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TECHNICAL REPORT

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

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BIODIVERSITY SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR NEPA

REPORT ON THIRD MISSION OF INTERNATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY SPECIALIST *version of 161009*

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 preliminary national biodiversity strategy for Afghanistan. The strategy is to be drafted in a collaborative manner, in compliance with the Environment Law (2008) 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.

The strategy also is being developed in accordance with the Convention on Biodiversity (signed by Afghanistan in 1992) which states that each contracting party shall 1) develop national strategies for the sustainable use of biodiversity, and 2) integrate the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral planning.

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 work is being carried out under the USAID-funded Biodiversity Support Program for NEPA (BSP/NEPA), with the technical assistance of Ecodit. The International Biodiversity Strategy Specialist assignment comprises four missions to Afghanistan during 2009, with a total of 60 days level of effort. The first mission, aimed primarily at fact-finding, was completed during 18 April-1 May 2009 and is reported in Ecodit 2009a. The second mission, aimed at initiation of the strategy development phase, was carried out during 3-15 July 2009 and is reported in Ecodit 2009b. The third mission, comprising stakeholder consultations at provincial level, was carried out during 26 September-16 October 2009 and is reported herein. The fourth mission, which will focus on drafting of a strategy, is currently scheduled for December 2009.

The scope of work aims at the development of an agreed strategic approach to the conservation of biodiversity in Afghanistan by the end of 2009, with follow-up action planning and monitoring being the responsibility of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, accessing assistance as necessary from a proposed GEF-funded initiative (through UNEP, approval of funding pending) and/or additional funding modalities. In order to maintain planning momentum, BSP/NEPA will provide bridging funding for the action plan development process if necessary.

Results of the current phase of the **BSP/NEPA initiative** will be the development, by the end of 2009, 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. Follow-up development of implementation details (action planning) will then be required to develop the operational methodologies 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 third 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 during the first mission and is continuing, through review of available reporting and consultation with relevant technical expertise both in-country and elsewhere. The most comprehensive compilation continues to be UNEP's recently produced (2009) Biodiversity Profile of Afghanistan, which 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 references. Also of primary relevance, the WCS-implemented Program of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) is producing species (wildlife and plants) and ecoregional analyses, and the progress and outputs of this program continue to be monitored. Other primary sources of information are described in the First and Second Mission Reports (Ecodit 2009a, 2009b).

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 has been investigated in general terms during the first, second and third missions through document review and interviews with key informants. The convening by NEPA of a Biodiversity Working Group early in the second mission (first meeting 6 July 2009, second meeting 14 July 2009, subsequent sub-group consultations 7 September 2009; see Annex 1 for list of members) to oversee the strategy development process has shifted the immediate training/awareness development focus to this group. Explanatory background materials were provided during the group's second meeting (see Annex 2 of Second Mission Report). Technical support to this group will continue as necessary by the Team Leader and International and National Biodiversity Specialists.

Specific training inputs that will be required for biodiversity strategy implementation still remain to be determined. Time did not permit the preparation of a training needs assessment focussing on government personnel who will be involved in strategy implementation (initially planned for the third mission); this has been rescheduled for the fourth mission of the International Biodiversity Specialist, which will otherwise focus on strategy preparation and follow-up as necessary at national level. Standard training modules focussing on the

CBD are available (see Annex 4 of the First Mission Report) and this will facilitate the timely delivery of training and related workshop events. UNEP also has offered to share relevant training materials used in the NCSA and NAPA processes.

NEPA's training team will continue to 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 public awareness team will continue to 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 primary focus of the third mission was a series of workshop events aimed at obtaining information on biodiversity status, threats and potential management measures from government personnel and other stakeholders based in the provinces. These were held in Bamyan (30 September), Mazar (4 October), Herat (7 October) and Kabul (11 October). There were a total of 39 participants in Bamyan, 25 in Mazar, 45 in Herat and 45 in Kabul, primarily from provincial NEPA offices but also comprising community members, NGOs and journalists. In total 27 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces were represented. Telephone interviews with provincial NEPA staff are being used to generate information for six of the seven provinces not represented at the workshops (Badakshan, Daykundi, Nurestan, Oruzgan, Paktika and Takhar; the seventh, Kabul, is represented in the process by NEPA at national level). Each consultation began with welcomes from provincial officials, NEPA and the Biodiversity Support Program (Annex 2), followed by a PowerPoint presentation (slides in Dari, English commentary simultaneously translated in Dari) outlining the steps in the preparation of a National Biodiversity Strategy and the expected outputs of the day's meeting (Annex 3). All participants also were provided with a handout (in Dari) explaining the purpose of the workshop and presenting the goals, targets and indicators of the CBD (Annex 4). Participants were then divided into small groups (generally 3-6 members) representing each province, and asked to identify the three most important wild plant resources in the province (or region grouping adjacent provinces), the three most important wild animal resources, the three most important threats to biodiversity, and the conservation actions required to address these threats. Group working time varied but averaged approximately 1.5 hours. Each group then reported back to the meeting at large.

The first two questions (most important animals, most important plants) were asked primarily to get the groups thinking about biodiversity and related threats and management options, rather than to generate data on species status or site/species-specific threats. Nevertheless the results are of some interest. The animals identified as most important tended to be large herbivores and carnivores (still extant in viable populations in many areas), raptorial birds (highly visible, and having economic value) and fish (an important food source). Plants identified as most important tended to be medicinal and food plants, reflecting the continuing importance of wild plant species in the rural economy of Afghanistan.

The question on threats was intended to generate qualitative information that could then be used as a linkage to the next step, identification of management options and recommended actions (Annex 5). The more than 40 threats collectively identified fall naturally into three categories: 1) broad-scale natural and human-induced influences (*e.g.*, natural disasters [for example flooding], climate change, overpopulation); 2) local-scale pressures on resources

(*e.g.*, hunting, fishing, fuelwood collection) and 3) absence of underlying conditions required for effective resource management (*e.g.*, lack of law enforcement, lack of livelihoods options).

To be effective, the NBSAP will need to address all types and levels of threats to biodiversity in Afghanistan, and develop appropriate actions to counter these threats. Significant steps have already been taken with the completion of a number of review, planning and reporting exercises in Afghanistan and surrounding countries; these are reviewed and recommended actions are consolidated in Annex 3 Table 2 of the Second Mission Report. The priority actions identified during the provincial consultations provided both confirmation of actions required that have already been identified through other means, and have provided numerous new insights into additional priority action requirements.

Priority biodiversity conservation actions based on previous work in Afghanistan, additional priority actions identified from the provincial consultations, and other priority actions drawn from adjacent countries are summarized in Annex 5 attached. These now need to be subjected to comprehensive review and prioritization in preparation for the fourth mission and drafting of a biodiversity strategy. It is proposed that this task be undertaken by the Biodiversity Working Group, initially as subgroups assigned a subset of the 10 action categories, then submitted to the group as a whole for discussion and agreed adjustments. Priority categories need to be straightforward, standardized and easily defined: four categories (most important, highly important, moderately important and least important) are proposed.

The format and contents of the draft National Biodiversity Strategy for Afghanistan remain to be finalized, although it is expected to include at minimum sections on overall goals and objectives, programs and activities required to meet the specified goals and objectives, and a description of how these programs 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. Annex 1 of the First Mission Report outlines typical NBSAP content.

