRAS[102] was used for steady-state[103] non-uniform[104] computations at the E-Flow sites. Manning's value was taken as 0.05 for the channel (representing cobble and boulders) and 0.035 (for short grasses) for the overbanks.

C.2.2 Hydraulic Characterization for Use in the DRIFT DSS

575. The flow preference for juveniles and spawning requirements is defined by a velocity-depth class with velocities in the range 0.1 - 2.0 $m^3 s^{-1}$, and depths in the range

[102] Version 5.0.3, available at http://www.hec.usace.army.mil/software/hec-ras/

[103] Flow characteristics do not change over time at a location

[104] Flow characteristics vary with distance along the river

0.3 - 0.75 m. DRIFT was provided a hydraulic lookup table (see **Exhibit 18.44**) and calculated the abundance of the hydraulic habitat for each hydrology scenario.

C.3 Results

576. The cross-section measurements and the hydraulic variables calculated for each site are presented in this section. **Exhibit 18.44** presents the outputs from HEC-RAS as a hydraulic lookup table that is imported into DRIFT and

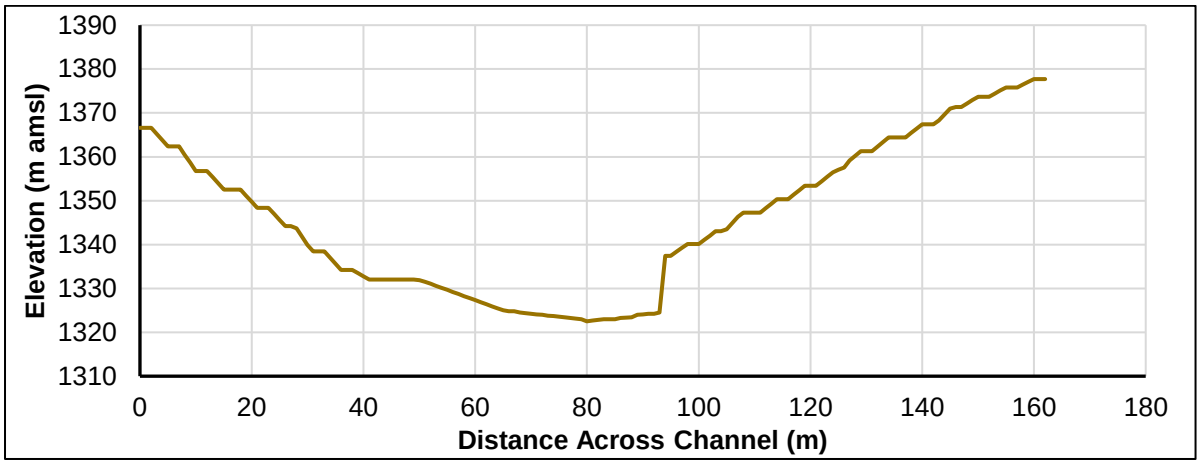
578. **Exhibit** 18.45 presents selected topographic cross-sections from the survey and literature.

Exhibit 18.44: Hydraulic Lookup Table for DRIFT

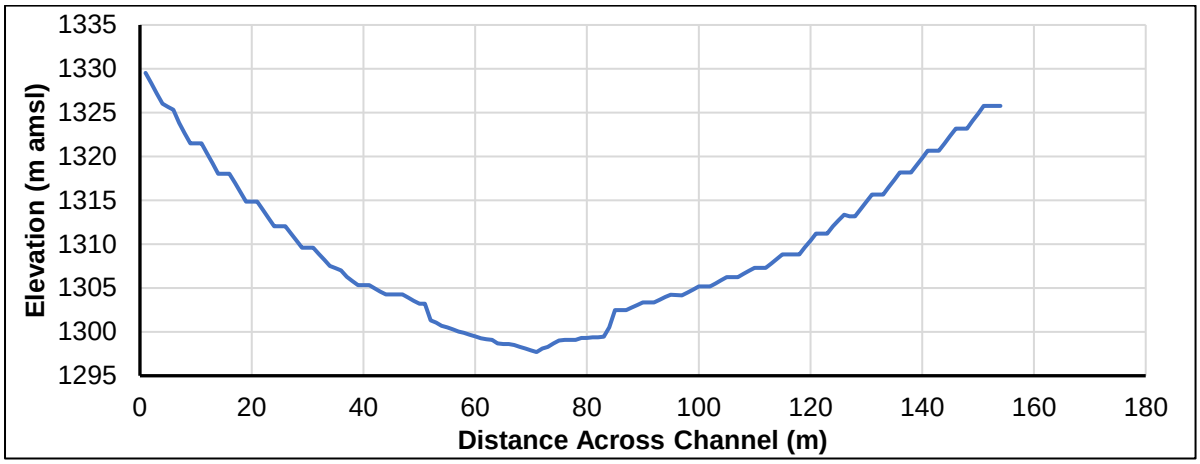
Discharge (m^3/s)	Top Width (m)	Velocity (m/s)	Depth (m)	Wetted Perimeter (m)
E-Flow Site 1				
5	10.54	0.97	1.09	10.83
10	12.31	1.26	1.34	12.68
20	22.27	1.37	1.73	22.7
50	25.83	1.85	2.24	26.53
75	28.2	2.14	2.53	29.09
100	28.93	2.37	2.78	29.99
150	30.76	2.75	3.19	32.12
200	32.08	3.05	3.55	33.71
300	32.95	3.53	4.14	35.27
500	36.6	4.2	5.11	40.32
1000	54.83	4.58	7.21	60.47
2000	77.42	5.35	9.51	84.95
E-Flow Site 2				
5	5.66	1.25	0.83	6.34
10	12.13	1.21	1.28	13.42
20	13.5	1.58	1.63	15.37
50	27.61	1.74	2.4	30.76
75	28.7	2.06	2.68	32.31
100	29.65	2.3	2.91	33.65
150	40.96	2.48	3.36	45.35
200	41.87	2.68	3.7	46.49
300	51.41	2.95	4.28	56.44
500	55.56	3.47	5.09	61.15
1000	59.05	4.36	6.57	65.77
2000	62.88	5.6	8.66	71.45
E-Flow Site 3				
5	24.37	0.67	0.83	25.2
10	33.84	0.79	1	34.9
20	43.63	0.98	1.21	44.94
50	53.25	1.36	1.55	54.88
75	60.9	1.52	1.77	62.76
100	69.35	1.61	1.96	71.32
150	71.92	1.89	2.21	74.11
200	72.64	2.13	2.41	74.63

Discharge (m^3/s)	Top Width (m)	Velocity (m/s)	Depth (m)	Wetted Perimeter (m)
300	73.85	2.52	2.75	76.42
500	75.85	3.11	3.31	78.83
1000	79.79	4.07	4.4	83.56
2000	85.94	5.22	6.06	90.92
E-Flow Site 4				
5	16.19	0.78	0.47	16.41
10	18.28	1.03	0.66	18.59
20	21.24	1.33	0.93	21.67
50	75.8	1.14	1.37	76.58
75	77.26	1.36	1.52	78.18
100	78.52	1.55	1.64	79.53
150	80.72	1.83	1.85	81.92
200	82.19	2.14	2	83.52
300	153.98	1.76	2.5	155.79
500	154.96	2.34	2.78	157.05
1000	157.33	3.14	3.45	160.06
2000	161.03	4.12	4.5	164.78

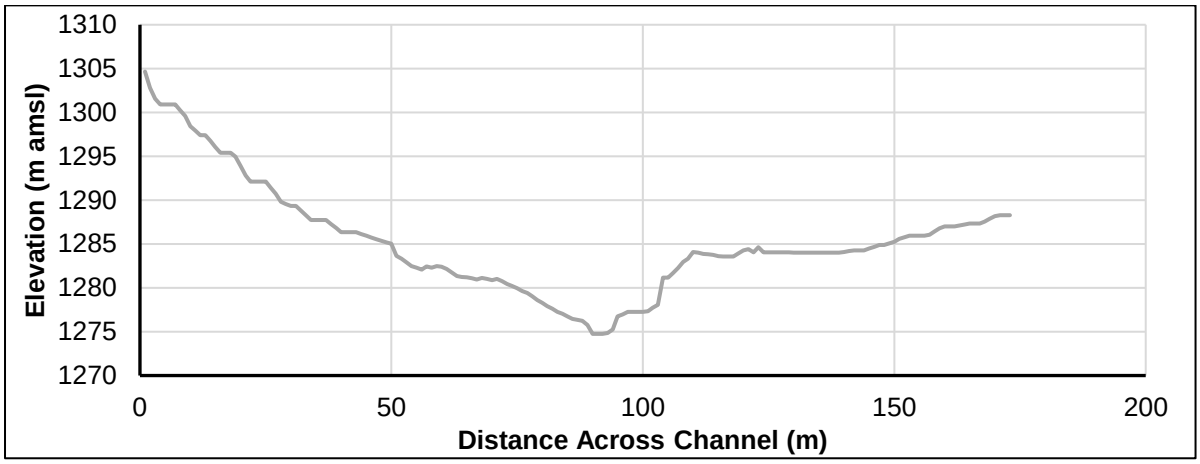
Exhibit 18.45: Topographic Cross Sections at EF 1



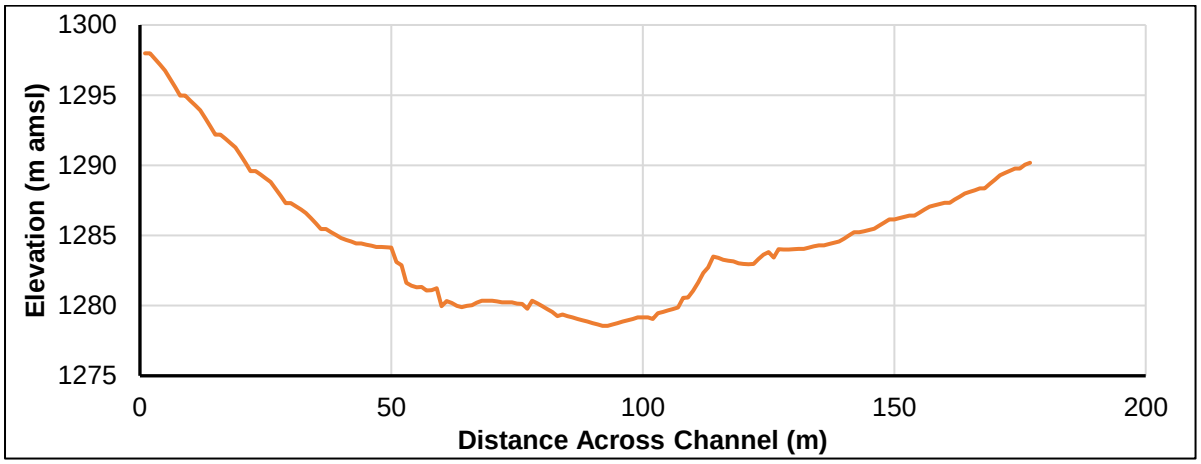
Cross Section 1-1



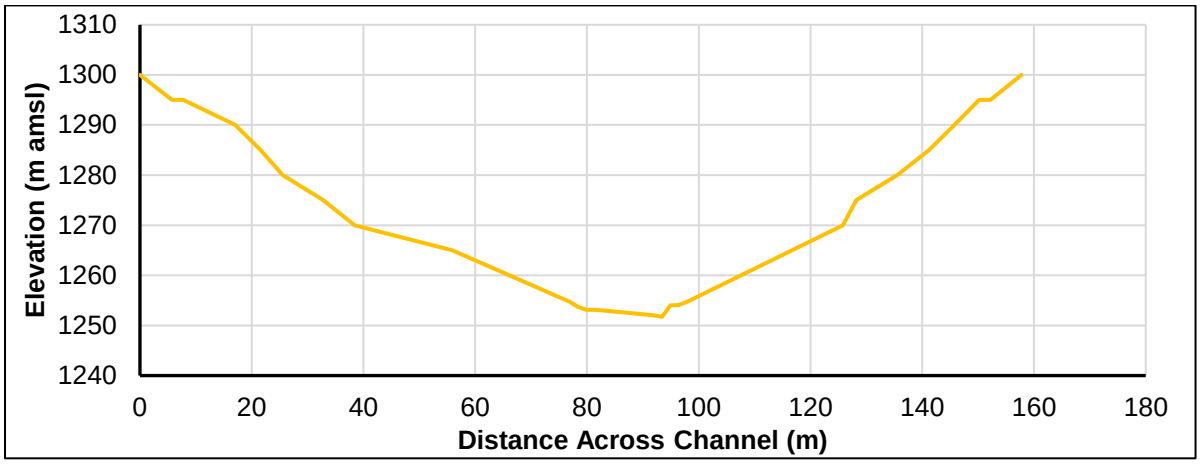
Cross Section 1-2



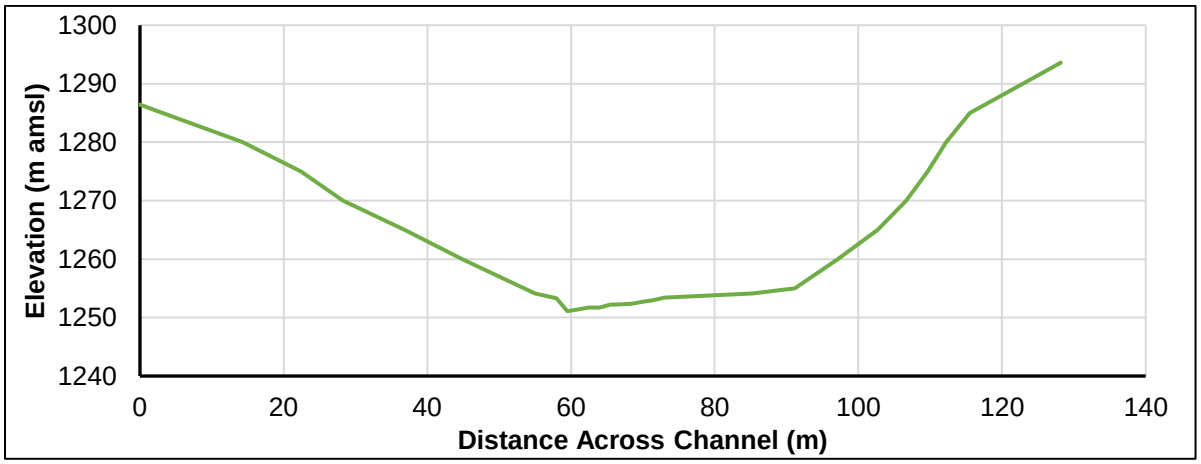
Cross Section 1-3



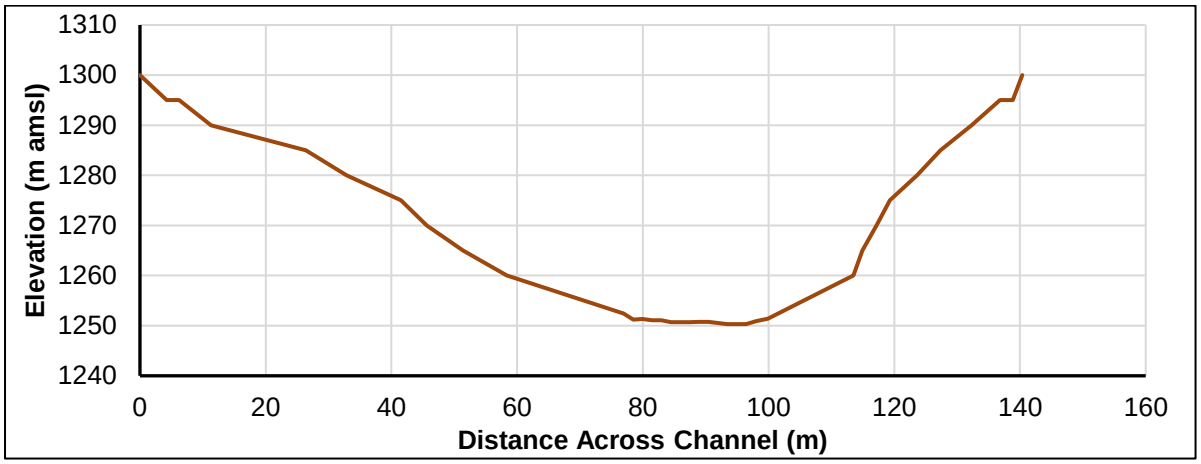
Cross Section 1-4



Cross Section 1-5

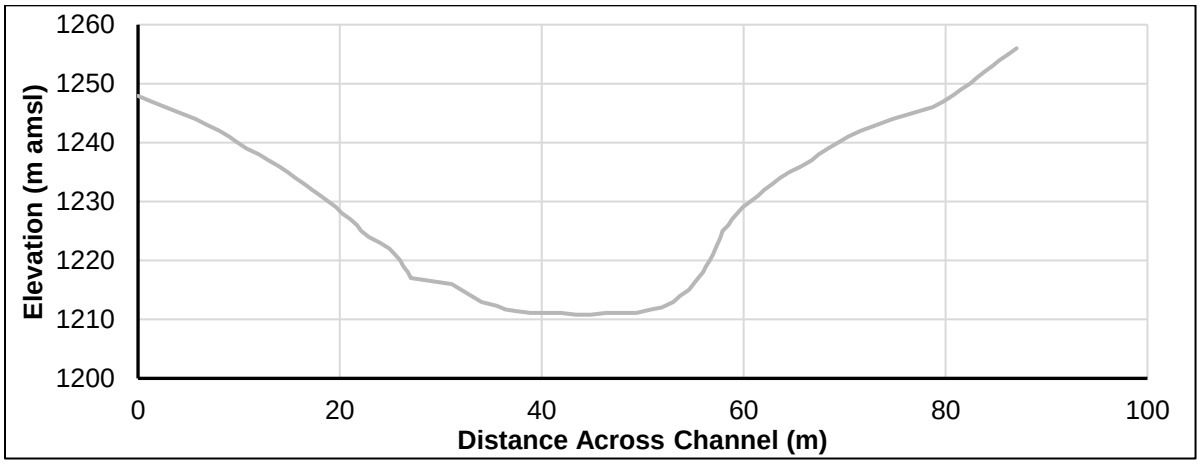


Cross Section 1-6

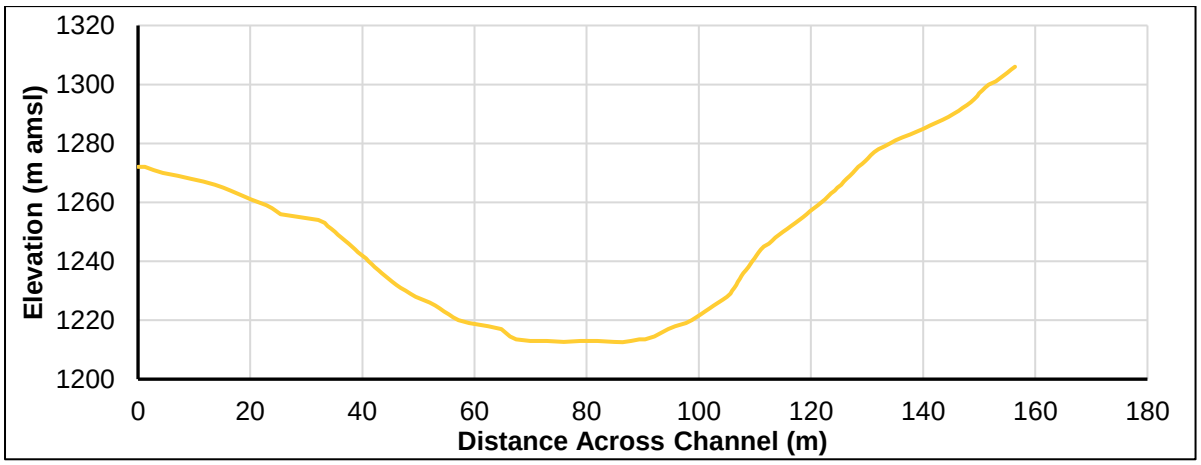


Cross Section 1-7

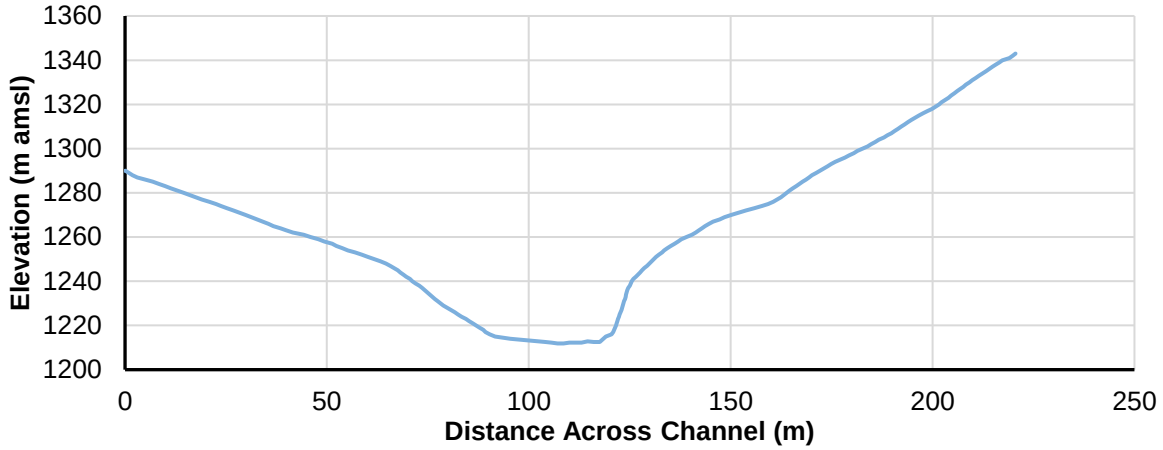
Exhibit 18.46: Topographic Cross Sections at EF 2



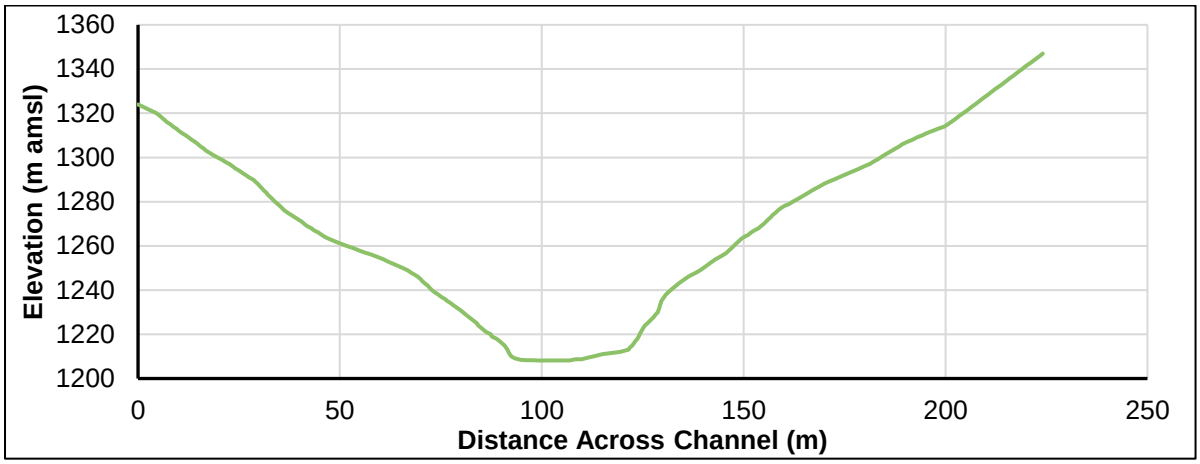
Cross Section 2-1



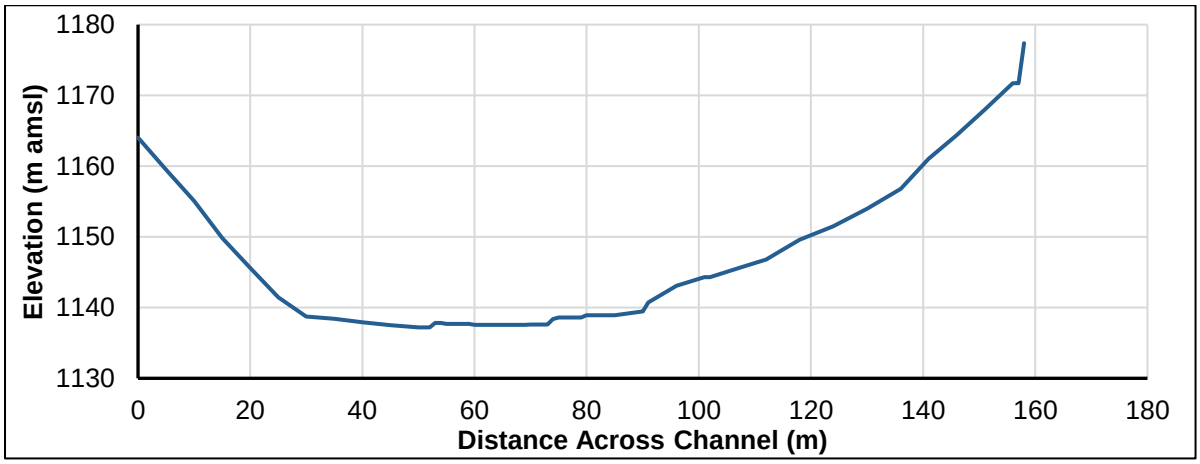
Cross Section 2-2



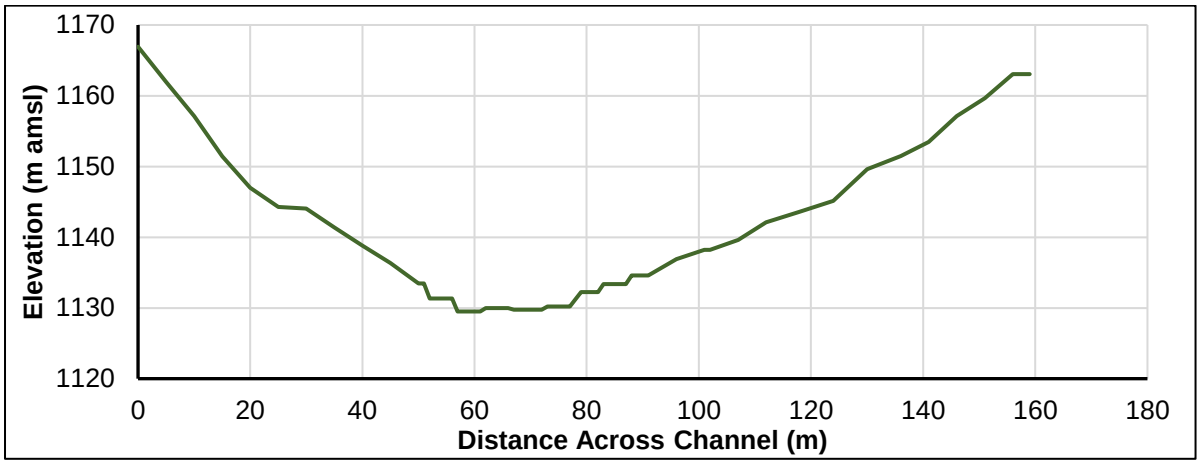
Cross Section 2-3



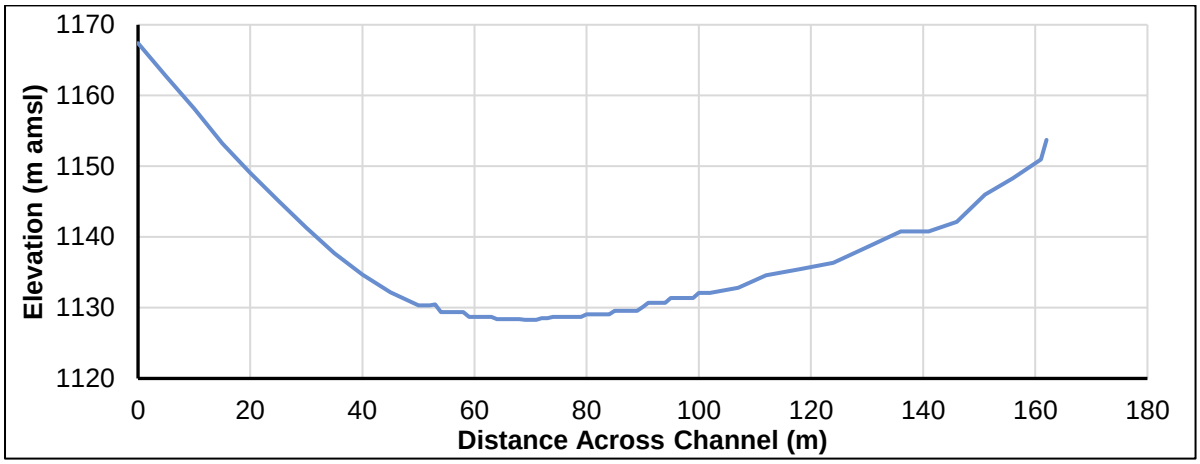
Cross Section 2-4



Cross Section 2-5

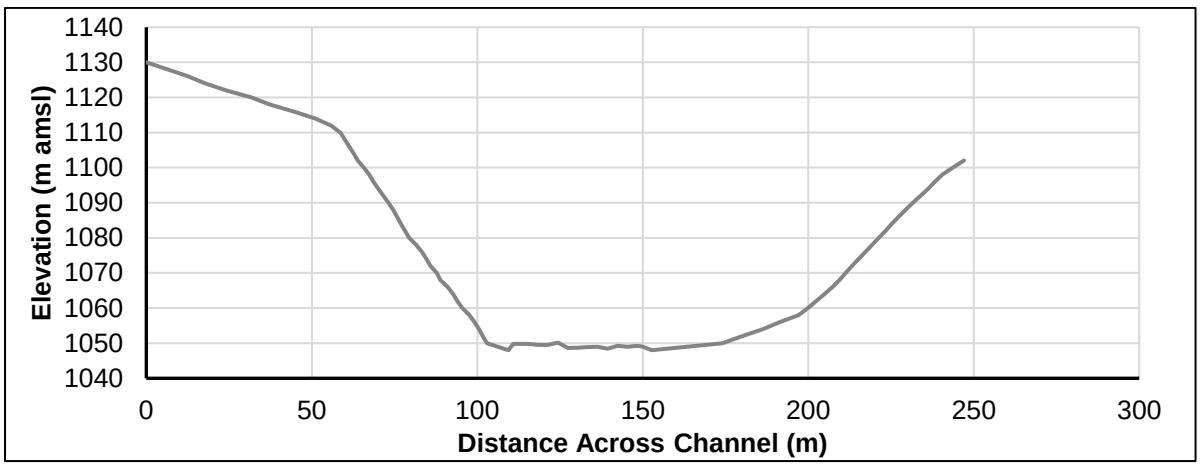


Cross Section 2-6

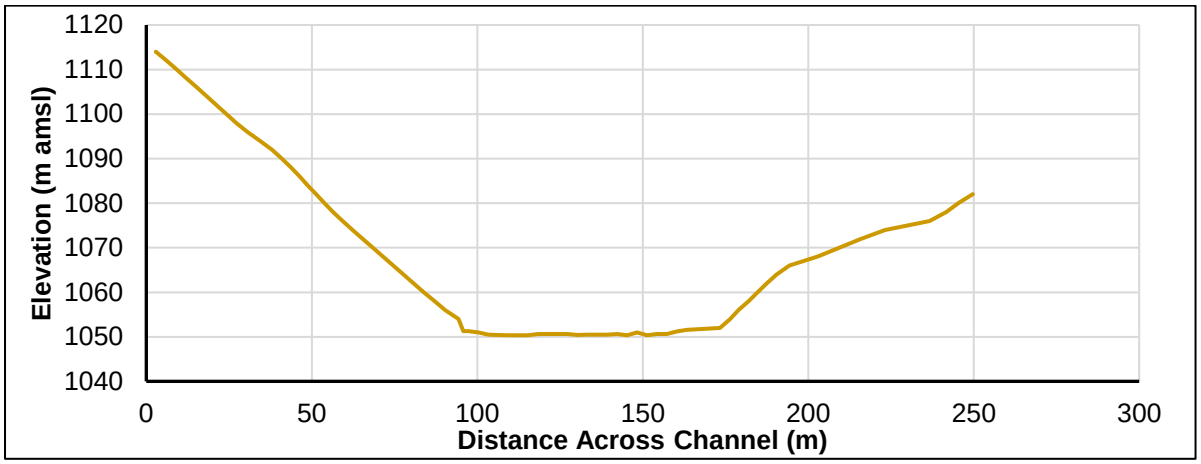


Cross Section 2-7

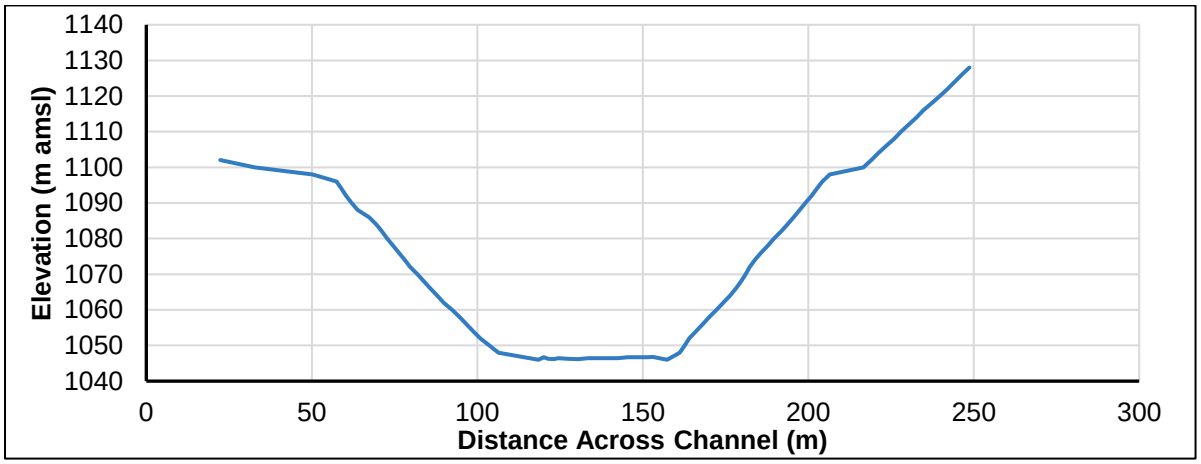
Exhibit 18.47: Topographic Cross Sections at EF 3



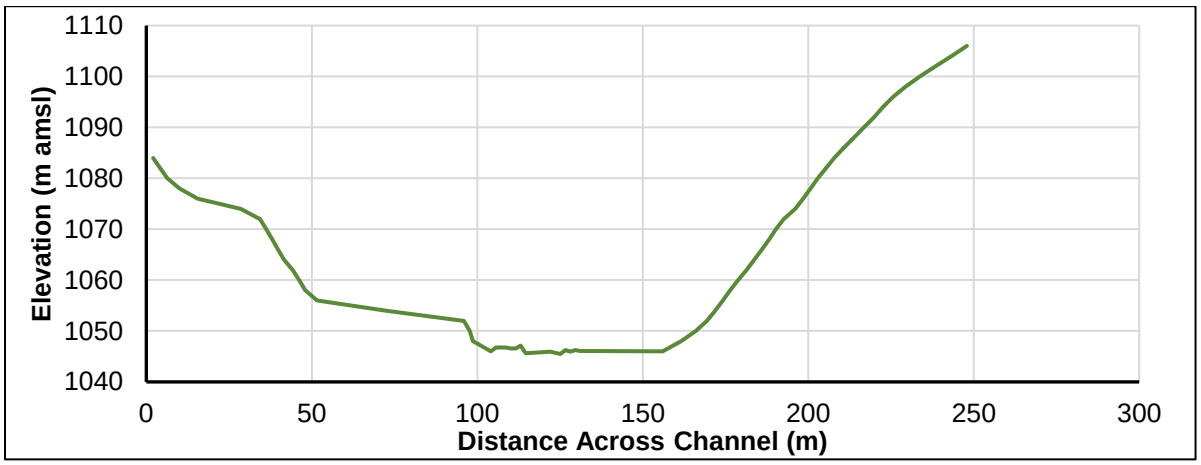
Cross Section 3-1



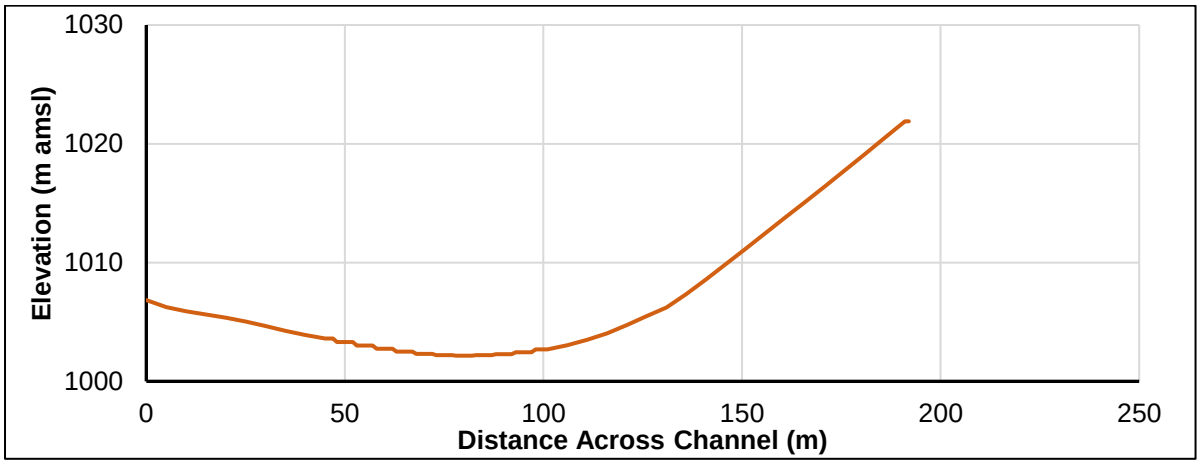
Cross Section 3-2



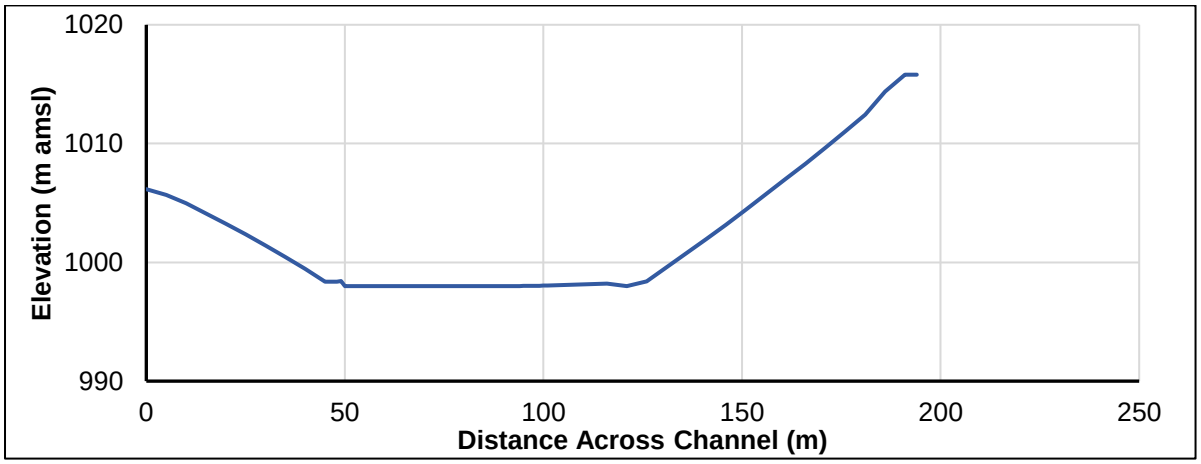
Cross Section 3-3



Cross Section 3-4

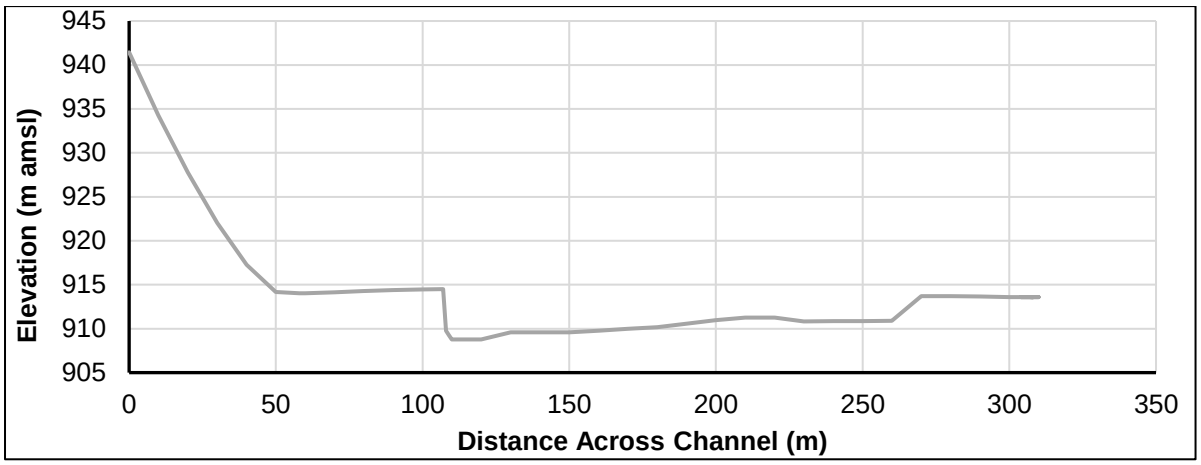


Cross Section 3-5

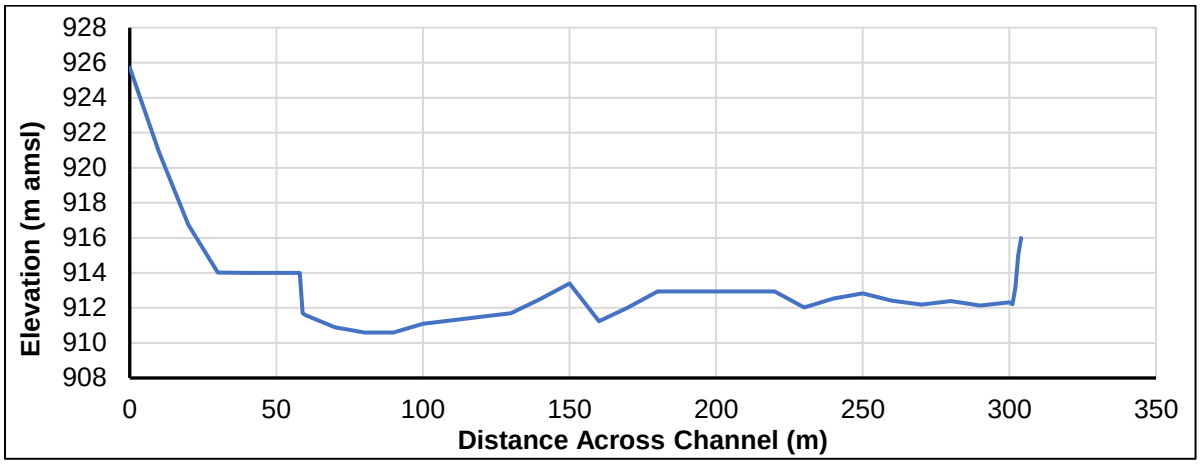


Cross Section 3-6

Exhibit 18.48: Topographic Cross Sections at EF 3



Cross Section 4-1



Cross Section 4-2

APPENDIX.D: RESPONSE-CURVE LIBRARY

579. This appendix contains the response curves used in the DRIFT DSS and their explanations. The response curves of the multiple disciplines in DRIFT are arranged as follows.

D.1 Geomorphology Response-Curves

D.2 Water Quality Response-curve Explanations

D.3 Algae Response-curve Explanations

D.4 Riparian Vegetation Response-curve Explanations

D.5 Macroinvertebrate Response-curve Explanations

D.6 Fish Response-curve Explanations

D.1 Geomorphology Response-Curves

580. The explanations of the Response Curves are tabulated as follows.

Exhibit 18.49: Suspended Sediment Load

Exhibit 18.50: Active Channel Width

Exhibit 18.51: Exposed Sand and Gravel Bars

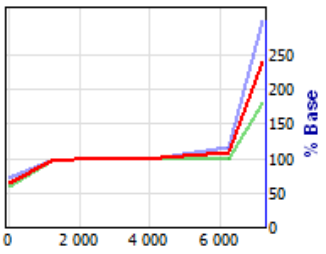
Exhibit 18.52: Median Bed Sediment Size (Armouring)

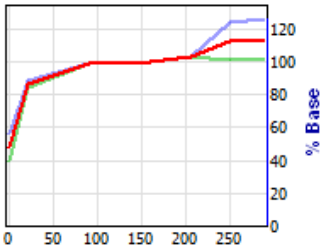
Exhibit 18.53: Exposed Cobble and Boulder Bars

Exhibit 18.54: Depth of Pools

Exhibit 18.55: Area of Secondary Channels and Backwaters

Exhibit 18.49: Suspended Sediment Load

<table>
<tr><th colspan="2">Suspended Sediment Load</th></tr>
<tr><th>Response curve</th><th>Explanation</th></tr>
<tr><td>☑ Max 5d flood season Q [F season]
<table>
<tr><th>Desc</th><th>m3/s</th><th>Y1</th><th>Y2</th></tr>
<tr><td>Min</td><td>0.000</td><td>-2.000</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Min Base</td><td>1210.400</td><td>-0.200</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>1803.980</td><td>0.000</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Median</td><td>2397.560</td><td>0.000</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>4323.780</td><td>0.100</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Max Base</td><td>6250.000</td><td>0.500</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Max</td><td>7187.500</td><td>3.000</td><td></td></tr>
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</td><td>Larger floods are generally associated with higher suspended sediment loads.</td></tr>
<tr><td>☑ Wet season duration [F season]
<table>
<tr><th>Desc</th><th>days</th><th>Y1</th><th>Y2</th></tr>
<tr><td>Min</td><td>0.000</td><td>-3.000</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Min Base</td><td>22.000</td><td>-0.800</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>90.500</td><td>-0.050</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Median</td><td>159.000</td><td>0.000</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>205.000</td><td>0.100</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Max Base</td><td>251.000</td><td>0.900</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Max</td><td>288.650</td><td>1.000</td><td></td></tr>
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</td><td>The longer the wet season, the greater the concentration of sediment that is likely to occur.</td></tr>
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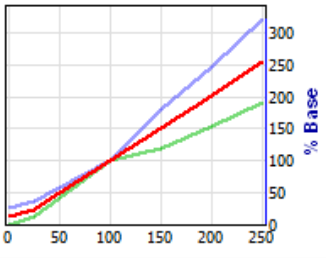
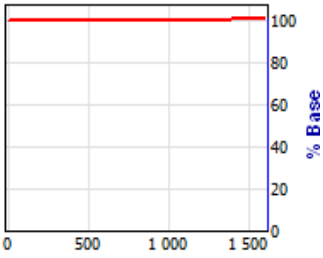
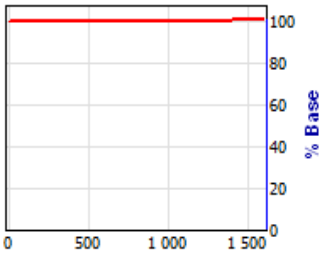
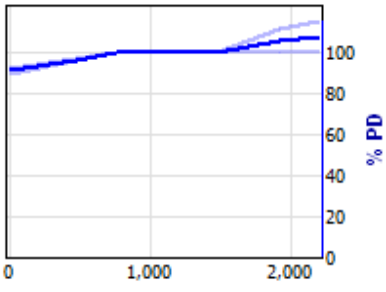
Suspended Sediment Load	
Response curve	**Explanation**
Suspended sediment inflows [F season] Desc | %Base | Y1 | Y2 Min | 0.000 | -5.000 Min Base | 25.000 | -4.342 | 50.000 | -2.895 Median | 100.000 | 0.000 | 150.000 | 2.100 Max Base | 200.000 | 2.700 Max | 250.000 | 3.100 	Upon closure of the dam, some suspended sediments will be trapped in the reservoir. This will result in a reduced concentration downstream.

Exhibit 18.50: Active Channel Width

Active channel width	
Response curve	**Explanation**
Dry season max instantaneous Q [D season] Desc | m3/s | Y1 | Y2 Min | 0.000 | 0.000 Min Base | 453.600 | 0.000 | 511.100 | 0.000 Median | 568.600 | 0.000 | 978.300 | 0.000 Max Base | 1388.000 | 0.020 Max | 1596.200 | 0.020 	The greater the variation in flows (indicative of intra-daily peaking), the larger the channel that is likely to develop (peaking will promote erosion and widening of the main channel).
DRY Daily range in Q [D season] Desc | m3/s | Y1 | Y2 Min | 0.000 | 0.000 Min Base | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 Median | 0.000 | 0.000 | 20.000 | 0.000 Max Base | 1400.000 | 0.020 Max | 1600.000 | 0.020 	A widely fluctuating daily range of discharges will create a zone of high disturbance between the low and peak flows. When this water level fluctuation is very high, up to a few meters per day, this would create a highly disturbed, scoured, and fast velocity (associated with the rise and fall of the peaks) zone, effectively rendering the backwater refugia unavailable for most instream biota, and a slightly wider active channel. With a more moderate fluctuation, some of the habitat can be expected to still be available.
Max 5d flood season Q [F season] Desc | m3/s | Y Min | 0.00 | -0.50 MinPD | 472.01 | -0.20 | 756.07 | 0.00 Median | 1040.13 | 0.00 | 1482.68 | 0.00 Max PD | 1925.23 | 0.20 Max | 2200.00 | 0.50 	Large floods widen the active channel, eroding the marginal areas and increasing the channel width. A series of small floods will cause the active channel to narrow as the channel reduces to adjust to a smaller effective discharge.

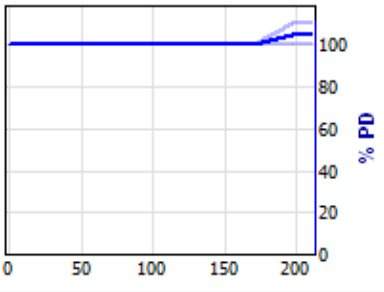
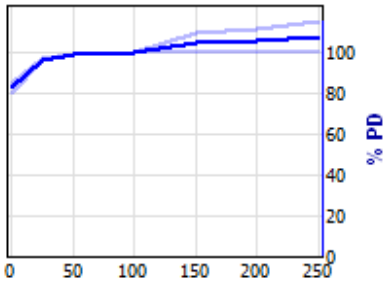
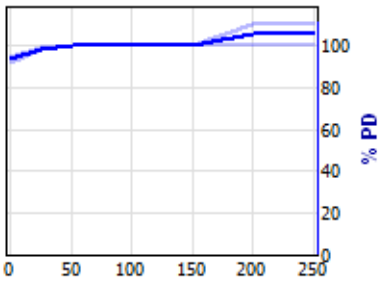
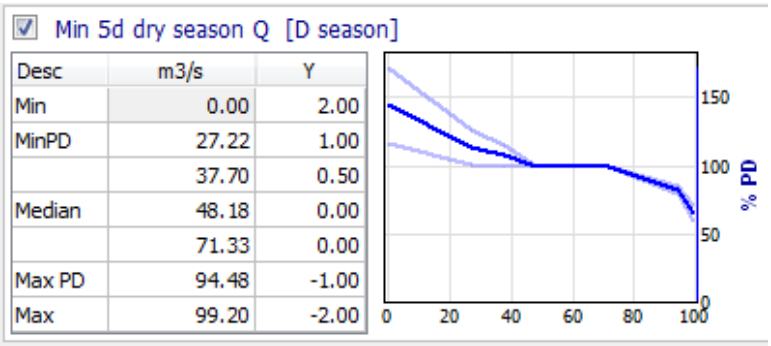
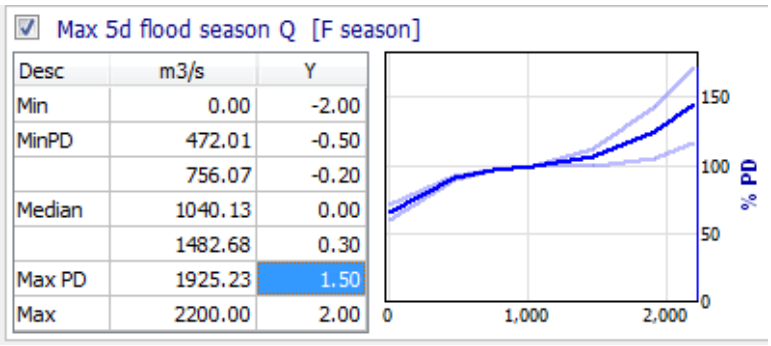
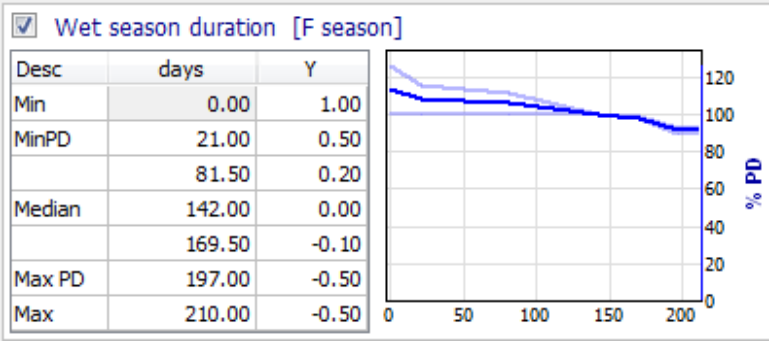
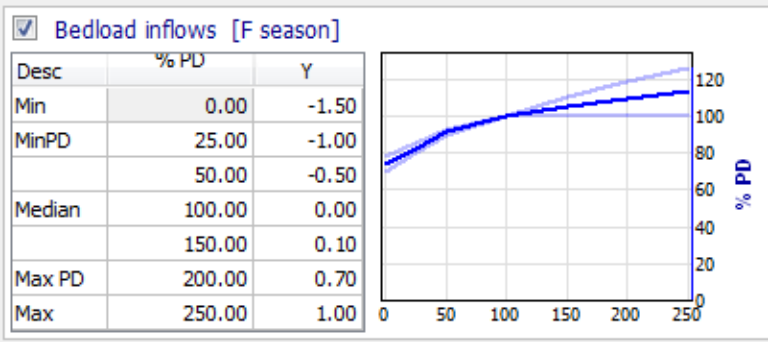
Active channel width	
Response curve	**Explanation**
Wet season duration [F season] Desc / days / Y Min 0.00 0.00 MinPD 21.00 0.00 81.50 0.00 Median 142.00 0.00 169.50 0.00 Max PD 197.00 0.10 Max 210.00 0.20 	Longer wet seasons mean a longer period of high flows with relatively lower sediment loads (in this river observed data suggest that the peak sediment loads generally occur early in the wet season, before peak discharge). Thus erosion of the channel is easier later in the season, and this may cause some increase in width when the flood season is extended.
Bedload inflows [F season] Desc / % PD / Y Min 0.00 -1.00 MinPD 25.00 -0.20 50.00 -0.05 Median 100.00 0.00 150.00 0.05 Max PD 200.00 0.20 Max 250.00 0.50 	Reduced bed loads will promote channel incision and a reduction in width. A large increase in bed loads will cause channel instability and an increase in the channel width.
Suspended sediment inflows [F season] Desc / % PD / Y Min 0.00 -0.40 MinPD 25.00 -0.10 50.00 0.00 Median 100.00 0.00 150.00 0.00 Max PD 200.00 0.10 Max 250.00 0.15 	Although suspended sediment plays a smaller role than bedload, increased sand flows can aggrade the bed and increase channel width slightly.

Exhibit 18.51: Exposed Sand and Gravel Bars

Exposed Sand and Gravel Bars	
Response curve	**Explanation**
	The lower the dry season flows, the more sand bars will be exposed. Higher dry season discharges will erode more sand/gravel bars, and inundate more of them also.
	Larger floods are associated with higher sediment loads, and with widespread channel instability and reworking of the channel bed and banks. Large floods will thus introduce more sediment and create more sand/gravel bars during the flood season (which can be exposed as sand/gravel bars during the dry season).
	Longer wet seasons mean a longer period of high flows with relatively lower sediment loads. In this river observed data suggest that the peak sediment loads generally occur early in the wet season, before peak discharge. Thus longer wet seasons may mean greater erosion (widening/deepening) in the main channel, causing some reduction of sand/gravel.
	More bedload inflows will create more aggradation and lead to more exposed bars. Reduced bedload will promote channel incision and erosion (or incorporation of the bars within the banks) and thus fewer sand/gravel mid-channel bars.

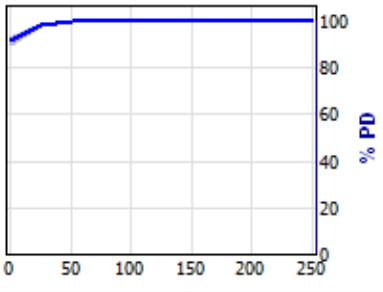
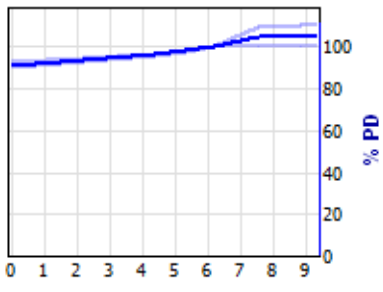
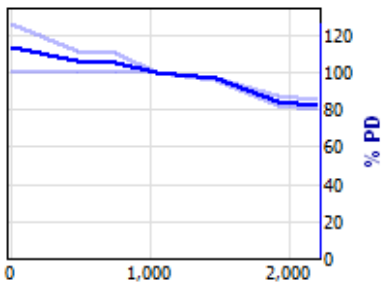
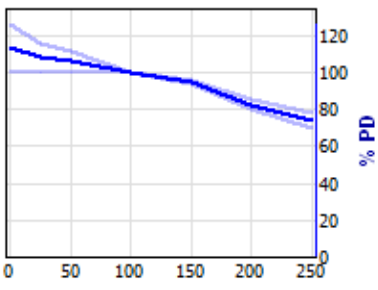
Exposed Sand and Gravel Bars	
Response curve	**Explanation**
Suspended sediment inflows [F season] Desc / % PD / Y Min 0.00 -0.50 MinPD 25.00 -0.10 50.00 0.00 Median 100.00 0.00 150.00 0.00 Max PD 200.00 0.00 Max 250.00 0.00 	Upon closure of the dams, some suspended sediments will be trapped in the reservoir. This will result in erosion of downstream sediments (eating away of gravel and sand bars and abandonment of secondary channels due to active channel incision). These impacts will be ameliorated downstream by inputs of sediment from tributaries and increased loads derived from the banks and river bed due to enhanced scour.

Exhibit 18.52: Median Bed Sediment Size (Armouring)

Median Bed Sediment Size (Armouring)	
Response curve	**Explanation**
Dry ave daily vol [D season] Desc / Mm3/d / Y Min 0.00 -0.50 MinPD 4.39 -0.20 5.29 -0.10 Median 6.19 0.00 7.53 0.05 Max PD 8.87 0.10 Max 9.32 0.20 	The lower the dry season discharge, the more fines can deposited on the channel bed, and thus the smaller the mean bed sediment size will become. The higher the dry season discharge the more fines that will be removed and the coarser the (now armoured) channel bed will become.
Max 5d flood season Q [F season] Desc / m3/s / Y Min 0.00 1.00 MinPD 472.01 0.20 756.07 0.10 Median 1040.13 0.00 1482.68 -0.20 Max PD 1925.23 -0.90 Max 2200.00 -1.00 	Larger floods are associated with higher sediment loads, and with widespread channel instability and reworking of the channel bed and banks. Large floods will thus reset the channel sediments, resulting in overall finer average bed sediment conditions.
Bedload inflows [F season, Site=Nau] Desc / % PD / Y Min 0.00 1.00 MinPD 25.00 0.50 50.00 0.20 Median 100.00 0.00 150.00 -0.30 Max PD 200.00 -1.00 Max 250.00 -1.50 	Negatively correlated (Buffington and Montgomery 1999): more bedload inflows will reduce the average bed sediment size. Reduced bedload inflows will promote channel incision/erosion and the progressive loss of smaller sediments, resulting in an overall increase in the average bed sediment size.

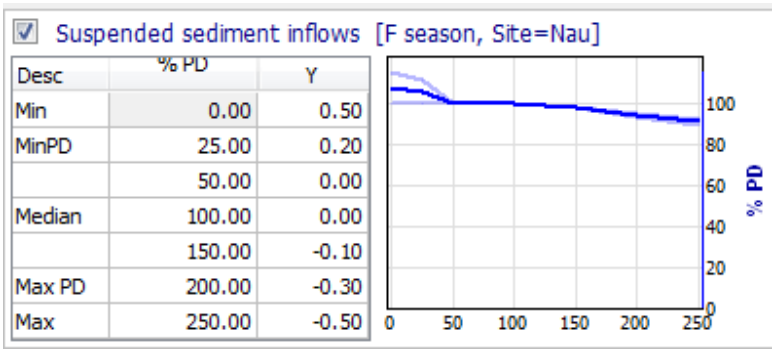
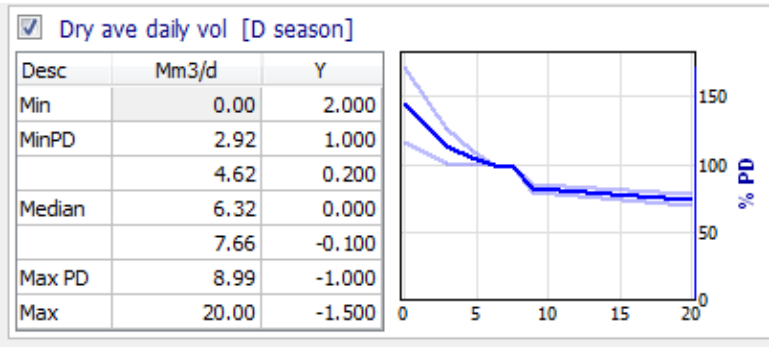
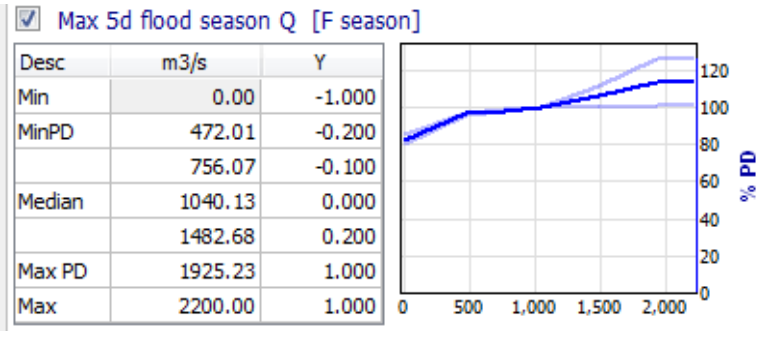
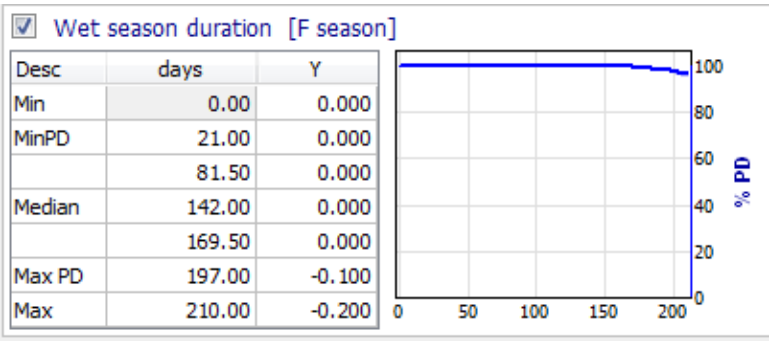
Median Bed Sediment Size (Armouring)	
Response curve	**Explanation**
	Although suspended sediment plays a smaller role than bedload in overall bed sediment size, increased suspended sediment (e.g., sand) supply can reduce the average bed sediment size. Similarly reduced inflows will mean that fines washed from the bed will not be replaced and would result in an increase in the average bed sediment size (Buffington and Montgomery 1999).

Exhibit 18.53: Exposed Cobble and Boulder Bars

Exposed Cobble and Boulder Bars	
Response curve	**Explanation**
	Lower dry season flows will expose more cobble bars whereas higher dry season flows will cause more bars to remain inundated.
	Very large floods tend to redistribute sediments across the channel, and in rivers with a cobble matrix, these events should enlarge existing and create additional bars. Very small floods may not overcome thresholds to redistribute bed sediments across the valley floor, allowing bars to overtime be incorporated into the bank.
	Longer wet seasons mean a longer period of high flows with relatively lower sediment loads. In this river observed data suggest that the peak sediment loads generally occur early in the wet season, before peak discharge. Thus longer wet seasons may mean greater erosion (widening/deepening) in the main channel, with some potential loss of cobble bars.

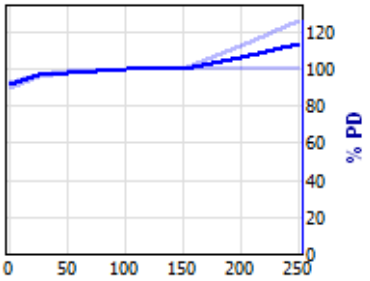
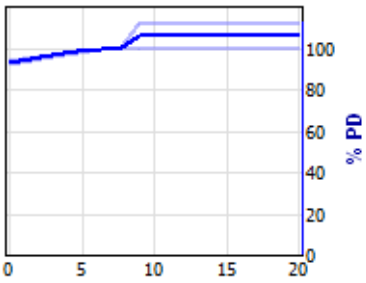
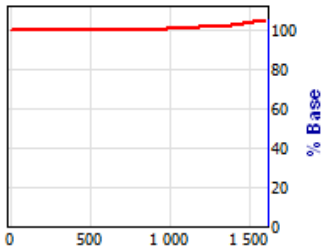
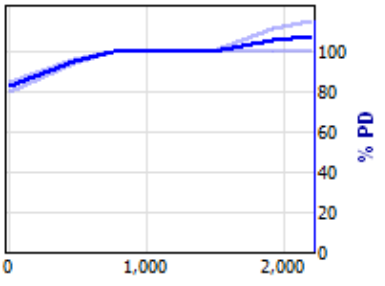
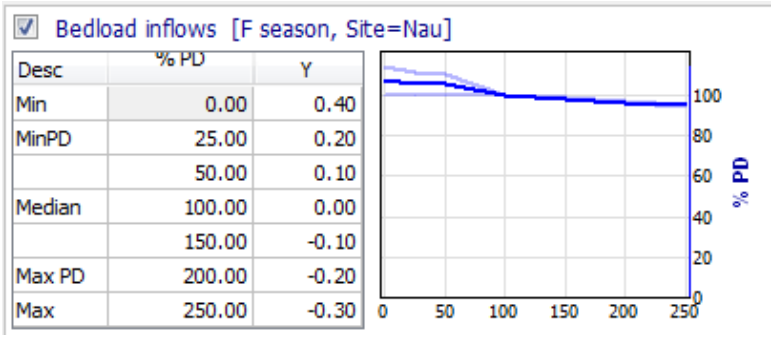
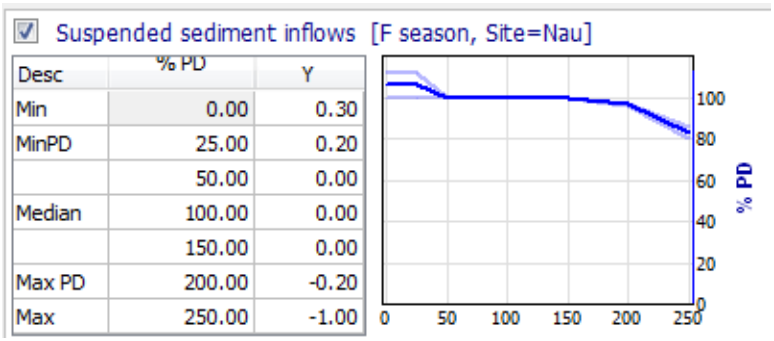
Exposed Cobble and Boulder Bars	
Response curve	**Explanation**
Bedload inflows [F season] Desc / % PD / Y Min 0.00 -0.500 MinPD 25.00 -0.200 50.00 -0.100 Median 100.00 0.000 150.00 0.000 Max PD 200.00 0.300 Max 250.00 1.000 	Reduced bedload would promote channel incision and probably promote the slow loss of gravel bars (as these become bank-attached).

