

URGENT

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12(9) PO(COORD-II)P&D/2025
GOVERNMENT OF THE PUNJAB

P&D BOARD

Dated: 4th September, 2025

04299059302

To,

1. Secretary
Forestry, Wildlife & Fisheries Department
2. All Member, PDWP

Subject:

**MINUTES / DECISIONS OF THE MEETING OF 20TH PROVINCIAL
DEVELOPMENT WORKING PARTY (PDWP) DATED 18.08.2025 (SECTOR:
FW&F)**

I am directed to enclose herewith minutes of the 20th PDWP meeting held on 18th August, 2025 under the chairmanship of Chairman P&D Board, for information and further necessary action of the following item (s):-

Agenda Item No.	ADP No. (2025-26)	Name of the Item	Approved Cost (Rs. in million)
08	2600 (on-going)	Strengthening and Capacity Building of Wildlife Department for Conservation of Wildlife in Punjab (Revised)	3,631.564

ABRAHAM MALL | PLANNING OFFICER
(COORDINATION-II)

CC:

1. Staff Officer to Chairman
P&D Board
2. Staff Officer to Secretary, (Planning and Development Board)
P&D Board

	GOVERNMENT OF THE PUNJAB PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT BOARD FW&F SECTION
MINUTES OF 20TH PDWP MEETING HELD ON 18.08.2025	
Agenda Item No.8	Strengthening and Capacity Building of Wildlife Department for Conservation of Wildlife in Punjab (Revised) ADP No. 2600
Date & Time:	18.08.2025 (Monday) At 11:00 A.M
Venue:	AKS Auditorium P&D Board
Participants:	List Attached

Introduction:

The Senior Chief (Env. & CC.), P&D Board, briefed the forum that the scheme titled "Strengthening and Capacity Building of the Wildlife Department for Conservation of Wildlife in Punjab" was initially approved by the PDWP in its meeting held on 06.09.2024 at a cost of Rs. 412.632 million, with a gestation period of 36 months (up to June 2027). She added that the PDWP approved the original scheme only to the extent of the Project Management Unit (PMU) at Rs. 392.632 million, which comprised Machinery & Equipment (Rs. 7.90M), Transport (Rs. 20.50M), Commodities & Services (Rs. 184.282M), and Cost of Establishment (Rs. 179.95M). For the Protection Force, only quad bikes amounting to Rs. 20.00 million were approved.

2. She further explained that the scheme was subsequently revised and approved by the PDWP in its meeting on 27.09.2024 at a cost of Rs. 423.240 million, due to changes in the criteria for key posts, PPS up-gradation, and the inclusion of a Quantity Surveyor post in the PMU. The scheme was revised again and approved in the PDWP meeting held on 06.11.2024 at a cost of Rs. 458.258 million, owing to the addition of an incentive allowance for the Project Director (a BPS-19 government employee posted by transfer) and an increase in the operational cost of certain items. For the third time, the scheme was revised and approved by the PDWP on 16.04.2025 at a cost of Rs. 597.333 million, due to enhanced allocations for consultancies, the inclusion of the post of Chief Works & Infrastructure Development (PPS-10), and the provision of two high-end workstation laptops for graphic design tasks.

3. She further briefed that the FWF Department has now submitted the 4th revised PC-I of the subject scheme at a cost of Rs. 4,511.213 million, with the same gestation period of 36 months. The reasons for this revision are as follows:

- In the PDWP meeting held on 06.09.2024, the PC-I was approved up to the extent of the Project Management Unit, with the capital and allied revenue component of the Wildlife Protection Force deemed approved, subject to prior approval of the Wildlife Force component by the Provincial Cabinet.
- Accordingly, the Wildlife Protection Force was approved by the Provincial Cabinet in the 17th Cabinet meeting held on 08.10.2024.
- Consequently, Wildlife Protection Wing was finalized and now AD has submitted the 4th revised PC-I for approval/consideration.

4. The forum was further apprised that the PC-I of the subject scheme was discussed in the pre-PDWP meeting held on 01.08.2025 under the chairmanship of the Secretary P&D Board/Member (Env. & CC.), P&D Board, where the scheme was deliberated in detail. As a result of these deliberations, the project cost was reduced from Rs. 4,511.213 million to Rs. 3,631.564 million.

