



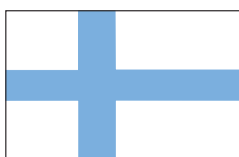
Progress report
on the
Capacity Building and Institutional
Development Programme for
Environmental Management in
Afghanistan

2003 – 2005

UNEP Post-Conflict Branch
Kabul, January 2006



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1 Introduction

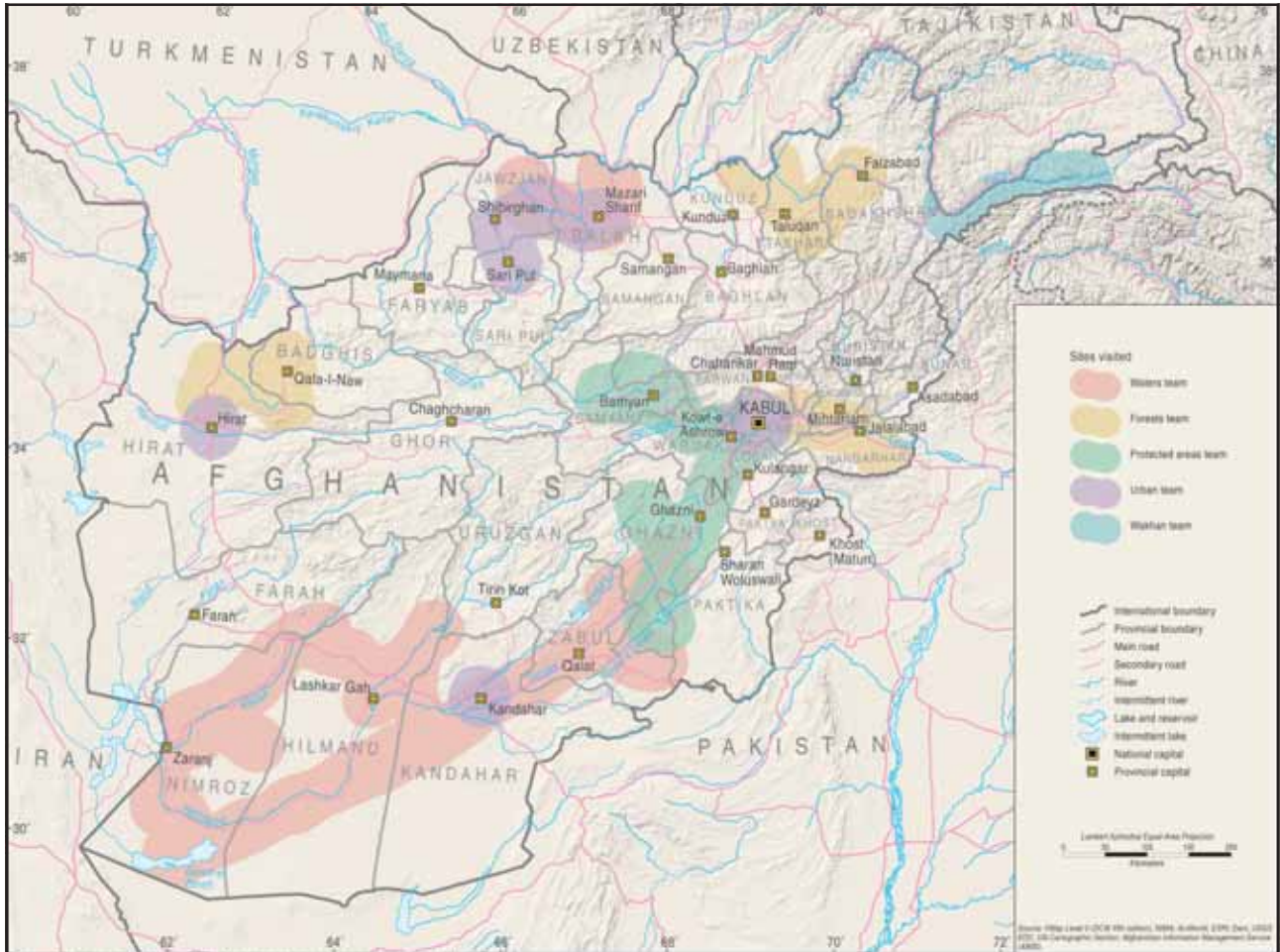
Purpose

The UNEP Capacity Building and Institutional Development Programme for Environmental Management in Afghanistan was officially launched by UNEP and the European Commission in Kabul on the 28th of October 2003. The programme was requested by the Government of Afghanistan as a key follow-up activity to the UNEP report “Afghanistan Post-Conflict Environmental Assessment” published in January 2003. The purpose of the programme is to provide an integrated package of capacity building activities that will contribute to the development of a stand-alone and self-sufficient National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) with the required technical and legal capacity to implement the environmental mandate of the Government. The programme covers five main pillars:

- **Pillar 1:** Environmental institutions and coordination
- **Pillar 2:** Environmental law and policy
- **Pillar 3:** Environmental impact assessment
- **Pillar 4:** Environmental information and education
- **Pillar 5:** Community-based natural resource management

The original programme was to be implemented during the period October 2003 to December 2006. Based on a combination of early successes and expanding needs, an extension has been requested by NEPA for UNEP to continue until 2008. Support and funding for the programme has been provided by the European Commission, the Government of Finland and the Global Environment Facility (GEF). This report outlines the progress that was made during the 2003-2005 period and provides an overview of the focus areas for 2006.

Sites visited during the UNEP post-conflict assessment in 2002



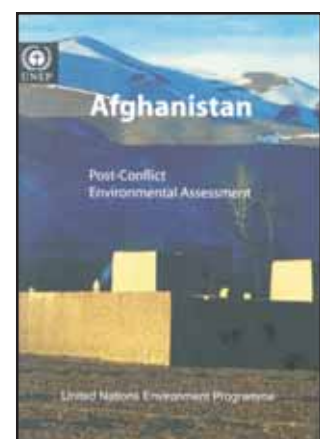
Programme background

UNEP's post-conflict programme in Afghanistan began in early 2002 following the Bonn Agreement of 5 December 2001 and the appointment of Hamid Karzai as the interim president. The new government placed security, good governance, self-sustainability, and capacity building at the top of its reconstruction agenda. Investment in rebuilding human capital and institutions, particularly those necessary for effective natural resource management and recovery, was part of the early vision towards securing the country's future and prosperity.

In light of this, UNEP conceptualized a three-phased approach for providing assistance to Afghanistan. Phase 1, running from 2002-2003, would assess the environmental situation, and develop detailed recommendations for addressing the key environmental problems. Phase 2, running from 2003-2006 would focus on building the basic institutional, legal and human capacity for effective environmental management at the national level. Finally, Phase 3, running from 2007-2008 would provide assistance to the environmental authorities to implement the environmental management framework across the country, and to manage the process of environmental restoration and community-based natural resource management. Each phase was to be developed and implemented in close partnership with the key environmental institutions, local NGOs and relevant UN and bi-lateral partners.

With this basic framework in mind, UNEP established a programme office in Kabul in April 2002 and fielded a one month assessment mission in September 2002. A team of 20 international and Afghan experts assessed 73 sites across the country, collected 60 samples of air, soil and water and conducted over 500 interviews with all key stakeholders as well as local residents. The environmental assessment was funded by the Governments of Canada, Finland, Luxembourg and Switzerland.

The final UNEP report, entitled "Afghanistan Post-Conflict Environmental Assessment" was released in January 2003. The findings of the report painted a tragic environmental picture for the country. Three to four years of drought compounded a state of widespread and serious resource degradation. A number of environmental issues, including surface and groundwater scarcity and contamination, massive and ongoing deforestation, desertification of wetlands, soil erosion, air pollution, and depleted wildlife populations, threatened to undermine basic livelihoods, and ultimately the stability of the recovery and reconstruction process. The UNEP assessment contained 163 short and long term recommendations for addressing the environmental problems and integrating environmental issues into the reconstruction and development agenda.



**UNEP Afghanistan
Post-Conflict Environmental
Assessment report**

**UNEP team investigating
pistachio forest near Farkhar
village, September 2002**

Based on the massive environmental needs of the country, the Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources was expanded into the Ministry of Irrigation, Water Resources and Environment (MIWRE) in late 2002. A Department of Environment was established and given a leading role in integrating environmental recovery into the reconstruction process and managing the sustainable use of Afghanistan's natural resources. However, the new department had almost no capacity to take effective action as the staff lacked environmental training and equipment as well as a legislative mandate. Nor did it have a functional institutional structure at the provincial level. Almost everything had to be built from the ground up.

Following the release of the UNEP assessment report, the new Minister Dr. Ahmad Nuristani requested UNEP to provide additional assistance in the area of capacity building for environmental management. UNEP took immediate action to develop phase 2 of its post-conflict activities. A 2.5-year capacity building and institutional development programme was developed covering the period October 2003 to December 2006. Funds were raised from the European Commission, the Government of Finland and the Global Environmental Facility (GEF). Key international programme partners include ADB, UN Habitat, FAO, UNOPS, UNAMA, WFP and IUCN.

UNEP's approach to capacity building

The emphasis of the UNEP Capacity Building and Institutional Development Programme for Environmental Management in Afghanistan is to mentor and train Afghan staff of NEPA (formerly the Department of Environment) to develop and implement the required institutional framework for environmental management across the country. The goal is to find Afghan solutions to Afghan problems, with UNEP experts acting only as mentors, facilitators and technical advisors.

The programme is being implemented by the UNEP Post-Conflict Branch in cooperation with the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP), the UNEP Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RRC.AP) and the UNEP Global Resource Inventory Database (GRID). The programme also draws upon technical experts in other UNEP divisions and programmes, including environmental law, policy, multi-lateral environmental agreements and environmental impact assessment. A UNEP Afghanistan programme office has been established inside NEPA's compound consisting of 5 international staff, 17 national staff and 15 NEPA counterpart staff.

The programme has adopted the following overall approach for implementation.

