GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

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March 07, 2014

Dear LDCF/SCCF Council Member,

UNDP as the Implementing Agency for the project entitled: ***Afghanistan: Strengthening the Resilience of Rural Livelihood Options for Afghan Communities in Panjshir, Balkh, Uruzgan and Herat Provinces to Manage Climate change-induced Disaster Risks***, has submitted the attached proposed project document for CEO endorsement prior to final approval of the project document in accordance with UNDP procedures.

The Secretariat has reviewed the project document. It is consistent with the proposal approved by the LDCF/SCCF Council in March 2013 and the proposed project remains consistent with the Instrument and LDCF/GEF policies and procedures. The attached explanation prepared by UNDP satisfactorily details how Council's comments have been addressed.

We have today posted the proposed project document on the GEF website at www.TheGEF.org for your information. We would welcome any comments you may wish to provide by April 04, 2014 before I endorse the project. You may send your comments to gcoordination@TheGEF.org .

If you do not have access to the Web, you may request the local field office of UNDP or the World Bank to download the document for you. Alternatively, you may request a copy of the document from the Secretariat. If you make such a request, please confirm for us your current mailing address.

Sincerely,

Naoko Ishii
Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson

Attachment: GEFSEC Project Review Document
Copy to: Country Operational Focal Point, GEF Agencies, STAP, Trustee

REQUEST FOR CEO ENDORSEMENT

PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Project
TYPE OF TRUST FUND:LDCF

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PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Strengthening the resilience of rural livelihood options for Afghan communities in Panjshir, Balkh, Uruzgan and Herat Provinces to manage climate change-induced disaster risks.			
Country(ies):	Afghanistan	GEF Project ID:[1]	5202
GEF Agency(ies):	UNDP	GEF Agency Project ID:	5098
Other Executing Partner(s):	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL)	Submission Date:	January 31, 2014
GEF Focal Area (s):	Climate Change Adaptation	Project Duration(Months)	60
Name of Parent Program (if applicable): ➢ For SFM/REDD+ ☐ ➢ For SGP ☐	n/a	Agency Fee ($):	855,000

A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK[2]

Focal Area Objectives	Expected FA Outcomes	Expected FA Outputs	Trust Fund	Grant Amount ($)	Cofinancing ($)
CCA-1	1.1 Mainstreamed adaptation in broader development frameworks at country level and in targeted vulnerable areas	1.1.1 Adaptation measures and necessary budget allocations included in relevant frameworks	LDCF	700,000	1,700,000
CCA-1	1.2 Reduced vulnerability to climate change in development sectors	1.2.1 Vulnerable physical, natural and social assets strengthened in response to climate change impacts, including variability	LDCF	4,521,500	86,300,000
CCA-1	1.3 Diversified and strengthened livelihoods and sources of income for vulnerable people in targeted areas	1.3.1 Targeted individual and community livelihood strategies strengthened in relation to climate change impacts, including variability	LDCF	2,653,500	11,600,000
CCA-2	2.3 Strengthened awareness and ownership of adaptation and climate risk reduction processes at local level	2.3.1 Targeted population groups participating in adaptation and risk reduction awareness activities	LDCF	700,000	1,700,000
		Project Management Cost	LDCF	425,000	1,700,000
		Total project costs		9,000,000	103,000,000

[1] Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC.
[2] Refer to the Focal Area/LDCF/SCCF Results Framework when completing Table A.

B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: Strengthening the resilience of rural livelihood options for Afghan communities in Panjshir, Balkh, Uruzgan and Herat Provinces to manage climate change-induced disaster risks.						
Project Component	**Grant Type**	**Expected Outcomes**	**Expected Outputs**	**Trust Fund**	**Grant Amount ($)**	**Confirmed Cofinancing ($)**
1. Climate responsive local development planning	TA	Climate change risk and variability integrated into local planning and budgeting processes	Climate change scenarios developed for the agriculture sector in selected provinces Trained at least 250 provincial MAIL officials, farmers and pastoralists on climate risk information and appropriate response measures 15 climate sensitive Community Development Plans formulated	LDCF	1,400,000	3,400,000
2. Enhanced rural livelihoods	TA	Rural income and livelihood opportunities for vulnerable communities enhanced and diversified.	At least 800 women trained on alternative livelihoods to farming (e.g. embroidery and carpet weaving) Business development training in handicrafts and small-scale manufacturing provided to 50 rural entrepreneurs and 30 SMEs 2,000 hectares of degraded rangelands planted with stress resistant seedling varieties	LDCF	2,653,500	11,600,000
	Inv	Productive infrastructure improvements	Small-scale storage reservoirs (less than 20m high) built in selected river sub-basins in 12 communities Micro-water harvesting techniques introduced in 12 communities 20 karezes and canals improved and rehabilitated to reduce water losses At least 20 check dams, contour bunds and other facilities built to conserve	LDCF	4,521,500	86,300,000

			water and enhance groundwater recharge			
			Subtotal		8,575,000	101,300,000
			Project management Cost (PMC)[3]	LDCF	425,000	1,700,000
			Total project costs		9,000,000	103,000,000

C. SOURCES OF CONFIRMED COFINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE AND BY NAME ($)

Please include letters confirming cofinancing for the project with this form

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier (source)	Type of Cofinancing	Cofinancing Amount ($)
GEF Agency	UNDP	Cash	1,000,000
Bilateral Aid Agency (ies)	USAID	Investment	70,000,000
National Government	MAIL	Cash	30,000,000
National Government	MAIL	In-kind	2,000,000
Total Co-financing			103,000,000

D. TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY[1]

n/a

F. CONSULTANTS WORKING FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPONENTS:

Component	Grant Amount ($)	Cofinancing ($)	Project Total ($)
International Consultants	531,500	0	531,500
National/Local Consultants	463,000	0	463,000

G. DOES THE PROJECT INCLUDE A "NON-GRANT" INSTRUMENT? No

(If non-grant instruments are used, provide in Annex D an indicative calendar of expected reflows to your Agency and to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF Trust Fund).

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. DESCRIBE ANY CHANGES IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE PROJECT DESIGN OF THE ORIGINAL PIF[4]

No significant changes in alignment with the project design of the original PIF have been made. All outputs have been contextualized to fit Afghanistan's needs.

A.1 National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions, if applicable, i.e. NAPAS, NAP national communications, TNAs, NCSA, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, Biennial Update Reports, etc.

No change

A.2. GEF focal area and/or fund(s) strategies, eligibility criteria and priorities.

[3] PMC should be charged proportionately to focal areas based on focal area project grant amount in Table D below.

[4] For questions A.1 –A.7 in Part II, if there are no changes since PIF and if not specifically requested in the review sheet at PIF stage, then no need to respond, please enter "NA" after the respective question

No change

A.3 The GEF Agency's comparative advantage:

No change

A.4. The baseline project and the problem that it seeks to address:

1. There are a number of national programmes/projects that address baseline related problems that the project will build on and seeks to influence.

2. Current GEF projects in Afghanistan include the preparation of the INC (Initial National Communication to the UNFCCC), which was signed by government in early 2012, and the preparation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), which will run through the end of 2013. This LDCF initiative will integrate the knowledge from the INC programme, and will make use of the administrative and policy vehicle created by this project in the form of the NCCC (National Climate Change Committee). The GEF NBSAP project concentrates on the development of a strategy, as well as the mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation within NEPA, MAIL and other ministries. UNEP is also implementing a LDCF-funded project focusing on early warning systems and adaptation. This project will ensure that there is no overlap of activities between the two projects, and that there is strong cross-pollination of concepts and exchange of lessons learned with respect to conservation protocols and community interactions. Finally, this LDCF financing will be operating upon the priority activities identified during the NCSA/NAPA project funded by GEF and completed in 2005.

3. The **National Solidarity Programme** develops the ability of Afghan communities to identify, plan, manage and monitor their own development projects. The NSP is a very large scale programme funded by multiple donors, including the World Bank, the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF, funded by 14 different nations), the Japanese Social Development Fund (JSDF), and a number of bilateral partners. It is implemented by the MRRD. The NSP is the primary vehicle for promoting rural development in Afghanistan, and it operates through the establishment and empowering of CDCs throughout the country. These CDCs prepare community development plans, and apply for funding of such activities through the NSP. Activities undertaken by CDCs include a number of infrastructural improvements such as provision of irrigation canals, access roads and bridges, water supply and sanitation improvements, and MHP schemes. The NSP also provides education and livelihoods improvements, although these account for a small part of the budget. As of September 2011, the NSP had disbursed over $888 million to CDCs, and spent more than $1.2 billion. The NSP has committed $10 million for development activities in the selected districts of the priority provinces, and this baseline financing has been allocated for a number of activities (irrigation, agricultural expansion, MHP plants and infrastructural improvements) that will benefit directly from the additionality of the LDCF project's activities.

4. The **National Area-Based Development Programme** (NABDP) is another permanent programme of the MRRD. Operating through seven regional offices, the NABDP focuses on establishing District Development Assemblies (DDAs) and training them in good governance practice and infrastructure project planning and implementation skills. This district-level governance is then used to provide service delivery and livelihood diversification through the productive infrastructure. The NABDP is currently in Phase II (2009 – 2014), facilitated by the UNDP and funded by nine European countries to the amount of $294.7 million. The principal focus of the NABDP is on: i) local institution building in the form of DDAs to promote private-public partnerships; ii) developing rural infrastructure in the form of roads, bridges and other essential components; iii) natural resource management through community interaction; iv) rural energy development, particularly renewable rural energy in the form of MHP projects; and v) rural economic development to provide a conducive environment for rural enterprise initiatives. Of this amount, $2.4 million has been allocated for activities in the priority provinces in which the LDCF project will be operating, including development of MHP under the Energy for Rural development in Afghanistan (ERDA) sub-project. These

components will benefit directly from the ecosystem management adaptation interventions undertaken by the LDCF project.

5. The **Community Based Irrigation Rehabilitation and Development** project funded by ADB ($10 million) aims at rehabilitating and improving irrigation systems in four provinces of north Afghanistan (Balkh, Ghor, Samangan, Baghlan) to better serve farming communities. The project will be implemented through a community contracting system which will: (i) allow rural populations to manage the implementation of projects in their areas and increase local economic opportunities; and (ii) create a sense of ownership and timely completion as procurement will be done locally with the maximum involvement of local communities. Women's participation will be facilitated through a gender action plan, which will include lessons learnt from earlier projects.

6. The *Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock* in partnership with USAID/Afghanistan is implementing a project called the **Irrigation and Watershed Resource Management Program** (IWMP), which is a five-year, $100 million initiative that will assist the Government of Afghanistan in agricultural sector development in line with USAID's Assistance Objective – A Sustainable, Thriving Agricultural Economy. The main purpose of IWMP is to increase agricultural productivity and income through more efficient and sustainable management of water resources and improved capacity of MAIL to design, procure, implement, and monitor irrigation and watershed management activities. To achieve the purpose of the project, IWMP has three main components: (1) Governance and Capacity Building: Develop and strengthen an enabling environment for sustainable, integrated agricultural water resources management; (2) Water Supply Management: improve resiliency and sustainability of water supply for agricultural production; and (3) Water Demand Management: Improve efficiency and equitability of water demand management in the agricultural sector.

A. 5. Incremental /Additional cost reasoning: describe the incremental (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or additional (LDCF/SCCF) activities requested for GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF financing and the associated global environmental benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or associated adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF) to be delivered by the project:

Outcome 1: Climate change risk and variability integrated into local planning and budgeting processes

Without LDCF Intervention (baseline):

7. At present Afghanistan has severely limited capacity to undertake climate change adaptation planning. The NAPA/NCSA process identified a significant lack of expertise within all relevant government departments as a result of the low level of education, poor financing for government departments, and the early stage of establishment of many of the government agencies. Climate change is not presently regarded as a national priority, and training and education about climate change has not occurred.

8. Without this LDCF intervention, there would be very limited knowledge within both national structures and the public about climate change. The NAPA is the first published national document with a specific focus on climate change adaptation, and the INC will be the first formal international communication regarding climate change. At present, there is a considerable amount of ongoing development work in Afghanistan (around 50 billion dollars have been invested through military, reconstruction and aid programmes), but there is no integration of climate change adaptation or recognition of the potential impacts of climate change on this development work.

9. National policy and strategy do not have any significant mention of climate change. The National Energy Strategy (NES), the National Action Plan for Women in Afghanistan (NAPWA), the Strategic Water Policy, and, most importantly, the ANDS contain no mention of climate change. This gap in knowledge means that the potential gains earned through the implementation of these strategies are at risk under conditions of climate change. The SNAP does specifically mention the potential dangers of climate change with respect to increasing risk of natural disasters, and calls for the development of an EWS. This, however, has not yet been undertaken.

10. Without this LDCF financing, climate proofing of development projects would be non-existent. At the sub-national level and at the community level this is even more important as local development plans do not integrate

climate change adaptation measures in their design, thereby ignoring the risks and impacts of an increase in severe weather events. Although many funded initiatives provide capacity building to government agencies and staff, very few actually focus on climate change impacts. UNEP has recently received funding from the LDCF to initiate such activities but it remains insufficient.

11. In addition to the lack of knowledge about climate change, there is currently limited capacity to integrate such knowledge into policies. Many government agencies (both ministries and specific authorities) do not have a sufficient number of trained staff to allow for the revision of strategies and development of documents beyond what is perceived as their core activities. At present, the NCCC meets only irregularly, and has limited capacity to carry out its mandate. However, it is the best-placed entity to promote climate change adaptation in national policy and to ensure the mainstreaming of policies. The high level of the representatives from government departments in the NCCC could facilitate the uptake of this LDCF initiative within their respective agencies as well as ensure cooperation between them. At present, the NCCC lacks the capacity to effectively address the requirements of MEA obligations and to facilitate the accessing of international funds to assist with this process.

12. The NSP will continue to be the primary vehicle for promoting rural development in Afghanistan, through the establishment and empowering of CDCs throughout the country, but does not include training and capacity building of the CDCs on climate change risks and impacts, and provide them with technical support for designing adaptation measures. Similarly the NABDP focuses on establishing District Development Assemblies (DDAs) and training them in good governance practice and infrastructure project planning and implementation skills, but this does not include climate change knowledge. This LDCF initiative will fill this gap by building capacity at all levels of governance to address and integrate climate change impacts in routine development plans, thereby climate proofing Afghanistan's rural development efforts.

With LDCF Intervention (adaptation alternative)

13. This outcome will address the low institutional capacity and planning to address climate change the and low awareness and understanding of climate change risks and impact. This component builds the evidence base for a more climate resilient economy by providing practical field-based experiences of implementing climate adaptation measures, constraints faced, the extent to which livelihoods could be protected from climate change impacts, and the costs of doing so. The project will support the aims of the NABDP, which is working at a national level in supporting an evidence-based strategy, institutional development and local governance.

14. This outcome will build capacity to assess risk and vulnerability, evaluate trade-offs and integrate cross-sectoral initiatives through the preparation of sub-national, integrated climate resilient plans that will allow the prioritization of investment and targeting of adaptation actions that mobilize people's participation, down to local communities. These plans will be territorial, i.e., they will be based on specific administrative area (province, district, community), but will take into consideration other plans (such as river basin plans) that the territory falls under. Capacities for supporting climate risk management at sub-national level, including access to relevant planning information, need to be strengthened or built where necessary.

15. LDCF resources will be used for providing training support and mentoring and facilitate shared learning processes between local groups and between local-level planners and MAIL. Capacity for integrating local sector intervention plans and disaster risk plans into climate resilient green development planning at CDC level will be built through the training of selected district planners, local development agents and community development councils in approaches and methodological tools for area-based, integrated and participatory planning processes. Local development agents will be given the skills and planning tools enabling them to identify and assess climate vulnerabilities, evaluate existing development initiatives and their adaptation value. Where existing development programmes have the potential to build adaptive capacity with the help of technologies or new approaches, these will be integrated.

16. At the national level, building on the World Bank Irrigation Restoration and Development Project, MAIL still has information and capacity gaps that need to be resolved as part of the planning process. The points below outline key capacity constraints and actions that LDCF can take to build capacity for climate resilient analysis, planning and action

in the national context. Capacity for the incorporation of climate information and risks into the planning agricultural sector are constrained due to:

- Insufficient understanding of the type and extent of soil erosion, and agricultural climate-related vulnerability; and
- the impact of current soil conservation measures on stabilizing the resource and reducing its negative effects.

Once this is better understood and modeled, MAIL can assess the adaptation value of management options on climate related risks and establish area-based land use and watershed management plans at an appropriate scale. This initiative will contribute to:

- Improved coordination between/within institutions linked to limited cross-sectoral communication and exchange of information. This will be done through bi-annual meetings of the Project Board, regular updates of the Operational Focal Point (OFP – in this case NEPA), donor coordination, the local consultative group, shared lessons learned in project progress meetings, and the UN country team coordination meetings.
- A greater awareness of the threat of soil erosion in the agricultural sector and of the risk-reducing measures that can be taken by the community in mitigating that threat.

17. Relevant technical and policy staff within MAIL and sector Bureaus/Departments will be trained in gap analysis, interpretation and use of geo-spatial and GIS information in planning, scenario analysis and investment appraisal so that they have enhanced skills to future identify adaptation opportunities, prioritize them and design integrated programmes to tackle them. The understanding of government officials will need to be tested and this will be incorporated into the implementation for experiential training and capacity building in the planning approaches and instruments. LDCF resources will also help MAIL and NEPA update the NAPA that will create a roadmap for prioritizing future climate compatible investments in the agricultural sector that will improve the resilience of the farmers and pastoralists to climate change.

18. Through this Outcome, this LDCF financed intervention will build capacity for preparing sub-national, district and community integrated climate resilient development plans that should enhance the long-term effectiveness of development programmes in the relevant area. By building institutional capacity for coordinated climate-resilient planning, opportunities for the integration of climate risk reducing techniques, practices and processes in the area will be created. It will also provide the vehicle to guide the process of integrating climate change risks and adaptation into development plans at local and sub-national levels.

Outcome 2: Rural income and livelihood opportunities for vulnerable communities enhanced and diversified

Without LDCF Intervention (baseline):

19. "Afghanistan is a country with a high-risk profile, due to a combination of climatic and natural circumstances and being a historically grown hotbed of social and political conflict and economic vulnerability. Households that face risky events with negative outcomes that are outside their control experience shocks. The consequences of household shocks can be temporary and relatively mild, but they can also shake the very existence of the household and its members, for which no coping strategy can provide an answer." (Source National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment 2007/2008).

20. With around 80% of the population living in rural areas and dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods, climate shocks and extreme weather events, mostly droughts and floods, are the main sources of loss of livelihood. Without improvements to the current livelihood opportunities and efforts to provide an alternative to agriculture, the rural poor in Afghanistan will continue to be very vulnerable to climate change risks and extreme weather events.

21. Currently MAIL, through the Agriculture and Rural Development Cluster, seeks to address problems highlighted here with the implementation of the Food for Life (FFL) Component of NPP2 - National Comprehensive Agriculture Production and Market Development. FFL is an innovative approach to a comprehensive and sustainable agricultural and livelihood development that focuses on production, rural livelihoods and food security. It is a coordinated mechanism and approach to agricultural development working in partnership with private sector enterprises and institutions to meet the growing needs of subsistence farmers, vulnerable groups and sustainable access to nutritious

and safe foods. At the same time, FFL will continue to contribute to increased employment and income generation. However FFL does not integrate climate change risks and adaptation measures in its strategy. This LDCF initiative will add value to this program by providing climate resilient alternative livelihood options to the rural poor in the targeted areas.

22. The Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Programme (AREDP) was designed as a national multi-donor funded, Government-led programme to jump start private sector growth in rural Afghanistan. AREDP strengthens the private sector through integrated, value chain, knowledge based interventions from top to bottom and community enterprise development from bottom to top. AREDP is one of MRRD's six national programmes. The overall objectives of AREDP are to: improve employment opportunities for rural men and women; increase income of rural men and women; and provide business know-how for sustainability of targeted local enterprises. These objectives will be achieved by enhancing participation of the rural poor in economic activities, supporting them through business development services and access to finance, and improving market linkages and value chains.

23. Significant investment has been made in the creation of self-help groups (created mainly by NGOs), and these groups have become the basis for further entrepreneurial activities within AREDP. Rural entrepreneurs are often unable to effectively market their products due to uneven quality, lack of knowledge of market demand and limited market access, particularly outside of their immediate surroundings. AREDP aims to improve and 'marry' two critical players of the value chain, i.e., the producers on the one hand, and the buyers on the other, and allow production to be further refined to match market demand. However, AREDP does not integrate climate change risks and adaptation measures in its approach.

24. The Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Programme (World Bank, $87m) will continue to support and to improve employment opportunities and income of rural men and women, and sustainability of targeted local enterprises. The programme supports community-led enterprise development and SME development. However climate proofed alternative livelihood opportunities are currently insufficiently provided.

25. The primary objective of the National Area Based Development Programme (NABDP) is to contribute to poverty reduction and sustainable livelihoods in rural Afghanistan. This programme will continue to contribute to rural development in Afghanistan, but it does not include climate change adaptation measures for livelihoods diversification and climate resilience.

With LDCF Intervention (adaptation alternative)

26. This component will address the limited availability and use of information on climate risks and adaptation options and low levels of extension advice for agriculture and livelihoods, especially for female headed households. Agriculture and livestock activities are especially susceptible to the effects of climate change such as droughts and floods. Women's employment in this sector is often unpaid. By training women in alternative livelihoods and equipping them with business skills and linking them to finance, the project will help reduce dependence on agriculture and provide much needed supplemental income for poor rural households.

27. Building on the Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Programme, this outcome will enhance the livelihoods diversification efforts in Afghanistan and will contribute to strengthening the resilience of poor rural women and men to climate change and associated extreme weather events. It will also provide the foundation to guide the process of expanding such climate resilient initiatives for alternative rural livelihoods within the MAIL and MRRD portfolio.

28. The key needs and vulnerability assessment report in Annex III developed by the project design team during the preparatory phase details the livelihoods diversification needs for the target communities and the strategy that DAIL can use to achieve improved climate resilient rural livelihoods. LDCF financing of these identified needs will contribute to strengthening the technical capacity of the district level MAIL (DAIL) and MRRD, institutions responsible for poverty alleviation and cross sectoral planning. This will complement Government and donor initiatives to reduce poverty.

29. This LDCF initiative will contribute to improving the livelihoods of rural women but will add the angle of climate resilience by training women's self-help groups on income generating activities that are not dependent on agriculture and can be sustained despite climate shocks, such as bee keeping, carpet making, embroidery, poultry and eggs; as well as supporting small businesses like eateries, home appliances repair and cell phone maintenance.

30. During the preparatory and design phase, the livelihoods diversification needs were assessed (see Annex III). A wide range of stakeholders (Government ministries, departments, donors, research institutions, civil society and NGOs - see stakeholder baseline analysis, section 2.1.3) during national level consultations decided to maximize cost effectiveness by directing the funds and efforts on providing rural women with livelihood opportunities and training. The key needs and vulnerability assessment report in Annex III presents the needs and gaps identified during the preparatory phase and provides a good guide to the activities and strategy this project will have to adopt. It provides indicative locations and sites for the implementation of strengthening of livelihoods, and strategies like the kind of training, marketing and financial support needed to deliver this outcome.

31. This LDCF initiative will complement the UNDP/GIRoA NABDP by adding an angle of climate change adaptation measures and will be the basis to initiate the process of expanding climate resilient approaches for rural livelihoods diversification in Afghanistan. Building on the UNEP/NEPA LDCF funded initiative, this LDCF financing will further improve watershed management and contribute to reducing soil erosion and flooding by rehabilitating 2,000 hectares of degraded rangelands planted with stress resistant seedling varieties. During the preparatory and design phase, consultations with local communities and stakeholders identified specific species like walnuts and berries that have the particularity of being drought resistant, exist naturally in the environment and provide income and food.

Outcome 3: Productive infrastructure improvements

Without LDCF Intervention (baseline):

32. Afghanistan has experienced an extended period of instability and war, which has hindered development. The majority of the population is engaged in rain-fed rural agriculture or pastoral herding, which makes them extremely vulnerable to drought, floods and loss of soils. Unsustainable use and the resultant degradation of fragile or marginal lands have left rural communities particularly vulnerable to the impacts of adverse climatic conditions. The projected increase in droughts and extreme weather events as a result of climate change is likely to decrease agricultural productivity, impact negatively on the livelihoods of poor individuals, and further degrade productive and marginal ecosystems within Afghanistan.

33. Furthermore, current improvements in rural infrastructure such as irrigation programmes and micro-hydropower installations are not designed to deal with the impacts of climate change. Increased flood intensity and siltation rates coupled with the lack of early warnings to communities may reduce the viability of such improvements, resulting in losses of development gains under conditions of climate change. Protective measures to reduce these impacts such as comprehensive watershed management have neither been tested nor implemented in Afghanistan.

34. In many areas, agriculture is limited to a narrow ribbon around rivers, or is rain-fed where there is sufficient annual rainfall. Surrounding areas provide additional ecosystem benefits such as fuelwood, fodder for animals and wild food sources, which supplement both income and food availability within rural communities. Even a slight shift in timing and intensity of rainfall, intense dust storms (in lowland areas) or a climate change-induced reduction in the availability of other ecosystem resources can have a catastrophic effect on rural livelihoods. Agricultural productivity is currently frequently subject to adverse climatic conditions, and such conditions are likely to increase as a result of climate change.

35. This LDCF initiative has designed adaptation interventions that will be complementary to the baseline activities, enhancing the efficacy of the baseline interventions even under conditions of climate change. With regards to irrigation projects, the NSP and NABDP provide irrigation infrastructure in order to promote agriculture within the catchments and districts in which this LDCF project operates. Such irrigation projects are invaluable to local communities, but are also vulnerable to siltation, reduced water flow and damage from floods from climate change-induced extreme weather. The improvement and climate proofing of productive infrastructure implemented by this

LDCF initiative will reduce the impacts of such weather extremes by: i) increasing soil water infiltration and limiting the amount of runoff from degraded land; ii) reducing erosion; iii) regulating water flow; and iv) reducing the likelihood of extreme floods within the selected catchments with improved canals and check dams. This will increase the efficacy of the baseline projects and consequently increase community resilience even under a changed climate.

36. Baseline development is being undertaken throughout the country, as the international community is currently providing significant investment in infrastructure and priority development projects identified by the GIRoA. However, such development does not take into account the potential effects of climate change, and is therefore at risk of significant setbacks in the medium- and long-term. This LDCF financing will complement these efforts to ensure that these investments are more resilient to climate change.

37. The Community Based Irrigation Rehabilitation and Development project funded by ADB (10 Million $) aims at rehabilitating and improving irrigation systems in four provinces of north Afghanistan (Balkh, Ghor, Samangan, Baghlan) to better serve farming communities. The project will be implemented through a community contracting system which will: (i) allow rural populations to manage the implementation of projects in their areas and increase local economic opportunities; and (ii) create a sense of ownership and timely completion as procurement will be done locally with the maximum involvement of local communities. Women's participation will be facilitated through a gender action plan, which will include lessons learnt from earlier projects. This project will continue to provide irrigation rehabilitation to rural communities but the climate change adaptation angle is currently lacking in this programme.

38. The USAID/Afghanistan is implementing a project called the Irrigation and Watershed Resource Management Program (IWMP), which is a five-year, $100 million initiative that will assist the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIRoA) in agricultural sector development in line with USAID's Assistance Objective – A Sustainable, Thriving Agricultural Economy. The main purpose of IWMP is to increase agricultural productivity and income through more efficient and sustainable management of water resources and improved capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock to design, procure, implement, and monitor irrigation and watershed management activities. These projects, whilst currently in their early stages, provide key baseline activities that LDCF funds can be used to build upon, strengthening their climate change resilience approach.

With LDCF Intervention (adaptation alternative)

39. This component will address the limited availability and use of information on climate risks and adaptation options and low levels of extension advice for agriculture and livelihoods, especially for female headed households. There is tremendous potential for agricultural growth and development and the alleviation of food insecurity and reduction of poverty. The rather long and varied litany of constraining issues for agricultural growth and development clearly means that in order to achieve any substantial progress in alleviating the condition of food insecurity and poverty, there is a need for a concerted effort that is multi-disciplinary, multi-sectoral and multi-agency in nature. As such, there needs to be careful selection of priority areas and entry points for involvement of the public sector (i.e., Government and development partners). Such an effort also needs to be based on strong collaborative relationships with administrators, technical staff, civil society and the private sector at the provincial, local and community levels.

40. Building on the Community Based Irrigation Rehabilitation and Development project funded by ADB, small-scale storage reservoirs (less than 20m high) will be built in selected river sub-basins in 12 communities. Based on the needs and vulnerability assessment (Annex III), specific and indicative sites have been selected in consultation with local authorities and community development councils (CDCs) during the preparatory and design stage of this project. These small-scale storage reservoirs will act as water reserves during the dryer seasons and will allow for additional irrigation of agricultural lands. In certain cases (particularly in Abshar and Parian districts of Panjshir Province) flood control walls will be erected to mitigate the impact of flash flood and snowmelts.

41. Complementing MAIL's and MRRD's efforts to improve agriculture and rural development, and adding a climate change adaptation approach to ongoing standard projects, this LDCF initiative will introduce water harvesting techniques in 12 communities and drinking water schemes in 3 girl schools that faces serious drinking water scarcity problems. The needs and vulnerability assessment found in Annex III details the identified needs for such interventions in order to adapt to some the impacts brought about by climate change in these areas.

42. Building on the USAID/Afghanistan project on Irrigation and Watershed Resource Management (IWMP), irrigation infrastructure such as traditional karezes (these are underground irrigation canals that carry water from as far as two kilometers) will be cleaned and lined to ensure reduced water leakages and improved delivery. Often the mouth of the spring or water source where these karezes start is silted and needs to be cleaned and rehabilitated to ensure as much water as possible is captured and carried to the irrigation location. The karezes are often very ancient and the lining is broken and irregular, reducing the amount of water that reaches the agricultural fields, therefore a need to repair and reline these structures to ensure minimum water losses.

43. Based on the needs and vulnerability assessment (Annex III) check dams, contour bunds and other facilities to conserve water and enhance groundwater recharge will be built in Panjshir, Herat, Uruzgan and Balkh Provinces to improve the resilience to climate change and the scarcity of water of the rural communities identified. This will complement the efforts of the NABDP initiatives to strengthen water security and ground water recharge.