Discussion:

5. The Director General, Wildlife & Parks, briefed the forum on the rationale of the scheme, emphasizing that it would significantly strengthen the deterrence capacity of the Wildlife Department in its protection efforts. He noted that since the establishment of the Wildlife Force, 180 FIRs have been registered against offenders during the current quail hunting season only in comparison to zero complaints in previous years. He further elaborated on the scope of the scheme, explaining that the Wildlife Check post would serve as the basic unit of wildlife protection, followed by the Wildlife Protection Centre, with one center to be established in each district. To inter link these centers and check-posts, two Command & Control Centers will be established as Regional Headquarters—one in the Salt Range and the other in the Cholistan Desert.

6. The Director General, Wildlife & Parks, further briefed the forum that in January 2025, an amendment to the Punjab Wildlife (Protection, Preservation, Conservation and Management) Act, 1974, was approved, allowing the establishment of Wildlife Protection Centers equipped with facilities to detain offenders in the custody of the department. He added that 42 centers will be set up across Punjab, including 22 new structures and the rehabilitation of 20 existing ones. He further stated that the Command & Control Centers will function as rapid response hubs, each always equipped with 15 personnel and two vehicles available.

7. The forum inquired about the species found in the Cholistan Desert and the Salt Range. The Director General, Wildlife & Parks, informed that in Cholistan, Blackbuck and Chinkara are among the major mammalian species, while the Great Indian Bustard and Houbara Bustard are the key avian species. He further apprised the forum that a seasonal hunting permit for the Houbara Bustard is issued at a cost of USD 100,000, generating significant revenue. The Director General also informed that the Salt Range National Park covers an area of 43,000 acres and is home to one of the province's most important species, the Punjab Urial, along with various bird species, including partridge. He added that trophy hunting of the Punjab Urial is carried out annually to promote sustainable hunting through community-based conservancies (with seven conservancies currently operational), generating nearly USD 20,500 from a single trophy.

8. The forum raised a query regarding the establishment of Command & Control Centers by both the Forest Department and the Wildlife Department, and whether their activities would complement each other. The Director General, Wildlife & Parks, responded that under the Punjab Protected Areas Act, 2020, forest areas are also to be protected by the Wildlife Department. He acknowledged that historically the Forest and

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Wildlife Departments were not well aligned; however, legal amendments are underway to address this, with the Forest Department designated as the parent department in line with international practice. The forum further advised that the locations of the proposed wildlife check-posts should be reviewed to avoid overlapping with those of the Forest Department and emphasized the need for both departments to work collectively for the protection of forests and wildlife.

9. On a query from the forum regarding the expected outcomes of the scheme, the DG, Wildlife & Parks, responded that the project would enhance wildlife protection and ultimately reduce biodegradation as well.

10. A member of the forum suggested that the wildlife helpline system should also be upgraded, particularly with respect to the SOPs, to ensure that the process of registering complaints is more convenient.

11. A member of the forum observed that in remote areas such as Cholistan, Rajanpur, and D.G. Khan, hunting is the primary source of livelihood, and protection measures cannot be effectively implemented without providing incentives to local communities. The DG, Wildlife & Parks, informed the forum that incentivization will be provided through another departmental scheme aimed at engaging local communities in wildlife conservation.

12. While discussing the machinery and equipment component, the forum observed that the proposal included the provision for procuring Thuraya satellite phones. It emphasized the need to ensure sufficient budget to meet their relatively high running costs and suggested exploring the option of walkie-talkies as an alternative. The Director General, Wildlife & Parks, assured the forum that the department has adequate resources to cover these expenses. The forum also advised the department to remove brand names from the PC-I.

13. The forum observed that the machinery and equipment proposed for the Wildlife Protection Wing are extensive and standardized. However, given the diverse landscapes where the centers and check-posts will be located, the AD was advised to revisit and adjust the requirements according to the needs of each remote area. The forum further recommended avoiding brick-and-mortar structures for check-posts in forest areas and opting instead for eco-friendly designs.

14. One of the members of the forum inquired that 42 protection centers are in the scheme whereas only two command & control centers are proposed. The DG W&P explained that protection centers will basically serve the purpose of detaining wildlife offenders just like police stations and therefore will be established in every district whereas, Command & Control Centers are proposed for highly critical wildlife hotspot areas (Cholistan Desert and Salt Range), where quick response force will be stationed 24/7 in order to react swiftly to any wildlife offence in particular area.

15. While discussing the human resource component of the scheme, the forum was informed that 80 project posts had been demanded by the AD under the Wildlife

Protection Wing, which were deleted during the pre-PDWP. However, 15 project posts had already been approved under the PMU component. The AD requested an increase to 17 by adding one project post of Audit Officer and one project post of Deputy Project Manager. The forum agreed to increase the number of posts in the PMU from 15 to 17.

