



Off # 042-99059302

NO.12(9) PO(COORD-II)P&D/2025
GOVERNMENT OF THE PUNJAB
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Dated Lahore the 24th April, 2025

267

1. The Secretary to Government of the Punjab,
 - i. Finance Department
 - ii. FW&F Department
 - iii. Environment Protection Department
2. The Secretary, P&D South Punjab Secretariat, Bahawalpur.
3. The Chief Economist/ All Members, P&D Board.
4. The Director, Punjab Economic Research Institute (PERI).
5. The Director General, Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E).
6. The Chief Executive Officer, Urban Unit, Lahore.

Subject: **MINUTES / DECISIONS OF THE MEETING OF PROVINCIAL DEVELOPMENT WORKING PARTY (PDWP).**
(SECTOR: FW&F)

I am directed to enclose herewith a copy of minutes of **75th PDWP meeting held on 18th April, 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. (2024-25)	Name of the Item	Approved Cost (Rs. in million)
6	3276 (New)	Master Planning and Implementation for Eco-Tourism at Changa Manga Wildlife Reserve, Lal Suhanra National Park, Wetlands and Protected Areas in Punjab.	8,710.57

Abraham Mall

(ABRAHAM MALL)
PLANNING OFFICER (COORD-II)

A Copy, along-with copy of the minutes, is forwarded to the:

Sr. No.	PARTICULARS
	PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT BOARD:
1	Sr. Chiefs:- (Coord. & Mont.), ENV & FW&F / Chiefs: ECA, Technical, Consultancy / Consultant (Coord)
2	Manager (MIS) P&D Board
3	PSO to Chairman, P&D Board.
4	PS to Secretary, P&D Board.
	C.C.
5	Chief (Food & Agriculture), M/o Planning, Dev. & Special Initiatives, Govt. of Pakistan, "P" Block, Pak Secretariat, Islamabad.

Abraham Mall

PLANNING OFFICER (COORD-II)

	GOVERNMENT OF THE PUNJAB PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT BOARD FW&F SECTION
MINUTES OF 75TH PDWP MEETING HELD ON 18.04.2025	
Agenda Item No. 6	Master Planning and Implementation for Eco-Tourism at Changa Manga Wildlife Reserve, Lal Suhanra National Park, Wetlands and Protected Areas in Punjab ADP No. 3276 (New)
Date & Time:	18.04.2025 (Wednesday) At 12:30 P.M
Venue:	Auditorium P&D Board
Participants:	List Attached

The Chief (Env.&CC), P&D Board briefed the forum that the project titled "Master Planning and Implementation for Eco-Tourism at Changa Manga Wildlife Reserve, Lal Suhanra National Park, Wetlands and Protected Areas in Punjab" has been included in the ADP 2024-25 under GS. No. 3276 as a new scheme, with an allocation of Rs. 1,000.00 million. However, the nomenclature of the scheme submitted by the department differs from the nomenclature printed in the ADP 2024-25, i.e. 'Eco-Tourism at Changa Manga and Wetlands, Uchali & Chashma'. She further added that the Forestry, Wildlife & Fisheries Department has submitted the PC-I for the project, with an estimated cost of 8,793.025 million and a gestation period of 24 months (til June 2026), for consideration of the PDWP.

2. She further stated that these sites are currently facing a range of challenges, including deforestation, habitat loss, illegal hunting and fishing, agricultural encroachment, domestic waste disposal in lakes, inadequate visitor facilities, and a lack of sustainable, eco-friendly infrastructure. As a result, these areas have become increasingly vulnerable to exploitative consumerism and unregulated tourist activities. Therefore, the project aims to promote ecotourism, environmental education, and biodiversity conservation by developing Changa Manga, Chashma, and Uchali as key destinations. It seeks to create sustainable attractions, support wildlife conservation, generate economic opportunities for local communities, and advance research in biodiversity and ecotourism.

3. The forum was further apprised that PC-I of the subject scheme was discussed and deliberated in detail in the Pre-PDWP meetings held on 14.04.2025 and 17.04.2025 under the chairmanship of Secretary P&D Board / Member (Env. & CC.), P&D Board. As a result of these meetings, the cost of the scheme has been reduced from Rs. 8,793.025 million to Rs. 8,710.57 million.

Discussion:

4. The Director General, Wildlife & Parks, briefed the forum on the interventions proposed at each ecotourism site, namely Changa Manga, Uchhali, and Chashma wetlands. The Chair inquired about how the proposed interventions are linked to biodiversity conservation. The Biodiversity Specialist, PMU explained that the interventions aim to promote sustainable ecotourism in these selected biodiversity hotspot areas. The local community will be engaged through economic incentives, such as job creation. Through the proposed community engagement and awareness programs at each site, responsibility will be instilled among the local community, emphasizing that these economic incentives are directly linked to the preservation of biodiversity. Furthermore, a Research Centre proposed at Changa Manga will help to promote biodiversity research.

