



**Capacity Building and Institutional Development
Programme
for Environmental Management in Afghanistan**

Progress Report
January – December 2007

UNEP Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch

Kabul, June 2008

A project funded by
the European Commission, the Government of Finland and the Global Environment Facility (GEF)



Executive Summary (2007)

The UNEP Capacity Building and Institutional Development Programme for Afghanistan was requested by the former Afghan Ministry of Irrigation, Water Resources and Environment (MIWRE) as a key follow-up activity to the UNEP report entitled "[Afghanistan Post-Conflict Environmental Assessment](#)", published in January 2003. The programme was implemented in two phases during the period October 2003 to December 2007 with support and funding from the European Commission, the Government of Finland and the Global Environment Facility (GEF). A 36-month third phase of the programme will commence in April 2008. Following the comprehensive progress reports for 2004, 2005 and 2006, this report outlines the progress that was made from January to December 2007 within the nine components of the programme as outlined in the original project document. The main activity highlights and outputs achieved during 2007 are summarized below.

- **Environmental Coordination:** UNEP supported NEPA in the establishment of the inter-ministerial Committee for Environmental Coordination (CEC) as per the requirement of the Environment Law. UNEP supported NEPA in the development of its submissions to the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) Secretariat – ANDS is the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper for Afghanistan. UNEP and NEPA's involvement in the Consultative Group (CG) mechanism is now two-fold: UNEP and NEPA are members of the Natural Resources and Environment Working Group of the Infrastructure and Natural Resources Consultative Group, and NEPA is the lead agency for the Cross-cutting Consultative Group (CCCG) for Environment. UNEP assisted NEPA and the ANDS Secretariat in the development of NEPA's agency strategy paper and in the review of other ministerial strategies from an environmental perspective. UNEP also supported NEPA to draft, revise and finalize the National Environment Strategy and provided comments on relevant draft sectoral strategies, developed by inter-ministerial sector strategy working groups within the ANDS framework, to ensure that environmental considerations are mainstreamed into strategies. Activities with regard to **Environment Policy and Planning**, particularly those related to the National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) have mostly been accomplished through the mainstreaming requirements of environment within the ANDS. The environment benchmark of the Afghanistan Compact states: "In line with Afghanistan's MDGs, environmental regulatory frameworks and management services will be established for the protection of air and water quality, waste management and pollution control, and natural resource policies will be developed and implementation started at all levels of government as well as the community level, by March 2009.
- **Priority Reform and Restructuring (PRR):** NEPA's Priority Reform and Restructuring (PRR) plan was approved by the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission (IARCSC) in August 2005. Throughout 2006 and 2007 the advertisement of positions and the subsequent recruitment proceeded at a slow but steady pace. By December 2007 the central level positions were almost all filled as were 90 % of the positions at the provincial level. The staff recruited under the PRR receive PRR salaries.

In addition to the operational budget, a development budget was allocated to NEPA by the Ministry of Finance for the year 1386 (March 2007-March 2008) for the first time since its establishment.

- **Environmental Legislation:** The final version of the Environment Law was ratified by the Parliament and republished in the official gazette. A booklet explaining, in simple lay terms, the purpose, scope and implications of the Law has been developed in Dari, Pashto and English. Two sets of Regulations have been developed under the Environment Law, which have been processed during 2007: the EIA Regulations have been sent by the Ministry of Justice to the Cabinet for approval; the Protected Areas Regulations are being finalized by the Ministry after which they will be submitted for approval. The Ministry of Justice has received the final technical draft of Forest Law which includes the comments and concerns of stakeholders, collected during the national consultation process. The first technical draft of the Rangeland Law has been finalized and is currently with the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock for internal approval. UNEP also assisted the Ministry of Energy and Water in the processing of the Water Law, and provided technical input to the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock in drafting of the Hunting and Wildlife Conservation Law. In addition to legislative input, UNEP delivered four regional environmental law and policy workshops during the course of 2007. Officials from all provinces that are accessible to United Nations staff in terms of security restrictions have received such training. UNEP has also been in discussions with the Supreme Court with regard to designing a judges' training programme, which will be implemented during Phase III of the programme. Progress has also been made in setting up the processes and procedures needed in order to implement legislation, once it is approved.
- **Environmental Impact Assessment:** The EIA Policy was finalized in both English and Dari and will be formally issued in terms of an executive order. A set of EIA administrative guidelines have been developed, which will act as an application and interpretation guide to the EIA Regulations and the EIA policy. In regard to pollution control, the report on the determination of waste streams in Afghanistan was finalized and circulated.
- **Community-based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM):** Activities have been completed and all funds disbursed for the pilot projects in three provinces. In the six projects in the province of Herat relating to irrigation rehabilitation and establishment of natural resource assets, over 2,000 m² of traditional, underground irrigation (karez) was rehabilitated to deliver water to 7,500 saplings planted in newly established fruit and nut orchards. Additional irrigation features including water holding ponds, gabion and retention walls and drip irrigation were also constructed. Solar panels were installed on 40 homes in two villages one in Bamyian province and one in Badakhshan province. Prior to the installation, each village community constructed a workshop for maintenance and repair and established a committee responsible to collect the fee from the community members to pay the trained solar engineer.

- **Environmental Information and Monitoring:** UNEP RRC.AP submitted draft reports for the State of Environment Report, Guidelines and Training Manual for developing a National Environmental Policy to NEPA for review. An Initial framework for a national environmental policy, national priorities for environmental management and an environmental monitoring matrix has been developed as part of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy.
- **Environmental Education and Awareness:** Environmental posters and a storybook are in process of being printed. UNEP continued to assist NEPA to develop an environmental education and awareness strategy based on an assessment initially conducted. A draft NEPA brochure is being worked out between NEPA and UNEP.
- **Multilateral environmental agreements:** Significant progress was made during 2007 in the National Capacity Needs Self-Assessment for Global Environmental Management (NCSA) and National Adaptation Plan of Action for Climate Change (NAPA) projects. Fifteen technical and data gathering workshops were held in Kabul and four data gathering workshops in four sample regions of Afghanistan. The 3 thematic groups (biodiversity, climate change and desertification) finalized their thematic assessments, which documents have been synthesized into one single document which, in content and design, satisfies the requirements of both NCSA and NAPA. This final NCSA and NAPA report has been translated into Dari and will shortly be presented to national stakeholders for their final comment and approval. In regard to funding, the proposal for enabling activity funding under the Biodiversity Convention (CBD) remains pending, despite numerous enquiries from UNEP. A further proposal (for funding for the Fourth National Report) is currently being prepared. The Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC) enabling activity proposal has been approved, and funding (\$380,000) will be disbursed in early 2008. Progress, although slow, has been made in regard to the accession to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and the Convention on Migratory Species. Furthermore, UNEP assisted in the drafting of Afghanistan's Third National Report under CBD, which was submitted to the Secretariat in March. UNEP also advised the Government on the desirability of acceding to the Kyoto Protocol and creating the institutional framework for the implementation of CDM projects in Afghanistan.
- **Afghanistan-Iran Dialogue on Sistan Basin Wetlands:** The special Task Force Meeting on the establishment of a Joint Committee on the Sistan Basin Wetlands took place in May 2007 in Tehran and reviewed the proposed draft terms of reference of the committee. The opportunity was also used to discuss the status and way forward with regard to the GEF Sistan project, as well as to provide an update on the development of a monitoring system for the Sistan basin wetlands.

Based on the achievements made by the UNEP Capacity Building and Institutional Development Programme, in 2006 the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) expressed the need for a programme extension covering phase III. UNEP in cooperation with the European Commission developed a comprehensive project proposal to extend the programme into a third phase running from 2008 until end 2010. Phases I and II of the Project were aimed at building the basic institutional and human capacity and developing the regulatory frameworks required for effective environmental management at the national level. Phase III of the Project will build on the foundations created through the successes of Phases I and II by providing assistance to environmental authorities to implement the environmental management framework across the country, and to manage the process of environmental restoration and community-based natural resource management.

Contact

Dr. Asif Ali Zaidi
Programme Manager
United Nations Environment Programme
Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch

National Environmental Protection Agency
Darulaman
Kabul, Afghanistan
Tel 1: + 93 799.325.678
Tel 2: + 93 700.276.431
Email: asif.zaidi@unep.ch

David E. Jensen
Project Coordinator
United Nations Environment Programme
Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch

International Environment House
Geneva, Switzerland
Tel. +41 22 917 8167
Fax. +41 22 917 8064
Email: david.jensen@unep.ch
Web <http://postconflict.unep.ch>

Table of Contents

Executive Summary (2007)	2
Table of Contents	6
1 Introduction	8
2 The Afghanistan Context in 2007	11
3 Preparatory Activities and Staff Recruitment (Component 0)	13
3.1. Introduction	13
3.2. Summary of Progress	13
4 Environmental Coordination (Component 1)	16
4.1. Introduction	16
4.2. ANDS, Afghanistan Compact, CG and CCCG mechanisms	16
4.3. Summary of Progress	17
5 Institutional Restructuring (Component 2)	21
5.1. Introduction	21
5.2. Priority Reform and Restructuring	21
5.3. Summary of Progress	21
6 Environmental Impact Assessment (Component 3)	24
6.1. Introduction	24
6.2. EIA Policy	24
6.3. Waste Management and Pollution Control	24
6.4. Summary of Progress	24
7 Environmental Law (Component 4)	29
7.1. Introduction	29
7.2. Legislative development	29
7.3. Capacity development and training	30
7.4. Summary of Progress	31
8 Community-based Natural Resources Management (Component 5)	35
8.1. Introduction	35
8.2. CBNRM Projects and Process.....	35
8.3. Summary of Progress	37
9 Environment Policy and Planning (Component 6) and Monitoring, Information and Analysis (Component 7)	41
9.1. Introduction	41
9.2. Status of Environment Policy, Information and Analysis	41
9.3. Summary of Progress / Component 6	42
9.4. Summary of Progress / Component 7	45

10	Environment Education: Communication, Outreach and Education (Component 8)	48
10.1.	Introduction	48
10.2.	Raising Environmental Awareness	48
10.3.	World Environment Day	49
10.4.	Summary of Progress	50
11	Multilateral environmental agreements (Component 9)	55
11.1.	Introduction	55
11.2.	Capacity development and training	55
11.3.	Applications for financial and technical assistance.....	55
11.4.	NCSA and NAPA projects	56
11.5.	Accession to new Conventions.....	57
11.6.	Vienna Convention, Montreal Protocol and National Ozone Unit (NOU).....	58
11.7.	Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) under UNFCCC.....	58
11.8.	Regional Cooperation	59
11.9.	Summary of Progress	59
12	Conclusion	64
12.1.	Completion of Phase II	64
12.2.	Cooperation with other environmental programmes.....	64
12.3.	Phase III: Programme extension	65

Annex I: Overview on the estimated percentage of completion of the planned activities as per December 2007

Annex II: ANDS documents with regard to environment and natural resource management

1 Introduction

While establishing a programme for reforming public administration institutions in 2002, the Government of Afghanistan recognised the need to strengthen its capacity to provide effective environmental management and to integrate environmental issues into the reconstruction agenda. To address this need, the Government of Afghanistan requested the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to provide an integrated package of capacity building activities that contribute to the development of a stand-alone and self-sufficient Environmental Authority with the required technical capacity to implement the government's environmental mandate. To achieve this goal, the UNEP Capacity Building Programme has been designed to consist of the following nine components:

1. **Environmental Coordination.** Facilitate consultation, coordination, cooperation and mainstreaming of environmental issues and projects within the National Development Framework (NDF) through technical support to the Advisory Group on the Environment (AGE).
2. **Institutional Restructuring and Human Resource Development.** Improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Environmental Authority, in accordance with the national reorganization and restructuring process undertaken by the Civil Service Reform Commission, through training and technical support in relation to mandate clarification, institutional restructuring, downsizing, human resources development and performance reviews.
3. **Environmental Impact Assessment.** Contribute to the institutionalization of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) through training and technical support in the development and effective implementation of Environmental Impact Assessment policies, procedures and legislation.
4. **Environmental Legislation, Regulation and Standards.** Contribute to the development and institutionalization of environmental laws and regulations through training and technical support in the development of an integrated environmental legal and regulatory framework.
5. **Sub-national Environmental Affairs and Community-Based Natural Resource Management.** Implementation of pilot projects that encourage community-based natural resource management
6. **Environmental Policy and Planning.** Contribute to the development of national environmental policy through training and technical support in the development of a national environmental action plan, and the establishment of mechanisms for inter-ministerial cooperation and coordination.

7. **Environmental Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting.** Facilitate State of the Environment reporting through training and technical support in the development of environmental monitoring, information management, analysis and reporting.
8. **Environment Education: Communications, Outreach and Education.** Increase public awareness of environmental issues through training and technical support in the development of awareness campaigns, environmental reporting, environmental education and public participation in decision-making.
9. **Multilateral Environmental Agreements and Regional Cooperation.** Assist in the implementation of multilateral and regional environmental agreements through training and technical support in project proposal development, legal harmonization, and reporting.

The Capacity Building Programme is funded by the European Commission (3'750'000 EUR), the Government of Finland (1'920'000 EUR) and the Global Environment Facility (through enabling activities) (325'000 EUR) as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Overview of Funding: Capacity Building and Institutional Development Programme for Environmental Management in Afghanistan (Phases I + II)

EC Phase I + II (2004 - 2007)				
Contribution Name	Donor	Duration/ Period	Value [EUR]	Value [USD]
EC Phase I	EC	Sep 2003 - Sep 2004	750,000	922,500
EC Phase II	EC	Sep 2004 - Dec 2007	3,000,000	3,690,000
Finland Capacity Building Funds	GoF	Sep 2004 - Dec 2005	200,000	246,000
"	"	2005	500,000	615,000
"	"	2006	500,000	615,000
"	"	2007	500,000	615,000
Finland Consultancy Funds	GoF	Sep 2004 - Dec 2005	220,000	270,600
NCSA	GEF	2005 - 2007	162,500	200,000
NAPA	GEF	2005 - 2007	162,500	200,000
TOTAL			5,995,000	7,374,100

Exchange rate used [EUR/ USD]: 1.23 / Jan 2005

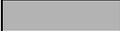
UNEP in cooperation with the European Commission developed during 2007 a comprehensive project proposal to extend the programme into a third phase running for 36 month, which project will commence in early April 2008.

Implementation of the UNEP Capacity Building Programme is managed by the UNEP Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch (PCDMB) (formerly the Post-Conflict Assessment Unit (PCAU)). Implementing partners include the UNEP Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RRC.AP) the UNEP Regional Office for Asian and the Pacific (ROAP),

UNEP Global Resource Inventory Database (GRID) and IUCN-The World Conservation Union.

The present report covers the period January to December 2007. It is consistent with the previous comprehensive progress reports, which were prepared for the years of 2004, 2005 and 2006. Section 2 provides an overview of the Afghan political and security context and outlines some of the operational constraints. Sections 3 to 12 outline the progress that was achieved against each of the programme activities listed in the original Phase I and Phase II work plans, including an estimation of the percentage completed. Additional activities undertaken have also been listed.

The reference numbers in the tables that summarize the progress achieved under each component correspond to the respective numbering of the activities in the original work plans of the EC Phase 1 and 2 contracts. Additionally following color code has been used:

	EC – Phase I activity		Estimated completion: 100 %
	EC – Phase II activity		Estimated completion: 75 %
	Additional Activity		Estimated completion: 50 %
			Estimated completion: 25 %
			Estimated completion: 0 %
			Activities abandoned

Annex I gives a visual overview on the percentage of completion of the planned activities as per Dec 2007.

2 The Afghanistan Context in 2007

Despite security, governance and capacity constraints, there was progress in year 2007 in terms of economic growth, education, health, road construction, rural development and the environment.

In June 2007, Afghanistan hosted a successful high-level international conference on private sector development. The conference was initiated by the Government of Afghanistan and supported by The Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) in partnership with the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme and the Asian Development Bank. The Conference focused on creating the conditions necessary to significantly increase the contribution of the private sector to social, economic, and cultural development in Afghanistan's urban and rural areas. The conference statement included a series of recommendations, and a roadmap for actions ranging from legal and fiscal frameworks to human resources and public-private partnerships.

In July, 2007, in Rome, the Italian and Afghan governments convened an International Conference, jointly chaired by the United Nations, on rule of law in Afghanistan. The Conference laid down a strategy for the future. The strategy is to be backed up by the commitment of the Afghan and international players together with new forms of financing justice reform.

In September 2007, during the 62nd Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York, the countries and organizations represented on the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB) of the Afghanistan Compact met to reaffirm their commitment to the emergence of Afghanistan as a stable, peaceful, prosperous and democratic member of the family of nations. The participants underlined that the partnership between the Afghan Government and the international community, expressed in the Afghanistan Compact, is based on the desire of the parties for Afghanistan to progressively assume responsibility for its own development and security. They stressed the need for sustained international efforts to support Afghanistan to achieve this end. The participants also stressed the central and impartial role of the United Nations in leading the efforts of the international community, and expressed full support for UNAMA and United Nations agencies in Afghanistan. They commended the progress made so far in Afghanistan, noting gains in economic development and humanitarian indicators, as well as steps taken to improve the security situation, and appreciated the efforts of the International Security Assistance Force and Operation Enduring Freedom.

The sixth Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB) Meeting was held in October, 2007. JCMB VI meeting reviewed JCMB V actions and decisions and the Compact benchmarks. Within the context of the Compact, regional economic cooperation was selected as the central theme of JCMB VI. Afghanistan's northern neighbors Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan were invited as guests to attend the meeting and take part in discussions. The meeting provided the opportunity to resolve other important issues related

to coordination implementation and financing of Compact benchmarks within the timelines prescribed.

To implement its obligations under the Afghanistan Compact, the Government of Afghanistan started developing the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) to clarify existing conditions, establish objectives and define the policies, programs and projects needed to achieve those objectives. The ANDS will represent an important milestone in the efforts to rebuilding of Afghanistan which has been underway since late 2001. During this time there have been a number of reports, conferences and strategies developed to address Afghanistan's challenges. In addition, the Government and the international community have entered into a series of agreements concerning the direction and support for the country's development efforts, including notably the Bonn Agreement, the commitment to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Afghanistan Compact. The ANDS will build on all of these and provide a comprehensive and integrated strategy that reflects recent experience and current conditions.

As an integrated mission, the Afghan UNCT undertook activities that included the organisation of the sub-national consultations, provision of technical inputs by UNCT members to the ANDS, joint donor response and the Afghan Pilot Participatory Poverty Analysis. Considerable efforts were made to align the country programming to the ANDS. Ex-Com agencies requested a 1-year extension of their current programme cycle so as to be fully aligned with the ANDS. Other agencies have already aligned their programmes with the ANDS or are in the process of doing so.

3 Preparatory Activities and Staff Recruitment (Component 0)

3.1. Introduction

The objective of Component 0 was to undertake a series of preparatory activities to provide the necessary human and material infrastructure for the initiation and smooth implementation of the programme. These preparatory activities included staff-recruitment, programme planning, programme administration and procurement of office space and equipment. Continuous reporting on component 0 – even after the programme has been running for three years - will allow readers to oversee changes in the team structure and administration as well as further procurement.

3.2. Summary of Progress

Activity	Status and Outputs	Ref. #	
0.1 Recruit and hire an international programme manager for the UNEP project office.	Programme Manager in place since 2004.	EC-I, 1.1	100 %
0.2 Recruit and hire National staff for the UNEP project office consisting of an administrative assistant, programme assistant, operations assistant, two translators, one network administrator, three drivers and three security guards.	Recruitment of national project staff completed. The National Ozone Unit hired Mr. Noor Agha Azam in May 2007 as coordinator for the Project Management Unit established in August 2006 for the Implementation of Afghanistan's National ODS Phase Out Plan. A new IT officer, Mr. Abdullah Hashim, joined the NOU in January 2007. The NoU is supported by UNEP through funds received from the Multilateral Fund.	EC-I, 1.2	100 %
0.3 Refurbish 14 of the offices of NEPA to house the UNEP project office, workspace for Afghan counter-part staff, an environmental library and a meeting room.	Refurbishment of offices completed in 2004 and 2005.	EC-I, 1.3	100 %
0.4 Procure two project vehicles and equipment for a minimum of 20 UNEP and NEPA staff including furniture, computers and office supplies.	Procurement of equipment and vehicles completed. .	EC-I, 1.4	100%

0.5	Relocate the UNEP Kabul office within the premises of MoEW.	Activity completed in 2004.	EC-I, 1.5	100 %
0.6	Recruit and hire an international expert in the field of environmental impact assessment.	Recruitment completed in 2004. George Bouma left the programme in November 2006, after a contribution of 2.5 years in Afghanistan. A new EIA Expert will be recruited for Phase III. .	EC-I, 1.6	100 %
0.7	Recruit and hire an international expert in the field of environmental law.	Recruitment completed in 2004. Also see 0.10	EC-I, 1.7	100 %
0.8	Recruit and hire an international expert in the fields of sub-national environmental affairs and Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM).	William Van De Berg left the programme in October 2006. Erin Hannan took over the responsibility for the ongoing CBNRM projects during 2007. A new CBNRM expert will be recruited for Phase III. .	EC-I, 1.8	100 %
0.9	Conduct an introductory meeting of all UNEP project staff.	Activity completed in 2004. New staff members are introduced as they join.	EC-I, 1.9	100 %
0.10	Recruit and hire an international expert in the fields of Multilateral Environmental Agreements and Environmental Education.	The positions of international environmental law expert and international Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) expert were merged in 2005 and taken on by Belinda Bowling. Erin Hannan took over the Environmental Education portfolio in December 2006.	EC-II 9.0	100 %
0.11	Recruit and hire an assistant programme officer	Activity completed in 2004.	EC-II 1.0	100 %
0.12	Train the national staff recruited for the position of network administrator	Activity completed in 2004 and 2006 respectively.	EC-II 7.8	100 %

<p>0.13 Further training of staff</p>	<p>This is an ongoing activity.</p> <p>Belinda Bowling, UNEP’s Environmental Law and International Conventions Expert participated in a Security Awareness Induction Training organized by IOM in cooperation with the Jordanian military, from 13 – 17 May 2007 in Amman, Jordan.</p> <p>Fatemah Shams, UNEP’s Associate Programme Officer, participated in a “training of trainers” course organized by UNOG in Geneva from 22-28 August 2007.</p> <p>Wali Modaqiq, UNEP’s GEF Project Coordinator attended Training Workshop organized by the Government of Indonesia on Developing Strategic Adaptation to Climate Change in Yogyakarta, Indonesia from 30 October - 2 November 2007.</p> <p>Naseer Afzali, UNEP’s NPO for EIA participated in a two day workshop entitled “Social and Environmental Impacts of the Road projects”, which was organized by the World Bank in Kabul from 6- 7 August 2007. He also attended an introductory presentation on and demonstration of in Vertical Shaft Brick Kiln Technology (VSBK) organized by SKAT in Kabul on 22 November 2007.</p> <p>On 12 December 2007 UNEP organized an awareness raising session on HIV/ AIDS for all its male national staff. The training was delivered by the HIV/ AIDS focal point of UNAMA and an Afghan doctor working for UNIFEM. A similar training will be organized for UNEP’s national female staff.</p>	<p>Add.</p>	<p>100 %</p>
<p>0.14 Recruitment of NCSA and NAPA Consultant</p>	<p>Linda Norgrove joined the project as the NCSA / NAPA consultant in August 2007 to support the implementation of information gathering workshops and to finalize the NCSA and NAPA reports. Alongside her work in UNEP, Dr. Norgrove continues to manage the Afghan Conservation Corps and Alternative Livelihood Programs for UNOPS.</p>	<p>Add.</p>	<p>100 %</p>

4 Environmental Coordination (Component 1)

4.1. Introduction

Objectives under component 1 are to facilitate consultation, coordination, cooperation and mainstreaming of environmental issues and projects through training and technical support.

4.2. ANDS, Afghanistan Compact, CG and CCCG mechanisms

In 2005 the Interim-Afghanistan National Development Strategy (I-ANDS) replaced the NDF as the Government of Afghanistan's overarching strategy for promoting growth, generating wealth and reducing poverty and vulnerability providing the framework for the development of Government policies, and guiding the allocation of resources and programmes towards these goals. The Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) will be finalized in 2008 and will constitute Afghanistan's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP). In January 2006, succeeding the Bonn Agreement, the Government of Afghanistan, the United Nations and the international community agreed to the Afghanistan Compact representing the framework for co-operation until 2011. The Afghanistan Compact reflects Afghanistan's Millennium Development Goals, as does the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS).

Strategic coordination of the Afghanistan Compact and the ANDS is taking place on sectoral-basis through a revised CG mechanism. There are 8 sectoral CGs, and 2 umbrella CGs (dealing with poverty reduction and aid effectiveness). A Natural Resources and Environment working group (WG3.6) exists in the CG dealing with Infrastructure and Natural Resources (CG3). In addition there are five Cross Cutting Consultative Groups (CCCGs), of which environment is one.

UNEP is an active member of the Environment Working Group (E-WG) and the Environment Cross Cutting Consultative Group (E-CCCG), both of which are chaired by NEPA. UNEP is providing continuous support to NEPA to fulfill its responsibilities towards E-WG and E-CCCG and to provide timely and quality input to the ANDS process, such as monitoring and documenting progress towards achieving the Environment Benchmark of the Afghanistan Compact.

During the reporting period UNEP supported NEPA to develop its agency strategy, and to review and comment on the draft ministerial strategies developed by other Ministries from an environmental perspective. UNEP and NEPA also developed a National Environment Strategy, emphasizing that the environment cannot be dealt with as a separate sector, but that it should be mainstreamed into all sectoral strategies, taking into account its cross-cutting nature. UNEP and NEPA also provided comments to all relevant sector strategies in order to ensure that environmental considerations are reflected.

The role of the former Advisory Group on Environment (AGE) has been taken on partly by the Environment CCCG (mainstreaming) and partly by the Environment Working Group (sectoral coordination).

As per the requirement of Afghanistan's Environment Law, NEPA established and is chairing the inter-ministerial Committee for Environment Coordination (CEC), which focuses on NEPA's mandate, scope and outputs. The inaugural meeting of the CEC was held on 22 May 2007 and the environmental coordination function of the former AGE has been taken over by the CEC.