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

Recommendation 1: The numerous actions proposed under points 1-10, Annex 5 (attached) need to be reviewed, revised and prioritized prior to inclusion in Afghanistan's National Biodiversity Strategy. It is recommended that this task be undertaken by the Biodiversity Working Group currently advising the Project.

A suggested first step is to review each of the individual recommendations (bulleted points) and attach an agreed importance rating based on a standardized system (most important, highly important, moderately important, least important). The importance rating should be

based on perceived contribution of the recommended action to effective biodiversity conservation in Afghanistan. This can be done either individually for subsequent collation, or (preferably) by subgroups each comprising 4-5 members, and each assigned a subset of recommendations to prioritize on a consensual basis.

As a second step, subgroup recommendations should then be submitted for scrutiny and approval by the Biodiversity Working Group as a whole. Depending on the amount of discussion generated, it is estimated that completion of this process should be achievable during a single half day meeting, or at most a half day meeting for step one and a follow-up meeting for step 2. If considered necessary subsequent review by international expertise (BSP/NEPA advisors, WCS, UNEP) could also be used to clarify unresolved discussion points and to provide commentary prior to finalization.

These first and second steps need to be completed prior to the fourth inputs of the International Biodiversity Strategy Specialist (currently scheduled for the first half of December 2009) to allow adequate time for completion of the draft National Biodiversity Strategy.

Recommendation 2: It is recommended that the next inputs (fourth mission) of the International Advisor should focus, as previously planned, on facilitating the drafting of a national level strategy for the conservation of biodiversity in Afghanistan, in close consultation with the Biodiversity Working Group, NEPA and other partners, and drawing on the priorities identified by the Biodiversity Working Group (Recommendation 1 above). The strategy will need to identify and address the following:

- 1) what are the major biodiversity conservation issues in Afghanistan?
- 2) within this context, which elements of the CBD are the most relevant and require the most urgent response?
- 3) what strategic framework needs to be in place at national, provincial and local levels to conserve biodiversity?

This mission is tentatively planned for the first half of December 2009.

Recommendation 3: The development of a strategy presupposes that it will be complemented by a follow-on action plan specifying actions that need to be taken, who will take them, within what timeframe, and what resources will be required. In order to maintain the planning momentum achieved to date, initiation of action planning should follow strategy development (Recommendations 1 and 2 above) as immediately as possible.

4. REFERENCES CITED

Ecodit. 2009a. Biodiversity Support Program for NEPA. Report on First Mission of International Biodiversity Strategy Specialist.

Ecodit. 2009b. Biodiversity Support Program for NEPA. Report on Second Mission of International Biodiversity Strategy Specialist.

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.

ANNEXES:

Annex 1. List of Biodiversity Working Group Members

Annex 2. Agenda for Provincial Consultations

Annex 3. PowerPoint Presentation for Provincial Consultations

Annex 4. Information Handout for Provincial Consultations

Annex 5. Synthesis of Priority Biodiversity Conservation Actions in Afghanistan

Annex 6. List of Participants in Provincial Consultations

Annex 7. List of Acronyms

Annex 8. List of Persons Consulted to Date

ANNEX 1. LIST OF BIODIVERSITY WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

Professor Dr. Noor Ahamad Mirazai, Head, Faculty of Science, Kabul University (Chair)

Ghulam Haider Haideri, Head, Environment Section, Natural Resources Management, Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock

Ghulam Dastageer, Director, Rangeland Section, Natural Resources Management, Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock

Same Sakhi, Member, Natural Resources Management, Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock

Sulaiman Shah Sallari, Director, Natural Heritage Division, National Environmental Protection Agency

Abdul Baqi Ahmadzai, Provincial Liaison Officer, National Environmental Protection Agency

M. Akaber Haqbeen, Head of Environmental Quality Objectives, National Environmental Protection Agency

Wakeel Ahmad Stanekzai, Head, Protected Areas, National Environmental Protection Agency

Muhibullah Fazli, Wildlife Officer, National Environmental Protection Agency

Gul Nabi Hamat, Aquatic Officer, National Environmental Protection Agency

Ghazi Gul Temouri, Terrestrial Officer, National Environmental Protection Agency

Sharbat Khan Nikmal, Biodiversity and Natural Resources Management Advisor, National Environmental Protection Agency/Ecodit

**ANNEX 2. AGENDA FOR PROVINCIAL CONSULTATIONS: PREPARATION OF
A NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY FOR AFGHANISTAN,
SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2009**

1. Opening (readings from the Holy Koran)
2. Statements by senior officials
 - Representative from NEPA at national level
 - NEPA Provincial Director
 - MAIL Provincial Director
 - Provincial Governor
 - Team Leader, Biodiversity Support Program for NEPA (C. Hatch)
3. Self-introduction of participants
4. PowerPoint Presentation: Preparation of a National Biodiversity Strategy (R.E. Salter, BSP Biodiversity Strategy Specialist)

TEA BREAK

5. Questions/discussion regarding PowerPoint presentation
6. Small group discussion:
 - each group will comprise 3-5 persons from a single province or adjacent provinces
 - at the beginning of the discussion each group will assign one person as a recorder and one person as a presenter
 - based on the final PowerPoint slide (biodiversity resources, threats, management measures required) each group will identify the three most important wild plant resources in the province, the three most important wild animal resources in the province, the three most important threats to biodiversity in the province, and the conservation actions required to address these threats (*e.g.*, new or modified policies and laws, education and awareness, *etc.*)

LUNCH

7. Presentation of results of small group discussions
8. Statement of next steps (BSP Biodiversity Strategy Specialist, NEPA Representative)
9. Closing

ANNEX 3. POWERPOINT PRESENTATION FOR PROVINCIAL CONSULTATIONS

note: slides shown to participants were in Dari

PREPARATION OF A NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY

SLIDE 1: WHAT IS BIODIVERSITY?

BIODIVERSITY IS A COMBINATION OF THE WORDS “BIOLOGICAL” AND “DIVERSITY”. IT REFERS TO THE **VARIETY** OF LIVING THINGS AT:

1. THE **ECOSYSTEM LEVEL** (FOR EXAMPLE, THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF FORESTS AND WETLANDS IN A COUNTRY OR REGION)
2. THE **SPECIES LEVEL** (FOR EXAMPLE, THE TOTAL NUMBERS AND DISTRIBUTION OF PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES IN A COUNTRY OR REGION), AND/OR
3. THE **GENETIC LEVEL** (FOR EXAMPLE, THE NUMBERS AND DISTRIBUTION OF SUBSPECIES)

SLIDE 2: WHAT IS CONSERVATION?

CONSERVATION IS DEFINED AS THE “WISE USE” OF A RESOURCE. IT CAN VARY FROM:

- CONSUMPTIVE USE AT SUSTAINABLE LEVELS, TO
- PROTECTION OF SPECIFIED AREAS AND PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES UNDER LEGISLATION OR SPECIAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

SLIDE 3: WHAT IS SUSTAINABLE USE?

SUSTAINABLE USE IS DEFINED AS THE CONTINUING USE OF A RESOURCE OVER A LONG TIME PERIOD (MULTIPLE GENERATIONS) WITHOUT CAUSING A LONG-TERM LOSS IN ITS PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY

SLIDE 4: WHAT IS THE CONVENTION ON BIODIVERSITY (CBD)?

