



The UNEP Programme in Afghanistan

Annual Report 2009



United Nations Environment Programme

The UNEP Capacity-Building and Institutional Development for Environmental Management programme in Afghanistan has been made possible by funding from the European Commission, the Government of Finland and the Global Environment Facility.



First published in February 2010
© 2010 United Nations Environment Programme

Design and layout: Nikki Meith

The UNEP Programme in Afghanistan

Annual Report 2009



Contents

Meeting challenges, finding solutions	2
2009 at a glance	6
Environmental institutions	8
Environmental law and policy	10
Sustainable development	12
Community-based natural resource management	14
Protected areas management	16
Climate change	18
Environmental education and outreach	20
Conflict and natural resource management	22
Delivering as one.	24
Adventures and obstacles	26
Looking forward to 2010	28
The UNEP Afghanistan team in 2009	34
Acronyms.	36

Meeting challenges, finding solutions



Onsite training for agency partners on CBNRM tools

Finding Afghan solutions to Afghan problems has been the guiding principle behind UNEP's approach to its operations in Afghanistan, where it has had a country presence since 2002.

Nurturing the development of environmental and natural resource management capacity is the overarching goal of UNEP's activities in Afghanistan, and this includes capacity not only of the Government counterparts and local communities with which UNEP closely works, but also of UNEP's own staff, particularly its national staff, many of whom are now amongst the leading national experts in their fields.

Whilst much of UNEP's focus is at the national level – building environmental institutions, improving technical expertise, and developing environmental management tools, such as laws and policies – UNEP ensures that this work is symbiotically linked to its field-level projects, so that lessons learnt from piloting new, innovative approaches at the community level feed into national-level policy development, and vice-versa.

Given that Afghanistan is one of the poorest and least developed countries in the world, UNEP prioritizes poverty reduction, livelihood generation and protection of human health in the implementation of its activities. UNEP' strives to balance Afghanistan's ecological needs with its human needs.



2009 at a glance



The Governor of Bamiyan, Dr Habiba Sarabi, hands out the awards to the winners of a children's painting competition, one of the events facilitated by UNEP for World Environment Day, 2009.

With a full complement of technical staff on board, the UNEP programme in Afghanistan delivered a significant number of outputs across key areas during 2009. These included institutional capacity-building, environmental coordination, law and policy, sustainable development, environmental impact assessment and pollution control, education and outreach, community-based natural resource management (CBNRM), protected areas management, climate change, and conflict and natural resource management.

The UNEP programme in Afghanistan is funded by the European Commission (EC),

the Government of Finland and the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Its key beneficiaries include the National Environment Protection Agency (NEPA), the overarching policy and regulatory body for environmental affairs in Afghanistan, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), which is mandated to manage Afghanistan's key natural resources.

In addition, during 2009, UNEP also worked with provincial and district authorities and local communities in three provinces, namely Herat, Badakhshan and Bamiyan, where a small UNEP project office was established.



Key UNEP milestones achieved in 2009 include:

- Publication of Afghanistan's first State of the Environment Report, and the development of the first Afghan National Environmental Action Plan;
- Design and implementation of twelve new community-based natural resource management projects;



A young shepherd watching over his flock in the foothills of the proposed Shah Foladi National Park.



- Significant progress made on the establishment of the Shah Foladi National Park in Bamiyan province, an important water tower in the greater Hindu Kush mountain range, which has excellent ecotourism potential;
- Development of a programme dealing with the complementary aspects of Islam and environment, which has been very well received by Afghan institutions and people;
- Finalization of a national plan to adapt to the impacts of climate change, and development of proposals for funding to implement this plan;
- Notable progress in the development of new laws, such as the Forest and Rangeland Laws, policies (including a National Pollution Control Policy and a National Waste Management Policy) and standards (including Air Quality and Vehicle Emission Standards);



Tajik community elders working with UNEP on a microhydro and forest rehabilitation CBNRM project in Badakhshan.

- Development of an innovative conflict resolution strategy addressing disputes between nomadic and settled people regarding access to Afghanistan's summer rangelands in the central highlands, which has resulted in the development of a project by MAIL to upscale community-based pasture management on a national level; and
- Delivery of an environment training programme to 18 out of 31 provincial offices of the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) on a broad range of technical and institutional issues.