4.3. Summary of Progress

Activity	Status and Outputs	Ref.#	
1.1 Conduct preparatory activities for establishing a secretariat for the Advisory Group on the Environment (AGE) within NEPA.	NEPA's Division for Research, Policy and Information (DRPI) acts as the secretariat for ANDS and CGs. The Deputy Director General (DDG) of NEPA is the focal point for the ANDS Environment Working Group and Environment Cross-Cutting Thematic Group meetings while UNEP provides support to the DDG's office and to DRPI with regards to the meetings. NEPA established and is chairing the Inter-ministerial Committee for Environment Coordination (CEC), which focuses on NEPA's mandate, scope and outputs and has taken over the environmental coordination function of the former AGE.	EC-I, 2.1	100%
1.2 Identify a minimum of five counter-part staff from NEPA for the secretariat for the Advisory Group on the Environment.	NEPA staff from the Division of Research, Policy and Information have been supported in the preparation and organization of E-CCCG and E-WG meetings and are organizing the meetings of the inter-ministerial Commission for Environmental Coordination (CEC).	EC-I, 2.2	100%
1.3 Conduct month-long intensive training courses for the counter-part staff of the Secretariat for the Advisory Group on Environment.	See 1.2	EC-I, 2.3	100%
1.4 Act as co-focal point of the AGE, in cooperation with ADB, by executing the functions listed in the AGE Terms of Reference.	UNEP is the co-focal point for the E-CCCG and E-WG. Minutes of each of the E-CCCG & EWG meetings were distributed and relevant action taken. UNEP is an observer of at the CEC meetings.	EC-I, 2.4	100%

1.5	Establish an AGE matrix of ongoing, proposed and conceived environmental projects in Afghanistan.	Completed for 2005.	EC-I, 2.5	25 %
1.6	Facilitate the identification and establishment of environmental focal points within each sector ministry and develop standing and ad-hoc technical task forces.	Following NEPA's request environmental cells have been established in the following institutions: Ministries of Public Health, Commerce, Urban Development, Mines, Rural Development and Rehabilitation, Public Works, Energy and Water, interior, Agriculture, the Kabul Municipality and the Red Crescent Society.	EC-I, 2.6	100 %
1.7	Establish a capacity building technical committee within the framework of the AGE with all donors and agencies involved in capacity building activities with NEPA.	A Capacity Building Technical Committee (CBTC) was constituted at the level of Ministry of Irrigation, Water Resources and Environment (MIWRE) and one substantive meeting of the CBTC was held in November 2004. However, with the split of MIWRE, the CBTC technical committee has become defunct.	EC-I, 2.7	
1.8	Facilitate NEPA's participation in meetings and task forces of the Consultative Groups, especially the Consultative Groups on Natural Resources Management and on Urban Management.	NEPA and UNEP participated in the relevant CG group meetings during 2007.	EC-I, 2.8	100 %
1.9	Establish a basic environmental library to support the AGE consisting of environmental reference materials, and information on best practice in environmental management.	Completed in 2006.	EC-I, 2.9	100 %
1.10	Assist in preparing written reports for the AGE, the CG Standing Committee, and donors	See 1.14	EC-I, 2.10	100 %
1.11	Assist in the preparation of an annual report for NEPA that highlights activities and progress made in 2004.	Completed only in 2004. In 2007 UNEP assisted NEPA with the design and content of public awareness and promotional materials for NEPA to distribute to Ministries and other government authorities and during public presentations about NEPA's work.	EC-I, 2.11	50 %

1.12	Develop a strategy for the integration of the Secretariat of the Advisory Group on the Environment into NEPA.	See 1.1	EC-I, 2.12	100 %
1.13	Assist in identifying the priority consultative groups that will be targeted by the AGE to receive inputs during the 1384, 1385, 1386 budget process. Assist in establishing an AGE technical committee for each of the consultative groups identified, and in developing a work plan for reviewing sector budgets.	Priority CG to be targeted by the E-CCCG have been identified and the ANDS process supported.	EC-II, (1.)9	100 %
1.14	Provide guidance to each AGE technical committee in reviewing sector budgets, identifying environmental gaps, prioritizing environmental inputs, and estimating environmental project costs. Assist each AGE technical committee in the preparation of an input report to their respective consultative group.	<p>Under the CG mechanism, environment features as a cross-cutting issue and also as a sectoral issue.</p> <p>With regard to the latter, a Natural Resources and Environment working group (WG3.6) exists in the CG dealing with Infrastructure and Natural Resources (CG3). UNEP is an active member of both entities.</p> <p>As inputs to WG3.6, UNEP worked with NEPA to revise the monitoring matrix for the environment benchmark implementation in accordance with new format provided by the ANDS Secretariat.</p> <p>UNEP and NEPA also developed the strategy document for the NEPA and a National Environmental Strategy. Both strategies were finalized through rounds of stakeholder consultations within the government, the donor community and civil society facilitated through the ANDS process.</p>	EC-II, (1.)10	100 %
1.15	Assist each technical committee in reviewing the final approved annual sector budgets to determine how AGE inputs were taken into account. Consider ways to strengthen the adoption of AGE recommendations by the consultative groups.	<p>UNEP is supporting NEPA in being the lead agency for the E-CCCG. UNEP is also the co-focal point for E-CCCG.</p> <p>NEPA and UNEP reviewed relevant ministry strategies and sector strategies from an environmental perspective and provided comments in order to ensure environmental considerations would be reflected.</p>	EC-II, (1.)11	100 %

<p>1.16 Assess options and develop a strategy for expanding provincial representation in the AGE. This should be conducted in cooperation with component 5 (sub-national affairs and community-based natural resource management).</p>	<p>This function will be undertaken by the National Environmental Advisory Committee (NEAC), which will have provincial governors as its members. The first meeting of the NEAC has been scheduled to take place in early 2008.</p>	<p>EC-II, (1.)12</p>	<p>100 %</p>
<p>1.17 Undertake a provincial participant selection process and facilitate the rotating participation of up to six provincial/regional representatives in the meetings of the AGE.</p>	<p>This function will be undertaken by the National Environmental Advisory Committee (NEAC), which will have provincial governors as its members. The first meeting of the NEAC has been scheduled to take place in early 2008.</p>	<p>EC-II, (1.)13</p>	<p>0 %</p>
<p>1.18 Facilitate the transformation of the AGE into a permanent body of NEPA for stakeholder consultations and coordination.</p>	<p>The Inter-ministerial Committee for Environmental Coordination (CEC) is the permanent body for inter-ministerial stakeholder coordination and consultation as provided for in the PRR Phase II proposal and as mandated in the Environment Law. (See also 1.1)</p>	<p>EC-II, (1.)14</p>	<p>100 %</p>

5 Institutional Restructuring (Component 2)

5.1. Introduction

Objectives under component 2 are to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the National Environmental Protection Agency, by supporting NEPA through the processes of the Civil Service Reform Commission.

5.2. Priority Reform and Restructuring

NEPA's Priority Reform and Restructuring (PRR) plan was approved by the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission (IARCSC) in August 2005. Throughout 2006 and 2007 the advertisement of positions and the subsequent recruitment proceeded at a slow but steady pace. By December 2007 the central level positions were almost all filled as were 90 % of the positions at the provincial level. The staff recruited under the PRR receive PRR salaries.

In April, the key position of Deputy-Director General (Technical) was finally filled after almost a year. Mr. Dad Mohammad Baheer, the new DDG, comes with extensive experience of work with Care International. NEPA also received the support of a Senior Advisor funded by the US Embassy from March to September 2007.

In addition to the operational budget, a development budget was allocated to NEPA by the Ministry of Finance for the year 1386 (March 2007-March 2008) for the first time since its establishment.

5.3. Summary of Progress

Activity	Status and Outputs	Ref.#	
2.1 Conduct preparatory activities for establishing a Human Resource Team within the NEPA.	The PRR Stage 2 document contains the TORs for all positions in NEPA's new structure. The Human Resource Team will be located in the Human Resources and Finance Division.	EC-I, 3.1	100 %
2.2 Develop a roster of national and international Afghan professionals that have suitable skills and experience to join the project either as counter-part staff or as short-term consultants.	No progress to report.	EC-I, 3.2	25 %
2.3 Work with NEPA, the Civil Service Commission, ADB and other technical assistance providers on the government restructuring exercise.	Completed in 2006.	EC-I, 3.3	100 %

2.4	Identify and assist NEPA with the recruitment of five NEPA counter-part staff for the Human Resource Team.	Staff of the Human Resource and Finance Division of NEPA recruited in 2006.	EC-I, 3.4	100 %
2.5	Conduct month-long intensive training courses for the NEPA staff of the Human Resource Team.		EC-I, 3.5	0 %
2.6	Organize a two-day workshop on institutional structures for environmental management in developing countries.	Completed in 2004.	EC-I, 3.6	100 %
2.7	Develop a human resource strategy and training methodology for NEPA.	This will be implemented in the next phase of the programme.	EC-I, 3.7	0 %
2.8	Assist in the development and translation of a brochure on the NEPA containing general information on NEPA's mandate, mission, units, structure, and partners.	Brochure content has been developed and translation and designing is underway. The brochure will be printed in early 2008.	EC-I, 3.8	75 %
2.9	Develop a strategy for the integration of the Human Resources Team into the new structure of the NEPA.	See 2.1	EC-I, 3.9	100 %
2.10	Assist NEPA in the implementation of the public administration reform process, and in the restructuring of NEPA according to the decisions of the cabinet based on the recommendations of the Civil Service Reform Commission. UNEP will also provide input to the Afghan administration with regard to institutional options for effective environmental management should the mandate for environment be reallocated.	Completed in 2006.	EC-II, (2.)5	100 %

2.11 Evaluate new structure and progress made against objectives and benchmarks. Identify options for improving departmental efficiency and effectiveness	The Civil Service Reform Commission has a follow up mechanism for short and medium term monitoring of the continuity, effectiveness and efficiency of reforms which is being followed regularly with NEPA.	EC-II, (2.)6	25 %
2.12 Assist in the development of a strategy for the establishment and training of provincial or district offices of the NEPA.	Towards the end of 2007, NEPA received formal approval from the President's office to establish NEPA offices in each of the 34 provinces. In the meantime, NEPA and UNEP completed training on environmental law and EIA for provincial staff of NEPA and other relevant departments in the Northern, Western and Central provinces of the country, leaving only Southern and South Eastern provinces where accessibility has been a major constraint.	EC-II, (2.)7	50 %
2.13 Facilitate on-going evaluation of the staff quality and performance indicators of NEPA.	See 2.11	EC-II, (2.)8	25 %

6 Environmental Impact Assessment (Component 3)

6.1. Introduction

Objectives under component 3 are to contribute to the institutionalization of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) through training and technical support in the development and effective implementation of environmental impact assessment guidelines, policies, procedures and legislation.

6.2. EIA Policy

The EIA Policy was finalized in both English and Dari and will be formally issued in terms of an executive order. A set of EIA administrative guidelines was also developed, both in Dari and English, which will act as an application and interpretation guide to the EIA Regulations and the EIA policy.

In August, a 3 day pilot environmental law and policy training workshop was delivered to 85 local Government and other stakeholders in Bamiyan City, Bamiyan Province, of which one day was devoted to the issue of EIA, in particular the nature and purpose of EIA, the regulatory framework, and NEPA's role in relation to it. A similar regional workshop was then repeated in Faizabad, Badakshan in December.

6.3. Waste Management and Pollution Control

With regards to pollution control, the report on the determination of waste streams in Afghanistan was finalized and printed. The report is the outcome of 2 in-country missions undertaken by a Finnish pollution control expert. It is a further step towards the development of an integrated pollution control framework for Afghanistan.

UNEP has provided demand driven technical advice to NEPA and donors and implementing agencies, as and when required. This included the Kunduz and Amu Darya River Basin Projects, both of which are funded by the EC.

6.4. Summary of Progress

Activity	Status and Outputs	Ref.#	
3.1 Conduct preparatory activities for establishing an Environmental Impact Assessment Team within the NEPA.	Completed in 2004.	EC-I, 4.1	100 %
3.2 Identify a minimum of five NEPA counter-part staff for the Environmental Impact Assessment Team.	Completed in 2004.	EC-I, 4.2	100 %

3.3	Conduct month-long intensive training courses for the counter-part staff of the Environmental Impact Assessment Team and for relevant environmental focal points in other Ministries.	Completed in 2004, 2005 and 2006. Counterpart programme was terminated in accordance with progress with PRR in 2006 (see Progress Report 2006).	EC-I, 4.3	100 %
3.4	Conduct daily "hands on" training of the counter-part staff through a "learning by doing" approach.	Completed in 2004, 2005 and 2006. See 3.3	EC-I, 4.4	100 %
3.5	Conduct monthly field visits to example sites where EIA theory can be practically applied by the EIA team.	Completed in 2004, 2005 and 2006. See 3.3	EC-I, 4.5	100 %
3.6	Identify focal points and establish inter-ministerial EIA technical committee	Some progress has been witnessed in this area but more work is required on the part of NEPA, UNEP and ministries in developing this concept to be a sustainable outcome.	EC-I, 4.6	50 %
3.7	Assist NEPA, ADB, AACA and the Ministry of Finance in incorporating environment markers for all projects in National Development Budget (NDB).	Completed in 2004.	EC-I, 4.7	100 %
3.8	Train and Ministry of Finance (MoF) staff in environmental impacts screening techniques and in the use of environmental markers.	No further progress.	EC-I, 4.8	50 %
3.9	Assist in conducting appropriate follow-up on NDB projects with high-anticipated environmental impacts.	Given the difficulties with the DAD and the lack of information recorded concerning environmental impacts, the nature, scope and number of projects requiring follow-up is prohibitive with the currently available resources.	EC-I, 4.9	
3.10	Assist in the development of an EIA progress report.	Completed in 2006.	EC-I, 4.10	100 %

3.11	Facilitate the participation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Team in up to two relevant regional conferences and workshops.	No further progress.	EC-I, 4.11	50 %
3.12	Develop a strategy for the integration of the Environmental Impact Assessment Team into the new structure of the NEPA.	Completed in 2006.	EC-I, 4.12	100 %
3.13	Undertake a review of donors, UN agencies and key government Ministries to review the types of projects being conducted and the status of EIA in projects in Afghanistan.	Completed in 2005.	EC-II, (3.)10	100 %
3.14	Convene a workshop between donors, UN agencies and key government Ministries to discuss the current status of EIA in Afghanistan, and to agree on an interim approach for coordinating EIA's, sharing information, and involving government EIA focal points. The workshop should also focus on best practice in the development and implementation of EIA policy and legislation in developing countries. Review different EIA processes used by donor agencies and identify aspects that could be used to form the basis for an Afghan approach.	Completed in 2006.	EC-II, (3.)11	100 %

3.15	Develop a report on best international practice in the development and implementation of EIA legislation in developing countries based on results of the workshop and on additional information and analysis. The report would be used as in input to the EIA White Paper.	Completed in 2005.	EC-II, (3.)12	100 %
3.16	Establish an EIA technical committee from selected government agencies who will be responsible for recommending EIA guidelines to cabinet.	This has not been possible to establish as yet because of scarce technical capacity.	EC-II, (3.)13	0 %
3.17	Develop a basic introductory guide in Dari and Pashto on EIA theory and application. Ensure the guide simplifies the EIA process, explains it in simple terms and outlines the differences between the different EIA processes used by ADB, WB, USAID, and various other donors. Distribute the guide to key national EIA stakeholders.	EIA Administrative Guidelines have been prepared, which will act as the basic guide as well as the application format.	EC-II, (3.)14	75 %
3.18	Establish an EIA registry within NEPA to receive all EIA reports, and organize EIA information from line-Ministries, donors and UN agencies	Established at the Environmental Assessment and Sustainable Division of NEPA, though few proponents are submitting their EIA reports.	EC-II, (3.)15	100 %
3.19	Develop guidelines for line-Ministries to be used during the project development and approval process for the 1384, 1385 and 1386 National Development Budgets	EIA Policy, EIA Regulations and EIA Administrative Guidelines fulfil this outcome.	EC-II, (3.)16	100 %
3.20	Distribute EIA guidelines to line-Ministries and provide relevant training in their application.	EIA policy and guidelines provided to line ministries and introductory training to Kabul Municipality provided. A one day EIA training module was included into two Environmental Law and Policy training workshops, which were held in Bamiyan and Faizabad.	EC-II, (3.)17	50 %

3.21	Assist in drafting an EIA White Paper on the development of EIA policies and procedures including legislation, permitting, compliance monitoring and enforcement. The White paper will form the basis for draft EIA legislation.	Completed in 2006.	EC-II, (3.)18	100 %
3.22	Develop an EIA progress report. The publication would report on key progress made in the development of an EIA framework, and list key projects in the NDG subject to EIA	Completed only in 2005.	EC-II, (3.)19	25 %
3.23	Development of Report on Determination of Chemical Waste Streams in Afghanistan.	During the reporting period UNEP continued to develop an integrated approach to pollution control and management. This included the development, finalization and circulation of a report entitled "Determination of Chemical Waste Streams in Afghanistan".	Add.	100 %

7 Environmental Law (Component 4)

7.1. Introduction

UNEP's objectives under component 4 are to contribute to the development and effective implementation of an integrated environmental legal and regulatory framework through training and capacity building to NEPA and relevant line ministries; and technical support in relation to legal and legislative reform.

7.2. Legislative development

In March 2007, the Parliament ratified the **Environment Law** which was published in the Official Gazette (No. 912 dated 25 January 2007). A booklet explaining, in simple lay terms, the purpose, scope and implications of the Law has been developed in Dari, Pashto and English and is currently being printed. It will be distributed to Government, NGO and other environmental stakeholders.

Two sets of Regulations have been developed under the Environment Law (in addition to the Ozone Regulations, which were issued in July 2006). A delay of more than six months occurred in the processing of both sets of Regulations, due to the preoccupation of Ministry of Justice.

The **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations** will come into effect as soon as these are approved by the Cabinet and published in the Official Gazette. The EIA Administrative Guidelines and EIA policy are companion documents to the Regulations.

The **Protected Areas Regulations** are still being processed by the Ministry of Justice. It is hoped that the approved version will be finalized in the first quarter of 2008. The envisioned institutional arrangements under the Regulations are already partially in place in order to

In the period October 2006 to February 2007 an extensive public consultation process on the draft **Forest Law** was undertaken. During March, the comments from the three layers of stakeholders (community, national and international) were synthesized and translated into English or Dari, as the case may be. Thereafter the final technical draft of the Forest Law was developed in both English and Dari, and submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture for internal approval prior to its submission to the Ministry of Justice for processing. This will occur in early 2008, once the Protected Areas Regulations have been finalized. Before the draft legislation becomes law, it will need to be approved by the Ministry of Justice, Council of Ministers and both the Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament. UNEP will facilitate this process during the course of Phase III.

UNEP, working in cooperation with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), developed the first technical draft of the **Rangeland Law**. This was done further to extensive background research and consultation with stakeholders, especially the Ministry of Agriculture and international agencies implementing land, community-based natural resource management and rangeland projects at the field level. The draft has been translated into Dari and

submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture for its comments and input. Once that is received, the draft will be circulated amongst a limited group of relevant stakeholders for their comment based on their field-level experiences and lessons learnt. A further two meetings of the Informal Rangeland Coordination Group, which was constituted by UNEP in 2006, were held during the reporting period on the initiative of UNEP. The rangeland legislation will be finalized and processed during the course of Phase III of UNEP's programme.

At the request of the EC, UNEP assisted the Ministry of Energy and Water, GTZ and other interested parties in the legislative processing and finalization of the **Water Law**, which was approved by the Council of Ministers in November, and has now been referred to the National Assembly for its approval. In cooperation with international and Government partners, UNEP will facilitate the approval process during the course of Phase III.

UNEP provided extensive comments on the draft **Hunting and Wildlife Conservation Law**, prepared by WCS.

7.3. Capacity development and training

In cooperation with NEPA, UNEP delivered four **regional environmental law and policy workshops** during the course of 2007. The purpose of these 3 day workshops was to provide relevant stakeholders (Government officials, local NGOs, community leaders, etc.) with an overview of what environmental law is and what it seeks to achieve, as well as an outline of existing and planned environmental law and policy instruments. The details of the workshops are listed below.

- ❖ Jalalabad Workshop, 27 to 28 February 2007 (80 participants from Nangahar, Kunar, Nuristan and Laghman provinces)
- ❖ Mazar-i-Sharif Workshop, 25 to 26 April 2007 (80 participants from Faryab, Jowzjan, Saripul and Samangan provinces)
- ❖ Bamiyan Workshop, 13 to 15 August 2007 (85 participants from Bamiyan and Dai Kundi provinces)
- ❖ Badakhshan Workshop, 3 to 5 December 2007 (85 participants from Badakhshan province)

UNEP has also been in discussions with the Supreme Court in relation to the development and implementation of a **judges training programme**, in which judicial officers countrywide would be trained on existing and planned environmental and natural resource legislation, as well as environmental judicial decision-making and case law in developing countries. A Handbook for Judges on Environmental Law will be developed in Dari, Pashto and English during the course of 2008, which will be the basis on which the training activities will be implemented. The delivery of this activity has been delayed during the course of Phase II of the programme as a result of the glacial pace of judicial reform and establishment of a rule of law culture in Afghanistan.

Progress has been made in the development of the templates and associated systems and processes required for **enforcement** of the Environment Law. Enforcement of all environmental and natural resource regulatory instruments will be the main focus for this component for Phase III of the programme.

Day-to-day mentoring of relevant NEPA and MAIL officials in the field of environmental law and policy continued on an ongoing basis.



Regional Environmental Law and Policy Workshop with 80 participants from Faryab, Jowzjan, Saripul and Samangan provinces, Mazar-i- Sharif, April 2007.

7.4. Summary of Progress

Activity	Status and Outputs		
4.1 Conduct preparatory activities for establishing an Environmental Law Team within NEPA.	Completed in 2004.	EC-I, 5.1	100 %
4.2 Identify a minimum of five NEPA counterpart staff for the Environmental Law Team.	Completed in 2004.	EC-I, 5.2	100 %

4.3	Conduct intensive training courses for the counterpart staff of the Environmental Law Team and for relevant environmental focal points in other Ministries.	<p>Completed in 2004, 2005 and 2006. Counterpart programme has been wound up, in accordance with progress with PRR in 2006. (see Progress Report 2006)</p> <p>Training is now focussed on the enforcement division of NEPA.</p> <p>Four three day workshops were held in regional centres Jalalabad, Mazar-i-Sharif, Bamiyan and Faziabad on Environmental Law and Policy in Afghanistan.</p>	EC-I, 5.3	100 %
4.4	Conduct daily “hands on” training of the counterpart staff through a “learning by doing” approach.	Daily “hands-on” training occurs as opportunities arise. NEPA staff has worked closely with the expert in the fostering of collaborative relationships with counterparts in other ministries, preparation for international workshops and conferences, and implementation of the Environment Law.	EC-I, 5.4	100 %
4.5	Conduct monthly field visits to key selected provincial authorities and communities to explore field-level legal implementation and enforcement of environmental law and to train provincial authorities to administer and implement the EPA.	<p>See 4.3. Officials in all provinces accessible to the United Nations (with regard to security issues) have now received training.</p> <p>In addition, UNEP is working with a number of different agencies and projects which are working at the community level on the development and implementation of natural resource laws. The agencies with which UNEP is working in this regard include FAO, ADB, AREU, NRC, and Mercy Corps.</p>	EC-I, 5.5	100 %
4.6	Identify focal points and establish inter-ministerial environmental law task force under the AGE.	Completed in 2004.	EC-I, 5.6	100%
4.7	Provide inputs into the constitutional process to promote the inclusion of environmental rights.	Completed in 2004.	EC-I, 5.7	100%
4.8	Review the draft Environmental Protection Act to ensure it is consistent with international best practice, and that it provides a clear division of responsibilities between ministries and levels of government.	Completed 2004.	EC-I, 5.8	100%

4.9	Develop and publish an annotated Environment Act.	The Booklet has been prepared in Dari, Pashto and English, and is currently being printed. UNEP, with WCS, is also developing a compendium of environmental law in Afghanistan.	EC-I, 5.9	100%
4.10	Conduct a needs assessment for training judges and lawyers on the Environment Act.	Completed in 2005.	EC-I, 5.10	100%
4.11	Identify obligations under the multilateral environmental agreements to which Afghanistan is a party and determine a strategy for implementation and harmonization with new sectoral laws.	Completed. CITES regulations will be prepared in 2008.	EC-I, 5.11	100 %
4.12	Facilitate the participation of the Environmental Law Team in up to two relevant regional conferences and workshops.	Completed in 2005 and 2006.	EC-I, 5.12	100 %
4.13	Develop a strategy for the integration of the Environmental Law Team into the new structure of the NEPA.	Completed in 2006.	EC-I, 5.13	100 %
4.14	Assist in the identification of priorities for the development of sectoral laws and regulations. If possible, the priorities identified in the interim environmental policies and the National Environmental Action Plan developed in Component 6 should be used as the basis for legal development	Completed in 2006.	EC-II, (4.)6	100 %

<p>4.15 Conduct relevant training seminars for judges and lawyers regarding the Environmental Protection Act and other new environmental legislation</p>	<p>Some training has been undertaken at regional centres as part of the provincial outreach programme for environmental law and policy. UNEP has also been in discussions with senior judicial officers in the Supreme Court about the implementation of a comprehensive judges training programme. However, implementation of the activity has been delayed though due to the very slow pace of establishment of rule of law in Afghanistan. Until such time that meaningful reform of the judiciary occurs, this activity cannot be adequately implemented.</p>	<p>EC-II, (4.)7</p>	<p>50 %</p>
<p>4.16 Assess existing and proposed sector laws. Assist in the development and implementation of sector laws and relevant regulations.</p>	<p>During 2006, UNEP, with FAO, prepared the technical drafts of the Forest Law, and facilitated a national stakeholder consultation process. In 2007, the comments of all three tiers of stakeholders were incorporated into the legislation, and the final technical draft was submitted to the Ministry of Justice for further processing.</p> <p>With WCS, UNEP also developed the first technical draft of the Rangeland Law, which is currently being considered in detail by the Ministry of Agriculture.</p> <p>UNEP has continued to act as the intermediary between the Ministry of Justice and NEPA in regard to the processing of the EIA Regulations and Protected Areas Regulations.</p> <p>UNEP assisted stakeholders and interested parties in the processing of and final amendments to the Water Law.</p> <p>UNEP provided extensive input to and comments on the draft Hunting and Wildlife Conservation Law, developed by WCS.</p>	<p>EC-II, (4.)8</p>	<p>100 %</p>
<p>4.17 In cooperation with component 5, identify ways to enforce the national environmental legal framework at the provincial, district and community levels.</p>	<p>Provincial officials from 25 provinces have been consulted on the implementation of written national laws at the community level. In training officials and NGOs working at the community level on the Forest Law, a better understanding of community level law implementation was gained. CBNRM pilot sites are likely to be developed for testing both the forest and rangeland laws, in due course.</p>	<p>EC-II, (4.)9</p>	<p>100 %</p>

8 Community-based Natural Resources Management (Component 5)

8.1. Introduction

Objectives under component 5 are the implementation of pilot projects that encourage community-based resource management.

For the purpose of demonstrating the wide scope of possibilities encapsulated in community-based projects, UNEP's CBNRM strategy is to implement projects that are diverse in regard to their location, topical area and populations' ethno-linguistic background.

8.2. CBNRM Projects and Process

CBNRM activities have proceeded in a step by step fashion, with many lessons learned that are unique to the Afghan context. Given the logistical, geographical and topical diversity inherent in implementing pilot projects across Afghanistan, it was determined that an effective strategy would be to work with multiple cooperating partners to increase the potential geographical, cultural and topical range of UNEP CBNRM pilot projects.

CBNRM project sites were identified on a case by case basis by working with cooperating agency and organization field staff to conduct community assessments, capacities and potential for implementing CBNRM projects. Once candidate communities were identified, a second field visit was made to further refine the project plan and to discuss the specifics of UNEP support and community contributions to the proposed projects. A formal project agreement was signed upon successful completion of negotiations between UNEP and community leaders.

All projects followed a strategy whereby communities were expected to implement their respective project on a disbursement basis pending successful completion of each phase of the work plan. As such, except in exceptional cases, communities were expected to do preparatory work of project sites prior to receiving their first funding tranche. Once UNEP verified that successful completion of the work activities had been completed, the next funding tranche would be released to the community. Once all project activities were completed, UNEP revisited each site to confirm that work had been done in a satisfactory manner and according to the original agreement's terms.

From 2005 – 2007 UNEP has implemented 8 CBNRM projects in the three provinces of Herat, Bamiyan and Badakshan.

The implementation of the six pilot CBNRM projects in four communities in Herat was completed during this reporting period. Over 2,000 m² of traditional, underground irrigation (karez) was rehabilitated to deliver water to 7,500 saplings planted in newly established fruit and nut orchards. Additional irrigation features including water holding ponds, gabion and retention walls and drip irrigation were also constructed. Community maintenance of the saplings was initiated and subsequent monitoring visits over the next reporting period will document management of the irrigation infrastructure and orchards by the respective communities.



