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TECHNICAL REPORT

DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY FOR AFGHANISTAN – FIRST MISSION REPORT

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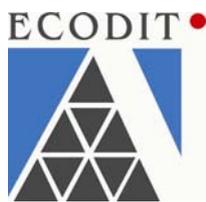


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BIODIVERSITY SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR NEPA

REPORT ON FIRST MISSION OF INTERNATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY SPECIALIST (040709 final version incorporating UNEP comments)

1. SCOPE OF WORK

The purpose of this assignment is to support the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA), Division for Natural Heritage Protection, in formulating a national biodiversity strategy for Afghanistan. The strategy is to be drafted in a collaborative manner, in compliance with the Environment Law which requires NEPA to prepare, in consultation with relevant ministries, a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) that addresses both *in-situ* and *ex-situ* conservation, within two years of entry into force of the Act. Specific deliverables of the assignment are as follows:

- a compilation of available current data or other information about the biodiversity of Afghanistan, organized in a way accessible for NEPA personnel
- a series of training or workshop events that build capacity among NEPA and other relevant partners in biodiversity strategy formulation
- a draft national biodiversity strategy that meets the Environment Law requirements, and has been endorsed by the Director for Natural Heritage Protection, and
- a technical report documenting the process used by NEPA in formulating the strategy.

The International Biodiversity Strategy Specialist assignment is to be carried out during three or four missions to Afghanistan during 2009 with a total of 60 days level of effort. The first mission, aimed at fact-finding and implementation planning, was carried out during 18 April-1 May 2009.

The design of the assignment explicitly recognizes that the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has submitted a proposal for enabling activity funding to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to produce a comprehensive National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Afghanistan, as required in terms of Afghanistan's commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity. However, funding is not yet approved for use within the time limit specified in the Environment Law. As NEPA has expressed the need to move forward at the earliest possible date, the approach being taken is therefore to ensure that the BSP/NEPA initiative results in an agreed strategic approach to biodiversity conservation in Afghanistan, with follow-up action planning and monitoring being the responsibility of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan accessing assistance as necessary from the proposed GEF-funded initiative and/or additional funding modalities. UNEP's representation will be invited in the BSP/NEPA-funded stage in order to ensure continuity of inputs and a smooth transition from strategy development to action planning and initial implementation.

Results of the BSP/NEPA initiative will be the development of an overarching, long-term strategy and broad direction for the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity in Afghanistan that is consistent with the intent of the Convention on Biodiversity and other international, regional and national standards.

Pending further discussion and agreement, the UNEP/GEF initiative would then develop the operational details for effective conservation of biodiversity in Afghanistan, including a detailed review of the Convention on Biodiversity, identification of those articles of particular relevance to Afghanistan, and identification and assistance with the development of operational responses as required.

2. ACTIVITIES AND FINDINGS

The initial BSP mission was carried out by International Biodiversity Specialist Richard E. Salter in close cooperation with National Biodiversity Specialist Sharbat Khan Nikmal, and oversight by NEPA Director Sallari. Activities and planning against the four specified deliverables were as follows:

Deliverable 1: A compilation of available current data or other information about the biodiversity of Afghanistan, organized in a way accessible for NEPA personnel

Investigation of background data was initiated prior to arrival in Afghanistan, and continued in-country through consultation with personnel from NEPA, MAIL, UNEP, FAO, USAID and WCS (see list of persons met).

Information on Afghanistan's biodiversity, including historic accounts, is scattered across an extensive literature. Major sources identified to date include the following:

- UNEP's recently produced (2009) Biodiversity Profile of Afghanistan provides up to date information on relevant background (importance of biodiversity to Afghanistan; human population; topography, climate and hydrology; biogeography and ecological classification; land cover; ecoregions; wetlands and riparian areas; species, species at risk and endemics; protected areas; agricultural biodiversity), recommended priority actions for conserving Afghanistan's biodiversity, and a comprehensive bibliography of primary references
- the biodiversity thematic report of the UNEP-implemented, GEF-funded National Capacity Needs Self-Assessment for Global Environmental Management (NCSA) and National Adaptation Plan of Action for Climate Change (NAPA) provides an overview of the institutional arrangements relevant to biodiversity in Afghanistan
- the fifteen ecoregions found wholly or in part in Afghanistan are described on the website <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/wildworld>
- the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) website (<http://www.cbd>) provides background ecological information on Afghanistan and the status of measures taken to date to implement the CBD
- the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) website (<http://www.cites.org>) identifies the Management and Scientific Authorities for Afghanistan and provides a current list of CITES-listed animals and plants
- the IUCN Red List website (<http://www.iucnredlist.org>) enables creation of a comprehensive listing of threatened plant and animal species occurring in Afghanistan
- the WDPA website (<http://www.wdpa.org>) provides basic information on current protected areas in Afghanistan.

