

# **Consultative Workshop on ADB Sindh Coastal & Inland Community Development Project**

**January 30, 2006, Karachi**

**Preliminary Report**



**PARTICIPATORY  
DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES [PDI]**

# Consultative Workshop on ADB Sindh Coastal & Inland Community Development Project

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## Preliminary Report

Supported by



### **PARTICIPATORY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES [PDI]**

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## **1. Sindh Coast**

Pakistan's coastline has two provinces: Balochistan and Sindh. A total of 350 kilometers (km) of coastline extends along the province of Sindh. A combination of the subtropical environment and the Riverine flow into the Indus delta has resulted in a highly productive coastal zone of significant biodiversity and economic value. Recent estimates indicate that of the total marine resource production for Pakistan, 71% is derived from Sindh.

The coastal communities are the poorest communities in Pakistan and their livelihood resources are under constant threat of depletion. About 90% of the households in the coastal communities rely on fishing and other fisheries related activities. Besides fishing coastal agriculture and livestock rearing are also key livelihoods of the coastal communities. Illiteracy rates are very high- estimated at 90%. Almost two thirds of the households are indebted to informal sector. Rapid degradation of coastal resources has created a threat of socio-ecological catastrophe. Access to service provision, such as primary schools, mosque schools, health services and potable water is miserably low.

The key cause of the destruction of livelihood resources in Sindh coastal region especially in its two districts i.e. Thatta and Badin is the reduction in Indus River fresh water in the Indus Delta as a result of construction of barrages and dams upstream. Indus flow reduction has resulted in grave degradation of the agriculture, fisheries and forestry resources in the coastal region. Livestock sector has almost completely vanished as the green pastures have been replaced by the salinity, water-logging and seawater intrusion.

However, man-made disasters in the form of mega projects financed by World Bank and other international lending agencies have greatly added to the vulnerabilities and poverty levels of the local communities. For example Left Bank Outfall Drain [LBOD] funded by World Bank and more than 10 other international agencies has been playing havoc with the lives and livelihoods of the coastal communities since last many years as a result of design defects. Similarly, commercial shrimp culture project of ADB implemented in Thatta district some years back also greatly destroyed the local environment and livelihoods by increasing environmental pollution levels and degrading agriculture lands.

## **2. New ADB and World Bank Projects in Coastal Sindh / Indus Delta**

Already bearing the brunt of mega projects of the past including LBOD, the poor and vulnerable coastal communities are facing new challenges and threats from the international lending agencies. Without proper community consultation and without any local level planning both World Bank and Asian Development Bank

[ADB] are launching two mega projects in the coastal districts of Thatta and Badin.

### **3. ADB Sindh Coastal and Inland Community Development Project Brief**

Asian Development Bank consultants have recently completed the interim report of the above mentioned projects. The report has been disseminated among different stakeholders for their comments. The brief of the activities/ actions suggested in the project are as under:

#### **PROJECT COMPONENTS**

- Institutional Development
- Community Development

#### **INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMPONENT OF THE PROJECT**

##### **DEVELOPMENT OF COASTAL LAND USE PLAN**

- Identification of physical features and demographics
- Use of satellite imagery to identify progressive changes in the coastal environment
- Development of GIS Database
- Subdivision of coastal talukas into zones [identifying settlements, demographics, industrial usage, ports, natural resources, tourism, agriculture. Water quality, fishing]

##### **ORGANIZATIONAL RESTRUCTURING OF COASTAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

- Additional resources and new organizational structure
- Technical staff and suitable equipments
- Establishment of different sections i.e. donor liaison, finance and administration, Program Management Unit [ PMU] and Offices in Thatta and Badin

##### **FISHERIES SECTOR STUDY**

- Enumerating the state of resources, exploitation levels, the structure and staffing of the Department of Fisheries , defining opportunities and undertaking some basic studies to put figures on hazy areas
- Designing a structure, skills levels and legislative basis for Fisheries Department

## INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING OF FISHERIES DEPARTMENT

- Administration of the department
- Data collection and interpretation
- Extension and training
- Research and development activities
- Relations with other organizations
- Enforcing and licensing