CBNRM project sites in Zindajan district, Herat province, September 2007

Upper row: water reservoir for drip irrigation and gabion wall, Karnail Village.

Lower row: rehabilitated water canal, fruit trees nursery Koshkak Village

Two solar electrification projects, one in Bamiyan and one in Badakshan, were also completed during this reporting period. A husband/wife team from Bamiyan and a sister/brother team from Badakshan were initially selected to attend the six-month training at Barefoot College, Tilonia, India. However, the Government of India did not issue a visa to the wife from Bamiyan, citing the young age of the couple's child as the reason for denying entry. The remaining community members ultimately completed the training and returned to their villages to install the solar equipment.

Solar panels were installed on 40 homes in each village. Prior to the installation, each community constructed a workshop to house four solar panels and associated batteries and equipment necessary to install and, when necessary, repair the solar panels. Per the agreement each community signed with Norwegian Church Aid, UNEP's implementing partner, each household will contribute 100 Afs per month towards the salary of the community engineers. While the salary will cover the labour and maintenance costs of the engineers, each household is responsible for the materials costs for repairs.

Norwegian Church Aid will work with UNEP and local NGO partners in Bamiyan and Badakshan to monitor any changes in natural resources use, reallocation of household income and general progress in each community.



Solar electrification of Jaw Palal Village, Shahidan District Bamiyan province, May 2007

8.3. Summary of Progress

Activity	Status and Outputs	Ref.#	
<p>5.1 Conduct preparatory activities for establishing a Sub-National Affairs Team within NEPA</p>	<p>CBNRM jurisdiction between NEPA and MAIL has been identified in the Environment Law (i.e. NEPA regulates, MAIL implements and manages) and will be carried through related laws such as Forestry and Rangelands. The NEPA and MAIL staff in respective divisions will conduct the anticipated activities of a Sub-national Affairs Team as part of their job duties in relation to implementing community based aspects of natural resource laws and MAIL’s Natural Resource Management Programme. The establishment of a separate Sub-National Affairs Team in NEPA is hence not necessary any more.</p>	<p>EC-I, 6.1</p>	50 %
<p>5.2 Identify a minimum of five counter-part staff for the Sub-National Affairs Team.</p>	<p>See 5.1</p>	<p>EC-I, 6.2</p>	

5.3	Conduct month-long intensive training courses for the counter-part staff of the Sub-National Affairs Team and for relevant environmental focal points in other Ministries.	See 5.1	EC-I, 6.3	
5.4	Conduct daily “hands on” training of the counter-part staff through a “learning by doing” approach.	See 5.1	EC-I, 6.4	
5.5	Conduct monthly field visits to key selected provincial authorities and communities to explore community-based environmental management, restoration and enforcement.	To date, the financial and in-kind contributions of six communities and UNEP comprising the pilot project programme have been upheld. Four Herat-based pilot projects were completed at the end of 2006, and two additional projects were completed at the end of 2007. The two solar projects, in Bamyan and Badakshan respectively, were installed and community-managed implementation is underway.	EC-I, 6.5	100 %
5.6	Identify focal points and establish inter-ministerial technical committee on sub-national environmental affairs to consider options for the implementation of national environmental policy at the provincial and local levels.	UNEP has identified focal points through its working relationship with NEPA and MAIL on the development of natural resource management laws such as the Forestry Law and the Rangelands Law, both of which are developed from a community-based management perspective. Rather than establishing an inter-ministerial committee, UNEP will continue to work with MAIL and NEPA to inform the development of national environmental policy and its implementation at provincial and local levels.	EC-I, 6.6	75 %
5.7	Select two or more provinces to conduct institutional capacity assessments at both the provincial and district levels in order to develop options for community-based resource management and restoration.	Completed in 2006.	EC-I, 6.7	100 %

<p>5.8 Identify provinces and communities for participation in pilot projects through screening and site visits. This activity will be linked with on-going national programmes including National Solidarity and the National Area Based Development Programme.</p>	<p>To date, UNEP has completed implementation of six CBNRM projects focused on issues of water resource rehabilitation, disaster mitigation, irrigation canal reparations, water conservation and forestry development in two districts of Herat Province. The nursery and irrigation components of the Herat projects are functioning successfully with low mortality and consistent water supply through the summer, respectively and the projects are complete in terms of satisfying financial and in-kind obligations of both UNEP and the respective communities.</p> <p>Additionally, two household solar electrification projects in remote rural households in Badakhshan and Bamiyan Provinces were completed. The solar electrification projects now provide the respective households with 6 -10 hours of solar light per day enabling longer study time for students and reducing the financial and transport demands on purchasing kerosene. The solar engineers' trained at Barefoot College provided technical assistance to each household.</p>	<p>EC-I, 6.8</p>	<p>100 %</p>
<p>5.9 Facilitate the participation of the Sub-national Affairs Team in up to two relevant regional conferences and workshops.</p>	<p>See 5.1</p>	<p>EC-I, 6.9</p>	<p></p>
<p>5.10 Develop a strategy for the integration of the Sub-national Affairs Team into the new structure of the Department of Environment.</p>	<p>Jurisdiction over CBNRM is outlined in the Environment Law and related natural resource laws under development.</p> <p>See 5.1</p>	<p>EC-I, 6.10</p>	<p>75 %</p>
<p>5.11 Establish three community-based resource management pilot projects in order to test options for community-based environmental management.</p>	<p>Completed, see 5.8.</p>	<p>EC-II, (5.)5</p>	<p>100 %</p>

5.12	Develop environmental reconstruction/rehabilitation proposals jointly with communities and community based programmes such as National Solidarity Programme, National Emergency Employment Programme, Afghan Conservation Corps and the National Area Based Development Programme	Working relationship with UN-Habitat and National Solidarity Programme established and the development of a tactical MOU to address scope of collaboration in project implementation completed and signed by all parties in 2006. The six pilot projects have completed obligations established under contracts with UNEP.	EC-II, (5.)6	100 %
5.13	Jointly with component 9, develop proposals with communities contributing to the purposes of the Multilateral Environment Agreements to which Afghanistan is party	Lessons from the CBNRM component have informed the development of reports for NCSA/NAPA including the selection of national priorities for projects under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification.	EC-II, (5.)7	75 %
5.14	Work in close cooperation within component 6 during the planning and implementation of the National Environmental Action Plan	Lessons learned from the CBNRM component were incorporated in the Natural Resources Management Programme drafted with MAIL and the National Environment Strategy drafted with NEPA.	EC-II, (5.)8	75 %
5.15	Work in close cooperation within component 4 during the drafting of environmental legislation and mechanisms for monitoring and enforcement	Lessons learned from the CBNRM component were incorporated into the Forestry Law, currently within the Ministry of Justice, and the Rangelands Law currently under development.	EC-II, (5.)9	75 %

9 Environment Policy and Planning (Component 6) and Monitoring, Information and Analysis (Component 7)

9.1. Introduction

Sound environment policy decision-making and reliable policy analysis process depends on the quality scientific environment information collected from reliable environmental monitoring systems. Capacity building in the area of environment information analysis and scientific base for policy formulation is the key towards the sustainable use of environment resources and sustainable development of the country.

The UNEP Regional Resource Center for Asia and the Pacific (RRC.AP) has undertaken the responsibility of implementing the component 6 and 7. The main objectives include: (a) facilitating state of the environment reporting through training and technical support in the development of tools and standards for environmental information collection, sharing, management, analyses and reporting; and (b) contributing to the development of national environmental policy through training and technical support in the development of a national environmental action plan, and mechanisms for inter-ministerial policy development and implementation.

9.2. Status of Environment Policy, Information and Analysis

During this reporting period, RRC.AP delivered draft versions of the State of Environment, Guidelines for an Environmental Database Framework, Guidelines and Training Manual for developing a National Environment Policy to NEPA for review.

RRC.AP organized a training and study mission to Bangkok and Kathmandu for five senior NEPA officials to attend short courses and participate in site visits to research centers, national parks and Government environmental counterparts to learn about environmental management and governance in these regional countries.

The GIS lab was established in NEPA and the relevant GIS staff will receive training and assistance from local partners, such as Wildlife Conservation Society, as well as from the UNEP Geneva office.

Additional environmental books written in Persian have been sourced by RRC.AP for delivery during the next reporting period.

The development of environment policy, information and analysis and an action plan has progressed within the broader context of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS), a government development strategy based on the MDGs and benchmarks established under the Afghanistan Compact that will also form the content of a Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (See also chapter 4.2 ANDS, Afghanistan Compact, CG and CCCG mechanisms). Environment features twice within the ANDS framework, as a benchmark and as a cross-cutting issue which needs to be mainstreamed within

Afghanistan's broader development framework. More specifically, environment must be mainstreamed in each programme area through the development of policy benchmarks to ensure that government, donors and implementing agencies follow established norms with respect to the incorporation of environmental considerations into the design and implementation of projects, and provide adequate oversight and monitoring of the environmental impacts of humanitarian and development projects.

The mainstreaming requirements and opportunities for environment within the ANDS encapsulated the activities envisioned for Components 6 and 7, particularly Component 6 related to the National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP). In general, a NEAP provides a comprehensive framework for a country's environmental policy, institutional strengthening and related investments. The NEPA Strategy and a National Environment Strategy drafted under the ANDS framework detail respectively NEPA's needs and priorities for implementing its coordination, regulatory and policy-making mandate and, more broadly, the necessary actions and mechanisms by other governmental authorities and associated stakeholders to ensure that environment is mainstreamed into the government's development process. Both the NEPA Strategy and the National Environment Strategy set forth objectives for improving the quality of Afghanistan's environment through governance and management. A set of environmental quality standards for air, water, pollution control and solid waste to be developed will support the objectives, and comprise the ANDS environmental benchmark.

A monitoring matrix based on the ANDS environment benchmark was elaborated to include indicators to evaluate also the progress of both the NEPA strategy and the National Environment Strategy.

Additionally, UNEP worked with the Division of Natural Resources Management in the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock to adapt the natural resources section of its Master Plan into a more comprehensively articulated Natural Resources Management (NRM) Programme for Afghanistan. Principles for environmental management, including community management, guide the NRM programme. The NRM programme and associated budget were further incorporated into the Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy co-drafted by MAIL and the Ministry for Rural Rehabilitation and Development under the ANDS process.

9.3. Summary of Progress / Component 6

As explained above and in chapter 4.2 activities with regard to component 6, environment policy and planning, particularly those related to the National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) have been mostly accomplished through the mainstreaming requirements and opportunities for environment within the ANDS, which included drafting and finalization of the NEPA strategy and the National Environment Strategy through an extensive consultation process at inter-ministerial level and with international partners. The original component 6 activities were hence amended and implemented. It is for this reason that reporting against the original activities will not be reflective of the current status any more.

Annex II contains the English versions of the following documents developed by NEPA respectively MAIL with support from UNEP within the ANDS framework:

1. National Environmental Protection Agency Strategy, March 2007
2. National Environment Strategy, December 2007
including recommendations for mainstreaming environment into the benchmarks of the Afghanistan Compact, and the monitoring matrix for monitoring the implementation of the environment benchmark of the Afghanistan Compact.

Component 6 activities as outlined in the original work plans of the EC Phase 1 and 2 contracts

Activity	Ref.#	
6.1 Assist in developing an interim national environmental policy and associated priorities	EC-II, (6.)1	
6.2 Conduct preparatory activities for establishing a National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) secretariat within NEPA.	EC-II, (6.)2	
6.3 Identify up to five NEPA counterpart staff for the NEAP Secretariat.	EC-II, (6.)3	
6.4 Identify focal points and establish an inter-ministerial NEAP Task Force to work on all NEAP-related issues.	EC-II, (6.)4	
6.5 Conduct intensive training courses for the NEAP secretariat and the NEAP Task Force. The course would be based on the World Bank NEAP approach, with reference to selected case studies and international best practice.	EC-II, (6.)5	
6.6 Develop a strategy for the integration of the NEAP Secretariat into the new unit of NEPA responsible for policy and planning	EC-II, (6.)6	
6.7 Conduct workshop on best international practice on the development of a NEAP in developing countries. Individuals with experience in NEAP development would provide presentations on lessons learned, and their views on the development of a NEAP process for Afghanistan.	EC-II, (6.)7	
6.8 Develop a report on best international practice in the development and implementation of a NEAP in developing countries based on the results of the workshop and on additional information and analysis	EC-II, (6.)8	
6.9 Assist NEAP Task Force in developing a NEAP framework and timetable, and in clarifying how the NEAP will be used to inform government policies and on-going processes including the National Development Budget	EC-II, (6.)9	

6.10	Assist NEAP secretariat in the development of the National Environmental Action Plan, including conducting multi-stakeholder workshops, identifying targets and timelines, developing the action plan and recommendations. Ensure the activities of the NEAP process are conducted in parallel with and in support of the on-going development of the policy, legal, institutional and regulatory framework.	EC-II, (6.)10	
6.11	Assist in publishing, translating and distributing the NEAP.	EC-II, (6.)11	
6.12	Conduct regional multi-stakeholder workshops on the contents of the NEAP	EC-II, (6.)12	
6.13	Communicate the results of the NEAP to all on-going policy, legal and regulatory development processes and ensure adoption of recommendations. Facilitate the adoption of NEAP targets and priorities within the 1384 and 1385 National Development Framework and Budget	EC-II, (6.)13	
6.14	Monitor and evaluate contents of 1384 and 1385 budgets to identify the level of alignment and correspondence with NEAP recommendations.	EC-II, (6.)14	
6.15	Hold monthly meetings of the NEAP Task Force to monitor progress in NEAP implementation and to coordinate activities	EC-II, (6.)15	

9.4. Summary of Progress / Component 7

Activity	Status and Outputs	Ref.#	
7.1 Conduct preparatory activities for establishing an Environmental Information, Analysis and Reporting Team within NEPA The preparatory activities include establishing TORs and performance benchmarks for each secretariat staff member, developing a training methodology and mentoring approach, and identifying a work plan.	Completed in 2006.	EC-II, (7.)1	100 %
7.2 Assist in the identification and recruitment of a minimum of five NEPA counter-part staff for the Monitoring, Information and Analysis Team	Completed in 2006.	EC-II, (7.)2	100 %
7.3 Assist in the identification of focal points in sector Ministries, and establish an inter-ministerial Environmental Information Task Force to work on issues relating to the sharing of environmental information	The Committee for Environmental Coordination, established in the Environment Law and facilitated by NEPA, has assumed the function of environmental information sharing among Ministries and other stakeholders.	EC-II, (7.)3	100 %
7.4 Conduct intensive training courses for the counterpart staff of the Monitoring, Information and Analysis Team and the Environmental Information Task Force	The proposed responsibilities of the Monitoring, Information and Analysis Team and Environmental Information Task Force have been covered within the functional areas of the Division of Research, Policy and Information.	EC-II, (7.)4	50 %
7.5 Conduct daily "hands on" training of the counterpart staff through a "learning by doing" approach. The counterpart staff will be integrated into all monitoring, information and analysis activities and be given specific tasks and responsibilities	Staff from the Division of Research, Policy and Information participated in the development of a monitoring matrix for the ANDS environment benchmark including appropriate indicators.	EC-II, (7.)5	25 %

<p>7.6 Assist component 1 in establishing a database of ongoing, proposed and conceived environmental projects in Afghanistan. The database should provide basic information on “who’s doing what where”, and should contain the information required for the National Development Budget process (Donor Assistance Database). Information for the matrix should be exchanged from the National Development Budget, the Donor Assistance Database and the UNAMA projects database</p>	<p>The ANDS provides a consolidated approach to establishing a database for environmental projects and their relation to the National Development Budget. As the lead agency for the Environment Cross-Cutting Thematic Group, NEPA is responsible for mainstreaming environment into the activities of the Consultative Groups as well as designing its own budget to meet environmental benchmarks established in the ANDS.</p>	<p>EC-II, (7.)6</p>	<p>75 %</p>
<p>7.7 Assist component 1 in developing an environmental library within NEPA including the collection and translation of environmental reference texts, legal templates and information on international best practice in environmental management. UNEP to provide all background information, technical documents, sample results, GIS layers, maps and satellite images generated during the UNEP post-conflict environmental assessment.</p>	<p>In addition to the publications received from the Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and from an Iranian publisher, UNEP identified further environmental publications in Farsi from Iran for shipment to NEPA in the first quarter 2008.</p>	<p>EC-II, (7.)7</p>	<p>75 %</p>
<p>7.8 Initiate a national process to develop a national approach for the collection, sharing, management, analyses and reporting of environmental information. Also develop a methodology for producing a state of the environment report for Afghanistan</p>	<p>Draft versions of the State of the Environment report and Guidelines for and Environmental Database Framework were submitted by RRC.AP to NEPA for review.</p>	<p>EC-II, (7.)8</p>	<p>50 %</p>

7.9	Assist in developing an environmental information management and GIS laboratory for the Department of Environment. The system should store and organize all environmental information collected or produced by NEPA as well as from other sources including Ministries, NGOs, donors and UN agencies. Opportunities will be investigated for using the UNEP.net or UNEP-UNCC database engine.	A room allocated by NEPA for the GIS Lab. GIS equipment, both software and hardware, procured by UNEP and received by NEPA The two NEPA staff trained by UNEP at the Asian Institute of Technology and RRC.AP left NEPA to join private sector. Two new staff appointments for GIS lab staff made by NEPA through the civil service reform commission. These new staff are not electronically oriented and will be provided basic and advance training on GIS. In the interim, UNEP is looking for an interim arrangement by hiring a par-time GIS expert to establish the lab and install the equipment.	EC-II, (7.)9	75 %
7.10	Assist in conducting a national inventory of existing environmental information and data sources, based on the national guidelines and standards	See 7.6	EC-II, (7.)10	50 %
7.11	Assist in the development, production, translation and distribution of a State of the Environment Report for Afghanistan	The draft version of the State of Environment Report is currently under review by NEPA.	EC-II, (7.)11	75 %
7.12	Assist in developing a strategy for establishing a monitoring framework for Afghanistan to track changes in environmental quality, natural resources stocks, and ecosystem function, as well as to monitor compliance with environmental permits	Draft Guidelines for an Environmental Database Framework have been submitted by RRC.AP to NEPA for review.	EC-II, (7.)12	50 %
7.13	Implement pilot projects to test and evaluate different approaches to environmental monitoring in Afghanistan.	This activity is no longer required given the work undertaken by NEPA and UNEP on ANDS monitoring framework for the environment sector.	EC-II, (7.)13	

10 Environment Education: Communication, Outreach and Education (Component 8)

10.1. Introduction

Component 8 supports the institutional strengthening of the government by introducing awareness campaigns, environmental education, environmental reporting and opportunities for participation in environmental decision-making to Afghan citizens.

10.2. Raising Environmental Awareness

UNEP's strategy addresses the lack of environmental awareness within Afghanistan by providing opportunities for stakeholders to acquire knowledge, skills, understanding and ability to incorporate environmental practices into management, protection, education and daily life. The activities comprising the strategy are intended to be mutually reinforcing to meet the various needs of developing environmentally aware and active citizens, government and other stakeholders.

The strategy is intended to be designed and delivered in cooperation with NEPA and other organizations involved in environmental education in Afghanistan. In support of this approach, UNEP has continued to work with NEPA to articulate the strategy in terms of its mandate and the needs for environmental education and awareness identified in the initial assessment report. UNEP also provided technical and financial assistance to NEPA activities for World Environment Day.

Illustrations for environmental education posters for both primary and secondary levels and a primary-level environmental education storybook were completed during this reporting period. The production and distribution of the posters and story book will be completed during the next reporting period.

UNEP contributed funding to the publication of awareness and informational posters and brochures for Band-e-Amir produced by the Afghan Conservation Corps (ACC)/UNOPS. UNEP and ACC are members of the Band-e-Amir Coordinating Committee, led by the Wildlife Conservation Society, to support MoAIL and NEPA in designating Band-e-Amir as Afghanistan's first National Park.

UNEP provided editing assistance, resource materials, and photographs from the Environmental Photojournalism course and financial assistance to the Environmental Health edition of Salamati magazine, a public health publication produced by Aide Medicale Internationale. Salamati magazine is published in Dari, Pashto and English for public health workers in Afghanistan.

UNEP assisted NEPA with the design and content of public awareness and promotional materials for NEPA to distribute to Ministries and other government authorities and during public presentations about NEPA's work.

10.3. World Environment Day

UNEP, along with the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) and partner organizations sponsored the World Environment Day event at Esteqlal High School in Kabul. The event featured a debate among 8th grade students who were divided into two teams to discuss the subject “Environment or Development: What does Afghanistan Need?” The WED event also included speeches by the Director-General of NEPA, H.E. Mostapha Zaher, Mr. Faizl Zakhi, Head of the Parliamentary Commission on Environment for the Wolesi Jirga, a representative from President Karzai and Dr. Asif Zaidi, UNEP Afghanistan Programme Manager. A pictorial journey through Afghanistan’s environment closed the event which was well received by the audience and media.



World Environment Day Celebrations, Lycée Esteqlal High School, Kabul, June 2007

10.4. Summary of Progress

Activity	Status and Outputs	Ref.#	
8.1 Conduct preparatory activities for establishing a Communication, Outreach and Education Team within the National Environmental Protection Agency	Completed in 2006. The Division for Research, Policy and Information has replaced the proposed function of this particular Team.	EC-II, (8.)1	100 %
8.2 Identify up to five NEPA counter-part staff for the Communication, Outreach and Awareness Team.	See 8.1	EC-II, (8.)2	100 %
8.3 Identify focal points and establish an inter-ministerial Environmental Awareness and Education Task Force to work on issues relating to raising environmental awareness and education.	This has been difficult to achieve. However, NEPA is pursuing this matter with relevant ministries through the Division for Research, Policy and Information.	EC-II, (8.)3	25 %
8.4 Conduct month-long intensive training courses for the counter-part staff of the Communication, Outreach and Awareness Team and the Environmental Awareness and Education Task Force.	Staff of the NEPA Division for Research, Policy and Information has the functional responsibilities for communication, outreach and awareness. Preliminary approaches have been taken towards aiding particularly the Research and Policy Section and the Information Section Managers in the Division for Research, Policy and Information, and also the Communication and Media Liaison Officer at the Office of the Director General, in creating workplans according to their functional responsibilities.	EC-II, (8.)4	25 %
8.5 Conduct daily “hands on” training of the counter-part staff through a “learning by doing” approach.	See 8.4	EC-II, (8.)5	25 %
8.6 Develop a strategy for the integration of the Communication, Outreach and Awareness Team into the new unit of the NEPA responsible for Communication, Outreach and Awareness.	Completed in 2006. See 8.1	EC-II, (8.)6	100 %

8.7	Review the ADB capacity needs assessment, and provide inputs in the development of undergraduate courses in environmental management and rehabilitation. Kabul University has requested the development of individual courses for environmental specialists, as well as a broad-based course that will be taken by all students as a prerequisite to graduation.	Creation of environmental management and related undergraduate and graduate courses included in the priority action areas of the National Environment Strategy.	EC-II, (8.)7	
8.8	Assess the needs and priorities for the development of environmental education curricula in primary and secondary schools in both urban and rural settings. The assessment would also determine the most effective mechanisms for countrywide delivery of the new curricula.	Based on the needs assessment and subsequent environmental education and awareness strategy, UNEP's approach has been to work directly with MoEd and its implementing partners to develop supplemental environmental education materials for urban and rural primary and secondary schools and in both formal and non-formal education courses rather than develop separate, environmental education curriculum.	EC-II, (8.)8	100 %
8.9	Work with key national stakeholders, as well as UNICEF and UNESCO to develop environmental education curricula for schools based on the needs assessment.	UNEP worked with ACC/UNOPS, USAID, UNICEF, UNESCO, UN Habitat and WCS to prepare for the creation of supplemental material to primary and secondary school. UNEP, ACC/UNOPS and WCS collaborated on the production of a series of environmental education posters for primary and secondary schools.	EC-II, (8.)9	75 %
8.10	Develop a brochure on the NEPA containing general information on the Agency's mandate, mission, units, structure, and partners.	A NEPA informational brochure was designed and drafted with staff from the Division for Research, Policy and Information. It will be finalized and printed in 2008.	EC-II, (8.)10	75 %
8.11	Organize a two-day intergovernmental workshop in best practice in the public communications, outreach and education on environmental issues.	Not conducted as yet.	EC-II, (8.)11	0 %

8.12	Organize a one-day workshop for journalists on environmental reporting and awareness. Ensure broad participation from both Kabul and the major provincial centers.	Completed in 2005.	EC-II, (8.)12	100 %
8.13	Develop a report on best international practice raising public awareness on environmental issues through formal and non-formal means.	Completed and distributed to NEPA.	EC-II, (8.)13	100 %
8.14	Assist in developing a national strategy for environmental awareness, education and outreach.	Preliminary workshops have been held with staff of the Division for Research, Policy and Information to begin developing a national strategy.	EC-II, (8.)14	25 %
8.15	Assist in the implementation of the national strategy including support in developing environmental awareness materials for a broader audience including posters, radio and TV programmes and commercials, and short educational films for use with mobile screens and projectors.	<p>UNEP has worked with NEPA to begin identifying NEPA's objectives for environmental education, the various audiences and related messages. In support of this effort UNEP has assisted NEPA in the development of informational materials about NEPA.</p> <p>In collaboration with ACC/UNOPS and WCS, UNEP assisted in the funding and production of brochures and posters regarding Band-e-Amir in support of its official designation and management as Afghanistan's first protected area.</p> <p>UNEP provided editing assistance, resource materials, and photographs from the 2006 Environmental Photojournalism course and financial assistance to the Environmental Health edition of Salamati magazine, a public health publication produced by Aide Medicale Internationale. Salamati magazine is published in Dari, Pashto and English for public health workers in Afghanistan.</p>	EC-II, (8.)15	50 %
8.16	Conduct awareness raising workshops at community levels targeting to reach illiterates and vulnerable communities in disaster prone areas.	Not conducted as yet.	EC-II, (8.)16	0 %

8.17	Assist in the preparation of an annual report for the NEPA that highlights activities and progress made in 2004. The annual report will be translated into Dari, Pashto and English and will be published in both hard copy and electronic forms.	Completed in 2004. In 2007 UNEP assisted NEPA with the design and content of public awareness and promotional materials for NEPA to distribute to Ministries and other government authorities and during public presentations about NEPA's work.	EC-II, (8.)17	50 %
8.18	Assist in establishing a public information center within the NEPA to distribute information on environmental issues, progress and best practice.	Currently on-going with staff from the Information Section of the Division for Research, Policy and Information.	EC-II, (8.)18	25 %
8.19	Assist NEPA in celebrating World Environment Day.	UNEP and NEPA's main WED celebration event in 2007 took place in Kabul and focussed on children. The event involved around 200 students from five schools in Kabul, selected in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. A group of 20 8 th grade students debated on the topic "What does Afghanistan need, rapid development or environment?" The debate was followed by a slide show taking the audience through a photographic journey of Afghanistan's natural environment. Representatives of the Parliamentary Environment Commission attended the event and actively followed the debate. In addition NEPA, UNEP, UNDP, ACC and other partner organizations organized events in several locations in Afghanistan to raise awareness on environmental topics and to demonstrate the growing cooperation for the management and protection of Afghanistan's environment.	Add.	100 %

<p>8.20 Awareness rising events</p>	<p>In February UNEP staff held an introductory workshop on environment for leaders of girl youth groups from the Afghanistan Women's Network discussing how youth can become active in the environment field. The group leaders participated in the Hashar Day organized by the Ministry of Agriculture for planting trees and also started their own tree planting activities in different schools and districts.</p> <p>UNEP participated in the celebrations of International Women's Day by showing a photo exhibition on women and environment.</p> <p>On 10 July UNEP staff provided a 1.5h training session for journalists on environmental reporting and the state of Afghanistan's environment within the framework of a course organized by the National Association of Journalists for approximately 80 journalists.</p> <p>UNEP staff participated in several local radio roundtable discussions on environment.</p>	<p>Add.</p>	<p>100 %</p>
-------------------------------------	---	-------------	--------------

11 Multilateral environmental agreements (Component 9)

11.1. Introduction

UNEP's objectives under component 9 are to assist in the implementation of multilateral and regional environmental agreements through training and technical support.