Ongoing activities relevant to this deliverable include the following:

- establishment of the Afghan Wild Species Executive Committee (AWSEC), comprising representatives from WCS, NEPA, MAIL and several university faculties, and which is charged with development of national lists of harvestable and protected species, development of trade lists to assist compliance with CITES, and development of a process for updating species listings
- UNDP/GEF support to the Program of Work for Protected Areas (PoWPA), being implemented with technical and financial management by WCS, and focussing on the preparation of a National Protected Areas System Gap Analysis, production of a National Protected Areas System Plan, support to the development of a Benefits Sharing Policy for Protected Areas, and training and capacity building activities at field and community levels.

Deliverable 2: A series of training or workshop events that build capacity among NEPA and other relevant partners in biodiversity strategy formulation

The current capacity of government staff and departments, and of NGOs and relevant international organizations, to develop and implement a biodiversity strategy was investigated in general terms through document review and interviews with key informants. Specific training inputs that will be required for biodiversity strategy formulation (and subsequent implementation) remain to be determined. Standard training modules focussing on the CBD are available (see Appendix 1) and this will facilitate the timely delivery of training and related workshop events.

It is anticipated that at least two national-level workshops will be undertaken during strategy preparation, one to sensitize government personnel and key stakeholders to the planning process (Planning and Training Workshop), and one to present and discuss findings and recommendations (Action Planning Workshop). It is anticipated that the Planning and Training Workshop will be held during the Assessment Phase (May-September 2009) and that the Action Planning Workshop will be held during the Strategy Development Phase (October-December 2009).

NEPA's and MAIL's training teams will be invited to participate in all stages of planning, in order to ensure their understanding of the NBSAP development process and subsequent effective training of downstream participants. NEPA's and MAIL's public awareness teams will be included in all training and workshops in order to ensure effective communication of the biodiversity strategy and subsequent action plan provisions to all stakeholders.

Deliverable 3: A draft preliminary national biodiversity strategy that meets the Environment Law requirements, and has been endorsed by the Director for Natural Heritage Protection

The format and contents of the draft National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Afghanistan remain to be determined, although it is expected to include at minimum sections on overall goals and objectives, programmes and activities required to meet the specified goals and objectives, and a description of how these programmes and activities will be implemented (including institutional arrangements, target groups, funding sources and monitoring and evaluation requirements). A number of models are available and will be reviewed with the primary stakeholders to determine which one best fits the needs of Afghanistan and the key government departments charged with its implementation, while also fitting the broad content requirements of the CBD. See Annex 1 for typical NBSAP content.

In terms of action planning, significant steps have already been taken with the preparation of A Proposed Action Plan for the Conservation of Afghanistan's Biodiversity and Wetlands: 2007-2010 (Shank 2006) with funding provided by UNEP under the National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) and National Programme of Action (NAPA) modalities. This process critically examined Afghanistan's responsibilities under the Convention on Biological Diversity and determined the following priorities:

1. participate fully in activities of the Convention on Biological Diversity
2. develop a biodiversity strategy for Afghanistan
3. determine the status of Afghanistan's biodiversity
4. establish a system of protected areas
5. establish a CITES permitting system

6. enhance public awareness about biodiversity and sustainable use
7. establish community-based management of forests, rangelands and wetlands
8. understand and utilize traditional practice and knowledge of conservation and sustainable use

In addition to identifying priorities for action, this process also established a precedent for a planning modality through the Biodiversity and Wetlands Working Group, which will usefully be continued or replicated towards the development of a comprehensive National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

Deliverable 4: A technical report documenting the process used by NEPA in formulating the strategy

A technical report will be prepared at the end of the strategy development process, with processes and sources described in sufficient detail to enable correction of any errors or omissions subsequently discovered in the strategy, and/or to enable rapid and efficient updating at the end of the strategy’s lifetime (currently anticipated as 3-5 years).