44. Many of the communities visited suffer from energy deficiency and are unable to pump water, even if it is available, to the agricultural lands or community structures (such as schools, meeting halls, etc.) that need it. The use of solar pumps and micro hydro power to provide green sustainable sources of electricity will be put in place where necessary. The interventions follow the "no regret" implementation principle (i.e., the interventions will provide an adaptation benefit under conditions of climate change, but should climate change impacts be less intense than predicted, they will nevertheless provide a benefit to Afghanistan).

A.6 Risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and measures that address these risks:

1. There is a risk that the security situation deteriorates in the country and in the project areas. In order to mitigate this, Preference has been given in site selection stable sites, and communities with a good working relationship with UNDP, MAIL and implementing organizations. Strong participatory stakeholder consultations have been undertaken to ensure reasonable expectations and to clarify roles/responsibilities. Continual engagement with local political structures (shuras[5], community leaders, CDCs) by the Implementing Agency will enhance security and community ownership. Local authorities and community development organizations are given more project responsibility. There will be a stronger focus on permanent experts, MAIL national staff structures and permanent UNDP staff, using short-term experts to facilitate crucial undertakings, and to assist in the building of local capacity. It is possible to extend the project duration in order to allow project activities to reach fruition despite political instability.
2. The issue of the unavailability of requisite human resources will be mitigated by the recruitment of international consultants who will work closely with in-country counterparts and by targeted capacity building activities. Training activities of local personnel will also be part of all aspects of the work and the relevant institutions will be encouraged to expand the staff base if it is weak in particular areas.
3. Problems related to involvement and co-operation of stakeholders to work cross-sectorally. During the preparatory phase a multi stakeholder consultation and involvement has been conducted to ensure clear commitment of the Ministries and Bureaus to sharing of data and joint programming. This will be strengthened during project implementation by the area-based planning approach that promotes cross-sectoral data sharing. There is low risk that work progresses in a compartmentalized fashion and there is little integration e.g. government departments refuse to share data and information. This risk is always present in such a project. By ensuring that capacity is built across a range of departments and implementing 'quick win' measures early (developing products based on internationally available data), these issues can be mitigated.
4. There is a medium risk that climate shocks occur during the design and implementation phase of the project. Coordination will be undertaken with partners such as ANDMA for disaster response in order to ensure that

[5] A shura is a traditional decision making body made of elders and community leaders.

disaster relief interventions are also directed towards demonstration sites impacted by extreme climatic events. Appropriate species will be used for project interventions in order to minimize the potential impacts in the medium and long-term. Where damage occurs before ecosystem management adaptation approaches can reduce the impacts of extreme events, supplementary infrastructural approaches and planting will be undertaken. After suitable review, the project implementation period could be extended in order to facilitate the establishment of ecosystem management adaptation measures.

5. There is a medium risk that limited capacity within relevant ministries/ insufficient qualified human capacity will delay project implementation. A major part of the project is to strengthen institutional and technical capacity for planning, designing and implementing local level adaptation actions. Technical and capacity building expertise will be contracted in, to work with and train local technical staff. A dedicated National Project Coordinator within the Project Manager will be supported with short term national and international specialist support to ensure smooth and timely delivery of project outputs.
6. There is a low risk of insufficient institutional support and political commitments. The proposed project is strongly supported by Governments and other key stakeholders and development partners. The project, in conjunction with UNDP, will therefore take advantage of this opportunity to seek substantial support from the Governments and forge strong partnership with other development partners. Direct linkages to existing and planned baseline development activities implemented by government, securing of the necessary co-financing, as well as local buy-in will also minimize this risk. It will also be important to establish buy in from all government departments early as the project will utilize data and information from a wide range of departments.
7. There is a low risk of poor provincial responses to the leadership role from MAIL. Provincial authorities have been individually consulted during PPG phase, and have endorsed the LDCF project. The PSC will engage with relevant provincial authorities throughout the duration of the project.

A.7. Coordination with other relevant GEF financed initiatives

In the preparatory phase it has been verified that LDCF financed activities are not duplicated through any other project, but rather build on and climate proof baseline initiatives. The current LDCF request aiming at strengthening the resilience of rural livelihood options for Afghan communities in Panjshir, Balkh, Uruzgan and Herat Provinces to manage climate change-induced disaster risks, will coordinate with and complement other relevant initiatives. These initiatives are part of the UNDP portfolio and will receive the same level of oversight and coordination. The project board supervising the implementation of these initiatives will invite the project managers of the other projects when in session to ensure information sharing and coordination. Regular coordination meetings with the Government, other donors and partners and the implementing teams will be organized to ensure maximum synergies and complementarity.

There are a number of parallel development projects and programmes, the Ministry of Finance is responsible for coordination and knowledge sharing between all projects through the UN Agencies which calls a quarterly meeting of all donor-funded projects and programmes under the Ministry.

The project will coordinate specifically with the projects and programmes listed below through the relevant technical department or government agency, represented in the national Technical Advisory Committee and Project Board:

- The **Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Programme (World Bank, $87m)** aims to improve employment opportunities and income of rural men and women, and the sustainability of targeted local enterprises. The programme supports community-led enterprise development and SME development. The World Bank also supports the **Irrigation Restoration and Development Project ($97.8m)**. The proposed grant supports the Government of Afghanistan (GoA) with the continued implementation of the national priority irrigation rehabilitation program to rehabilitate irrigation systems that had become dilapidated as a result of the long conflict and insurgency. The program is a key thrust to support agriculture recovery and has achieved visible results on the ground.

- In Afghanistan one important baseline partner for this LDCF financing is the Agro-Meteorology (AgroMet) Program. This programme was initially operated by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and focused on the

development of weather monitoring and agricultural prediction capabilities within MAIL. The WMO has agreed to provide extra funding to the project and extend the period from 2012 to 2015. The AgroMet programme aims to extend the meteorological data gathering capacity of national institutions and to provide infrastructure and training for a global climate change observation system. By developing synergies with baseline activities of the AgroMet programme, this LDCF initiative will assist in the provision of training for capacity building in data management and interpretation, climate impact modeling and development of vulnerability maps. Close interaction with the AgroMet programme will ensure complementarity and development of synergies to develop Afghanistan's capacity to carry out climate change monitoring, modeling and prediction for agricultural purposes.

- The WMO has also provided additional funding to the Afghan Meteorological Authority (AMA) through the Rehabilitation of the AMA project. This funding is provided in order to develop the baseline capacity and infrastructure of the AMA, and includes an integrated system for the coordination of weather data, weather forecasting and data integration. The project also includes staff training in the usage of the system. This LDCF project will build upon this base by complementing this agromet support system with on the ground support to improving agricultural practices and irrigation.

- The UNDP/UNEP **Strengthened Approaches for the Integration of Sustainable Environmental Management in Afghanistan** (SAISEM) programme is designed to promote and build institutional capacity of the Afghan government and communities for sustainable environment management, and to improve the capability of national and local governance bodies for natural resources and disaster management. The project has run beyond the original timeline, and is scheduled to be completed in 2013. However, the lessons learned from this project with respect to sustainable environmental management will be integrated into the local-level engagements undertaken by this LDCF initiative.

- The Food for Life (FFL) initiative of the MAIL is an innovative approach to a comprehensive and sustainable agricultural and livelihood development that focuses on production, rural livelihoods and food security. It is a coordinated mechanism and approach to agricultural development working in partnership with private sector enterprises and institutions to meet the growing needs of subsistence farmers, vulnerable groups and sustainable access to nutritious and safe foods.

B. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NOT ADDRESSED AT PIF STAGE:

B.1 Describe how the stakeholders will be engaged in project implementation.

Stakeholder consultation has been a key feature in the design of this LDCF proposal, and stakeholders have been involved in identifying and prioritizing the proposed intervention activities. Details of the stakeholder engagement during the preparatory phase are provided in Section 2.1.3 in the project document. Ongoing public consultation is critical for successful implementation. This section outlines some of the key consultation principles and processes at a strategic level that will need to be translated into practical action during the project implementation. It provides guidance based on the initial stakeholder analysis, conducted as part of the project preparation process, and the consultations so far. This can be used to define exact activities that will form part of a communications and consultation strategy developed during the inception phase.

Objectives

The stakeholder consultations during project implementation will support all outcomes. Overall, the objective of the consultation plan is to provide a framework to guide and promote two-way engagements between the key implementing partner (MAIL) and the key stakeholders (NEPA, MEW, MRRD, PEACs, provincial and district governors, government institutions at sub-national level, DDAs, CDCs, farmers cooperatives and associations, villagers, ICIMOD, international donors (USAID, ADB, DFID, AusAID, KOICA, WB), FAO, WFP, UNHCR, UNCHA, UNEP, NGOs (ACTED, CARE International) and private sector, ACCI) with whom the project will engage and directly impact upon.

It is proposed that several more specific objectives for consultation are adopted:

1. To ensure a general vision and understanding of the project and its expected outcomes by all concerned stakeholders.
2. To engage key stakeholders in planning, implementing and monitoring of specific interventions.
3. To ensure consistent, supportive and effective communication (information, documentation, sharing, learning and feedback) processes with key implementing partners as well as the wider public including farmers groups, CDC members, DDA members and pastoralists/livestock keepers.
4. To influence and ensure strategic level support for project implementation from state and non-state organizations and international agencies through engagement in effective community, private sector and donor forums or platforms.

In delivering these objectives, there are a number of simple qualitative considerations that need to be taken into account when planning engagement processes and what they should be seeking to achieve:

- Identify constraints and solutions: As a two-way engagement, the consultation process should be used as an opportunity to identify with stakeholders possible constraints in the project's implementation and to work with the stakeholders to find sustainable solutions.
- Managing expectations: The LDCF investment is relatively minor, compared to the adaptation demands facing the country. It will be important that consultations take due consideration to manage expectations of stakeholders and stakeholder groups.
- Partnerships for co-financing: The LDCF seeks to add value to its investments by building on existing and parallel projects that represent co-financing and consultations should consider opportunities for partnerships that will leverage co-financing into innovative approaches or technologies that may improve efficiencies and enhance impact.

Stakeholders

Stakeholders include a range of types of groups, all with their own interests and concerns. They have different roles to play in the project and the Table below indicates key stakeholders and their possible roles.

Activities planned during implementation and evaluation

During implementation, the communication and consultation process should be divided into three main phases, being:

Phase 1 – this is the mobilization phase in the first year of the project. The fine details of the activities and implementation structures will be designed, partnerships for action will be forged and stakeholder engagement will focus around these design processes.

Phase 2 – represents the main implementation phase where investments will be made on the ground in the target areas and stakeholder consultations about engagement will focus on output oriented action.

Phase 3 – represents the completion of the project and the plans for scale-up and long-term sustainability of the LDCF investments. Consultations will focus on learning, bringing experience together and looking at processes for continued post-project impact.

Phase I – Developing a strategy and action plan

At mobilization, a simple communications strategy should be developed. Key principles to be considered in the development of the strategy include:

Who? Implementer needs to understand the stakeholders well – their needs, the impacts of interventions on each stakeholder group, the opportunities for contribution/engagement, and their power/influence. Whilst, as part of the project preparation, a stakeholder analysis was carried out, during this phase this should be reviewed as stakeholders should be seen as dynamic. The stakeholders that may be involved in or affected by the project are multiple, diverse; so an effective stakeholder identification process will be an important contributor to identifying key factors for success and risks to mitigate.

Gender: In engagement with the project implementation, it will be important to consider the different ways that the benefits derived from this project are equally accessed, understood and utilized by both women and men. The project implementer will need to consider how these two groups access project benefits and get feedback through consultation process in selected areas of implementation.

Why? Implementers need be clear about the purpose of the consultation process as so that the right stakeholders make the right inputs to the planned activities. During Phase I, MAIL will seek to have secured the support and commitment of key stakeholders required for project implementation. Implementers should make key stakeholders aware of the plan and its intended activities and outcomes and make clear their role and scope for contributing to project decisions and activities.

What? In planning stakeholder involvement, the strategy should make as much use of existing mechanisms (institutions and process) as possible, avoiding establishing project oriented structures.

Types of consultation mechanisms:

- An overarching multi-stakeholder group, such as a steering committee will form a governance role, but also be a forum for stakeholder engagement.
- Specific focus groups on technical interventions,
- Information briefings for government and con-financing institutions.

Phase II - Consultation through implementation

Once implementation begins, public consultations should become more of an ongoing exchange of information, and there are two main purposes for the various mechanisms outlined under Phase I:

- to gather information from beneficiaries and stakeholders about the impact and effectiveness of the planned adaptation interventions to support adaptive management; and
- To provide interested government and donor stakeholders and the general public with information about the progress and impact of the project as it is implemented.

The first purpose relates to engagement for effective implementation and monitoring, whilst the latter is more concerned with information dissemination, 'public relations' and expectation management. Good public relations will also help encourage collaboration with respect to the objective of the LDCF project.

Phase III - Project completion and scale up promotion

This will be a process of ensuring completion, hand-over and long-term sustainability of the LDCF investment. Consultation will focus on bringing experience together, sharing key lessons learnt (through the UNDP SDU and other forums) and looking at processes for promoting scale up of this project in order to have efficient and reliable structures in the country.

Social issues and impacts

Different assessments indicate that women and children, elderly people, small scale farmers and pastoralists are among the most affected groups in the society by climate change. The implementation of this project will improve the resilience of rural livelihood options of the Afghan communities in the selected provinces. Hence, the project will benefit all the communities equally but the most affected group like women will have a comparative advantage as most of the burden is on them.

B.2 Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the Project at the national and local levels, including consideration of gender dimensions, and how these will support the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF):

45. At household level, benefits will be most important for those depending on subsistence agriculture. Women and SMEs will benefit directly from the project support in marketing, training and income generation activities. Over 10,000 rural poor Afghans will benefit from the project activities in the area of livelihood diversification with increased income in twelve districts in four provinces. Similarly those living on the plains and prone to recurrent droughts (Uruzgan, Balkh and Herat Provinces) will benefit from the increased capacity of the irrigation infrastructure to retain water and deliver it with minimal losses. Close and strengthened partnerships and communication channels between MAIL and the provincial and district level extension services will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of state support to agriculture and livelihoods through better planning, adapted agricultural practices and support.

46. This intervention will have tangible and direct benefits for the population in rural agricultural areas which represents about 5 to 7 million people. In Balkh and Herat Provinces where irrigation infrastructure is critical for production agriculture, the rehabilitation of check dams, reservoirs, karezes and irrigation canals will improve

agricultural output. Similarly in the Panjshir valley, especially in the Abshar and Parian districts, better control of flood waters from the thawing snow will provide improved irrigation capacity and access to drinking water for schools. Dryer areas like Uruzgan Province and some parts of Herat which are the base for intense agricultural activity will also benefit from improved water harvesting systems and groundwater recharge. This LDCF initiative will benefit this area substantially by ensuring enhanced irrigation infrastructure and alternative livelihoods that will impact around 1 million people. The project will indirectly benefit a large part of the population of Afghanistan by creating capacity at the national level (in key ministries like the MAIL and MRRD) to produce more climate responsive development plans and train government staff in planning long-term strategies for climate change adaptation.

47. This LDCF initiative will improve the long term planning capacity for climate change adaptation in Afghanistan, particularly in support of enhancing the resilience of livelihoods and irrigation infrastructure and assets of some of the poorest communities. Enhancing awareness and capacity to plan for long-term adaptation strategies has the potential to enable poor communities such as farmers and pastoralists to make informed decisions about their livelihood activities and protect their built assets.

B.3. Explain how cost-effectiveness is reflected in the project design:

48. The preparatory and design phase focused on project implementation principles and approaches that will meet the objectives of the project in the most cost-effective way. The project will contribute to implement four of the NAPA's top 11 priority projects. The project will be implemented through government agencies responsible for agriculture and irrigation, climate change adaptation, disaster risk management and multi-sectoral task teams drawing expertise from the departments responsible for planning and implementing climate resilience enhancing practices as this was considered the most cost-effective approach.

49. This LDCF initiative has sought to build on current development initiatives in order to climate proof them. Full costing for interventions in Panjshir, Herat, Uruzgan and Balkh, were done and the projects were deemed cost effective. The effectiveness of the interventions in increasing resilience to climate change will be tested and measured during the course of this LDCF project through M&E and lessons learned mechanisms. This will involve undertaking an economic analysis and performing cost-benefit analyses to ascertain whether each activity is an economically viable option given climate change. The most successful activities will be prioritized for upscaling to other areas in Afghanistan, and details regarding their implementation and lessons learned from the project will be disseminated at workshops and training events to ensure their mainstreaming.

50. Cost effectiveness is further ensured by building upon the current baseline projects in the target areas, ensuring the long-term viability of the activities and investments under conditions of climate change. In addition, by targeting upland areas and focusing at a watershed level, the ecosystem services protected by project interventions will result in significant downstream benefits, ensuring that not only local communities but all households dependent on regular water supplies from the watersheds will benefit from this LDCF financing. This ecosystem management approach to climate change adaptation ensures benefits are widespread, since the value of ecosystem services extends far beyond the local impact.

51. By providing technical training and financial support to community organizations and improving livelihoods through, for example, improved agricultural resilience, the LDCF project will engender ownership of the project and enhanced capacity within these communities. This reduces the overhead for monitoring and maintenance of the activities, and will promote sustainability of project benefits beyond the project lifespan. Building upon current national development programmes and enhancing capacity within the management structures mandated by government further strengthens the cost effectiveness of the LDCF project.

52. The preparatory and design phase also analyzed the training and capacity building options and only those within the scope and cost effectiveness of this project were identified. For example, the options of sending MAIL and MRRD engineers abroad to reputed universities for climate change integrated planning training is more expensive than getting the training done in the country. Most of the training will be done in country either with international experts for short periods, or using national expertise from Kabul University and other research institutions like

ICIMOD with climate change expertise. This will create a pool of knowledge and trainers who will in turn be able to transfer the knowledge to other national or provincial staff thereby extending the outreach and impact of the project. The alternative of outsourcing the training to universities and research institution abroad (mostly in the US and Europe) was deemed too expensive.

C. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M &E PLAN:

The project will be monitored through the following M& E activities. The M&E budget is provided in the table below. The M&E framework set out in the Project Results Framework in Part III of this project document is aligned with the AMAT and UNDP M&E frameworks.

Project start

A Project Inception Workshop will be held within the first 2 months of project start with those with assigned roles in the project organization structure, UNDP Country Office and where appropriate/feasible regional technical policy and program advisors as well as other stakeholders. The Inception Workshop is crucial to building ownership for the project results and to plan the first year annual work plan.

The Inception Workshop should address a number of key issues including:

- Assist all partners to fully understand and take ownership of the project. Detail the roles, support services and complementary responsibilities of UNDP CO and RCU staff vis-à-vis the project team. Discuss the roles, functions, and responsibilities within the project's decision-making structures, including reporting and communication lines, and conflict resolution mechanisms. The Terms of Reference for project staff will be discussed again as needed.
- Based on the project results framework and the LDCF related AMAT set out in the Project Results Framework in Section III of this project document, and finalize the first annual work plan. Review and agree on the indicators, targets and their means of verification, and recheck assumptions and risks.
- Provide a detailed overview of reporting, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) requirements. The Monitoring and Evaluation work plan and budget should be agreed and scheduled.
- Discuss financial reporting procedures and obligations, and arrangements for annual audit.
- Plan and schedule PB meetings. Roles and responsibilities of all project organization structures should be clarified and meetings planned. The first PB meeting should be held within the first 12 months following the inception workshop.

An Inception Workshop report is a key reference document and must be prepared and shared with participants to formalize various agreements and plans decided during the meeting.

Quarterly:

- Progress made shall be monitored in the UNDP Enhanced Results Based Management Platform.
- Based on the initial risk analysis submitted, the risk log shall be regularly updated in ATLAS. Risks become critical when the impact and probability are high. Note that for UNDP/GEF projects, all financial risks associated with financial instruments such as revolving funds, microfinance schemes, or capitalization of ESCOs are automatically classified as critical on the basis of their innovative nature (high impact and uncertainty due to no previous experience justifies classification as critical).
- Based on the information recorded in Atlas, a Project Progress Reports (PPR) can be generated in the Executive Snapshot.
- Other ATLAS logs will be used to monitor issues, lessons learned. The use of these functions is a key indicator in the UNDP Executive Balanced Scorecard.

Annually: Annual Project Review/Project Implementation Reports (APR/PIR): This key report is prepared to monitor progress made since project start and in particular for the previous reporting period (30 June to 1 July). The APR/PIR combines both UNDP and GEF reporting requirements. The APR/PIR includes, but is not limited to, reporting on the following:

- Progress made toward project objective and project outcomes - each with indicators, baseline data and end-of-project targets (cumulative)
- Project outputs delivered per project outcome (annual).
- Lessons learned/good practice.
- AWP and other expenditure reports
- Risk and adaptive management
- ATLAS QPR

Periodic Monitoring through site visits: UNDP CO and the UNDP-GEF region-based staff will conduct visits to project sites based on the agreed schedule in the project's Inception Report/Annual Work Plan to assess first hand project progress. Other members of the Project Board may also join these visits. A Field Visit Report/BTOR will be prepared by the CO and UNDP RCU and will be circulated no less than one month after the visit to the project team and Project Board members.

Mid-term of project cycle:

The project will undergo an independent Mid-Term Review at the mid-point of project implementation. The Mid-Term Review will determine progress being made toward the achievement of outcomes and will identify course correction if needed. It will focus on the effectiveness, efficiency and timeliness of project implementation; will highlight issues requiring decisions and actions; and will present initial lessons learned about project design, implementation and management. Findings of this review will be incorporated as recommendations for enhanced implementation during the final half of the project's term. The organization, terms of reference and timing of the mid-term review will be decided after consultation between the parties to the project document. The Terms of Reference for this Mid-term review will be prepared by the UNDP CO based on guidance from the Regional Coordinating Unit and UNDP-GEF. The LDFC/SCCF AMAT as set out in the Project Results Framework in Section III of this project document) will also be completed during the mid-term evaluation cycle.

End of Project

An independent Terminal Evaluation will take place three months prior to the final PB meeting and will be undertaken in accordance with UNDP-GEF guidance. The terminal evaluation will focus on the delivery of the project's results as initially planned (and as corrected after the mid-term review, if any such correction took place). The terminal evaluation will look at impact and sustainability of results, including the contribution to capacity development and the achievement of global environmental benefits/goals. The Terms of Reference for this evaluation will be prepared by the UNDP CO based on guidance from the Regional Coordinating Unit and UNDP-GEF. The LDFC/SCCF AMAT as set out in the Project Results Framework in Section III of this project document) will also be completed during the terminal evaluation cycle. The Terminal Evaluation should also provide recommendations for follow-up activities and requires a management response, which should be uploaded to PIMS and to the UNDP Evaluation Office Evaluation Resource Center (ERC).

Learning and knowledge sharing:

Results from the project will be disseminated within and beyond the project intervention zone through existing information sharing networks and forums. The project will identify and participate, as relevant and appropriate, in scientific, policy based and/or any other networks, which may be of benefit to project implementation though lessons learned. The project will identify, analyze, and share lessons learned that might be beneficial in the design and implementation of similar future projects. There will be a two-way flow of information between this project and other projects of a similar focus. At various discussion forums the importance of focusing on monitoring and on food insecure areas was mentioned. This will be done and is included in the monitoring plan.

Audit: Project will be audited in accordance with UNDP Financial Regulations and Rules and applicable audit policies.

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget US$ *Excluding project team staff time*	Time frame
Inception Workshop and Report	▪ Project Manager (MEE) ▪ PIU ▪ UNDP CO, UNDP GEF	Indicative cost: 10,000	Within first two months of project start up
Measurement of Means of Verification of project results.	▪ UNDP GEF RTA/Project Manager will oversee the hiring of specific studies and institutions, and delegate responsibilities to relevant team members. ▪ PIU, esp. M&E expert	To be finalized in Inception Phase and Workshop.	Start, mid and end of project (during evaluation cycle) and annually when required.
Measurement of Means of Verification for Project Progress on *output and implementation*	▪ Oversight by Project Manager (MEE) ▪ PIU, esp. M&E expert ▪ Implementation teams	To be determined as part of the Annual Work Plan's preparation.	Annually prior to ARR/PIR and to the definition of annual work plans
ARR/PIR	▪ Project manager (MEE) ▪ PIU ▪ UNDP CO ▪ UNDP RTA ▪ UNDP EEG	None	Annually
Periodic status/ progress reports	▪ Project manager and team	None	Quarterly
Mid-term Review	▪ Project manager (MEE) ▪ PIU ▪ UNDP CO ▪ UNDP RCU ▪ External Consultants (i.e. evaluation team)	Indicative cost: 31,500	At the mid-point of project implementation.
Terminal Evaluation	▪ Project manager (MEE) ▪ PIU ▪ UNDP CO ▪ UNDP RCU ▪ External Consultants (i.e. evaluation team)	Indicative cost : 45,000	At least three months before the end of project implementation
Audit	▪ UNDP CO ▪ Project manager (MEE) ▪ PIU	Indicative cost per year: 3,000 (15,000 total)	Yearly
Visits to field sites	▪ UNDP CO ▪ UNDP RCU (as appropriate)	For GEF supported projects, paid from IA fees and	Yearly for UNDP CO, as required by UNDP

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget US$ *Excluding project team staff time*	Time frame
	▪ Government representatives	operational budget	RCU
TOTAL indicative COST Excluding project team staff time and UNDP staff and travel expenses		US$ 101,500 (+/- 5% of total GEF budget)	

PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) AND GEF AGENCY(IES)

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S):): (Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter(s) with this form. For SGP, use this OFP endorsement letter).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE *(MM/dd/yyyy)*
Mr. Mostapha Zaher	Director General	National Environmental Protection Agency	10/23/2012

B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF policies and procedures and meets the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF criteria for CEO endorsement/approval of project.

Agency Coordinator, Agency Name	Signature	Date *(Month, day, year)*	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Ms. Adriana Dinu, Executive Coordinator And Director, a.i., UNDP/GEF		January 31, 2014	Faris Khader, Regional Technical Specialist, EITT	+66 2304 9100 ext 2756	faris.khader@undp.org

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

This project will contribute to achieving the following Country Programme Outcome as defined in CPAP or CPD:

Output 5.1: Government capacity to develop policies to manage natural resources enhanced

Output 5.2: Sub-national institutions and communities are able to promote environmental protection and use natural resources responsibly

Output 5.3: Government and communities have better capacity for disaster risk reduction

Country Programme Outcome Indicators:

5.1.1. Indicator: Number of policy formulation initiatives led by the Government using in-house capacity.

5.2.1 Indicator: Number of clients received off-farm services (post-harvest technology, market oriented infrastructure, and farm-to-market access)

5.3.1. Indicator: Sound environment and natural resource management policies and strategies are being implemented and mainstreamed into development plans at the national and sub-national levels.

Primary applicable Key Environment and Sustainable Development Key Result Area (same as that on the cover page, circle one): 1. Mainstreaming environment and energy OR

2. Catalyzing environmental finance OR 3. Promote climate change adaptation OR 4. Expanding access to environmental and energy services for the poor.

Applicable SOF (e.g. GEF) Strategic Objective and Program:

Objective 1 : Increase adaptive capacity to respond to the impacts of climate change, including variability, at local, national, regional and global level

Applicable SOF (e.g. GEF) Expected Outcomes:

Outcome 2.2: Strengthened adaptive capacity to reduce risks to climate-induced economic losses

Applicable SOF (e.g. GEF) Outcome Indicators:

- Incorporating climate information, warning, and climate change projections into DRM plans, policies and programmes
- Strengthening stakeholder comprehension, particularly those most vulnerable, of alerts and climate information
- Sustaining technical and operational capacities and the availability of skills and resources beyond the project lifetime

	Indicator	Baseline	Targets End of Project	Source of verification	Risks and Assumptions

Project Objective[6] Strengthening the resilience of rural livelihood options for Afghan communities in Panjshir, Balkh, Uruzgan and Herat Provinces to manage climate change-induced disaster risks	1.Capacity of MAIL as per capacity assessment scorecard (baseline: 3; target: 4[7]) 2. Domestic finance committed to the relevant institutions to integrate climate change information in development planning	3 Minimal	To achieve the Capacity Scorecard score of 4 Domestic target financing is $10 million per year	Capacity Scorecard results Focus group interviews with planning and subject matter specialists MAIL institutions plans and related budgets Field Surveys and climate vulnerability analyses	Deterioration of security situation in project sites. Unavailability of requisite human resources and data
Outcome 1[8] Climate change risk and variability integrated into local planning and budgeting processes	Amount of budget allocated specifically for climate change adaptation measures in development plans at the provincial level and community development plans (CDCs) Extent to which climate change	Capacity for climate-related analysis and forward planning is limited at national and sub-national level. Institutional capacity for cross-sectoral climate	By end of project, 15 communities and 4 provincial task teams have been trained in and use climate related vulnerability and risk assessments in an integrated area-based planning approach. Climate resilient investment strategies based on integrated climate resilient development plans are in place and attracting	Training records, CCA capacity scorecard assessment, area-based integrated climate change adaptation plans at community and provincial level Sub-national climate resilience plans and	Limited capacity within relevant ministries/insufficient qualified human capacity. Insufficient institutional support and political commitments

[6] *Objective (Atlas output) monitored quarterly ERBM and annually in APR/PIR*

[7] *On a scale of 1 to 5, with: 1 = No evidence of capacity; 2 = Anecdotal evidence of capacity; 3 = Partially developed capacity; 4 = Widespread, but not comprehensive capacity; and 5 = Fully developed capacity.*

[8] *All outcomes monitored annually in the APR/PIR. It is highly recommended not to have more than 4 outcomes.*

	information and adaptation measures are incorporated into MAIL local development plans in 4 provinces Number of climate change scenarios developed for the agriculture sector in selected provinces Number of MAIL officials, farmers, and pastoralists trained on climate risk information and appropriate response measures	change planning is negligible 0 0	funding. 4 climate change scenarios developed At least 250 MAIL officials, farmers, and pastoralists trained	investment strategies Partnership agreements for adaptation investments	
Outcome 2 Rural income and livelihood opportunities for vulnerable communities enhanced and diversified	Percentage of project beneficiaries surveyed reporting to gain an increase in personal monthly income at least by 50% Percentage of beneficiaries' households that engage in more than two climate proof livelihoods opportunities	Women and Farmers currently constrained by limited access to and knowledge of diversified livelihood opportunities. Currently there is a lack of access to training, markets, raw materials and financing.	By the end of the project, 800 women and over 30 SMEs have been trained in and tested alternative livelihoods options, of which 35% have adopted them permanently. By the end of the project local administration task teams are able to deliver livelihood diversification support to women and SMEs	Gender disaggregated community survey; community level vulnerability reduction assessment CCA Capacity assessment, evidence of training and demonstration of	Poor provincial responses to the leadership role from MAIL Extreme climate events such as floods and droughts could disrupt project activities and/or damage ecosystems and infrastructure.

