

Interactive comment on “The Indus basin in the framework of current and future water resources management” by A. N. Laghari et al.

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The Authors would like to thank the Referee for the valuable analysis made and comments given. We acknowledge the Referee as an expert with many years experience in both the Indus and Ganges basins. Therefore his analysis of the submitted manuscript is very valuable.

RC: The present paper is a good attempt to highlight the seriousness of the challenge and then present a number of recommendations for sustainable water resources. However, the paper is merely a synthesis of the recently published papers and routine recommendations made at different forums (several of these already rejected due to low feasibility or interest) and lacks innovativeness in the approach. Several of the rec-

ommendations are also in contradiction. It shall better serve the purpose, in case the authors make an in house research (may be with secondary data) and come out with few but fresh and more acceptable recommendations.

Authors' response: It was the aim of the Authors to write a synthesis paper, a manuscript in which an overview is given on past and present research on the Indus basin as well as a general listing and description of available options for current and future sustainable water resources management (WRM) within the basin. Often it is a very time and energy consuming activity to make an extensive literature review on a particular basin before actually starting research activities on it. The Authors' idea was to fill this gap and to additionally give a comprehensive listing on sustainable WRM practices applicable for the Indus basin. However, the Authors agree with the Referee that a more detailed analysis can be made. An analysis of secondary data and more detailed specific recommendations will definitely increase the innovativeness of the manuscript. The Authors agree that the manuscript can be adapted accordingly. The specific comments of the Referee already give a good overview on adaptations to be made to the manuscript. The Authors agree with all specific comments given by the Referee. However the Authors feel that an overview of all options is still desirable, as in this way the reader is presented with a comprehensive listing of options summarized in one manuscript. But as the Referee indicates, a differentiation between options needs to be made in the sense which ones are really important and can have a profound impact and which ones are theoretically applicable but will have only a small impact. The focus indeed needs to be on the recommendations with a profound impact, for which the authors will make a more in depth analysis as well as description in the manuscript.

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