



Afghanistan PEACE Project

Reducing Risk for the Kuchi People



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Afghanistan Pastoral Engagement, Adaptation and Capacity Enhancement (PEACE) Project

Annual Report

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Submitted By:

University of California at Davis

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SUMMARY

The Afghanistan Pastoral Engagement, Adaptation, and Capacity Enhancement (PEACE) project has been working to reduce both the social and economic risks associated with extensive livestock production in Afghanistan since 2006. Resolution of conflict and land access issues has been a key component of the project. Due to migratory production strategies and settlement patterns, variable rainfall, social and ethnic confrontation and often unfavorable policies, pastoralist groups are at high risk for violent conflict. Launched in 2008 with support from the Global Livestock CRSP, the Peace Ambassadors program has been the cornerstone of the PEACE project's conflict resolution program. Utilizing a train-the-trainers model, the PEACE project trains "Peace Ambassadors" who then return to their villages and train community members. In July 2010, when funding support was acquired solely from the USAID/Afghanistan Office of Democracy and Governance, the focus of the Afghanistan PEACE project shifted to the Peace Ambassador (PA) Program. Achievements for the PA Program this year include:

- Fifty-two Peace Ambassadors from 15 Provinces were trained in conflict resolution skills.
- In total, these Peace Ambassadors solved 616 conflicts. The majority of the conflicts were related to land access or social clashes.
- Over 2,407 meetings were held with communities, individuals and government officials in the resolution of these conflicts.
- A major conference was held to mark the one-year anniversary of the Peace Ambassadors program.
- Development of lessons learned and guidelines for program implementation were initiated. At the conclusion of the project, a how-to manual will be available for non-governmental groups.

New funding for all activities except the Peace Ambassadors program ended on June 30, 2010. However in May 2011, a \$2 million, 18-month extension was funded by the USAID/Afghanistan Office of Agriculture. Despite the hiatus in funding, the Livestock Early Warning System (LEWS), Livestock Profiling System (NIRS) and the Livestock Marketing Information System (LMIS) have been accepted and placed within the MAIL's organizational structure. Currently two of the three systems are operational. The nutritional profiling laboratory (NIRS) and the livestock market information system (LMIS) have been established and are operational. LMIS was initiated in three markets as originally planned. The system is operational and completely run by MAIL at this time. MAIL staff collects data weekly. The PEACE project provides technical support to MAIL and needed upgrades to software and equipment. Capacity-levels of MAIL staff and security issues have prevented the LEWS from becoming fully operational. The Ministry has repeatedly express interest in implementing and using LEWS. While the system is relatively high-tech, it has been successfully institutionalized in Mongolia, East Africa and is currently being adapted for Mali. Further training support is needed.

Linking the technologies to the pastoralists has been accomplished through Cooperative Marketing Alliances (CMA), commonly referred to as "Herder Alliances" or the "Provincial Shuras". The PEACE project has been facilitating shuras in provinces as a means to disseminate information obtained through LEWS/NIRS/LMIS. Each of the provincial directors represents multiple Kuchi leaders and have been able to further disseminate information throughout the country. Through the shuras, the Herder Alliances (CMA) have also gained a voice within the government as information and issues are also relayed back to IDK and MAIL. Support for the Independent Department of Kuchi was reinitiated with the extension. In the coming year, all 31 Provincial Kuchi Shuras will be supported. The PEACE Project is working together with the Director of IDK to create a monthly report format that will assist their Department in collecting valuable information from the Provinces as well as help us to measure their success in resolving conflicts. In late May, all 31 Provincial Directors attended a workshop for training on the new reporting format and strategic planning for the coming year.