	Number of women trained on alternative livelihoods to farming	0	At least 800 women trained	knowledge transfers	
	Number of rural entrepreneurs and SMEs trained in business development for handicrafts and small-scale manufacturing	0	50 rural entrepreneurs and 30 SMEs trained in business development		
	Number of hectares of degraded rangelands planted with stress resistant seedling varieties	0	2,000 hectares of degraded rangelands rehabilitated		
Outcome 3 Productive infrastructure improvements	Crop productivity level from irrigated agriculture (X tons of crops per hectare)	Very limited capacity for applying climate resilient agriculture	By the end of the project, climate resilient agricultural production has increased by 10% in target areas compared to baseline (1t/ha maize) adjusted for rainfall.	Records of micro-irrigation department (MAIL)	Work progresses in a compartmentalized fashion and there is little integration e.g. government departments refuse to share data and information
	Amount of crops and livelihoods assets damaged by floods or drought in the targeted areas	Informal coping strategies are in use in target areas, no formal infrastructure risk reducing/insurance approaches yet in	By the end of the project at least 25% agricultural infrastructure in the target communities is improved to insure against the inherent uncertainty of climate change	Local climate / hazard data made available. Community level	Extreme climate events such as floods and droughts could disrupt project activities and/or damage ecosystems and infrastructure.

		place due to lack of knowledge and hazard information in target areas		vulnerability reduction assessments. Agriculture Bureau statistics.	
	Number of small-scale storage reservoirs built in selected river sub-basins	0	12 small-scale storage reservoirs built		
	Number of communities where micro-water harvesting techniques are introduced	0	Micro-water harvesting techniques introduced in 12 communities		
	Number of karezes and canals improved and rehabilitated to reduce water losses	0	20 karezes and canals improved and rehabilitated		
	Number of check dams, contour bunds and other facilities built to conserve water and enhance groundwater recharge	0	At least 20 check dams, contour bunds, and other facilities built		

ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

Response to Council comments

Responses to German Council comments

<table>
<tr><th>Comment</th><th>Response</th><th>Reference</th></tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany appreciates the consistent PIF and the focus on enhanced rural livelihood in the context of climate change, which is an important hazard in Afghanistan. However, we suggest some minor adjustments particularly regarding the first component.

1) Germany kindly asks to specify the project's intervention sites. As to the PIF, project intervention will be in 4 provinces. While some of the activities seem to be at province level (development of climate change scenarios, training of MAIL officials) the activities on enhanced rural livelihood will be at community level (see project framework, page 2f.). Please specify if community activity will only be realized in the mentioned 10 climate sensitive communities or if other communities will be targeted as well. Please clarify also on the selection criteria and overall selection process of these sites.</td>
<td>The LDCF initiative will carry out activities in four provinces, ten districts, and at least 20 communities, as specified in the table below. The project intervention sites are also detailed in Annex III of the project document on the Key Assessment Reports. The selection of project sites was based on an extensive consultation process at the national, sub-national and local level.

Project intervention sites
<table>
<tr><th>Provinces</th><th>Districts</th><th>Villages</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="10">Panjshir</td><td rowspan="4">Abshar</td><td>Gulab Khel</td></tr>
<tr><td>Dosti Ali</td></tr>
<tr><td>Lala Khel</td></tr>
<tr><td>Sangi Khan</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Parian</td><td>Qusur Payan</td></tr>
<tr><td>Qusur Bala</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Anaba</td><td>Faraj</td></tr>
<tr><td>Tawakh</td></tr>
<tr><td>Bazarak</td><td>Jangalak</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="4">Herat</td><td rowspan="2">Kohsan</td><td>Qalate Merake</td></tr>
<tr><td>Mustafa Bik</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Ghoryan</td><td>Dehran</td></tr>
<tr><td>Gordan</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="4">Uruzgan</td><td>Tarinkot</td><td>Naqleen</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">Dehrawood</td><td>Lablan</td></tr>
<tr><td>Meyan Doo</td></tr>
<tr><td>Takr Yatemak</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="4">Balkh</td><td rowspan="2">Balkh</td><td>Kata Khil</td></tr>
<tr><td>Medain</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Khulm</td><td>Nemaz Gan Payan</td></tr>
<tr><td>Tahtetaq</td></tr>
</table>
Following local consultations with the Provincial Governor's Office and provincial Departments in each province, a long list of intervention options was identified in target districts. These potential interventions were then further narrowed down to a final shortlist of intervention options. The final list of priority actions was agreed by a joint meeting of rural livelihood experts and civil engineers based on the following selection criteria: the budget requirements, sustainability in terms of climate change awareness,</td>
<td>Project document, Annex III on Key Assessment Reports</td>
</tr>
</table>

	diversification of income resources, and job creation at the community level.	
2) In the same context, please clarify on the role of districts in the project design. District Development Assemblies (DDA) are mentioned to be key stakeholders. However, the PIF does not explain what would be their role. The first component on local development planning e.g. does not target DDAs but Community Development Councils with the respective Community Development Plans (CDPs). Only 10 CDPs will be developed, compared to more than 22.000 which have been formulated. To be able to achieve broader impact and to enable up-scaling Germany suggests considering the following two options during the drafting of the final project proposal: (1) combining the preparation of 10 CDPs with the development of guidelines which can be used in other communities and should therefore become national guidelines and (2) examine if the first component could also address district development plans since the PIF mentions that the incorporation of climate change in both, district and community plans, is important (page 5).	District Development Assemblies (DDAs) were widely consulted during the project design phase and will play an important role during implementation. The DDAs will be consulted and actively involved in the formulation of the climate sensitive Community Development Plans (CDPs) and in all of the community level activities and investments, ranging from the training on alternative livelihoods and enterprise development to the rehabilitation of degraded rangelands and the investments in small-scale productive infrastructure. As replication and scaling up are central to the success of the project, lessons learned, good practices, and experiences will be shared widely so that project results are expanded more broadly and progressively more communities and districts integrate climate change risks and variability into their development planning. Output 1.3.4 is on the formulation of guidelines to stimulate replication on a wider scale. Importantly, the CDPs will feed into the district-level development planning. Particular attention will be paid to documenting information and sharing lessons from the climate resilient local development planning process, which will inform and feed into subsequent planning processes. Project results will be replicated both vertically from the bottom up from the community to district and provincial levels and horizontally across provinces. One of the key expected results of the LDCF intervention is greater coordination and communication between various administrative units at different levels of government.	Project document, p. 34 and Annex IV on Stakeholder Involvement Plan
3) There are certainly significant impacts of climate change on the agricultural sector in Afghanistan. However, the data availability and quality at provincial level might not permit to develop climate change scenarios at the province level which are robust enough (component 1) to inform policy making. During further project development less complex methodologies might be considered (e.g. climate proofing, simple vulnerability analysis methods).	It is true that data availability at the provincial level can be an issue in some provinces. As suggested, the project will take a pragmatic approach. Some flexibility has been built into the project design. Where sufficient data exists, robust climate change scenarios for the agriculture sector will be developed to inform policy making. This would be the first preference. In cases where there is inadequate or unreliable data, the project will explore other options such as climate proofing and vulnerability analysis methods. Whatever tools and methodologies are ultimately chosen, they should strengthen the capacity of the national and provincial government to plan interventions and anticipate possible changes in the agricultural sector in the selected provinces.	Project document, Output 1.1, p. 33
4) Since training is an important activity in this PIF, Germany asks to detail what the *use of output* of these trainings will be. What will the trained stakeholders do differently once having participated in the	The project will provide training and capacity building to all levels of government on climate change risks and impacts, and provide key stakeholders with technical support for designing adaptation measures. It is expected that following the	Project document, Outputs 2.1 and 2.2, p. 37, Project

training? Please do also formulate indicators beyond the output level (component 1 and 2). With respect to the training of women on alternative livelihoods and business development in handicrafts and small-scale manufacturing, Germany kindly asks to specify if and to what extent market accessibility exists.	training, MAIL officials, farmers, pastoralists, and other key partners will have a much greater awareness of expected climate change impacts and will have the capability to participate in and inform the design of effective adaptation responses. It is also anticipated that trained stakeholders will take into account climate change impacts in their development planning processes, something that has not been done under the baseline scenario. Indicators at the objective and outcome level have been formulated. Market accessibility is an area that requires further progress. Under Outputs 2.1 and 2.2, there are activities on conducting market surveys and on creating and strengthening linkages with markets, buyers and suppliers.	Results Framework, pp. 51-55
5) ICIMOD was mentioned as an executing partner however without giving information on their respective role in the project. We kindly ask to clarify ICIMOD's role in the final project proposal.	ICIMOD's role in the project will be based on its comparative advantage. ICIMOD has experience in providing training on climate change adaptation, climate modeling including GIS and remote sensing, and in implementing a micro-watershed community approach. It is anticipated that ICIMOD, along with staff from Kabul University and some international experts, will conduct most of the training on climate change under the project. ICIMOD could also potentially be involved in data collection and the development of climate change scenarios for the target provinces, as well as watershed management in some communities.	Project document, pp. 47 and 133

Responses to Japan Council comments

Comment	Response	Reference
1. Kindly please clarify the relationship between this project and the National Priority Program. We understand that the Government of Afghanistan should keep the NPP and implement as a project partner in line with it.	This LDCF initiative will directly contribute to the national priority programs on Skills Development and Labor, Women Affairs, Water and Natural Resource Management, and Comprehensive Agriculture Production and Market Development. It will make an indirect contribution to the national priority programs on Strengthening Local Institutions and Local Governance. The LDCF project's relevance and contribution to the National Priority Programs is outlined in Annex X.	Project document, Annex X, p. 151
2. We appreciate if you could let us know the breakdown of the budget (e.g. costs of each sub-component, consultants and equipment, and there might be security costs) so as to see the amount is reasonable.	The budget breakdown by sub-component has been provided in the Total Budget and Work Plan in the project document. Total consultant costs for both international and local consultants are provided in Table F of the CEO Endorsement Request. The security premium in Afghanistan is approximately 40%. This premium would apply to international consultants hired by the project, travel to field locations within the country, and rental of premises. This rate is standard across development agencies operating in the country.	Project document, Total Budget and Work Plan, pp. 56-59; CEO Endorsement Request, Table F, p. 3

ANNEX C: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES AND THE USE OF FUNDS[9]

A. DESCRIBE FINDINGS THAT MIGHT AFFECT THE PROJECT DESIGN OR ANY CONCERNS ON PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION, IF ANY:

n/a

B. PROVIDE DETAILED FUNDING AMOUNT OF THE PPG ACTIVITIES FINANCING STATUS IN THE TABLE BELOW:

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: **$100,000**			
Project Preparation Activities Implemented	***GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF Amount ($)***		
	Budgeted Amount	***Amount Spent Todate***	***Amount Committed***
Collection and analysis of baseline data from each of the selected provinces	40,000	28,957	11,043
Preliminary climate change vulnerability analysis	15,000	10,000	5,000
Stakeholder consultations with provincial MAIL officials, MRRD, Community Development Councils, farmers, pastoralists and other key partners	15,000	15,000	0
Logical framework analysis with participation of relevant stakeholders	10,000	10,000	0
Detailed design of project activities based on the results of the log frame analysis	10,000	10,000	0
Negotiation and confirmation of co-financing	5,000	0	5,000
Project management arrangements and implementation plan prepared	5,000	2,260	2,740
Preparation of Project document and CEO Endorsement Request	0	0	0
Total	100,000	76,217	23,783

[9] If at CEO Endorsement, the PPG activities have not been completed and there is a balance of unspent fund, Agencies can continue undertake the activities up to one year of project start. No later than one year from start of project implementation, Agencies should report this table to the GEF Secretariat on the completion of PPG activities and the amount spent for the activities.

ANNEX D: CALENDAR OF EXPECTED REFLOWS (if non-grant instrument is used**)**

Provide a calendar of expected reflows to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF Trust Fund or to your Agency (and/or revolving fund that will be set up)

n/a

United Nations Development Programme

Country: Afghanistan

PROJECT DOCUMENT[1]

Project Title: Strengthening the resilience of rural livelihood options for Afghan communities in Panjshir, Balkh, Uruzgan and Herat Provinces to manage climate change-induced disaster risks

UNDAF Outcome(s):

Outcome 5: Improved capacity to manage natural resources to support poverty reduction and dispute resolution, and to reduce vulnerability to natural disaster

Outcome 6: Opportunities for decent work and income are improved and diversified, especially for vulnerable groups

UNDP Strategic Plan Environment and Sustainable Development Primary Outcome: Strengthened capacity of developing countries to mainstream climate change adaptation policies into national development plans.

UNDP Strategic Plan Secondary Outcome: strengthened national capacities, including the participation of women to prevent, reduce, mitigate and cope with the impact of the systemic shocks from natural hazards.

Expected CP Outcome(s):

Outcome 5: Capacities of national and local governance bodies are improved for better natural resources and disaster risk management.

Outcome 6: Increased opportunities for income generation through the promotion of diversified livelihoods, private sector development and public private partnerships.

Expected CPD Output (s)

Output 5.1: Government capacity to develop policies to manage natural resources enhanced

Output 5.2: Sub-national institutions and communities are able to promote environmental protection and use natural resources responsibly

Output 5.3: Government and communities have better capacity for disaster risk reduction

Executing Entity/Implementing Partner: Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL)

Responsible Partners: Province level Department for Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, District level Department for Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, Ministry and Departments for Rural Rehabilitation and Development, Ministry and Departments for Energy and Water, National and Provincial Environmental Protection Agency, Community Development Councils.

[1] For UNDP supported GEF funded projects as this includes GEF-specific requirements

Brief Description

The ability of decision-makers in Afghanistan to understand the likely impacts and risks of climate change in the short and long-term is of critical importance to the country's sustainable growth aspirations. This project, with financing from the Least Developed Country Fund (LDCF), aims to strengthen the capacity of the Government of Afghanistan to integrate Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) into development framework and planning, support the development of alternative climate resilient livelihood options for subsistence farmers as well as improve productive irrigation infrastructure so that agricultural productivity is not constrained under changing conditions.

This initiative, which is based on Afghanistan's National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA), will support the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS). It will achieve the following results: Develop the capacity to integrate climate change risks and impacts in routine development plans at national, provincial and community level, strengthen climate resilient livelihoods, and improve irrigation infrastructure. It builds on and is complementary to a number of ongoing baseline initiatives including the National Area-Based Development Programme (NABDP) and the National Solidarity Programme (NSP), among others.

The implementing partner of this project is the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL). Others such as Provincial MAIL, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), Ministry of Energy and Water (MoEW) and the Ministry of Finance (MoF), District Development Assemblies (DDAs), Community Development Councils (CDCs), and Kabul University will also be involved in the project as Responsible Parties. The duration of the project is for five years.

Programme Period:	2014 - 2019
Atlas Award ID:	00076056
Project ID:	00087639
PIMS #:	5098
Start date:	1 April 2014
End date:	31March 2019
Management Arrangements:	NIM
PAC Meeting Date:	15 January 2014

Total resources required:		$112,000,000
Total allocated resources:		$112,000,000
o	LDCF	$9,000,000
o	UNDP	$1,000,000
o	Government of Afghanistan	$32,000,000
o	USAID	$70,000,000
	Total:	$112,000,000

Agreed by (Government):

Date/Month/Year

Agreed by (Executing Entity/Implementing Partner):

Date/Month/Year

Agreed by (UNDP):

Date/Month/Year

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List of Acronyms

AMA	Afghan Meteorological Authority
ANDMA	Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority
ANDS	Afghanistan National Development Strategy
APAN	Asia-Pacific Adaptation Network
ARTF	Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund
CBNRM	Community-based natural resource management
CDC	Community Development Council
DDA	District Development Assembly
DDP	District Development Plan
DFID	Department for International Development (UK)
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EIRP	Emergency Irrigation Rehabilitation Project
ERDA	Energy for Rural Development in Afghanistan
EWS	Early Warning System
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FEWSNET	Famine Early Warning Systems Network
GAIN	Green Afghanistan Initiative
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GoIRA	Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
ICARDA	International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas
ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
IDLG	Independent Directorate of Local Governance
IRDP	Irrigation Restoration and Development Project
ISAF	International Security Assistance Force
IWRM	Integrated Water Resource Management
LDC	Least Developed Country
LDCF	Least Developed Countries Fund
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MAIL	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
MEW	Ministry of Energy and Water
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MRRD	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
NABDP	National Area-Based Development Programme
NAPA	National Adaptation Programme of Action for Climate Change
NAPWA	National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan
NCCC	National Climate Change Committee
NCSA	National Capacity Needs Self-Assessment
NEPA	National Environmental Protection Agency
NERAP	National Emergency Rural Access Project
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPP	National Priority Program

NSP	National Solidarity Programme
PDP	Provincial Development Plan
PEACE	Pastoral Engagement, Adaptation, and Capacity Enhancement Project
PMU	Project Management Unit
SNAP	Strategic National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
TORs	Terms of Reference
UNAMA	United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
UNCBD	United Nations Convention of Biological Diversity
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNOCA	United Nations Office Complex in Afghanistan
VRA	Vulnerability Risk Assessment
WB	World Bank
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

1. SITUATION ANALYSIS

1.1. Climate change - induced problem

1. The unfolding of climate change and the limited awareness of climate change risks and impacts threaten to undermine socio-economic progress and constrain agricultural and livestock production, the backbone of the Afghan economy, potentially affecting the livelihoods of millions of Afghans. These factors are amplifying challenges in planning and coordinating effective and sound long-term development plans that fully incorporate and mitigate climate change risks. A combination of inadequate awareness, limited technical and functional capacity, and insufficient donor attention paid to climate change and environmental management is preventing Afghanistan from adequately responding to observed and projected climate change impacts.

2. While Afghanistan has made measurable progress in human development over the past six years, it remains one of the poorest and most vulnerable countries in the world. It is ranked 172 in UNDP's Human Development Report 2013. The Global Adaptation Index ranks it as the most vulnerable in 2012 country in the world, taking into account the country's exposure, sensitivity and ability to cope with climate related hazards. Climate change scenarios for Afghanistan suggest temperature increases of up to 4°C by the 2060s (from 1970-1999 averages), and a corresponding decrease in rainfall. The biophysical effects of climate change are expected to be significant; droughts are likely to be the norm by 2030 leading to associated dynamics of desertification and land degradation (source: NAPA). Coping with the impacts of climate change is a major challenge for development in Afghanistan given that its negative effects are likely to be most severely felt by the poor and marginalized due to their high dependence on subsistence agriculture and limited capacity to cope with the impacts of climate variability and extremes.

3. The main climatic hazards identified in the NAPA (See Annex VIII) are periodic droughts, floods due to untimely and heavy rainfall, flooding due to the melting of snow and ice, and increasing temperatures. There is a discernible trend that these events are occurring more regularly and are more intense in nature (NAPA). There have been severe flood or drought events in 8 out of the past 11 years. In fact, the period 1998-2006 marked the longest and most severe drought in Afghanistan's known climatic history. At the same time, flood risk is also increasing as rainfall patterns have become more erratic (SOE). Areas that traditionally receive 250 mm of rain over a period of six months are now receiving that amount of rainfall during the course of only one or two months, with a devastating effect on agriculture and livelihoods. Unless action is taken to strengthen the resilience of Afghan communities and reduce disaster risk, climate change impacts will jeopardize development gains and could push an even greater number of Afghans into poverty.

1.1.1 The impact on the agricultural and water sector

4. Climate change impacts are likely to negatively affect a number of different socioeconomic sectors in Afghanistan. The most significant impacts are likely to be on the vital **agricultural sector**, upon which the majority of the Afghan population depends for its livelihood (80%, or 19 million people, State of the Environment, Afghanistan, 2008, NEPA). More recent data confirm that 80% of the population lives in rural areas, but it now represents around 26 million people. Decreased mean annual rainfall and the increased incidence of drought will lead to reduced viability of rain-fed and dry land farming in many areas. Small-scale traditional irrigation will also be impacted as rivers dry up. The predicted temperature rise will increase soil evaporation and reduce soil water availability, which will further exacerbate the severity of droughts when they occur. Loss of soil from degraded land will increase as intense precipitation events promote erosion and frequent droughts increase vegetation degradation.

5. As a result of the predicted increase in drought occurrence (NAPA), the large numbers of livestock that currently graze on what is regarded as 'barren land' will either suffer or be relocated to higher wetter areas, with negative impacts on human welfare and biodiversity. People will likely be displaced from marginal areas as well, and potential drought-induced deaths from climate change amongst nomadic pastoralists such as the Kuchi have been estimated at over 10,000 people per year (GIRoA, NCSA/NAPA, 2009). Whilst certain crop species may actually benefit from carbon enrichment and increased temperatures (e.g., wheat, which may experience an extended growing season), it is likely that the increase in intensity and duration of both droughts and floods will significantly decrease the productivity of most species.

6. The **water sector** too will be heavily impacted by climate change. The likelihood of changes in rainfall intensity and increased drought frequency and intensity (SOE) will lead to reduced river flow, forcing Afghans to seek costly and less accessible alternative water sources. Increased demand on stressed and over-exploited underground water sources will lead to the drying up of essential wells and springs, further negatively impacting human health and livelihoods. The drying of wells has already been observed around Kabul city, where the current rates of water extraction in the Kabul basin has already led to a severe shortage of water. In addition, increases in flooding and erosion will lead to increased silt load in rivers and reduced water quality.

7. In the four target provinces the water sector has also been affected by climate change impacting both the availability and quality of water. Water scarcity has increased in the dry months and there is evidence (SOE) that the underground water table is depleting. Additionally, because of the increased variability of precipitation, more water falls in shorter periods of time, creating flood situations and putting pressure on the available infrastructure to retain this water. (SOE)

1.1.2 The impact on disaster risk management

8. Afghanistan has a history of experiencing severe weather that translates into flooding, landslides or droughts affecting large parts of the population both in the urban and rural areas. The unfolding of climate change will increase the variability and intensity of extreme weather events such as heavy rain or drought (NAPA), thereby further compounding the challenges of mitigating and managing these natural disasters. The increase in intensity and unpredictability of natural disasters due to extreme weather has a substantial impact on the economy, on human assets and human lives. One such disaster can cancel years of hard earned development and asset accumulation by the poorest communities. The NAPA of Afghanistan recognizes the risks brought by climate change and the need for risk reduction action and investment in monitoring and understanding climate change. Among the NAPA's eleven priority actions is the development of a national disaster management strategy.

1.1.3 Development Impacts

9. Preliminary climate change assessments predict GDP losses of as much as 6% per year based on current climate projections (NAPA). Reductions of this order of magnitude would substantially undermine the Government's ability to invest in the nation's development, increasing the responsibility for adaptation on society as a whole. In such a situation, it will be the poorest communities who will be the least able to adapt. Amongst these groups, it is recognized that women are the most vulnerable. Afghanistan's Policy on Women acknowledges that women have lacked the opportunities provided to men and as a result they fall behind men in all fields of self-advancement. Climate change will affect the socially constructed gender roles between men and women and may undercut efforts to build more equitable access to development. These role dynamics will likely need to evolve to enable men and women to improve their responsive and adaptive capacity. If under climate change-induced stress, institutional structures place unequal emphasis on responding to the needs of men and women, they risk weakening the adaptive capacity of one group over another. The project aims to build community self-

reliance, so that dependence on the state for adaptation resources is reduced as communities themselves – both men and women – tailor adaptation technologies and techniques to their own needs.

1.1.4 Impact on the Urban Economy

10. The Kabul region relies on water resources, energy and food from the countryside and as the environment changes in these areas, the supply chains of rainfed crops, water and energy may be at risk. Kabul, as with other cities in Afghanistan, will be affected both directly and through its changing relationship with its hinterland. Residents and businesses in cities remain highly vulnerable to flood damage. It is also expected that there will be increases in water borne and insect disease vectors. The ecology of the region is likely to change and within the city itself, management of sensitive catchments will be needed to maintain ecological services that the urban economy depends on – particularly water and sediment management, water quality and quantity, and bio energy resources.

1.1.5 Policy Responses

11. The Afghan Government has acknowledged the climate change risk the country faces and has stated it as an important issue for the country (NAPA). The process for national planning and strategy development is in place with the development of the NCSA/NAPA. That said, a need for strengthened capacity to better understand climate risks and opportunities and plans for delivery exists at the sub-national planning. For more details on policies and legal framework please see section 2.1 and 2.2 below.

12. Currently, limited adaptation initiatives are being rolled out on a national- to local-scale, but these are primarily restricted to specific sectoral interventions (for example food security, environmental protection, or disaster management) and are project-based, which means that communities are often provided an incomplete set of tools from which to build their overall resilience to climate change. There remains a need to consolidate these interventions and ensure that they are climate-proofed and integrated into comprehensive adaptation action.

1.2. Long-term solution

13. The long term solution is to strengthen the capacity of the development planners at national, provincial and community level, and Government authorities to be able to integrate climate change adaptation measures in their routine development plans. Also there is a need to support the advancement of alternative livelihoods to subsistence farmers to reduce their dependency on climate vulnerable agriculture. Finally improving the irrigation and water infrastructure will contribute significantly to reducing vulnerability and improving resilience.

1.2.1 Enhanced awareness and climate change integration in development framework and planning

14. To support improvements in agricultural productivity and livelihood diversification, there will be a need for strengthened awareness on climate change risks and impacts, and effective institutional capacity to design, plan and support implementation. During the preparatory and design phase, the following needs were identified:

- Awareness building and training of local administrations and experts to prepare long term adaptation plans.
- Public awareness and education in climate change issues, especially those that affect the communities.
- Increased technical assistance to the MAIL staff to improve agricultural irrigation infrastructure and cultivation techniques and practices.
- Improved capacity building of MAIL and MRRD to adopt new income generating activities / improve existing ones.

- Linking meteorological and agricultural information more effectively and provide farmers with agromet advisories.
- Enhanced technical capacity of district (in Abshar, Parian, Kohsan, Ghorian, Dehrawood and Tarinkot districts) staff to undertake vulnerability assessments and adaptation planning.

15. For future planning to take into consideration possible climate impacts and the need to factor in uncertainty and risk management the following key issues will need to be considered:

- Costing the impact of the additional climate stress in terms of likely expected damages, capacity and infrastructure needs, options and trade-offs to adapt, financing needs to avoid/minimize expected damages in the medium- and long-term.
- Given all the existing and additional requirements, there has to be a prioritization of where investment is needed first, to cost effectively maximize future resilience and of future investment requirements.
- A trade-off analysis that will allow decision-makers to assess the projected marginal benefit/cost of making or delaying certain investments. For example, should Kabul invest first in catchment management, or in drainage and waste water management in the context of flooding and climate change?
- Building capacity for cross-sectoral planning and implementation and at an institutional level creating mechanisms for greater horizontal linkages between sectors.

16. Taking an ecosystem approach to planning that facilitates an area-based focus amongst stakeholders will be one long-term solution. Ecosystem planning goes beyond traditional land use planning to bring together and integrate policies for the development and use of land with other policies and programmes which influence the nature of places and how they can function. It has four principal dimensions: an emphasis on long-term strategic thinking, a mechanism for coordinated policymaking, a central role in moving towards sustainable development, and an emphasis on inclusivity.

1.2.2 Improved alternative livelihoods in target sites that are resilient to climate change

17. In order to improve adaptation opportunities, moving beyond subsistence agriculture to food and income security, along with a shift toward more diverse and less vulnerable livelihoods is also essential. The NAPA identifies the loss of livelihoods as one of the main impacts of the observed trend of more frequent and intense climate events. With this LDCF project, business development training in handicrafts and other small enterprises will be specifically targeted to women and farmers who have lost their livelihoods as a result of floods or drought in the villages of Lublan, Maindawi and Kakarak and Tarkau Yatimak, in Dehrawood district of Uruzgan and in villages of Mustafa Baig and Qalati Miraki, of Takinkot in Herat. The training will provide practical, hands-on guidance on how to start and manage a business, with particular attention paid to off-farm business opportunities.

18. The model of Self-help groups (SHGs) and micro finance that has been so successful in India and Bangladesh will be applied to local communities. There is already a number of initiatives led by ACTED that are demonstrating results (based on interviews with representatives of these organizations). Self-help groups provide a platform for savings and loans and for discussing community and household issues and help empower the members to raise their voices and lobby the local administration for better services and support. Training in leadership, bookkeeping, accounting and conflict resolution will be provided alongside skills and entrepreneurship development in the districts of Abshar, Parian, Anaba, Panjshir Province, Kohsan and Ghoryan in Herat and Dehrawood and Tarinkot in Uruzgan. Potential enterprises could include handicraft SMEs, small-scale manufacturing, and quarrying and cutting stones for sale as building materials, among others. At the same time, based on market surveys, livelihoods training will need to be conducted specifically for women (e.g., embroidery, carpet weaving, cell phone repair, food products, poultry and dairy production, etc. see Key Assessment Report in Annex III) to expand their

income generating opportunities. In addition, a participatory, community-led approach will be applied in restoring critical rangelands and watersheds in the villages of Dehran and Degordan, Ghoryan district, Herat. Rangelands provide essential ecosystem services such as flood control and disaster risk reduction and are thus a vital adaptation measure.

19. Under this participatory approach, communities will have the primary responsibility for managing natural resources so that they continue to provide ecosystem services, contribute to the local economy and enhance resilience. The focus on women is essential especially in Afghanistan where the local culture and norms are resistant to having women engage actively on community development. However, during the preparatory and design phase of this LDCF financed initiative, in depth consultations with women's groups have shown that there is real desire to participate in such activities. Consultations with rural women entrepreneurs in Panjshir Province, central district and Balkh Province captured their need for support in accessing raw materials, marketing, packaging, financial and business management training and accounting.