Environmental institutions



Planning exercise during a regional training workshop for officials of the National Environmental Protection Agency.

Since its establishment in 2005, UNEP has observed incremental improvement in the effectiveness and institutional maturity of the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA), which is a critical partner. The central institution is functioning well, as are the newly established 31 provincial offices, created to enhance NEPA's capacity and outreach.

During 2009, UNEP together with NEPA developed and completed solid workplans for each of NEPA's five technical divisions. In September, an assessment was undertaken to identify gaps and provide recommendations to fulfil workplans before the end of the Islamic year in March 2010. UNEP also developed a comprehensive environmental training programme, which was rolled out to 18 out of 31 of NEPA's provincial offices. The training provided staff with an orientation on NEPA, as well as technical training on thematic issues, such as Islam and the environment, environmental law and policy and multilateral environmental agreements, sustainable development, environmental education and awareness-raising and community-based natural resource management. The workshop, designed, in part to facilitate better coordination between NEPA at the central and provincial levels, received positive feedback and was considered a success.

Under new leadership since late 2008, the Ministry of Agriculture (MAIL) is undergoing a change management process, resulting in important institutional changes which UNEP continues to support. Technical training on



Protected areas and CBNRM group exercise to develop a baseline map during the field component of a regional training workshop.

various aspects of natural resource management, especially community-based management and protected areas management, was delivered to MAIL and to select provincial offices, such as Bamiyan.

The inter-ministerial and national coordination forums, such as the Committee for Environmental Coordination established under the Environment Law, continue to function. UNEP continues to provide ongoing support to both NEPA and MAIL for the coordination of donor governments and implementing partners.

Environmental law and policy



National consultation workshop for the development of Afghanistan's first National Environmental Action Plan.

One of UNEP's core competencies in Afghanistan has been the development of environmental management tools, including laws, policies, guidelines, standards, and enforcement frameworks.

In 2009, the Ministry of Justice and Council of Ministers approved the draft Forest Law, which is the first law to enshrine a community-based approach to management of natural resources in Afghanistan, and is now with the Parliament for its consideration. Progress was also made towards the development of the Rangeland Law. Additionally, UNEP provided inputs to support the drafting process of the Medicinal Plants Law, the Wildlife Trade and Protected Species Trade Regulations, Fauna Conservation and Hunting Regulations, Air Quality Regulations and the Water Law. Additionally, the Protected Areas Procedures were signed into law by NEPA and MAIL in March.

In regard to capacity-building, UNEP developed a training manual on the enforcement of environmental laws, and a handbook for environmental inspectors. Both have been printed in Dari, and training has been given to NEPA officials on both areas. Finally, the Handbook for Afghan Judges on Environmental Law was also developed, which will be available in Dari in 2010.

The English and Dari versions of Afghanistan's first State of Environment Report were printed and broadly distributed in Dari, Pashto and English. UNEP assisted NEPA to develop and



consult on a National Environmental Action Plan, as required under the Environment Law.

In regard to multilateral environmental agreements, the National Ozone Unit continued to progress towards fulfilling Afghanistan's obligations under the ozone treaties, especially the Montreal Protocol. UNEP, together with MAIL, worked to finalize Afghanistan's Fourth National Report. Afghanistan's National Capacity Needs Self-Assessment for Global Environmental Management (NCSA) and National Adaptation Plan of Action for Climate Change (NAPA) reports were completed and formally submitted in 2009. Finally, UNEP revised a proposal for biodiversity enabling-activity funding from the Global Environment Facility.

Sustainable development



NEPA officials and UNEP staff discussing the environmental impacts of the brick industry during practical field training on EIA.

The UNEP sustainable development programme in Afghanistan focuses on environmental impact assessment (EIA), pollution control, human health, and urban development issues.

During 2009, numerous policies including a National Pollution Control Policy and National Waste Management Policy, and standards including Air Quality, Pollution Control and Vehicle Emission Standards, were developed and translated, and underwent extensive consultation. These policies are expected to be finalized in early 2010. Furthermore, the national package of EIA regulatory instruments (including the EIA National Policy, EIA Regulations, and EIA Administrative Guidelines) was issued in early 2009 and is now in force.

