



AFGHANISTAN

Fact Sheet

BALKH: BUILDING ADAPTIVE CAPACITY AND RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES:

Village Management Plans: Developing village-level management, restoration, and land-use plans for ecosystem-based climate change adaptation.

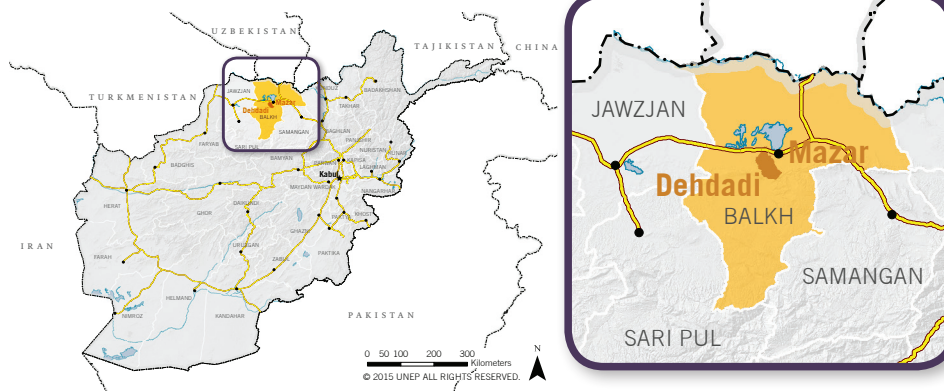
Ecosystem Restoration and Rehabilitation: Design and construction of terraces, planting native forest and fruit trees on slopes to reduce erosion and flat land to reduce flooding, restoration of rangelands for animal grazing, construction of check dams and eco-weirs to reduce soil erosion and recharge groundwater, rehabilitate reservoirs, installation of drip irrigation, and establishment of village woodlots. Moreover, research on drought-resilient species and practices in dryland areas.

Increasing Adaptive Capacity: Building community resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change through livelihoods support, including the establishment of household and community gardens to improve food security, promotion of renewable energy through solar electricity, climate-proofing of irrigation systems, and bee-keeping for agricultural pollination and income generation.

Training, Advocacy, and Outreach: Delivering capacity-building trainings for local communities, civil society, and government authorities on climate change adaptation, and outreach to the general public on climate change risks and adaptation techniques suitable for Badakhshan province.

Early Warning Systems: Developing capacity for monitoring of climate change risks and establishment of community-based early warning systems (EWS) to reduce the risk of natural disasters, particularly related to precipitation and temperature.

Gender Mainstreaming: Recognizing that women have an essential role to play in community-based management of natural resources, many interventions have been designed for the inclusion on women, such as bee-keeping, community gardening, harvesting of forest products and fruits, and installation and maintenance of solar electricity systems.



Balkh is located in the north of Afghanistan, with nearly equal parts mountainous and flat land. Balkh has high agricultural productivity due to fertile soil and rivers in the province, but is categorized as a dryland area due to very low levels of precipitation. Current climate change projections for Balkh indicate that precipitation levels will likely decrease, which would increase vulnerability to drought and reduce agricultural production.

To address these issues, Afghanistan's National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) and UNEP are cooperating on pilot field demonstrations in Balkh focused on dryland agriculture, as well as the establishment of a research and education site on dryland crops and affordable micro-irrigation technologies (AMIT). The aim of these activities is to increase the resilience of local communities to the impacts of climate change, as well as build the capacity of local environmental institutions to research, plan for, and reduce climate change risks.

Project Executing Agencies:

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

Project Government Partners:

- Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA)
- Department of Agriculture, Irrigation & Livestock (DAIL)
- Department of Water and Energy (DEW)
- Department of Rural Rehabilitation & Development (DRRD)

Project Demonstration Sites:

- Balkh Districts
- Dehdadi District
- Nahri Shahi District

Project NGO Partners:

- International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)