THE CBD IS AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT (SIGNED BY AFGHANISTAN IN 1992) AIMING AT:

- CONSERVING BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
- USING BIODIVERSITY IN A SUSTAINABLE MANNER
- SHARING THE BENEFITS OF BIODIVERSITY SUSTAINABLY AND EQUITABLY

SLIDE 5: THE CBD REQUIRES EACH PARTY TO:

- DEVELOP NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIODIVERSITY
- INTEGRATE CONSERVATION/SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIODIVERSITY INTO RELEVANT REGIONAL AND NATIONAL PLANNING

SLIDE 6: WHAT IS A NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN?

A NBSAP IS A DOCUMENT THAT DEFINES A STRATEGY AND ACTIONS TO ADDRESS THE OBJECTIVES OF THE CBD:

1. CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY
2. SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIODIVERSITY
3. FAIR AND EQUITABLE SHARING OF BENEFITS FROM CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE

SLIDE 7: WHY IS A NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN IMPORTANT?

1. IT ENSURES THAT THE VALUES OF BIODIVERSITY (*e.g.*, FOR SUPPORT OF LIVELIHOODS) ARE MAINTAINED
2. IT PROVIDES A MECHANISM FOR CONSERVING BIODIVERSITY AT NATIONAL LEVEL
3. IT CONTRIBUTES TO GLOBAL CONSERVATION GOALS

SLIDE 8: DEVELOPMENT, IMPLEMENTATION AND UPDATING OF A NBSAP IS A 7 STEP PROCESS

1. GETTING ORGANIZED
2. ASSESSMENT
3. STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT
4. ACTION PLAN DEVELOPMENT
5. IMPLEMENTATION
6. MONITORING AND EVALUATION
7. REPORTING

STEPS 1-3 FUNDED BY BSP/NEPA

SLIDE 9: STEP 1 (GETTING ORGANIZED)

- OVERSIGHT AND MANAGEMENT: NEPA
- OTHER PARTICIPANTS: RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, COMMUNITIES, OTHERS
- ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES, SCHEDULING *ETC.*

SLIDE 10: STEP 2 (ASSESSMENT/BIODIVERSITY COUNTRY STUDY)

- TAKE STOCK OF WHAT IS KNOWN ABOUT BIODIVERSITY RESOURCES
- IDENTIFY THREATS
- DESCRIBE THE FRAMEWORK OF EXISTING PROGRAMS, BUDGETS AND HUMAN CAPACITY

SLIDE 11: STEP 3 (DEVELOPING A STRATEGY)

- DETERMINE GOALS AND OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES
- ANALYZE AND SELECT MEASURES TO BE TAKEN
- REACH CONSENSUS ON TARGETS AND MECHANISMS
- IDENTIFY STAKEHOLDERS AND HOW THEY CAN BE ENGAGED
- IDENTIFY ACTIONS AND INVESTMENTS REQUIRED TO MEET GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
- CONDUCT NATIONAL DIALOGUE WITH ALL STAKEHOLDERS

SLIDE 12: STEP 4 (DEVELOPING A PLAN OF ACTION)

IDENTIFY INSTRUMENTS REQUIRED FOR NBSAP IMPLEMENTATION

- LEGISLATION (NEW OR AMENDED)
- ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES
- PARTNERSHIPS (STRENGTHENING OR ESTABLISHMENT)
- MANDATES (WHAT GOVERNMENTAL, SCIENTIFIC OR OTHER BODIES WILL EXECUTE ACTIVITIES)

SLIDE 13: STEP 4 CONTINUED (DEVELOPING A PLAN OF ACTION)

IDENTIFY PROGRAMES TO BE CARRIED OUT

- WHO DOES WHAT?
- WHERE?
- WHEN?
- WITH WHAT RESOURCES?

SLIDE 14: STEP 5 (IMPLEMENTATION)

CARRY OUT THE AGREED PLAN OF ACTION THROUGH

- LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES
- MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES
- SCIENTIFIC/RESEARCH ACTIVITIES
- EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS ACTIVITIES

SLIDE 15: STEP 6 (MONITORING AND EVALUATION)

- MEASURE EFFECTIVENESS ON A REGULAR BASIS
- IDENTIFY LESSONS LEARNED

SLIDE 16: STEP 7 (REPORTING)

- REPORT MEASURES TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE CONVENTION (EVERY FOUR YEARS)
- REVIEW AND UPDATE THE NBSAP

SLIDE 17: EXPECTATIONS FROM TODAY'S MEETING

- YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE MAJOR BIODIVERSITY RESOURCES (FORESTS, WOODLANDS, RANGELANDS, WETLANDS AND WILDLIFE) IN EACH PROVINCE
- YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE MAJOR THREATS TO THESE RESOURCES
- YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF INITIAL CONSERVATION ACTIONS THAT NEED TO BE TAKEN TO SUSTAIN THESE RESOURCES
- YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF INITIAL APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO IMPLEMENT THE STRATEGY

ANNEX 4. INFORMATION HANDOUT FOR PROVINCIAL CONSULTATIONS

note: handout provided to participants was in Dari

PREPARATION OF A NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY FOR AFGHANISTAN

PRESENTATION MATERIALS FOR PROVINCIAL CONSULTATIONS *draft of 130709*

Introduction

NEPA's goal is to protect the environmental integrity of Afghanistan and to support sustainable development of its natural resources through the provision of effective environmental policies, regulatory frameworks and management services that are also in line with the Afghanistan Millennium Development goals.

A priority expected result is, by 2012, the establishment and implementation of legal and regulatory frameworks and management services for "green" issues, including natural resource management. Other expected results are improved coordination with line ministries and other government departments, and that participatory processes and public awareness will be contributing to compliance and enforcement.

One of NEPA's responsibilities is the preparation of a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Afghanistan. This is a requirement of the international Convention on Biological Biodiversity (CBD), to which Afghanistan became a party in 2002. The CBD is a legally binding international treaty that promotes the following objectives:

- the conservation of biological diversity
- the sustainable use of its components, and
- the equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources

The CBD was the first global agreement on the conservation and sustainable use of all components of biodiversity, including genetic resources, species and ecosystems. It provides a global legal framework for action on biodiversity, bringing together the 188 member countries plus the European Union. Although it is an international treaty, responsibility for its implementation resides primarily with each Party at national level.

Each party has an obligation to develop and implement National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), and should integrate biodiversity concerns into other national policies and programmes. Parties must report to the CBD's Conference of the Parties on national implementation of the Convention through national reporting.

Purpose of the Workshop

The purpose of this workshop is to seek the advice of participants on how the goals and targets of the CBD can be achieved in Afghanistan. Specifically, feedback is needed on:

- 1) what are the major biodiversity conservation issues at provincial level;
- 2) within this context, which goals of the CBD are most urgent, and which targets and indicators are most relevant (using the attached framework); and,
- 3) what actions are required to achieve the specified targets.