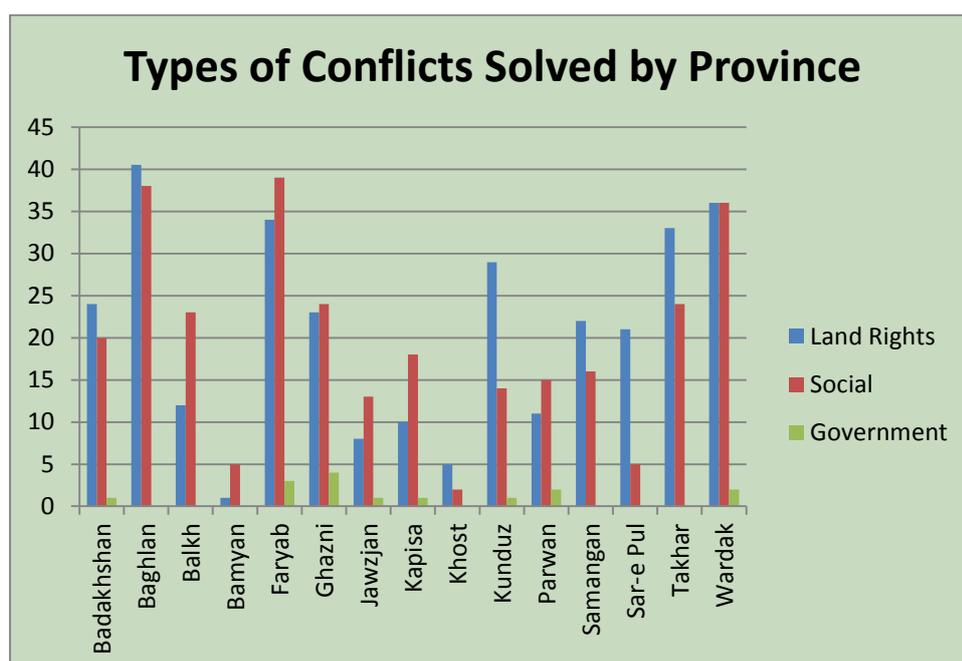
A one-day workshop was organized for representatives of the Independent Department of Kuchi to meet with representatives of various development organizations. The objective of the workshop was to bring together representatives from development organizations and Kuchi leaders with the purpose of providing a forum for exchange of information and opportunities for networking and collaboration on future projects in variety of development spheres.

The Herbarium Restoration Ceremony was the concluding event for the PEACE supported activity. The project restored tens of thousands of plant specimens representing the botanical diversity of Afghanistan. The herbarium was officially opened and dedicated at Kabul University on the morning of July 7, 2010.

Major Activities Implemented

Peace Ambassador Program. Peace Ambassadors (PA's) from 15 Provinces have been working independently and together over the last year to solve as many land access conflicts as possible. In total these leaders, representing both Kuchi and Village communities, have solved more than 300 such conflicts. In addition, they have also solved more than 300 social conflicts for communities in these Provinces while pursuing the resolution of land issues. Twelve of these PA's have been working together for 2 years. The other 40 PA's marked their first year working to bring peace to Afghanistan in April. This April all 52 PA's attended a workshop in Kabul to celebrate their accomplishments. The 5-day event included lengthy discussions about their work across 6 regions of the country. The participants were from Parwan, Faryab, Jawzjan, Kunduz, Sar-e-Pul, Samangan, Khost, Badakhshan, Balkh Jalalabad, Maidan Wardak, Ghazni, Takhar, Baghlan, Kapisa and Bamyan. Discussions among representatives of the Peace Commission, Sanayee, PEACE and the Ambassadors resulted in the following conclusions and suggestions for the coming year of work.

Over the past year the Peace Ambassadors have solved 616 conflicts in total. The types of conflicts solved and where they were solved are presented in Figure 1.



The resolution of these conflicts required 2407 meetings with communities, individuals and government officials.