UNEP's efforts also focused on building NEPA's capacity to implement this regulatory framework, which has thus far yielded impressive results. Already in 2009, more than 100 EIA permits were issued in accordance with the EIA Regulations. Initial requirements for the establishment of an EIA Board of Experts were also completed. Training on environmental compliance issues, and training of environmental inspectors, was delivered in Kabul and select provinces, resulting in the noticeable enhancement of NEPA's enforcement capacity over the course of the year.

Air quality was arguably the most prolific sustainable development issue on the Government's agenda in 2009. To address the issue of air quality in Kabul, a committee



NEPA officials and UNEP staff discussing the impacts of incineration practices at a local hospital.

was formed, consisting of Cabinet Ministers and chaired by the President, which made solid progress in 2009. With technical support from UNEP, progress in this area included the development of a concept note on air quality management, development of Air Quality Regulations (under the Environment Law), guidance on air quality monitoring systems used in other countries in the region, and the development of National Ambient Air Quality Standards, accompanied by an explanatory report. UNEP is also procuring a number of mobile devices to test air quality and emissions.

Finally, UNEP also assisted NEPA to apply for funding from the Ministry of Finance for an environmental laboratory, project implementation and related procurement support.

Community-based natural resource management



Using local indigenous technologies, known as Daka, to stabilize river banks at a UNEP CBNRM site in Yawkalang, Bamiyan.

The community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) programme of UNEP is based on the following fundamental principles: firstly, piloting of innovative approaches to the implementation of national policy and legislation for CBNRM, tailored to the geographical and ethnic diversity within the country; secondly, the integration of field experiences and traditional approaches into the national policy and regulatory planning process to ensure that the regulatory framework remains dynamic and responsive to the needs of both the rural population and the natural resource base, and thirdly; to develop an iterative model for CBNRM in Afghanistan that draws on lessons learnt from CBNRM project implementation by UNEP and other implementing agencies in the country.

In 2009, in close cooperation with MAIL, UNEP developed 12 new CBNRM projects in the three provinces of Herat, Badakhshan and Bamiyan. Some of the CBNRM projects in Bamiyan province are in close proximity to the Shah Foladi National Park, to encourage a community-based approach to protected areas management - one of the aims of the proposed Shah Foladi project.

The key objectives for the CBNRM projects, developed in conjunction with MAIL and the respective communities, include: the preservation and rehabilitation of degraded areas in different elevations and regions of the country; ecological restoration of different riverine habitats; creation of livelihood and leadership opportunities for marginalized sectors of Afghan rural society in the



Conserving local wild species of almonds in a UNEP CBNRM project in Badakhshan province.

rehabilitation of their local natural resources; and generation of renewable energy sources. These objectives are underpinned by the ultimate goal of increasing both the capacity of the communities themselves, and MAIL at the national and local level, to adopt an integrated approach to the management of natural resources, so as to conserve ecological integrity whilst maximizing the productivity of the natural resource base to improve local livelihoods.

Simultaneously UNEP, together with MAIL, is developing a programme to address deforestation in four provinces in the eastern forest region (which include activities aimed at controlling timber smuggling and introducing community-based forest management approaches), and a national-scale programme for community-based pasture management starting with the central highlands region.

Protected areas management



UNEP staff assessing the state of the rangeland in the foothills of the proposed Shah Foladi National Park.

Following approval from the Government and UNEP's donors to develop the Shah Foladi mountain area as the programme's flagship protected area, extensive fieldwork was undertaken during the course of the year, combining socio-economic and biophysical resource assessment methodologies. Shah Foladi was selected to pilot a conservation strategy because it represents whole ecosystems rather than isolated units, and therefore provides an ideal opportunity to help build the capacity of local communities in relation to the management, science and resource conservation of their local environment. During 2009, UNEP initiated programmes in environmental education, science, basic infrastructure development and management, while strengthening the capacity of local and national government partners at the heart of the project.

UNEP has ensured that government partners are included at all stages, to help them learn from the process. Park vision and objectives, for example, were identified in close consultation with national as well as local decision-makers. These objectives were combined with infrastructure and community development, strongly linked to UNEP's CBNRM and environmental education components. The Shah Foladi project is showcasing partnerships for conservation – multi-disciplinary, multi-actor approaches, where the needs and the support of the local people and the ecosystems, particularly in the buffer zone regions between the core mountain areas of the park and Bamiyan city, are fundamental to the design of the project.