271
to be elite-centric. He further expressed concern that the development of tourism at these sites could ultimately degrade the sanctity and ecology of these areas. He suggested that a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model should be considered instead of investing billions in the project. He recommended that the government limit its role to regulation and invite the private sector to take part in the development and management of the sites.

6. In response, the CEO, Urban Unit clarified that the proposed interventions are specifically designed for middle-class citizens, as the elite already have the means and resources to experience wilderness abroad. These interventions aim to provide the public with an immersive experience of wildlife and biodiversity in nature. He requested the Director General, W&P, to ensure that biodiversity in these areas is not adversely affected by the construction of the proposed interventions. He further added that, currently, due to encroachment, lack of supervision, and weak law enforcement, biodiversity is already at risk at Changa Manga. Without government intervention, the natural habitat will be compromised. Furthermore, the Director General, W&P assured that the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for ecotourism sites will be followed during the construction of the proposed infrastructure.

7. The Chair further inquired about the increase of Rs. 754.67 million in the Conservancy & Works proposed at Changa Manga following the Pre-PDWP meeting. The Senior Manager-Projects, PMU, explained that the capital cost component for the 'Electric Tram' was reallocated from the revenue side (i.e. Transport) to Conservancy & Works. Therefore, the increase is due to this reallocation, rather than an expansion of the project scope.

8. The Chair inquired about the vehicles (including Safari Jeeps, Motorcycles), electric tram, and electric vehicles (EVs) proposed for Changa Manga. The Director General, W&P, explained that safari jeeps will be procured to provide visitors with an immersive jungle safari experience, while an electric tram will be acquired to replace the existing one, which is currently in a dilapidated condition. Regarding EVs, he informed that they will be used to facilitate transportation for tourists staying at the Ecolodges and glamping pods. The forum agreed with the proposed transport arrangements for these sites.

9. The Chair expressed the view that the FWF Department would need to implement a strict regulatory framework to ensure that the development of eco-tourism does not lead to uncontrolled or haphazard economic development in the areas. The Director General, Wildlife & Parks, assured that recent amendments to the legal framework, along with the strengthening of the Wildlife Protection Force through new recruitments, have equipped the department to enforce such controls effectively.

10. While discussing the human resource requirements for the project, the forum was of the view that, instead of hiring people on the PPS mode, the AD should opt for creating SNEs through the Finance Department, as all the positions are specialist roles. The forum expressed concern that, after the completion of the project, the experience gained by these individuals would be wasted. The Director General, Wildlife & Parks, responded that these positions are required on an immediate basis, and hiring through SNE is a lengthy and cumbersome process. Therefore, the Administrative Department has opted for recruitment under the PPS mode. However, it was assured that, upon completion of the project, these

posts will be transitioned to SNE. The forum agreed with the human resource requirements proposed by the department for the project.

11. While briefing the forum on the interventions proposed at the Ramsar sites i.e. Uchali and Chashma; the Chief (Environment & Climate Change), P&D Board, provided an overview of the Ramsar Convention. She highlighted that the Ramsar Convention, officially known as the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, is an international treaty focused on the conservation and wise use of wetlands. Adopted in 1971 in Ramsar, Iran, and coming into force in 1975, the convention aims to protect wetlands as vital habitats for wildlife and to promote their conservation and sustainable use globally, in order to sustain biodiversity and human well-being. The Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MoCC&EC) has designated specific sites as Ramsar Sites based on the established criteria of the Ramsar Convention.

12. The Director General, W&P, further briefed the forum on the interventions proposed at the Ramsar sites and informed them that the process of acquiring private land at these two locations is underway for the construction of parking areas, eco-lodges, and related facilities. In response to a query from the Chair regarding the already established jetty at Uchali, the Director General, W&P, informed that the Tourism Department had previously constructed a concrete jetty at Uchali Lake, effectively dividing the lake into two parts. The Member (Energy), P&D Board, raised concerns regarding waste management, particularly in relation to the proposed floating restaurant at Uchali. He expressed the view that visitors might dispose of their trash into the lake, thereby contributing to its pollution. The Director General, W&P responded that a provision for solid waste management plan has been included in the PC-I and will be formulated prior to the execution of the component at the sites.

13. The Secretary, P&D, highlighted that during the Pre-PDWP meetings, the department was requested to incorporate a detailed analysis in the PC-I regarding the alignment of the proposed interventions with the Ramsar Convention, to ensure that no activity is undertaken which could harm the conservation status of the wetlands. In response, the Biodiversity Specialist (PMU) shared a document containing a detailed analysis of each intervention and its permissibility under the Ramsar Convention.

14. The representative from the Environmental Protection Department commented that the proposed interventions would require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) at each proposed site, and that no intervention should be initiated prior to its completion.