- **Integration within NEPA:** UNEP international experts work within the NEPA compound in order to maximize their availability to NEPA counterpart staff in terms of technical assistance and training. All equipment purchased by UNEP will be handed over to NEPA at programme closure.
- **Flexible Implementation:** While the UNEP programme follows an overall workplan with concrete output targets agreed with NEPA, it also retains sufficient flexibility to respond to demand-driven training and technical assistance needs as well as field conditions. In addition, it is expected that the five pillars of the programme cannot develop at equal speeds, and that differential investments and management time will be needed.



UNEP Afghanistan Programme team

- **Mentoring and “learning by doing”:** The UNEP international experts adopt a mentoring and “learning by doing” approach towards NEPA counterpart staff. Rather than solving problems and providing top-down advice, UNEP mentors counterpart staff and empowers them to propose and implement Afghan solutions. Through extensive consultation, UNEP works hard to ensure Afghan ownership of all programme outputs.
- **Professional and technical training:** UNEP delivers a combination of training in technical areas, such as environmental management, as well as in basic professional skills such as English language, computing, and project management. Only through a combination of training can effective capacity be built.
- **One voice approach:** The UNEP capacity building programme serves as the single “umbrella” and coordination point for all of UNEP’s interventions in Afghanistan. This includes GEF programmes, divisional projects and enabling activities of the relevant environmental conventions.
- **Gradual expansion from NEPA to other line Ministries:** In the early stages of the programme, UNEP has focused its training and technical resources at building capacity within NEPA. However, as the programme evolves and NEPA becomes more self-sufficient, UNEP will begin providing environmental advice and training to other line-Ministries including the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food and the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development.



UNEP office building in NEPA compound, Kabul (top)
UNEP and NEPA buildings in Darulaman, Kabul (below)

GOOGLE EARTH, DIGITAL GLOBE 2006

All activities are being conducted in partnership with NEPA as well as in close cooperation with other key international and national stakeholders.



UNEP field vehicles

Current status of NEPA

Since 2002, responsibility for environmental governance in Afghanistan has evolved from a Department of Environment within the MIWRE, to an independent Department of Environment in January 2005, and in May 2005 to the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA). H.E. Mr. Mostapha Zaher was appointed as its Director General and Mr. Dost Mohammad Amin as its Deputy Director General. NEPA reports directly to the Office of the President. The UNEP programme has adapted as necessary to this changing political environment and will continue to follow the core environmental staff as the institutional structure continues to evolve.

NEPA is currently located in a multi-story building in the compound of the Ministry of Energy and Water in Darulaman, Kabul.

Based on the outcome of the on-going reform process supported by UNEP, a new structure for NEPA has been established consisting of a total of 218 staff, 99 at the central level and 119 at the regional/ provincial level. This new structure is pending implementation. The current space in Kabul accommodates 86 staff of NEPA at the central level. At an inter-ministerial meeting convened by the Ministry of Economics, it was agreed that NEPA will remain at its current location for 2006. However, NEPA will require more space to accommodate additional staff, an environmental laboratory and a conference room.

At the provincial level, NEPA uses 17 state-owned rooms and is renting 36 rooms. The current space at the 8 provincial offices will easily accommodate all 119 regional hub staff of NEPA., The provincial offices will be equipped with furniture, computers, printers, etc. through donor-funded projects.

Fully integrated within NEPA, the UNEP programme office now contains five international (3 male/2 female) and 17 national staff (2 female and 15 male). A project coordinator is also located in Geneva in the UNEP Post-Conflict Branch. A total of 15 counterpart staff from NEPA were selected in late 2004 (11 male/4 female) to work as counterparts to the UNEP programme in the areas of environmental impact assessment, environmental law, and multi-lateral environmental agreements. Additional counterparts will be recruited as the capacity of NEPA expands.



National Environmental Protection Agency office building in Darulaman, Kabul



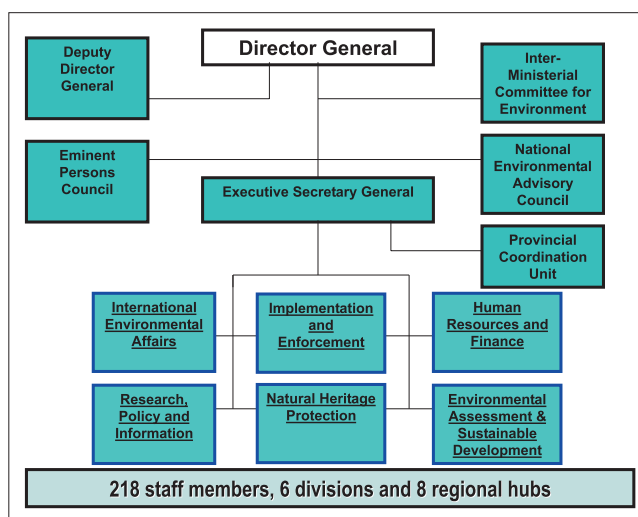
National Environmental Protection Agency counterpart staff

Pillar 1: Environmental institutions and coordination

Sustainable management of environmental resources can only happen when national and local-level institutions have clear mandates, effective and coordinated structures, technically skilled staff and sufficient financial resources. To achieve these goals, the objectives of pillar one are to provide technical assistance in the development of an effective institutional structure for NEPA, to assist in the coordination of the environmental sector and to mainstream environmental needs within national development plans. Implementation of pillar one began in October 2003. Since then, the following outputs have been achieved.

- **Institutional reform and restructuring of NEPA:**

All Ministries in the Afghan government are undergoing an institutional reform and restructuring process under the guidance of the Civil Service Reform Commission. The intention is to clarify mandates, rationalize staffing and improve efficiency. UNEP and ADB supported NEPA in the development and finalization of its Priority Reform and Restructuring (PRR) Stage 1 and Stage 2 proposals. This included two training sessions on institutional reform, the elaboration of a transitional plan, the incorporation of a separate finance and administration division, the development of a new structure including eight regional hubs, as well as the development of job descriptions, associated budgets for the staffing and a recruitment plan. The new structure will comprise of a total of 218 staff, 99 at the central level and 119 at the regional/provincial level. NEPA's PRR Stage 2 proposal was approved by the Reform Commission in August 2005 and UNEP is now supporting the implementation of the restructuring process throughout 2006.



NEPA's new institutional structure

- **Advisory Group on Environment (AGE):**

UNEP and ADB have co-organized nine meetings of the AGE in an effort to improve the coordination of environmental activities and to share information between key stakeholders. The AGE in October 2005 was chaired for the first time by the new Director General of NEPA and key environmental stakeholders were given an overview on NEPA's new structure, the Environment Act as well as Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and pollution control policy development. The AGE will eventually evolve into the Inter-ministerial Committee the key coordination mechanism on environmental issues.



Advisory Group on Environment meeting, October 2005

- **Public Investment Programme (PIP) for Environmental Management:** To further facilitate project coordination in the environment sector, UNEP and NEPA developed Public Investment Programmes (PIP) for Environmental Management for the 1383 and 1384 budgets (March 2003 to March 2005). The documents analyse all projects with environmental components in the national development budget, and identify those with key environmental relevance. This is an important first step at improving

environmental coordination. The next step is to improve the sharing of information between the relevant environmental stakeholders and to promote their participation in the Advisory Group on the Environment.

- **NEPA counterpart staff training programme:** A process was undertaken by UNEP in August-September of 2004 to identify counterpart staff from NEPA that could receive technical training from UNEP experts for an initial two pillars of the capacity building programme. A total of 53 potential counterpart staff were interviewed and 15 were selected (11 male/4 female). The 15 staff are receiving detailed training from the UNEP Kabul team in the areas of environmental law, EIA, and multi-lateral environmental agreements (MEAs). Half of the training focuses on theory while the remainder provides on-the-job practical experience. For example, EIA counterparts have been involved in various field assessments and have represented NEPA in EIA stakeholder meetings. Environmental Law counterparts have been heavily involved in the national consultation process on the Environment Act. Finally, MEA counterparts have prepared for and represented NEPA at international meetings with regard to specific MEAs. In addition to technical training, weekly professional skills training were organized for NEPA counterpart staff. Priorities in 2005 were English language proficiency and basic computer skills. Counterparts also received training in report writing and proposal development. Additional counterparts will be recruited in 2006 for the other pillars of the UNEP programme.
- **Environmental technical support for MDG report 2005, UNDAF 2005, I-ANDS:** Along with NEPA, UNEP co-chaired the Technical Working Group on the Millennium Development Goal 7 (MDG 7), and provided extensive reference material to the drafting team of Afghanistan's report "Achieving the Millennium Development Goals". Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) is one of the four pillars of Afghanistan UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). The chapter on ENR was drafted by a working group, co-chaired by UNEP and FAO. NEPA and UNEP also assisted in building environmental considerations and benchmarks into Afghanistan's new development framework "Interim-Afghanistan National Development Strategy (I-ANDS)", which is a five-year strategy that complements the MDGs (see Annex 5). The I-ANDS will also be the Interim-Poverty Reduction Strategy (I-PRSP) for Afghanistan.
- **Computer laboratory:** A computer laboratory consisting of five internet-ready workstations has been installed for use by the staff of NEPA.
- **Gender sensitization:** In December 2005 UNEP organized an initial sensitization training on gender issues in order to assess the level of gender awareness and to enhance gender sensitivity of NEPA and UNEP staff. Two such training courses will take place, each with 20 participants (12 NEPA, 8 UNEP). A follow-up training will be organized in three months time and UNEP will support NEPA in developing basic gender policy.



NEPA computer laboratory and training centre



Pillar 2: Environmental law and policy

Concurrent with the development of the environmental institutions is the development of environmental policy and the establishment of a realistic environmental legal framework. Under pillar two, the main objectives are to contribute to the development and effective implementation of an integrated environmental legal and regulatory framework through training and capacity building to NEPA and relevant line ministries; and technical support in relation to legal and legislative reform. In addition, UNEP seeks to assist Afghanistan in fulfilling its legislative and reporting obligations with respect to multi-lateral environmental agreements (MEAs) as well as promoting regional environmental cooperation. Implementation of pillar two began in January 2004. Since then, the following outputs have been achieved.