The proposed Shah Foladi National Park in Bamiyan province.

In relation to protected areas capacity-building in 2009, UNEP continued to provide ongoing administrative and technical support to MAIL and NEPA for the management of nature conservation on a broad scale. With respect to the Environment Law, the finalization of the Protected Areas Procedures provided a clearer legal standing and mandate in regard to both the Government and communities.

As part of its work in protected areas management, UNEP established links with a range of organizations, including the World Commission on Protected Areas and UNESCO World Heritage Convention, to encourage Afghanistan to join the international biodiversity conservation and national parks management networks.

Climate change



Participants in an event to raise awareness of climate change issues in the lead up to the COP15 meeting in Copenhagen.

In response to the recognition that the key impacts of climate change in Afghanistan are likely to include increased conflict over access to fewer natural resources, loss of arable land and livelihoods, large-scale migration, food insecurity on an unprecedented scale, and increased natural disasters, especially floods and droughts, Afghanistan's National Adaptation Plan of Action for Climate Change (NAPA) was submitted to the Secretariat of the Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC) in early 2009. The report identifies the critical impacts of climate change on Afghanistan, and prioritizes recommendations for Afghanistan to adapt to these impacts.

UNEP is working with NEPA and the Global Environment Facility to access USD 5 million to implement a number of pilot climate change adaptation projects. UNEP's engagement with Government counterparts is ongoing to improve its climate change technical capacity, which is a key output of the GEF-funded project to develop Afghanistan's Initial National Communication to the UNFCCC, as is the establishment of a National Climate Change Unit within NEPA. UNEP also worked with NEPA and the Afghanistan delegation to prepare for the much-publicized United Nations Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen (COP15), which included preparation of a country paper, and the delivery of numerous awareness-raising workshops, which were considered a success. Afghanistan also celebrated Climate Change Week during September, which provided a platform to raise awareness of climate change issues through the national media and traditional networks. The



campaign's special focus on Kabul and Bamiyan Universities yielded positive and engaging results.

UNEP has also started working with donors to encourage climate change mainstreaming and climate proofing in key sectors most likely to be affected by climate change, including agriculture and energy.

Environmental education and outreach



Children in Kabul received storybooks and environmentally-friendly cotton bags as part of World Environment Day environmental education activities.

To further the integration of environmental issues into educational curricula, UNEP, together with NEPA and the Ministry of Education, initiated the development of a national strategy and action plan for environmental education with a focus on the introduction of supplementary materials in schools. UNEP developed an environmental storybook as well as educational posters on environmental issues and Islam, community-based natural resource management, waste management and water conservation in English, Dari and Pashto. In parallel, national-level activities in relation to environmental education and outreach were piloted at the provincial and local level in Bamiyan province, including the development of an environmental education strategy for communities in and around the Shah Foladi National Park.

UNEP spearheaded a number of successful awareness-raising initiatives during the course of the year. For World Environment Day on 5 June, UNEP organized a children's painting competition in Bamiyan; the prize-giving was attended by the Governor and senior officials in the province. In Kabul, UNEP initiated a neighbourhood clean-up campaign through the local environment NGO Save the Environment Afghanistan, as well as awareness-raising in local mosques and schools.

UNEP, together with MACCA (mine action), UNESCO and the UN Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA), played an active role in Peace Day on 21 September. The primary activity was the organization of a Peace Trek in Bamiyan province, which took place on 25 September in the proposed Shah Foladi National



Participants in the Peace Day Trek, held in the proposed Shah Foladi National Park.

Park. UNEP also developed campaigns for Ashar (treeplanting) day in March, and Climate Change Week in September.

In addition, UNEP developed an Environment and Islam programme, following the success of the translation into Dari and Pashto and printing of an IUCN paper entitled Environmental Protection in Islam. UNEP also developed awareness-raising brochures containing broad environmental, water and energy conservation tips (available in English, Dari and Pashto). A poster demonstrating easy tips to conserve environmental resources and limit energy consumption on UN compounds in Afghanistan was also developed. Finally, as part of its gender-sensitive approach in the country, UNEP also produced a handbook on Women and Natural Resources in Afghanistan (available in Dari, Pashto and English).