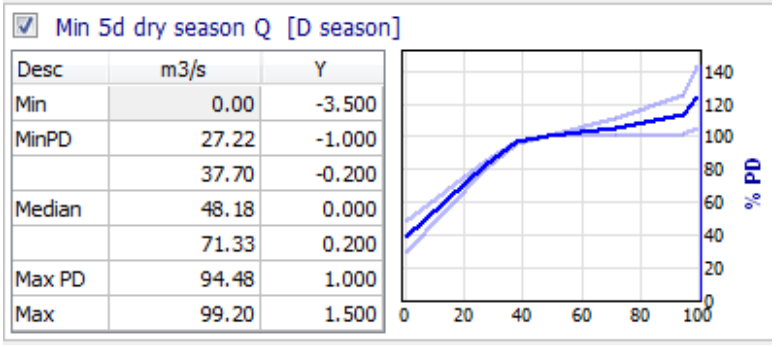
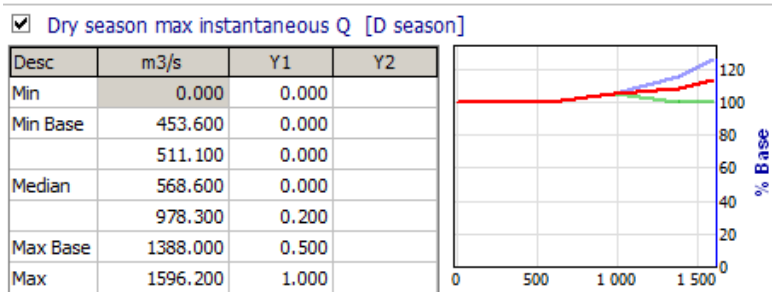
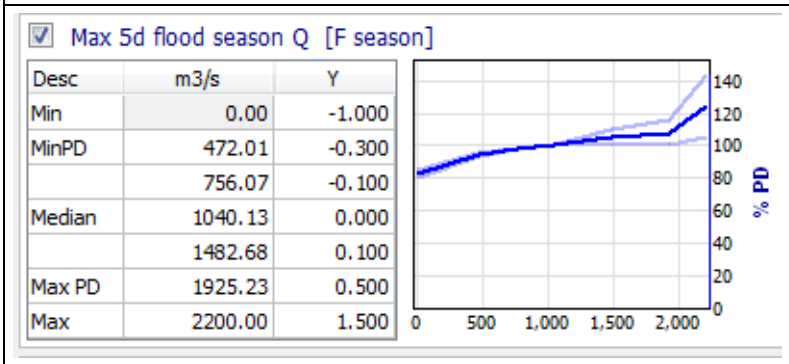
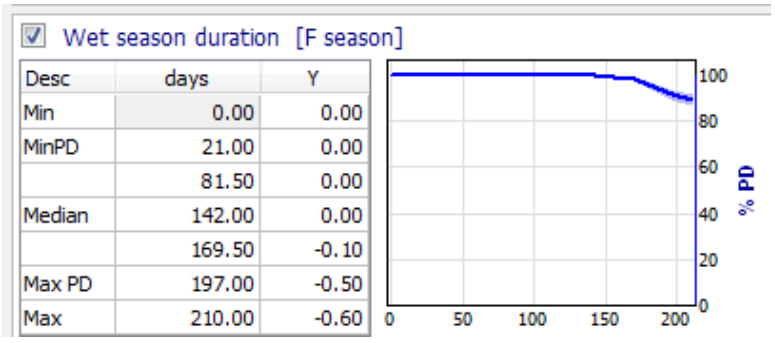
Exhibit 18.54: Depth of Pools

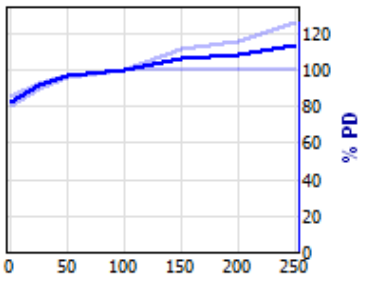
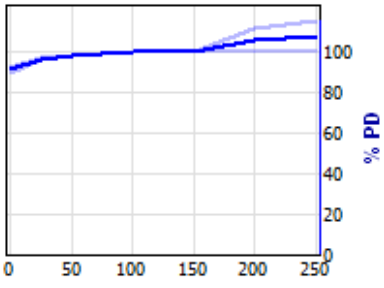
Depth of pools	
Response curve	**Explanation**
Dry ave daily vol [D season] Desc / Mm3/d / Y Min 0.00 -0.400 MinPD 2.92 -0.200 4.62 -0.100 Median 6.32 0.000 7.66 0.000 Max PD 8.99 0.200 Max 20.00 0.300 	Lower dry season discharges will have lower velocities, allowing for more sediment to settle in the pools during dry season periods than in dry seasons where the average discharge remains high.
Dry season max instantaneous Q [D season] Desc / m3/s / Y1 / Y2 Min 0.000 0.000 Min Base 453.600 0.000 511.100 0.000 Median 568.600 0.000 978.300 0.050 Max Base 1388.000 0.100 Max 1596.200 0.200 	High variations in water levels would initially result in increased bank erosion and infilling of pools as the marginal sediments are eroded and introduced into the main channel. However, this would only be a temporary impact, since the twice-daily flood peaks would increase the sediment transport capacity of the channel and result in overall enhanced flushing of sediments and deeper pools.
Max 5d flood season Q [F season] Desc / m3/s / Y Min 0.00 -1.00 MinPD 472.01 -0.25 756.07 0.00 Median 1040.13 0.00 1482.68 0.00 Max PD 1925.23 0.25 Max 2200.00 0.50 	Flood peaks scour steep channels and pools. A reduced flood peak may cause the pools to become shallower. The hysteresis of stage-discharge curves associated with large flood pulse systems indicates the build-up of the bed (from flood sediments) and subsequent incision of channel beds during the late wet and dry seasons. Pool beds in the main channel must therefore aggrade (build-up), with increasing

Depth of pools	
Response curve	**Explanation**
	aggradation[105] in larger flood seasons due to higher sediment loads. Very small flood seasons could result in pool aggradation due to low velocities and lack of scour.
	Reduced bed loads should reduce the potential for pool infilling, but may increase the risk of pools eroding (as the river planform shifts to a single incised channel). This will not occur if the pools are bedrock-controlled, and the risk decreases quickly downstream of the dam.
	Reduced sand inflows should reduce the risk of infilling the pools, whereas a very high suspended sand load could infill pools more rapidly.

[105] Aggradation is the increase in land elevation, typically in a river system, due to the deposition of sediment. Aggradation occurs in areas in which the supply of sediment is greater than the amount of material that the system is able to transport.

Exhibit 18.55: Area of Secondary Channels and Backwaters

Area of Secondary Channels and Backwaters	
Response curve	**Explanation**
	The higher the average dry season flows, the more secondary channels will remain active during the low flow season (and thus available for instream biota)
	A widely fluctuating daily range of discharges will create a zone of high disturbance between the low and peak flows. When this water level fluctuation is very high, up to a few meters per day, this would create a highly disturbed, scoured, and fast velocity (associated with the rise and fall of the peaks) zone, effectively rendering the backwater refugia unavailable for most instream biota. With a more moderate fluctuation, some of the habitat can be expected to remain.
	Very large floods will widen the channel and erode areas for secondary channels to form. Very small/failed floods may not be able to counteract channel narrowing of the low flow season.
	Longer wet seasons mean a longer period of high flows with relatively lower sediment loads. In this river observed data suggest that the peak sediment loads generally occur early in the wet season, before peak discharge. Thus longer wet seasons may mean greater erosion (widening/deepening) in the main channel, causing some loss of secondary channels.

Area of Secondary Channels and Backwaters	
Response curve	**Explanation**
Bedload inflows [F season] Desc / % PD / Y Min 0.00 -1.000 MinPD 25.00 -0.500 50.00 -0.200 Median 100.00 0.000 150.00 0.200 Max PD 200.00 0.500 Max 250.00 1.000 	Higher bedload inflows will infill the channel, creating more channel instability and the formation of more sand bars and secondary channels. Lower sediment inflows will promote incision and the abandonment of secondary channels.
Suspended sediment inflows [F season, Site=Nau] Desc / % PD / Y Min 0.00 -0.50 MinPD 25.00 -0.20 50.00 -0.10 Median 100.00 0.00 150.00 0.00 Max PD 200.00 0.20 Max 250.00 0.50 	Higher sand inflows will infill the channel, creating more channel instability and the formation of more sand bars and secondary channels. Lower sand inflows will promote scouring of fines and more channel instability, leading to slow incision of the main channel (increased capacity) and gradual abandonment of secondary channels.

D.2 Water Quality Response-curve Explanations

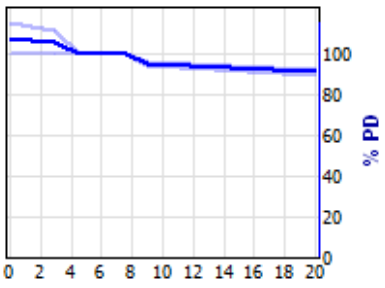
581. The explanations of the Response Curves are tabulated as follows:

Exhibit 18.56: Nutrient concentration in the river in the dry season

Exhibit 18.57: Conductivity

Exhibit 18.58: Water Temperature.

Exhibit 18.56: Nutrient concentration in the river in the dry season

Nutrient Concentration in the River in the Dry Season	
Response curve	**Explanation**
Site 1	Assumption: Very little inflow of sewage
Dry ave daily vol [D season] Desc / Mm3/d / Y Min 0.00 0.50 MinPD 2.92 0.25 4.62 0.00 Median 6.32 0.00 7.66 0.00 Max PD 8.99 -0.25 Max 20.00 -0.50 	This Response Curve is for Site 1, where assuming inflows of sewage into the river remain at 2012 levels, less discharge would mean only a slightly higher concentration of sewage in the river as sewage inflows in the reach represented by Site 1 are very low. The situation is different for some other reaches such as those represented by Site 3.
Site 3	Assumption: Considerable inflow of sewage

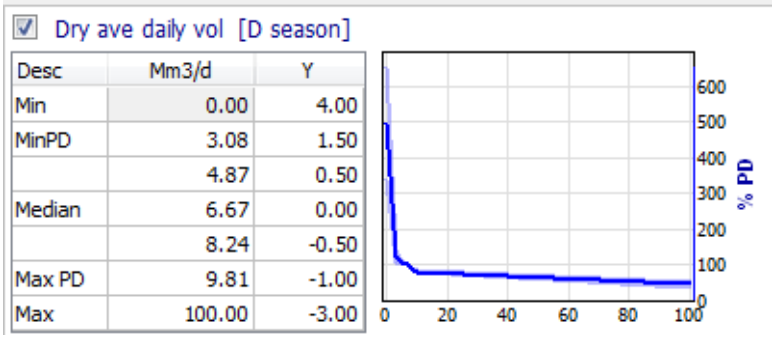
Nutrient Concentration in the River in the Dry Season	
Response curve	**Explanation**
Site 1	Assumption: Very little inflow of sewage
	Assuming inflows of sewage into the river remain at 2012 levels, less discharge would mean a higher concentration of sewage in the river. This is particularly relevant for Site 3 in Muzaffarabad, but also at sites downstream of this.

Exhibit 18.57: Conductivity

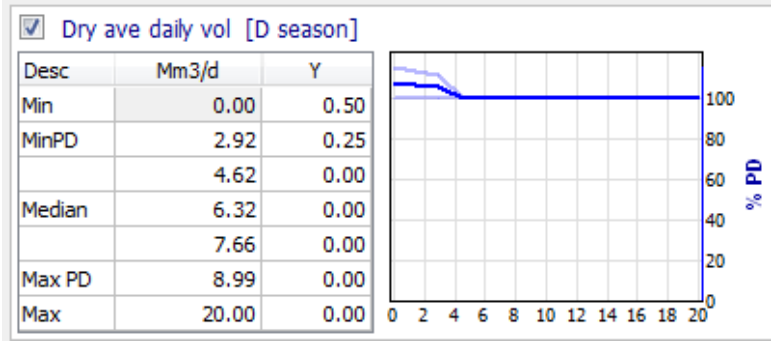
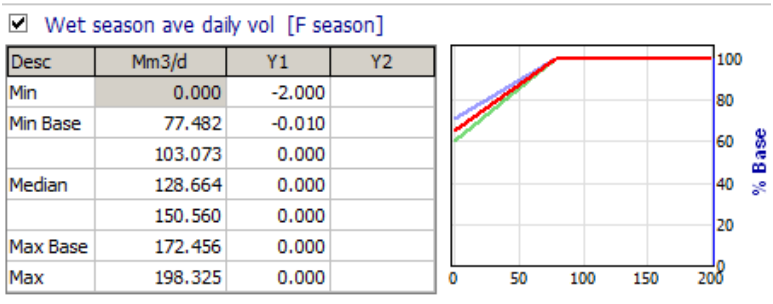
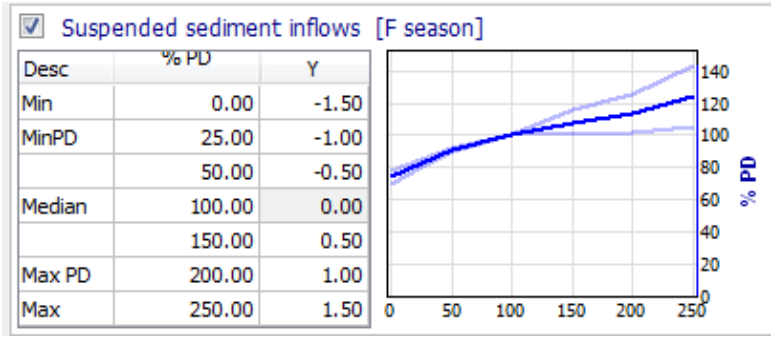
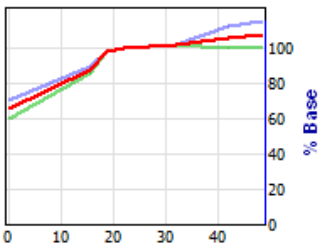
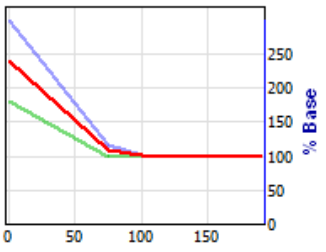
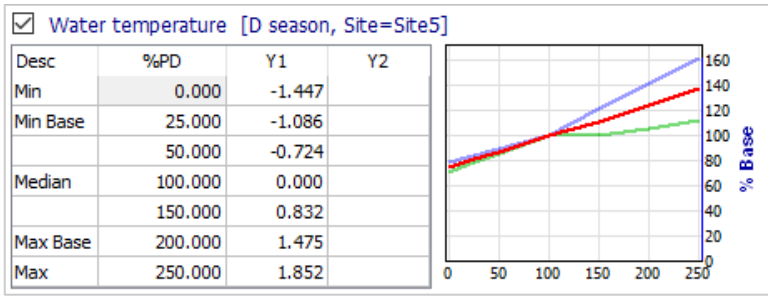
Conductivity	
Response Curve	**Explanation**
	Catchment variable: conductivity increases with reduced volumes, however, this site is directly downstream of a major dam, so it is expected water quality will be affected mostly by dam water quality, and not by inflow from the surrounding catchment. The relationship provided assumes good dam water quality.
	Catchment variable: if the wet season fails - conductivity will decrease.
	Reduced suspended solids loads will result in reduced conductivity.

Exhibit 18.58: Water Temperature

Water Temperature	
Response curve	**Explanation**
☑ Dry ave daily vol [D season] Desc / Mm3/d / Y1 / Y2 Min 0.000 -2.000 Min Base 15.584 -0.700 18.751 -0.100 Median 21.918 0.000 31.958 0.100 Max Base 41.998 0.300 Max 48.298 0.500 	Water volume buffers the river from ambient temperatures. The lower the volume, the closer stream temperature will track the ambient temperature. This is why small streams freeze in winter more readily than do large rivers. As an aside: For water to freeze and change into ice, it must be cooled to its freezing point, which implies heat loss. That heat loss occurs when the ambient temperature of the air is lower than the temperature of the water. The freezing point of fresh water is 0°C; however, its maximum density is reached at 4°C. From an ecological perspective, the latter point is extremely important, since the deeper water, which is located under the ice – except in some small lakes or ponds - does not freeze, which means that the creatures living there can survive winter under the ice (www.fishingvermont.net/How_Ice_Is_Made.htm). However, if there is little or no depth, this liquid layer is either non-existent or too confined to provide water habitat.
☑ Wet season ave daily vol [F season] Desc / Mm3/d / Y1 / Y2 Min 0.000 3.000 Min Base 74.437 0.500 99.918 0.100 Median 125.398 0.000 145.539 0.000 Max Base 165.679 0.000 Max 190.530 0.000 	Volume (and shade) buffers the river from high ambient temperatures in the summer months. The lower the volume the closer the stream temperature will track ambient temperature.

Water Temperature	
Response curve	**Explanation**
	This link (from Site 6 to Site 5 in the example shown) is provided to cater to the anticipated temperature effect of cooler water entering the river from the NJHEP tailrace. Given that this water originates upstream of Nauseri, high in the Neelum River, and is then transported below ground to the Jhelum upstream of Site 6, it is likely to be significantly cooler than baseline wet season temperatures in the Lower Jhelum River. Given the volume of water released relative to the volume remaining in the Jhelum, it is expected that there will be a net drop in temperature of the water entering sites 6 and 7 relative to baseline.

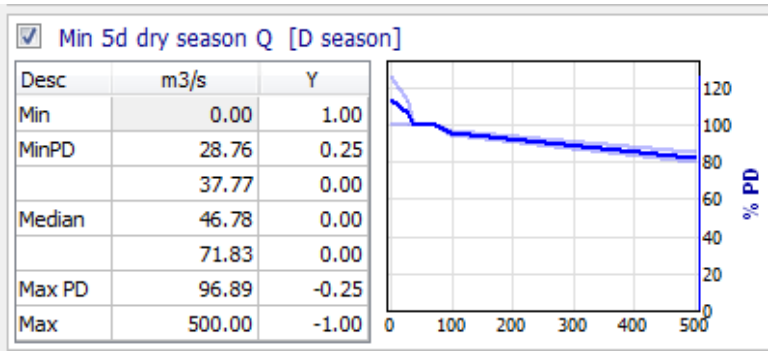
D.3 Algae Response-curve Explanations

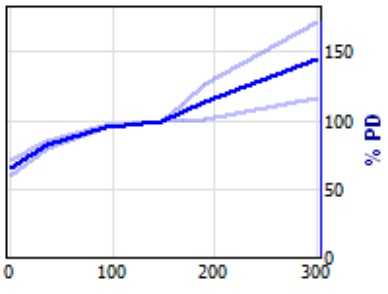
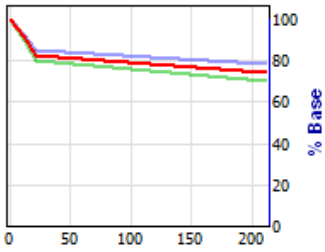
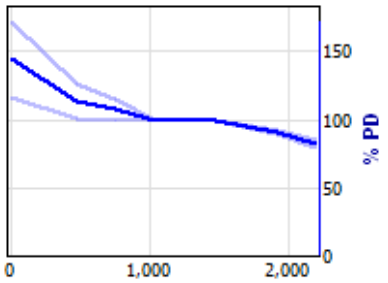
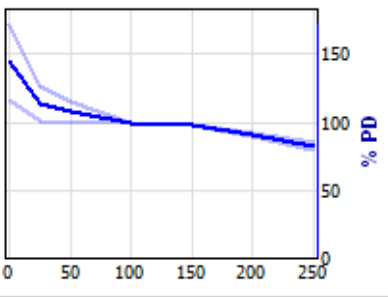
582. The explanations of the Response Curves are tabulated as follows.

Exhibit 18.59: % Filamentous Algae

Exhibit 18.60: Chl a Biomass

Exhibit 18.59: % Filamentous Algae

% Filamentous Algae	
Response curve	**Explanation**
	The higher the discharge in the dry season, the more the community is maintained in a state of early succession with low % filamentous algae. A decrease in discharge would reduce velocities and therefore shear stress on the river bed would be less and this would result in an increase in the proportion of filamentous algae.

% Filamentous Algae	
Response curve	**Explanation**
Dry duration [D season] Desc / days / Y Min 0.00 -2.00 MinPD 36.00 -1.00 92.50 -0.25 Median 149.00 0.00 169.00 0.25 Max PD 189.00 1.00 Max 300.00 2.00 	The longer the duration of stable conditions the greater the complexity of the community structure, with filamentous algae forms dominating in late succession. Under cool conditions, it is likely that filamentous diatoms rather than green algae will dominate regardless of nutrient availability.
DRY Daily range in Q [D season] Desc / m3/s / Y1 / Y2 Min 0.000 0.000 Min Base 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 Median 0.000 0.000 10.700 -0.500 Max Base 21.400 -1.000 Max 211.300 -1.500 	The longer the duration of stable conditions the greater the complexity of the community structure, with filamentous algae forms dominating in late succession. Thus, with daily fluctuations, it is expected that the algae will be held in an early successional state, and filamentous algae will not dominate.
Max 5d flood season Q [F season] Desc / m3/s / Y Min 0.00 2.00 MinPD 472.01 1.00 756.07 0.50 Median 1040.13 0.00 1482.68 0.00 Max PD 1925.23 -0.50 Max 2200.00 -1.00 	A reduction in floods in the wet season would increase the proportion of filamentous taxa as the community is no longer 'reset' by disturbance events. Floods scour algae from the benthic rocks upon which they grow (Biggs and Thomsen 1995). The period over which flood scour exerts an influence is minimized over a short wet season and maximized over a longer wet season. Growth of green algae is favored by shorter wet seasons.
Suspended sediment load [F season] Desc / % PD / Y Min 0.00 2.00 MinPD 25.00 1.00 50.00 0.50 Median 100.00 0.00 150.00 -0.10 Max PD 200.00 -0.50 Max 250.00 -1.00 	Suspended sediments affect light penetration, which the algae need for growth. Lower loads mean more light, and more algae.

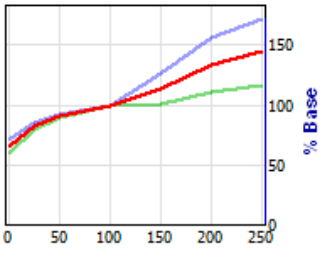
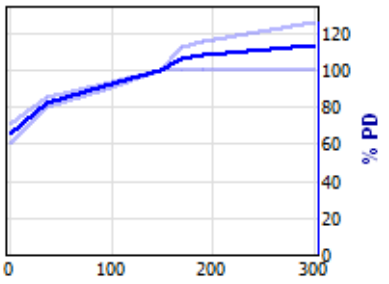
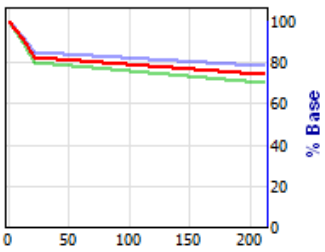
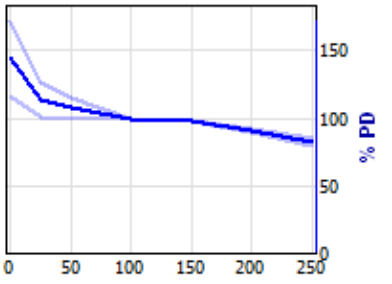
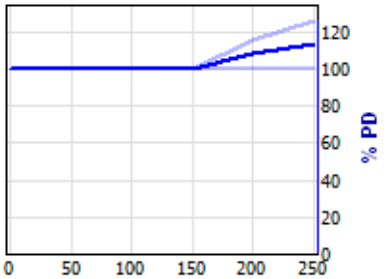
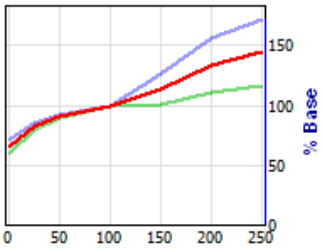
% Filamentous Algae	
Response curve	**Explanation**
Nutrient concentration (DRY Season) [D season] Desc | %PD | Y1 | Y2 Min | 0.000 | -2.000 Min Base | 25.000 | -1.000 | 50.000 | -0.500 Median | 100.000 | 0.000 | 150.000 | 1.000 Max Base | 200.000 | 1.750 Max | 250.000 | 2.000 	An increase in nutrients will favor algal growth (Larned *et al*. 2004; Larned 2010). A reduction in nutrients will reduce the abundance of green algae.

Exhibit 18.60: Chl a Biomass

Chl a Biomass	
Response curve	**Explanation**
Dry duration [D season] Desc | days | Y Min | 0.00 | -2.00 MinPD | 36.00 | -1.00 | 92.50 | -0.50 Median | 149.00 | 0.00 | 169.00 | 0.25 Max PD | 189.00 | 0.50 Max | 300.00 | 1.00 	Because of cold conditions, Chl a will increase only to a point with low flows. After that, it will maintain a constant biomass.
DRY Daily range in Q [D season] Desc | m3/s | Y1 | Y2 Min | 0.000 | 0.000 Min Base | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 Median | 0.000 | 0.000 | 10.700 | -0.500 Max Base | 21.400 | -1.000 Max | 211.300 | -1.500 	Chl a would normally be expected to increase with a long dry season because temperature would be optimal and nutrients are not limiting. However, a considerable portion of the river bed is currently sandy and thus relatively mobile which means that algal build-up would be limited by the fluctuation in flows.
Suspended sediment load [F season] Desc | % PD | Y Min | 0.00 | 2.00 MinPD | 25.00 | 1.00 | 50.00 | 0.50 Median | 100.00 | 0.00 | 150.00 | -0.10 Max PD | 200.00 | -0.50 Max | 250.00 | -1.00 	Suspended sediments affect light penetration, which the algae need for growth. Lower loads mean more light and more algae.

Chl a Biomass	
Response curve	**Explanation**
Median bed sediment size (armouring) [F season] Desc / % PD / Y Min 0.00 0.00 MinPD 25.00 0.00 50.00 0.00 Median 100.00 0.00 150.00 0.00 Max PD 200.00 0.50 Max 250.00 1.00 	The more stable (armoured) the bed, the greater the flows necessary to remove algae.
Nutrient concentration (DRY Season) [D season] Desc / %PD / Y1 / Y2 Min 0.000 -2.000 Min Base 25.000 -1.000 50.000 -0.500 Median 100.000 0.000 150.000 1.000 Max Base 200.000 1.750 Max 250.000 2.000 	Assuming that the pollutants are dominated by nutrients, as their concentrations decline, then so will algal productivity (Chl a).

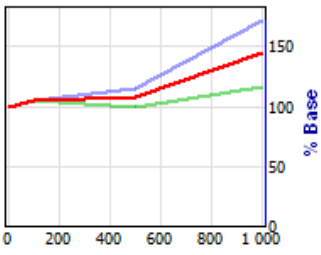
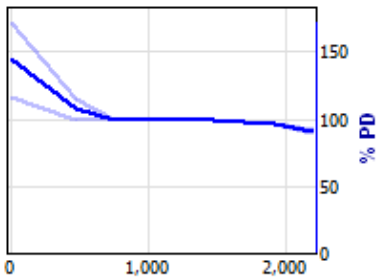
D.4 Riparian Vegetation Response-curve Explanations

583. The explanations of the Response Curves are tabulated as follows.

Exhibit 18.61: Width of Marginal Zone

Exhibit 18.62: Recruitment of Marginal Zone Vegetation

Exhibit 18.61: Width of Marginal Zone

Marginal Vegetation	
Response curve	**Explanation**
DRY Daily range in Q [D season] Desc / m3/s / Y1 / Y2 Min 0.000 0.000 Min Base 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 Median 0.000 0.000 100.000 0.200 Max Base 500.000 0.500 Max 1000.000 2.000 	Fluctuating water levels will increase the width of the marginal zone. Frequent wetting favors growth (Parson *et al.* 2005).
Max 5d flood season Q [F season] Desc / m3/s / Y Min 0.00 2.00 MinPD 472.01 0.50 756.07 0.00 Median 1040.13 0.00 1482.68 0.00 Max PD 1925.23 -0.20 Max 2200.00 -0.50 	Large floods may clear adults and smaller floods may clear saplings; both contribute towards the creation of riparian vegetation nursery sites that promote recruitment.

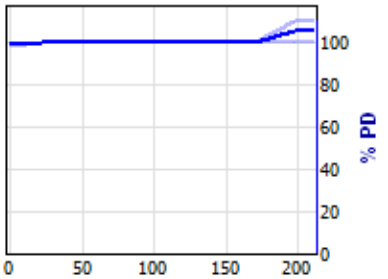
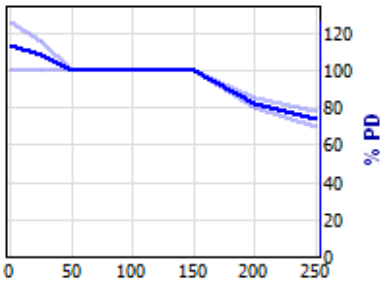
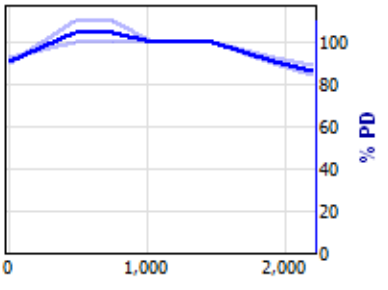
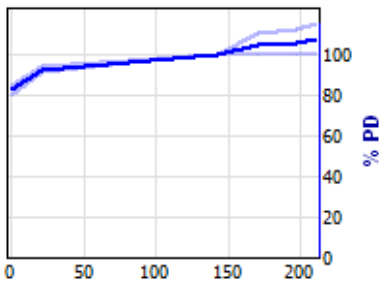
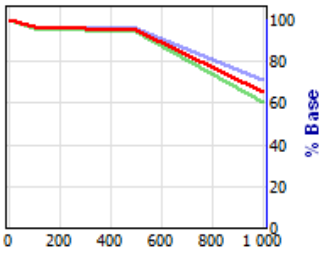
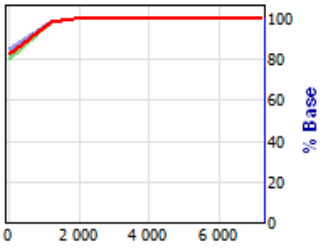
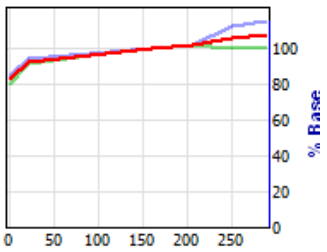
Marginal Vegetation	
Response curve	**Explanation**
Wet season duration [F season] Desc / days / Y Min 0.00 -0.10 MinPD 21.00 0.00 81.50 0.00 Median 142.00 0.00 169.50 0.00 Max PD 197.00 0.01 Max 210.00 0.02 	Increased water availability favors the growth of saplings and adults, a few saplings may perish during extreme drought but adults should persist.
Active channel width [D season] Desc / % PD / Y Min 0.00 1.00 MinPD 25.00 0.50 50.00 0.00 Median 100.00 0.00 150.00 0.00 Max PD 200.00 -1.00 Max 250.00 -1.50 	Active channel narrowing increases the marginal surface area available over the old active channel bed for colonization of vegetation. Active channel widening decreases the colonizable surface due to bank steepening IF channel widening results in near vertical banks that 'eat' outwards.

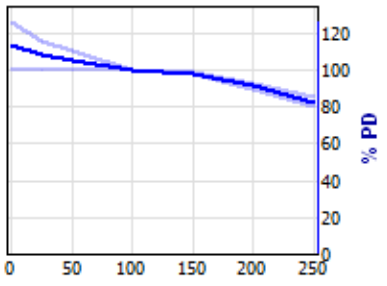
Exhibit 18.62: Recruitment of Marginal Zone Vegetation

Recruitment of Marginal Zone Vegetation	
Response curve	**Explanation**
Max 5d flood season Q [F season] Desc / m3/s / Y Min 0.00 -0.50 MinPD 472.01 0.10 756.07 0.10 Median 1040.13 0.00 1482.68 0.00 Max PD 1925.23 -0.50 Max 2200.00 -0.75 	Reduced water availability decreases the abundance of seedling establishment.
Wet season duration [F season] Desc / days / Y Min 0.00 -1.00 MinPD 21.00 -0.40 81.50 -0.20 Median 142.00 0.00 169.50 0.10 Max PD 197.00 0.30 Max 210.00 0.50 	Increased duration of the wet seasons favors seedling establishment and growth and also increases opportunities for seed dispersal.

<table>
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<tr><th>Response curve</th><th>Explanation</th></tr>
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DRY Daily range in Q [D season]
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<tr><td>Min Base</td><td>0.000</td><td>0.000</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>0.000</td><td>0.000</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Median</td><td>0.000</td><td>0.000</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>100.000</td><td>-0.200</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Max Base</td><td>500.000</td><td>-0.300</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Max</td><td>1000.000</td><td>-2.000</td><td></td></tr>
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</td><td>Large fluctuations in daily discharge will disrupt the recruitment of marginal vegetation.</td></tr>
<tr><td>
Max 5d flood season Q [F season]
<table>
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<tr><td>Min Base</td><td>1210.400</td><td>-0.100</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>1803.980</td><td>0.000</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Median</td><td>2397.560</td><td>0.000</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>4323.780</td><td>0.000</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Max Base</td><td>6250.000</td><td>0.000</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Max</td><td>7187.500</td><td>0.000</td><td></td></tr>
</table>


</td><td>Reduced water availability decreases the abundance of seedling establishment.</td></tr>
<tr><td>
Wet season duration [F season]
<table>
<tr><th>Desc</th><th>days</th><th>Y1</th><th>Y2</th></tr>
<tr><td>Min</td><td>0.000</td><td>-1.000</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Min Base</td><td>22.000</td><td>-0.400</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>90.500</td><td>-0.200</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Median</td><td>159.000</td><td>0.000</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>205.000</td><td>0.100</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Max Base</td><td>251.000</td><td>0.300</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Max</td><td>288.650</td><td>0.500</td><td></td></tr>
</table>


</td><td>Increased duration of the wet seasons favors seedling establishment and growth and also increases opportunities for seed dispersal.</td></tr>
<tr><td>
Active channel width [D season]
<table>
<tr><th>Desc</th><th>% PD</th><th>Y</th></tr>
<tr><td>Min</td><td>0.00</td><td>1.00</td></tr>
<tr><td>MinPD</td><td>25.00</td><td>0.50</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>50.00</td><td>0.10</td></tr>
<tr><td>Median</td><td>100.00</td><td>0.00</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>150.00</td><td>-0.10</td></tr>
<tr><td>Max PD</td><td>200.00</td><td>-0.50</td></tr>
<tr><td>Max</td><td>250.00</td><td>-1.00</td></tr>
</table>


</td><td>Active channel narrowing increases the marginal surface area available over the old active channel bed for colonization by vegetation. Active channel widening decreases the colonizable surface due to bank steepening IF channel widening results in near vertical banks that erode outwards.</td></tr>
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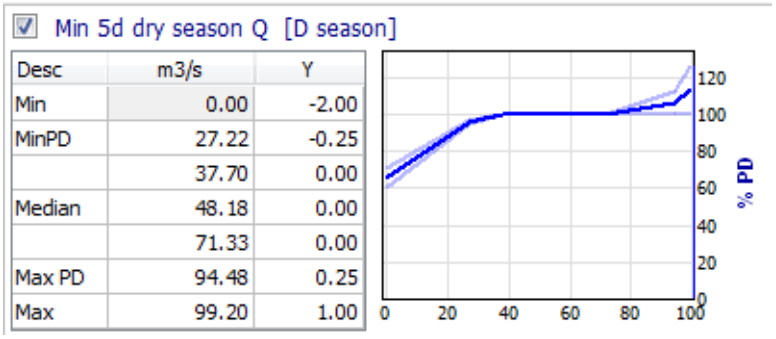
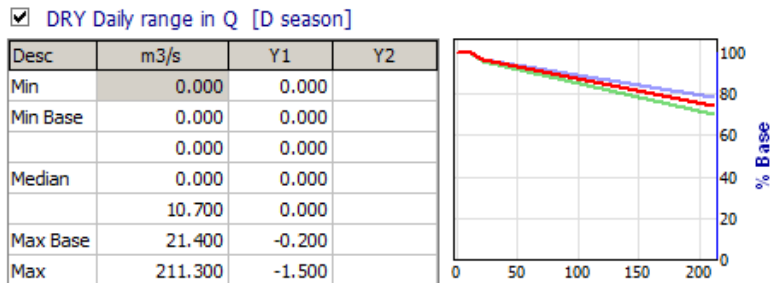
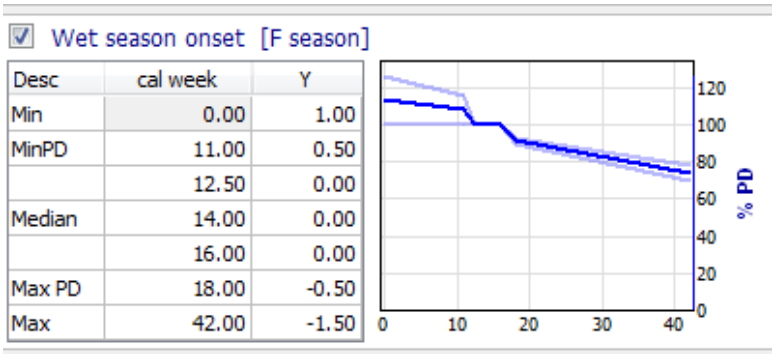
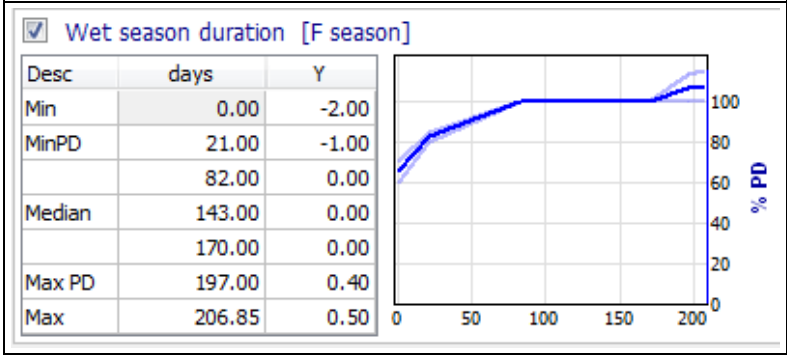
D.5 Macroinvertebrate Response-curve Explanations

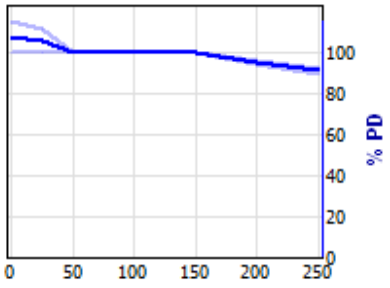
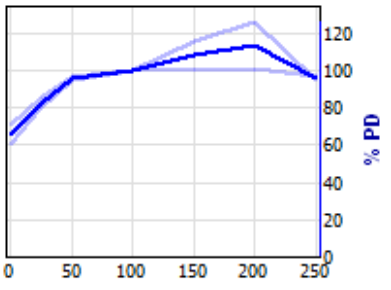
584. The explanations of the Response Curves are tabulated as follows.

Exhibit 18.63: EPT Abundance

Exhibit 18.64: EPT Diversity

Exhibit 18.63: EPT Abundance

EPT Abundance	
Response curve	**Explanation**
	With less discharge, there will be less wetted area and so less macroinvertebrate habitat and an expected decrease in abundance of EPT invertebrates. This would become more pronounced at very low flows as the river shrinks across its bed. In years with low flows above the median, habitat availability will improve so abundance should increase.
	Aquatic invertebrates have life histories that are adapted to wide variations in seasonal flows, but populations are likely to drop slightly if the low-flow period is too long. A longer period of low flows is also likely to increase the risks of mortality as a result of high water temperature once the seasons change.
	The physical disturbance associated with fluctuating water levels and velocities will negatively affect EPT abundance.
	A delayed onset of the flood season could affect cues for various stages of the insect's life cycles, perhaps delaying the emergence of the adults, mating, and laying eggs (Suren and Jowett, 2006).
	The normal length of the wet season provides time for eggs to be laid, and the aquatic nymphs/larvae to mature and emerge as adults (Bispo *et al*. 2006). Slightly longer wet seasons may enhance the success of slow-maturing individuals. The absence of a wet period will not provide the cues needed for

EPT Abundance	
Response curve	**Explanation**
	the hatching of eggs (Cobb *et al*. 1992; De Jalon *et al*. 1994).
☑ Suspended sediment load [F season] Desc / % PD / Y Min 0.00 0.50 MinPD 25.00 0.25 50.00 0.00 Median 100.00 0.00 150.00 0.00 Max PD 200.00 -0.25 Max 250.00 -0.50 	A reduction in the mean sediments suspended in the water column, and thus in turbidity, in the warm summer season could increase the primary production of aquatic plants. This would provide more food for invertebrates (Huggins *et al*. 2007; and many others). A concomitant drop in suspended sand will also reduce abrasion, and thus favor higher populations of invertebrates.
☑ Median bed sediment size (armouring) [All seasons] Desc / % PD / Y Min 0.00 -2.00 MinPD 25.00 -1.00 50.00 -0.25 Median 100.00 0.00 150.00 0.50 Max PD 200.00 1.00 Max 250.00 -0.25 	Macroinvertebrates have a positive relationship with large substrate sizes, including gravel and cobbles. In particular, cobbles form the ideal habitat for macroinvertebrates, especially the EPT (Matthaei *et al*. 2000). The invertebrates mainly favor areas with gravel and cobbles, which provide habitat for breeding and growth - it avoid areas of fine sediments (Nikora *et al.* 1998). Armouring of the river bed would increase the productivity of EPT while fine sediment in the bed would reduce the area available for breeding, growth, and development by choking the interstitial spaces of the sediment which form the micro-habitat for macro-invertebrates like EPT (Quinn *et al*, 1992). Fine sediments are difficult habitats to survive on as they provide little to attach to. The EPT species thrive on river beds with coarser substrata as they can hold positions in strong flows and find some hydraulic cover behind cobbles and boulders. If these bed elements become scarcer due to further armouring, they decline in abundance due to a lack of hydraulic cover (Berry *et al*. 2003).

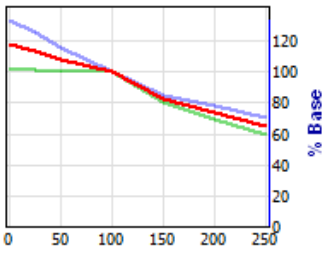
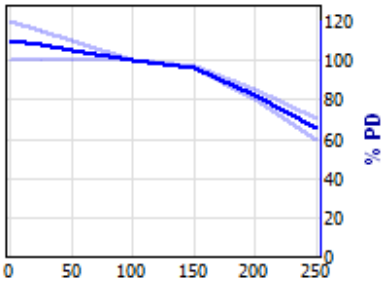
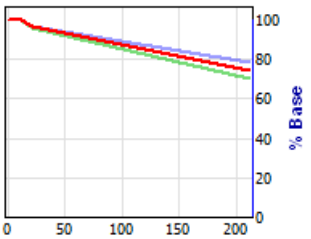
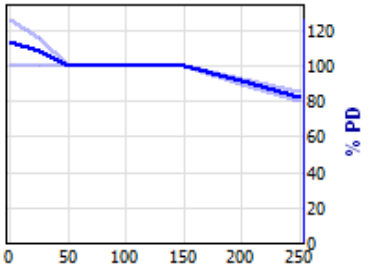
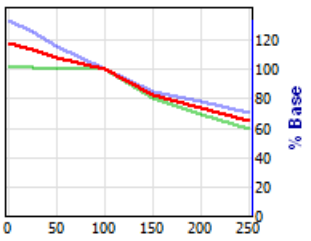
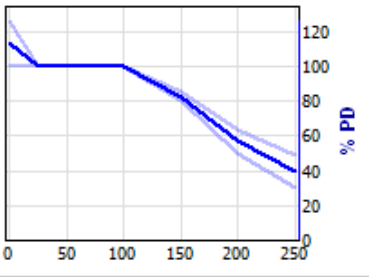
EPT Abundance	
Response curve	**Explanation**
☑ Nutrient concentration (DRY Season) [D season] Desc | %PD | Y1 | Y2 Min | 0.000 | 1.250 Min Base | 25.000 | 1.000 | 50.000 | 0.500 Median | 100.000 | 0.000 | 150.000 | -1.000 Max Base | 200.000 | -1.500 Max | 250.000 | -2.000 	Although most EPT taxa are sensitive to pollution, some taxa, such as baetids and hydropsychids, can tolerate an increase in pollutant concentrations and may even increase in abundance as more sensitive EPT taxa are lost. Therefore the balance of a loss of some EPT taxa and an increase in the abundance of the hardier taxa will result in a zero change in abundance with a moderate increase in pollution. But as pollution increases further, there will be some loss of even these less sensitive and other taxa such as chironomids eventually out-complete them
☑ % Filamentous taxa [D season] Desc | % PD | Y Min | 0.00 | 0.75 MinPD | 25.00 | 0.50 | 50.00 | 0.05 Median | 100.00 | 0.00 | 150.00 | -0.20 Max PD | 200.00 | -1.00 Max | 250.00 | -2.00 	Many of the EPT taxa are sensitive to a reduction in habitat quality. As the % of filamentous algal taxa increases, so habitat quality decreases and more hardy taxa such as chironomids proliferate resulting in a lower EPT. However, the reduction is not so severe because currently there is the very low abundance of filamentous taxa at this site (Site 1).

Exhibit 18.64: EPT Diversity

<table>
<tr><th colspan="2">EPT Diversity</th></tr>
<tr><th>Response Curve</th><th>Explanation</th></tr>
<tr><td>
DRY Daily range in Q [D season]
<table>
<tr><th>Desc</th><th>m3/s</th><th>Y1</th><th>Y2</th></tr>
<tr><td>Min</td><td>0.000</td><td>0.000</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Min Base</td><td>0.000</td><td>0.000</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>0.000</td><td>0.000</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Median</td><td>0.000</td><td>0.000</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>10.700</td><td>0.000</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Max Base</td><td>21.400</td><td>-0.200</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Max</td><td>211.300</td><td>-1.500</td><td></td></tr>
</table>


</td><td>The physical disturbance associated with fluctuating water levels and velocities will negatively affect EPT abundance.</td></tr>
<tr><td>
Suspended sediment load [F season]
<table>
<tr><th>Desc</th><th>% PD</th><th>Y</th></tr>
<tr><td>Min</td><td>0.00</td><td>1.00</td></tr>
<tr><td>MinPD</td><td>25.00</td><td>0.50</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>50.00</td><td>0.00</td></tr>
<tr><td>Median</td><td>100.00</td><td>0.00</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>150.00</td><td>0.00</td></tr>
<tr><td>Max PD</td><td>200.00</td><td>-0.50</td></tr>
<tr><td>Max</td><td>250.00</td><td>-1.00</td></tr>
</table>


</td><td>Reduced turbidity will increase light penetration and improve primary production. This should enhance EPT diversity.</td></tr>
<tr><td>
Nutrient concentration (DRY Season) [D season]
<table>
<tr><th>Desc</th><th>%PD</th><th>Y1</th><th>Y2</th></tr>
<tr><td>Min</td><td>0.000</td><td>1.250</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Min Base</td><td>25.000</td><td>1.000</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>50.000</td><td>0.500</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Median</td><td>100.000</td><td>0.000</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>150.000</td><td>-1.000</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Max Base</td><td>200.000</td><td>-1.500</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Max</td><td>250.000</td><td>-2.000</td><td></td></tr>
</table>


</td><td>11 of the 15 EPT taxa found at Site 1 are sensitive to pollution and therefore, doubling the concentration of sewerage is likely to result is about a 70-80% reduction in the diversity of EPT taxa.</td></tr>
<tr><td>
% Filamentous taxa [D season]
<table>
<tr><th>Desc</th><th>% PD</th><th>Y</th></tr>
<tr><td>Min</td><td>0.00</td><td>1.00</td></tr>
<tr><td>MinPD</td><td>25.00</td><td>0.00</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>50.00</td><td>0.00</td></tr>
<tr><td>Median</td><td>100.00</td><td>0.00</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>150.00</td><td>-1.00</td></tr>
<tr><td>Max PD</td><td>200.00</td><td>-2.50</td></tr>
<tr><td>Max</td><td>250.00</td><td>-3.50</td></tr>
</table>


</td><td>An increase in the filamentous algal taxa would result in a loss of taxa that are sensitive to habitat availability.</td></tr>
</table>

D.6 Fish Response-curve Explanations

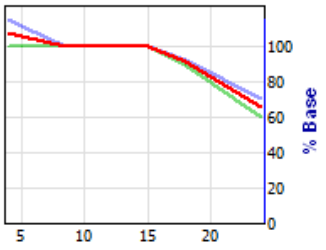
585. The explanations of the Response Curves are tabulated as follows.

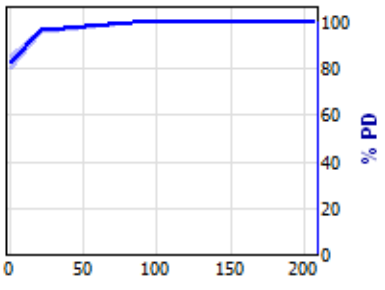
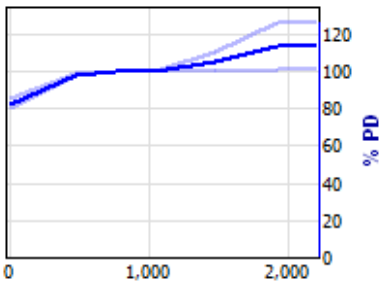
Exhibit 18.65: Alwan Snow Trout

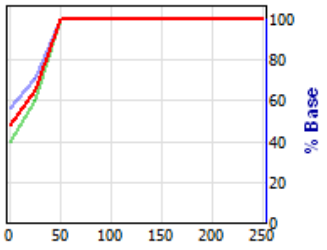
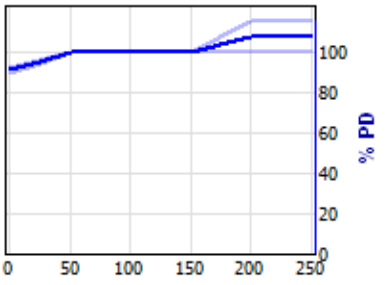
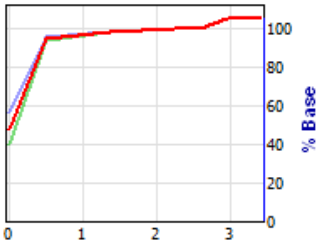
Exhibit 18.66: Kashmir Hillstream Loach

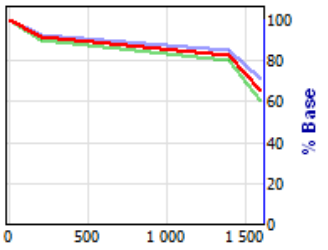
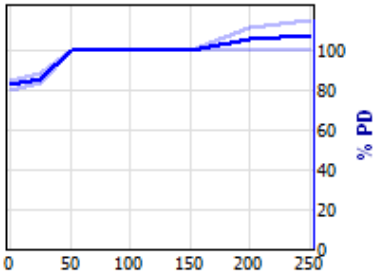
Exhibit 18.67: Nalbant's Loach

Exhibit 18.65: Alwan Snow Trout

Alwan Snow Trout	
Response curve	**Explanation**
☑ Wet season onset [F season] Desc / cal week / Y1 / Y2 Min 4.000 0.500 Min Base 5.000 0.250 8.500 0.000 Median 12.000 0.000 15.000 0.000 Max Base 18.000 -0.500 Max 24.000 -2.000 	The Alwan Snow Trout breeds during the summer season from May to August (Negi 1994). By this time of the year, the fish eggs reach their final stage of maturity provided there is sufficient food for proper development of eggs. Once the eggs reach their final stage of maturity, the fish can spawn under various triggers such as snowmelt, rise in water temperature, comparatively higher turbidity level, swelling of rivers, creation of side channels, etc. These triggers are mainly linked with the monsoon rains and snowmelt in the upper reaches of the Himalayan rivers (Rafique and Qureshi 1997). These triggers for successful spawning need to coincide with the maturity of eggs in the ovary of fish. An early onset of the flood season (a month before the median) is predicted to lead to increased availability of food for the fish early in the season, which allows proper development of eggs and improved breeding. Delayed onset of the flood season is predicted to fail fish with mature eggs to spawn if they miss the necessary triggers for breeding. Eggs could perish within the fish and be reabsorbed. Much reduced volumes in the flood season would mean that breeding habitats in the side channels are not replenished and are not available for breeding.

Alwan Snow Trout	
Response curve	**Explanation**
Wet season duration [F season] Desc / days / Y Min 0.00 -1.00 MinPD 21.00 -0.20 82.00 0.00 Median 143.00 0.00 170.00 0.00 Max PD 197.00 0.00 Max 206.85 0.00 	The flood season must be long enough for spawning and hatching to occur and for fry to grow. In very long or short flood seasons, the maturity of eggs in both early and late spawning fish would not coincide with spawning cues (Sunder 1997). In years when the flood season is shorter than normal, there is likely to be an adverse impact on the fish, similar to that for delayed onset of flood season, as the maturity of eggs in the fish would not coincide with the spawning cues resulting in reduced breeding success. Abnormally short flood seasons could result in a complete failure of the breeding season. A longer flood season in a particular year is predicted to enhance the survival rate for the fry and fingerlings due to higher temperatures and better availability of food.
Max 5d flood season Q [F season] Desc / m3/s / Y Min 0.00 -1.00 MinPD 472.01 -0.10 756.07 0.00 Median 1040.13 0.00 1482.68 0.10 Max PD 1925.23 1.00 Max 2200.00 1.00 	Higher flows in flood season flush the habitat, removing debris, silt, and sediments. Flood peaks scour pools, which are overwintering and feeding habitat for the fish (Reiser *et al*. 1987). In years when there are lower peak flows in the flood season there is likely to be a reduction in breeding habitat, which would negatively impact breeding success (McKinney *et al.* 1999), although this is minor. With a reduction in wet peaks, pools would become shallower. Reduced flood season flows would also affect spawning success and water temperatures (through less buffering of higher temperatures). In years when there are higher peak flows, as long as they remain within natural limits, the habitat and productivity are maintained

Alwan Snow Trout	
Response curve	**Explanation**
	resulting in higher survival rates for fish fry and fingerlings.
☑ Water temperature [F season] Desc %PD Y1 Y2 Min 0.000 -3.000 Min Base 25.000 -2.000 50.000 0.000 Median 100.000 0.000 150.000 0.000 Max Base 200.000 0.000 Max 250.000 0.000 	Alwan Snow Trout are sensitive to very cold temperatures and will tend to migrate away from these areas. Very cold temperatures also reduce the chances of breeding and breeding success. There is however some evidence that the fish can adapt morphologically to lower temperatures (Rajput *et al*. 2013), with fish in low-temperature areas being smaller and more cylindrical.
☑ EPT abundance [F season] Desc % Baseline Y Min 0.00 -0.50 MinPD 25.00 -0.25 50.00 0.00 Median 100.00 0.00 150.00 0.00 Max PD 200.00 0.50 Max 250.00 0.50 	Alwan Snow Trout are omnivorous and feed on benthic plants and aquatic invertebrates (mainly EPT; Raina and Petr 1999). *They are opportunist feeders and their dependence on invertebrates varies depending on the season and stage of maturity.* In years with low EPT productivity, the fish would have less invertebrate food and the population would be compromised (Jhingran 1991). In years with high EPT productivity, all age classes of fish would have better growth and fattening for overwintering and a high fecundity rate, which would lead to overall higher numbers.
☑ Min 5d dry season Hydraulic habitat [D season] Desc m Y1 Y2 Min 0.000 -3.000 Min Base 0.500 -0.300 1.362 -0.100 Median 2.224 0.000 2.591 0.000 Max Base 2.958 0.200 Max 3.401 0.200 	These fish are adapted to low temperatures and overwinter in pools and rock crevices in the main river rather than migrating to side streams.

Alwan Snow Trout	
Response curve	**Explanation**
DRY Daily range in Q [D season] Desc | m3/s | Y1 | Y2 Min | 0.000 | 0.000 Min Base | 0.000 | 0.000 0.000 | 0.000 Median | 0.000 | 0.000 200.000 | -0.500 Max Base | 1400.000 | -1.000 Max | 1600.000 | -2.000 	
Median bed sediment size (armouring) [D season] Desc | % PD | Y Min | 0.00 | -1.00 MinPD | 25.00 | -0.80 50.00 | 0.00 Median | 100.00 | 0.00 150.00 | 0.00 Max PD | 200.00 | 0.20 Max | 250.00 | 0.50 	The fish favor areas with gravel and algae. Gravel beds, free of fine sediment, provide habitat for attached algae and are the feeding and breeding grounds for Alwan Snow Trout. Armouring would increase the availability of food for this fish, while fine sediment in the bed would reduce the area available for algal growth (Talwar and Jhingran 1991; Raina and Petr 1999). With decreasing particle size, there would be a higher chance of embeddedness of the spawning areas. The smaller particles fill the interstitial spaces and make it hard for attached algae to grow on the gravely and cobble bed resulting in productivity of less food for fish and hence result in a considerable decrease in fish population. Accumulation of larger particles in the river bed (armouring) results in a growth of attached algae which is food for the fish. It also becomes the breeding habitat for fish as it prefers the gravelly and cobble beds for breeding. Consequently, the armouring of the bed results in a modest increase in the fish population.

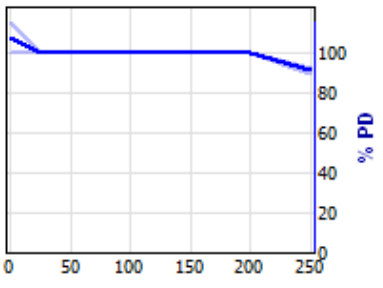
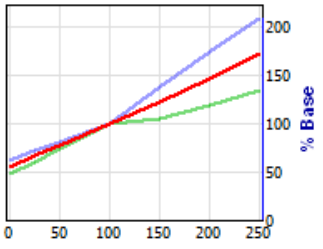
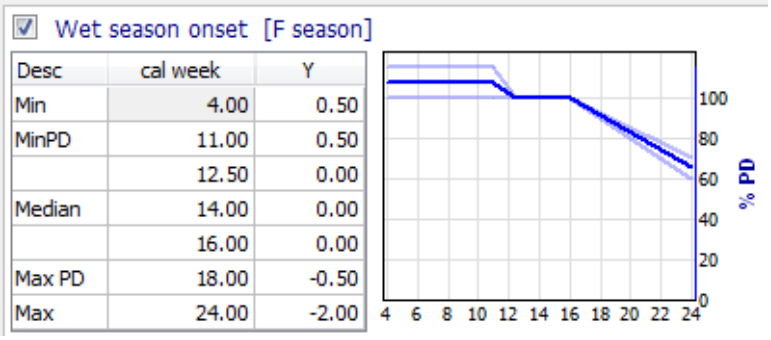
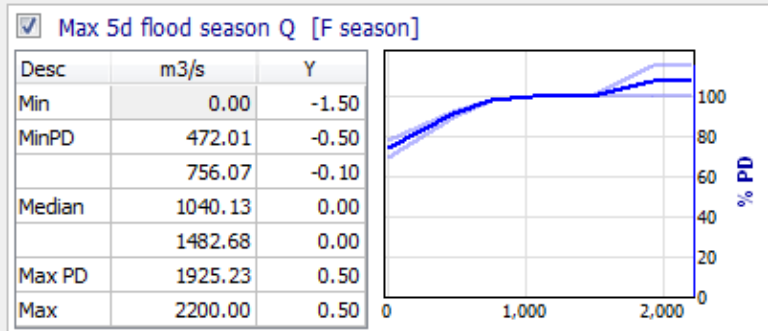
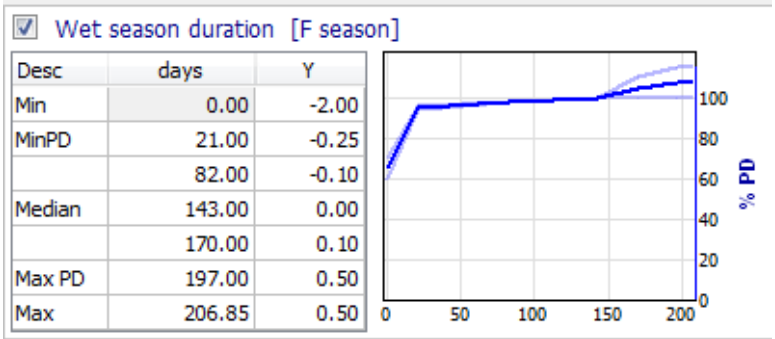
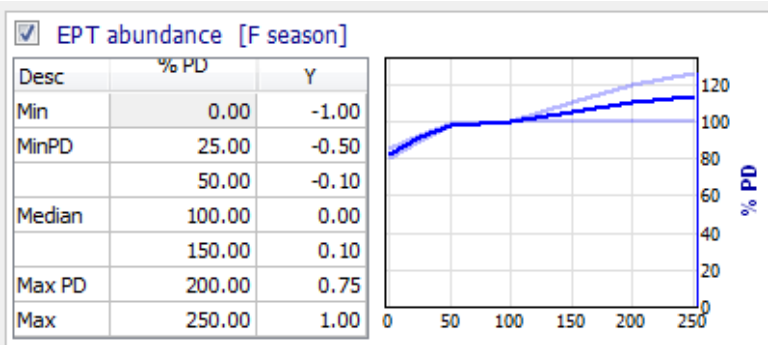
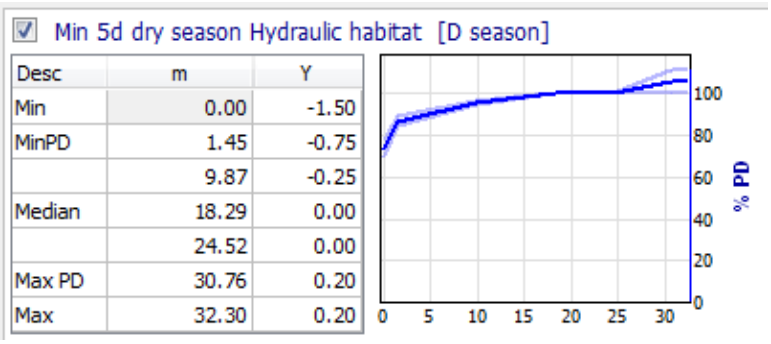
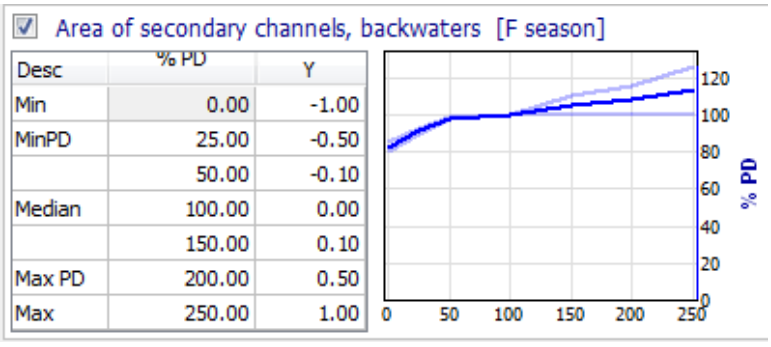
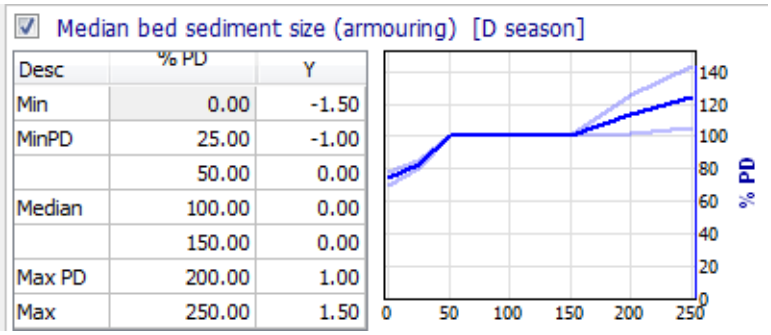
Alwan Snow Trout	
Response curve	**Explanation**
Suspended sediment load [F season] Desc / % PD / Y Min 0.00 0.50 MinPD 25.00 0.00 50.00 0.00 Median 100.00 0.00 150.00 0.00 Max PD 200.00 0.00 Max 250.00 -0.50 	Alwan Snow Trout can cope with high turbidity loads. There are no Brown Trout in this reach, and so reduced turbidity should not present much of a problem - but will affect habitat (see median bed size).
Comp: Alwan Snow Trout [T2 season, Site=Site6] Desc / %Base / Y1 / Y2 Min 0.000 -2.605 Min Base 25.000 -1.954 50.000 -1.303 Median 100.000 0.000 150.000 1.377 Max Base 200.000 2.020 Max 250.000 2.397 	Alwan Snow Trout breeds during May and June in the upper reaches of the Jhelum River even in the areas upstream of the line of control. Breeding potential gradually decreases as we move downstream in the Jhelum River. It breeds in the area of Jhelum River upstream of Kohala Weir (25%), Jhelum River between confluence with Neelum and Kohala Weir (25%), Neelum River between NJHEP and confluence with the Jhelum River (15%), Jhelum River between confluence with Neelum and NJHEP /Kohala tailraces (15%), Kunnar River (15%), and to some extent in the areas Jhelum River between NJHEP /Kohala tailraces and Karot (5%).

Exhibit 18.66: Kashmir Hillstream Loach

Kashmir Hillstream Loach	
Response curve	**Explanation**
	Delayed onset of the wet season means missing spawning cues (May to August).
	Higher flows in flood season flush the habitat by removing debris, silt, and sediments in the river bed. Flood peaks scour pools, which are overwintering and feeding habitat for the fish (Reiser *et al*. 1987). In years when there are lower peak flows in the flood season, there is likely to be a reduction in suitable breeding habitat, which would negatively impact breeding success (McKinney *et a*l. 1999). Reduced flood season would also affect the spawning triggers negatively affecting the breeding process. In years when there are higher peak flows, as long as they remain within natural limits, the habitat and productivity is maintained, resulting in higher survival rates for fish fry and fingerlings. Deeper pools developed by higher flood flows would improve the survival of the fish in the dry season.
	The flood season must be long enough for breeding and for fry to grow. In very long or short flood seasons, the maturity of eggs in both early and late spawning fish would not coincide with spawning cues (Amanov 1985). In years when the flood season is shorter than normal, there is likely to be an adverse impact on the fish similar to that for delayed onset of flood season as the maturity of eggs in the fish would not coincide with the spawning cues, resulting in reduced breeding success. Abnormally

Kashmir Hillstream Loach	
Response curve	**Explanation**
	short flood seasons could result in failure of the breeding season. A longer flood season in a particular year is predicted to enhance the survival rate for the fry and fingerlings due to higher temperatures and better availability of food.
	Kashmir Hillstream Loach are strictly carnivorous and feed on aquatic invertebrates mainly EPT (Hora 1936). *The fish eat only invertebrates irrespective of the season and stage of maturity.* In years with low productivity of EPT, the fish would have less food and the population of fish would be compromised (Jhingran 1991). In years with high EPT productivity, all age classes of fish would have plenty of food, which would promote growth and fattening for overwintering and higher fecundity rates, leading to an overall increase in the population.
	A small-sized cool-water fish inhabiting both turbid and clear water. It survives in the dry season in crevices and under the boulders protected from the main current. Low dry season hydraulic habitat will mean reduced wintering area and restricted fish movement. Some fish will survive in deeper waters with some flow, but they will be under stress.
	Breeds in shallow side pools and channels with cobble beds. Avoids floods and strong flow and moves to slow side channels and spaces between boulders closer to the banks in the flood season.

Kashmir Hillstream Loach	
Response curve	**Explanation**
	The diet of smaller fish (e.g., *Triplophysa stoliczakai*) consists of small aquatic insects that are mainly produced in the interstitial spaces of the boulders and cobbles (Rosgen 1996). The habitat complexity in the form of boulders and cobbles provides refuge from predation, sites for breeding and feeding, and other biotic interactions. Naturally occurring cobble-boulder and gravel substrates are, therefore, considered excellent fish habitats (Byron 1989; Nelson and Franzin 2000). The fish favors areas with gravel and cobbles. The gravely bed provides a habitat for the growth of invertebrate food and is also a feeding ground for fish as it avoids the areas of fine sediments. Armouring would increase the availability of food for this fish, while fine sediment in the river bed would reduce the area available for food productivity and breeding (Talwar and Jhingran 1991; Raina and Petr 1999). With decreasing particle size, the concentration of fine particles increases causing embeddedness of the spawning areas. The smaller particles fill the interstitial spaces and make it hard for the invertebrates to grow on the gravely and cobble bed resulting in the productivity of less food for fish and hence result in a considerable decrease in the fish population. Accumulation of larger particles in the river bed (armouring) results in an increased abundance of invertebrates which is food for the fish. It also improves the breeding habitat for fish as it prefers the gravely and cobble beds for breeding. Consequently, the armouring of the bed results in a modest increase in the fish population.