## REFORM PROCESS IN FISHERIES DEPARTMENT

- Redundancy of those not considered necessary to the effective operation of the new structure of the department
- Recruitment of skilled and qualified staff for those posts either newly created, or not filled, or vacant due to redundancy
- Appropriate training programs and on the job training for the new and retained staff

## TWO STRATEGIES FOR AGRICULTURE SECTOR

- Strategy -1: Improved Land Management in Pilot Areas
- Strategy-2: Dry land Area Strategy

## IMPROVED LAND MANAGEMENT IN PILOT AREAS

- Improvement in land management and changes in land use practice, Improved inputs
- Improve awareness and knowledge through practical technology transfer
- Incorporation of Land Company to hold title to Government Land to make the same available to a group of farmers [to resolve land tenure issues]
- On farm or near farm processing, Marketing and entrepreneurial skill, Establishment of Agriculture Service Centers

## DRY LAND AREA STRATEGY

- Use of marginal land for livestock
- Adoptive research on pilot plots of fodder crops suited to semi arid conditions
- Developing a cadre of skilled animal husbandry specialists
- Establishment of small chicken, fish and livestock grow-out farms

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMPONENT OF THE PROJECT**

### **INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT**

- Investment by the project in large scale wharf and jetty infrastructure , significant roads or ice machines in the project area is inappropriate at this time
- However relatively low cost [infrastructure] inputs would be best addressed by grant scheme to be implemented by NGOs /Communities

### **MARICULTURE AND MANGROVE PLANTINGS**

- Establish small , low technology fish ponds supported by mangrove plantings
- Mangrove plantation in Thatta : around Keti Bunder, Shah Bunder and the northwest corner of Zero Point
- Payment to the communities for collection of propagules, planting of seedlings and survival of the each seedling

### **INCOME GENERATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT**

- Employment Market Assessment : Survey
- Technical and vocational trainings
- Support to Business Development Service Providers
- Qaraz-e-Hasna fund for infrastructure and other income generating activities via NGOs, CBOs and Union Councils

### **PDI Consultative Workshop on the Asian Development Bank Project**

Participatory Development Initiatives [PDI] jointly with Actionaid Pakistan is implementing a community based awareness and advocacy project on the environmental impacts of those projects in Thatta and Badin. In this connection, a number of consultative meetings and workshops have been organized in different tehsils of Thatta and Badin.

In a new development, the consultants have submitted their Interim Report on Asian Development Bank's SINDH COASTAL & INLAND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT. The document has been distributed to a limited number of institutions and departments for the comments. Given the importance of the document being as the basis for the mega project of ADB in coastal Sindh, there was strong need that there should be comprehensive review of this document by the civil society as well as the coastal communities and their representatives.

For that purpose, PDI jointly with Actionaid Pakistan intends to organize a CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP ON ADB SINDH COASTAL AND INLAND PROJECT INTERIM REPORT on January 30, 2006 at PMA House Saddar Karachi. The objectives of the workshop were as under:

- To engage the civil society, experts and communities in the review of the document
- To identify the gaps and flaws in the document detrimental for community livelihoods
- To suggest alternative sustainable and pro-poor development activities

## Preliminary Report on the Workshop Deliberations / Recommendations

- Asian Development Bank’s proposed project “ Sindh Coastal & Inland Community Development Project” has completely ignored the key issues of Coastal Sindh especially the issues of continuing degradation of the fertile lands as a result of failure of LBOD project, growing seawater intrusion and drastic reduction in fisheries livelihoods as a result of reduction in Indus flows downstream Kotri Barrage and has suggested no remedial or policy measures for properly addressing those issues



- The project has not addressed the key issue of the water rights of the lower riparian especially the water right of downstream Kotri Barrage [ Indus Delta] which is being denied to the region despite acknowledgement of the same right in Water Accord 1991
- The key problem of the coastal Sindh/Indus Delta is the reduction in the flows of Indus River downstream. Kotri Barrage and subsequent water shortages and natural resource degradation in the area. However, the project has emphasized on water management which shows complete deviation from the key issues.