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

The scope of activities¹ required for completion and implementation of an NBSAP is as follows:

1. Organization:

- agreement on a government focal point
- identification and agreement on government agencies, NGOs and others to be involved in strategy development

2. Assessment (country study):

- gathering and evaluation of information on the status of Afghanistan’s biodiversity resources, laws, policies, organizations, programs, budgets and human capacity
- identification of preliminary goals and objectives
- identification of gaps between current and desired situation
- identification of options and costs to close gaps

3. Development of a Strategy:

- determination of goals and operational objectives
- analysis and selection of specific measures to close gaps identified in the assessment
- achievement of consensus on targets and mechanisms for action
- identification of the roles of stakeholder groups

4. Development of an Action Plan:

- determination of which public and private organizations will implement activities identified in the strategy, in which location, by what means, and with which people, institutions, facilities and funds

5. Monitoring and Evaluation:

- observation and measurement of impacts of the plan on the economy, ecosystems and social indicators
- setting of a timetable for action

6. Reporting:

¹ Based primarily on Miller and Lanou (1995)

- preparation of periodic reporting required by the Convention on Biodiversity and government

Given that a full-fledged BSAP planning process will require a much higher level of support than is currently available through BSP/NEPA, and that larger-scale GEF funding to be directed through UNEP is pending, it is recommended that BSP/NEPA funding, including advisory inputs, be used to immediately initiate the process, and provide funding through completion of step 3 (strategy development). This can be expected to result in:

- intra- and inter-agency dialogue, agreement and action on key biodiversity conservation issues
- the development of broad national-level strategic priorities for biodiversity conservation
- improved public awareness regarding biodiversity conservation, and
- a sound and defensible basis for development and implementation of a comprehensive action plan and follow-up monitoring, evaluation and reporting (steps 4-6) pending release of GEF funds through UNEP, and/or sourcing of other funding .

4. REFERENCES CITED

Biodiversity Planning Support Programme. 2007. The biodiversity planning process: how to prepare and update a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. Module B-2. GEF/UNEP/CBD Secretariat.

Miller, K.R. and S.M. Lanou. 1995. National biodiversity planning: guidelines based on early experiences around the world. World Resources Institute, Washington D.C.

Shank, C. 2006. A proposed action plan for the conservation of Afghanistan's biodiversity and wetlands: 2007-2010.

STEA. 2004. Lao PDR: National Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 and Action Plan to 2010. Science, Technology and Environment Agency, Vientiane.

UNEP. 2009. Biodiversity profile of Afghanistan. An output of the National Capacity Needs Self-Assessment for Global Environmental Management (NCSA) for Afghanistan. United Nations Environment Programme, Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch.

Annex 1: What Does a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan Consist Of?

The elements of an NBSAP can include:

- ways to carry out and update assessments of the status and trends of national biodiversity
- agreed procedures for identifying the priority issues for the NBSAP, the subsequent identification of gaps and emerging issues, and the incorporation of these into the periodic revisions of the NBSAP
- agreed procedures for establishing and monitoring measurable national goals and targets
- legislative measures such as: a legal instrument establishing national biodiversity policy; measures to introduce or strengthen environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment procedures; rules on access to genetic resources and benefits sharing
- NBSAP management and oversight arrangements: for example, a national multi-stakeholder biodiversity council to oversee implementation of national biodiversity policy, national implementation of the Convention, and harmonisation with implementation of other multilateral environmental agreements
- sets of action plans
- funding strategies for raising resources domestically and internationally
- national framework of action for communication, education and public awareness activities on biodiversity
- public policy development in those areas relevant to biodiversity and national capacity to achieve the objectives of the Convention, for example:
 - national science and technology policy
 - spatial planning instruments and infrastructural investments
 - national energy policy
 - agricultural development and the management of major biomes (e.g., action to implement the CBD thematic programmes of work)
 - communication, education and public awareness
 - public administration at national and sub-national levels
 - intellectual property systems
 - poverty alleviation and income redistribution policies
 - trade policy
 - fiscal and credit policies

The NBSAP is an envelope containing the measures, mechanisms and procedures that are required to meet the country's biodiversity objectives. These may be brought together into a single document if this is felt to be useful. However it is essential to avoid the trap of seeing the publication of the NBSAP as a substitute for action.

Source: Biodiversity Planning Support Programme. 2007. The biodiversity planning process: how to prepare and update a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. Module B-2. GEF/UNEP/CBD Secretariat.