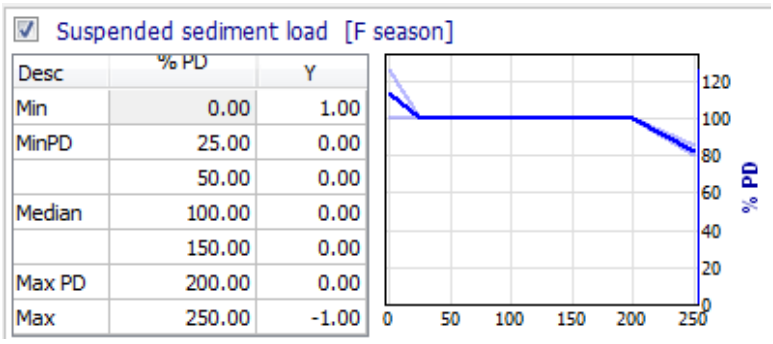
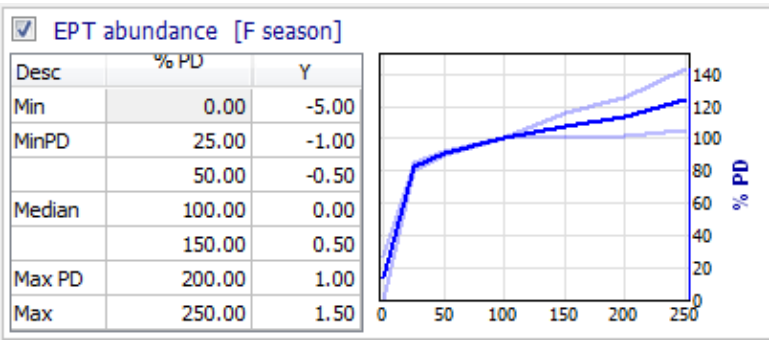
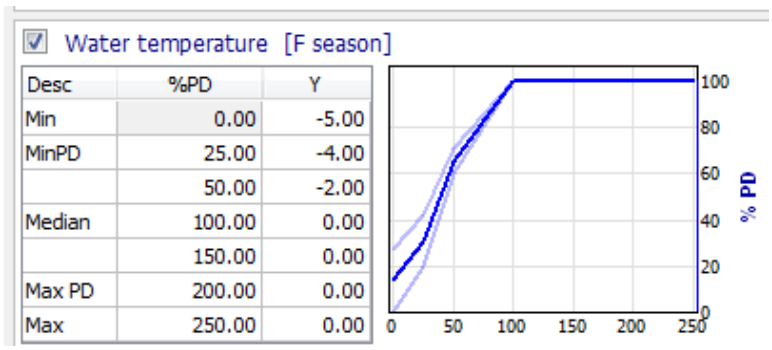
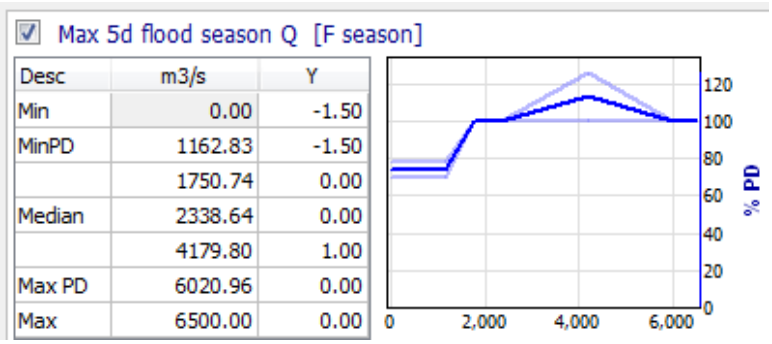
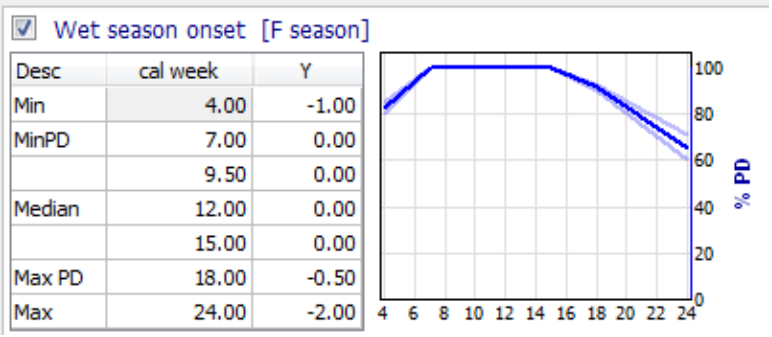
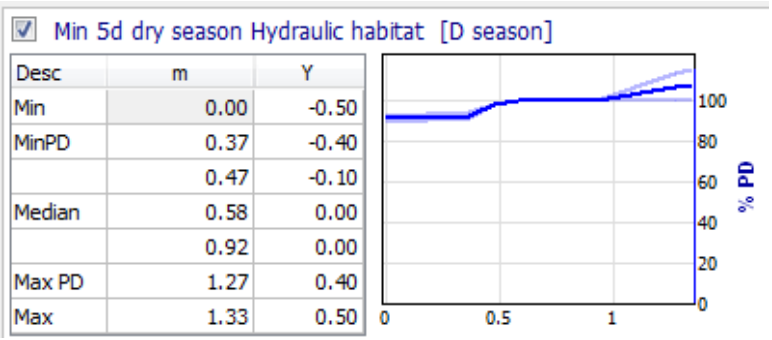
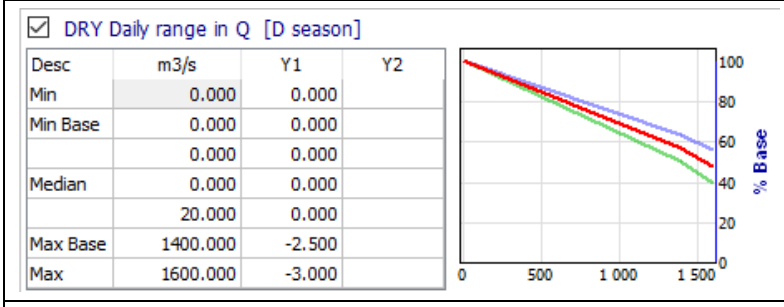
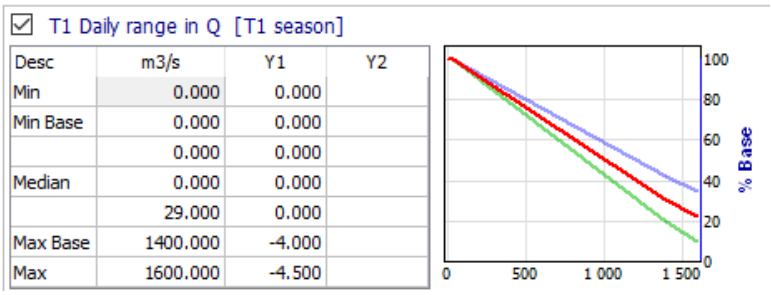
Kashmir Hillstream Loach	
Response curve	**Explanation**
	It is unlikely that KHL will respond much over the range of sediments expected in the baseline. However, if sediments are very low it will improve primary productivity and thus food sources. If they are very high, it will affect productivity (light penetration), and fish conditions, e.g., through clogging gills.

Exhibit 18.67: Nalbant's Loach

Nalbant's Loach	
Response curve	**Explanation**
	Nalbant's Loach feeds on EPT only.
	Nalbant's Loach does not tolerate water that is less than ~15°C.
	Less rejuvenation of the habitat, with lower floods.

Nalbant's Loach	
Response curve	**Explanation**
	If the wet season comes early, fish will be triggered to spawn but the eggs in the ovary will not have reached full maturation for the ovulation stage. So early breeders will be unsuccessful. If the wet season comes very late then the eggs are mature in the ovaries but there are no triggers for spawning. If slightly delayed, food availability is reduced, which may affect egg development.
	Nalbant's Loach breeds in side channels or riffle areas with slow-moving water with some vegetation. This hydraulic habitat matches these sorts of areas.
 	Nalbant's Loach prefers gravel bars on the river edge. Peaking releases may dislodge this fish and remove it from its preferred habitat. This may expose it to increased predation and reduce the abundance that may return to the gravel bars during low flows. Peaking will effectively drastically reduce its available habitat to zero.

APPENDIX.E: BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT ENGLISH

586. The following document called the BID, was prepared to provide an overview of the Balakot Hydropower Development Project (BHDP) or Balakot Hydropower Project (BHPP) among the stakeholders. It was shared with the stakeholders in March–April 2017 and June–July 2018 during consultations carried out for the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) of the Project. Some changes have been made in the Project design since then by the Project design consultants. However, these changes are minor and do not change the environmental and social impacts of the Project outlined in this document.

E.1 Introduction

587. The Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO) intends to construct a 300-megawatt (MW) run-of-river hydropower plant Balakot Hydropower Development Project (BHDP) or Balakot Hydropower Project (BHPP) with related infrastructure at Balakot, Mansehra district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Pakistan. The Project is located on the Kunhar River. The Project will help in meeting the current shortfall and in increasing demand of electricity in the region through economical and sustainable means.

588. The Balakot Hydropower Project was identified in 1995 under the study "Identification of Hydropower Potential in Kaghan Valley" by Sarhad Hydel Development Organization (SHYDO) with the technical collaboration of the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) as a 190 MW HPP. A Feasibility Study of the Project[106] (FS) was released in October 2013, which included an environmental and social impact assessment section. However, as the Project is being financed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), it has contracted the services of Hagler Bailly Pakistan (Pvt.) Ltd. (HBP) to carry out an environmental impact assessment (EIA) of the Project and develop a Land Acquisition and Resettlement Plan (LARP) which meets the standards and guidelines prescribed by ADB, and conforms to the environmental legislation of KP.

589. As part of the EIA process, consultations are undertaken with communities and institutions that may have an interest in the Project or may be affected by the Project (the "Stakeholders") to record their concerns and to address them in the course of project design and preparation of the EIA. The previous EIA effort included consultations with stakeholders. As part of due diligence, consultations are being carried out with community stakeholders, as well as with institutional stakeholders that would like to be re-consulted, and institutional stakeholders that are important and were not previously consulted.

590. For informed consultations with stakeholders, this Background Information Document (BID) has been prepared to provide information on the project design, its setting, EIA process, potential impacts that will be the subject of the Study, and the process to be followed for environmental impact assessment.

[106] Mirza Associates Engineering Services (Pvt.) Ltd. (Lead Consultant), December 2013, Feasibility Study of Balakot Hydropower Project, Volume I Main Report for Pakhtunkhwa Hydel Development Organization

591. The BID is subject to changes as further information on some aspects of the Project becomes available during the course of the EIA.

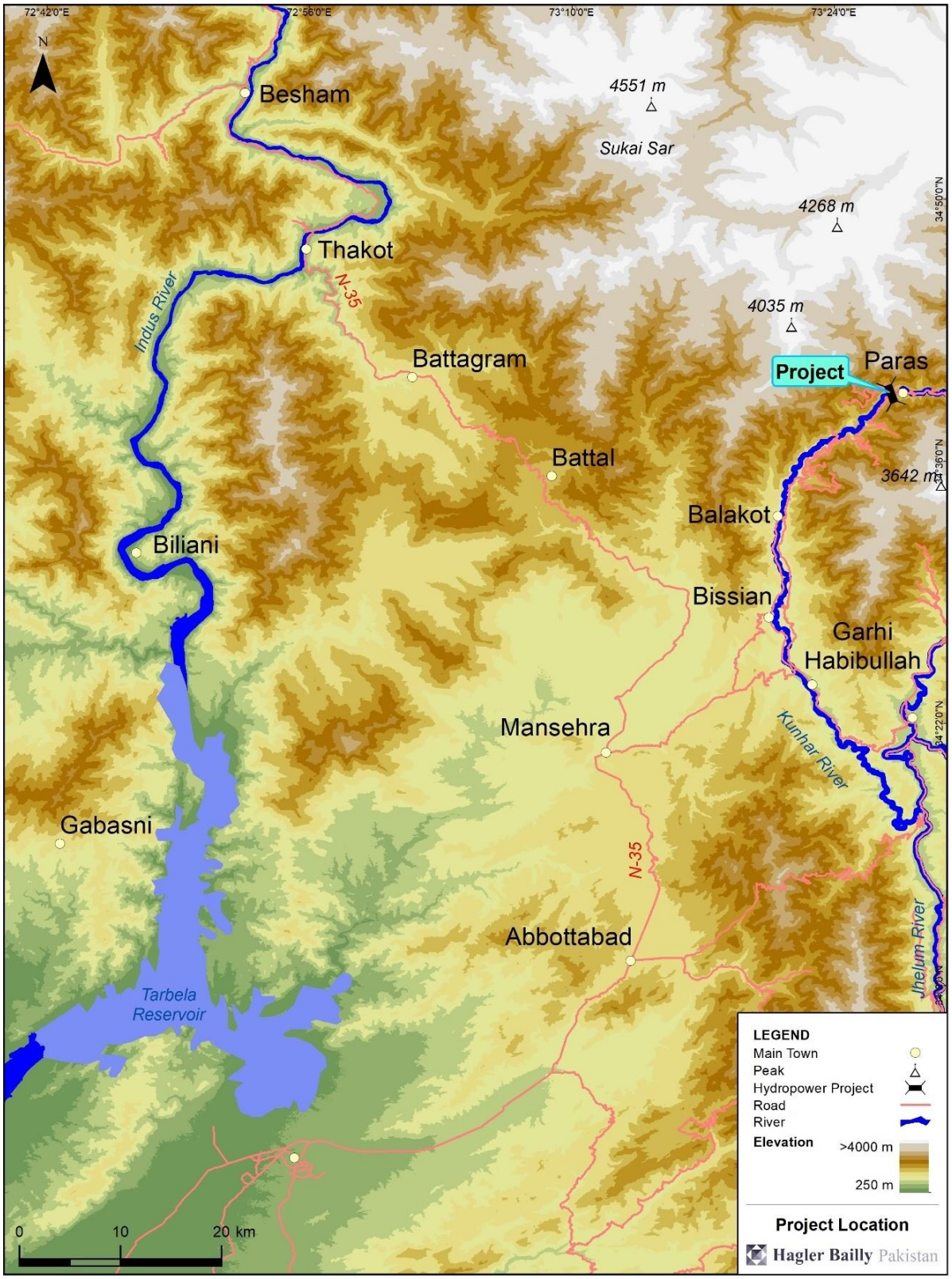
E.2 Project Setting

592. The Project is located on the Kunhar River in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province of Pakistan, in the 12 km stretch from Paras to Sangar Village. The hydel power potential available in the 20 km stretch of the river from Paras to Sangar tributary will be utilized for the Project.

593. A map showing the location of the Project is provided in **Exhibit 18.68**

594. All parts of the Project are located on the left bank of the Kunhar River. The dam site (34° 38’ 59”N, 73° 26’ 19”E) is about 17 km upstream of the town of Balakot. The powerhouse (34° 36’ 14”N, 73° 22’ 50”E) is located 10 km upstream of Balakot, near Kapi Gali Village.

Exhibit 18.68: Project Location



E.3 Project Outline

595. The layout of the Project is provided in **Exhibit 18.69.** The main components of the Project are described briefly in **Exhibit 18.70**.

Exhibit 18.69: Project Layout

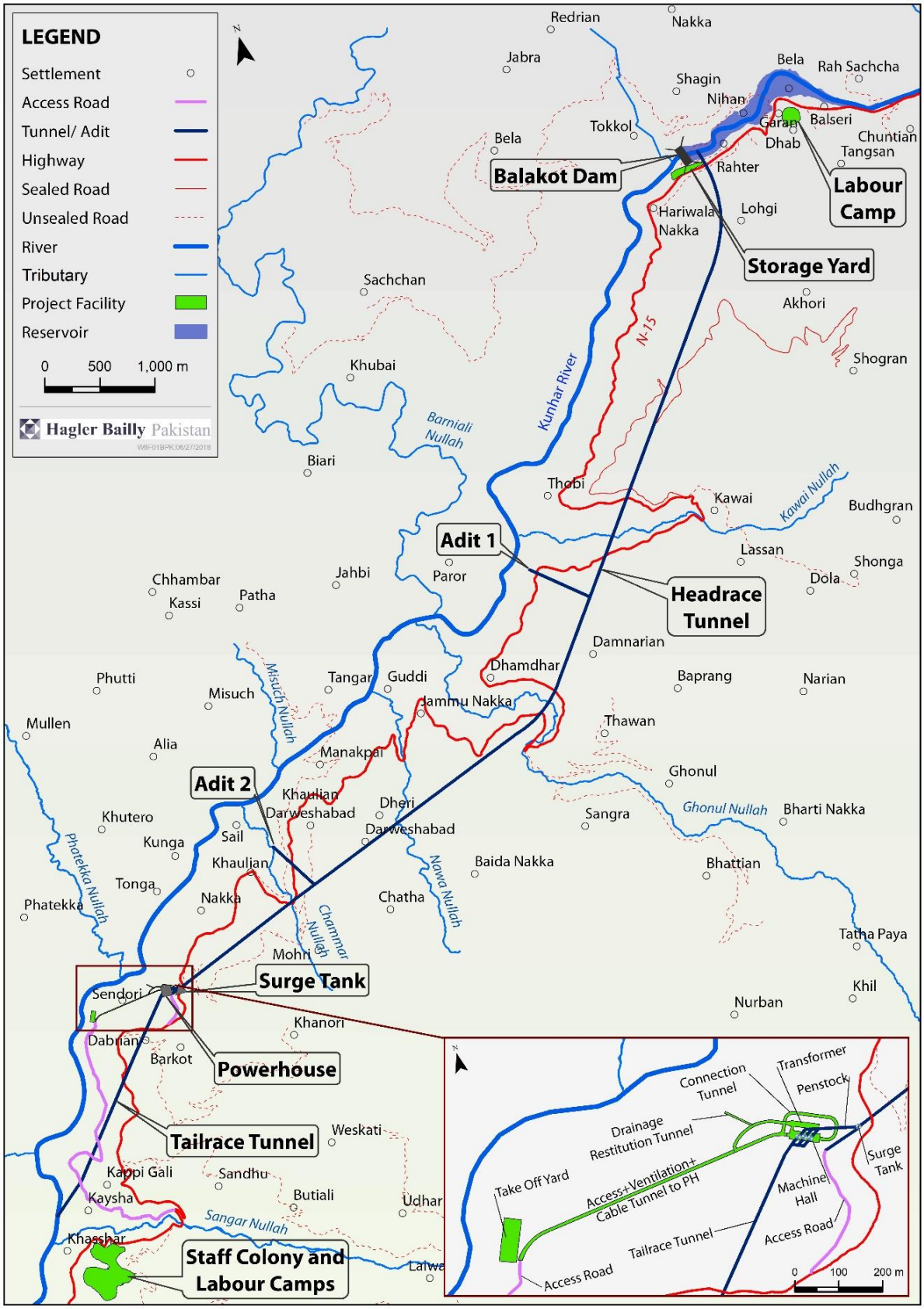


Exhibit 18.70: Description of the Project and Facilities

Main Dam It will be a concrete gravity dam, having a height of 78 m from the river bed, comprising low-level/flushing outlets and a gated spillway. It will be equipped with five hydraulically operated radial gates for flood discharge and are set at the crest level of 1,276 meters above sea level (masl). Three circular bottom outlets of diameter 5 m will be provided near the river bed for sediment flushing.
Lateral power intake structure This will be located on the left bank of river. It will comprise three intakes to take the design discharge. A rectangular 8 m wide by 8 m high control gate equipped with upstream sealing will be provided.
Low-pressure headrace tunnel This will be of length 8,420 m and diameter of 8 m. It will be optimized for considering different diameters for the design discharge
Power Complex An underground power complex has been proposed which will consist of an underground powerhouse cavern, a GIS transformer cavern, a main access tunnel, cable and ventilation tunnel, and an open switchyard. The powerhouse will be 83.2 m long, 16.2 m wide, and 25 m high from the main inlet valve floor to the arch roof crown.
Key Operational Characteristics The maximum and minimum reservoir operating levels will be 1,288 masl and 1,283 masl respectively. The installed capacity will be 300 MW with a mean annual energy output (average 51 years) of 1143 GWh. Sediment flushing will be carried out every year during the summer months when discharge is above 154 cubic meters per second (cumecs). During the low flow periods, the live storage will be used to store water during off-peak hours to improve the flows for power generation in peak hours. It has been estimated that 2.566 million m^3 storage would provide additional flows in four peak hours.
Construction, Requirements, and Waste The total construction period of this Project will be 5 years (60 months). Materials required to carry out the construction of civil works for the project include concrete aggregate, cement, pozzolans, various types of fill materials, construction chemicals, steel products, etc. Deposits for course aggregates have been identified upstream and downstream of the dam site at Mahandri and Paras. Fine aggregate deposits have been established at Paras, Chitta Katha, and Garhi Habibullah. Fine aggregates are being mined in these areas for local use. These sources have a strong potential of being developed into a viable source of fine aggregates. Marble and limestone outcrops are exposed along the road while traveling from the proposed dam site to Naran. These are considered for the development of rock quarries for obtaining course aggregates.

E.4 Approach to the EIA and LARP

596. The EIA will be undertaken in compliance with relevant national legislation and keeping in view ADB requirements. The major components of the study include:

- baseline studies to characterize the existing ecological environment in the project area;
- a public consultation process to ensure that project stakeholders are informed of the project development plan and have an opportunity to influence it;
- an analysis of the physical, ecological, and socioeconomic impacts of the project, both negative and positive; and,
- suggested mitigation measures to address the identified adverse impacts.

597. Separate from the EIA settlement level consultations and surveys, household-level consultations and surveys, of land owners and households, will be carried out in the areas identified for land acquisition by PEDO to develop the Resettlement Action Plan for the Project.

598. A brief overview of the conceptual components of an EIA process is given in **Exhibit 18.71**, whereas the detailed process to be followed for the study of ecological impacts of the Project is provided in **Exhibit 18.72**. A preliminary list of potential environmental and social impacts of the Project and a list of biodiversity issues that will be investigated during the EIA are provided below.

List of potential environmental and social impacts
• Provision of employment to people
• Creation of service-sector jobs, procurement of consumables and outsourcing to local service providers.
• Construction-related impacts such as noise and dust
• Reduction in power outages and revival of the affected economies
• Increase in traffic due to Project related transportation
• Disturbance due to blasting, dust, noise, vibration, road congestion, and safety hazards from heavy traffic
• Damage to infrastructure due to blasting and noise nuisance due to blasting, drilling, and batching plant
• Changes to existing social and cultural norms
• Pressure on existing infrastructure as a result of the influx of job seekers
• Impact on sand mining and gravel extraction
• Contamination of soil
• Transformation of Landscape
• Physical displacement of some households resulting in disruption of existing socioeconomic setup
List of potential biodiversity issues
• Reduction in water quality and quantity
• Changes in the sediment load of river
• Changes in the geomorphology of the river
• Fragmentation of fish habitat
• Damage to natural flora and fauna and river ecosystem
• Impact on endangered and migratory species

599. As impacts on the aquatic ecology due to the project are of importance, HBP, in collaboration with Southern Waters Ecological Research and Consulting, will employ the DRIFT (Downstream Implications of Flow Transformation) Decision Support System (DSS) approach to assess the changes in flow regime of the river on fish and other river dependent wildlife. DRIFT is a holistic approach that employs a multidisciplinary team to analyze the likely effects on a range of flow scenarios and has been tested in Himalayan rivers. The DRIFT Process is shown in **Exhibit 18.73**. it aims to predict changes in the form of three streams of information—ecological, economic,

and social—that represent the three pillars of sustainable development. It incorporates a custom-built Decision Support System (DSS) that holds all the relevant data, understanding, and local wisdom about the river provided by the team of river and social specialists.

600. The four main aims incorporated into the DRIFT process are to:

- Synthesize present relevant knowledge on the river ecosystem;
- Synthesize present relevant knowledge on the use of the river;
- Predict how the river ecosystem could change with water-resource development; and
- Predict how these river changes could affect people and the economy.

Exhibit 18.71: Conceptual framework of EIA Figure

Component	Main purpose	Activities related to Stakeholder Consultations
Scoping	♦ Identify the issues on which the EIA should focus. ♦ Identify project alternatives that should be evaluated during the course of the EIA.	♦ Identify institutional and community stakeholders ♦ Engage stakeholders and record issues raised ♦ Provide feedback to the EIA team to incorporate stakeholders' concerns in baseline investigations and impact assessment
Baseline investigations	♦ Collect background information on the environmental and social setting of the project.	♦ Incorporate additional issues raised during the baseline survey
Impact assessment, studies	♦ Define the potential impacts of the project ♦ Undertake specialist investigations to predict changes to the environment due to the project ♦ Determine the significance of the potential impacts ♦ Identify measures for the management of the impacts ♦ Determine the residual impacts of the project after incorporation of the management measures. ♦ Evaluate the overall acceptability of the project (from environmental and social perspectives).	♦ Assess issues raised by stakeholders

Component	Main purpose	Activities related to Stakeholder Consultations
Mitigation Measures and Management Plan	• Environmental mitigation and monitoring plan will describe the measures proposed to ensure implementation of the mitigation measures identified during the impact assessment. It will include, for example, specific designs and plans, training requirements, resource requirements, monitoring details (sampling locations, methodology, and frequency), review and reporting requirements, and budget.	• Assess the acceptability and practicability of the proposed mitigation measures
EIA Report Preparation	• After the studies, the EIA team will pull together a detailed assessment of impacts and mitigation measures. This may involve liaison with various specialists to ensure correct interpretation of information and compile EIA reports.	• Provide stakeholders with feedback on the EIA specifically communicate how the project proponent proposes to address the issues raised by the stakeholders.
EIA submittal to regulatory authorities and decision-making	• Submittal and review of the EIA report by regulatory authorities and other interested stakeholders. The reviewers will inform about their decision on the acceptability of the Project from environmental and social perspectives and the conditions of approval for the development	• Attend the public hearings and respond to the issues raised during the public hearings.

Exhibit 18.72: Biodiversity Assessment and Management Process Figure

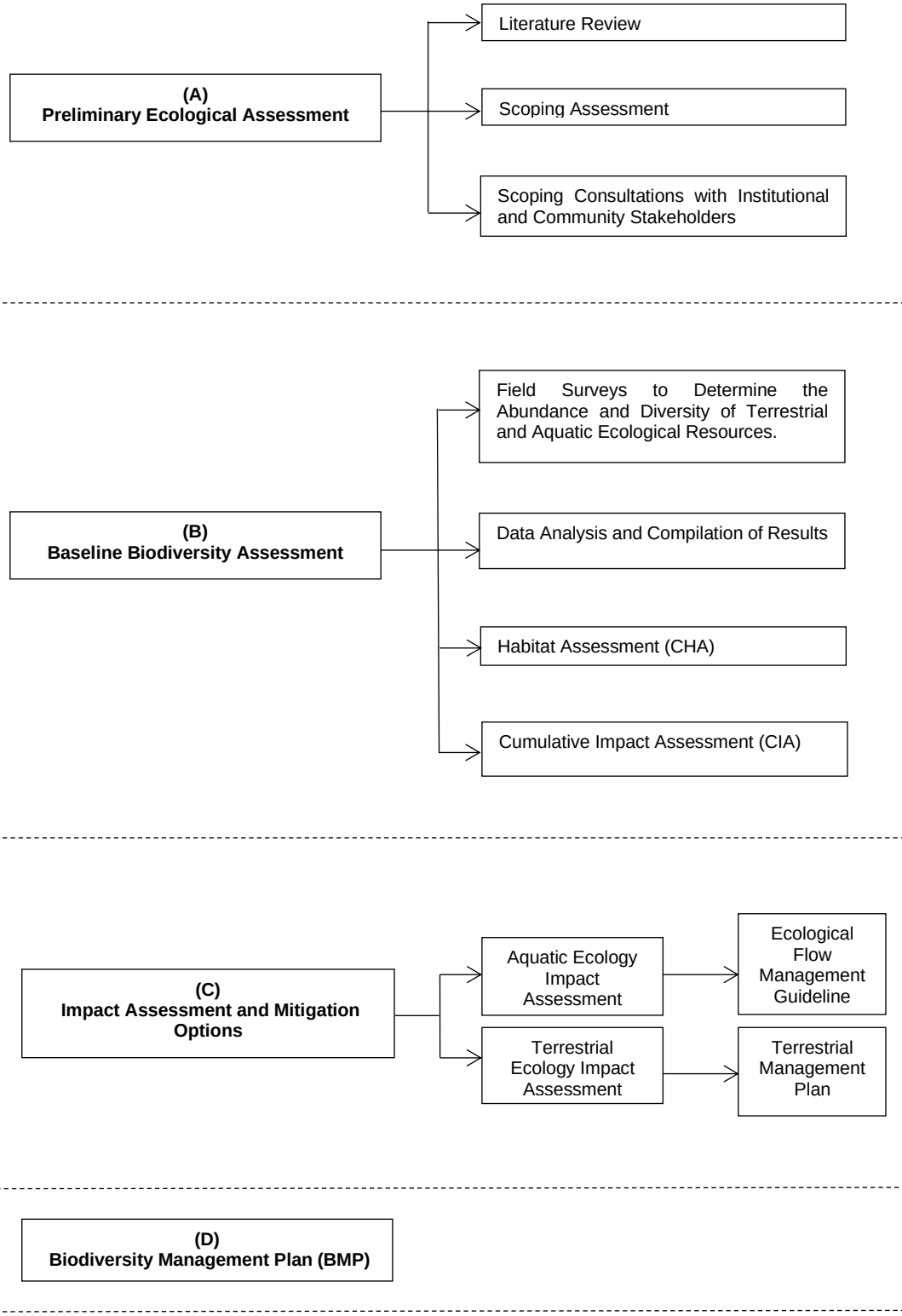
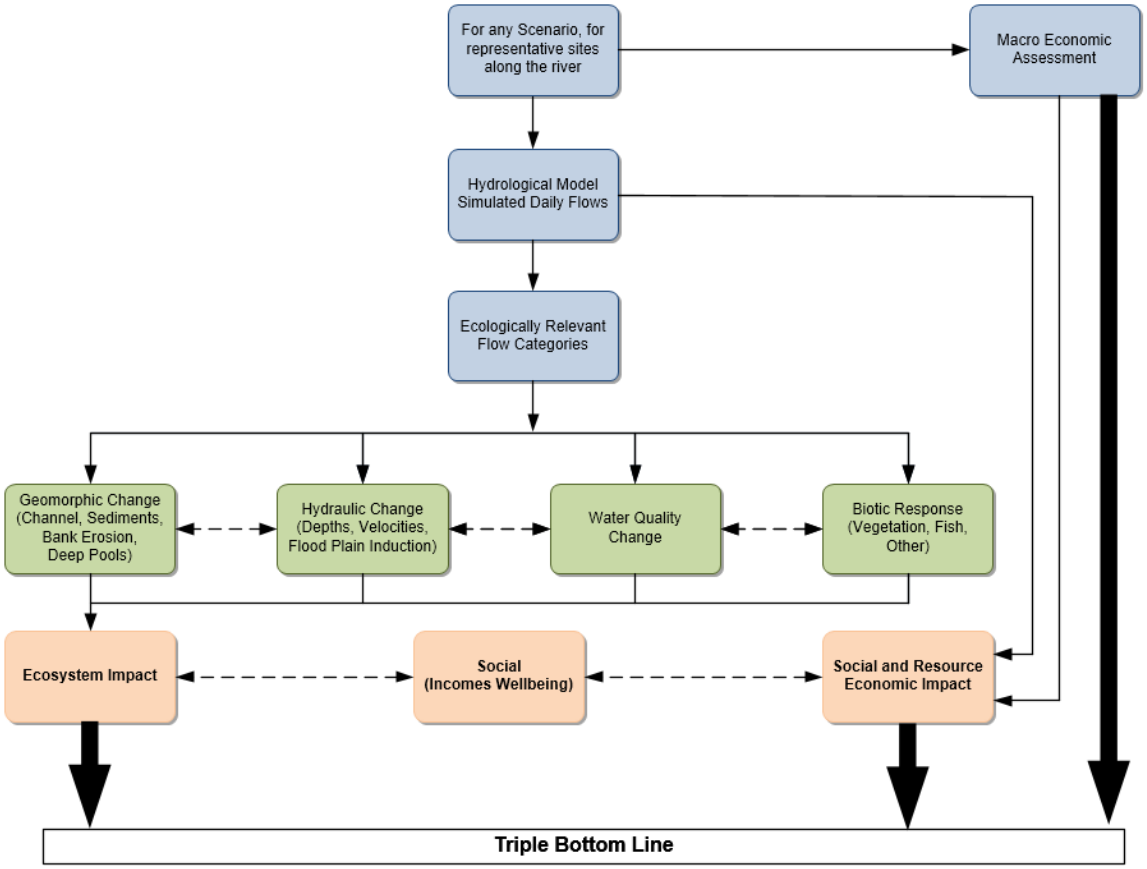


Exhibit 18.73: Integrated Scenario Based Approach (DRIFT DSS)



For further information on the study please contact:

Kamran Minai
Hagler Bailly Pakistan
Block 1, Commercial Area
Street 21, F8/2, Islamabad 44000
Tel: +92 (51) 261 0200-07
Cell: +92 (316) 298 8319
Fax: +92 (51) 261 0208-09
Email: kminai@haglerbailly.com.pk

Vaqar Zakaria
Hagler Bailly Pakistan
Block 1, Commercial Area
Street 21, F8/2, Islamabad 44000
Tel: +92 51 285 7200-07
Cell: +92 (345) 855 3013
Fax: +92 51 285 7208-09
Email: vzakaria@haglerbailly.com.pk

APPENDIX.F: RECORD OF THE CONSULTATION MEETING

601. This document summarizes the consultations undertaken for the EIA of Balakot Hydropower Development Project (BHDP).

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s	Environmental Protection Agency, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	
Consultation	Stakeholder Consultation for the	
Date	April 10, 2017	
Time	2 pm	
Meeting Venue	EPA, KP Office, Peshawar	
Attended By	Dr. Mohammad Bashir Khan	0300-597 9823
	Syed Hidayat Hasan (HH)	0300 856 0713
	Kamran Minai (KM)	0316 298 8319
	Naimat Khan, PEDO	0333 473 7190
	Salman Shahid Khan, ADB	0346 946 5123
HBP Representatives	HH, KM	
Stakeholder Representatives	Dr. Mohammad Bashir Khan	
Conducted by	HH	
Recorded by	KM	
Language	English, Urdu	
Preamble	Dr. Bashir was briefed about the purpose of the meeting. He was up-to-date about the Project because a Background Information Document had been shared with him. The representatives from PEDO and ADB were also part of the meeting. Dr. Bashir was then asked to share his concerns regarding the Project.	
Issues Identified		
Sewage dumping in the river is an existing issue.		
Cutting down trees for road construction is a concern. Deforestation of thick forests will occur.		
It is important to know the Environmental Flows that will result from the Project.		
Fish ladders are recommended.		
There will be submergence of certain areas and this is a concern.		
A colony will be created for workers and labor which could have adverse impacts.		

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s	World Wildlife Fund, Pakistan	
Consultation	Stakeholder Consultation for the	
Date	April 12, 2017	
Time	12 pm	
Meeting Venue	WWF-P Office Islamabad	
Attended By	Rab Nawaz	+92 (344) 254 9384
	Kamran Minai (KM)	+92 (316) 298 8319
	Shakeel Ahmad (SA)	+92 (343) 981 3640
HBP Representatives	KM, SA	
Stakeholder Representatives	Rab Nawaz	
Conducted by	KM, SA	
Recorded by	KM	
Language	English	
Preamble	Rab Nawaz was briefed about the Project and was provided with a Background Information Document which he reviewed before the questions were asked. He was then asked about his concerns regarding the Project and his suggestions for mitigation.	

Issues Identified and Recommendations
Issues and Concerns
Construction Phase disturbances: Reserve forests are a concern, a highly sensitive area for wildlife, Himalayan moist temperate forests. Road construction will result in the loss of forests including reserve forests.
Project Location: The Project is located between Protected Areas. Here diversity is important because there is an overlap between moist temperate and dry temperate forests. A lot of animals will be displaced because of this Project. Areas of importance around the Project include Kaghan, Paras, Siri Pai, Allai, and Kawai.
Species of conservation importance present: These include endemic species and those listed as Endangered or Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List: They belong to the kingdoms of plants, birds, and mammals. This is a very critical area for wildlife. Just above Paras is a very sensitive habitat. In particular, the Himalayan Grey Langur of which there is a very large population here. Black Bear is also found here and signs of Brown Bear have been observed. There are 7-8 important bird species including for example the Western Trogopan, the Long-tailed Tip, Khaleej Pheasant, and Koklass Pheasant. Vulture spp. are also found here including the Griffon Vulture. This is also part of the range of the Common Leopard. Deer spp. include Ibex, Muntjak Deer, Grey Goral. Local extinctions are possible.
Seasonal Risks: There is altitudinal migration here. Species come down to this area
Slow development of Himalayan Ecosystems: Himalayan Ecosystems develop over a long period. The impacts of this Project will be short-term but they will be damaging.
Pollution: Air and dust pollution are a concern for wildlife.
Recommended Mitigation and Management Measures
The timing of construction is very important. The winter season is better than the summer season because in winter there is less breeding.
Strict controls on flora and fauna but especially flora from exploitation by workers.
Strict guidelines on avoiding hunting.

The protection of upstream forests is important.
Forest-targeted restoration and conservation is important. This will help by preventing landslides as well.
Taxus species should not be removed.
It is recommended that investments be made in Watershed Management Programs.
A close eye should be kept on water quality.
Focused studies are recommended especially on Taxus species, Western Trogopan, and Musk Deer.

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s	Star Hydro Power Limited (SHPL)	
Consultation	Stakeholder Consultation for the	
Date	April 12, 2017	
Time	3 pm	
Meeting Venue	SHPL Office, Islamabad	
Attended By	Syed Atif Ali Shah	0301 849 8601
	Kamran Minai (KM)	0316 298 8319
HBP Representatives	KM	
Stakeholder Representatives	Syed Atif Ali Shah	
Conducted by	KM	
Recorded by	KM	
Language	English, Urdu	
Preamble	Syed Atif Ali Shah was provided with the Background Information Document and a brief description of the Project was given with details of its key components. As the stakeholder is already involved in the development of hydropower in the Kunhar Basin, the representative had read the feasibility study and was aware of the Project location and certain details.	

Issues Identified and Recommendations
Issues
Resettlement is a concern: There are 116 commercial infrastructures, a marketplace is being affected.
Operational impacts i.e. peaking and changes in Environmental Flows: The most important concern is the modification to environmental flows that will result due to Project operations; the Patrind HPP is downstream of the proposed Project. Both the timing and quantity of release of water are important. Even a 3-4 hour stoppage of water is a concern. In addition, stoppage of water during testing and Project operation is of concern. It is important to know the mean dry season flow after the Project is in place. Sedimentation and flushing of sediments, including timing and quantity, is also a concern.
Impacts on ecology: There are concerns about the presence of fish species of conservation importance and impacts on river ecology.
Recommendations
Communication between developers: There should be clear communication between developers regarding the timing and level of environmental flows. This includes modification inflows as a result of peaking operations and due to flushing.

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s:	Himalayan Wildlife Foundation (HWF)	
Consultation	Stakeholder Consultation for the	
Date:	April 19, 2017	
Time:	2 pm	
Meeting Venue:	Hagler Bailly Pakistan Office	
Attended By	Dr Anis-ur-Rahman	0300 854 0471
	Kamran Minai	0316 298 8319
HBP Representatives	Kamran Minai (KM)	
Stakeholder Representatives	Dr Anis-ur-Rahman	
Conducted by:	KM	
Recorded by:	KM	
Language:	English	
Preamble:	Dr Rahman was familiar with the Project based on the Background Information Document provided earlier. He was provided with a brief summary of the key technical aspects of the Project design and number of people to be resettled.	
Issues Identified and Recommendations		
Issues		
Resettlement: The main concern is the people who will need to be relocated as a result of the Project. Their quality of life needs to improve and they need to have value added to their living standards.		
Fish Species of Conservation Importance: The fish species that will be affected by the Project are important.		
Recommendations		
The new housing provided should be based on comprehensive planning. A sectoral approach should be taken such as that adopted in Islamabad. This resettlement should be a model for other villages in the Kaghan Valley which other people will want to emulate.		
A town planner should be contracted to carry out planning for the resettlement and add value to the lives of the people. Professional town planners include Sikander Ajam Associates and Dr. M.K. Pasha. There should be planning to provide residential, commercial, and amenities plots.		
The resettlement being done with proper town planning will mean that the value of the properties of the locals increases.		
Commitment should be made to provide the locals with as many jobs related to the Project as possible. This includes technical jobs for which training should begin as soon as possible.		
The sourcing of the sediment should be from local sources. Contracts and sub-contracts should be given to the locals as far as possible, not to outsiders.		
There should be an agreement with the government to provide 24-hour electricity daily to the local community that is being affected by the Project.		
The maximum benefits associated with the Project should be to the locals. The resettled staff should be wealthier, not poorer and their quality of life should see a marked improvement.		
HWF is interested in any activities and assistance it can provide with the protection of biodiversity.		

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s:	Forest Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	
Consultation	Stakeholder Consultation for the	
Date:	April 27, 2017	
Time:	10 am	
Meeting Venue:	Forest Department Office, Mansehra, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	
Attended By	Sardar Tamor Ilyas, Divisional Forest Officer, Mansehra	+92 (997) 410 020, +92 (331) 800 2000
	Azhar Ali Khan, Conservator of Forests, Lower Hazara	+92 (091) 931 0232
	Kamran Minai (KM)	+92 (316) 298 8319
HBP Representatives	KM	
Stakeholder Representatives	Sardar Tamor Ilyas	
Conducted by:	KM	
Recorded by:	KM	
Language:	Urdu	
Preamble:	The stakeholder representatives were briefed about the Project and its impacts. They were familiar with the area and the trends of behavior of the locals.	
Concerns		
Relocation of people: People will be relocated and are likely to want to move downward. This is expected based on past observations and trends in the behavior of the locals; in this area people with the means to move, for example, due to improved economic status, generally choose to move to lower areas. From the perspective of the Department, this is positive as it leaves more forested areas untouched at higher elevations.		
Existing disturbance: The habitat in this area is already fragmented due to human activity. The locals have modified the forest area and there is a high level of disturbance.		
Project footprint: The forested area in the Project footprint is not of concern because Project-related activities will not result in the degradation of large forested areas.		
Reserve Forests: There are no concerns with Reserve Forests as these will not be affected by the Project. Areas further away from the Project infrastructure have Reserve Forests but these will not be affected by the Project.		
Size of the Project: The Department supports this development because it will generate much-needed electricity for the country. It is viewed as a positive development in addressing national needs.		
Recommendation		
Replantation: Compensatory replantation should be done for any loss of trees due to Project-related activities. The Department will use any funds provided for this purpose.		
Ratio of replantation: The Forest Department does not have any specific ratio of replantation in mind. The Department has not yet decided whether replantation should be done in a 1:3, 1:5, or 1:10 ratio.		

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s:	Archaeology Department, Hazara University	
Consultation	Stakeholder Consultation for the	
Date:	April 27, 2017	
Time:	1 pm	
Meeting Venue:	Archaeology Department, Hazara University	
Attended By	Dr Shakirullah, Assistant Professor	+92 (997) 414 147, +92 (300) 593 8066
	Zafar Ali, Assistant Director, Environment, PEDO	
	Salman Shahid Khan, ADB Project Coordinator	+92 (346) 946 5123
	Kamran Minai (KM)	+92 (316) 298 8319
HBP Representatives	KM	
Stakeholder Representatives	Dr Shakirullah	
Conducted by:	KM, Zafar Ali, Salman Shahid Khan	
Recorded by:	KM, Zafar Ali, Salman Shahid Khan	
Language:	Urdu, English	
Preamble:	Dr Shakirullah was briefed about the Project, including the main infrastructure components and the length of the reservoir area. He was aware of the details of the EIA as described in the Background Information Document.	

Concerns
Historical Value: Mansehra is very rich in history. Within Mansehra, more than one thousand sites of importance have been identified. There is important Buddhist archaeology here. Also, historically, this area has been important for trade routes.
Downstream impacts: The changes in the flow of the river may be of importance if there are any archaeological sites downstream. In particular, flooding is a concern.
Legislation: The Provincial Antiquities Act has been revised in 2016 and should be taken into consideration.
Recommendations
Need for a survey: It is important to conduct surveys beforehand to determine the archaeological value of an area where development is planned to take place. If there are any archeological artifacts of importance, excavations can be done. Assessing the area, whilst keeping in view the dam, is recommended.
Sharing of Information: Publication of proper reports is recommended once data is collected.

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s:	Fisheries Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	
Consultation	Stakeholder Consultation for the	
Date:	April 27, 2017	
Time:	3 pm	
Meeting Venue:	Office of Fisheries Department, Mansehra, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	
Attended By	Mohammad Tanvir, Assistant Director Fisheries, District Mansehra	+92 (303) 492 4722
	Zafar Ali, Assistant Director, Environment, PEDO	
	Salman Shahid Khan, ADB Project Coordinator	0346-946 5123
	Kamran Minai (KM)	0316-298 8319
HBP Representatives	KM	
Stakeholder Representatives	Mohammad Tanvir	
Conducted by:	KM, Zafar Ali, Salman Shahid Khan	
Recorded by:	KM, Zafar Ali, Salman Shahid Khan	
Language:	Urdu, English	
Preamble:	Dr Tanvir was aware of the Project and its details as he had attended an E-Flow workshop earlier and had read the Background Information Document.	
Concerns		
Disturbance: The ecosystem already developed will be disturbed due to the Project.		
Spawning grounds: The spawning grounds of fish will be affected due to changes in flows. Native species will be killed due to this. Spawning grounds of the Alwan Snow Trout are a concern. Mr. Zafar noted the importance of the two endemic species.		
Fishing licensing: Fish licenses are provided for fishing in this area. Changes in fish fauna will affect fishing in the area.		
Flushing: This is a concern because it will affect the fish fauna of the reservoir. However, it was noted by Mr. Salman that flushing is normally done in the flooding season when water needs to be released anyway.		
Fish Ladder: Strong fish will be able to move over the ladder but the weaker ones will not. An estimated success rate is 25-30% of the fish making it over.		
Options: Japan has removed a dam due to concerns over fish fauna, but we are not in this position.		
Pressures: Pressures other than those associated with the Project include human population growth which has increased pollution and effluent discharge into the river. The pH of water in some areas has increased as a result of this, making it unsuitable for fish. There is also noise pollution from construction activities, such as the extension of roads.		
Changes in the ecosystem: Abrupt temperature changes affect the ecosystem. Climate Change was mentioned as a possible cause by Mr. Salman and recognized as an issue by Dr Tanvir.		

Stakeholder/s:	Fisheries Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
Zoning: There are six zones of the river. Of these, one area is a sanctuary where no disturbance is allowed and fish watchers are greater in number. This is important because of the increase in fishing pressure (earlier there were 100s of people coming to fish, now 1000s show up). This is partly due to better access as a result of road extension. The zonation has changed due to the impacts of pollution as the fish do not travel to areas where they previously did. The Brown Trout is an example, which shows prominent coloration in areas near Jalkhad where the water is less polluted compared to Balakot, where this species shows a less prominent coloration. However, there are differences in the food chain as well, so pollution may not be the cause.	
Lack of research: There has been no research on the effects of pollution on fish fauna. Mutations may be a concern although no such abnormalities have been observed. The growth of fish has not changed.	
Recommendations	
Fish ladder: A fish ladder is proposed to be a part of the dam design. Mr. Zafar stressed the need to explore options to increase the success rate of the fish ladder above 25-30% of the fish making it over. A review of the fish ladder design is recommended.	
Flow: The flow needs to be maintained as per the agreement.	
Reservoir: The 4.5 km stretch of the reservoir should be used for stocking of fish and angling. Mr. Zafar stressed that invasive species should be avoided.	
Safe area: A safe area for fish should be established. Mr. Salman stated that an option for pond sharing should looked into.	
Hatcheries: An alternative to protection and preservation is the use of hatcheries. These should be supported. The Alwan Snow Trout has been bred successfully in other countries and a hatchery exists in Swat. Mr. Zafar stated that in Pakistan there are limitations on the breeding of fish due to lack of facilities. He thought that, of the two options (in vivo and in vitro), the in vivo option is preferable.	
Monitoring: Weekly pH monitoring is recommended. The current data for temperature is to be shared with PEDO.	

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s:	Wildlife Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	
Consultation	Stakeholder Consultation for the	
Date:	April 27, 2017	
Time:	4 pm	
Meeting Venue:	Office of Wildlife Department, Mansehra, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	
Attended By	Faiq Khan, DFO, Mansehra	+92 (333) 555 4956
	Zafar Ali, Assistant Director, Environment, PEDO	
	Salman Shahid Khan, ADB Project Coordinator	+92 (346) 946 5123
	Kamran Minai (KM)	+92 (316) 298 8319
HBP Representatives	KM	
Stakeholder Representatives	Faiq Khan	
Conducted by:	KM, Zafar Ali, Salman Shahid Khan	
Recorded by:	KM, Zafar Ali, Salman Shahid Khan	
Language:	Urdu, English	
Preamble:	Mr. Khan was aware of the Project as he had read the Background Information Document.	

Stakeholder/s:	Wildlife Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
Concerns	
Violations: Wildlife violations including those which affect the aquatic habitat are being handled by the Wildlife Department.	
Reservoir: The reservoir is a concern. This is mainly due to the inundation of vegetation and loss of habitat. Due to the reservoir, wetland will be established which will change bird fauna. There will also be changes to flora and fauna in the riparian zone.	
Lack of data: There is limited data on wildlife especially on key species, such as the Common Leopard and The Indian Palm Civet. There is a focus on game species but a lack of data on those that are not game animals. The department cannot go into minute details of wildlife management and research.	
Infrastructure development: The development of infrastructure will affect the fragile ecosystem.	
Species of importance: This is a very important area for Chakhor and Khaleej Pheasant. The population of the Khaleej Pheasant is of particular concern. Passerine birds are important as well.	
Non-Project related pressures: These include habitat loss and fragmentation due to expansion of settlements, and the human-wildlife conflict, especially for the Common Leopard and the Black Bear. After the earthquake people have moved down resulting in more area for these species to occupy. As a result, their populations have increased and hence they extend their ranges and come into conflict with people. As mentioned earlier there is a lack of data on wildlife; species data is needed for baseline development and monitoring. There is only regulation on game species.	
Lack of staff: There is a lack of staff which results in very few watchers.	
Lack of awareness: There is a lack of awareness amongst locals regarding the importance of wildlife. In particular, there is a lack of understanding regarding sustainable use and economic benefits of wildlife.	
Recommendations	
The need for surveys: Detailed wildlife surveys are needed. The Department needs to be included in these. Mr. Zafar stated the importance of government coordination. Entomology should be included in the surveys because the food chain is of importance.	
Staff capacity building: There is a need to build the capacity of the staff.	
Reservoir: This should be declared a protected wetland.	
Closure of areas: There are forested areas that are closed off to all activity. This is to facilitate regeneration. 120 such areas have been established in Kaghan Valley, with each ranging from 40 ha to 100 ha.	

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s:	Adventure Time Pakistan	
Consultation	Stakeholder Consultation for the	
Date:	May 2, 2017	
Time:	9 30am	
Meeting Venue:	Telephonic	
Attended By	Nadeem Akhtar, Director	+92 (311) 746 6171
	Kamran Minai (KM)	+92 (316) 298 8319
HBP Representatives	KM	
Stakeholder Representatives	Nadeem Akhtar	
Conducted by:	KM	
Recorded by:	KM	

Stakeholder/s:	Adventure Time Pakistan
Language:	English, Urdu
Preamble:	Nadeem Akhtar had read the Background Information Document and was aware of the Project. The main infrastructure of the Project was explained to him to refresh his memory of the planned development, most importantly the dam itself, the tunnels, and the staff colonies.
Concerns	
High water level: white water rafting is carried out only along the Kunhar River, in two areas. One is between the stretch from Balakot to Garhi Habibullah and the other is in Naran. Therefore, Adventure Time Pakistan would like a high water level to be maintained in this stretch.	
Positive impact for tourism: In the Khanpur dam Adventure Time Pakistan organizes events for kids including camps where they are taught about first aid, and watersports and where they enjoy still water kayaking. Therefore, the creation of another reservoir is, in the view of the organization, a benefit as it increases opportunities for such activities and draws in more tourists.	
Recommendations	
Sharing of the schedule of the release of water: The schedule for the release of water should be shared with everyone so that people can plan their activities accordingly.	

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s:	Social Welfare Department, KP	
Consultation	Stakeholder Consultation for the	
Date:	May 19, 2017	
Time:	10:30 am	
Meeting Venue:	Office of District Officer Social Welfare, Mansehra	
Attended By	Abdul Rasheed, Social Welfare Officer, Mansehra	0301-8137172
	Yasmeen Saeed, Social Welfare Officer	NA
	Anwar Fazal Ahmad (AN)	0312 979 1658
	Ms. Rizwana Waraich (RW)	0331-539-6334
HBP Representatives	AN, RW	
Stakeholder Representatives	Abdul Rasheed, Social Welfare Officer, Mansehra, and Yasmeen Saeed, Social Welfare Officer	
Conducted by:	AN, RW	
Recorded by:	AN	
Language:	Urdu	
Preamble:	The Background Information Document (BID) has been shared with the organization. They were also briefed about the Project before obtaining their views.	
Concerns		
Impacts on Communities: The Project will have significant impacts on local communities. Several households will be displaced. The following will be submerged: ♦ Boys and girls schools. ♦ Basic Health Unit (BHU). ♦ Graves of the relatives of the affected households.		
Recommendations		

Stakeholder/s:	Social Welfare Department, KP
All the displaced households should be rehabilitated.	
Public infrastructure like schools and BHUs should be relocated.	
Graves should be managed with the consent of the communities	
The project should provide special assistance to vulnerable households.	
Households affected by livelihood should be provided with vocational trainings to get benefits from the project	

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s:	Kaghan Development Authority	
Consultation	Stakeholder Consultation for the	
Date:	May 22, 2017	
Time:	9 am	
Meeting Venue:	Kaghan Development Authority Office	
Attended By	Fidat Tanoli, Assistant Director	0333-4300 019
	Nasir Hayat Babar, Project Director	0300-8593 045
	Kamran Minai (KM)	0316-3988 319
HBP Representatives	KM	
Stakeholder Representatives	Fidat Tanoli, Nasir Hayat Babar	
Conducted by:	KM	
Recorded by:	KM	
Language:	Urdu, English	
Preamble:	The stakeholder representative was aware of the Project details as a Background Information Document (BID) was shared with them. A brief discussion on the spatial scope of the Project and the villages near which Project facilities are planned was done to have a shared understanding of the areas that will be affected.	

Concerns
Jurisdiction: The area in which the Project infrastructure is located falls within the jurisdiction of the Kaghan Development Authority, therefore, the organization is keenly interested in this development. Therefore, the Kaghan Development Authority is a main stakeholder and representative of the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The Kaghan Development Authority supports this move by the Provincial Government to develop energy resources in the area, but it should include the Kaghan Development Authority.
Development: The Provincial Government has plans to promote tourism in this area through the Kaghan Development Authority, in particular, international tourism. The Kaghan Development Authority started a program for solid waste disposal in the area last year. The program aims to cover the area from Balakot to Babusar. It will provide sanitation, drainage and waste disposal facilities. A water purification scheme is planned to be introduced in Naran. A firefighting scheme is planned. A garbage collection scheme has been started. Further plans include the development of Saif-ul-Muluk and Lulupatsar as well as the establishment of a family park in Naran and Shogran.

Stakeholder/s:	Kaghan Development Authority
Natural beauty of the area: We are concerned about the natural beauty including all wild flora and fauna. Preserving and protecting the vegetation is a priority.	
Functions: The functions of the Kaghan Development Authority are as a service provider, building control agency, and executing agency for any scheme in the area. Therefore, this development is very important for the Kaghan Development Authority.	
Development of Project facilities: As two colonies will be established, there will be increased economic and commercial activity in the area. Therefore, responsibility for the effects of this will need to be taken, for example, controlling pollution. This is the Kaghan Development Authority's area of interest.	
Legislation: The Kaghan Development Authority is the owner of the area and coordination with it is required for public sector projects as well as private sector ones.	
Recommendations	
Sharing of information: Progress on the development of the Project should be shared with the Kaghan Development Authority regularly.	
Capacity Building: A fraction of the net income from the Project should be given to the Kaghan Development Authority so that it can function effectively as a service provider. Funding is important. The Kaghan Development Authority will only be bound to provide services if they are taken on board. If the Kaghan Development Authority is provided with funding, they will not have any excuse to provide services.	
Environment: The Kaghan Development Authority wants to make this area environmentally friendly.	

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s:	International Finance Corporation
Consultation	Stakeholder Consultation for the
Date:	May 26, 2017
Time:	6:50 pm
Meeting Venue:	Communicated by letter
HBP Representatives	Kamran Minai
Stakeholder Representatives	Shahid Lutfi
Language:	English
Preamble:	The Background Information Document (BID) had been shared with the stakeholders. A conversation to discuss the main components of the dam design and the key stakeholders involved was also held. The stakeholders provided their recommendations for the ESIA process and the Project.
Recommendations	
There must be a robust impact assessment that covers the potential impacts of the project on not only the Kunhar River but also the Jhelum River downstream of the confluence of the two rivers. This should address the potential impacts of peaking flows and sediment discharges.	
The alternatives analysis in the ESIA should cover different approaches to peaking flows, ranging from run-of-river to two- or four-hour daily peaking discharges. We also recommend that seasonal limitations on peaking be considered as well. IFC encourages developers to consult with relevant authorities to discuss the possibility that Balakot could be operated as a run-of-river project without peaking discharges during the entire year or key biodiversity periods of the year.	

Stakeholder/s:	International Finance Corporation
The alternatives analysis in the ESIA should cover different approaches to sediment management. This could range from different designs (e.g., dedicated sluicing gates low in the dam vs spillway releases) to different release regimes (e.g., multiple releases in the high-water season vs one or two release periods) to different levels of cooperation and coordination among cascade hydropower operators (e.g., synchronization of releases by upstream and downstream projects to unilateral scheduling of sediment releases).	
The ESIA should quantify the excavated soil and rock material that would require off-site disposal. Potential sites for safe disposal of muck material should be reviewed for risks of washout, land sliding, etc. ESIA may also identify a framework to develop a detailed Muck Disposal Plan during the construction stage.	
The ESIA should review the impacts on downstream projects for multiple scenarios relating to construction activities, failure of the cofferdam, and accidental release of excavated materials and muck.	
There will need to be a cumulative impact analysis that considers the cumulative impacts of overall hydropower development in the basin on endemic and endangered aquatic species that are of conservation concern. This would include impacts in the lower Jhelum River as well as in the Kunhar River. The cumulative impact assessment should also review the (provincial/state) transboundary issues relating to ecological, social, legal, and jurisdictional aspects of the project. The ESIA should take advantage of previous data collection and analyses that may be found in ESIAs and river basin planning documents for other hydropower developments.	
The overall ESIA process should essentially be an impact and risk-based assessment, and social assessments should include analysis of human rights, community benefit sharing, conflicts & security, etc. With context to PS4: Community Health, Safety, and Security, ESIA to include some basic analysis and recommendations on dam break/failure.	
The ESIA analysis may also review the project for impacts and risks on and from climate change.	
The ESIA may also develop framework on an integrated fish monitoring plan, biodiversity management, sand and gravel mining management, conflicts & security management plan, livelihood restoration, etc. that would require joint implementation by key stakeholders.	
We encourage the developers of the Balakot Hydropower Project to participate in the Hydropower Developers' Working Group and participate in supporting future activities of the Working Group. This could take the form of participating in Group meetings, direct contributions to various initiatives, as well as participating in or even leading certain activities. To that end, we would very much appreciate it if you would provide to us with contact information for Balakot project management.	

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s:	**Archaeology Department, University of Peshawar**	
Consultation	Stakeholder Consultation for the	
Date:	May 30, 2017	
Time:	10 00 am	
Meeting Venue:	University of Peshawar	
Attended By	Dr Mukhtar Ali Durrani, Head of Department, Archaeology Department, University of Peshawar	+92 (91) 922 1048
	Dr Jamil Ahmad Chitrali (JC)	+92 (346) 939 3100
HBP Representatives	JC	
Stakeholder Representatives	Dr Mukhtar Ali Durrani	
Conducted by:	JC	
Recorded by:	JC	
Language:	Urdu, Pashto, English	
Preamble:	The Background Information Document (BID) had been shared with Dr Durrani and he was aware of the Project's details.	
Concerns		
Lack of evidence with the Department: There is a lack of archaeological evidence for the Project area, therefore, the Department is not aware of any sites of concern. This has been determined in consultation with other professors in the Department including Professor Naeem Khan, Professor Ibrahim Shah, and Professor Qazi Naeem.		
Lack of secondary data: There is a lack of secondary data about the area as well.		

Record of the Consultation Meeting

Stakeholder/s:	Tourism Corporation, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (TCKP)	
Consultation	Stakeholder Consultation for the	
Date:	June 12, 2017	
Time:	12 30 pm	
Meeting Venue:	Office of TCKP	
Attended By	Dr Jamil Ahmad Chitrali (JC)	+92 (346) 939 3100
	Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad, Managing Director (MD), TCKP	+92 (332) 992 2207
	Ms. Haseena Shoukat, In-charge Marketing, TCKP	+92 (300) 932 1297
	Mr. Johar, PSO to MD, TCKP	+92 (334) 968 6805
HBP Representatives	JC	
Stakeholder Representatives	Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad, Ms. Haseena Shoukat, Mr. Johar	
Conducted by:	JC	
Recorded by:	JC	
Language:	Pashto, Urdu, English	
Preamble:	A Background Information Document (BID) was shared with the staff earlier. They were briefed salient components of the Project.	
Concerns		
Lack of data: The TCKP has no data on tourism in general and in the area where the Project is located.		
Lack of capacity: There is a lack of capacity to deal with major concerns with tourism and planning-related matters. For a long time, they have been working with only 6 staff. Only recently the staff has been increased to over 100 and these people have been sent into the field to collect data.		
Plans: Plans to increase domestic tourism include establishing a tourist police force and uplift of roads. The corporation is also looking to submit proposals to various donors including the World Bank to facilitate efforts to create job opportunities, train the local youth on boating, fishing, and domestic hotels. They also intend to explore and develop new picnic spots and increase efforts to conserve nature.		
Recommendations		
Assistance with plans: The corporation is seeking assistance with the successful implementation of its plans.		

APPENDIX.G: FISH INDICATORS AND THEIR FLOW–RELATED NEEDS

602. The following four species were selected as indicators for E-Flow assessment using the Downstream Response to Imposed Flow Transformations (DRIFT) model.

- Alwan Snow Trout Schizothorax richardsonii
- Kashmir Hill Stream Loach Triplophysa kashmirensis
- Nalbant's Loach Schistura Nalbanti
- Rainbow Trout Oncorhynchus mykiss

603. All species selected as indicators demonstrate a comparatively higher degree of specialization in habitat preference in the Aquatic Study Area. In other words, the habitat range of these species was observed to terminate either moving upstream or downstream within the Aquatic Study Area. Changes in flow regime are therefore likely to have a comparatively higher level of impact on these species.

G.1 Alwan Snow Trout Shizothoraxr Richardsonii

604. Preferences for flow-dependent habitat, breeding, and migratory behavior of the *Schizothorax richardsonii* are summarized in **Exhibit 18.741. Exhibit 18.75** summarizes the annual cycle of breeding and growth of the *Schizothorax richardsonii.*

Exhibit 18.74: Preferences for Flow Dependent Habitat, Breeding, and Movement of the Schizothorax richardsonii

	Adults	Juveniles	Spawning
Depth	0. 5 – 1. 5 m	0. 1 – 0. 5m	0. 1 – 0. 3 m
Velocity	1 – 3 m/s	0 – 0. 5 m/s	1 – 2 m/s
Habitat	Swift running water with rocky beds	Quiet parts of the streams or in the side branches of the main streams	Spawns on gravelly/stony ground or on fine pebbles with gravel size of 50-60 mm
Substrate	Rocky/Cobbly/Gravely	Cobble/Gravel	Gravel
Temperature	14 – 20 °C	14 – 20 °C	18 – 22 °C
Dissolved O_2	6 – 8 mg/l and can survive 5-6 mg/l	6 – 8 mg/l	6 – 8 mg/l
Food	Insect larvae and eggs, Detritus	Micro-invertebrates	–
Breeding Period and Trigger	May-June in the Flood Season. Breeding is triggered by the rise in temperature after the Dry Season. Spawning in side channels in shallow waters (10-30 cm) with boulders and low currents.		
Movement Pattern	Shows limited movement.		
Movement Timing	Limited movement to side channels for spawning.		
Movement Triggers	Availability of side pools with shallow waters, rise in temperature		

	Adults	Juveniles	Spawning
Other Flow-related Needs	Is sensitive to pollution. Can tolerate turbidity.		

Exhibit 18.75: Annual Cycle of Breeding and Growth of the Schizothorax richardsonii

Months	Flow Conditions	Fish Behavior
May – June	Flood Season	Breeding is triggered by snow melt and a rise in turbidity. Fish move to breeding grounds in shallow side pools, and channels of the river with cobbles. Eggs hatch in this period, and fries and fingerlings remain in shallow waters in side channels under the cobbles.
July – October	Flood Season – Transition-2 and Dry Onset	Spent fish move to areas with boulders, and cobbles in their general preferred habitat ranging from a depth of 0. 5 – 1. 0 m. Fries and fingerlings remain in the side channels. Both adult and young fish feed actively in this period to gain fat for wintering.
November – March	Dry Season	Fish move mainly to crevices under cobbles or in pools for overwintering. Food intake drops and is also supplemented by fat reserves for survival.
April	Transition-1	Fish become active, take maximum food and move to areas where it can get maximum food.

G.2 Kashmir Hillstream Loach *Triplophysa kashmirensis*

605. Preferences for flow-dependent habitat, breeding, and migratory behavior of the *Triplophysa kashmirensis* are summarized in **Exhibit 18.76**. The annual Cycle of Breeding and Growth of the *Triplophysa kashmirensis* is shown in the **Exhibit 18.77** below.

Exhibit 18.76: Preferences for Flow–dependent Habitat, Breeding, and Movement of the Triplophysa kashmirensis

	Adults	Juveniles	Spawning
Depth of Water	Banks, shallow riffles (<0. 75 m)	Shallow side pools (<0. 75 m)	Shallow side channels and pools (<0. 30 m)
Velocity	Low to moderate (0 – 2 m/s)	Low to moderate (0 – 2 m/s)	Low to moderate (0 – 2 m/s)
Habitat	Pools, riffles, glides	Banks	Pools, riffles
Substrate	Rocky, stony	Cobbles	Stones, cobbles
Temperature	8 – 14 °C	10 – 12 °C	10 – 12 °C
Dissolved O_2	6–8 mg/l	6–8 mg/l	6–8 mg/l
Food	Earthworms, larvae, slime	Micro–invertebrates	–
Spawning Period	June–August		
Breeding Period and Trigger	May-August in the Flood Season. Breeding is triggered by the rise in temperature after the Dry Season. Breeds both in river as well as in tributaries in suitable habitats.		

	Adults	Juveniles	Spawning
Movement Pattern	Does not show any significant movement except for breeding, when it moves to shallow side pools.		
Movement Triggers	Rise in water temperature, swollen river, and expansion of habitat.		
Other Flow–related Needs	Is sensitive to pollution.		

Exhibit 18.77: Annual Cycle of Breeding and Growth of the Triplophysa kashmirensis

Months	Flow Conditions	Fish Behavior
June – August	Flood Season	Breeding is triggered by snow melt and a rise in turbidity. Fish move to breeding grounds in shallow side pools, and channels of the river with cobbles and gravely beds. Eggs hatch in this season, and fries and fingerlings remain in shallow waters in side channels.
September – October	Transition–2 and Dry Onset	Spent fish move to the banks of the mainstream. Fingerlings remain in shallow side channels. Both adult and young fish feed actively in this period.
November – March	Dry Season	Fish move mainly to crevices for overwintering. Food intake drops significantly as fish is inactive and also utilizes fat reserves for survival.
April – May	Transition–1 and Flood Season	Fish emerge and move to banks, avoiding fast flows, in search of food to get ready for the breeding season.

G.3 Nalbant's Loach Schistura nalbanti

606. Preferences for flow-dependent habitat, breeding, and migratory behavior of the *Schistura nalbanti* are summarized in **Exhibit 18.78. Exhibit 18.79** summarizes the annual cycle of breeding and growth of the *Schistura nalbanti.*

Exhibit 18.78: Preferences for Flow Dependent Habitat, Breeding, and Movement of the Schistura nalbanti

	Adults	Juveniles	Spawning
Depth of Water	Banks, shallow riffles (<0. 5 m)	Shallow side pools (<0. 5 m)	Shallow side channels and pools (<0. 30 m)
Velocity	Low to moderate (0–2 m/s)	Low to moderate (0–2 m/s)	Low to moderate (0–2 m/s)
Habitat	Pools, riffles, glides	Banks	Pools, riffles
Substrate	Rocky, stony	Cobbles	Stones, cobbles
Temperature	8 – 20 °C	10 – 20 °C	10 – 20 °C
Dissolved O2	6 – 8 mg/l	6 – 8 mg/l	6 – 8 mg/l
Food	Earthworms, larvae, slime	Micro–invertebrates	–
Spawning Period	June – August		

	Adults	Juveniles	Spawning
Breeding Period and Trigger	May – August in the Flood Season. Breeding is triggered by the rise in temperature after the Dry Season. Breeds both in river as well as in tributaries in suitable habitats.		
Movement Pattern	Does not show any significant movement except for breeding, when it moves to shallow side pools.		
Movement Triggers	Rise in water temperature, swollen river, and expansion of habitat.		
Other Flow–related Needs	Is sensitive to pollution.		

Exhibit 18.79: Annual Cycle of Breeding and Growth of the Schistura Nalbanti

Months	Flow Conditions	Fish Behavior
June – August	Flood Season	Breeding is triggered by snow melt and rise in turbidity. Fish move to breeding grounds in shallow side pools, and channels of the river with cobbles and gravely beds. Eggs hatch in this season, and fries and fingerlings remain in shallow waters in side channels.
September – October	Transition–2 and Dry Onset	Spent fish move to the banks of the mainstream. Fingerlings remain in shallow side channels. Both adult and young fish feed actively in this period.
November – March	Dry Season	Fish move mainly to crevices for overwintering. Food intake drops significantly as fish is inactive and also utilizes fat reserves for survival.
April – May	Transition–1 and Flood Season	Fish emerge and move to banks, avoiding fast flows, in search of food to get ready for the breeding season.

G.4 Rainbow Trout Oncorhynchus mykiss

607. Preferences for flow-dependent habitat, breeding, and migratory behaviour of the Rainbow Trout are summarized below in **Exhibit 18.80. Exhibit 18.81** summarizes the annual cycle of breeding and growth of the Rainbow Trout:

Exhibit 18.80: Preferences for Flow-dependent Habitat, Breeding, and Migratory Behavior of the Rainbow Trout Oncorhynchus mykiss

	Adults	Juveniles	Spawning
Depth of Water	Deep (>0.75 m)	Shallow (<0.75 m)	Shallow (0.15 - 0.75 m)
Velocity	Medium to high (>2 m/s)	Low to medium (0-2 m/s)	Low to medium (0-2 m/s)
Habitat	Riffles, pools, glides	Closer to the banks	Riffles
Substratum	Cobbles, also stony to gravely beds	Stony to gravely	Fine gravel
Temperature	6-12°C	6-12°C	<7°C
Dissolved O_2	8-10 mg/l	8-10 mg/l	10 mg/l

	Adults	Juveniles	Spawning
Food	Fish (Kashmir hill stream loach, high altitude loach), invertebrates	Invertebrates	–
Breeding Period and Trigger	Breeds in October through December in the Dry Season in continuous moderate flows. Breeding is triggered by the drop in temperature below 6-7˚C, typically in October.		
Movement Pattern	Migrates to tributaries and travels to suitable breeding grounds in the river to avoid competition and to find shallow clear waters suitable for breeding. Migrates back to the main river for wintering.		
Movement Timings	October-November for breeding, November for wintering.		
Movement Triggers	Change in flow pattern, reduction in turbidity, fall or rise in water temperature.		
Other Flow-related Needs	Is sensitive to pollution and therefore to poorly diluted effluents.		

Exhibit 18.81: Annual Cycle of Breeding and Growth of the Rainbow Trout Oncorhynchus mykiss

Months	Flow Conditions	Fish Behaviour
October-December	Dry Season	Breeding is triggered by a drop in temperature below 7-8 ^{o}C. The fish move to breeding sites in the main river and the tributaries to lay eggs in beds of fine gravel (redds[107]) in riffle flow.
January-February	Dry Season	Fries emerge after about 70 days and stay in the nursery grounds, mainly in side streams and shallow water, where food is available and the current speed is low. Adult fish migrate back from tributaries into deeper water in the mainstream for survival in the Dry Season.
March-April	Dry Season-Transition Season 1	Fingerlings/juveniles stay in shallow waters near the banks and avoid fast-flowing water.
May-July	Flood Season, Snow Melt	Fish avoid turbid waters, and move to clear waters in side streams as well as tributaries.
August-September	Flood Season-Transition Season 2	Fish have relatively uniform distribution in the river and tributaries and concentrate on feeding areas

[107] A spawning nest made by a fish, especially a salmon or trout.