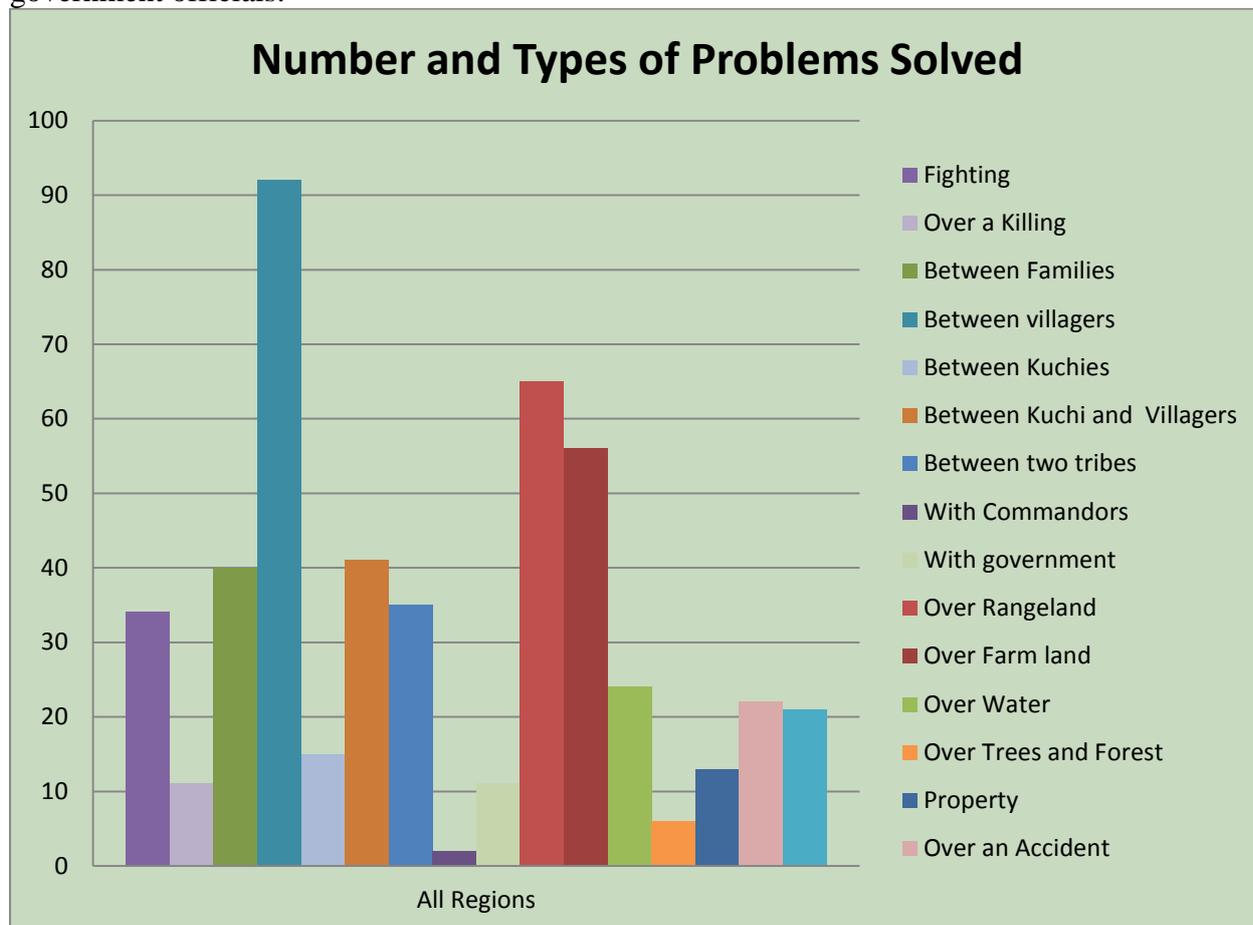


Figure 2: A mid-term analysis in February showed the number and types of problems solved.

Peace Ambassadors (PA) are using new methods of solving conflicts and managing the process more effectively. The new methods are different from traditional ways conflicts have been solved. For the Kuchi the traditional way to stop conflicts between two parties involves the selection of representatives. Generally three people represent each party in the dispute. The representatives then, discuss the dispute and come to some solution. Everyone agrees that the solution reached will be followed. This method of resolving conflicts sometimes works to stop the fighting between parties but doesn't always resolve the issue or to build peace between the two parties. One or both sides may still disagree with the outcome and therefore ill-will persists.

We asked the PA to tell us what they felt were the most important ways that their trainings helped them to resolve problems more effectively. PA told us that they now choose a neutral location for solving problems. In the past the meetings were held in the village where the problem had occurred. They are now holding the discussions in a different location or village, somewhere that is neutral to both sides. The Ambassadors also pointed out that prior to any discussions or negotiations they have learned that both sides must be prepared. Both sides need to be in the correct state of mind and willing to resolve the conflict before joint discussions begin. This is accomplished by first meeting with each side individually so the conflict can be understood from both perspectives. Understanding both perspectives requires that the PA remain neutral and attempt to clearly understand the primary interests of each party.

PA also said that they have learned how to select the correct people to address the conflicts. Instead of bringing together a large group of people for addressing a given issue they have learned to only select the people that appeared open and willing to solve the conflict. They told us that the new methods are less

costly monetarily and with respect to time. This was directly related to meeting with only the people willing to solve the conflict instead of inviting a large group of people.