- **Environmental inputs to the constitution:** UNEP and IUCN provided inputs to the draft constitutional clause on the environment, and also gave additional background information on best practice. Two references to the environment were included within the approved constitution in 2004. The first acknowledges that the people of Afghanistan are responsible for “ensuring a prosperous life, and sound environment for all those residing in this land”. The second obliges the state to “adopt necessary measures for safeguarding forests and the environment”.
- **Environment Act:** The Environment Act (EA), Afghanistan's first-ever environmental framework law, was approved by the Afghan Cabinet in December 2005. The Act contains the tailor-made legal frameworks needed to sustainably manage Afghanistan's natural resources and to rehabilitate its damaged environment. The Act also clarifies institutional responsibilities and contains the compliance and enforcement provisions required to allow the Government of Afghanistan to effectively enforce the legislation. The law is a fundamental pre-requisite to enable NEPA to fulfil its mandate. The EA was developed by NEPA with the support and technical advice of UNEP as well as IUCN and international experts over a period of 2 years. UNEP also facilitated an extensive national consultation process on the draft act with all national stakeholders (ministries, parastatals, civil society organizations) as well as other interested parties (UN agencies, ADB, World Bank, IUCN, USAID). UNEP will support NEPA in the development of the subsequent regulations to the EA (particularly in the fields of environmental impact assessment, integrated pollution control and compliance and enforcement), and of the institutional processes and systems required to adequately and effectively implement the EA.



National Stakeholder Consultation Workshop on the draft Environment Act by NEPA, May 2005

- **Incorporation of obligations under MEAs into the Environment Act:** UNEP supported the incorporation of obligations under various multi-lateral environmental agreements (CITES, UNCBD, UNCCD and Basel Convention) into the Environment Act.
- **Development of sectoral policies and laws:** At the request of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food, UNEP assisted in the drafting of the Forestry and Rangeland Management Act in late 2005 and in preparing the forestry and rangeland section of the Ministry Master Plan. UNEP also provided input on draft water legislation for the Ministry of Energy and Water.
- **Accession to the Ozone treaties and support to the National Ozone Unit:** UNEP facilitated Afghanistan's accession to the Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol (Ozone Treaties), and the accession instruments were signed by the Government of Afghanistan in June 2004. UNEP assisted in the

establishment of the National Ozone Unit (NOU) in September 2004 and with the recruitment of the National Ozone Officer and two Assistant Ozone Officers. The NOU is working to fulfil Afghanistan's requirements to comply under the convention and its protocol. The NOU in cooperation with the relevant ministries is developing an Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) licensing system and ODS import regulations. The National Phase-out Plan project document has been prepared by the government of Afghanistan and was approved in the 47th Excom meeting.

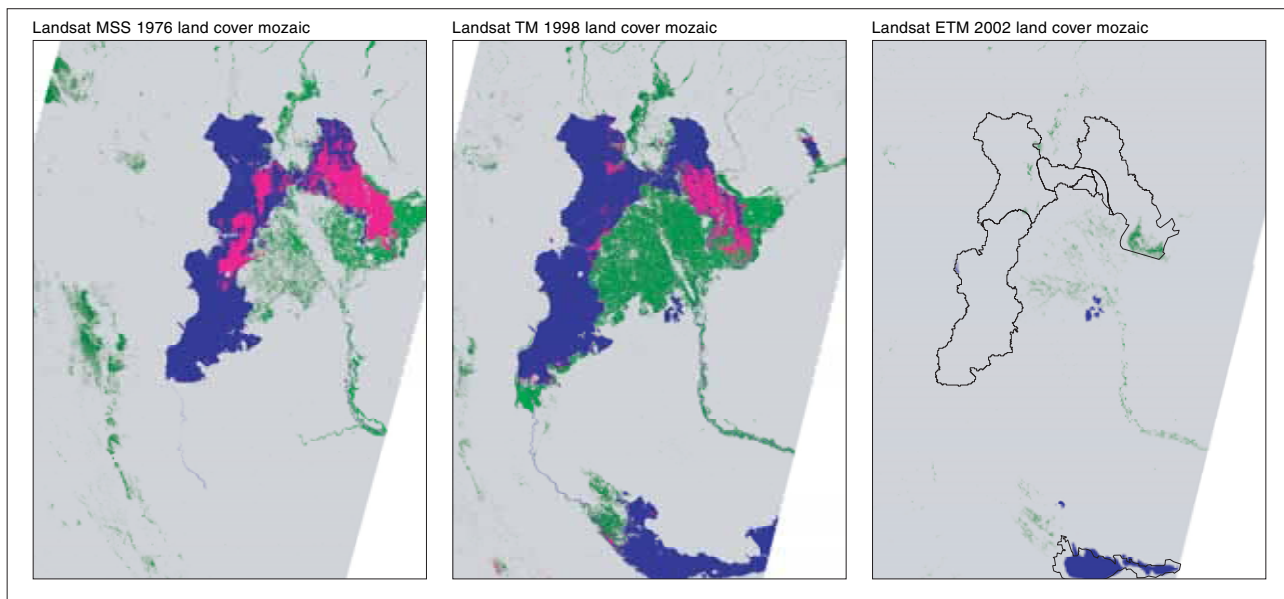
- **NCSA and NAPA:** In 2004, UNEP provided assistance in the preparation of two proposals to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for enabling activities. These included a National Capacity Self-Assessment for Global Environmental Management (NCSA) as well as support for the preparation of a National Adaptation Programme for Action (NAPA) under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The implementation of both projects is coordinated by UNEP's GEF National Project Coordinator and a National Project Assistant. The project management team is supported by UNEP's Environmental Law and International Conventions Expert and by a trio of international expert consultants in the respective fields of biodiversity, climate change and desertification. These GEF activities are being implemented within the framework of the UNEP Capacity Building Programme for Afghanistan.
- **Ramsar Convention:** Initial steps were taken by NEPA in 2005 towards accession and ratification of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, including drafting the instrument of accession and preparing the terms of reference for all work required to nominate two wetlands for inclusion on the List of Wetlands of International Importance. UNEP provided technical support as needed throughout this process.
- **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change:** In 2005 funding was secured from GEF for the purposes of undertaking the preparatory steps required for submission of Afghanistan's First National Communication under the UNFCCC.
- **International and regional cooperation:** From October 2003 – December 2005 UNEP facilitated the participation of 76 Afghan delegates in 46 regional and/ or international conferences, meetings or workshops or training courses.
- **Afghanistan-Iran Dialogue on Sistan Basin Wetlands:** In December 2005 UNEP hosted a technical meeting between the Islamic Republics of Afghanistan and Iran on the shared Sistan Basin wetlands. The meeting, held in Geneva, Switzerland, helped initiate a constructive dialogue on restoration and sustainable development strategies for the Sistan region. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for May 2006.



Afghanistan-Iran Sistan Basin dialogue in Geneva, December 2005



Afghani and Iranian delegates visiting Verbois natural reserve near Geneva, December 2005



Land cover changes in the transboundary Sistan Basin wetlands from 1976 to 2002; blue color represents water cover, green color vegetation cover and purple wetland vegetation



Hundreds of kilometres of windbreakers were constructed in the Sistan Basin lakebeds to trap the wind-blown sand

- Training of environmental law counterpart staff:** Before technical training could be given on environmental law, basic training had to be given on the role of law in societies, types of law, the meaning and implications of the Constitution and the role of government officials in terms of the new government and constitutional order. With regard to environmental law in particular, training has been given on the development trends of domestic environmental law, with particular reference to developing countries, as well as sectoral trends. The counterparts also received two weeks of intensive training on the EA, and actively participated in all preparations for its national stakeholder consultation process. Although a thorough technical understanding of the EA will take at least another six months to develop, significant progress has been observed during the reporting period.
- Training of multi-lateral environmental agreement counterpart staff:** Counterpart staff have received theoretical training on MEAs in general, the international legal system as well as specific MEAs to which Afghanistan is a Party or intends to become one. These include the Ozone treaties, UNFCCC, UNCCD, UNCBD, Basel Convention, CITES as well as Ramsar, and CMS. The counterparts now have a fairly good understanding of the role of MEAs in global and domestic environmental governance, and the global problems that the Conventions seek to regulate. The capacity of those counterparts who have shown commendable initiative in developing skills to adequately prepare for and meaningfully engage in regional and international technical meetings has improved significantly. Those same counterparts are also actively involved in the MEA enabling activity projects being implemented by the Government of Afghanistan with the assistance of UNEP.

Pillar 3: Environmental impact assessment

Afghanistan is entering the phase of large-scale multi-million dollar investments in development programmes and infrastructure. Some of these programmes may produce significant environmental impacts, thereby undermining sustainable development and human livelihoods. A functional system of environmental screening and impact assessment of all investment decisions is essential to ensure that decisions are made with a full understanding of impacts and options. In this regard, the objectives under pillar three are to contribute to the institutionalization of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) through training and technical support in the development and effective implementation of environmental impact assessment guidelines, policies, procedures and legislation. Implementation of pillar three began in July 2004. Since then, the following outputs have been achieved.

- **Inclusion of environmental information in donor assistance database:** In an effort to identify the potential environmental impacts of development projects, UNEP and NEPA successfully obtained the consent of the Ministry of Finance to include environmental information within the donor assistance database and project submission forms for the 1383 and 1384 (March 2003 to March 2005) national budgets. This allowed for all projects with potential environmental impact to be identified and for appropriate actions to be considered by the Government of Afghanistan in relation to those projects.
- **Inter-ministerial meeting on EIA:** A UNEP mission visited Kabul from 9–17 March 2004 to determine the next steps for policy development in the area of EIA. The UNEP mission met with key EIA stakeholders to identify policy goals and organized an inter-ministerial meeting on EIA on 13 March 2004 for senior Ministerial staff to further clarify the current state of EIA in Afghanistan and to facilitate the development of EIA policy.



