



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

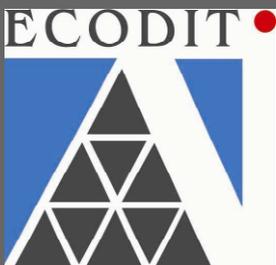
AFGHANISTAN

FY 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

BIODIVERSITY SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR NEPA

COVERING THE PERIOD
1 OCTOBER 2008 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2009

October 2009



This document was produced for the United States Agency for International Development and the Biodiversity Support Program for NEPA (BSP/NEPA).

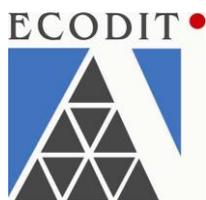


AUTHORITY AND OWNERSHIP

This publication is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the terms of the Prosperity, Livelihoods and Conserving Ecosystems (PLACE) Indefinite Quantity Contract Number EPP-I-02-06-00010-00, Task Order #02 awarded 05 November 2007, entitled Biodiversity Support Program for NEPA (BSP/NEPA).

This Annual Report was completed in partial fulfillment of Clause F.6(c) of the referenced task order. The contents are the responsibility of ECODIT and do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of USAID or the United States Government. This report is the property of USAID and all findings, conclusions and recommendations shall be considered confidential and proprietary.

PREPARED BY:



BIODIVERSITY SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR NEPA (BSP/NEPA)

CREDITS:

The annual progress described in this document is organized according to the Annual Work Plan – 2009 as endorsed by NEPA and approved by USAID.

BIODIVERSITY SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR NEPA IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS:

ECODIT, Inc.
1800 N. Kent Street, Suite 1260
Arlington, VA 22209
USA

Tel: +1-703-841-1883
Fax: +1-703-841-1885
Web: www.ecodit.com

BSP/NEPA office
Kart-e Char
Kabul, Afghanistan

Tel: +93 (0) 777-825-855
Tel: +93 (0) 777-825-840
email: chatch@ecodit.com

With:



Development & Training Services, Inc. (dTS)
1100 N. Glebe Road, Suite 1070
Arlington, VA 22201
USA

Tel: +1-703-465-9388
Fax: +1-703-465-9344
Web: www.onlineDTS.com

FY 2009 ANNUAL REPORT BIODIVERSITY SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR NEPA

COVERING THE PERIOD
1 OCTOBER 2008 – 30 SEPTEMBER, 2009

DISCLAIMER

The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-----------|
| CONTENTS | IV |
| TABLES | IV |
| ACRONYMS..... | V |
| 1. BSP/NEPA OVERVIEW | 1 |
| 1.1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND ON NEPA | 1 |
| 1.2 USAID/AFGHANISTAN SUPPORT TO NEPA | 1 |
| 1.3 BSP/NEPA ACTIVITIES..... | 1 |
| 1.3.1 Biodiversity Attribution Requirements..... | 3 |
| 1.3.2 Gender and Equity Considerations..... | 3 |
| 2. SUMMARY OF PROGRESS IN 2009..... | 4 |
| 2.1 SUMMARY PROGRESS TOWARD OAG TARGETS | 4 |
| 2.2 INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING | 5 |
| 2.3 TASK #1: INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING | 6 |
| Subtask 1.1: Strengthen NEPA environmental assessment capabilities | 6 |
| Subtask 1.2: Assist in developing management/administrative systems and funding mechanisms | 7 |
| Subtask 1.3: Assist NEPA to develop procedures and rules..... | 7 |
| Subtask 1.4: Assist NEPA to strengthen “green environment” technical oversight office..... | 7 |
| Subtask 1.5: Develop and deliver short training courses, workshops, and regional study tours..... | 8 |
| 2.4 TASK #2: INTEGRATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES INTO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS..... | 10 |
| Subtask 2.1: Strengthen integration of environment actions in development programs | 10 |
| Subtask 2.2: Provide technical assistance to enhance environmental review of development plans | 10 |
| 2.5 TASK #3: PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH..... | 11 |
| Subtask 3.1: Strengthen information resource center at NEPA | 11 |
| Subtask 3.2: Support the production of publications and multi-media outreach | 12 |
| Subtask 3.3: Work with NEPA to improve environmental education | 12 |
| Subtask 3.4: Train NEPA and other stakeholders on environmental public education and outreach | 13 |
| 2.6 TASK #4: ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION AND FINANCING | 13 |
| Subtask 4.1: Regulation..... | 13 |
| Subtask 4.2: Financing..... | 14 |
| 2.7 TASK #5: COMMUNITY-BASED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT..... | 14 |
| Subtask 5.1: Award grants and build NGO capacity | 14 |
| Subtask 5.2: Monitor grant implementation and build NEPA capacity | 17 |
| ANNEX A - PERFORMANCE DASHBOARD..... | 18 |
| ANNEX B – PERFORMANCE MONITORING PLAN..... | 20 |
| ANNEX C - LEVEL OF EFFORT REPORT | 24 |
| ANNEX D - SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES REPORT | 26 |

TABLES

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Table 1: BSP/NEPA Revised Tasks and Subtasks | 2 |
| Table 2: Progress Towards LOP Strategic Objective #5 Indicators through FY 2009 | 4 |
| Table 3: Consultancies and Studies in FY 2009..... | 6 |
| Table 4: Workshops and Seminars for Officers in FY 2009..... | 8 |
| Table 5: Training for Community Members in FY 2009 | 9 |
| Table 6: Progress Implementing CBRM Grants Program | 15 |
| Table 7: CBRM Grants Awarded through FY 2009 | 15 |

ACRONYMS

Abbreviations and acronyms have been kept to a minimum in the text of this document. Where abbreviations or acronyms have been used, they are accompanied by their full expression the first time they appear, unless they are commonly used and generally understood abbreviations such as NGO, kg. *etc.* However, in order to facilitate understanding of the acronyms used, a complete list is included here.

| | |
|----------|---|
| ACC | Afghan Conservation Corps |
| AIMS | Afghanistan Information Management Service |
| ANDS | Afghanistan National Development Strategy |
| BAPAC | Band-e Amir Protected Area Committee |
| BSP/NEPA | Biodiversity Support Program for National Environmental Protection Agency |
| CBNRM | Community-Based Natural Resources Management |
| CBRM | Community-Based Resources Management |
| CEC | Committee for Environmental Coordination (Islamic Republic of Afghanistan) |
| CPFF | Cost Plus Fixed Fee |
| dTS | Development & Training Services, Inc. |
| EA | Environmental Assessment |
| EIA | Environmental Impact Assessment |
| FAO | Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations |
| FY | Fiscal Year |
| GEF | Global Environment Facility |
| GIS | Geographical Information Systems |
| GPS | Global Positioning System |
| HO | Home Office |
| IEC | Information, Education & Communication |
| IR | Intermediate Result |
| IRoA | Islamic Republic of Afghanistan |
| ICT | Information and Communication Technology |
| IIRR | International Institute for Rural Reconstruction, Kenya |
| IT | Information Technology |
| IUCN | World Conservation Union |
| LOE | Level of Effort |
| LOP | Life of Project |
| LTTA | Long-term Technical Assistance |
| M&E | Monitoring and Evaluation |
| MoAIL | Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (Islamic Republic of Afghanistan) |
| MIS | Management Information System |
| MOA | Memorandum of Agreement |
| MOE | Ministry of Education |
| NEPA | National Environmental Protection Agency (Islamic Republic of Afghanistan) |

| | |
|---------|--|
| NGO(s) | Nongovernmental Organization(s) |
| NRM | Natural Resource Management |
| OAG | Office of Agriculture, USAID/Afghanistan |
| PA(s) | Protected Area(s) |
| PLACE | Prosperity, Livelihoods and Conserving Ecosystems (Indefinite Quantity Contract) |
| PMP | Performance Monitoring Plan |
| PoWPA | Programme of Work – Protected Areas (UNDP/GEF-funded project of NEPA & WCS) |
| PRT | Provincial Rehabilitation Team [US Embassy] |
| Q | Quarter |
| RECOFTC | Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific, Thailand |
| REECS | Resources, Environment and Economics Center for Studies, Inc., Philippines |
| SO | Strategic Objective |
| STTA | Short-term Technical Assistance |
| TBD | To be determined |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| UNEP | United Nations Environment Programme |
| UNOPS | United Nations Office for Project Services |
| USAID | United States Agency for International Development |
| USDA | United States Department of Agriculture |
| USG | United States Government |
| WCS | Wildlife Conservation Society |
| YTD | Year to Date |

1. BSP/NEPA OVERVIEW

This is the 2nd Annual Report on the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Afghanistan's Biodiversity Support Program for NEPA (BSP/NEPA). The Annual Report provides background on the project (Section 1) and a summary of FY 2009 activities (Section 2). Although it follows the same outline as the quarterly reports, it emphasizes summarized information for the year.