APPENDIX.H: OUTLINE OF SEDIMENT MINING MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

608. This document provides an outline of the Sediment Mining Guidelines for the Balakot Hydropower Development Project.

H.1 Management of Impacts of Sediment Mining in the Area of Management

609. The environmental flow assessment for the Project (**Chapter 7** of **EIA**) includes evaluation of varying protection levels affecting the non-flow related human-induced impacts on the riverine ecosystem.

610. Four management scenarios, which represent the predicted river condition in 51 years under different levels of protection/management were considered. The protection levels considered were:

- **Business as Usual Protection (BAU):** increase non-flow-related pressures[108] in line with current trends, i.e. 2017 pressures double in intensity over the next 51 years.
- **Low Protection (LP):** maintain 2017 levels of non-flow-related pressures on the river; i.e., no increase in human-induced catchment pressures over time.
- **Moderate Protection (MP):** reduce 2017 levels of non-flow-related pressures by 50%, i.e., the decline in pressures (relative to 2017) over time.
- **High Protection (HP)**: reduce 2017 levels of non-flow-related pressures by 90%, i.e., the decline in pressures (relative to 2017) over time[109].

611. Thus, in terms of sediment mining in the Area of Management, the thirty-year targets were:

- High Protection (HP) = 90% reduction in mining impacts;
- Moderate Protection = 50% reduction in mining impacts;
- Low Protection = no increase in mining impacts;
- Protection Level BAU = doubling of mining impacts.

612. Given that it is entirely plausible that the demand for sediment will continue to increase over the next thirty years, achieving High Protection (HP) will necessitate management and control that will limit the impact of mining on the river in the face of increased demand/volumes being abstracted. This could be achieved using one or more of the following strategies:

1. Focus mining activities in non-sensitive areas
2. Ban mining in sensitive areas
3. Implement on-site control and management of mining activities
4. Rehabilitate/restore habitats already destroyed by mining
5. Use of alternative sources of aggregate for the Project including the following:
   a. reuse spoil

[108] The non-flow related pressures and the management actions proposed to reduce them are discussed in **Section 5** of the Biodiversity Action Plan of the Balakot Hydropower Development Project.

[109] Experience in neighboring rivers has shown that it is easier to impose a complete ban on activities such as illegal fishing and mining than it is to reduce these activities by half.

b. quarries for aggregate

H.1.1 Focus Mining Activities in Non-sensitive Areas

613. Arguably the best way to achieve the proposed reductions in mining impacts is to focus mining activities in fewer areas where they can be better managed as this will reduce the area of sediment mining, reduce mining in sensitive areas, and potentially reduce the direct site-specific impacts. The construction of the Project would present an opportunity for doing just this. It is expected that large quantities of sediment will become trapped at or slightly upstream of the upper end of the reservoir in an area that is accessible from the existing road.

614. Although the feasibility of implementing a large-scale mining operation in the headwaters of the Project reservoir is subject to confirmation, initial indications suggest that:

1. the quantities likely to be deposited annually will exceed the demand for sediment and probably exceed demand for quite some time to come;
2. roads could be constructed/existing roads improved to allow for easy and safe access to the area;
3. since sediment loads are highest in the wet season, much of the sediment would probably be deposited above the normal operating level as reservoir levels and backup effects tend to extend upstream in the wet season;
4. if necessary, access to the sediments, particularly the smaller size fractions, could be enhanced by lowering the operating level of the dam in the dry winter months;
5. similar initiatives have been successfully implemented elsewhere, for instance:

i. at Inanda Dam on the Mgeni River (South Africa), sediment mining in the backup zone upstream of the dam is promoted to reduce sedimentation of the reservoir (**Exhibit 18.821**).

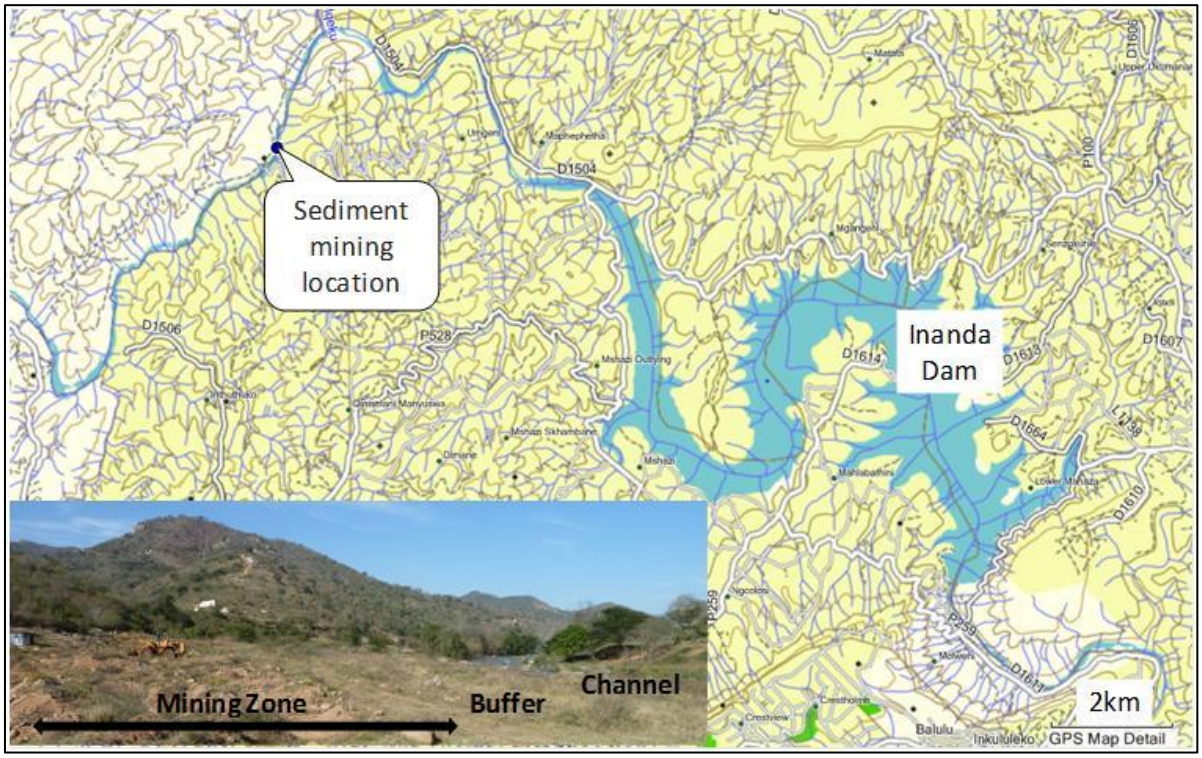
ii. in Yorkshire (UK) sediment from reservoirs is used for potting soil, which is sold commercially Halcrow[110].

615. Outside of the 10-15 km radius, mining operations can also be focused on fewer, better-controlled areas that avoid sensitive habitats. The selection of appropriate sites for sediment mining should be based on local knowledge or information regarding aggradation (sediment deposition) rates; where the proposed operation can minimize disturbance and maximize stability of the channel; and where in-stream sites are located where the channel loses gradient or increases in width, and deposition occurs unrelated to regular bar-pool spacing in channel (such as upstream of a bedrock constriction or backwater, or at deltas created near confluences.[111]

[110] Halcrow Water. 2001. Sedimentation in storage reservoirs. Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions. 82 pp.

[111] Garcia River Gravel Management Plan. Philip Williams & Associates, Ltd., San Francisco, 1996.

Exhibit 18.82: Inanda Dam on the Mgeni River (South Africa), sediment mining in the backup zone upstream of the dam is promoted to reduce sedimentation of the reservoir



616. As mentioned above (Inanda Dam), mining sediments from the backup zone may also reduce sedimentation in the Project reservoir, prolonging the life of the dam and/or reducing the need for sediment flushing (Basson and Rooseboom[112]).

H.1.2 Ban Mining in Sensitive Areas

617. Sensitive areas include areas of the River Kunhar that provide habitats for the restricted range or endemic fish species Nalbant's Loach *Schistura Nalbanti* and Kashmir Hillstream Loach *Triplophysa kashmirensis.* The tributaries are also sensitive as they provide a breeding habitat for other fish species of the River (**Section 11**).

618. It is unlikely that the provision of a focused mining area (or areas) alone will reduce sediment mining in the sensitive areas. This will need to be accompanied by a prohibition on mining in sensitive areas, particularly in the tributaries and at the confluences between tributaries and the main river. Such a ban could include:

- Limiting access (or implementing road closures using barriers or decommissioning roads) to sensitive zones of the river.
- Policing of the restricted, sensitive breeding areas of the rivers and tributaries.

619. This could be achieved through the development of specific sediment mining guidelines in conjunction with authorities and miners to scale down operations in sensitive areas and relocate those operations to less sensitive reaches (cf. **Exhibit**

[112] Basson, G.R. and Rooseboom, A. 1999. Dealing with reservoir sedimentation. South African ICOLD Bulletin 115.

18.821). The KP Wildlife Department and KP Fisheries Department will enforce the guidelines with support from the Implementation Organization.

H.1.3 Implement on-site Control and Management of Mining Activities

620. Where sediment mining is allowed, the localized and downstream impacts of operations could be reduced through on-site control and management measures. These could include:

1. License mining activities according to volume based on measured annual replenishment, and with conditions regarding method of mining (following best practice guidelines), location, timing, and volumes of extraction permissible[113];
2. Implementation of setbacks and buffer zones (which could include placement of berms) between the sediment extraction areas and the low-flow channels to reduce low-flow season impacts. These should ensure:

a. that excavations are set back at least 5 m from the main low flow channel bank;

b. that the maximum depth of mining is > 1 m above natural channel elevation, as determined by pre-mining surveys, to prevent channel shift.

3. Employing more environmentally-friendly extraction methods (**Box 1**);
4. Minimize activities that release fine sediment to the river and tributaries;
5. Avoid the removal of any vegetation on the banks;
6. Retain a buffer (at least 5-10 m) between the low flow channel and the mining operations;
7. Limit in-stream operations to the dry season (DID)[114]; and
8. Implement a program of compliance monitoring and control.

[113] Garcia River Gravel Management Plan. Philip Williams & Associates, Ltd., San Francisco, 1996.

[114] Department of Irrigation and Drainage (DID). 2009. River Sand Mining Management Guidelines. Department of Irrigation and Drainage, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Jalan Sultan Salahuddin, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Box 1: Less-Damaging Methods for Sediment Removal

Kondolf et al.[115] identified several methods of sand and gravel mining operations that are less damaging than the more commonly employed methods.

Bar scalping or skimming

Bar scalping or skimming is the extraction of sand and gravel from the surface of bars. Historical scalping commonly removed most of the bar above the low-flow water levels, leaving an irregular topography. Present methods generally require that surface irregularities be smoothed out and that the extracted material be limited to what could be taken above an imaginary line sloping upwards and away from the water from a specified level above the river's water surface at the time of extraction
(typically 0.3 - 0.6 m).

Bar scalping is commonly repeated year after year to maintain the upstream hydraulic control provided by the riffle head. The preferred method of bar scalping is generally to leave the top one-third (approximately) of the bar undisturbed, mining only from the downstream two-thirds.

Bar Excavation

In this sediment extraction method, a pit is excavated at the downstream end of the bar as a source of aggregate and as a site to trap sand and gravel. Upon completion, the pit may be connected to the channel at its downstream end to provide a side channel habitat. This method reduces the area of disturbance.

621. A combination of these measures would assist in regularizing the sediment mining activities in the Area of Management and to reduce the localized and downstream impacts associated with such.

622. Cooperation could be enhanced through the development of guidelines or best practice principles for sediment mining operations to which an association of sediment miners could subscribe. This should take into account buffer zones between the mining operation and active (low flow) channels; ecologically sensitive methods of sediment removal, as well as the overarching focus of only removing sediment at appropriate (less sensitive) extraction sites.

H.1.4 Alternatives Sources of Aggregate

623. A reduction in the sediment mining pressures in the river could be achieved if alternative sources of building aggregate could be found, such as:

1. Reusing surplus spoils: surplus spoils from the construction of the Project could be stockpiled for use.
2. Using open rock quarries on hillsides rather than using river sediment as a source of gravel.

624. Neither of these has been considered in any detail at this stage but can form part of the considerations in developing sediment mining management guidelines for the basin.

[115] Kondolf, G.M., Smeltzer, M. and Kimball, L. 2001. Freshwater Gravel Mining and Dredging Issues. Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife, Ecology, and Transportation, Olympia

H.2 Outline of Key Components of Sediment Mining Management Guidelines

625. The main challenges in implementing protection measures for sediment mining in the Area of Management are:

1. the level of integration required between technical, legal, administrative, and political processes, and the private and government sectors;
2. the need for extensive public participation, and broad governmental and societal support, both during the technical work and for legislating the outcomes; and
3. the need for interventions that depend on people changing their perceptions and behaviour.

626. To achieve the mining targets for High Protection (HP) (90% reduction in impacts), these challenges will be focused on the implementation of Sediment Mining Management Guidelines that are supported by technical data, considering trade-off between ecological protection and the requirements of the miners and the community at large, and enjoys broad-based support from both the community and the authorities that will be responsible for its implementation. The key activities required to implement Sediment Mining Management Guidelines can be placed in the following categories:

1. The institutional (legal and administrative) provisions that need to implement protection measures.
2. The modelling and other technical studies required to determine the location, quality, and quantity of sediment deposits linked with BHPP, and to assist with the identification of other focus areas.
3. The confirmation of the key ecological sites or reaches within the system is needed to identify no-go or restricted-use reaches to inform the trade-offs between ecosystem protection and mining locations.
4. The necessary engagement with the affected mining operators to ensure that their needs are considered in, and where possible integrated into, the process.

627. In reality, however, there will need to be considerable cooperation across these areas to produce the technical information, management mechanisms, and buy-in required to ensure the successful implementation of the protection measures.

H.2.1 Institutional

628. The key legal and administrative activities required include:

a. Establish/implement sources of funding and financial mechanisms: The Biodiversity Management Plan for BHPP identifies avenues for generating funds for the implementation of High Protection (HP) measures for fishing, sediment mining, and use of riparian vegetation. However, appropriate mechanisms will still need to be designed and implemented for the acquisition of technical information; the formation of stakeholder associations; the construction of access roads, and; the ongoing costs of management, administration, monitoring, and reporting.

b. Develop implementation and compliance mechanisms.

c. Establish administrative pathways and line functions.

H.2.2 Sediment logical

629. The key technical activities required include:

a. Quantify volume and location of deposits: A two-dimensional hydraulic model will need to be developed based on existing hydrological and sediment records and used to predict the areas and volume of sediment deposition in the backup zone of the Project reservoir. This critical aspect of work should determine the volumes and accessibility of the sediment deposits associated with the proposed reservoir. This information will contribute to an assessment of the feasibility of focusing mining activities in this area, and be used to inform the need for additional focus areas, whether the operation of the Project dam should consider mining, and the design of access roads and operational areas.

b. Identify other focus mining areas: It may not be possible to relocate mining activities downstream of the Project dam to the backup zone of the dam, but this does not necessarily mean that the impact of these activities could not be reduced by focusing mining in less sensitive reaches. Any decisions concerning this would need to include:

   i. economic in terms of transportation cost.

   ii. ecological considerations as the fish in that section of the river will be cut off from their favored breeding areas in the upper catchment.

c. Liaise with BHPP operators: if necessary, the possibilities of manipulating the operating levels of the dam to increase dry-season access to smaller sediments should be explored.

d. Assess the access routes and the operational areas: Whether existing routes will do or upgrading or new access roads will be required. Also, are there sufficient spaces to organize operations where the different sediment sizes are deposited, e.g., for boulders, is there an area where stone crushers for producing aggregate can be placed?

H.2.3 Ecological

630. The key technical activities required include:

a. Map and rank priority river reach: Sensitive and important river reaches in the tributaries and mainstream will need to be identified and ranked to provide input to decisions about where sediment mining should be restricted to protect instream habitat. This information will be needed to evaluate the potential of trade-offs between mining activities and biodiversity protection.

b. Assess the relative ecological impacts associated with sand and gravel mining versus cobble and boulder mining.

c. Identify mining ban areas. In liaison with miners, and authorities and based 1 and 2 above and on data provided by the sedimentological technical studies.

d. Develop a monitoring program to monitor the efficacy of control measures.

H.2.4 Local community

631. The buy-in of the local community is possibly the most important aspect of the successful implementation of the protection measures directed at sediment mining. There is little doubt that this will require extensive consultation. The development of best practice guidelines is suggested. Guidelines for sediment mining could be developed by the mining authorities in liaison with environmental authorities and conservation bodies. These guidelines could then be translated into on-site management and control measures. The Monitoring and Evaluation program for sediment mining will be included in the M&E Plan of the Biodiversity Action Plan.

APPENDIX.I: DRAFT AGREEMENT

632. Although the sample agreement given hereunder is no longer relevant however, this will serve as a guiding document enabling PEDO to formulate a new implementation agreement under the changed BAP implementation arrangement.

AGREEMENT FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

This Agreement (the Agreement) is made on this _____day of _____20__

Between

The (Government Department) (hereinafter called "the Department "of the First Part, which expressions shall mean and includes its successors and assignees;)

And

(Name of Company), through its Authorized Representation (hereinafter called " the Company" which expression shall mean and include its successors-in-interest and permitted assignees) of the Second Part.

The Department and the Company are hereinafter called individually as a **"Party"** and collectively as the "Parties"

WHEREAS the (Government Department) is responsible for management of the (name of Area)

WHEREAS the Company is developing a (name of hydropower project). To mitigate the damage the Project would cause to the biodiversity of the (name of Area). The Company has prepared a Biodiversity Action Plan ("BAP") to protect and restore the critical habitats;

AND WHEREAS, the Department and the Company desire to collaborate for the implementation of the BAP upon the terms and conditions contained hereunder.

NOW THEREFORE, in the presence of the witnesses, the parties hereto have agreed and declared as follows:

1. This Agreement shall become effective upon the signing date and shall remain valid for a period of ten (10) years. The Parties may extend the term as they deem appropriate.
2. **The Company shall be responsible for:**
    a) Providing assistance to the Department for creating conducive conditions and addressing the threats to the habitat of different species in the (name of Area) generally and in particular around the project;
    b) The company shall develop the BAP in consultation with the Department clearly indicating the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders and also defining the implementation mechanism of the BAP along with its cost estimates for different activities.
    c) Development, in coordination with the Department, a monitoring and evaluation framework to assess the achievement of the objectives of the BAP and assisting the Department in implementing such framework;
    d) Providing essential equipment for the improvement of the (name of Area) management and operations as envisaged under the BAP;
    e) It shall be ensured that no dumping is made along the river. However, whenever it is unavoidable, the company shall take all protective measures to ensure no spoiling/excavation reaches the river.
    f) The Company shall make sure the safety and security of wildlife and their habitats at the Project site and its environment with prior consultation and adhering strictly to the guidelines of the Department.
    g) Providing recommendations to the Department for improvements in the management

3. The Company shall fulfill the above obligations by:

a) Making payments in terms of the BAP and at times indicated in the BAP to procure materials and services within the scope and responsibility of the Company;

b) Contracting with an implementation agency that will procure the materials and deliver the services to fulfill the obligations of the Company for implementation of the BAP, after consultation with and approval of the Department; provided that the implementation agency shall preferably be a non-profit and non-governmental organization, having the capacity and demonstrated experience of at least ten (10) years in implementing biodiversity conservation programmers in sensitive areas; and

c) Contracting with a monitoring and evaluation services consultant who shall deliver the monitoring and evaluation services required for the implementation of the BAP. The monitoring and evaluation service consultant shall have the capacity and demonstrated experience of at least ten (10) years in conducting aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity surveys and preparing assessment reports for sensitive areas.

4. The Department shall be responsible for the following:

a) Enforce the provisions of all applicable laws

b) Make available all material to its staff, as envisaged in the BAP

c) Establish a management committee for the oversight and monitoring of the implementation of the BAP;

d) Authorize staff of the implementation agency to exercise power as permissible under the applicable law and as approved by the management committee;

e) Assess and improve where required, the existing wildlife management systems to ensure that the same are effective and sufficient for achieving the BAP objectives;

f) Evaluate the prevalent and emerging threats and hindrances to wildlife resources constraining the achievement of the objectives of the BAP (e.g. hunting and trapping, fishing, grazing, visitors, traffic, violations of park rules, construction of infrastructure, and pollution) and take necessary actions to prevent such constraints;

g) Use available resources to collect data on wildlife relevant to the BAP and share the same with the Company;

h) Promote and support the implementation of conservation programs and mobilize local communities to achieve the same;

i) Arrange media coverage of the steps taken towards implementing the BAP;

j) Construct a hatchery for captive breeding of (name of fish) utilizing supplemental equipment provided by the Company as indicated in the budget of the BAP;

k) To put in place a system for the registration and review of complaints and to conduct a follow-up to address the complaints regarding the implementation of the BAP.

5. This Agreement may be amended in writing from time to time by mutual consent of the Parties after prior vetting of the Law Department and approval of the Government.

6. All communications under this Agreement shall be made by:

a) The Company's Manager Environment on behalf of the Company; and

b) The Director on behalf of the Department.

7. All disputes or disagreements of any nature whatsoever under or under this Agreement (the" Dispute") shall be resolved amicably by the parties. If the Parties are unable to resolve a Dispute within (30) days then the Parties shall seek advice from the Environmental Protection Agency to resolve the Dispute. Provided that if a Party does not agree to adhere to such advice then such Party may commence legal proceedings in the courts which shall determine such Dispute. The courts shall have jurisdiction to resolve the Dispute. The Parties hereby agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the courts. The Parties obligation under this Agreement shall remain unaffected during the pendency of the Dispute.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the Parties hereto have signed this Agreement on the date and place above mentioned in the presence of witnesses.

For and on behalf of the Department

_____

Secretary (Government Department)

WITNESS #:1

Name:_____

CNIC#:_____

Designation:_____

Address:_____

For and on behalf of the Company

_____

WITNESS #:2

Name:_____

CNIC#:_____

Designation:_____

Address:_____

APPENDIX.J: MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

J.1 Introduction

633. The Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO) intends to construct a 300-megawatt (MW) run-of-river hydropower plant (the "Project") with related infrastructure at Balakot, Mansehra district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Pakistan. The Project site is located on the Kunhar River about 18 km upstream of the town of Balakot.

634. An environmental impact assessment (EIA) and other biodiversity studies conducted for the Project indicated the presence of valued terrestrial and aquatic biological resources, in the area that will be affected by the Project. The Project will have unavoidable impacts on terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity, particularly on the aquatic biodiversity when the connectivity of the river is broken due to the construction of the dam. Other major potential impacts to be considered are those associated with the creation of a dam reservoir upstream and variations in flows downstream due to peaking operations. To minimize all these and other impacts development of a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) is recommended in the EIA of the Project for Net Gain. Net Gain is required based on the Critical Habitat Assessment carried out for the Project (see **Section 8.1** of the BAP).

J.1.1 Overview of the BAP

635. Where biodiversity values of importance to conservation are associated with a project site or its area of influence, the preparation of a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) and/or a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) provides a useful means to focus a project's mitigation and management strategy.

636. A BAP is a plan to conserve or enhance biodiversity, more specifically a set of future actions that will lead to the conservation or enhancement of biodiversity. As part of the BAP for the Project, an Environmental Flow Assessment (EFA) was carried out. The objective of the EFA was to use the DRIFT DSS to assess the implications of operational and management scenarios for the Project. The Environmental Flow Assessment Report (E-Flow report) states that the Project will affect fish populations both upstream and downstream of the Project. Alwan Snow Trout will be cut off from their upstream breeding grounds. Nalbant's Loach and Kashmir Hillstream Loach will be affected by water abstraction in the low-flow section due to the inundation of the river by the reservoir.

637. The flow-related mitigation measures, subject to the approval of the regulators, owner, and stakeholders include:

- Operate baseload power generation at Project, i.e., no peaking releases, would reduce its impact on the Kunhar River downstream of the tailrace to Patrind HPP.
- Implement High Protection in the Area of Management

638. This BAP describes non-flow-related measures, actions, and activities that will protect the biological resources. These include:

- Conservation measures for control of illegal fishing. These include a complete ban on non-selective fishing in the entire stretch of the Kunhar River, banning fishing in tributaries where fish breeding grounds are located, a ban on commercial fishing in both the main river and tributaries, compensation for loss of fishing incomes and subsistence fishing.
- Conservation measures for management of sand and gravel mining. These include a ban on sediment and gravel mining in ecologically sensitive areas such as fish breeding locations and the use of mining inspectors.
- An efficient and improved watch and ward system. This is to include the construction of field offices, hiring of additional staff, necessary equipment, and facilities
- Removal of alien invasive vegetation species and plantation of native species
- Afforestation to reconstruct habitats.
- Reduction in noise levels to protect bird species
- Measures to mitigate damage to bird species due to collisions and electrocution with transmission lines by following international standards on the distance between transition lines, carrying out long-term seasonal studies and having visibility enhancement objects.
- Education and awareness, particularly at the local level, are necessary to generate support among local communities for the conservation measures. This includes the hiring of social mobilizers.
- Promoting tourism.
- Institutional strengthening of the relevant government departments in KP.
- Generating a stronger sense of ownership and commitment in the Department and the government towards BAP,
- Providing a foundation for building a long-term relationship between the communities and the Department,
- Providing a framework for improving the management strategies and actions included in the BAP based on additional baseline information generated by BAP and the associated M&E process

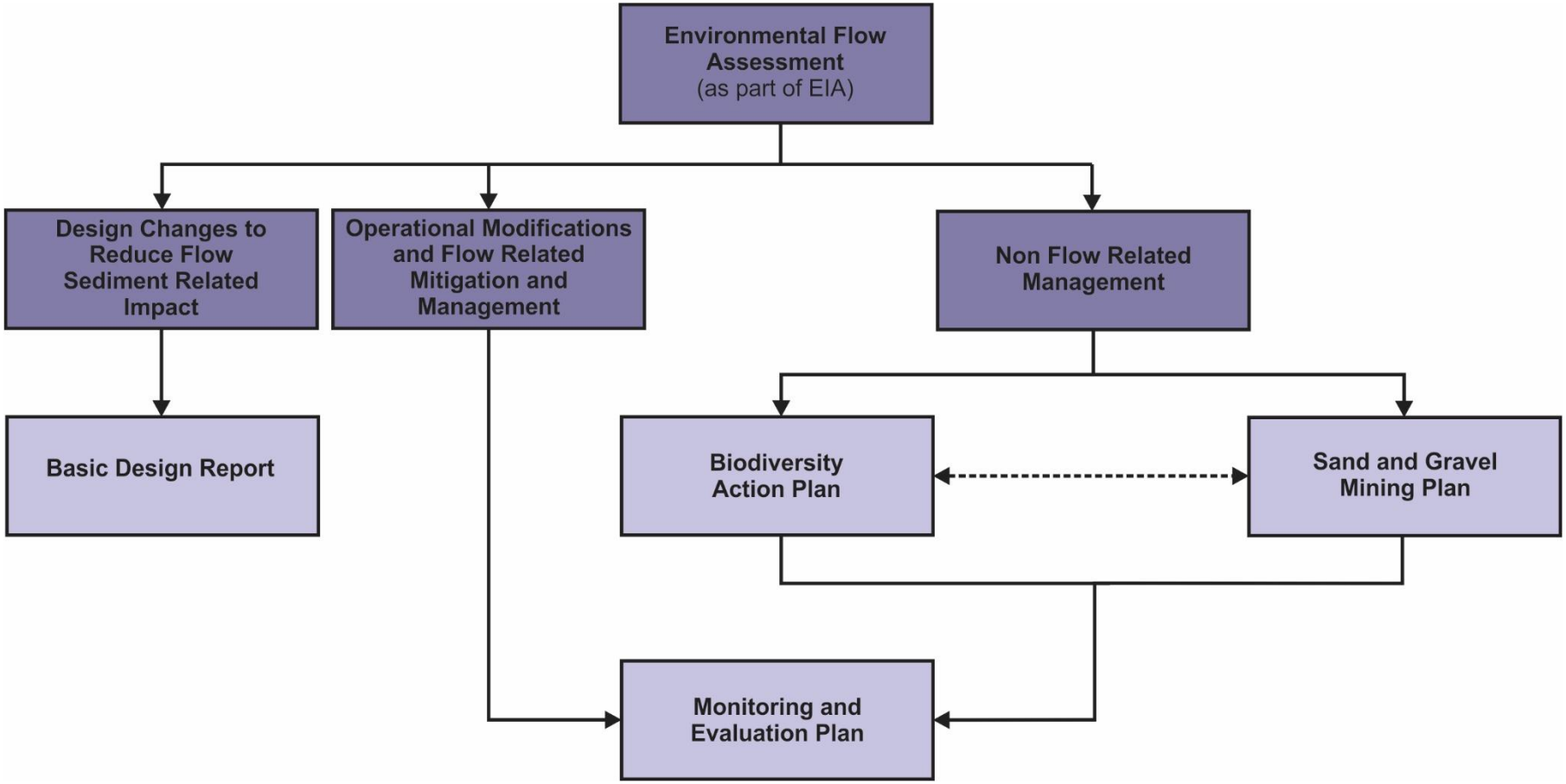
J.1.2 Objective of the M&E Plan and Relationship with Other Plans

639. The monitoring program described in this document is designed to detect changes in the river ecosystem that are associated with both flow and non-flow-related mitigation measures to determine whether the biodiversity objectives identified in the BAP are met. The relationship between this M&E Plan and other plans is illustrated in **Exhibit 18.831**.

640. There is sediment extraction by the local communities from the Kunhar River and its tributaries in the Area of Management such as Sangar Nullah and Jalora Nullah, Shisha Nullah largely for the construction of homes in the area. This leads to habitat

fragmentation and degradation of the aquatic ecological resources of the River. Therefore, a Sediment Mining Plan will be prepared to ensure that a balance is achieved between meeting community needs for sediment as well as the integrity of aquatic habitat in Kunhar River and its tributaries such that the habitat is not excessively damaged due to uncontrolled mining activities on the river bed. The Sediment Mining Plan will provide guidelines for the locations, methods, and timings for sustainable mining in the Area of Management. The support provided by the BAP framework is time-bound and will remain in effect through the construction and operation, corresponding to the period of the Environmental Management Plan for the Project.

Exhibit 18.83: Proposed Relationship of BAP with other Plans



J.1.3 Approach

641. A Pressure-State-Response framework as outlined in **Section 16** of the BAP will be used for monitoring purposes.[116] The PSR framework lays out the basic relationships among:

- the pressures human society puts on the environment such as illegal fishing, and sand and gravel extraction
- the resulting state or condition of the environment such as hydrology, geomorphology, water quality, and fish
- the response to these conditions to ease or prevent negative impacts resulting from the pressures such as policies, laws, and regulations; institutional capacity for management

642. Details are provided in **Sections J2 –J4** below.

643. Overall targets for the recovery of fish populations are suggested in this document (**Section J.3.2**). Specific targets will be set for the pressure, state, and response indicators in consultation with the stakeholders. The targets for indicators of state will consist of narrative and numerical targets as well as Thresholds for Potential Concern (**Section J.3.6.6**), particularly for the fish species of conservation importance.

644. To assess the overall change in ecological integrity in the Primary Area of Management, the monitoring results from the pressure, state, and response indicators will be combined and evaluated every 7 to 8 years. The use of an integrated model such as DRIFT will be explored for this evaluation (DRIFT methodology described in **Section 12** of BAP).

645. The basic responsibility for monitoring will lie with the Monitoring and Evaluation Consultant (M & E Consultant). However, the staff of the KP Fisheries and Wildlife Departments will also be involved in field data collection and analysis to build their capacity for long-term monitoring. In addition, university students may be involved as field assistants to build capacity for research and management.

J.1.4 Limitations

646. As is the case with many natural systems, river ecosystems have a high degree of natural variability. Successful monitoring of predictions of future consequences of flow change requires a distinction between natural or anthropogenic, and flow-related or non-flow-related changes in those systems. In rivers, for instance, changes in the position and extent of sandbars could be natural shifts well within the long-term norm for a river. Shifts in the species composition of fish communities can occur naturally during dry and wet cycles, around some dynamic equilibrium. Added to this are the compounding effects of global events such as climate change, leading to changes in rainfall regime and hence water supply to aquatic ecosystems (both in terms of volume

[116] Pressure-State-Response Framework and Environmental Indicators, http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/programmes/en/lead/toolbox/refer/envindi.htm

and distribution), and more localized non-flow related impacts such as fire, land use changes and invasion by alien species.

647. This Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan, in common with very many such programs around the world, will not have access to a long-term record of a range of biophysical features of the Kunhar River and its tributaries. Baseline monitoring of the river will start in earnest, although there is some data from earlier work related to fish studies[117] that will also be drawn into the baseline data set. Nonetheless, only the first one or two complete biophysical surveys will predate any construction activity in the river associated with the Project. Thus, it is highly unlikely that the baseline data will represent a steady state against which future changes can be measured statistically, although, with time, the data collected as part of the M&E program will provide a record of the natural variability overlain with the effects of the Project (which can be analyzed and compared statistically).

648. These constraints to monitoring the performance of the Project concerning meeting the targets set in the BAP are neither unforeseen nor insurmountable. In recognition of this, the BAP will not require a demonstration of statistically significant deviations from the baseline data set.

649. Instead, it will rely on demonstration of whether or not:

- The E-Flow releases from the Project are made correctly. Monitoring of the E-Flow releases from the Project is described in Section F.3.3.
- The bulk of the targets for individual ecosystem indicators (indicators of state) are met at selected key sites as indicated in Section F.3. Narrative and numerical targets will be set for the indicators of the state including hydrology, water quality and geomorphology, and fish. Numerical targets will be set based on the baseline monitoring results.
- The framework outlined for assessing the pressure and response indicators is followed.

J.1.5 Overall Performance of the BAP

650. It is suggested that the overall performance of the BAP should be evaluated as shown in **Exhibit 18.84.**

Exhibit 18.84: Performance of the BAP

Rating	Standard
Excellent	90-100% of targets achieved
Good	75 – 89 % of targets achieved
Fair	60 - 74% of targets achieved
Poor	40 – 59% of targets achieved
Fail	<40% of targets achieved

[117] Hagler Bailly Pakistan, 2019, Environmental Impact Assessment of the Hydropower Development Investment Project for the Asian Development Bank (ADB)

J.2 Indicators of Pressure

J.2.1 Objective

651. Following the Pressure-State-Response framework as outlined in **Section 16** of the BAP, this section addresses the monitoring of indicators of pressure, defined as the pressures that human society puts on the environment. In the context of BAP, the pressures correspond to the activities of the state as well as the local communities that can potentially degrade the biodiversity of the Kunhar River.

J.2.2 Indicators for Monitoring

652. **Exhibit 18.85** lists the selected indicators of pressure.

Exhibit 18.85: Pressure Indicators

Aspect or Driver	Pressure	Justification for Indicator	Indicator Description	Comments
Harvesting from the river for food	Permitted fishing using rods and cast nets	Fishing, whether regulated or unregulated, will reduce the population of target fish species and could negatively affect net gain	Number of fishing permits issued in a year	The indicator will include the quantity, type, and weight of fish caught, requiring permit holders to record information on logs.
	Illegal fishing	Same as above	1. Number of instances of illegal fishing reported 2. Number of communities reporting the existence of illegal fishing 3. Number of instances of illegal fishing observed	Reported instances will include those reported by the staff of the Department as well as the ones reported by other informers The number of instances observed will be based on defined sweeps of the river conducted by the M&E Consultant
Recreation and Tourism	Permitted fishing using rods	Fishing will reduce the population of target fish species and could negatively affect net gain.	Number of fishing permits issued in a year	The indicator will include the quantity, type, and weight of fish caught, requiring permit holders to record information on logs.
Extraction of sand and gravel from the river bed	Quantity and distribution of sand and gravel mining from river bed	Damage of aquatic habitat by unregulated mining practices	Number/area of extraction activities Number of mining permits issued Details in Sediment Mining Plan	
Hunting and trapping of terrestrial species of concern	Hunting and trapping of leopards, pangolins, and other	Disturbance and harm to terrestrial wildlife	Number of instances reported related to terrestrial wildlife	Will be administered by the Departments

Aspect or Driver	Pressure	Justification for Indicator	Indicator Description	Comments
	species of concern			

J.2.3 Method for Data Collection, Frequency, and Timing

653. **Exhibit 18.86** summarizes the methods of data collection, and frequency, and timing of data collection for the pressure indicators. Data will be collected through the following instruments and sources of information:

- An information system to be maintained by the Departments; this information system will provide data on violations of wildlife and fisheries rules and regulations, fines, and harvesting permits issued.
- Primary data collection by the M&E Consultant through focus group interviews and socioeconomic surveys in selected villages, and inspections of the river.

Exhibit 18.86: Method of Data Collection for Pressure Indicators, Frequency, and Timing

No	Pressure	Indicator Description	Method of Data Collection	Frequency and Timing
1	Permitted fishing using cast nets	Number of fishing permits for cast nets issued in a year	Compilation from the records of the Departments	Once a year at the end of the fishing season
2	Illegal fishing	Number of instances of illegal fishing reported	Compilation from the records of the Departments	Quarterly, towards the end of the quarter
		Number of communities reporting the existence of illegal fishing	Focus group interviews with a defined sample of 12-15 communities spread over the Primary Area of Management	Once a year in December/ January
		Number of instances of illegal fishing observed	Visual scan by a team of at least two persons, in a vehicle, through the entire length of the river and segments of tributaries where fish is distributed. The scan will be conducted at times indicated by patterns of occurrence such as evening and early morning.	Quarterly, towards the end of the quarter
3	Permitted fishing using rods	Number of fishing permits issued for rods in a year	Compilation from the records of the Departments	Once a year at the end of the fishing season
4	Quantity and distribution of sand and gravel mining from river bed	To be defined in the Sediment Mining Plan	Number/area of extraction activities Number of mining permits issued	
5	Violations related to	Number of violations reported	Compilation from the records of the Departments	Quarterly, towards the end of the quarter

No	Pressure	Indicator Description	Method of Data Collection	Frequency and Timing
	terrestrial wildlife		and interviews with key informers in communities	

J.2.4 Data Analysis and Reporting

654. Formats for the analysis and reporting of data on a quarterly and annual basis are included in **Exhibit 18.87** and **Exhibit 18.88** respectively.

655. Data analysis and reporting for indicators related to sand and gravel mining will be prepared as a part of the Sand Mining Plan.

Exhibit 18.87: Format for Quarterly Report for Pressure Indicators[118]

No.	Indicator	This Quarter	This Quarter Last Year	Year To-Date	Year To-Date Last Year	Percentage Increase or Decrease	Comments
1	Number of fishing permits issued for cast nets						
2	Number of instances of illegal fishing reported						
3	Number of communities reporting the existence of illegal fishing						
4	Number of instances of illegal fishing observed						
5	Number of fishing permits issued with rods						
6	Quantity and distribution of sand and gravel mining from river bed						
7	Number of terrestrial wildlife violations reported						

Exhibit 18.88: Format for Annual Report for Pressure Indicators[119]

No.	Indicator	This Year	Previous Year	Percentage Increase or Decrease	Comments
1	Number of fishing permits for cast nets issued				
2	Number of fishing permits for rods issued				
3	Number of instances of illegal fishing reported				

[118] Instead of quarterly and annual reports, as discussed with the departments and with the ADB, semi-annual Monitoring reports will be produced by the M&E consultant covering the mentioned indicators.
[119] Instead of annual reports, semi annual reports are proposed in the updated EIA.

No.	Indicator	This Year	Previous Year	Percentage Increase or Decrease	Comments
4	Number of instances of illegal fishing observed				
5	Number of terrestrial wildlife violations reported				

J.2.5 Targets

656. Explicit targets for pressure indicators cannot be set at this stage. These targets are best defined by the Management Committees on annual review as these will involve an element of judgment and consultation among stakeholders that are represented in the Management Committees, as illustrated below:

1. The number of fishing permits issued every year will depend on the outcomes of the previous year including success in management and enforcement of fishing rules, income from permits, and change in fish populations observed.

2. Targets for the reduction in violations of wildlife rules such as illegal fishing and hunting of other wildlife can be set by the Management Committees given level of pressures and resources being allocated to control the pressures. A 50 % reduction in these pressures compared to those in the baseline or previous year would be warranted to achieve the net gain targets of the BAP.

J.3 Indicators of State

J.3.1 Objective

657. The objective of monitoring described in this section is to detect changes in the ecological integrity of the Kunhar River ecosystem in the Primary Area of Management by collecting and analyzing data for the following indicators of state:

- Hydrology: the timing and magnitude of flows in the river as these will be the key drivers of ecosystem change;
- Water quality: the quality of the water in the channel including temperature, as this is an important cue for biological lifecycle stages;
- Geomorphology: the availability and distribution of key habitats, such as riffles, backwaters, or pools;
- Fish: the relative abundance, distribution, species composition and gonad development;

658. The terrestrial ecology will be monitored by the Departments under the their frameworks.

- Terrestrial vegetation: the abundance, species composition, and distribution of the terrestrial vegetation
- Terrestrial fauna: the abundance, species composition, and distribution of the terrestrial fauna

659. The monitoring program describes for each indicator of state:

- Monitoring locations

- Monitoring schedule
- Method for data collection and sampling protocols
- Data analysis

660. GPS coordinates of the proposed sampling locations for monitoring each of the parameters are given in **Exhibit 18.91**. A map showing these aquatic ecological monitoring locations is given in **Exhibit 18.92.**

661. Comparisons between data collected at intervals will be more meaningful if the sampling locations and procedures are consistent and proper quality control is exercised through all stages of data collection. To this end, the M&E Consultant will ensure that sampling is done under similar conditions each year because results are expected to vary with differences in flow, time of day, time of year, temperature, weather, habitat type, water clarity, net placement, etc. In addition, all sampling sites will therefore be geo-referenced, photographed, and marked in the field to ensure the same location is sampled each year.

J.3.2 Targets

662. Narrative and numerical targets will be set for the indicators of state based on the baseline monitoring results keeping in view natural variability. However, an assessment of targets will be conducted only at the key sites for monitoring. The key sites are those that are most likely to be impacted by Project operations.

663. Suggested Thresholds of Potential Concern (TPCs) will also be provided for ecosystem indicators (indicators of state) because these may exhibit a high natural variation that could confuse. TPCs are defined as the upper /or lower allowable limits of the targets.[120] In the M&E Plan these are designed to act as triggers for concern if an indicator is not moving towards target.

664. Together, the numerical targets and Thresholds of Potential Concern (TPCs) will assist in evaluating

- whether or not the individual target conditions are being achieved, and if not
- whether this is the reason for concern in the short-term

665. Specific targets and TPCs for the state indicators at the selected sites will be set after consulting all stakeholders. However, predictions of DRIFT modeling may be used for setting these targets as described below.

666. The DRIFT model predicts a decline in fish populations post-dam construction due to the impact of the discontinuity in the river. The model also predicts a recovery of populations in the tributaries if protection measures under the BAP are put in place. The degree of impact varies for species, depending on their seasonal movement patterns and location of breeding areas upstream or downstream of the dam.

Main River Downstream of the Dam:

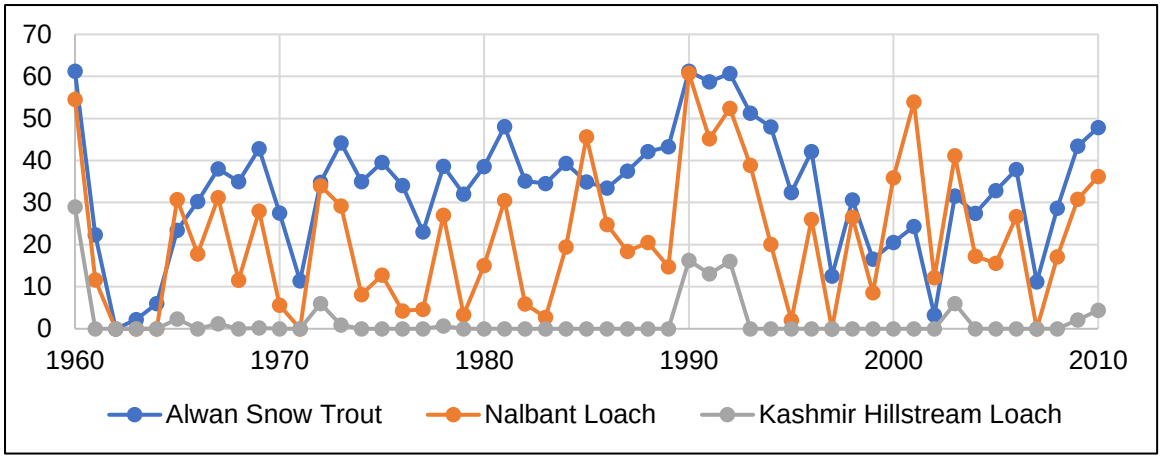
[120] Biggs, H.C., Rogers, K.H. 2003. An adaptive system to link science, monitoring and management in practice. In: The Kruger Experience. Ecology and management of Savanna heterogeneity. Du Toit, J.T., Rogers, K.H. and Biggs, H.C. (Eds). pp 59-80.

667. According to model predictions, fish populations show a gradual decline over 30 years except the Kashmir Hillstream Loach which shows a complete collapse. **Exhibit 18.89** shows the results of DRIFT for the segments of the main river downstream of the dam. The following target can therefore be set for river locations downstream of the dam:

Target: Population from pre-dam levels of 30% of present-day in six years

TPC: Allowing for precision and margins in predictions, TPC could be set at 30% in six years.

Exhibit 18.89: Results of DRIFT, Downstream of the Dam in the Main River



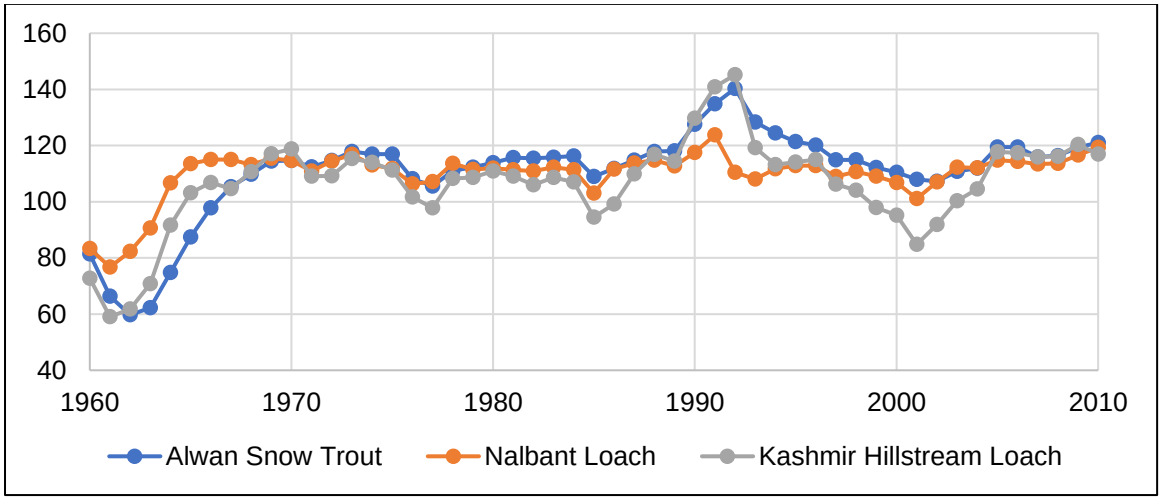
Tributaries and Downstream of the Tailrace:

668. Tributaries are the same as downstream of the tailrace is in baseload operation as no change in hydrology (the effect of the dam is reduced upstream migration from the mainstem to the tributaries). **Exhibit 18.90** shows the results of DRIFT, in the tributaries and downstream of the tailrace. The following target can therefore be set for river locations in tributaries and downstream of the tailrace.

Target: Populations reaching 110% of the present day in six years.

TPC: Populations remaining 100% of the present day in six years.

Exhibit 18.90: Results of DRIFT, Tributaries, and Downstream of the Tailrace



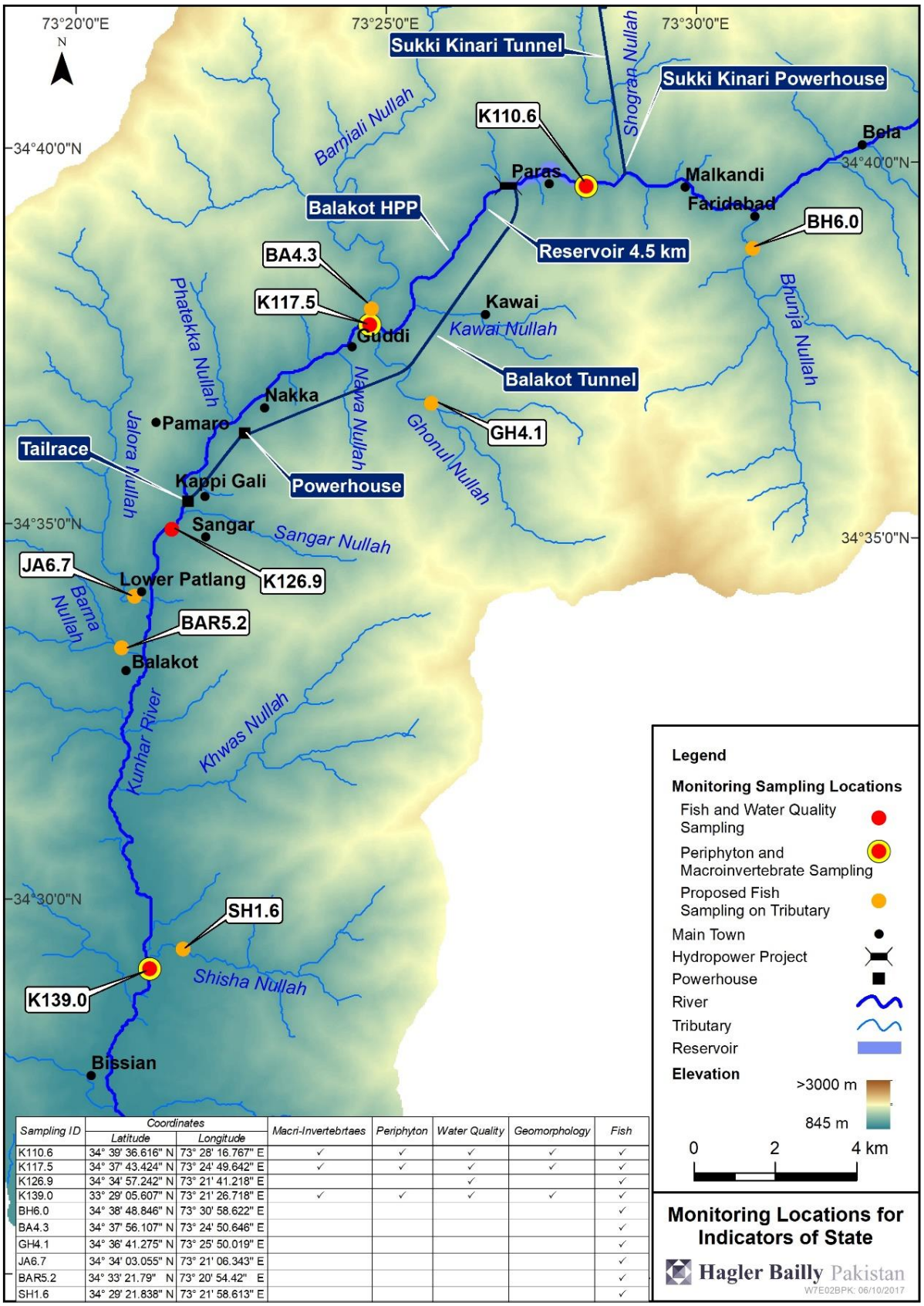
669. Details will be worked out during the first phase of monitoring and evaluation in which a monitoring and reporting system will be set up.

670. Monitoring data will be collected at all the locations indicated in **Exhibit 18.91** to observe variations over time.

Exhibit 18.91: Proposed Monitoring Locations for Physical and Aquatic Ecology Indicators

Sampling ID	Location	Coordinates		Macro-Invertebrates	Periphyton	Water Quality	Geomorphology	Fish
		Latitude	*Longitude*					
K110.6	Kunhar River Upstream Paras Town	34° 39' 36.616" N	73° 28' 16.767" E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
K117.5	Kunhar River near the Confluence of Barinali Nullah	34° 37' 43.424" N	73° 24' 49.642" E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
K126.9	Kunhar River near Sangar Town	34° 34' 57.242" N	73° 21' 41.218" E					✓
K139.0	Kunhar River near the Confluence of Shisha Nullah	33° 29' 05.607" N	73° 21' 26.718" E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BH6.0	Bhonja Nullah Near Bhonja Village	34° 38' 48.846" N	73° 30' 58.622" E					✓
BA4.3	Barniali Nullah near the Confluence of Kunhar River	34° 37' 56.107" N	73° 24' 50.646" E					✓
GH4.1	Ganhool Nullah near Ghanool Village	34° 36' 41.275" N	73° 25' 50.019" E					✓
JA6.7	Jalora Nullah near the Confluence of Kunhar River	34° 34' 03.055" N	73° 21' 06.343" E					✓
BAR5.2	Barna Nullah near the Confluence of Kunhar River	34° 33' 22.88" N	73° 20' 54.6" E					✓
SH1.6	Shisha Nullah near the Confluence of Kunhar River	34° 29' 21.838" N	73° 21' 58.613" E					✓

Exhibit 18.92: Monitoring Locations for Indicators of State



Sampling ID	Coordinates		Macri-Invertebrtaes	Periphyton	Water Quality	Geomorphology	Fish
	Latitude	Longitude					
K110.6	34° 39' 36.616" N	73° 28' 16.767" E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
K117.5	34° 37' 43.424" N	73° 24' 49.642" E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
K126.9	34° 34' 57.242" N	73° 21' 41.218" E			✓		✓
K139.0	33° 29' 05.607" N	73° 21' 26.718" E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BH6.0	34° 38' 48.846" N	73° 30' 58.622" E					✓
BA4.3	34° 37' 56.107" N	73° 24' 50.646" E					✓
GH4.1	34° 36' 41.275" N	73° 25' 50.019" E					✓
JA6.7	34° 34' 03.055" N	73° 21' 06.343" E					✓
BAR5.2	34° 33' 21.79" N	73° 20' 54.42" E					✓
SH1.6	34° 29' 21.838" N	73° 21' 58.613" E					✓

Exhibit 18.93: Key Sites for Monitoring of Indicator of State and Assessment against Targets

Discipline	State Indicator	Applicable monitoring site
Hydrology	Dry season minimum 5–day discharge	At the dam by the plant operator
	Dry season duration	
	Dry season onset	
	Within day variations in discharge	
Water Quality	See parameters in **Exhibit 18.95**	K110.6, K126.9 and K139.0
Geomorphology	Bed sediment composition	K110.6, K126.9 and K139.0
Fish	CPUE Kashmir Hillstream Loach *Triplophysa kashmirensis*	K110.6, K117.5, K126.9, K139.0, BH6.0, BA4.3, GH4.1, JA6.7, BAR5.2 and SH1.6
	CPUE Nalbant's Loach *Schistura nalbanti*	
	CPUE Alwan Snow Trout *Schizothorax richardsonii*	
	CPUE Rainbow Trout *Oncorhynchus mykiss*	
	Population structure	
	Species diversity	
	Reproductive maturity stage of fish in tributaries	
	Fish health	

J.3.3 Hydrology

671. The baseline flows in the Kunhar River are currently close to natural, as there is limited abstraction for urban settlements upstream of the Project.

J.3.3.1 Objectives

672. Hydrological data will be collected at the dam, dam spillway and tunnel to record a time series of flow releases and will provide hydrological flow data as a basis for informing long-term monitoring results.

673. It is important to quantify the flows:

- to ensure compliance with the agreed-upon operating rules and flow management measures.
- to identify the change in non-project related natural changes or natural conditions that may impact biodiversity; and
- since flows impact geomorphological, biological, and water quality that may in turn impact biodiversity.

J.3.3.2 Indicators

674. Changes in hydrology will be assessed using the following principal flow indicators:

- Mean annual runoff (m^3/s)
- Median annual runoff (m^3/s)

- Dry season onset (date)
- Dry season minimum 5–day discharge (m^3/s)
- Dry season duration (days)
- Wet season onset (date)
- Wet season peak 5–day discharge (m^3/s)
- Wet season duration (days)

J.3.3.3 Sampling Frequency, Timings and Locations

675. There will be continuous monitoring with a maximum of 30 minute-intervals at the outfalls of the dam including environmental and operational releases from the spillway and tailrace tunnel.

J.3.3.4 Methods for Data Collection

676. The Operator intends to maintain equipment to measure outflow at the tailrace tunnel and spillway for dam operations. Discharge data was collected using flow gauging equipment (at the tailrace tunnel, environmental release system, and dam spillway) utilized for operations at the dam.

J.3.3.5 Methods for Data Analysis

677. The analysis of hydrology will involve the calculation of the flow indicators (provided above) and the comparison of calculated values to baseline conditions. The assessment will be carried out annually.

J.3.3.6 Targets

678. The key indicators and sites to assess against targets to be established using the baseline are provided in **Exhibit 18.94.**

Exhibit 18.94: Monitoring of Hydrology and Assessment against Targets

Discipline	Indicator
Hydrology	Dry season minimum 5–day discharge
	Dry season duration
	Dry season onset
	Within-day variations in discharge

J.3.3.7 Monitoring Responsibility

679. The operator will be responsible for continuous monitoring of discharge from the dam.

J.3.4 Water Quality

680. Water quality is a composite term describing the physical and chemical properties of water. The water quality of the Kunhar River and its tributaries in the Primary Area of Management is generally good and at some places, it is used for irrigation and other non–consumptive purposes. However, the river water is contaminated from the disposal of wastewater effluent from towns, villages, and

settlements along the river as well as located in the river drainage area. This applies particularly to Kaghan, Naran, and Balakot towns.

681. The focus of the analysis of the water quality data is to identify changes in water quality as a result of changes in flow and other pressures in the catchment such as household and urban sewage, and use of fertilizers in agriculture.

J.3.4.1 Objectives

682. The objectives of the water quality monitoring are to monitor changes in the physio-chemical characteristics of the river and its tributaries to inform the interpretation of potential changes in biological data that may relate to water quality changes.

J.3.4.2 Indicators

683. A complete list of water quality parameters for collection, analysis and reporting is given in **Exhibit 18.95.**

J.3.4.3 Sampling Frequency, Timings and Locations

684. Even though the change in temperature of the water as it goes through the reservoir is not expected to be significant in view of the limited storage capacity of the dam, the temperature will be monitored continuously at the reservoir to detect any changes as these will be relevant to ecology.

685. Water samples will be collected from K110.6, K126.9 and K139.0 **(Exhibit 18.91** and **Exhibit 18.92)**, once a year in the low flow season when pollutant concentrations are expected to be highest. These will then be sent to the laboratory for analysis.

J.3.4.4 Methods for Data Collection

686. Probes and data loggers will be installed in the reservoir to monitor temperature. The temperature profiles can be downloaded from the data logger and plotted on a graph.[121]

687. For water quality analysis, grab samples will be collected from aquatic sampling locations **Exhibit 18.91** and **Exhibit 18.92).** The USEPA, Environmental Investigations – SOPs and Quality Assurance Manual[122] for collection of surface water samples will be followed, and the samples will be analyzed in a certified laboratory.

J.3.4.5 Methods for Data Analysis

688. Data analysis will be carried out as follows:

- To identify water quality changes:

✓ plot longitudinal and measured data for each variable.

[121] The specific location for installation of the probes will be determined at site.

[122] Environmental Investigations Standard Operating Procedures and Quality Assurance Manual, November 2001, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

- ✓ examine inter-annual change, longitudinal patterns and, if change occurs then identify the trajectory of change.
- ✓ where relevant, compare data for one variable with data for linked variables, such as those that may influence its toxicity.
- ✓ identify anomalous or unusual patterns, e.g. changes in data trends that require explanation or raise concern (e.g. heavy metal concentrations), and investigate whether there is a correlation with dam-related operational releases.

- To assess the extent and possible cause of the identified change:

- ✓ compare values with thresholds of concern (e.g. toxicity effects on biota, trophic state changes, drinking water standards).
- ✓ identify anomalous or unusual patterns e.g. changes in data trends that require explanation or raise concern (e.g. heavy metal concentrations) and investigate whether there is a correlation with dam-related operational releases.

J.3.4.6 Targets

689. Due to the lack of water quality guidelines for the streams and rivers in Pakistan, the assessment will be against the National Environmental Quality Standards (NEQS) for drinking water.

Exhibit 18.95 Parameters for Water Quality Testing and Targets

Parameter	Unit	Sample Type	LOR	Targets		Value
				NSDW[123]	WHO[124]	
Silver	µg/l	Grab		–	–	
Aluminum	µg/l	Grab		<200	200	
Arsenic	µg/l	Grab		≤50	10	
Boron	µg/l	Grab		300	300	
Barium	µg/l	Grab		700	700	
Cadmium	µg/l	Grab		10	3	
Chromium	µg/l	Grab		≤50	50	
Copper	µg/l	Grab		2,000	2,000	
Iron	mg/l	Grab		≤1.5	1.5	
Mercury	µg/l	Grab		≤1	1	
Manganese	µg/l	Grab		≤500	500	
Nickel	µg/l	Grab		≤20	20	
Lead	µg/l	Grab		≤50	1	
Antimony	µg/l	Grab		<20	20	
Selenium	µg/l	Grab		≤10	10	
Zinc	µg/l	Grab		5,000	3,000	

[123] S.R.O. 1062 (I)/2010, National Environmental Quality Standards for drinking water

[124] WGO Drinking Water Standards, 2011, 4th Edition.

Parameter	Unit	Sample Type	LOR	Targets		Value
				NSDW[123]	WHO[124]	
BOD	mg/l	Grab		–	–	
COD	mg/l	Grab		–	–	
Nitrate	mg/l	Grab		–	–	
Phosphate	mg/l	Grab		–	–	
TDS	mg/l	Grab		<1,000	<1,000	
TSS	mg/l			–	150	
pH		Grab		6.5–8.5	6.5–8.5	
Temperature	^{o}C	Continuous In situ		–	–	
E Coli or Thermo tolerant Coliform bacteria		Grab		Must not be detectable in any 100 ml sample	Must not be detectable in any 100 ml sample	

J.3.4.7 Monitoring Responsibility

690. A breakdown of responsibilities for monitoring water quality is given below:

- The operator will be responsible for the collection of continuous water temperature data.
- M&E Consultant will be responsible for collecting samples at specified sites once a year in December or January for analysis (see **Exhibit 18.95**).

J.3.5 Geomorphology

691. River geomorphology provides a critical link between the hydrology, hydraulic, and sedimentological processes at a site and the physical habitats where biota live. The geomorphological condition of a system and morphologic changes due to the dam and operations can be used to predict and/or explain changes in biodiversity based on changes in flow-sensitive physical habitats.

692. The construction and operation of the Project and other hydropower projects upstream will alter the hydrology and sedimentological processes. Sediment trapped in the dam will only be able to move downstream during flushing or sluicing operations of the dams, during wet season, and floods. Much of the coarse sediment fraction is likely to remain trapped in the reservoir. The downstream reaches may therefore experience a deficit of sediment supply relative to natural conditions, and this may result in enhanced erosion of the riverbanks and bed.

693. The geomorphological monitoring will allow assessment of changes in and flows that alter the physical habitats of the river.

J.3.5.1 Objectives

694. The objectives of the geomorphological monitoring are to record changes to the physical river reach profiles of the dam that are likely to result from the altered flow velocity and related sediment conditions arising from the Project.

J.3.5.2 Indicators

695. The indicators for monitoring are:

- Channel Planform
- Active Channel Morphology

J.3.5.3 Sampling Frequency, Timing and Locations

696. Channel planform will be measured annually in the dry season (December/January) at EF Site 1 (sampling site K110.6), EF Site 3 (sampling site K126.9), and EF Site 4 (sampling site K139.0). Fix-point photographs will be taken annually at around 8 am on a sunny day. Active channel morphology will be measured at this site once every three years in the dry season (December/January).

J.3.5.4 Methods for Data Collection

697. The following methods will be used:

- **Channel Planform:** Annual fixed-point photographs will be taken over time. These will be used to record changes in channel patterns and gross river geomorphology. Photographs looking upstream and downstream must be taken from the same georeferenced spot at each data collection site with the lens fixed at the same focal length. This will provide a macro-level assessment of change in riverine habitat. These annotated fixed-point photographs will be taken annually in the dry season. The date, GPS coordinates, time, and flow conditions of the river will be noted for each photograph.
- **Active Channel Morphology:** Cross-sectional profiles will be taken to provide a quantitative measure of change. The cross-sectional profile will be taken at EF Site 1 (sampling site K110.6), EF Site 3 (sampling site K126.9), and EF Site 4 (sampling site K139.0 once every year for the first three years (to observe the initial progression of change) and every 3 years subsequently. The profiles will be taken during the low flow season (December/January).

J.3.5.5 Methods for Data Analysis

698. The following methods will be used:

- **Fixed point photography:** The fixed point photographs should be compared to the baseline data and should aim to confirm if secondary channels remain active at the same discharge range (discharge volume will be indicated for each photoperiod). Some allowance for discharge at the time the photograph was recorded will be necessary, but in general, the annual fixed-point photographs should verify that patterns similar to the baseline persist in the monitored river sections.
- **Cross-sectional surveys of the river channel:** The width and depth characteristics of the active channel at EF Site 1 (sampling site K110.6), EF Site 3 (sampling site K126.9) and EF Site 4 (sampling site K139.0 will be compared with the baseline condition. An increase in the depth and/or width of the active channel may indicate that the channel capacity is increasing which may lead to the progressive loss of secondary channel habitats.

J.3.5.6 Targets

699. Assessment of geomorphology will be against target values established as part of the baseline as well as against monitoring and analysis information from the pre-dam period from the same location.

J.3.5.7 Monitoring Responsibility

700. Monitoring will be carried out by the M&E consultant.

J.3.6 Fish

701. Fish are important components of river ecosystems because they are long-lived and integral to aquatic food webs. They are considered key indicators of environmental change because of their varied life history strategies and their sensitivity to a wide range of hydrologic and water quality conditions. [125,126,127]

702. One fish species, the Alwan Snow Trout *Schizothorax richardsonii* has been listed as Vulnerable in the IUCN Red List[128] and two fish species, Kashmir Hillstream Loach *Triplophysa kashmirensis* and Nalbant's Loach *Schistura nalbanti* are endemic to Jhelum basin and restricted range species. Therefore, the metrics to monitor the population of this species have been designed to detect changes over time.

703. It is worthwhile to mention here that during the May 2024 survey, the Kashmir Hillstream Loach has been assessed as Critically Endangered (IUCN 2024).

J.3.6.1 Objectives

704. The objectives of the fish component of the monitoring program are to routinely measure a set of pre-defined indicators that will:

- detect trends in fish populations;
- detect shifts in the community structure;
- identify any loss of biodiversity;
- observe migration and breeding in tributaries.

J.3.6.2 Indicators

705. The fish indicators that will be used for monitoring are:

- Fish community composition and population structure – catch per unit effort (relative abundance) of individual fish species with a particular focus on the following fish species used as indicators in E-Flow assessment using the DRIFT model:
  - ✓ Kashmir Hillstream Loach *Triplophysa kashmirensis*

[125] Kleynhans, C.J. 1999. The development of a fish index to assess the biological integrity of South African rivers. WATER SA-PRETORIA-, 25, 265-278.

[126] Karr, J.R. 1981. Assessment of biotic integrity using fish communities. Fisheries, 6, 21-27.

[127] FauscH, K.D., Lyons, J., Karr, J.R. and Angermeier, P.L. 1990. Fish communities as indicators of environmental degradation. In: Adams, S. M., ed. Biological indicators of fish stress. American Fisheries Society, Symposium 8, 1990 1990 Bethesda, Maryland.

[128] IUCN 2017. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2014.2. <www.iucnredlist.org>. Downloaded on 20 June 2017.

- ✓ Nalbant's Loach *Schistura nalbanti*
- ✓ Alwan Snow Trout *Schizothorax richardsonii*
- ✓ Rainbow Trout *Oncorhynchus mykiss*

- Species diversity
- Reproductive maturity stage of fish during the breeding season
- Fish Health

J.3.6.3 Sampling Frequency, Timing and Location

706. Three fish surveys will be carried out annually in April/ May, August, and December/ January. These fish surveys in the river and tributaries have been designed to observe the fish distribution and composition at different times of the year.

707. The surveys will be undertaken by the BAP field office of the Fisheries Department. The Monitoring Consultant will also undertake random surveys at these locations however, the frequency will be two times per year i.e. during the reporting period of each Semi-annual Watch and Ward Monitoring report.

April/ May Survey

708. This survey will be used to provide an outline of the population distribution and composition of the fish species in the different fish habitats (pools, riffles etc.) as well as to calculate the relative abundance (catch per unit effort) and species diversity of these fish. Fish health will also be noted. The general health of a fish is indicated by the amount of parasites, lesions or growth anomalies found on its body.

709. Gill nets, cast nets, and electrofishing (where possible) will be used for fish collection, the combination will depend on the specific site conditions. In tributaries where water levels are low and wading is possible, electrofishing will be used. Cast nets will also be used in tributaries depending on specific site conditions. The survey of the tributaries will provide information on the migration pattern of the fish from the main river to tributaries at the beginning of the breeding season (End of March to mid-July).

710. The reproductive maturity stage of the fish (stage of gonad development) will be noted. This can be done by external examination to see if eggs or milt can be expressed from the genital opening. It is not necessary to sacrifice the fish if the reproductive stage cannot be determined from external examination. However, 3-4 specimens of each fish species can be sacrificed in an entire survey to observe the fish maturity.

August Survey

711. The August survey will be used to provide an outline of the population distribution and composition of the fish species in the different fish habitats (pools, riffles etc.) as well as to calculate the relative abundance (catch per unit effort) and species diversity of these fish. Fish health and reproductive maturity will also be noted. Gill nets and cast nets will be used for fish collection, the combination will depend on the specific site conditions. In tributaries where water levels are low and wading is possible, electrofishing will be used. Cast nets will also be used in tributaries

depending on specific site conditions. This survey can provide information on the migration pattern of the fish from the tributaries back into the main river at the end of the breeding season (End of March to mid-July).

