

## Foreword



In September 2007, at a conference on Archaeology organized by the University of Hazara, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the closing address was delivered by Mr. Shakil Durrani who had just been confirmed as the Chairman of the Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA), Government of Pakistan. It was during this conference that Mr. Durrani was appraised of the threat to the immensely significant open-air gallery of rock carvings and inscriptions in District Diamer where WAPDA has proposed the building of a large dam, the reservoir of which would inundate an area of almost 100 kilometers, submerging the bulk of the petroglyphs which had been documented in detail by the Institute for Rock Carvings and Inscriptions Along the Karakoram Highway, University of Heidelberg, Germany. The then Vice-Chancellor of Hazara University, Dr. Ihsan Ali, requested Mr. Shakil Durrani to commit himself to the conservation of this vast cultural resource.

This commitment was followed up by Mr. Durrani when he commissioned the Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (CHIA) in order to fulfill obligations to both federal law as well as to the safeguard policies of international lending institutions which had been approached for the provision of financial assistance for the building of the Diamer Basha Dam. The CHIA was conducted in great detail by Dr. Pamela Rogers and Feryal Ali Gauhar in 2009. This document is available for perusal and can be used in conjunction with the Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) for a more profound understanding of the issues and solutions recommended in both the CHIA and CHMP.

In 2010, the Chilas Cultural Landscape was nominated by the University of Heidelberg through Dr. Harald Hauptmann for inclusion in the World Monument Fund's (WMF) list of endangered cultural heritage. WAPDA endorsed this nomination, and the WMF, through its Key Coordinator, Feryal Ali Gauhar, produced an Emergency Action Plan for the Chilas Cultural Landscape. During this process, local men from Diamer were trained to understand and recognize cultural heritage as well as potential buried remains as well as built heritage of historical and cultural significance. These young men can form a core group of local stakeholders who can be trained to conserve and display the cultural heritage in an appropriate center built for this purpose. The CHMP has recommended that the Chilas Fort be adapted and re-used for the purpose of the display and interpretation of the cultural resources of the area.

In 2012, with the confirmation of Syed Raghieb Shah as the new Chairman of WAPDA, the CHMP which had been submitted earlier was reviewed and found to be lacking in depth, scope and clarity. With the needs of the international lending institutions in mind, and with a clear commitment to the conservation of heritage endangered by the proposed dam, the Chairman commissioned the current document. The contract for the new CHMP was signed in 2013, with desk-based research commencing in May 2013.

The revised CHMP consists of four parts:

Part I: deals with a description of the location (site), the physical and socio-cultural context, and the impact of development induced displacement

Part II: presents the Statement of Significance and a detailed historical context for the rock carvings and inscriptions threatened by the building of the proposed dam

Part III: forms the core of the management plan with a legal framework, international standards for CHMP, international experiences of conserving heritage threatened by dam building, and a detailed matrix of sites, stones, carvings, their significance, and the potential archaeology of the area

Part IV: deals with built heritage, in the case of the CHMP, the Chilas Fort has been surveyed for its current condition, recommendations have been made for conservation and adaptive re-use as a museum. This section also includes a chapter on establishing a museum and the development of capacity for local personnel.

A CD with maps of the sites is also included.

It has taken six months to complete this document; a sincere effort has been made to engage the most competent professionals in the writing of the specialized sections of the CHMP. The CV's of the consultants is attached in the annexure. The CHMP has been conceived, coordinated, and consolidated by myself. Any gaps in knowledge or information can be corrected after a review.



Feryal Ali Gauhar

October 8, 2013  
Lahore, Pakistan