1.1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND ON NEPA

Prior to the creation of NEPA, environment functions were the responsibility of the Ministry of Irrigation, Water Resources, and Environment (MIWRE). The creation of a new environment agency was identified in the National Development Budget 1382/3 (2003/4) as one of the highest priorities for public investment in the environment sector. NEPA was established in Saur 1384 (May 2005) as an independent agency of the government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan with considerable support from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The newly formed National Environmental Protection Agency's Vision and Mission was:

To protect the environmental integrity of Afghanistan and support sustainable development of Afghanistan's natural resources through the provision of effective environmental guidance and management services.

To accomplish this Mission, NEPA was assigned four key responsibilities:

1. Coordinate **environmental affairs** at international, national and sub-national level.
2. Develop and implement **environmental law¹, policies and strategies** in order to integrate environmental issues and sustainable development approaches into the legal and regulatory frameworks of Afghanistan.
3. Provide **environmental management services** in the areas of environmental impact assessment, air and water quality, waste management, pollution control and permitting of activities that impact the environment.
4. Provide **communication and outreach** for environmental information to ensure awareness of the environment specifically for the needs of Afghanistan.

1.2 USAID/AFGHANISTAN SUPPORT TO NEPA

USAID/Afghanistan is providing assistance to the government and people of Afghanistan in the reconstruction of their country following more than twenty years of war. Because of Afghanistan's dependence on its natural resource base for recovery and stability, USAID has emphasized environmental conservation as theme in its development efforts in Afghanistan.

The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, through NEPA, is beginning to focus on integrating environmental management systems and procedures into the country's development programs. To assist in this effort, USAID through the BSP/NEPA project supports and facilitates the implementation of environmental policy and laws, and their associated rules and procedures, so they directly strengthen the conservation and management of the country's renewable natural resources.

1.3 BSP/NEPA ACTIVITIES

The USAID BSP/NEPA project was designed to develop NEPA's capacity to oversee and facilitate sustainable management of the country's natural resources. Collaborating and coordinating with

¹ Environmental Law, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Official Gazette No. 912, dated 25 January 2007.

local and international agencies and organizations, BSP/NEPA provides NEPA support and technical assistance to accomplish the following:

1. Effectively enforce environmental laws through formulating and implementing regulations;
2. Provide national coordinator of environment programs by coordinating environment-related activities funded by different organizations and the government;
3. Develop and implement public education and outreach programs on the environment; and
4. Encourage community based resource management through a small grant program that also strengthens the capability of NEPA to coordinate and monitor environment programs.

Project activities associated with the above strategic objectives are creating a stronger, more competent and credible NEPA with a foundation of human, financial, and technical resources. Thus, BSP/NEPA is fundamentally an institutional strengthening project.

The Statement of Work (section C) in ECODIT’s contract defined the BSP/NEPA activities. During FY 2008 comments, suggestions for improvement, and extended consultations with NEPA, USAID, ECODIT, and collaborating partners resulted in refinements to the original Tasks and Subtasks. These refinements were endorsed by NEPA and approved by USAID. The following five Tasks and 15 Subtasks provided the revised framework for FY 2009 activities.

Table 1: BSP/NEPA Revised Tasks and Subtasks

| TASKS | SUBTASKS |
|---|---|
| Task #1 Institutional Strengthening | |
| Subtask 1.1) | Strengthen NEPA environmental assessment capabilities |
| Subtask 1.2) | Assist in developing management and administrative systems and funding mechanisms |
| Subtask 1.3) | Assist NEPA to develop procedures and rules required to fulfill its mandate |
| Subtask 1.4) | Assist NEPA in strengthening its “green environment” technical oversight office |
| Subtask 1.5) | Develop and deliver short training courses, workshops, and regional study tours |
| Task #2 Integration of Environmental Issues into National Development Programs | |
| Subtask 2.1) | Strengthening integration of environmental actions in development programs |
| Subtask 2.2) | Provide technical assistance to enhance environmental review of development plans |
| Task #3 Public Outreach and Education | |
| Subtask 3.1) | Strengthen information resource center at NEPA |
| Subtask 3.2) | Support the production of publications and multi-media outreach |
| Subtask 3.3) | Work with NEPA to improve environmental education |
| Subtask 3.4) | Train NEPA and other stakeholders on environmental public education and outreach |
| Task #4 Environmental Regulation and Financing | |
| Subtask 4.1) | Regulation |
| Subtask 4.2) | Financing |
| Task #5 Community-based Resource Management | |
| Subtask 5.1) | Award grants and build NGO capacity |
| Subtask 5.2) | Monitor grant implementation and build NEPA capacity |

Each of these tasks and subtasks has defined deliverables and targets, which are summarized in Annex A: BSP/NEPA Performance Monitoring Plan. Those desiring more detail about the background and development of BSP/NEPA activities are referred to the Annual Work Plan – 2009².

² Available from the ECODIT offices listed inside the front cover of this report.

1.3.1 BIODIVERSITY ATTRIBUTION REQUIREMENTS

All activities of the Biodiversity Support Program for NEPA must be **attributable** to biodiversity conservation, as part of the regulatory compliance associated with USAID's funding requirements. The BSP/NEPA team is required to ensure that 100 percent of task order activities (and funding) meets the biodiversity attribution requirements including that approximately 30 percent of activities (and funding) affects forested ecosystems.

1.3.2 GENDER AND EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS

Rural households in Afghanistan, many of which are headed by women, depend on forests for fuel wood, fodder and water and on other natural resources to sustain their livelihoods and meet their basic needs. The BSP/NEPA project assists NEPA in increasing opportunities for women and disadvantaged groups to access and benefit, in a sustainable way, from improved natural resource management and biodiversity conservation.

During 2009, the BSP/NEPA program continued to encourage and support NEPA in mainstreaming gender and equity considerations into all aspects of its work as proposed in the gender and equity actions plans implemented in FY 2008. In addition BSP/NEPA identified and supported community-based NGOs that were committed to increasing natural resource management opportunities for women and the poor through the CBRM grants program. These activities emphasize important roles that women play in the sustainable use and management of biodiversity and natural resources.

2. SUMMARY OF PROGRESS IN 2009

This section is a summary of progress achieved during the second year of BSP/NEPA implementation. Without repeating information contained in quarterly progress reports, the most important achievements of 2009 are presented in this section, organized by Task and Subtask as outlined in Table 1 above, to provide an executive overview of BSP/NEPA activities and accomplishments.

Annexes that follow this chapter provide (A) a Performance Dashboard of key project inputs, (B) the M&E Plan, (C) a report on the Level of Effort expended by labor category, and (D) a summary of actual versus budgeted expenditures by budget category.

2.1 SUMMARY PROGRESS TOWARD OAG TARGETS

Beginning with the first quarter of FY 2009, BSP/NEPA implemented new harmonized reporting procedures established by the USAID/Afghanistan Office of Agriculture (OAG). BSP/NEPA falls within USAID/Afghanistan's Strategic Objective #05: A Thriving Licit Economy Led by the Private Sector, and closely linked Intermediate Result #5.1: Accelerated Growth in the Rural Economy. Six indicators under this Intermediate Result pertain to activities carried out by BSP/NEPA. These are reported below in Table 2.

