



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Afghanistan National Development Strategy

Environment Sector Strategy


1387 - 1391 (2007/08 - 2012/13)



Good Governance

Environment Sector Strategy

Approved by:
Sector Responsible Authorities

Agency	Name of the Director	Signature
National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA)	Mustapha Zaher	

Date of Submission
December 2008

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah, the Most Merciful, the Most Compassionate

Vision for Afghanistan

By the solar year 1400 (2020), Afghanistan will be:

- A stable Islamic constitutional democracy at peace with itself and its neighbors, standing with full dignity in the international family.
- A tolerant, united, and pluralist nation that honors its Islamic heritage and deep aspirations toward participation, justice, and equal rights for all.
- A society of hope and prosperity based on a strong, private sector-led market economy, social equity, and environmental sustainability.

ANDS Goals for 1387-1391 (2008-2013)

The Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) is a Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)-based plan that serves as Afghanistan's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP). It is underpinned by the principles, pillars and benchmarks of the Afghanistan Compact. The pillars and goals of the ANDS are:

1. Security: Achieve nationwide stabilization, strengthen law enforcement, and improve personal security for every Afghan.
2. Governance, Rule of Law and Human Rights: Strengthen democratic practice and institutions, human rights, the rule of law, delivery of public services and government accountability.
3. Economic and Social Development: Reduce poverty, ensure sustainable development through a private sector-led market economy, improve human development indicators, and make significant progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.

Foreword

For the preparation of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy



In the name of Allah, the most Merciful, the most Compassionate

Six and half years ago, the people of Afghanistan and the international community joined hands to liberate Afghanistan from the grip of international terrorism and begin the journey to rebuild a nation stunned by a long past of violence, destruction and terror. We have come a long way in this shared journey.

In just a few years, as a result of the partnership between Afghanistan and the international community, we were able to draw up a new, Constitution, embracing the values of democracy, freedom of speech and equal rights for women. Afghans voted in their first ever presidential elections and elected a new parliament. Close to five million Afghan refugees have returned home, making it one of the largest movement of people to their homeland in history.

Thousands of schools have been built; over six million boys and girls have been enrolled, the highest level ever for Afghanistan. Hundreds of health clinics have been established boosting our basic health coverage from 9 percent six years ago to over 85 percent today. Access to diagnostic and curative services has increased from almost none in 2002 to more than forty percent now. We have rehabilitated 12,200 km of roads. Our rapid economic growth, with double digit growth almost every year, has led to higher income and better living conditions for our people. With a developing network of roads and a state-of-the-art communications infrastructure, Afghanistan is better placed to serve as an economic land-bridge in our region.

These achievements would not have been possible without the unwavering support of the international community and the strong determination of the Afghan people. I hasten to point out that our achievements should not make us complacent distracting to face the enormity of the tasks that are still ahead. The threat of terrorism and the menace of narcotics are still affecting Afghanistan and the broader region and hampering our development. Our progress is still undermined by the betrayal of public trust by some functionaries of the state and uncoordinated and inefficient aid delivery mechanisms. Strengthening national and sub-national governance and rebuilding our judiciary are also among our most difficult tasks.

To meet these challenges, I am pleased to present Afghanistan's National Development Strategy (ANDS). This strategy has been completed after two years of hard work and extensive consultations around the country. As an Afghan-owned blueprint for the development of Afghanistan in all spheres of human endeavor, the ANDS will serve as our nation's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper. I am confident that the ANDS will help us in achieving the Afghanistan Compact benchmarks and Millennium Development Goals. I also consider this document as our roadmap for the long-desired objective of Afghanization, as we transition towards less reliance on aid and an increase in self-sustaining economic growth.

I thank the international community for their invaluable support. With this Afghan-owned strategy, I ask all of our partners to fully support our national development efforts. I am strongly encouraged to see the participation of the Afghan people and appreciate the efforts of all those in the international community and Afghan society who have contributed to the development of this strategy. Finally, I thank the members of the Oversight Committee and the ANDS Secretariat for the preparation of this document.