UNEP has adopted a cluster approach to MEA implementation in Afghanistan by focusing initially on the green biodiversity-related conventions. With the exception of the Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol, accession to the brown conventions will follow in Phase III of UNEP's programme.

11.2. Capacity development and training

A 60 page document entitled "**Multilateral Environmental Agreements: A Handbook for Afghan Officials**" was developed in English and Dari, and is in the process of being printed for general distribution to Government officials attending international meetings and conferences, and involved in the implementation of MEAs in Afghanistan. A 2 day workshop – at which the contents of the handbook were outlined – was held in December 2007 in which officials from NEPA, MAIL and Ministry of Foreign Affairs participated.

11.3. Applications for financial and technical assistance

UNCBD: UNEP worked with the Ministry of Agriculture to finalize Afghanistan's Third National Report, which was prepared with financial assistance from UNEP-DGEF. The report, which is the first official report that the Government of Afghanistan has submitted under UNCBD, was formally submitted in April 2007. When and if funding is secured from GEF, work will commence on preparing the First and Second National Reports. A proposal for funding to develop the Fourth National Report is currently under preparation.

UNFCCC: The proposal for funding for the development of Afghanistan's Initial National Communication, developed with financial assistance from UNEP-DGEF, was finalized in January 2007 and submitted to UNEP-DGEF. Funds will be disbursed in early 2008. The total budget for the project is US \$405,000.

11.4. NCSA and NAPA projects

Afghanistan is a pilot country for joint NAPA and NCSA implementation. The workplans and outputs for the two projects have accordingly been combined. During the reporting period, the following activities were undertaken:

- Three thematic Working Groups, whose members are senior technical officials from relevant ministries, institutions and agencies, met on various occasions. The thematic areas are: 1. biodiversity and wetlands, 2. climate change and disaster preparedness, and 3. desertification, range land and water resources.
- The documents entitled “A biodiversity profile of Afghanistan in 2006” (the first technical document of its kind ever written) and “A Proposed action plan for the conservation of Afghanistan’s biodiversity and Wetlands”, and a desk study thematic assessment (including institutional and legal background relevant to biodiversity) were translated into Dari.
- Based on the request of the Climate Change and Disaster Preparedness Consultant, an exercise for undertaking methodologies for prioritizing vulnerability areas needs assessment and capacity development was implemented.
- A NCSA and NAPA progress report for the period 2004-2006 was developed and finalized.
- A joint NAPA and NCSA headquarters mission was arranged and hosted. The following was achieved during and pursuant to the mission:
 - A workshop was held with the working groups where significant progress was observed in the level of knowledge of the conventions. The remaining challenge is to attract greater participation of the members of the working groups and their institutions in the development of the NCSA and NAPA.
 - The work plan was revised to meet the needs of the project. Both teams will coordinate to revise the project work plan, extension and to clarify the budget and expenditures.
 - The revision reflects a need to streamline the activities and to alter the implementation structure to provide more proactive leadership to the working groups. This will be done by designating a team leader for two working groups and an overall mentor who will oversee the writing of the required reports as well as the final NAPA/NCSA. This is modeled after the UNEP EC capacity building program for developing governance structures.

- A series of training workshops were held on desertification. The session presented technical information on desertification, mechanisms to mitigate the impacts of desertification (preventative and corrective), and the UNCCD. The Climate Change Working Group continued their work with a series of exercises based upon the experiences presented in the document “NAPA: Selection of examples and exercises drawn from the regional NAPA preparation workshops”. At the Provincial level, a series of workshops were held with rural people at four different locations around Afghanistan. These workshops aim to identify the main impacts of, and mechanisms of adapting to, climate change at the local level.
- The final thematic technical reports were prepared for each of the three thematic areas.
- The final NCSA and NAPA report was drafted, and translated into Dari. Final national consultation on the draft will take place in early 2008, after which it will be submitted to the Council of Ministers for its endorsement.



NCSA and NAPA workshop to collect local knowledge on climate change, desertification and biodiversity from farmers and livestock herders from the provinces of Badghis, Farah and Herat, Herat, September 2007

11.5. Accession to new Conventions

Efforts to accede to the Ramsar Convention and Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) remain ongoing. However, in view of the fact that these are the first conventions to be acceded to since the establishment of the Parliament, the process remains unclear to all concerned, including UNEP, NEPA, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the President’s Office and the National Assembly, all of which agencies have at one point or another during the reporting period considered the matter. By the end of the reporting period, approvals had been obtained from the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Council of Ministers. The approval of the National Assembly remains outstanding, notwithstanding numerous and repeated attempts to obtain it.

11.6. Vienna Convention, Montreal Protocol and National Ozone Unit (NOU)

The Afghanistan Ozone Programme successfully submitted its annual consumption data of Ozone Depleting Substances according to the article 7 requirement of the Montreal Protocol to the Ozone Secretariat in July 2007 and remained in compliance with the obligations under the Montreal Protocol. The Afghanistan Ozone Officer was awarded the “Best implementer Award” by the Ozone Secretariat during the 20th anniversary celebrations and 19th MOP of the Montreal Protocol in September 2007. The National Ozone Unit (NOU) prepared its Data Verification Report along with the Country Programme Progress Report for the National ODS Phase out Plan (NPP) project.



After successful completion of the Training Workshop in Good Practices in Refrigeration and Use of Recovery and Recycling Units (11 – 13 September 2007) a technician from General Workshop is receiving his certificate from Mr. Asif Zaidi (UNEP Programme Manager)



Representatives from Afghanistan's National Ozone Unit, supported by UNEP, participated in the 19th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, which was held from 17 - 21 September 2007 in Montreal, Canada. In honor of the 20th Anniversary of the Montreal Protocol, the Ozone Secretariat in cooperation with selected judges/judging panels, issued a variety of recognition awards. Afghanistan's National Ozone Officer was awarded with the Implementers Award, recognizing extraordinary contributions from some of the national ozone units and/or people whose hard work on the country level over the years has helped to make the Protocol's phaseout goals a reality.

11.7. Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) under UNFCCC

UNEP advised the Senior Economic Advisor to the President and the Ministry of Agriculture on the desirability of acceding to the Kyoto Protocol and creating the institutional framework for the implementation of CDM projects in Afghanistan. UNEP also worked with a UNDP consultant on related issues.

11.8. Regional Cooperation

UNEP participated in three regional cooperation initiatives during the reporting period.

- **ENVSEC.** This is a UNDP-UNEP driven initiative relating to transboundary management of water resources between Afghanistan and Tajikistan. Two bilateral meetings were held during the course of 2007 to discuss regional cooperation to address environment and security risks in the upper part of the Amu Darya River basin.
- **Afghanistan-Iran Dialogue on Sistan Basin Wetlands:** The special Task Force Meeting on the establishment of a Joint Committee on the Sistan Basin Wetlands took place in May 2007 in Tehran and reviewed the proposed draft terms of reference of the committee. The opportunity was also used to discuss the status and way forward with regard to the GEF Sistan project, as well as to provide an update on the development of a monitoring system for the Sistan basin wetlands.
- **Transboundary Park.** UNEP advised WCS on its proposal to work with the Afghan, Tajik, Chinese and Pakistani Governments to establish a transboundary protected area in the Pamirs.

11.9. Summary of Progress

Activity	Status and Outputs	Ref.#	
9.1 Facilitate the participation of Afghan staff in various COP and technical meetings of the conventions, and assist in the development of relevant progress reports.	Ongoing.	EC-II, (9.)1	100 %
9.2 Facilitate participation in the next ECO meeting, and assist in the development of a status report on progress made in the implementation of the plan of action for the Tehran Declaration on Cooperation among ECO Member States.	Completed in 2004 and 2007.	EC-II, (9.)2	100 %
9.3 Conduct preparatory activities for establishing a Multilateral Environmental Agreements and regional cooperation secretariat within NEPA.	Through the PRR process, the Division of International Affairs has been established and is functioning within NEPA.	EC-II, (9.)3	100 %

9.4	Identify up to five NEPA counterpart staff for the MEA Secretariat	Completed in 2004.	EC-II, (9.)4	100 %
9.5	Identify focal points and establish an inter-ministerial MEA Task Force to work on all MEA-related issues	Completed in 2006.	EC-II, (9.)5	100 %
9.6	Conduct month-long intensive training courses for the MEA secretariat and the MEA Task Force.	MEA counterparts have been receiving training on an ad hoc basis, which is more appropriate than month-long training courses. A manual entitled "MEAs: A Handbook for Afghan Officials" was developed in English and Dari.	EC-II, (9.)6	100 %
9.7	Develop a strategy for the integration of the MEA Secretariat into the new unit of NEPA responsible for International and Regional Cooperation.	Completed in 2006.	EC-II, (9.)7	100 %
9.8	Assist in fulfilling the administrative obligations of each ratified convention in order to become eligible to receive technical and financial assistance	<p>UNCBD: A decision on funding for the development of Afghanistan's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, and First and Second National Reports remains pending with GEF.</p> <p>UNEP worked with the Ministry of Agriculture to finalize Afghanistan's Third National Report, which was prepared with financial assistance from UNEP-DGEF. The report, which is the first official report that the Government of Afghanistan has submitted under UNCBD, was formally submitted in April 2007. When and if funding is secured from GEF, work will commence on preparing the First and Second National Reports.</p> <p>The proposal for the funding for development of the Fourth National Report is being prepared.</p> <p>As the co-focal national point under UNCBD, UNEP has assisted the Government to respond timeously to all correspondence from the Secretariat.</p> <p>UNFCCC: The proposal for the development of Afghanistan's Initial National Communication, from which it is hoped that funding in the amount of approximately \$380,000 will be secured through GEF for the purposes of UNFCCC enabling activities, has been approved by UNEP-DGEF. Funding will be released in early 2008. (See also 9.18)</p>	EC-II, (9.)8	100 %

<p>9.8 Assist in fulfilling the administrative obligations of each ratified convention in order to become eligible to receive technical and financial assistance (CONTINUED)</p>	<p>Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol:</p> <p>The Afghanistan Ozone Programme successfully submitted its annual consumption data of Ozone Depleting Substances according to the article 7 requirement of the Montreal Protocol to the Ozone Secretariat in July 2007 and remained in compliance with the obligations under the Montreal Protocol. The Afghanistan Ozone Officer was awarded the “Best implementer Award” by the Ozone Secretariat during the 20th anniversary celebrations and 19th MOP of the Montreal Protocol in September 2007. The National Ozone Unit (NOU) prepared its Data Verification Report along with the Country Programme Progress Report for the National ODS Phase out Plan (NPP) project.</p> <p>CITES:</p> <p>UNEP has assisted WCS in the development of a wildlife trade proposal, which aims to address, among other things, domestic implementation of CITES.</p>	<p>EC-II, (9.)8 (cont.)</p>
<p>9.9 Work with NEPA to consider other international environmental conventions that should be ratified by Afghanistan, using a convention cluster approach.</p>	<p>Efforts to accede to the Ramsar Convention and Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) remain ongoing. However, in view of the fact that these are the first conventions to be acceded to since the establishment of the Parliament, the process remains unclear to all concerned, including UNEP, NEPA, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the President’s Office and the National Assembly, all of which agencies have at one point or another during the reporting period considered the matter. By the end of the reporting period, approvals had been obtained from the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Council of Ministers. The approval of the National Assembly remains outstanding, notwithstanding numerous and repeated attempts to obtain it.</p> <p>A plan for accession to the brown convention cluster during Phase III has been discussed and designed.</p>	<p>EC-II, (9.)9</p>
<p>9.10 Link with component 4 to ensure national legislation is harmonized with the obligations of international environmental conventions to which Afghan is a party or intends to become a party</p>	<p>Completed in 2006.</p>	<p>EC-II, (9.)10</p>

100 %

100 %

<p>9.11 Conduct workshop on best international practice on the implementation of MEAs in developing countries. Individuals with experience in MEA implementation would provide presentations on lessons learned.</p>	<p>A 2 day workshop – at which the contents of the handbook referred to in 9.12 below were outlined.</p>	<p>EC-II, (9.)11</p>	<p>100 %</p>
<p>9.12 Develop report on best international practice in the implementation of MEAs in developing countries based on the results of the workshop and on additional information and analysis.</p>	<p>A 60 page document entitled “Multilateral Environmental Agreements: A Handbook for Afghan Officials” was developed in English and Dari, and is in the process of being printed for general distribution to Government officials attending international meetings and conferences, and involved in the implementation of MEAs in Afghanistan.</p>	<p>EC-II, (9.)12</p>	<p>100 %</p>
<p>9.13 Assist in holding a 2 day inter-ministerial meeting on transboundary environmental issues covering the themes of water, forests, parks and endangered species. The purpose of the meeting is to clarify government policy and develop a plan of action for addressing transboundary management needs.</p>	<p>UNEP has actively participated in the following transboundary and regional initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ENVSEC. This is a UNDP-UNEP driven initiative relating to transboundary management of water resources between Afghanistan and Tajikistan. Two bilateral meetings were held during the course of 2007 to discuss regional cooperation to address environment and security risks in the upper part of the Amu Darya River basin. • Afghanistan-Iran Dialogue on Sistan Basin Wetlands: The special Task Force Meeting on the establishment of a Joint Committee on the Sistan Basin Wetlands took place in May 2007 in Tehran and reviewed the proposed draft terms of reference of the committee. The opportunity was also used to discuss the status and way forward with regard to the GEF Sistan project, as well as to provide an update on the development of a monitoring system for the Sistan basin wetlands. • Transboundary Park. UNEP advised WCS on its proposal to work with the Afghan, Tajik, Chinese and Pakistani Governments to establish a transboundary protected area in the Pamirs. 	<p>EC-II, (9.)13</p>	<p>100 %</p>

9.14	Assist in the development of a strategy to begin implementation of MEAs to which Afghanistan is a party and to strengthen regional cooperation and transboundary management.	Completed in 2006.	EC-II, (9.)14	100 %
9.15	Assist in the preparation and implementation of GEF enabling activity projects, in particular, the First National Communications under UNFCCC, a National Capacity Self-Assessment, a National Adaptation Programme of Action, and a Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.	Ongoing. See also 9.8. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCSA/ NAPA: Project is almost completed. Final report will be available in early 2008. (See detailed report in chapter 11.1) • UNCBD: Application for funding in the amount of \$395,000 for the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and First and Second National Reports made in April 2006 through UNEP-GEF; funding in the amount of \$20,000 received in September 2006 for Third National Report. Funding proposal for developing Fourth National Report is currently underway. • UNFCCC: Proposal for INC funding in the amount of \$380,000 finalised and approved. Funds to be disbursed in early 2008. 	EC-II, (9.)15	100 %
9.16	Assist in the preparation and implementation of medium and large-sized GEF projects.	UNEP has focussed in particular on a UNDP sustainable land management MSP, and the development of a transboundary project proposal for the Sistan Basin Wetlands.	EC-II, (9.)16	100 %
9.17	Assist the ministry in participating in the Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition (JREC).	UNEP has been in contact with the Coalition Secretariat to request that the Coalition fund the participation of Afghan delegates, however has been informed that none is available. Further participation is therefore not possible at this stage.	EC-II, (9.)17	50 %
9.18	Assist in the initial exploration of opportunities for developing carbon trading agreements for Afghanistan under the Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol.	UNEP advised the Senior Economic Advisor to the President and the Ministry of Agriculture on the desirability of acceding to the Kyoto Protocol and creating the institutional framework for the implementation of CDM projects in Afghanistan. UNEP also worked with a UNDP consultant on related issues.	EC-II, (9.)18	100 %

12 Conclusion

12.1. Completion of Phase II

UNEP is contributing to environmental progress and sustainable development in Afghanistan in a step-wise and incremental manner. The progress that has been made by UNEP and NEPA during Phases I and II of its Capacity Building and Institutional Development Programme (2003 – 2007) has focused on developing a sound institutional, legal and human resource base. These activities are an essential pre-requisite for long-term environmental management and will form the foundation for success in the future. Key outputs include a detailed institutional structure for NEPA, an Environment Law and regulations under it, policy papers on EIA and pollution control, the establishment of and support to Government environment coordination groups, the development of community-based resource management projects, awareness raising about environmental issues through the training of journalists and the development of educational material, and progress in the implementation of multi-lateral environmental agreements to which Afghanistan is a party.

As summarized in Annex I, most of the project activities envisioned in the Phase I and II project documents have been successfully completed. In some instances, however, activities were not completed. The reasons for incompleteness vary as indicated in the activity tables for each component, and include security concerns, access denial, lack of a pre-requisite restructuring for implementation an activity, etc. Early on in Phase III, UNEP will determine whether or not to adapt these unfinished activities to the current context. The unfinished activities were however more than compensated by new activities demanded by the beneficiary institutions and by extending the project for a period of 14 months through a no-cost extension. This is in accordance with UNEP's policy of combining programmed technical assistance with demand-driven assistance.

12.2. Cooperation with other environmental programmes

During Phases I and II of the Project, UNEP worked closely with donors and agencies implementing projects in Afghanistan relating to environmental management, including those listed below.

- **Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)**, which is implementing a biodiversity project funded by USAID. UNEP is working closely with WCS in relation to Parks and Protected Areas, particularly for the establishment of Band-e Amir as a national park. UNEP provides support in relation to coordination amongst stakeholders, development of relevant legal and other materials, community consultations, as well as the development of biodiversity-related legislation. A new area of collaboration between WCS and UNEP is the institutional development and capacity building of Afghan institutions for the enforcement of CITES.
- **UNOPS/ Afghan Conservation Corps (ACC)**, which has an income generating reforestation and environmental rehabilitation project funded by USAID. UNEP works closely with ACC in relation to environmental education activities, environmental awareness activities (such as World Environment Day), and provincial outreach activities. ACC acts as UNEP's administrative agency in relation to many of the environmental law and policy workshops that have been run at the provincial level.

- **UNDP**, which is developing its energy and environment portfolio in Afghanistan. UNEP and UNDP work closely on ANDS, NCSA and NAPA initiatives. Coordination between UNEP and UNDP has been exemplary on ANDS, where the two agencies endeavoured to integrate environmental concerns in the ANDS, which is Afghanistan PRSP. Collaboration also included development of medium-sized projects for GEF funding on sustainable land management and Sistan Basin Wetlands. .
- **FAO**, in relation to those projects that have a direct environmental relevance. UNEP's collaborative work with FAO includes drafting of forestry law and rangeland law. For the rangeland, there is close collaboration with FAO's SALEH project on rangelands in the central highlands.

UNEP is one of the six UN partner agencies in the Joint Programme on Green Afghanistan Initiative (GAIN), which include UNAMA, FAO, WFP, UNDP and UNOPS.

UNEP is co-chair of the Biodiversity Coordination Group (which all of the abovementioned agencies are members of), and is chair of the Rangeland Coordination Working Group. From time-to-time, UNEP organises meetings of the abovementioned donors and implementing agencies, as well as the World Bank, to avoid overlap and duplication of project activities.

Phase III of the Project is likely to see UNEP continuing to work cooperatively and fruitfully with the same donors and agencies.

In addition, in Phase III UNEP will work more closely with the Kunduz River Basin Project, an integrated catchment management project also funded by the EC.

12.3. Phase III: Programme extension

For Phase III (2008 – 2010), the UNEP Capacity Building and Institutional Development Programme for Environmental Management in Afghanistan will build on the previous successes of Phases I and II by providing assistance to environmental authorities to implement the environmental management framework across the country, and to manage the process of environmental restoration and community-based natural resource management.

The primary focus of the Programme during the first two phases was on the central level of Government. Activities during Phase III will be aimed at central, provincial and community levels. UNEP will support the strengthening of the nascent regional/ provincial offices of NEPA.

Although the direct beneficiary institution during Phases I and II was NEPA, UNEP nonetheless provided technical support to the Natural Resources Division (NRD) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, particularly in regard to environmental law and policy. In addition to technical support, dedicated capacity support is planned for this Division in Phase III, particularly in regard to the establishment and effective functioning of the Protected Areas Central Management Authority, which is established by the Protected Areas Regulations to be issued under the Environment Law.

A further addition in Phase III is of a protected areas component, which seeks to enhance the protected areas management capacity of relevant authorities, and includes the establishment of a new protected area.

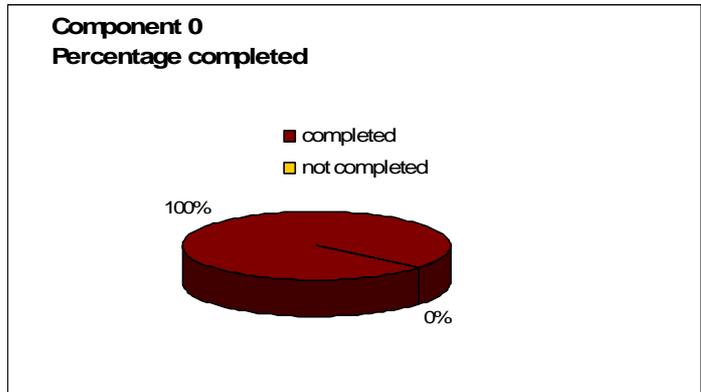
Capacity Building and Institutional Development Programme for Environmental Management in Afghanistan - Phase III	
Overall Objective	
To contribute to contain the degradation of the natural resource base, make its use increasingly sustainable	
Purpose	
Afghanistan's environmental management capacity is enhanced	
1	Component 1: ASSISTANCE TO NEPA
1.1	Civil service reform process completed at the central and provincial levels, and environmental coordination fora established and functioning.
1.2	NEPA is seen as taking the professional lead in environmental management through the enhancement of its technical capacity.
1.3	Environmental laws, regulations and policies are developed, and enabling activities under multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) are completed.
1.4	Capacity of NEPA to raise public awareness and undertake environmental education / awareness raising is enhanced.
2	Component 2: ASSISTANCE TO MAIL
2.1	Protected areas management capacity is enhanced, as is capacity to enforce natural resource legislation.
2.2	Natural resource laws, regulations and polices developed and enabling activities under Multilateral Environmental Agreements completed.
2.3	Management of natural resources at local community level is revived at selected pilot sites, and a framework is developed for the expansion and broader application of the model by the Government, and other national and international stakeholders.

Phase III of the programme has a budget of EUR 6'200'000 and will be funded by the European Commission, the Government of Finland and the GEF.

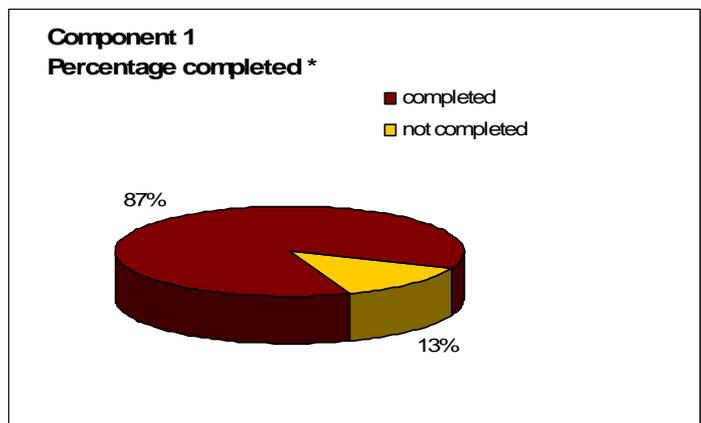
Unlike Phases I and II, which were designed at a time when UNEP's historical presence in Afghanistan was relatively limited, Phase III has been designed against a background of four years of directly relevant UNEP experience and with a view to addressing the actual capacity and related gaps that exist within the Government structure in relation to environmental management.

Annex I: Overview on the estimated percentage of completion of the planned activities as per December 2007 ¹

Component 0	
Total number of planned activities	12
Number of planned activities 100 % completed	12
Number of planned activities 75 % completed	0
Number of planned activities 50 % completed	0
Number of planned activities 25 % completed	0
Number of planned activities 0 % completed	0
Number of additional activities implemented 2004	1
Number of additional activities implemented 2005	1
Number of additional activities implemented 2006	2
Number of additional activities implemented 2007	2
Number of abandoned activities	0

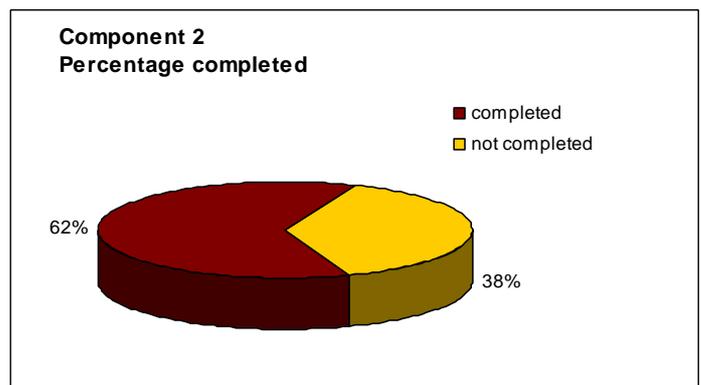


Component 1	
Total number of planned activities	18
Number of planned activities 100 % completed	14
Number of planned activities 75 % completed	0
Number of planned activities 50 % completed	1
Number of planned activities 25 % completed	1
Number of planned activities 0 % completed	1
Number of additional activities implemented 2004	2
Number of additional activities implemented 2005	4
Number of additional activities implemented 2006	1
Number of additional activities implemented 2007	0
Number of abandoned activities	1



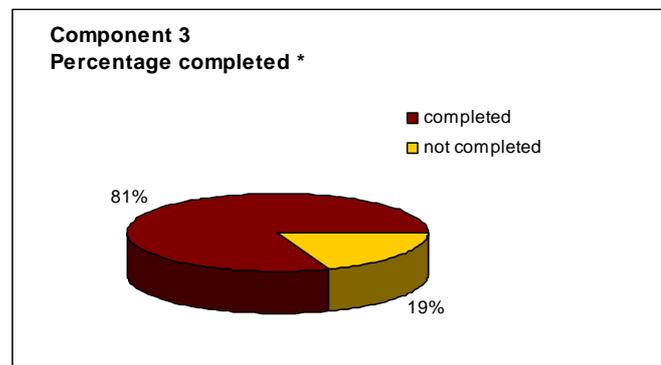
* Activity 1.7 has been abandoned

Component 2	
Total number of planned activities	13
Number of planned activities 100 % completed	6
Number of planned activities 75 % completed	1
Number of planned activities 50 % completed	1
Number of planned activities 25 % completed	3
Number of planned activities 0 % completed	2
Number of additional activities implemented 2004	0
Number of additional activities implemented 2005	1
Number of additional activities implemented 2006	1
Number of additional activities implemented 2007	0
Number of abandoned activities	0



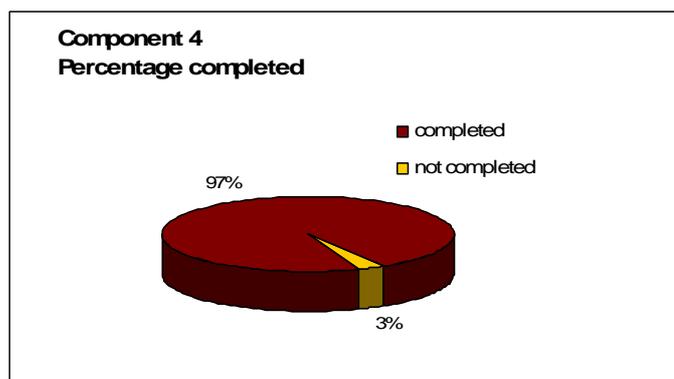
¹ Abandoned activities were excluded from the total number of planned activities for the illustrations.