Conflict and natural resource management



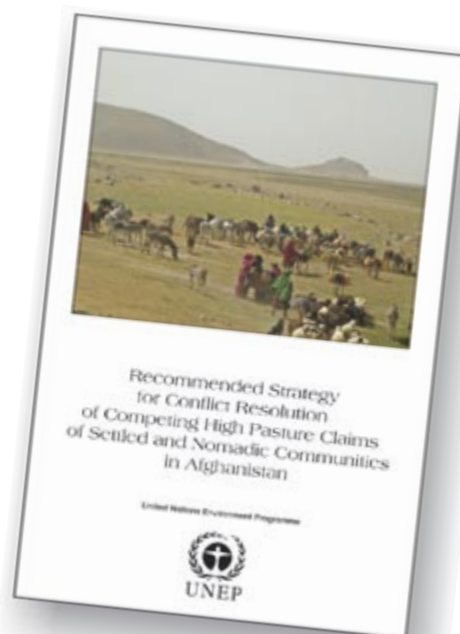
Kuchi family in Nawar district, Ghazni province.

UNEP was requested by the Government of Afghanistan to assist in developing a strategy for resolution of the recent conflicts regarding access to the high altitude summer pastures in the central highlands between local settled people of Hazara ethnicity, and nomadic pastoralists of Pashtun ethnicity. The conflicts have resulted in scores of deaths, large-scale human displacement, ethnic tensions at the local and national levels, and devastation of livestock and property.

Working closely with the relevant political and governmental actors, in 2009 UNEP undertook a detailed analysis of the problem and its causes, and developed a technical roadmap suggesting short, medium and long-term actions to address the problem. The Recommended Strategy for Conflict Resolution of Competing High Pasture Claims of Settled and Nomadic Communities in Afghanistan has been regarded by many as cutting-edge in that it seeks Afghan solutions to Afghan problems, whilst reflecting the latest in international best practice.

The strategy feeds into UNEP's broader work in Afghanistan, including the development of a new community-based rangeland law, the implementation of the national rangeland strategy, and the piloting of various community-based approaches to natural resource management.

The strategy has been widely embraced by key political actors and governmental counterparts. UNEP was subsequently requested to assist in the development of follow-up projects, including conducting a natural resource management



conflict assessment in Afghanistan in spring 2010, and the development of an implementation strategy, led by the Ministry of Agriculture with technical expertise provided by UNEP, which is due to commence in early 2010.



Consultations with affected communities regarding conflicts over access to rangelands, Bamiyan province.

Delivering as one



Clean-up activities in Kabul in cooperation with Kabul Municipality on the occasion of World Environment Day.

The work of the United Nations to improve lives in Afghanistan is carried out by a wide variety of agencies, programmes and cooperating institutions, each with its own mandate and goals. To be effective, these bodies need to operate as parts of a whole. For this reason, UNEP sees its participation in the joint programming of these partners as essential to the ultimate success of its Afghanistan programme.

Following its efforts in the previous year, UNEP played a strong role in the development of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) in Afghanistan 2010-2013 by co-chairing (with FAO) one of the three thematic Working Groups, namely for Sustainable Livelihoods, of which natural resource management is one of the outcomes. Within the context of the Sustainable Livelihoods Working Group, joint programming in selected provinces, starting with the impoverished central highlands province of Dai Kundi, is a key area of focus. In addition to chairing many of the meetings of the Working Group and performing all coordination and secretariat functions, UNEP continued to deliver outputs for the Natural Resources Sub-Working Groups and review their outputs from an environmental perspective.

As part of ongoing efforts to “deliver as one,” UNEP also continued to provide technical expertise to two UN joint programmes in Afghanistan, including SAISEM, an environmental sustainability project jointly implemented by FAO and UNDP, and the Greening Afghanistan Initiative (GAIN).



Students at Kabul University attend a presentation by UNEP on UN Day.

Finally UNEP continued to work and engage with numerous United Nations partners, including FAO, UNOPS, UNDP, UNAMA, MACCA and WFP. Additional important UNEP partners include the PEACE project (funded by USAID, implemented by Texas A&M University), the Wildlife Conservation Society, Ecodit, ICIMOD, Aga Khan Foundation, and Save the Environment Afghanistan.

Adventures and obstacles



One of the protected areas in Tajikistan visited by the UNEP team.