The CBD Framework of Goals, Targets and Relevant Indicators

Goals and targets	Relevant indicators
Protecting the components of biodiversity	
Goal 1: Promote the conservation of the biological diversity of ecosystems, habitats and biomes	
<i>Target 1.1: at least 10% of each ecological region effectively conserved</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • coverage of protected areas • trends in extent of selected biomes, ecosystems and habitats • trends in abundance and distribution of selected species
<i>Target 1.2: areas of particular importance to biodiversity protected</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • trends in extent of selected biomes, ecosystems and habitats • trends in abundance and distribution of selected species • coverage of protected areas
Goal 2: Promote the conservation of species diversity	
<i>Target 2.1: populations of species of selected taxonomic groups restored, maintained or decline reduced</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • trends in abundance and distribution of selected species • change in status of threatened species
<i>Target 2.2: status of threatened species improved</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • change in status of threatened species • trends in abundance and distribution of selected species • coverage of protected areas
Goal 3: Promote the conservation of genetic diversity	
<i>Target 3.1: genetic diversity of crops, livestock and of harvested species of trees, fish and wildlife and other valuable species conserved, and associated indigenous and local knowledge maintained</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • trends in genetic diversity of domesticated animals, cultivated plants, and fish species of major socio-economic importance • biodiversity used in food and medicine (indicator under development) • trends in abundance and distribution of selected species
Promoting sustainable use	
Goal 4: Promote sustainable use and consumption	
<i>Target 4.1: biodiversity-based products derived from sources that are sustainably managed, and production areas managed consistent with the conservation of biodiversity</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • area of forest, agricultural and aquaculture systems under sustainable management • proportion of products derived from sustainable sources (indicator under development) • trends in abundance and distribution of selected species • nitrogen deposition • water quality in aquatic ecosystems
<i>Target 4.2: unsustainable consumption of biological resources, or that impacts on biodiversity, reduced</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ecological footprint and related concepts
<i>Target 4.3: no species of wild flora or fauna endangered by international trade</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • change in status of threatened species
Addressing threats to biodiversity	
Goal 5: Reduce pressures from habitat loss, land use change and degradation, and unsustainable water use	
<i>Target 5.1: rate of loss and degradation of natural habitats decreased</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • trends in extent of selected biomes, ecosystems and habitats • trends in abundance and distribution of selected species
Goal 6: Control threats from invasive alien species	
<i>Target 6.1: pathways for major potential alien species controlled</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • trends in invasive alien species

Target 6.2: management plans for major alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species in place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • trends in invasive alien species
Goal 7: Address challenges to biodiversity from climate change and pollution	
Target 7.1: resilience of the components of biodiversity to adapt to climate change maintained and enhanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • connectivity/fragmentation of ecosystems
Target 7.2: Pollution and its impacts on biodiversity reduced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nitrogen deposition • water quality in aquatic ecosystems
Maintaining goods and services from biodiversity to support human well-being	
Goal 8: Maintain capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services and to support livelihoods	
Target 8.1: Capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services maintained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • biodiversity used in food and medicine (indicator under development) • water quality in aquatic ecosystems • incidence of human-induced ecosystem failure
Target 8.2: Biological resources that support sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care, especially of poor people, maintained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • health and well-being of communities who depend directly on local ecosystem goods and services • biodiversity used in food and medicine (indicator under development)
Protecting traditional knowledge, innovation and practices	
Goal 9: Maintain socio-cultural diversity of indigenous and local communities	
Target 9.1: Traditional knowledge, innovations and practices protected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • status and trends of linguistic diversity and numbers of speakers of indigenous languages • additional indicators to be developed
Target 9.2: Rights of indigenous and local communities over their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, including their rights to benefits sharing, protected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • indicators to be developed
Ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources	
Goal 10: Ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources	
Target 10.1: All access to genetic resources in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity and its relevant provisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • indicators to be developed
Target 10.2: Benefits arising from the commercial and other utilization of genetic resources shared in a fair and equitable way with the countries providing such resources in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity and its relevant provisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • indicators to be developed
Ensuring provision of adequate resources	
Goal 11: Parties have improved financial, human, scientific, technical and technological capacity to implement the Convention	
Target 11.1: New and additional financial resources transferred to developing country Parties, to allow for the effective implementation of their commitments under the Convention, in accordance with Article 20.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • official development assistance provided in support of the Convention
Target 11.2: Technology transferred to developing country Parties, to allow for the effective implementation of their commitments under the Convention, in accordance with its Article 20, paragraph 4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • indicators to be developed

ANNEX 5. SYNTHESIS OF PRIORITY BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION ACTIONS IDENTIFIED IN AFGHANISTAN TO-DATE *updated 141009*

International interest in biodiversity conservation in Afghanistan began over 30 years ago (FAO 1977a, 1977b, 1977c, 1977d, 1977e, 1977f, 1978a, 1978b), and continues to-date. Work addressing the current situation began with the Post-Conflict Environmental Assessment for Afghanistan (UNEP 2003). This publication provided a number of recommendations directly related to biodiversity conservation, most if not all of which remain relevant (Table A5-1 attached). The most recent recommendations from biodiversity-related needs assessments and reporting are summarized in our Second Mission Report (Annex 3 Table 1 in Ecodit 2009b).

The following list represents an updated synthesis of ideas and recommendations for the conservation of biodiversity in Afghanistan, based on the references cited above, and inputs from provincial consultations conducted during 30 September – 11 October 2009. Priority biodiversity conservation actions identified in NBSAPs for adjacent countries (Annex 3 Table 2 in Ecodit 2009b), but not identified in the reviews and consultations conducted in Afghanistan to-date, also are included to ensure that they are adequately discussed and added if considered relevant.

The intention of this synthesis is to continue to stimulate review and discussion within NEPA and between NEPA and its governmental and NGO partners regarding identification of actions to be included in a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Afghanistan. The primary focus needs to continue to be on comprehensiveness and gaps (*i.e.*, does the list include all of the most important actions that need to be taken to ensure the effective conservation of biodiversity in Afghanistan, and if not what is missing?) and, based on a comprehensive listing of actions to be taken, identification of immediate priorities.

Recommended actions for the conservation of biodiversity in Afghanistan made to date fall into the following broad categories:

1. CURRENT STATUS OF BIODIVERSITY

Priority Actions Previously Identified in Afghanistan

- determine the status of Afghanistan's biodiversity
- develop a scientific inventory of flora and fauna
- encourage national and international scholars to develop a comprehensive flora of Afghanistan, drawing particularly on Afghan collections in herbaria in Europe, North America and Russia
- continue the national red-listing process, assessing conservation status and types and level of threats for Afghan mammals and birds, and incorporating targeted surveys to establish current status of priority species (*note*: the listing process is currently being undertaken by the Afghanistan Wildlife Executive Committee)
- undertake field studies of selected species and ecosystems to better understand biodiversity status and trends
- develop programs to preserve native Afghan land races of crop plants and livestock

Additional Priority Actions Identified from Provincial Consultations

- *implement local research to determine what species are endangered*

Other Priority Actions Identified in NBSAPs for Adjacent Countries

- *develop biodiversity information systems*

2. NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Priority Actions Previously Identified in Afghanistan

- develop a detailed, long-term and complete national biodiversity strategy for Afghanistan incorporating biodiversity indicators, targets and specific strategies for implementing elements of the CBD
- assign a focal point within the Ministry of Environment and develop expertise and capacity relevant to the CBD
- engage the government more fully in the activities of the CBD and CITES

3. PROTECTED AREAS

Priority Actions Previously Identified in Afghanistan

- identify biodiversity hotspots and set protection targets
- develop a protected area system plan for Afghanistan designed to protect representative areas of high biodiversity in all major ecoregions, including transboundary areas
- complete the National Protected Areas System Plan for Afghanistan, articulating clear targets for the protected area system and methods for implementing it
- develop the National Protected Areas System envisioned in the protected areas legislation
- survey all wetlands and potential protected areas to determine current status and suitability for inclusion into the protected areas system plan
- explore the possibility of restoring degraded wetlands
- establish priority and feasible protected areas as legally recognized, adequately funded and effectively managed entities. Candidate priority areas should be Band-i-Amir, Ajar Valley, Pamir-i-Buzung/the entire Wakhan Corridor region, Dashte Nawar and Shah Foladi
- incorporate findings and recommendations as they are produced by the ongoing POWPA process
- ensure that sufficient attention is paid to mountain areas, the predominant ecosystem in Afghanistan and the likely focus of future ecotourism activities
- promote tourism development