1.2.3 Irrigation and water management infrastructure built and rehabilitated

20. The main areas of expected impact from climate change in Afghanistan across all target districts will be on farming systems, crop/livestock pests and diseases, water availability and human health. In the medium to longer term, different types of food crops will need to be adopted as maize (the current crop of choice) is shown to low productivity as temperatures increase or new varieties will need to be developed for diffusion (which is a longer term option). Greater options for investing in new crops and cropping techniques will be needed (this could be through income generation, or through access to loan finance).

21. Water will also have to be stored or managed (better) in order to meet requirements during growing seasons (which will be changing due to climate change). Access to water will become a key factor in the ultimate vulnerability of people. In this context, irrigation infrastructure and water harvesting and storing structures will be of critical importance for the adaptation capacity of the local farming communities. Irrigation facilities like canals and karezes[2] will be instrumental in ensuring water is available where it is needed with minimal losses. Focus on rehabilitating and improving the existing network and building new ones where necessary will be an important need.

22. With less reliable rainfall, improved seasonal forecasting that improves agricultural decision-making and insurance that allows for weather-related crop-loss compensation would improve disaster-related resilience. Practices that reduce weather-related risk for current crop species, for example through improving the management of soil moisture, increasing infiltration and reducing run off, can improve the use of available water. Those villages' closer to urban centers (e.g., sites in Herat and Balkh Provinces) looked at employment and petty trade as alternative livelihoods options, but there is potential for greater market access if the right products are produced and processed in such areas. The scope for more sophisticated marketing is limited in the more remote areas, but there is scope for agriculture-based risk reducing livelihoods.

23. At the district level, planning mechanisms need to be supported at two levels: seasonal, based on downscaled seasonal weather information, and longer term climate change–sensitive risk planning. This should also be informed by, and reflected in, local Community Development Councils (CDC) level land use planning. At the same time, such future plans need to take a more integrated approach to planning, so that environmental changes that climate change will bring and impact on economic considerations (such

[2] A kareze is an underground canal system that taps aquifers by gravity through a series of subsurface tunnels. It often extends for many kilometres before surfacing to provide water for drinking and irrigation.

as changes to energy, food and commodities markets) can be incorporated in the planning process. The short term preference rates of most smallholder farmers will of course have to be factored into any long-term future planning approaches.

24. In the long term, the solution is to build capacity for autonomous adaptation with complimentary support with planned adaptation. In Afghanistan, based on the NAPA, the consensus is to start by improving the access of farmers to extension support, techniques and tools that they may test and adapt themselves to suit their own local needs. This will need to be done with the support of development agents who have a broader system-wide understanding of climate change impacts and inter-relationships. For this to be successful in the longer term, the following needs consideration:

- The requirement for differentiated support for men and women in the community (based on their roles and access to resources, social networks and information) to be factored into the adaptation packages so that gender-sensitive autonomous adaptation approaches are promoted.
- Combining agricultural and land husbandry technologies that have adaptation value, with risk reducing measures (like credit or crop insurance) that creates an environment for farmers to experiment and adapt in a way that enhances their resilience to climate change.

25. Based on consultations with rural women and men in selected communities in four provinces of the country (districts of Abshar, Parian, Anaba, Kohsan, Ghoryan, Dehrawood and Tarinkot), the following measures need to be drawn together into a set of adaptation packages.

- Improved irrigation management and establishment of an irrigation committee and capacity building to improve management of natural areas;
- Capacity building on improved agricultural techniques for adaptation, including compost making and minimum tillage and permaculture to improve drought resistance and soil productivity;
- Provision of improved seeds to improve productivity and marketability of crops;
- Diversification of crops and inter-cropping, introduction of vegetables, fruits and root crops;
- Regeneration of indigenous plants on steep slopes and rangeland to improve vegetative cover in sensitive areas;
- Cash generating crops and the use of modern intensive agriculture in some areas like Balkh and Herat Province;
- Improve the management of pasture land and rangeland;
- Further develop apiculture and poultry farming;
- Honey and wax production both for farmers' household consumption and as a source of income beyond local markets;
- Support for low technology irrigation and improving access to water through rain water harvesting; and
- Construction of small rainwater harvesting measures.

26. For this LDCF initiative to contribute to the long-term solution, these packages of support and the learning should be costed and scaled-up, either through leveraging national level scale up through adoption by the national-scale rural development programmes or through emerging adaptation finance mechanisms. To effectively influence the large national scale programmes, efforts will require field level interaction to build a strong evidence base of effectiveness in bringing adaptation benefits and national engagement between this project's Steering Committee and the steering committees of its sister programmes and projects.

1.2.4 Gender as a cross-cutting issue

27. Initiatives that improve the sustainable management and rehabilitation of agriculture irrigation infrastructure and rangelands and those that aim at improving the reliability and value of returns to agricultural production should improve the resilience of both women and men to climate related shocks, and create opportunities for building self-reliance. Given women's often particular vulnerabilities (e.g., limited livelihood options, restricted access to education and information services, and insufficient means to recoup assets) to disasters and other climate change effects, especially in regions along the Panjshir Valley and Herat Province, it is critical to ensure that their roles, needs, priorities and contributions are explicitly taken into account in climate change responses. Engaging in both the informal and formal sectors, women also play a key role in their communities as entrepreneurs and community networkers. As such, they play a critical role in helping reduce and respond to climate change effects.

28. At the village level (in villages like Mustafa Baig, Qalati Miraki Dehran, Degordan Lublan, Maindawi, and Kakarak, Tarkau, Yatimak, Gardan Kicha, Nakileen, Shahmansoor and Hazaragi) and the CDC level, protection and regulated management of woodlands needs to be designed to ensure women's secure access to legal firewood supplies for both domestic and commercial use (depending on resource availability in the area) whilst at the same time provide opportunities for diversifying livelihoods, reduce distances for firewood collection and increase energy supply for cooking. The project should look to introduce more equitable decision-making through involvement in local natural resource governance structures which can build a solid platform for engaging with district service providers such as the District Development Assemblies (DDAs).

29. When preparing livelihoods diversification plans and climate change adaptation options for Afghanistan, the project needs to ensure that they are conducted in a gender-responsive manner, wherein they identify the climate risks, vulnerabilities, roles, needs, priorities and opportunities of all stakeholders/end-users within the identified communities, including both women and men. Such gender-responsive assessments encourage a gender approach from the outset, as well as provide baseline data for monitoring. The project impact must be gender sensitive and coordinate closely with the Ministry for Women Affairs in Kabul and at the provincial level. Project outcomes and outputs have been designed to involve and benefit both women and men end-users. To ensure that the project makes an equitable difference on the ground, it is critical that gender issues are identified in the planning process (i.e., via the assessments above) and carried through to implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

1.3 Barriers

30. Desk review of key documents (NAPA, National Priority Program – National Water and Natural Resource Development, National Capacity Self-Assessment, State of the Environment), and consultations with government ministries (MAIL, MRRD, MEW, NEPA), donors (USAID, WB, ADB, Danish Embassy), NGOs (ACTED, CARE International), other UN agencies (FAO, OCHA, UNHCR, UNEP) and UNDP practice units (Sustainable Development, Governance) have yielded important information on the local context. From the situation analysis and initial preparatory phase, policy, institutional, financial, technological and informational barriers that prevent the desired situation from emerging have been identified that need to be overcome in order to achieve the long-term solution.

1.3.1 Low awareness and understanding of climate change risks and impacts

31. The understanding of climate change, its manifestation and its impacts is still limited in Afghanistan. At present there have been very few awareness-raising activities undertaken in Afghanistan

with respect to the impacts of climate change[3]. This is true at all levels of governance, whether national, provincial or local. The low human development indicators, especially the low levels of education in Afghanistan, language barriers, complexity of information and a limited integration of climate change into the formal education curriculum also contribute to low levels of awareness about the issue. At an institutional level, the lack of awareness among senior Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock policy-makers and development practitioners about the risks posed by climate change, and how these relate to development priorities is a barrier to the necessary mainstreaming of adaptation in planning.

32. Community-developed coping strategies for dealing with current climatic conditions are proving insufficient, and communities have limited knowledge and capacity to deal with future climate change impacts. Traditional means of reacting to climate stress and shock may no longer be appropriate but without sufficient understanding of climate change, more sustainable adaptation solutions are not yet fully understood, let alone seen as important, resulting in reactive responses and a high degree of vulnerability.

33. The Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development too has confirmed low levels of awareness and understanding when addressing climate change proofed development initiatives. The MRRD is in charge of two very large development programs in Afghanistan, namely the National Solidarity Program and the National Area-Based Development Program (see section 2.3.1 for details about these programs), and is closely coordinating with MAIL, however they acknowledge insufficient technical expertise in integrating climate change adaptation in the design of local development plans.

1.3.2 Limited availability and use of information on climate risks and adaptation options

34. In the case of climate change and crop-related risk management or alternative livelihoods, more reliable seasonal and short-term early warning information and long term trends is required, by policy makers, planners, farmers and micro-finance insurance institutions, to assess risk and potential returns from their investments and integrate climate change in planning.

35. With respect to potential climate vulnerability reducing responses, there are limited examples due to the recent history of Afghanistan that went through 30 years of war, of risk reducing interventions (such as improved agricultural husbandry or micro-irrigation) to provide demonstrable evidence of the benefits of these initiatives for improving climate resilience and limited information about alternative livelihood options, rights and entitlements, new agricultural methods, and credit programs. Insufficient information and demonstrable evidence have constrained adaptive action both institutionally and at the farmer level.

36. For the few examples that do exist, information flows between field lessons applied at local (CDCs) or district (DDAs) level and evidence-based policy development at the national level are poor, resulting in limited awareness of the relative potential and investment requirements for scale-up of local level actions. Major capacity requirements exist in relation to environmental data collection and analysis, especially climate risk data. During field missions undertaken during the preparatory phase of this project, it was evident that much of the existing environmental data is not archived securely and awareness of what existed at different departments, institutions, NGOs and other stakeholders is fragmented. Consequently integrating this climate information in development plans is challenging.

[3] National Capacity Needs Self-Assessment for Global Environmental Management (NCSA) and National Adaptation Programme of Action for Climate Change (NAPA).

1.3.3 Low levels of extension advice for agriculture and livelihood diversification particularly for female-headed households

37. Efficient irrigation infrastructure and water management systems and access to agricultural inputs, especially fertilizer, improved seed, pesticides and equipment is important in raising the productivity of small holder agriculture. The extent to which people receive usable agricultural advice of extension workers will affect the extent to which new techniques and adaptation practices are understood and made available for adoption. In Afghanistan, from the evidence generated during the preparatory phase, a gender differentiation in extension advice is exhibited whereby workers mainly visit male spouses in male headed households and lower proportions of female headed households are visited.

38. Marginalization of female smallholders from extension advice and services has important implications for access to inputs and improvements in agricultural productivity as the risk of increasing vulnerability to land-related climate shocks is considerable. This is important with respect to the project's approach to apply and promote interventions that offer adaptation value: differential approaches may have to be used by project intervention workers in advising and supporting men and women.

39. Livelihood diversification for improved resilience to climate change by reducing the dependency on subsistence agriculture is not developed in Afghanistan. Support to male and female smallholders to access market information, micro-credit and support skills development for alternative livelihoods is very limited in rural Afghanistan. Further compounding the problem of livelihood development for climate change adaptation is the insufficient capacity at the local level (community and district) to provide marketing advice, business planning, and accounting knowledge to rural entrepreneurs and SMEs.

1.3.4 Low institutional capacity and planning to address climate change

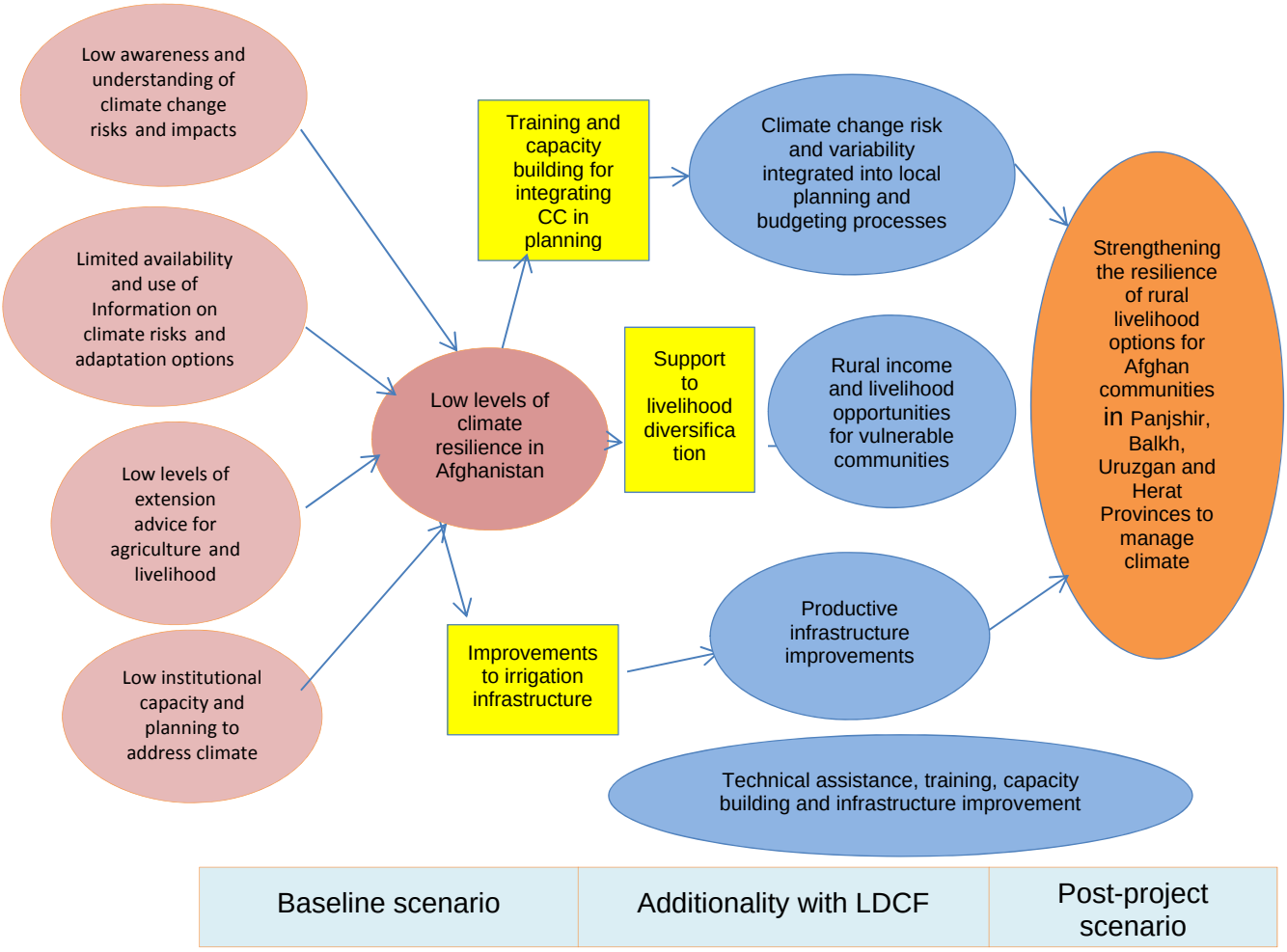
40. The current policy framework for Afghanistan's planning and economic development does not have sufficient overall mechanisms and tools for its climate proofing, particularly regarding the integration of climate change risks into overall development plans, poverty reduction strategies, land use planning and management, flood and drought preparedness and disaster risk reduction plans[4]. Overall challenges for the government in the management of climate risks and impacts include limited tools and information for climate-proofing development, which, if not addressed, will increase the vulnerability of the country. In addition, such institutions generally have insufficient financial resources to properly undertake planning activities.

41. In general, institutions in charge of environmental management suffer from chronic deficiency of technical and managerial skills as a result of the country's history of conflict and low level of development. Rapid building of institutional capacity is therefore a prerequisite for any successful adaptation effort.

42. Expertise, knowledge and access to the appropriate technology, and limited integration of work on climate change between sectoral departments were cited as capacity barriers. Whilst different government institutions at various levels have greater capacity in certain elements than others - and the project can build on these strengths where possible – a process of capacity building across the project cycle is needed. While some specific technical training will be needed (e.g., on GIS, scenario modeling and trade-off analyses) the main barrier is the lack of an enabling environment that can support the integration of climate risks and impacts in routine development plans and poverty reduction strategies, that builds problem solving confidence and the ability to work out solutions in a systematic and consultative way.

[4] ibid

Figure 1: Project flowchart



2 STRATEGY

44. LDCF financing will contribute towards helping Afghanistan become more resilient to climate change by improving the Government's capacity to routinely integrate climate change adaptation into its planning processes. This initiative will also support local communities by providing them with the tools needed for anticipatory and autonomous adaptation (i.e., climate risk and impact awareness, diversified livelihoods options, improved water management and irrigation infrastructure). A detailed assessment of the existing irrigation infrastructure and livelihoods gaps and needs is presented in the key assessment report in Annex IV.

45. The project will pursue an innovative ecosystem management approach to adaptation in order to develop resilient human-inhabited ecosystems, enhancing the benefits provided by ecosystems and ensuring their resilience under conditions of climate change. Ecosystem management adaptation builds resilience in vulnerable and degraded ecosystems because of its multi-disciplinary approach and landscape-level adaptation focus. A primary focus of the ecosystem management adaptation process is the establishment and re-establishment of indigenous plant species (rangeland reforestation) with multiple benefits to local populations. This approach builds healthy, socially beneficial and well-managed ecosystems as natural infrastructure to increase the adaptive capacity of communities to climate change impacts as well as to promote disaster risk reduction. Although the activities are site-specific, the adaptation benefits will accrue at multiple scales, ranging from small highland water catchments to large downstream basins. Downstream benefits of the LDCF project interactions will ensure that the cost effectiveness of the project interventions is maximized.

46. Through the achievement of the above activities, the project will alleviate critical barriers that exacerbate communities' vulnerability to climate change, and that prevent effective adaptation at the local and national levels. By focusing on priorities identified in the NAPA, Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) and the National Priority Programs, this LDCF project is responding to Afghanistan's principal identified climate change adaptation issues. These local-level interventions will ensure the development of capacity within communities and local authorities to adapt to climate change.

2.1. Project rationale and policy conformity

47. The project will respond to the climate change impacts and climate variability adversely impacting the human development and water resources of Afghanistan. It will also implement activities to ensure that Afghanistan can withstand future climate change impacts through i) building awareness and planning capacity for climate change adaptation; ii) demonstrating adaptation activities at the community level; iii) building capacity; and iv) promoting the development of pertinent policy.

48. Afghanistan became a signatory to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on 12 June 1992, but ratified it on 19 September 2002 and ratified the Kyoto Protocol on 13 April 2013 and entered into force on 23 June 2013. It is a least developed country (LDC) and highly vulnerable to climate change. Afghanistan's NAPA was published in 2009. This project will build the capacity for climate change adaptation planning and implementation by addressing four NAPA priorities that are inter-connected:

NAPA Priority Rank	Activity
1	Improved Water Management and Use Efficiency
5	Improved Food Security
6	Rangeland Management
7	Creation of Off-farm Employment

49. The link between this project strategy and the NAPA is centered on a common goal of informing climate resilient development planning and sector management through improved national and local systems that generate better agriculture, livelihoods and food security. The NAPA identifies a number of existing national policy initiatives, sectoral policies, programs and strategies that may directly or indirectly address climate change adaptation. Accordingly, the most important policy and program documents that have relevance to climate change adaptation include the Afghanistan National Development Strategy, Strategic Policy Framework for the Water Sector, Policy and Strategy for the Forestry and Range Management Subsectors, Strategic National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the National Capacity Needs Self-Assessment for Global Environmental Management (NCSA) and National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA).

50. The NAPA indicates that from the policy perspective, the ultimate goal is to reduce climate change impacts through development programmes and projects that contribute towards the alleviation of the worsening natural resource depletion and environmental deterioration. Therefore, programmes that address climate change impacts (drought, flood, famine, etc.), vulnerability and adaptation measures should be treated as an integral component of the overall development programmes that involve all the relevant sectors through short and long-term programmes particularly in the areas of natural resource management, utilization, development and conservation. This project directly contributes to the above policy approach.

51. Addressing the four priority areas identified in the NAPA and presented above, resources are requested to finance activities that will enable:

- Detailed assessments of the water management and livelihoods needs and gaps;
- Improved awareness and planning capacity for climate change adaptation;
- Improved livelihoods diversification and opportunities for better food security;
- Women's empowerment through awareness, education and economic empowerment;
- Enhanced ecosystems and rangeland reforestation with indigenous species;
- Strengthened water retention capacity and groundwater recharge;
- More efficient irrigation infrastructure and water management; and
- Better agricultural productivity and resilience to climate change impacts.

52. The **Afghanistan National Development Strategy** (ANDS) is the guiding strategy document for national development. Although the current document details the objectives for the period 2008 – 2013, it encompasses some long-reaching goals that may take decades to realize. Consequently, it can be seen as providing the guiding vision for the long-term development of the country. The strategy focuses on three "pillars": i) Security; ii) Governance, Rule of Law and Human Rights; and iii) Economic and Social Development. Of particular importance to this LDCF financed initiative are those elements of ANDS that refer to economic and social development. Sustainable livelihoods are a top priority goal in the ANDS, and the project is designed to enhance livelihoods under conditions of climate change. Under ANDS, provinces are tasked with developing provincial development plans (PDPs) and district development plans. The specific interventions in this project have been designed to ensure alignment with these local plans through consultations within each of the target provinces and districts. Natural resource management was recognized as a key country priority in the implementation of ANDS. Section V of ANDS addresses water availability and efficiency, which remains a critical issue for Afghanistan. This LDCF project will specifically address six of the 17 programmes included within the plan: i) increase water availability and use efficiency; ii) improved water allocation; iii) rehabilitate irrigation infrastructure and water storage facilities; iv) establish and strengthen institutions; v) build capacities, vi)

empower communities. This LDCF initiative is designed to provide interventions and knowledge to enhance the resilience of agriculture and associated activities under conditions of climate change.

53. The **National Capacity Needs Self-Assessment for Global Environmental Management** (NCSA) **and National Adaptation Programme of Action** (NAPA) is a joint report that was published in 2009. It is a cross-cutting document that details the capacity constraints, opportunities and targets to address global environmental issues and enhance Afghanistan's capacity to meet its obligations under the Rio Conventions (UNCBD, UNCCD and UNFCCC). As such, this is the guiding document for adaptation within the country, and therefore particularly relevant to this LDCF financed initiative. The project interventions are designed to be aligned with the goals of the NAPA, particularly with regard to the priority NAPA projects of improved water management and use efficiency, and community-based watershed management.

54. The **Strategic National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction** (SNAP) was issued in 2011. This plan represents a bottom-up approach to developing disaster risk reduction strategies to ensure that Afghanistan is capable of planning for and responding to natural disasters. The baseline capacity for disaster risk reduction (DRR) within Afghanistan is very limited, and several projects have been undertaken to enhance the capacity of the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA). The SNAP provides a framework for the development of national disaster risk reduction structures over the period 2011 to 2015, and seeks to utilize the convergence of DRR and climate change adaptation to promote capacity within ANDMA and to ensure consistency in national plans and programs. It calls for the establishment of a national DRR platform chaired by ANDMA, and the LDCF project will build specifically upon strategic objective 5 ('to strengthen community resilience using means to reduce the underlying factors of risk').

55. The LDCF project will contribute to important aspects of all the above mentioned policies and strategies by improving ecosystem climate resilience, enhancing dryland agricultural production despite changes in the water regime, and strengthening national capacity to plan for and overcome the negative impacts of climate change in the country.

2.1.1 LDCF conformity

56. This project is fully in line with LDCF/SCCF strategic objectives CCA1 "Reduce the vulnerability to the adverse impacts of climate change, including variability at local, national, regional and global level" and CCA2 "Increase adaptive capacity to respond to the impacts of climate change, including variability, at local, national, regional and global level". It is specifically aligned with outcomes linked to these objectives including increased knowledge and understanding of climate variability and change-induced risks at country level and in targeted vulnerable areas, strengthened adaptive capacity to reduce risks to climate-induced economic losses, successful demonstration, deployment, and transfer of relevant adaptation technology in targeted areas and enhanced enabling environment.

57. The LDCF was created with the objective of funding urgent and immediate adaptation needs in the LDCs as identified in the NAPAs. The project conforms to the LDCF's eligibility criteria, namely: i) undertaking a country driven and participatory approach; ii) implementing the NAPA priorities; iii) undertaking a multi-disciplinary approach; iv) promoting gender equality; and v) undertaking a complementary approach, as described below:

- Country drivenness and undertaking a participatory approach: Activities to be undertaken by the project were selected through numerous stakeholder consultations of the NAPA and the preparatory phase (see Section 2.1.3 Stakeholder baseline analysis for details) and thus are in line with country priorities. See Section 2.2 for information on country drivenness.

- Implement NAPA priorities: the project will address NAPA adaptation priorities project 1, 5, 6 and 7 as noted in Section 2.1.
- Multi-disciplinary approach: the project includes two main components, namely: **Climate responsive local development planning** and **Enhanced rural livelihoods**; Within each component and Outcome, the project will undertake a number of activities (see Project Objective, Outcomes and Outputs/activities Section) to ensure a multi-sector approach to building capacity for adaptation.
- Gender equality: project outcomes will contribute to an understanding of how adaptation responses can be designed to strengthen gender equality. To achieve this, the project will ensure that women attend workshops and are part of interventions and management committees.
- Complementary approach: In order to build upon existing plans and avoid the duplication of efforts, the project will work in conjunction with relevant on-going projects in Afghanistan (see Section 2.3 for details).

2.1.2 GEF conformity

58. The proposed project is aligned to the GEF Results-Based Management Framework for Adaptation to Climate Change and aims to contribute to Objectives 1, 2 and 3 by:

- Enhancing capacity for conducting climate risk and vulnerability assessments and building these into climate compatible development planning at national and sub national levels;
- Strengthening capacity for targeted local communities to use climate data to inform risk reducing land use decision-making;
- Identifying and transferring appropriate adaptation technologies that can support national and regional adaptation.

59. The design of the project has been articulated to meet overall GEF requirements in terms of implementation and design. For example, the following requirements will be addressed:

- **Sustainability:** An extensive programme of capacity building will accompany the climate change planning and practical application of adaptation techniques and practices in a learning-by-doing approach. This will build a cadre of skills and experience at sub-national level that will be able to support ongoing adaptation beyond the project period.
- **Replicability:** The project design and approach has been to develop packages of adaptation measures that enable farmer-to-farmer lateral adoption within the framework of an area-based integrated climate resilient development plan, thereby facilitating low-cost replication and local modification to suit the local environment. Within the framework of the area-based integrated climate resilient development plan, the project will prepare an investment strategy for scaled-up replication of the project's outcomes.
- **Monitoring and evaluation (M&E):** The project design includes an effective M&E framework, which will enable ongoing adaptive management, ensuring that lessons are learned and disseminated by producing regular progress reports for stakeholders. See Section 5 (Monitoring Framework and Evaluation) for more information. The indicators are consistent with selected indicators set out in the GEF LDCF/SCCF Results based Management Framework (e.g. Indicators Table 6).
- **Stakeholder involvement:** The project design was formulated as a result of extensive stakeholder consultations (see Section 2.1.3). A plan is also included to ensure the involvement of stakeholders during project implementation and monitoring.

60. The Project is linked to country priorities of the UNDP Country Programme Action Plan and long term planning for climate change adaptation capacity. It will support the implementation of policies, strategies and coordination mechanisms designed to lead to food and nutrition security and sustainable livelihoods protection of vulnerable populations and enhancement of their physical, human and social assets, ensuring a smooth transition between humanitarian responses and longer-term development.

61. The country is eligible to and already receives funding through UNDP. The implementing partner is the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), in partnership with other important directorates and government agencies, notably the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) and the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA).

2.1.3 Stakeholder Baseline Analysis

62. The preparation and design phase of this project has been characterized by a wide range of stakeholder consultations despite the difficult security conditions in the country. Consultations have taken place at various levels ranging from Deputy Ministers of MAIL, MRRD, MEW, Director General of NEPA, to provinces, districts and communities in areas not always conducive to unencumbered discussions due to the security situation. The preparation and design team made real efforts to ensure consultations and needs and vulnerability assessments were made even at the community level in provinces like Uruzgan and Herat deemed relatively insecure. Community Development Councils and women's groups were also consulted to strengthen the design of the project document. In total, the project development team met with eight communities.

63. During the project design and preparation phase, government agencies and stakeholders were consulted including: Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), Ministry of Energy and Water (MoEW), Ministry of Finance (MoF), National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA), as well as provincial Directorates of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAILs), provincial Directorates of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DRRDs), Province Governors Offices (PGOs), District Governors Offices (DGOs), Community Based Organizations (Community Development Councils, District Development Assemblies), Donor organizations (USAID, AusAID, World Bank, Danish Embassy, etc.), NGOs (ACTED, CARE International) and UN agencies (FAO, UNOCHA, UNHCR, WFP etc.) and other stakeholders and partners. To ensure that the proposed project is grounded in local realities and aligned with national policy, the preparatory and design phase involved considerable stakeholder engagement. A series of consultations at the design phase and finally a consultation aimed at validation of the design took place. Additional focus group discussions took place within and among institutions such as MAIL, MRRD, MoEW MoF, NEPA, as well as DAILs, DRRDs, PGOs, DGOs, CBOs (CDCs, DDAs), Kabul University as well as the private sector (Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI)).

