

Air Quality Policies

This document is based on research that UNEP conducted in 2015, in response to Resolution 7 of the UNEA 1. It describes country-level policies that impact air quality. Triple question marks (???) indicate that information for the section couldn't be found.

Please review the information, and provide feedback. A Word version of the template can be provided upon request. Corrections and comments can be emailed to Vered.Ehsani@unep.org and George.Mwaniki@unep.org.

AFGHANISTAN		
GOALS	CURRENT STATUS	CURRENT / PLANNED POLICIES & PROGRAMMES
GENERAL OVERVIEW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Overall situation with respect to air quality in the country, including key air quality challenges: the major source of pollution in Kabul is transport (emissions and dust from unpaved roads); generators are another major source; burning of military waste ● Air quality monitoring system: Yes – one continuous AQ monitoring station 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● National Ambient air quality standards: Yes as per WHO guidelines ● National Air Quality Policy: No, but there is the Clean Air Regulation 2010 ● Air Quality legislation / programmes: Environmental Act 2005 provides legal framework for environmental protection; 3-year strategic plan to decrease air pollutants by 2014 (was it renewed???); Commission on Air Pollution meets monthly to monitor implementation of plan; Draft National Ambient Air Quality Management Strategy and a Clean Air Implementation Plan for Kabul and five other cities ● Other:
REDUCE EMISSIONS FROM INDUSTRIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Industries that have the potential to impact air quality: chemical; machinery; metal; asphalt factories; power plants (poor quality fuel); brick kilns – major source of PM (technology outdated; many of them use wood, waste plastic, rubber, reeds as fuel); small-scale production of textiles ● GDP of country: \$20 billion ● Industries' share of GDP: 6% ● Electricity sources: Hydro (64%), small diesel generators and plants; some importation from other countries; coal plants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Emission regulations for industries: No regulations ● Small installation's emissions regulated: No ● Renewable energy investment promoted: ??? ● Energy efficiency incentives: (ex: Subsidies, labelling, rebates etc) ??? ● Incentives for clean production and installation of pollution prevention technologies: ??? ● Actions to ensure compliance with regulations: (monitoring, enforcement, fines etc) ??? ● Other actions at national, sub-national and / or local level to reduce industry emissions: ???
REDUCE EMISSIONS FROM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Key transport-related air quality challenges: illegal import of used vehicles, use of very old and poorly maintained 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vehicle emission limit: None; being drafted to Euro 3 (2016 as goal year) ● Fuel Sulphur content: officially 10,000 ppm; Euro 3 equivalent fuel imported ● Restriction on used car importation: No

TRANSPORT	<p>vehicles (some more than 60 years old), poor fuel quality, dust from unpaved roads (significant source of PM); Poor public transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 50% vehicles are small cars and taxis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Actions to expand, improve and promote public transport and mass transit: ??? ● Actions to promote non-motorized transport: (ex: include sidewalks and bike lanes in new road projects, car-free areas etc) ??? ● Other transport-related actions:
REDUCE EMISSIONS FROM OPEN BURNING OF AGRICULTURAL / MUNICIPAL WASTE (OUTDOOR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Outdoor, open burning: burning of municipal waste a significant source of air pollution; burning of tires, plastic bags or other garbage as fuel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Legal framework: (ex: is burning banned?) ??? ● Actions to prevent open burning of municipal waste and / or agricultural waste: ???
REDUCE EMISSIONS FROM OPEN BURNING OF BIOMASS (INDOOR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dominant fuels used for cooking and space heating: >95% nationally use solid fuels (wood mainly, some waste plastic, rubber). Use of traditional stoves further increases indoor pollution; Urban homes – 25% use wood, 50% use LPG, 10% use electricity; Rural homes – 62% use wood, 31% use dung. ● Building and factory heating systems use wood, kerosene, LPG, charcoal, straw: produce high emissions during winter; There are a lot of portable generators (mostly diesel), almost all for households ● Impact: 54,000 deaths/year from indoor pollution (400 from outdoor air pollution) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Indoor air pollution regulated: No ● Promotion of non-grid / grid electrification: No. 23% electrification rate, mostly urban ● Promotion of cleaner cooking fuels and clean cook stoves: ??? ● Other actions to reduce indoor biomass burning, or to reduce its emissions: ???

Secondary Sources used in the research: *Country Synthesis Report on Urban Air Quality Management: Afghanistan. Asian Development Bank and the Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities, 2006,*
http://cleanairasia.org/portal/sites/default/files/presentations/afghanistan_country_presentation.pdf,
https://energypedia.info/wiki/Afghanistan_Energy_Situation, <http://airlex.web.ua.pt/pm10>,
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