Additional Priority Actions Identified from Provincial Consultations

- *hire Rangers to protect wildlife/biodiversity resources*

Other Priority Actions Identified in NBSAPs for Adjacent Countries

- *develop ex situ conservation measures (captive breeding, botanical gardens etc.)*
- *develop conservation measures in urban and other altered ecosystems*

4. VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Priority Actions Previously Identified in Afghanistan

- give priority to the conservation of riparian vegetation
- prohibit the burning of vegetation cover
- prohibit grazing in areas that are undergoing managed regeneration

- reduce illegal logging, especially large-scale and trans-boundary activities, by enforcing the timber moratorium issued by the central government
- conduct reforestation and tree planting activities, especially in areas where communities are using forest, range and other biological resources sustainably
- develop effective plans for preserving and recovering remnant pistachio and juniper forests in northern Afghanistan
- develop effective plans to intervene in the destruction of the remaining monsoon-dependent forests of eastern Afghanistan
- develop plans to manage eastern conifer forests: rebuild community control and government influence; improve transboundary cooperation; introduce a timber cooperative; control road access to forests; estimate future timber demands; establish forest management legislation; undertake gradual implementation of export controls; institute grazing management and rotation systems; develop demonstration sites showing the viability and benefits of forest conservation; promote strict protection of forest sites as components of a national protected areas system.
- develop plans to manage open woodlands: undertake immediate soil stabilization measures; begin community-based reforestation; reinstitute a community-based forest warden system; allocate woodlands to communities; employ grazing management and rotation systems; establish community-based woodlots; establish woodland management legislation; establish seed banks; establish woodland protected areas; develop alternative incomes
- prepare a list of protected medicinal plant species
- introduce appropriate measures to control the harvest of medicinal plants in high risk areas

Additional Priority Actions Identified from Provincial Consultations

- *develop/rehabilitate rangelands*
- *conserve natural forests*
- *develop national and international gene banks*
- *control trade in medicinal plants*

5. COMMUNITY-BASED NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Priority Actions Previously Identified in Afghanistan

- initiate decentralized, community-based management of natural resources
- implement projects on a pilot-scale that encourage a community-based approach to NRM, the experiences of which should feed into policy and regulatory activities at the central level
- develop and implement community forestry, range management and wildlife initiatives using an approach that integrates agricultural, forestry, range and wildlife uses
- support the development and implementation of sustainable agricultural practices including the use of local varieties
- develop innovative ways to undertake biodiversity conservation in concert with poverty alleviation
- emphasize tourism development and wildlife products, natural landscapes and features, biodiversity and wildlife heritage in community wildlife management
- develop the capacity of government and communities through the exchange of expertise
- attract international donor assistance for sustainable land management

- develop a strategic approach to implementing a national programme of community-based conservation that fully incorporates traditional knowledge and practices
- understand and utilize traditional practices and knowledge of conservation and sustainable use
- create a policy/strategy framework such as a legal system for allocation of user rights over forests and rangeland to communities
- pilot and implement community-based natural resource management approaches to rangelands and forests
- support labour-based rehabilitation projects
- achieve a balance between maximizing production and productivity in land uses (farming, forestry, wildlife exploitation) and maintenance and enhancement of the resource bases
- maximize benefits from nature tourism

Additional Priority Actions Identified from Provincial Consultations

- *control human population growth including numbers of returnees*
- *improve and ensure security*
- *provide land tenure/security of use to local people*
- *ensure sustainable use of all resources*
- *provide regulated access to firewood*
- *design and develop projects to address threats (e.g., dams and water storage (for irrigation), solar and wind power, fishing, tree planting, other livelihoods)*
- *encourage international investments in irrigation and environmental projects*
- *improve livestock husbandry*
- *develop alternative job opportunities*
- *encourage conservation through People's Councils/conservation committees*
- *integrate traditional knowledge into management policies*
- *develop and implement flood protection measures (tree planting, protective bunds)*

6. DESERTIFICATION

Priority Actions Previously Identified in Afghanistan

- create a suitable mechanism among the relevant government and non-government organizations to implement Afghanistan's obligations under the Convention to Combat Desertification
- prepare a national program concerning desertification and its prevention
- establish an information system to monitor and help implement programs which address desertification and land degradation issues
- establish community-based organizations for planning and decision-making concerning local strategies for combating desertification, including community-based rangeland assessment and management plans
- stabilize sand dunes and soils; reseed highly degraded rangeland; reduce grazing and dry land cultivation in vulnerable areas; map areas vulnerable to desertification; and establish representative rangeland areas where grazing is excluded or experimentally controlled

7. POLICY AND LEGAL INSTRUMENTS

Priority Actions Previously Identified in Afghanistan

- develop adequate legal instruments such as laws, regulations, policies and procedures to regulate and address the problems of biodiversity conservation
- complete drafting and passage of key environmental legislation such as the Protected Area Regulations, the Fauna Conservation and Hunting Regulations, the Rangeland Law and the Forest Law
- develop a National Environmental Action Plan
- set up a functioning system to administer CITES permitting
- strengthen regional and international cooperation

Additional Priority Actions Identified from Provincial Consultations

- *establish law enforcement, including banning of hunting and regulation of fishing, procedures for fines and penalties, and punishment of violators*
- *establish procedures for countering the influence of elites/powerful people regarding unauthorized forest cutting and land seizures*
- *establish a special court to deal with environmental violations*
- *determine and implement protective measures required, including but not limited to endangered species*
- *regulate trade in forest products*
- *regulate fishing through licensing*
- *consider economic value of species in prioritizing protective measures*

Other Priority Actions Identified in NBSAPs for Adjacent Countries

- *develop incentives for effective biodiversity conservation (e.g., at provincial and community levels, among user groups etc.)*
- *develop environmental impact procedures specifically addressing impacts of various types of infrastructure development s and land uses on biodiversity*

8. CAPACITY BUILDING

Priority Actions Previously Identified in Afghanistan

- clarify responsibilities in the environmental arena and strengthen the capacity of NEPA
- build environment and natural resource use capacities within line ministries
- provide basic infrastructure and professional training
- improve the capacity of government institutions to effectively manage biodiversity
- establish inter-agency technical committees and introduce an inter-ministerial coordination mechanism
- continue to develop the human and institutional capacities of MoAIL and NEPA, as well as other institutions having cross-cutting connections, at the national and sub-national levels
- develop and implement a legal and regulatory framework that ensures sustainable use of natural resources
- provide support and funding for the implementation of programs and projects
- establish an inter-ministerial EIA task force, establish a dedicated EIA Unit, and build professional expertise to undertake EIAs
- develop best environmental practice in the private sector

- strengthen the focal point for Multilateral Environmental Agreements, implement existing agreements, and prioritize participation in other international environmental conventions