Hamid Karzai

President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Message from the Oversight Committee

For the preparation of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy



In the name of Allah, the most Merciful, the most Compassionate

We are pleased to present the Afghanistan National Development Strategy, which reflects the commitment of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to poverty reduction and private sector-led economic growth for a prosperous and stable Afghanistan. The ANDS Oversight Committee (OSC) was mandated by the Government to produce a Millennium Development Goals-based national strategy that is Afghan-owned and meets the requirements for a Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper. The OSC met on a regular basis to design, discuss and oversee the development of the strategy, including the identification of the needs and grievances of the people, and the prioritization of resource allocations and actions. To embrace ‘Afghanization’ and ownership, the OSC facilitated inclusive and extensive consultations both at national and sub-national levels.

Sustained fiscal support and continuous evaluation and monitoring are essential now to meet the challenges ahead related to ANDS implementation. The democratic aspirations of the Afghan people are high, yet financial resources remain limited. While much has been accomplished since 2001, more remains to be done as we move from “Compact to Impact”. The Afghan Government with support from the international community must act decisively, strategically, and with an absolute commitment to the ANDS goals and vision.

We look forward to working with our government colleagues, civil society representatives, tribal elders and religious scholars, the private sector, the international community and, most importantly, fellow Afghans to implement the ANDS, to help realize the Afghanistan Compact benchmarks and Millennium Development Goals.

Prof. Ishaq Nadiri
Senior Economic Advisor to
the President
Chair, ANDS and JCMB

Dr. Rangin Dadfar Spanta
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Dr. Anwar-ul-Haq Ahady
Minister of Finance

Dr. Sarwar Danish
Minister of Justice

Dr. Amin Farhang
Minister of Commerce and
Industry

Dr. Jalil Shams
Minister of Economy

Dr. Zalmay Rassoul
National Security Advisor

Haneef Atmar
Minister of Education

Acknowledgments

For the preparation of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy



In the name of Allah, the most Merciful, the most Compassionate

The Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) could not have been developed without the generous contribution of many individuals and organizations. The ANDS was finalized under the guidance of the Oversight Committee, appointed by HE President Hamid Karzai and chaired by H.E. Professor Ishaq Nadiri, Senior Economic Advisor to the President and Chair of the ANDS Oversight Committee. The committee included: H.E. Rangeen Dadfar Spanta, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Anwar-ul-Haq Ahady, Minister of Finance; H.E. Jalil Shams, Minister of Economy; H.E. Sarwar Danish, Minister of Justice; H.E. Haneef Atmar, Minister of Education; H.E. Amin Farhang, Minister of Commerce; and H.E. Zalmai Rassoul, National Security Advisor.

We would like to sincerely thank the First Vice-President and Chair of the Economic Council, H.E. Ahmad Zia Massoud. Special thanks are also due to H.E. Hedayat Amin Arsala, Senior Minister and H.E. Waheedulah Shahrani, Deputy Minister of Finance and the Ministry of Finance team. In addition, we would like to thank the Supreme Court, the National Assembly, Government Ministries and Agencies, Provincial Authorities, Afghan Embassies abroad, national Commissions, the Office of the President, Civil Society Organizations, and International Community.

All Ministers, deputy ministers and their focal points, religious leaders, tribal elders, civil society leaders, all Ambassadors and representatives of the international community in Afghanistan; and all Afghan citizens. National and international agencies participated actively in the ANDS consultations. Their contributions, comments and suggestions strengthened the sectoral strategies, ensuring their practical implementation. Thanks are also due to the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development for their significant contributions to the subnational consultations. Special thanks are further due to the President's Advisors, Daud Saba and Noorullah Delawari for their contributions, as well as Mahmoud Saikal for his inputs. We are also indebted to the Provincial Governors and their staff for their contributions, support and hospitality to the ANDS staff.

