



Subject: **MEETING MINUTES: CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF WATERSHEDS UNDER 'REVIVAL OF BALOCHISTAN WATER RESOURCES PROGRAMME (RBWRP)' GIS ANALYSIS OF PISHIN RIVER BASIN HELD ON 1<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2022, UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF CHIEF FOREIGN AID IN THE P&D DEPARTMENT.**

A consultative meeting for discussing the criteria for selection of watersheds under the "Revival of Balochistan Water Resources Programme (RBWRP) - GIS Analysis of Pishin River Basin" was held under the Chairmanship of Chief (Foreign Ai) in the Committee Room of P&D Department on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022.

The following participated in the meeting:

S#	Name & Designation	Department / PMU
1.	Mr. Najeeb Ullah Chief of Section (Foreign Aid) (Chair)	P&DD
2.	Mr. Abdul Manan, Assistant Chief (Foreign Aid)	P&DD
3.	Dr. Muhammad Adil Research Officer (Foreign Aid)	P&DD
4.	Mr. Fayazul Haq Additional Secretary (Technical)	Irrigation Department
5.	Dr. Abdul Jabbar Sarparah, APVO	Livestock & Dairy Development Department
6.	Mr. Syed Ali Imran Chief Conservator Forest	Forest & Wildlife Department
7.	Mr. Iftikhar Qureshi Deputy Secretary (Dev.)	Agriculture Department
8.	Mr. Waleed Mehdi International Project Coordinator (IPC)/Head of Office	FAO Balochistan
9.	Mr. Amanullah Kakar Provincial Coordinator	FAO Balochistan
10.	Dr. Muhammad Arshad Senior Water Resource Expert	FAO Pakistan
11.	Dr. Muhammad Akhtar Bhatti NRM Expert	Linden Mills Consulting Firm
12.	Mr. Shamsher H. Khan Economic Development Expert	Landell Mills Inc. Consulting Firm
13.	Dr. Syed Muhammad Khair Applied Agronomic Research Expert	

3. The Meeting started with a brief introduction of the participants. The Chair, in his opening remarks, welcomed all the participants and appreciated the efforts of the project team in supporting the Government of Balochistan.

4. Mr. Waleed Mahdi, International Project Coordinator (IPC) / Head of Office Balochistan thanked participants and stated that the purpose of this meeting is to build consensus on the Criteria for selecting watersheds in four (4) river basins. This follows the agreed selection of the four River Basins in 22 June and was notified by P&D Department on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

5. Pishin River basin is used as a case to apply these criteria using GIS. After developing a consensus on selection criteria, next is the Rapid Assessment of watersheds for ground-truthing, to be done by the River Basin Technical Working Group, consisting of staff from FAO, Landell Mills and Line Departments.



6. Dr. Muhammad Arshad presented<sup>4</sup> the indicators and weighted average for the selection of watersheds; which included;

- a. Potential for Ground Water Recharge
- b. Potential for Surface Water harvesting
- c. Potential or Livestock-Based Interventions

7. He further added that apart from the scientific criteria, Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index is also considered as an indicator for the prioritization of the watershed. He further presented the exclusion criteria for disqualification of the watersheds, this included;

- d. Areas with relatively low productivity potential for livestock and cropping in comparison to other areas (% area falling under rugged and rough terrain);
- e. Desert and hyper-arid areas, (Annual Average Rainfall below 100 mm);
- f. Areas with High-Security Risk.

8. Following the presentation, FAO IPC clarified that the proposed criteria and results will guide on the selection of watersheds based on a scientific approach like the selection of the four River Basins (RBs). As agreed with the Chief Foreign Aid, the watersheds of the other basins will be selected on first come first serve basis applying the criteria on the three other basins. However, the final selection will be done after the field-level validation by NRM specialists.

9. After the presentation, the forum opened for discussion and views from the participants. The CFA suggested that the selection criteria presented by FAO consultant needs to be finalized by the forum and if the departments agree with the proposed criteria, then they may suggest applying the same on rest of the River Basins (RBs). He further added that maximum information is available through GIS but how can other indicators, such as existing and available structures carried out through different sources, be added, if once the weightage is agreed. The Chair endorsed the criteria as presented. Furthermore, the representative of Irrigation Department principally agreed with the criteria and suggested that scoping activities can further be undertaken in the selected watersheds.

10. The representative of Forest Department added to the discussion that currently water is an anomaly and suggested three (3) criteria to be considered for the selection of watersheds; a) Population of the watershed, b) Livestock population density, and c) Area of rainfall fed for surface water irrigation. Dr. Arshad responded by reiterating that these points have already been included with livestock density which is given an equal weightage as is done with the water indicators.

11. Nevertheless, the representative of Irrigation Department asked that more torrential rains have been reported this year which may affect the selection criteria. Dr. Arshad endorsed the point but informed that data of last 20 years rain has been taken into account for the analysis presented.

12. The NRM Expert (Landell Mills) added to the discussion stating that Livestock is very important factor therefore; 15-20% potential can be given to the rangeland management. Dr. Arshad responded that more than 60% preference has already be given to Rangeland management in the prescribed criteria but still it can be rephrased up to 70%, while doing the same will not make any significant difference to the final selection of watersheds.

13. In addition, the Economic Development Expert (Landell Mills) stated that the process presented in the meeting is being called the process of selection criteria, why not to call it the prioritization exercise. Dr. Arshad responded that the process is the pre-qualification exercise of watersheds but still further selection will be done in consultation with the line department at the River Basin level after consultation and ground truthing. He further requested Landell Mills to engage the NRM consultants at the earliest to commence the rapid assessment in the field.

14. The CFA requested the forum that if departments are in agreement with the criteria, then it could be applied for selection of watersheds of the remaining three River Basins. The representative from Irrigation Department agreed with the criteria. Similarly, the representative of the Agriculture Department also agreed with the criteria and suggested that it should not be based on the population, but the potentiality of the Water Basin as well to be considered for inclusion in the selected indicators.

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<sup>4</sup>Presentation is attached at Annexure-I.

The representative from the Livestock Department endorsed the criteria and also suggested that rangeland management and population of small ruminant must be given high consideration. The representative from the Forest Department appreciated the scientific criteria formulated by FAO and apprised the forum that the department will come up with response in written, if received.

15. The FAO IPC clarified that after the selection of watersheds, the scoping of activities will indicate the amount of workload and responsibilities of every Department in the RBs. The CFA suggested that FAO will continue the preparation process for rest of the RBs so that watershed selection of other River Basins could also be finalized.

16. The Chair thanked all the members of the meeting for active participation in the entire process with productive inputs.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks from and to the chair.

O/C

Chief (Foreign Aid)

NO. P&D. RO (F.A)/ 141-D /2021/ 428 DATED QUETTA 21<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2022. /1

C.C:

1. The Secretary, Irrigation Department, GoB, Quetta.
2. The Secretary, Agriculture & Cooperative Department, GoB, Quetta.
3. The Secretary, Livestock Department, GoB, Quetta.
4. The Secretary, Forest & Wild Life Department, GoB, Quetta.
5. The Chief of Section (Foreign Aid) P&D Department, Quetta.
6. The Head of Office (FAO) Balochistan Quetta
7. The Representative of Landell Mills (EU TA), Islamabad
8. The P.S to ACS (Dev) P&D Department, Quetta.
9. The PS to Secretary (Planning) P&DD, GoB, Quetta.
10. Section Master File
11. Master File.



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21/09/2022  
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