64. The main activities undertaken during the preparation phase included, among others:

- Review and analysis of current and past activities by government, donors, NGOs, community based organizations and private sector that are related to capacity building, rural livelihoods and irrigation infrastructure and their intended objectives;
- Successful and unsuccessful interventions in relation to above areas of intervention;
- Specific attention has been paid to the limitations of current capacity in integrating climate changes risks and vulnerability into local planning and budgeting, diversification of income sources and enhancement of livelihood opportunities and improvement of productive infrastructures (as per the GEF Council approved PIF);

- Review of existing capacities for climate change integration at national and sub-national level including their capabilities, climate change information and appropriate response measures, capacity of existing technical personnel for operations and management in order to identify capacity gaps and needs in the context of information useable for the planning purposes of different stakeholders.
- Consultations at both national and sub-national level in the selected provinces (Panjshir, Balkh, Herat and Uruzgan) to identify the most pressing needs and assess diversified ways of income generation and sustainable livelihood and the rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructure.
- Gap analysis of the current livelihood projects implemented by the government, donors and NGOs achieving consensus on what this current opportunity could achieve in Afghan communities in the target provinces;
- Assessments of potential small-scale water reservoirs to be built in the selected river sub-basins in several communities and the expected socio-economic impacts have been undertaken and agreed by the major stakeholders through a focus group discussion and at different phases of the PPG;
- Micro-water harvesting techniques have been introduced to the vulnerable farming communities to make efficient use of water for their crops and livestock keeping as water is scarce in most of the communities;
- Assessment has been undertaken on the ability of MAIL and other ministries/departments to budget and plan for the human and technical costs of operations and management of the project interventions;
- Specification of planned activities in country and at the national level to be financed by the LDCF and their rationale; and
- Definition of a Strategic Results Framework and a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system with quantifiable and verifiable impact indicators at the outcome level in project document.

65. A matrix with names, affiliations and specific contributions from stakeholders and the role they played in the design can be found in Annex IX.

2.2. Country ownership: country eligibility and country drivenness

Afghanistan is an LDC party to the UNFCCC and has completed its NAPA.

2.2.1 Alignment to National Strategy

66. The Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) is Afghanistan's national economic development plan; it acknowledges that climate change will impact the country's economy and the prospects for achieving MDG targets. The ANDS puts water management, improved food security and rural livelihoods at the forefront of the country's development priorities, particularly in the perspective of climate change and in relation to disaster risk management. Of course, climate change will have cross cutting impacts across all sectors of the economy either directly – as in disaster management and agricultural impacts – or through second and third order impacts on demographics, economy and trade.

67. Afghanistan's leadership has acknowledged the risk from climate change and has stated it will require implementing both low carbon development options (green growth) and adaptation measures to build resilience. Following the submission of the 2009 NAPA, a process for establishing a national level strategy was put in place in 2010. In addition to the water and agriculture sectors, Afghanistan has been focusing on strengthening environmental management within the country. It is signatory to several significant MEAs (CITES, UNFCCC, UNCBD and UNCCD), and has either developed or is in the process of developing strategy and policy documents governing the conservation of forests, rangeland, biodiversity and water. This LDCF initiative is designed to strengthen the environmental management

framework by enhancing the capacity of both the mandated agencies (MAIL and NEPA) and communities to address environmental issues arising in conjunction with a changing climate.

68. In addition, the National Action Plan for Women's Affairs (NAPWA) specifies a growing role and engagement of women in Afghanistan's national and community level affairs. This role is further reflected in the ANDS, which specifies that women should be engaged and promoted through education, training, economic empowerment and social uplift. The gender-disaggregation of indicators in this LDCF financed initiative and the specific focus on ensuring the inclusion of women in project activities will assist in addressing the gender focus of national development plans. Finally, this LDCF proposed intervention will ensure that the gains in the above-mentioned fields are capitalized upon by establishing partnerships with donor organizations and regional networks to ensure the future integration of climate change-related issues into ongoing project activities throughout Afghanistan. These networks will also facilitate the transfer of information between partners to enable a more focused approach to addressing climate change within the region.

2.2.2 Relevant Institutional Frameworks

69. Since 2005, the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) has been given the overall responsibility for coordinating climate change initiatives. NEPA has a policy-making and regulatory function and whilst providing the climate change oversight function, it is line ministries and regional governments who have the responsibility for planning and implementation. However in practice, NEPA shares its coordination role with MAIL. This sharing of responsibility is a result of historical factors, and the relative lack of capacity in NEPA when it was first formed. NEPA is responsible for overarching policy and regulatory aspects of these conventions, whereas much of the field-level management is undertaken by MAIL.

Table 3 below outlines the focus of work of relevant Afghan organizations currently involved in climate change related actions at a national level.

Table 3: National Institutional roles with respect to climate change

Organization	Focus of Work
National Environmental Protection Agency	NEPA serves as Afghanistan's environmental policy-making and regulatory institution. Its role is to regulate, coordinate, monitor and enforce environmental laws. The agency is expected to play a major role in environmental protection, as well as to be the central point in dealing with the management of Afghanistan's environment so that it benefits all the citizens of Afghanistan. Ecosystem department; environmental impact assessment service; environmental policy and laws department. Secretariat of National Environment Council & chaired by vice president and national coordinating agency for climate change.
Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Livestock	Agriculture including fisheries, rural economic development, food security and disaster management and early warnings. Chair of National Climate Change Forum.
Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development	Rural development research and development with department focusing on climate and disaster risk reduction.
Ministry of Energy and Water	MEW is responsible for managing the national water policy, and is therefore a key partner for the project in this regard. It also focusses on climate change adaptation policies and plans.
Afghan Scientific Research Institute	Policy research to support government decision making process; conduct research on development of the economy and disseminate results.
Afghan Institute for Agricultural Research	Research on agriculture; divisions on arid lands and forestry and rangeland research working on climate change (IDRC focal point)

Afghan Meteorological Agency	Collect, analyze and study data to provide weather forecasts and early warnings. Climate Change (the original focal point for the UNFCCC NAPA)
Non-Governmental Organizations	National, regional and international development, faith-based, humanitarian, environmental organizations working in Afghanistan. Convening of National Climate Change Forum with Ministry of Agriculture (Focus and ACTED).

70. Within the provinces, the Departments of the relevant sectoral Ministries are responsible for the development and implementation of plans that respond to national priorities within the context of regional realities. Line ministries are responsible for coordinating the design and implementation of public strategies and policies. At the federal level, the MoF has overall responsibility for economic policies and strategies. In addition to budgetary and fiscal management, MoF is responsible for financial accounting and reporting, including the management of public statistics. The MAIL has overall responsibility for agricultural and rural development policies, strategies and plans, including the management of agricultural research and extension services, natural resource management, input and output marketing, disaster risk management (ANDMA), and private investment support.

2.2.3 The relevant national legal frameworks and strategies

71. The legal framework for environmental management issues in Afghanistan has not yet been completely formalized. This is largely a result of the long period of insecurity, in conjunction with a number of shifts in government. Since 2001, much work has been done on the establishment of laws, and drafts for many laws in this field have been drawn up. Nevertheless, the following legislative provisions, policies, strategies and programs have most significance in relation to this project:

- The **Environment Law** (2007) was the first law passed in the natural resources sector. It creates regional and national institutional and procedural frameworks for dealing with matters related to environmental rehabilitation and natural resource conservation and use in Afghanistan. In particular, the law provides detailed guidelines for the conservation and management of Afghanistan's water resources (Articles 34-35), biodiversity (Articles 36 & 37 and 46-63) and protected (Articles 38-43) and unprotected (Articles 44 & 45) areas. The law also has provisions for the dissemination, extension and promotion of environmental information through education initiatives, training and research (Articles 64-66). It also provides a list of mandatory ethical and management principles that should be used to guide all decision-making and actions linked to natural resource use and conservation in the country (Article 5). Under the provisions of the Environment Law, an inter-ministerial body called the National Environmental Advisory Council (NEAC) was mandated and constituted in 2008. The NEAC first met in May 2008, with representatives from each province, all ministers and some prominent government figures.

- The **Forest Law**, which has not yet been approved by parliament, provides for the management, conservation and sustainable use of forests and forest resources in Afghanistan. The law has specific guidelines for forest and forest resource management (Articles 5, 6 & 22), conservation (Articles 7, 12 & 17), use (Articles 13, 15 & 20) and rehabilitation (Article 21) in protected (Article 11) and unprotected (Article 10) areas.

- The proposed **Rangeland Law** provides a framework for the administration, management and use of rangelands and rangeland resources in Afghanistan. In particular, the law has detailed provisions for the administration (determination of ownership, usufructuary rights, conflict resolution and rationalization of access rights) of private (Chapter 4), community (Chapter 5) and public (Chapter 6) rangelands. The law also defines the roles of the Afghan national and regional

governments in the administration and management of rangelands at district, provincial and national level (Chapter 7).

- The **Water Law** is intended to protect water resources, ensure fair distribution of water, to fulfill the rights of water users, and to ensure sustainable and efficient use of water resources. Article 32 states that large water resource development projects are subject to EIAs, that users must not utilize water in a manner that detrimentally affects ecological systems and that downstream needs of aquatic ecosystems must be met. The Water Law has now been passed by the Lower House of Parliament but approval by the Upper House is still outstanding.

2.3. Design principles and strategic considerations

72. This project is aligned with the National Priority Programs, the UNDP Country Program Document, and the humanitarian/development nexus strategy. Please refer to Annex X for the LDCF project's relevance and contribution to the National Priority Programs. The project is also linked with the Sub National Governance Strategy and aims to contribute to the effort on transformational change using UNDP's theory of change.

2.3.1 Baseline Analysis

73. There are a number of national programmes/projects that address baseline related problems that the project will build on and seeks to influence.

74. Current GEF projects in Afghanistan include the preparation of the INC (Initial National Communication to the UNFCCC), which was signed by government in early 2012, and the preparation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), which will run through the end of 2013. This LDCF initiative will integrate the knowledge from the INC programme, and will make use of the administrative and policy vehicle created by this project in the form of the NCCC (National Climate Change Committee). The GEF NBSAP project concentrates on the development of a strategy, as well as the mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation within NEPA, MAIL and other ministries. UNEP is also implementing a LDCF-funded project focusing on early warning systems and adaptation. This project will ensure that there is no overlap of activities between the two projects, and that there is strong cross-pollination of concepts and exchange of lessons learned with respect to conservation protocols and community interactions. Finally, this LDCF financing will be operating upon the priority activities identified during the NCSA/NAPA project funded by GEF and completed in 2005.

75. The **National Solidarity Programme** develops the ability of Afghan communities to identify, plan, manage and monitor their own development projects. The NSP is a very large scale programme funded by multiple donors, including the World Bank, the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF, funded by 14 different nations), the Japanese Social Development Fund (JSDF), and a number of bilateral partners. It is implemented by the MRRD. The NSP is the primary vehicle for promoting rural development in Afghanistan, and it operates through the establishment and empowering of CDCs throughout the country. These CDCs prepare community development plans, and apply for funding of such activities through the NSP. Activities undertaken by CDCs include a number of infrastructural improvements such as provision of irrigation canals, access roads and bridges, water supply and sanitation improvements, and MHP schemes. The NSP also provides education and livelihoods improvements,

although these account for a small part of the budget. As of September 2011, the NSP had disbursed over $888 million to CDCs, and spent more than $1.2 billion. The NSP has committed $10 million for development activities in the selected districts of the priority provinces, and this baseline financing has been allocated for a number of activities (irrigation, agricultural expansion, MHP plants and infrastructural improvements) that will benefit directly from the additionality of the LDCF project's activities.

76. The **National Area-Based Development Programme** (NABDP) is another permanent programme of the MRRD. Operating through seven regional offices, the NABDP focuses on establishing District Development Assemblies (DDAs) and training them in good governance practice and infrastructure project planning and implementation skills. This district-level governance is then used to provide service delivery and livelihood diversification through the productive infrastructure. The NABDP is currently in Phase II (2009 – 2014), facilitated by the UNDP and funded by nine European countries to the amount of $294.7 million. The principal focus of the NABDP is on: i) local institution building in the form of DDAs to promote private-public partnerships; ii) developing rural infrastructure in the form of roads, bridges and other essential components; iii) natural resource management through community interaction; iv) rural energy development, particularly renewable rural energy in the form of MHP projects; and v) rural economic development to provide a conducive environment for rural enterprise initiatives. Of this amount, $2.4 million has been allocated for activities in the priority provinces in which the LDCF project will be operating, including development of MHP under the Energy for Rural development in Afghanistan (ERDA) sub-project. These components will benefit directly from the ecosystem management adaptation interventions undertaken by the LDCF project.

77. The **Community Based Irrigation Rehabilitation and Development** project funded by ADB (10 Million $) aims at rehabilitating and improving irrigation systems in four provinces of north Afghanistan (Balkh, Ghor, Samangan, Baghlan) to better serve farming communities. The project will be implemented through a community contracting system which will: (i) allow rural populations to manage the implementation of projects in their areas and increase local economic opportunities; and (ii) create a sense of ownership and timely completion as procurement will be done locally with the maximum involvement of local communities. Women's participation will be facilitated through a gender action plan, which will include lessons learnt from earlier projects.

78. The *Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock* in partnership with USAID/Afghanistan is implementing a project called the **Irrigation and Watershed Resource Management Program** (IWMP), which is a five-year, $100 million initiative that will assist the Government of Afghanistan in agricultural sector development in line with USAID's Assistance Objective – A Sustainable, Thriving Agricultural Economy. The main purpose of IWMP is to increase agricultural productivity and income through more efficient and sustainable management of water resources and improved capacity of MAIL to design, procure, implement, and monitor irrigation and watershed management activities. To achieve the purpose of the project, IWMP has three main components: (1) Governance and Capacity Building: Develop and strengthen an enabling environment for sustainable, integrated agricultural water resources management; (2) Water Supply Management: improve resiliency and sustainability of water supply for agricultural production; and (3) Water Demand Management: Improve efficiency and equitability of water demand management in the agricultural sector.

Table 4: Summary of Co-financing

Sources of Cofinancing	Name of Cofinancier	Type of Cofinancing	Amount ($)
GEF Agency	UNDP	Cash	1,000,000
Bilateral Aid Agency	USAID	Investment	70,000,000

National Government	MAIL	Cash	30,000,000
National Government	MAIL	In-kind	2,000,000
Total Co-financing			103,000,000

2.3.2 Linkages with other donor funded initiatives

79. The multi-lateral donor agencies also support a range of projects and initiatives that include non-climate related problems, which this project will complement, but have not been considered as co-financing:

80. The **Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Programme (World Bank, 87M $)** aims to improve employment opportunities and income of rural men and women, and the sustainability of targeted local enterprises. The programme supports community-led enterprise development and SME development. The World Bank also supports the **Irrigation Restoration and Development Project (97.8M $)**. The proposed grant supports the Government of Afghanistan (GoA) with the continued implementation of the national priority irrigation rehabilitation program to rehabilitate irrigation systems that had become dilapidated as a result of the long conflict and insurgency. The program is a key thrust to support agriculture recovery and has achieved visible results on the ground.

81. In Afghanistan one important baseline partner for this LDCF financing is the Agro-Meteorology (AgroMet) Program. This programme was initially operated by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and focused on the development of weather monitoring and agricultural prediction capabilities within MAIL. The WMO has agreed to provide extra funding to the project and extend the period from 2012 to 2015. The AgroMet programme aims to extend the meteorological data gathering capacity of national institutions and to provide infrastructure and training for a global climate change observation system. By developing synergies with baseline activities of the AgroMet programme, this LDCF initiative will assist in the provision of training for capacity building in data management and interpretation, climate impact modeling and development of vulnerability maps. Close interaction with the AgroMet programme will ensure complementarity and development of synergies to develop Afghanistan's capacity to carry out climate change monitoring, modeling and prediction for agricultural purposes.

82. The WMO has also provided additional funding to the Afghan Meteorological Authority (AMA) through the Rehabilitation of the AMA project. This funding is provided in order to develop the baseline capacity and infrastructure of the AMA, and includes an integrated system for the coordination of weather data, weather forecasting and data integration. The project also includes staff training in the usage of the system. This LDCF project will build upon this base by complementing this agromet support system with on the ground support to improving agricultural practices and irrigation.

83. The UNDP/UNEP **Strengthened Approaches for the Integration of Sustainable Environmental Management in Afghanistan** (SAISEM) programme is designed to promote and build institutional capacity of the Afghan government and communities for sustainable environment management, and to improve the capability of national and local governance bodies for natural resources and disaster management. The project has run beyond the original timeline, and is scheduled to be completed in 2013. However, the lessons learned from this project with respect to sustainable environmental management will be integrated into the local-level engagements undertaken by this LDCF initiative.

84. The Food for Life (FFL) initiative of the MAIL is an innovative approach to a comprehensive and sustainable agricultural and livelihood development that focuses on production, rural livelihoods and food

security. It is a coordinated mechanism and approach to agricultural development working in partnership with private sector enterprises and institutions to meet the growing needs of subsistence farmers, vulnerable groups and sustainable access to nutritious and safe foods.

2.3.3 UNDP Comparative Advantage

85. The new country programme reflects a deliberate strategic shift to more long term development oriented programmes that target poverty, human security and sustainable livelihood issues and concentrates on a few key strategic outcomes where UNDP has a clear comparative advantage. The proposed programme is firmly anchored in the ANDS and UNDAF and is designed to support UNAMA's mandate. To help ensure sustainability and enhance impact, UNDP will seek to promote national ownership, greater strategic coherence of its programmes as well as stronger complementarities with similar programmes under the UNDAF and with those of other bilateral and multilateral donors. The proposed programme is therefore derived from ANDS priorities and fully aligned with two UNDAF outcomes, which contribute to: (a) Fostering good governance, peace and stability; (b) Promoting sustainable livelihoods, with a focus on agriculture, rural development, food security and income generation. UNDP proposes to increase and strengthen its presence at sub-national level and to significantly improve coordination with other development partners (Like MAIL, NEPA), and will build stronger partnership with United Nations organizations, government counterparts, bilateral donors, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the private sector and civil society organizations, among others. To address the issue of redundancy and duplication in implementation in the field, UNDP will strive to build strong partnerships with relevant provincial authorities in order to streamline interventions by multiple entities at the field level. The comparative advantages of UNDP, complemented by an assessment of support provided by other donors and UN system to Afghanistan, lies in two programmatic areas that have been identified:

86. Livelihoods, natural resource management and disaster risk reduction. Poverty and environmental degradation continue to pose serious challenges and to undermine long-term stability. 80% of the population are in rural areas and are engaged in agricultural activities. Therefore focus on development of agricultural sector and expansion of rural development initiatives is critical. Emphasis will therefore be placed on promoting economic opportunities and sustainable livelihoods.

87. **Policy Advisory support for achieving MDGs through economic growth and poverty reduction**. In the past programme cycle, UNDP invested heavily in capacity building of national policy institutions and mechanisms. In its efforts to support the national policy formulation of the Government, UNDP will provide support for ANDS implementation through technical advisory services to key government institutions. Ongoing successful programmes like the National Area based Development Programme (NABDP), Making Budgets and Aid work (MBAW) as well as Anti-Corruption & Transparency (ACT) and Policy Analysis & Development (PAD) projects will be continued with a sharper focus that takes into account new and emerging priorities arising out of ANDS implementation. The country programme will support the Government in the formulation, enactment and implementation of economic and social policies that spur sustainable and equitable growth and the building of a national results monitoring and evaluation platform crucial for accurate reporting on the progress made by the country towards attaining its MDG targets through national programmes across the country. Interventions and efforts on agricultural productivity, economic growth and poverty reduction will be made through increased opportunities for income generation, trade, private sector development and Public-Private partnerships. All initiatives with the objective of human development will be closely based on and contribute to the achievement of ANDS targets (National Priority 3 – Economic and Social development:

reduce poverty, ensure sustainable development through a private sector-led market economy, improve human development indicators and make significant progress towards the MDGs).

2.4. Project Objective, Outcomes and Outputs/activities

The project objective is to strengthen the resilience of rural livelihood options for Afghan communities in Panjshir, Balkh, Uruzgan and Herat Provinces to manage climate change-induced disaster risks.

88. The three complementary results that this project will deliver include:

1. Climate change risk and variability integrated into local planning and budgeting processes
2. Rural income and livelihood opportunities for vulnerable communities enhanced and diversified
3. Productive irrigation infrastructure rehabilitated and improved

89. LDCF funding is requested to meet the additional costs imposed on vulnerable communities to meet their urgent adaptation needs due to the adverse impacts of climate change. While the first component focuses on climate responsive local development planning, the second component concentrates on the implementation of those plans, with a special emphasis on strengthening the resilience of rural livelihood options as that was a key priority that emerged from stakeholder consultations. Four provinces have been selected for project activities: Balkh, Panjshir, Herat and Uruzgan. The selection of provinces was made in consultation with key stakeholders and is based on three criteria: 1) the presence of ongoing or planned baseline activities, 2) the inclusion of both food secure and food insecure provinces in order to reach the most vulnerable populations and those areas that have not received significant development assistance, and 3) geographic representation of each major region in the country. Panjshir and Balkh Provinces are generally considered stable and food secure. Herat is moderately food insecure, while Uruzgan is highly food insecure.

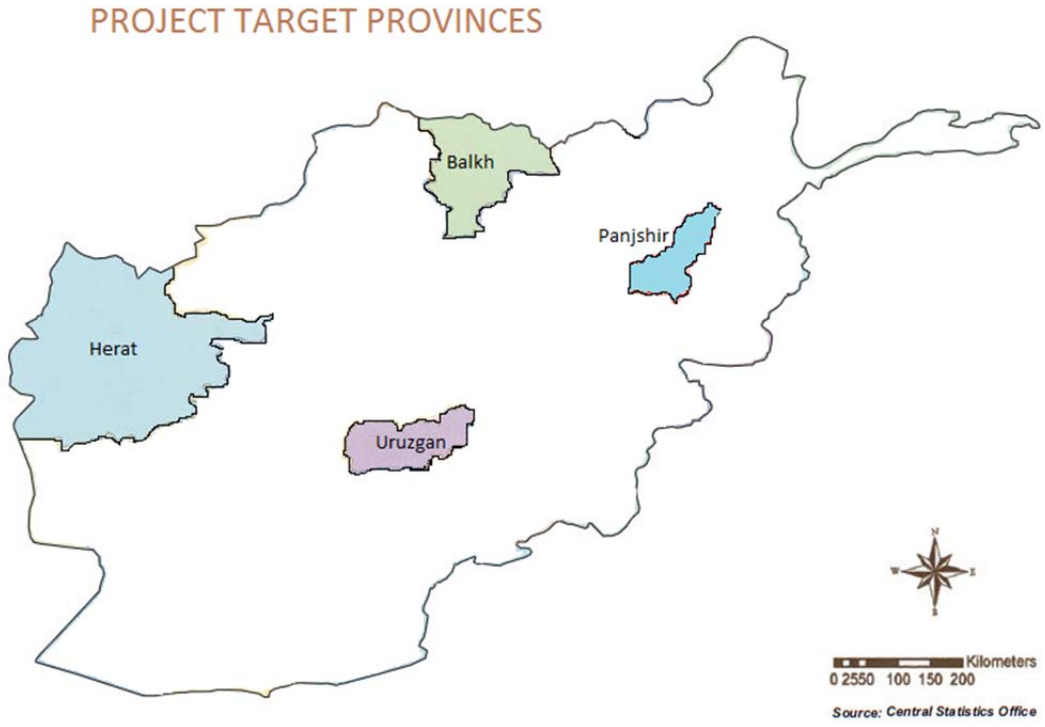
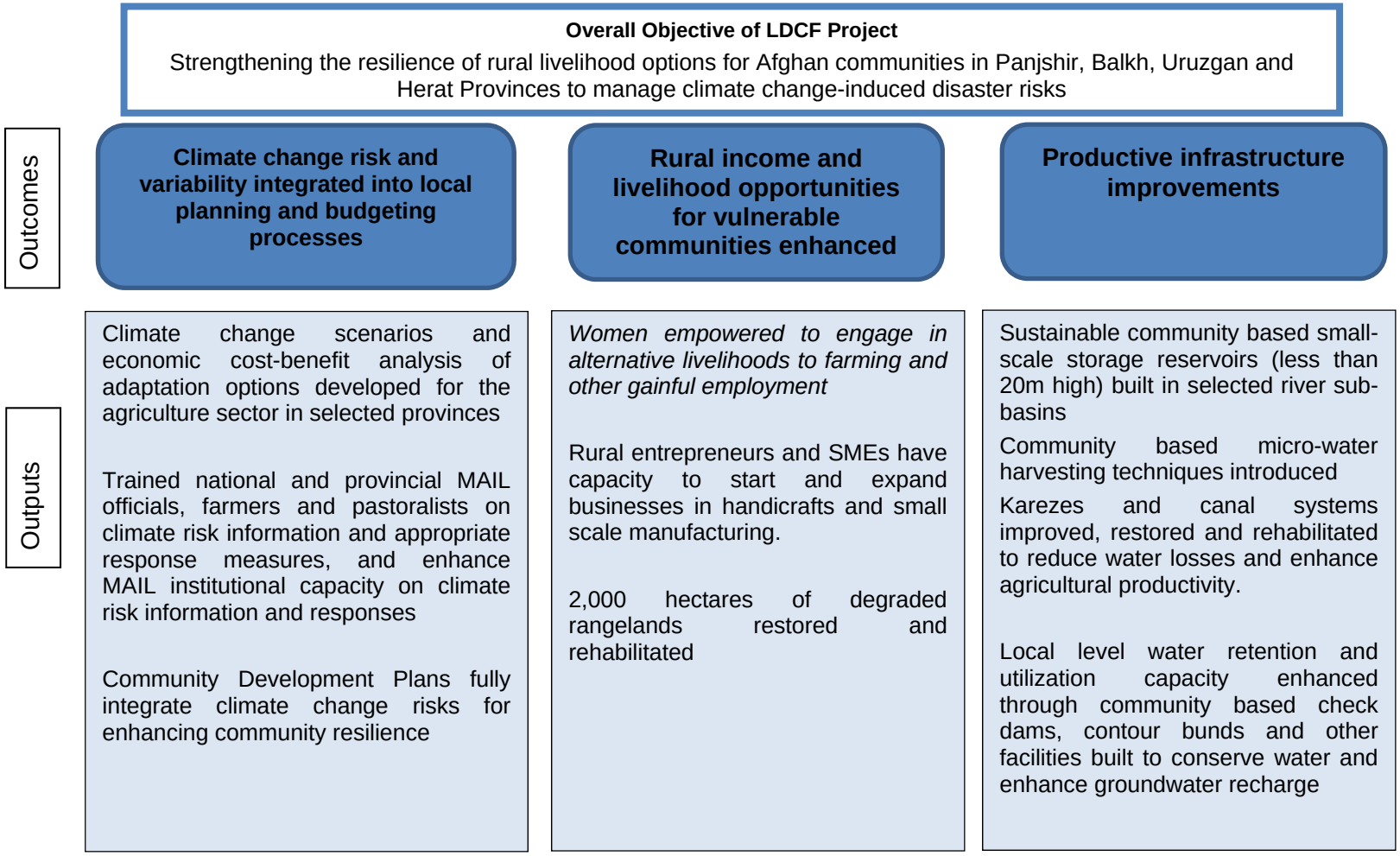


Figure 2: Complementary Outcomes and outputs.



Outcome 1: Climate change risk and variability integrated into local planning and budgeting processes

Co-financing for this outcome is: $3,400,000
LDCF project grant request is: $1,400,000

Without LDCF Intervention (baseline):

90. At present Afghanistan has severely limited capacity to undertake climate change adaptation planning. The NAPA/NCSA process identified a significant lack of expertise within all relevant government departments as a result of the low level of education, poor financing for government departments, and the early stage of establishment of many of the government agencies. Climate change is not presently regarded as a national priority, and training and education about climate change has not occurred.

91. Without this LDCF intervention, there would be very limited knowledge within both national structures and the public about climate change. The NAPA is the first published national document with a specific focus on climate change adaptation, and the INC will be the first formal international communication regarding climate change. At present, there is a considerable amount of ongoing development work in Afghanistan (around 50 billion dollars have been invested through military, reconstruction and aid programmes), but there is no integration of climate change adaptation or recognition of the potential impacts of climate change on this development work.

92. National policy and strategy do not have any significant mention of climate change. The National Energy Strategy (NES), the National Action Plan for Women in Afghanistan (NAPWA), the Strategic Water Policy, and, most importantly, the ANDS contain no mention of climate change. This gap in knowledge means that the potential gains earned through the implementation of these strategies are at risk under conditions of climate change. The SNAP does specifically mention the potential dangers of climate change with respect to increasing risk of natural disasters, and calls for the development of an EWS. This, however, has not yet been undertaken.

93. Without this LDCF financing, climate proofing of development projects would be non-existent. At the sub-national level and at the community level this is even more important as local development plans do not integrate climate change adaptation measures in their design, thereby ignoring the risks and impacts of an increase in severe weather events. Although many funded initiatives provide capacity building to government agencies and staff, very few actually focus on climate change impacts. UNEP has recently received funding from the LDCF to initiate such activities but it remains insufficient.

94. In addition to the lack of knowledge about climate change, there is currently limited capacity to integrate such knowledge into policies. Many government agencies (both ministries and specific authorities) do not have a sufficient number of trained staff to allow for the revision of strategies and development of documents beyond what is perceived as their core activities. At present, the NCCC meets only irregularly, and has limited capacity to carry out its mandate. However, it is the best-placed entity to promote climate change adaptation in national policy and to ensure the mainstreaming of policies. The high level of the representatives from government departments in the NCCC could facilitate the uptake of this LDCF initiative within their respective agencies as well as ensure cooperation between them. At present, the NCCC lacks the capacity to effectively address the requirements of MEA obligations and to facilitate the accessing of international funds to assist with this process.

95. The NSP will continue to be the primary vehicle for promoting rural development in Afghanistan, through the establishment and empowering of CDCs throughout the country, but does not include training and capacity building of the CDCs on climate change risks and impacts, and provide them with technical support for designing adaptation measures. Similarly the NABDP focuses on establishing District Development Assemblies (DDAs) and training them in good governance practice and infrastructure project planning and implementation skills, but this does not include climate change knowledge. This LDCF initiative will fill this gap by building capacity at all levels of governance to address and integrate climate change impacts in routine development plans, thereby climate proofing Afghanistan's rural development efforts.

With LDCF Intervention (adaptation alternative)

96. This outcome will address the low institutional capacity and planning to address climate change the and low awareness and understanding of climate change risks and impact. This component builds the evidence base for a more climate resilient economy by providing practical field-based experiences of implementing climate adaptation measures, constraints faced, the extent to which livelihoods could be protected from climate change impacts, and the costs of doing so. The project will support the aims of the NABDP, which is working at a national level in supporting an evidence-based strategy, institutional development and local governance.

97. This outcome will build capacity to assess risk and vulnerability, evaluate trade-offs and integrate cross-sectoral initiatives through the preparation of sub-national, integrated climate resilient plans that will allow the prioritization of investment and targeting of adaptation actions that mobilize people's participation, down to local communities. These plans will be territorial, i.e., they will be based on specific administrative area (province, district, community), but will take into consideration other plans (such as river basin plans) that the territory falls under. Capacities for supporting climate risk management at sub-national level, including access to relevant planning information, need to be strengthened or built where necessary.