They also mentioned that their communication style has become more effective. They have learned to use language that does not inflame the people participating in the discussions. They mentioned that word selection is critical in discussing the conflict with participants.

Evaluations were conducted in 10 Provinces where PA are working to solve conflicts. The evaluations consisted of gathering community members from both the Kuchi and village sides to determine if the PA was indeed doing what he has been reporting. A series of questions were asked of the community members and their responses were recorded. After each evaluation visit, the evaluation team wrote up a brief report and discussed how effective each Peace Ambassador had been in their given community. They placed each ambassador into one of three categories; highly effective, moderately effective, or somewhat effective. After all the evaluations were complete, 52% of Peace Ambassadors were considered highly effective, 29% were considered moderately effective, and 17% were considered somewhat effective. The PAs in the “least effective” category were replaced with new leaders and brought to Kabul for training.

During the evaluations, communities were asked if they had any recommendations for the conflict resolution program. The responses are summarized below:

- Communities overwhelmingly supported and encouraged the program participants to continue
- More Peace Ambassadors are needed (everyone seemed to mention this point; Governors, Communities, and Peace Ambassadors)
- Include elders of the communities, government officials, and younger representatives in conflict resolution trainings
- The program needs to continue for a long period of time, not just year by year
- Government’s Peace Commission must act independently
- If additional Ambassadors are selected for future work they should be known to communities on both sides of the conflict

We are hoping to continue and expand the Peace Ambassador Program after April 30, 2010. The partnership between Wahidullah Sabawoon’s Commission, Sanayee Development Organization and the PEACE Project has initiated a solid program that builds grass-roots, conflict resolution skills within respected community members. With time this program will resolve many land-use issues between Afghans.

Kuchi Development Workshop. The Afghanistan PEACE Project organized a one-day workshop for representatives of the Independent Department of Kuchi to meet with representatives of various development organizations. The workshop was held at the German Guesthouse in Kabul. Kuchi leaders frequently stress the development needs of their communities and request assistance. Development organizations often do not have a clear picture of the Kuchi seasonal movements or have contacts with Kuchi leaders. Therefore, the objective of the workshop was to bring together representatives from both groups with the purpose of providing a forum for exchange of information and opportunities for networking and collaboration on future projects in variety of development spheres.

The workshop was attended by 4 IDK representatives and several Parliamentary Members and 18 representatives from 10 development organizations. The IDK staff in attendance were the Director and Department Heads from Health, Education, and Animal Husbandry. Representatives from the following development organizations were also present at the workshop: Youth Health and Development Organization, USAID, Dutch Committee (DCA), Italian Cooperation, Asia Foundation, PALAD/MAIL, CTAP/MAIL, Save the Children, UNICEF, and the Egyptian Embassy.

In conclusion, the workshop provided a valuable forum for Kuchi leaders and members of the development community to meet, learn from each other, and explore possibilities for future

cooperation. Since this was the main objective of the workshop, it can be concluded that the workshop proved to be a success. We will follow up with IDK to see if any concrete relationships develop.

