

WATER SECTOR TRANSFORMATION --- IN SINDH

Moving from irrigation water management to integrated water resources management

Current Water Resources Management in Sindh

- Primary focus is on irrigation
 - Irrigation Department
- Drivers for the Change in the WRM
 - Pollution from Industries and Municipalities
 - Worsening Water Security for Karachi ,large municipalities, and deserts
 - Deteriorating ecological habitats (forests, wetlands, lakes and Delta)
 - Poor Drainage and Increasing salinization
 - Ground Water Depletion
 - Increased upstream intake
 - Climate Change
- Lacking Institutional, WRM Policy Plan and Policy, and Legal Framework

Drivers for Change - BAU is not an option

- Global: Climate Change
- Regional: Upstream Indus Basin development (India, Punjab, Afghanistan) and regional integration (China)
- Provincial: Population Growth, Economic development and Urbanization
 - All contribute to increase water demand, pressures on freshwater resources, reductions in per capita water availability, worsening quality water and associated land resources

Direction

- Shifting Irrigation Centric Water Management to Broad Water Resources Management considering balance among economic, social and environmental values
- Economic –Sindh’s Economy is diversifying – WR allocation should be primarily based on economic value
- Environmental - Protecting globally important habitats, water quality, groundwater
- Social – Water Security for Karachi and Deserts, Public Health
- Institution - clear mandate as a custodian of WRM

Visions for Future WRM in Sindh

Water Sector Transformation

- Economically, Socially and Environmentally Sustainable and Balanced Water Resources Management and Allocation of available resources
- Climate and Upstream Development Resilience
- Improved water sector governance, including effective and efficient institutions and budget allocation
- Improved access to quality, reliable, equitable and affordable water services

Moving Forward

- Commitment of the GoSindh towards IWRM
 - Establishment of core working group and consultation meetings
 - Study tours to Japan/China
- Institutional Re-organization
 - Custodian of WRM – ID? (perhaps under the name of I&WR Department?)
 - Establishment of Coordination Mechanism – e.g. Apex Council (Sindh Water Council?)
- Develop a policy and legal framework
 - SWMO2002 is outdated and covers only irrigation
- Critical Investment in Infrastructure (beyond irrigation), environmental restoration and Agriculture Techniques

NEXT STEP

- Commitment of GoSindh
- Establishment of Inter-departmental Working Group
- Sindh Water Sector Status and Futures Report (Bank can augment the resources);
- Development of detailed concept note for possible Support from development partners as well as GEF/GCF