Table 2: Progress Towards LOP Strategic Objective #5 Indicators through FY 2009

| INDICATOR | FY 08 ACTUAL | FY 09 ACTUAL | ACTUAL AS OF 30 SEP 09 | LIFE-OF- PROJECT ³ TARGET | VARIANCE | GENDER (ACTUAL AS OF 30 SEP 09) | PROVINCIAL BREAKDOWN ⁴ (ACTUAL AS OF 30 SEP 09) |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|------------------------------|--|---|--|---|
| Indicator 1 – # of officers trained in natural resource management | 368 | 332 | 700 | 1,000 | Training is occurring as expected | 594 men 106 women (18%) | C: 521 N: 54 W: 25 S: 13 E: 87 |
| Indicator 2 – # of community members trained in natural resource management | 163 | 1,435 | 1,598 | 3,000 | All grants awarded 4th Qtr 2009. Training is on schedule. | 492 men 1,106 women (69%) | C: 35 N: 68 W: 365 S: 21 E: 1109 |
| Indicator 3 - # Afghan professional staff employ- ed on project and in grants | 18 | 84 | 88 | 100 | All grants awarded 4th Qtr 2009. Staffing is on schedule. | 68 men 20 women (23%) | C: 28 N: 23 W: 9 S: 0 E: 28 |
| Indicator 4 - # of house holds that have sustained enhanced incomes | n/a | 64 | 64 | 325 | All grants awarded 4th Qtr 2009. Improved incomes have begun. | n/a | C: 0 N: 15 W: 29 S: 0 E: 20 |

³ From November 2007 through June 2010

⁴ As defined by USAID Afghanistan.

| INDICATOR | FY 08 ACTUAL | FY 09 ACTUAL | ACTUAL AS OF 30 SEP 09 | LIFE-OF-PROJECT ³ TARGET | VARIANCE | GENDER (ACTUAL AS OF 30 SEP 09) | PROVINCIAL BREAKDOWN ⁴ (ACTUAL AS OF 30 SEP 09) |
|--|--------------|--------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|
| Indicator 5 - # of hectares treated with improved land management practices | n/a | 56 | 56 | 350 | All grants awarded 4 th Qtr 2009. Improved treatments begun. | n/a | C: 0 N: 0 W: 25 S: 0 E: 31 |
| Indicator 6 - # of hectares under formal natural resource management plans | n/a | 0 | 0 | 20,442 | All grants awarded 4 th Qtr 2009. Improved hectares in 6+ mo. | n/a | C: 0 N: 0 W: 0 S: 0 E: 0 |

2.2 INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING

During FY 2009 two major changes occurred on ECODIT's long-term technical staff that supports BSP/NEPA. In December 2008 a long-term capacity building specialist (Offie Bernardino) was added to the project to strengthen the planning and execution of its short- and long-term training programs, and to facilitate collaborative internal and external capacity building efforts to integrate environmental issues into national and provincial development planning programs. In March 2009, a new chief of party (Charles Hatch) joined the project replacing Todd Johnson. This change sustained the project's experienced management and provided expertise in natural resources management and environmental education.

In August, the project's long-term organizational strengthening specialist completed her first year on the project. During her first year she strengthened the management of training programs that were contracted, and successfully initiated the community-based resource management (CBRM) competitive grants program. Twelve grants ranging in value from \$50,000 to \$100,000 were awarded to nine international NGOs with Afghan community-based partners and three were awarded to Afghan NGOs.

Between July and September 2009, the seven Afghan long-term professional staff that NEPA and ECODIT jointly recruited, and that ECODIT hired and placed in NEPA successfully completed their first year of employment on the project. These individuals were placed in the Division of Natural Heritage Protection (1 man), the Division of Policy, Research and Information (3 men and 1 woman), and the Division of Human Resources (2 women). All of these individuals are being incorporated into NEPA's programs, are providing NEPA specialized technical expertise, and are expected to be incorporated into formal government positions at the conclusion of the BSP/NEPA project.

During the year NEPA has emphasized collaboration with government ministries and agencies to strengthen implementation of its environmental programs. Significant effort was placed on coordinating BSP/NEPA activities with NEPA's other international and local partners. Major partners during FY 2009 included the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Development Programme, Wildlife Conservation Society, Food and Agriculture Organization, and other non-profit organizations that help NEPA implement its responsibilities under the Environmental Law.

Short-term technical assistance was used to implement selected BSP/NEPA activities. The following table lists the short-term technical assistance that was utilized by the BSP/NEPA project during FY 2009.

Table 3: Consultancies and Studies in FY 2009

| ORGANIZATION | FOCUS OF CONSULTANCY OR STUDY |
|--|--|
| AFIR, Afghanistan | Developed guidelines and delivered five training sessions on their use. The training identified ways to construct guest houses and shops in the bazaar at Band-e-Amir in an environmentally appropriate manner [Oct 08 through Jul 09] |
| Peter Bussian (dTS) | Conducted training workshops on the Information, Education and Communication Strategy he developed during FY 2008 [Nov 08] |
| Resources, Environment and Economics Center for Studies, Inc. (REECS), Philippines | Delivered a 9-week course in the Philippines on Environmental Protection and Management [Nov 08 through Feb 09] |
| Wolfgang Pittroff (ECODIT) | Prepared a preliminary analysis of the flora of Afghanistan [Jan through Mar 09] |
| International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR), Kenya | Delivered a short-course in Afghanistan on Participatory Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation [Feb 09] |
| Charles Hatch (ECODIT) | Prepared an analysis of the flora of Afghanistan for the Programme of Work for Protected Areas (PoWPA) report titled Identifying Priority Zones for a Protected Area Network in Afghanistan [Apr through Jul 09] |
| Richard Salter (ECODIT) | Completed two of four missions to facilitate the development of a National Biodiversity Strategy for Afghanistan [Apr through Sep 09] |
| Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific (RECOFTC), Thailand | Delivered a short-course in Afghanistan on Community Forestry [May 09] |
| Barry Spergal, Marlon Flores and Erin Hannan (ECODIT) | Presented international examples and facilitated a workshop to develop a policy to formally enable community benefit sharing in Afghanistan [Aug 09] |
| Hyder Akbar (ECODIT) | Conducted a study to evaluate timber harvesting in eastern Afghanistan [Aug through Sep 09] |
| Strategic Impact Consulting, Afghanistan | Delivered a short-course in Afghanistan on Proposal Writing [Aug through Sep 09] |
| Mark Dripchak (dTS) | Initiated first of three missions to review and assess community-based resource management in Afghanistan [Sep 09] |

2.3 TASK #1: INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

As indicated under section 1.3 above, the fundamental goal of BSP/NEPA is to support NEPA in implementing the Environment Law (Chapter One, Article 3, Implementing Agency). Five activities were designed to institutionally strengthen NEPA: 1) enhance NEPA's environmental assessment capabilities; 2) develop management/administrative systems and financing mechanisms; 3) develop procedures and rules; 4) establish a "green environment" technical oversight office; and 5) develop and deliver short training courses, workshops, and regional study tours. Progress on these activities during this reporting period is detailed below.

SUBTASK 1.1: STRENGTHEN NEPA ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CAPABILITIES

This subtask assists NEPA Environmental Assessment and Sustainable Development Division's ability to implement EIA reviews as detailed in Chapter Three, Article 14 through Article 22 of the Environment Law.

In FY 2008 BSP/NEPA provided introductory training on EIA utilizing draft rules and procedures. During the second half of FY 2009 that introductory course material was revised and three 5-day EIA training sessions have been scheduled for NEPA's central and provincial staff during the first quarter of

2010. In addition an advanced EIA course was developed for individuals who have had previously EIA training. The advanced course is scheduled for delivery in Kabul the first quarter of 2010. See additional context for this EIA training in Subtask 4.1.

Spatial analysis can be an important component of many environmental assessments. NEPA's GIS unit is now preparing maps displaying various environmental conditions throughout Afghanistan. A GIS Users Working Group was formed to facilitate the sharing of GIS datasets between government agencies and NGOs and its members have been providing technical support to each other. The Environmental Assessment and Sustainable Development Division of NEPA used the GIS unit to prepare a map the fuel stations and drinking water wells in Kabul as part of the development of a longer-term water strategy [see Subtask 3.1].

SUBTASK 1.2: ASSIST IN DEVELOPING MANAGEMENT/ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEMS AND FUNDING MECHANISMS

This subtask assists NEPA in internally managing information, including its ability to properly account for funds.

BSP/NEPA assisted NEPA in designing, procuring and implementing IT and GIS infrastructure in its central office. Assistance was also provided to formalize and institutionalize document custody and review procedures for Screening Reports, applications for Certificates of Environmental Compliance, EIA reports, and other document control processes required for efficient operation of the EIA unit.

A workshop on proposal writing was delivered to 24 NEPA officers and partners. This workshop developed a core group of NEPA staff capable of preparing proposals to seek funding from external groups and organizations.

BSP/NEPA continues to collaborate with UNEP and other NEPA international partners to develop a coordinated plan to identify and address critical gaps in skills of NEPA staff both centrally and in provincial offices. This collaboration will guide the development of the BSP/NEPA Work Plan for 2010.