ANNEX 2: EXAMPLE STRUCTURE OF A NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

- 1. Introduction**
(rationale for the strategy including synopsis of national biodiversity resources, their use and the need for their conservation and management)
- 2. Guiding Principles**
(statement of principles regarding the need for wise use of natural resources in the national context)
- 3. Biodiversity Strategy to 2020**
(statement of issues regarding maintenance of environmental integrity and overarching long-term approach to the protection, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the national context)
- 4. Biodiversity Action Plan to 2015**
 - 4.1 Overall Goal**
(statement of broad national goal of the strategy)
 - 4.2 Main Objectives**
(primary objectives to be achieved through the Action Plan)
 - 4.3 Programmes**
(action programmes to be implemented)
- 5. Implementing Measures**
 - 5.1 Institutional Arrangements**
(who is responsible for cooperation and coordination with concerned agencies including international, central and local levels; who is responsible for implementation)
 - 5.2 Target Groups**
(who are the major target groups for implementation)
 - 5.3 Funding Sources**
(identification of government, donor and other sources of funding)
 - 5.4 Monitoring and Evaluation**
(what are the monitoring and evaluation arrangements for ensuring timely and efficient implementation of the NBSAP)

Source: STEA. 2004. Lao PDR: National Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 and Action Plan to 2010. Science, Technology and Environment Agency, Vientiane.

Annex 3: Workplan for the Preparation of a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Afghanistan

1. Organization: organize the institutional structure for strategy preparation

(facilitated by the first mission of the International Biodiversity Specialist)

The process of developing the NBSAP should be driven by the body responsible for implementation of the Convention on Biodiversity, or otherwise with overall responsibility for national-level environmental policy and management oversight (presumably NEPA). The agency should have the mandate and authority to request and facilitate the participation of other governmental organizations, international organizations, academic institutions and NGOs involved in biodiversity use, management, conservation and research (Step 2 below).

2. Stock-taking: assess the current state of knowledge, use and management of Afghanistan's biodiversity

The stock-taking phase will focus on “taking stock” of what is known about Afghanistan’s biodiversity resources and how they are managed, including the framework provided by relevant legislation, policies and organizations, and existing programmes, budgets and human capacity. The stock-taking phase provides a “snapshot” of the existing situation.

Primary activities to be undertaken during stock-taking are as follows:

- review what government agencies are responsible for biodiversity use, management and conservation (including both wild and agricultural biodiversity) in Afghanistan. Prepare a table listing agency name; key contacts; enabling legislation; agency mandate, responsibilities and budgets; previous, ongoing and planned activities relevant to biodiversity; publications and other outputs
- review and list academic institutions, international organizations and national and international NGOs supporting biodiversity use and management (including both wild and agricultural biodiversity) in Afghanistan. Prepare a table listing organization name; key contacts; organizational mandates; previous, ongoing and planned activities relevant to biodiversity; budgets; publications and other outputs
- ensure that key personnel of the above agencies are informed of the NBSAP process and are invited to participate in the next steps as appropriate
- based on consolidation of published and unpublished information (including information held by the above sources), assess and summarize the current state of knowledge of Afghanistan’s biodiversity resources, types and extent of use of these resources, and types and extent of threats to these resources.

3. Strategy Development

Initiation of the Strategy Development phase *(facilitated by the second visit of the International Biodiversity Specialist)* assumes that a reasonably reliable picture of the status and trends of national biodiversity, current threats to biodiversity resources, the national legal and administrative framework, and existing institutional and human capacities has been developed (*i.e.*, completion of steps 1 and 2 above). Strategy development requires the following specific tasks:

- review of stakeholder analysis (from Step 2 above) to ensure that all levels (research, management, use) of stakeholders are included in strategy development
- consultation and agreement on goals, targets and operational objectives for biodiversity conservation
- analysis and selection of specific measures that will close the gaps identified in the stock-taking phase
- drafting of a statement clearly stating the strategy, actions and investments required to meet the stated goals and objectives (*facilitated by the third mission of the International Biodiversity Specialist*)
- comprehensive stakeholder review and finalization of the strategy statement
- based on stakeholder inputs, identification of the main elements of an Action Plan (*facilitated by the fourth and final mission of the International Biodiversity Specialist*)