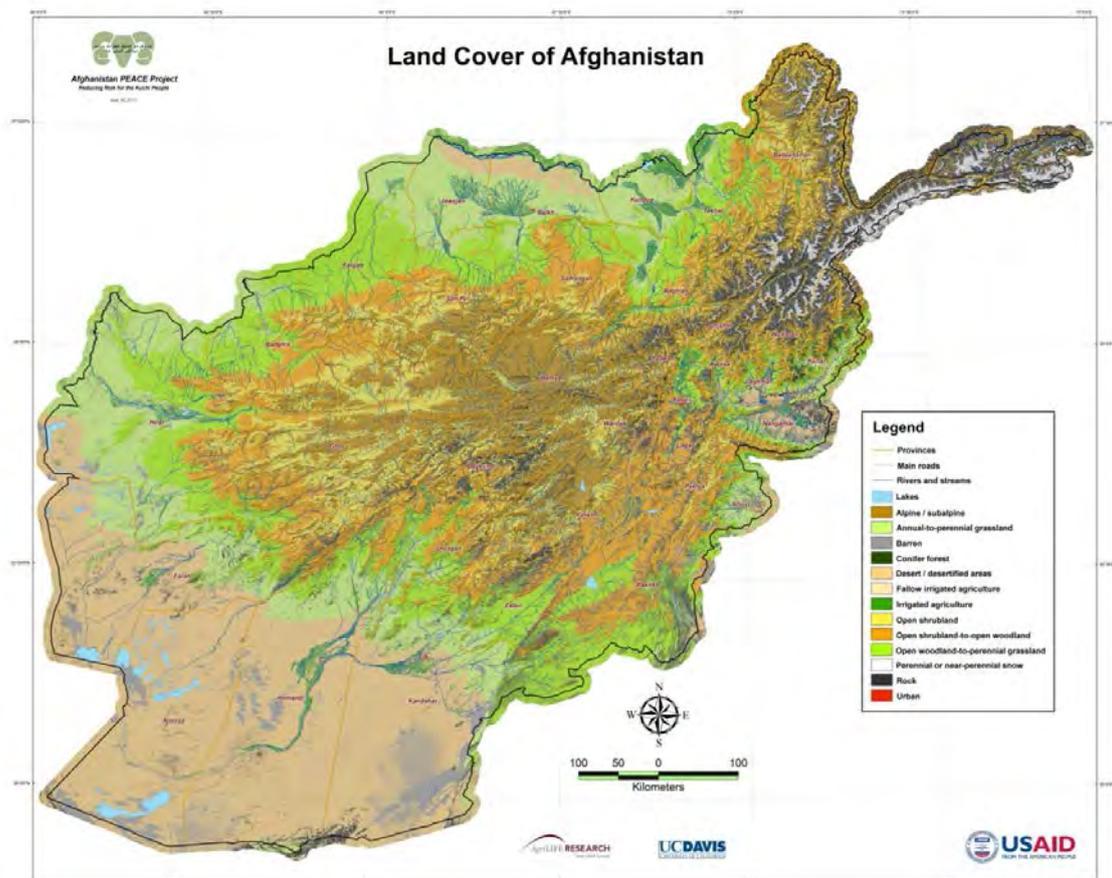
Other Activities

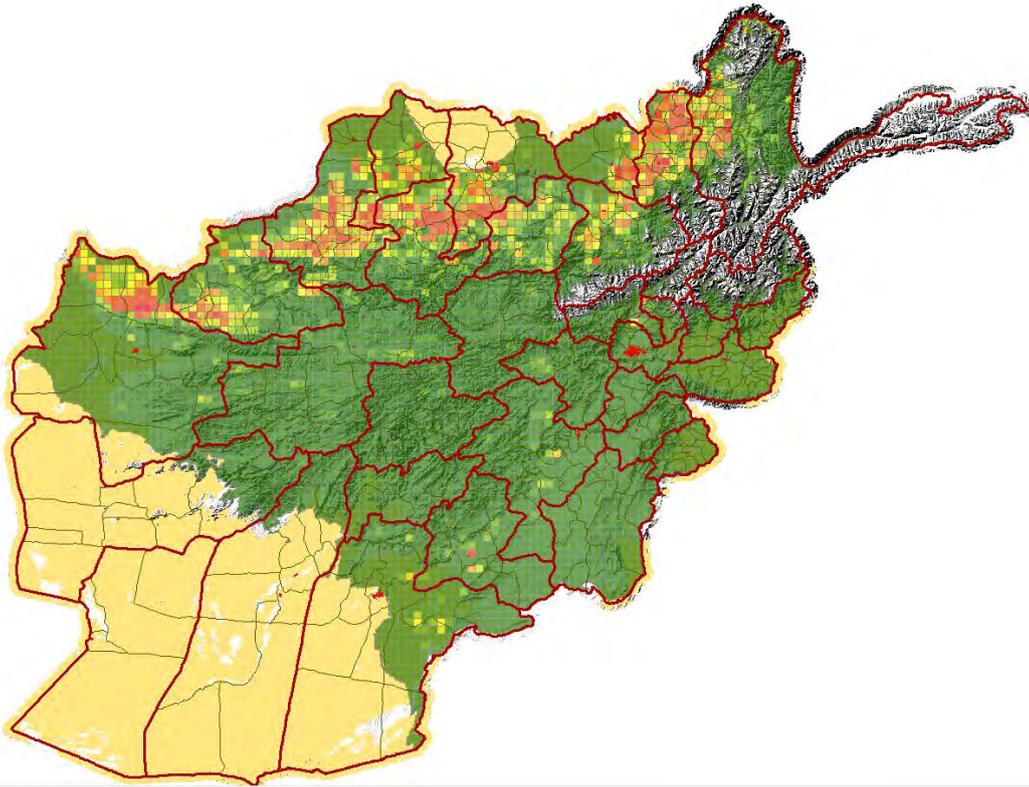
New funding for all activities except the Peace Ambassadors program ended on June 30, 2010. Activities to institutionalize and hand over technologies were implemented in the first quarter of the year.