15. The Senior Chief (Coordination), P&D Board, pointed out that the department has proposed a change in the nomenclature of the scheme. Therefore, a summary should be initiated at the earliest for approval of the competent forum regarding the change in project nomenclature. Furthermore, to ensure transparency, it was recommended that the design consultancy be engaged by the PMU, while the resident supervision consultant should be engaged by the Administrative Department. The Member (Energy), P&D Board, also emphasized that the hiring of consultants should be target-based rather than time-based. The forum agreed with this proposal and directed the department to ensure that all consultancies are structured around specific deliverables and outcomes, making them target-bound instead of time-bound.

the AD are not vetted by the competent authority. The Director General W&P informed that the post of 'Chief Works & Infrastructure' (BPS-19) under PMU of the Wildlife Department has been approved by the PDWP in its meeting dated 16.09.2025. Furthermore, the Department has initiated a case for granting powers of technical sanction and vetting to 'Chief Works & Infrastructure'. The forum directed the department to furnish the vetted copies of cost estimates to the Chief (Technical) P&D Board for vetting.

275

17. After incorporation of decisions of PDWP, the cost of the project was approved at a cost of Rs. 8,710.57 million with the following break-up

Sr. #	Item of Work	Rs. In Million
		Cost Approved by PDWP
1	Conservancy & Works	6,158.77
2	Machinery, Stores & Equipment	132.60
3	Transport	428.28
4	Cost of Establishment	139.44
5	Commodities & Services	1,851.48
	Total	8,710.57

Decisions:

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

- i. The scheme was approved at a cost of Rs. 8,710.57 million till June, 2026 subject to fulfillment of all codal, legal / procedural formalities by the Sponsoring Department as well as Executing Agencies.
- ii. A summary to be initiated by the AD for approval of the Provincial Cabinet regarding change in nomenclature of the scheme to 'Eco-Tourism at Changa Manga and Wetlands, Uchali & Chashma' instead of 'Master Planning and Implementation for Eco-Tourism at Changa Manga Wildlife Reserve, Lal Suhanra National Park, Wetlands and Protected Areas in Punjab'.
- iii. The cost estimates duly technically vetted by the Department shall be submitted to Technical section of the P&D Board for vetting.
- iv. The basis of load calculation for the solar system should be incorporated in the PC-I and provided to the Energy Section of P&DB for vetting.
- v. Resident Supervision Consultants should be hired by the AD.
- vi. ToRs for consultancies; such as design consultancy, resident supervision, and solid waste management; shall be cleared by the Consultancy Section of the P&D Board.
- viii. All consultancies shall be structured around specific deliverables and outcomes thereby making them target-based rather than time-based.
- ix. An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) shall be carried out at each site prior to the commencement of construction work.
- x. A solid waste management plan shall be formulated prior to the execution of work at the sites.
- xi. All vehicles procured by the AD shall be properly branded as the property of the FWF Department.
- xii. The AD to revise the PC-I accordingly and upload on SMDP Portal.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks.

Minutes of 75th meeting of PDWP held on 18.04.2025

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

75th PDWP MEETING, FY 2024-25

Dated: 18.04.2025

Name of the Officer		Designation / Department
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT BOARD		
1	Barrister Nabeel A. Awan	Chairman, P&D Board (In Chair)
2	Dr. Asif Tufail	Secretary, P&D Board / Member (Env. & CC.)
3	Mr. M. Masood Anwar	Chief Economist
4	Mr. Shafaat Ali	Member (Health)
5	Mr. Khawar Kamal	Member (LG&CD / UD)
6	Mr. Aslam Javed	Member (Agriculture)
7	Mr. Sadaqat Hussain Khan	Member (Energy)
8	Mr. Agha M.Ali Abbas	Member (Governance)
9	Mr. Mohsin Abbas Shakir	Member (Water)
10	Mr. Mahmood-ul- Hassan	Sr. Chief (RP)
11	Mr. Sohail Rauf	Sr. Chief (C&M)
12	Ms. Saba Asghar Ali	Chief (Env. & CC.)
13	Mr. Abid Inayat Sheikh	Chief (Technical)
14	Mr. Musa Raza	Assistant Chief (Coord-II)
15	Ms. Rabbia Ali	Assistant Chief (FW&F)
P&D BOARD SOUTH SECRETARIAT		
16	Mr. Muhammad Akhtar Mundhaira,	Additional Secretary
17	Mr. Malik Ghulam Farid	Chief
18	Mr. Muhammad Rashid	Assistant Chief
URBAN UNIT		
19	Mr. Umar Masud	CEO
DG (M&E)		
20	Mr. Mumtaz Ahmad	Director Operator
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION DEPARTMENT		
21	Mr. Khuram Waqas Malik	Engineer Economist
PUNJAB ECONOMIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE (PERI)		
22	Dr. Muhammad Avais	Research Economist
FOREST, WILDLIFE & FISHERIES		
23	Mr. Muddasir Riaz Malik	Director General (Wildlife & Parks)
24	Ms. Saba Adil	PD (PMU)
25	Mr. Junaid Nadem	Deputy Director (Headquarters)
FINANCE DEPARTMENT		
26	Mr. Ihtsham Haider	TA