As the recipients of the UNEP Baobab Award for Best Team in 2008, the UNEP Afghanistan staff received a prize of USD 8,000. The team elected to use these funds for training on parks and protected areas.

In January 2009, as part of this training, UNEP staff went on a five-day trip to Tajikistan to visit a national park and witness community-based approaches to protected areas management in action. The trip was considered a great success by those who participated.

In mid-November 2009, following an attack on a guesthouse in Kabul, UNEP international staff were relocated out of Afghanistan for a period of 8 weeks. During this time, UNEP international staff continued to work remotely through their national staff counterparts who remained on the ground. New offices and temporary accommodation meeting the new security restrictions and guidelines were later secured in within the multi-agency UNOCA compound on the outskirts of Kabul.

Despite the ongoing challenges resulting from the security and political situation in the country, the UNEP team demonstrated courage, fortitude, cohesion and adaptability in dealing with these significant changes to their working and living arrangements, and continued to deliver on outputs to the extent possible.



UNEP staff share stories with local community elders living in a national park in Tajikistan.

Looking forward to 2010



In early 2010, UNEP will expand its country operations in the central highlands, relocating five of its Kabul-based staff to Bamiyan province, where a project office has been established. The majority of UNEP's field operations are expected to be conducted from the Bamiyan project office, with a focus on the central highlands region. Despite the ongoing security situation, UNEP will endeavour to continue to implement its activities as planned in 2010, delivering high-quality outputs to its various project beneficiaries. Key upcoming activities per focal area are as follows:

Environmental institutions

With a focus on the development of workplans for central-level divisions and provincial offices of NEPA, training needs to help implement the workplans will be identified and addressed. In parallel, institutional support will be provided to the Protected Areas Division of MAIL. Activities will also focus on developing the technical capacity of environment focal points in sector line ministries, and strengthening inter-ministerial and inter-agency coordination mechanisms.

Environmental law and policy

UNEP efforts are expected to focus on the development of enforcement capacity in regard to Afghanistan's regulatory framework. This will include devising a capacity-building training programme, targeted at Afghanistan's Supreme Court judges, as well as provincial-level training

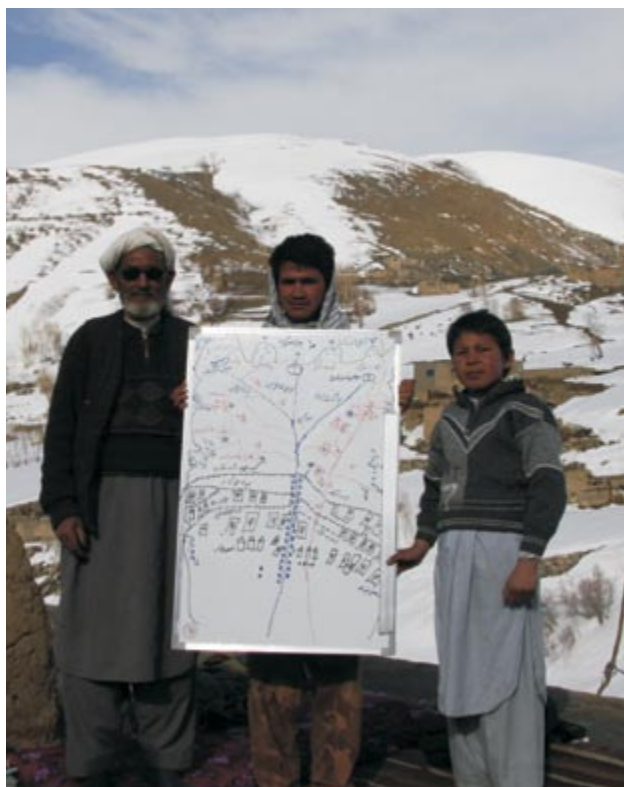
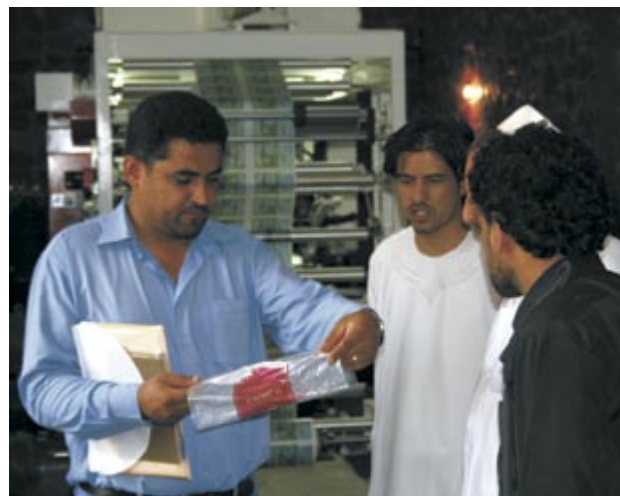