Special thanks go to Wahidullah Waissi, ANDS/PRS Development Process Manager, for his invaluable contribution and for the efforts of his team of young Afghan professionals who dedicated themselves tirelessly to completing the I-ANDS, Afghanistan Compact and the full ANDS in consultation with both national and international partners. The Sector Coordinators included Rahatullah Naeem, Farzana Rashid Rahimi, Shakir Majeedi, Attaullah Asim, Mohammad Ismail Rahimi, Zalmai Allawdin, Hedayatullah Ashrafi, Shukria Kazemi, Saifurahman Ahmadzai, and; the Sub-National Consultations Team consisted of Mohammad Yousuf Ghaznavi, Mohammad Fahim Mehry, Shahenshah Sherzai, Hekmatullah Latifi, Sayed Rohani and Osman Fahim; and Malik Sharaf, Naim Hamdard, Saleem Alkozai, Ahmadullah Kakar, Mir Ahmad Tayeb Waizy, Sayed Shah Aminzai, Khwaga Kakar and Mohammad Kazim. Thanks to Nematullah Bizhan for his special contribution from the JCMB Secretariat. We are also indebted to the many national and international advisers who supported this effort. In particular, we would like to thank Zlatko Hurtic, Paul O'Brien, Jim Robertson, Barnett Rubin, Peter Middlebrook, Richard Ponzio, Anita Nirody, Shakti Sinha, Ashok Nigam, Christopher Alexander and Ameerah Haq.

Finally, I would like to thank all who contributed towards this endeavor in preparation of the first Afghanistan National Development Strategy, a milestone in our country's history and a national commitment towards economic growth and poverty reduction in Afghanistan.

Adib Farhadi,

Director, Afghanistan National Development Strategy, and
Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board Secretariat

The complete list of contributors to this Sector Strategy is on the next page.

Map of Afghanistan





Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) Structure

SECURITY	GOVERNANCE	SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT					
Pillar 1	Pillar 2	Pillar 3	Pillar 4	Pillar 5	Pillar 6	Pillar 7	Pillar 8
1 - Security	2 - Good Governance	3 - Infrastructure & Natural Resources	4 - Education & Culture	5 - Health & Nutrition	6 - Agriculture & Rural Development	7 - Social Protection	8 - Economic Governance & Private Sector Development
Sectors							
Security	Justice	Energy	Education	Health and Nutrition	Agriculture and Rural Development	Social Protection	Private Sector Development and Trade
	Governance, Public Administrative Reform & Human Rights	Transportation	Culture, Media and Youth			Refugees, Returnees and Internal Displaced Persons	
	Religious Affairs	Water Resource Management					
		Information and Communications Technology					
		Urban Development					
		Mining					
Cross-Cutting Issues							
Capacity Building							
Gender Equity							
Counter Narcotics							
Regional Cooperation							
Anti-Corruption							
Environment							

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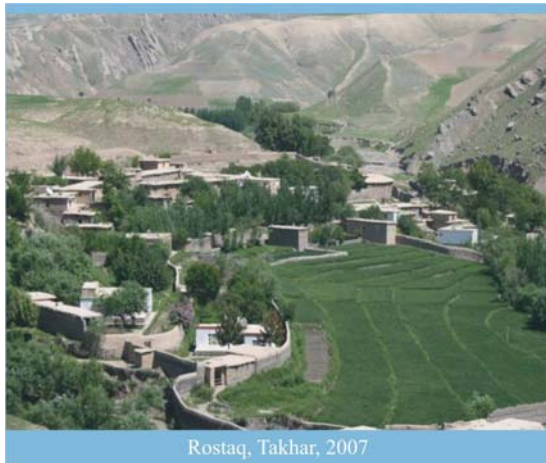
Acronyms and Abbreviations

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

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 to contribute to increased economic growth and poverty reduction.



Rostaq, Takhar, 2007

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:

Environmental Governance
Environmental Management

Thematic Strategies:

Forestry and Rangeland
Protected Areas and Biodiversity
Water and Wetlands
Air Quality
Urban and Industrial Environmental Management
Environmental Education and Awareness

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.

MDG Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

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

CAPTER I

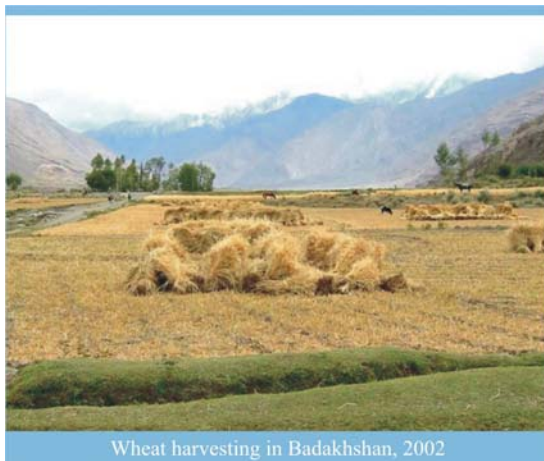
SITUATIONAL CONTEXT

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:



Wheat harvesting in Badakhshan, 2002

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 unplanned 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.