SUBTASK 1.3: ASSIST NEPA TO DEVELOP PROCEDURES AND RULES

This subtask assists NEPA in developing clear guidelines, rules and procedures that other Ministries, private sector and community groups can use to implement environmental regulations, and in disseminating materials to entities doing business with NEPA.

Throughout FY 2009 NEPA was engaged in an internal process of identifying, prioritizing and implementing procedures that need to be disseminated, and determining the appropriate types of documents that need to be used to effectively disseminate the information. As these determinations are made, NEPA disseminates the information.

SUBTASK 1.4: ASSIST NEPA TO STRENGTHEN "GREEN ENVIRONMENT" TECHNICAL OVERSIGHT OFFICE

This subtask assists NEPA in strengthening its oversight of the environmental management of renewable natural resources, including forest, fish, wildlife, and water resources. This includes but is not limited to considerations related to the management of natural areas, and mitigating the effects of development and use on natural areas.

The combined flora, fauna and ecosystem GAP analysis, undertaken through the Program of Work for Protected Areas (PoWPA) project, was submitted to NEPA at the end of FY 2009. BSP/NEPA prepared the plant-based assessment. This assessment complemented mammalian, avian and ecoregions assessments that were conducted by WCS and it was used by WCS in the GAP analysis. This combined effort contributes towards the development of a national protected areas system plan for Afghanistan.

Four NEPA officers in the Natural Heritage Protection Division received training in IUCN Red Listing procedures during a 3-day workshop held in New Delhi, India. The workshop emphasized the listing of endangered and threatened wildlife species.

An international consultant completed his first two of four missions to facilitate the development of a National Biodiversity Strategy in collaboration with NEPA's Division for Natural Heritage Protection. During these missions a process was developed to prepare the National Biodiversity Strategy, identification of threats and actions to address the threats was undertaken, and preparation for provincial consultations was completed. The international consultant's third mission began at the very end of this period and the first provincial consultation was held in Bamyan.

SUBTASK 1.5: DEVELOP AND DELIVER SHORT TRAINING COURSES, WORKSHOPS, AND REGIONAL STUDY TOURS

This subtask identifies, organizes, and delivers technical skills-oriented short courses as needed on environmental assessment, biodiversity conservation, ecotourism, and the planning and management of protected areas, watersheds, wetlands, and other ecosystems where conservation and sustainable use are priorities. In the 2009 annual work plan, all capacity building activities and events held domestically or internationally are combined into this subtask. It also includes regional study tours.

Table 4 summarizes the workshops, training programs and seminars that were arranged by BSP/NEPA, and attended by NEPA and other government officers and by professional staff of NEPA's implementing partners during FY 2009. The regions are categorized according to USAID criteria.

Table 4: Workshops and Seminars for Officers in FY 2009

| WORKSHOP TITLE | DATE(S) HELD | | VENUE (REGION) | # OF PARTICIPANTS | |
|---|--------------|-----------|-----------------|-------------------|--------|
| | START DATE | END DATE | | MALE | FEMALE |
| Information, Education and Communication Training Workshop | 2 Nov 08 | 5 Nov 08 | Kabul (Central) | 21 | 2 |
| Conference on the Environment | 3 Nov 08 | 14 Nov 08 | Istanbul | 1 | 0 |
| Information, Education and Communication Training Workshop | 9 Nov 08 | 12 Nov 08 | Mazar (North) | 15 | 1 |
| Information, Education and Communication Training Workshop | 20 Nov 08 | 23 Nov 08 | Kabul (Central) | 16 | 0 |
| Environmental Protection and Management Study Program | 15 Nov 08 | 12 Feb 09 | Philippines | 4 | 1 |
| NEPA Annual Work Plan Preparation Workshop | 11 Feb 09 | 12 Feb 09 | Kabul (Central) | 53 | 10 |
| Participatory Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Training Workshop | 22 Feb 09 | 5 Mar 09 | Kabul (Central) | 25 | 4 |
| Community Forestry Training Workshop | 3 May 09 | 14 May 09 | Mazar (North) | 31 | 0 |
| National Biodiversity Strategy Seminar for Partners | 25 May 09 | 25 May 09 | Kabul (Central) | 54 | 5 |
| Islam and the Environment Workshop | 27 Jun 09 | 28 Jun 09 | Kabul (Central) | 32 | 0 |
| Community Benefit Sharing Workshop | 2 Aug 09 | 3 Aug 09 | Dubai | 5 | 0 |
| Proposal Writing Workshop | 1 Aug 09 | 12 Sep 09 | Kabul (Central) | 23 | 4 |
| IUCN Red Listing Workshop | 25 Sep 09 | 28 Sep 09 | New Delhi | 4 | 0 |
| National Biodiversity Strategy Consultation Workshop | 30 Sep 09 | 30 Sep 09 | Bamyan (East) | 35 | 3 |

Table 5 summarizes training sessions and seminars that were sponsored by BSP/NEPA, and attended by public, private and non-profit members during FY 2009. Many of the trainings were conducted for community members and leaders by professional staff of NGOs that received CBRM grants under the project. When officers and the public attended the same workshop, the number of participants in Table 5 is in addition to the number of participants shown in Table 4. The regions are categorized according to USAID criteria.

Table 5: Training for Community Members in FY 2009

| WORKSHOP TITLE | DATE(S) HELD | | VENUE (REGION) | # OF PARTICIPANTS | |
|--|--------------|-----------|-------------------|-------------------|--------|
| | START DATE | END DATE | | MALE | FEMALE |
| Training session #2 on the use of environmentally appropriate construction guidelines in Band-e-Amir | 19 Oct 08 | 24 Oct 08 | Bamyan (East) | 13 | 0 |
| Seminar on NEPA's CBRM Grants Program for grantees | 20 Oct 08 | 20 Oct 08 | Kabul (Central) | 23 | 7 |
| Training session #3 on the use of environmentally appropriate construction guidelines in Band-e-Amir | 6 Nov 08 | 9 Nov 08 | Bamyan (East) | 15 | 0 |
| Training in planning watershed restoration activities [CBRM grant] | Mar 09 | Apr 09 | Herat (West) | 8 | 0 |
| Training of community wildlife rangers [CBRM grant] | Mar 09 | May 09 | Badakshan (North) | 15 | 0 |
| Training in planning watershed restoration activities [CBRM grant] | Apr 09 | May 09 | Bamyan (East) | 16 | 0 |
| Training of trainers in Agro-Silvo-Pastoral management practices [CBRM grant] | Apr 09 | May 09 | Parwan (East) | 0 | 30 |
| National Biodiversity Strategy Seminar for Partners [also attended by officers – See Table 4] | 25 May 09 | 25 May 09 | Kabul (Central) | 21 | 4 |
| Training in watershed restoration techniques [CBRM grant] | May 09 | Aug 09 | Herat (West) | 136 | 200 |
| Training session #4 on the use of environmentally appropriate construction guidelines in Band-e-Amir | 5 Jun 09 | 10 Jun 09 | Bamyan (East) | 15 | 0 |
| Training session #5 on the use of environmentally appropriate construction guidelines in Band-e-Amir | 24 Jun 09 | 29 Jun 09 | Bamyan (East) | 15 | 0 |
| Training in watershed restoration techniques [CBRM grant] | Jun 09 | Aug 09 | Bamyan (East) | 35 | 65 |
| Training in Agro-Silvo-Pastoral management practices [CBRM grant] | Jun 09 | Aug 09 | Parwan (East) | 0 | 776 |
| Training in planning pistachio woodland restoration activities [CBRM grant] | Aug 09 | Sep 09 | Badakshan (North) | 12 | 0 |
| National Biodiversity Strategy Consultation Workshop [also attended by officers – See Table 4] | 30 Sep 09 | 30 Sep 09 | Bamyan (East) | 21 | 1 |

Personnel from NEPA and MoAIL practice using resource mapping during a field exercise associated with the community forestry training implemented by the Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific (RECOFTC) in Joi Jadid Village, Kaldal District, Balkh Province. [Photo by R. Triraganon]



Women participants from NEPA and MoAIL completing a field exercise associated with the participatory planning, monitoring and evaluation training implemented by the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR). [Photo by O. Pablo]



2.4 TASK #2: INTEGRATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES INTO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

One of the legislated roles of NEPA in the Environment Law⁵ is to integrate environmental issues into national development programs. This is partially achieved through NEPA's participation in the Committee for Environmental Coordination, National Environmental Advisory Council, and sub-national environmental advisory councils established under the Environment Law (Chapter Two, Article 10 through Article 12). BSP/NEPA provides technical assistance to NEPA to strengthen these existing institutional frameworks, and to relevant ministries to implement their responsibilities under Chapter Three, Article 23, Integrating Environmental Issues into Development Planning, of the Environmental Law.