Additional Priority Actions Identified from Provincial Consultations

- *mainstream environmental issues in all institutions*
- *provide support to NEPA regarding budget and personnel, authority to implement policies, and cooperation with regard to implementation of the environment law*
- *develop enforcement capacity within NEPA*
- *develop cooperative mechanisms between NEPA and other government agencies, NGOs and security organizations regarding protection of forests and rangelands*
- *encourage international investments in capacity development*

9. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Priority Actions Previously Identified in Afghanistan

- develop an environmental education curriculum and teacher training
- establish a resource centre for environmental information and best practice
- increase media awareness
- inventory traditional ecological knowledge

10. PUBLIC AWARENESS

Priority Actions Previously Identified in Afghanistan

- enhance public awareness about biodiversity and sustainable use, including government processes
- increase public awareness of biodiversity and its value to the Afghan people
- develop a national programme of biodiversity education and awareness

Additional Priority Actions Identified from Provincial Consultations

- *prepare and distribute handouts, posters and other materials*
- *promote public awareness through schools, mosques and media*
- *use different media (especially radio) to promote public awareness*
- *use volunteer groups to deliver awareness and education programming*
- *organize workshops*
- *promote public participation in resource management*

THREATS

Threats to biodiversity identified during provincial consultations, and which need to be addressed in the context of a National Biodiversity Strategy, include:

- air pollution
- climate change (drought and flooding)
- conflict and war
- conflicts between resource users
- degradation of rangelands and forests
- desertification
- disease
- drought
- easy access to firearms
- electro-fishing

- firewood collecting
- global warming
- habitat destruction
- harmful insects (*e.g.*, grasshoppers)
- illegal cutting of forests
- illegal fishing (especially use of explosives)
- illegal hunting (especially use of chemicals and explosives)
- illegal trade
- influence of warlords and powerful people
- insecurity
- lack of transport/access for government staff
- lack of education and awareness regarding biodiversity and natural resources
- lack of alternatives to use of natural resources
- lack of cooperation among government agencies
- lack of education
- lack of access to firewood
- lack of law enforcement/implementation
- lack of legal instruments
- lack of policy
- lack of support from government and NGOs
- lack of resource use options
- natural disasters (rain, flooding)
- over-collection of medicinal plants
- overpopulation (including returnees from neighboring countries)
- overuse of natural resources
- plant collecting (especially if uprooted) for fuel and fodder
- poor coordination among government agencies
- poor marketing
- poverty, unemployment and hunger
- return of displaced people and migrants (who turn to forests for food and fuel)
- unsustainable use
- uprooting of trees and other plants

NEXT STEPS

The numerous actions proposed under points 1-10 above need to be reviewed, revised and prioritized prior to inclusion in Afghanistan's National Biodiversity Strategy. It is suggested that this task be undertaken by the Biodiversity Working Group currently advising the Project.

A suggested first step is to review each of the individual recommendations (bulleted points) and attach an agreed importance rating based on a standardized system (most important, highly important, moderately important, least important). The importance rating should be based on perceived contribution of the recommended action to effective biodiversity conservation in Afghanistan. This can be done either individually for subsequent collation, or (preferably) by subgroups each comprising 4-5 members, and each assigned a subset of recommendations to prioritize.

As a second step subgroup recommendations should then be submitted for scrutiny and approval by the Biodiversity Working Group as a whole. Depending on the amount of

discussion generated, it is estimated that completion of this process should be achievable during a single half day meeting, or at most a half day meeting for step one and a follow-up meeting for step 2. If considered necessary subsequent review by international expertise (BSP/NEPA advisors, WCS, UNEP) could also be used to clarify unresolved discussion points and to provide commentary prior to finalization.

These first and second steps need to be completed prior to the final inputs of the International Biodiversity Strategy Specialist (currently scheduled for the first half of December 2009) to allow adequate time for completion of the draft National Biodiversity Strategy.

ANNEX 5 REFERENCES CITED

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Ecodit. 2009b. Biodiversity Support Program for NEPA. Report on Second Mission of International Biodiversity Strategy Specialist.

UNEP 2003. Post-Conflict Environmental Assessment for Afghanistan

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.

Table A5-1. Biodiversity-related activities proposed in the post-conflict environmental assessment for Afghanistan (UNEP 2003)

Capacity building for environmental management: provide basic infrastructure; provide professional training; introduce an inter-ministerial coordination mechanism; establish inter-agency technical committees; adopt decentralized, community-based management approaches; strengthen regional cooperation; join other international environmental processes

Desertification: stabilize sand dunes and soils; reseed highly degraded rangeland; reduce grazing and dry land cultivation in vulnerable areas; map areas vulnerable to desertification; create community-based rangeland assessment and management plans; establish representative rangeland areas where grazing is excluded or experimentally controlled

Eastern conifer forests: rebuild community control and government influence; improve transboundary cooperation; introduce a timber cooperative; control road access to forests; estimate future timber demands; establish forest management legislation; undertake gradual implementation of export controls; institute grazing management and rotation systems; develop demonstration sites showing the viability and benefits of forest conservation; promote strict protection of forest sites as components of a national protected areas system.

Energy: use best available technologies when rebuilding the energy sector; encourage small-scale hydroelectric development; save and conserve energy; manage community woodlots

Environment and job creation: support labor-based rehabilitation projects; prioritize hiring of Afghan professionals and staff; transform and add value to products from natural resources; maximize benefits from nature tourism

Environmental legislation and enforcement: recognize environmental rights in the national constitution; consult stakeholders on the framework environmental law; introduce use of environmental impact assessment; strengthen enforcement mechanisms; establish participatory processes; introduce environmental permits; employ economic incentives; share information; coordinate environmental monitoring; develop “soft” enforcement measures; develop environmental budgeting; debate multilateral environmental agreements

Environmental planning: clarify land tenure and begin land-use planning; develop a National Environmental Action Plan; prepare emergency response and contingency plans

Environmental impact assessment procedures: apply EIAs; establish an inter-ministerial EIA task force; establish a dedicated EIA Unit; apportion EIA costs; build professional expertise to undertake EIAs

Industry and Trade: develop best environmental practice in the private sector; develop and market environmentally friendly products and services; mitigate the potential environmental and social impacts of trade

International Environmental Conventions: strengthen the focal point for MEAs; prioritize international environmental conventions; activate and implement existing agreements (International Convention to Combat Desertification; Convention on Biodiversity; International Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage; Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna; United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar); Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes; Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species

Open Woodlands: undertake immediate soil stabilization measures; begin community-based reforestation; reinstitute a community-based forest warden system; allocate woodlands to communities; employ grazing management and rotation systems; establish community-based woodlots; establish woodland management legislation; establish seed banks; establish woodland protected areas; develop alternative incomes

Plant resources for food and agriculture: re-establish gene banks; promote local varieties of cereal; promote sustainable agricultural practices

Protected areas network and wildlife conservation: identify biodiversity hotspots and set production targets; introduce protected areas legislation; establish protected areas as a managed resource; explore the feasibility of restoring degraded wetlands; monitor protected areas; manage wildlife populations; develop transboundary protected areas; protect green spaces, green belts and trees in urban areas; promote tourism development. Establish and manage Band-e-Amir, the Wakhan Corridor and Pamir-i-Burzug, the Sistan basin, Ab-e-Estada, Dasht-e-Nawar, Kole Hashmat Khan, Imam Sahib and Darqad, Afar Valley and conifer forests in Nuristan and Kunar as protected areas.

Public participation, training and environmental education: establish rights to environmental information and access to justice; improve access to government processes; establish a resource centre for environmental information and best practice; increase media awareness; develop environmental education materials; develop an environmental education curriculum; train teachers to deliver environmental education; provide environmental training; inventory traditional ecological knowledge; unite environment and religion.