Environmental impact assessment field mission to the Panjshir valley, preliminary assessment of a hazardous waste site, November 2005



Assessing impacts of irrigation works in Mushtaque, Balkh region, May 2005



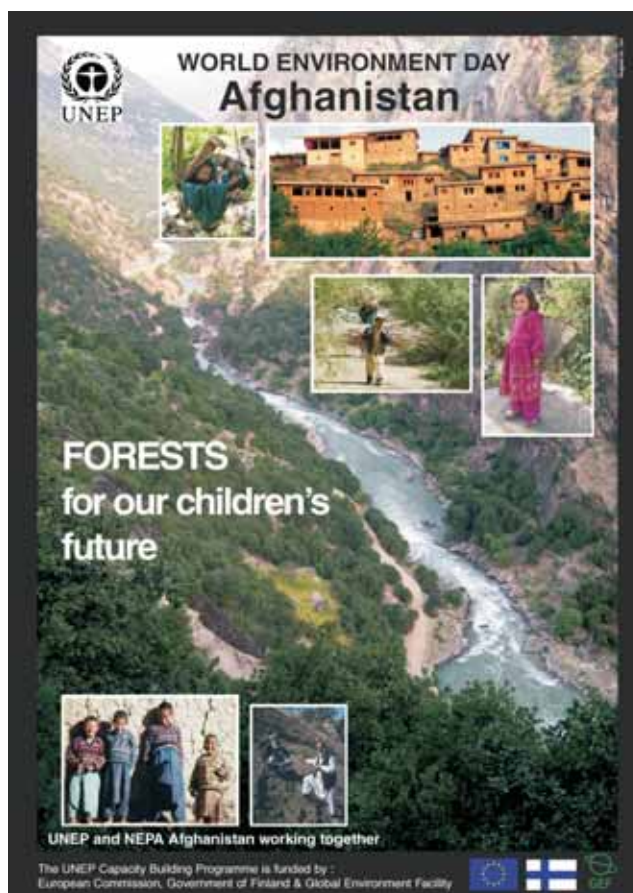
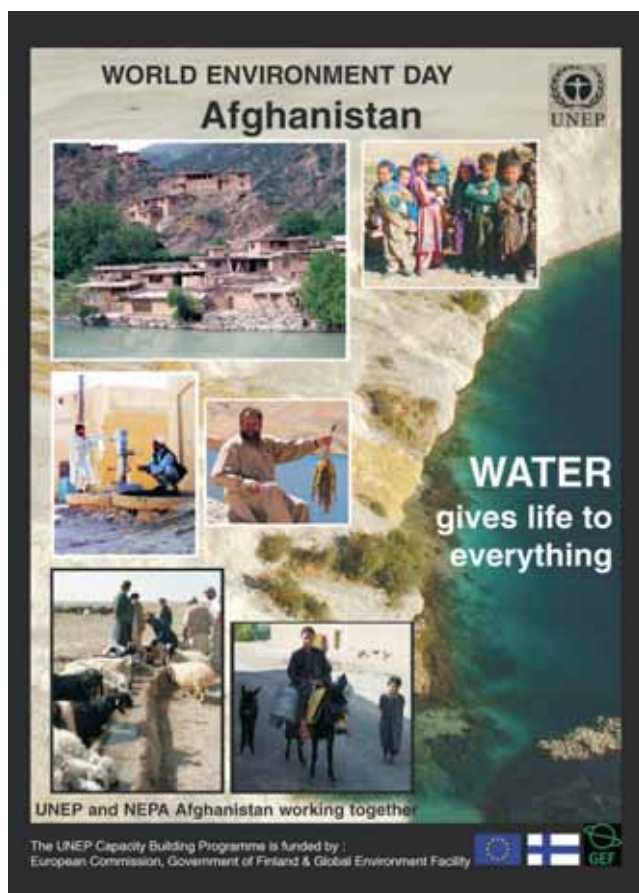
Training of EIA counterpart staff, November 2005

- **EIA screening guidelines:** UNEP worked closely with NEPA to develop an EIA screening procedure for major industrial works and an approvals system for dealing with polluting industries. The first draft of the screening procedure, based on the UNEP EIA Manual, was released on 24 August 2004.
- **EIA Donor Round Table:** UNEP hosted an EIA donor round table meeting in September 2004 in which the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, USAID, the European Commission and JICA all participated. The objective was to discuss the development of EIA in Afghanistan and develop an appropriate model of support between donors. An agreement was reached between participants on the need to establish EIA capacity in Government Ministries and that consultation with NEPA on EIA studies should be undertaken as a matter of course.
- **EIA and pollution control policy papers:** UNEP supported NEPA in developing an integrated approach to EIA and pollution control and management at the national level. UNEP prepared a report on best international practice in the development and implementation of EIA legislation based on a review of regional countries. The findings from this review were used as input for the policy papers on Environmental Impact Assessment and Pollution Control, which were developed by UNEP in 2005 and approved by NEPA for consultation. These papers are being translated into Dari and will be released for comment early in 2006.
- **Technical assistance on EIA and pollution control:** Throughout 2004 and 2005 UNEP has continued to provide technical assistance in the area of EIA and pollution control. A number of projects have been referred to NEPA, which have required screening, scoping, consultation and in some cases technical advice. Some project examples include the environmental assessment of the Bamyan to Charakay Power Transmission line, the Western Basins Irrigation Project and the Bagrami Industrial Park. UNEP has also assisted NEPA and the Industrial Parks Development Authority to develop a system of licensing businesses with the potential to pollute.
- **Training of EIA counterpart staff:** Initial training focussed on providing theoretical background to EIA based on the first six topics of UNEP's EIA Training Resource Manual. This formal training was complimented by translated research papers on examples of EIA systems in regional countries. In addition, 'real life' examples of EIA studies were used to support theoretical training. As legal drafting of the Environment Act proceeded, counterparts were trained in the provisions for EIA contained in the Act and later were coached on developing a policy paper for EIA administrative procedures. Formal training in the policy approach specifically developed for Afghanistan has been the focus of training in the later part of 2005. As there is no history of EIA in Afghanistan, theoretical knowledge and capacity in the country was also weak. Therefore, training has focused on administrative procedures for screening, scoping, public consultation, approvals and appeals. The capacity to undertake technical review of EIA studies is an area that will need specific support in 2006.

Pillar 4: Environmental information and education

Effective environmental decision making depends on the availability of timely and high-quality environmental information. One of the consequences of the Afghan conflict was widespread damage to and loss of sources of environmental information including maps, records, reference materials and expertise. In order for NEPA to develop capacity for environmental management, the objectives of pillar four are to increase public awareness of environmental issues through training and technical support in the development of awareness campaigns, environmental reporting, environmental education and public participation in decision-making. Implementation of pillar four began in January 2005. Since then, the following outputs were achieved.

- **Environmental library and related training:** UNEP and ADB installed a basic environmental library within NEPA containing over 2000 reference materials and publications. The library is open to all NEPA staff as a source of technical information. UNEP also provided one month of library training for two NEPA officials at the Asian Institute of Technology and one month of intensive English language training. The two trained officials are back in NEPA and involved in preparing a database of the existing publications with NEPA. Several institutions in South Asia and Europe have been contacted for the collection of environment related publications. In early 2006, a mission will be undertaken to Tehran, Iran to obtain additional technical materials in Persian and Dari from the Ministry of Environment.
- **Computer Laboratory with GIS facilities in NEPA:** Two NEPA officials were trained for one month in the GIS Application Centre at the Asian Institute of Technology in 2005. A list of the hardware and software for the computer laboratory has been prepared and will be procured in early 2006.
- **Awareness raising materials:** UNEP translated the "Afghanistan Post-Conflict Environmental Assessment" report into Dari and developed a presentational folder on the capacity building programme. UNEP and NEPA also produced two environmental posters on Water and Forests for Afghanistan and developed three information brochures on wildlife, rangelands and sanitation. These materials were published in both Dari and Pashto.



- **Environmental events:** UNEP supported NEPA and the MAAHF in the organization of the celebrations of World Environment Day as well as events for the International Day for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the World Day to Combat Desertification in 2004 and 2005.



NEPA's environmental library

- **Environmental management training:** Six NEPA staff attended a four-month environmental management training course at the UNEP Regional Resource Center for Asia and the Pacific. The course was the first element of a more comprehensive training on state of the environment reporting and environmental action planning.

- **Media training:** UNEP and NEPA co-organized an Introductory Workshop on key Environmental Issues in Afghanistan for ten media trainers of the Center for International Journalism (CIJ) in Kabul. The workshop took place on three half-days from 27 – 29 December 2005 in Kabul. The training covered sessions on the state of the environment in Afghanistan, ecologically significant areas in Afghanistan, community awareness regarding environmental protection, desertification, climate change, ozone layer protection, solid waste management, wastewater management, air pollution and the role of journalism in environmental protection. The participants from the Center of International Journalism were media trainers who will train a wide range of journalists throughout Afghanistan's provinces. Additional media training is planned for 2006.

- **Clean-up of Kabul River:** The Kabul riverbed cleaning project started on 12 March 2005. Clean-up operations took place during the day-time in most areas and at night in crowded areas. Several hundred workers worked on the project, using excavators, bulldozers and trucks, and the waste was transferred to the Chamtala land-filling area. The project was funded by UNAMA and executed by Kabul Municipality, whereas UNEP and Afghan Conservation Corps provide technical and monitoring support.



International Ozone Day celebrations in Kabul, September 2005

Pillar 5: Community-based natural resource management

Prior to the outbreak of conflict, Afghanistan had a strong tradition of provincial and local level natural resource management. With the onset of war, many local governing structures collapsed, allowing uncontrolled extraction of natural resources. NEPA has identified the urgent need to re-establish community-based natural resource management and rehabilitation practices. To achieve this goal, the objectives of pillar five are to contribute to re-establishing linkages between national, provincial and district levels of government through training and technical support, and through the implementation of pilot projects that encourage community-based resource management. Implementation of pillar five began in May 2005. Since then, the following outputs were achieved.