- The project documents carries two parts i-e Problem analysis and project design. The problem analysis identifies the factual and key problems of the region including reduction in Indus flows and subsequent livelihood resource degradation. However, interestingly, the project design part of the documents completely ignores the key issues and comes up with completely new suggestions. As such, there is wide gap between the problem analysis and the project design. For example project documents reads on the page 9 that almost every group interviewed by the PPTA mentioned the lack of drinking water. Similarly on the same page the needs of the area has been prioritized as improvement of the drinking water supply, improvement of health facilities including access to medicines and health care professionals, building link roads between the remote settlements, providing services of teachers and improving the management of irrigation water and mitigation of losses from the system etc. However, the project document has ignored almost all the needs and has come up with its own activities. The project activities in place of addressing the issues of threats to the livelihoods / growing reduction in the livelihoods tilt towards the increasing efforts for the exploitation of the resources. The project activities suggest privatization of the institutions and land when it talks about restructuring the Fisheries Department and establishment of Land Company to hold title to Government Land to make the same available to a group of farmers



- Despite identification of major problems of natural resource degradation and subsequent poverty in the region, the project design has major emphasis on the re-structuring and capacity building of three major government departments i-e Coastal Development Authority, Sindh Fisheries Department and Agriculture Departments while the share of community development activities including farming, crop production, water supply vocational skills, Karaz-e-Hasna etc is minor [although there are reservations on many of those suggested community development activities.]

- The problem analysis part of the project has held the issue of governance as the main culprit. However, the project design completely fails in suggesting activities to improve the governance. There is completely no mention of the solution of the same problem in the project design.



- On the one hand the project document terms the bad governance as the key cause of the failure of the provinces projects/projects, while on the other hand almost all the project actions have been suggested to be carried out through the federal, provincial and local government departments.
- Despite identifying water supply, education, and health as the key needs of the coastal communities in the problem analysis, these key communities needs have been given low priority in the project design. Some demand based activities have been suggested in those fields assuming that he communities would become empowered to come forward and demand and manage the projects.
- Lack of basis infrastructure is one of the key problems in the coastal districts. However, infrastructure activities have also been avoided to greater extent.

- About 80 percent of the project actions have been suggested to be carried out by the government departments, while only 20% activities have been suggested to be carried out by the communities, civil society and the local government.



- Community based eco-tourism options have also been ignored in the project design. No major project activities have been suggested in this important field.
- Lack of community organization and empowerment has been identified as one of the key issues of the coastal communities. However, no any key activity has been suggested in the project for community organization, participation and empowerment. In this connection, there is no input in the project document.
- It has been stated in the project problem diagnosis selection that the communities are very much scattered and unorganized. Similarly, very negative opinion has been given about the civil society organizations. However, in the community development component of the project main project activities have been made as demand based, hoping that the communities would demand such project and the civil society organizations and the communities will manage those projects. This shows a clear

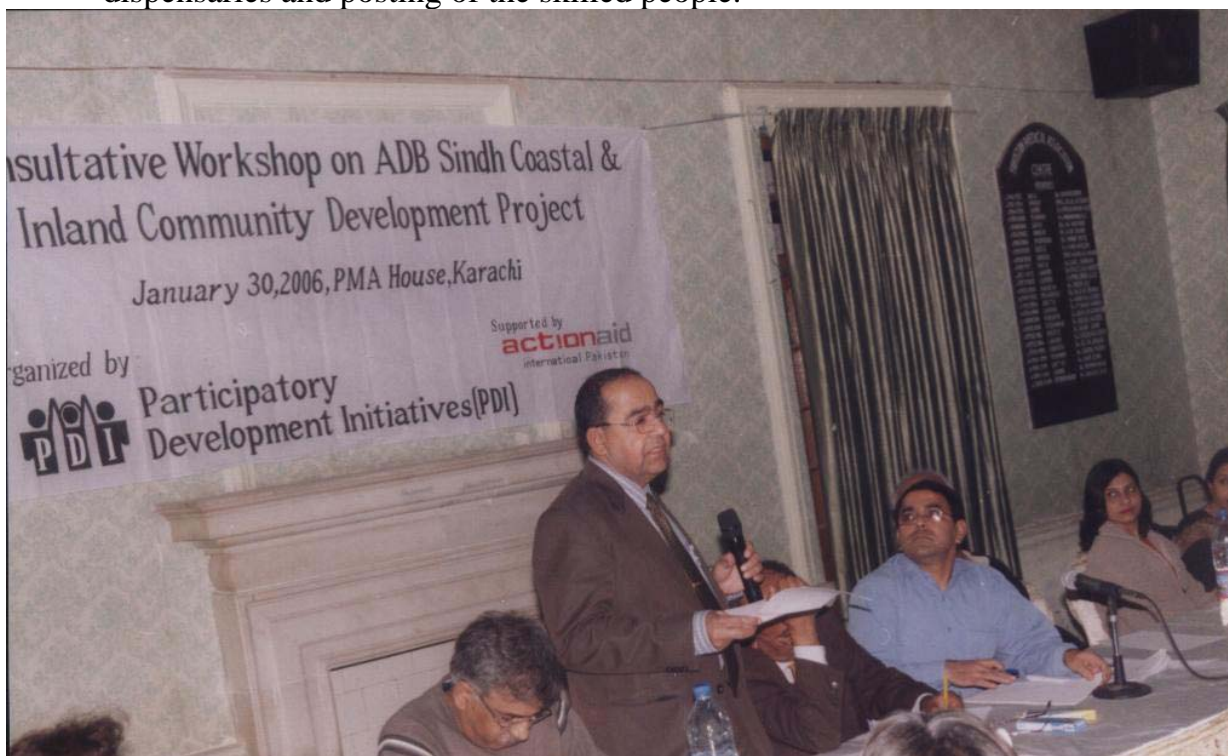
contradiction in the problem analysis and project design components of the project.