Two activities were designed to help NEPA incorporate environmental issues into national development programs: 1) strengthen NEPA's integration of environmental issues into development programs; and 2) provide NEPA technical assistance for environmental integration activities.

SUBTASK 2.1: STRENGTHEN INTEGRATION OF ENVIRONMENT ACTIONS IN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

This subtask assists NEPA in identifying specific activities that are needed to integrate environmental issues into development planning at national and sub-national levels, and supports ways NEPA can address those activities. This includes facilitating discussions among government officials, international donors, NGOs, private sector, and other interested parties to inform these partners of the legal requirement associated with the integration of environmental issues into development plans.

During FY 2009 participated as an official observer in all regular monthly meetings of the Committee for Environmental Coordination. This forum verifies and monitors environmental integration across relevant ministries, agencies, and support organizations.

During FY 2009 participated in coordination meetings organized by UNEP, NEPA and MoAIL to facilitate communications between NEPA's implementing partners and increase the effective use of their resources;

Attended meetings that facilitated coordination between the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Justice, MoAIL and NEPA to formulate a benefit sharing policy focused at communities in and around protected and natural resource areas (Subtask 4.2).

SUBTASK 2.2: PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO ENHANCE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENT PLANS

This subtask provides technical assistance to address the specific ecological, social and economic implications of various environmental planning and management decisions. The objective is to achieve a

⁵ Chapter Three, Article 23, Integrating Environmental Issues into Development Planning.

balance between conservation, development, and political considerations so that the review of development plans by NEPA facilitates the implementation of national programs.

During FY 2008, BSP/NEPA in collaboration with the Division of Natural Heritage Protection and the Wildlife Conservation Society engaged an architectural planning firm to produce an environmentally appropriate design for the bazaar in Band-e-Amir National Park. This firm was also contracted to develop guidelines for the environmental design of local guesthouses and shops, and train builders in their use.

During FY 2009, BSP/NEPA sponsored five training sessions to assist local guesthouse and shop owners fully implement the “Guidelines for Environmental Design” in the new bazaar in Band-e-Amir National Park. These guidelines are being used as new facilities are developed in the bazaar area of Band-e-Amir National Park [*Photo by AFIR*]. This activity was done in collaboration with Band-e-Amir Protected Area Committee (BAPAC).



2.5 TASK #3: PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Efforts to improve public outreach on environmental issues were identified as a high priority in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS). Chapter Seven (Environmental Information, Education and Training, and Research) of the Environment Law provides NEPA a mandate to prepare and carry out public awareness campaigns to inform and educate the public about the value of natural resources and ways they might sustainably use and conserve them.

Four activities were designed to develop and implement a public education and outreach program for NEPA: 1) strengthen the information resource center at NEPA; 2) support the production of publications and multi-media outreach; 3) support activities to improve environmental education; and 4) train NEPA and other stakeholders in environmental outreach methodologies.

SUBTASK 3.1: STRENGTHEN INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER AT NEPA

This subtask assists NEPA in implementing an information database as detailed in Chapter Seven, Article 64(2) Information, of the Environment Law. In the 2009 Annual Work Plan, the focus of this subtask was redefined to develop indicators of environmental health, including the geo-referencing of collected data.

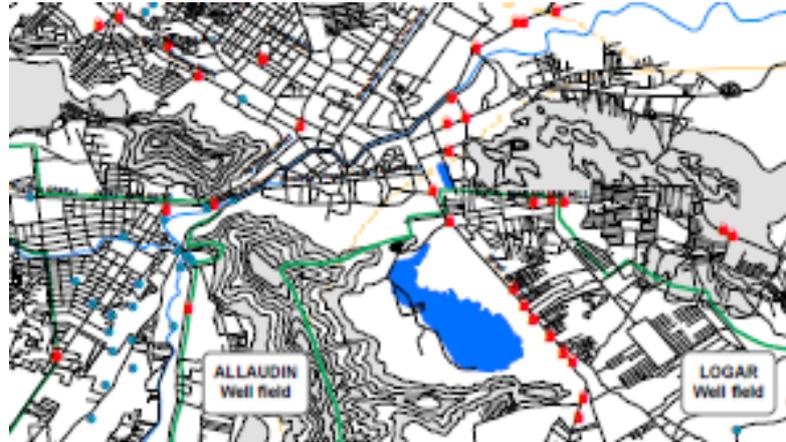
NEPA has identified needs for technical and managerial databases. The latter would allow NEPA to more efficiently communicate with its provincial offices and more effectively manage its financial and human resources. NEPA and AIMS have had several meetings to explore how they might formally collaborate to develop a management information system (MIS) for NEPA.

NEPA's technical database needs place importance on developing a set of key environmental indicators as part of its database. Selection of a specialist to assist NEPA in identifying key environmental health indicators has been delayed until the goals and objectives associated with NEPA's environmental database are better defined. Currently BSP/NEPA's focus has been to develop and strengthen NEPA's GIS laboratory, and during FY 2009 the GIS laboratory became fully functional. NEPA organized and convened the first meeting of a GIS Users Working Group to develop procedures and processes for sharing GIS datasets between government organizations and NGOs. NEPA, AIMS and WCS staff have formally and informally worked together to strengthen NEPA's GIS unit.

Currently NEPA's environmental database focus is on identifying individual point sources that pollute the environment. Whenever possible, NEPA's strategy is to collaborate with organizations to acquire the

information that they need to monitor Afghanistan’s environment Rather than collect large amounts of data already compiled by other organizations.

This year, the Environmental Assessment and Sustainable Development Division of NEPA began collaborating with the GIS unit to prepare a map of fuel stations (Red dots) and drinking water wells (Blue dots) in Kabul as part of the development of a longer-term ground-water strategy [See photo]. This project used partner’s existing data and required the collection of new data. NEPA is now expanding this effort to identify individual wash room facilities and dry cleaning facilities that could also pollute well water in Kabul’s drinking water supply system.



SUBTASK 3.2: SUPPORT THE PRODUCTION OF PUBLICATIONS AND MULTI-MEDIA OUTREACH

The Environment Law (Chapter Seven, Article 64(3) Information) requires NEPA to implement public awareness campaigns associated with environmental issues. This subtask contains two elements that assist NEPA in producing: (1) print materials, and (2) other media (video, sound, electronic).

During FY 2008 NEPA developed an information, education and communication (IEC) strategy. Workshops in FY 2009 introduced that IEC strategy and the associated action plan to central and provincial NEPA staff. During the year NEPA expanded its public awareness activities and prepared, published and distributed a monthly new magazine to its employees and partners [See photo].



During FY 2009 NEPA determined that its highest priority publications and multi-media outreach need was for equipment to produce publications and posters. During FY 2009 an effort was made to identify the type of equipment that is needed and initiate a process to procure it. Determining the actual types of outreach materials that would be appropriate to produce in-house and defining the technical specifications for the equipment required more in-depth discussions than anticipated, and this delayed its procurement. Procurement should be completed early in FY 2010.

SUBTASK 3.3: WORK WITH NEPA TO IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Chapter Seven, Article 65, Education and Training, of the Environment Law directs NEPA to assist relevant ministries in incorporating principles of natural resource management and conservation into school and university curricula. This subtask assists NEPA in meeting this objective.

During the past year, the Ministry of Higher Education made the decision to establish a Faculty of Environment within appropriate institutions of higher education in Afghanistan. NEPA applauded this action since its professional staffing requirements are based on the continued, long-term training of

qualified environmental scientists. NEPA's Gender Action Plan also noted that the goal of increasing the number of professional women employees in NEPA will likely be more fully implemented by creating opportunities for more women to study the natural and environmental sciences.

NEPA is leading an effort to jointly host one or more workshops with the Ministry of Higher Education to develop a strategy to strengthen faculty of Environmental Science and create environmental science curricula in Afghanistan universities. This will likely be a collaborative activity that involves several of NEPA's international partners. Initial activities are likely to focus on one or more workshops early in 2010 to strengthen the effectiveness of curriculum development teams at Kabul University.