Poor solid and liquid waste management is a major problem in cities, Nangarhar 2007

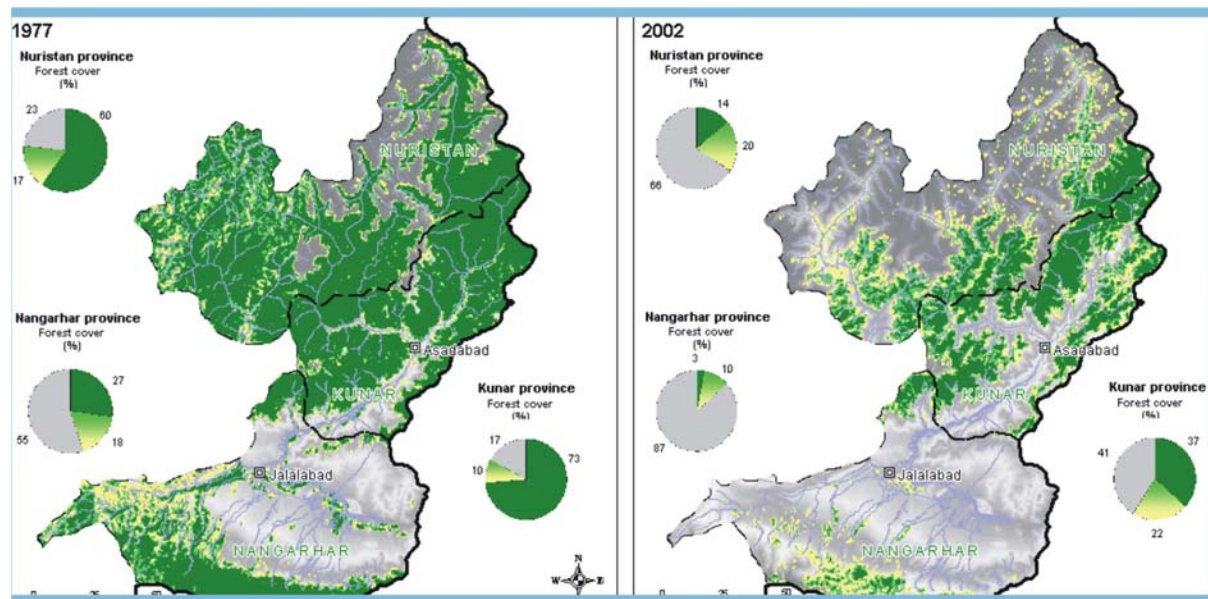
Surface and Groundwater. Water is the key to the health and well-being of the Afghan people. Approximately 75-80% of the population requires consistent access to water to maintain agricultural production. The damage to the water resources of the country is immense. Drought and uncoordinated and unmanaged 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.



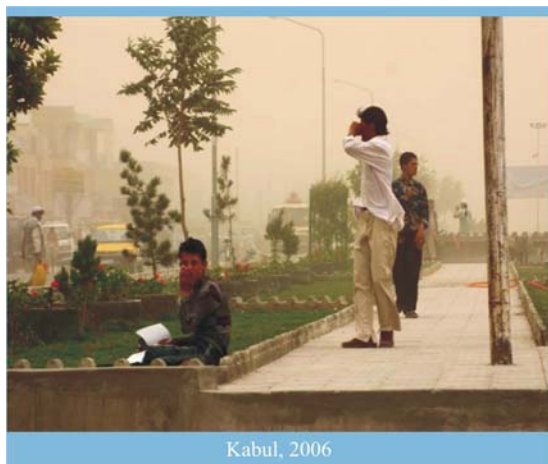
Soils. The soils of Afghanistan are one of the most important foundations for the Afghan economy. They are the basis for agriculture and animal husbandry, and at the same time support the growth of natural vegetation.

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.



Kabul, 2006

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.

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 raising 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 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.
- **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.

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.

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.

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.

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
- 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.

RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER ANDS CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

A. 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.

B. 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.

C. 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.

D. 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.

E. 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.

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.