- The civil society organizations especially NGOs have been largely undermined in the project documents despite the fact that there are more than 50 registered and very active NGOs in Badin. Similarly, there are also a number of active NGOs in Thatta district.



- The project suggests skill development activities. However, skill development has not been integrated with the employment opportunities. There is no mention of increasing employment opportunities in the area. It has been generally assumed that the skill development would automatically provide employment opportunities to the communities.
- Although there is suggestion of overall institutional capacity building of CDA, Fisheries and Agriculture department. However, there is no mention of improvement in the outcome of the existing structures and institutions of those departments in the coastal area. For example, the outcomes of Chilya Farm Thatta and the Fisheries Hatchry in Badin have been nominal. There are no actions suggested to improve the performance of those structures. It has been assumed that some training would improve the performance of these structures which is a vague assumption.

- Agriculture has been given low priority in the project activities as only two pilot projects have been suggested. Similarly livestock has also been taken very slightly as the project mentions that trained people could be made available or trainings would be organized. However, trainings have never been the problem, the basic problem has been the strengthening of livestock dispensaries and posting of the skilled people.



- The subproject of “Karz-e-Hasna” has been suggested in the project; however, no proper procedural framework has been suggested. This scheme may not work. Money would be wasted and the civil society organizations and the communities would be corrupted. This micro-credit has never had viable impact in Pakistan unlike Bangladesh where it has worked well.
- Emphases have been placed on the re-plantation of mangroves. This may also not work well as fresh water flows have been reduced considerably and there are little opportunities of regeneration of mangroves. Mangroves have already vanished from Keti Bunder and Kharo Chaan Tehsils. However, there are very little opportunities of mangrove regeneration in Mirpur Sakro and Shah Bandar Tehsils. Due to lack of fresh water supply, dry mud flats are increasing and these are harsh conditions. Therefore, re-plantation may not become successful to greater extent.
- Two hundred twenty five km area covering the strip of thirty meters suggested for the mangrove plantation. This area is basically controlled by

Board of Revenue. In place of mangrove re-plantation, there are opportunities for better agro and social forestry which have been completely ignored in the project documents.

- Coastal land used planning would not be successful if it is done on the behalf of/for Coastal Development Authority. Because the coastal land is controlled and used by variety of departments therefore, there should be integrated coastal land use plan jointly by all the departments and stakeholders. The past experiences show that the areas where there have been, mangrove plantation efforts, by one department, has been occupied and used for infrastructure development by other departments.
- The core issues identified in the project analysis have been completely discarded in project design. The major emphasis has been laid in the project on so-called institutional reforms and capacity building while basic community needs have been given less importance.
- Project has been prepared without the proper mechanism of reality check on the ground and there is no clear mechanism of community participation in the project. For example giving education lowest priority in the project document is completely wrong assumption as what the coastal communities have been demanding after water, is the educational facilities especially teachers and schools.
- The project has completely ignored that issue of reduction in Indus flows downstream Kotri Barrage terming the same as political issue. The emphasis on the flow of Indus River in the coastal region should be the basic principle of all the development activities in Indus Delta.
- Inland Fisheries is one of the key areas of the livelihoods of the coastal communities. However, this sector has been completely ignored. Besides restructuring of Fisheries Department with no any other activity being suggested in Inland Fisheries. Similarly, Fresh water, drainage and Ramsar Sites have not been discussed in the project at all.
- Structural, legal and policy issues have also been avoided in the project. The problem diagnosis section of the document discusses those issues, however the project design section has completely ignored those key concerns
- Land tenure has been termed as a complex issue in the area however; in the project design this issue has also been completely ignored. Almost all the