98. LDCF resources will be used for providing training support and mentoring and facilitate shared learning processes between local groups and between local-level planners and MAIL. Capacity for integrating local sector intervention plans and disaster risk plans into climate resilient green development planning at CDC level will be built through the training of selected district planners, local development agents and community development councils in approaches and methodological tools for area-based, integrated and participatory planning processes. Local development agents will be given the skills and planning tools enabling them to identify and assess climate vulnerabilities, evaluate existing development initiatives and their adaptation value. Where existing development programmes have the potential to build adaptive capacity with the help of technologies or new approaches, these will be integrated.

99. At the national level, building on the World Bank Irrigation Restoration and Development Project, MAIL still has information and capacity gaps that need to be resolved as part of the planning process. The points below outline key capacity constraints and actions that LDCF can take to build capacity for climate resilient analysis, planning and action in the national context. Capacity for the incorporation of climate information and risks into the planning agricultural sector are constrained due to:

- Insufficient understanding of the type and extent of soil erosion, and agricultural climate-related vulnerability;
- And the impact of current soil conservation measures on stabilizing the resource and reducing its negative effects.

Once this is better understood and modelled, MAIL can assess the adaptation value of management options on climate related risks and establish area-based land use and watershed management plans at an appropriate scale. This initiative will contribute to:

- Improved coordination between/within institutions linked to limited cross-sectoral communication and exchange of information. This will be done through bi-annual meetings of the project board, regular updates of the operational Focal Point (OFP – in this case NEPA), donor coordination, local consultative group, shared lessons learned in project progress meetings, the UN country team coordination meetings.
- A greater awareness of the threat of soil erosion in the agricultural sector and of the risk-reducing measures that can be taken by the community in mitigating that threat.

100. Relevant technical and policy staff within MAIL and sector Bureaus/Departments will be trained in gap analysis, interpretation and use of geo-spatial and GIS information in planning, scenario analysis and investment appraisal so that they have enhanced skills to future identify adaptation opportunities, prioritize them and design integrated programmes to tackle them. The understanding of government officials will need to be tested and this will be incorporated into the implementation for experiential training and capacity building in the planning approaches and instruments. LDCF resources will also help MAIL and NEPA update the NAPA that will create a roadmap for prioritizing future climate compatible investments in the agricultural sector that will improve the resilience of the farmers and pastoralists to climate change.

101. Through this Outcome, this LDCF financed intervention will build capacity for preparing sub-national, district and community integrated climate resilient development plans that should enhance the long-term effectiveness of development programmes in the relevant area. By building institutional capacity for coordinated climate-resilient planning, opportunities for the integration of climate risk reducing techniques, practices and processes in the area will be created. It will also provide the vehicle to guide the process of integrating climate change risks and adaptation into development plans at local and sub-national levels.

Outputs and Indicative Activities

Output 1.1: *Climate change scenarios developed for the agriculture sector in selected provinces*

102. LDCF resources will be used to develop climate change scenarios for the agricultural sector in the targeted provinces. This will strengthen the capacity of the national and provincial government to plan interventions and anticipate possible changes in the agricultural sector in the selected provinces.

1.1.1 A detailed analysis of the tools and methodologies needed to develop local climate change scenarios for the agricultural sector completed.

1.1.2 Develop the climate change scenarios for the agricultural sector in the selected provinces.

Output 1.2: *Trained national and provincial MAIL officials, farmers and pastoralists on climate risk information and appropriate response measures, and enhance MAIL institutional capacity on climate risk information and responses*

103. Integration of climate change risk and adaptation measures into national agricultural policies and relevant sectoral documents will ensure the sustainability of this LDCF project, and will ensure Afghanistan is able to mainstream adaptive strategies. This LDCF initiative will facilitate this integration

by providing training and support to develop a more detailed understanding of climate change information, which will guide the integration of climate change risks and adaptation into policies in particular for the water and agricultural sectors in the country. In order to do this, an adaptive training and capacity building approach will be taken to ensure the training is tailored to the audience. This output will also provide substantial input to permanent Government staff with the theory of transformational change developed by UNDP. This is an important aspect to contribute to the sustainability of the project and ensure that the theory of change has been imparted to MAIL staff.

1.2.1 Undertake a detailed gap analysis of MAIL's plans and policies to determine to what extent climate change information is included in policy and development plans.

1.2.2 Develop training tools, curricula and methodologies for targeted training programs to MAIL officials, farmers and pastoralists.

1.2.3 Carry out training courses for 250 at various levels of MAIL officials and locally to farmers and pastoralists to understand and make use of climate change information and adaptation measures.

1.2.4 Train 25 officers within the Ministry of Agriculture to understand the economics of adaptation.

1.2.5 Improve information management and database for better adaption planning and response measures.

Output 1.3: *Community Development Plans fully integrate climate change risks for enhancing community resilience*

104. It is important to support the Government of Afghanistan with tangible demonstrations of climate change adaptation measures. Output 1.3 will provide direct support to the lowest level of governance (the Community Development Councils) with resources to access support from expertise on formulating climate resilient development plans. The plans will be developed in a participatory manner to ensure that beneficiaries learn by doing and are able to replicate and reproduce such plans in the future.

1.3.1 Undertake a detailed analysis of the community level ground situation with regards to agriculture infrastructure and livelihoods.

1.3.2 Review Community Development Plans to identify the areas that can be climate proofed.

1.3.3 Develop at least 10 climate resilient community development plans in collaboration with local farmers, women and CDC members.

1.3.4 Develop guidelines that can be used in other districts and communities and that could become national guidelines.

1.3.5 Participatory monitoring for compliance and intended results and impact

Outcome 2: Rural income and livelihood opportunities for vulnerable communities enhanced and diversified

Co-financing amount for outcome 2: $11,600,000
LDCF project grant requested: $2,653,500

Without LDCF Intervention (baseline):

105. "Afghanistan is a country with a high-risk profile, due to a combination of climatic and natural circumstances and being a historically grown hotbed of social and political conflict and economic vulnerability. Households that face risky events with negative outcomes that are outside their control experience shocks. The consequences of household shocks can be temporary and relatively mild, but they can also shake the very existence of the household and its members, for which no coping strategy can provide an answer." (Source National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment 2007/2008).

106. With around 80% of the population living in rural areas and dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods, climate shocks and extreme weather events, mostly droughts and floods, are the main sources of loss of livelihood. Without improvements to the current livelihood opportunities and efforts to provide an alternative to agriculture, the rural poor in Afghanistan will continue to be very vulnerable to climate change risks and extreme weather events.

107. Currently MAIL, through the Agriculture and Rural Development Cluster, seeks to address problems highlighted here with the implementation of the Food for Life (FFL) Component of NPP2 - National Comprehensive Agriculture Production and Market Development. FFL is an innovative approach to a comprehensive and sustainable agricultural and livelihood development that focuses on production, rural livelihoods and food security. It is a coordinated mechanism and approach to agricultural development working in partnership with private sector enterprises and institutions to meet the growing needs of subsistence farmers, vulnerable groups and sustainable access to nutritious and safe foods. At the same time, FFL will continue to contribute to increased employment and income generation. However FFL does not integrate climate change risks and adaptation measures in its strategy. This LDCF initiative will add value to this program by providing climate resilient alternative livelihood options to the rural poor in the targeted areas.

108. The Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Programme (AREDP) was designed as a national multi-donor funded, Government-led programme to jump start private sector growth in rural Afghanistan. AREDP strengthens the private sector through integrated, value chain, knowledge based interventions from top to bottom and community enterprise development from bottom to top. AREDP is one of MRRD's six national programmes. The overall objectives of AREDP are to: improve employment opportunities for rural men and women; increase income of rural men and women; and provide business know-how for sustainability of targeted local enterprises. These objectives will be achieved by enhancing participation of the rural poor in economic activities, supporting them through business development services and access to finance, and improving market linkages and value chains.

109. Significant investment has been made in the creation of self-help groups (created mainly by NGOs), and these groups have become the basis for further entrepreneurial activities within AREDP. Rural entrepreneurs are often unable to effectively market their products due to uneven quality, lack of knowledge of market demand and limited market access, particularly outside of their immediate surroundings. AREDP aims to improve and 'marry' two critical players of the value chain, i.e., the producers on the one hand, and the buyers on the other, and allow production to be further refined to match market demand. However, AREDP does not integrate climate change risks and adaptation measures in its approach.

110. The Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Programme (World Bank, 87M $) will continue to support and to improve employment opportunities and income of rural men and women, and sustainability of targeted local enterprises. The programme supports community-led enterprise development and SME development. However climate proofed alternative livelihood opportunities are currently insufficiently provided.

111. The primary objective of the National Area Based Development Programme (NABDP) is to contribute to poverty reduction and sustainable livelihoods in rural Afghanistan. This programme will continue to contribute to rural development in Afghanistan, but it does not include climate change adaptation measures for livelihoods diversification and climate resilience.

With LDCF Intervention (adaptation alternative)

112. This component will address the limited availability and use of information on climate risks and adaptation options and low levels of extension advice for agriculture and livelihoods, especially for female headed households. Agriculture and livestock activities are especially susceptible to the effects of climate change such as droughts and floods. Women's employment in this sector is often unpaid. By training women in alternative livelihoods and equipping them with business skills and linking them to finance, the project will help reduce dependence on agriculture and provide much needed supplemental income for poor rural households.

113. Building on the Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Programme, this outcome will enhance the livelihoods diversification efforts in Afghanistan and will contribute to strengthening the resilience of poor rural women and men to climate change and associated extreme weather events. It will also provide the foundation to guide the process of expanding such climate resilient initiatives for alternative rural livelihoods within the MAIL and MRRD portfolio.

114. The key needs and vulnerability assessment report in Annex III developed by the project design team during the preparatory phase details the livelihoods diversification needs for the target communities and the strategy that DAIL can use to achieve improved climate resilient rural livelihoods. LDCF financing of these identified needs will contribute to strengthening the technical capacity of the district level MAIL (DAIL) and MRRD, institutions responsible for poverty alleviation and cross sectoral planning. This will complement Government and donor initiatives to reduce poverty.

115. This LDCF initiative will contribute to improving the livelihoods of rural women but will add the angle of climate resilience by training women's self-help groups on income generating activities that are not dependent on agriculture and can be sustained despite climate shocks, such as bee keeping, carpet making, embroidery, poultry and eggs; as well as supporting small businesses like eateries, home appliances repair and cell phone maintenance. During the preparatory phase and the needs assessment it was established that women are dependent upon subsistence farming in a significant way. Additionally most women do not have any independent source of income, and they are dependent upon male income-earners. Women have limited relevant skills which they can use for earning their livelihoods in case of climate shocks and loss of harvest. It was also ascertained that the vast majority of women are not members of any financial institution, or do not have access to financial services to help start livelihood initiatives. Finally and very importantly women do not belong to any strong social network. This together puts women in a high vulnerability bracket. This project will help pilot initiatives to remedy the above climate resilient constraints.

116. During the preparatory and design phase, the livelihoods diversification needs were assessed (see Annex III). A wide range of stakeholders (Government ministries, departments, donors, research

institutions, civil society and NGOs - see stakeholder baseline analysis, section 2.1.3) during national level consultations decided to maximize cost effectiveness by directing the funds and efforts on providing rural women with livelihood opportunities and training. The key needs and vulnerability assessment report in Annex III presents the needs and gaps identified during the preparatory phase and provides a good guide to the activities and strategy this project will have to adopt. It provides indicative locations and sites for the implementation of strengthening of livelihoods, and strategies like the kind of training, marketing and financial support needed to deliver this outcome.

117. This LDCF initiative will complement the UNDP/GIRoA NABDP by adding an angle of climate change adaptation measures and will be the basis to initiate the process of expanding climate resilient approaches for rural livelihoods diversification in Afghanistan. Building on the UNEP/NEPA LDCF funded initiative, this LDCF financing will further improve watershed management and contribute to reducing soil erosion and flooding by rehabilitating 2,000 hectares of degraded rangelands planted with stress resistant seedling varieties. During the preparatory and design phase, consultations with local communities and stakeholders identified specific species like walnuts and berries that have the particularity of being drought resistant, exist naturally in the environment and provide income and food.

Output and Indicative Activities

Output 2.1: W*omen empowered to engage in alternative livelihoods to farming and other gainful employment*

118. This output will support at least 800 women living in poor rural areas with income generating activities and alternative livelihoods. Women will be organized in self-help groups and trained in basic financial management, bookkeeping and accounting. With support from the project technical task team at the district level, these groups will engage in small monthly savings and loans to the group members. In order to jump-start income generating activities, small amounts of funds (around 1,000 $) will be provided to each self-help group and be used as rotating productive loans to its members.

2.1.1 Women's self-help groups of 12 to 15 women created and operating, with monthly meetings and savings and loans activities.

2.1.2 All women beneficiaries are trained in basic financial management, accounting and bookkeeping.

2.1.3 Market surveys to identify potential successful income generating activities completed and shared with the women's self-help groups.

2.1.4 Skills training to jump-start income generation activities based on the market surveys provided, along with support on marketing, packaging and access to raw materials.

2.1.5 Linkages with markets, buyers and suppliers created and strengthened.

Output 2.2: *Rural entrepreneurs and SMEs have capacity to start and expand businesses in handicrafts and small scale manufacturing.*

119. More advanced business development training to new businesses and existing ones will be the aim of this output. At least 50 rural entrepreneurs will be supported with specific skills training in handicrafts and other business opportunities. Advanced accounting, financial management and stock keeping training programs will be provided as well as market linkages and product advertising. Business

improvement and diversification will be provided to at least 30 existing SMEs by supporting them in accessing finance, developing new products and improving their infrastructure set up.

2.2.1 Identify rural entrepreneurs through community participatory consultations that are willing and capable of starting a new business.

2.2.2 Prepare advanced training manuals for business development and deliver training.

2.2.3 Support to existing SMEs to strengthen and improve their business provided by facilitating access to finance, developing new products and improving business infrastructure.

2.2.4 Market information and linkages with financial institutions delivered to at least 50 rural entrepreneurs and 30 SMEs.

Output 2.3: *2,000 hectares of degraded rangelands restored and rehabilitated*

120. Output 2.3 aims at rehabilitating degraded rangeland by reforesting over 2,000 hectares in the targeted provinces and districts. This will have the benefit of enhancing interception, limiting runoff and soil erosion, but will also provide flood and landslide mitigation as well as some income in the form of fuelwood and harvesting of walnuts and berries. The species planted will be climate stress resistant and found locally in the natural environment to improve survival rates and limit the need for maintenance and care.

2.3.1 Identify planting sites in a participatory manner with local communities and local administration.

2.3.2 Planting of stress resistant species by local communities in a cash for work approach and setting up an incentive system based on survival rates.

Outcome 3: Productive infrastructure improvements

Co-financing amount for outcome 3: $86,300,000
LDCF project grant requested: $4,521,500

Without LDCF Intervention (baseline):

121. Afghanistan has experienced an extended period of instability and war, which has hindered development. The majority of the population is engaged in rain-fed rural agriculture or pastoral herding, which makes them extremely vulnerable to drought, floods and loss of soils. Unsustainable use and the resultant degradation of fragile or marginal lands have left rural communities particularly vulnerable to the impacts of adverse climatic conditions. The projected increase in droughts and extreme weather events as a result of climate change is likely to decrease agricultural productivity, impact negatively on the livelihoods of poor individuals, and further degrade productive and marginal ecosystems within Afghanistan.

122. Furthermore, current improvements in rural infrastructure such as irrigation programmes and micro-hydropower installations are not designed to deal with the impacts of climate change. Increased

flood intensity and siltation rates coupled with the lack of early warnings to communities may reduce the viability of such improvements, resulting in losses of development gains under conditions of climate change. Protective measures to reduce these impacts such as comprehensive watershed management have neither been tested nor implemented in Afghanistan.

123. In many areas, agriculture is limited to a narrow ribbon around rivers, or is rain-fed where there is sufficient annual rainfall. Surrounding areas provide additional ecosystem benefits such as fuelwood, fodder for animals and wild food sources, which supplement both income and food availability within rural communities. Even a slight shift in timing and intensity of rainfall, intense dust storms (in lowland areas) or a climate change-induced reduction in the availability of other ecosystem resources can have a catastrophic effect on rural livelihoods. Agricultural productivity is currently frequently subject to adverse climatic conditions, and such conditions are likely to increase as a result of climate change.

124. This LDCF initiative has designed adaptation interventions that will be complementary to the baseline activities, enhancing the efficacy of the baseline interventions even under conditions of climate change. With regards to irrigation projects, the NSP and NABDP provide irrigation infrastructure in order to promote agriculture within the catchments and districts in which this LDCF project operates. Such irrigation projects are invaluable to local communities, but are also vulnerable to siltation, reduced water flow and damage from floods from climate change-induced extreme weather. The improvement and climate proofing of productive infrastructure implemented by this LDCF initiative will reduce the impacts of such weather extremes by: i) increasing soil water infiltration and limiting the amount of runoff from degraded land; ii) reducing erosion; iii) regulating water flow; and iv) reducing the likelihood of extreme floods within the selected catchments with improved canals and check dams. This will increase the efficacy of the baseline projects and consequently increase community resilience even under a changed climate.

125. Baseline development is being undertaken throughout the country, as the international community is currently providing significant investment in infrastructure and priority development projects identified by the GIRoA. However, such development does not take into account the potential effects of climate change, and is therefore at risk of significant setbacks in the medium- and long-term. This LDCF financing will complement these efforts to ensure that these investments are more resilient to climate change.

126. The Community Based Irrigation Rehabilitation and Development project funded by ADB ($10 million) aims at rehabilitating and improving irrigation systems in four provinces of north Afghanistan (Balkh, Ghor, Samangan, Baghlan) to better serve farming communities. The project will be implemented through a community contracting system which will: (i) allow rural populations to manage the implementation of projects in their areas and increase local economic opportunities; and (ii) create a sense of ownership and timely completion as procurement will be done locally with the maximum involvement of local communities. Women's participation will be facilitated through a gender action plan, which will include lessons learnt from earlier projects. This project will continue to provide irrigation rehabilitation to rural communities but the climate change adaptation angle is currently lacking in this programme.

127. The USAID/Afghanistan is implementing a project called the Irrigation and Watershed Resource Management Program (IWMP), which is a five-year, $100 million initiative that will assist the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIRoA) in agricultural sector development in line with USAID's Assistance Objective – A Sustainable, Thriving Agricultural Economy. The main purpose of IWMP is to increase agricultural productivity and income through more efficient and sustainable management of water resources and improved capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock to design, procure, implement, and monitor irrigation and watershed management activities.

These projects, whilst currently in their early stages, provide key baseline activities that LDCF funds can be used to build upon, strengthening their climate change resilience approach.

With LDCF Intervention (adaptation alternative)

128. This component will address the limited availability and use of information on climate risks and adaptation options and low levels of extension advice for agriculture and livelihoods, especially for female headed households. There is tremendous potential for agricultural growth and development and the alleviation of food insecurity and reduction of poverty. The rather long and varied litany of constraining issues for agricultural growth and development clearly means that in order to achieve any substantial progress in alleviating the condition of food insecurity and poverty, there is a need for a concerted effort that is multi-disciplinary, multi-sectoral and multi-agency in nature. As such, there needs to be careful selection of priority areas and entry points for involvement of the public sector (i.e, Government and development partners). Such an effort also needs to be based on strong collaborative relationships with administrators, technical staff, civil society and the private sector at the provincial, local and community levels.

129. Building on the Community Based Irrigation Rehabilitation and Development project funded by ADB, small-scale storage reservoirs (less than 20m high) will be built in selected river sub-basins in 12 communities. Based on the needs and vulnerability assessment (Annex III), specific and indicative sites have been selected in consultation with local authorities and community development councils (CDCs) during the preparatory and design stage of this project. These small-scale storage reservoirs will act as water reserves during the dryer seasons and will allow for additional irrigation of agricultural lands. In certain cases (particularly in Abshar and Parian districts of Panjshir Province) flood control walls will be erected to mitigate the impact of flash flood and snowmelts.

130. Complementing MAIL's and MRRD's efforts to improve agriculture and rural development, and adding a climate change adaptation approach to ongoing standard projects, this LDCF initiative will introduce water harvesting techniques in 12 communities and drinking water schemes in 3 girl schools that faces serious drinking water scarcity problems. The needs and vulnerability assessment found in Annex III details the identified needs for such interventions in order to adapt to some the impacts brought about by climate change in these areas.

131. Building on the USAID/Afghanistan project on Irrigation and Watershed Resource Management (IWMP), irrigation infrastructure such as traditional karezes (these are underground irrigation canals that carry water from as far as two kilometers) will be cleaned and lined to ensure reduced water leakages and improved delivery. Often the mouth of the spring or water source where these karezes start is silted and needs to be cleaned and rehabilitated to ensure as much water as possible is captured and carried to the irrigation location. The karezes are often very ancient and the lining is broken and irregular, reducing the amount of water that reaches the agricultural fields, therefore a need to repair and reline these structures to ensure minimum water losses.

132. Based on the needs and vulnerability assessment (Annex III) check dams, contour bunds and other facilities to conserve water and enhance groundwater recharge will be built in Panjshir, Herat, Uruzgan and Balkh Provinces to improve the resilience to climate change and the scarcity of water of the rural communities identified. This will complement the efforts of the NABDP initiatives to strengthen water security and ground water recharge.

133. Many of the communities visited suffer from energy deficiency and are unable to pump water, even if it is available, to the agricultural lands or community structures (such as schools, meeting halls, etc.) that need it. The use of solar pumps and micro hydro power to provide green sustainable sources of

electricity will be put in place where necessary. The interventions follow the "no regret" implementation principle (i.e., the interventions will provide an adaptation benefit under conditions of climate change, but should climate change impacts be less intense than predicted, they will nevertheless provide a benefit to Afghanistan).

Output and Indicative Activities

Output 3.1: *Sustainable community based small-scale storage reservoirs (less than 20m high) built in selected river sub-basins*

134. This output will introduce efficient water management infrastructure to rural communities to enhance their agricultural output and assist in the regulation of water flow at village levels, thereby ensuring resilience despite climate change-induced water variability. The intervention is targeted to ensure their appropriateness for the specific environmental conditions within the site. Implementation through Community Development Councils (CDCs) with the facilitation of local NGOs will ensure local ownership of the activities. Knowledge gained from this intervention will be shared amongst project partners, and will inform the national climate change agenda by sharing lessons learned and good practices.

3.1.1 Detailed analysis and participatory consultations with province/district authorities and CDCs will identify the optimal site for the construction of the small-scale storage reservoirs.

3.1.2 Small-scale storage reservoirs constructed in 12 communities

3.1.3 Training of communities in maintenance of the above infrastructure, including the topics of: i) water supply and demand management; ii) identification of system losses; and iii) management of the new irrigation systems.

3.1.4 Development of local water management plans in conjunction with local communities to promote an adaptive approach to water management, increasing the capacity of the community to adapt to climate change.

3.1.5 Environmental impact studies to assess the effects and risks on the environment.

135. These activities will not have any negative downstream effects, since the majority of water for the storage structures will be provided in the spring season, when the rivers frequently experience a surplus of snowmelt, and often flood downstream areas. Regulation of the water supply will benefit both the project site and downstream areas. Further details of interventions are presented in the key needs and vulnerability assessment report in Annex III.

Output 3.2: *Community based micro-water harvesting techniques introduced*

136. Afghanistan faces water scarcity in many areas and particularly in the provinces of Herat and Uruzgan. This output will introduce micro-water harvesting techniques to maximize the capacity of the communities to collect water when it is available for future use when it becomes scarce. This will include roof top water harvesting in public and private buildings, ponds and small water retaining structures in agricultural areas. In some cases, for example in the Abshar and Parian districts of Panjshir, water although available needs to be transported to the places of consumption like schools and public buildings. Due to the limited power availability in these sites, the need is for solar water pumps and small-scale

piping systems. These interventions will ensure that the communities are more resilient to water scarcity even under climate variability.

3.2.1 Participatory consultations with local authorities and Community Development Councils to reconfirm the validity of the identified sites for water harvesting structures.

3.2.2 Water harvesting techniques and structures constructed and operational in 12 communities.

3.2.3 Identified schools and public buildings fitted with solar water pumps and piping to deliver water from source to consumption point.

3.2.4 Training of local authorities and communities in maintenance and operations of water harvesting structures and solar pumping systems.

Output 3.3: *Karezes and canal systems improved, restored and rehabilitated to reduce water losses and enhance agricultural productivity.*

137. At least 20 Karezes are a traditional and often ancient means of transporting water from a source to its consumption area (they can be as long as two kilometers). These underground canals are crucial for the irrigation requirements of local farmers, especially in Balkh and Herat Provinces. Thirty years of conflict and restricted development have left karezes unattended and in crucial need of repair and improvement to reduce water loses and improve delivery. Output 3.3 will improve and rehabilitate at least 20 karezes mainly in the provinces of Balkh and Herat.

3.3.1 The source and mouth of selected karezes and canals are cleaned and improve to capture increased quantities of water.

3.3.2 Identified karezes and canals are repaired, desilted and relined to plug leaks, improve flow and reduce water losses.

Output 3.4: *Local level water retention and utilization capacity enhanced through community based check dams, contour bunds and other facilities built to conserve water and enhance groundwater recharge*

138. This output will build on the baseline NSP local activities directed at establishing irrigation canals. The intervention will provide check dams (~3,500 m^3 increased capacity for each selected site) plus contour bunds and retaining walls in every location. These additional check and impounding dams will improve the function of the NSP main check dam under changing water flow conditions from climate change and will contribute to essential groundwater recharge to improve the water capacity of local wells. This intervention will also mitigate seasonal floods by building retaining walls in strategic locations, thereby protecting key agricultural lands from flooding and loss of crops.

3.4.1 Locations of identified sites for construction of check dams, contour bunds and retaining walls revalidated through participatory consultations with local authorities and Community Development Councils.

3.4.2 At least 20 check dams built in the selected communities.

3.4.3 Contour bunds and retaining walls constructed in the selected sites to improve control of water flows and flash floods

3.4.4 Water management training for local authorities and Community Development Councils in managing supply and distribution of water from check dams.

3.4.5 Environmental impact studies to assess the effects and risks on the environment.

2.4.1 National and local benefits

139. At household level, benefits will be most important for those depending on subsistence agriculture. Women and SMEs will benefit directly from the project support in marketing, training and income generation activities. Over 10,000 rural poor Afghans will benefit from the project activities in the area of livelihood diversification with increased income in twelve districts in four provinces. Similarly those living on the plains and prone to recurrent droughts (Uruzgan and Herat Provinces) will benefit from the increased capacity of the irrigation infrastructure to retain water and deliver it with minimal losses. Close and strengthened partnerships and communication channels between MAIL and the provincial and district level extension services will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of state support to agriculture and livelihoods through better planning, adapted agricultural practices and support.

140. This intervention will have tangible and direct benefits for the population in rural agricultural areas which represents about 5 to 7 million people. In Balkh and Herat Provinces where irrigation infrastructure is critical for production agriculture, the rehabilitation of check dams, reservoirs, karezes and irrigation canals will improve agricultural output. Similarly in the Panjshir valley, especially in the Abshar and Parian districts, better control of flood waters from the thawing snow will provide improved irrigation capacity and access to drinking water for schools. Dryer areas like Uruzgan Province and some parts of Herat which are the base for intense agricultural activity will also benefit from improved water harvesting systems and groundwater recharge. This LDCF initiative will benefit this area substantially by ensuring enhanced irrigation infrastructure and alternative livelihoods that will impact around 1 million people. The project will indirectly benefit a large part of the population of Afghanistan by creating capacity at the national level (in key ministries like the MAIL and MRRD) to produce more climate responsive development plans and train government staff in planning long-term strategies for climate change adaptation.

141. This LDCF initiative will improve the long term planning capacity for climate change adaptation in Afghanistan, particularly in support of enhancing the resilience of livelihoods and irrigation infrastructure and assets of some of the poorest communities. Enhancing awareness and capacity to plan for long-term adaptation strategies has the potential to enable poor communities such as farmers and pastoralists to make informed decisions about their livelihood activities and protect their built assets.

2.5. Key indicators, risks and assumptions

2.5.1 Project Indicators

142. Performance indicators are crucial to measure the impact of the project at the outcome level and to track change during the project implementation period. The outcome indicators (Table 6) are designed to measure changes in the coverage, impact, and sustainability of the project outcomes.