Component 3	
Total number of planned activities	22
Number of planned activities 100 % completed	14
Number of planned activities 75 % completed	1
Number of planned activities 50 % completed	4
Number of planned activities 25 % completed	1
Number of planned activities 0 % completed	1
Number of additional activities implemented 2004	4
Number of additional activities implemented 2005	2
Number of additional activities implemented 2006	1
Number of additional activities implemented 2007	1
Number of abandoned activities	1

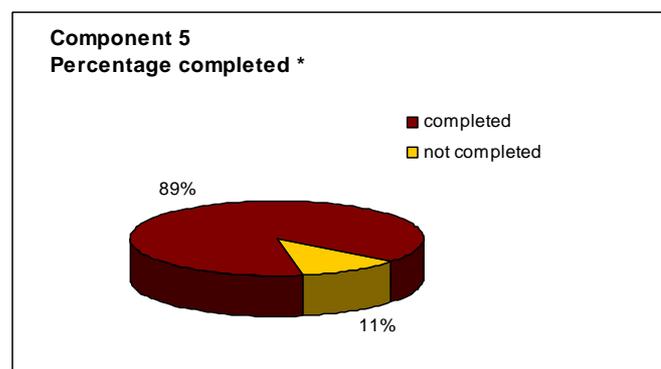


* Activity 3.9 has been abandoned

Component 4	
Total number of planned activities	17
Number of planned activities 100 % completed	16
Number of planned activities 75 % completed	0
Number of planned activities 50 % completed	1
Number of planned activities 25 % completed	0
Number of planned activities 0 % completed	0
Number of additional activities implemented 2004	6
Number of additional activities implemented 2005	2
Number of additional activities implemented 2006	1
Number of additional activities implemented 2007	0
Number of abandoned activities	0



Component 5	
Total number of planned activities	15
Number of planned activities 100 % completed	5
Number of planned activities 75 % completed	5
Number of planned activities 50 % completed	1
Number of planned activities 25 % completed	0
Number of planned activities 0 % completed	4
Number of additional activities implemented 2004	0
Number of additional activities implemented 2005	0
Number of additional activities implemented 2006	1
Number of additional activities implemented 2007	0
Number of abandoned activities	4

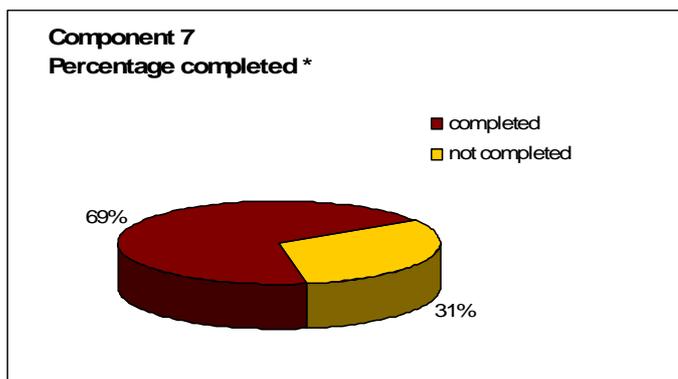


* Activities 5.2, 5.3, 5.4 and 5.9 have been abandoned

Component 6	
Total number of planned activities	15
Number of planned activities 100 % completed	
Number of planned activities 75 % completed	
Number of planned activities 50 % completed	
Number of planned activities 25 % completed	
Number of planned activities 0 % completed	
Number of additional activities implemented 2004	
Number of additional activities implemented 2005	
Number of additional activities implemented 2006	
Number of additional activities implemented 2007	
Number of abandoned activities	

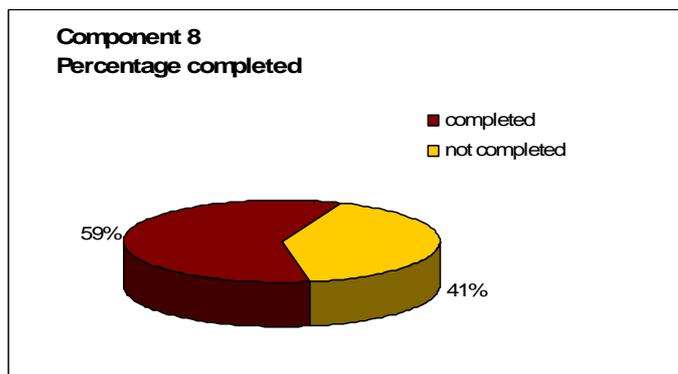
Activities with regard to component 6, environment policy and planning, particularly those related to the National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) have been mostly accomplished through the mainstreaming requirements and opportunities for environment within the ANDS, which included drafting and finalization of the NEPA strategy and the National Environment Strategy through an extensive consultation process at inter-ministerial level and with international partners. The original component 6 activities were hence changed and implemented differently and some of them were abandoned. It is for this reason that reporting against the original activities is not reflective of the current status any more.

Component 7	
Total number of planned activities	13
Number of planned activities 100 % completed	3
Number of planned activities 75 % completed	4
Number of planned activities 50 % completed	4
Number of planned activities 25 % completed	1
Number of planned activities 0 % completed	0
Number of additional activities implemented 2004	0
Number of additional activities implemented 2005	0
Number of additional activities implemented 2006	0
Number of additional activities implemented 2007	0
Number of abandoned activities	1



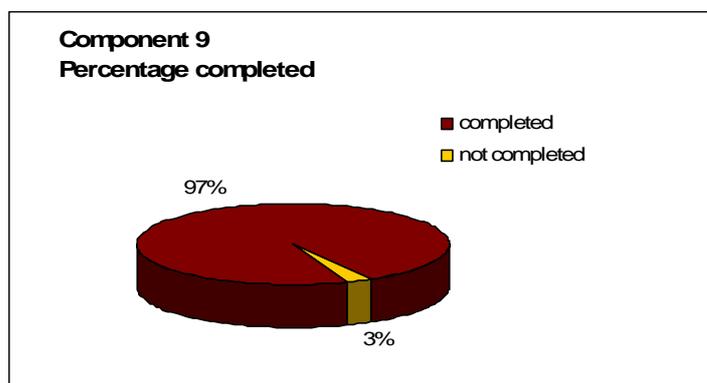
* Activity 7.13 has been abandoned

Component 8	
Total number of planned activities	18
Number of planned activities 100 % completed	6
Number of planned activities 75 % completed	3
Number of planned activities 50 % completed	1
Number of planned activities 25 % completed	5
Number of planned activities 0 % completed	2
Number of additional activities implemented 2004	3
Number of additional activities implemented 2005	2
Number of additional activities implemented 2006	3
Number of additional activities implemented 2007	2
Number of abandoned activities	1

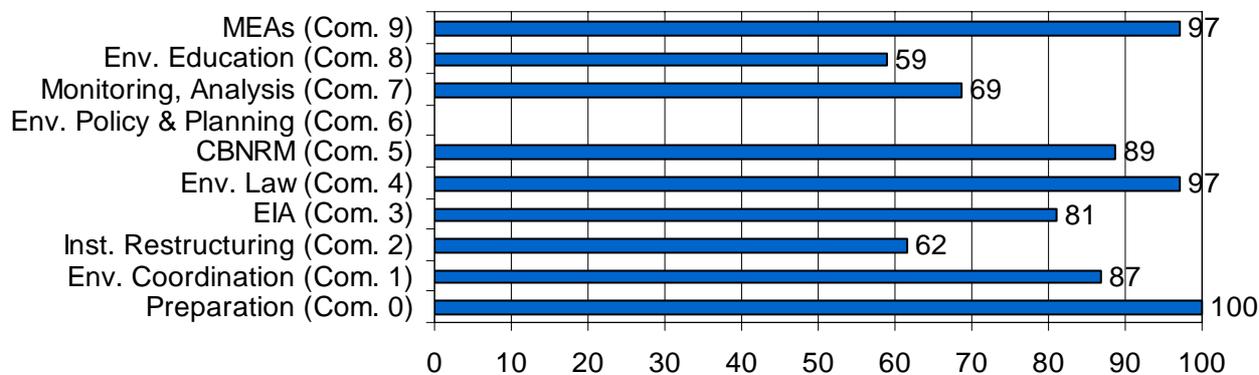


* Activity 8.7 has been abandoned

Component 9	
Total number of planned activities	18
Number of planned activities 100 % completed	17
Number of planned activities 75 % completed	0
Number of planned activities 50 % completed	1
Number of planned activities 25 % completed	0
Number of planned activities 0 % completed	0
Number of additional activities implemented 2004	3
Number of additional activities implemented 2005	0
Number of additional activities implemented 2006	1
Number of additional activities implemented 2007	0
Number of abandoned activities	0



**Estimated completion per component
as per December 2007 in percent ***



* Abandoned activities are not included

Annex II: ANDS documents with regard to environment

1. National Environmental Protection Agency Strategy, March 2007
2. National Environment Strategy, December 2007
including recommendations for mainstreaming environment into the benchmarks of the Afghanistan Compact, and the monitoring matrix for monitoring the implementation of the environment benchmark of the Afghanistan Compact.



**Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
National Environmental Protection Agency**

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY STRATEGY
FOR
AFGHANISTAN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY
(WITH FOCUS ON PRIORITIZATION)**

(DRAFT)

MINISTRY OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE AND DESIGNATION	Sulaiman Shah Sallari Acting Executive Deputy Director
DATE OF SUBMISSION	March 15, 2007

SECTION ONE: OVERALL SECTOR GOALS AND RESULTS

1.1 Goals:

To protect the environmental integrity of Afghanistan and support sustainable development of its natural resources through the provision of effective environmental policies, regulatory frameworks and management services that are also in line with the Afghanistan MDGs.

1.2 Expected Results: (specific achievements with a five year perspective)

A. Priority Expected Results:

1. By 2012, establishment and implementation of legal and regulatory frameworks and management services for “brown” issues, including the protection of air quality, water quality, waste management, and pollution control.
2. By 2012, establishment and implementation of legal and regulatory frameworks and management services for “green” issues, including natural resource management.
3. NEPA is capable of taking the lead in environmental management through the enhancement of its professional capacity.
4. Regular dissemination of a public environmental awareness campaign and provision of environmental information to other Government authorities.
5. Achievement of Afghanistan’s MDGs related to the environment.

B. Other Expected Results

1. Improved coordination with line ministries and other government departments.
2. Support to Government and other stakeholders through the integration of environmental issues into development policies, benchmarks and government programmes.
3. Participatory processes and public awareness contribute to compliance and enforcement.

SECTION TWO: CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS

2.1 Analysis of the Current State of the Sector

Approximately 80% of the population of Afghanistan directly relies on the natural resource base of the country to meet its daily needs. In 2003, the UNEP post-conflict environmental assessment in Afghanistan found that many livelihoods are under threat by the alarming degree of environmental degradation caused by a combination of conflict, poverty, population growth and survival tactics. Already, the lack of basic natural resources, such as clean water or trees, has led to the collapse of many rural livelihoods, turning many people into environmental refugees and increasing population pressures in urban centres. The decline in the country’s natural resource based has increased vulnerability to natural disasters and food shortages, thereby further increasing poverty and decreasing opportunities for sustainable livelihoods. Human health is also directly threatened by pollution hotspots and inadequate waste management and sanitation practices. Key aspects of Afghanistan’s current state of the environment include the following:

Urban Environment. In the urban environment, human health is being placed at risk by poor solid and liquid waste management practices and a lack of uncontaminated drinking water and sanitation infrastructure. Adequate landfills do not exist in any towns and cities, and no measures are being

taken in relation to existing dumpsites to prevent groundwater contamination or reduce toxic emissions arising from the burning of solid waste. Furthermore, many polluting industrial activities are being undertaken without regard for environmental protection or the health of workers.

Surface and Groundwater. Water is the key to the health and well-being of the Afghan people. Approximately 75-80% of the population requires consistent access to water to maintain agricultural production. The damage to the water resources of the country is immense. Drought and uncoordinated and unmanaged extraction of both ground and surface water resources has severely depleted the available water resource base resulting in a water quantity crisis. Similarly, water quality is threatened by contamination from waste dumps, chemicals and open sewers. Due to mismanagement of surface water, many of Afghanistan's wetlands are completely dry and no longer support wildlife populations or provide agricultural inputs.

Forests and Rangelands. The forests and woodlands of Afghanistan provide key resources for the livelihoods of the Afghan population. Timber products such as fuelwood for cooking and construction materials for shelter are extremely important for overall survival. Non-timber forest products, such as nuts, leaves, mushrooms, and forest-related flora and fauna, are also important for the food security of people. In addition, forests prevent land from eroding, and maintain an ecological balance in ecosystems and water catchment areas. Illegal harvesting is depleting forests and woodland resources rapidly, and widespread (over-grazing is preventing regeneration. Satellite analyses conducted by UNEP in 2002 revealed that conifer forests in the provinces of Nangarhar, Kunar and Nuristan have been reduced by an average of 50 percent since 1978. The loss of forests and vegetation, excessive grazing and dry land cultivation expose soil to serious erosion. As such the productivity of the land base is declining, driving people from rural to urban areas in search of food and employment.

Soils. The soils of Afghanistan are one of the most important foundations for the Afghan economy. They are the basis for agriculture and animal husbandry, and at the same time support the growth of natural vegetation. However, due to decades of overuse and poor management, many of the soils are slowly eroding and land productivity is being reduced. Some of the degradation is so severe that recovery cannot take place without human intervention. One of the most threatening impacts arising from loss of soil and vegetation is desertification and increased flood risk.

Air. Dust and vehicle emissions (exacerbated as a result of the use of lowgrade hydrocarbons) in Afghanistan's urban areas are the main factors adversely affecting air quality. Current assessments of vehicle density in the country amount to 500 000 cars, 30 000 buses and 50 000 trucks – figures that are growing rapidly. During late autumn and winter, air quality is worsened by domestic emissions arising from increased use of ovens, stoves and open fires. Electricity shortages and a lack of fuelwood mean that households resort on occasions to burning packaging materials, often resulting in the release of toxic emissions.

Wildlife and Biodiversity. Afghanistan's wildlife heritage is also under threat. Flamingos have not bred successfully in Afghanistan for four years, and the last Siberian crane was seen in 1986. While the Wakhan Corridor contains healthy populations of endangered snow leopards and other mammals, including Marco Polo sheep, active hunting is occurring in many regions of the country, either for sport, for food, or in order to supply furs for sale to foreigners in Kabul. The legal status of all protected areas is currently in question. The protected areas regulations and management plans are currently under development, but no management is taking place to protect and conserve their ecological integrity and wildlife until the regulations and management plans are finalized. Furthermore, less than one percent of the land base is contained within protected areas – none of which cover the dwindling conifer forests of the east. As Afghanistan's wildlife and biodiversity could be a critically important component for future tourism revenue, attention should be given towards protecting these resources before the opportunity is missed forever.

If the current environmental problems in Afghanistan are not addressed, the following impacts can be expected.

- Existing chemical contamination of air, soil and water resources at pollution hotspots will threaten human health and undermine workforce stability and economic productivity.
- Vulnerability to natural disasters and food shortages will increase, which will hinder development efforts and compound humanitarian crises.
- Unequal distribution of water resources could lead to severe water scarcity in some regions, threatening human livelihoods, creating environmental refugees, compounding adverse humanitarian conditions and increasing regional tensions.
- The adverse environmental impacts of reconstruction and development projects will create a large set of new environmental problems and impacts to livelihoods if not regulated and mitigated. Addressing these problems will have significant long-term financial implications for the government of Afghanistan.
- Unsustainable use of water resources could threaten agricultural production and food security, as well as wetland ecology and biodiversity.
- Mismanagement of municipal, industrial and military wastes could lead to further contamination of air, soil, and water resources (with adverse impacts on human health and well-being, as well as the environment) and to the creation of new pollution hotspots.
- Continued deforestation combined with livestock grazing and water scarcity will lead to increased soil erosion, desertification and reduced fertility and ecosystem services.
- Continued loss of vegetation and green cover and mismanagement of soil will lead to floods, mudslides, deterioration of groundwater quality, and rapid run off of water during the wet season.
- Continued declines in biodiversity and increased listing of endangered species due to habitat loss and the lack of an effective protected areas system.
- Environmental refugees could be created due to land degradation and resource scarcity.
- Environmental investments may be conducted in an overlapping and non-coordinated way leading to inefficiency, redundancy and non-optimal use of limited resources.
- Citizens of Afghanistan will lack basic environmental information on the key problems faced by the country, and on the location of pollution hotspots.
- Donors, UN agencies and the international community will lack information on the key environmental investment needs for 2007 and beyond.

If environmental issues are not mainstreamed into the reconstruction agenda and national budget, the basic prerequisites for sustainable development will not be met.

The recent establishment of an environmental function within the centralized government system reflects Afghanistan's development priorities. Still a nascent function, environment has changed organizational location and structure since its inception. In 2002, the new function was first housed in the Ministry of Irrigation, Water Resources and Environment (MIWRE) as the Department of Environment. In January 2005, the Department of Environment was separated from MIWRE and was subsequently declared an independent Department of Environment. In May 2005 the environmental function was given the status of an independent National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA).

2.2 Analysis of Key Strategic Elements and Processes in Past Programming that Contributed to Success

The environmental challenge for post-conflict countries involves rehabilitation of both physical degradation and the associated collapse of national and sub-national governance. To this end the focus of NEPA and the environment sector has been strengthening of environmental management capacity through: national environmental coordination; public administration reform and human resources development; environmental impact assessment; environmental legislation, regulations and standards; sub national environmental affairs and community-based natural resource management; monitoring, information and analyses; environmental policy development and planning; environmental communications, outreach and education; and multilateral agreements and regional cooperation.

2.3 Analysis of Constraints, Restraints and Assumptions

A. Regulatory and Governance Environment

The integrated nature of environmental concepts necessitates a similar system for environmental management. While NEPA is the lead government authority in regard to environmental management, other institutions are also involved. The development of environmental management in Afghanistan is co-occurring with the establishment of the overall system of governance, thus inter- and intra-governmental relationships necessary for the implementation of and compliance with relevant laws and regulations are untested. For example, land ownership disputes may affect implementation and enforcement of natural resource laws, regulations and associated government projects.

The combination of the disruption of Afghanistan's system of governance and destruction of its natural resources prompted the promulgation of an Environment Law, published in the Official Gazette in January 2006, as the first legal instrument related to the country's environment. The Environment Law is based on international standards that recognize the current state of Afghanistan's environment while laying a framework for the progress of governance leading to effective environmental management. NEPA is currently developing sets of regulations under the Environment Law addressing the following sectoral areas: environmental impact assessment (EIA); integrated pollution control (IPC); protected areas management; ozone depleting substances; and compliance and enforcement.

With respect to multilateral environmental agreements and regional cooperation, Afghanistan has primarily concentrated on "green" transboundary issues concerning protection and preservation with NEPA and the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation dividing duties as the respective focal points. Afghanistan has signed but not ratified the Basel Convention regarding transboundary movement and disposal of hazardous waste, and is in the process of acceding to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation is the focal point for the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES).

Afghanistan has also ratified the ozone treaties, the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol, and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) with NEPA as the focal point.

B. Capacity Analysis :

NEPA's capacity to implement its mandate remains relatively limited but the impending completion of the Policy, Reform and Restructuring (PRR) process will provide a stable organizational structure with staff hired under appropriate Terms of Reference following a transparent recruitment process.

The organizational transition of the environment function since 2002 has precluded the consistent development of technical and managerial skills within both NEPA and other governmental authorities involved in environmental management. Similarly, there has been little opportunity in Afghanistan's recent history to develop a functioning education and administrative system to support environmental management.

Donor attention has primarily focused on project implementation rather than integration with the government. Coordination between environmental actors and stakeholders in Afghanistan has occurred since 2002 but complementarity and understanding of respective programmatic and budgetary needs and priorities remains sporadic. Without effective coordination, respective responsibilities and rights under the Environment Law as well as subsequent laws and regulations will restrict the government's capacity for environmental management.

C. Security Situation

The security situation may pose significant constraints on field mobility of NEPA staff and on the level of cooperation between the national, provincial and district levels of government. NEPA staff operating in southern and eastern provinces will most likely continue to experience limited mobility. However, as a regulatory and coordinating body rather than an implementing body, NEPA's primary interaction with stakeholders will be as a coordinator thereby limiting its actual field exposure.

SECTION THREE: STRATEGY

Overall Strategy for Achieving Expected Results

The initiation of the I-ANDS has provided a framework for NEPA's strategy for achieving the expected interim results for environmental management. Above all, NEPA's coordination function will ensure that environmental issues are integrated into the I-ANDS and, thus, environmental priority needs are included in Afghanistan's continued development. The growing demand from the Afghan public, international community and Government of Afghanistan for environmental information and leadership indicates that NEPA's mandate is timely and crucial.

NEPA's priority results are designed to position the environment as a key feature to Afghanistan's economic and social development. As the lead for environmental management, NEPA requires a functioning institutional structure with staff qualified to perform the necessary technical, administrative and coordination duties.

Thus the most effective strategy option for NEPA focuses on strengthening its coordination and technical capability to provide Government and other stakeholders with the tools to understand how environment is integrated into policies and activities for Afghanistan's development.

Poverty reduction: The degradation of Afghanistan's environment and natural resource base, on which its population is so heavily dependent to satisfy its livelihood needs, has led to lingering poverty and health issues. Effective environmental management will revive livelihood options based on natural resources and reduce environmental health risks that undermine workforce stability and economic productivity.

Economic growth: Afghanistan's population is largely dependent upon the country's environment and natural resources for its economic and social well-being. Improving environmental management and halting and ultimately reversing degradation to ecosystems and the natural resource base is therefore vital for the long-term economic empowerment and well-being of the Afghan people.

Productivity increase: Afghanistan's economy is currently limited to production from only a few sectors, contrary to the past where natural resources assumed a large percentage of the GNP. Strengthened environmental management will contribute to improved local production and national production as well as a healthier workforce.

Cost efficiency and cost effectiveness: The cost of Afghanistan's environmental degradation is apparent. The Environment Law and the development of associated regulations and standards will establish the Government's goals and applicable standards for environmental quality and use of resources. This system is designed to protect Afghanistan's environment while allowing for sustainable productive use. In addition, an informed and educated public will contribute to reduction in activities harmful to the environment.

Longer term sustainability: Ultimately, protecting the environment and ensuring sustainable use of natural resources (including forests and rangelands, in respect of which many local level conflicts arise) will contribute to a more secure and stable situation in Afghanistan – the basic prerequisite for sustainable long-term economic growth and social prosperity.

Potentials of external and government financing: Both external and government acknowledgement of environment as a priority to Afghanistan's development is increasing. Improved environmental management will demonstrate NEPA's ability to carry out its mandate and help the Government and external donors coordinate to determine effective and appropriate financing.

Cross-cutting issues: While environment itself is a cross-cutting issue, it features importantly in other cross-cutting issues. **Gender equity:** Female candidates recruited in previous training opportunities offered by UNEP to NEPA; gender sensitivity training was offered to numerous NEPA officials; color printed books on women and the environment have been distributed to stakeholders; women's role in environmental protection is an important aspect of public awareness; gender equity is reflected in the Environment Law. NEPA will ensure that recommendations and guidelines as outlined in the National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan are appropriately considered in its own workplans. **Counter Narcotics:** NEPA will eventually have the ability to monitor the toxicity of substances used in eradication campaigns. The rehabilitation of natural resources and restoration of associated livelihoods will gradually provide an incentive for poppy-growers to return to a more sustainable form of livelihood. **Regional Cooperation:** Regional cooperation on shared environmental resources is recognized as a fundamental principle in the Environment Law. NEPA is cooperating with Pakistan and Iran on ozone and wetland-related treaties. **Anti Corruption:** Appropriate checks and balances in regard to decision-making have been incorporated into the Environmental Law to deter corruption. The PRR is almost complete for both NEPA headquarters and provincial hub offices following a transparent recruitment process. NEPA will ensure that recommendations and guidelines as outlined in a National Anti-Corruption Strategy are appropriately considered in its own work plans.

SECTION FOUR: PROGRAMMING

NEPA's programming for 1386 builds upon the coordination and technical capacity building efforts initiated over the past 1.5 years with external support. The programming is categorized into the following areas that will still require significant external support:

Training and Capacity Building

- On-going professional development for NEPA staff in Kabul central and regional offices

Legal and Regulatory Frameworks

- Development of “brown” regulations and management services for the protection of air quality, water quality, waste management and pollution control
- Development of “green” regulations and management services for natural resource management

Public Information and Awareness

- Development of a National Environmental Awareness Campaign through TV and radio in rural and urban areas
- Environmental education curriculum development for primary and secondary levels with Ministry of Education
- Development of environmental education courses with Kabul University
- Information dissemination channels established with other government authorities

Environmental Information and Policy

- Development of a national environmental data collection framework
- Biennial production of the State of the Environment report
- Development of a National Environmental Policy

Training and Capacity Building: This program and associated activities are the foundation for NEPA’s strategy. NEPA staff have benefited from various training opportunities provided by partner institutions such as UNEP, ADB and ACC/UNOPS. In order to provide accurate information and effective dissemination, NEPA will initiate a comprehensive and on-going training and capacity building program with donor and implementing partners, in a phased approach, to develop and reinforce staff skills.

Legal and Regulatory Frameworks: With the promulgation of the Environment Law and recent publication of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) policy and regulations, and with further regulatory instruments and a national environmental policy in the pipeline, NEPA is poised to begin educating institutions about the components of these legal instruments and their overall application, to develop the processes and systems required for implementation, and, ultimately, to begin adequately enforcing the framework. These activities are central to attainment of the environment benchmark in the I-ANDS. NEPA will begin working with relevant government authorities to develop air quality, water quality, waste management and pollution control regulations following international standards for such “brown” environmental issues. The establishment of these regulations will help mainstream the government of Afghanistan’s standards for environmental quality. Similarly, further “green” or environmental protection regulations will establish the government’s standards for its natural resources including forests and areas of environmental significance such as national parks.

Public Information and Awareness: Public participation is a key feature of the Environment Law and the EIA regulations, and will similarly become a component of further environmental laws and regulations. As a coordinating body, NEPA’s role includes helping to inform stakeholders, including the Afghan public, of their rights under the legal and regulatory framework. Thus, NEPA will initiate a public awareness campaign in both urban and rural areas via TV and radio to disseminate messages about Afghanistan’s environment and the government’s decisions regarding its use and protection. NEPA will also work with the Ministry of Education and Kabul University to develop environmental materials to teach Afghan students about the relevance and importance of the environment to their

daily lives and to begin building a cohort of Afghan professionals with the knowledge and ability to further environmental management in Afghanistan. Finally, NEPA will prioritize the establishment of environmental focal points in key government authorities, such as the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, the Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Education and municipalities to provide timely and relevant environmental information.

