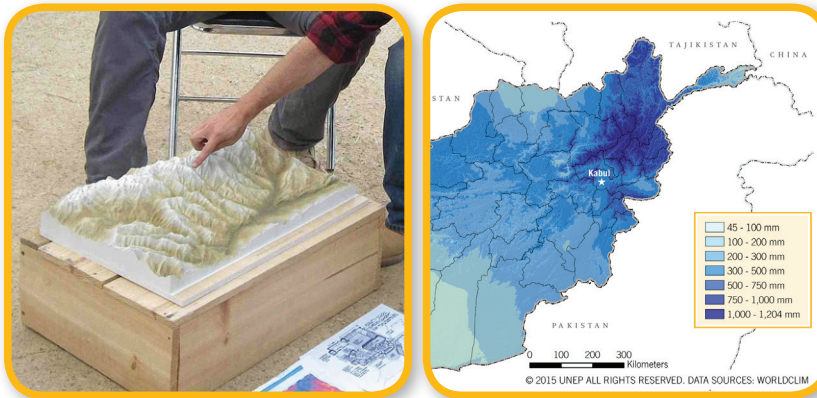


## AFGHANISTAN ENVIRONMENTAL DATA CENTER (AEDC)



Stories about global and ecological change in Afghanistan are manifold but fact-based knowledge is still poor. At the same time, environmental changes like water shortages and warmer temperatures can already be felt. Fact-based decisions on adaptation are urgently needed from the policy side. The AEDC is a multi-faceted initiative to support a fact-driven policy on adaptation. Initiated by the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) and UNEP, the Afghanistan Environmental Data Centre provides geospatial knowledge, technologies and infrastructure to all stakeholders engaged and interested in Afghanistan's sustainable future. The AEDC is based on several pillars with different state-of-the-art approaches for capacity building, technological support and networking in the environmental context which help to face the challenges of Global Change.

### CONNECT - ANALYSE - EXPLAIN

#### AEDC is:

- an incubator for new geospatial ideas to drive environmental decision making in Afghanistan.
- a platform to collect, catalog, and share environmental data among all partners.
- a knowledge hub for geospatial techniques like GIS and remote sensing.
- a center for technical capacity building on environmental data related topics.
- a multifaceted initiative with an integrated, holistic approach.
- a small step further on the way to a sustainable future of Afghanistan.

#### AEDC COMPONENTS:

##### Web Portal for Environmental Data:

Geospatial data in Afghanistan is sparse and not centrally accessible. Therefore a central pillar of AEDC is a GIS web platform with a comprehensive collection of all kinds of environmental data, from geology over biology to climate. Basic data is openly available on the platform but there is also a restricted part for the exchange of confident and non-free data between governmental agencies and ministries.

##### Environmental Workshops:

Capacity building is the core of AEDC. Therefore AEDC designs and delivers workshops on environmental planning and decision-making at national and provincial levels in order to train partners on how to access and use the AEDC and spatial data in environmental analysis.

##### Reference Library:

Internet access in Afghanistan is still limited and a lot of environmentally relevant information is still not available on the Internet, especially not in local languages like Dari and Pashto. Therefore AEDC includes a reference library, located at the University of Kabul which provides essential information on environment related topics for students as well as senior researchers.

##### Physical Terrain Models:

Three-dimensional physical terrain models help to understand and explain physical processes and development plans, and visually demonstrate the interactions between topography and natural hazards for stakeholders.

##### Geospatial Laboratory:

Maps and figures provide a fast but also profound access to all facets of environmental related topics. In the Geospatial Laboratory all kind of geospatial data, including remote sensing, climate, land cover and socio-economic data are processed in order to provide information for a fact-based decision making.