Introduction to the project

Thank you very much for agreeing to give your valuable time for this important trilateral research project sponsored by the Government of India under the “**Towards a Sustainable Earth”** which aims to enhance the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. As was communicated to you earlier, the title of this project is “**Social Environmental and Economic Trade-offs in the Land-River Interface Management”** and is being carried out at the National Institute of Technology Karnataka in collaboration with Cranfield University, UK and Peking University, China. The key aim of the project is to ‘synthesise how institutions, policies and regulations at national to regional scales impose a structure on land-river-interface management and construct an improved conceptual understanding of the social, economic and cultural drivers, enablers and barriers to the integrated management of land and rivers for attaining the Sustainable Development Goals.’

Before contacting you, we have tried to understand the role of your department/ organisation /institution in managing the land river interface and came to understand that your inputs, feedbacks, comments, or opinions, based on your everyday working experiences will be important for this research. If you permit me, I would like to record our conversation so as to enable me not to miss any of the important points you made. This will be purely for the research purposes of this project and will stored securely and adequately anonymised. As soon as it is no longer needed, it will be securely deleted. All the personal information provided by you will be treated as confidential and your identity will not be revealed in any of our publications without your consent. Anonymised transcripts may be quoted in reports. You are free to withdraw your inputs anytime until it is mixed up with other research data. The data provided by you will be accorded an anonymised number which for traceability and audit. In order ensure these things a consent form has been design a copy of which shall be given to you.

Informed consent form

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| --- | --- |
| **Title of the project:** | **Social Environmental and Economic Trade-offs in the Land-River Interface Management** |
| **Name of the researcher:** |  |
| **Researcher’s contact details:** |  |
| **Participant number:** |  |
| **Date:** |  |

1. I confirm that I have been informed about this research project and I agree to take part.
2. I understand that all personal information I provide will be treated with confidence and my name will not be used in any report, publication or presentation.
3. I understand that I can withdraw my answers from this project during the interview time only.
4. Anonymised transcripts will be created, by removing or replacing identifiers such as name, age, and location.
5. I understand that the aggregated data will be published in support of the research findings.

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| **Participant’s signature:** |  | **Date:** |  |
| **Participant’s name:** |  | | |
| **Researcher’s signature:** |  | **Date:** |  |

**One copy of this form must be given to the participant and one copy held by the researcher.**

**Semi-structured questionnaires for understanding the governance of**

**Land River Interface**

1. ***Rivers***

* What are your experiences about the ways rivers are being managed in our country in general today?
* How about in your locality/area/region/Punjab/Himachal? (*depending on the context*)
* How do you see the role of rivers in human society?
* In what ways do you think rivers play a key role in uplifting the economic development of our country / your state / your area?
* Do you think rivers are an important social and cultural good? How do people relate to rivers socially, religiously and culturally?
* Who owns the river? .... *(pause)* And what difference does the sense of ownership makes to the way rivers are developed, governed and managed in your area /state/ our country?
* Who do you think should own the river? … *(pause)* (*The State Government, the Union Government, community or should the river be left alone on its own*?)
* How does that sense of ownership make a difference to the health of the river?
* How does that sense of ownership make a difference to the socio economic and environmental utility of the river and the surrounding land?

1. ***Land***

* Do you believe that the land surrounding rivers have a more economic, environmental and socio-cultural value than the areas that are very far from the rivers?
* If so, how do you think should the land around rivers in general be developed, governed or managed?
* How such land is being managed at the moment in your area?
* In your experiences and observations, what are some of the undesirable activities that are taking place in and around rivers and the adjoining land? *(sand mining, dumping wastes, flood plain encroachment, diversion of river, river front developments, river ghats)*
* Who all are being affected by such activities?
* How do you think we can prevent ***such*** undesirable activities for the good of everyone? (*More legislations, stringent enforcement of existing laws, better monitoring, deployment of technology*)
* Who should play the critical roles (or who should play what role), the state government, the union government, the communities living on areas near the river and depending on the river for their livelihood? What roles should each of them play?

1. ***Stakeholders and Involvement of Institutions***

* What schemes, programs or policies have been launched by the Central or State Govt. to develop, conserve and rejuvenate rivers in your area/state?
* What schemes, programs or policies have been launched by the Central or State Govt. to develop and conserve the land surrounding rivers in your area/state?
* Are these measures short term or long term programs?
* How is your department /organisation involved in these programs/schemes? (*context dependent)* How you and your department are contributing for the policy framing and implementation?
* How researchers, NGOs and other organizations are involved in the implementation of the schemes that is being implemented by the Government/your department?
* How was the decision process made (means how the particular measure at particular place was decided about and who were involved in decision making?)
* What are some of the factors that affect the social, economic and ecological systems of the region that should be considered while making decisions about the management and development of rivers and the surrounding land? (*depending on the interviewee)*
* To whom and from where do you generally seek information or help for developing or adopting these schemes/programs/measures?
* What are some of the challenges you face in developing and managing the river and the surrounding land and how do you deal with them?
* In your observations and experiences, how researchers, NGOs and other organizations are helping towards the development of rivers and the surrounding land?
* Who else, which departments or organisations, should I ask these questions?
* 783yakhssce area role of rivers edllution, that query regarding the action taken or being taken to reduce pollution,nts, and tn did you start these measures?elp for adopting these controlIs there anything that I need to know but I missed or anything you want to add to enrich the conversation we just had?

**‘Social-economic-environmental trade-offs in managing the land-river interface’**

**Interview ID: Date:**

**The most enabling parameters helping for the management of River and Land besides River**

Here, you are requested to rank these parameters on the scale of 1 very helpful to 8 rarely helpful.

Each parameter can be ranked only once.

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| Sr. No. | **Enabling Parameters (Enablers)** | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **6** | **7** | **8** |
| 1 | Development & Dissemination of Knowledge |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2 | Training & Capacity Building |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3 | Building Network and Advocacy |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4 | Attitudinal Change |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5 | Operational and Technological Change |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6 | Institutional and Structural Change |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7 | Policy Interventions and Guidelines |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8 | Involvement of End User |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**‘Social-economic-environmental trade-offs in managing the land-river interface’**

**Interview ID: Date:**

**The frequently confronted barriers while management of River and Land besides River**

Here, you are requested to rank these parameters on the scale of 1 very frequently to 8 rarely confronted.

Each parameter can be ranked only once.

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| Sr. No. | **Barrier Parameters (Barriers)** | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **6** | **7** | **8** |
| 1 | Inaccessibility to information & data |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2 | Lack of Knowledge capacity |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3 | Lack of technology & Infrastructure |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4 | Lack of Finance & Human Resources |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5 | Bureaucratic and Systemic deficiencies |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6 | Poor coordination among departments |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7 | Inadequate policies and conflicts of Interest |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8 | Lack of involvement of user communities |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

# Debriefing

Thank you very much for giving your time generously for this research project without which it will be difficult to complete. As mentioned earlier the data provided by you through this discussion will be treated confidentially and will be anonymised before making any report. You are free to withdraw or change your insights anytime during the process. If you need to change anything you can let me know by contacting me through email or phone. In case I missed out important points or need to clarify some points can I contact you on email or phone again? I shall also be happy to email you a copy of the outcome of this research once it is published. Thank you very much.