Table 6: Project outcome indicators

Indicator	*Time scale and Measurement*
Outcome 1	
Indicator 1 Amount of budget allocated by MAIL specifically for climate change adaptation measures in development plans at the provincial level and community development plans (CDCs) **Baseline:** 0% **Target:** 10% (through random samplings of development plans in 4 provinces and 10 communities)	Time Frame: By end of Project (annual progress reviews to be conducted) Measured by: through random samplings of development plans in 4 provinces and 10 communities
Indicator 2 Extent to which climate change information and adaptation measures are incorporated into MAIL local development plans in 4 provinces **Baseline**: Nil **Target**: Based on a qualitative analysis, the plans are fully climate proofed.	Time Frame: By end of project (annual progress reviews to be conducted) Measured by: Qualitative analysis of development plans
Outcome 2	
Indicator 1 Percentage of project beneficiaries surveyed reporting to gain an increase in personal monthly income at least by 30% **Baseline**: Nil (data on the beneficiaries' incomes to be collected prior to participating in the project) **Target**: 30% (based on 200 respondents)	Time Frame: By end of Project (annual progress reviews to be conducted) Measured by: Surveys
Indicator 2 Percentage of beneficiary households that engage in more than one climate proof livelihood opportunity **Baseline**: 0% **Target:** 30% (based on 200 households)	Time Frame: By end of project (annual progress reviews to be conducted) Measured by: Surveys
Outcome 3	
Indicator 1 Crop productivity level from irrigated agriculture (X tons of crops per hectare) **Baseline**: (to be collected) **Target:** increase by 20% from the baseline	Time Frame: By end of Project (annual progress reviews to be conducted) Measured by: Participatory consultations and surveys
Indicator 2 Amount of crops and livelihoods assets damaged by floods or drought in the targeted areas **Baseline**: (to be collected in the first year) **Target:** Decrease by 20%	Time Frame: By end of project(annual progress reviews to be conducted) Measured by: Participatory consultations and surveys

Indicator	Time scale and Measurement

2.5.2 Project Risks

143. Key risks and assumptions are indicated in the Risk Log in Annex I. Risks and recommended countermeasures were identified during bilateral consultations during the project preparation phase. Key risks and associated mitigation measures underlying project implementation include the following:

Risks	Categories	Risk Mitigation Measures
Deterioration of security situation in project sites.	Security P=3 I=4	Preference has been given to stable sites in site selection, and communities with a good working relationship with UNDP, MAIL and implementing organizations. Strong participatory stakeholder consultations have been undertaken to ensure reasonable expectations and to clarify roles/responsibilities. Continual engagement with local political structures (shuras[5], community leaders, CDCs) by the Implementing Agency will enhance security and community ownership. Local authorities and community development organizations are given more project responsibility.
Unavailability of requisite human resources and data	Organizational P=2 I=4	The issue of the unavailability of requisite human resources will be mitigated by recruitment of international consultants who will work closely with in-country counterparts (MAIL) and by targeted capacity building activities. Training activities of local personnel will also be part of all aspects of the work and the relevant institutions will be encouraged to expand the staff base if it is weak in particular areas.
Work progresses in a compartmentalized fashion and there is little integration, e.g., government departments refuse to share data and information	Organizational P=2 I=4	This risk is always present in a project such as this. By ensuring that capacity is built across a range of departments and implementing 'quick win' measures early, these issues can be mitigated. National Steering Committee – Project Board involved at preparatory and implementation phase, regular updating of OFP, M&E and Lessons Learned, Donor coordination – Local Consultative Group, UNCT, CCA, UNDAF
Extreme climate events such as floods and droughts could disrupt project activities and/or	Environmental P=3 I=3	Coordination will be undertaken with partners such as ANDMA for disaster response in order to ensure that disaster relief interventions are also directed towards demonstration sites impacted by extreme climatic

[5] A shura is a traditional decision making body made of elders and community leaders.

damage ecosystems and infrastructure.		events. Appropriate species will be used for project interventions in order to minimize the potential impacts in the medium and long-term. Where damage occurs before ecosystem management adaptation approaches can reduce the impacts of extreme events, supplementary infrastructural approaches and planting will be undertaken.
Limited capacity within relevant ministries/insufficient qualified human capacity.	Organizational P=2 I=4	A major part of the project aims to strengthen institutional and technical capacity for planning, designing and implementing local level adaptation actions. Technical and capacity building expertise will be contracted in, to work with and train local technical staff. A dedicated Project Manager will be assisted with short term national and international specialist support to ensure smooth and timely delivery of project outputs.
Insufficient institutional support and political commitments	Political P=1 P=4	The proposed project is strongly supported by Government Institutions and other key stakeholders and development partners. The project, in conjunction with UNDP, will therefore take advantage of this opportunity to seek substantial support from the Ministries and forge strong partnerships with other development partners. Direct linkages to existing and planned baseline development activities implemented by the government, securing of the necessary co-financing, as well as local buy-in will also minimize this risk. It will also be important to establish buy-in from all government departments early as the project will utilize data and information from a wide range of departments. Community participation will be maintained throughout the project duration to promote local project ownership. On the ground coordination will be undertaken in conjunction with local political structures to facilitate political buy-in. Comprehensive stakeholder engagement has been undertaken, and will be maintained throughout the project implementation.
Poor provincial responses to the leadership role from MAIL	Organizational P=2 I=4	Provincial authorities have been individually consulted during PPG phase, and have endorsed the LDCF project. The PSC will engage with relevant provincial authorities throughout the duration of the project.
Communities and cultural traditions prevent women from participating in training and economic empowerment.	Cultural P=2 I=4	Gender awareness campaigns with both men and women to emphasize the importance of women livelihoods for better education, health and nutrition in the family. Choose the district and communities willing to participate.

2.5.3 Assumptions

144. Key assumptions underlying the project design include:

- The Afghan Government remains committed to implementing the baseline activities and taking forward their strategy for a climate resilient green economy.
- There is sufficient political support and capacity within MAIL for successful execution and implementation of the project.
- MAIL and participating sector Ministries/Bureaus remain committed to the realization of cross-sectoral collaboration in climate change planning and implementation of adaptation measures.
- That the target equipment and infrastructure are best adapted to contribute to improved capacity of MAIL and MRRD to plan and implement climate change adaptation, i.e., they are compatible with existing equipment and both have the capabilities to maintain and operate the equipment;
- MAIL will acquire enough capacity to integrate climate change risks and impacts in routine development plans and PRSPs by the end of the project.
- The available climate change experts and researchers remain available during the project duration for supporting training and capacity building for government staff.
- Data sharing protocols can be agreed upon between MAIL, MRRD and the MEW and data can be presented in a sufficiently utilitarian way for local application. Data sharing will not be hindered by lack of coordination between agencies or by technical constraints such as bandwidth issues.
- The policy priority currently afforded to climate change is not overshadowed by other emergency matters such as security, conflict and humanitarian disasters.

2.6. Cost-effectiveness

145. The preparatory and design phase focused on project implementation principles and approaches that will meet the objectives of the project in the most cost-effective way. The project will contribute to implement four of the NAPA's top 11 priority projects. The project will be implemented through government agencies responsible for agriculture and irrigation, climate change adaptation, disaster risk management and multi-sectoral task teams drawing expertise from the departments responsible for planning and implementing climate resilience enhancing practices as this was considered the most cost-effective approach.

146. This LDCF initiative has sought to build on current development initiatives in order to climate proof them. Full costing for interventions in Panjshir, Herat, Uruzgan and Balkh, were done and the projects were deemed cost effective. The effectiveness of the interventions in increasing resilience to climate change will be tested and measured during the course of this LDCF project through M&E and lessons learned mechanisms. This will involve undertaking an economic analysis and performing cost-benefit analyses to ascertain whether each activity is an economically viable option given climate change. The most successful activities will be prioritized for upscaling to other areas in Afghanistan, and details regarding their implementation and lessons learned from the project will be disseminated at workshops and training events to ensure their mainstreaming.

147. Cost effectiveness is further ensured by building upon the current baseline projects in the target areas, ensuring the long-term viability of the activities and investments under conditions of climate change. In addition, by targeting upland areas and focusing at a watershed level, the ecosystem services protected by project interventions will result in significant downstream benefits, ensuring that not only local communities but all households dependent on regular water supplies from the watersheds will benefit from this LDCF financing. This ecosystem management approach to climate change adaptation

ensures benefits are widespread, since the value of ecosystem services extends far beyond the local impact.

148. By providing technical training and financial support to community organizations and improving livelihoods through, for example, improved agricultural resilience, the LDCF project will engender ownership of the project and enhanced capacity within these communities. This reduces the overhead for monitoring and maintenance of the activities, and will promote sustainability of project benefits beyond the project lifespan. Building upon current national development programmes and enhancing capacity within the management structures mandated by government further strengthens the cost effectiveness of the LDCF project.

149. The preparatory and design phase also analyzed the training and capacity building options and only those within the scope and cost effectiveness of this project were identified. For example, the options of sending MAIL and MRRD engineers abroad to reputed universities for climate change integrated planning training is more expensive than getting the training done in the country. Most of the training will be done in country either with international experts for short periods, or using national expertise from Kabul University and other research institutions like ICIMOD with climate change expertise. This will create a pool of knowledge and trainers who will in turn be able to transfer the knowledge to other national or provincial staff thereby extending the outreach and impact of the project. The alternative of outsourcing the training to universities and research institution abroad (mostly in the US and Europe) was deemed too expensive.

2.7. Sustainability

150. The project outcomes are closely aligned and coordinated with efforts already underway within Afghanistan to promote development and MDG targets which are resilient to climate change at the national and local levels. The project focuses on strengthening the capacity of national and sub-national entities to integrate climate change in development planning. To ensure the sustainability of the project interventions beyond the project lifetime, ownership of the project by government structures (primarily MAIL, NEPA, MEW and MRRD) is of paramount importance. Consequently, government agencies are integral to the project implementation, and project capacity building activities will focus on those agencies that coordinate and/or support the implementation of the project. Importantly, the project was developed in close collaboration with government leaders at the national-, provincial- and district-level within the four relevant provinces, as well as national-level stakeholders.

151. Communities in the priority project sites have been consulted and engagement will continue during this LDCF initiative to ensure ownership of the project's activities. Considerable attention will also be paid to both traditional capacity building and a more innovative "learning-by-doing" approach. In addition, adequate technical and institutional capacity and expertise will be transferred to enhance sustainability. To this end, human capital will be embedded within the government itself at different levels, with a focus on the provincial and district level.

152. This initiative will work where others have failed because, the preparation phase focused on community participation, engagement at the design and planning, and this project has taken a holistic approach. The absence of community participation has been a major reason for previous agricultural projects to fail. This project aims at building community based institutions and organization which will ensure longer term sustainability, and take an ecosystem approach to ensure that issues of water availability are addressed in a whole and not in a fragmented way. A review and integration of the Water Law will also contribute to enhance sustainability.

Improved integrated development planning

153. Along with the completion of a set of sub-national, area-based integrated climate change plans, the project will generate a cadre of trained officials with the experience of working in cross-sectoral planning teams. Assuming these officials stay in the public service, this experience will be incorporated into the sub-national planning environments and applied beyond the duration of this LDCF project. As a result of these capacity building exercises, the capacity of government staff from (MAIL and NEPA) working within the project to develop and implement effective adaptation measures will be significantly strengthened, which will be beneficial for future projects within Afghanistan. It will also provide for integration of climate change adaptation priorities into relevant national planning and policy documents, promoting a "climate-proofing" approach to development.

154. Technical capacity for implementing combined techniques and practices in integrated adaptation packages will be built along with an evidence base for ongoing learning and replication. The project seeks to develop adaptation packages that can be taken up by lateral farmer to farmer adoption. Under Outcome 3, the project will prioritize the integration of interventions that i) build on existing sectoral programmes; and (ii) are possible with the knowledge and resources available to the farmers and their associated extension support.

Improved livelihoods and agriculture infrastructure

155. This project is highly sustainable and will have strong and durable impacts beyond the project implementation phase as it aims at strengthen awareness in climate change risks, improve livelihoods and water management infrastructure. The setup of women's self-help groups has a durable impact and will continue to function beyond the project life cycle, which has strong impacts on the sustainability of the project by ensuring that systems and institutions are designed to live beyond the project duration.

156. Similarly irrigation management and infrastructure are investments that continue to provide returns and benefits way beyond the project life. A check dam, a rehabilitated irrigation canal, or a rain water harvesting system all have life spans that can last a decade, and more if well maintained. This project is not a standalone project; it is part of the existing government machinery and will continue to receive financial support from the government of Afghanistan beyond the project duration in the form of annual recurrent government budget allocations.

2.8. Replicability

157. Replication is a central objective of this project as it is building capacity at the national, provincial, district and community level for improved climate change resilience and adaptation. The needs for enhanced capacity (both human and infrastructure) for climate change adaptation are too large for this project to cover entirely and therefore it will act as a demonstration for other projects. This project will provide impact experience and evidence on successful and effective climate change adaptation improvements. Detailed lessons learned, good practices, opportunities and challenges will be shared during and after the project implementation. Learning and sharing lessons will be a cross cutting issue addressed at both the outcome level and within every output.

158. The strengthening of partnerships between Afghan and international institutions working on climate change adaptation will also contribute to sharing of lessons learned and good practices at a larger global/regional level. The Adaptation Learning Mechanism (ALM) is an important dissemination and

sharing tool that is publicly accessible and constantly updated with the most recent information from the project. The project will contribute on a regular basis with case studies, successes and challenges faced by the implementation team and learning from experience.

159. The close involvement of government institutions and departments in the project's development and implementation indicates considerable potential for future incorporation of the project's approaches into ongoing planning and strategies. Additionally, it is expected that the strengthening of capacities among key government stakeholders will enable continued mainstreaming of climate considerations into sectoral planning and decision-making.

160. Furthermore, the extensive training and capacity building of local communities and technical staff regarding adaptation measures will ensure that future endeavors within Afghanistan are climate-resilient as demonstrated in this project. In so doing, project interventions will be ensured into the future and are more likely to be replicated and/or upscaled. This will be facilitated by the analysis of the effectiveness of adaptation interventions undertaken through the LDCF project, and the development of lessons learned and manuals for relevant activities.

2.9 Stakeholder involvement plan

161. Stakeholder consultation has been a key feature in the design of this LDCF proposal, and stakeholders have been involved in identifying and prioritizing the proposed intervention activities. The stakeholder consultation during project implementation will be expected to support all outcomes. Overall, the objective of the consultation plan is to provide a framework to guide and promote two way engagements between the key implementing partners (MAIL, provincial offices of MAIL, NEPA and MRRD) and the key stakeholders with whom the project will engage and directly impact.

162. Details of the stakeholder engagement during the preparatory phase were provided in Section 2.1.3 above. A Stakeholder Involvement Plan has been developed (Annex IV) that outlines some of the key consultation principles and processes at a strategic level that will need to be translated into practical action during the project implementation. It provides guidance based on the initial stakeholder analysis, conducted as part of the project preparation process, and the consultations so far. This can be used to define exact activities in consultation with the Project Board and Project Manager during the inception period of implementation.

4. Project Results Framework

This project will contribute to achieving the following Country Programme Outcome as defined in CPAP or CPD:

Output 5.1: Government capacity to develop policies to manage natural resources enhanced

Output 5.2: Sub-national institutions and communities are able to promote environmental protection and use natural resources responsibly

Output 5.3: Government and communities have better capacity for disaster risk reduction

Country Programme Outcome Indicators:

5.1.1. Indicator: Number of policy formulation initiatives led by the Government using in-house capacity.

5.2.1 Indicator: Number of clients received off-farm services (post harvest technology, market oriented infrastructure, and farm-to-market access)

5.3.1. Indicator: Sound environment and natural resource management policies and strategies are being implemented and mainstreamed into development plans at the national and sub-national levels.

Primary applicable Key Environment and Sustainable Development Key Result Area (same as that on the cover page, circle one): 1. Mainstreaming environment and energy OR 2. Catalyzing environmental finance OR 3. Promote climate change adaptation OR 4. Expanding access to environmental and energy services for the poor.

Applicable SOF (e.g. GEF) Strategic Objective and Program:

Objective 1 : Increase adaptive capacity to respond to the impacts of climate change, including variability, at local, national, regional and global level

Applicable SOF (e.g. GEF) Expected Outcomes:

Outcome 2.2: Strengthened adaptive capacity to reduce risks to climate-induced economic losses

Applicable SOF (e.g. GEF) Outcome Indicators:

- Incorporating climate information, warning, and climate change projections into DRM plans, policies and programmes
- Strengthening stakeholder comprehension, particularly those most vulnerable, of alerts and climate information
- Sustaining technical and operational capacities and the availability of skills and resources beyond the project lifetime

	Indicator	Baseline	Targets End of Project	Source of verification	Risks and Assumptions
Project Objective[6] Strengthening the resilience of rural livelihood options for Afghan communities in Panjshir, Balkh, Uruzgan and Herat Provinces to manage climate change-	1.Capacity of MAIL as per capacity assessment scorecard (baseline: 3; target: 4[7]) 2. Domestic finance committed to the relevant institutions to integrate climate	3 Minimal	To achieve the Capacity Scorecard score of 4 Domestic target financing is $10 million per year	Capacity Scorecard results Focus group interviews with planning and subject matter specialists	Deterioration of security situation in project sites. Unavailability of requisite human resources and data

[6] *Objective (Atlas output) monitored quarterly ERBM and annually in APR/PIR*

[7] *On a scale of 1 to 5, with: 1 = No evidence of capacity; 2 = Anecdotal evidence of capacity; 3 = Partially developed capacity; 4 = Widespread, but not comprehensive capacity; and 5 = Fully developed capacity.*

induced disaster risks	change information in development planning			MAIL institutions plans and related budgets Field Surveys and climate vulnerability analyses	
Outcome 1[8] Climate change risk and variability integrated into local planning and budgeting processes	Amount of budget allocated specifically for climate change adaptation measures in development plans at the provincial level and community development plans (CDCs) Extent to which climate change information and adaptation measures are incorporated into MAIL local development plans in 4 provinces Number of climate change scenarios developed for the agriculture sector in selected provinces Number of MAIL	Capacity for climate-related analysis and forward planning is limited at national and sub-national level. Institutional capacity for cross-sectoral climate change planning is negligible 0 0	By end of project, 15 communities and 4 provincial task teams have been trained in and use climate related vulnerability and risk assessments in an integrated area-based planning approach. Climate resilient investment strategies based on integrated climate resilient development plans are in place and attracting funding. 4 climate change scenarios developed At least 250 MAIL officials,	Training records, CCA capacity scorecard assessment, area-based integrated climate change adaptation plans at community and provincial level Sub-national climate resilience plans and investment strategies Partnership agreements for adaptation investments	Limited capacity within relevant ministries/insufficient qualified human capacity. Insufficient institutional support and political commitments

[8] *All outcomes monitored annually in the APR/PIR. It is highly recommended not to have more than 4 outcomes.*

	officials, farmers, and pastoralists trained on climate risk information and appropriate response measures		farmers, and pastoralists trained		
Outcome 2 Rural income and livelihood opportunities for vulnerable communities enhanced and diversified	Percentage of project beneficiaries surveyed reporting to gain an increase in personal monthly income at least by 30% Percentage of beneficiaries' households that engage in more than two climate proof livelihoods opportunities Number of women trained on alternative livelihoods to farming Number of rural entrepreneurs and SMEs trained in business development for handicrafts and small-scale manufacturing	Women and Farmers currently constrained by limited access to and knowledge of diversified livelihood opportunities. Currently there is a lack of access to training, markets, raw materials and financing. 0 0	By the end of the project, 800 women and over 30 SMEs have been trained in and tested alternative livelihoods options, of which 35% have adopted them permanently. By the end of the project local administration task teams are able to deliver livelihood diversification support to women and SMEs At least 800 women trained 50 rural entrepreneurs and 30 SMEs trained in business development	Gender disaggregated community survey; community level vulnerability reduction assessment CCA Capacity assessment, evidence of training and demonstration of knowledge transfers	Poor provincial responses to the leadership role from MAIL Extreme climate events such as floods and droughts could disrupt project activities and/or damage ecosystems and infrastructure.

	Number of hectares of degraded rangelands planted with stress resistant seedling varieties	0	2,000 hectares of degraded rangelands rehabilitated		
Outcome 3 Productive infrastructure improvements	Crop productivity level from irrigated agriculture (X tons of crops per hectare) Amount of crops and livelihoods assets damaged by floods or drought in the targeted areas	Very limited capacity for applying climate resilient agriculture Informal coping strategies are in use in target areas, no formal infrastructure risk reducing/insurance approaches yet in place due to lack of knowledge and hazard information in target areas	By the end of the project, climate resilient agricultural production has increased by 10% in target areas compared to baseline (1t/ha maize) adjusted for rainfall. By the end of the project at least 25% agricultural infrastructure in the target communities is improved to insure against the inherent uncertainty of climate change	Records of micro-irrigation department (MAIL) Local climate / hazard data made available. Community level vulnerability reduction assessments. Agriculture Bureau statistics.	Work progresses in a compartmentalized fashion and there is little integration e.g. government departments refuse to share data and information Extreme climate events such as floods and droughts could disrupt project activities and/or damage ecosystems and infrastructure.
	Number of small-scale storage reservoirs built in selected river sub-basins	0	12 small-scale storage reservoirs built		
	Number of communities where micro-water harvesting techniques are introduced	0	Micro-water harvesting techniques introduced in 12 communities		
	Number of karezes and canals improved and rehabilitated to reduce water losses	0	20 karezes and canals improved and rehabilitated		

	Number of check dams, contour bunds and other facilities built to conserve water and enhance groundwater recharge	0	At least 20 check dams, contour bunds, and other facilities built		

5. Total budget and workplan

Award ID:	00076056	Project ID(s):	00087639
Award Title:	Afghanistan: Strengthening the resilience of rural livelihood options		
Business Unit:	AFG10		
Project Title:	Strengthening the resilience of rural livelihood options for Afghan communities in Panjshir, Balkh, Uruzgan and Herat Provinces to manage climate change-induced disaster risks		
PIMS no.	5098		
Implementing Partner (Executing Agency)	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL)		

SOF (e.g. GEF) Outcome/Atlas Activity	Responsible Party/ Implementing Agent	Fund ID	Donor Name	Atlas Budgetary Account Code	ATLAS Budget Description	Amount Year 1 ($)	Amount Year 2 ($)	Amount Year 3 ($)	Amount Year 4 ($)	Amount Year 5 ($)	Total ($)	See Budget Note:
OUTCOME 1: Climate change risk and variability integrated into local planning and budgeting processes	**Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock**	**62160**	**LDCF**	71200	International Consultants	71,500	89,500	110,500	44,000	44,000	359,500	1
				71300	Local Consultants	52,500	75,000	96,500	30,000	30,000	284,000	2
				71400	Contractual services - Individuals	22,500	25,500	25,000	21,500	14,000	108,500	3
				72100	Contractual services - Companies	18,000	21,000	25,000	25,000	21,000	110,000	4
				75700	Training, Workshop and Conferences	40,000	45,000	45,000	30,000	30,000	190,000	5
				71600	Travel	35,000	35,000	35,000	25,000	25,000	155,000	6
				74200	Audio Visual and Print Prod Costs	10,000	15,000	50,000	15,000	15,000	105,000	7
					sub-total LDCF	**249,500**	**306,000**	**387,000**	**190,500**	**179,000**	**1,312,000**	
		04000	**UNDP**	71400	Contractual services - Individuals	25,500	35,000	35,000	25,000	20,000	140,500	a
					sub-total UNDP	**25,500**	**35,000**	**35,000**	**25,000**	**20,000**	**140,500**	
					Total Outcome 1	**275,000**	**341,000**	**422,000**	**215,500**	**199,000**	**1,452,500**	
OUTCOME 2:	**Ministry of Agriculture,**	**62160**	**LDCF**	71200	International Consultants	22,000	33,000	33,000	22,000	22,000	132,000	8
				71300	Local Consultants	22,500	22,500	22,500	22,500	22,500	112,500	9

Rural income and livelihood opportunities for vulnerable communities enhanced and diversified	**Irrigation and Livestock**			71400	Contractual services - Individuals	60,000	70,000	75,000	75,000	60,000	340,000	10
				72100	Contractual services - Companies	155,000	320,000	450,000	315,000	184,500	1,424,500	11
				75700	Training, Workshop and Conferences	30,000	320,000	35,000	30,000	25,000	440,000	12
				71600	Travel	25,000	25,000	25,000	22,000	20,000	117,000	13
				74200	Audio Visual and Print Prod Costs	7,000	15,000	14,000	11,000	12,000	59,000	14
				72500	Office supplies	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	15,000	15
					sub-total LDCF	**324,500**	**808,500**	**657,500**	**500,500**	**349,000**	**2,640,000**	
		04000	**UNDP**	71400	Contractual services - Individuals	53,000	65,000	65,000	60,000	50,000	293,000	a
					sub-total UNDP	**53,000**	**65,000**	**65,000**	**60,000**	**50,000**	**293,000**	
					Total Outcome 2	**377,500**	**873,500**	**722,500**	**560,500**	**399,000**	**2,933,000**	
OUTCOME 3: Productive irrigation infrastructure improvements	**Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock**	**62160**	**LDCF**	71200	International Consultants	13,000	11,000	5,000	0	11,000	40,000	16
				71300	Local Consultants	11,000	16,500	16,500	11,500	11,000	66,500	17
				71400	Contractual services - Individuals	35,000	45,000	65,000	50,000	35,000	230,000	18
				72100	Contractual services - Companies	350,000	770,000	1,142,500	739,000	630,000	3,631,500	19
				75700	Training, Workshop and Conferences	65,000	75,000	80,000	70,000	60,000	350,000	20
				71600	Travel	26,500	32,000	38,000	35,000	25,000	156,500	21
				74200	Audio Visual and Print Prod Costs	5,000	7,000	10,000	5,000	5,000	32,000	22
				72500	Office supplies	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	15,000	23
					sub-total LDCF	**508,500**	**959,500**	**1,360,000**	**913,500**	**780,000**	**4,521,500**	
		04000	**UNDP**	71400	Contractual services - Individuals	90,500	115,000	115,000	105,000	91,000	516,500	a
					sub-total UNDP	**90,500**	**115,000**	**115,000**	**105,000**	**91,000**	**516,500**	
					Total Outcome 3	**599,000**	**1,074,500**	**1,475,000**	**1,018,500**	**871,000**	**5,038,000**	
MONITORING, LEARNING, ADAPTIVE FEEDBACK & EVALUATION	**UNDP**	**62160**	**LDCF**	71200	International Consultants	8,500	0	19,500	0	19,500	47,500	24
				71300	Local Consultants	5,500	5,500	5,500	5,500	5,500	27,500	25
				74100	Professional Services	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	15,000	26
				71600	Travel	3,100	1,100	3,100	1,100	3,100	11,500	27
					sub-total LDCF	**20,100**	**9,600**	**31,100**	**9,600**	**31,100**	**101,500**	

					Total M&E	**20,100**	**9,600**	**31,100**	**9,600**	**31,100**	**101,500**	
PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT	**Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock**	**62160**	**LDCF**	71300	Local Consultants	47,000	61,000	61,000	61,000	48,632	278,632	28
				71600	Travel	10,500	12,000	12,000	11,000	10,500	56,000	29
				72500	Office Supplies	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	15,000	30
				74500	UNDP cost recovery charges and misc. office expenses	13,000	17,000	17,000	17,000	11,368	75,368	31
					sub-total LDCF	**73,500**	**93,000**	**93,000**	**92,000**	**73,500**	**425,000**	
		04000	**UNDP**	71300	Local Consultants	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	50,000	b
					sub-total UNDP	**10,000**	**10,000**	**10,000**	**10,000**	**10,000**	**50,000**	
					Total Management	**83,500**	**103,000**	**103,000**	**102,000**	**83,500**	**475,000**	
					TOTAL FOR LDCF	**1,176,100**	**2,176,600**	**2,528,600**	**1,706,100**	**1,412,600**	**9,000,000**	
					TOTAL FOR UNDP	**179,000**	**225,000**	**225,000**	**200,000**	**171,000**	**1,000,000**	
					PROJECT TOTAL	**1,355,100**	**2,401,600**	**2,753,600**	**1,906,100**	**1,583,600**	**10,000,000**	

Budget Note	Description of cost item
Outcome 1	
1	International expertise for training and capacity development of Afghan authorities for climate change risk and variability for local planning. The first outcome will require most of the international expertise, for the development of climate change scenarios for the agriculture sector in the target provinces and the climate proofing of community development plans. The first three years are planned to have more days for the international consultants as this is when the capacity development is mostly going to take place. This includes a total approximately 700 days over five years @ 500 $ per day, + 188 DSA + flight and visas.
2	National experts for the support of the training and capacity development in climate change technical knowledge and integrating climate change in development plans. This includes a total approximately 1050 days over five years @ 250 $ per day plus incidentals.
3	Project technical and programmatic support in all the four provinces
4	Expertise cost of training and capacity development of Afghan experts and development planners in institutions like the MAIL, MRRD, NEPA, MEW, as well as at province and district levels over the five years including the development of climate change scenarios for the agricultural sector in the four provinces and climate proofing of community development plans.
5	Operational costs of training and workshops for at least 250 officials at the MAIL, MRRD, NEPA, MEW, as well as at province and district levels over the five years. This will include training for farmers and community development planners on climate change risks and variability.
6	Consultant travel, travel to project sites and workshops
7	Costs of awareness and sensitisation output, covering information briefs on climate change, lessons learned and good practices and dissemination costs
Outcome 2	

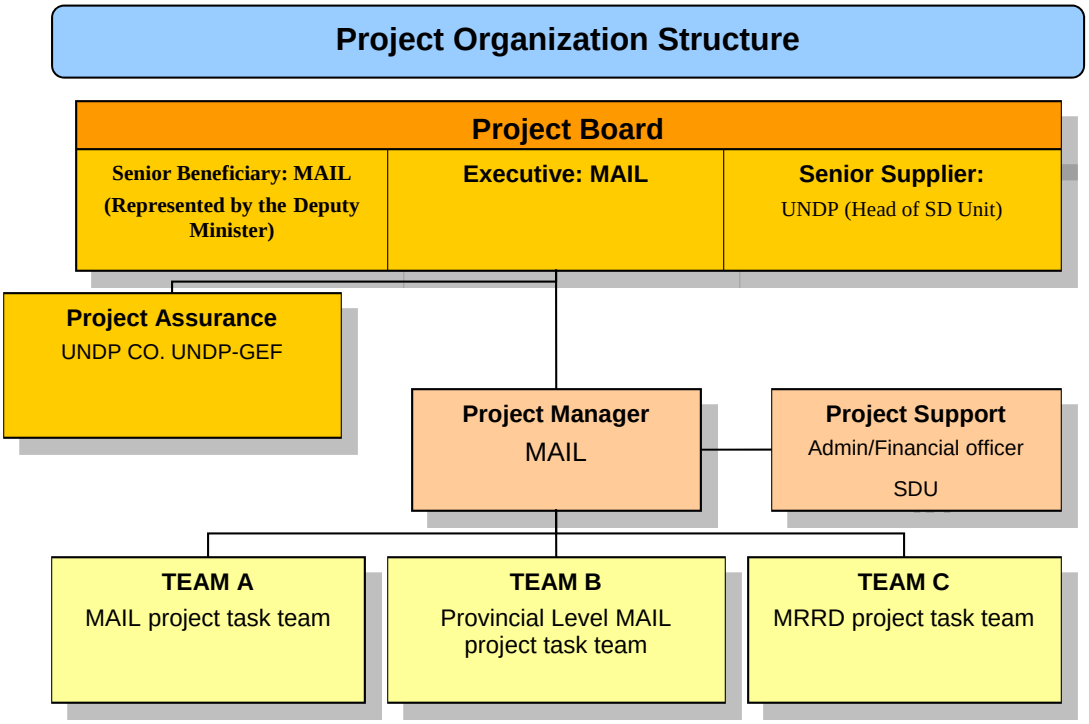
8	International expertise for the development of alternative livelihood options and strategies, market surveys, backward and forward linkages, micro finance and women empowerment. Additionally, the international expertise will be required for programmatic guidance in the development and support to SMEs and small rural entrepreneurs. Finally advice and support for the best practices in rangeland rehabilitation will be sought. This includes a total of around 250 days over five years @ 500 $ per day, + 188 DSA + flight and visas.
9	National expertise for the support of the development of alternative livelihood options and strategies, market surveys, backward and forward linkages, micro finance and women empowerment. National expertise will also be required for programmatic guidance in the development and support to SMEs and small rural entrepreneurs, and rangeland rehabilitation strategies to maximise effectiveness and survival rates. This includes a total approximately 450 days over five years @ 250 $ per day plus incidentals.
10	Project technical and programmatic support in all the four provinces. Expertise from international and national institutions on livelihoods enhancement and support, nest practices and lessons learned.
11	Cost of livelihood diversification, support to the formation of women self-help groups, SMEs and rural entrepreneurs in the form of market surveys, marketing, provision of start-up funds and rangeland rehabilitation over five years.
12	Cost of training of at least 800 poor rural women dependent on subsistence agriculture, and around 60 SMEs and rural entrepreneurs for the development of small businesses resilient to climate changes, business planning, accounting, book keeping, stock keeping and marketing. Additionally cost of capacity development for rangeland rehabilitation and maintenance over five years.
13	Consultant travel, travel to project sites and workshops
14	Costs of awareness and sensitisation output, covering information briefs on climate change, lessons learned and good practices and dissemination costs
15	Running costs for on-going programmatic and technical support of the project task team both at the national and local levels.
Outcome 3	
16	International expertise for the technical support and guidance in best practices for improvements of productive infrastructure, such as building of reservoirs, lining of canals, rehabilitation of karezes and construction of check dams and flood control walls. This includes a total of around 70 days over five years @ 500 $ per day, + 188 DSA + flight and visas.
17	National expertise for the technical support and oversight for improvements of productive infrastructure, such as building of reservoirs, lining of canals, rehabilitation of karezes and construction of check dams and flood control walls. This will include guidance and engineering expertise in developing detailed plans and bill of quantities. This includes a total approximately 120 days over five years @ 250 $ per day plus incidentals.
18	Project technical and programmatic support in all the four provinces. Expertise from international and national centres of excellence on irrigation management in desert and mountainous areas, disaster risk reduction and water management.
19	Cost of construction and rehabilitation of irrigation and productive infrastructure, including check dams, reservoirs, canal lining, karezes rehabilitation, flood control walls and water harvesting structures all four provinces over five years. This will include the cost of creating water user associations and management mechanism for irrigation and water management.
20	Cost of training and capacity building for rural communities involving in water management such as water user associations. This will include transferring of operating equipment, creation of convening locations and exposure visits in and outside of the country.
21	Consultant travel, travel to project sites and workshops
22	Costs of awareness and sensitisation output, covering information briefs on climate change, lessons learned and good practices and dissemination costs
23	Running costs for on-going programmatic and technical support of the project task team both at the national and local levels.
M&E	
24	International Monitoring and Evaluation Consultant
25	National Monitoring and Evaluation Consultant
26	This is to cover yearly audit expenses

27	Consultant travel to project sites and stakeholder consultations as part of monitoring and evaluation processes.
PMC	
28	Cost of Project Manager, Technical and Administrative support staff for 5 years (national hire)
29	Project task team travel, travel to project sites and workshops
30	Project management unit office supplies such as computers, printers, stationeries and running costs
31	Estimated UNDP direct project service / cost recovery charges for the following services requested by MAIL, as indicated in the Letter of Agreement in Annex II of the Project Document. Recruitment of an international consultant = $8,623.83; contractual service for 4 individual contracts = $2,710.36; procurement services to hire a company/university = $10,474.80; procurement services to hire a construction company = $18,779; recruitment of six local consultants = $10,501.38; and travel = $24,278.40.
a	Project technical and programmatic support in all the four provinces. Expertise from international and national centres of excellence on irrigation management in desert and mountainous areas, disaster risk reduction and water management.
b	Cost of Project Manager, Technical and Administrative support staff for 5 years (national hire)

5. Management Arrangements

163. UNDP's National Implementation Modality (NIM) will be applied for this LDCF project. The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) will be the Implementing Partner and will appoint a project task team (paid for by LDCF resources) to coordinate operations and manage the project. The Responsible Parties will be the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), the Ministry of Energy and Water (MEW), the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) and their provincial and district level offices in four provinces of Afghanistan. Implementation oversight at the country level will be provided by the UNDP Afghanistan Sustainable Development Unit, supported at the regional and global level by UNDP-GEF.

