

BUILDING ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE IN AFGHANISTAN (2013-2017)



UNEP has been in Afghanistan since 2002, when it conducted a major post-conflict environmental assessment of the country. Since then, UNEP has worked with government, civil society, academia, and other stakeholders to nurture the development of environmental and natural resource management in Afghanistan. Today, UNEP’s Afghanistan programme is focused on building environmental resilience and sustainability throughout the country, from policy to action, with institutions and local communities.

UNEP’s Approach in Afghanistan:

- National government and science teams, with local community action.
- Integrated ecosystem-based watershed management.
- Building adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change impacts.
- Long-term technical and ecological solutions to local problems.

Afghanistan Government Partners:

- National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA)
- Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL)
- Ministry of Water and Energy (MEW)
- Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD)
- Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA)
- Afghanistan Meteorological Authority (AMA)
- Kabul, Bamyan, and Faizabad Universities

Project Sites:

- **Badakhshan:** watersheds & irrigated agriculture
- **Balkh:** dryland agriculture and research
- **Bamyan:** watershed management
- **Daikundi:** peri-urban landscape
- **Kabul:** national policy and capacity building

PROGRAMME COMPONENTS

Environmental Institutions, Coordination and Environmental Assessments: Strengthening institutional capacity and coordination with national and local authorities, and local communities, to conduct strategic environmental planning and environmental assessments.

Laws, Policies, and MEAs: Supporting the development and implementation of environmental laws and policies, as well as the delivery of commitments on multi-lateral environmental agreements (MEAs).

Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction: Developing policies and implementing practices to build community resilience and promote ecological approaches to disaster risk reduction (eco-DRR), including the rehabilitation and restoration of watersheds, particularly upper catchments.

Climate Change Adaptation: Increasing adaptive capacity and resilience to water-related climate change risks in Afghanistan (UNFCCC) with both government institutions and rural communities.

Environment, Peace, and Conflict: Natural resource management, watersheds, rangelands, forest, and extractive industry projects as practical peacebuilding opportunities.

Training, Advocacy, and Outreach: Capacity building and awareness raising on environmental issues, targeting key government, civil society, academia, international donors, and development community stakeholders.

Research, Data, and GIS: Collecting, curating, and analysing geospatial and ecological information on flora, fauna, urban, rural, climate, and geology for decision making and geospatial planning.