December/ January Survey

712. The December/ January survey will focus on observing the wintering behavior of fish in pools and the fish migration in the winter at specified locations in the main river. Gill nets will be used for fish collection while cast nets can also be used where possible. Relative abundance (catch per unit effort) and species diversity of the fish will be noted in addition to available fish habitat. Sampling in tributaries will not be done during this survey. This sampling framework for fish surveys is summarized in **Exhibit 18.96**.

Exhibit 18.96: Sampling Framework for Fish Surveys

Survey Date	Outcome	Data required	Methodology
April/ May	Fish community composition, population size distribution, and species diversity	Catch per unit effort and relative abundance of all fish, particularly indicator fish species, species diversity, population size structure, fish size distribution	Netting, as well as electrofishing in tributaries where water levels are low Measure the weight, and total length of fish collected
	Reproductive maturity stage	Stage of gonad development	Dissect fish and identify the stage of gonad development.
	Fish Health	Amount of parasites, lesions, or growth anomalies found on fish body.	Observe fish to identify any unusual morphological features
August	Fish Community composition, and Population size distribution	Catch per unit effort and relative abundance of all fish, particularly indicator fish species, species diversity, population size structure, fish size distribution	Netting, as well as electrofishing in tributaries where water levels are low Measure the weight, and total length of fish collected
	Fish Health	Amount of parasites, lesions or growth anomalies found on fish body.	Observe fish to identify any unusual morphological features
December/ January	Fish community composition, and Population size distribution	Catch per unit effort and relative abundance of all fish, particularly indicator fish species, species diversity, population size structure, fish size distribution	Gill and cast netting in the main river Measure the weight, and total length of fish collected

713. The survey dates listed above are tentative and may need to be modified based on the weather conditions in that particular year. The fish monitoring locations are shown in and **Exhibit 18.91** the fish survey form is given in **Exhibit 18.97**.

Exhibit 18.97 Survey Form – Fish

Sampling Method	☐ Gill Net		☐ Cast Net		☐ Fyke Net		☐ Electrofishing	
ID		W P		Observer(s)				
Date			Start Time		End Time			
	[dd/mm/yy]			[HH:MM]			[HH:MM]	

Direction **	**Starting Coordinates**	**End Coordinates**	Cloud Cover	**%**
Latitude	N	N	Wind	☐ Light ☐ Moderate ☐ Strong
Longitude	E	E	Precipitation	☐ Light ☐ Moderate ☐ Heavy
[Deg Min Sec]			Water Temperature	
River Habitats Riverbed Depth of Riverbed	☐ Riffles ☐ Pools ☐ Glides ☐ Rapids ☐ Others/Special Habitats ☐ Sand ☐ Silt ☐ Small Cobbles ☐ Large Cobbles ☐Boulders ☐ Others (specify) _____		Locality	
			Mesh Size (mm)	
(Please select only one box for Habitat)				

Elevation (m)		**Temp. (ºC)**		**pH**		**DO**		**Turbidity**	

No.	*Species Name*	*Fish Size (cm)*	*Fish Weight (gms)*	*Comments*
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				
11.				
12.				
13.				
14.				
15.				
16.				

J.3.6.4 Methods for Data Collection

Fish Collection

714. The following fish collection methods will be used during the fish monitoring surveys.

Cast Nets

715. The fish fauna will be collected using cast nets at selected sampling locations. Standard cast nets will be used for the Sampling. The diameter of the expanded cast net will be between 3 m and 5 m, with a net length between 2 m and 3 m. Cast nets of two different mesh sizes (25 mm and 32 mm) will be used for fish sampling. At each

sampling site, 10 nets of each mesh size will be cast within a stretch of about 100-200 m.

Gill Nets

716. Gill nets are passive devices that are suspended in the water column and capture fish that swim into the mesh of the net. Gill nets will be used mainly in the main river where deeper pools exist. Nets of different mesh sizes will be used (62.5 mm, 75 mm, 87.5 mm, and 100 mm).

717. In the fish monitoring surveys, the gill nets will be set at specified locations in the evening, left there overnight, and then taken down on the next morning. The GPS coordinates will be recorded and the time of setting and removal of the nets will be noted. The specimens collected from each sampling point will be collected in a bucket and will be photographed and identified in the field. A number of specimens of each fish species will be counted and then released. The specimens will be weighed and the body length noted. The voucher specimens will be preserved in a 10% formaldehyde solution in the field. All the specimen data and the relevant auxiliary information will be recorded in the data sheet specially designed for these studies.

Electrofishing

718. Electrofishing uses low pulses of electricity to stun fish before they are caught. Electrofishing is a common scientific survey method used to sample fish populations to determine abundance, density, and species composition. When performed correctly, electrofishing results in no permanent harm to fish, which return to their natural state in as little as two minutes after being stunned.[129]

719. During the April/ May fish monitoring surveys, electrofishing will be employed for sampling in the tributaries where water levels are low and wading is possible. It is proposed that the LR-24 be used for electrofishing.[130]

Reproductive Maturity Stage

720. The reproductive maturity stage of the fish (stage of gonad development) in the tributaries will be noted. This can be done by external examination to see if eggs or milt can be expressed from the genital opening or if any other physical maturity signs are visible. Apart from this, three or four fish collected can be dissected to observe the gonads. Relevant keys will be used to determine the gonad stage of both the male[131] and female fish.[132]

J.3.6.5 Statistical Analysis

Fish Community Composition

[129] Fishery Research - Electrofishing National Park Service, US Department of the Interior.

[130] Available at Smith Root, http://www.smith-root.com/electrofishers/lr-24/

[131] Smith, B.B. and K.F. Walker (2004). Spawning dynamics of common carp in the River Murray, South Australia, shown by macroscopic and histological staging of gonads. *J. Fish Biol.* **64** (2) 336-354.

[132] Murua, H.; Kraus, G.; Saborido-Rey, F., Witthames, P.R., Thorsen, A. and S. Junquera (2003). Procedures to estimate fecundity of marine fish species in relation to their reproductive strategy. *J. Northwest Atl. Fish. Sci*. **33** 33-54

721. The three annual surveys of fish (April/ May, August, and December/ January) will produce a list of species at each sampling location plus related information such as relative abundance (Catch Per Unit Effort), fish size, and fish population structure which will be used to determine whether species are being lost from the system; whether populations are declining or increasing and whether this is attributable to changes in recruitment success or changes in adult mortality.

Species Diversity

722. The species diversity at a site will be assessed using

- Species Richness (S): total number of species

Reproductive Maturity Stage of Fish

723. The gonad development and breeding stage of the fish will be compared with baseline conditions to identify any anomaly.

J.3.6.6 Targets

724. Targets will be set based on baseline data. The narrative targets for the chosen indicators well as the numerical targets and TPCs based on these are discussed below.

Narrative Targets

CPUE and Population Structure

725. Sampling surveys will provide the catch per unit effort (CPUE) (in different size classes measured as 'Total Length' in mm) at each sampling location. This provides an indication of the relative abundance of different species, species diversity, and age structure of the population, i.e., whether the fish are breeding in the river. The age-structure size classes for the different species are provided in **Exhibit 18.98**

Exhibit 18.98 Age-structure size classes for the Different Species

Species	Juveniles	Sub-adults	Adults
	Total Length in mm		
Kashmir Hillstream Loach *Triplophysa kashmirensis*			
Nalbant's Loach *Schistura nalbanti*			
Alwan Snow Trout *Schizothorax richardsonii*			
Rainbow Trout *Oncorhynchus mykiss*			

Fish Health

726. The general health of a fish is indicated by the amount of parasites, lesions, or growth anomalies found on its body. These result from environmental stresses, such as poor water quality.[133,134,135,136]

[133] Adams, S.M., Brown, A.M. and Goede, R.W. 1993. A quantitative health assessment index for rapid evaluation of fish condition in the field. *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society,* 122**:** 63-73.

[134] Svobodová, Z. 1993. Water quality and fish health. Food and Agriculture Organisation.

[135] Overstreet, R.M. 1997. Parasitological data as monitors of environmental health. *Parassitologia,* 39**:** 169.

[136] Vidal-Martínez, V.M., Pech, D., Sures, B., Purucker, S.T. and Poulin, R. 2010. Can parasites really reveal environmental impact? *Trends in Parasitology,* 26**:** 44-51

727. Fish health will be measured on adult and sub-adult of fish specimens of indicators species.

Target: An improvement in fish health relative to baseline, as measured by a decrease in:
- lesions;
- lost scales;
- parasite loads;
- deformities

Numerical Targets

728. The suggested framework for numerical targets to achieve the fish objectives is given in **Exhibit 18.99**. All targets and TPCs will be set relative to mean baseline records. To assist with evaluating monitoring results, particularly in the early stages of monitoring when data are relatively few, TPCs will also be provided to highlight if and when conditions are moving beyond, or in the reverse direction of, the target conditions.

Exhibit 18.99 Fish Numerical Targets and TPCs

	Indicator	Numerical Target	TPCs
CPUE	Kashmir Hillstream Loach		
	Nalbant's Loach		
	Alwan Snow Trout		
	Rainbow Trout		
Species diversity			

Exhibit 18.100 Framework for Monitoring of Indicators of State

No.	Indicator	Data required	Method	Sampling frequency, timings, and locations	Data format	Field equipment	Data Analysis	Monitoring Responsibility
Hydrology								
1.	Discharge time series	Average daily discharge	Obtain from gauging stations/loggers utilized for operations. Water level probe (e.g. solonist) and logger	Continuous monitoring of flow (30 min interval minimum) at the tailrace tunnel and spillway. Continuous monitoring of flow (30 min interval minimum) at the dam.	Excel spreadsheet (date, time, flow rate)		**Section** FF**.3.3.5**	Operator
Water Quality and Temperature								
2.	Temperature time series	Temperature of water	Obtain using continuous temperature logger	Continuous at reservoir	Temperature record	Temperature probe and logger	**Section** FF**.3.4.5**	Operator
3	Water quality	Concentration of major anions, cations, and some heavy metals in collected water samples	Methodology for Surface Water Collection in USEPA, Environmental Investigations – SOPs and Quality Assurance Manual	Once a year at specified sites during December/January	Concentrations of selected parameters at selected sites downstream of the dam.	Bottles, notebook, long-arm water sampler, cool box/freezer; preservatives from an accredited laboratory	**Section** FF**.3.4.5**	M&E Consultant
Geomorphology								
4.	Channel planform	Fixed point photographs at specific	Fixed point photographs	Once a year during the low flow season (December/January) at EF Site 1 (sampling site	Geo-tagged photographs of selected reaches	GPS; camera	**Section** FF**.3.5.5**	M&E Consultant

No.	Indicator	Data required	Method	Sampling frequency, timings, and locations	Data format	Field equipment	Data Analysis	Monitoring Responsibility
		locations at monitoring sites		K110.6), EF Site 3 (sampling site K126.9) and EF Site 4 (sampling site K139.0				
5.	Channel shape (cross-section profiles)	Surveyed cross-sectional profiles.	For the wet section: Use a depth sounder to take measurements of depths at periodic intervals along the width of the channel. For dry section: Use total station to survey cross-sectional topography.	Once every 3 years at EF Site 1 (sampling site K110.6), EF Site 3 (sampling site K126.9), and EF Site 4 (sampling site K139.0during the low flow season (December/January)	MS Excel spreadsheet (Water channel topography, depth and width, and composite photographs)	Total station, tripod, prism, and poles. GPS, camera, depth sounder, boat, safety line.	**Section** FF**.3.5.5**	M&E Consultant
Fish								
6	Fish Community composition, and Population size distribution	Catch per unit effort and relative abundance of all fish, particularly indicator fish species, species diversity, population size	Netting, as well as electrofishing in tributaries where water levels are low Measure the weight, and total length of fish collected	Three times a year at specified locations in the river and tributaries during April/ May, August, and December/ January	Species lists and catch per unit effort in Excel Mean weight and fork length in excel	Netting, LR-24 Electrofishing equipment Bucket, Fish measuring board Scale and Plastic bags	Relative abundance, Catch per unit effort of fish particularly indicator fish species Species diversity using Shannon Weiner index and Species Evenness Index. Size frequency distribution and fish weight	M&E Consultant

No.	Indicator	Data required	Method	Sampling frequency, timings, and locations	Data format	Field equipment	Data Analysis	Monitoring Responsibility
		structure, fish size distribution						
7.	Fish Health	Number of lesions, lost scales, parasite loads and deformities in fish	Netting and electrofishing in some tributaries	Twice a year at specified locations in April/ May and August	Excel spreadsheet	Netting, Electrofishing equipment	Amount of parasites, lesions, or growth anomalies found on fish body compared to baseline conditions	M&E Consultant
8	Reproductive maturity stage	Stage of gonad development	Dissect fish and identify the stage of gonad development	Once a year in April/ May in tributaries	Excel spreadsheet	Dissection box	Comparison of stages of gonad development and breeding stage with baseline conditions	M&E Consultant

J.4 Indicators of Response

J.4.1 Response Indicators

729. **Exhibit 18.101** describes the indicators for response, justification for selection of indicators, and proposed targets. A report on response indicators will be prepared by the M&E Consultant on an annual basis.

Exhibit 18.101: Response Indicators

Response Aspect	Indicator Description	Justification for Indicator	Schedule	Comments
Policies, laws, and regulations	Approval of Sediment Mining Plan	See **Appendices C** of BAP. The plan will aim to introduce sustainable mining practices to meet community needs for construction materials and to preserve habitats	End of Year 1	Same as above
	Number of new guidelines, and operating rules for the power plant developed	This indicator reflects the extent to which adaptive management is taking place, See **Section 18** of the BAP		The report will include progress, a review of the adequacy of the rules and guidelines, and remaining gaps if any.
Institutional capacity for management	Government approval for expansion and upgrading of the Department as proposed in BAP	See **Section 14** of BAP. The capacity of the Departments was identified as a risk in the BAP.	End of Year 2	Report to include progress, and a review of adequacy of structure and number of positions proposed
	Percentage of proposed additional positions filled	Same as above.	50% by the end of Year 3 100% by the end of Year 4	Report to include a review of the capacity of staff added
	Number of staff training programs completed	Same as above.	At least two annually	Report to include an evaluation of the trainings
Awareness	Number of community awareness sessions conducted	See **Section 7** of BAP. Community awareness of biodiversity values will reduce the social risks for BAP and park management.	One session for each community located in the Area of Primary Management every year	
	Rating of the extent of awareness in communities	To indicate the quality and effectiveness of awareness-raising activities		Report to include an evaluation of awareness based on the administration of structured questionnaires to the community to be designed by the M&E Consultant

J.4.2 Targets

730. The targets for all response indicators will be set during the first phase of Monitoring and Evaluation in which a monitoring and reporting system will be set up (**Section 16** of the BAP).

References

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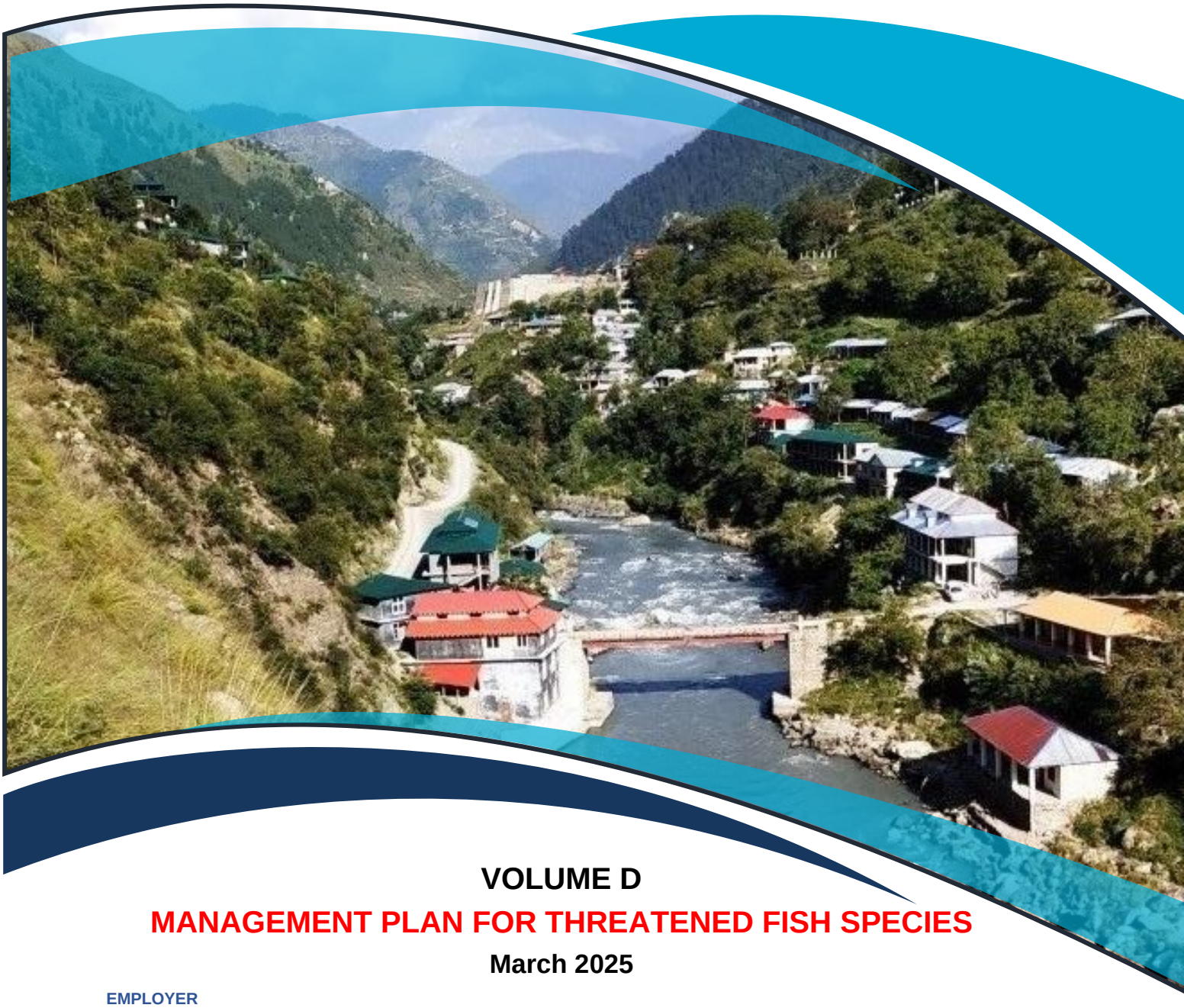
(PEDO)

GOVERNMENT OF KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN

LOAN NO: 4057/8397 (AIIB)-PAK

BALAKOT HYDROPOWER PROJECT (300MW)
DISTRICT MANSEHRA



VOLUME D
MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THREATENED FISH SPECIES
March 2025

EMPLOYER

Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO)

PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT (PMC)

A Joint Venture of DOLSAR Engineering Limited (Turkey), AGES Consultants (Pakistan), BAK Consulting Engineers (Pakistan), Civ. Tech Associates, Peshawar, Pakistan (Pakistan), Electra Consultants (Pakistan), and Techno Legal Consultants (Pvt.) Limited (Pakistan)

EPC CONTRACTOR

Joint Venture of China Gezhouba Group Company (CGGC), China &
Ghulam Rasool and Company Pvt. Ltd (GRC), Pakistan

Issue and Revision Record

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01	21.08.2024	i. Engr. Assad Ali Khan ii. Dr. Waseem Khan iii. Dr. Muhammad Naeem Javaid iv. Mr. Ikramullah v. Dr. Muhammad Saeed Peerzada	i. Environmental Expert ii. Fish Ecologist iii. Fish Biologist iv. Field Biologist v. Plant Taxonomist	PMC	Muhammad Hussain (Deputy Team Leader/Resident Engineer)	Mehmet CINGISIZ (Project Manager - Team Leader)	Additional surveys, with emphasis on the Kashmir Hillstream Loach, were carried out to update the biodiversity section of the EIA report. Two additional volumes, Volumes D and E, were furnished as a result of the field surveys and desk studies.
02	24.12.2024	i. Engr. Assad Ali Khan ii. Dr. Waseem Ahmad Khan iii. Dr. Muhammad Naeem Javaid iv. Mr. Ikramullah v. Dr. Muhammad Saeed Peerzada	i. Environmental Expert ii. Fish Ecologist iii. Fish Biologist iv. Field Biologist v. Plant Taxonomist	PMC	Muhammad Hussain (Deputy Team Leader/Resident Engineer)	Zafer DEMIRSELCUK (Project Manager - Team Leader)	The ADB review comments were incorporated in the submission.
03	26-03-2025	i. Engr. Assad Ali Khan ii. Dr. Waseem Ahmad Khan iii. Dr. Muhammad Naeem Javaid iv. Mr. Ikramullah Dr. Muhammad Saeed Peerzada	i. Environmental Expert ii. Fish Ecologist iii. Fish Biologist iv. Field Biologist Plant Taxonomist	PMC	Muhammad Hussain (Deputy Team Leader/Resident Engineer)	Zafer DEMIRSELCUK (Project Manager - Team Leader)	The ADB additional review comments were incorporated in the submission.

PREFACE

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report for the Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW) was prepared by Hagler Bailly Pakistan (Private) Limited (HBP) in 2019. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Protection Agency (KPEPA) granted "Environmental Approval" for the report on July 6, 2021.

The current EIA report is an updated version of the approved report furnished by the Project Management Consultants (PMC)[1] for the Balakot HPP (300 MW). The updates aim to: (i) incorporate proposed changes to the design of the project's infrastructure facilities as part of the detailed design and implementation arrangements of the Project-specific Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP); and (ii) update the biodiversity section of the EIA report with emphasis on the critically endangered Kashmir Hillstream Loach (Triplophysa kashmirensis).

The approved report's original structure has been maintained, but significant updates have been made to the project description, social baseline, information disclosure and consultation, and BAP sections. Appropriate changes have also been applied to other sections to ensure consistency. Additionally, two new volumes, Volumes D (Management Plan for Threatened Fish Species) and E (Biodiversity Assessment), have been furnished as part of the updated EIA report.

Volume D primarily focuses on the fish surveys conducted to assess the diversity and distribution of fish in the Kunhar River and its tributary streams. This volume also includes a brief discussion of the various threats to the fish population in the valley, along with proposed mitigation measures.

1 A joint venture of:

i. DOLSAR Engineering Inc. Co. (Turkey) Lead Firm;
ii. AGES Consultants;
iii. BAK Consulting Engineers;
iv. CivTech Associates;
v. Electra Consultants; and
vi. Techno Legal Consultants (Pvt.) Limited from Pakistan.

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ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AIIB	Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
Amsl	Above Mean Sea Level
BAPs	Biodiversity Action Plans
BTHPP	Balakot Hydropower Project
CGGC	China Gezhouba Group Company (CGGC), China
CMS	Conservation of Migratory Species
CSRM	Country Safeguards Review Mission
DG	Director General
EIA	Environment Impact Assessment
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
EPC	Engineering, Procurement, and Construction
GRC	Ghulam Rasool and Company Pvt. Ltd (GRC)
GWh	Giga Watt hour
HBP	Hagler Bailly Pakistan (Private) Limited
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
km	Kilometer
KPK	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
KPEPA	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Protection Agency
LARP	Land Acquisition and Resettlement Plan
m	Meter
NOCs	No Objection Certificates
PD	Project Director
PEDO	Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization
PIU	Project Implementation Unit
PMC	Project Management Consultants
PMD	Pakistan Meteorological Department
SKHPP	Suki Kinari Hydropower Project
SSEMP	Site-Specific Environmental Management Plan
SPS	Safeguard Policy Statement

1 SYNOPSIS

1. This report is based on Ichthyological studies conducted around Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW) site during May 2024. Around 90-kilometer (km) stretch of the Kunhar, from Naran i.e. upstream of the Sukki Kinari HPP up to the reservoir of the Patrind HPP, and its tributaries were studied during the fish survey. The study was conducted by a team of seven members including a fish biologist, fish ecologist, field assistants, fisherman, and local guide. The general objectives of the study were to collect and review primary and secondary data on the fish fauna of the Project area; identify existing fish species; prepare a taxonomical checklist of the recorded fish species; identify any threats to the existing fishes from the Project and to propose mitigating measures for identified threats to fishes. The specific objective of the study was to address the case of Kashmir Hill Stream Loach (*Triplophysa kashmirensis*) which exists in the Project area and its conservation status has recently been changed from "Not Evaluated" (IUCN, 2019) to "Critically Endangered" (IUCN, 2024).

2. Methods applied for studying the fish fauna in the Project area included secondary data review, interviews with different people, observing fish catches of fish hunting parties, and netting using cast nets, drag nets, and gill nets. Fish sampling was done in 16 different nullahs/streams along the main river and at 12 locations on the Kunhar River. The collected large-sized specimens were identified, measured, weighed, and released back into their habitats. Some of the small-sized specimens were preserved in a 10% Formaldehyde solution (Formalin) and placed in plastic jars for detailed studies in the lab. The collected fish species were identified up to the species level using the keys given by Dr. Ramzan Mirza in 2003. Photographs of all the recorded specimens were taken in their natural habitats, not only for their identification purposes but also as evidence of their existence. Ecological notes were recorded on the spot along with each identified fish species. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) conservation status and population trend of the recorded species was determined. The local status of the recorded fish species, especially the threatened species, was also determined by following a specific criterion given in the methodology section.

3. Field equipment used for the sample collection consisted of strong transparent polythene bags and plastic jars, cast nests, drag nets and gill nets, a digital camera, a GPS receiver, and field guidebooks for fish identification.

4. A total of 16 fish species belonging to three orders, four families, and 11 genera were recorded from the study area. Four species were found economically important fishes including Brown trout (*Salmo trutta*), Rainbow trout *(Onchorhynchus mykiss*), Alwan snow trout (*Schizothorax richardsonii*), and Chirruh Snow trout (*Schizothorax esocinus*). According to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (IUCN, 2024), seven out of the recorded 16 species fall into Threatened categories. These include; one Critically Endangered; Kashmir Hillstream Loach (*Triplophysa kashmirensis*), two Endangered species; Naseeri loach (*Paraschistura naseeri*) and Singhat (*Schistura macrolepis*), and four Vulnerable species; Stone loach (*Paraschistura alepidota*), Nalbant's loach (*Paraschistura punjabensis*), Alwan Snow Trout (*Schizothorax richardsonii*) and Chirruh Snow trout (*Schizothorax esocinus*). The Population Trend of Nalbant's loach (*Paraschistura punjabensis*) is Unknown whereas the rest of the six Threatened fish species have Decreasing Population Trends. The remaining nine fish species out of the total 16 have been categorized as "Least Concern" with stable

population trends. According to the local status and assessment of the existing fish species in the study area, four out of the seven Threatened species have “Common” status whereas three Threatened species have “Fair” status in the area.

5. Among the recorded 16 fish species, eight species were found “Species of Special Concern”. Threatened species, endemic species, flagship species, keystone species, species of economic or ecological importance, problem species, or pest species can be considered as “Species of Special Concern”. These species include seven Threatened species and one economically important as well as problem species. Out of the seven Threatened fish species, five belong to the Family Nemacheilidae whereas two belong to the Family Cyprinidae. Family Nemacheilidae includes Hill stream loaches while Family Cyprinidae includes Snow trout. A brief description of each such species has been given in **Section 3**. Recorded “Species of Special Concern” include the following.

- Stone loach / Stone barb (*Paraschistura alepidota*) Family Nemacheilidae (Vulnerable).
- Nalbant’s loach (*Paraschistura punjabensis*) Family Nemacheilidae (Vulnerable).
- Kashmir Hill stream Loach (*Triplophysa kashmirensis*) Family Nemacheilidae (Critically Endangered).
- Naseeri loach (*Paraschistura naseeri*) Family Nemacheilidae (Endangered).
- Singhat (*Schistura macrolepis*) Family Nemacheilidae (Endangered).
- Alwan Snow Trout (*Schizothorax richardsonii*) Family Cyprinidae (Vulnerable).
- Chirruh Snow trout (*Schizothorax esocinus*) Family Cyprinidae (Vulnerable).
- Brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) Family Salmonidae (Economically Important / Problem Species).

6. The potential negative impacts of the Project have been identified and mitigation measures to such impacts have been suggested in **Section 4**. Recommendations/conservation measures proposed in **Section 5** mainly consist of the following.

- In-situ conservation of loaches through habitat protection and expansion.
- Ex-situ conservation of loaches through commercial breeding.
- Establishment of a hatchery for threatened cyprinid fishes.
- Research on threatened species and publication of research findings.
- Implementation of an effective watch and ward system.
- Partnership in conservation and involvement of local communities in conservation.
- Capacity building of the custodian Fisheries department.
- Control of illegal fishing.
- Regulation of sand and gravel mining.
- Awareness raising among local communities.

7. Keeping in view the Project activities, its impacts on the aquatic fauna and ecosystem, and proposed mitigating measures, it is concluded that the Balakot Hydropower Project (300MW) will not have any significant negative impacts on the fish fauna of the area especially the Kashmir Hill Stream loach inhabiting the tributary streams of the Kunhar River.

1.1 Background

8. Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO), with the financial assistance of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), is implementing the construction of the Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW) in the 12 kilometers (km) stretch of the Kunhar River in District Mansehra. The Balakot Hydropower Project is a category “A” Project as per ADB safeguard criteria with the expected negative impacts on the associated ecosystem in the Project area. Hence, in compliance with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Protection Act 2014 requirements, and under the guidelines of the ADB’s Safeguard Policy Statement commonly known as SPS 2009, the Hagler Bailly Pakistan (Private) furnished an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report in 2019. In pursuance of the ADB requirements, any changes that may occur in the project design, layout arrangement, project footprint, or other provisions of the approved EIA report, the report shall accordingly be updated, and revised concurrence shall be sought from the Bank. On May 22, 2023, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) conveyed concurrence to the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) in respect of the “Proposal for Revision in the Project Specific BAP” containing changes proposed in the institutional arrangement of the Project-specific Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) and composition of the BAP Management Committee.

9. As part of the EIA review process, a joint virtual meeting of the ADB, AIIB, Project Implementation Unit (PIU), and the Project Management Consultant (PMC) concerned staff, was held on February 27, 2024, wherein the reviewers identified some gaps in the Biodiversity Section of the updated EIA report. Similarly, the Conservation Status of Kashmir Hill Stream Loach (*Triplophysa kashmirensis*) was mentioned in the report as “Not Evaluated”. But recently, in 2024, the Conservation Status of Kashmir Hill Stream Loach (*Triplophysa kashmirensis*) has been changed from “Not Evaluated” to “Critically Endangered” (IUCN, 2024). Therefore, due to the updated Conservation Status of Kashmir Hill Stream Loach (*Triplophysa kashmirensis*), it was necessary to update the Biodiversity Section of the EIA report, especially the fisheries section of the report. In this context, the safeguard team of the ADB and AIIB recommended following the next steps to be undertaken by the PMC/PIU.

- Discuss the situation with the Fisheries department and experts
- Engage an independent environmental monitor for reassessment
- Update the environmental impact assessment and biodiversity action plan
- Develop a mitigation plan for the critically endangered fish species
- Hold further discussions and assessments with relevant parties

10. This report addresses the fisheries-related issues, especially the case of Kashmir Hill Stream Loach (*Triplophysa kashmirensis*) whose conservation status has been changed from “Not Evaluated” (IUCN, 2019) to “Critically Endangered” (IUCN, 2024).

2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

11. Balakot HPP (300 MW) is a run-of-the-river scheme to be constructed on the Kunhar River in its 12-kilometer (km) stretch from Paras to Sangar village in District Mansehra of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province. Upon completion, 1,143 gigawatt hours of clean energy will be delivered to the national grid yearly.

12. The Project dam site is located in Paras village, around 2 km downstream of the Sukki Kinari HPP (884 MW) tailrace, while the powerhouse site is proposed at Ganhool village of Balakot. The 9.1 km-long headrace tunnel of 8-meter (m) diameter will divert 154 m^3/second design flow of the Kunhar River water to the powerhouse to generate 300 (MW of electricity. The Project residential colony is identified in Sangar village.

13. Access road to the dam and power intake is proposed to off-take from National Highway (N-15) on the left side of the Kunhar River in Paras village.

14. As exhibited in the EPC Contract, the following is the brief scope of works:

- Project basic and detailed design
- Temporary works
- Diversion works
- Construction of dam
- Intake structures
- Adit tunnels (adits-1,2 and 3)
- Headrace tunnel
- Surge shaft
- Powerhouse
- Access roads (temporary and permanent)
- Residential colony
- Switchyard
- Transmission line

15. The Project brief salient features are in **Exhibit 2.1** followed by location maps and the Project setting in **Exhibit 2.1** to **2.5.**

Exhibit 2.1: Brief Salient Features

S/NO	DESCRIPTION	UNIT	DETAIL
1	**HYDROLOGY AND DESIGN FLOWS**		
1.1	River		Kunhar
1.2	Catchment area of the dam site	km^2	1939
1.3	(Average) flow at the intake	m^3/s	87
1.4	Design Discharge	m^3/s	153.9
1.5	Design Flood T=10,000 years	m^3/s	3706
1.6	Probable Maximum Flood	m^3/s	5043
2	**RESERVOIR**		
2.1	Normal Operating Level (NOL)	masl	1288.0
2.2	Minimum Operating Level (Min.OL)	masl	1283.0
2.3	Surface area (at NOL)	km^2	0.28
2.4	Reservoir length (at NOL)	km	2.2
2.5	Gross storage capacity (at NOL)	$X10^6\ m^3$	3.65
2.6	Regulating storage capacity (NOL)	$X10^6\ m^3$	1.2
3	**DAM STRUCTURE**		
3.1	Dam type		Curved Concrete Gravity Dam
3.2	Dam crest elevation	masl	1292.0
3.3	Maximum height above the riverbed	m	35.0
3.4	Maximum height above foundation	m	49.0
3.5	Crest length	m	146.0
4	**SPILLWAYS AND LOW-LEVEL OUTLETS/FLUSHING SLUICES**		
4.1	Spillway type		Upper WES spillway + bottom outlet
4.2	Upper spillway crest elevation	masl	1278.0
4.3	Upper spillway gates no. and type		3 (radial gates)
4.4	Upper spillway gates size (W x H)	m×m	11 X 10
4.5	Bottom outlet invert elevation	masl	1253.0
4.6	Bottom outlet gates no. and type		2 sluice gate + 2 radial gate
4.7	Low-level spillway size (W x H)	m×m	6x8
5	**RIVER DIVERSION**		
5.1	Construction Flood	m^3/s (T=20 years)	900
5.2	Diversion type		Diversion tunnel + bottom outlet, with cofferdam
5.3	Upstream Coffer dam type		CSG cofferdam
5.4	Upstream coffer dam crest elevation	masl	1272.0
5.5	Downstream coffer dam type		CSG cofferdam
5.6	Downstream coffer dam crest elevation	masl	1252.5
5.7	Diversion tunnel type		Archway
5.8	Diversion tunnel no. (-)		1
5.9	Diversion tunnel size (W x H)	m×m	Archway (7,5 x 8,0)
5.10	Diversion tunnel length	m	650
5.11	Diversion tunnel slope	%	1.5

S/NO	DESCRIPTION	UNIT	DETAIL
5.12	Diversion tunnel inlet invert elevation	masl	1261.0
5.13	Diversion tunnel outlet invert elevation	masl	1248.0
6	**POWER INTAKE STRUCTURE**		
6.1	Intake type		Bank-type intake
6.2	Trash racks no.		4
6.3	Trash rack size (W x H)	m×m	8 x 1 0
6.4	Service gates no.		2 (1 emergency gate)
6.5	Service gate size (W x H)	m×m	4 x 8
6.6	Intake crest elevation	masl	1271.0
7	**HEADRACE TUNNEL**		
7.1	Tunnel section		Circular concrete lined (8.0 m inner diameter)
7.2	Length up to surge tank	m	9137
7.3	Tunnel slope		0.56%、0.00%、1.11%
8	**UPSTREAM INCLINED SURGE TUNNEL**		
8.1	Type		Concrete lined circular surge shaft+inclined surge tunnel
8.2	Internal diameter	m	14.5
8.3	Length of surge tunnel	m	568
8.4	Bottom elevation of surge shaft	masl	1203
9	**PRESSURE TUNNEL/SHAFT & PENSTOCK**		
9.1	Pressure tunnel/shaft main section type and size		Steel-lined circular cross-section (5.6 m internal diameter)
9.2	Pressure tunnel/shaft length	m	375
9.3	Penstock length	m	88
9.4	Branch Section Type		Manifold (3 branches)
9.5	Size of each branch	m	2.2 m internal diameter conduits
9.6	Max. Length of branch	m	～30
10	**POWERHOUSE AND SUBSTATION**		
10.1	Powerhouse type		Conventional underground cavern
10.2	Main cavern general dimensions (L x W x H)	m	89.28x20.40x37.86
10.3	Turbine type		Francis
10.4	Number of units		3
10.5	Turbine axis elevation	masl	1054,0
10.6	Transformer/Substation type		Underground cavern (adjacent to the main powerhouse cavern)
10.7	Transformer cavern general dimensions (L x W x H)	m	94.82 x17.40 x31.79
11	**DOWNSTREAM INCLINED SURGE TUNNEL**		
11.1	Type		Concrete-lined inclined surge tunnel
11.2	Internal diameter	m	7.5x9.125
11.3	Length of surge tunnel	m	505
11.4	Surge tunnel bottom elevation	masl	1028.0

S/NO	DESCRIPTION	UNIT	DETAIL
12	**TAILRACE**		
12.1	Type		Circular tunnel with transition to an archway section at the final length and Outlet portal
12.2	Tunnel section		Circular concrete lined (8.0 m diameter)
12.3	Length up to the final transition section	m	1646.5
12.4	Tunnel slope up to the final transition section	%	0.122%, -18.45% (ascending slope)
12.5	Tunnel final section		Archway concrete lined section (8.0 W x 8.0 H)
12.6	Length from transition to outlet	m	50
12.7	Tunnel slope up to the outlet portal	%	0.23 (ascending slope)
13	**POWER AND ENERGY**		
13.1	Gross Head	m	229.0
13.2	Design Net Head (m)	m	217.6
13.3	Installed plant capacity	MW	300 (at the generator)
13.4	Average annual energy production	GWh	1144（average of 55 years）
14	**PROJECT ACCESS FACILITIES**		
14.1	Access road to dam Left side R1 (length)	m	512 m (from Sharan Road, connection to National Highway N-15 at the left side of Kunhar River, nearby Paras village)
14.2	Access road to Diversion tunnel R2 (length)	m	138m (from the dam bridge deck up to the Sediment by-pass tunnel intake)
14.3	The access road to the Main Access tunnel Power House R3 (length)	m	3254m (From Sangar connection from National Highway N-15 to Main Access tunnel Power House
14.4	The access road to Surge tank R4 (length)	m	290m (from National Highway N-15 to access road Surge tank
14.5	The access road to Tailrace Tunnel R5 (length)	m	823m (from R3 connection to tailrace tunnel
14.6	Access road to Permanent staff Residential Colony R6 (length)	m	611m (from N15 connection to Resident colony
14.7	Permanent Staff Residential Colony	m^2	Covered area= 11995.5 m^2

Exhibit 2.2: Project Location in Pakistan



Exhibit 2.3: Project Location in District Mansehra

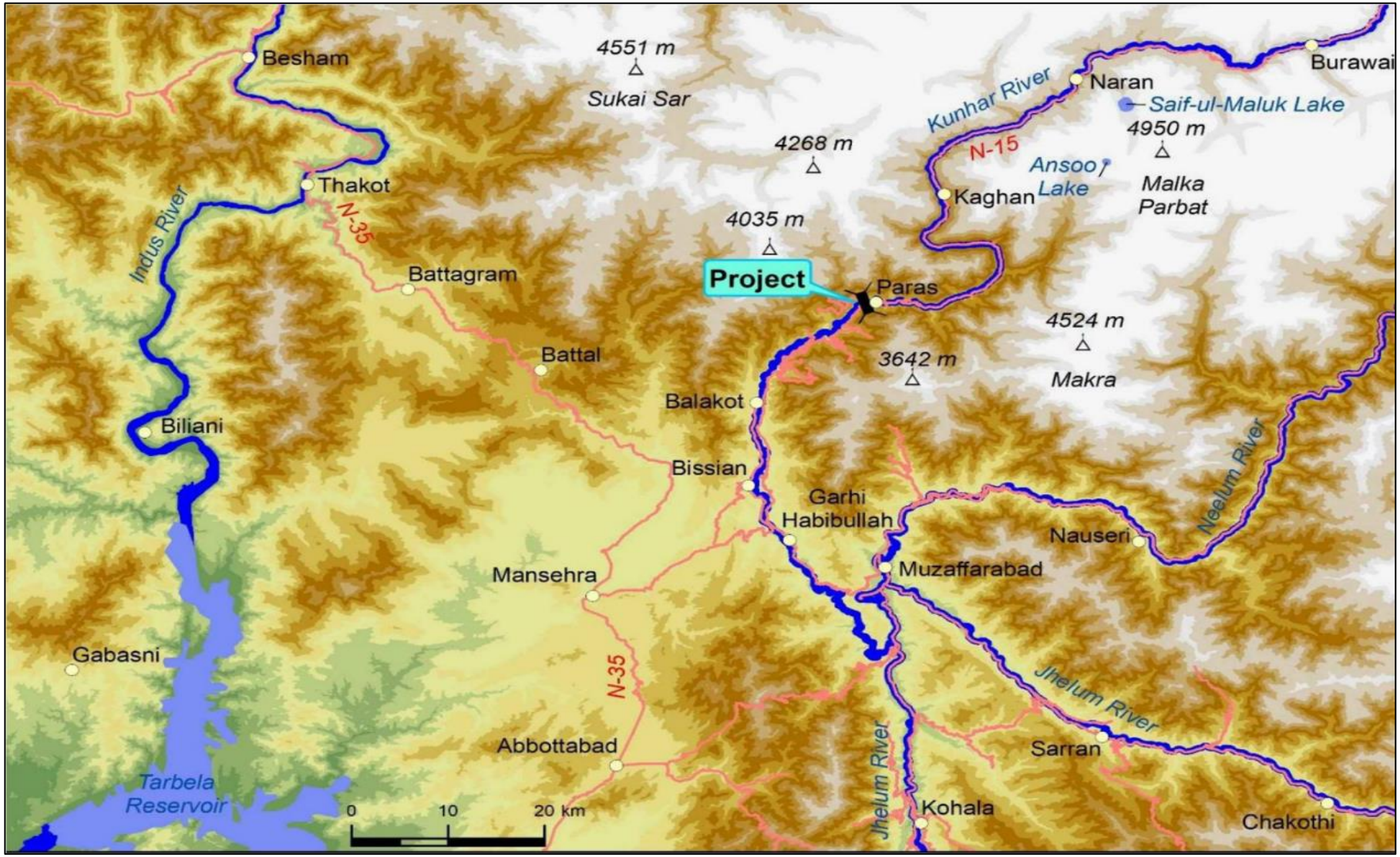


Exhibit 2.4: Project Layout Map

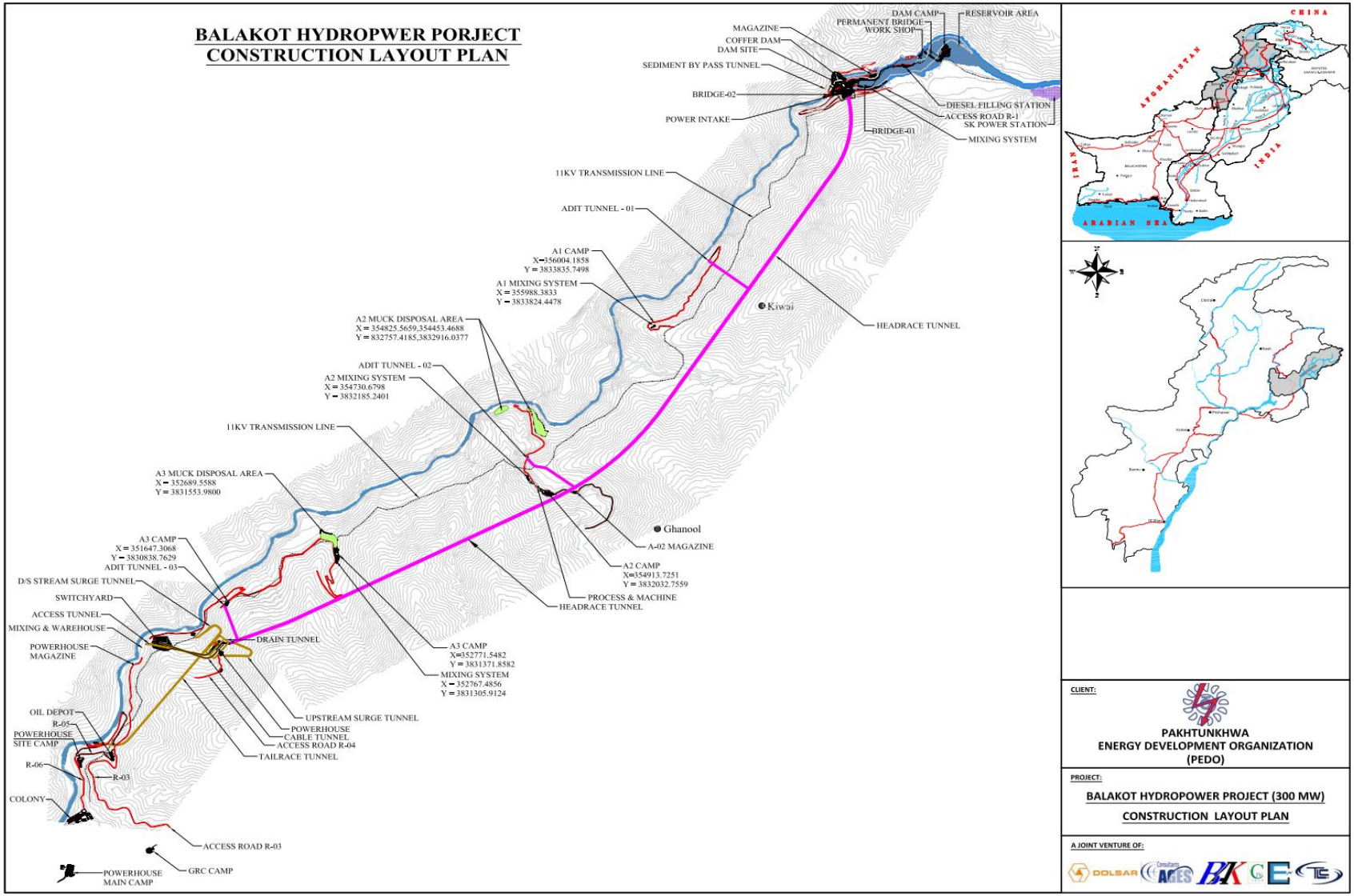


Exhibit 2.5: Project Setting-Dam site

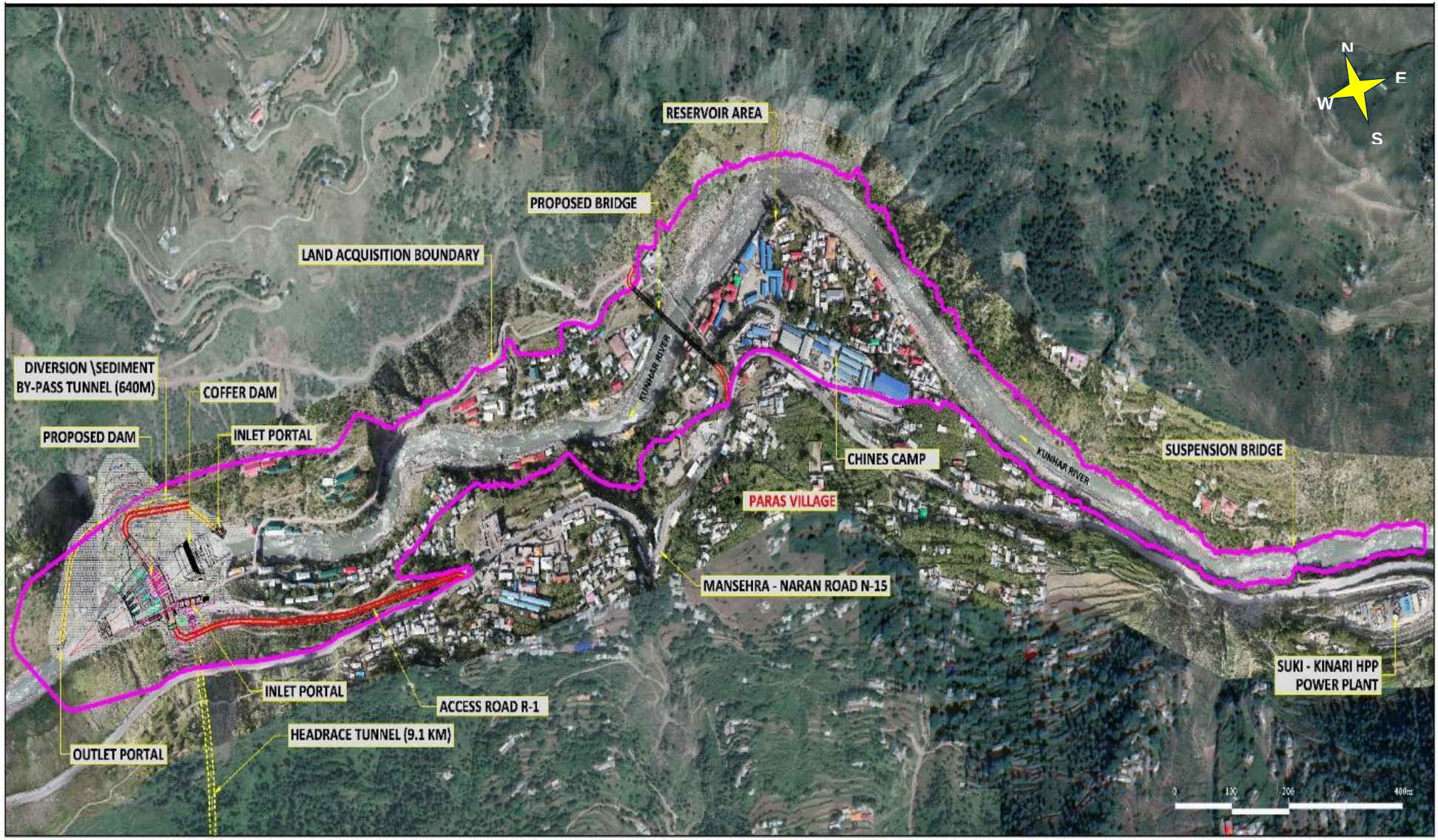
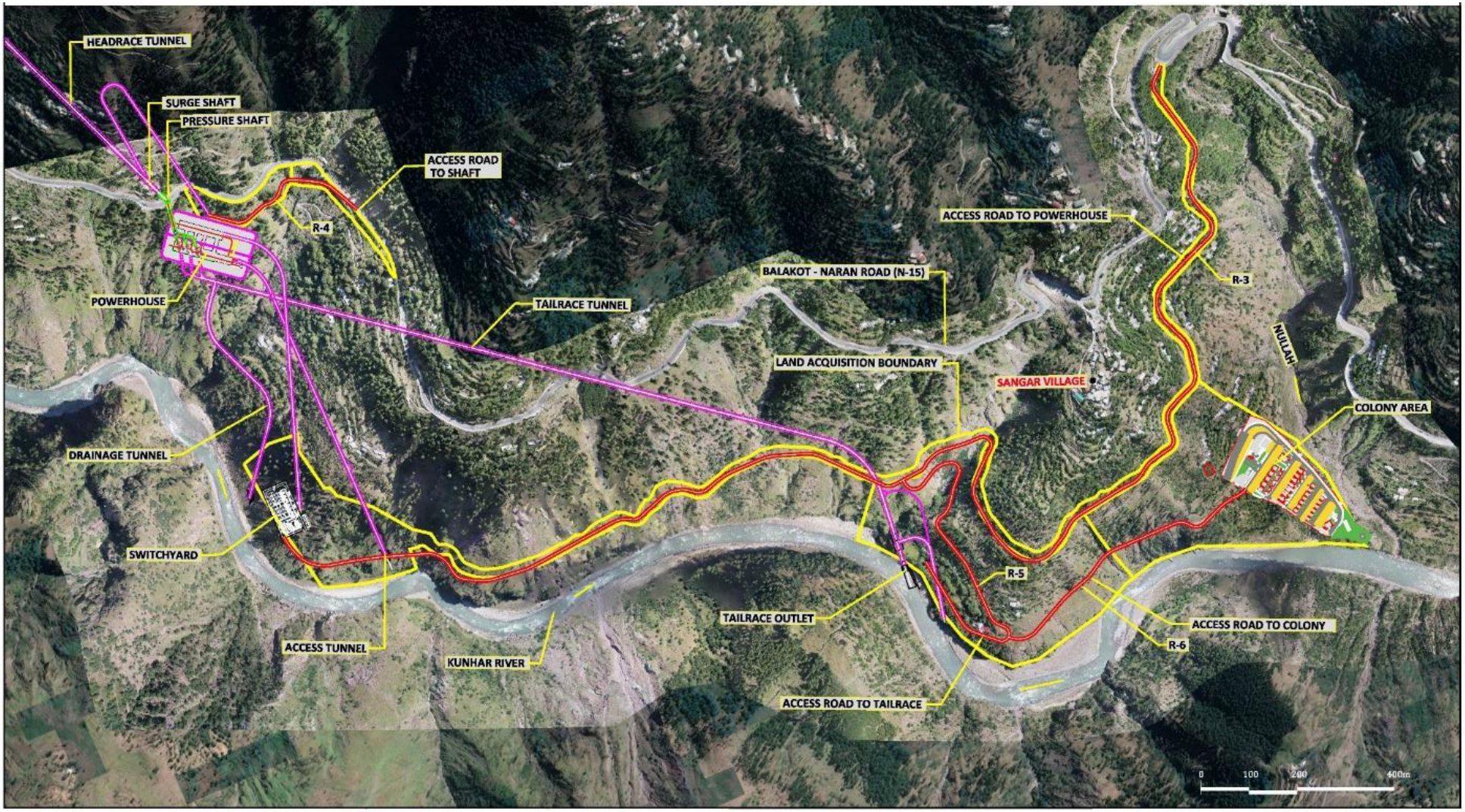


Exhibit 2.6: Project Setting-Powerhouse and Colony sites



3 OVERVIEW OF THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT[2]

3.1 Topography

16. The relief in the catchment of the dam varies from 629 meters (m) above mean sea level (amsl) to 5,199 m amsl. The dam site is at an elevation of 1,257 m amsl and the powerhouse site at an elevation of 1,316 m amsl.

3.1.1 Land Use and Cover

17. The land use distribution is demarcated as per the Socioeconomic Zones within the Socioeconomic Study Area. Pine and scrub forests cover the majority of the area (59% of the total zones combined) followed by agricultural intensity (26%). The density of the built-up area is low about 8% and the same is the percentage of water bodies in the Study Area.

a. Soils

18. The soils of the Project area are composed of piedmont alluvial deposits, where the upper layer of the plain/leveled land consists mostly of silty clay loam soils, rich in organic matter content. The subsurface strata are generally sandy loam with gravel. The soils of the hill slopes consist mostly of thin layered sandy loam soils, underlain by rocks or gravelly materials. The valley terraces in between the mountains are very fertile and used for intensive cropping, while, the hill slopes are used for forest vegetative cover.

19. Soil samples, collected on April 13, 2017, and analyzed for establishing baseline conditions to establish soil fertility and identify any current soil contamination.

20. The following are the key observations of soil analysis.

- **Physical:** The pH of soil samples at all sampling locations ranges between 7.9 and 8.1. Higher values of EC are observed under forest-based land use systems compared to agricultural land.
- **Nutrients and Organics:** Organics at all sampling locations don't vary significantly. The maximum organic matter and organic carbon values are observed as 5.46% and 3.13%, respectively. Phosphates were not detected at any of the sampling locations. Nitrates are only observed on agricultural land with a maximum value of 11.6 mg/kg. Potassium is also high on agricultural lands with a maximum value of 2,220 mg/kg. Macronutrient contents show high fertility on agricultural lands.
- **Metals and Major Ions:** Metal contents do not vary significantly through the area sampled, indicating the absence of contamination from any industrial activity or spills. Results for boron, cadmium, mercury, selenium, and silver were below the level of reporting.

3.1.2 Visual Character

21. The visual baseline documents the current aesthetic and visual conditions of the proposed Project site as seen from the nearby receptors. The mountainous landscape, deep

[2] Extracted from the Executive Summary of the EIA report

gorges, and vegetation greatly restrict visibility to a maximum of 0.5 to 1.5 km at receptor locations.

3.1.3 Climate

22. A regional climate overview was established using available data from the Balakot weather station. This is the nearest Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) weather station to the Project. The climate analysis of the Study Area was carried out based on climatic normal (1961–1990) developed by PMD and by classifying it into different seasons as follows:

a. Summer (mid-March to mid-June)

23. Characterized by high temperatures, moderate rainfalls with moderate humidity, and high-speed winds.

b. Summer Monsoon (mid-June to mid-September)

24. The summer monsoon, hereafter referred to as the Monsoon, is characterized by high temperatures (although milder than the summer), significantly high rainfalls with high humidity, and moderate-speed winds, slightly lower than summers.

c. Post-Monsoon summer (mid-September to mid-November)

25. Characterized by moderate temperatures, low rainfalls with moderate humidity higher than in summers, as the humidity again reduces after the monsoon and low-speed speed winds.

d. Winter (mid-November to mid-March)

26. Characterized by very low temperatures, moderate rainfalls, with an increasing amount of rainfall at the end of the winter, with relative humidity greater than post-monsoon summer and moderate speed winds.

27. Climatic normal data for the period of 1961 – 1990 was compared with more recent data from 1991 – 2011 for temperature and precipitation. Climatic normals are based on 30 years and developed by the PMD. The following conclusions can be drawn:

- **Temperature:** There are slight temperature variations observed in recent data as compared to climatic normal. The increase in mean temperatures in recent years is 0.2 ^{0}C. This shows that overall temperature is increased at the Project site.
- **Rainfall:** The amount of rainfall only increased in January, June, and September by an amount of 1 mm, 3 mm, and 29 mm, respectively. However, in the rest of the months, the amount decreases. The decrease in the annual amount of rainfall is 175 mm.

28. Possible reasons for the change in weather parameters may be because of climate change or urbanization, which can explain increased temperatures and decreased amounts of rainfall.

3.1.4 Water Resources

29. Water resources in the area consist of surface water including rivers and nullahs and groundwater including springs and boreholes.

a. Regional Hydrology

30. The dam and powerhouse are located on the Kunhar River. The Kunhar River originates from the glaciers above Lulusar Lake in the Kaghan Valley of KP. The glaciers of Malka Parbat and Makra Peak and the waters of Saiful Muluk Lake feed the river. It passes through Jalkhand and meets the Jhelum River at Rarra. The river's drainage area is 2,535 km^2, with elevation ranging from 600 to 5,000 m.[3] It is one of the biggest tributaries of the Jhelum River Basin and the only main tributary situated entirely in Pakistan's territory. Snowmelt from the Kunhar Basin contributes 65% of the total discharge of the Kunhar River and 20-40% of the Jhelum River at Mangla.[4]

31. The Kunhar River has a steep gradient and flows through narrow gorges through much of its length. Peak flows can be observed during June.

32. The Kunhar River has two temperature regimes; upstream of Kaghan, the water is cooler with average summer temperatures of 8-10 ºC and downstream of Kaghan temperatures are higher and near 12-13 ºC. The Jhelum River, at its confluence with the Kunhar, has a temperature of 16-17 ºC and the cooler waters of the Kunhar have a moderating influence on the Jhelum.

b. River Water Utilization

33. River water is not used for irrigation as the slopes on the river bank are steep, the cost of pumping water to agricultural lands located at elevations above the river is high, and agriculture depends on rain and water available from streams flowing down the mountain slopes. There is no large or medium-scale industry that depends on water, and the level of industrialization is very low. The River water is not suitable for drinking as it is contaminated by fecal coliform, and communities use water from springs for drinking purposes. Livestock is also mainly dependent on spring water and water from open mountain streams flowing down the slopes. River water can be turbid in seasons and the use of river water by livestock is limited to a relatively small fraction of total households that are located close to the river. These uses are insignificant in comparison to the total flow of the river. Quantification of river water use was therefore not considered to be necessary. Identifications of community sources of drinking water, mainly springs, that could be potentially impacted by the Project were carried out in detail.

[3] Mahmood R, Jia S, Babel M. S., January 16, 2016, Potential Impacts of Climate Change on Water Resources in the Kunhar River Basin, *Water, Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute*, Basel, Switzerland

[4] Ibid

4 FISH STUDY

4.1 The Study Area

34. As shown in **Exhibit 4.1,** the study area starts from Naran i.e.upstream of the Sukki Kinari HPP reservoir up to the Patrind HPP reservoir which is around a 90 km stretch of the Kunhar River including sampling in the contributing streams as given in **Exhibit 4.2.**

Exhibit 4.1: Contributing Streams on Both Sides of the Kunhar River

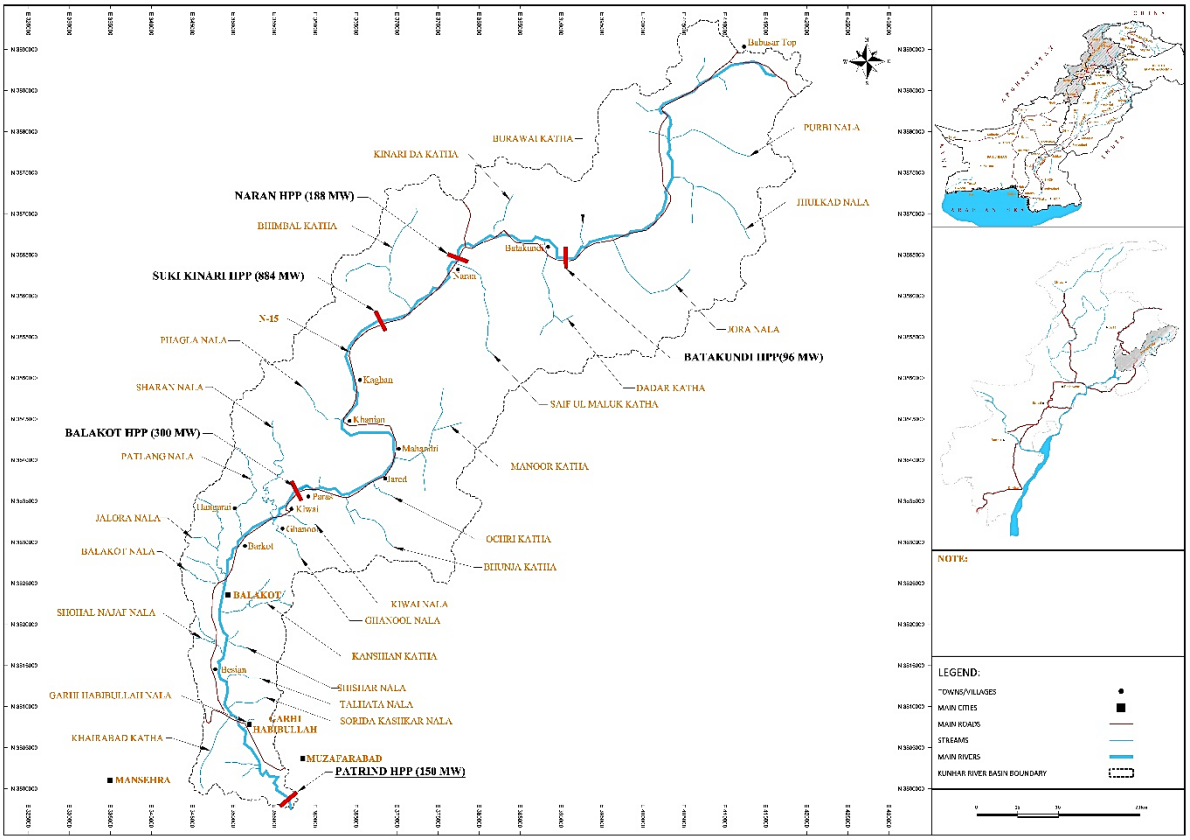


Exhibit 4.2: Contributing Streams on Both Sides of the Kunhar River

S/No	Left Bank Tributaries	S/No	Right Bank Tributaries
Kunhar River Tributaries up to the BTHPP Dam Axis			
1	Purbi Nala	1	Burawai Katha
2	Jhulkad Katha	2	Kinari Da Katha
3	Jora Nala	3	Bhimbal Katha
4	Dadar Katha	4	Phagla Nala
5	Saiful Maluk Katha		
6	Manoor Katha		
7	Ochri Katha		
8	Bhunja Katha		
Kunhar River Tributaries d/s of the BTHPP Dam Axis up to Patrind HPP Reservoir			
1	Kiwai Nala	1	Sharan Nala
2	Ghanool Nala	2	Patlang Nala

S/No	Left Bank Tributaries	S/No	Right Bank Tributaries
3	Kanshian Katha	3	Jalora Nala
4	Shishar Nala	4	Balakot Nala
5	Talhata Nala	5	Shohal Nafaf Nalal
6	Sorida Kashkar Nala	6	Garhi Habibullah Nala
		7	Khairabad Katha

4.2 Scope and Objectives of the Study

35. The scope and objectives of this study were to establish a baseline about the existence, distribution, and ecological linkages of different fish species in the Kunhar River upstream and downstream of the Balakot Hydropower Project Site. Secondly, the present study focuses on the distribution, diversity, and current local status of Kashmir Hill Stream Loach (*Triplophysa kashmirensis*) in and around the Project area. Thirdly, identify any potential threats to Kashmir Hill Stream Loach (Triplophysa kashmirensis) and other fishes in the Project area from the project activities and propose the mitigating measures to the identified threats. This study will enable the custodian Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Fisheries Department to conserve and manage fish in the Project area and add to the existing literature about fish in Pakistan. The specific objectives of the study were to:

- collect and review secondary data on fishes found in the Kunhar River around Balakot Hydropower Project Site;
- identify fish species in aquatic habitats around Balakot Hydropower Project area;
- prepare a taxonomical checklist of the recorded fish species;
- identify any threats to the fish from the Balakot Hydropower Project activities; and to
- suggest mitigating measures for identified threats to fish in the Project area

4.3 Literature Review

36. Many ichthyologists have been trying to explore the ichthyological diversity of the fresh waters of the Indian subcontinent for more than two centuries. Hamilton (1822) and McClelland (1839) were the pioneer ichthyologists. They explored the diversity of freshwater fish from the oriental region. Later on, Steindachner (1866), Days (1889), Mukerji (1936), and Hora (1936) also added more fish species that were unknown till that period. After the partition of the Indian Subcontinent, several ichthyologists provided basic knowledge about the fishes of Pakistan (Mirza, 1975; Mirza, 1980; Jayaram, 1981; Mirza, 1990; Mirza, 1993; Mirza and Alam, 1994; Rafique, 2000). This exploration process continued till the end 20th century. The number of freshwater fish species recorded in Pakistan increased with time from 100 species (Days, 1889), followed by 104 species (Ahmad and Mirza, 1963) and 174 species (Mirza and Alam, 1994). At present, more than 200 species are considered to be occurring in the country. According to Rafique (2001), the checklist of the fishes of Pakistan is yet to be completed while more species are expected to be added in the future.

37. The fish fauna of the Kunhar River, especially in and around the Balakot Hydropower Project area is not very diversified. According to recent studies (Usman et al 2016; Usman et

al. 2017a, b, c; Ahmad et al, 2020) 09 species of fish have been reported so far. The current studies are an attempt to record, report, and hence, add to the fish fauna of the area.

4.4 Methodology

38. The study area represents two different types of aquatic habitats including the main River and its tributaries. Therefore, different techniques were applied to observe the fish fauna of the area. The technique included a review of secondary data, interviewing local fishermen and officials of the Fisheries department, observing fish catches of fish hunting parties, and collecting fish using cast nets and gill nets. The methodology applied for studying the fish fauna in the study area is given below.

4.4.1 Secondary Data Review

39. To record the existence of every possible fish species in the study area, available literature was collected and reviewed. The literature included published and unpublished reports of the provincial fisheries department and non-government conservation organizations, gazetteers, research articles, popular articles, and newspapers. Based on the available literature, a checklist of different species was developed which was then confirmed through observing different species during the field visits.

4.4.2 Interviews with Local Residents

40. Interviews with residents are valuable not only for identifying the potential sites in the study area but also as a good source of primary data about the existing fish species of an area. This method was used for identifying different fish species in the study area. The relevant people in the study area for the interviews included; local field biologists, local fish hunters, local fishermen, fish farmers, fish sellers and officials from Fisheries, Wildlife, Forest and Irrigation departments, and researchers from academia in the study area. A questionnaire and photographs of different fish species were arranged before interviewing different people during the field visits. This method gave an idea about the existence of different fish species.

4.4.3 Observing Fish Catch of Hunters

41. While conducting a fish survey, different fish hunting parties and individuals were approached and their fish catch were observed. This method was found very effective and the survey team was able to record different fish species in the project area.

4.4.4 Netting

42. Cast nets, drag nets and gill nets were used to collect fish samples at different locations in the study area. The collected large-sized specimens were identified, measured, weighed, and released back into their habitats. Some of the small-sized specimens were preserved in a 10% Formaldehyde solution (Formalin) and placed in plastic jars for further identification. The collected fish species were identified following the keys given by Dr. Ramzan Mirza in 2003. (Reference: Mirza, M. R. 2003. *Checklist of Freshwater Fishes of Pakistan*. *Pakistan J. Zool*. Suppl. Ser., No. 3. pp. 1-30, 2003).

4.4.5 Recording the Field Data

43. To record the field information, every specimen was identified on the spot using the available field guidebooks. Field notes were entered in the notebook along with each identified

fish species. The field notes included; the date of collection (day/month/year), time of collection, and name of the locality where the specimen was collected. The ecological parameters including habitat conditions, vegetation in and outside of the water body, food availability cover, and shelter for the fish fauna, etc. were also observed and recorded.

4.4.6 Photographic Records

44. A close-up photograph of the specimen in its natural habitat or a series of photographs can contribute to understanding its morphology, breeding, spawning, and feeding habits. Therefore, photographs of all the recorded specimens were taken in their natural habitats not only for their identification purposes but also as evidence of their existence.