programmes for Government officials. Further work on the Forest and Rangeland Laws will be undertaken (including a national consultation process on the latter law), as well as the development of regulations and guidelines to implement these laws in due course. Finally, capacity-building of civil servants on community-based approaches to natural resource management to enable effective implementation of Afghanistan's new range of natural resource laws will be initiated in 2010.

Sustainable development

Support to the Environmental Assessment and Sustainable Development division of NEPA will be ongoing in the form of weekly training sessions focusing on the use of different EIA

tools and techniques, evaluation of submitted proposals and initiating work in environmental quality monitoring. On the pollution control front, after stakeholder consultation, policies on pollution control and management and waste management, and environmental standards on air quality and vehicle emissions, will be finalized. Additionally, with the expectation that environmental compliance procedures will gain momentum, and with the delivery of further training on environmental inspection for NEPA provincial staff, it is hoped that environmental concerns will be better integrated into development processes.



Community-based natural resource management

Following on from the establishment of 12 CBNRM projects in 2009, UNEP and MAIL will begin working with the selected communities to develop management plans for these existing sites, with a view to improving the community's local natural resources and contributing towards poverty alleviation. Initial field lessons from these 12 sites will be identified and used to develop a further 12 projects to demonstrate that CBNRM is an effective tool to improve the state of Afghanistan's degraded natural resource base and that this approach can benefit resource-dependent communities. As part of this effort, a CBNRM programme cost benefit analysis exercise will be undertaken in the spring, and a number of ongoing research projects are expected to be completed in early 2010.

Protected areas

UNEP will continue to mainstream conservation and protected areas across Government and civil society in 2010, which marks the International Year of Biodiversity. As part of its effort, particular attention will be paid to park systems-planning and the management of such systems to ensure the success of conservation programmes. Protected areas projects will flow

from broad-scale general management and capacity building in MAIL and NEPA, through to progressively more specific strategic planning and training activities and development of infrastructure for the Shah Foladi National Park project. UNEP will also develop a national training plan, introduce technical conservation tools and skills, and engage at the international level with professional conservation framework and networks.



Climate change

Together with GEF, a national climate change programme aimed at increasing resilience and enhancing adaptive capacity to address the climate change risks in the country will be implemented in 2010. UNEP will provide ongoing support to NEPA in the implementation of the project to develop Afghanistan's Initial National Communication to the UNFCCC. Additionally, UNEP will also support NEPA and MAIL in mainstreaming climate change risks into national development plans and develop long-term adaptation strategies for the "high risk" provinces. Finally, under the technical guidance of UNEP in collaboration with NEPA, MAIL, MEW and the National Meteorology Institute, a climate change database will be developed.

Conflict and natural resource management

At the request of MAIL, UNEP will assist MAIL in the implementation of a six-month project aimed at resolving a number of conflicts between Hazara and Kuchi populations in the central highlands regarding access to summer grazing lands. In relation to this activity, UNEP will also provide assistance to help develop and present a five-year donor strategy plan for pasture management in Afghanistan, which will include a conflict resolution component. To complement this work, UNEP will undertake a comprehensive natural resource conflict assessment in Afghanistan in early 2010, to examine key spatial and underlying causes of natural resource conflicts in the country.



Within the UNDAF process, natural resource management and conflict is expected to form a key focus for the UN Country Team (UNCT). As the lead agency for conflict and natural resource management, UNEP will provide expertise to the UNCT to pilot natural resource management conflict resolution activities, initially in the province of Dai Kundi.

Environmental education and outreach

UNEP will continue to focus its efforts on environmental education and awareness-raising. Key activities planned for 2010 with regard to this component include the ongoing training of provincial staff from NEPA, including the development of a number of pilot programmes at the provincial and local levels. Additionally, UNEP will also continue to engage with key stakeholders including the Department of Environment at Kabul University and the national media, including two upcoming environmental journalism workshops.