Environmental Information and Policy: Sound environment policy decision-making and a reliable policy analysis process depends on quality scientific information collected from reliable environmental monitoring systems. Capacity building in the area of environmental information analysis and the scientific base for policy formulation is the key towards the sustainable use of environment resources and sustainable development of the country. The absence of environmental policies and environmental monitoring will affect the development of the environment sector unless a comprehensive program is established. With stakeholder consultation, NEPA will develop and issue a National Environmental Policy, establish a regular environmental monitoring system and associated database and produce a biennial State of the Environment report to document changes in Afghanistan's environment.

SECTION FIVE: ROLE ANALYSIS

NEPA's designation as the lead agency for environmental management confers a broad coordination mandate with many partners. As a cross-cutting issue, environment is included in many of the benchmarks of the Afghanistan Compact, thus NEPA is responsible for advising the CGs and Technical Working Groups on mainstreaming environmental issues into their respective activities and those of the associated stakeholders. The Environment Law, and the subsequent development of regulations, standards and policies for the components in the Law, will articulate the rights and responsibilities of all stakeholders impacted by these legal instruments. The legal framework for Afghanistan's environmental management is nascent, but the Government recognizes that communities, particularly rural communities, have a role in the management of Afghanistan's natural resources. Therefore stipulations for community management, including rights and responsibilities for both communities and Government, are integral. Similarly, the poor and vulnerable groups whose subsistence relies on natural resources or whose health and well-being is affected by environmental conditions will feature within the rights and responsibilities for stakeholders.

NEPA's current partners include the United Nations Environment Programme, Asian Development Bank and Wildlife Conservation Society. NEPA needs significant external assistance to develop the internal capacity to conduct its mandate, thus the next 5 years comprising this Strategy are crucial for NEPA to garner the assistance necessary to develop into a self-functioning institution.

SECTION SIX: PRIORITIZATION OF PROJECTS (PROGRAM BUDGET BASED ON 5 YEARS)

Priority 1 Group (list projects in order of priority)	Budget	Priority 2 Group (list projects in order of priority)	Budget	Priority 3 Group (list projects in order of priority)	Budget	Priority 4 Group (list projects in order of priority)	Budget
Training and Capacity Building/Strategic planning and administrative training for Kabul central and regional staff	500,000	Programme/project 1 –		Programme/project 1 –		Programme/project 1 –	
Legal and Regulatory Framework Development/ Stakeholder consultation and outreach activities	500,000	Programme/Project 2 –		Programme/Project 2 –		Programme/Project 2 –	
Public Environmental Awareness campaign and environmental education curriculum	500,000	Programme/Project 3 –		Programme/Project 3 –		Programme/Project 3 –	
Development of informational materials for environmental focal points and other stakeholders	250,000	Programme/Project 4 –		Programme/Project 4 –		Programme/Project 4 –	
Environmental Information and Policy	500,000	Programme/Project 5 –		Programme/Project 5 –		Programme/Project 5 –	

SECTION SEVEN : MONITORING AND EVALUATION

(To be elaborated later)

1. *Use of LOG Frame as attached- Objectives, Impact, Outcome and Outputs and Indicators*
2. *Use of Monitoring Matrices Input and Output Data*

Log Frame Annex
Ministry Sector Strategy LOG Framework Analysis (LFA)

Strategic Goal - To protect the environmental integrity of Afghanistan and support sustainable development of its natural resources			
Objectives	Expected Results	Indicators	Risk
<p>Program –</p> <p>1.) Deliver internal training and capacity building to NEPA staff to strengthen their technical, coordination and outreach skills;</p> <p>2.) Regulatory frameworks and management services established for the protection of air quality, water quality, waste management, pollution control and natural resource management;</p> <p>3.) Public information and awareness campaign and development of environmental education curriculum for primary, secondary and tertiary levels;</p> <p>4.) Environmental Information and Policy</p>	<p>Impact –</p> <p>1.) Environmental awareness and regulatory information accessible to the public, government and other stakeholders;</p> <p>2.) NEPA technical, coordination and outreach capabilities further developed;</p> <p>3.) Economic and business development based on the environment sector is supported</p>	<p>1.) % NEPA staff trained in outreach, coordination and technical skills;</p> <p>2.) Increase in coordination meetings led by NEPA;</p> <p>3.) Number of environmental information materials distributed by NEPA;</p> <p>4.) Increase in coordination meetings led by NEPA;</p> <p>5.) National urban air quality, and water quality, waste management, pollution control and natural resource management standards established and approved;</p> <p>6.) % of population with access to public awareness programs and education;</p> <p>7.) Environmental information and monitoring system established;</p>	
<p>Project 1 –</p> <p>Technical, administrative/managerial</p>	<p>Outcome 1 –</p> <p>1.) NEPA staff trained in technical aspects</p>	<p>1.) Increase in technical assistance to public, government, international and national institutions and other</p>	

<p>and strategic planning training for Kabul central and regional office staff</p>	<p>related to their respective job duties;</p> <p>2.) Creation of strategic plan with associated coordination and annual work plans for the Kabul central and regional offices;</p> <p>3.) NEPA assumes more direct coordination role for environmental management</p>	<p>stakeholders regarding laws, regulations, environmental information.</p> <p>2.) Number of work plans created in association to the strategic plan;</p> <p>3) Outputs based on adherence to work plans;</p> <p>4.) NEAC and CEC meetings held regularly;</p> <p>5.) Increased environmental mainstreaming related to the benchmarks provided through the E-CCTG</p>	
<p>Project 2 – Legal and regulatory framework development</p>	<p>Outcome 2 –</p> <p>1.) NEPA conducts public and institutional consultation and outreach regarding the purpose and function of the Environment Law and associated regulations;</p> <p>2.) NEPA begins working with relevant institutions to ensure compliance with and enforcement of the Environment Law;</p> <p>3.) Issuance of water quality, air quality, waste management, pollution control regulations and management services;</p> <p>4.) Issuance of natural resource management regulations and management services</p>	<p>1.) Number of public consultations and outreach programs held;</p> <p>2.) Number of outreach and training programs held for institutional stakeholders;</p> <p>3.) Number of training sessions conducted for NEPA staff;</p> <p>4.) Number of EIA permits and pollution control licenses granted by NEPA in total;</p> <p>5.) Number of permits, licenses granted by NEPA or enforcement penalties issued related to water quality, air quality and waste management;</p> <p>6.) Issuance of protected areas</p>	

		regulations; 7.) Effective cooperation between different parts and levels of government established	
Project 3 – Develop and disseminate a public environmental awareness campaign	Outcome 3 – 1.) A TV/radio program about the relevance of Afghanistan’s environment to daily lives and well-being broadcast in urban and rural areas; 2.) Primary and secondary school environmental curriculum developed with the Ministry of Education; 3.) Environmental curriculum developed with Kabul University	1.) Number of TV/radio stations broadcasting the awareness campaign; 2.) % of population with access to the awareness program; 3.) % of primary and secondary school students receiving environmental education as part of their curriculum; 4.) Number of Kabul University students enrolled in environmental education course as part of their degree	
Project 4 – Establishment of environmental monitoring and information system	Outcome 4 – 1.) A framework for collecting and analyzing environmental data is established; 2.) Quality environmental information is used to make environmental decisions	1.) Environmental database created to store and analyse environmental data; 2.) Development of a National Environmental Policy; 3.) Afghanistan State of the Environment report produced and distributed	



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
National Environmental Protection Agency

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY

Kabul, November 2007

TABLE OF ACRONYMS

AC	Afghanistan Compact
ACC	Afghan Conservation Corps
ADB	Asian Development Bank
ANDS	Afghanistan National Development Strategy
CCCG	Cross Cutting Consultative Group
CG	Consultative Group
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
CMS	Convention on Migratory Species
EC	European Commission
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
IPC	Integrated Pollution Control
JCMB	Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
MIWRE	Ministry of Irrigation Water Resources and Environment
NAPWA	National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan
NEPA	National Environmental Protection Agency
ODS	Ozone Depleting Substances
OSC	Oversight Committee
PA	Protected Area
PAHs	Poly Aromatic Hydrocarbons
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
PRR	Priority Reform and Restructuring
TWG	Technical Working Group
UNCBD	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
WB	World Bank
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF ACRONYMS	2
TABLE OF CONTENTS	3
I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
II. INTRODUCTION	5
III. SITUATIONAL CONTEXT	6
1. State of Environment	6
2. Institutional Framework and Capacity Assessment	10
3. Legislative Framework	13
4. International Regulatory Framework (Conventions)	14
5. Government Budgetary Allocations	15
6. International Partners	15
7. Role of Civil Society and Private Sector	16
8. Relationship with other ANDS Cross-Cutting Issues	16
9. Most important Challenges for the Future	18
IV. OVERALL STRATEGY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT	19
1. Strategic Vision and Goals:	19
2. Priority Policies and Objectives, Desired Outcomes and Inputs & Outputs:	22
V. THEMATIC STRATEGIES	26
1. Forestry and Rangeland	26
2. Protected Areas and Biodiversity	27
3. Water and Wetlands	28
4. Air Quality	29
5. Urban Waste Management and Industrial Environmental Management	30
6. Environmental Education and Awareness	31
VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION	32

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The National Environment Strategy aims to improve the quality of life of the people of Afghanistan through conservation, protection and improvement of the country's environment. The Strategy uses a mainstreaming approach to provide direction for the integration of environmental issues and policies into Afghanistan's development priorities in order contribute to increased economic growth and poverty reduction.

The following goals shall be achieved:

- Secure a clean and healthy environment for the people of Afghanistan.
- Attain sustainable economic and social development while protecting the natural resource base and the environment of the country.
- Ensure effective management of the country's environment through participation of all stakeholders.

The present National Environment Strategy focuses on two Priority Objectives and lays out six Thematic Strategies:

Priority Objectives:
(1) Environmental Governance (2) Environmental Management Deleted environmental education and awareness
Thematic Strategies:
(1) Forestry and Rangeland (2) Protected Areas and Biodiversity (3) Water and Wetlands (4) Air Quality (5) Urban and Industrial Environmental Management (6) Environmental Education and Awareness

II. INTRODUCTION

Environment is reflected twice within the ANDS framework. In its narrow sectoral sense, it is an Afghanistan Compact benchmark that falls within the ambit of the Natural Resources and Environment Working Group (WG14–3.6) of the Infrastructure and Natural Resources Consultative Group (CG3). In its broader sense, environment is also a cross-cutting issue which needs to be mainstreamed within Afghanistan’s broader development framework. More specifically, environment must be mainstreamed in each programme area through the development of policy benchmarks to ensure that government, donors and implementing agencies follow established norms with respect to the incorporation of environmental considerations into the design and implementation of projects, and provide adequate oversight and monitoring of the environmental impacts of humanitarian and development projects.

As a cross-cutting issue, the responsibilities for environmental decision-making are shared among different actors and different levels of policy. NEPA functions as the overall regulatory, policy-making and coordination body while line Ministries, as well as some government agencies and sub-national government authorities, are responsible for the ground level management of environmental and natural resources. NEPA thus represents the first example of a governmental environmental authority in Afghanistan. However, the development and function of environmental governance and environmental management relies on more than one institution.

Environment, as defined by the Environment Law and carried forward into this Strategy, includes the physical, biological and human components of Afghanistan as well as the interactions between these components. Environment in itself is an integrated concept comprised of multiple interactions. Correspondingly, environmental management should be based upon the physical and social interactions that affect the overall status of the environment, including natural resources. Environmental governance is the foundation from which environmental management is conducted. Environmental governance is the broad process by which institutions, policies, management and information tools and stakeholders are coordinated to enable environmental management.

Sound environmental governance and management will help to establish the necessary conditions for sustainable economic growth and social development. In practice environmental management factors are essential considerations in all social and economic development programmes (returnees, health, education, trade and investments, mining and industry), as well as in infrastructure-related investment (such as in transport, energy or urban sectors). Similarly, sustainable resource management lies at the core of the agriculture, water, urban development, land, forestry and pastoral sectors. The link between poverty and environment in natural resource dependent, least developed countries like Afghanistan is well-established and accepted: unless natural resources are

sustainably managed and used, Afghans are unlikely to ever escape the cycle of poverty in which many, both rural and urban populations, currently live.

Mainstreaming systematically takes into consideration environmental issues as early as possible in the decision-making process where decisions can best benefit from environmental opportunities and avoid negative impacts on the environment. In this way, mainstreaming can help align policies, programmes and operations with the long-term requirements of sustainable development, help modernise development policy content and procedures, and promote a pro-active approach rather than responding to impacts as they unfold.

The main challenge to environmental mainstreaming is finding a strategic nexus and compatibility between development priorities and environmental management objectives where tradeoffs can be addressed pragmatically and capitalize on potential opportunities that benefit both environmental resources and functions and development priorities. Environmental mainstreaming is, therefore, a policy principle, placing the environment at par with economic and social aspects of decision-making.

The National Environment Strategy recognizes the nascent history of environmental management in Afghanistan. Therefore it focuses on developing NEPA's capacity and ability to perform its regulatory, coordination and policy-making duties which will comprise the ongoing platform to mainstream environment through environmental management, including the ANDS benchmarks and MDG goals for environment.

III. SITUATIONAL CONTEXT

1. State of Environment

Approximately 80% of the population of Afghanistan directly relies on the natural resource base of the country to meet its daily needs. In 2003, the UNEP post-conflict environmental assessment in Afghanistan found that many livelihoods are under threat by the alarming degree of environmental degradation caused by a combination of conflict, poverty, population growth and survival tactics. Already, the lack of basic natural resources, such as clean water or pastures, has led to the collapse of many rural livelihoods, turning many people into environmental refugees and increasing population pressures in urban centres. The decline in the country's natural resource based has increased vulnerability to natural disasters and food shortages, thereby further increasing poverty and decreasing opportunities for sustainable livelihoods. Human health is also directly threatened by pollution hotspots and inadequate waste management and sanitation practices. Key aspects of Afghanistan's current state of the environment include the following:

Urban Environment. In the urban environment, human health is being placed at risk by poor solid and liquid waste management practices and a lack of adequate

uncontaminated drinking water, indoor and ambient air pollution and sanitation infrastructure. Adequate landfills do not exist in any towns and cities, and no measures are being taken in relation to existing dumpsites to prevent groundwater contamination or reduce toxic emissions arising from the burning of solid waste. Furthermore, many polluting industrial activities are being undertaken without regard for environmental protection or the health of workers. Land and other resources, such as natural and cultural heritage, is degraded by poorly planned or un-planned development activities. New settlements are being developed on sensitive and hazardous areas including steep terrain and areas prone to landslides, river flood plains and drainage areas, areas prone to earthquakes and subsistence areas. Settlements are located without adequate consideration to the associated demands on energy and other natural resources. The pedestrian environment continues to deteriorate from the increasing dominance of vehicles.

Surface and Groundwater. Water is the key to the health and well-being of the Afghan people. Approximately 75-80% of the population requires consistent access to water to maintain agricultural production. The damage to the water resources of the country is immense. Drought and uncoordinated and unmanaged extraction of both ground and surface water resources, and urban development, has severely depleted and degraded the available water resource base resulting in a water quantity and quality crisis. Similarly, water quality is threatened by contamination from waste dumps, chemicals, open sewers and urban rainwater runoff. Due to mismanagement of surface water, many of Afghanistan's wetlands are completely dry and no longer support wildlife populations or provide agricultural inputs.

Forests and Rangelands. The forests and woodlands of Afghanistan provide key resources for the livelihoods of the Afghan population. Timber products such as fuelwood for cooking and construction materials for shelter are extremely important for overall survival. Non-timber forest products, such as nuts, leaves, mushrooms, and forest-related flora and fauna, are also important for the food security of people. In addition, forests and vegetation prevent land from eroding, and maintain an ecological balance in ecosystems and water catchment areas. Illegal harvesting is depleting forests and woodland resources rapidly, and widespread over-grazing is preventing regeneration. Satellite analyses conducted by UNEP in 2002 revealed that conifer forests in the provinces of Nangarhar, Kunar and Nuristan have been reduced by an average of 50 percent since 1978. The loss of forests and vegetation, excessive grazing and dry land cultivation expose soil to serious erosion. As such the productivity of the land base is declining, driving people from rural to urban areas in search of food and employment.

Soils. The soils of Afghanistan are one of the most important foundations for the Afghan economy. They are the basis for agriculture and animal husbandry, and at the same time support the growth of natural vegetation. However, due to decades of overuse and poor management, many of the soils are slowly eroding and land productivity is being reduced. Some of the degradation is so severe that recovery cannot take place without human intervention. One of the most threatening

impacts arising from loss of soil and vegetation is desertification and increased flood risk.

Air. Dust and vehicle emissions (exacerbated as a result of the use of low grade hydrocarbons) in Afghanistan's urban areas are the main factors adversely affecting air quality. According to estimates from 2002, the vehicle density in the country was 500'000 cars, 30'000 buses and 50'000 trucks – figures that are growing rapidly. During late autumn and winter, air quality is worsened by domestic emissions arising from increased use of ovens, stoves and open fires. Electricity shortages and a lack of fuel wood mean that households resort on occasions to burning packaging materials, often resulting in the release of toxic emissions.

Wildlife and Biodiversity. Afghanistan's wildlife heritage is also under threat. Flamingos have not bred successfully in Afghanistan for around eight years, and the last Siberian crane was seen in 1986. While the Wakhan Corridor contains healthy populations of endangered snow leopards and other mammals, including Marco Polo sheep, active hunting is occurring in many regions of the country, either for sport, for food, or in order to supply furs for sale to foreigners in Kabul. The legal status of all protected areas is currently in question, pending passage of protected areas regulations under the Environment Law. Even though the protected areas regulations and management plans are currently under development, no management is taking place to protect and conserve their ecological integrity and wildlife until the regulations and management plans are finalized. Furthermore, less than one percent of the land base is contained within protected areas (none of the protected areas are gazetted as yet) – and none of which cover the dwindling conifer forests of the east. As Afghanistan's wildlife and biodiversity could be a critically important component for future tourism revenue, attention should be given towards protecting these resources before the opportunity is missed forever.

If the current environmental problems in Afghanistan are not addressed, the following impacts can be expected.

- Existing chemical contamination of air, soil and water resources at pollution hotspots will threaten human health and undermine workforce stability and economic productivity.
- Vulnerability to natural disasters and food shortages will increase, which will hinder development efforts and compound humanitarian crises.
- Unequal distribution of water resources could lead to severe water scarcity in some regions, threatening human livelihoods, creating environmental refugees, compounding adverse humanitarian conditions and increasing regional tensions.
- The adverse environmental impacts of reconstruction and development projects will create a large set of new environmental problems and impacts to livelihoods if not regulated and mitigated. Addressing these problems will

have significant long-term financial implications for the government of Afghanistan.

- Unsustainable use of water resources could threaten agricultural production and food security, as well as wetland ecology and biodiversity.
- Mismanagement of municipal, industrial and military wastes could lead to further contamination of air, soil, and water resources (with adverse impacts on human health and well-being, as well as the environment) and to the creation of new pollution hotspots.
- Continued deforestation combined with livestock grazing and water scarcity will lead to increased soil erosion, desertification, reduced fertility and ecosystem services and diminished agriculture production.
- Continued loss of vegetation and green cover and mismanagement of soil will lead to floods, mudslides, deterioration of groundwater quality, and rapid run off of water during the wet season.
- Continued declines in biodiversity and increased listing of endangered species due to habitat loss and the lack of an effective protected areas system.
- Environmental refugees could be created due to land degradation and resource scarcity.
- The quality of life in urban centres will deteriorate due to increased vehicle traffic and pollution levels.
- Non-renewable resources will be exploited on an abstraction-based approach which precludes the ability for sustainable management for both production and conservation.
- Environmental investments may be conducted in an overlapping and non-coordinated way leading to inefficiency, redundancy and non-optimal use of limited resources.
- Citizens of Afghanistan will lack basic environmental information on the key problems faced by the country, and on the location of pollution hotspots.
- Donors, UN agencies and the international community will lack information on the key environmental investment needs for 2007 and beyond.

If environmental issues are not mainstreamed into the reconstruction agenda and national budget, the basic prerequisites for sustainable development will not be met.

2. Institutional Framework and Capacity Assessment

The recent establishment of an environmental function within the centralized government system reflects Afghanistan's development priorities. Still a nascent function, environment has changed organizational location and structure since its inception. In 2002, the new function was first housed in the Ministry of Irrigation, Water Resources and Environment (MIWRE) as the Department of Environment. In January 2005, the Department of Environment was separated from MIWRE and was subsequently declared an independent Department of Environment. In May 2005 the environmental function was given the status of an independent National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA).

NEPA's capacity to implement its mandate remains relatively limited but the impending completion of the Priority Reform and Restructuring (PRR) process will provide a stable organizational structure with staff hired under appropriate Terms of Reference following a transparent recruitment process. The organizational transition of the environment function since 2002 has precluded the consistent development of technical and managerial skills within both NEPA and other governmental authorities involved in environmental management. Similarly, there has been little opportunity in Afghanistan's recent history to develop a functioning education and administrative system to support environmental management. Thus the capacity of both NEPA and other government institutions to both conduct environmental management and implement this Strategy requires significant training and capacity development.

The following list illustrates the roles and responsibilities of other governmental authorities in relation to environmental management.

- **The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL)** is the second most important institution in relation to environmental management as it has the mandate for natural resource management of forests, rangeland, protected areas and wildlife. The fundamental principles of environmental management, set out in Article 5 of the Environment Law, must be applied by any institution exploiting natural resources for material gain, or exercising a public function, or creating or implementing policies and regulatory frameworks that are likely to affect the management of the natural resources of Afghanistan or the conservation and rehabilitation of its environment. Range management policies and laws need to be founded on the principle of sustainability. The use of environmentally harmful pesticides, such as DDT, must be deterred. The introduction of any alien or genetically modified crop or other species is regulated in terms of the Environment Law.
- **The Ministry of Energy and Water** is responsible for managing water resources and energy. The basic ecological needs of Afghanistan's water resources need to be balanced against social and livelihood demands. Pollution of water resources needs to be prevented and controlled through enforcement of water quality standards. Protection should be afforded to wetlands and other water resources of high ecological value. Public awareness raising of the value of water, a limited resource in Afghanistan, is required.

The Ministry of Energy and Water should establish a working relationship with NEPA to learn about the EIA process and contribute to its application to the development of water infrastructure. Water quality regulations should be developed in cooperation with all relevant authorities and should reflect the direction of the Environment Law. The environmental impact assessment and pollution control provisions of the Environment Law must be complied with in regard to the construction, upgrading and operation of facilities and infrastructure required to generate and transmit electricity. Reliance on fossil fuels needs to be reduced both because fossil fuels are a finite resource and due to the generation of greenhouse gases contained in fossil fuel emissions. Further investment in renewable energies is required.

- **The Ministry of Public Health:** The link between poor environmental practices and the associated impact on public health will be addressed through programs in this Ministry including the transmission of communicable diseases, respiratory illnesses, water and air borne diseases, public sanitation and industrial pollution. Public health education and awareness raising will be reinforced with environmental information.
- **The Ministry of Urban Development and Housing:** Management and regulation of the urban environment rests with this Ministry. The development of adequate urban development and management plans and systems for human, municipal and industrial waste management is important to ensure resource and energy-conserving, environmentally sound and health environments. Environmental impact assessments must be undertaken in accordance with the Environment Law in regard to urban development plans and the construction or upgrading of facilities for the storage and treatment of waste and sewage. Public awareness rising is required regarding the impacts of poor waste management practices on human health and the environment.
- **Ministry of Public Works:** The application of environmental impact assessments to the development of road construction, operation and maintenance of roads, railways, water ports, and airfields is pertinent to this Ministry. In addition, Afghanistan's National Ozone Unit, housed in NEPA, can provide information about the proper transport of ozone producing appliances, such as refrigeration and air conditioning units.
- **The Municipalities:** Planning and management of the urban environment including preparation of urban development plans, provision of adequate water supply and sanitation services, solid waste management, establishing modern butcheries (slaughter houses) at proper locations based on environmental criteria, replacing traditional toilets with modern ones in accordance with environmental criteria, preventing the use of low quality and pollutant fuel (i.e. rubber, plastic and other solid wastes) and development of modern systems in accordance with environmental norms.
- **The Ministry of Information, Culture and Youth:** This Ministry will play a key role in raising public awareness on environment through mass media, provision of necessary resources for development of tourism, including eco-

tourism, and safeguarding natural and cultural heritage of Afghanistan in accordance with international norms of environment and the Environment Law.

- **Ministry of Hajj and Islamic Affairs:** This Ministry is the entry point to explain environmental issues and values from the religious perspective and propagate environmental messages through preachers/clerics of religious schools, mosques and *takaya* (Shiite religious centres).
- **The Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development:** Principles of Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) should be incorporated into rural development initiatives. Development of environment resource management and dispute resolution capability at the community and district levels can be incorporated into sub-national and civic platforms such as the Community Development Councils and District Development Authorities. Rural development programs also provide an effective vehicle for environmental public awareness raising.
- **The Ministry of Transportation and Civil Aviation:** Environmental impact assessments must to be undertaken in accordance with the Environment Law in regard to the construction of new airports, or the upgrading of existing ones and to new roads that may have a significant adverse impact on the environment. Government agencies and their implementing partners constructing, rehabilitating or repairing roads should first consult with NEPA regarding environmental impact assessment regulations and the associated process. The provision of an effective public transport system lies within the realm of this ministry.
- **The Ministry of Mines and Industry:** Environmental Assessments must be undertaken in accordance with both the Environment and Minerals Laws in regard to the extraction of mineral resources. Establishing communication with NEPA and other environmental and natural resource stakeholders will help ensure that mining regulations are consistent with the Environment Law and that natural resource regulations are developed with appropriate consultation.
- **The Ministries of Education and Higher Education:** The future of environmental management relies on trained professionals and environmentally aware generations of Afghans. The development of new curricula should include elements of environmental education and awareness raising. Universities and polytechnics need to develop their capacities to offer degrees or diplomas in environmental management.
- **Ministry of Women's Affairs:** The Ministry of Women's Affairs is responsible for ensuring that gender perspectives are appropriately reflected in environmental policies, programmes and legislation in order to facilitate gender equality through environmental management. The link between gender and environmental sustainability will benefit from sex-disaggregated

data, prioritization of critical issues and development of associated interventions.

- **Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled:** The development environmental programs in urban and rural areas will provide additional options in fields such as waste management, reforestation, and environmental remediation associated with road construction and land reclamation.
- **The Ministry of Justice:** Responsible amongst others for drafting, publishing and distributing legislative documents.
- **The Ministry of Interior:** Responsible amongst others for the enforcement of laws and regulations.
- **The Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority:** The environmental dimensions of disasters, especially in relation to mitigation of and response to natural and industrial disasters, need to be incorporated into relevant policies and plans.
- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** handles international agreements between Afghanistan and other countries and regional cooperation issues.
- **Ministry of Commerce:** Responsible amongst others to regulate trade. Transboundary trade in banned or restricted goods (such as ozone depleting substances and endangered species) must be deterred through regional border cooperation.
- **Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Economy** have the responsibility to appropriately allocate budgets to ministries and sanction development plans and programs according to Afghanistan's environmental regulations, laws, standards and programmatic priorities. Additionally, the development of fiscal policies and economic incentives for financing environmental goods and services is necessary for effective environmental management.

3. Legislative Framework

The combination of the disruption of Afghanistan's system of governance and destruction of its natural resources prompted the development of an Environment Law, which is the first legal instrument related to the country's environment. The legislation was approved by the President and entered into force in December 2005. During 2006, the Law was approved by the National Assembly, and the final version was published in the Official Gazette in January 2007 (Issue No. 912, dated 25 January 2007).