- **Pilot community-based natural resource management projects:** Currently one of the greatest institutional challenges to the Afghan Administration is to implement national environmental policy and enforce regulations at the provincial and local levels. Given that nearly 80% of the population of the country is located in rural areas, there is a critical need to establish provincial and local-level environmental authorities and to further develop community-based environmental management systems and opportunities for systematic ecosystem rehabilitation. For the purpose of demonstrating the wide scope of possibilities offered by community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) projects, UNEP is developing 10 CBNRM pilot projects at various sites across the country. An international CBNRM expert was recruited in May 2005 and ten sites were evaluated. Eventually two communities were selected for inclusion in the initial round of project implementation involving two projects. Projects were identified in collaboration with UN-HABITAT staff and discussions with community leaders led to signed agreements between UNEP and Community Development Committees (CDCs) on project implementation terms. The UNEP programme agreed to fund project costs on the condition that community members undertake all labor components of projects. Both projects are currently being implemented in the Province of Herat in the districts of Zinda Jan and Guzara. Both projects focus on issues of fruit and nut tree forestation and water resource improvement and management.
- **Greening Afghanistan Initiative:** UNEP contributed to the development of the Green Afghanistan Initiative (GAIN) and became an official member in March 2005. The purpose of the inter-agency activity is to coordinate activities, mobilize funds and provide technical expertise for preparing, implementing, monitoring and reporting on multi-sectoral activities, aimed at "Greening Afghanistan." Under the GAIN framework, UNEP has agreed to focus on environmental education and awareness raising, coinciding with the priorities and projects laid out by GAIN.
- **Training courses and workshops:** UNEP assisted NEPA in conducting a 3-day environmental conservation and management course at the provincial level. The course was delivered by NEPA and UNEP staff in Jalalabad in July 2004 to 63 government staff, including those from the provincial Departments of Environment in four eastern provinces: Nangarhar, Laghman, Nuristan and Konar. In addition, UNEP, USAID and AKDN define sponsored and facilitated the implementation of Afghanistan's first Environment Friendly Mountaineering course, which was organized by NEPA and Mountain Wilderness International (MWI) and conducted in July 2005. The 22 graduates of the course acquired skills necessary for guiding treks and climbs, building capacity with local populations, and promoting community-based and environmentally-friendly tourism development.



Community-based natural resource management pilot project in Karnail, Herat region, November 2005

Conclusions and Next Steps

Progress made and the focus areas for 2006

Based on the needs of the country, there is little question that the restoration and sustainable use of natural resources in Afghanistan is the key for poverty alleviation, sustainable development and for improving quality of life of the Afghan people. UNEP looks forward to its continued partnership with NEPA in pursuit of this goal. However, addressing the environmental problems in Afghanistan is an immense challenge that will take decades to achieve by the Government of Afghanistan and its National Environmental Protection Agency. Sustained financial assistance and technical support will be needed during the entire process from the international community.

UNEP is contributing to environmental progress and sustainable development in Afghanistan in a step-wise and incremental manner. In 2002, the UNEP post-conflict environmental assessment provided the base-line information on the current environmental conditions in the country. This information was critical for understanding the impacts caused by the conflict, and for establishing policy priorities and field-based projects. UNEP provided 163 recommendations for action, and outlined the steps that would be needed to fully integrate environmental considerations into the development framework of the country. The UNEP report firmly placed environmental issues on the reconstruction agenda, and led to significant allocations in the national budget toward resource management programmes and projects.

The progress that has been made by UNEP and NEPA during 2003 – 2005 has focused on developing a sound institutional, legal and human resource base. These activities are an essential pre-requisite for long-term environmental management and will form the foundation for success in the future. The first steps in this process have been the identification and training of staff, and the development of national policies and laws that have firm Afghan ownership. Progress was made in both areas in 2003-2005 by the UNEP programme. Key outputs include an Environment Act, a detailed institutional structure for NEPA, policy papers on EIA and pollution control, the establishment of the Advisory Group on Environment, the development of community-based resource management projects and progress in the implementation of multi-lateral environmental agreements to which Afghanistan is a party.

For 2006, the UNEP Capacity Building and Institutional Development for Environmental Management Programme in Afghanistan will build on the previous successes and focus on the following key areas:

- **Pillar 1: Environmental institutions and coordination:** UNEP will continue to support NEPA in the implementation of the reform and restructuring process and in the recruitment and training of core technical staff. A particular challenge will be supporting the establishment of the eight regional environmental hubs. Support will also continue to the Advisory Group on Environment (AGE) and the Inter-ministerial Committee, which will replace the AGE in due course as the mechanism for coordination between ministries. UNEP will also continue to provide environmental technical inputs to the United Nations Country Team and to coordinate activities with key stakeholders in Afghanistan.
- **Pillar 2: Environmental law and policy:** The first focus area for the environmental law and policy pillar is NEPA itself. In this regard, it is necessary to develop the institutional units needed to effectively administer and implement the Environment Act, as well as to develop the required human capacity within those particular units. Insofar as the Environment Act is framework legislation, it will be necessary to develop regulations under the Act to give the framework its regulatory substance. UNEP will also facilitate the development of sectoral environmental legislation to ensure consistency with the overall regulatory framework. In the second half of 2006, training will also be provided on the entire environmental regulatory framework (Environment Act, regulations under it and sectoral laws) to line ministries, authorities at the sub national levels, and the judiciary. In regard to MEAs, the primary focus will be on finalising the National Capacity Needs Self Assessment (NCSA) and National Adaptation Programme of

Action (NAPA) projects and developing Afghanistan's Initial National Communication, the first enabling step under the Climate Change Convention. NEPA will also seek to access funding under the Biodiversity Convention to develop Afghanistan's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. A secondary focus will be on acceding to those "green" Conventions to which Afghanistan is not yet a Party, namely the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the Convention for Migratory Species (CMS). Accession to the "brown" Conventions will follow in 2007.

- **Pillar 3: Environmental impact assessment:** The key focus areas for EIA include finalising EIA and integrated pollution control policies that target the administrative responsibilities of NEPA. Once policies have been agreed to by all stakeholders, systems for screening, scoping, liaison with proponents, reporting, approvals, appeals, monitoring and compliance will need to be developed. Commensurate with these systems is the need to develop capacity of an EIA board of experts and the EIA capacity within line ministries.
- **Pillar 4: Environmental information and education:** UNEP's work will focus on documenting the needs and priorities for integration of environmental components into primary and secondary curricula in both urban and rural settings. UNEP will also liaise with relevant tertiary institutions in Kabul and stakeholders to determine their needs and prepare an assessment for the development of individual courses that could be implemented for training of environmental specialists. The development of a national strategy for environmental education and awareness including the incorporation of environmental issues into the national curricula will be assisted. Trainings on environmental information will be organized for Afghan media professionals and training provided to NEPA staff and other relevant stakeholders. UNEP RRC.AP will support the establishment of a small computer laboratory with GIS facilities at NEPA. Together with the library, the computer laboratory will become part of an Environment Information Centre at NEPA.
- **Pillar 5: Community-based natural resource management:** UNEP will seek to increase the number of CBNRM pilot projects being implemented to 10 in order to expand the topical and geographical diversity of its programming. Future pilot projects will focus on topics such as encouraging effective rangeland management, supporting improved water resource management, and facilitating reforestation of traditional fruit and nut tree varieties. Additionally, UNEP will provide guidance and support to communities seeking to introduce non-traditional forms of CBNRM, such as the development of eco and adventure tourism for the purposes of environmental conservation and livelihood generation. Such novel programming will allow communities to generate enhanced community revenues by capitalizing on the preservation of their locally available natural resources. Lastly, UNEP will train Afghan counterparts in the principals of CBNRM project design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation in an effort to enhance the sustainability of the programme.

In addition to UNEP, other international agencies are expected to continue or begin implementation of a number of environmental activities in 2006. These include projects by ADB on protected areas conservation, renewable energy and air pollution, a GEF project by UNDP on Sustainable Land Management, and various biodiversity and conservation projects by the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). This is a positive development for the environment sector that will require increased coordination and collaboration between stakeholders in order to avoid duplication of effort and to ensure the most efficient use of limited funds.

Annex 1: UNEP and NEPA programme team

Counterpart Staff (Kabul)

1) EIA and Pollution Permitting:

- Ms Fahkria Muskaan
- Ms Suna Ghafari
- Mr Nasir Ahmad
- Mr Hamidullah
- Mr Rahimullah Ander
- Mr Mohammad Sadiq – will work part-time in environmental law
- Mr Abdul Rafi – will work part-time in environmental law
- Mr Mohammad Karim Mughbil

2) Environmental Law:

- Mr Mohammad Usman
- Mr Hakimkhan Kuchi
- Mr Abdul Rafi – will work part-time with in EIA and Pollution Unit
- Ms Diana
- Mr Habib u Raham
- Mr Mohammad Sadiq – will work part-time in EIA and Pollution Unit

3) Multilateral Environmental Agreements:

- Ms Leeda Ouria
- Mr Sadiqullah Ahmazadi
- Mr Samiullah Hashmi

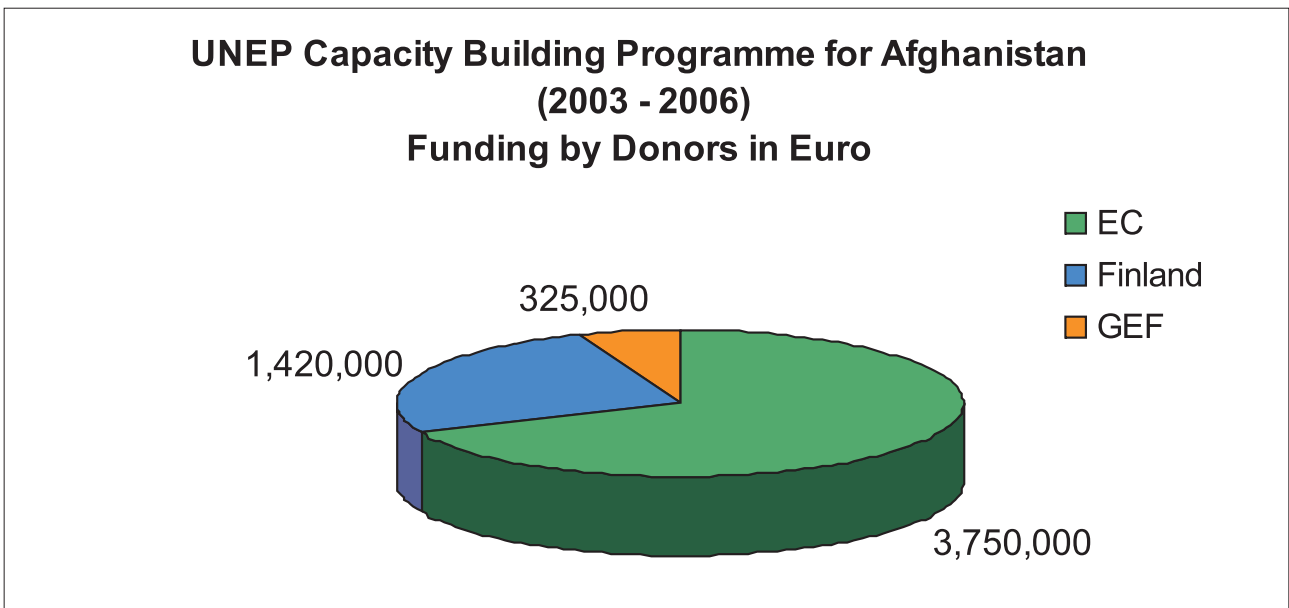
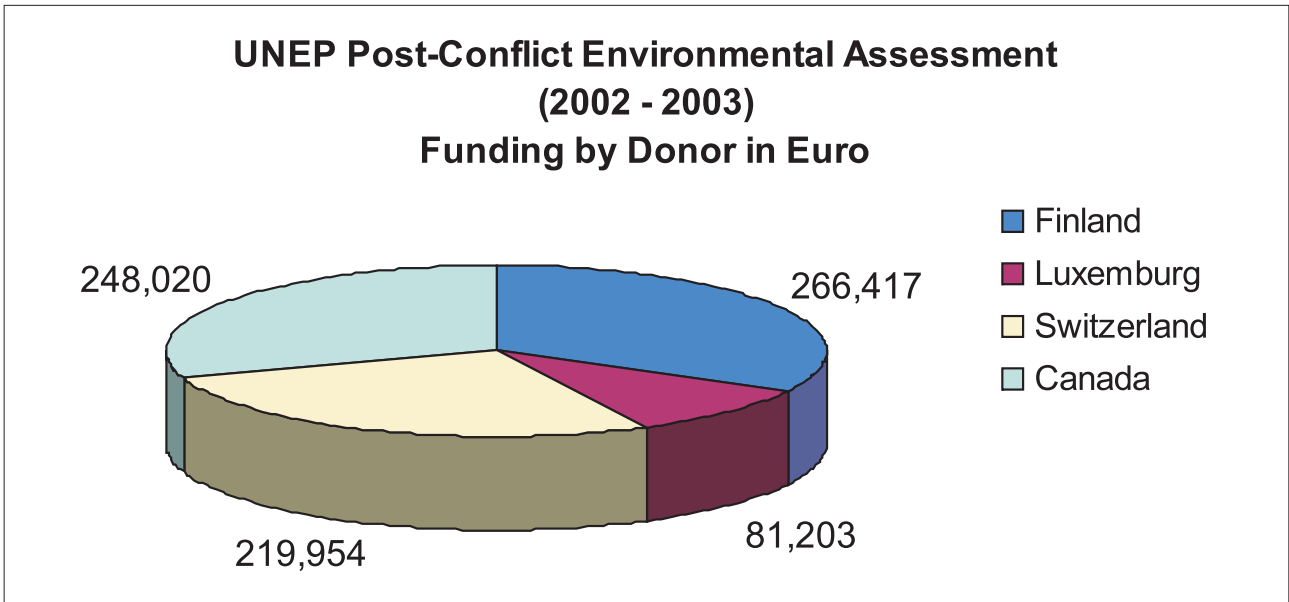
UNEP National Staff (Kabul)

- Abdul Wali Modaqiq, GEF coordinator
- Abdul Baqi, GEF Programme Assistant
- Mohammad Sayed Quazi, Programme Assistant
- Zalmai Zamani, Operations Assistant
- Ajmal Nikzad, Admin Assistant
- Khalid Azim, IT Coordinator
- Abdul Qadeer Karyab, Senior Translator
- Razia Naseri, Translator
- Ghulam Sakhi Nawazish, Translator
- Shekeb Ahmad Ahmadi, Driver
- Mohammad Anwar Yakoobi, Driver
- Mohammad Latif, Driver
- Ali Ahmad, Driver
- Abdul Qader Chardiwal, Caretaker
- Ahmad Fahim, Guard
- Mohammad Ismail Nasir, Guard
- Mina Faqiri, Cleaner
- Zaki Ghiasi, Computer Teacher (part-time staff)
- Sayed Kahlid Ishaq, English Teacher (part-time staff)
- Mia Aguiro, English Teacher (part-time staff)

UNEP International Staff (Kabul / Geneva / Bangkok)

- David Jensen, Project Coordinator (Geneva)
- Asif Ali Zaidi, Programme Manager (Kabul)
- George Bouma, EIA Expert (Kabul)
- Belinda Bowling, Environmental Law and International Conventions Expert (Kabul)
- William Van de Berg, Community-based natural resource management expert (Kabul)
- Fatemah Shams, Associate Programme Officer (Kabul)
- Purna Rajbhandari, Programme Officer (Bangkok)
- Tin Moe, Senior Programme Officer (Bangkok)
- Bayasgalan Sanduijav, Computer Specialist (Bangkok)

Annex 2: Financial information



Annex 3: Equipment provided

Provision of basic office equipment was a critical need of NEPA after it was established in May 2005. To meet this need, computer equipment, furniture and office supplies have been procured for the professional and administrative staff of UNEP as well as the divisions of NEPA and for the office and the secretariat of the Senior Management of NEPA. A fully staffed and furnished National Ozone Unit and a computer laboratory has also been established. Two vehicles were procured already in 2004 and an additional two vehicles were ordered in 2005. All equipment purchased by the programme will be officially transferred to NEPA when the UNEP programme completes its operations. To date, the equipment procured by UNEP includes the following items:

- 14 offices completed refurbished with carpet, paint, windows and wiring
- 49 Computers (Pentium 4)
- 48 Monitors
- 46 UPS
- 6 Laptops
- 12 Stabilizers
- 4 BW and 3 Colour printers
- 1 Projector
- 2 Scanners
- 7 Flash Disks
- 2 Photocopy machines
- 1 Managers desk and 9 Office desks
- 5 Corner tables, 1 Side table and 1 Meeting table
- 6 Book cases
- 8 Meeting arm chairs
- 2 Office arm chairs
- 6 Swivel chairs
- 7 Electric heaters
- 6 Fans
- 2 Refrigerators
- 2 Stabilizer for refrigerator
- 4 Toyota 4x4s

Annex 4: Training and international conference facilitation

I. Facilitation of participation of Afghan delegates in international conferences / meetings / workshops

- Meeting of the South Asia Network of ODS Officers and Customs Ozone Workshop, 19-24 April 2004, India. UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Dost Mohammad Amin, Deputy Minister for Environment.
- International Conference for Renewable Energies, 1 – 4 June 2004, Germany. UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Ahmed Yusuf Nuristani, Minister for Irrigation, Water Resources and Environment and Mr. Dost Mohammad Amin, Deputy Minister of Environment.
- 24th Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, 13 - 16 July 2004 (Switzerland): UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Dost Mohammad Amin, Deputy Minister of Environment.
- Asian Regional Meeting for preparation of CITES COP 13, 19-21 July 2004, Manila, Philippines. UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Abdul Samai Sakhi, Deputy Director of National Parks, Ministry of Agriculture.
- Tripartite Consultation Meeting (Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan), 17-18 August 2004, Tehran, Iran. UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Faiz Mohammad Rawan, DoE and Mr. Bismillah Kammawie, Head of Customs Department, Ministry of Finance.
- Senior Officials Meeting for the 2nd ECO Ministerial Meeting and 2nd ECO Ministerial Meeting, 4-6 October 2004, Istanbul, Turkey. UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Dost Mohammad Amin, Deputy Minister of Environment and Eng. Mohammad Rahim Rahim, General Director of Environment, Department for the Development and Protection of Environment, DoE.
- Central Asia and North-West Asia Sub-regional Preparatory Meeting for the 5th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 7-8 October 2004, Istanbul, Turkey. UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Dost Mohammad Amin, Deputy Minister of Environment and Eng. Mohammad Rahim Rahim, General Director of Environment, DoE.
- Regional Awareness Raising Workshop on Mercury Pollution, 11-14 October 2004, Beirut, Lebanon, organized by UNEP Chemicals and the Ministry of Environment, Lebanon. UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Sulaiman Shah Salary, Head of Environmental Training Department, DoE and Mr. Mohammad Akbar Khalid, Director of Air Pollution Control Department, DoE.
- Meeting of South Asia Network of Ozone Officers “Complying with 2005 Obligations”, 3-6 November 2004, Siem Reap, Cambodia. UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Faiz Mohammad Rawan, DoE, Mr. Zahid Ullah, Head of National Ozone Unit, DoE and Mr. Khushal Rasi, Customs Department, Ministry of Finance and Mr. Majid, Ministry of Commerce.
- Working Session to finalise Environmental Management Act for Afghanistan, 7-11 November 2004, Thailand. UNEP organized the working session between the DoE, IUCN and UNEP. From Afghanistan Mr. Tassal, Legislation Department, Ministry of Justice, Mr. Osman, DoE, and Ms. Belinda Bowling, Environmental Law Expert, UNEP attended the working session.
- 22nd Session of the IPCC, 9-11 November 2004, New Delhi, India. UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Saqqeullah Ahmadzai, DoE.