TABLE A5-1 REFERENCES CITED

- FAO. 1977a. A strategy for the establishment and development of Band-e-Amir National Park. Prep. by C. Shank and J. Larsson. FO:DP/AFG/74/016 Field Document 8. Rome.
- FAO. 1977b. Management plan for Ab-i-Estada and Dashte Nawar Flamingo and Waterfowl Sanctuaries. Prep. by C. Shank and W.F. Rodenburg. FO: DP/AFG/74/016 Field Document, Rome.
- FAO. 1977c. A preliminary management plan for the Ajar Valley Wildlife Reserve. Prep. by C. Shank, R.G. Petocz and K. Habibi. FO: DP/AFG/74/016 Field Document, Rome.
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- UNEP. 2003. Afghanistan. Post-conflict environmental assessment. United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi, Kenya.

ANNEX 6. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS IN PROVINCIAL CONSULTATIONS

Provincial Consultation in Bamyan City

Zarih	Male	Provincial Council Member	Provincial Council	Daikondi
Mohammad Rahim	Male	Influential		Daikondi
Ali Madad Sahil	Male	Provincial Director	NEPA	Daikondi
Mohammd Ishaq	Male	Provincial Member	Abu Rehan	Bamyan
Mohammad Hakeem	Male	Provincial council Director	Bozghaso	Bamyan
Zaenab	Female	Deputy Director Provincial Council	Bozghaso	Bamyan
Said Azizullah	Male	Cultural Officer	MOC	Bamyan
Mohammad Sharif	Male	Natural Heritage Officer	NEPA	Bamyan
Mohammad Dawood	Male	Teacher	MOE	Bamyan
Safdar	Male	Agricultural Mangar	Global	Bamyan
Leo	Male	Lecturer	JRS	Bamyan
Qurban Ali	Male	MAIL officer	MAIL	Bamyan
Mohammad Haider	Male	Director	Provincial Council	Bamyan
Mohammad Sharif	Male	Provincial Director	NEPA	Bamyan
Dawlat	Male	Community Member	BAPAC	Bamyan
Qurban Ali Akbar	Male	Community Member	BAPAC	Bamyan
Mohammad Tahir	Male	Director	MAIL	Bamyan
Hamayoun	Male	NRM Officer	HELVETAS	Bamyan
Fazel Roshan	Male	Deputy Director	BAPAC	Bamyan
Mohd Hussain Azeemi	Male	Community Member	BAPAC	Bamyan
Said Ewaz	Male	Community Member	BAPAC	Bamyan
Said Mirza Ali	Male	Community Member	BAPAC	Bamyan
Said Ahmad Ahmadi	Male	Community Member	BAPAC	Bamyan
Mohd Hashim Nazari	Male	Community Member	BAPAC	Bamyan
Ghulam Ali Sarkhosh	Male	Community Member	BAPAC	Bamyan
Said Abdul Elah	Male	Community Member	BAPAC	Bamyan
Said Ismail	Male	Community Member	BAPAC	Bamyan
Ali Raza	Male	Community Member	BAPAC	Bamyan
Said Raza Hashimi	Male	Community Member	BAPAC	Bamyan
Said Essa	Male	Community Member	BAPAC	Bamyan
Atanu	Male	ADA	AKF	Bamyan
Laurie	Male	Consultant	AKF	Bamyan
Zahra Karimi	Female	Gender Officer	MOWA	Bamyan
Laila Bakhshi	Female	Staff	MOWA	Bamyan
Said Baqer	Male	Governor Office Staff	Governor Office	Bamyan
Abdul Ghani	Male	Director	Chawkar	Bamyan
Chad Dear	Male	Program Manager	CRS	Bamyan
Shah Mahmmod	Male	Council Member	Lal Khel	Bamyan

Provincial Consultation in Mazar-e-Sharif

Ghulam Nabi Khurami	Male	Provincial Director	NEPA	Balkh
Sultan Mer	Male	Finance Officer	NEPA	Balkh
Mohammad Zaman Negrai	Male	District Relation Officer	NEPA	Balkh
Mohammad Naseem	Male	Provincial Council Member	Provincial Council	Faryab
Mohammad Amin	Male	Influential Figure		Faryab
Eng. Ahmad Khalid	Male	Provincial Director	NEPA	Faryab
Naseer Ahmad	Male	Staff	NEPA	Balkh
Sultan Aziz	Male	Environment Expert	Governor Office	Balkh
Mohammad Akram	Male	Provincial council Director	Provincial Council	Jowzjan

Amer Mohammad Kargar	Male	Influential Figure		Jowzjan
Abdul Qahar Bezhan	Male	Provincial Director	NEPA	Jowzjan
Pahlawan Zafar	Male	Influential Figure		Baghlan
Abdul Gheyas	Male	Provincial Council Member	Provincial Council	Baghlan
Ghulam Farooq Husainkhel	Male	Provincial Director	NEPA	Baghlan
Sultan Mohammad	Male	Influential Figure		Samangan
Abdul Hai	Male	Provincial Council Member	Provincial Council	Samangan
Abdul Hadi Azizi	Male	Provincial Director	NEPA	Samangan
Abdul Khalil	Male	Provincial Director	NEPA	Sar-e-Pol
Mohammad Asif	Male	Influential Figure		Sar-e-Pol
Saifuldin	Male	Staff	MAIL	Balkh
Saleh Mohammad Khaleq	Male	Cultural Director	MOC	Balkh
Kalilullah Hafiz	Male	Staff	Provincial Council	Balkh
Lal Mohammad	Male	Reporter	Bakhtar	Balkh

Provincial Consultation in Herat City

Ghulam Qader	Male	Influential Figure		Helmand
Mohammad Nabi	Male	Provincial Director	NEPA	Helmand
Mohammad Saleh	Male	Provincial council Director	Provincial Council	Helmand
Khalilullah Ameri	Male	Provincial Director	NEPA	Badghis
Monshi Ramazan	Male	Provincial council Director	Provincial Council	Badghis
Abdullah	Male	Influential Figure		Badghis
Mohd Qasim Alam	Male	Provincial Director	NEPA	Ghor
General Ahmad Khan	Male	Provincial council Director	Provincial Council	Ghor
Abdul Ghafor	Male	Influential Figure		Ghor
Sher Ahmad Khan	Male	Influential Figure		Nimruz
Mawalwi Gul Ahmad	Male	Deputy council Director	Provincial Council	Nimruz
Mohammad Jafar	Male	Provincial Director	NEPA	Nimruz
Baran Osmani	Male	Provincial Director	NEPA	Farah
Amanullah	Male	Provincial council Director	Provincial Council	Farah
Mohammad Nazeer	Male	Influential Figure		Farah
Farid Ahmad Jamshidi	Male	Law & Enforcement	NEPA	Herat
Farhad Rahimi	Male	Law & Enforcement	NEPA	Herat
Amanullah Timori	Male	Law & Enforcement	NEPA	Herat
Abdul Wakeel Hafizi	Male	Assesment & Development	NEPA	Herat
Ghulam Sarwar Sufizadah	Male	Finance Officer	NEPA	Herat
Hayatullah Farhat	Male	District Relation Officer	NEPA	Herat
Mohd Jawad Azizi	Male	Natural Heritage Officer	NEPA	Herat
Abdul Aziz Saghari	Male	Natural Resource Officer	NEPA	Herat
Said Ahmad Nasir Hussaini	Male	Forest Officer	Mail	Herat
Mer Abdul Latif	Male	Rangeland Officer	MAIL	Herat
Akhtar Mohd Mahbob	Male	Provincial Technical Deputy Director	NEPA	Herat
Abdullah Maqsoodi	Male	Planning Manager	NEPA	Herat
Gulalai Azeemi	Female	Law & Enforcement	NEPA	Herat
Azizullah Aziz	Male	District Relation Officer	NEPA	Herat
Sultam Ahmad Arez	Male	District Relation Officer	NEPA	Herat
Baseer Ahmad Shayeq	Male	admin Officer	NEPA	Herat
Hameedullah Wahdat	Male	Computer Operator	NEPA	Herat
Baseer Ahmad	Male	Information Officer	NEPA	Herat
Abdul Qayom Afghan	Male	Provincial Director	NEPA	Herat
Shafiq	Female	Reporter	MOC	Herat
Wakil Ahmad Barak	Male	Environment Expert	Governor Office	Herat
Dr. Ahmad Zahir	Male	Deputy council Director	Provincial Council	Herat