MAINSTREAMING ENVIRONMENT: APPROACHES AND PRIORITIES

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

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.

PRIORITY PROGRAMME AREAS FOR NEPA

A. 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.

B. 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.

C. 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 and government, of their rights and responsibilities 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.

D. 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.

PRIORITY PROGRAMME AREAS, DESIRED OUTCOMES AND INPUTS & OUTPUTS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT:

	Priority Policies and Objectives	Desired Outcomes		Inputs & Outputs / Programs		Responsible Agencies
		Short term (2 years)	Mid term (5 years)	Policy Actions/ Measures	Projects	
(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 	<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

	Priority Policies and Objectives	Desired Outcomes		Inputs & Outputs / Programs		Responsible Agencies
		Short term (2 years)	Mid term (5 years)	Policy Actions/ Measures	Projects	
		sustainable use of natural resources.				Defence
(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

	Priority Policies and Objectives	Desired Outcomes		Inputs & Outputs / Programs		Responsible Agencies
		Short term (2 years)	Mid term (5 years)	Policy Actions/ Measures	Projects	
(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 health, personal hygiene, air & water pollution, land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Material developed and human resources trained. Teaching materials provided. Female and male teachers trained 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects in formal education institutions - primary, secondary and tertiary schools and universities. Projects in non-formal education programs – literacy, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NEPA Ministry of Education Ministry of Higher Education Ministry of Women's Affairs Ministry of Information, Culture

	Priority Policies and Objectives	Desired Outcomes		Inputs & Outputs / Programs		Responsible Agencies
		Short term (2 years)	Mid term (5 years)	Policy Actions/ Measures	Projects	
			degradation, biodiversity conservation, promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inclusion of environmental subjects and contents in curriculum of schools and universities and as supplemental material. 		vocational, community-based schools, religious classes and women's programs	and Youth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ministry of Hajj and Islamic Affairs ▪ MAIL ▪ Ministry Energy and Water.

THEMATIC STRATEGIES

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.

A. 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

B. 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

C. Corresponding Sectors

- Agriculture and Rural Development
- Gender
- Governance and Public Administration

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.

D. 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

E. 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

F. Corresponding Sector

- Agriculture and Rural Development
- Justice
- Governance and Public Administration

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.

A. 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

B. Desired Outcomes

- Improved water management at the basin level, particularly upstream

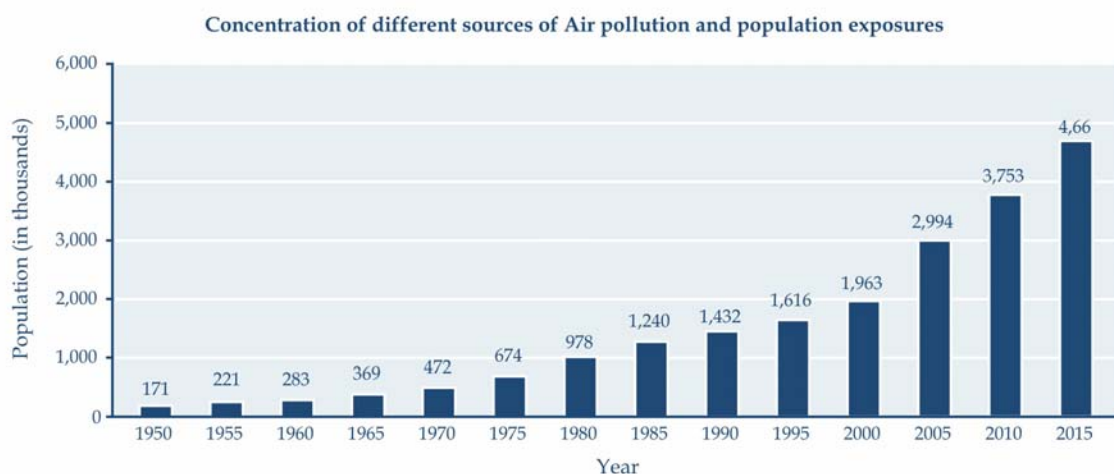
- Hydrological studies and biodiversity assessment of major wetlands
- Regular monitoring of ground water tables, especially in vulnerable areas
- Integration of watershed development with irrigation improvement.
- Remedial measures for containing impacts of desiccation of wetlands on human and natural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

C. Corresponding Sectors

- Water
- Agriculture and Rural Development
- Health
- Air Quality

Dust and vehicle emissions, unpaved roads, open burning of solid waste and burning biofuels for heat and cooking in country'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.