- Inter-linkages Initiative, Regional Workshop on Integrated Capacity Development for Multilateral Environmental Agreements in South Asia, 2005, 14 - 16 February 2005 (Colombo, Sri Lanka): UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Khan Wali Kamran, DoE Jalalabad.
- Regional Consultation on the Draft BAT/BEP Guidelines for the South East Asian region, 7 - 9 March 2005 (Bangkok, Thailand), organized by the Stockholm Convention Secretariat: UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Samiullah Hashmi, Staff of DoE and UNEP MEA Counterpart.
- Eminent Scientist Symposium, side event for the 5th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development (MCED) 2005, 24 - 25 March 2005 (Seoul, Republic of Korea), organized by UNESCAP, Korea Environment Institute (KEI), International Geosphere Biosphere Programme (IGBP): UNEP facilitated the participation of Dr. Nasar Ahmad Kohestani, Director of Environment Conservation Centre, Kabul University, Mr. Akbar Khalid, Head of Pollution Control Department, DoE, Mr. M. Sayed Qazi, National Programme Assistant, UNEP.
- IPCC meeting (Working Groups I and III), 6 - 8 April 2005 (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia): UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Sadeeq Ullah Ahmadzai, NEPA official and UNEP MEA Counterpart.
- Regional Ozone Network for South Asia Network Meeting "Gearing up for 2007 and beyond", 20 - 23 April 2005 (Beijing, China), organized by UNEP/ DTIE under the MLF: UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Zahid Ullah Hamdard, National Ozone Officer, NOU, NEPA, Mr. Nasrullah Khan, Assistant Ozone Officer, NOU, NEPA, Mr. Khudadad Faqahi, Deputy Director for Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, Ms. Belinda Bowling, Environmental Law Expert, UNEP, Afghanistan
- Third Session for the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 3), UNCCD, 2 - 11 May 2005 (Bonn, Germany), UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jawad, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, MoAAHF.
- Asian Regional Meeting on the Ramsar Convention in preparation for COP 9, 13 - 16 May 2005 (Beijing, China), UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jawad, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, MoAAHF.
- International Conference on Regional Cooperation in Transboundary River Basins, 30 May - 1 June 2005 (Dushanbe, Tajikistan), organized by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan with support of the UN: UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Dost Mohammad Amin, Deputy Director General, NEPA.
- Central Asia Flyway / CMS Meeting/ Meeting to endorse the proposed western/ central Asian sitenetwork for Siberian cranes (and other waterbirds), 10-13 June 2005 (Dehli, India), organized by CMS / UNEP: UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Sulaiman Shah Salary, NEPA and Mr. Abdul Samai Sakhi, Director National Parks, Forest and Range Department, MoAAHF.
- 25th Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, 27 June – 1 July 2005 (Montreal, Canada), organized by Secretariat for the Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol: UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Daud Saba, Advisor to the DG of NEPA
- Silk Road CITES Enforcement Seminar, 22 - 25 August 2005 (Urumqi, China), organized by the CITES Secretariat: UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Ghulam Haidar Haidari, Director of Environment of Forests and Ranges General Directorate, MAAHF and Mr. Abdullah Nazary, Police Department, Kabul Airport.
- 9th Governing Council of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) and Meeting of the third Inter Ministerial Meeting (IMM) - South Asian Seas Programme (SASP), 24-26 August 2005 (Thimpu, Bhutan): UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Dost Mohammad Amin, Deputy Director General, NEPA.

- ECO meeting on the Environmental Impact Assessment, 20 - 21 September 2005 (Ankara, Turkey), organized by ECO: UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Faiz Mohammad Rawan, NEPA.
- National Workshop on the implementation of biodiversity-related MEAs (National Consultative Workshop on the UN Conventions on Biodiversity, Migratory Species and Wetlands (RAMSAR)), 21-23 September 2005 (Islamabad, Pakistan) organized by the Government of Pakistan, UNEP, IUCN: UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Sadeeq Ullah Ahmad Zai, NEPA Official and UNEP MEA counterpart staff, Mr. Jarullah Mansoor, NEPA Chief of staff (not officially appointed as yet) and Mr Mohammad Waheed Ibrahimzada, Forests and Rangeland Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food.
- South Asia Regional Workshop for Negotiators of Multilateral Agreements (MEAs), 5-7 October 2005 (Colombo, Sri Lanka), organized by SACEP: UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Samiullah Nuristani, NEPA Official and UNEP MEA counterpart staff
- COP7 for the UNCCD, 15-28 October 2005 (Nairobi, Kenya), organized by the UNCCD Secretariat: UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr Ghulam Mustafa Jawad, Technical Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture.
- Afghanistan–Iran meeting on the Sistan basin wetlands, 5-7 December 2005 (Geneva Switzerland). UNEP facilitated the meeting.
- Joint COP 7 for the Vienna Convention and MOP 17 for the parties of the Montreal Protocol, 12 – 16 December 2005 (Dakar, Senegal), organized by the Ozone Secretariat: UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Dost Mohammad Amin, Deputy Director General, NEPA and Mr. Zahid Ullah Hamdard, National Ozone Officer, NOU, NEPA

II. Facilitation of participation of Afghan delegates in international / regional training courses

- Participation of Mr. Hamidullah, of DoE, in the Leadership Programme on Environment and Sustainable Development, Tongji University, Shanghai, China, 26 - 31 July 2004 organized and facilitated by UNEP.
- Ozone training workshop organized by UNEP, 1-3 August 2004, Islamabad, Pakistan. UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Nasrullah Shah and Ms. Fahima, Assistant Ozone Officers, NOU, DoE.
- Regional Training Programme in Environmental Policy Analysis and Law, 16 - 19 August 2004, China. UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Abdul Rab Aazem, Vice President of External Communication and Cultural Management, DoE.
- Ozone Training Workshop for Customs Officers, 18 - 21 September 2004, Tehran, Iran. UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Habibullah Ranjbar, Director Customs Department, Mazar-e-Sharif Province, Ministry of Finance and Mr. Khoshkhal Rasi, Director Legislation, Customs Department, Ministry of Finance.
- Sustainability and Environmental Management in SMEs, 11 October - 3 December 2004, India, organized by National Institute of Small Industry Extension Training, India. UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Rahimullah Under, DoE.
- Climate Change Meeting and NAPA Technical Training Workshop, 22 – 25 October 2004, Dar Es Salam, Tanzania, organized by UNEP. UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Abdul Wali Modaqiq, National Project Coordinator, GEF, UNEP.



- Capacity Development Partnership Forum for MDG 7 (Environment) in Asia and the role of NCSA and PPP, 1–5 November 2004, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, organized by UNDP and PPPUE, Pretoria. UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Abdul Wali Modaqiq, National Project Coordinator, GEF, UNEP.
- Training of trainers on Good Refrigerant Management Practices, 11-15 December 2004, Mashad, Iran, organized by UNIDO. UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Yasin and Mr. Rasul, of DoE.
- Training on Management of Environmental and Social Issues (focus: Power and Urban Sector) for Officers of the Government of Afghanistan, 9 -18 January 2005 (New Delhi, India) organized by the World Bank: UNEP facilitated the participation of 5 DoE staff, working as UNEP EIA counterpart staff: Mr. Nasir Ahmad, Mr. Hamidullah, Mr. Mohammad Sadiq, Mr. M. Karim Mughbil, Mr. Abdul Rafi.
- Seminar on Policy Implementation and Alternative Technologies Concerning Ozone Layer Protection, 16 January - 19 February 2005 (Tokyo, Japan) organized by JICA. UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Zahid Ullah, National Ozone Officer, National Ozone Unit, DoE, Afghanistan.
- 2 nd - 3 rd Joint SEAP-SA Customs- ODS Officers Coordination Workshop, 25 - 27 April 2005 (Beijing, China), organized by UNEP/ DTIE, SIDA: UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Zahid Ullah Hamdard, National Ozone Officer, NOU, NEPA, Mr. Nasrullah Khan, Assistant Ozone Officer, NOU, NEPA, Mr. Mirwais Yar Tanai, Internal Audit Manager, Directorate General of Customs, Ministry of Finance
- Group Training Course in Environmental Policy and Environmental Management System, 19 May - 8 July 2005 (Osaka, Japan), organized by Global Environment Center (GEC), JICA, Env. Sewerage Bureau, Osaka: UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Rahimullah Ander, NEPA Official and UNEP EIA Counterpart staff in this course sponsored by the Government of Japan.
- Ten of staff of NEPA were selected to attend different training courses at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in Bangkok in early 2005 as part of the training and capacity building provided under components 6 and 7 of UNEPs capacity building programme. Following one month intensive English language training in April 2005, 6 staff (Mr. Wazir Gul, Mr. Hamid Bahni, Mr. Abdul Rab Azem, Mr. Wahidullah Ibrahimi, Mr. Samiullah Faqerzada and Mr. Nawab Nuristani) attended and still attend a 4-month generic environmental course, 2 staff (Mr. Javed Gulistan and Mr. Ahmad Lemar) attended a two-month GIS/RS technical training course (Global Information System/ Remote Sensing) and 2 staff (Mr. Mohammad Rafi Ratea and Ms. Zakia Sarwary) attended a one-month library training course.
- Course on International Environmental Law-making and Diplomacy, organized by the University of Joensuu – UNEP, 14 - 26 August 2005 at Joensuu, Finland: UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Zahid Ullah Hamdard, National Ozone Officer, NOU, NEPA
- Methods of Pollution Control for Environmental Engineers, 27 September - 19 November 2005 (Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan), organized by JICA: UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Gholam Rasul, NEPA Official.
- UNEP Training Workshop on Environmental Law, 16-19 October 2005 (Bali, Indonesia), organized by UNEP: UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Habib u Rahman, NEPA Official and UNEP Law Counterpart staff.
- Seventh UNEP Global Training Programme on Environmental Law and Policy (GTP 7), 7 - 18 November 2005 (Nairobi, Kenya), organized by UNEP: UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr Sadeeq Ullah Ahmadzai, NEPA Official and UNEP MEA Counterpart staff.