At the elementary and secondary school level NEPA's representative on the newly-formed Committee of Organizations and Institutions involved in Environmental Education, is leading an effort to develop a series of workshops to strengthen the capacity of curricula development teams in the Ministry of Education to incorporate environmental science materials into school courses and curricula.

SUBTASK 3.4: TRAIN NEPA AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS ON ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

This subtask assists NEPA in developing internal capability to design and deliver public awareness campaigns.

NEPA, in collaboration with the Ministry of Cultural and Religious Affairs, has identified cultural leaders as critical partners in raising the environmental awareness of the public. Working with the Ministry of Cultural and Religious Affairs, NEPA has developed a series of workshops on Islam and the Environment to help cultural leaders incorporate messages in environmental stewardship into their daily communications with the public.

Earlier this year, the first workshop for local cultural leaders was delivered in Kabul [*Photo by A. Barakzai*]. Cultural leaders in 32 mosques throughout Kabul are now helping raise the public's environmental awareness. Similar workshop have been developed and scheduled for regional delivery in Balkh, Herat and Kabul. The second Kabul workshop will be attended by cultural leaders in the central and eastern provinces.



2.6 TASK #4: ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION AND FINANCING

This task brings together two connected yet separate activities: that NEPA has the ability to develop, implement and enforce a regulatory framework for the Environment Law (Chapter Three, Article 22, Regulations), and that NEPA has funding mechanisms to finance that framework. The former requires greater involvement by NEPA personnel in drafting regulations and the latter implies that a range of funding sources be explored and developed: Two subtasks assist NEPA in achieving this objectives: 1) regulation; and 2) financing.

SUBTASK 4.1: REGULATION

This subtask assists NEPA in developing internal capability to formulate and implement environmental regulations by increasing its involvement in the drafting of regulations.

Chapter Three of the Environmental Law requires NEPA to determine the potential adverse effects and positive impacts of development projects, plans, policies and activities. In collaboration with international partners, during FY 2009 NEPA finalized rules and procedures that were needed to fully

implement its EIA program. BSP/NEPA, collaborating with NEPA's other international partners, has participated in the development and delivery of EIA training programs for NEPA staff.

In FY 2008 BSP/NEPA provided introductory training on EIA utilizing draft rules and procedures. During the second half of FY 2009 that introductory course material was revised and three 5-day EIA training sessions have been scheduled for NEPA's central and provincial staff during the first quarter of 2010. In addition an advanced EIA course was developed for individuals who have had previously EIA training. The advanced course is scheduled for delivery in Kabul the first quarter of 2010.

SUBTASK 4.2: FINANCING

This subtask assists NEPA in the development of a range of options for securing long-term financing for selected environmental programs.

Sustainable management of natural resources is key to maintaining livelihoods and prosperous communities in Afghanistan. Identifying sustainable management systems that can be supported by government over time is a critical financial issue. Community participation in the management of natural resources is a potential option.

The Environmental Law⁶ encourages NEPA and the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock to enter into collaborative arrangements with communities for the management of natural resources and protected areas. Similar directives are proposed in draft copies of the Forest Law and the Rangeland Law. Implied in these laws is the sharing of benefits, between government and community partners, that are derived from these management activities. Internationally it has been shown that governments must share benefits derived from community management with communities for the programs to be sustainable.

In late FY 2009, a 2-day meeting was convened by BSP/NEPA where relevant government officials from the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock developed a policy framework for a community benefit sharing system that is relevant for the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. Following that meeting senior decision makers from NEPA and the Ministries of Justice, and Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock meet with local community groups in Kabul to present and discuss the implementation of the community benefit sharing framework. To facilitate the formal establishment of the policy framework, BSP/NEPA in collaboration with WCS obtained the services of an international and an Afghan contract lawyer, working with communities and government, to prepare implementable templates that communities and government can use to enter into sustainable community benefit sharing agreements. The development of those templates will be completed by the first quarter of 2010.

2.7 TASK #5: COMMUNITY-BASED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Community-based management of natural resources is being incorporated into the official policy of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MoAIL), and is the official policy of some agencies (*e.g.*, NEPA) involved in environmental and natural resource management. This task uses small grants as a mechanism to encourage experimentation in community-based management of natural resources. Two grant program subtasks were identified to assist NEPA in the promotion of community involvement in conservation, rehabilitation and management of the environment: 1) award grants and build NGO capacity; and 2) monitor grant implementation and build NEPA monitoring capacity.

SUBTASK 5.1: AWARD GRANTS AND BUILD NGO CAPACITY

This subtask awards grants through the CBRM competitive grants program. Prior to the award the grantee must develop concepts into full grant applications, and convert full applications into approved field project awards.

⁶ Chapter Six, Article 39. Planning in paragraph 2.7 of the Environmental Law

The CBRM grants program was initiated in October 2008 when a workshop was held for prospective applicants and grant solicitation forms and guidelines in Dari and English were disseminated to more than 30 NGOs. As the CBRM Advisory Committee review applications, promising applications from Afghan NGOs were identified and those NGOs were provided technical assistance to help them strengthen their grant applications. Three of these Afghan NGOs were awarded grants.

Table 6 summarizes the activities of the CBRM Advisory Committee as of 30 September 2009. The advisory committee recommended that 12 grants be awarded during FY 2009. The total value of the 12 grants was \$1,029,477.

Table 6: Progress Implementing CBRM Grants Program

| TRACKING PARAMETER | FY 2008 | FY 2009 |
|--------------------------------|------------|--------------------|
| Guidelines distributed | 0 | 97 |
| International NGOs | 0 | 45 |
| Afghan NGOs | 0 | 52 |
| Applications received | 0 | 59 |
| Applications rejected | 0 | 47 |
| Revisions pending | 0 | 0 |
| Grants awarded | 0 | 12 |
| Committee meetings held | 0 | 9 |
| Value of grants awarded | \$0 | \$1,029,477 |
| Reports approved | 0 | 16 |
| Grant Funds Disbursed | \$0 | \$448,061 |

Table 7 lists the 12 grants that were awarded in FY2009 and gives the focus and location of each grant. Nine of the grants were awarded to international NGOs with local partners and three were awarded to Afghan NGOs. The 12 grants have implementation activities in 9 provinces at 14 separate field locations in the following USAID designated regions of Afghanistan: Central (1), North (6), West (1), South (0) and East (6). Women have accounted for 82% of the 1330 individuals trained to date by NGOs under these grants. No additional grants will be awarded in FY 2010.

Table 7: CBRM Grants Awarded through FY 2009

| ORGANIZATION | FOCUS OF GRANT | USAID REGION (PROVINCE) |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) and local community partners | Integrated rangeland and micro-area management | North and East (Badakshan and Bamyan) |
| Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) and local community partners | Enhancing capacity for biodiversity management | East (Bamyan) |
| Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and local community partners | Community-based natural resource management in the Kushk District | West (Herat) |
| Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and local community partners | Natural resource management in Sare Ahangaran watershed | East (Bamyan) |
| Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and local community partners | Conserving the Wakhan by developing government and community management capacity | North (Badakshan) |
| Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA) and local community women groups | Agro-Silvo-Pastoral system management | East (Parwan) |
| Lapis Lazuli Sky (LLS) | Watershed management and biodiversity restoration of Karasti Village | North (Badakshan) |
| Global Partnership for Afghanistan (GPFA) and local community partners | Qalai Qazi community forest management | East (Wardak) |

| ORGANIZATION | FOCUS OF GRANT | USAID REGION (PROVINCE) |
|---|--|-----------------------------|
| Poor Empowerment Organization (PEO) | Reviving Pistachio Cultivation in Argu District | North (Badakshan) |
| Mission d'Aide au Development des Economies Rurales – Afghanistan (MADERA) and local community partners | Restoring forest biodiversity | East (Kunar) |
| Afghan Conservation Corps (ACC/UNOPS) and local community partners | Reforestation and biodiversity conservation of pistachio woodlands | North (Samangan and Takhar) |
| National Humanitarian Juvenile for Afghanistan (NHJA) | Conservation of Kole Hashmat Khan | Central (Kabul) |

CBRM Grant Program Highlights

A Technical Support Group consisting of NEPA and MoAIL personnel was formed to provide local NGOs grant recipients assistance in implementing their grants. The Technical Support Group provided Lapis Lazuli Sky and National Humanitarian Juvenile Association assistance in the use of participatory rapid appraisal and community mapping methodologies. The government personnel and the NGOs benefited from this interaction with the community. The NEPA and MoAIL officers learned these participatory management techniques during training they received under the BSP/NEPA program in 2008.