Source: Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, World Population Prospects: The 2004 Revision and World Urbanization Prospects: The 2005 Revision, <http://esa.un.org/unup>.

D. Population Growth in Kabul

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

E. 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. 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

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

CAPTER IV

IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

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.

Table 1. Mainstreaming Environment into the Afghanistan Compact Benchmarks

a) Sector 1: Security		
CG1 WG1-1.1	International security forces: 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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	Afghan National Army: 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Environmental impacts of military camps and bases (especially waste disposal and sanitation aspects) must be considered.
CG1 WG2-1.2	Mine Action and Ammunition: 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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	Afghan National and Border Police: 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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	Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups: All illegal armed groups will be disbanded by end-2007 in all provinces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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. 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Toxic chemicals used in processing facilities should be seized and properly disposed off when such facilities are dismantled. EIA? Upcoming regulations?

b) 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 document will be established by end-2009.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None.
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None.
CG2 WG6-2.3	<p>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.</p> <p>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 <i>as much as possible</i>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 WG6-2.3	Anti-Corruption: The UN Convention against Corruption will be ratified by end- 2006, national legislation adapted accordingly by end-2007 and a monitoring mechanism to oversee implementation will be in place by end-2008.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Effective establishment and enforcement of land rights, conflict-resolution mechanisms and regimes of utilisation for natural resources in urban and rural areas require necessary anti-corruption incentives.
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The principles of sustainable development contained in the <i>Qur'an</i> 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.
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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.

c) 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental impact assessments must to 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.
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental impact assessments must to 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	Telecommunications [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 to 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	Energy: 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	Water resource management: 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	Urban development: By end-2010: Municipal governments will have strengthened capacity to manage urban development and to ensure that municipal services are	<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

WG13-3.5	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.	<p>health and the environment.</p> <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 construction or upgrading of facilities for the storage and treatment of waste and sewage and landfills. 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	Mining and natural resources: An enabling regulatory environment for profitable extraction of Afghanistan's mineral and natural resources will be created by end-2006, and <i>by 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	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental issues require mainstreaming within the development framework for Afghanistan.
d) Sector 4: Education		
CG4 WG15-4.1	Primary and secondary education: 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	Higher education: 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	Skills development: 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural and cultural heritage should be conserved with regard to the provisions of the Environment Law.

	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None.
e) 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%.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
f) 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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

	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.	as aerial spraying, should be conducted. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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.
g) 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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. ▪ Natural resource management policies, legislation and programmes will contribute to disaster mitigation and subsequent rehabilitation.
CG7 WG21-7.2	Disabled: 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	Employment of Youth and Demobilised Soldiers: 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	Refugees and IDPs: 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	Vulnerable women: 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ None.
h) 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ None.

	expenditure through the external development budget.	
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. Re-structuring 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 2010.													
Version 29 April 2008																
Responsible Agencies			National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA), UNEP, EC, Government of Finland, other potential donors													
Indicator or its Components [lead agencies] Weight relative to 10 indicators			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 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-09
		Achievement date	Jun-04	Mar-05	Apr-05	Apr-05	May-05	Nov-05	Nov-05	Dec-05	Nov-06	Jan-07	Mar-07	Dec-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	Deliver Customs Officers Training Programme and Regional Cooperation Workshop in combating illegal trade in Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) in the Region. Kabul (35 custom officers)	Deliver Customs Officers Training Programme and Regional Cooperation Workshop in combating illegal trade in Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) in the Region. Herat (25 custom officers)	Deliver Customs Officers Training Programme and Regional Cooperation Workshop in combating illegal trade in Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) in the Region. Nangarhar (25 custom officers)				
		Weight														
		Target date								Mar-08	Jul-08	Nov-08				