III. In-country training activities for the EIA pillar

Date	Training method	Description
5 August 2004	Lecture	Overview on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and associated administrative systems
23 September 2004	Lecture	Relationship between EIA, planning and pollution control
1 December 2004	Lecture	Sustainable development and the role of EIA
2 December 2004	Lecture	Environmental assessment and the project cycle
2 - 10 January 2005	Training	Management of Environmental and Social Issues in the Urban and Power Sectors
31 January 2005	Lecture/Training	Law Policy and Institutional Arrangements for EIA
1 February 2005	Lecture/Training	Law Policy and Institutional Arrangements for EIA
2 February 2005	Lecture/Training	Law Policy and Institutional Arrangements for EIA
February/March	Group Work	Developing policy for EIA and environmentally sensitive areas
13 February 2005	Case study and field visit	Wool scoring plant proposal - Kunduz
15 February 2005	Lecture	How to give a professional presentation
17 February 2005	Presentation of EIA counterparts	Presentation on the training on Management Training on Management of Environmental and Social Issues (focus: Power and Urban Sector) for Officers of the Government of Afghanistan, 9 -18 January 2005 (New Delhi, India) organized by the World Bank
21 February 2005	Lecture/Training	Policy making for EIA in Afghanistan
22 February 2005	Lecture/Training	Law Policy and Institutional Arrangements for EIA
24 February 2005	Presentation of EIA counterparts	Presentation on the training on Management Training on Management of Environmental and Social Issues (focus: Power and Urban Sector) for Officers of the Government of Afghanistan, 9 -18 January 2005 (New Delhi, India) organized by the World Bank
15 March 2005	Session	Introduction to Pollution Control
April 2005	Case study and field visit	Bamyan-Charakay Power Line EIA screening, scoping and preliminary impact assessment
May 2005	Case study and field visit	Carpet Washing and Cutting Facilities Developing guidelines for treatment of wastewater
19 May 2005	Training	Pollution Control - Policy Workshop
21 May 2005	Training	Pollution Control - Policy Instruments Workshop
22 May 2005	Lecture	Scoping
25 May 2005	Lecture	Scoping
26 May 2005	Presentation	Bamyan - Charakay Power Line EIA
June 2005	Case study and field visit	Mazar - Irrigation Projects, EIA screening, scoping and preliminary impact assessment
July 2005	Case study and field visit	Western Basins Irrigation Projects, EIA screening, scoping and preliminary impact assessment
10 July 2005	Lecture	EIA Provisions in the draft Environmental Law
13 July 2005	Test	EIA Concepts and Theory
21 July 2005	Lecture	Presentation on EIA relevant matters with regard to a chemical factory in Mazar-e Sharif
28 July 2005	Presentation of EIA Counterparts	Lessons learnt from EIA mission to Mazar-e Sharif, assessment of chemical factory
September 2005	Case study	Preliminary licencing system for SME's in industrial parks
October 2005	Case study and field visit	Salma Dam rehabilitation, EIA screening, scoping and preliminary impact assessment
October 2005	Case study and field visit	Carpet Industry Opportunities for development of sustainable practices
November 2005	Case study and field visit	Yakowlang Agricultural Development Project Environmental review and advice to proponent
November 2005	Case study and field visit	Panjshir Valley Hazardous Waste Site review of hazardous waste material
2 October 2005	Lecture	Introduction to Policy and Policy Development
16 November 2005	Lecture/Training	EIA Policy in Afghanistan - Developing a Policy Approach for Screening and Scoping
20 November 2005	Lecture/Training	EIA Policy in Afghanistan - Developing a Policy Approach for Screening and Scoping
23 November 2005	Lecture/Training	EIA Policy in Afghanistan - Developing a Policy Approach for Screening and Scoping
27 November 2005	Training	EIA Policy in Afghanistan - Developing a Policy Approach for Screening and Scoping
30 November 2005	Training	EIA Policy in Afghanistan - Developing a Policy Approach for Screening and Scoping

IV. In-country training activities for the environmental law and policy pillar

Date	Training method	Description
15 July 2004	Lecture	Orientation to MEAs
22 July 2004	Lecture	Role of law in societies with particular reference to the notion of the rule of law
4 August 2004	Lecture	Orientation to MEAs
15 August 2004	Lecture	Introduction to MEAs
7 September 2004	Lecture	Introduction to MEAs
9 September 2004	Lecture	Types of law and hierarchy of laws, democratic governance structures and separation of powers
27 September 2004	Lecture	Afghanistan's constitution and the role of civil service
30 September 2004	Lecture	Introduction to MEAs
7 October 2004	Lecture	Structure and functions of MEAs
11 October 2004	Lecture	Structure and functions of MEAs
14 October 2004	Lecture	Trends in environmental legislation in developing countries, lessons learnt for Afghanistan
4 November 2004	Lecture	Introduction to CITES
14 December 2004	Lecture	Capacity building in environmental law, capacity building in environmental law in Africa, lessons learnt for Afghanistan
16 December 2004	Lecture	Institutions for the development of environmental law
24 March 2005	Lecture/Training	Pollution Prevention and Control Legislation
30 March 2005	Lecture/Training	Waste Management Legislation
March-April 2005	Training	Intensive training on the draft Environmental Management Act (2 weeks in total), in which the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Agriculture and Food environmental law focal points also participated
6 April 2005	Training	EMA (draft) Chapter 1
7 April 2005	Training	EMA (draft) Chapter 2
5 May 2005	Workshop	Workshop on the GEF (DGEF, UNEP mission)
10 May 2005	Training	Environmental Management Act Overview
11 May 2005	Training	Environmental Management Act Overview
12 May 2005	Training	Environmental Management Act Overview
15 May 2005	Workshop	Biodiversity Chapter - workshop for MoA - only 2 counterparts from DoE required to attend - others at EIA session
17 May 2005	Workshop	Consultation workshop
18 May 2005	Workshop	Debriefing on workshop
28 May 2005	Workshop	Consultation workshop
29 May 2005	Workshop	Consultation workshop
31 May 2005	Workshop	Consultation workshop
1 June	Workshop	A workshop on the draft Environmental Management Act was held for officials in the Forests and Rangeland Department of the Ministry of Agriculture
28 Aug 2005	Training	Promulgation process for the EMA
31 Aug 2005	Training	Report writing
5 September 2005	Training	Meaning and global implications of the concept "sustainable development"
7 September 2005	Training	Basic skills training in project proposal development
11 September 2005	Training	Overview of the UN Convention on Climate Change
14 September 2005	Training	Overview of the Convention on Biological Diversity
21 September 2005	Training	Overview of the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste
25 September 2005	Training	Overview of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
21 September 2005	Training	Overview of the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste

Annex 5: UNEP's contribution to Afghanistan's Interim National Development Strategy

UNEP assisted the Government of Afghanistan to build environmental considerations and benchmarks into Afghanistan's new development framework, the "Interim-Afghanistan National Development Strategy (I-ANDS)", which is a five-year strategy that complements the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The I-ANDS will also be the Interim-Poverty Reduction Strategy (I-PRSP) for Afghanistan. The I-ANDS benchmarks have been included in the outcome document of the Afghanistan donor conference held in London in January-February 2006, wherein the pursuit of fiscal, institutional and environmental sustainability has been stated a principle of cooperation.

(I -) ANDS development process

The National Development Strategy (NDS) is the Government of Afghanistan's overarching strategy for promoting growth, generating wealth and reducing poverty and vulnerability. It will provide the framework for the development of Government policies, and guide the allocation of resources and programmes towards these goals. The NDS is being prepared in two phases: (i) an Interim NDS was prepared during 2005, and (ii) a Final NDS will be completed during 2006. The existing strategies of the government and the international community – namely the National Development Framework (NDF, 2002), the National Development Budgets for 1381-1383, Securing Afghanistan's Future (2004), the Berlin Work Plan, the 12 National Priority Programmes (NPP), the 16 Public Investment Programmes (PIP), the UN Common Country Assessment for Afghanistan (UN CCA, 2004), the National Human Development Report (NHDR, 2004) and the UN Development Assistance Framework for Afghanistan (UNDAF, 2005) – are being used as the foundations of the NDS. Inconsistencies across strategies are being debated and conclusions reached for the NDS. The Government of Afghanistan is committed to integrating the MDGs into the NDS. The targets will be adapted to the specific context and priorities of Afghanistan, and will strike a balance between ambition and realism. The Interim NDS will be submitted to the Boards of the World Bank and the IMF in the expectation that it will meet the benchmarks of an Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (I-PRSP). This may generate additional benefits for Afghanistan in the mid- to long-term. The final NDS, to be completed in 2006, will likewise be presented to the Boards of the Bank and IMF, as Afghanistan's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP).

Mainstreaming Environment into the development agenda and the (I-) ANDS

UNEP contributed substantially to the formulation of environmental strategies for Afghanistan:

- As a member of the Afghanistan UN CCA Working Group on Economic Growth and Development, UNEP was the main drafter of the section on environment and natural resources in the UN Common Country Assessment for Afghanistan. The chapter appears in the UNCCA as "Using Natural Resources Sustainably".
- Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) is one of the four pillars of Afghanistan UN UNDAF. The chapter on ENR was drafted by a working group, co-chaired by UNEP and FAO.
- Along with the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA), UNEP co-chaired the Technical Working Group on MDG7 ("Ensure Environmental Sustainability"), and provided extensive reference material to the drafting team of the MDG Report for Afghanistan. The drafting team's main document of reference was UNEP Post Conflict Assessment Report. The draft chapter on MDG 7 was vetted and amended by UNEP, before its finalization and release.

UNEP provided its comments and input to the vision, outline and issues paper and the draft Interim NDS within the consultation forum for UN and donor agencies and international financial institutions, one of the four consultation fora established to ensure and encourage the participation of all stakeholders and



partners to the development of the NDS. Environmental protection has been highlighted as one of the key components of Pillar 2 – sustainable economic and social development - under infrastructure, natural resources and private sector, as well as agriculture and rural development, which indicates that it has been mainstreamed to a priority issue within the development agenda, in line with the MDG approach. As part of the I-ANDS, a benchmark document has been prepared through a consultative process. Several themes were identified and individual theme groups drafted benchmark documents on individual themes. Two kinds of theme groups were constituted: theme groups comprising of representatives of the Government of Afghanistan; and theme groups comprising of representatives of the international community. A high level committee synthesized the outputs of the theme groups.

UNEP and NEPA were members of two theme groups: Infrastructure, natural resources and private sector, and agriculture and rural development. The consultations resulted in the creation of a separate cross cutting theme group on environment and drafting of a theme paper on environment. The environment theme paper calls for (i) coordination of environmental affairs at international, regional, national and sub-national levels; (ii) development and implementation of environmental laws, policies and strategies in order to integrate ecological issues in development projects through the environmental impact assessment process; (iii) provision of environmental management services for protection of air and water quality, waste management and pollution control; and (iv) raising of awareness of environmental issues as key environmental policies of the Government of Afghanistan.

The final I-ANDS benchmark document, including a benchmark for environment, has been annexed to the Post Bonn Compact document, which was released at the end of the London meeting, held on 31 January – 1 February 2006. The benchmark for environment reads *“In line with Afghanistan’s Millenium Development Goals, environmental regulatory frameworks and management services will be established for the protection of air and water quality, waste management and pollution control, and natural resource policies will be developed and implementation started at all levels of government as well as the community level, by end 2007.”*

Further information

Further technical information may be obtained from the UNEP Post-Conflict Branch at:

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