Aga Khan Foundation received funding from other partners to initiate long-term training programs on natural resource management. Aga Khan met with Bamyan University, other non-government organizations and government agencies to begin the institutional phase of the Enhancing Capacity for Biodiversity Management program.

The Forest Management Councils in Samangan started their campaign to educate individuals in villages in neighboring provinces on the proper timing for harvesting pistachio nuts. Baghlan province authorities made a commitment to restrict their communities from accessing pistachio forest in Samangan until the call for harvest has been made.

The Wakhan Pamir Association, with assistance from Wildlife Conservation Society, were awarded a CBRM grant to trained 15 wildlife rangers and provide them equipment to strengthen the protection of endangered and endemic species within the Little and Big Pamir conservation areas.

Photo: *Qala Panja Wildlife Rangers learning how to set a camera trap in Pikut Valley, Wakhan.*
[Taken by WCS]



Photograph of a Snow Leopard captured by a camera trap set by community wildlife rangers trained by WCS under its CBRM grant.



As part of a CBRM grant, the Afghan Women Business Council (AWBC), with technical assistance from Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA), trained 30 lead women farmers in agroforestry technologies that are being introduced in their farming systems.

Photo: *Training of women farmers in agroforestry technologies* [Taken by MEDA]



As part of a CBRM grant, Catholic Relief Services engaged the community Development Councils and local shuras in analyzing the condition of and problems with their respective watersheds using participatory rapid appraisal tools prior to the initiation of soil conservation measures.

Photo: *Social and resource mapping activity undertaken during the implementation of a CBRM grant.* [Taken by CRS]



SUBTASK 5.2: MONITOR GRANT IMPLEMENTATION AND BUILD NEPA CAPACITY

This subtask involves monitoring the implementation of field projects funded through the CBRM small-grants program, by NEPA and MoAIL personnel and by ECODIT staff.

In February 2009 a workshop on Participatory Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation was conducted for staff from NEPA and MoAIL provincial and central offices. During the last two quarters of FY 2009 NEPA officers began monitoring CBRM grant activities in provinces. Detailed project work plans for each grant were translated into Dari so NEPA officers could effectively monitoring CBRM grant activities in the provinces.

In September 2009 a team composed of representatives from NEPA's Central Office, NEPA's Provincial Office and ECODIT monitored the project activities associated with the Catholic Relief Services' grant in Sare Ahangaran, Bamyan. This joint monitoring activity provided an opportunity for NEPA to observe and assess its ability to monitor community development programs.

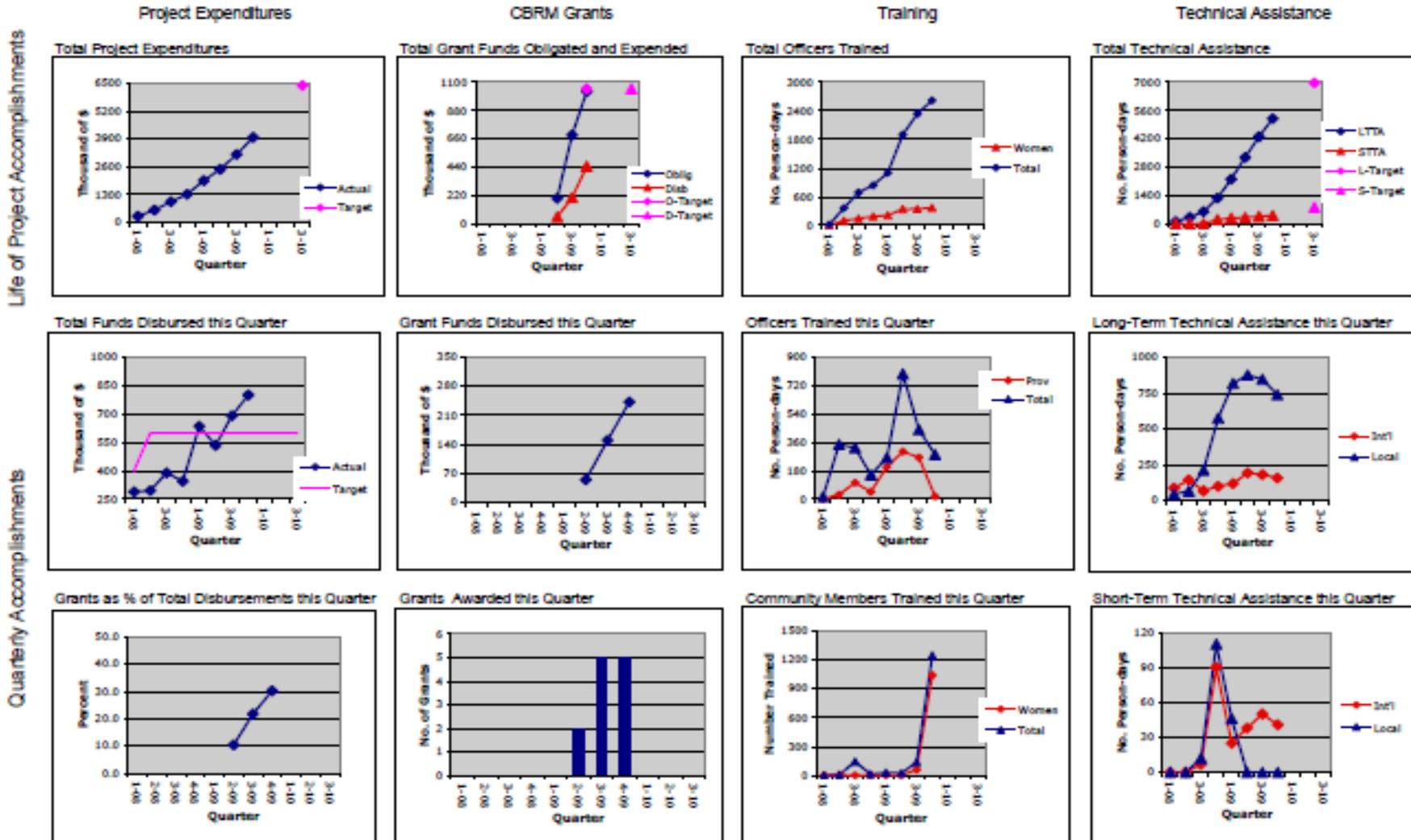
Photo: *Joint Evaluation of a CBRM grant in Sare Ahangaran, Bamyan.* [Taken by C. Magno]



ANNEX A - PERFORMANCE DASHBOARD



Performance Dashboard
 Afghan Biodiversity Support Program (BSP/NEPA)
 EPP-I-02-06-00010-00, Task Order No. 02



Person-days = (Days of Training or Tech Assist) x No. of Individuals

October 15, 2009

ANNEX B – PERFORMANCE MONITORING PLAN

ANNEX B, Table 1: Performance Monitoring Plan - Tasks and Subtasks, Indicators, Targets, and Current Status

| WORK PLAN TASK / SUBTASK | PERFORMANCE INDICATOR / DELIVERABLE(S) | 2009 TARGET(S) | STATUS ON 30 SEPTEMBER 2009 |
|---|--|--|--|
| Task #1: Institutional Strengthening | | | |
| <i>Subtask 1.1. Strengthen NEPA environmental assessment capabilities</i> | Functional EA Center within NEPA | 1) Conduct at least two short-course national/provincial training events on EIA 2) Assist NEPA in the development of an environmental database and GIS for environmental indicators | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three introductory and one advanced EIA workshops have been scheduled for 1st quarter 2010 • NEPA has established a GIS laboratory and the GIS units is preparing maps of various environmental conditions |
| <i>Subtask 1.2. Assist in developing management / administration systems and funding mechanisms</i> | Management and administration systems and funding mechanisms | 1) Provide training to NEPA staff, related Ministries and Agencies on NEPA's statutory mandate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held numerous meetings with related Ministries to coordinate and collaborate on environment programs • Developing a website to feature NEPA's programs and responsibilities • Delivered a grants writing course to 24 NEPA officers |
| <i>Subtask 1.3. Assist NEPA to develop procedures and rules</i> | NEPA procedures and rules | 1) Identify rules and procedure that need to be disseminated 2) Develop materials for dissemination to appropriate audiences | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed EIA rules and procedures • Advanced EIA course is scheduled to train officers on environmental assessment rules and procedures • NEPA publishes a monthly magazine featuring programs within the agency |
| <i>Subtask 1.4. Assist NEPA to strengthen "green environment" technical oversight office</i> | Functional "green environment" technical oversight office [Div. for Natural Heritage Protection] | 1) Develop a national map of protected areas agreed to by relevant stakeholders 2) Produce and circulate a National Biodiversity Strategy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submitted plant-based report for gap analysis and trained 4 NEPA officers in IUCN Red Listing procedures • Preparation of the National Biodiversity Strategy is underway |
| <i>Subtask 1.5. Develop and deliver short training courses and regional study tours</i> | a) About 12 short training courses on technical skills required within NEPA b) About 25 workshops c) Two regional study tours (5 pax each) | 1) Conduct at least six short training courses 2) Conduct at least 12 workshops or seminars conducted 3) Complete at least one regional study tour | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 training programs were delivered on environmental communications, participatory management, and grant writing topics • 8 workshops and seminars were delivered on CBRM, management, environmental policy, and awareness topics • Finalized benefit sharing study tour for 1st quarter in 2010 |