The UNEP Afghanistan Team in 2009

Name	Title	Nationality
Abdul Hannan Waheed	Senior Translator	Afghan
Abdul Qadeer Karyab	Senior Environmental Law National Programme Officer	Afghan
Abdul Qader Chardiwal	Caretaker	Afghan
Abdul Wali Modaqiq	Assistant Programme Manager	Afghan
Ahmad Khalid Azim	Administrative Officer	Afghan
Ali Ahmad	Driver	Afghan
Andrew Scanlon	Protected Areas Expert	Irish
Assadullah Khairzad	CBNRM/ PA National Programme Officer (Kabul)	Afghan
Belinda Bowling	Afghanistan Programme Manager	South African
Chiranjibi Gautaum	EIA and Pollution Control Expert	Nepalese
Ernie Wijangco	CBNRM Expert	Philippine
Fatemah Shams	Associate Programme Officer	Swiss Afghan
Guido Corno	Environmental Policy and Climate Change Expert	Italian
Hussain Etemadi	EIA/ Pollution Control National Programme Officer	Afghan
M. Ajmal Nikzad	Finance Officer	Afghan
M. Anwar Yaqubi	Driver	Afghan
M. Ismail Nasir	Unarmed guard	Afghan
Mina Faqiri	Cleaner	Afghan
Mohammad Hashim	Unarmed guard	Afghan
Mohammad Latif	Driver	Afghan
Mohammad Sayeed	Driver	Afghan
Noor Raman	Unarmed guard	Afghan
Rafiullah Taeb	Translator	Afghan
Razia Naseri	Translator	Afghan
Sardar Mohammad	Driver and Office Assistant (Bamiyan)	Afghan
Shakeb Ahmad	Office Assistant	Afghan
Soudeh Jamshidian	Environmental Education and Outreach Expert	Iranian
Syed Wafiullah Muslim	Translator	Afghan
Tek Gurung	Programme Officer	Nepalese
Zekria Ahmadi	CBNRM/ PA National Programme Officer (Bamiyan)	Afghan



Acronymns

CBNRM	Community-based natural resource management
COP 15	15th Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC, Copenhagen, December 2009
EC	European Commission
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
GEF	Global Environment Facility
MACCA	Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan
MAIL	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
NEPA	National Environmental Protection Agency
UNAMA	United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change

About UNEP's Disasters and Conflicts Programme

From Kosovo to Afghanistan, Lebanon, Sudan or China, UNEP has responded to crisis situations in more than 25 countries since 1999. As the international community has shifted its focus from post-crisis intervention to crisis prevention, UNEP has expanded its operational range, adding disaster risk reduction and environmental cooperation to its core services of environmental assessment and recovery.

UNEP's Medium Term Strategy (MTS) for 2010-2013 designates "Disasters and Conflicts" as one of the organization's six priority areas of work. This theme will accordingly become fully integrated across the different divisional and regional offices of the organization by 2010, with a transition phase in 2009. The new UNEP Disasters and Conflicts sub-programme is comprised of three operational pillars: post-crisis environmental assessment, post-crisis environmental recovery, and risk reduction. The Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch is tasked with coordinating the theme across UNEP.

For further information on the UNEP Afghanistan programme, please contact:

Belinda Bowling
Afghanistan Programme Manager
Email: belinda.bowling@unep.org
Tel: +93 (0)799 208 721

Wali Modaqiq
Assistant Programme Manager
Email: wali.modaqiq@unep.org
Tel: +93 (0)799 131 618

www.unep.org/conflictsanddisasters/

*UNEP's objective in Afghanistan
is long-term: to create a
truly lasting foundation for
environmental management and
sustainable development. In its
first six years the programme has
surprised many observers by its
record of success and lasting
commitment in the most difficult
of circumstances.*

United Nations Environment Programme
Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch
International Environment House
15 chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva
Switzerland
Tel.: +41 (0)22 917 8530
Fax: +41 (0)22 917 8064
E-mail: postconflict@unep.org

www.unep.org/conflictsanddisasters/

www.unep.org

United Nations Environment Programme
P.O. Box 30552 Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: (254 20) 7621234
Fax: (254 20) 7623927
Email: unep@unep.org
web: www.unep.org