4.4.7 Local Status of the Recorded Species

45. The local status of the recorded fish species, especially the Kashmir Hill Stream Loach (*Triplophysa kashmirensis*) was determined by following a specific criterion. Local status was described in five categories based on the appearance of a species at different locations in the study area. The five categories describing the local status of recorded fish species include:

- **Abundant:** if the species appears at all the sampling sites;
- **Common:** if the species appears in 50% of the sampling sites;
- **Fair:** if the species appears in 25% of the sampling sites;
- **Rare:** if the species appears in 5-10% of the sampling sites; and
- **Occasional:** if the species appears at only one or two sampling sites

4.4.8 Equipment and Field Kits

46. The field equipment and collection kit for fish fauna consisted of the following.

- Strong transparent polythene bags and plastic jars.
- Cast nests, Drag nets, and Gill nets.
- Digital camera (Canon EOS 7D Mark II) for still photography.
- GPS receiver (Garmin Map 76).
- Notebook for taking field notes.
- Field guidebooks for quick identification of fish species in the field.

4.5 The Study Team

47. As given in **Exhibit 4.3**, the study was conducted by a team of seven members including a fish biologist, a fish ecologist, field assistants, a fisherman, and a local guide.

Exhibit 4.3: Field Study Team

S/No	Name of Team Member	Expertise	Organization
1	Dr. Muhammad Naeem Javaid	Fish Biologist	Pakistan Wildlife Foundation
2	Dr. Waseem Ahmad Khan	Fish Ecologist	Pakistan Wildlife Foundation
3	Mr. Ikram Ullah	Field Biologist	Pakistan Wildlife Foundation
4	Engr. Assad Ali Khan	Field Facilitation	AGES, Pakistan

S/No	Name of Team Member	Expertise	Organization
5	Mr. Aqil Shah	Field Facilitation	AGES, Pakistan
6	Mr. Johar Khan	KP Wildlife Department	Facilitator / Local Guide
7	Mr. Mukhtiar	Local Fisherman	Local Fisherman

Exhibit 4.4: Field Study Team at Site





4.6 People Interviewed During the Survey

48. During the field visits, nine different people including residents, officials of Wildlife, Forest and Fisheries departments, fish hunters, and conservationists were interviewed to have an idea about the existence and distribution of various fish species in the study area.

Exhibit 4.5: List of People Interviewed During the Survey

S/No	Name	Occupation	Location / Area	Contact Number
1	Mr. Amir Khan	Shop keeper	Balakot	0343-5707855

2	Mr. Asmat Khan	Shop keeper	Balakot	0312-2819296
3	Mr. Mukhtiar	Fisherman	Balakot	0300-3004967
4	Mr. Mutaza Khan	Fish Hunter	Balakot	0311-9391281
5	Mr. Shoaib	Fish Hunter	Balakot	0342-9450079
6	Mr. Usman	Fish Watcher KP Fisheries	Balakot	0341-5380730
7	Mr. Fawad Khalil	DD KP Fisheries Department	Mansehra	0311-9676723
8	Mr. Hanif Afridi	AD KP Fisheries Department	Mansehra	0333-9654804
9	Mr. Johar Khan	Range Officer KP Wildlife	Balakot	0342-0943242

5 FISH SURVEY RESULTS

5.1 Fish Species Recorded in the Study Area

49. In the study area, a total of 16 species of fish were recorded from the Kunhar River and its tributaries. The recorded 16 fish species belong to three orders, four families, and 11 genera **(Exhibit 5.1).** Economically important fish species include; *Salmo trutta fario* (Brown trout), *Onchorhynchus mykiss* (Rainbow trout), and *Schizothorax richardsonii* (Alwan Snow trout). Brown trout and Alwan Snow trout are the most favorite fish species in the area regarding its food and economical value.

Exhibit 5.1: Fish Species Recorded in the Study Area

S/No	Zoological Name	Common Name	Family	Order
1	*Glyptosternon reticulatum*	Turkestan Catfish	Sisoridae	Siluriformes
2	*Glyptothorax pectinopterus*	Flathead catfish	Sisoridae	Siluriformes
3	*Salmo trutta fario*	Brown trout	Salmonidae	Salmoniformes
4	*Onchorhynchus mykiss*	Rainbow trout	Salmonidae	Salmoniformes
5	*Paraschistura alepidota*	Stone loach / Stone barb	Nemacheilidae	Cypriniformes
6	*Schistura arifi*	Arif's loach	Nemacheilidae	Cypriniformes
7	*Schistura nalbanti* / Now *Paraschistura punjabensis*	Nalbant's loach	Nemacheilidae	Cypriniformes
8	*Triplophysa kashmirensis*	Kashmir Hillstream Loach	Nemacheilidae	Cypriniformes
9	*Nemacheilus corica*	Sundali	Nemacheilidae	Cypriniformes
10	*Schistura naseeri* / Now *Paraschistura naseeri*	Naseeri loach	Nemacheilidae	Cypriniformes
11	*Schistura macrolepis*	Singhat	Nemacheilidae	Cypriniformes
12	*Schizothorax labiatus*	Kunar Snow trout	Cyprinidae	Cypriniformes
13	*Schizothorax plagiostomus* Now *Schizothorax richardsonii*	Alwan Snow Trout	Cyprinidae	Cypriniformes
14	*Schizothorax curvifrons* / Now *Schizopyge curvifrons*	Ladakh Snow trout	Cyprinidae	Cypriniformes
15	*Schizothorax esocinus*	Aasala / Chirruh Snow trout	Cyprinidae	Cypriniformes
16	*Puntius sophore*	Spot fin swam barb	Cyprinidae	Cypriniformes

5.2 Food and Feeding Habits of the Recorded Fish Species

50. Out of the recorded 16 fish species, three species are carnivores, one species is herbivores while the rest of the 12 species are omnivores in their feeding habits. Although all the recorded species are ecologically important, however, three species; Brown trout, Rainbow trout, and Alwan Snow Trout also have commercial and economic importance. Food and feeding habits of recorded fishes are in **Exhibit 5.2.**

Exhibit 5.2: Food and Feeding Habits of the Recorded Fish Species

S/No	Zoological Name	Common Name	Feeding Habit	Food Items
1	*Glyptosternon reticulatum*	Turkestan Catfish	Carnivore	Annelids, crustaceans, insects, Algae, and decaying organic matter
2	*Glyptothorax pectinopterus*	Flathead catfish	Carnivore	Benthic insects and their larvae, occasionally small fish
3	*Salmo trutta fario*	Brown trout	Carnivore	Crustaceans, mollusks, insects, and smaller fish
4	*Onchorhynchus mykiss*	Rainbow trout	Omnivore	Aquatic insects, fish eggs, terrestrial insects, algae, small fish, crustaceans
5	*Paraschistura alepidota*	Stone loach	Omnivore	Insect larvae, crustaceans, worms, algae and detritus
6	*Schistura arifi*	Arif's loach	Omnivore	Invertebrates, insect larvae, crustaceans, micro-fauna, algae and biofilm off rocks
7	*Paraschistura punjabensis*	Nalbant's loach	Omnivore	Invertebrates, algae and organic detritus
8	*Triplophysa kashmirensis*	Hillstream Loach	Omnivore	Small invertebrates, algae, and detritus
9	*Nemacheilus corica*	Sundali	Omnivore	Invertebrates, insect larvae, worms, crustaceans, algae, and organic detritus
10	*Paraschistura naseeri*	Naseeri loach	Omnivore	Insects, crustaceans, mollusks, plankton, snails, tiny fish, Algae and plant matter
11	*Schistura macrolepis*	Singhat	Omnivore	Aquatic invertebrates, algae, and detritus
12	*Schizothorax labiatus*	Kunar Snow trout	Omnivore	Algae, aquatic plants, invertebrates, zooplankton, and detritus.
13	*Schizothorax richardsonii*	Alwan Snow Trout	Omnivore	Invertebrates, algae, detritus, and zooplankton.
14	*Schizopyge curvifrons*	Ladakh Snow trout	Herbivore	Benthic algae, aquatic plants, and detritus
15	*Schizothorax esocinus*	Chirruh Snow trout	Omnivore	Aquatic invertebrates, insect larvae, worms, and crustaceans
16	*Puntius sophore*	Spot-fin Barb	Omnivore	Small aquatic invertebrates and plant matter

5.3 Conservation Status of the Recorded Fishes

51. According to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (IUCN, 2024), seven fish species out of the recorded 16 species fall into Threatened categories. These include; one Critically Endangered; Kashmir Hillstream Loach (*Triplophysa kashmirensis*), two Endangered species; Naseeri loach (*Paraschistura naseeri*) and Singhat (*Schistura macrolepis*), and four Vulnerable species; Stone loach (*Paraschistura alepidota*), Nalbant's loach (*Paraschistura punjabensis*), Alwan Snow Trout (*Schizothorax richardsonii*) and Chirruh Snow trout (*Schizothorax esocinus*). The Population Trend of Nalbant's loach (*Paraschistura punjabensis*) is Unknown whereas the rest of the six Threatened fish species have Decreasing Population Trends. The remaining nine fish species out of the total 16 have been categorized as "Least Concern" with stable population trends. The conservation status of the recorded fish species is **Exhibit 5.3.**

Exhibit 5.3: Conservation Status and Population Trend of the Recorded Fish Species

S/No	Zoological Name	Common Name	IUCN Status (2024)	Population Trend (2024)
1	*Glyptosternon reticulatum*	Turkestan Catfish	Least Concern	Decreasing
2	*Glyptothorax pectinopterus*	Flat head catfish	Least Concern	Unknown
3	*Salmo trutta fario*	Brown trout	Least Concern	Unknown
4	*Onchorhynchus mykiss*	Rainbow trout	Least Concern	Unknown
5	*Paraschistura alepidota*	Stone loach / Stone barb	Vulnerable	Decreasing
6	*Schistura arifi*	Arif's loach	Least Concern	Unknown
7	*Paraschistura punjabensis*	Nalbant's loach	Vulnerable	Unknown
8	*Triplophysa kashmirensis*	Kashmir Hillstream Loach	Critically Endangered	Decreasing
9	*Nemacheilus corica*	Sundali	Least Concern	Unknown
10	*Paraschistura naseeri*	Naseeri loach	Endangered	Decreasing
11	*Schistura macrolepis*	Singhat	Endangered	Decreasing
12	*Schizothorax labiatus*	Kunar Snow trout	Least Concern	Decreasing
13	*Schizothorax richardsonii*	Alwan Snow Trout	Vulnerable	Decreasing
14	*Schizopyge curvifrons*	Ladakh Snow trout	Least Concern	Stable
15	*Schizothorax esocinus*	Chirruh Snow trout	Vulnerable	Decreasing
16	*Puntius sophore*	Spot fin swam barb	Least Concern	Unknown

5.4 Local Status of the Recorded Species

52. According to the local status and assessment of the existing fish species in the study area, four out of the seven Threatened species have "Common" status whereas three Threatened species have "Fair" status **(Exhibit 5.4).**

53. Out of the recorded 16 fish species, eight species were found "Common" while the rest of the eight species were found "Fair" **(Exhibit 5.4).** According to the local status and assessment, "Common" species are those observed/found at 50% of the sampling sites whereas the "Fair" species are those observed/found at 25% of sampling sites.

Exhibit 5.4: Local Status of the Recorded Fish Species

S/No	Zoological Name	Common Name	IUCN Status (2024)	Local Status (2024)
1	*Glyptosternon reticulatum*	Turkestan Catfish	Least Concern	Fair
2	*Glyptothorax pectinopterus*	Flathead catfish	Least Concern	Fair
3	*Salmo trutta fario*	Brown trout	Least Concern	Common
4	*Onchorhynchus mykiss*	Rainbow trout	Least Concern	Common
5	*Paraschistura alepidota*	Stone loach	Vulnerable	Fair
6	*Schistura arifi*	Arif's loach	Least Concern	Fair
7	*Paraschistura punjabensis*	Nalbant's loach	Vulnerable	Common

S/No	Zoological Name	Common Name	IUCN Status (2024)	Local Status (2024)
8	*Triplophysa kashmirensis*	Kashmir Hillstream Loach	Critically Endangered	Common
9	*Nemacheilus corica*	Sundali	Least Concern	Fair
10	*Paraschistura naseeri*	Naseeri loach	Endangered	Fair
11	*Schistura macrolepis*	Singhat	Endangered	Fair
12	*Schizothorax labiatus*	Kunar Snow trout	Least Concern	Common
13	*Schizothorax richardsonii*	Alwan Snow Trout	Vulnerable	Common
14	*Schizopyge curvifrons*	Ladakh Snow trout	Least Concern	Common
15	*Schizothorax esocinus*	Chirruh Snow trout	Vulnerable	Common
16	*Puntius sophore*	Spot fin swam barb	Least Concern	Fair

5.5 Ecological and Economical Importance of the Recorded Species

54. Every single species, whether it is a plant or animal, has a significant role in nature and plays its part in keeping the ecosystem in equilibrium. Fish form the largest group of animals that is used for the production of animal-based foods. Besides being consumed as food, a large number of other fish products of great economic importance are being obtained from marine and freshwater fishes throughout the world and include fish meal, fish flour, fish silage, fish solubles, fish glue, etc. (Gupta & Gupta, 2006). Freshwater fishes are not only an important source of high-quality protein but also provide minerals, vitamins, and high contents of nutritionally valuable ω-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids (Hussein *et al*., 2011; Shakir *et al*., 2013). In addition, sport fishing and ornamental fishkeeping have become popular hobbies and means of recreation for millions of people today (Gupta & Gupta, 2006). Unfortunately, fish from worldwide freshwater and marine sources are in severe decline due to various anthropogenic pressures (Limburg *et al*., 2011). Major anthropogenic impacts include industrialization, agricultural intensification, extreme urbanization (Singh *et al*., 2007; Qadir, 2009) and overexploitation of fisheries resources and overhunting.

5.6 Species of Special Concern

55. Species of Special Concern can be identified as:

- Threatened Species
- Endemic Species
- Flagship or Keystone Species
- Species of Economic Importance
- Species of Ecological Importance
- Problem Species / Pest Species

56. Eight of the recorded fish species from the study area are important from ecological, economic, and conservation points of view **(Exhibit 5.5).** These include seven Threatened Species and one economically important as well as Problem Species. Out of the seven Threatened fish species, five belong to the Family Nemacheilidae and two belong to the Family Cyprinidae.

Exhibit 5.5: Species of Special Concern in the Study Area

S/No	Zoological Name	Common Name	Family	Concern
1	*Paraschistura alepidota*	Stone loach / Stone barb	Nemacheilidae	Threatened (VU)
2	*Paraschistura punjabensis*	Nalbant's loach	Nemacheilidae	Threatened (VU)
3	*Triplophysa kashmirensis*	Kashmir Hillstream Loach	Nemacheilidae	Threatened (CR)
4	*Paraschistura naseeri*	Naseeri loach	Nemacheilidae	Threatened (EN)
5	*Schistura macrolepis*	Singhat	Nemacheilidae	Threatened (EN)
6	*Schizothorax richardsonii*	Alwan Snow Trout	Cyprinidae	Threatened (VU)
7	*Schizothorax esocinus*	Chirruh Snow trout	Cyprinidae	Threatened (VU)
8	*Salmo trutta fario*	Brown trout	Salmonidae	Problem Species

i. Stone loach / Stone barb (*Paraschistura alepidota*)

Exhibit 5.6: Stone loach/Stone barb (*Paraschistura alepidote*) Caught from d/s of the Balakot Dam Site.



Family **:** Nemacheilidae

IUCN Status **:** VULNERABLE

Paraschistura alepidota has most recently been assessed for *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* in 2020. *Paraschistura alepidota* is listed as Vulnerable under criteria A3ce.

Population Trend: Declining

Special Concern: Threatened Species

57. **Introduction.** Stone loach / Stone barb is a small, freshwater fish belonging to the family Nemacheilidae. This species is known for its adaptation to fast-flowing streams and rivers, where it plays a significant role in the aquatic ecosystem. It is characterized by an elongated, slender body covered with small, cycloid scales. It has a distinctive color pattern with dark vertical bands along its sides. It possesses a pair of barbels near its mouth, which help in detecting food on the substrate. It is adapted to live in rapid water, with a streamlined body that minimizes resistance.

58. **Feeding Habits.** It is a carnivore fish and benthic feeder (bottom feeder) that primarily eats small invertebrates like insect larvae, crustaceans, and worms, as well as algae and detritus, and plays a crucial role in maintaining the ecological balance of its habitat.

59. **Optimum Temperature for Its Survival.** *Paraschistura alepidota* thrives in water temperatures ranging from 15°C to 20°C which is typical of the cool, fast-flowing streams it inhabits.

60. **Habitat Type.** This species inhabits fast-flowing streams and rivers with rocky or gravelly substrates. These habitats provide the necessary conditions for feeding and spawning, as well as refuge from predators. This fish was caught at 60% of the sampling points d/s of the Balakot HPP dam site.

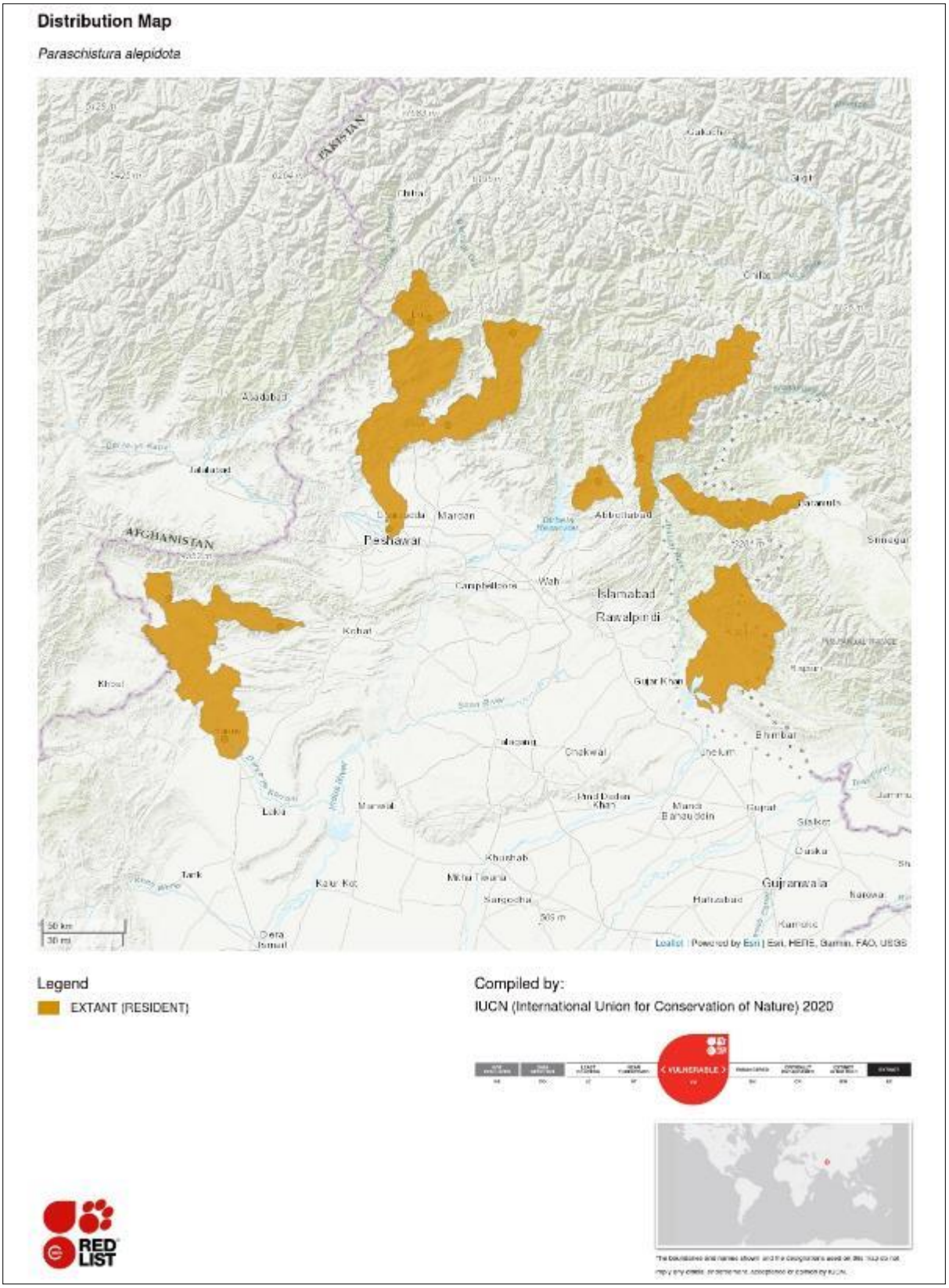
61. **Ecological Role.** *Paraschistura alepidota* plays a crucial role in its ecosystem by helping to control insect populations and contributing to the breakdown of organic matter. Its feeding activities also help to maintain the health and clarity of the water by preventing the overgrowth of algae.

62. **Threats to This Species.** In the survey area, the following are some of the major threats to this fish.

- Habitat destruction through mining and quarrying.
- Dam construction and water management projects that may alter river flow and habitats.
- Pollution from agricultural runoff, industrial discharges, and domestic waste.
- Climate change, such as temperature and precipitation changes.
- Invasive non-native/alien species / problematic species.

63. **Distribution Range.** *Paraschistura alepidota* is a non-migratory stone loach species found in Pakistan, characterized by its streamlined body and 3-4-year generation length. It is abundant in the Madyan River, Swat River basin, Kohat Toi, and Dor rivers (Mirza et al. 1981). It also occurs in the Jhelum River in Kashmir, all the rivers and streams of Hazara, in Swat, Panjkora, Dir, Malakand, and Kabul rivers and their tributaries, and Kurram valley (M. Rafique pers. comm. 2020). The species is likely to occur in Kashmir Valley and Himachal Pradesh, India, but this requires confirmation (M. Rafique and J.A. Johnson pers. comm. 2020).

Exhibit 5.7: Stone Loach/Stone Barb (*Paraschistura alepidota*) Distribution Range



64. **Conservation Actions Needed.** Following are some of the actions required for the conservation of this species.

- Research into the taxonomy of this species
- Wild population management

- Land/water management
- Site/area management
- Education and awareness
- Public awareness campaigns

ii. Nalbant's loach (*Paraschistura punjabensis*)

Exhibit 5.8: Nalbant's loach (*Paraschistura punjabensis*) Caught from d/s of the Balakot Dam Site.



Family **:** Nemacheilidae

IUCN Status **:** VULNERABLE

Paraschistura punjabensis has most recently been assessed for *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* in 2020. *Paraschistura punjabensis* is listed as Vulnerable under criteria B1ab (iii).

Population Trend: Unknown

Special Concern: Threatened Species

65. **Introduction.** *Paraschistura punjabensis* is an ornamental fish species (Mirza et al. 1995) and is commonly known as Nalbant's loach or brook loach. It is a demersal fish i.e. a ground fish that lives and feeds on or near the bottom of the waterbodies. They occupy the floors or beds of the water bodies which usually consist of mud, sand, gravel, or rocks. This species has 10-12 rarely 13 crossbars; the caudal fin is emarginated; the upper face of the head is uniformly dark and unspotted; the lateral line is shorter, usually not reaching near the caudal fin base; the dark brown stripe on the base of the caudal fin is not continuous, but always divided in a dorsal spot and a much longer, lower fragment that extends from above the middle of the fin to the ventral side. Adults can reach up to 8.1 cm in total length, with males and unsexed individuals typically smaller. They weigh up to 3.4 grams. They have a medium resilience with a minimum population doubling time estimated between 1.4 to 4.4 years.

66. **Feeding Habits.** This is an Omnivore fish, foraging on riverbeds, using barbel-equipped mouths to detect and capture prey. They primarily feed on small aquatic invertebrates, algae, and organic detritus, especially when invertebrate prey is scarce. Typically, they dwell at the bottom of water bodies, contributing to the ecosystem's biodiversity.

67. **Optimum Temperature for Its Survival.** *Paraschistura punjabensis* thrives in water temperatures ranging from 15°C to 25°C.

68. **Habitat Type.** This species inhabits clear and fast-flowing streams and rivers with rocky or gravelly substrates. This species prefers well-oxygenated waters with moderate to strong currents. In the study area, this species was mostly caught from contributing streams up and downstream of the Balakot Bridge.

69. **Ecological Role.** *Paraschistura alepidota* plays a crucial role in its ecosystem by helping to control insect populations and contributing to the breakdown of organic matter. Its feeding activities also help to maintain the health and clarity of the water by preventing the overgrowth of algae.

70. **Threats to This Species.** Some of the threats to this fish species include but are not limited to the following.

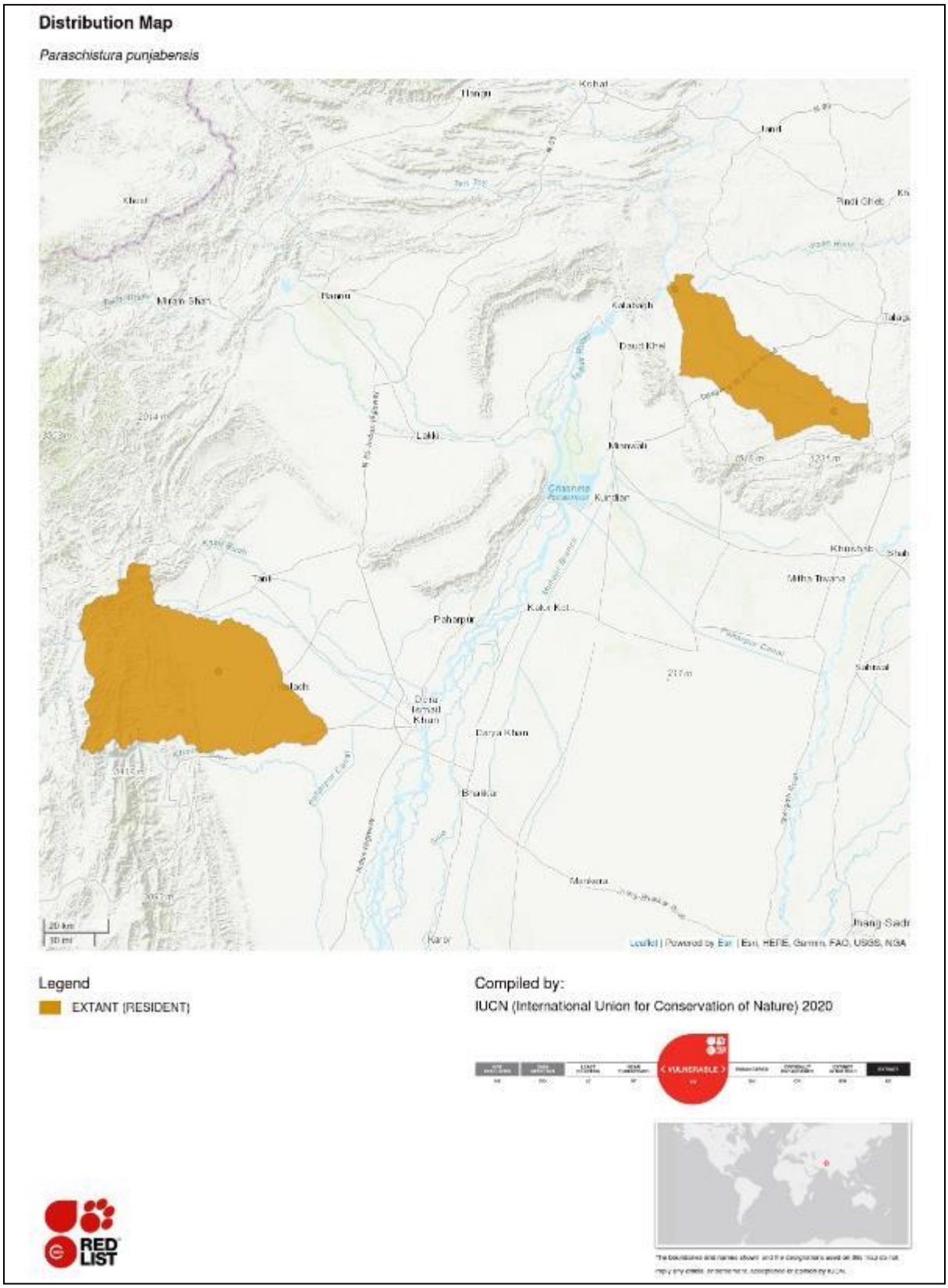
- Habitat destruction through mining and quarrying
- Dam construction and water management projects that may alter river flow and habitats
- Pollution from agricultural runoff, industrial discharges, and domestic waste
- Climate change, such as temperature and precipitation changes
- Invasive non-native/alien species / problematic species.
- Capture, harvesting, and overfishing in some regions may pose a threat.

71. **Conservation Actions Needed.** Conservation actions needed for this species are:

- research into the distribution of the species;
- population assessment and population trends;
- ecological studies;
- assessment of its harvesting level as ornamental species;
- assessment of its trade level
- public awareness campaigns

72. **Distribution Range.** This species is found primarily in freshwater environments and is a demersal fish. This Subtropical fish is found in Asia, specifically in Pakistan and India. In Pakistan, it is known from the basin of the Jhelum River, a northern tributary of the Sutlej River, and a left tributary of the middle Indus. It is the easternmost species of the group. This species serves as an important part of freshwater ecosystems in its native range, contributing to local biodiversity and ecological balance.

Exhibit 5.9: Distribution Range of Nalbant's loach (*Paraschistura punjabensis*)



iii. Kashmir Hillstream Loach (*Triplophysa kashmirensis*)

Exhibit 5.10: Kashmir Hillstream loach (*Triplophysa kashmirensis*) Caught from up and downstream of the Balakot Bridge.



Family **:** Nemacheilidae

IUCN Status **:** CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

Triplophysa kashmirensis occurs within India and Pakistan, mainly within the area of Kashmir Valley and KP province in Pakistan. The species is under threat from various anthropogenic factors such as dams, hydropower projects, pollution, and mining, which impact its highly specific habitat.

Population Trend: Decreasing

Special Concern: Threatened Species

73. **Introduction:** *Triplophysa kashmirensis*, also known as the Kashmir loach or Kashmir Hill stream loach, is a critically endangered freshwater fish species found in the cold, fast-flowing streams and rivers of the Kashmir region. Its elongated body, flattened head, and barbels around the mouth make it well-adapted to its benthic lifestyle. The species' body color ranges from brown to olive, with darker spots providing camouflage against the rocky riverbed. Its small scales and slippery texture aid in movement through swift currents.

74. **Feeding Habits.** It is an Omnivore fish and feeds on small aquatic invertebrates, algae, and detritus, using its specialized mouthparts to scrape food from substrates. It feeds predominantly during twilight or night, opportunistically, taking advantage of available food resources.

75. **Optimum Temperature for Its Survival.** It prefers cold-water environments, generally thriving at temperatures between 10°C to 20°C.

76. **Habitat Type.** This species inhabits Freshwater Rivers and streams, particularly those with fast-flowing and well-oxygenated waters. They are often found in mountainous and hilly regions. In the study area, they were recorded in the Kunhar River, up and downstream of the Balakot Bridge as well as from the tributary streams of the river d/s of the BTHPP dam site.

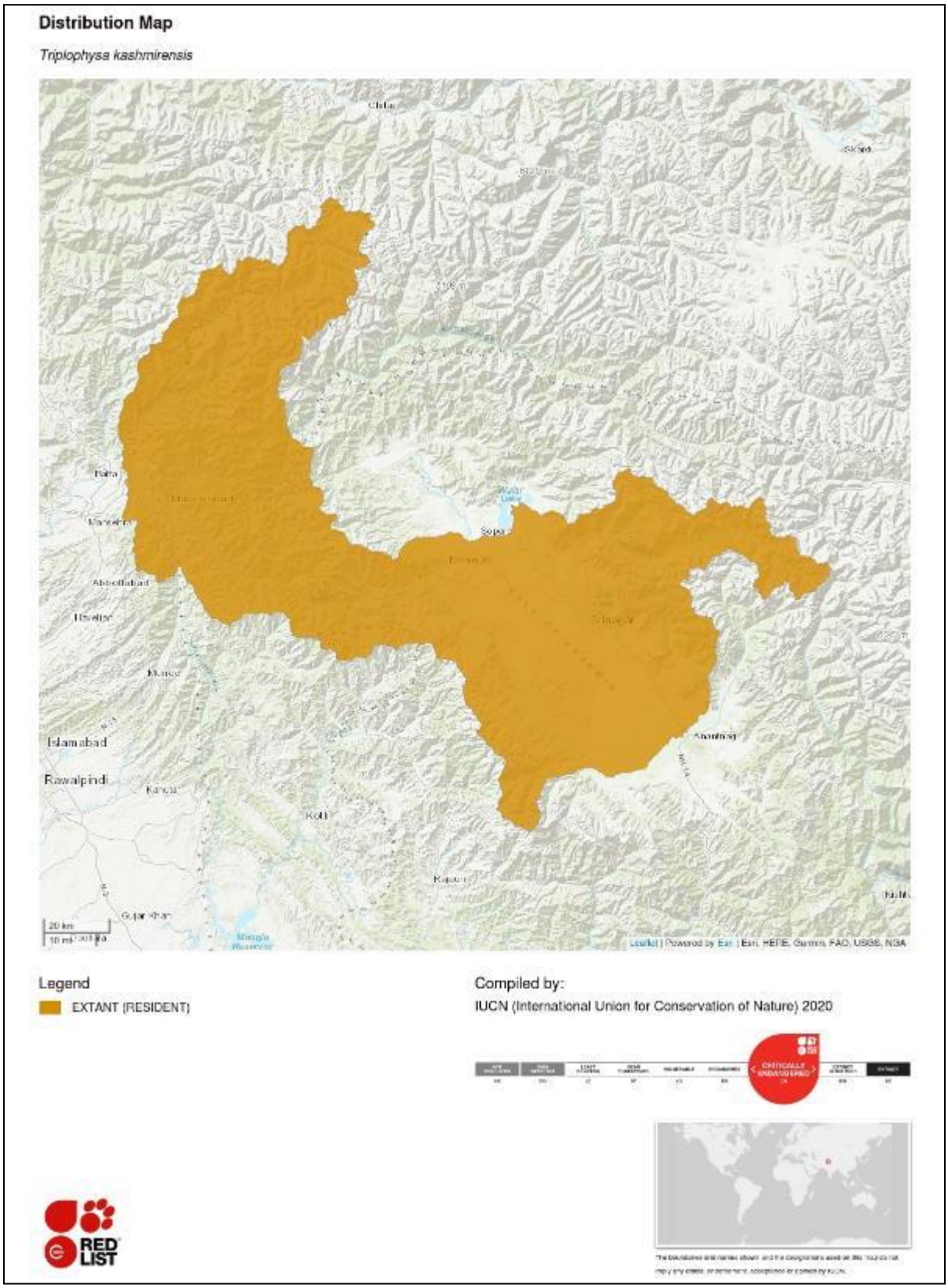
77. **Ecological Role.** *Triplophysa kashmirensis* plays a crucial role in its ecosystem by helping to control insect populations and contributing to the breakdown of organic matter. Its feeding activities also help to maintain the health and clarity of water by preventing the overgrowth of algae.

78. **Threats to This Species.** Some of the major threats to this species are given below.

- Habitat destruction through Mining and quarrying
- Dam construction and hydro-power projects that may alter river flow and habitats
- Pollution from agricultural runoff, industrial discharges, and domestic waste
- Invasive/alien species / problematic species

79. **Distribution Range.** *Triplophysa kashmirensis* occurs within India and Pakistan, mainly within the area of the Kashmir Valley. It has been recorded in north-eastern Pakistan, in Jhelum Valley, Kunhar River in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Neelam Valley in AJK. In India, it has been recorded in Jammu and Kashmir in the Jhelum in Sopur, Lidder, and Sindh rivers, Wular and Anchar lakes, and Mundri Wallah.

Exhibit 5.11: Kashmir Hillstream loach (*Triplophysa kashmirensis*) Distribution Range



80. **Conservation Actions Needed.** Some conservation actions are listed below.

- Research into the distribution of the species
- Population assessment and population trends
- Ecological studies
- Public awareness campaigns
- Ex-Situ Conservation
- Captive Breeding & Release Program

iv. Naseeri loach (*Paraschistura naseeri*)

Exhibit 5.12: Naseeri loach (*Paraschistura naseeri*) Caught from d/s of the BTHPP Dam Site.



Family **:** Nemacheilidae

IUCN Status **:** ENDANGERED

Paraschistura naseeri has most recently been assessed for *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* in 2020. *Paraschistura naseeri* is listed as Endangered under criteria A3c.

Population Trend: Decreasing

Special Concern: Threatened Species

81. **Introduction.** *Paraschistura naseeri* is a small ray-finned fish in the Nemacheilidae family. It is 5-8 cm long, with an elongated and cylindrical body. Its color is pale with darker markings and bands. It has well-developed pectoral and pelvic fins for movement in streams and rivers. Its reproduction rate is likely high, with multiple spawning events during its breeding season. The specific lifespan of this species is not well-documented. Its elongated and slender body, slightly flattened head, and series of barbells around its mouth help it sense food. Its color ranges from light brown to olive, with darker spots providing camouflage. Its small scales and streamlined body enable it to maneuver in fast-flowing waters. Despite being too small for consumption, it is used as an ornamental fish.

82. **Feeding Habits.** It is an Omnivore fish and feeds on small aquatic invertebrates, algae, and detritus, found at the bottom of rivers and streams. Its specialized physical traits and diverse diet enable it to thrive in dynamic, nutrient-variable environments.

83. **Optimum Temperature for its Survival.** It prefers cooler, well-oxygenated waters typically found in mountain streams and rivers. Optimal temperature ranges for this fish species fall between 15°C and 20°C.

84. **Habitat Type.** This species is typically found in mountain streamlets with stony beds, fast-flowing streams, and rivers with rocky or gravelly substrates, typically found in mountainous regions. In the study area, this species was recorded from nullahs d/s of the BTHPP dam site.

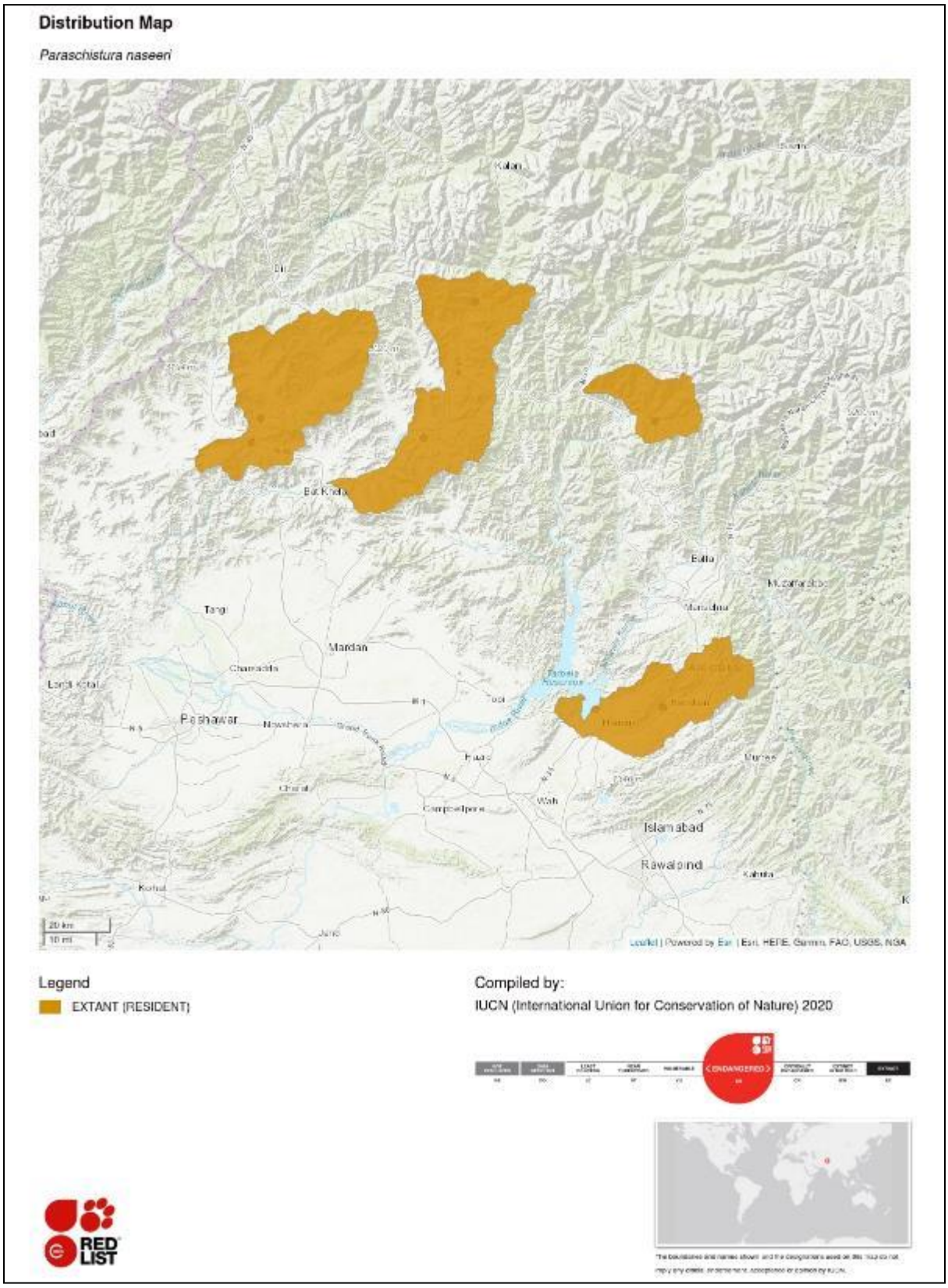
85. **Ecological Role.** *Paraschistura naseeri* plays an important role in its ecosystem by helping to control insect populations and contributing to the breakdown of organic matter. Its feeding activities also help to maintain the health and clarity of the water by preventing the overgrowth of algae.

86. **Threats to This Species.** Some of the threats to this species are listed below.

- Habitat loss due to sand and gravel mining.
- Water extraction.
- Dam construction under hydro-power projects.
- Overfishing in its limited habitat.
- Pollution from agricultural runoff, industrial discharges, and domestic waste.
- Introduction of exotic species and disrupting ecological balance by out-competing native species.

87. **Distribution Range.** *Paraschistura naseeri*, an endemic species of fish, is found in three river systems in the KP province of Pakistan. The species is primarily found in the Swat, Doar, Indus River, Hazara, and the Swat and Bajaur districts in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

Exhibit 5.13: Naseeri loach loach (*Paraschistura naseeri*) Distribution Range



88. **Conservation Actions Needed.** Following are a few of the actions proposed for the conservation of this species.

- Research into the distribution of the species
- Population assessment and population trends

- Ecological studies
- Public awareness campaigns
- Ex-Situ Conservation
- Captive Breeding & Release Program

v. Singhat (*Schistura macrolepis*)

Exhibit 5.14: Singhat (*Schistura macrolepis*) Caught from d/s of the BTHPP Dam Site.



Family **:** Nemacheilidae

IUCN Status **:** ENDANGERED

Schistura macrolepis has most recently been assessed for *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* in 2020. *Schistura macrolepis* is listed as Endangered under criteria A2c+3c.

Population Trend: Decreasing

Special Concern: Threatened Species

89. **Introduction.** *Schistura macrolepis* is a species of ray-finned fish, a stone loach, found in freshwater streams and rivers in South and Southeast Asia. It has an elongated body, large scales, brown to gray body color, and well-developed barbells around its mouth.

90. **Feeding Habits.** It is a bottom-dwelling and Omnivore fish known for its burrowing behavior that enables it to navigate and forage in its natural habitat. It feeds on small aquatic invertebrates, algae, and detritus; and in an aquarium setting, it may consume prepared foods like sinking pellets and live or frozen foods. Its opportunistic feeding behavior allows it to adapt its diet based on food resources in its environment, enabling it to thrive in fast-flowing, nutrient-variable waters. It uses its barbells to efficiently search for food among gravel and rocks.

91. **Optimum Temperature for Its Survival.** This species thrives in temperatures ranging from 22°C to 28°C. It can tolerate a range of temperatures but may not do well outside this optimal range.

92. **Habitat Type.** This species is typically found in mountain streams with clear and fast-flowing water and stony beds, and rivers with rocky or gravelly substrates, typically found in mountainous regions. It prefers well-oxygenated waters and is often found in the riffles and

shallows of these streams. In the study area, this species of fish was caught from the Kunhar River and its contributing streams d/s of the BTHPP dam site.

93. **Ecological Role.** *Schistura macrolepis* plays an important role in its ecosystem by helping to control insect populations and contributing to the breakdown of organic matter. Its feeding activities also help to maintain the health and clarity of the water by preventing the overgrowth of algae.

94. **Threats to This Species.** Major threats to this species include:

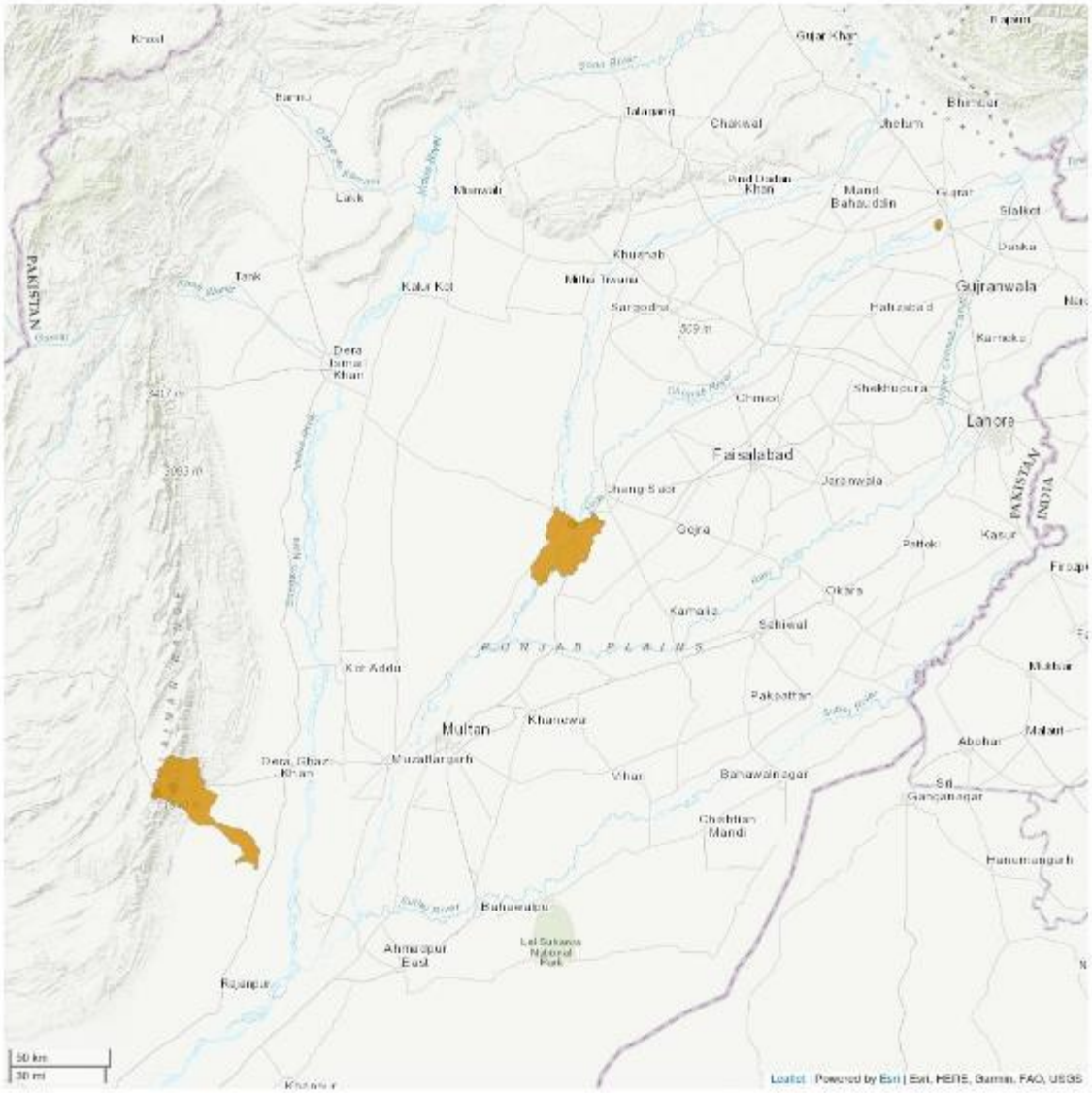
- habitat loss due to sand and gravel mining;
- water abstraction for various purposes;
- dam construction projects; and
- pollution from agricultural runoff, industrial discharges, and domestic waste

95. **Distribution Range.** *Schistura macrolepis* is adapted to plains and sandy banks. It is restricted to three sites in the Indus and Chenab rivers. This species is endemic to Pakistan, with records at three localities on both sides of the middle Indus River. It was previously described as rare in the Punjab Province of Pakistan.

Exhibit 5.15: Singhat (*Schistura macrolepis*) Distribution Range

Distribution Map

Schistura macrolepis



Legend

EXTANT (RESIDENT)

Compiled by:

IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) 2020





96. **Conservation Actions Needed.** Some of the conservation actions proposed are given below.

- Research into the distribution of the species
- Population assessment and population trends
- Ecological studies
- Public awareness campaigns
- Ex-Situ Conservation
- Captive Breeding & Release Program

vi. Common / Asala / Alwan Snow Trout (*Schizothorax richardsonii*)

Exhibit 5.16: Alwan Snow Trout (*Schizothorax richardsonii*) caught up as well as downstream of the BTHPP Dam Site.



Family **:** Cyprinidae

IUCN Status **:** VULNERABLE

Schizothorax richardsonii has most recently been assessed for *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* in 2010. *Schizothorax richardsonii* is listed as Vulnerable under criteria A2acd+3cde+4acde.

Population Trend: Decreasing

Special Concern: Threatened Species

This threatened species is facing severe food competition from the introduced Brown Trout. A separate fish hatchery is needed for this indigenous fish species to ensure its safe survival in the area.

97. **Introduction.** The common snow trout, also known as "Asala" or "Asela," has a streamlined body with smooth skin covered in small scales for respiration, a short blunt head, a longer upper jaw with a hard papillated structure called the adhesive organ, and two pairs of barbells smaller than the eye diameter. The common snow trout has territorial behavior, chasing intruders to defend their limited food resources and shelter. Common snow trout has great commercial and cultural value to the local communities. The species has a streamlined

body, small scales, and lipidosis on its ventral part, allowing it to move efficiently against the torrential flow.

98. **Feeding Habits.** *Schizothorax richardsonii* is an Omnivore fish and likely includes a variety of food sources such as small invertebrates, algae, detritus, and zooplankton.

99. **Optimum Temperature for Its Survival.** Water temperature is a key factor in their geographical distribution and dispersal. They can remain active in near-zero temperatures during December and January. Prefers cooler waters typically found in mountain streams, often ranging from 15°C to 25°C.

100. **Habitat Type.** This species is typically found in mountain streams with clear, well-oxygenated, and fast-flowing water and stony beds, and rivers with rocky or gravelly substrates, typically found in mountainous regions. In the study area, these species were recorded in the Kunhar River upstream as well as downstream of the BTHPP dam site and tributaries.

101. **Ecological Role.** *Schizothorax richardsonii* plays an important role in its ecosystem by helping to control insect populations and contributing to the breakdown of organic matter. Its feeding activities also help to maintain the health and clarity of the water by preventing the overgrowth of algae.

102. **Threats to This Species.** Major threats to this species include:

- habitat fragmentation due to the construction of small dams and hydropower projects;
- the introduction of an alien fish species, Brown Trout (Salmo trutta) in its habitats has caused major damage to this species;
- sand and gravel mining;
- pollution from agricultural runoff, industrial discharges, and domestic waste;
- overfishing; and
- climate change has forced the species for local migrations towards higher elevations.

103. **Distribution Range.** The common snow trout is a species of fish native to the Himalayan region, particularly rivers with moderate flow speed. It thrives in fast-flowing water, clutching onto rocks and stones at the bottom of the streams. Common snow trout is found in India, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan, and Afghanistan, and is the most common in the Himalayas.

104. **Conservation Actions Needed.** Following are a few of the actions proposed for the conservation of this species.

- Research into the distribution of the species.
- Population assessment and population trends.
- Ecological studies.
- Public awareness campaigns.
- Ex-situ conservation.
- Implementation of captive breeding & release program.

vii. Chirruh Snowtrout (*Schizothorax esocinus*)

Exhibit 5.17: Chirruh Snow Trout (*Schizothorax esocinus*) Caught from u/s as well as d/s of the BTHPP Dam Site.



Family **:** Cyprinidae

IUCN Status **:** VULNERABLE

Chirruh Snow trout (*Schizothorax esocinus*) has most recently been assessed for *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* in 2020. *Schizothorax esocinus* is listed as Vulnerable under criteria A2cde+3cde.

Population Trend: Decreasing

Special Concern: Threatened Species

It is also facing severe food competition from the introduced Brown Trout. A separate fish hatchery is needed for this indigenous fish species to ensure its safe survival in the area.

105. **Introduction.** *Schizothorax esocinus*, also known as the Chirr or Snow Trout, is a freshwater fish native to the Himalayan region. It has an elongated body, pointed snout, and fleshy lips for scraping algae and biofilm. Mostly herbivorous, it can grow up to 60 cm and has a silvery body shape. Its streamlined body helps it navigate strong currents in cold, fast-flowing rivers and streams. It matures in the third summer and migrates to cold water streams for spawning before returning to warmer lakes. The breeding occurs from April to June.

106. **Feeding Habits.** *Schizothorax esocinus* is an omnivore that eats small aquatic invertebrates like insect larvae, worms, and crustaceans. It thrives in Mountain Rivers due to its grazing adaptations and flexible diet. Found in mountain streams, rivers, and gravel-bottomed rivers, it feeds on bottom detritus and migrates to tributary streams for spawning.

107. **Optimum Temperature for Its Survival.** Water temperature is a key factor in their geographical distribution and dispersal. *Schizothorax esocinus* thrives in cold waters, with an optimum temperature range of 10°C to 20°C.

108. **Habitat Type.** This species is typically found in mountain streams with clear, well-oxygenated, and fast-flowing water and alpine lakes. Often found at high altitudes, ranging

from 1,500 to 3,000 meters above sea level. In the study area, the species was observed and sampled in the Kunhar River and its contributing streams up and downstream of the Balakot HPP dam site.

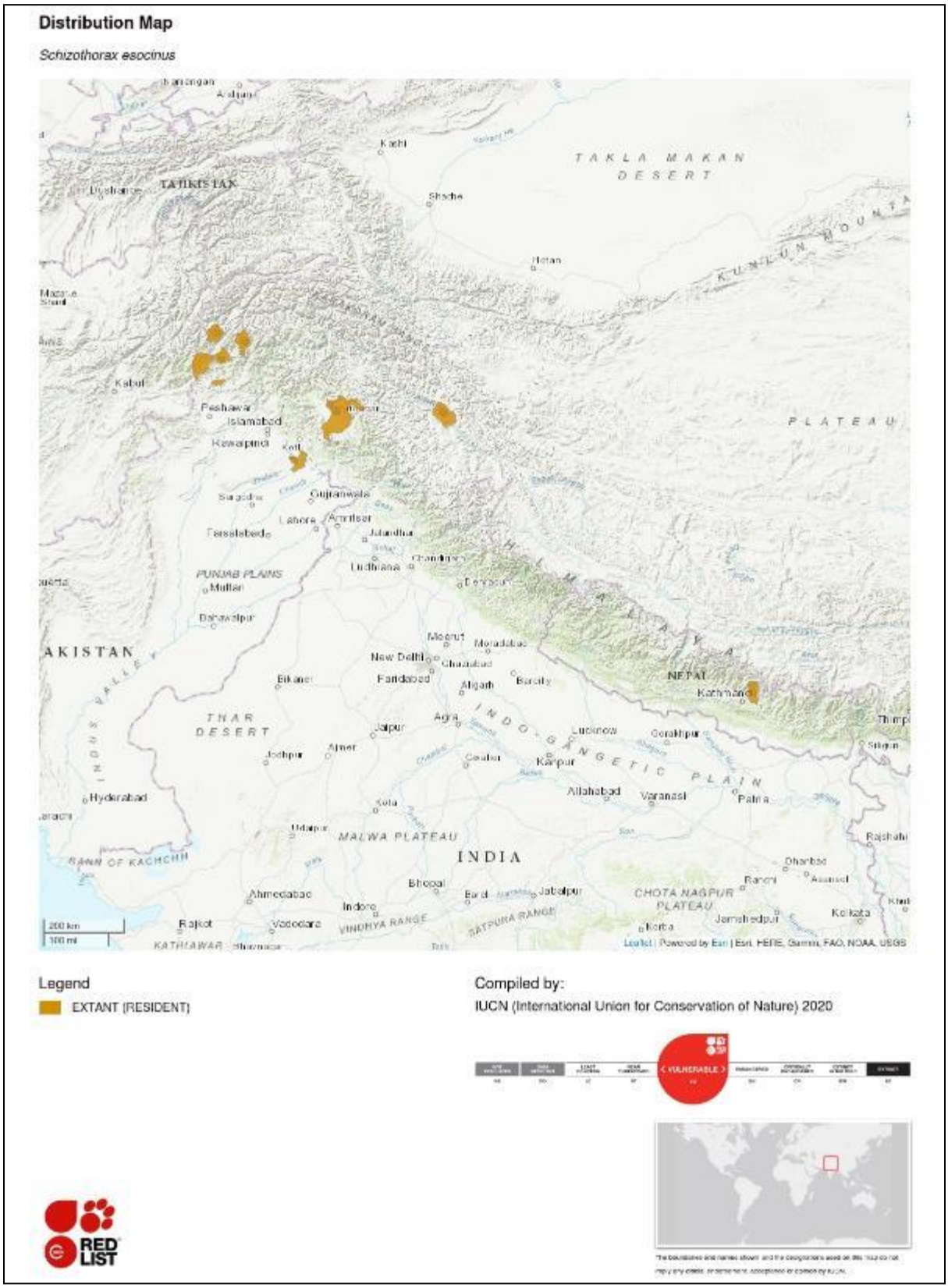
109. **Ecological Role.** *Schizothorax esocinus* plays an important role in the ecosystem by helping to control insect populations and contributing to the breakdown of organic matter. Its feeding activities also help to maintain the health and clarity of the water by preventing the overgrowth of algae.

110. **Threats to This Species.** Some of the threats to this species are listed below.

- Habitat fragmentation due to the construction of small dams and hydropower projects.
- The introduction of an alien fish species, Brown Trout (Salmo trutta) in its habitats has caused major damage to this species.
- Pollution from agricultural runoff, industrial discharges, and domestic waste
- Overfishing.
- Climate change has also forced the species for local migrations towards higher elevations.

111. **Distribution Range.** *Schizothorax esocinus* is found in Pakistan, India, Nepal, and China. It is found in the northern regions, particularly in rivers and streams of the Himalayas, Karakoram, and Hindu Kush ranges. Also distributed in parts of Afghanistan, India (Kashmir region), and China (Tibet).

Exhibit 5.18: Chirruh Snow Trout (*Schizothorax esocinus*) Distribution Range



112. **Conservation Actions Needed.** The proposed conservation actions are given below.

- Research into the distribution of the species.
- Population assessment and population trends.
- Ecological studies.
- Public awareness campaigns.
- Ex-situ conservation.
- Implementation of the captive breeding & release program

viii. Brown Trout (*Salmo trutta fario*)

Exhibit 5.19: Brown Trout (*Salmo trutta fario*) Caught from u/s of the BTHPP Dam Site.



Family : Salmonidae

IUCN Status : LEAST CONCERN

Brown Trout (*Salmo trutta*) has most recently been assessed for *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* in 2010. *Salmo trutta* is listed as Least Concern.

Population Trend : Unknown

Special Concern : Economically Important Species / Problem Species

This species has posed severe competition to the indigenous Snow trout and has dominated it in the whole of its distribution range.

113. **Introduction.** *Salmo trutta fario*, also known as the river trout or brown trout, is a freshwater predatory fish found in rivers. It prefers cool, fast-flowing, oxygen-rich, clear waters with gravel or sandy riverbeds with temperatures ranging from 12°C to 20°C. Depending on the supply of food, river trout measure 20 to 80 cm (0.7 to 2.6 ft) in length. Exceptionally, they may be up to 1 m (3.3 ft) long and weigh up to over 13 kg (29 lb), although they usually attain an average weight of up to 2 kg (4.4 lb). Their back is olive-dark brown and silvery blue, red spots with light edges occur towards the belly, and the belly is whitish yellow. They can live for up to 18 years.

114. **Feeding Habits.** The brown trout, *Salmo trutta fario*, has diverse feeding habits based on their life stage and habitat. Juvenile brown trout primarily consume aquatic insects, while

adult brown trout are opportunistic feeders, preying on various organisms, crustaceans, mollusks, and smaller fish. They also consume terrestrial insects in some habitats.

115. **Optimum Temperature for Its Survival.** The optimum temperature for the brown trout (*Salmo trutta fario*) generally ranges between 12°C to 20°C. This range allows for the best growth and activity levels. Temperatures significantly outside this range can stress the fish, impacting their health and survival.

116. **Habitat Type.** Brown trout typically inhabits cold, clear, and well-oxygenated waters. It is often found in fast-flowing streams and rivers as well as in cool and deep lakes. The trout thrives in environments with abundant cover, such as overhanging vegetation, submerged logs, and boulders. In the study area, brown trout were caught from the Kunhar River upstream of the Sukki Kinari HPP. It is worthwhile to mention here that no trout was caught from the section of river d/s of the BTHPP dam site.

117. **Ecological Role.** Every single species has a specific role in the ecosystem but this introduced fish is negatively affecting the indigenous fish species. Due to its introduction in colder waters in the northern areas of Pakistan, the population of indigenous Snow trout has reduced to a level that has shifted to the Threatened Category.

118. **Threats to This Species.** Brown trout is a unique species that remains in its habitat and leaves its home stream for smaller upstream headwaters to reproduce. Despite not being considered a Threatened Species, some individual stocks are under stress due to habitat degradation, overfishing, and artificial propagation. Increased warm water temperatures in high summer can reduce dissolved oxygen levels, leading to "summer kills" of local populations. Eutrophication of rivers due to pollution, often from agricultural fertilizers, can exacerbate this issue. Overfishing occurs when anglers fail to identify and return mature female fish, resulting in fewer eggs released back into the system when the remaining fish spawn.

119. **Distribution Range.** Brown trout is native to Europe, including Portugal, Russia, and Lapland. It is highly prevalent in Europe, West Asia, and parts of North Africa. It has been introduced globally as a game fish and has become one of the most invasive species outside its native range. It is a potamodromous and migratory fish, inhabiting large lakes with calm, stratified deep water. It forms fluvial populations in large rivers and sometimes shallower creeks and alpine streams. Both morphs migrate upstream during reproductive seasons. Their native range extends from Iceland in the North Atlantic to the Aral Sea tributaries in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Exhibit 5.20: Brown Trout (Salmo trutta fario) Distribution Range

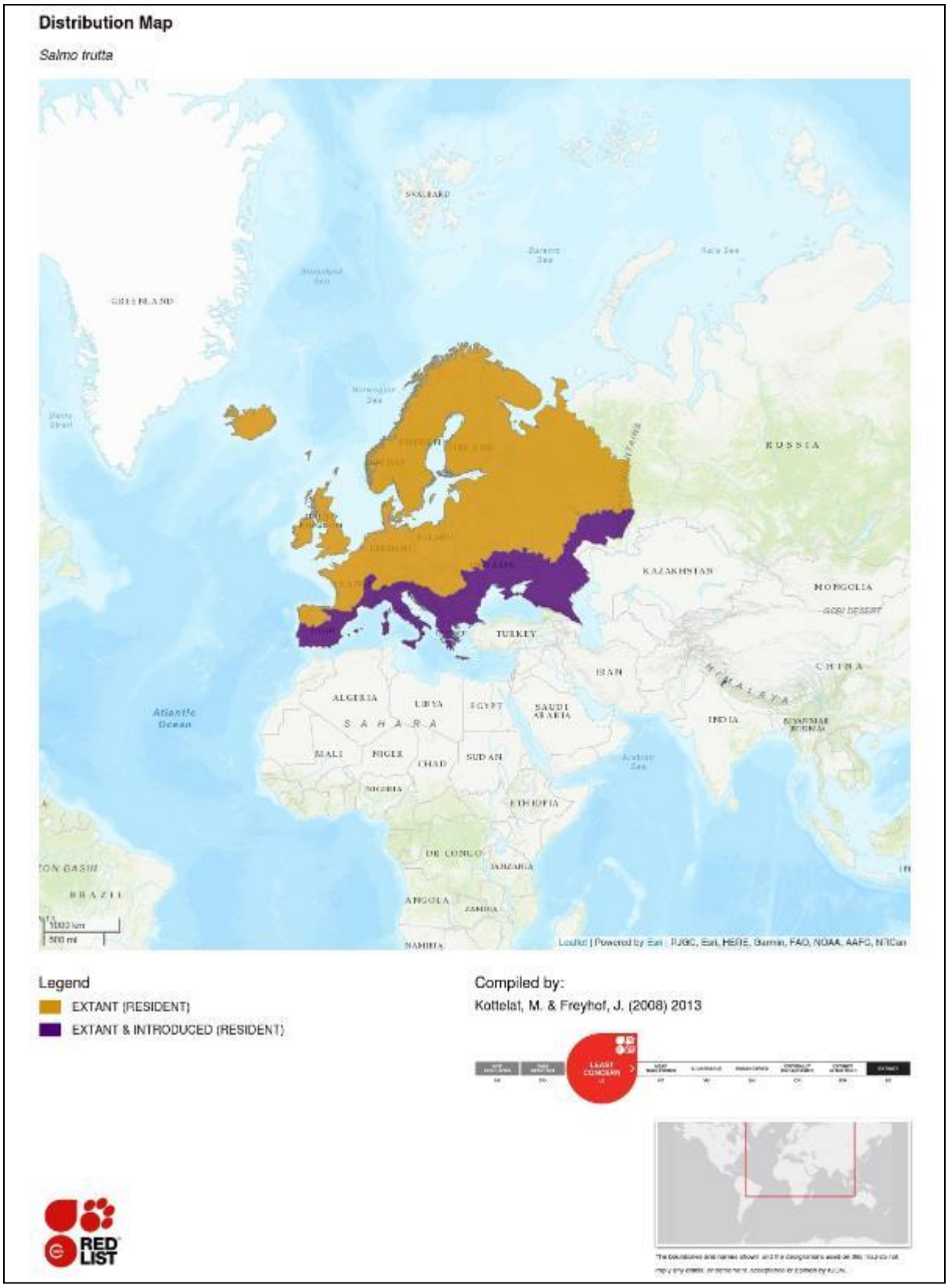


Exhibit 5.21: Glimpses of Fish Survey




Fish Sampling in the Kunhar River u/s of Dam




Fish Sampling in the Kunhar River D/s of Dam




Fish Sampling in Tributaries



Schistura macrolepis



Naseeri loach (*Paraschistura naseeri*)



Stone loach (*Paraschistura alepidote*)



Nalbant's loach (*Paraschistura punjabensis*)



Spot-fin swam barb (*Puntius sophore*)



Brown trout (*Salmo trutta*)



Sand Mining d/s of Balakot City (Garhi Habibullah)

6 PROJECT IMPACTS ON FISH FAUNA AND MITIGATION MEASURES

120. Following are the major foreseeable potential impacts of the Balakot Hdyporpower Project (300 MW) on the fish resources of the Kunhar River, its tributaries, and the evaluation of these impacts.

121. **Impact of dam construction.** Construction of a dam; diversion of river and reduction of flow in the Kunhar River may alter the river ecology. Hence, the Project may pose negative impacts on the riverine ecosystem.

122. **Impact evaluation.** Following is the assessment of the severity of the aforementioned impact.

i. Although the construction of the dam will cause a reduction of flow d/s of the dam however, as given in the approved EIA report, a minimum of 6.1 m^3/s flow will be maintained even in the extremely low flow season. This provision of ecological flow is 32% of the historical low flow. This flow will further be supplemented by 13 streams/ nullahs d/s of the dam as evidenced from **Exhibit 4.2** above. These nullahs will significantly compensate for the reduced flow in the river, thus keeping the downstream ecosystem intact and healthy.

ii. Also, except d/s of Balakot city, the Kunhar River water is not being used for irrigation purposes. Hence the prospect of further reduction in the River water is not anticipated.

iii. The River ecology in the study area has already been altered by humans through over-exploitation of the natural resources. Illegal tree cutting, sand and aggregate mining, and uncontrolled fishing are common practices in the area. Snow trout and Brown trout are economically important fish species in the study area however, it was observed that these two fish species do not attain larger size due to uncontrolled and regular day and night fishing practices. Furthermore, as there is no fish ladder in the Sukki Kinari HPP reservoir hence, there are no chances for the fish to move down the dam. Due to this barrier, during the survey, these two species were recorded from the Kunhar River upstream of the Sukki Kinari HPP reservoir.

iv. Also, most of the native fish species belong to the family Nemacheilidae which includes stone loaches that inhabit streams in mountainous areas. As these streams/nullahs fall beyond the impact of the dam construction on the Kunhar River hence, there will be no impact on the aquatic life of these streams. The two species of Snow trout found in the study area whose populations are already on the decline due to uncontrolled fishing practices and the introduction of an exotic fish species; Brown trout. Brown trout is not a bottom feeder like the native Snow trout. Therefore, the formation of the reservoir will not only increase the habitat for the fish fauna but also increase food resources and lessen the competition between two fish species, especially regarding food, shelter, and space.

v. The natural food chain and the natural ecosystem in the study area seem somewhat disturbed due to the lack of some biotic components of the ecosystem like tertiary consumers and top predators. Eurasian otter (*Lutra lutra*) is

considered a top predator in an aquatic ecosystem in cold waters and controls, regulates, and maintains the populations of all other species at lower trophic levels. Comparatively deep and slow-moving water in the dam/reservoir will support and promote the growth of phytoplankton and other aquatic vegetation and hence the populations of various macroinvertebrates. This will also increase the foraging area, refuge, and shelter for Snow trout which is facing competition with the Introduced Brown trout in food and space and is being dominated by Brown trout. Although the construction of a dam will stop fish migration, however, with the increased productivity due to stocking in the reservoir and implementation of the protection activities, the existing fish populations will increase in numbers and size. The increased fish populations in the study area will also attract the lacking components of the food chain and otters, the top predators of the aquatic ecosystem will also return to complete the food chain.