The Environment Law is based on international standards that recognize the current state of Afghanistan's environment while laying a framework for the progress of governance leading to effective environmental management. NEPA is currently developing sets of regulations under the Environment Law addressing

the following sectoral areas: environmental impact assessment (EIA); integrated pollution control (IPC); protected areas management; ozone depleting substances; environmental quality standards (air, water, pollution, waste management) and compliance and enforcement.

Other environmental legislation under development includes a Forest Law and Rangeland Law, which is being developed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock. The former legislation has been submitted to the Ministry of Justice for processing, while the technical content of the latter piece of legislation is still being finalised in cooperation with relevant stakeholders. Wildlife and hunting legislation is also in the early stages of development.

NEPA will develop air quality standards for Afghanistan, based on available data including the Kabul Air Quality Management Report prepared by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Within the next few years, Afghanistan's environmental regulatory framework will be relatively complete. Effective implementation and enforcement of those laws will however take some time to achieve, particularly where relatively new management ideas have been introduced, as in the case of the natural resource legislation that is under development. Implementation will occur in a piecemeal manner, using a field-level piloting approach.

4. International Regulatory Framework (MEAs)

With respect to multilateral environmental agreements and regional cooperation, Afghanistan has primarily concentrated on "green" transboundary issues concerning protection and preservation with NEPA and the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock dividing duties as the respective focal points. Afghanistan has signed but not ratified the Basel Convention regarding transboundary movement and disposal of hazardous waste, and is in the process of acceding to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation is the focal point for the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES).

Afghanistan has also ratified the ozone treaties (the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol), and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) with NEPA as the focal point.

Afghanistan is not yet a Party to the Kyoto Protocol (to UNFCCC), or to the "brown" chemicals conventions, including the Stockholm ("POPs") and Basel Conventions. Administration of these conventions is burdensome, and NEPA does not yet have the capacity to undertake such a task adequately.

5. Government Budgetary Allocations

Environment and hence the National Environmental Strategy cuts through most sectors of the ANDS and can not be dealt with as a sector per se. Mainstreaming is particularly important for ensuring annual budgetary allocations with respect to environmental requirements. Budgetary allocations from the Ministry of Finance and associated budget requests from Ministries should include an appropriate level for activities mandated under the Environment Law, such as EIAs, or to fund environmental activities in line with respective mandates. Ministerial participation in environmental coordination mechanisms such as the Committee for Environmental Coordination will provide Ministries with the relevant information to appropriately draft their annual budget requests.

An analysis of government budgetary allocations should be conducted annually starting from a baseline year of 1386, the first complete fiscal year after passage of the Environment Law, to monitor the allocation of funds among all sectors and the respective Ministries for environmental management activities.

6. International Partners

International partners to NEPA and other government authorities have provided the initial precedent and experience to help the government understand and begin setting environmental governance and environmental management into place. The associated projects have focused primarily on thematic areas of Afghanistan's environment such as biodiversity, afforestation, watershed management, natural resource management, renewable energy, environment and poverty reduction. However, the combined efforts has produced a body of lessons learned that directly informs this Strategy. The continued assistance of international partners is crucial to the implementation of the National Environmental Strategy.

Active international partners contributing to the field of environmental management in Afghanistan are the following:

- European Commission (EC)
- Government of Finland
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- World Bank (WB)
- Global Environmental Facility (GEF)
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)/ Afghanistan Conservation Corps (ACC)
- Aga Khan Development Network
- Government of Norway
- DACAAR
- MADERA
- Mercy Corps

7. Role of Civil Society and Private Sector

Civil society plays an important role in holding government, other institutions and the private sector accountable with regard to the status of the environment in Afghanistan and the effectiveness of environmental management. Correspondingly, civil society is key to ensuring sustainable approaches to environmental stewardship for both public citizens and the private sector. In order for the civil society to fulfil this role, public awareness about the roles and responsibilities of citizens with regard to environmental matters needs to be strengthened through existing civic structures. In their roles as customary and elected representatives shuras, Community Development Councils (CDCs), District Development Authorities (DDAs), Provincial Development Councils (PDCs), civic and religious leaders provide a vehicle to help implement and enforce environmental laws and regulations at the local level, as well as shape behaviours of the public away from environmental damage and towards environmental stewardship. The knowledge and skills of local communities in relation to sustainable natural resources and environment management, in particular those of women, need to be reflected in policies, programmes and legislation.

The same responsibilities apply to the private sector. Business developers need to be aware of their responsibilities with regard to environmental standards, pollution mitigation and the concept of sustainability. The relevant regulatory provisions of the Environment Law that relate to environmental impact assessment and pollution control must be complied with. At the same time, the private sector offers entrepreneurial and technical innovation that can be applied to the environment such as clean technologies and sources of renewable energy. Government support through financing mechanisms and other incentives will help bridge the application of private enterprise to public environmental goods and services.

8. Relationship with other ANDS Cross-Cutting Issues

Gender

Worldwide a strong, well-documented relationship exists between gender and environment; though hardly any significant work has been conducted in Afghanistan on aspects such as: (1) Compilation of statistics of gender-

disaggregated environmental goods and services; (2) Targeted interventions to address the environmental issues that impact women more adversely such as indoor air pollution, lack of access to drinking water, promotion of health and sanitation within the family etc.; (3) Recognition of women's specific contribution to sustainable environment management. The National Environment Strategy incorporates gender within the developing framework for environmental governance and management rather than treating gender as a separate aspect.

Regional Cooperation

There are several environmental issues in Afghanistan that require a transboundary approach to management. Examples include water sharing the Amu Darya and Helmand basins, forest management in the Eastern provinces and protected areas in the Wakhan corridor and Sistan basin wetlands. Transboundary initiatives on Amu Darya, Wakhan corridor and Sistan basin wetlands are in early stages of engagement.

Capacity Building and Institutional Reform

Capacity building needs of the environmental management institutions are as acute as in any other set of institutions in Afghanistan. The main difference being that the premier environmental management institution, National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA), is a newly created nascent institution lacking political clout, financial strength and trained human resources.

Counter Narcotics

The security and licit livelihoods goals of the Counter Narcotics and associated National Drug Control Strategy will be supported through environmental governance and management. A healthy environment capable of supporting productive natural resources, coupled with legal identification of land access and ownership will contribute to more self-sufficiency and livelihoods options, particularly at the community level.

Anti-Corruption

Illegal appropriation of land, forced early harvest of communally-owned natural resources such as pistachio and almond, corruption in urban waste management programs are examples of corruption issues that have the potential to constrain the expansion of environmental programs and overall environmental management.

9. Most important Challenges for the National Environment Strategy

- Throughout Afghanistan weak environmental institutions need to be strengthened, responsibilities need to be established clearly and coordination needs to be improved.
- The scarcity of qualified, trained and experienced human resources is particularly acute in the field of environmental management.
- Low allocation of funds to the development of environmental management as compared to the challenges facing Afghanistan's environment is a major concern.
- NEPA is a fledgling institution, and the environmental mandate is a new one – factors that contribute to its low status among governmental institutions.
- Enforcement of legislation is a challenge in a country that has not known rule of law for decades.
- Mobilization and involvement of the general public as environmental stewards, is key, as is the early sensitization of the young generation by including environmental themes into education curricula.
- The role of women in sustainable natural resources management, domestic waste management, sanitation management, and domestic emissions management, is not well understood.
- Low awareness in governmental institutions with regard to environmental issues.
- Poor collaboration among the relevant government institutions in utilizing existing environmental coordination mechanisms.

IV. OVERALL STRATEGY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

1. Strategic Vision and Goals:

Vision
The National Environment Strategy aims to improve the quality of life of people of Afghanistan through conservation, protection and improvement of the country's environment.
Goals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure a clean and healthy environment for the people of Afghanistan. • Attain sustainable economic and social development while protecting the natural resource base and the environment of the country. • Ensure effective management of the country's environment through participation of all stakeholders.

The strategic vision and goals of the National Environment Strategy proceeds from the application of four priority programme areas to build NEPA's capacity and ability to conduct its mandate. From there, the Strategy elaborates priority programmes areas for environmental management based on thematic strategies.

2. Priority Programme Areas for NEPA

Training and Capacity Building

In order to provide accurate information, technical assistance and effective dissemination NEPA requires a comprehensive and on-going training and capacity building program with donor and implementing partners, in a phased approach, to develop and reinforce staff skills in administration, management, and NEPA's programmatic areas: legal and regulatory, enforcement, EIA, environmental policy and information; outreach and communication, environmental education and awareness, multi-lateral environmental agreements.

Legal and Regulatory Frameworks

With the promulgation of the Environment Law and impending issuance of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) policy and regulations, and with further regulatory instruments and a national environmental policy in the pipeline, NEPA is poised to begin educating institutions about the components of these legal instruments and their overall application, to develop the processes and systems required for implementation, and, ultimately, to begin adequately enforcing the framework. These activities are central to attainment of the environment benchmark in the I-ANDS. NEPA will begin working with relevant government authorities to develop air quality, water quality, waste management and pollution control regulations following international standards for such "brown" environmental issues. The establishment of these regulations will help mainstream the government of Afghanistan's standards for environmental quality. Similarly, further "green" or environmental protection regulations will establish the government's standards for its natural resources including forests and areas of environmental significance such as national parks.

Environmental Education, Awareness and Outreach

Public participation is a key feature of the Environment Law and the EIA regulations, and will similarly feature as a component of further environmental laws and regulations. As a coordinating body, NEPA's role includes helping to inform stakeholders, including the Afghan public, of their rights under the legal and regulatory framework. Thus, NEPA will initiate a public awareness campaign in both urban and rural areas to disseminate messages about Afghanistan's environment, the government's priorities regarding its use and protection and the government's commitment and willingness to help improve the lives of Afghans through a rehabilitated environment.

NEPA will also work with the Ministry of Education and Kabul University to develop supplemental, formal environmental materials to teach Afghan students about the relevance and importance of the environment to their daily lives and to begin building a cohort of Afghan professionals with the knowledge and ability to further environmental management in Afghanistan. NEPA will also utilize non-formal education platforms such as mullahs, Islamic scholars, community-based

schools, women's programs, literacy and vocational programs to incorporate environmental information and education materials. Finally, NEPA will help establish environmental focal points in key government authorities, such as the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, the Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Women's Affairs and municipalities to provide timely and relevant environmental information.

Environmental Information and Policy

Sound environment policy decision-making and a reliable policy analysis process depends on quality scientific information collected from reliable environmental monitoring systems. Capacity building in the area of environmental information analysis and the scientific base for policy formulation is the key towards the sustainable use of environment resources and sustainable development of the country. The absence of environmental policies and environmental monitoring will affect the development of the environment sector unless a comprehensive program is established. With stakeholder consultation, NEPA will develop and issue a National Environmental Policy, establish a regular environmental monitoring system and associated database and produce a biennial State of the Environment report to document changes in Afghanistan's environment and inform the status of environmental governance and management.

NEPA will strengthen its coordination role through regular meetings of the Committee for Environmental Coordination (CEC) and the annual National Environmental Advisory Council (NEAC). These coordination bodies were established under the Environment Law to encourage cooperative environmental governance under the direction of NEPA. The purpose of the CEC is to promote the integration and coordination of environmental issues within national and sub-national levels of the government. All relevant ministries and sub-national authorities are represented on the Committee while relevant international donors and partners and national NGOs are afforded observer status. The NEAC, comprised of representatives of different levels of Afghan society such as governors, Islamic scholars, tribal elders and Provincial, District and Village Council Chairs, will advise NEPA on financial and regulatory matters, as well as environmental matters that are of respectively national and local public importance.

3. Priority Programme Areas, Desired Outcomes and Inputs & Outputs for Environmental Management:

	<i>Priority Policies and Objectives</i>	<i>Desired Outcomes</i>		<i>Inputs & Outputs / Programs</i>		Responsible Agencies
		<i>Short term (2 years)</i>	<i>Mid term (5 years)</i>	<i>Policy Actions/ Measures</i>	<i>Projects</i>	
(1)	Restoration and Sustainable Use of Rangelands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Institutions and processes established for conflict resolution of access to and ownership of rangelands Develop, facilitate and implement community based practices for the management of rangelands. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better management practices for rangeland management, including rotational regimes, improved grazing practices, etc, established. Restoration of important rangeland areas initiated. Recognition and enforcement of access to rangelands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drafting, consultation and approval of national rangelands policy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rangeland programme comprising conservation and sustainability components, implemented at the community level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MAIL MRRD Ministry of Women's Affairs Ministry of Justice Community Institutions
(2)	Restoration and Sustainable Use of Forests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Institutions and processes established for conflict resolution on access to and ownership of forests. Community based forest management practices initiated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modern practices initiated for conservation and sustainable use of Non-Timber Forest Resources. Modern management practices initiated for conservation and sustainable use of forest resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drafting, consultation and approval of forestry policy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forestry programme comprising conservation and sustainability components, implemented at the community level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MAIL MRRD Ministry of Women's Affairs Ministry of Justice Community Institutions
(3)	Conservation of Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management plans prepared, approved and notified for protected areas and national parks, including game reserves, wetlands and bird sanctuaries. Community based programmes initiated for conservation and sustainable use of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of management plans initiated for protected areas and national parks, including game reserves, wetlands and bird sanctuaries. A gene bank initiated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of protected areas regulations. Drafting, consultation and approval of national biodiversity policy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity programme comprising protection and sustainable use of biodiversity in rangelands, forests and protected areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MAIL NEPA Ministry of Women's Affairs Ministry of Urban Development Municipalities Department of Defence

		natural resources.				
	<i>Priority Policies and Objectives</i>	<i>Desired Outcomes</i>		<i>Inputs & Outputs / Programs</i>		
		<i>Short term (2 years)</i>	<i>Mid term (5 years)</i>	<i>Policy Actions/ Measures</i>	<i>Projects</i>	
(4)	Accession to/ Signing and Enforcement of MEAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accession to Ramsar Convention and CMS • Enforcement of Ozone conventions • Initiation of and enforcement of UNFCCC, UNCBD, UNCCD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signing of Kyoto Protocol or its successor protocol • Enforcement of MEAs acceded / signed by Afghanistan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure approval for the accession instruments for Ramsar Convention and CMS from parliament • Regular ODS surveys for Afghanistan • Strengthening of MEA Focal Point institutions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GEF enabling projects for MEAs • Implementation of National ODS Phase Out projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEPA • MAIL • Ministry of Foreign Affairs
(5)	Preservation of Natural and Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural heritage sites identified and notified. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecotourism programmes for natural heritage sites initiated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declaration of natural heritage sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual natural heritage site development projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEPA • MAIL • Ministry of Information, Culture and Youth • Ministry of Urban Development • Communities • Security institutions
(6)	Encouragement to Community Based Natural Resource Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support mechanism established for programmes and projects utilizing community based natural resource management approaches. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programmes and projects utilizing community based natural resource management approaches initiated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of CB NRM approaches in rural development programmes and projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area based rural development projects with CBNRM approaches. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAIL • NEPA • Ministry of Energy and Water • MRRD • Ministry of Women's Affairs • Ministry of Mines • Ministry of Information, Culture and Youth

						• Communities
--	--	--	--	--	--	---------------

	<i>Priority Policies and Objectives</i>	<i>Desired Outcomes</i>		<i>Inputs & Outputs / Programs</i>		
		<i>Short term (2 years)</i>	<i>Mid term (5 years)</i>	<i>Policy Actions/ Measures</i>	<i>Projects</i>	
(7)	Prevention and Abatement of Pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Institutions and processes established for vehicle registration, examination and tune up. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vehicle registration, examination and tune up programmes initiated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drafting, consultation and approval of pollution control policy. Approval of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations. Approval of EIA administrative procedures. Drafting, consultation and approval of national environmental quality standards, including air and water quality standards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building projects for relevant ministries for pollution control measures. Capacity building projects for relevant ministries for enforcing Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations. Capacity building projects for relevant ministries for enforcing National Environment Quality Standards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NEPA MAIL Ministry of Transportation Ministry of Finance Ministry of Commerce Directorate of Local Governance Ministry of Information, Culture and Youth Municipalities The public
(8)	Urban Environmental Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban environment improvement programmes initiated including garbage collection and disposal; Development of landfills. Institutions and processes established for collection and treatment of waste from urban small industries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expansion of urban environment improvement programmes, including wastewater systems and treatment programmes initiated. Collection and treatment of waste from urban small industries started. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NEPA Ministry of Urban Development Municipalities Directorate of Local Governance The public
(9)	Environmental Education and Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roles and responsibilities established for environmental education and awareness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programmes and projects established to promote environmental education and awareness. (Amongst others on: environmental 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Material developed and human resources trained. Teaching materials provided. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects in formal education institutions - primary, secondary and tertiary schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NEPA Ministry of Education Ministry of Higher Education

			<p>health, personal hygiene, air & water pollution, land degradation, biodiversity conservation, promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of environmental subjects and contents in curriculum of schools and universities and as supplemental material. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Female and male teachers trained 	<p>and universities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects in non-formal education programs – literacy, vocational, community-based schools, religious classes and women’s programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Women’s Affairs • Ministry of Information, Culture and Youth • Ministry of Hajj and Islamic Affairs • MAIL • Ministry Energy and Water.
		•	•	•	•	•

V. THEMATIC STRATEGIES

1. Forestry and Rangeland

Forests and rangelands are particularly valuable in dry land regions such as Afghanistan. They provide fuel wood and timber, as well as other non-timber forest products such as nuts and medicinal plants. Forests are also prime habitat for many animal species, including some threatened with extinction. Extensive tree cover can also help to moderate local climate conditions and reduce potentially damaging runoff after sudden rain fall. In many situations, water courses in forested land retain their dry-season flows better than those in un-forested land, making water available for human consumption and irrigation during critical periods.

The mixed oak and coniferous forests of the east have potential to be managed as sources of timber, but are being logged illegally, severely reducing the country's natural resource base. Over most of the centre and north of the country, conditions for tree growth are more marginal, and existing tree cover is extremely sensitive to disturbances that may then lead to erosion and desertification. In these regions, open woodlands, with pistachio and almond, are valuable source of nuts for subsistence and export, but have been increasingly cut for fuel wood. Overgrazing combined with an increasing population and corresponding demands for fuel wood over recent decades have resulted in extensive decline in woodlands.

Issues

- Significant loss of forest cover and range land leading to:
 - Shortage of forest products
 - Pasture land becoming principal source of conflict due to competition among settled and nomadic land users and ethnic and territorial concern
 - Irreversible loss of topsoil through water and wind erosion caused by the removal of forest, overgrazing and over harvesting
 - Operation of irrigation schemes at a fraction of their potential levels
 - A depleted livestock sector
 - Depletion of wildlife habitats
 - Increased detrimental impact of natural disasters due to lack of natural barriers
- Competing land use
- Ownership and access to forests and range land
- Governance and management of forests and range land

Desired Outcomes

- Establishment of regimes for proper and effective utilization of forest and rangelands

- Achieving balance between, on the one hand, maximization of production and productivity in all agricultural land uses and, on the other hand, effective maintenance and enhancement of the natural and wildlife resource base
- Targeting and geographical coverage for community-based resource management
- Establishing strategic roles of people and institutions in community resource management
- Mitigation of natural disasters such as flooding, drought and land degradation through natural resource rehabilitation and management

Corresponding Sectors

Agriculture and Rural Development

Gender

Governance and Public Administration

2. Protected Areas and Biodiversity

Protected areas (PA) were first introduced in the West primarily as a means to protect landscapes, wildlife and habitats of particular value, often by exclusion of people and regulation of access and use. Modern approaches to protected areas stress the need for community participation in protected area planning, and for multiple uses aimed to benefit residents as well as maintain natural processes. Evidence from around the world shows that with suitable design and management these goals can be achieved.

Afghanistan has never had the benefit of an effective protected areas system. Though some progress was made in implementing a protected areas network designed during the 1970s, the escalation of disorder through that decade, the Soviet occupation in 1979, and the subsequent civil strife, prevented its development and modernization.

A 1992 government review listed the existing protected areas as one national park (Band-e-Amir), three water fowl sanctuaries (Ab-I-Estada, Dasht-e-Nawar and Kole Hashmat Khan) and two wildlife reserves (Ajar valley and Pamir-I-Buzurg). Between 1977 and 1992, a further ten sites were proposed for protected area status, including three important areas in the western half of the country: Registan Desert Wildlife Management Reserve, Hamun-I-Puzak Waterfowl Sanctuary, and Northwest Afghanistan Game Management Reserve.

There has never been an overall enabling legislation providing for the establishment and management of protected areas, and the precise current legal status of each protected area is uncertain. Most were never formally gazetted and institutional structures have since changed. Afghanistan is not yet party to the Ramsar Convention on wetlands, though several wetland sites in the country have previously been identified as of international importance for migratory and breeding waterbirds.

Issues

- Ambiguous legal status
- Lack of enabling legislation for establishing and managing PAs
- Negative impact of war, human settlements, drought, tourism and landmines
- Threats to biodiversity, including hunting of wildlife in PAs
- Degradation of forest cover, cutting of reeds, livestock grazing in PAs
- Poor hydrological conditions in some PAs

Desired Outcomes

- Clarity on the legal status and boundaries of PAs
- Enabling legislation on establishing and managing PAs
- Assessment of impact of human settlements, war, drought, tourism and landmines on PAs
- Hydrological and biodiversity assessment of PAs
- Regulation of hunting and other human activities in PAs
- Clearance of land mines from PAs
- Accession to Ramsar Convention

Corresponding Sector

Agriculture and Rural Development

Justice

Governance and Public Administration

3. Water and Wetlands

With rainfall low and erratic in much of Afghanistan, and large areas qualifying as desert or semi-desert, rivers, streams and other wetlands are crucial for human needs such as drinking water and agriculture, and for maintaining populations of wild plants and animals, many of which provide potential for economic opportunities. Although broad calculations suggest that, in average conditions, Afghanistan as a whole uses less than one-third of its potential 75'000 million m³ water resources, regional differences in supply, inefficient use, and wastage mean that a major part of the country experiences water scarcity. The recent years of conflict and poor water management have seriously degraded many of the wetlands and made it difficult or impossible to make improvements to infrastructure or to integrate uncoordinated local schemes into a coherent national strategy for water.

Issues

- Desiccation of wetlands with accompanying loss of vegetation

- Soil erosion and movement of sand, dust and sediments into irrigated areas, irrigations canals and lakebeds
- Loss of agricultural land
- Change in flora and fauna of the wetlands
- Increasing and uncoordinated water extraction
- Ground water salinity
- Pesticides residues in wetlands
- Trans-boundary water management

Desired Outcomes

- Improved water management at the basin level, particularly upstream
- Hydrological studies and biodiversity assessment of major wetlands
- Regular monitoring of ground water tables, especially in vulnerable areas
- Integration of watershed development with irrigation improvement.
- Remedial measures for containing impacts of desiccation of wetlands on human and natural environment

Corresponding Sectors

Water

Agriculture and Rural Development

Health

4. Air Quality

Dust and vehicle emissions, unpaved roads, open burning of solid waste and burning biofuels for heat and cooking in Afghanistan's urban areas are the main factors negatively affecting air quality. Most vehicles run on low-grade fuel and cause problems of air pollution.

The potential risks to human health from Poly Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) through inhalation are increased by the presence of dust in the air. Dust binds hydrocarbon particles, prevents them escaping into the upper atmosphere, and increases the likelihood of human exposure. A combination of drought and loss of vegetation are contributing factors to the increased dust levels.

Desired Outcomes:

- Import, production and use of cleaner fuel encouraged through policy reforms.
- Public transport system and pedestrian environment improved

- Vehicular registration, examination system and tune up facilities established
- Private vehicle use reduced
- Urban roads paved
- Air polluting bio fuels for heating and cooking reduced

Corresponding Sectors

Transport

Urban Development

Energy

Health

5. Urban and Industrial Environmental Management

Urban environments, and therefore health, are being degraded by inadequate planning and management practices including poor solid and liquid waste management. (next sentence deleted) Hospitals are significant hotspots as medical wastes are disposed of improperly. There are hardly any proper landfills in any of the towns and cities, and none of the dumpsites are taking measures to prevent groundwater contamination or toxic air pollution from burning wastes.

There is also evidence of polluting industrial activities operating without regard for environmental protection or health of workers.

Desired outcomes:

- National urban environmental management strategy developed and implemented, including pollution control.
- Professional expertise built to undertake Environmental Assessments of policies, urban plans and urban projects.
- Environmental Assessments applied across the board.
- Environmental policies integrated into urban planning.
- Illegal trade in hazardous waste, raw materials and products prevented.
- Urban environmental indicators developed and data collection initiated

Corresponding Sectors

Urban Development

Health

Gender

6. Environmental Education and Awareness

Public participation in discussions and decision making on environmental issues and management of natural resources requires more heightened levels of awareness and understanding than exist presently within the broad Afghan community. Furthermore, the responsibility and stewardship of restoring and maintaining Afghanistan's environment rests with all levels and generations of Afghan society, the private sector as well as the government. Therefore, training and capacity needs in environmental education and awareness are considerable to empower the public with the legal rights and personal desire to protect the environment and provide incentives for behaviour change.

Desired Outcomes:

- Environmental education and awareness strategy developed and implemented.
- Media awareness enhanced.
- Environmental education and awareness material, including curriculum, developed.
- Evidence of behaviours supporting the environment such as participation in waste management programs, use of public waste facilities, endorsement of environmental and natural resource management programs and regulations.

Corresponding Sectors

Education

Agriculture and Rural Development

Gender

Health

Energy

VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Strategic coordination of the ANDS is to take place on a sector-by-sector basis through a Consultative Group (CG) mechanism. Under the CG mechanism, environment features as a cross-cutting issue (hence the existence of the Environment Cross Cutting Consultative Group (CCCCG), and also a sectoral issue. In regard to the latter, a Natural Resources and Environment technical working group (TWG3.6) exists in the CG dealing with Infrastructure and Natural Resources (CG3). Environment as a cross-cutting issue, must be mainstreamed across all sectors and in each programme area through the development of policy benchmarks to ensure that government, donors and implementing agencies follow established norms with respect to the incorporation of environmental considerations into the design and implementation of projects, and provide adequate oversight and monitoring of the environmental impacts of humanitarian and development projects.

The ANDS Technical Working Groups play a crucial role in ensuring issues encountered in the implementation of programs and ministerial/ sectoral strategies are effectively addressed. Their assessment must be frank, identifying the problems encountered in the implementation of the benchmarks. This will allow the CGs to more effectively address the issues and meet their obligation of reporting to the Oversight Committee (OSC) and Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB) on progress in fulfilling the high-level benchmarks.

Table 1 lists cross-cutting environmental issues corresponding to relevant Afghanistan Compact benchmarks and sectors in order to monitor progress with regard to the Environment benchmark of the ANDS, and mainstream environmental issues and priority programmes elaborated in the Strategy.

A monitoring matrix for indicators related to the Environment benchmark is contained in Table 2. The benchmark indicators encapsulate the components of environmental management developed in the National Environment Strategy.

Ultimately environmental mainstreaming and the information in both tables also apply to achievement of the MDG goal for environment.