Infusion of the Forage Monitoring System. Field Surveys scheduled for July were cancelled due to a deteriorating security situation. Concerns that technicians and drivers would be exposed to unreasonable risk while travelling from one Province to the next forced us to make the decision. In September we finished modeling the vegetation information that we collected during the 2010 growing season.

The land cover map for Afghanistan was delivered to the Ministry of Agriculture's Natural Resource Management Department. The map will serve as a useful tool for the Department.

In addition to creating a new land cover map for Afghanistan we have also created a map that displays the most important areas of rangeland conversion and will help the MAIL to prioritize their rangeland restoration efforts.





Map depicts varying degrees of rangeland conversion to rain-fed agriculture across Afghanistan. Red pixels (10km x 10km) represent the most highly converted areas and dark green the least converted. The two solid yellow areas are areas where rainfall is too low to grow crops without irrigation.

Infusion of the NIRS Nutritional Management System. Nutritional quality of sheep and goat diets was assessed for several important rangelands in Afghanistan this year. We have been collecting fecal samples from sheep and goats across the northern and central Provinces and we will use the correlation equations we developed for Afghanistan to make these estimates. At the conclusion of last year, 239 fecal samples (48 Faryab, 62 Kunduz and Balkh, 24 Samangan, 90 Bamyan, 15 Herat) had been collected and processed.

Livestock Market Information System. Live animal prices for sheep and goats were collected in Mazar, Jalalabad and Kabul for the last time. We can now produce reports and analyze trends graphically with the LMIS software. You can visit <http://afghanmarketprices.org/lmis> to check out the latest trends in the sheep and goat markets. The Market Server and associated equipment was moved to the MAIL in June. The equipment will be maintained by the Office of Market Information Systems (MIS) and the data will be collected by the Statistics Department.

During the first quarter there were trainings held in Mazar, Jalalabad and Kabul to introduce more traders and sellers to the system. The reception to the system was one of interest and skepticism. Most of the traders and sellers thought that the system would be very good for the livestock economy of Afghanistan but were not convinced the MAIL would be able to do it successfully. Furthermore, there was some concern about whether or not the MAIL would provide accurate information. We have made a suggestion to resolve this issue. The livestock market owners can very easily check and sign-off on the data collected each week by the MAIL monitors. In this way there can be a level of transparency that will soon allow for trust to develop about the data.

Herbarium Restoration Ceremony held at Kabul University

A once-endangered and nearly forgotten herbarium containing tens of thousands of plant specimens representing the botanical diversity of Afghanistan was officially opened and dedicated at Kabul University on the morning of July 7, 2010.



University leaders and U.S. and Afghan government officials, including Afghanistan's Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Dr. Baburi, were on hand for the event, which was held at the university's Faculty of Science building.

There was praise from university and other officials, and an address by Earl Gast, U.S. Agency for International Development mission director for Afghanistan. Activities included a tour of the herbarium and explanation of its importance to Afghanistan's education and research efforts, as well as to the country's future development.

Herbarium restoration was implemented through the Pastoral Engagement, Adaptation and Capacity Enhancement (PEACE) project. Other USAID-funded partners, the ECODIT-Biodiversity Support Program for Afghanistan's National Environmental Protection Agency, the Wildlife Conservation Society and Purdue University-Alliance for Afghanistan (A4) Project, joined with the PEACE project, which led restoration efforts.

Restoration work began in November 2009. Consortium participants and a team of technicians and student interns worked to restore the herbarium, photograph it and electronically record data on some 23,700 plant species.

At the herbarium opening, Dr. Baburi presented a plaque of appreciation from USAID to Dr. Ahmad Mirazai, a physiology professor and biology department head in the faculty of science, who has been hailed by that agency as a 'hero-scientist' for protecting the collection during the Taliban takeover.

