



# AFGHANISTAN

Fact Sheet

## BUILDING ADAPTIVE CAPACITY AND RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN AFGHANISTAN (2013-2017)



Afghanistan is ranked as one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change, both because of the potential impacts of climate change on the country, as well as its limited institutional capacity to plan for and respond to these impacts. With support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), UNEP and the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) are jointly executing Afghanistan's first ever full-size GEF climate change adaptation project, titled "Building Adaptive Capacity and Resilience to Climate Change." This four-year project (2013 - 2017) aims to increase the resilience of vulnerable rural communities and build the capacity of national and local institutions to address climate change risks in Afghanistan, particularly those related to precipitation and temperature fluctuations.

### PROJECT COMPONENTS

#### 1. Climate Change Risk Assessment, Monitoring, Forecasting, and Information:

Increasing the government's capacity and knowledge base for assessment, monitoring, and forecasting of climate change induced risks to the water sector. This includes institutional strengthening and trainings, developing procedures for a national early warning system (EWS), and preparing technical briefs for policy makers on climate change risks.

#### 2. Climate Change Adaptation and Response Strategies:

Integrating climate change risks into relevant national policies, plans, and programmes, including developing tools and methods for identification, evaluation, and mainstreaming of climate change adaptation measures into the water sector, strengthening inter-ministerial coordination on climate change (NCCC), and integrating climate adaptation options into sectoral policies.

#### 3. Practices for Water Resources and Watershed Management Piloted and Tested in Four Provinces:

Reducing climate change vulnerability through local institutional capacity building and community-based adaptation interventions for improved water use and efficiency in Badakhshan, Balkh, Bamyán, and Daikundi provinces. Target areas include irrigated and dryland agriculture, watershed and integrated water resource management, and peri-urban adaptation options.

#### 4. Adaptive Learning and Dissemination of Lessons Learned and Best Practices:

Increasing knowledge of best practices to increase resilience to climate change induced risks to water resources. This includes establishing national platforms for data sharing, building linkages with regional and international climate networks, awareness raising of climate risks and adaptation options, and resource mobilization for up-scaling across Afghanistan.

### Project Sites:

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

### Project Executing Agencies:

- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA)

### Project Government Partners:

- Afghanistan Meteorological Authority (AMA)
- Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA)
- Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation & Livestock (MAIL)
- Ministry of Water and Energy (MEW)
- Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation & Development (MRRD)