4. Development of an Action Plan

The strategy prepared in Step 3 above needs to be turned into an Action Plan, a critically important part of the process of ensuring that Afghanistan's biodiversity resources are soundly managed and conserved. This step turns agreed priorities, principles and policies into specific sets of costed, time-bound activities to be implemented. Instruments for implementation might include:

- new or amended legislation
- administrative regulations and procedures
- establishment, reform or strengthening of institutions
- assignment of mandates to governmental, scientific or civil society bodies for execution of specific activities

Action planning requires specification of what, where, when and how activities will be implemented, and by whom. Questions to be answered are:

- who does what? Which public or private organizations will be charged with implementing activities identified in the Strategy?
- where? In what biomes, regions or other geographic location will identified activities be carried out?
- when? What are the timelines and milestones in implementation?
- how? By what means and with what resources (people, institutions, facilities, funds) will activities be carried out?

5. Implementation

The Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan process will only be useful if the Action Plan is adopted by Government and implemented in an efficient and timely manner. Implementation might include (but will not be limited to):

- preparing, negotiating, and adopting legislative and administrative measures
- carrying out specified scientific and research measures
- undertaking activities aimed at specified biomes, stakeholder groups or economic sectors
- carrying out supportive environmental education and awareness activities.

The efficiency of implementation can be aided by the establishment of a Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan implementation unit that maintains an overview of implementation progress and issues that need to be resolved. Ultimately, however, actions specified in the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan will only be effective if they are mainstreamed into ongoing public policy and practice.

6. Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms need to be built into the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan in order to measure the effectiveness of activities implementation, and for reviewing and updating the BSAP. In order to ensure that they are not overlooked, these mechanisms need to be viewed as an integral part of BSAP preparation. This will require establishment of appropriate baseline data and progress indicators.

7. Reporting

Parties to the CBD are required to prepare periodic reports on the measures they have taken to implement the Convention, and the effectiveness of these measures.

8. Updating the BSAP

The preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation and reporting of a BSAP is a continuous process that will require fine-tuning and adjustment to ensure effective outcomes. BSAPs are often formulated to cover a five year implementation period, but even within this period implementation effectiveness can be improved by periodic review and adjustment tied to the monitoring and evaluation and reporting processes.

9. Schedule and Implementation Responsibilities

The attached schedule summarizes the main activities associated with BSAP preparation, and who carries primary responsibility for activities completion. Ecodit's international and national consultants will provide technical guidance to strategy formulation, and Ecodit will provide necessary inputs to coordination, logistics and administration. It is expected that WCS and other international organizations will also be able to make significant technical contributions. However, to ensure country "ownership" of the strategy, it is expected that the primary impetus and guidance, as well as responsibility for facilitating political level review and approval, will rest with NEPA.

Annex 4: Potential Training Subjects

The following training materials are available at the CBD website www.cbd.int. These provide a comprehensive basis for development of training for all participants in NBSAP preparation and implementation.

Module A-1: Guide to the Convention on Biological Diversity

This module provides an introduction to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) for the focal points of the Convention as well as newcomers to the CBD process. It begins with a summary of the background of the Convention, the institutional and operational framework for the Convention, and the work being carried out by the Convention.

Module A-2: Role of the CBD National Focal Point

This module introduces the Terms of Reference that were adopted at COP 8 and provides a brief description of the role of the National Focal Point in practical terms (a detailed manual is available at the Convention's website www.cbd.int). This module and others have been designed for the target audience as well as others involved in the CBD process both at national level and within the global stakeholder community.

Module A-3: An Introduction to National Reporting

This module discusses the importance of National Reporting and the preparation process. It provides information concerning the importance of the process and provides a checklist to assist Parties to the Convention. The module briefly discusses how eligible Parties can access GEF funding toward preparation of National Reports.

Module B-1: An Introduction to National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans

This module explains why the NBSAP is a key element of a country's implementation of its obligations under the CBD. It provides an overview of the background and summarizes the guidance given by the Conference of the Parties, the institutional arrangements for assisting countries, achievements so far and lessons learned. It provides an introduction to issues that are explained in greater depth in subsequent modules.

Module B-2: The Biodiversity Planning Process: How to Prepare and Update a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

This module provides an overview of how to organise the process for developing and implementing the first version of a NBSAP. It shows how implementation of the NBSAP has to be an adaptive and cyclical process that leads to periodic review and revision. It suggests that those responsible for the NBSAP will need to assess how to carry out these tasks in light of the specific conditions in their country and the resources available.