During the Taliban regime, Mirazai moved most of the university's extensive herbarium to his home to protect it. Most of the original herbarium collection was donated to the university in the 1960s and '70s by German scientists, and it was feared the collection might be destroyed by the Taliban, who wanted to rid Afghanistan of foreign, especially Western, influence.

When the Taliban fell, Mirazai returned the collection to the university, but safety issues and lack of resources left it languishing for years in a dusty storeroom until rediscovered by members of the PEACE project.

When PEACE project scientists examined the collection in March 2009, we were amazed at the sheer number and diversity of plant specimens in the herbarium collection. Equally amazing was that in spite of any specimen damage from time and inattention, most of the specimens remained in good condition and could be restored. Much of this was due to Dr. Mirazai's heroic and painstaking efforts.

The herbarium database is now available in the herbarium on a lab computer which can be used by students, faculty and researchers alike, along with photos of every specimen. This data also has been supplied to various government and non-government institutions to support their efforts in environmental management. We are now working to put it on the Internet so that it can be accessed by researchers and

institutions worldwide. All the specimen information has been entered into a database, scientists, engineers, researchers and others involved in environmental impact assessments essential to Afghanistan's future development will have the best possible information on Afghan flora available anywhere.

The restored herbarium will be used to support the Afghan government's efforts to design, implement and manage development programs in cooperation with the university. The data has been shared with those responsible for livestock and irrigation within the Ministry of Agriculture, as well as with Afghanistan's National Environmental Protection Agency. Maybe the most gratifying part of the herbarium restoration was that, once again, Kabul University faculty and students will be able to use it for the purposes it was originally intended, those of teaching, training and research. (*Note: this account of the Herbarium Opening was drawn from an article written by Paul Schattenberg, Texas A&M University*)

Afghanistan PEACE Project Accomplishments and Targets

Standard Indicators and Targets FY2011

Numbers reported by USAID fiscal year and not by PEACE Project fiscal year

Indicator	3rd Quarter Target	3rd Quarter Actual	Variance	4th Quarter Target	Fiscal Year Target	Fiscal Year Actual	LOP Target	LOP Actual	Provincial Breakdown
5.2 Agricultural Sector Productivity									
5.2a Number of hectares under improved natural resource management	n/a	n/a	n/a	100,000	100,000	n/a	400,000	n/a	New indicator, no data yet
5.2b Number of communities implementing improved natural resource management practices	n/a	n/a	n/a	200	325	n/a		n/a	New indicator, no data yet
5b Number of households benefitted by agriculture and alternative development interventions	n/a	n/a	n/a	2000	3250	n/a	n/a	n/a	New indicator, no data yet
8.1 - Natural Resources And Biodiversity									
5.1f Number of individuals who have received agricultural-related short-term training (male/female)	173	178	+5	173	171	319	310/16+ 833	1551/5 178	Badakhshan 5 Bamyan 1 Ghor 1 Kabul 38 Kunar 1 Nangarhar 29 Parwan 2 Uruzgan 1 Badghis 1 Farah 1 Helmand 1 Kandahar 1 Kunduz 8 Nimroz 1 Samagan 2 Wardak 17 Baghlan 4 Faryab 10 Hirat 1 Kapisa 2 Laghman 1 Paktika 1 Sar-e-pul 2 Zabul 1 Balkh 32 Ghazni 5 Jawzjan 2 Khost 1 Logar 1 Paktya 1 Takhar 4
5.2.3b Number of USG supported initiatives/mechanisms designed to reduce the potential for violent conflict over the control, exploitation, trade, or protection of natural resources	4	36	+32	96	132	44	521	36	Badakhshan 1 Bamyan 1 Ghor 1 Kabul 4 Kunar 1 Nangarhar 2 Parwan 1 Uruzgan 1 Badghis 1 Farah 1 Helmand 1 Kandahar 1 Kunduz 1 Nimroz 1 Samagan 1 Wardak 1 Baghlan 1 Faryab 1 Hirat 1 Kapisa 1 Laghman 1 Paktika 1 Sar-e-pul 1 Zabul 1 Balkh 2 Ghazni 1 Jawzjan 1 Khost 1 Logar 1 Paktya 1 Takhar 1

n/a – This cell not applicable yet as funding just began on the 1st of May 2011. There is nothing to report for these cells until next quarter.

Numbers in “red” are targets and actual metrics for the new extension period