MDG Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

<p>Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the loss of environmental resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of land area covered by forest • Ratio of area protected to maintain biological diversity to surface area
---	---

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy use per unit of GDP • Carbon dioxide emissions (per capita) and consumption of ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons • Proportion of population using solid fuels
Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source, urban and rural
Have achieved, by 2020, a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of population with access to improved sanitation • Proportion of households with access to secure tenure

Table 1. Mainstreaming Environment into the Afghanistan Compact Benchmarks**Sector 1: Security**

CG1 WG1-1.1	<u>International security forces</u> : Through end-2010, with the support of and in close coordination with the Afghan Government, the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and their respective Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) will promote security and stability in all regions of Afghanistan, including by strengthening Afghan capabilities.	□ Environmental impact assessments must be undertaken in accordance with the Environment Law and EIA regulations in regard to PRT infrastructure and other development projects.
CG1 WG1-1.1	<u>Afghan National Army</u> : By end-2010: A nationally respected, professional, ethnically balanced Afghan National Army will be fully established that is democratically accountable, organized, trained and equipped to meet the security needs of the country and increasingly funded from Government revenue, commensurate with the nation's economic capacity; the international community will continue to support Afghanistan in expanding the ANA towards the ceiling of 70,000 personnel articulated in the Bonn talks; and the pace of expansion is to be adjusted on the basis of periodic joint quality assessments by the Afghan Government and the international community against agreed criteria which take into account prevailing conditions.	□ Environmental impacts of military camps and bases (especially waste disposal and sanitation aspects) must be considered.
CG1 WG2-1.2	<u>Mine Action and Ammunition</u> : By end-2010, in line with Afghanistan's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Afghanistan's Ottawa Convention obligations, the land area contaminated by mines and unexploded ordnance will be reduced by 70%; all stockpiled anti-personnel mines will be located and destroyed by end-2007; and by end-2010, all unsafe, unserviceable, and surplus ammunition will be destroyed.	□ NEPA and MAIL should be consulted prior to the implementation of any de-mining activities in protected areas and areas of high biological diversity or ecological value.
CG1 WG3-1.3	<u>Afghan National and Border Police</u> : By end-2010, a fully constituted, professional, functional and ethnically balanced Afghan National Police and Afghan Border Police with a combined force of up to 62,000 will be able to meet the security needs of the country effectively and will be increasingly fiscally sustainable.	□ Police require training in relation to the environmental regulatory framework in order to enforce certain aspects of it, as required by law. □ Border police require training in relation to transboundary trade in banned or restricted goods, such as ozone depleting substances and endangered species from NEPA and the National Ozone Unit, housed in NEPA.
CG1 WG3-1.3	<u>Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups</u> : All illegal armed groups will be disbanded by end-2007 in all provinces.	□ Disposal of weapons and munitions containing environmentally hazardous substances must be managed carefully. EIA? Upcoming

regulations?

- CG1
WG3-1.3
- Counter Narcotics: By end-2010, the Government will strengthen its law enforcement capacity at both central and provincial levels, resulting in a substantial annual increase in the amount of drugs seized or destroyed and processing facilities dismantled, and in effective measures, including targeted eradication as appropriate, that contribute to the elimination of poppy cultivation.
- Toxic chemicals used in processing facilities should be seized and properly disposed off when such facilities are dismantled. EIA? Upcoming regulations?

By end-2010, the Government and neighbouring and regional governments will work together to increase coordination and mutual sharing of intelligence, with the goal of an increase in the seizure and destruction of drugs being smuggled across Afghanistan's borders, and effective action against drug traffickers.

Sector 2: Governance, Rule of Law and Human Rights

- CG2
WG4-2.1
- Public Administrative Reform: By end-2010: Government machinery (including the number of ministries) will be restructured and rationalised to ensure a fiscally sustainable public administration; the Civil Service Commission will be strengthened; and civil service functions will be reformed to reflect core functions and responsibilities.
- The establishment of environmental units in key ministries with sectoral environmental mandates should be implemented (e.g. Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock; Ministry of Energy and Water; Ministry of Rehabilitation and Rural Development; Ministry of Mines and Industries, Ministry of Public Health; Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation; Ministry of Public Works, Ministry of Urban Development and Housing; Ministry of Women's Affairs; Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Finance).

- CG2
WG4-2.1
- Counter Narcotics: By end-2010, the Government will increase the number of arrests and prosecutions of traffickers and corrupt officials, and will improve its information base concerning those involved in the drugs trade, with a view to enhancing the selection system for national and sub-national public appointments, as part of the appointments mechanism mentioned earlier in this annex.
- None.

- CG2
WG5-2.2
- National Assembly: The National Assembly will be provided with technical and administrative support by mid-2006 to fulfil effectively its constitutionally mandated roles.
- The National Assembly requires training in regard to environmental issues, in particular environmental law and policy, and multilateral environmental agreements.

- CG2
WG5-2.2
- Elections: The Afghanistan Independent Electoral Commission will have the high integrity, capacity and resources to undertake elections in an increasingly fiscally sustainable manner by end-2008, with the Government of Afghanistan contributing to the extent possible to the cost of future elections from its own resources. A permanent civil and voter registry with a single national identity
- None.

document will be established by end-2009.

- CG2
WG5-2.2 Census and statistics: The census enumeration will be completed by end-2008 and the complete results published. Reliable statistical baselines will be established for all quantitative benchmarks by mid-2007 and statistical capacity built to track progress against them. □ None.
- CG2
WG6-2.3 Rule of law: By end-2010, the legal framework required under the constitution, including civil, criminal, and commercial law, will be put in place, distributed to all judicial and legislative institutions, and made available to the public. □ An environmental regulatory framework has been established with the enactment of the Environment Law (January 2007) and with the ongoing development of associated, sector-specific regulations. This framework will similarly be distributed to relevant institutions and the public as each regulation is issued. Successful implementation of the framework will rely on the environmental units, participation by respective Ministries in the Committee for Environmental Coordination, training by NEPA and public awareness messages.
By end-2010: Functioning institutions of justice will be fully operational in each province of Afghanistan; and the average time to resolve contract disputes will be reduced *as much as possible*. □ Training of judicial officers in relation to the country's environmental laws and regulations is required.
- CG2
WG6-2.3 Land registration: A process for registration of land in all administrative units and the registration of titles will be started for all major urban areas by end-2006 and all other areas by end- 2010. A fair system for settlement of land disputes will be in place by end-2007. Registration for rural land will be under way by end-2007. □ The system relating to land disputes needs to also address disputes relating to access to natural resources (e.g. rangeland).
- CG2
WG6-2.3 Human rights: By end-2010: The Government's capacity to comply with and report on its human rights treaty obligations will be strengthened; Government security and law enforcement agencies will adopt corrective measures including codes of conduct and procedures aimed at preventing arbitrary arrest and detention, torture, extortion and illegal expropriation of property with a view to the elimination of these practices; the exercise of freedom of expression, including freedom of media will be strengthened; human rights awareness will be included in education curricula, and promoted among legislators, judicial personnel and other Government agencies, communities and the public; human rights monitoring will be carried out by the Government and independently by the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), and the UN will track the effectiveness of measures aimed at the protection of human rights; and the AIHRC will be supported in the fulfilment of its objectives with regard to monitoring, investigation, protection and promotion of human rights. □ Environment is a human right, as recognised by its inclusion in Afghanistan's Bill of Rights. Environmental rights should be included in the development of awareness raising materials and curricula, and in training activities undertaken by the AIHRC.
- CG2 Anti-Corruption: The UN Convention against Corruption will be ratified by end- 2006, national legislation adapted □ Effective establishment and enforcement of land rights,

- WG6-2.3 accordingly by end-2007 and a monitoring mechanism to oversee implementation will be in place by end-2008.
- CG2
WG7-2.4 Religious affairs [from ANDS]: By end-2010: religious institutions and scholars, both men and women, will participate in structured ways on issues of national development policy, and concrete measures will be put in place to ensure that the status and participation of women in Islamic activities increase, both locally and internationally.
- CG2
WG8-2.5 Gender: By end-2010: the National Action Plan for Women in Afghanistan will be fully implemented; and in line with Afghanistan's MDGs, female participation in all Afghan governance institutions, including elected and appointed bodies and the civil service, will be strengthened.
- conflict-resolution mechanisms and regimes of utilisation for natural resources in urban and rural areas require necessary anti-corruption incentives.
- The principles of sustainable development contained in the *Qur'an* should be incorporated into issues of national development policy. Correspondingly, participation of religious scholars in the National Environmental Advisory Council (NEAC) will inform the progress of environmental governance and management.
 - As the majority of the most poor and vulnerable sector of Afghan society, women play decisive and important roles in managing and conserving biodiversity, water, land and other resources for household livelihood and health. Yet their centrality is often ignored and not fully understood. Environmental issues should be incorporated into the NAPWA to encourage better management of natural resources, as well as greater productivity for human sustenance and economic development. The NAPWA can function as a vehicle, in conjunction with environment and education initiatives, to increase female participation in environmental management at all levels of governance.

Sector 3: Infrastructure and Natural Resources

- CG3
WG9-3.1 Roads: Afghanistan will have a fully upgraded and maintained ring road, as well as roads connecting the ring road to neighbouring countries by 2008, and a fiscally sustainable system for road maintenance by end-2007.
- CG3
WG10-3.2 Air transport: By end-2010: Kabul International Airport and Herat Airport will achieve full International Civil Aviation Organisation compliance; Mazar, Jalalabad and Kandahar will be upgraded with runway repairs, air navigation, fire and rescue and communications equipment; and seven other domestic airports will be upgraded to facilitate domestic air transportation; and air transport services and costs will be increasingly competitive with international market standards and rates.
- Environmental impact assessments must be undertaken in accordance with the Environment Law and EIA regulations in regard to the construction of new roads that may have a significant adverse impact on the environment.
 - Environmental impact assessments must be undertaken in accordance with the Environment Law and EIA regulations in regard to construction of new airports, or the upgrading of existing ones.

CG3 WG11- 3.3	<u>Telecommunications</u> [from ANDS]: By end-2010: a national telecommunications network will be put in place so that more than 80% of Afghans will have access to affordable telecommunications, and more than \$100 million dollars per year is generated in public revenue.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Environmental impact assessments must be undertaken in accordance with the Environment Law and EIA regulations in regard to the erection of communication masts where their erection may have a significant adverse impact on the environment.
CG3 WG12- 3.4	<u>Energy</u> : By end-2010: electricity will reach at least 65% of households and 90% of non-residential establishments in major urban areas, and at least 25% of households in rural areas; at least 75% of the costs will be recovered from users connected to the national power grid; and a strategy for the development and the use of renewable energies will be developed by end-2007.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ The environmental impact assessment and pollution control provisions of the Environment Law and upcoming regulations must be complied with in regard to the construction, upgrading and operation of facilities and infrastructure required to generate and transmit electricity. □ Reliance on fossil fuels needs to be reduced both because fossil fuels are a finite, non-renewable resource and due to the generation of greenhouse gases contained in fossil fuel emissions. Further investment in and incentives for renewable energies, clean technologies and energy efficiency are required.
CG3 WG12- 3.4	<u>Water resource management</u> : Sustainable water resource management strategies and plans, covering irrigation and drinking water supply, will be developed by end-2006 and irrigation investments will result in at least 30% of water coming from large waterworks by end-2010.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ The basic ecological needs of Afghanistan's water resources need to be balanced against social and livelihood demands. □ Pollution of water resources needs to be prevented and controlled through development and enforcement of water quality standards and regulations. □ Protection should be afforded to wetlands and other water resources of high ecological value. □ Public awareness raising of the value of water, a limited resource in Afghanistan, is required.
CG3 WG13- 3.5	<u>Urban development</u> : By end-2010: Municipal governments will have strengthened capacity to manage urban development and to ensure that municipal services are delivered effectively, efficiently and transparently; and in line with Afghanistan's MDGs, investment in water supply and sanitation will ensure that 50% of households in Kabul and 30% of households in other major urban areas will have access to piped water.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ The development of adequate sanitation systems in urban areas is important to reduce the adverse effects of waste and sewage on human health and the environment. □ Environmental impact assessments must be undertaken in accordance with the Environment Law and EIA regulations in regard to the construction or upgrading of facilities for the storage and treatment of waste and sewage and

		landfills.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Zoning and related enforcement of residential and commercial areas is required to mitigate unplanned settlements and commercial development. □ Public awareness raising is required regarding the impacts of poor waste management practices on human health and the environment.
CG3 WG14- 3.6	<u>Mining and natural resources</u> : An enabling regulatory environment for profitable extraction of Afghanistan's mineral and natural resources will be created by end-2006, and by <i>end-2010</i> the investment environment and infrastructure will be enhanced in order to attract domestic and foreign direct investment in this area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Environmental impact assessments must be undertaken in accordance with the Environment Law and Minerals Law and EIA regulations in regard to the abstraction of mineral resources. The legal and regulatory framework for profitable extraction of mineral and natural resources must not contravene the sustainable management framework for natural resources established by the Environment Law.
CG3 WG14- 3.6	<u>Environment</u> : In line with Afghanistan's MDGs, environmental regulatory frameworks and management services will be established for the protection of air and water quality, waste management and pollution control, and natural resource policies will be developed and implementation started at all levels of government as well as the community level, by end-2007.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Environmental issues require mainstreaming within the development framework for Afghanistan.

Sector 4: Education

CG4 WG15- 4.1	<u>Primary and secondary education</u> : By end-2010: in line with Afghanistan's MDGs, net enrolment in primary school for girls and boys will be at least 60% and 75% respectively; a new curriculum will be operational in all secondary schools, female teachers will be increased by 50%; 70% of Afghanistan's teachers will have passed a competency test, and a system for assessing learning achievement such as a national testing system for students will be in place.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ The development of new curricula should include elements of environmental education and awareness raising.
CG4 WG15- 4.1	<u>Higher education</u> : By end 2010: enrolment of students to universities will be 100,000 with at least 35% female students; and the curriculum in Afghanistan's public universities will be revised to meet the development needs of the country and private sector growth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Universities and polytechnics need to develop their capacities to offer degrees or diplomas in environmental management specifically or related topic such as environmental engineering, ecology, conservation and wildlife biology.
CG4 WG15- 4.1	<u>Skills development</u> : A human resource study will be completed by end-2006, and 150,000 men and women will be trained in marketable skills through public and private means by end-2010.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Environmental considerations should be built in to the training materials for skills development.

- CG4
WG16-
4.2
- Afghan cultural heritage: A comprehensive inventory of Afghan cultural treasures will be compiled by end-2007. Measures will be taken to revive the Afghan Cultural heritage, to stop the illegal removal of cultural material and to restore damaged monuments and artefacts by end-2010.
- CG4
WG16-
4.2
- Media and Sports [from ANDS]: by end 2010: the media will be protected as independent, pluralistic and accessible to Afghan women and men throughout the country, thereby promoting an open and democratic society. Sports will be promoted, with special emphasis on creating access for children, women and the disabled.
- Natural and cultural heritage should be conserved with regard to the provisions of the Environment Law.
 - None.

Sector 5: Health

- CG5
WG17-
5.1
- Health and Nutrition: By end-2010, in line with Afghanistan's MDGs, the Basic Package of Health Services will be extended to cover at least 90% of the population, maternal mortality will be reduced by 15%, and full immunisation coverage for infants under-5 for vaccine preventable diseases will be achieved and their mortality rates reduced by 20%.
- The link between poor environmental practices and human well-being needs to be mainstreamed through public health programmes related to hygiene and sanitation, communicable diseases, industrial health and safety and nutrition programmes on the importance of the environment for food security.
 - The application of upcoming air and water quality, pollution control and waste management standards and regulations and natural resource management policies is important for this benchmark.
 - Public awareness raising required.

Sector 6: Agriculture and Rural Development

- CG6
WG18-
6.1
- Agriculture and Livestock: By end-2010: The necessary institutional, regulatory and incentive framework to increase production and productivity will be established to create an enabling environment for legal agriculture and agriculture-based rural industries, and public investment in agriculture will increase by 30 percent; and particular consideration will be given to perennial horticulture, animal health and food security by instituting specialised support agencies and financial service delivery mechanisms, supporting farmers' associations, branding national products, disseminating timely price and weather-related information and statistics, providing strategic research and technical assistance, and securing access to irrigation and water management systems.
- The fundamental principles of environmental management, set out in article 5 of the Environment Law and elaborated in the National Environment Strategy, must be applied by any institution exploiting natural resources for material gain, or exercising a public function, or creating or implementing policies and regulatory frameworks that are likely to affect the management of the natural resources of Afghanistan or the conservation and rehabilitation of its environment.
 - The legal and regulatory framework to increase production and productivity for agriculture and livestock relies on functional environmental management and environmental resources.
 - Range management policies and

- laws need to be founded on the principle of sustainability.
- The use of environmentally harmful pesticides, such as DDT, must be deterred.
 - The introduction of any alien or genetically modified crop or other species is regulated in terms of the Environment Law.
- CG6
WG18-
6.1 Counter narcotics: By end-2010, the Government will design and implement programmes to achieve a sustained annual reduction in the amount of land under poppy and other drug cultivation, by the strengthening and diversification of licit livelihoods and other counter-narcotics measures, as part of the overall goal of a decrease in the absolute and relative size of the drug economy in line with the Government's MDG target.
- The introduction of any alien or genetically modified crop in the place of poppy is regulated in terms of the Environment Law.
 - Social and environmental assessments of eradication techniques, such as aerial spraying, should be conducted.
 - Licit agriculture livelihoods require environmental sustainability (i.e. irrigation supply, access to land, control over natural resources, erosion control) to eventually compete with the financial consistency of poppy.
- CG6
WG19-
6.2 Comprehensive rural development: By end-2010: Rural development will be enhanced comprehensively for the benefit of 19 million people in over 38,000 villages; this will be achieved through the election of at least a further 14,000 voluntary community development councils in all remaining villages, promoting local governance and community empowerment; access to safe drinking water will be extended to 90% of villages and sanitation to 50%; road connectivity will reach 40% of all villages, increasing access to markets, employment and social services; 47% of villages will benefit from small-scale irrigation; 800,000 households (22% of all Afghanistan's households) will benefit from improved access to financial services; and livelihoods of at least 15% of the rural population will be supported through the provision of 91 million labour days.
- Community based natural resource management (CBNRM) principles should be incorporated into rural development initiatives.
 - Development of environment resource management and dispute resolution capability at the community and district levels should be encouraged.
 - Environmental impact assessments must be undertaken in accordance with the Environment Law and EIA regulations in regard to rural infrastructure projects.
 - The air and water quality, waste management and pollution control regulations and management services and natural resource policies will also apply to rural development.
 - Environmental public awareness raising is required in rural areas.

Sector 7: Social protection

- CG7
WG20-
7.1 Humanitarian and disaster response: By end-2010, an effective system of disaster preparedness and response will be in place.
- The environmental dimensions of disasters, especially in relation to mitigation of and response to natural and industrial disasters, need to be incorporated into

		relevant policies and plans.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Natural resource management policies, legislation and programmes will contribute to disaster mitigation and subsequent rehabilitation.
CG7 WG21- 7.2	<u>Disabled</u> : By end-2010, increased assistance will be provided to meet the special needs of all disabled people, including their integration in society through opportunities for education and gainful employment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Training and employment programs for environmental and natural resource based livelihoods should be open to all Afghan citizens.
CG7 WG21- 7.2	<u>Employment of Youth and Demobilised Soldiers</u> : By end-2010, employment opportunities for youth and demobilised soldiers will be increased through special programmes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Youth groups are powerful civil society organisations. Awareness of environmental issues should be incorporated into the programmes developed for youths. □ Technical and vocational programs for environmental and natural resource-related employment should be extend to youth and demobilised soldiers.
CG7 WG21- 7.2	<u>Refugees and IDPs</u> : By end-2010, all refugees opting to return and internally displaced persons will be provided assistance for rehabilitation and integration in their local communities; and their integration will be supported by national development programmes, particularly in key areas of return.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ The impact of returning refugees and IDPs on rural environmental resources and urban reticulation systems (especially water supply, sanitation and waste disposal) requires consideration. □ Technical and vocational programmes for environmental and natural resource-related employment should be extend to refugees and IDPs.
CG7 WG21- 7.2	<u>Vulnerable women</u> : By end-2010, the number of female-headed households that are chronically poor will be reduced by 20%, and their employment rates will be increased by 20%.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Chronically poor women play decisive and important roles in managing and conserving biodiversity, water, land and other natural resources for household livelihood and health. Yet their centrality is often ignored and not fully understood. □ Inclusion of women in environment and natural resource-based livelihoods programmes in urban and rural areas is crucial to help attain this benchmark. □ Lack of legal recognition and access to land title hinders women from earning a living from natural resources; thus the development of regimes of utilisation for natural resources and associated legal

ability to access land is necessary.

CG7
WG21-
7.2
Counter narcotics: By end-2010, the Government will implement programmes to reduce the demand for narcotics and provide improved treatment for drug users.

□ None.

Sector 8: Economic Governance and Private Sector Development

CG8
WG22-
8.1
Financial management: By end-2007, the Government will ensure improved transparent financial management at the central and provincial levels through establishing and meeting benchmarks for financial management agreed with and monitored by the international community, including those in the anticipated Poverty Reduction Growth Facility (PRGF). In turn and in line with improved government accountability, donors will make more effort to increase the share of total external assistance to Afghanistan that goes to the Core Budget.

□ Environmental mainstreaming extends to financial management of environmental and natural resource management activities. Implementation of environmental management will take place at all levels – national, provincial, district and community – requiring a functional financial management system to instil donor confidence in allocating more assistance directly to the Core Budget.

CG8
WG22-
8.1
Putting in place a medium term fiscal framework [from ANDS]: The MTFE guides the allocation of all budgetary resources from 1387, and Government will prepare a medium term expenditure framework for the 1388 budget and subsequent budgets.

□ Ministries and other governmental authorities are responsible for allocating adequate funding for legally mandated or programmatic priorities related to the environment during the budget preparation process.

□ The Ministry of Finance should establish either a specific environmental focal point, or a cross-cutting review committee to review Ministry budgets for appropriate allocations based on legal mandates and programmatic needs.

CG8
WG22-
8.1
Domestic revenues: Afghanistan's total domestic budgetary revenue – equivalent to 4.5% of estimated legal GDP in 1383 (2004/05) – will steadily increase and reach 8% of GDP by 1389 (2010/11). The ratio of revenue to estimated total recurrent expenditures, including estimated recurrent expenditures in the core and external development budgets, is projected to rise from 28% in 1383 (2004/05) to an estimated 58% in 1389, resulting in a continuing need, in accord with the principles in Annex II, for (1) external assistance to the Core Budget and (2) increasing cost-effectiveness of assistance that funds recurrent expenditure through the external development budget.

□ None.

CG8
WG22-
8.1
Financial services and markets: Internationally accepted prudential regulations will be developed for all core sectors of banking and non-bank financial institutions by end-2007. The banking supervision function of Da Afghanistan Bank will be further strengthened by end-2007. Restructuring of state-owned commercial banks will be complete by end-2007. State-owned banks that have not been re-licensed will be liquidated by end-2006.

□ None.

CG8
WG23-
8.2

Private sector development and trade: All legislation, regulations and procedures related to investment will be simplified and harmonised by end-2006 and implemented by end-2007. New business organisation laws will be tabled in the National Assembly by end-2006. The Government's strategy for divestment of State-Owned Enterprises will be implemented by end-2009.

- The relevant regulatory provisions of the Environment Law and upcoming regulations that relate to environmental impact assessment and pollution control must be complied with.
- The legal, regulatory and procedural framework for must consider the role of the private sector in environmental management.

CG8
WG23-
8.2

Regional Cooperation: By end-2010: Afghanistan and its neighbours will achieve lower transit times through Afghanistan by means of cooperative border management and other multi-lateral or bilateral trade and transit agreements; Afghanistan will increase the amount of electricity available through bilateral power purchase and cross border hydro projects; and Afghanistan and its neighbours will reach agreements to enable Afghanistan to import skilled labour from its neighbours and to enable Afghans to seek work in the region and send remittances home.

- Transboundary trade in banned or restricted goods (such as ozone depleting substances and endangered species) must be deterred through regional border cooperation.
- Several environmental issues and geographical areas of significance require regional cooperation for effective management.
- Environmental impact assessments must be undertaken in accordance with the Environment Law and EIA regulations in regard to cross-border infrastructure projects.

Afghanistan Compact

Matrix for Capturing Progress of Process Indicators

Benchmark 3.7 Environment		In line with Afghanistan's MDGs, environmental regulatory frameworks and management services will be established for the protection of air and water quality, waste management and pollution control, and natural resource policies will be developed and implementation started at all levels of government as well as the community level, by end-2007.														
Draft 26 November 2007																
Responsible Agencies		National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA), UNEP, EC, Government of Finland, other potential donors														
Indicator or its Components [lead agencies]			Milestone													
			Milestone 1	Milestone 2	Milestone 3	Milestone 4	Milestone 5	Milestone 6	Milestone 7	Milestone 8	Milestone 9	Milestone 10	Milestone 11	Milestone 12	Milestone 13	
1	Environment Law [NEPA, UNEP] Weight: 20 %	Milestone detail	Drafting of law	Stakeholder consultation on the draft law at provincial level	Stakeholder consultation on the draft law at central level	Revision of draft law	Submission of draft law to MoJ	Consultation with stakeholders and revision of draft law	Submission to - and approval of the revised draft law by - the legislative committee of the cabinet	Submission to - and approval of the revised draft law by - the the cabinet	Submission to - and approval of the revised draft law by - the environment commissions of the Wolesi and Meshrano Jirga	Submission to and approval of the revised draft law by the Parliament	Gazette notification of the final law	Training of staff of NEPA and other stakeholder insitutions on interpretation and application of the law.	Training of judiciary in the interpretation and application of the law.	
		Weight														
		Target date													Dec-07	Jun-08
		Achievement date	Jun-04	Mar-05	Apr-05	Apr-05	May-05	Nov-05	Nov-05	Dec-05	Nov-06	Jan-07	Mar-07			
2	Ozone Regulations [NEPA, UNEP] Weight: 7 %	Milestone detail	Drafting of regulations	Stakeholder consultation on the draft regulations at central level	Revision of draft regulations	Submission of draft regulations to MoJ	Consultation with stakeholders and revision of draft regulations	Submission to - and approval of the revised draft regulations by - the legislative committee of the cabinet	Gazette notification of the final regulations	Training of staff of NEPA, Customs Dep (MoF), Ministry of Commerce and other stakeholder insitutions on interpretation and application of the regulations.	Training of judiciary in the interpretation and application of the regulations.					

9	Environmental Quality Standards (air, water, pollution control) [NEPA, UNEP] Weight: 10 %	Milestone detail	Background research and drafting of standards	Stakeholder consultation on the draft standards at central level	Revision of draft standards	Approval and issuance of standards by NEPA through executive order										
		Weight														
		Target date	Nov-08	Jan-09	Jun-09	Dec-09										
		Achievement date														
10	Institutional Development and Capacity Building for Env. Management [NEPA, UNEP, Donor to be identified] Weight: 20 %	Milestone detail	Drafting and Approval of PRR Stage 1	Drafting and Approval of PRR Stage 1	Recruitment of NEPA staff under the PRR at central level	Recruitment of NEPA staff under the PRR at provincial level	Initiation of training of NEPA staff	Initiation of provision of capital equipment for NEPA	Capacity of 3 provincial NEPA offices strengthened	Capacity of additional 5 provincial NEPA offices strengthened	Capacity of additional 5 provincial NEPA offices strengthened	Capacity of additional 5 provincial NEPA offices strengthened	Capacity of additional 5 provincial NEPA offices strengthened	Capacity of additional 5 provincial NEPA offices strengthened	Capacity of additional 6 provincial NEPA offices strengthened	
		Weight														
		Target date				Dec-07			Dec-08	Dec-09	Dec-10	Dec-11	Dec-12	Dec-13	Dec-14	
		Achievement date	Mar-05	Aug-05	Jun-07		Dec-04	Jun-04								

MAIL Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
MEW Ministry of Energy and Water
MoF Ministry of Finance
NEPA National Environmental Protection Agency