**Project Summary**

**Project Background**
The government of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) has given priority to environment and climate change issues keeping in view the fragile ecosystem of the region, changes observed in the past two decades and its impact on natural resource heritage and ultimately the lives of the people of GB. Due to GB’s unique environmental, social and legal status, the nationally developed guideline package, which is itself outdated, does not address the issues associated with development projects in GB in a satisfactory manner. Therefore, the government of GB has decided to renew its legislation on the subject of environment and to provide subsequent rules, regulations, guidelines and checklist for environmental assessment reports of development projects in public and private sector in the region.

**Project Objectives**
Specific objectives of the assignment were to:
- Develop environmental assessment guidelines in the context of GB, and
- Develop sectoral checklists and guidelines.

**Project Results**
The consultancy produced the following products:
- Guidelines for Preparation of Environmental Reports: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Initial Environmental Examination (IEE)
- Procedure for Filling, Review and Approval of Environmental Reports (IEE/EIA), categorization of projects for applicability of IEE, EIA, Regulations
- Checklist and fee schedules
- Guidelines for Sensitive and Critical Areas
- Guidelines for Public Consultation
- Sectoral Environmental Checklists/guidelines/and regulations for GB

**Services Provided**
- Review previous EIA Guideline Package and previous work on sectoral guideline, checklists and regulations and other relevant existing documents.
- Conduct field visits for needs assessment and evaluation of existing situation of environmental conditions in different areas of GB.
- Conduct consultations with the relevant stakeholders of the sector and incorporate necessary inputs.
- Incorporate sectoral needs of the region for EIA fee structure, categorization for IEE or EIA at screening stage, scoping and EIA and EMP preparation.
- Develop technical evaluation criteria for the different sectors to conduct IEE/EIA.
- Formulate technical criteria for design and establishment of infrastructure, event or activity planned.
- Provide technical criteria and checklists for design and establishment of respective industry, project or any other infrastructure in consultation with GB EPA.
- Propose steps for preparation of IEE/EIA, baseline study parameters, impact identification, mitigation measures and management plan.
- Provide IEE/EIA review criteria and regulation
- Formulate assessment criteria for guidelines, checklist and regulations.
- Suggest measures to reduce the possible impacts through best environmental practices in local context.
- Develop best design practices according to environmental sensitivity of the region and capacity of the surrounding environment.