Abdullah Khadim	Male	Reporter	MOC	Herat
Abdul Halim Qarizadah	Male	Reporter	Bakhtar	Herat
Abdul Khalil Kohistani	Male	Lecturer	University	Herat
Rahim Bakhsh Faqiryar	Male	Lecturer	University	Herat
Mirwais	Male	Staff	NEPA	Herat
Mohammad Faqeer	Male	Staff	MRA	Herat
Dr.Freshta Seddiqi	Female	Director	HRPA	Herat

Provincial Consultation in Kabul City

Abdul Qadem	Male	Provincial Council	Provincial Council	Wardak
Abdul Wahab	Male	Provincial Council	Provincial Council	Kapisa
Ustad Ghafory	Male	Provincial Council	Provincial Council	Ningarhar
Noor Habib	Male	Provincial Director	NEPA	Kapisa
Abdul Qader	Male	Provincial Council	Provincial Council	Kapisa
Mohammad Hazrat	Male	Provincial council Director	Provincial Council	Wardak
Abdul Fatah Ehrar	Male			Kabul
Mohammad Ghulam	Male	Provincial Director	NEPA	Kandahar
Eng. Mohammad Zahir	Male	Provincial Director	NEPA	Paktiya
Mohammad Yasin	Male	Influential Figure		Paktiya
Eng. Azeem	Male	Provincial Council Member	Provincial Council	Paktiya
Masooma Yaqeen	Female	Influential Figure		Parwan
Abdul Jamil	Male	Provincial Council Member	Provincial Council	Laghman
Mohammad Mahfooz	Male	Provincial Director	NEPA	Parwan
Eng.Payenda Mohammad	Male	Provincial Director	NEPA	Ghazni
Said Rohullah Sadat	Male	Influential Figure		Ningarhar
Eng Shah Mahmood	Male	Provincial Director	NEPA	Ningarhar
Matehullah	Male	Admin Officer	NEPA	Ningarhar
Abdul Wali	Male	Provincial Director	NEPA	Wardak
Ezatullah	Male	Provincial council Director	Provincial Council	Kunar
Said Azeem	Male	Influential Figure		Kunar
Najibullah Kunari	Male	Provincial Director	NEPA	Kunar
Eng.Nawab	Male	Provincial Director	NEPA	Ghazni
Abdul Qadem	Male	Provincial Director	NEPA	Lowgar
Aenuldin	Male	Influential Figure		Lowgar
Zarghona Kakar	Female	Provincial Council	Provincial Council	Kandahar
Ahmad Shah	Male	Influential Figure		Kandahar
Najmuldin	Male	Influential Figure		Panjshir
Abdul Manan Seddiqi	Male	Provincial Director	NEPA	Panjshir
Abdul Wajeb Ekrami	Male	Provincial council Director	Provincial Council	Panjshir
Zaenuldin	Male	Influential Figure		Kunduz
Sadruldin Saya	Male	Provincial Director	NEPA	Kunduz
Habibul Rahman	Male	Provincial Council Director	Provincial Council	Ghazni
Rasul Mohammad	Male	Influential Figure		Khost
Dr.Gul Jamil	Male	Deputy council Director	Provincial Council	Khost
Abdul Gheyas	Male	Provincial Director	NEPA	Khost
Ghulam Hassan Ameri	Male	Sustainable Development Officer	NEPA	Khost
Abdul Baqi	Male	District Relation Officer	NEPA	Khost
Wakeel Ahmad	Male	Protected Areas Officer	NEPA	Khost
Said Hamayoun	Male	MAIL officer	MAIL	Khost
Abdul Ahmad Zai	Male	Deputy council Director	Provincial Council	Lowgar
Amiruldin	Male	Provincial council Director	Provincial Council	Khost
Haji Nadir	Male	Provincial Council Member	Provincial Council	Parwan

ANNEX 7: LIST OF ACRONYMS

AWEC	Afghanistan Wildlife Executive Committee
BSAP	Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
BSP/NEPA	Biodiversity Support Program/National Environmental Protection Agency
CBD	Convention on Biodiversity
CITES	Convention on Trade in Endangered Species
<i>etc.</i>	<i>et cetera</i>
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GEF	Global Environment Facility
<i>i.e.</i>	that is
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
MoAI	Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
MoAIL	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
NAPA	National Adaptation Programme of Action for Climate Change
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 on Protected Areas
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
WDPA	World Database on Protected Areas

ANNEX 8: LIST OF PERSONS CONSULTED TO DATE

(see also Annex 1 Biodiversity Working Group Members)

Baheer, Dad Mohammad, Deputy Executive Director-General, National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA), Kabul

Barikzai, M. Hashim, Director General of Natural Resource Management, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Kabul

Bowles, Peter. Deputy Country Director, Wildlife Conservation Society, Kabul.

Bowling, Belinda, Afghanistan Programme Manager, United Nations Environment Programme, Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch, Kabul

Haqbeen, Mohammad Akbar, Head of Environmental Quality Objectives, National Environmental Protection Agency, 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

Johnson, McKenzie, Wildlife Conservation Society, Kabul

Johnson, Todd, ECODIT Senior Environmental Advisor/Team Leader, USAID Biodiversity Support Program for NEPA, Kabul

Kanderian, Nina, Wildlife Conservation Society, Kabul

Larson, David. Chief of Party, Afghanistan Biodiversity Conservation Program/WCS Global Conservation, Kabul.

Malang, Noorullah, Project Manager, Afghan Conservation Corps, NEPA Kabul Region, Kabul

Niazi, Shamim-ur-Rehman, National Biodiversity Officer, FAO Afghanistan Country Office, Kabul

Nikmal, Sharbat Khan, Biodiversity and Natural Resource Management Advisor, USAID Biodiversity Support Program for the NEPA, Kabul

Sallari, Sulaiman Shah, Director, Division of Natural Heritage Protection, National Environmental Protection Agency, Kabul

Scanlon, Andrew, United Nations Environment Programme, Kabul

Shawe, Keith, Biodiversity Specialist, FAO Afghanistan Country Office, Kabul

Smallwood, Peter D., Afghanistan Country Director, Wildlife Conservation Society, Kabul

Stanekzai, Wakil Ahmad, Head of Protected Areas, National Environmental Protection Agency, Kabul