Indicator or its Components [lead agencies] Weight relative to 10 indicators			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
		Achievement date	May-05	Oct-05	Dec-05	Dec-05	Mar-06	Jul-06	6-Aug-06	Mar-08				
3	EIA Regulations [NEPA, UNEP] Weight: 10 %	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 and other stakeholder insitutions on interpretation and application of the regulations.	Training of judiciary in the interpretation and application of the regulations.			
		Weight												
		Target date					Nov-07	Nov-07	Mar-08	Mar-09	Mar-09			
		Achievement date	Nov-06	Feb-07	Mar-07	Apr-07	Oct-07	Mar-08						
4	EIA Administrative Guidelines [NEPA, UNEP] Weight: 5 %	Milestone detail	Drafting of guidelines	Stakeholder consultation on the draft administrative guidelines at central level	Revision of draft administrative guidelines	Approval and issuance of administrative guidelines by NEPA through executive order	Training of staff of NEPA and other stakeholder insitutions on interpretation and application of the guidelines.							
		Weight												
		Target date		Apr-08	May-08	Jun-08	Jun-09							
		Achievement date	Nov-06											
5	Air Quality Policy [NEPA, UNEP, Donor to be identified] Weight: 7 %	Milestone detail	Preparation of TOR's for expert	Recruitment of expert	Research and drafting of policy	Stakeholder consultation on the draft policy at central level	Revision of draft policy	Approval and issuance of policy by NEPA through executive order	Training of staff of NEPA and other stakeholder insitutions on interpretation and application of the policy.	Set up an insitutional system for monitoring	Establishment of sampling system and training of technicians	Establishment of laboratory and training of technicians	Periodic publication of results.	
		Weight												
		Target date	Apr-08	Jul-08	Nov-08	Jan-09	Jun-09	Dec-09	Dec-10	Jun-11	Jun-12	Jun-12	Dec-12	
		Achievement date	Apr-08											

Indicator or its Components [lead agencies] Weight relative to 10 indicators			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
6	Drinking Water Quality Policy [NEPA, UNEP, Donor to be identified] Weight: 7 %	Milestone detail	Preparation of TOR's for expert	Recruitment of expert	Research and drafting of policy	Stakeholder consultation on the draft policy at central level	Revision of draft policy	Approval and issuance of policy by NEPA through executive order	Training of staff of NEPA and other stakeholder insitutions on interpretation and application of the policy.	Set up an insitutional system for monitoring	Establishment of sampling system and training of technicians	Establishment of laboratory and training of technicians	Periodic publication of results.		
		Weight													
		Target date	Apr-08	Jul-08	Nov-08	Jan-09	Jun-09	Dec-09	Dec-10	Jun-11	Jun-12	Jun-12	Dec-12		
		Achievement date	Apr-08												
7	Waste Management Policy [NEPA, UNEP] Weight: 7 %	Milestone detail	Preparation of TOR's for expert	Recruitment of expert	Research and drafting of policy	Stakeholder consultation on the draft policy at central level	Revision of draft policy	Approval and issuance of policy by NEPA through executive order	Training of staff of NEPA and other stakeholder insitutions on interpretation and application of the policy.	Set up an insitutional system for monitoring					
		Weight													
		Target date	Apr-08	Jul-08	Nov-08	Jan-09	Jun-09	Dec-09	Dec-10	Jun-11					
		Achievement date	Apr-08												
8	Pollution Control Policy[NEPA, UNEP]Weight: 7 %	Milestone detail	Drafting of policy	Stakeholder consultation on the draft policy at central level	Revision of draft policy	Approval and issuance of policy by NEPA through executive order	Training of staff of NEPA and other stakeholder insitutions on interpretation and application of the policy.	Set up an insitutional system for monitoring							
		Weight													
		Target date				Jun-08	Jun-09	Jun-10							
		Achievement date	Mar-06	Jan-07	Nov-07										

Indicator or its Components [lead agencies] Weight relative to 10 indicators			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
9	Environmental Quality Standards (air, water, pollution control) [NEPA, UNEP, Donor to be identified] Weight: 10 %	Milestone detail	Preparation of TOR's for expert	Recruitment of expert	Research and drafting of policy	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	Apr-08	Jul-08	Nov-08	Jan-09	Jun-09	Dec-09							
		Achievement date	Apr-08												
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 2	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				Mar-09			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													



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Afghanistan National Development Strategy Secretariat
Gul Khana Palace, (Sedarat)
Kabul, Afghanistan
www.ands.gov.af