123. **Impact due to slow-moving water d/s of the dam.** Native fish species are adapted to fast-moving water in the river. Due to the reduction in water flow, the movement of water will become slow which can cause disturbance to the existing fish fauna.

124. **Impact evaluation.** As stated above, a minimum of 6.1 m^3/s flow will be maintained in the dewatered section of the River in the extremely low flow season. This flow will further be supplemented by 13 streams/ nullahs d/s of the dam. Also, the river section in the immediate d/s of the Dam up to a few kilometers upstream of Balakot City is comparatively narrow where the impact of reduced flow will not be felt to a vivid section.

125. **Impact on the aquatic habitat due to barrier effects (construction of dam).** Seven Threatened fish species exist in the study area. The construction of a dam will damage fish habitats and negatively affect the Threatened fish species in the project area.

126. **Impact evaluation.** Following is a brief evaluation of the potential impact.

i. Out of the seven Threatened fish species, five belong to the Family Nemacheilidae and two belong to the Family Cyprinidae. As stated above, the family Nemacheilidae is characterized by the fishes called Loaches that live in hill streams in mountainous areas. The construction of a dam or low flow of water in the river will not have any negative impacts on the fish fauna of the tributary streams and nullahs. Therefore, there will not be any adverse impacts of the Project on five threatened fish species belonging to the Family Nemacheilidae i.e. loaches that inhabit the hill streams and not the main Kunhar River.

ii. The other two Threatened fish species belonging to the Family Cyprinidae are called Snow trout. These two indigenous trout species are economically important and have a vast distribution range. But at the same time, uncontrolled hunting of these two fish species is a regular practice throughout their distribution range. The other major threat to the indigenous Snow trout species is severe competition with the introduced Brown trout. Therefore, Indigenous Snow trout have become “Threatened” due to the introduction of Brown trout and overhunting. The construction of the dam will not add to its further decline. Rather the construction of a dam will support the indigenous Snow trout by expanding their habitats and

providing them vast refuge, shelter, and food to compete with the introduced Brown trout.

127. **Project impact on the Critically Endangered fish species**. Kashmir Hill stream Loach (*Triplophysa kashmirensis*) exists in the study area. Project activities might likely affect its population and existence.

128. **Impact evaluation.** Following is the synopsis of the impact evaluation concerning the Critically Endangered species of Kashmir Hill stream Loach (*Triplophysa kashmirensis*).

i. Kashmir Hill stream Loach (*Triplophysa kashmirensis*) belongs to the Family Nemacheilidae which includes the fishes called Loaches. As the name reflects, loaches prefer to live in hill streams and not in the river. Heavy rains and flash floods in streams take these tiny fishes to the main river from where these fishes cannot come back to their ideal habitats in the streams and get adapted and established in the river.

ii. Floods wash out access populations and it is natural to keep the populations in equilibrium because the predators of these species are big carnivorous fishes and piscivorous birds. Carnivore fishes from the river very rarely get up to these streams and piscivorous birds avoid them due to human disturbance. Furthermore, humans also do not like to eat these tiny fish. Therefore, to avoid overpopulation of this species in these habitats, nature controls it through flash floods. A flood washes out most of the population and only very strong, healthy specimens can resist the flash floods and manage to stay in streams. Thus, only the strongest and healthiest fish specimens survive these natural disasters and are available for breeding and passing on genes to the next generations, hence ensuring healthy and strong fish populations in the natural habitats.

iii. As stated above, the actual habitats and feeding and breeding grounds of Kashmir Hill stream Loach (*Triplophysa kashmirensis*) are the contributing streams of the Kunhar River and not the main river itself. Therefore, the Project activities will neither pose any potential threat to this species nor will they have any adverse impacts on the habitats of Kashmir Hill stream Loach i.e. tributary streams of the river.

129. **Anthropogenic pressure on the threatened species**. Two fish species i.e. Alwan Snow Trout (*Schizothorax richardsonii*) and Chirruh Snow trout (*Schizothorax esocinus*) are the main species after Brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) regarding food value in the area and at the same time both the species are Vulnerable according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. These two species are already facing hunting pressure and, likely, the Project will also add some further stress on these two species, especially due to the reduced water flow.

130. **Impact evaluation**. A brief evaluation of the impact is given hereunder.

i. No doubt, the two Cyprinid fish species; Alwan Snow Trout (*Schizothorax richardsonii*) and Chirruh Snow trout (*Schizothorax esocinus*) are facing heavy selective fishing pressures and have become Vulnerable globally. Similarly, the Balakot HPP may likely have some negative impacts on the populations of these two species but these negative impacts will be in specific regions and not in the

whole study area. The river stretch between the dam and Patrind reservoir will be a safe zone for the two species as an ecological/environmental flow of 6.1 m^3/s, with supplemental flows from the 13 contributing streams/ nullahs, will be maintained throughout the year. The main declining factor of these two native fish species is the introduction of a Carnivorous, Exotic, and Invasive fish species the Brown trout (*Salmo trutta*). The Brown trout has not only dominated these two indigenous fish species but also the entire aquatic ecosystem in the northern areas. Brown trout being carnivorous and an aggressive species preys upon fingerlings and fries of native Alwan Snow Trout (*Schizothorax richardsonii*) and Chirruh Snow trout (*Schizothorax esocinus*). So, the major threat to the native two fish species is the introduction of Brown trout and the second major threat is the mismanagement of fisheries resources and uncontrolled fishing using all the legal and illegal means of fishing.

ii. It is worth noting here that thousands of hatcheries in the public and private sectors are operational for the propagation of an invasive and alien fish species, the Brown trout in the northern colder regions of Pakistan including Swat, Chitral, Kaghan, Naran, AJK and Gilgit Baltistan but not a single fish hatchery is there for native Alwan Snow Trout (*Schizothorax richardsonii*) and Chirruh Snow trout (*Schizothorax esocinus*). The expected damages to the native two fish species can be compensated by various means like the establishment of a hatchery exclusively for the native two fish species and the release of their seed into the natural water bodies. This will help to compensate for the barrier impacts caused by the hydropower projects either constructed or planned on the Kunhar River.

7 CONCLUSION

131. A total of 16 fish species were identified in the study area, including seven threatened species. Among these, there are five loach species from the family Nemacheilidae and two species of snow trout from the family Cyprinidae. The main threats to the existing fish populations in the area include overexploitation of fisheries resources due to illegal and unregulated fishing, non-selective fishing practices, aquatic pollution caused by the dumping of solid waste into natural water bodies, and the impacts of sand and gravel mining..

132. Out of the seven recorded threatened fish species, two are indigenous Snow Trout belonging to the family Cyprinidae. Snow Trout holds both commercial and food value, making it the preferred edible fish in the area. These two species are found in the main river, and their population may be negatively impacted by the construction of the dam. To mitigate these potential impacts, several measures are proposed: in-situ and ex-situ conservation of the species, establishment of a hatchery, controlled fishing practices, sustainable mining of sand and gravel, and habitat restoration through pollution control. These measures are expected to adequately address the possible negative effects on the Snow Trout population..

133. Out of the seven recorded threatened fish species, five are loaches from the Family Nemacheilidae. These loaches are very small and do not hold any significant food value, making them unattractive to fishermen. Additionally, loaches primarily inhabit streams rather than the main river. As a result, the construction of the Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW) is unlikely to have any significant negative impacts on the loaches residing in the tributary streams of the main river..

134. Based on the findings, it is concluded that the Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW) will not have significant negative impacts on the fish fauna in the study area. Specifically, the loaches living in the tributary streams of the Kunhar River are not affected by the project-related impacts.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

135. Seven Threatened fish species exist in the study area including five loaches belonging to the Family Nemacheilidae and two species of Snow trout belonging to the Family Cyprinidae. For the conservation and management of these Threatened species, the following are a few recommendations and conservation measures proposed as part of the study.

I. In-situ conservation of loaches through habitat expansion.

136. Since the ideal habitat of loaches is the hill streams in the study area, therefore, as a conservation measure, it is recommended that loaches must be protected in their habitats. In this regard, small pools and reservoirs should be developed at suitable places in the tributary nullahs of the Kunhar River where loaches exist. This will not only provide safe breeding grounds for the loaches but will also help them stay safe in their habitats during heavy rains and flash floods.

137. As recommended above, small pools will be developed at suitable places in the perennial tributaries of the Kunhar River where loaches exist. Suitable locations for such pools will be identified by the staff of the Fisheries Department involved in the protection and management activities under the implementation of the project-specific BAP activities in the Area of Management. Once identified, the engineer's estimates of such pools will be worked out and will subsequently be constructed as part of the BAP interventions.

138. At this time, the construction of 21 pools is recommended at appropriate locations in around seven perennial nullahs. Preliminary assessment shows that each pool will cost around PKR one million. Thus, a total of **PKR 21 million** for 21 pools will suffice to serve the purpose. The number of nullahs, and pools, and the cost of each pool may be increased or decreased as per site conditions however, the amount of **PKR 21 million** should be the maximum budget reserved for such activity. Such interventions will not only provide safe breeding grounds for the loaches but will also help them stay safe in their habitats during heavy rains and flash floods.

II. In-situ conservation of loaches through habitat protection.

139. The loaches are distributed mainly in the nullahs and streams in comparatively warmer water downstream of the Sukki Kinari dam site. These loaches are sensitive to human impacts such as habitat degradation through water pollution and the dumping of solid wastes in the streams. The local communities residing along the tributaries of the Kunhar River, where loaches exist, can play a key role in keeping the streams pollution-free. Therefore, a campaign should be launched to remove solid waste from the streams involving the local communities, including students from the schools located in the catchment of the streams.

140. In this regard, yearly awareness-raising and solid waste collection companies are recommended for each tributary where loaches, particularly Kashmir Hillstream loach, are identified. A minimum of 18 such campaigns are recommended till December 2027 i.e. till completion of the Project construction activities. Thereafter, such campaigns should be organized by the Fisheries department from its resources to ensure the continuation of the protection and management activities designed for the protection of loaches in their habitats.

141. A budget of **PKR 3.5 million** is recommended for the awareness and solid waste collection campaigns organized for the Kunhar River tributaries till December 2027. These

campaigns will raise awareness among communities to protect the loaches' habitat by keeping the streams free from solid waste dumping.

III. Ex-situ conservation of loaches through commercial breeding.

142. To promote the conservation of ornamental and favorite aquarium fish species, it is recommended that their commercial breeding be encouraged in the study area. This initiative would not only help protect these species but also provide livelihood support to local communities. Further exploration of this aspect should take place once the implementation of protection and management activities, as outlined in the project-specific BAP, begins at the field level. Additionally, the watchers involved in protection and awareness-raising campaigns can play a vital role in this effort and should be utilized effectively.

IV. Awareness raising among local communities.

143. An awareness-raising campaign focused on the environment, ecosystem, and the ecological roles and importance of various fish species is recommended for local communities living in the study area and along the tributary nullahs of the Kunhar River. Although loaches are of the least interest in terms of commercial and food value for fishermen, this campaign will support conservation efforts for loaches in the region. It is essential to educate individuals involved in illegal fishing activities and promote sustainable fishing practices among these communities.

144. The awareness-raising campaigns under the project-specific BAP, along with campaigns for solid waste collection from the streams, would provide significant opportunities that should be leveraged for this purpose.

V. Establishment of a hatchery for Threatened Cyprinids.

145. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province has numerous fish hatcheries operating in both the private and public sectors. Unfortunately, a concerning aspect of these hatcheries is that they predominantly focus on breeding commercially and economically important fish species. None of them have successfully bred any threatened or ecologically significant species, such as the native Alwan Snow Trout (*Schizothorax richardsonii*) or the Chirruh Snow Trout (*Schizothorax esocinus*). Instead, the emphasis has largely been on increasing the production of the invasive Brown Trout, which poses a significant threat to the region's indigenous fish populations.

146. To address this issue, it is recommended that a dedicated fish hatchery be established specifically for the breeding of these two threatened cyprinid species: Alwan Snow Trout and Chirruh Snow Trout. Stocking these threatened species in protected habitats will not only aid in their conservation but will also enhance existing conservation efforts in the area.

147. In this regard, the budget of **PKR 132 million,** allocated for the establishment of a hatchery to meet the requirements of the "Environmental Approval", can be utilized. The operation and maintenance of this hatchery should be undertaken by the department using its own resources. However, the matter should be discussed in detail with the Fisheries Department to develop consensus.

VI. Wildlife sanctuary for Indigenous Snow trout.

148. During the survey, it was noted that numerous trout hatcheries are operating along the Kunhar River, upstream of the Balakot dam site, particularly in the private sector. The primary

reason for the establishment of these hatcheries is the growing tourism and the increasing demand for trout meat among visitors. This high demand has prompted the promotion and propagation of Brown trout in the area, including efforts by the KP Fisheries Department. However, this has had a detrimental impact on native and ecologically important fish species, such as the Alwan Snow Trout (*Schizothorax richardsonii*) and the Chirruh Snow Trout (*Schizothorax esocinus*). Therefore, it is strongly recommended that the reservoir of the Balakot dam, which will cover approximately a 2 km stretch of the River, be designated as a "Snow Trout Sanctuary." In this proposed sanctuary, only the stocking of snow trout should be permitted, and the introduction of Brown trout must be prohibited. Furthermore, seasonal surveys and monitoring should be conducted to assess the presence of Brown trout within the sanctuary. If Brown trout are detected, they must be removed from the sanctuary to protect the local ecosystem.

VII. Research on Threatened species.

149. There is a lack of authentic data at the local level regarding the threatened fish species belonging to the families Nemacheilidae (loaches) and Cyprinidae (snow trout). Research on the ecological and biological aspects of these threatened species is necessary. This can be effectively accomplished by involving university researchers. Studies focusing on the distribution, population status, habitat evaluation, and genetic diversity of the threatened fish species in the study area are recommended. Such local-level studies, aimed at generating primary data, are essential for determining the IUCN conservation status of these species. Additionally, it is recommended that the findings of these studies be published in peer-reviewed research journals, so that researchers and members of the Species Survival Commission (SSC) of the IUCN can benefit from the information, and the latest conservation status of the threatened species can be established.

150. It is recommended that, as part of the BAP interventions, detailed seasonal surveys be conducted over a minimum of two years along a 100 km stretch of the Kunhar River and its contributing streams. The aim is to assess the aquatic diversity and fish species populations, with a particular focus on threatened species. The surveys should include an evaluation of the various threats to these species and their habitats, as well as proposed measures for their protection and conservation.

151. A budget of **PKR 12 million** will be sufficient to cover all expenses related to the survey, including transportation, remuneration, accommodation, laboratory tests, printing, and other associated costs. The survey should be carried out either by a qualified individual consultant or a firm that specializes in conducting such surveys.

VIII. Effective watch & ward system.

152. An effective and efficient watch and ward system is essential for the conservation of threatened fish species in the study area. This system will help reduce the existing anthropogenic pressures on these species, such as illegal fishing, non-selective fishing, fishing during the breeding season, and fishing in the river tributaries. Therefore, the implementation of the measures proposed in the project-specific BAP is strongly emphasized.

IX. Conservation partnership.

153. Involving local communities in conservation is an effective strategy for preserving natural resources. For successful conservation of fisheries resources, it is essential to engage local communities. This involvement can include offering job opportunities for residents as fisheries guards, providing training for fishermen in sustainable fishing practices, and educating community members in aquaculture and fish farming. Additionally, training, particularly for women, can focus on rearing ornamental fish such as loaches and on the marketing and e-marketing of these species. Such initiatives will promote the concept of benefit sharing and contribute to the effective conservation of fisheries resources in the area.

154. In this regard, as discussed with the Fisheries and Wildlife departments, the watchers for protection activities should be hired from the local communities. Both the departments are already working with the communities and have decades-long linkage with them which can effectively be availed during the implementation of the BAP activities.

X. Capacity building of the custodian Fisheries Department.

155. Although the Fisheries Department has technical expertise in fish breeding and rearing, it lacks adequate knowledge in fisheries management and research, particularly in fish ecology, biology, taxonomy, and genomics. These deficiencies could be addressed through collaboration with universities and fisheries research institutes. Additionally, improving infrastructure—by upgrading existing fish hatcheries and establishing new ones for indigenous threatened fish species—would strengthen the Fisheries Department and ultimately lead to better management of the area's fisheries resources.

XI. Control on illegal fishing.

156. Illegal and uncontrolled fishing practices pose a serious threat to the fish population in the study area. The Fisheries Department should work to educate local fishermen about the importance and ecological role of fish through an awareness campaign. The use of fine mesh gill nets results in the capture of all types of fish, including ornamental species, fry, fingerlings, and non-commercial fish, and fishermen need to be encouraged not to catch non-commercial species. Additionally, the use of poisons, electrical devices, and dynamite should be completely prohibited in the area.

157. The streams and tributaries of the Kunhar River serve as habitats and breeding grounds for fish belonging to the Family Nemacheilidae (loaches). Therefore, fishing in these tributaries must be entirely banned. Most fish species have a breeding season that lasts from May to August, so fishing during this period in natural water bodies should also be prohibited.

158. Commercial fishing should not be permitted in the river or its tributaries within the study area. Only subsistence fishing using rods and cast nets, with limited weights, should be allowed through a permitting system. Furthermore, angling should be promoted to attract visitors and enhance the recreational value of the river.

159. It is expected that the implementation of the protection activities and awareness-raising programs under the BAP will enable the Fisheries Department to curtail illegal fishing activities and sensitize the locals, particularly the fish hunters, to refrain from fishing through illicit means.

XII. **Regulation of sand and aggregate mining.**

160. The government should regulate sand and aggregate mining in the study area. Such mining practices should only be permitted in designated areas and conducted sustainably. Additionally, mining should be prohibited in ecologically sensitive areas, such as breeding grounds and habitats for threatened fish species, particularly in the river's tributaries where loaches are typically found.

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PAKHTUNKHWA ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

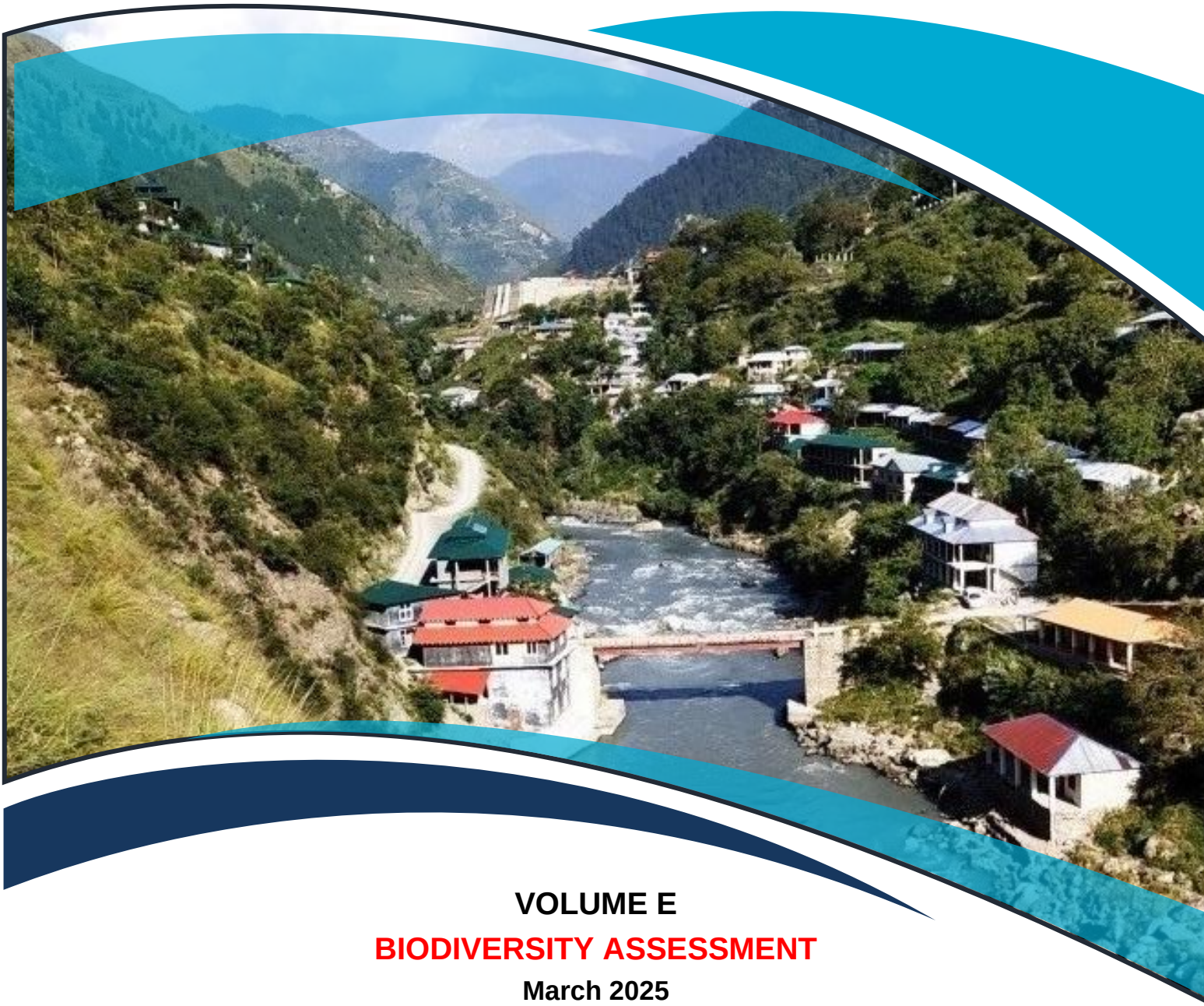
(PEDO)

GOVERNMENT OF KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN

LOAN NO: 4057/8397 (AIIB)-PAK

BALAKOT HYDROPOWER PROJECT (300 MW)
DISTRICT MANSEHRA



VOLUME E
BIODIVERSITY ASSESSMENT

March 2025

EMPLOYER

Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO)

PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT (PMC)

A Joint Venture of DOLSAR Engineering Limited (Turkey), AGES Consultants (Pakistan), BAK Consulting Engineers (Pakistan), Civ. Tech Associates, Peshawar, Pakistan (Pakistan), Electra Consultants (Pakistan), and Techno Legal Consultants (Pvt.) Limited (Pakistan)

EPC CONTRACTOR

Joint Venture of China Gezhouba Group Company (CGGC), China &
Ghulam Rasool and Company Pvt. Ltd (GRC), Pakistan

Issue and Revision Record

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01	21.08.2024	i. Engr. Assad Ali Khan ii. Dr. Waseem Khan iii. Dr. Muhammad Naeem Javaid iv. Mr. Ikramullah v. Dr. Muhammad Saeed Peerzada	i. Environmental Expert ii. Fish Ecologist iii. Fish Biologist iv. Field Biologist v. Plant Taxonomist	PMC	Muhammad Hussain (Deputy Team Leader/Resident Engineer)	Mehmet CINGISIZ (Project Manager - Team Leader)	Additional surveys, with emphasis on the Kashmir Hillstream Loach, were carried out to update the biodiversity section of the EIA report. Two additional volumes, Volumes D and E, were furnished as a result of the field surveys and desk studies.
02	24.12.2024	i. Engr. Assad Ali Khan ii. Dr. Waseem Ahmad Khan iii. Dr. Muhammad Naeem Javaid iv. Mr. Ikramullah v. Dr. Muhammad Saeed Peerzada	i. Environmental Expert ii. Fish Ecologist iii. Fish Biologist iv. Field Biologist v. Plant Taxonomist	PMC	Muhammad Hussain (Deputy Team Leader/Resident Engineer)	Zafer DEMIRSELCUK (Project Manager - Team Leader)	The ADB review comments were incorporated in the submission.
03	26-03-2025	i. Engr. Assad Ali Khan ii. Dr. Waseem Ahmad Khan iii. Dr. Muhammad Naeem Javaid iv. Mr. Ikramullah Dr. Muhammad Saeed Peerzada	i. Environmental Expert ii. Fish Ecologist iii. Fish Biologist iv. Field Biologist Plant Taxonomist	PMC	Muhammad Hussain (Deputy Team Leader/Resident Engineer)	Zafer DEMIRSELCUK (Project Manager - Team Leader)	The ADB additional review comments were incorporated in the submission.

PREFACE

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report for the Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW) was prepared by Hagler Bailly Pakistan (Private) Limited (HBP) in 2019. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Protection Agency (KPEPA) granted "Environmental Approval" for the report on July 6, 2021.

The current EIA report is an updated version of the approved report furnished by the Project Management Consultants (PMC)[1] for the Balakot HPP (300 MW). The updates aim to: (i) incorporate proposed changes to the design of the project's infrastructure facilities as part of the detailed design and implementation arrangements of the Project-specific Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP); and (ii) update the biodiversity section of the EIA report with emphasis on the critically endangered Kashmir Hillstream Loach (*Triplophysa kashmirensis*).

The approved report's original structure has been maintained, but significant updates have been made to the project description, social baseline, information disclosure and consultation, and BAP sections. Appropriate changes have also been applied to other sections to ensure consistency. Additionally, two new volumes, Volumes D (Management Plan for Threatened Fish Species) and E (Biodiversity Assessment), have been furnished as part of the updated EIA report.

Volume E primarily discusses the results of biodiversity surveys conducted in the Kunhar Valley and briefly describes the various threats facing by the area's wild flora and fauna.

1 A joint venture of:

i. DOLSAR Engineering Inc. Co. (Turkey) Lead Firm;
ii. AGES Consultants;
iii. BAK Consulting Engineers;
iv. CivTech Associates;
v. Electra Consultants; and
vi. Techno Legal Consultants (Pvt.) Limited from Pakistan.

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ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AIIB	Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
amsl	Above Mean Sea Level
BAPs	Biodiversity Action Plans
BTHPP	Balakot Hydropower Project
CGGC	China Gezhouba Group Company (CGGC), China
CMS	Conservation of Migratory Species
CSRM	Country Safeguards Review Mission
DG	Director General
EIA	Environment Impact Assessment
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
EPC	Engineering, Procurement, and Construction
GRC	Ghulam Rasool and Company Pvt. Ltd (GRC)
GWh	Giga Watt hour
HBP	Hagler Bailly Pakistan (Private) Limited
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
km	Kilometer
KPK	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
KPEPA	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Protection Agency
LARP	Land Acquisition and Resettlement Plan
m	Meter
NOCs	No Objection Certificates
PD	Project Director
PEDO	Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization
PIU	Project Implementation Unit
PMC	Project Management Consultants
PMD	Pakistan Meteorological Department
SKHPP	Suki Kinari Hydropower Project
SSEMP	Site-Specific Environmental Management Plan
SPS	Safeguard Policy Statement

1 SYNOPSIS

1. This report shows the findings of ecological studies conducted at the Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW) site during May 2024. The studies included the assessments of vegetation/flora, macroinvertebrates, fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. The team for these studies consisted of nine members including plant taxonomist, ichthyologist, herpetologists, ornithologist, mammalogist, ecologist, field assistants, and local guides.

2. Among plants, overall 287 species belonging to 79 families were recorded from the study area. These included 42 species of trees, 49 species of shrubs, 163 species of herbs, 09 species of climbers, 20 species of grasses, and 04 species of sedges. These include 111 annual plants and 176 perennials. According to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, none of the recorded species is threatened.

3. In Aquatic macro-invertebrates, overall 15 species were recorded that belong to three phyla, five orders, nine families, and 15 genera. All the macro-invertebrates were found in the tributary streams of the Kunhar River which are the potential habitats of Loaches including the Critically Endangered Kashmir Hillstream Loach (*Triplophysa kashmirensis*).

4. Among fishes, 16 species were recorded from the study area belonging to three orders, four families, and 11 genera. According to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, seven fish species out of the recorded 16 species fall into Threatened categories. These include; one Critically Endangered; Kashmir Hillstream Loach (*Triplophysa kashmirensis*), two Endangered species; Naseeri loach (*Paraschistura naseeri*) and Singhat (*Schistura macrolepis*), and four Vulnerable species; Stone loach (*Paraschistura alepidota*), Nalbant's loach (*Paraschistura punjabensis*), Alwan Snow Trout (*Schizothorax richardsonii*) and Chirruh Snow trout (*Schizothorax esocinus*). According to the local status and assessment, four out of the seven Threatened species were found "Common" and three species were found to have "Fair" status.

5. Among amphibians, eight species of frogs and toads belonging to three families and six genera were recorded. According to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, none of the recorded eight amphibian species is threatened.

6. Among reptiles, a total of 24 species belonging to one order, 10 families, and 20 genera were recorded. Three reptilian species; including two lizards and one snake have NEAR THREATENED conservation status with decreasing population trend and the rest of the 21 species are categorized as LEAST CONCERN with stable population trend.

7. Among birds, 111 species belonging to 17 orders were recorded with 50% resident birds, 29% winter visitors, 11% summer breeders, and 10% passage migrants or irregular year-round visitors. None of the recorded birds is Threatened or endemic to Pakistan and all the recorded birds have been categorized as "Least Concern" by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

8. Among mammals, 21 species belonging to six orders, 12 families, and 21 genera were recorded. All the recorded mammals in the study area have been categorized as "Least Concern" with either stable or increasing population trends.

1.1 Background

9. Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO), with the financial assistance of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), is implementing the construction of the Balakot Hydropower Project (300 MW) in the 12 kilometers (km) stretch of the Kunhar River in District Mansehra. The Balakot Hydropower Project is a category "A" Project as per ADB safeguard criteria with the expected negative impacts on the associated ecosystem in the Project area. Hence, in compliance with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Protection Act 2014 requirements, and under the guidelines of the ADB's Safeguard Policy Statement commonly known as SPS 2009, the Hagler Bailly Pakistan (Private) furnished an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report in 2019. In pursuance of the ADB requirements, any changes that may occur in the project design, layout arrangement, project footprint, or other provisions of the approved EIA report, the report shall accordingly be updated, and revised concurrence shall be sought from the Bank. On May 22, 2023, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) conveyed concurrence to the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) in respect of the "Proposal for Revision in the Project Specific BAP" containing changes proposed in the institutional arrangement of the Project-specific Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) and composition of the BAP Management Committee.

10. As part of the review process, a joint virtual meeting of the ADB, AIIB, Project Implementation Unit (PIU), and the Project Management Consultant (PMC) concerned staff, was held on February 27, 2024, wherein the reviewers identified some gaps in the Biodiversity Section of the updated EIA report. Similarly, the Conservation Status of Kashmir Hill Stream Loach (*Triplophysa kashmirensis*) was mentioned in the report as "Not Evaluated". But recently, in 2024, the Conservation Status of Kashmir Hill Stream Loach (*Triplophysa kashmirensis*) has been changed from "Not Evaluated" to "Critically Endangered" (IUCN, 2024). Therefore, due to the updated Conservation Status of Kashmir Hill Stream Loach (*Triplophysa kashmirensis*), it was necessary to update the Biodiversity Section of the EIA report, especially the fisheries section of the report. In this context, the safeguard team of the ADB and AIIB recommended following the next steps to be undertaken by the PMC/PIU.

- Discuss the situation with the Fisheries department and experts
- Engage an independent environmental monitor for reassessment
- Update the environmental impact assessment and biodiversity action plan
- Develop a mitigation plan for the critically endangered fish species
- Hold further discussions and assessments with relevant parties

11. This report addresses the gaps observed in the biodiversity section of the previous report. To update the biodiversity section of the report, different floral and faunal studies were conducted in the study area. These included the study of vegetation, fishes, macro-invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals.

2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

12. Balakot HPP (300 MW) is a run-of-the-river scheme to be constructed on the Kunhar River in its 12-kilometer (km) stretch from Paras to Sangar village in District Mansehra of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province. Upon completion, 1,143 gigawatt hours of clean energy will be delivered to the national grid yearly.

13. The Project dam site is located in Paras village, around 2 km downstream of the Sukki Kinari HPP (870 MW) tailrace, while the powerhouse site is proposed at Ganhool village of Balakot. The 9.1 km-long headrace tunnel of 8-meter (m) diameter will divert 154 m^3/second design flow of the Kunhar River water to the powerhouse to generate 300 (MW of electricity. The Project residential colony is identified in Sangar village.

14. Access road to the dam and power intake is proposed to off-take from National Highway (N-15) on the left side of the Kunhar River in Paras village.

15. As exhibited in the EPC Contract, the following is the brief scope of works:

- Project basic and detailed design
- Temporary works
- Diversion works
- Construction of dam
- Intake structures
- Adit tunnels (adits-01,02 and 03)
- Headrace tunnel
- Surge shaft
- Powerhouse
- Access roads (temporary and permanent)
- Residential colony
- Switchyard
- Transmission line

16. The Project brief salient features are in **Exhibit 2.1** followed by location maps and the Project setting in **Exhibit 2.1** to **Exhibit 2.5.**

Exhibit 2.1: Brief Salient Features

S/NO	DESCRIPTION	UNIT	DETAIL
1	**HYDROLOGY AND DESIGN FLOWS**		
1.1	River		Kunhar
1.2	Catchment area of the dam site	km^2	1939
1.3	(Average) flow at the intake	m^3/s	87
1.4	Design Discharge	m^3/s	153.9
1.5	Design Flood T=10,000 years	m^3/s	3706
1.6	Probable Maximum Flood	m^3/s	5043
2	**RESERVOIR**		
2.1	Normal Operating Level (NOL)	masl	1288.0
2.2	Minimum Operating Level (Min.OL)	masl	1283.0
2.3	Surface area (at NOL)	km^2	0.28
2.4	Reservoir length (at NOL)	km	2.2
2.5	Gross storage capacity (at NOL)	$X10^6 m^3$	3.65
2.6	Regulating storage capacity (NOL)	$X10^6 m^3$	1.2
3	**DAM STRUCTURE**		
3.1	Dam type		Curved Concrete Gravity Dam
3.2	Dam crest elevation	masl	1292.0
3.3	Maximum height above the riverbed	m	35.0
3.4	Maximum height above foundation	m	49.0
3.5	Crest length	m	146.0
4	**SPILLWAYS AND LOW-LEVEL OUTLETS/FLUSHING SLUICES**		
4.1	Spillway type		Upper WES spillway + bottom outlet
4.2	Upper spillway crest elevation	masl	1278.0
4.3	Upper spillway gates no. and type		3 (radial gates)
4.4	Upper spillway gates size (W x H)	m×m	11 X 10
4.5	Bottom outlet invert elevation	masl	1253.0
4.6	Bottom outlet gates no. and type		2 sluice gate + 2 radial gate
4.7	Low-level spillway size (W x H)	m×m	6x8
5	**RIVER DIVERSION**		
5.1	Construction Flood	m^3/s (T=20 years)	900
5.2	Diversion type		Diversion tunnel + bottom outlet, with cofferdam
5.3	Upstream Coffer dam type		CSG cofferdam
5.4	Upstream coffer dam crest elevation	masl	1272.0
5.5	Downstream coffer dam type		CSG cofferdam
5.6	Downstream coffer dam crest elevation	masl	1252.5
5.7	Diversion tunnel type		Archway
5.8	Diversion tunnel no. (-)		1
5.9	Diversion tunnel size (W x H)	m×m	Archway (7,5 x 8,0)
5.10	Diversion tunnel length	m	650

S/NO	DESCRIPTION	UNIT	DETAIL
5.11	Diversion tunnel slope	%	1.5
5.12	Diversion tunnel inlet invert elevation	masl	1261.0
5.13	Diversion tunnel outlet invert elevation	masl	1248.0
6	**POWER INTAKE STRUCTURE**		
6.1	Intake type		Bank-type intake
6.2	Trash racks no.		4
6.3	Trash rack size (W x H)	m×m	8 x 1 0
6.4	Service gates no.		2 (1 emergency gate)
6.5	Service gate size (W x H)	m×m	4 x 8
6.6	Intake crest elevation	masl	1271.0
7	**HEADRACE TUNNEL**		
7.1	Tunnel section		Circular concrete lined (8.0 m inner diameter)
7.2	Length up to surge tank	m	9137
7.3	Tunnel slope		0.56%、0.00%、1.11%
8	**UPSTREAM INCLINED SURGE TUNNEL**		
8.1	Type		Concrete lined circular surge shaft+inclined surge tunnel
8.2	Internal diameter	m	14.5
8.3	Length of surge tunnel	m	568
8.4	Bottom elevation of surge shaft	masl	1203
9	**PRESSURE TUNNEL/SHAFT & PENSTOCK**		
9.1	Pressure tunnel/shaft main section type and size		Steel-lined circular cross-section (5.6 m internal diameter)
9.2	Pressure tunnel/shaft length	m	375
9.3	Penstock length	m	88
9.4	Branch Section Type		Manifold (3 branches)
9.5	Size of each branch	m	2.2 m internal diameter conduits
9.6	Max. Length of branch	m	～30
10	**POWERHOUSE AND SUBSTATION**		
10.1	Powerhouse type		Conventional underground cavern
10.2	Main cavern general dimensions (L x W x H)	m	89.28x20.40x37.86
10.3	Turbine type		Francis
10.4	Number of units		3
10.5	Turbine axis elevation	masl	1054,0
10.6	Transformer/Substation type		Underground cavern (adjacent to the main powerhouse cavern)
10.7	Transformer cavern general dimensions (L x W x H)	m	94.82 x17.40 x31.79
11	**DOWNSTREAM INCLINED SURGE TUNNEL**		
11.1	Type		Concrete-lined inclined surge tunnel
11.2	Internal diameter	m	7.5x9.125
11.3	Length of surge tunnel	m	505

S/NO	DESCRIPTION	UNIT	DETAIL
11.4	Surge tunnel bottom elevation	masl	1028.0
12	**TAILRACE**		
12.1	Type		Circular tunnel with transition to an archway section at the final length and Outlet portal
12.2	Tunnel section		Circular concrete lined (8.0 m diameter)
12.3	Length up to the final transition section	m	1646.5
12.4	Tunnel slope up to the final transition section	%	0.122%, -18.45% (ascending slope)
12.5	Tunnel final section		Archway concrete lined section (8.0 W x 8.0 H)
12.6	Length from transition to outlet	m	50
12.7	Tunnel slope up to the outlet portal	%	0.23 (ascending slope)
13	**POWER AND ENERGY**		
13.1	Gross Head	m	229.0
13.2	Design Net Head (m)	m	217.6
13.3	Installed plant capacity	MW	300 (at the generator)
13.4	Average annual energy production	GWh	1144（average of 55 years）
14	**PROJECT ACCESS FACILITIES**		
14.1	Access road to dam Left side R1 (length)	m	512 m (from Sharan Road, connection to National Highway N-15 at the left side of Kunhar River, nearby Paras village)
14.2	Access road to Diversion tunnel R2 (length)	m	138m (from the dam bridge deck up to the Sediment by-pass tunnel intake)
14.3	The access road to the Main Access tunnel Power House R3 (length)	m	3254m (From Sangar connection from National Highway N-15 to Main Access tunnel Power House
14.4	The access road to Surge tank R4 (length)	m	290m (from National Highway N-15 to access road Surge tank
14.5	The access road to Tailrace Tunnel R5 (length)	m	823m (from R3 connection to tailrace tunnel
14.6	Access road to Permanent staff Residential Colony R6 (length)	m	611m (from N15 connection to Resident colony
14.7	Permanent Staff Residential Colony	m^2	Covered area= 11995.5 m^2

Exhibit 2.2: Project Location in Pakistan



Exhibit 2.3: Project Location in District Mansehra

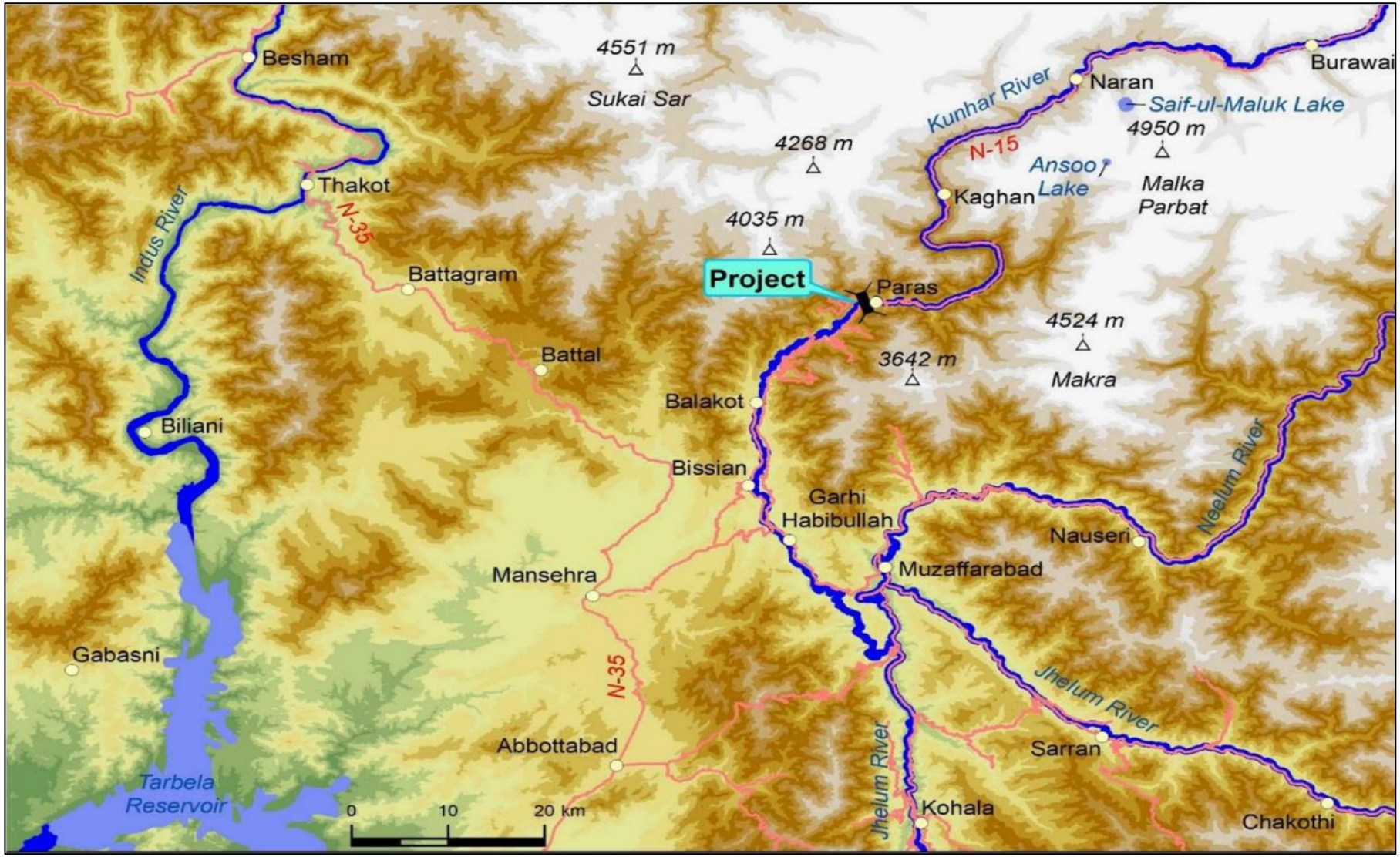


Exhibit 2.4: Project Layout Map

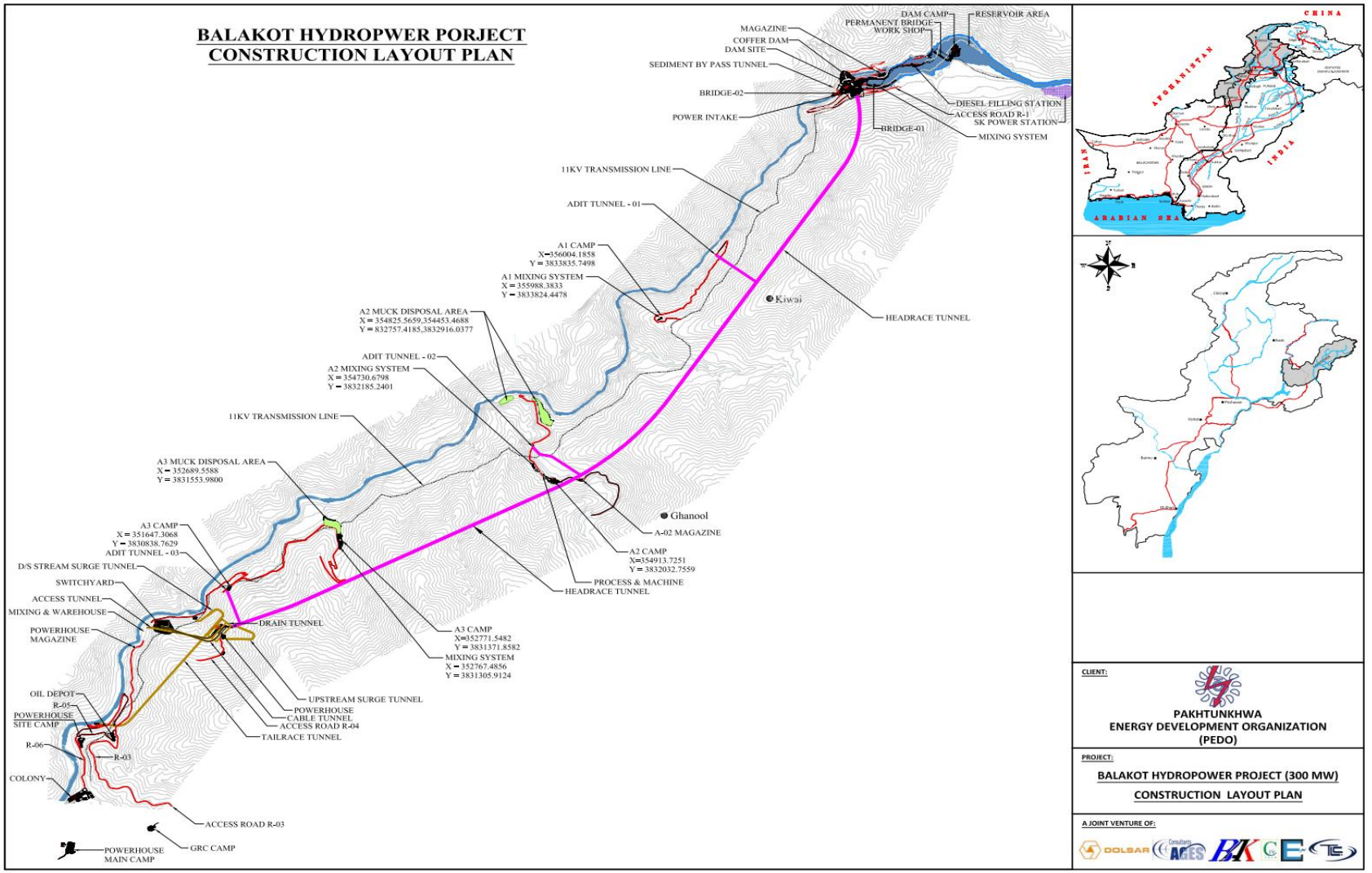


Exhibit 2.5: Project Setting-Dam site

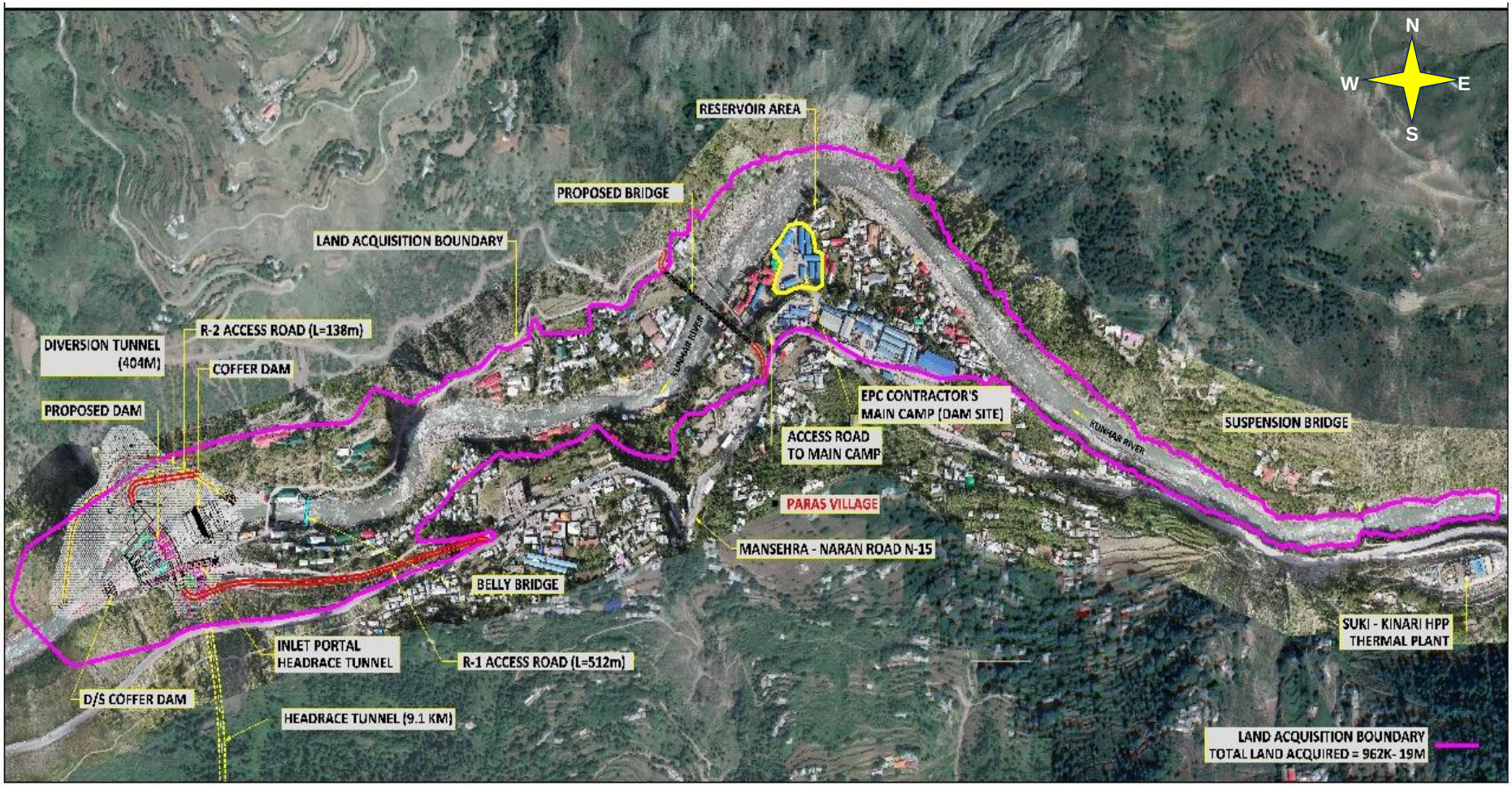
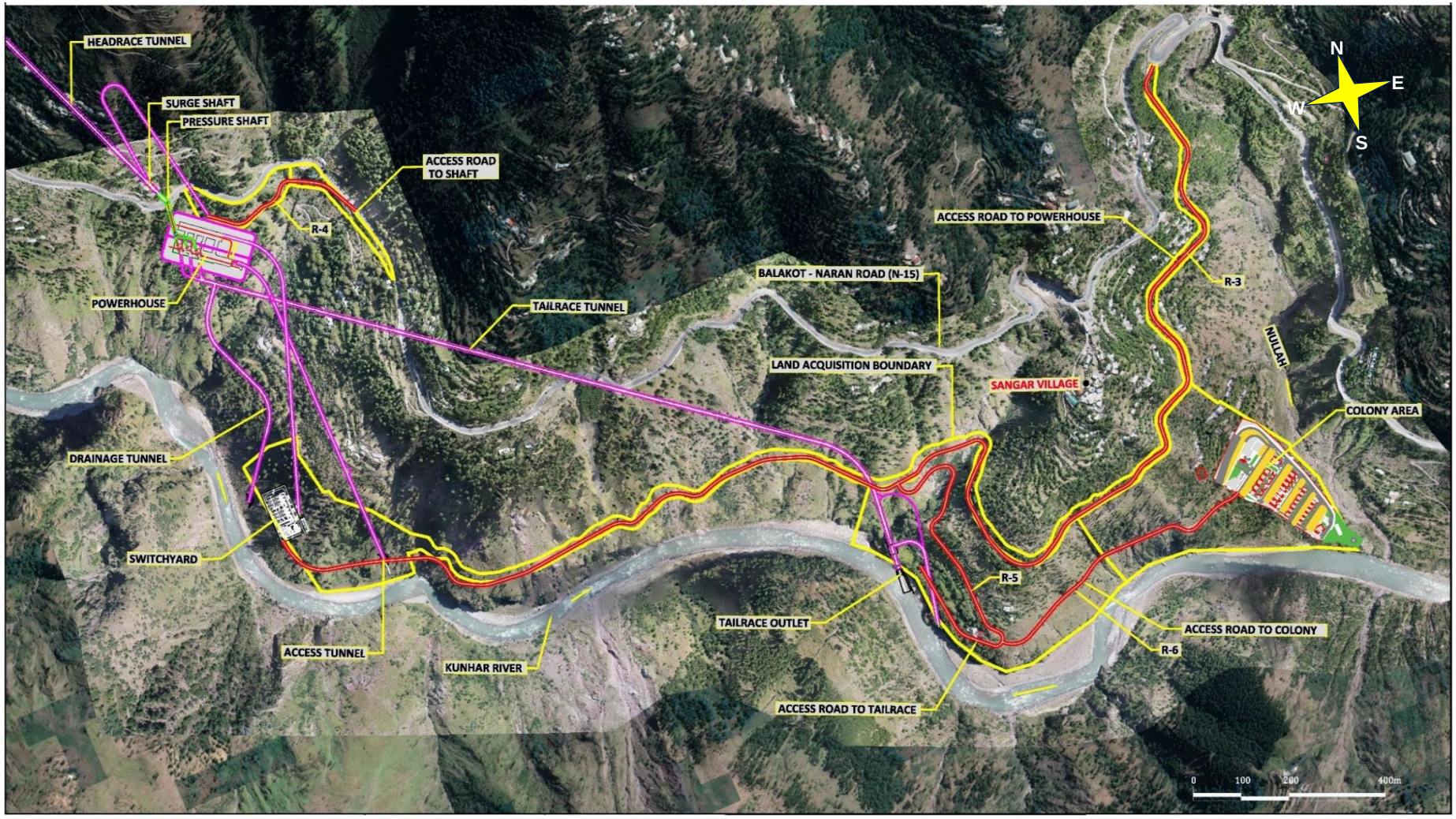


Exhibit 2.6: Project Setting-Powerhouse and Colony sites



3 OVERVIEW OF THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT[2]

3.1 Topography

17. The relief in the catchment of the dam varies from 629 meters (m) above mean sea level (amsl) to 5,199 m amsl. The dam site is at an elevation of 1,257 m amsl and the powerhouse site at an elevation of 1,316 m amsl.

3.1.1 Land Use and Cover

18. The land use distribution is demarcated as per the Socioeconomic Zones within the Socioeconomic Study Area. Pine and scrub forests cover the majority of the area (59% of the total zones combined) followed by agricultural intensity (26%). The density of the built-up area is low about 8% and the same is the percentage of water bodies in the Study Area.

a. Soils

19. The soils of the Project area are composed of piedmont alluvial deposits, where the upper layer of the plain/leveled land consists mostly of silty clay loam soils, rich in organic matter content. The subsurface strata are generally sandy loam with gravel. The soils of the hill slopes consist mostly of thin layered sandy loam soils, underlain by rocks or gravelly materials. The valley terraces in between the mountains are very fertile and used for intensive cropping, while, the hill slopes are used for forest vegetative cover.

20. Soil samples, collected on April 13, 2017, and analyzed for establishing baseline conditions to establish soil fertility and identify any current soil contamination.

21. The following are the key observations of soil analysis.

- **Physical:** The pH of soil samples at all sampling locations ranges between 7.9 and 8.1. Higher values of EC are observed under forest-based land use systems compared to agricultural land.
- **Nutrients and Organics:** Organics at all sampling locations don't vary significantly. The maximum organic matter and organic carbon values are observed as 5.46% and 3.13%, respectively. Phosphates were not detected at any of the sampling locations. Nitrates are only observed on agricultural land with a maximum value of 11.6 mg/kg. Potassium is also high on agricultural lands with a maximum value of 2,220 mg/kg. Macronutrient contents show high fertility on agricultural lands.
- **Metals and Major Ions:** Metal contents do not vary significantly through the area sampled, indicating the absence of contamination from any industrial activity or spills. Results for boron, cadmium, mercury, selenium, and silver were below the level of reporting.

3.1.2 Visual Character

22. The visual baseline documents the current aesthetic and visual conditions of the proposed Project site as seen from the nearby receptors. The mountainous landscape, deep

[2] Extracted from the Executive Summary of the EIA report

gorges, and vegetation greatly restrict visibility to a maximum of 0.5 to 1.5 km at receptor locations.

3.1.3 Climate

23. A regional climate overview was established using available data from the Balakot weather station. This is the nearest Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) weather station to the Project. The climate analysis of the Study Area was carried out based on climatic normal (1961–1990) developed by PMD and by classifying it into different seasons as follows:

a. Summer (mid-March to mid-June)

24. Characterized by high temperatures, moderate rainfalls with moderate humidity, and high-speed winds.

b. Summer Monsoon (mid-June to mid-September)

25. The summer monsoon, hereafter referred to as the Monsoon, is characterized by high temperatures (although milder than the summer), significantly high rainfalls with high humidity, and moderate-speed winds, slightly lower than summers.

c. Post-Monsoon summer (mid-September to mid-November)

26. Characterized by moderate temperatures, low rainfalls with moderate humidity higher than in summers, as the humidity again reduces after the monsoon and low-speed speed winds.

d. Winter (mid-November to mid-March)

27. Characterized by very low temperatures, moderate rainfalls, with an increasing amount of rainfall at the end of the winter, with relative humidity greater than post-monsoon summer and moderate speed winds.

28. Climatic normal data for the period of 1961 – 1990 was compared with more recent data from 1991 – 2011 for temperature and precipitation. Climatic normals are based on 30 years and developed by the PMD. The following conclusions can be drawn:

- **Temperature:** There are slight temperature variations observed in recent data as compared to climatic normal. The increase in mean temperatures in recent years is 0.2 ^{0}C. This shows that overall temperature is increased at the Project site.
- **Rainfall:** The amount of rainfall only increased in January, June, and September by an amount of 1 mm, 3 mm, and 29 mm, respectively. However, in the rest of the months, the amount decreases. The decrease in the annual amount of rainfall is 175 mm.

29. Possible reasons for the change in weather parameters may be because of climate change or urbanization, which can explain increased temperatures and decreased amount of rainfall.

3.1.4 Water Resources

30. Water resources in the area consist of surface water including rivers and nullahs and groundwater including springs and boreholes.

a. Regional Hydrology

31. The dam and powerhouse are located on the Kunhar River. The Kunhar River originates from the glaciers above Lulusar Lake in the Kaghan Valley of KP. The glaciers of Malka Parbat and Makra Peak and the waters of Saiful Muluk Lake feed the river. It passes through Jalkhand and meets the Jhelum River at Rarra. The river's drainage area is 2,535 km^2, with elevation ranging from 600 to 5,000 m.[3] It is one of the biggest tributaries of the Jhelum River Basin and the only main tributary situated entirely in Pakistan's territory. Snowmelt from the Kunhar Basin contributes 65% of the total discharge of the Kunhar River and 20-40% of the Jhelum River at Mangla.[4]

32. The Kunhar River has a steep gradient and flows through narrow gorges through much of its length. Peak flows can be observed during June.

33. The Kunhar River has two temperature regimes; upstream of Kaghan, the water is cooler with average summer temperatures of 8-10 ºC and downstream of Kaghan temperatures are higher and near 12-13 ºC. The Jhelum River, at its confluence with the Kunhar, has a temperature of 16-17 ºC and the cooler waters of the Kunhar have a moderating influence on the Jhelum.

b. River Water Utilization

34. River water is not used for irrigation as the slopes on the river bank are steep, the cost of pumping water to agricultural lands located at elevations above the river is high, and agriculture depends on rain and water available from streams flowing down the mountain slopes. There is no large or medium-scale industry that depends on water, and the level of industrialization is very low. The River water is not suitable for drinking as it is contaminated by fecal coliform, and communities use water from springs for drinking purposes. Livestock is also mainly dependent on spring water and water from open mountain streams flowing down the slopes. River water can be turbid in seasons and the use of river water by livestock is limited to a relatively small fraction of total households that are located close to the river. These uses are insignificant in comparison to the total flow of the river. Quantification of river water use was therefore not considered to be necessary. Identifications of community sources of drinking water, mainly springs, that could be potentially impacted by the Project were carried out in detail.

[3] Mahmood R, Jia S, Babel M. S., January 16, 2016, Potential Impacts of Climate Change on Water Resources in the Kunhar River Basin, *Water, Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute*, Basel, Switzerland

[4] Ibid

4 BIODIVERSITY ASSESSMENT

4.1 The Study Area

35. As shown in **Exhibit 4.1,** the study area starts from Naran i.e. upstream of the Sukki Kinari HPP reservoir up to the Patrind HPP reservoir which is around a 90 km long stretch of the Kunhar River including sampling in the contributing streams as given in **Exhibit 4.2** while the terrestrial fauna including amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals, scrub lands, forest lands, agricultural lands, and villages along the Kunhar River were searched.

Exhibit 4.1: Biodiversity Assessment Study Area

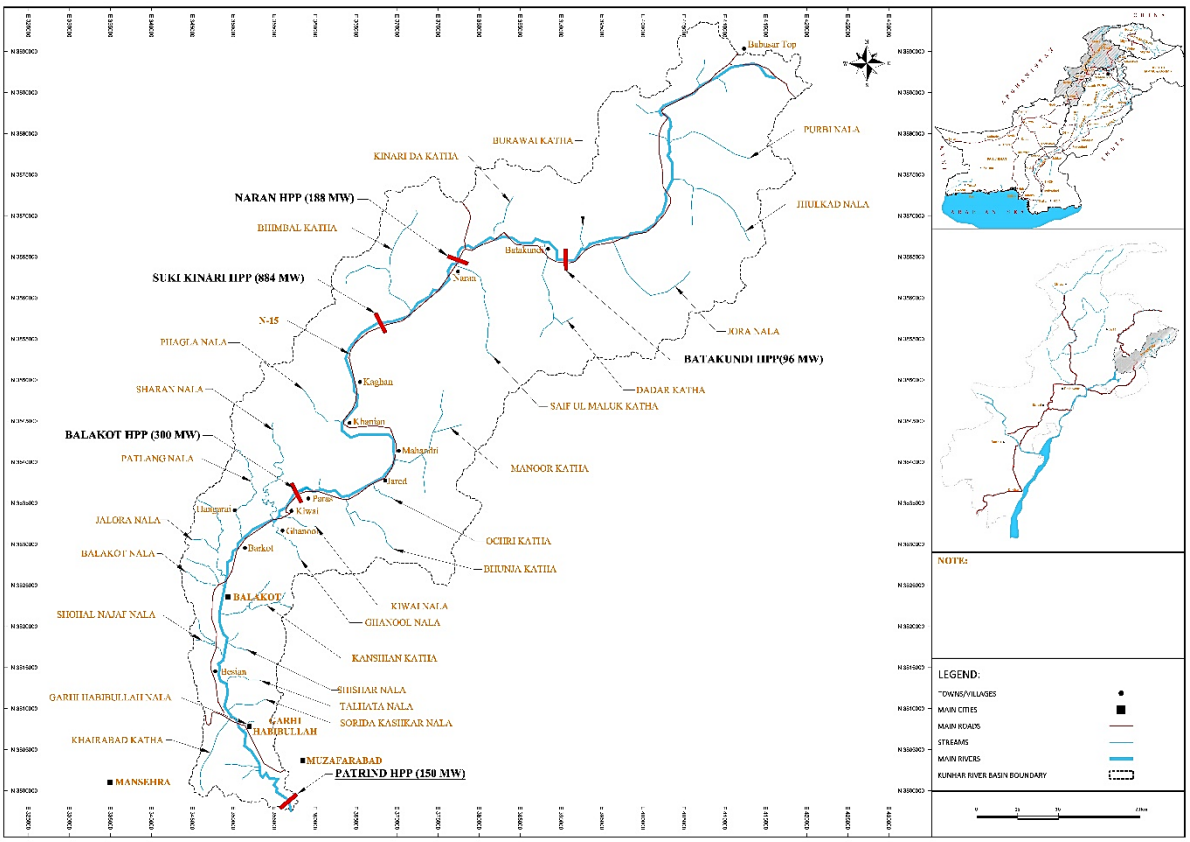


Exhibit 4.2: Contributing Streams on Both Sides of the Kunhar River

S/No	Left Bank Tributaries	S/No	Right Bank Tributaries
Kunhar River Tributaries up to the BTHPP Dam Axis			
1	Purbi Nala	1	Burawai Katha
2	Jhulkad Katha	2	Kinari Da Katha
3	Jora Nala	3	Bhimbal Katha
4	Dadar Katha	4	Phagla Nala
5	Saiful Maluk Katha		
6	Manoor Katha		
7	Ochri Katha		
8	Bhunja Katha		
Kunhar River Tributaries d/s of the BTHPP Dam Axis up to Patrind HPP Reservoir			

S/No	Left Bank Tributaries	S/No	Right Bank Tributaries
1	Kiwai Nala	1	Sharan Nala
2	Ghanool Nala	2	Patlang Nala
3	Kanshian Katha	3	Jalora Nala
4	Shishar Nala	4	Balakot Nala
5	Talhata Nala	5	Shohal Nafaf Nalal
6	Sorida Kashkar Nala	6	Garhi Habibullah Nala
		7	Khairabad Katha

4.2 The Study Team

36. As given in **Exhibit 4.3**, the study was conducted by a team of seven members including a fish biologist, a fish ecologist, field assistants, a fisherman, and a local guide.

Exhibit 4.3: Field Study Team

S/No	Name of Team Member	Expertise	Organization
1	Dr. Muhammad Naeem Javaid	Fish Biologist	Pakistan Wildlife Foundation
2	Dr. Waseem Ahmad Khan	Fish Ecologist	Pakistan Wildlife Foundation
3	Dr. Muhammad Saeed Pirzada	Plant Taxonomist	Pakistan Wildlife Foundation
4	Mr. Ikram Ullah	Field Biologist	Pakistan Wildlife Foundation
5	Engr. Muhammad Asad	Field Facilitation	AGES, Pakistan
6	Mr. Aqil Shah	Field Facilitation	AGES, Pakistan
7	Mr. Johar Khan	KP Wildlife Department	Facilitator / Local Guide
8	Mr. Mukhtiar	Local Fisherman	Local Fisherman

4.3 People Interviewed During the Survey

37. During the field visits, nine different people including residents, officials of Wildlife, Forest and Fisheries departments, fish hunters, and conservationists were interviewed to have an idea about the existence and distribution of various species in the study area.

Exhibit 4.4: List of People Interviewed During the Survey

S/No	Name	Occupation	Location / Area	Contact Number
1	Mr. Amir Khan	Shop keeper	Balakot	0343-5707855
2	Mr. Asmat Khan	Shop keeper	Balakot	0312-2819296
3	Mr. Mukhtiar	Fisherman	Balakot	0300-3004967
4	Mr. Mutaza Khan	Fish Hunter	Balakot	0311-9391281
5	Mr. Shoaib	Fish Hunter	Balakot	0342-9450079
6	Mr. Usman	Fish Watcher KP Fisheries	Balakot	0341-5380730
7	Mr. Fawad Khalil	DD KP Fisheries Department	Mansehra	0311-9676723
8	Mr. Hanif Afridi	AD KP Fisheries Department	Mansehra	0333-9654804
9	Mr. Johar Khan	Range Officer KP Wildlife	Balakot	0342-0943242

5 SURVEY RESULTS

5.1 Study of Vegetation (Flora)

38. A study of vegetation/flora in the study area was conducted to find out the existing plant diversity including trees, shrubs, herbs, climbers, grasses, and sedges. The study also aimed to find out any potential threats to the diverse flora of the area from the Project execution and suggest mitigating measures in case of any threats to the existing plant species.

5.1.1 Survey Methodology for Vegetation / Flora

39. To study the vegetation of the study area, direct observations in the field were made and residents were interviewed. Observations were made while visiting different habitats. With the help and assistance of residents, the local names of various plants were identified. The plants of ethnobotanical importance were identified and classified according to their usage in the local area. To study the plant diversity, the line transect method was applied and to find out the plant community structure and dominant plant species, quadrate and ocular estimation methods were applied. Economically important plants, medicinal plants, fodder and forage plants, fuel wood plants, timber wood plants, nectar and honey-yielding plants, and fruit-producing plants were also identified. The conservation status of all the recorded plant species according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species was also determined.