16. After incorporation of decisions of PDWP, the cost of the project was approved at a cost of Rs. 3,631.564 million with the following break-up:

P&D BOARD

		Rs. In Million	
Sr. #	Components	Approved Cost	Revised Approved Cost
	Wildlife Protection Wing		
1	Civil Works	-	1,730.224
2	Machinery & Equipment	-	187.16
3	Furniture & Fixture	-	102.000
4	Transport	20.000	20.000
5	Establishment Cost	-	-
6	Commodities & Services	-	974.000
	Total- Wildlife Protection Wing	20.000	3,013.384
	Project Management Unit		
1	Conservancy & Works	-	-
2	Machinery, Store & Equipment	12.071	13.295
3	Furniture & Fixture	-	
4	Transport	20.500	19.579
5	Establishment Cost	214.886	215.819
6	Commodities & Services	330.797	369.487
	Total - PMU	577.333	618.180
	Total Cost	597.333	3,631.564

Sr. P&D BOARD

Decision:

17. After detailed deliberations, the forum unanimously revised and approved the scheme and following decisions were made:

- i. The scheme was revised and approved at a cost of Rs. 3,631.564 million till June 2027 subject to fulfillment of all codal, legal / procedural formalities by the Sponsoring Department as well as Executing Agencies.
- ii. The AD shall revisit the provision of machinery and equipment for check-posts and protection centers, ensuring that the provisions align with the specific needs of different locations.
- iii. The project posts have been increased from 15 to 17 by adding one project post of Audit Officer (PPS-08) and one project post of Deputy Project Manager (PPS-09).
- iv. The AD shall ensure that no brand names are mentioned in the PC-I for the procurement of machinery and equipment.
- v. The AD shall ensure that eco-friendly structures are used for the establishment of

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check-posts, particularly in forest zones

- vi. The AD to revise the PC-I accordingly and upload it to SMDP Portal

Meeting ended with a vote of thanks

SR. CHIEF (ENV.&CC)
P&D BOARD

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

20th PDWP MEETING, FY 2025-26

Dated: 18.08.2025

Name of the Officer		Designation / Department
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD		
1.	Dr. Naeem Rauf	Chairman P&D Board (In Chair)
2.	Mr. Rafaqat Ali	Secretary P&D Board / Member (Env. &CC)
3.	Mr. M. Masood Anwar	Chief Economist
4.	Mr. Muhammad Ajmal Bhatti	Member (ID/ Energy)
5.	Mr. Khawar Kamal	Member (LG&CD/UD)
6.	Mr. Aslam Javed	Member (Agriculture)
7.	Mr. Agha M. Ali Abbas	Member (Governance)
8.	Mr. Mohsin Abbas Shakir	Member (Water)
9.	Mr. Sohail Rauf	Sr. Chief (C&M)
10.	Dr. Waheed Asghar	Sr. Chief (ECA)
11.	Ms. Nadia Shafiq	Sr. Chief (Env.&CC.)
12.	Mr. Abid Inayat Shekih	Chief (Technical)
13.	Mr. Musa Raza	Assistant Chief (Coord-II)
14.	Ms. Rabbia Ali	Assistant Chief (FW&F)
15.	Ms. Sania Sajjad	Planning Officer (FW&F)
16.	Mr. Khalid Javid	Consultant (ID)
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD (SOUTH PUNJAB)		
17.	Mr. Akhter Mandhaira	Addl. Secretary
18.	Mr. Malik Ghulam Fareed	Chief
19.	Mr. Muhammad Rashid	Assistant Chief
URBAN UNIT		
20.	Mr. Muhammad Adnan	Program Manager
PUNJAB ECONOMIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE (PERI)		
21.	Dr. Muhammad Avais	Chief of Research
DIRECTORATE OF MONITORING & EVALUATION (DG M&E)		
22.	Mr. Muhammad Asad Khan	Director (Coord. & Monitoring)
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION DEPARTMENT		
23.	Mr. Khuram Waqas Malik	Eng. Economist
FORESTRY, WILDLIFE & FISHERIES DEPARTMENT		
24.	Mr. Mubeen Ilahi	Director General (Wildlife)
25.	Mr. Junaid Nadeem	Deputy Chief Wildlife Rangers (Headquarter)
FINANCE DEPARTMENT		
26.	Mr. M. Adnan Zahid	AS (F)

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