

TERMINAL EVALUATION

Project ID:	3174
Project Name:	Development of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), Assessment of Capacity Building Needs for In-situ and Ex-situ Biodiversity Conservation
Countr(ies):	Afghanistan
Implementing Agency:	UNEP

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I. Overview

A. Description

Project name

Development of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), Assessment of Capacity Building Needs for In-situ and Ex-situ Biodiversity Conservation

Country

Afghanistan

GEF ID

3174

Implementing Agency

UNEP

Executing Entity

National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA); Forestry and Rangeland Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL)

Trust Fund

GET

Project Type

EA

Objective

To enable Afghanistan to better meet its immediate obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity, especially in relation to Article 6 by developing a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, which incorporates the decisions and work programmes of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and submit it to the CBD Secretariat. To enable Afghanistan to assess its capacity building needs in priority areas for the conservation in-situ and ex-situ of its biodiversity. To increase public and political awareness and understanding of biodiversity conservation issues and the significance of in-situ and ex-situ conservation measures

B. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval

6/22/2010

Agency Approval

4/5/2011

Implementation Start

4/5/2011

First Disbursement

4/12/2011

Expected MTR

MTR Submission

12/5/2025

Actual MTR

Expected Completion

6/30/2019

Actual Completion

6/30/2019

Actual TE

11/20/2025

TE Submission
12/5/2025

Final Disbursement

C. Disbursements

Project Financing
433,400.00

Cumulative Disbursement
394,000.00

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

A. Main Terminal Evaluation Findings

The GEF Project “Development of National Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan (NBSAP), Assessment of Capacity Building Needs for In-situ and Ex-situ Biodiversity Conservation” was implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to assist Afghanistan in meeting its obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The main objective was to enable Afghanistan to better fulfil its immediate obligations under the CBD by developing a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan that incorporates decisions and work programmes of the Conference of the Parties (COP) and submitting it to the CBD Secretariat.

The project aimed to:

1. **Develop a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)** aligned with CBD guidance and COP decisions and submit it to the CBD Secretariat.
2. Respond to the CBD Executive Secretary’s request for Afghanistan to report on progress in NBSAP development.
3. **Assess national capacity and training needs** for site-level in-situ and ex-situ biodiversity conservation, including project design, planning, management, and implementation.
4. **Develop awareness-building programs and educational materials** and strengthen capacity for planning and management of biodiversity conservation projects through formal training programs, curricula, and practical case studies.

Implemented with GEF funding of USD 394,000 and co-financing of USD 70,000 (UNEP and Government of Afghanistan), the project followed a country-driven, consultative process. Activities included stocktaking of biodiversity information, stakeholder workshops, preparation and finalization of the NBSAP, capacity needs assessment, development of an education and awareness strategy, and preparation of strategic plans for one in-situ and one ex-situ pilot conservation site.

Key Activities: -

- **Stocktaking and Inventory:** Collected and collated existing biodiversity information, including species composition, ecosystems, conservation status, and institutional roles.
- **Options Analysis:** Conducted four national workshops to identify and prioritize biodiversity conservation strategies.
- **Preparation of NBSAP:** Developed and finalized the NBSAP document, translated it into English, and submitted it to the CBD Secretariat.

- Capacity Needs Assessment: Assessed institutional and technical gaps for in-situ and ex-situ conservation and developed a training curriculum.
- Education and Awareness Strategy: Designed and implemented a national campaign, including handbooks and training materials.
- Pilot Planning: Prepared strategic management plans for one in-situ and one ex-situ conservation site as case studies.
- Monitoring and Evaluation: Implemented adaptive feedback mechanisms and completed project reporting.

Link to Convention Obligations:

- Article 6: Developed national strategies and action plans for biodiversity conservation.
- Article 8: Addressed in-situ and ex-situ conservation measures.
- Article 14: Integrated environmental impact considerations into planning.
- Article 26: Supported reporting obligations through NBSAP submission.

B. Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder engagement was a cornerstone of the project, embedded throughout its design and implementation. From initial stocktaking and option analysis to regional and national workshops, the process ensured inclusive participation of government agencies, academia, NGOs, and local communities. The Planning Committee, composed of representatives from NEPA, MAIL, Kabul University, and civil society organizations, provided a platform for coordinated decision-making and policy advice. Through consultations and thematic working groups, stakeholders contributed to defining biodiversity priorities, reviewing outputs, and shaping the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). This participatory approach strengthened ownership and facilitated the integration of biodiversity considerations into national and subnational planning processes.

Capacity Development

The project significantly enhanced institutional and technical capacity for biodiversity management in Afghanistan. NEPA and MAIL, as executing and focal point institutions, received hands-on training in biodiversity assessment, ecosystem mapping, and preparation of CBD national reports. The establishment of the Biodiversity Project Team within MAIL provided practical experience in project coordination and reporting to international conventions. Technical staff and consultants benefited from mentoring by the International Biodiversity Consultant, improving skills in data collection, analysis, and strategic planning for in-situ and ex-situ conservation. Local authorities and community representatives gained awareness and contributed local knowledge through workshops and pilot activities, while the Planning Committee developed competencies in reviewing outputs, mobilizing data, and advising on policy. These efforts collectively addressed long-standing institutional gaps and laid the foundation for sustained biodiversity governance.

C. Gender Equality

The project recognized the importance of inclusivity and made deliberate efforts to ensure gender-responsive measures throughout its implementation. Training programs and stakeholder consultations were designed to encourage the participation of women, aiming to build both technical

capacity and local ownership among diverse groups. Although the project faced barriers due to socio-cultural norms and resource constraints, it prioritized the involvement of women and marginalized groups in workshops and decision-making processes. These measures contributed to a more equitable approach to biodiversity governance, even as challenges persisted in achieving consistent and meaningful participation.

D. Knowledge Management

The project adopted a robust knowledge management strategy by embedding stakeholder engagement in every phase, from initial stocktaking to the finalization of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). It facilitated knowledge sharing through regional and national workshops, thematic working groups, and consultations that included government agencies, academia, NGOs, and local communities. The translation of CBD guidelines and work programmes into Dari improved accessibility for national stakeholders, and the resulting materials became reference resources for other environmental initiatives. This participatory and consultative approach strengthened institutional memory, enhanced local awareness, and laid the foundation for sustained biodiversity governance in Afghanistan

III. Core Indicators

IV: Co Financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Anticipated at CEO(\$)	Materialized at MTR(\$)	Materialized at TE(\$)
Recipient Country Government	National Contribution	In-kind		20,000.00		50,000.00
Multilateral	UNEP	In-kind		50,000.00		
Total Co-financing				70,000.00	0.00	50,000.00

Comments

V: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
			Low

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

As this project was an enabling activity, major physical environmental risks are relatively low. However, there are still potential social or economic negative effects, e.g. exclusion of stakeholders, conflicts over land and resource rights, misrepresentation of communities, etc. There were no significant unintended negative impacts or environmental harm from developing strategy or reports.

VI. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category	Title
M and E Document	Simplified_OCR_Template_EAs_3174