5.1.2 Survey Findings

40. Over 287 plant species were recorded from the study area. These include 42 species of trees, 49 species of shrubs, 163 species of herbs, 09 species of climbers, 20 species of grasses, and 04 species of sedges. These 287 plant species belong to 79 families,111 species are annual and the rest 176 species are perennial. None of the recorded plant species is threatened according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

Exhibit 5.1: Vegetation (Trees, Shrubs, Herbs, Climbers, Grasses, Sedges) Recorded in the Study Area

S/No	Family No	Family Name	Botanical name	Habit	Life form
1	1	**Acanthaceae**	*Dicliptera bupleuroides*	Herb	Perennial
2	2	**Adiantaceae**	*Adiantum capillus-veneris*	Herb	Perennial
3			*Adiantum caudatum*	Herb	Perennial
4			*Adiantum venustum*	Herb	Perennial
5			*Cheilanthes argentea*	Herb	Perennial
6			*Onychium japonicum*	Herb	Perennial
7	3	**Amaranthaceae**	*Achyranthes aspera*	Herb	Perennial
8			*Achyranthes bidentata*	Herb	Perennial
9			*Alternanthera pungens*	Herb	Perennial
10			*Amaranthus graecizans*	Herb	Annual
11			*Amaranthus spinosus*	Herb	Perennial
12			*Amaranthus viridis*	Herb	Annual
13	4	**Apiaceae**	*Aegopodium alpestre*	Herb	Perennial

S/No	Family No	Family Name	Botanical name	Habit	Life form
14			*Anthriscus nemorosa*	Herb	Perennial
15			*Bupleurum gracillimum*	Herb	Perennial
16			*Bupleurum longicaule*	Herb	Perennial
17			*Heracleum candicans*	Herb	Perennial
18			*Pleurospermum brunonis*	Herb	Annual
19			*Pleurospermum candollei*	Herb	Annual
20			*Pleurospermum stylosum*	Herb	Perennial
21			*Sanicula elata*	Herb	Perennial
22			*Seseli libanotis*	Herb	Perennial
23	5	**Apocynaceae**	*Vinca major*	Climber	Perennial
24	6	**Araliaceae**	*Aralia cachemirica*	Herb	Perennial
25			*Hedera nepalensis*	Climber	Perennial
26	7	**Asclepiadaceae**	*Periploca aphylla*	Shrub	Perennial
27			*Vincetoxicum petrense*	Shrub	Perennial
28			*Calotropis procera*	Shrub	Perennial
29	8	**Asparagaceae**	*Asparagus adscendens*	Climber	Perennial
30			*Asparagus filicinus*	Climber	Perennial
31	9	**Aspleniaceae**	*Asplenium adiantum-nigrum*	Herb	Perennial
32	10	**Asteraceae**	*Achellia millifolium*	Herb	Perennial
33			*Ainsliaea aptera*	Herb	Perennial
34			*Anaphalis contorta*	Herb	Perennial
35			*Anaphalis nepalensis*	Herb	Perennial
36			*Artemisia scoparia*	Herb	Annual
37			*Bidens biternata*	Herb	Annual
38			*Centaurea iberica*	Herb	Annual
39			*Cirsium falconeri*	Herb	Annual
40			*Conyza bonariensis*	Herb	Annual
41			*Conyza canadensis*	Herb	Annual
42			*Eclipta prostrata*	Herb	Perennial
43			*Gnaphalium affine*	Herb	Annual
44			*Inula cuspidata*	Herb	Annual
45			*Lactuca floridana*	Herb	Perennial
46			*Launaea nudicaulis*	Herb	Annual
47			*Ligularia amplexicaulis*	Herb	Annual
48			*Onopordum acanthium*	Herb	Annual
49			*Oxalic corniculata*	Herb	Perennial
50			*Parthenium hysterophorus*	Herb	Annual

S/No	Family No	Family Name	Botanical name	Habit	Life form
51			*Saussurea heteromala*	Herb	Annual
52			*Sonchus arvensis*	Herb	Annual
53			*Sonchus asper*	Herb	Annual
54			*Sonchus oleraceus*	Shrub	Annual
55			*Taraxacum officinale*	Herb	Perennial
56			*Xanthium strumarium*	Herb	Annual
57	11	**Berberidaceae**	*Berberis lycium*	Shrub	Perennial
58			*Berberis parkeriana*	Shrub	Perennial
59			*Berberis vulgaris*	Shrub	Perennial
60			*Epimedium elatum*	Shrub	Perennial
61	12	**Boraginaceae**	*Cynoglossum apenninum*	Herb	Annual
62			*Cynoglossum microglochin*	Herb	Annual
63			*Gastrocotyle hispida*	Herb	Annual
64			*Myosotis arvensis*	Herb	Annual
65			*Pseudomertensia parviflorum*	Herb	Perennial
66			*Nonea edgworthea*	Herb	Perennial
67	13	**Brassicaceae**	*Alliaria petiolata*	Herb	Annual
68			*Lepidium apetalum*	Herb	Annual
69			*Neslia apiculata*	Herb	Annual
70			*Sisymbrium irio*	Herb	Annual
71			*Sisymbrium orientale*	Herb	Annual
72	14	**Cactaceae**	*Opuntia monacantha*	Shrub	Perennial
73	15	**Caesalpinaceae**	*Caesalpinia decapitala*	Shrub	Perennial
74	16	**Cannabaceae**	*Cannabis sativa*	Shrub	Perennial
75	17	**Caprifoliaceae**	*Lonicera caerulea*	Herb	Annual
76			*Viburnum cotinifolium*	Shrub	Perennial
77			*Viburnum grandiflorum*	Shrub	Perennial
78	18	**Caryophyllaceae**	*Arenaria serpyllifolia*	Shrub	Perennial
79			*Lepyrodiclis holosteoides*	Herb	Annual
80			*Minuartia biflora*	Herb	Annual
81			*Silene conoidea*	Shrub	Annual
82			*Silene viscosa*	Herb	Annual
83			*Spergularia marina*	Herb	Annual
84			*Stellaria media*	Herb	Annual
85	19	**Celasteraceae**	*Maytenus royleanus*	Herb	Annual
86	20	**Chenopodiaceae**	*Chenopodium album*	Shrub	Perennial
87			*Chenopodium murale*	Herb	Perennial

S/No	Family No	Family Name	Botanical name	Habit	Life form
88	21	**Convolvulaceae**	*Convolvulus arvensis*	Herb	Perennial
89	22	**Cornaceae**	*Cornus macrophylla*	Herb	Annual
90			*Cornus oblonga*	Herb	Perennial
91	23	**Crassulaceae**	*Hylotelephium ewersii*	Herb	Perennial
92			*Sedum adenotrichum*	Tree	Perennial
93			*Sedum fischeri*	Herb	Perennial
94	24	**Cupressaceae**	*Cupressus sempervirens*	Herb	Perennial
95			*Juniperus communis*	Herb	Perennial
96			*Juniperus excelsa*	Sedge	Annual
97	25	**Cyperaceae**	*Cyperus odoratus*	Shrub	Perennial
98			*Cyperus rotundus*	Sedge	Annual
99	26	**Dioscoreaceae**	*Dioscorea deltoidea*	Sedge	Annual
100	27	**Dryopteridaceae**	*Dryopteris filix-mas*	Sedge	Annual
101			*Dryopteris wallichiana*	Climber	Perennial
102	28	**Ebenaceae**	*Diospyros kaki*	Tree	Perennial
103			*Diospyros lotus*	Herb	Perennial
104	29	**Eleagnaceae**	*Elaeagnus umbellata*	Tree	Perennial
105	30	**Equisetaceae**	*Equisetum hyemale*	Shrub	Perennial
106	31	**Ericaceae**	*Cassiope fastigiata*	Shrub	Perennial
107			*Lyonia ovalifolia*	Herb	Perennial
108			*Rhododendron arboreum*	Herb	Perennial
109			*Rhododendron hypenanthum*	Shrub	Perennial
110	32	**Euphorbiaceae**	*Andrachne cordifolia*	Shrub	Perennial
111			*Euphorbia helioscopia*	Shrub	Perennial
112			*Euphorbia hirta*	Herb	Annual
113			*Euphorbia serpens*	Herb	Annual
114			*Ricinus communis*	Herb	Annual
115	33	**Fagaceae**	*Castanea sativa*	Herb	Annual
116			*Quercus baloot*	Tree	Perennial
117			*Quercus incana*	Herb	Perennial
118			*Quercus semecarpifolia*	Tree	Perennial
119	34	**Funariaceae**	*Funaria hygrometrica*	Tree	Perennial
120	35	**Gentianaceae**	*Gentianodes clarkei*	Tree	Perennial
121			*Lomatogonium spathulatum*	Herb	Annual
122			*Erodium cicutarium*	Herb	Perennial
123	36	**Geraniaceae**	*Geranium lucidum*	Herb	Annual
124			*Geranium nepalense*	Herb	Annual

S/No	Family No	Family Name	Botanical name	Habit	Life form
125			*Geranium rotundifolium*	Herb	Annual
126	37	**Hamamelidaceae**	*Parrotiopsis jacquemontiana*	Herb	Annual
127	38	**Juglandaceae**	*Juglans regia*	Grass	Annual
128	39	**Lamiaceae**	*Ajuga bracteosa*	Shrub	Perennial
129			*Anisomeles indica*	Tree	Perennial
130			*Clinopodium vulgare*	Herb	Annual
131			*Isodon rugosus*	Herb	Perennial
132			*Leucas lanata*	Shrub	Perennial
133			*Lycopus europaeus*	Herb	Perennial
134			*Mentha longifolia*	Herb	Perennial
135			*Mentha piperita*	Herb	Perennial
136			*Mentha royleana*	Herb	Perennial
137			*Nepeta graciliflora*	Herb	Perennial
138			*Otostegia limbata*	Herb	Perennial
139			*Salvia plebeia*	Herb	Perennial
140			*Thymus linearis*	Herb	Perennial
141	40	**Liliaceae**	*Gagea elegans*	Herb	Perennial
142	41	**Malvaceae**	*Malva neglecta*	Herb	Annual
143			*Malva sylvestris*	Herb	Annual
144			*Sida cordata*	Herb	Annual
145	42	**Meliaceae**	*Melia azedarach*	Herb	Annual
146	43	**Mimosaceae**	*Acacia modesta*	Herb	Perennial
147			*Acacia nilotica*	Tree	Perennial
148			*Robinia pseudoacacia*	Tree	Perennial
149			*Broussonetia papyrifera*	Tree	Perennial
150	44	**Moraceae**	*Ficus carica*	Tree	Perennial
151			*Ficus racemosa*	Tree	Perennial
152			*Ficus tsjakela*	Tree	Perennial
153			*Ficus religiosa*	Tree	Perennial
154			*Morus alba*	Tree	Perennial
155			*Morus nigra*	Tree	Perennial
156	45	**Myrsinaceae**	*Myrsine africana*	Tree	Perennial
157	46	**Myrtaceae**	*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*	Shrub	Perennial
158	47	**Oleaceae**	*Jasminum grandiflora*	Shrub	Perennial
159			*Jasminum humile*	Tree	Perennial
160			*Olea ferruginea*	Climber	Perennial
161	48	**Onagraceae**	*Circaea alpina*	Climber	Perennial

S/No	Family No	Family Name	Botanical name	Habit	Life form
162			*Epilobium hirsutum*	Tree	Perennial
163			*Oenothera rosea*	Herb	Perennial
164	49	**Oxalidaceae**	*Oxalis corniculata*	Shrub	Perennial
165	50	**Papaveraceae**	*Corydalis carinata*	Herb	Perennial
166			*Corydalis virginea*	Herb	Perennial
167	51	**Papilionaceae**	*Astragalus grahamianus*	Herb	Annual
168			*Crotalaria medicagineae var. medicaginea*	Herb	Annual
169			*Dalbergia sissoo*	Shrub	Perennial
170			*Desmodium elegans*	Shrub	Perennial
171			*Indigofera heterantha* var. *gerardiana*	Tree	Perennial
172			*Lathyrus aphaca*	Shrub	Perennial
173			*Lathyrus hirsutus*	Shrub	Perennial
174			*Lathyrus pratensis*	Herb	Annual
175			*Lotus corniculatus*	Herb	Annual
176			*Medicago denticulata*	Herb	Annual
177			*Medicago lupulina*	Herb	Annual
178			*Medicago polymorpha*	Herb	Annual
179			*Sophora mollis*	Herb	Annual
180			*Trifolium repens*	Herb	Annual
181			*Vicia hirsuta*	Shrub	Perennial
182			*Vicia sativa*	Herb	Annual
183	52	**Phytolaccaceae**	*Phytolacca latbenia*	Herb	Annual
184	53	**Pinaceae**	*Abies pindrow*	Herb	Annual
185			*Cedrus deodara*	Shrub	Perennial
186			*Pinus gerardiana*	Tree	Perennial
187			*Picea smithiana*	Tree	Perennial
188			*Pinus roxburghii*	Tree	Perennial
189			*Pinus wallichiana*	Tree	Perennial
190	54	**Plantaginacee**	*Plantago lanceolata*	Tree	Perennial
191			*Plantago himalaica*	Tree	Perennial
192	55	**Platanaceae**	*Platanus orientalis*	Herb	Annual
193	56	**Plumbaginaceae**	*Limonium cabulicum*	Herb	Annual
194	57	**Poaceae**	*Aristida purpurea*	Herb	Annual
195			*Aristida adscensionis*	Herb	Perennial
196			*Brachiaria ramosa*	Grass	Perennial
197			*Cenchrus ciliaris*	Grass	Perennial
198			*Chrysopogon gryllus*	Grass	Annual

S/No	Family No	Family Name	Botanical name	Habit	Life form
199			*Cynodon dactylon*	Grass	Annual
200			*Dactylis glomerata*	Grass	Perennial
201			*Dichanthium annulatum*	Grass	Perennial
202			*Elusine indica*	Grass	Perennial
203			*Enneapogon persicus*	Grass	Perennial
204			*Eragrostis atrovirens*	Grass	Perennial
205			*Eragrostis barrelieri*	Grass	Perennial
206			*Hordeum murinum*	Grass	Annual
207			*Lolium temulentum*	Grass	Annual
208			*Phalaris minor*	Grass	Annual
209			*Poa annua*	Grass	Annual
210			*Saccharum griffithii*	Grass	Annual
211			*Sporobolus diandrus*	Grass	Annual
212			*Themeda anathera*	Grass	Perennial
213			*Triticum aestivum*	Grass	Perennial
214	58	**Polygonaceae**	*Persicaria capitata*	Grass	Annual
215			*Persicaria nepalensis*	Herb	Perennial
216			*Polygonum plebeium*	Herb	Perennial
217			*Rumex dentatus*	Herb	Annual
218			*Rumex hastatus*	Herb	Annual
219			*Rumex nepalensis*	Herb	Perennial
220	59	**Primulaceae**	*Anagallis arvensis*	Shrub	Perennial
221			*Androsace foliosa*	Shrub	Perennial
222			*Primula hazarica*	Herb	Annual
223	60	**Pteridaceae**	*Onychium contiguum*	Herb	Annual
224			*Pteris vittata*	Herb	Annual
225	61	**Ranunculaceae**	*Aconitum heterophyllum*	Herb	Annual
226			*Anemone obtusiloba*	Herb	Annual
227			*Delphinium cashmerianum*	Herb	Annual
228			*Ranunculus arvensis*	Herb	Perennial
229			*Ranunculus laetus*	Herb	Perennial
230			*Ranunculus muricatus*	Herb	Annual
231			*Thalictrum cultratum*	Herb	Annual
232	62	**Rhamnaceae**	*Zizyphus undulata*	Herb	Annual
233	63	**Rosaceae**	*Crataegus sakranensis*	Herb	Perennial
234			*Cotoneaster affinis*	Tree	Perennial
235			*Eriobotrya japonica*	Shrub	Perennial

S/No	Family No	Family Name	Botanical name	Habit	Life form
236			*Fragaria nubicola*	Shrub	Perennial
237			*Geum elatum*	Tree	Perennial
238			*Prunus carnuta*	Herb	Annual
239			*Prunus domestica*	Tree	Perennial
240			*Prunus persica*	Tree	Perennial
241			*Pyrus pashia*	Tree	Perennial
242			*Rosa moschata*	Tree	Perennial
243			*Rosa webbiana*	Tree	Perennial
244			*Rubus ellipticus*	Shrub	Perennial
245			*Spiraea affinis*	Shrub	Perennial
246			*Galium aparine*	Shrub	Perennial
247	64	**Rubiaceae**	*Himalrandia tetrasperma*	Shrub	Perennial
248			*Rubia cordifolia*	Climber	Annual
249			*Populus alba*	Shrub	Perennial
250	65	**Salicaceae**	*Populus nigra*	Climber	Annual
251			*Salix babylonica*	Tree	Perennial
252			*Salix tetrasperma*	Tree	Perennial
253			*Acer caesium*	Tree	Perennial
254	66	**Sapindaceae**	*Aesculus indica*	Tree	Perennial
255			*Dodonaea viscosa*	Tree	Perennial
256			*Buddleja davidii*	Tree	Perennial
257			*Scrophularia nodosa*	Shrub	Perennial
258			*Verbascum thapsus*	Shrub	Annual
259			*verbascum speciosum*	Herb	Annual
260	67	**Scrophulariaceae**	*Veronica agrestis*	Herb	Annual
261			*Veronica anagallis-aquatica*	Herb	Annual
262			*Vernonia cinerea*	Herb	Annual
263			*Veronica laxa*	Herb	Annual
264			*Veronica persica*	Herb	Annual
265	68	**Simaroubaceae**	*Ailanthus altissima*	Herb	Annual
266			*Nicotiana tabacum*	Herb	Annual
267			*Lycium edgeworthii*	Tree	Perennial
268			*Solanum nigrum*	Herb	Annual
269	69	**Solanaceae**	*Solanum pseudo-capsicum*	Shrub	Perennial
270			*Solanum surattense*	Herb	Annual
271			*Withania coagulens*	Herb	Annual
272			*Withania somnifera*	Herb	Annual

S/No	Family No	Family Name	Botanical name	Habit	Life form
273	70	**Thymelaeaceae**	*Daphne mucronata*	Herb	Perennial
274			*Daphne papyracea*	Shrub	Perennial
275	71	**Typhaceae**	*Typha latifolia*	Shrub	Perennial
276	72	**Tiliaceae**	*Grewia optiva*	Shrub	Perennial
277	73	**Ulmaceae**	*Celtis australis*	Herb	Perennial
278	74	**Urticaceae**	*Lecanthus peduncularis*	Shrub	Perennial
279			*Pilea umbrosa*	Tree	Perennial
280			*Urtica dioica*	Herb	Perennial
281	75	**Valerinaceae**	*Valeriana jatamansi*	Herb	Perennial
282	76	**Verbenaceae**	*Lantana camara*	Herb	Perennial
283			*Phyla nodiflora*	Herb	Perennial
284			*Verbena officinalis*	Herb	Perennial
285	77	**Violaceae**	*Viola odoratus*	Herb	Annual
286	78	**Vitaceae**	*Vitex negundo*	Herb	Annual
287	79	**Zygophyllaceae**	*Tribulus terrestris*	Herb	Annual

Exhibit 5.2: Glimpses of Few Plants from the Study Area



View of Forest trees



Carduus defloratus



Caster oil plant *(Ricinus communis*)



Wildrose (Rosa webbiana)

5.2 Study of the Aquatic Macro-Invertebrates

41. Aquatic macro-invertebrates include insects, worms, molluscs, crustacians, etc., and play a crucial role in the aquatic ecosystem. They make a rich source of food for several aquatic species including the loaches. Overall, 15 species of macro-invertebrates were recorded from the study area as shown in **Exhibit 5.3.** These belong to three phyla, five orders, nine families, and 15 genera. All the specimens were identified up to the genus level except the one belonging to the Family Lymaeidae and Phylum Mollusca. All the macro-invertebrates were found in the tributary streams of the Kunhar River which are the potential habitats of Loaches including the Critically Endangered Kashmir Hillstream Loach (*Triplophysa kashmirensis*). The recorded 15 species of macro-invertebrates were observed in almost every stream in the study area and their existence in the tributaries streams of the Kunhar River reflects a healthy habitat for loaches.

Exhibit 5.3: Macro-invertebrates Recorded from the Study Area

S/ No	Phylum	Order	Family	Genus	Species
1	Insecta (Arthropoda)	Ephemeroptera	Heptageniidae	*Epeorus*	*Epeorus sp.*
2	Insecta (Arthropoda)	Ephemeroptera	Heptageniidae	*Heptagenia*	*Heptagenia sp.*
3	Insecta (Arthropoda)	Ephemeroptera	Heptageniidae	*Ephemera*	*Ephemera sp*
4	Insecta (Arthropoda)	Ephemeroptera	Heptageniidae	*Ironodes*	*Ironodes sp.*
5	Insecta (Arthropoda)	Ephemeroptera	Heptageniidae	*Cinygma*	*Cinygma sp.*
6	Insecta (Arthropoda)	Dipteria	Dolichopodae	*Dolichopodi*	*Dolichopodi sp.*
7	Insecta (Arthropoda)	Dipteria	Rhagionidae	*Atherix*	*Atherix sp.*
8	Insecta (Arthropoda)	Odonta	Aeshnidae	*Aeshna*	*Aeshna sp.*
9	Insecta (Arthropoda)	Odonta	Lestidae	*Lestes*	*Lestes sp.*
10	Insecta (Arthropoda)	Odonta	Gomphidae	*Ophiogomphus*	*Ophiogomphus sp.*
11	Insecta (Arthropoda)	Coleoptera	Elmidae	*Promoresia*	*Promoresia sp.*
12	Insecta (Arthropoda)	Lepidoptera	Elmidae	*Parargyractis*	*Parargyractis sp.*
13	Crustacea (Arthropoda)	-	-	*Potamon*	*Potamon sp.*
14	Mollusca	-	Lymaeidae	-	-
15	Mollusca	-	Planorbidae	*Gyralus*	*Gyralus sp.*

Exhibit 5.4: Glimpses of Few Aquatic Macro-Invertebrates Recorded from the Study Area



Crustacean



Crustacean



Snail (Mullasca)



Snail (Mullasca)



Tadpole (Amphibian)



Tadpole (Amphibian)



Grasshopper (Insecta)



Snail (Mullasca)

5.3 Study of the Fish Fauna

5.3.1 Methodology

42. The study area represents two different types of aquatic habitats including the main River and its tributaries. Therefore, different techniques were applied to observe the fish fauna of the area. The technique included a review of secondary data, interviewing local fishermen and officials of the Fisheries department, observing fish catches of fish hunting parties, and collecting fish using cast nets and gill nets. The methodology applied for studying the fish fauna in the Study area is given below.

5.3.1.1 Secondary Data Review

43. To record the existence of every possible fish species in the study area, available literature was collected and reviewed. The literature included published and unpublished reports of the provincial fisheries department and non-government conservation organizations, gazetteers, research articles, popular articles, and newspapers. Based on the available literature, a checklist of different species was developed which was then confirmed through observing different species during the field visits.

5.3.1.2 Interviews with Local Residents

44. Interviews with residents are valuable not only for identifying the potential sites in the study area but also as a good source of primary data about the existing fish species of an area. This method was used for identifying different fish species in the study area. The relevant people in the study area for the interviews included; local field biologists, local fish hunters, local fishermen, fish farmers, fish sellers and officials from Fisheries, Wildlife, Forest and Irrigation departments, and researchers from academia in the study area. A questionnaire and photographs of different fish species were arranged before interviewing different people during the field visits. This method gave an idea about the existence of different fish species.

5.3.1.3 Observing Fish Catch of Hunters

45. While conducting a fish survey, different fish hunting parties and individuals were approached and their fish catch were observed. This method was found very effective and the survey team was able to record different fish species in the project area.

5.3.1.4 Netting

46. Cast nets, drag nets and gill nets were used to collect fish samples at different locations in the Project area. The collected large-sized specimens were identified, measured, weighed, and released back into their habitats. Some of the small-sized specimens were preserved in a 10% Formaldehyde solution (Formalin) and placed in plastic jars for further identification. The collected fish species were identified following the keys given by Dr. Ramzan Mirza in 2003. (Reference: Mirza, M. R. 2003. *Checklist of Freshwater Fishes of Pakistan*. *Pakistan J. Zool*. Suppl. Ser., No. 3. pp. 1-30, 2003).

5.3.1.5 Recording the Field Data

47. To record the field information, every specimen was identified on the spot using the available field guidebooks. Field notes were entered in the notebook along with each identified fish species. The field notes included; the date of collection (day/month/year), time of

collection, and name of the locality where the specimen was collected. The ecological parameters including habitat conditions, vegetation in and outside of the water body, food availability cover, and shelter for the fish fauna, etc. were also observed and recorded.

5.3.1.6 Photographic Records

48. A close-up photograph of the specimen in its natural habitat or a series of photographs can contribute to understanding its morphology, breeding, spawning, and feeding habits. Therefore, photographs of all the recorded specimens were taken in their natural habitats not only for their identification purposes but also as evidence of their existence.

5.3.1.7 Local Status of the Recorded Species

49. The local status of the recorded fish species, especially the Kashmir Hill Stream Loach (*Triplophysa kashmirensis*) was determined by following a specific criterion. Local status was described in five categories based on the appearance of a species at different locations in the study area. The five categories describing the local status of recorded fish species include:

- **Abundant:** if the species appears at all the sampling sites;
- **Common:** if the species appears in 50% of the sampling sites;
- **Fair:** if the species appears in 25% of the sampling sites;
- **Rare:** if the species appears in 5-10% of the sampling sites; and
- **Occasional:** if the species appears at only one or two sampling sites

5.3.1.8 Equipment and Field Kits

50. The field equipment and collection kit for fish fauna consisted of the following.

- Strong transparent polythene bags and plastic jars.
- Cast nests, Drag nets, and Gill nets.
- Digital camera (Canon EOS 7D Mark II) for still photography.
- GPS receiver (Garmin Map 76).
- Notebook for taking field notes.
- Field guidebooks for quick identification of fish species in the field.

5.4 Fish Species Recorded in the Study Area

51. In the study area, a total of 16 species of fish were recorded from the Kunhar River and its tributaries. The recorded 16 fish species belong to three orders, four families, and 11 genera **Exhibit 5.5.** Economically important fish species include; *Salmo trutta fario* (Brown trout), *Onchorhynchus mykiss* (Rainbow trout), and *Schizothorax richardsonii* (Alwan Snow trout). Brown trout and Alwan Snow trout are the most favorite fish species in the area regarding its food and economical value.

Exhibit 5.5: Fish Species Recorded in the Study Area

S/No	Zoological Name	Common Name	Family	Order
1	*Glyptosternon reticulatum*	Turkestan Catfish	Sisoridae	Siluriformes

2	*Glyptothorax pectinopterus*	Flathead catfish	Sisoridae	Siluriformes
3	*Salmo trutta fario*	Brown trout	Salmonidae	Salmoniformes
4	*Onchorhynchus mykiss*	Rainbow trout	Salmonidae	Salmoniformes
5	*Paraschistura alepidota*	Stone loach / Stone barb	Nemacheilidae	Cypriniformes
6	*Schistura arifi*	Arif's loach	Nemacheilidae	Cypriniformes
7	*Schistura nalbanti* / Now *Paraschistura punjabensis*	Nalbant's loach	Nemacheilidae	Cypriniformes
8	*Triplophysa kashmirensis*	Kashmir Hillstream Loach	Nemacheilidae	Cypriniformes
9	*Nemacheilus corica*	Sundali	Nemacheilidae	Cypriniformes
10	*Schistura naseeri* / Now *Paraschistura naseeri*	Naseeri loach	Nemacheilidae	Cypriniformes
11	*Schistura macrolepis*	Singhat	Nemacheilidae	Cypriniformes
12	*Schizothorax labiatus*	Kunar Snow trout	Cyprinidae	Cypriniformes
13	*Schizothorax plagiostomus* Now *Schizothorax richardsonii*	Alwan Snow Trout	Cyprinidae	Cypriniformes
14	*Schizothorax curvifrons* / Now *Schizopyge curvifrons*	Ladakh Snow trout	Cyprinidae	Cypriniformes
15	*Schizothorax esocinus*	Aasala / Chirruh Snow trout	Cyprinidae	Cypriniformes
16	*Puntius sophore*	Spot fin swam barb	Cyprinidae	Cypriniformes

5.5 Food and Feeding Habits of the Recorded Fish Species

52. Out of the recorded 16 fish species, three species are carnivores, one species is herbivores while the rest of the 12 species are omnivores in their feeding habits. Although all the recorded species are ecologically important, however, three species; Brown trout, Rainbow trout, and Alwan Snow Trout also have commercial and economic importance. Food and feeding habits of recorded fishes are in **Exhibit 5.6.**

Exhibit 5.6: Food and Feeding Habits of the Recorded Fish Species

S/No	Zoological Name	Common Name	Feeding Habit	Food Items
1	*Glyptosternon reticulatum*	Turkestan Catfish	Carnivore	Annelids, crustaceans, insects, Algae, and decaying organic matter
2	*Glyptothorax pectinopterus*	Flathead catfish	Carnivore	Benthic insects and their larvae, occasionally small fish
3	*Salmo trutta fario*	Brown trout	Carnivore	Crustaceans, mollusks, insects, and smaller fish
4	*Onchorhynchus mykiss*	Rainbow trout	Omnivore	Aquatic insects, fish eggs, terrestrial insects, algae, small fish, crustaceans
5	*Paraschistura alepidota*	Stone loach	Omnivore	Insect larvae, crustaceans, worms, algae and detritus
6	*Schistura arifi*	Arif's loach	Omnivore	Invertebrates, insect larvae, crustaceans, micro-fauna, algae and biofilm off rocks
7	*Paraschistura punjabensis*	Nalbant's loach	Omnivore	Invertebrates, algae and organic detritus

S/No	Zoological Name	Common Name	Feeding Habit	Food Items
8	*Triplophysa kashmirensis*	Hillstream Loach	Omnivore	Small invertebrates, algae, and detritus
9	*Nemacheilus corica*	Sundali	Omnivore	Invertebrates, insect larvae, worms, crustaceans, algae, and organic detritus
10	*Paraschistura naseeri*	Naseeri loach	Omnivore	Insects, crustaceans, mollusks, plankton, snails, tiny fish, Algae and plant matter
11	*Schistura macrolepis*	Singhat	Omnivore	Aquatic invertebrates, algae, and detritus
12	*Schizothorax labiatus*	Kunar Snow trout	Omnivore	Algae, aquatic plants, invertebrates, zooplankton, and detritus.
13	*Schizothorax richardsonii*	Alwan Snow Trout	Omnivore	Invertebrates, algae, detritus, and zooplankton.
14	*Schizopyge curvifrons*	Ladakh Snow trout	Herbivore	Benthic algae, aquatic plants, and detritus
15	*Schizothorax esocinus*	Chirruh Snow trout	Omnivore	Aquatic invertebrates, insect larvae, worms, and crustaceans
16	*Puntius sophore*	Spot-fin Barb	Omnivore	Small aquatic invertebrates and plant matter

5.6 Conservation Status of the Recorded Fishes

53. According to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (IUCN, 2024), seven fish species out of the recorded 16 species fall into Threatened categories. These include; one Critically Endangered; Kashmir Hillstream Loach (*Triplophysa kashmirensis*), two Endangered species; Naseeri loach (*Paraschistura naseeri*) and Singhat (*Schistura macrolepis*), and four Vulnerable species; Stone loach (*Paraschistura alepidota*), Nalbant's loach (*Paraschistura punjabensis*), Alwan Snow Trout (*Schizothorax richardsonii*) and Chirruh Snow trout (*Schizothorax esocinus*). The Population Trend of Nalbant's loach (*Paraschistura punjabensis*) is Unknown whereas the rest of the six Threatened fish species have Decreasing Population Trends. The remaining nine fish species out of the total 16 have been categorized as "Least Concern" with stable population trends. The conservation status of the recorded fish species is **Exhibit 5.7.**

Exhibit 5.7: Conservation Status and Population Trend of the Recorded Fish Species

S/No	Zoological Name	Common Name	IUCN Status (2024)	Population Trend (2024)
1	*Glyptosternon reticulatum*	Turkestan Catfish	Least Concern	Decreasing
2	*Glyptothorax pectinopterus*	Flat head catfish	Least Concern	Unknown
3	*Salmo trutta fario*	Brown trout	Least Concern	Unknown
4	*Onchorhynchus mykiss*	Rainbow trout	Least Concern	Unknown
5	*Paraschistura alepidota*	Stone loach / Stone barb	Vulnerable	Decreasing
6	*Schistura arifi*	Arif's loach	Least Concern	Unknown
7	*Paraschistura punjabensis*	Nalbant's loach	Vulnerable	Unknown
8	*Triplophysa kashmirensis*	Kashmir Hillstream Loach	Critically Endangered	Decreasing
9	*Nemacheilus corica*	Sundali	Least Concern	Unknown

S/No	Zoological Name	Common Name	IUCN Status (2024)	Population Trend (2024)
10	*Paraschistura naseeri*	Naseeri loach	Endangered	Decreasing
11	*Schistura macrolepis*	Singhat	Endangered	Decreasing
12	*Schizothorax labiatus*	Kunar Snow trout	Least Concern	Decreasing
13	*Schizothorax richardsonii*	Alwan Snow Trout	Vulnerable	Decreasing
14	*Schizopyge curvifrons*	Ladakh Snow trout	Least Concern	Stable
15	*Schizothorax esocinus*	Chirruh Snow trout	Vulnerable	Decreasing
16	*Puntius sophore*	Spot fin swam barb	Least Concern	Unknown

5.7 Local Status of the Recorded Species

54. According to the local status and assessment of the existing fish species in the study area, four out of the seven Threatened species have “Common” status whereas three Threatened species have “Fair” status **Exhibit 5.8.**

55. Out of the recorded 16 fish species, eight species were found “Common” while the rest of the eight species were found “Fair” **Exhibit 5.8.** According to the local status and assessment, “Common” species are those observed/found at 50% of the sampling sites whereas the “Fair” species are those observed/found at 25% of sampling sites.

Exhibit 5.8: Local Status of the Recorded Fish Species

S/No	Zoological Name	Common Name	IUCN Status (2024)	Local Status (2024)
1	*Glyptosternon reticulatum*	Turkestan Catfish	Least Concern	Fair
2	*Glyptothorax pectinopterus*	Flathead catfish	Least Concern	Fair
3	*Salmo trutta fario*	Brown trout	Least Concern	Common
4	*Onchorhynchus mykiss*	Rainbow trout	Least Concern	Common
5	*Paraschistura alepidota*	Stone loach	Vulnerable	Fair
6	*Schistura arifi*	Arif’s loach	Least Concern	Fair
7	*Paraschistura punjabensis*	Nalbant’s loach	Vulnerable	Common
8	*Triplophysa kashmirensis*	Kashmir Hillstream Loach	Critically Endangered	Common
9	*Nemacheilus corica*	Sundali	Least Concern	Fair
10	*Paraschistura naseeri*	Naseeri loach	Endangered	Fair
11	*Schistura macrolepis*	Singhat	Endangered	Fair
12	*Schizothorax labiatus*	Kunar Snow trout	Least Concern	Common
13	*Schizothorax richardsonii*	Alwan Snow Trout	Vulnerable	Common
14	*Schizopyge curvifrons*	Ladakh Snow trout	Least Concern	Common
15	*Schizothorax esocinus*	Chirruh Snow trout	Vulnerable	Common
16	*Puntius sophore*	Spot fin swam barb	Least Concern	Fair

Exhibit 5.9: Glimpses of Few Few Fish Species Recorded in the Study Area



Schistura macrolepis



Naseeri loach (*Paraschistura naseeri*)



Stone loach (*Paraschistura alepidote*)



Nalbant's loach (*Paraschistura punjabensis*)



Spot-fin swam barb (*Puntius sophore*)



Brown trout (*Salmo trutta*)

5.8 Study of Amphibians

56. Amphibians include frogs, toads, salamanders, and caecilians but in Pakistan and the project area, only frogs and toads have been reported to exist so far. Amphibians possess a unique position in an ecosystem. They spend their larval stages in aquatic environments and adult stages in terrestrial environments hence the name "Amphibian" which means living a double life. So far 24 amphibian species have been recorded in Pakistan. Amphibians play a vital role in an ecosystem both as prey and predator. Mostly the amphibian tadpoles are herbivores while a few are omnivores and all are the prey items for several invertebrate and vertebrate predators like small mammals, aquatic birds, and fish. On the other hand, adult amphibians including frogs and toads are the best biological pest controllers as they eat several agricultural pest insects and their larvae and thus are beneficial for crops. Near human habitations, frogs and toads eat different photophilic insects and larvae of flies, mosquitoes,

etc. and hence protect us from various diseases. Being the important component of the food chain in an ecosystem, the decline or extinction of amphibians may have a significant impact on the whole ecosystem. With a decline of amphibians in an ecosystem, the populations of agricultural pest insects will flourish and cause huge damage to crops. Due to a high degree of sensitivity, either during the larval stage or as an adult, amphibians respond to even very slight changes in the environment and are hence considered as good ecological indicators. Such responses have been used to indicate habitat fragmentation, ecosystem stress, impact of pesticides, and various anthropogenic activities.

5.8.1 Economic Importance of Amphibians

57. Amphibians are used as experimental animals for ecological, embryological, physiological, and genetic research. Hundreds of thousands of specimens of Indian bullfrog (*Hoplobatrachus tigerinus*) are used every year in various educational institutions as experimental animals to demonstrate various biological systems. In some eastern countries, bullfrog is consumed as a good source of food and its breeding and rearing has become a profitable industry.

5.8.2 Methodology for Amphibians

58. The study area represents different types of habitats and similarly, some of the amphibians are nocturnal in feeding habits whereas others are diurnal; therefore, different direct and indirect methods were applied to study various groups of amphibians in the study area. Field visits were carried out between 9:00 am to 4:00 pm for diurnal species and two hours just after dusk for the nocturnal species. Indirect evidence of amphibians was also searched in the study area including amphibian eggs, tadpoles, and their mating calls. Amphibian eggs and tadpoles were searched in ponds and puddles at different locations to locate any amphibian species. Mating calls of frogs and toads were heard and the existence of some species of frogs and toads was confirmed at some locations. Adult amphibians were also searched during daytime around their potential breeding sites like small water pools, water channels, roadside ponds and puddles, and suitable microhabitats of amphibians e.g. stones, pond bunds, crevices, leaf litter, debris, rotten logs, etc. These places were deliberately uncovered to search for the amphibians hiding under such covers. Amphibians were also observed around their feeding grounds i.e. under light posts etc. and around breeding sites like ponds, puddles, and streams where they advertise their presence by their crocks.

5.8.3 Amphibians Recorded from the Study Area

59. Applying all the possible direct and indirect observation methods, eight species of amphibians, belonging to three families and six genera were recorded. These amphibians belong to the Order Anura and include three toads and five frogs as shown in **Exhibit 5.10.**

Exhibit 5.10: Amphibians Recorded from the Study Area

S/No	Common Name	Zoological Name	Genus	Family	Order
1	Indus valley toad	*Bufo stomaticus*	Bufo	Bufonidae	Anura
2	Ladakh Toad	*Bufo latasti*	Bufo	Bufonidae	Anura
3	Hazara Toad	*Bufo melanostictus*	Bufo	Bufonidae	Anura
4	Ant Frog	*Microhyla ornata*	Microhyla	Microhylidae	Anura

S/No	Common Name	Zoological Name	Genus	Family	Order
5	Alpine Cricket Frog	*Fegervarya limnocharis*	Fegervarya	Ranidae	Anura
6	Indian Bullfrog	*Hoplobatrachus tigerinus*	Hoplobatrachus	Ranidae	Anura
7	Hazara Stream Frog	*Paa hazarensis*	Paa	Ranidae	Anura
8	Burrowing Frog	*Sphaeroteca breviceps*	Sphaeroteca	Ranidae	Anura

5.8.4 Observation Records of Amphibians

60. All of the recorded eight amphibian species were observed directly whereas the indirect evidence like the presence of eggs in water, the presence of tadpoles and froglets, mating calls of frogs and toads, and interviews with residents, hunters, and officials of wildlife and forest departments also confirmed their existence **Exhibit 5.11.**

Exhibit 5.11: Observation Records of Amphibians in the Study Area

S/ No	Species Observed	Direct Observation	Indirect Observations				
			Eggs	Tadpoles	Froglets	Mating calls	Interviews with locals
1	Indus valley toad	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓
2	Ladakh Toad	✓	-	-	-	-	✓
3	Hazara Toad	✓	-	✓	✓	-	✓
4	Ant Frog	✓	-	-	-	-	✓
5	Alpine Cricket Frog	✓	✓	-	-	✓	✓
6	Indian Bullfrog	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓
7	Hazara Stream Frog	✓	-	-	-	-	✓
8	Burrowing Frog	✓	-	-	-	-	✓

5.8.5 Food and Feeding Habits of the Recorded Amphibians

61. All the recorded amphibians are nocturnal in feeding habits i.e. all come out at dusk for feeding and remain inactive during day time. Food and feeding habits of the recorded amphibian species are given in the **Exhibit 5.12.**

Exhibit 5.12: Food and Feeding Habits of the Recorded Amphibians

S/ No	Recorded Amphibians	Zoological Name	Feeding Habit	Food Items
1	Indus valley toad	*Bufo stomaticus*	Nocturnal	Small insects like flies, mosquitoes, and small worms
2	Ladakh Toad	*Bufo latasti*	Nocturnal	Ants and other soft-bodied small- sized insects
3	Hazara Toad	*Bufo melanostictus*	Nocturnal	Aquatic insects, beetles, flies, tadpoles, dragonflies, grasshoppers
4	Ant Frog	*Microhyla ornata*	Nocturnal	Insects, small worms, centipedes, millipedes, juvenile frogs and toads
5	Alpine Cricket Frog	*Fegervarya limnocharis*	Nocturnal	Ants and other soft-bodied small sized insects
6	Indian Bullfrog	*Hoplobatrachus tigerinus*	Nocturnal	Insects, mice, shrew, young frogs,earthworms,

S/ No	Recorded Amphibians	Zoological Name	Feeding Habit	Food Items
				roundworms, juvenile snakes and small birds.
7	Hazara Stream Frog	*Paa hazarensis*	Nocturnal	Insects, small worms, centipedes, millipedes, juvenile frogs and toads
8	Burrowing Frog	*Sphaeroteca breviceps*	Nocturnal	Ants and other soft-bodied small sized insects

5.8.6 Conservation Status of Recorded Amphibians

62. According to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (IUCN, 2024), none of the recorded eight amphibian species is threatened. All the recorded species have been categorized as “Least Concern” and all have stable population trend **Exhibit 5.13.**

Exhibit 5.13: Conservation Status of the Recorded Amphibians

S/No	Common Name	Zoological Name	Conservation Status (2024)	Population Trend (IUCN, 2024)
1	Indus valley toad	*Bufo stomaticus*	LC	Stable
2	Ladakh Toad	*Bufo latasti*	LC	Stable
3	Hazara Toad	*Bufo melanostictus*	LC	Stable
4	Ant Frog	*Microhyla ornata*	LC	Stable
5	Alpine Cricket Frog	*Fegervarya limnocharis*	LC	Stable
6	Indian Bullfrog	*Hoplobatrachus tigerinus*	LC	Stable
7	Hazara Stream Frog	*Paa hazarensis*	LC	Stable
8	Burrowing Frog	*Sphaeroteca breviceps*	LC	Stable

Exhibit 5.14: Glimpses of Amphibians Recorded from the Study Area



Ladakh Toad *(Bufo latasti)*



Hazara Toad *(Bufo melanostictus*)

5.9 Study of Reptiles

63. Reptiles are a special group of tetrapods i.e. four-legged vertebrates and possess a unique position in an ecosystem. In the evolutionary lineage, reptiles are the first vertebrates that successfully invaded and occupied terrestrial habitats. For successful life on land, reptiles made several adaptations that enabled them to flourish in terrestrial habitats. All the living reptiles in the world belong to four orders including; Chelonia (tortoises and turtles), Rhynchocephalia (sphenodon), Squamata (lizards and snakes), and Crocodilia (crocodiles,

gavials, and alligators). Pakistan hosts representatives of all these groups except the Rhynchocephalia.

64. Globally about 11,700 reptilian species have been recorded so far including over 3,000 snakes, 7,000 lizards, over 350 chelonians, and 24 crocodiles. Pakistan hosts more than 210 reptiles including 83 snakes, 110 lizards, 15 turtles and tortoises, and two crocodilians. The reptilian fauna of the study consists of an assemblage of different species including lizards and snakes.

5.9.1 Ecological Role of Reptiles

65. Reptiles are adapted to live in all types of habitats and play an important role in an ecosystem as predators, prey, and scavengers. Different species of reptiles are good sources of biological control in the natural systems. At some level, these become prey for other animals while at others they act as a predator to control the populations of other animals.

5.9.2 Methodology for Reptiles Study

66. Different direct and indirect methods were applied to study various groups of reptiles like snakes, lizards, and turtles in the study area. Field visits were carried out between 09:00 am to 3:00 pm for diurnal species and 2-3 hours just after dusk for the nocturnal species. Different habitats in the study area were searched for any reptilian species both during the daytime and night. Stone turning, looking at and through bushes, searching basking agamas on stones and trees, and walking along microhabitats were the means to find out all possible reptiles in the study area. Freshwater turtles were observed from the banks of the water bodies. All the reptiles encountered during the survey were identified and photographed and field notes for each specimen were recorded in the notebook. For the identification of different species, *Amphibians, and Reptiles of Pakistan* by Khan, M. S. (2006) was consulted.

5.9.3 Reptiles Recorded the Study Area

During the field visits in the Balakot Hydropower Project study area, a total of 24 species of reptiles, belonging to one order, 10 families, and 20 genera were recorded. The recorded reptiles include 12 lizards and 12 snakes **Exhibit 5.15.**

Exhibit 5.15: Reptiles Recorded from the Study Area

S/ No	Zoological Name	Common Name	Genus	Family	Order
1	*Calotes Versicolor*	Common Tree Lizard	*Calotes*	Agamidae	Squamata
2	*Laudakia Agrorensis*	Agrore Valley Agama	*Laudakia*	Agamidae	Squamata
3	*Laudakia Melanura*	Black Rock Agama	*Laudakia*	Agamidae	Squamata
4	*Laudakia Pakistanica*	North Pakistan Agama	*Laudakia*	Agamidae	Squamata
5	*Laudakia Tuberculata*	Blue Rock Agama	*Laudakia*	Agamidae	Squamata
6	*Eublepharis Macularius*	Fat-Tailed Gecko	*Eublepharis*	Eublepharidae	Squamata
7	*Hemidactylus Flaviviridis*	House Gecko	*Hemidactylus*	Gekkonidae	Squamata
8	*Hemidactylus Brookii*	Spotted Barn Gecko	*Hemidactylus*	Gekkonidae	Squamata
9	*Ophisops Jerdonii*	Rugose Spectacled Lacerta	*Ophisops*	Lacertidae	Squamata
10	*Eutropis Dissimilis*	Striped Grass Skink	*Eutropis*	Scincidae	Squamata

Sl No	Zoological Name	Common Name	Genus	Family	Order
11	*Scincella Himalayana*	Himalayan Skink	*Scincella*	Scincidae	Squamata
12	*Varanus Bengalensis*	Bengal Monitor Lizard	*Varanus*	Varanidae	Squamata
13	*Eryx Johnii*	Common Sand Boa	*Eryx*	Boidae	Squamata
14	*Amphiesma Stolatum*	Striped Keel-Back Snake	*Amphiesma*	Colubridae	Squamata
15	*Boiga Trigonata*	Common Cat Snake	*Boiga*	Colubridae	Squamata
16	*Oligodon Arnensis*	Banded Kukri Snake	*Oligodon*	Colubridae	Squamata
17	*Platyceps Rhodorachis*	Cliff Racer	*Platyceps*	Colubridae	Squamata
18	*Psammophis Leithii*	Sindhi Ribbon Snake	*Psammophis*	Colubridae	Squamata
19	*Ptyas Mucosa*	Rope-Snake	*Ptyas*	Colubridae	Squamata
20	*Spalerosophis Diadema*	Blotched Diadem Snake	*Spalerosophis*	Colubridae	Squamata
21	*Xenochrophis Piscator*	Checkered Keel-Back	*Xenochrophis*	Colubridae	Squamata
22	*Bungarus Caeruleus*	Common Krait	*Bungarus*	Elapidae	Squamata
23	*Naja Oxiana*	Brown Cobra	*Naja*	Elapidae	Squamata
24	*Echis Carinatus*	Saw-Scale Viper	*Echis*	Viperidae	Squamata

5.9.4 Conservation Status of the Recorded Reptiles

67. Among the recorded 24 reptiles, three species; including two lizards and one snake have NEAR THREATENED conservation status with decreasing population trend and rests of the 21 species are categorized as LEAST CONCERN with stable population trend **Exhibit 5.16.**

Exhibit 5.16: Conservation Status of the Recorded Reptiles

Sl No	Zoological Name	Common Name	IUCN (2024)	Population Trend
1	*Calotes Versicolor*	Common Tree Lizard	LC	Stable
2	*Laudakia Agrorensis*	Agrore Valley Agama	LC	Stable
3	*Laudakia Melanura*	Black Rock Agama	LC	Stable
4	*Laudakia Pakistanica*	North Pakistan Agama	LC	Stable
5	*Laudakia Tuberculata*	Blue Rock Agama	LC	Stable
6	*Eublepharis Macularius*	Fat-Tailed Gecko	LC	Stable
7	*Hemidactylus Flaviviridis*	House Gecko	LC	Stable
8	*Hemidactylus Brookii*	Spotted Barn Gecko	LC	Stable
9	*Ophisops Jerdonii*	Rugose Spectacled Lacerta	LC	Stable
10	*Eutropis Dissimilis*	Striped Grass Skink	LC	Stable
11	*Scincella Himalayana*	Himalayan Skink	LC	Stable
12	*Varanus Bengalensis*	Bengal Monitor Lizard	NT	Decreasing
13	*Eryx Johnii*	Common Sand Boa	NT	Decreasing
14	*Amphiesma Stolatum*	Striped Keel-Back Snake	LC	Stable
15	*Boiga Trigonata*	Common Cat Snake	LC	Stable

S/ No	Zoological Name	Common Name	IUCN (2024)	Population Trend
16	*Oligodon Arnensis*	Banded Kukri Snake	LC	Stable
17	*Platyceps Rhodorachis*	Cliff Racer	LC	Stable
18	*Psammophis Leithii*	Sindhi Ribbon Snake	LC	Stable
19	*Ptyas Mucosa*	Rope-Snake	LC	Stable
20	*Spalerosophis Diadema*	Blotched Diadem Snake	LC	Stable
21	*Xenochrophis Piscator*	Checkered Keel-Back	LC	Stable
22	*Bungarus Caeruleus*	Common Krait	LC	Stable
23	*Naja Oxiana*	Brown Cobra	NT	Decreasing
24	*Echis Carinatus*	Saw-Scale Viper	LC	Stable

Exhibit 5.17: Glimpses of Reptiles Recorded from the Study Area



Garden Lizard (*Calotese versicolor*)



Blue rock agama (*Laudiakia tuberculata*)

5.10 Study of Birds

5.10.1 Methodology for Birds

68. To study the avian fauna, seasonal surveys are recommended for resident as well as migratory birds. But during the present study, resident birds were studied during the field visits while for the migratory birds, secondary data was consulted. For recording the avian diversity in the study area, birds were watched in all the potential habitats in the area. Visits were planned during dawn, early morning, in afternoon, and dusk mostly by walking through the core zones of bird habitats. Water fowls and waders were watched especially along streams and nullahs using binoculars. The birds that could not be identified at first look were photographed using a zoom lens and then identified after consulting the handbook for bird identification (Grimmett *et al.*, 2008).

5.10.2 Birds Recorded from the Study Area

69. A total of 111 bird species belonging to 17 orders were recorded. Most of the birds especially the resident and summer breeders were observed directly in different habitats in the study area whereas, for recording the winter visiting birds, secondary data was consulted. The recorded birds included 50% resident birds, 29% winter visitors, 11% summer breeders, and 10% passage migrants or irregular year-round visitors according to Grimmett *et al*. (2008). None of the recorded birds is Threatened or endemic to Pakistan. All the recorded birds have

been categorized as “Least Concern” by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species **Exhibit 5.18.**

Exhibit 5.18: Birds Recorded during the Survey and their Conservation Status

S/No	English Names	Zoological Names	Category	Status IUCN 2022
Order 1: Galliformes				
1	Common Quail	*Coturnix coturnix*	Passage migrant	Least Concern
2	Grey Francolin	*Francolinus pondicerianus*	Resident	Least Concern
3	Black Francolin	*Francolinus francolinus*	Resident	Least Concern
4	See see Partridge	*Ammoperdix griseogularis*	Resident	Least Concern
5	Chukar	*Alectoris chukar*	Resident	Least Concern
Order 2: Anseriformes				
6	Gadwal	*Anas strepera*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
7	Eurasian Wigeon	*Anas penelope*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
8	Mallard	*Anas platyrhynchos*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
9	Common Teal	*Anas crecca*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
10	Northern Pintail	*Anas acuta*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
11	Northern Shoveler	*Anas clypeata*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
Order 3: Piciformes				
12	Yellow-crowned Woodpecker	*Dendrocopos mahrattensis*	Resident	Least Concern
13	Himalayan Woodpecker	*Dendrocopos himalayensis*	Resident	Least Concern
Order 4: Coraciiformes				
14	Common Hoopoe	*Upupa epops*	Resident	Least Concern
15	Indian Roller	*Coracias benghalensis*	Resident	Least Concern
16	European Roller	*Coracias garrulus*	Passage migrant	Least Concern
17	White-throated Kingfisher	*Halcyon smyrnensis*	Resident	Least Concern
18	Pied Kingfisher	*Ceryle rudis*	Resident	Least Concern
19	Green Bee-eater	*Merops orientalis*	Resident	Least Concern
20	Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	*Merops persicus*	Summer Breeder	Least Concern
Order 5: Cuculiformes				
21	Asian Koel	*Eudynamys scolopacea*	Summer Breeder	Least Concern
22	Greater Coucal	*Centropus sinensis*	Resident	Least Concern
Order 6: Psittaciformes				
23	Rose-ringed Parakeet	*Psittacula krameri*	Resident	Least Concern

S/No	English Names	Zoological Names	Category	Status IUCN 2022
Order 7: Apodiformes				
24	House Swift	*Apus affinis*	Resident	Least Concern
Order 8: Strigiformes				
25	Spotted Owlet	*Athene brama*	Resident	Least Concern
26	Eurasian Eagle Owl	*Bubo bubo*	Resident	Least Concern
Order 9: Caprimulgiformes				
27	Eurasian Nightjar	*Caprimulgus europaeus*	Summer breeder	Least Concern
Order 10: Columbiformes				
28	Rock Pigeon	*Columba livia*	Resident	Least Concern
29	Laughing Dove	*Streptopelia senegalensis*	Resident	Least Concern
30	Eurasian Collared Dove	*Streptopelia decaocto*	Resident	Least Concern
Order 11: Gruiformes				
31	Common Moorhen	*Gallinula chloropus*	Resident	Least Concern
32	Common Coot	*Fulica atra*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
Order 12: Charadriiformes				
33	Common Snipe	*Gallinago gallinago*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
34	Common Greenshank	*Tringa nebularia*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
35	Green Sandpiper	*Tringa ochropus*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
36	Common Sandpiper	*Actitis hypoleucos*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
37	Red-Wattled lapwing	*Vanellus indicus*	Resident	Least Concern
Order 13: Accipitriformes				
38	Black-shouldered Kite	*Elanus caeruleus*	Resident	Least Concern
39	Black Kite	*Milvus migrans*	Resident	Least Concern
40	Himalayan Griffon Vulture	*Gyps himalayensis*	Resident	Least Concern
41	Eurasian Sparrow hawk	*Accipiter nisus*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
42	Shikra	*Accipiter badius*	Resident	Least Concern
43	White-eyed Buzzard	*Butastur teesa*	Resident	Least Concern
44	Long-legged buzzard	*Buteo rufinus*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
45	Common buzzard	*Buteo buteo*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
46	Tawny Eagle	*Aquila rapax*	Resident	Least Concern
Order 14: Falconiformes				
47	Common Kestrel	*Falco tinunculus*	Winter visitor	Least Concern

S/No	English Names	Zoological Names	Category	Status IUCN 2022
48	Peregrine Falcon	*Falco peregrinus*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
Order 15: Podicipediformes				
49	Little Grebe	*Tachybaptus ruficollis*	Resident	Least Concern
Order 16: Ciconiiformes				
50	Little Egret	*Egretta garzetta*	Passage migrant	Least Concern
51	Cattle Egret	*Bubulcus ibis*	Resident	Least Concern
52	Grey Heron	*Ardea cinerea*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
53	Indian Pond Heron	*Ardeola grayii*	Resident	Least Concern
Order 17: Passeriformes				
54	Bay-backed Shrike	*Lanius vittatus*	Summer breeder	Least Concern
55	Southern Grey Shrike	*Lanius meridionalis*	Summer breeder	Least Concern
56	Long-tailed Shrike	*Lanius schach*	Summer breeder	Least Concern
57	Rufous Tree pie	*Dendrocitta vagabunda*	Resident	Least Concern
58	Yellow-billed Blue Magpie	*Urocissa flavirostris*	Resident	Least Concern
59	House Crow	*Corvus splendens*	Resident	Least Concern
60	Common Raven	*Corvus corax*	Resident	Least Concern
61	Large-billed Crow	*Corvus macrorhynchos*	Resident	Least Concern
62	Eurasian Golden Oriole	*Oriolus oriolus*	Passage migrant	Least Concern
63	Black Drongo	*Dicrurus macrocercus*	Resident	Least Concern
64	Ashy Drongo	*Dicrurus leucophaeus*	Summer breeder	Least Concern
65	Asian Paradise-Flycatcher	*Terpsiphone paradisi*	Summer breeder	Least Concern
66	Brown Dipper	*Cinclus pallasii*	Resident	Least Concern
67	Blue rock Thrush	*Monticola solitarius*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
68	Blue rock Whistling Thrush	*Myophonus caeruleus*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
69	Eurasian Blackbird	*Turdus merula*	Resident	Least Concern
70	Mistle Thrush	*Turdus viscivorus*	Resident	Least Concern
71	Bluethroat	*Luscinia svecica*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
72	Indian Robin	*Saxicoloides fulicata*	Resident	Least Concern
73	Black Redstart	*Phoenicurus ochruros*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
74	White-capped Water Redstart	*Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*	Summer breeder	Least Concern

S/No	English Names	Zoological Names	Category	Status IUCN 2022
75	Pied Bushchat	*Saxicola caprata*	Resident	Least Concern
76	Common Stonechat	*Saxicola torquata*	Summer breeder	Least Concern
77	Common Myna	*Acridotheres tristis*	Resident	Least Concern
78	Jungle Myna	*Acridotheres fuscus*	Resident	Least Concern
79	Bar-tailed Treecreeper	*Certhia himalayana*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
80	Great Tit	*Parus major*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
81	Plain Martin	*Riparia paludicola*	Resident	Least Concern
82	Wire-tailed Swallow	*Hirundo smithii*	Summer breeder	Least Concern
83	Barn Swallow	*Hirundorustica*	Summer breeder	Least Concern
84	White-eared Bulbul	*Pycnonotus leucotis*	Resident	Least Concern
85	Red-vented Bulbul	*Pycnonotus cafer*	Resident	Least Concern
86	Himalayan Bulbul	*Pycnonotus leucogenys*	Resident	Least Concern
87	Black Bulbul	*Hypsipetes leucocephalus*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
88	Rufous-fronted Prinia	*Prinia buchanani*	Resident	Least Concern
89	Plain prinia	*Prinia inornata*	Resident	Least Concern
90	Common Tailorbird	*Orthotomus sutorius*	Resident	Least Concern
91	Common Chiffchaff	*Phylloscopus collybita*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
82	Common Babbler	*Turdoides caudatus*	Resident	Least Concern
93	Jungle Babbler	*Turdoides striatus*	Resident	Least Concern
94	Crested Lark	*Galerida cristata*	Resident	Least Concern
95	Eurasian Skylark	*Alauda arvensis*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
96	Oriental Skylark	*Alauda gulgula*	Summer breeder	Least Concern
97	Purple Sunbird	*Nectarinia asiatica*	Summer breeder	Least Concern
98	House Sparrow	*Passer domesticus*	Resident	Least Concern
99	Spanish Sparrow	*Passer hispaniolensis*	Passage migrant	Least Concern
100	White wagtail	*Motacilla alba*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
101	White-browed wagtail	*Motacilla maderaspatensis*	Resident	Least Concern
102	Yellow wagtail	*Motacilla flava*	Passage migrant	Least Concern
103	Paddyfield pipit	*Anthus rufulus*	Resident	Least Concern

S/No	English Names	Zoological Names	Category	Status IUCN 2022
104	Tree pipit	*Anthus triviallis*	Summer breeder	Least Concern
105	Water pipit	*Anthus spinoletta*	Winter visitor	Least Concern
106	Rufous-breasted Accentor	*Prunellastrophiata*	Summer breeder	Least Concern
107	Baya weaver	*Ploceus philippinus*	Resident	Least Concern
108	Indian Silverbill	*Lonchura malabarica*	Resident	Least Concern
109	Common Rosefinch	*Carpodacus erythrinus*	Passage migrant	Least Concern
110	Red-mantled Rosefinch	*Carpodacus rhodochlamys*	Resident	Least Concern
111	Rock Bunting	*Emberiza cia*	Winter visitor	Least Concern

Exhibit 5.19: Glimpses of Few Bird Species Recorded in the Study Area



House sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)



Jungle Myna (*Acridotheres fuscus*)



Common Stonechat



Large-billed Crow





Yellow-billed Blue Magpie Brown Dipper (*Cinclus pallasii*)

5.11 Study of Mammals

5.11.1 Methodology for Mammals

70. All the mammalian species were searched in all the identified habitats in the study area. Small mammals like mice, squirrels, mongooses, etc. were directly observed during the day-time whereas for nocturnal small mammals like rats, bats, shrews, etc. observations were made at night. Different techniques to observe different small mammals included spotlighting technique, observing active burrows, fresh feces, and tracks.

71. Different large and medium-sized mammals show different feeding habits and some species are diurnal while others are nocturnal. Therefore, different direct and indirect methods were applied to locate various large mammals in the study area. Track and trails, fecal material, body parts, dead animal remains, fur entangled in the bushes, feeding remains, etc. of different mammals were observed in different habitats to confirm the existence of different animals, particularly the nocturnal mammals. Sounds and calls of animals also indicate the presence of animals in a locality and no sound does not necessarily mean that no animal exists there. Sounds, calls, roars, etc. of different mammals were listened at night, and existence of different mammals was confirmed.

5.11.2 Mammals Recorded from the Study Area

72. Overall 21 species of mammals belonging to six orders, 12 families, and 21 genera were recorded from the project area **Exhibit 5.20.**

Exhibit 5.20: Mammals Recorded from the Study Area

S/No	Common Name	Zoological Name	Family	Order
1	Long-eared Hedgehog	*Hemiechinus collaris*	Erinaceidae	Insectivora
2	Tibetan Red-toothed Shrew	*Sorex thibetanus*	Soricidae	Insectivora
3	House Shrew	*Suncus murinus*	Soricidae	Insectivora
4	Fulvous Fruit Bat	*Rousettus leschenaultii*	Pteropodidae	Chiroptera
5	Flying Fox	*Pteropus giganteus*	Pteropodidae	Chiroptera
6	Yellow House Bat	*Scotophilus heathii*	Vespertilionidae	Chiroptera
7	Least Pipistrelle	*Pipistrellus savii*	Vespertilionidae	Chiroptera
8	Cape Hare	*Lepus capensis*	Leporidae	Lagomorpha
9	Five-striped Palm Squirrel	*Funambulus pennantii*	Sciuridae	Rodentia
10	Indian Crested Porcupine	*Hystrix indica*	Hystricidae	Rodentia
11	Himalayan Field Mouse	*Apodemus rusiges*	Muridae	Rodentia
12	House Rat	*Rattus rattus*	Muridae	Rodentia
13	House Mouse	*Mus musculus*	Muridae	Rodentia
14	Short-tailed Mole Rat	*Nesokia indica*	Muridae	Rodentia
15	Indian Gerbil	*Tatera indica*	Muridae	Rodentia
16	Indian Desert Gerbil	*Meriones hurrianae*	Muridae	Rodentia

S/No	Common Name	Zoological Name	Family	Order
17	Asiatic Jackal	*Canis aureus*	Canidae	Carnivora
18	Common Red Fox	*Vulpes vulpes*	Canidae	Carnivora
19	Yellow-throated Marten	*Martes flavigula*	Mustellidae	Carnivora
20	Small Indian Mongoose	*Herpestes javanicus*	Herpestidae	Carnivora
21	Wild Boar	*Sus scrofa*	Bovidae	Artiodactyla

5.11.3 Ecological Role of Mammals

73. Every single species whether it is a plant or animal has a significant role in nature and plays its part in keeping the ecosystem in equilibrium. Among the recorded species of mammals, some species are primary consumers, some are secondary consumers and some are scavengers and all have important roles at their level to maintain the ecosystem. If a few pairs of house rats or house mice or field mice are allowed to flourish without any threat, their population may reach millions within 2-3 years. Nature has deputed carnivore species like cats, foxes, etc. to keep hunting the rodents and limit their populations according to the needs of the ecosystem. Similarly, the mongooses are playing their part by limiting the populations of snakes, lizards, and many insects. The role of the Common red fox is also to keep the populations of different rodents within limits. Asiatic jackal and Wild boar are scavengers in the project area and hence responsible for removing the dead organic matter from the environment and keeping it clean. The disturbances in the ecosystem we observe today are because the ecological roles of several wildlife species have been taken by the human being which is unnatural and will end in the collapsing of the whole ecosystem. In other words, man is changing and replacing the God-made natural system with an artificial system. However, the existing mammalian fauna in the project area is neither facing any threat from nature nor it will face from the project activities. Rather a few mammalian species are considered a nuisance due to being agricultural pests like the Indian crested porcupine, wild boar, and Asiatic jackal.

5.11.4 Conservation Status of Mammals

74. According to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (IUCN 2024), all the recorded mammals in the project area have been categorized as “Least Concern” with either stable or increasing population trend **Exhibit 5.21.**

Exhibit 5.21: Conservation Status of the Mammals Recorded in the Study Area

S/No	Recorded Mammals	Zoological Name	IUCN Status (2024)	Population Trend (2024)
1	Long-eared Hedgehog	*Hemiechinus collaris*	LC	Unknown
2	Tibetan Red-toothed Shrew	*Sorex thibetanus*	LC	Stable
3	House Shrew	*Suncus murinus*	LC	Stable
4	Fulvous Fruit Bat	*Rousettus leschenaultii*	LC	Stable
5	Flying Fox	*Pteropus giganteus*	LC	Unknown
6	Yellow House Bat	*Scotophilus heathii*	LC	Increasing
7	Least Pipistrelle	*Pipistrellus savii*	LC	Unknown

S/No	Recorded Mammals	Zoological Name	IUCN Status (2024)	Population Trend (2024)
8	Cape Hare	*Lepus capensis*	LC	Stable
9	Five-striped Palm Squirrel	*Funambulus pennantii*	LC	Stable
10	Indian Crested Porcupine	*Hystrix indica*	LC	Stable
11	Himalayan Field Mouse	*Apodemus rusiges*	LC	Stable
12	House Rat	*Rattus rattus*	LC	Unknown
13	House Mouse	*Mus musculus*	LC	Stable
14	Short-tailed Mole Rat	*Nesokia indica*	LC	Unknown
15	Indian Gerbil	*Tatera indica*	LC	Unknown
16	Indian Desert Gerbil	*Meriones hurrianae*	LC	Increasing
17	Asiatic Jackal	*Canis aureus*	LC	Stable
18	Common Red Fox	*Vulpes vulpes*	LC	Stable
19	Yellow-throated Marten	*Martes flavigula*	LC	Stable
20	Small Indian Mongoose	*Herpestes javanicus*	LC	Stable
21	Wild Boar	*Sus scrofa*	LC	Increasing

Exhibit 5.22: Flying Fox (Fruit Bat) Recorded in the Study Area



6 IMPACTS OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES ON EXISTING BIODIVERSITY

6.1 Impacts on Flora / Vegetation

75. According to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (IUCN, 2024), none of the recorded 287 plant species is threatened and all have been categorized as “Least Concern” with stable Population Trend.

6.2 Impacts on Fauna

76. **Amphibians.** Eight species of amphibians were recorded from the study area all being the Least Concern species with stable populations according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (IUCN, 2024). The recorded amphibians are found around agricultural lands, stagnant waters, and grassy fields along the streams. Secondly, these species have a vast distribution range in Pakistan and finally, the Project activities will be around the main river and not the tributing streams. Therefore, the Project activities will not have any vivid adverse impacts on the amphibian fauna of the study area.

77. **Reptiles (Snakes and Lizards).** All the snakes and lizards reported from the study area have been categorized as LEAST CONCERN by IUCN. The construction of a dam will not have any negative impacts on these terrestrial creatures. Most of the recorded reptiles have a vast distribution range in Pakistan covering plain areas in Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces.

78. **Birds.** The proposed project will not have any negative impacts on migratory birds. The migratory birds especially the winter visitors have so many options to spend the winter season in the plain areas in Pakistan. However, the Project may have negative impacts on resident birds through habitat loss and displacement of birds. The Project activities like infrastructure installation, vehicle movements, and other anthropogenic activities especially during the construction phase may disturb the resident avian fauna. The permanent project activities could potentially deter some birds from using that site and its surroundings thus effectively resulting in a disturbance impact that will ultimately lead to the displacement of some of the bird species. In this case, there are several alternate and adjacent habitats to accommodate the displaced birds. Secondly, all the recorded birds in the project area are very common and enlisted as Least Concern by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (IUCN 2024). Thirdly, most of the recorded birds are farmer-friendly and remain nearby of human habitations. The construction and post-construction activities of the proposed project may certainly cause displacement of some of the birds. But there are security zones for animals and birds where they shift during any disturbance and adapt accordingly.

79. Similarly, the learning process among birds is very fast and they can adapt themselves to the changing environment, habitat, and climatic conditions. Any alteration in the existing habitat is well noticed by the birds and soon they adapt accordingly and learn how to avoid such negative factors. Therefore, the resident birds can adapt according to the changing environment whereas; migratory birds have so many safe and suitable options to land and spend the winter season. Hence, the effects of disturbance and displacement can be neglected.

80. **Mammals.** Generally the mammals, unlike the bids, cannot migrate and travel long distances to avoid any threats or unfavorable environmental conditions. Hence, they are facing several threats in Pakistan due to habitat loss, extensive use of pesticides, encroachments on wild lands/habitat by humans, etc. The conversion of natural habitats and wild lands into housing societies, industrial estates, agricultural fields, and a network of roads has not only disturbed the mammalian fauna but also affected the whole ecosystem.

81. All the recorded species of mammals from the project area have “Least Concern” status according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Three species; Porcupine, Wild boar, and Asiatic jackal are considered as pest species and problem species as they damage poultry and crops. With an increasing population trend (IUCN, 2024), these three pests and problem species are flourishing in Pakistan and do not have any threat rather they have become a nuisance for local communities. The continuous increase and range extension of these species is because neither these are hunted for meat purposes nor they have any natural predators like the Common leopard and Indian wolf. Some of the species like Small Indian mongoose and rodents have adapted to live nearby of human habitations due to easy availability of food. Being potential enemies of snakes, the mongooses are considered human-friendly in the project area and it was found that in some places people feed these animals and keep these animals as pets. So, mongooses, being human friendly, do not have any threat in the study area and are enjoying their safe survival.

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