| WORK PLAN TASK / SUBTASK | PERFORMANCE INDICATOR / DELIVERABLE(S) | 2009 TARGET(S) | STATUS ON 30 SEPTEMBER 2009 |
|---|---|---|--|
| Task #2: Integration of Environmental Issues into National Development Programs | | | |
| <i>Subtask 2.1. Assist NEPA to strengthen integration of environment into national development programs</i> | Continuing participation as observer on the Committee for Environmental Coordination | 1) Sustain continuous NEPA leadership on the Committee for Environmental Coordination | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing official observer status at Committee for Environmental Coordination meetings held month Participate in UNEP, NEPA, & MoAIL meetings to facilitate communications between NEPA partners |
| <i>Subtask 2.2. Provide technical assistance to NEPA on environmental integration</i> | Integration of the environmental guidelines into a development plan for BAPAC | 1) Conduct five environmental design trainings for the Band-e Amir Protected Area Committee | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed five environmental design trainings for individuals involved in the development of the Band-e-Amir bazaar |
| Task #3: Public Education and Outreach | | | |
| <i>Subtask 3.1. Assist NEPA to strengthen information resource center</i> | Information resource center established and functional within NEPA | 1) Establish an operational database on environmental information within NEPA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NEPA and AIMS are formally discussing AIMS' development of a MIS for NEPA NEPA's GIS unit is collecting and analyzing environmental impact data in Kabul and environmental data on potential protected areas |
| <i>Subtask 3.2. Support the production of publications and multi-media outreach</i> | Assistance to production of publications and multi-media, in particular the NEPA magazine | 1) Acquire printing equipment to aid in publication on monthly NEPA newsletter and public awareness materials | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procurement of media equipment should be completed in the 1st quarter of 2010 |
| <i>Subtask 3.3. Work with NEPA to improve environmental education</i> | Practical recommendations and support to improving environmental education | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Develop draft environmental science curricula for review by the Ministry of Higher Education Develop a prioritized list of research topics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NEPA is collaborating with MoE to incorporate environmental science into school curricula In collaboration with international partners, NEPA is developing a strategy to strengthen environmental science degree programs and curricula in universities |
| <i>Subtask 3.4. Train NEPA and other stakeholders on environmental public education and outreach</i> | Training courses delivered on public education and outreach | 1) Conduct at least four courses for appropriate cultural leaders | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed one workshop for cultural leaders. Three additional workshops are scheduled for 1st quarter of 2010 |

| WORK PLAN TASK / SUBTASK | PERFORMANCE INDICATOR / DELIVERABLE(S) | 2009 TARGET(S) | STATUS ON 30 SEPTEMBER 2009 |
|--|---|--|---|
| Task #4: Environmental Regulation and Financing | | | |
| <i>Subtask 4.1. Regulation</i> | Technical assistance in formulating and enforcing regulations, especially in biodiversity conservation and the "green environment" | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Develop methods for valuing natural resources using both market and non-market approaches 2) Assist NEPA field staff operationally implement EIA regulations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No action was taken on valuing natural resources • An advanced EIA course is scheduled for delivery to NEPA staff in Kabul the 1st quarter of 2010 |
| <i>Subtask 4.2. Financing</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Proposed fee structure and schedule for services that NEPA will provide, including an analysis of how other government agencies would pay or not pay for NEPA's services b) Proposed revisions to the Environment Law and/or EA regulations to allow NEPA to charge donors and investors for EA and other services provided | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Conduct a feasibility study on trust funds or other environmental financing mechanism(s) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five (5) senior decision makers attended a working meeting and identified the foundation for a benefit sharing policy that will strengthen the management of community forests and protected areas in Afghanistan • In collaboration with WCS, two contract lawyers are currently preparing benefit sharing templates to formalize agreements between communities and government |
| Task #5: Community-Based Resource Management | | | |
| <i>Subtask 5.1. Award grants and build NGO capacity</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Project concept papers selected for further development b) NGO outreach and capacity building program c) NGO grants solicitations and awards | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Conduct regular meetings of the CBRM grant review committee 2) Assist at least one local NGO in obtaining a CBRM grant without support from an international partner 3) Award 10-20 CBRM grants | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nine CBRM review meeting were held • 12 grants were awarded which include three grants to local NGOs without an international partner • All CBRM grant funds have been obligated |
| <i>Subtask 5.2. Monitor grant implementation and build NEPA capacity</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Capacity building program for NEPA staff (headquarters and provinces) to monitor NGO grants b) Individual NGO grants progress reports | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Hold at least one environmental monitoring training with appropriate NEPA staff 2) Regular reports by all grantees awarded funding | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nine progress reports received and approved from grantees • Grantees project work plans translated into Dari to facilitate monitoring of activities by NEPA officers • NEPA officers trained two grantees in community resource mapping techniques to facilitate grant implementation |

ANNEX C - LEVEL OF EFFORT REPORT

ACTUAL VS. PLANNED

ANNEX C, Table 1: Report on Level-of-Effort Expended

The BSP/NEPA is a Cost Plus Fixed Fee/Level of Effort Task Order requiring delivery of Level of Effort (LOE) in addition to the deliverables identified in Annex A. This table shows the actual LOE utilization (in person-days) compared to projections submitted in the Inception Report for the performance period of the task order. Notes below the table explain differences between actual and planned labor utilization. Readers should note that the projections are subject to USAID approval of work plans.

| Labor Category | Life-of-Project Planned | FY2008 | | FY2009 | | Through FY 2009 | | |
|----------------|-------------------------|---------|----------|---------|----------|-----------------|----------|----------|
| | | Planned | Actual | Planned | Actual | Planned | Actual | %Planned |
| Expat LTTA | 1,174 | 404 | 337.50 | 440 | 614.75 | 844 | 952.25 | 113% |
| Afghan LTTA | 5,610 | 1,844 | 894.00 | 2,200 | 3,279.25 | 4,044 | 4,173.25 | 103% |
| HO Support | 186 | 81 | 57.50 | 54 | 30.81 | 135 | 88.31 | 65% |
| Expat STTA | 536 | 246 | 97.22 | 246 | 153.56 | 492 | 250.78 | 51% |
| Afghan STTA | 300 | 100 | 122.25 | 100 | 46.38 | 200 | 168.63 | 84% |
| TOTAL | 7,806 | 2,675 | 1,508.47 | 3,040 | 4,124.75 | 5,715 | 5,633.22 | 99% |

% of Life-of-Project LOE expended: 72.17%

NOTES:

1. **Expat LTTA:** actual LOE utilization on a Life-of-Project basis is slightly higher than original projection. Expat LTTA has been used in place of Expat STTA.
2. **Afghan LTTA:** actual LOE utilization on a Life-of-Project basis is consistent with the original projection.
3. **HO Support:** actual LOE utilization on a Life-of-Project basis remains 30% to 40% lower than the original projection largely due to reduced use of Expat STTA
4. **Expat STTA:** actual LOE utilization on a Life-of-Project basis remains at approximately 50% of the original projection. Increased use of Expat STTA during FY 2010 should raise this statistic closer to the original projection.
5. **Afghan STTA:** actual LOE utilization on a Life-of-Project basis is slightly less than the original projection.