



# AFGHANISTAN

## Fact Sheet

### DEVELOPING CORE CAPACITY FOR DECENTRALIZED MEA IMPLEMENTATION AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN AFGHANISTAN



Afghanistan is signatory to thirteen (13) multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), including the Rio Conventions covering climate (UNFCCC), biodiversity (CBD), and land desertification (UNCCD). In order to strengthen Afghanistan's capacity to comply with these MEAs, UNEP and the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) are collaborating on this three-year project (2015-2017) to improve inter-ministerial coordination on MEA objectives, build stakeholder participation in MEA implementation, support institutions to translate MEA commitments into practice, and strengthen national financial and execution mechanisms for the Rio Conventions.

#### Project Executing Agencies:

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

#### Afghanistan Key Partners:

- Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock (MAIL)
- Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD)
- Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA)
- Ministry of Economy (MoE)
- Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs)
- Kabul University

#### Key Project Outputs:

- Creation of national MEA taskforce and Technical Advisory Panel (TAP).
- Creation of an MEA implementation roadmap.
- Preparation of financial and operational plans for NPPs relevant to Rio Conventions, and creation of a framework for environmental valuation.
- Technical assistance and trainings for national and provincial stakeholders on ecosystem management, biodiversity monitoring, environmental valuation, gender and MEA implementation, renewable energy, data collection and management, etc.
- Pilot community-based interventions on watershed planning, land degradation, poverty-environment linkages, and restoration ecology.

#### PROJECT COMPONENTS

##### Inter-ministerial Coordination:

Increasing government capacity for effective implementation of MEAs by improving inter-ministerial collaboration on MEA objectives, and establishing an operational national MEA taskforce and a Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) to lead the establishment of an MEA implementation roadmap at national and sub-national levels.

**MEA Mainstreaming:** Integrating the Rio Convention (UNFCCC, CBD, and UNCCD) objectives into sectoral development plans and programmes, as well as strengthening national financing and execution of the Rio Convention priorities.

##### Strengthening Technical Capacity of Sub-national Stakeholders:

Building the capacity of local authorities to translate MEA commitments into practice through the delivery of technical trainings for sub-national government, local communities, and civil society groups. Training topics include ecosystem management approaches (watershed planning, data visualization, landscape assessments, and physical land use mapping) as well as monitoring of environmental degradation (mapping, early warning systems, and data collection).

##### Engaging Local Stakeholders:

Increasing local stakeholder participation in MEA implementation through capacity building activities for non-governmental and community-based organizations to increase their understanding and ability to implement MEA requirements in line with existing provincial development plans.

