

Environment and Social Studies, Land Use Plan including Resettlement Framework for Thar Coal Fields

The development of Thar coalfields and associated establishment of coal-to-power projects are among the major objectives of the Government of Sindh. In the view of current power shortage in the country, it is necessary for the government to go for all available options for power generation. The coal-to-power is one of the least cost-options in the current scenario for Pakistan. Development of Thar coal for power generation will impact economic growth positively and ultimately complement efforts for poverty reduction in the country. Before the start of full scale mining and establishment of associated power plants, it is necessary to have environmental and social studies including Resettlement Frameworks for Thar Coal Fields. This would facilitate all stakeholders including investors by providing vital geographical information and also set basis against which changes in the environment and socio-economic situation in the area can be assessed once mining and power generation and associated activities begin. The subject study is being conducted by M/s MM Pakistan in association with Mott MacDonald.

Objectives of the Studies:

This study entitled as '*Environmental and Social Studies including Resettlement Frameworks, Land Use Plan for Thar Coal Fields*' comprises 2 components; I) Environment and Social studies, II) Land Use Plan.

The objective of component I- 'Environment and Social Studies' to be carried out over 22,000 sq. km in district Tharparkar and adjacent areas to coal field which can be affected, is to ensure that there is a basis for measuring and determining what impacts (positive or negative) mining, power generation, transmission and associated activities will have on the environment, people and their livelihoods, and cultural heritage of Thar area.

The objective of component II- is to develop appropriate mitigation mechanisms for the environmental as well as social aspects of mining, power generation and associated activities, and integrate them into the planning and development phase for the future mine and power projects. The implementation of these provisions will (i) minimize the adverse effects of the development on the environment and people, and to make this development 'sustainable'; and (ii) comply with international good practices (e.g. Equator Principles) for environmental and social sustainability to attract the international investors for the future development projects in Thar.

Deliverables of the Study

- Detailed Baseline Report along with description of methodology used in studies
- Report proposing 'air shed modeling and monitoring approach'

- Coal-to-Power Sector ESIA Handbook
- Environmental and Social Screening Manual
- Participatory and Consultation Plan
- Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) and Resettlement Plan
- Capacity Building Plan, Training Calendar and its implementation
- Scoping and Identification of Methodology and Monitoring Tools
- Strategic Environment and Social Assessment
- Land Use Plan for Thar Coalfield