Module B-3: Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Sectoral and Cross-Sectoral Strategies, Plans and Programmes

This module provides an overview of mainstreaming and its importance for achieving NBSAP goals. It describes specific tools and strategies that can be used to achieve mainstreaming of biodiversity concerns into sectoral and cross-sectoral plans and programmes. These tools and strategies include incorporating biodiversity into national development and/or poverty reduction strategies, using sectoral strategies and tools as entry points for mainstreaming, using Strategic Environmental Assessments (or impact assessment tools applied at the strategic level) as tools for mainstreaming, promoting mainstreaming through application of the ecosystem approach and related approaches, and using financial and economic tools for mainstreaming. The overarching message of the module is that the

implementation of NBSAPs, which serve as a key element in national and sub-national policy development and planning processes, should result in demonstrable mainstreaming of biodiversity concerns.

Module B-4: Setting National Biodiversity Targets, making use of the CBD's Framework for the 2010 Biodiversity Target

This module discusses the importance of targets as tools for moving from policy to measurable, on-the-ground results toward reducing the rate of loss of biodiversity. It provides a brief history of target development in the context of the CBD, and explains some of the ways in which countries can develop their own national targets within the framework of CBD's global 2010 targets. The module briefly discusses ways to monitor progress towards targets, including through the use of indicators.

Module B-5: Ensuring stakeholder engagement in the development, implementation and updating of NBSAPs

This module explains why the preparation and revision of a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan should involve the active participation of 'stakeholders'. It shows that, for a country to develop and implement an effective NBSAP that will enable it to fulfil the three objectives of the CBD, all those sectors and institutions that have a stake in biodiversity-related questions need to play an active part in the preparation and revision of the NBSAP. The module explains what is meant by the term 'stakeholders' and how to identify who they are, and offers ideas on mechanisms for promoting their effective engagement in all stages of NBSAP development and implementation.

Module B-6: Getting political support for the NBSAP and financing its implementation

This module addresses three practical aspects of getting the support needed to make the NBSAP the main national instrument for achieving the objectives of the Convention. These are: 1) making the case for biodiversity in order to get political support for biodiversity and the NBSAP, and to incorporate it into the policy-making framework; 2) getting endorsement for the NBSAP and follow-up to monitor its implementation; and 3) building the financial basis for implementation through resources from the national budget, other domestic sources of support, and external funding.

Module B-7: Communication Strategy for Issues in NBSAPs

This module discusses the importance of having a good communications strategy for the NBSAP. It describes the steps that need to be taken to develop a communications strategy, including some of the practical issues that should be considered, and fundraising to support implementation of the communications strategy.

Annex 5: List of Acronyms

AWSEC	Afghan Wild Species Executive Committee
BSP/NEPA	Biodiversity Support Program/National Environmental Protection Agency
CBD	Convention on Biodiversity
CITES	Convention on Trade in Endangered Species
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
MAIL	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Lands
NAPA	National Adaptation Programme of Action
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NCSA	National Capacity Self-Assessment
NEPA	National Environmental Protection Agency
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
PoWPA	Program of Work for Protected Areas
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
WDPA	World Database on Protected Areas

ANNEX 6: LIST OF PERSONS CONSULTED

- Bowling, Belinda, Afghanistan Programme Manager, United Nations Environment Programme, Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch, Kabul
- M. Hashim Barikzai, Director General of Natural Resource Management, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Kabul
- Dad Mohammad Baheer, Deputy Executive Director-General, National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA), Kabul
- Hatch, Charles, Ecodit Senior Environmental Advisor/Team Leader, USAID Biodiversity Support Program for NEPA, Kabul
- Jensen, Catalina, Contract Officer's Technical Representative, Office of Alternative Development and Agriculture, USAID, Kabul
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- Johnson, Todd, Ecodit Senior Environmental Advisor/Team Leader, USAID Biodiversity Support Program for NEPA, Kabul
- Kanderian, Nina, Wildlife Conservation Society, Kabul
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- Sharbat Khan Nikmal, Biodiversity and Natural Resource Management Advisor, Biodiversity Support Program for the National Environmental Protection Agency, Kabul
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- Smallwood, Peter D., Afghanistan Country Director, Wildlife Conservation Society, Kabul
- Sulaiman Shah Sallari, Director, Division of Natural Heritage Protection, National Environmental Protection Agency, Kabul
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