major issues have been avoided or ignored in the project design. This shows that there is major input of bureaucrats in the project and there is little independent thought in the project. It also shows that the consultants had little knowledge about the coastal environment and their local counterparts have done their major work in the offices avoiding field survey and realities

- There is no mention of any EIA, conservation strategy etc in the whole project despite the fact that coastal areas are already facing serious threats to their ecology and livelihoods.
- The reform mechanisms are not clear in the project. Similarly, the community participation as well the sustainability of the project is also not clear in the project documents. The question is how the reforms suggested in the project documents would be maintained and kept sustainable once the project is over and there is no loan money available.
- There are wider gaps of knowledge and understanding in the project. Issues have been discussed and the basic causes have been ignored. If the causes have been discussed the remedies are not available
- The project document has been prepared without any consultation with the elected representatives of the area. The elected Sindh Assembly Members from Thatta and Badin have not been taken into confidence while developing the project document.
- The coastal region has been disaster prone. More than 20 disasters have hit the region since last 16 years inflicting heavy losses to the lives and the livelihoods of the coastal communities. However, the project document has completely ignored this key issue of the coastal area.
- Although the project problem diagnosis part accepts the fact that large scale migration has occurred from the coastal areas, however, no solution has been suggested to prevent the growing phenomenon of migration and displacement of the communities as a result of resource degradation and poverty
- There is a problem of corporation social responsibility in the coastal areas as a number of oil companies are involved in oil exploration and recently licenses have also been issued to the multinational companies for off-shore drilling in Indus Delta. This would bring further degradation to the

environment. However, the project document is completely silent on such important issues

- Conservation is the key issues for the mangroves and other ecology of Indus Delta. However, the project has not a single activity towards the conservation of the resources
- There is need of development of sustainable community based Coastal Resource Management Plan which the project document has ignored
- Provision of drinking water to the coastal communities living in the extreme coastal areas, basic health, education services as well as construction of small jetties and developing community based local marketing systems are also the key issues of the coastal communities which have not been properly addressed in the project document.
- The policy issues are the basic hurdles in the development of the coastal areas and responsible for the over exploitation of the resources. Pakistan is still lacking a comprehensive Sustainable Fisheries Policy as well as National Coastal Policy. The project activities have not covered those neglected areas of the coastal development
- Contract system in fishing is the key cause of fisheries exploitation. The project is silent on such kind of exploitation and no activity has been suggested to prevent such illegal exploitation of the resources through private contract systems.
- The payments to the community for planting mangrove seedlings would prove to be counter productive in the absence of community awareness and community organization campaigns. It would create a trend of greed and those communities who are planting and protecting the mangroves voluntarily would become disheartened
- Asian Development Bank, World Bank and other international lending agencies should accept the responsibility of deaths and disaster occurred in Badin and Thatta districts as a result of wrong design of the Tidal Link of Left Bank Outfall Drain [LBOD] and announce compensation for the deaths of more than 300 communities, displacement of more than 5000 people and degradation of thousands of acres of land before launching any new mega project in the coastal districts. ADB and World Bank should rehabilitate the faulty Tidal Link of LBOD and affected communities,

paying them compensation etc. As LBOD project has been completely failed therefore the loan of Rs 31 billion of LBOD should be written off by World Bank, Asian Development Bank and other lending agencies.

- The project document should be revamped after serious consultation with the local communities, district level governments and elected representatives, Sindh Assembly Members of the region and civil society organizations
- The needs identified by the communities should be the priorities of the project actions and the activities which suggest commercialization and further exploitation of the resources should not be made part of the project
- The key policy issues including the issue of water right of the Indus Delta should also be made part of the project

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