Figure 2: Proposed Project Operational Structure



164. A Project Board (PB) will be established to provide direction to the IP comprising of national and sub-national representatives. The PB will be chaired by the MAIL. The PB will convene annually to discuss project progress and approve annual work plans. The PB will comprise MAIL, NEPA, MRRD, MEW, UNDP, Provincial representatives of MAIL and MRRD, Kabul University. Other representatives from relevant Ministries may be represented on the Project Board: this will be determined at the inaugural meeting of the PB during the project inception period. It is proposed that UNDP co-chair the PB. The Project Manager will be an ex officio member of PB responsible for taking minutes. Potential members of the Project Board are reviewed and recommended for approval during the PAC meeting. Representatives of other stakeholders can be included in the Board as appropriate. The proposed roles of the project structure are outlined below:

165. **Project Board** is responsible for making management decisions for a project in particular when guidance is required by the Project Manager. The Project Board plays a critical role in project monitoring and evaluations by quality assuring these processes and products, and using evaluations for performance improvement, accountability and learning. It ensures that required resources are committed and arbitrates on any conflicts within the project or negotiates a solution to any problems with external bodies. In addition, it approves the appointment and responsibilities of the Project Manager and any delegation of its Project Assurance responsibilities. Based on the approved Annual Work Plan, the Project Board can also consider and approve the quarterly plans (if applicable) and also approve any essential deviations from the original plans.

166. In order to ensure UNDP's ultimate accountability for the project results, Project Board decisions will be made in accordance to standards that shall ensure management for development results, best value money, fairness, integrity, transparency and effective international competition. In case consensus cannot be reached within the Board, the final decision shall rest with the UNDP Project Manager. Potential members of the Project Board are reviewed and recommended for approval during the PAC meeting. Representatives of other stakeholders can be included in the Board as appropriate. The Board contains three distinct roles, including:

1) **An Executive**: individual representing the project ownership to chair the group. This will be done by the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, Afghanistan, Director UNDP Projects as the representative of the Government Cooperating Agency.
2) **Senior Supplier**: individual or group representing the interests of the parties concerned which provide funding for specific cost sharing projects and/or technical expertise to the project. The Senior Supplier's primary function within the Board is to provide guidance regarding the technical feasibility of the project. This will be done by a representative of UNDP, in this case the Head of the Sustainable Development Unit, in the UNDP CO
3) **Senior Beneficiary**: individual or group of individuals representing the interests of those who will ultimately benefit from the project. The Senior Beneficiary's primary function within the Board is to ensure the realization of project results from the perspective of project beneficiaries. This will be done by a representative of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, in this case the Deputy Minister
4) The **Project Assurance** role supports the Project Board Executive by carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions. The Project Manager and Project Assurance roles should never be held by the same individual for the same project. This will be done by the Head of the Sustainable Development Unit, in the UNDP CO, and UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Advisor

167. **Project Manager**: The Project Manager has the authority to run the project on a day-to-day basis on behalf of the Implementing Partner within the constraints laid down by the Board. The Project Manager's prime responsibility is to ensure that the project produces the results specified in the project document, to the required standard of quality and within the specified constraints of time and cost.

168. **Project Support**: The Project Support role provides project administration, management and technical support to the Project Manager as required by the needs of the individual project or Project Manager.

169. To ensure delivery of the project and to support the MAIL, a project task team will be embedded in the MAIL at the national level (in Kabul) and will act as a project implementation team. This project task team will be made of Project Manager, Technical Advisors for Livelihood and Irrigation Infrastructure, and an administrative officer. The project will also recruit a project task team at the

provincial level to assist with local coordination and implementation. This team will be made of project coordinator, a technical assistant and an administrative/financial officer. The team will play a catalytic role at the provincial level to ensure delivery of the project outputs and activities and will be supervised by the Project Manager and his team at the national level.

6. Monitoring Framework and Evaluation

170. The project will be monitored through the following M& E activities. The M&E budget is provided in the table below. The M&E framework set out in the Project Results Framework in Part III of this project document is aligned with the AMAT and UNDP M&E frameworks.

Project start

171. A Project Inception Workshop will be held within the first 2 months of project start with those with assigned roles in the project organization structure, UNDP country office and where appropriate/feasible regional technical policy and program advisors as well as other stakeholders. The Inception Workshop is crucial to building ownership for the project results and to plan the first year annual work plan.

The Inception Workshop should address a number of key issues including:

- Assist all partners to fully understand and take ownership of the project. Detail the roles, support services and complementary responsibilities of UNDP CO and RCU staff vis-à-vis the project team. Discuss the roles, functions, and responsibilities within the project's decision-making structures, including reporting and communication lines, and conflict resolution mechanisms. The Terms of Reference for project staff will be discussed again as needed.
- Based on the project results framework and the LDCF related AMAT set out in the Project Results Framework in Section III of this project document, and finalize the first annual work plan. Review and agree on the indicators, targets and their means of verification, and recheck assumptions and risks.
- Provide a detailed overview of reporting, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) requirements. The Monitoring and Evaluation work plan and budget should be agreed and scheduled.
- Discuss financial reporting procedures and obligations, and arrangements for annual audit.
- Plan and schedule PB meetings. Roles and responsibilities of all project organization structures should be clarified and meetings planned. The first PB meeting should be held within the first 12 months following the inception workshop.

An Inception Workshop report is a key reference document and must be prepared and shared with participants to formalize various agreements and plans decided during the meeting.

172. Quarterly:

- Progress made shall be monitored in the UNDP Enhanced Results Based Management Platform.
- Based on the initial risk analysis submitted, the risk log shall be regularly updated in ATLAS. Risks become critical when the impact and probability are high. Note that for UNDP/GEF projects, all financial risks associated with financial instruments such as revolving funds, microfinance schemes, or capitalization of ESCOs are automatically classified as critical on the basis of their innovative nature (high impact and uncertainty due to no previous experience justifies classification as critical).
- Based on the information recorded in Atlas, a Project Progress Reports (PPR) can be generated in the Executive Snapshot.
- Other ATLAS logs will be used to monitor issues, lessons learned. The use of these functions is a key indicator in the UNDP Executive Balanced Scorecard.

173. Annually: Annual Project Review/Project Implementation Reports (APR/PIR): This key report is prepared to monitor progress made since project start and in particular for the previous reporting period (30 June to 1 July). The APR/PIR combines both UNDP and GEF reporting requirements.

The APR/PIR includes, but is not limited to, reporting on the following:

- Progress made toward project objective and project outcomes - each with indicators, baseline data and end-of-project targets (cumulative)
- Project outputs delivered per project outcome (annual).
- Lesson learned/good practice.
- AWP and other expenditure reports
- Risk and adaptive management
- ATLAS QPR

174. Periodic Monitoring through site visits: UNDP CO and the UNDP-GEF region-based staff will conduct visits to project sites based on the agreed schedule in the project's Inception Report/Annual Work Plan to assess first hand project progress. Other members of the Project Board may also join these visits. A Field Visit Report/BTOR will be prepared by the CO and UNDP RCU and will be circulated no less than one month after the visit to the project team and Project Board members.

Mid-term of project cycle:

175. The project will undergo an independent Mid-Term Review at the mid-point of project implementation. The Mid-Term Review will determine progress being made toward the achievement of outcomes and will identify course correction if needed. It will focus on the effectiveness, efficiency and timeliness of project implementation; will highlight issues requiring decisions and actions; and will present initial lessons learned about project design, implementation and management. Findings of this review will be incorporated as recommendations for enhanced implementation during the final half of the project's term. The organization, terms of reference and timing of the mid-term review will be decided after consultation between the parties to the project document. The Terms of Reference for this Mid-term review will be prepared by the UNDP CO based on guidance from the Regional Coordinating Unit and UNDP-GEF. The LDFC/SCCF AMAT as set out in the Project Results Framework in Section III of this project document) will also be completed during the mid-term evaluation cycle.

End of Project

176. An independent Terminal Evaluation will take place three months prior to the final PB meeting and will be undertaken in accordance with UNDP-GEF guidance. The terminal evaluation will focus on the delivery of the project's results as initially planned (and as corrected after the mid-term review, if any such correction took place). The terminal evaluation will look at impact and sustainability of results, including the contribution to capacity development and the achievement of global environmental benefits/goals. The Terms of Reference for this evaluation will be prepared by the UNDP CO based on guidance from the Regional Coordinating Unit and UNDP-GEF. The LDFC/SCCF AMAT as set out in the Project Results Framework in Section III of this project document) will also be completed during the terminal evaluation cycle. The Terminal Evaluation should also provide recommendations for follow-up activities and requires a management response, which should be uploaded to PIMS and to the UNDP Evaluation Office Evaluation Resource Center (ERC).

Learning and knowledge sharing:

177. Results from the project will be disseminated within and beyond the project intervention zone through existing information sharing networks and forums.

178. The project will identify and participate, as relevant and appropriate, in scientific, policy based and/or any other networks, which may be of benefit to project implementation though lessons learned. The project will identify, analyze, and share lessons learned that might be beneficial in the design and implementation of similar future projects.

179. There will be a two-way flow of information between this project and other projects of a similar focus. At the validation workshop a participant representing USAID mentioned the importance of focusing on monitoring and on food insecure areas. This will be done and is included in the monitoring plan.

180. Audit: The audit will be conducted according to UNDP financial regulations, rules and audit policies by the legally recognized auditor of the Government, or by a commercial auditor engaged by the Government.

Communications and visibility requirements:

181. Full compliance is required with UNDP's Branding Guidelines. These can be accessed at http://intra.undp.org/coa/branding.shtml, and specific guidelines on UNDP logo use can be accessed at: http://intra.undp.org/branding/useOfLogo.html. Amongst other things, these guidelines describe when and how the UNDP logo needs to be used, as well as how the logos of donors to UNDP projects needs to be used. For the avoidance of any doubt, when logo use is required, the UNDP logo needs to be used alongside the GEF logo. The GEF logo can be accessed at: http://www.thegef.org/gef/GEF_logo. The UNDP logo can be accessed at http://intra.undp.org/coa/branding.shtml.

182. Full compliance is also required with the GEF's Communication and Visibility Guidelines (the "GEF Guidelines"). The GEF Guidelines can be accessed at: http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/C.40.08_Branding_the_GEF%20final_0.pdf. Amongst other things, the GEF Guidelines describe when and how the GEF logo needs to be used in project publications, vehicles, supplies and other project equipment. The GEF Guidelines also describe other GEF promotional requirements regarding press releases, press conferences, press visits, visits by Government officials, productions and other promotional items.

183. Where other agencies and project partners have provided support through co-financing, their branding policies and requirements should be similarly applied.

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget US$ *Excluding project team staff time*	Time frame
Inception Workshop and Report	▪ Project Manager (MEE) ▪ PIU ▪ UNDP CO, UNDP GEF	Indicative cost: 10,000	Within first two months of project start up
Measurement of Means of Verification of project results.	▪ UNDP GEF RTA/Project Manager will oversee the hiring of specific studies and institutions, and delegate responsibilities to relevant team members. ▪ PIU, esp. M&E expert	To be finalized in Inception Phase and Workshop.	Start, mid and end of project (during evaluation cycle) and annually when required.
Measurement of Means of Verification for Project Progress on *output and implementation*	▪ Oversight by Project Manager (MEE) ▪ PIU, esp. M&E expert ▪ Implementation teams	To be determined as part of the Annual Work Plan's preparation.	Annually prior to ARR/PIR and to the definition of annual work plans
ARR/PIR	▪ Project manager (MEE) ▪ PIU ▪ UNDP CO ▪ UNDP RTA ▪ UNDP EEG	None	Annually
Periodic status/ progress reports	▪ Project manager and team	None	Quarterly
Mid-term Review	▪ Project manager (MEE) ▪ PIU ▪ UNDP CO ▪ UNDP RCU ▪ External Consultants (i.e. evaluation team)	Indicative cost: 31,500	At the mid-point of project implementation.
Terminal Evaluation	▪ Project manager (MEE) ▪ PIU ▪ UNDP CO ▪ UNDP RCU ▪ External Consultants (i.e. evaluation team)	Indicative cost: 45,000	At least three months before the end of project implementation
Audit	▪ UNDP CO ▪ Project manager (MEE) ▪ PIU	Indicative cost per year: 3,000 (15,000 total)	Yearly
Visits to field sites	▪ UNDP CO ▪ UNDP RCU (as appropriate) ▪ Government representatives	For GEF supported projects, paid from IA fees and operational budget	Yearly for UNDP CO, as required by UNDP RCU

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget US$ *Excluding project team staff time*	Time frame
TOTAL indicative COST Excluding project team staff time and UNDP staff and travel expenses		US$ 101,500	

7. Legal Context

This document together with the CPAP signed by the Government and UNDP which is incorporated by reference constitute together a Project Document as referred to in the SBAA [or other appropriate governing agreement] and all CPAP provisions apply to this document.

Consistent with the Article III of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement, the responsibility for the safety and security of the implementing partner and its personnel and property, and of UNDP's property in the implementing partner's custody, rests with the implementing partner.

The implementing partner shall:

a) put in place an appropriate security plan and maintain the security plan, taking into account the security situation in the country where the project is being carried;
b) assume all risks and liabilities related to the implementing partner's security, and the full implementation of the security plan.

UNDP reserves the right to verify whether such a plan is in place, and to suggest modifications to the plan when necessary. Failure to maintain and implement an appropriate security plan as required hereunder shall be deemed a breach of this agreement.

The implementing partner agrees to undertake all reasonable efforts to ensure that none of the UNDP funds received pursuant to the Project Document are used to provide support to individuals or entities associated with terrorism and that the recipients of any amounts provided by UNDP hereunder do not appear on the list maintained by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999). The list can be accessed via http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/committees/1267/1267ListEng.htm. This provision must be included in all sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered into under this Project Document.

8. Annexes

Annex I. Risk Analysis

#	Description of the risk	Potential consequence	Countermeasures / Mgmt response	Type (Risk category)	Probability & Impact (1-5)	Owner	Submitted, updated by	Last Update	Status
1	Deterioration of security situation in project sites.	• Increased restrictions on movements for UN experts. • Reduced availability of international experts for short-term contracts. • Higher costs towards increasing security measures for the project personnel • Potential increase in the time taken to implement project	Preference has been given in site selection stable sites, and communities with a good working relationship with UNDP, MAIL and implementing organizations. Strong participatory stakeholder consultations have been undertaken to ensure reasonable expectations and to clarify roles/responsibilities. Continual engagement with local political structures (shuras, community leaders, CDCs) by the Implementing Agency will enhance security and community ownership. Local authorities and community development organizations are given more project responsibility. There will be a stronger focus on permanent experts, MAIL national staff structures and permanent UNDP staff, using short-term experts to facilitate crucial undertakings, and to assist in the building of local capacity.	Political	P=4 I=4	UNDP CO	UNDP CO		

#	Description of the risk	Potential consequence	Countermeasures / Mgmt response	Type (Risk category)	Probability & Impact (1-5)	Owner	Submitted, updated by	Last Update	Status
			It is possible to extend the project duration in order to allow project activities to reach fruition despite political instability.						
2	Unavailability of requisite human resources and data	• Implementation is limited and delayed • Threat to successful project implementation	The issue of the unavailability of requisite human resources will be mitigated by recruitment of international consultants who will work closely with in-country counterparts (MAIL) and by targeted capacity building activities. Training activities of local personnel will also be part of all aspects of the work and the relevant institutions will be encouraged to expand the staff base if it is weak in particular areas.	Political and organizational	P=2 I=4				
3	Work progresses in a compartmentalized fashion and there is little integration e.g. government departments refuse to share data and information	• Limits the successful implementation of the project and its outcomes	This risk is always present in a project such as this. By ensuring that capacity is built across a range of departments and implementing 'quick win' measures early, these issues can be mitigated.	Political and strategic	P=2 I=4				
4	Extreme climate events such as floods and droughts could disrupt project activities and/or damage ecosystems and infrastructure.	• Reduced effectiveness of project interventions. • Potential damage to baseline project	Coordination will be undertaken with partners such as ANDMA for disaster response in order to ensure that disaster relief interventions are also directed towards demonstration sites impacted by extreme climatic events.	Political	P=2 I=4				

#	Description of the risk	Potential consequence	Countermeasures / Mgmt response	Type (Risk category)	Probability & Impact (1-5)	Owner	Submitted, updated by	Last Update	Status
			Appropriate species will be used for project interventions in order to minimise the potential impacts in the medium and long-term. Where damage occurs before ecosystem management adaptation approaches can reduce the impacts of extreme events, supplementary infrastructural approaches and planting will be undertaken. After suitable review, the project implementation period could be extended in order to facilitate the establishment of ecosystem management adaptation measures.						
5	Limited capacity within relevant ministries/insufficient qualified human capacity.	• May limit/delay project implementation/completion.	A major part of the project aims to strengthen institutional and technical capacity for planning, designing and implementing local level adaptation actions. Technical and capacity building expertise will be contracted in, to work with and train local technical staff. A dedicated Project Manager will be assisted with short term national and international specialist support to ensure smooth and timely delivery of project outputs.	Organizational and financial	P=3 I=3				
6	Insufficient institutional support and political commitments	• Endangered project sustainability	The proposed project is strongly supported by Government Institutions and other key stakeholders and development	Political, strategic	P=3 I=2				

#	Description of the risk	Potential consequence	Countermeasures / Mgmt response	Type (Risk category)	Probability & Impact (1-5)	Owner	Submitted, updated by	Last Update	Status
			partners. The project, in conjunction with UNDP, will therefore take advantage of this opportunity to seek substantial support from the Ministries and forge strong partnership with other development partners. Direct linkages to existing and planned baseline development activities implemented by the government, securing of the necessary co-financing, as well as local buy-in will also minimize this risk. It will also be important to establish buy in from all government departments early as the project will utilize data and information from a wide range of departments. Community participation will be maintained throughout the project duration to promote local project ownership. On the ground coordination will be undertaken in conjunction with local political structures to facilitate political buy-in. Comprehensive stakeholder engagement has been undertaken, and will be maintained throughout the project implementation.						
7	Poor provincial responses to the leadership role from MAIL	• Reduced project buy-in from key provincial stakeholders. • Difficulty in	Provincial authorities have been individually consulted during PPG phase, and have endorsed the LDCF project.	Strategic	P=2 I=4				

#	Description of the risk	Potential consequence	Countermeasures / Mgmt response	Type (Risk category)	Probability & Impact (1-5)	Owner	Submitted, updated by	Last Update	Status
		coordinating local project activities.	The PSC will engage with relevant provincial authorities throughout the duration of the project.						

Annex II. Agreements

Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

STANDARD LETTER OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN UNDP AND THE GOVERNMENT OF ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN

FOR PROVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES

December 01, 2013

Dear Mohammad Asif Rahimi,

1. Reference is made to consultations between officials of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and officials of UNDP with respect to the provision of support services by the UNDP country office for nationally managed programmes and projects. UNDP and the Government hereby agree that the UNDP country office may provide such support services at the request of the Government through its institution designated in the relevant programme support document or project document, as described below.

2. The UNDP country office may provide support services for assistance with reporting requirements and direct payment. In providing such support services, the UNDP country office shall ensure that the capacity of the Government-designated institution is strengthened to enable it to carry out such activities directly. The costs incurred by the UNDP country office in providing such support services shall be recovered from the administrative budget of the office.

3. The UNDP country office may provide, at the request of the designated institution, the following support services for the activities of the programme/project:

(a) Policy Support

(b) Training and workshop

(c) Identification and/or recruitment of project and programme personnel

(d) Identification and facilitation of training activities including workshops, short term trainings and study tours;

(e) Procurement of goods and services;

4. The procurement of goods and services and the recruitment of project and programme personnel by the UNDP country office shall be in accordance with the UNDP regulations, rules, policies and procedures. Support services described in paragraph 3 above shall be detailed in an annex to the programme support document or project document, in the form provided in the Attachment hereto. If the requirements for support services by the country office change during the life of a programme or project,

the annex to the programme support document or project document is revised with the mutual agreement of the UNDP resident representative and the designated institution.

5. The relevant provisions of the Standard Technical Assistant Agreement (STAA) signed between the Government of Afghanistan and the United Nations on 10 May 1956 including the provisions on liability and privileges and immunities, shall apply to the provision of such support services. The Government shall retain overall responsibility for the nationally managed programme or project through its designated institution. The responsibility of the UNDP country office for the provision of the support services described herein shall be limited to the provision of such support services detailed in the annex to the programme support document or project document.

6. Any claim or dispute arising under or in connection with the provision of support services by the UNDP country office in accordance with this letter shall be handled pursuant to the relevant provisions of the SBAA.

7. The manner and method of cost-recovery by the UNDP country office in providing the support services described in paragraph 3 above shall be specified in the annex to the programme support document or project document.

8. The UNDP country office shall submit progress reports on the support services provided and shall report on the costs reimbursed in providing such services, as may be required.

9. Any modification of the present arrangements shall be effected by mutual written agreement of the parties hereto.

10. If you are in agreement with the provisions set forth above, please sign and return to this office two signed copies of this letter. Upon your signature, this letter shall constitute an agreement between your Government and UNDP on the terms and conditions for the provision of support services by the UNDP country office for nationally managed programmes and projects.

Yours sincerely,

_____

Signed on behalf of UNDP
Alvaro Rodriguez
Country Director

_____

For the Government
Mohammad Asif Rahimi
Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation & Livestock
The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Attachment

I. DESCRIPTION OF UNDP COUNTRY OFFICE SUPPORT SERVICES

1. Reference is made to consultations between Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), the institution designated by the Government of Afghanistan and officials of UNDP with respect to the provision of support services by the UNDP country office for the nationally managed project "Strengthening the resilience of rural livelihood options for Afghan communities in Panjshir, Balkh, Uruzgan and Herat Provinces to manage climate change-induced disaster risks".

2. In accordance with the provisions of the letter of agreement signed on [_____, 2013] and the project document, the UNDP country office shall provide support services for the Project as described below.

3. Support services to be provided:

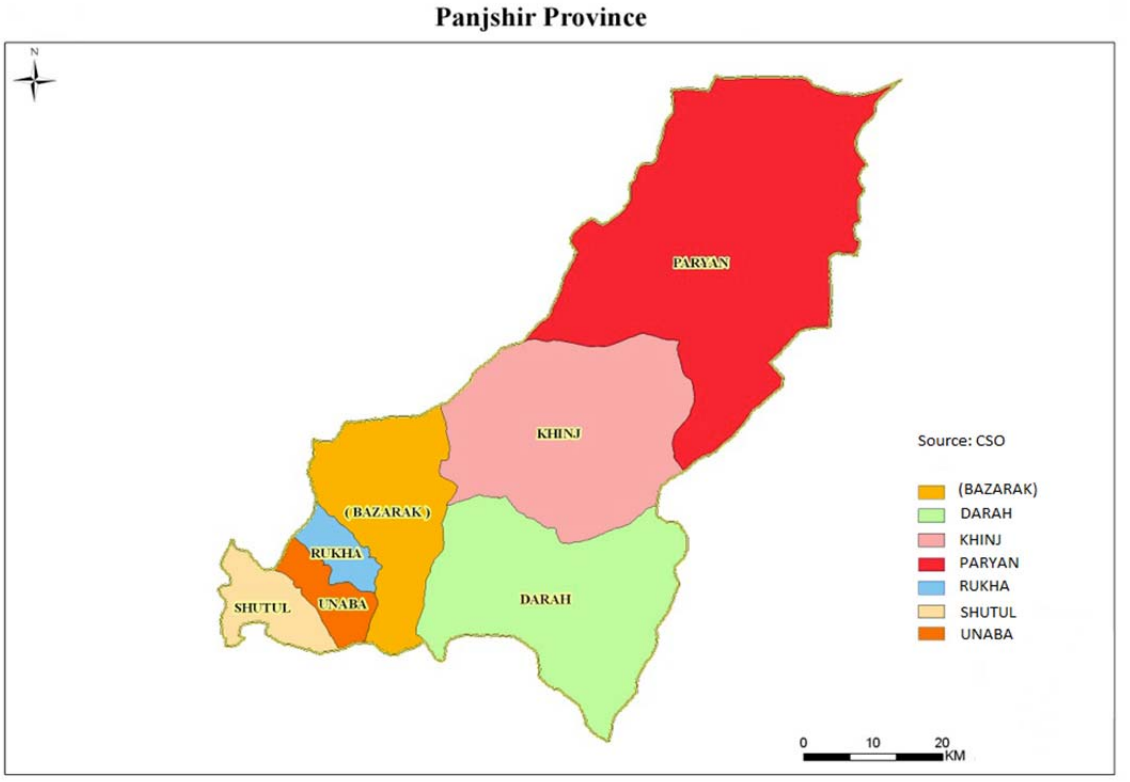
#	**Type of Service**	**Price list /service (USD)**	**Cost to UNDP of providing such support services (where appropriate) - Total estimated UPL charges (USD)**	**Method of reimbursement to UNDP**
1	**Recruitment of an International Consultant**	To be recruited as per AWP	As per UPL, the service fee is estimated at $8,623.83	ATLAS billing
2	**Contractual service** 4 person equivalent individual contracts	To be recruited as per AWP	As per UPL, the service fee is estimated at $2,710.36	ATLAS billing
3	-Procurement company/university, below $30K	To be engaged as per AWP	As per UPL, the service fee is estimated at $10,474.80	ATLAS billing
	-Procurement construction company, above $30K	To be engaged as per AWP	As per UPL, the service fee is estimated at $18,779	ATLAS billing
4	**Service Contract** -Recruitment of local consultant (6 full time)	To be engaged as per AWP	As per UPL, the service fee is estimated at $10,501.38	ATLAS billing
5	**Travel**	To be arranged as per AWP	As per UPL, the service fee is estimated at $24,278.40	ATLAS billing

Annex III. Key assessment reports (Written by Benjamin Larroquette, the Livelihood Expert and the Civil Engineer)

PANJSHIR

II. INTRODUCTION

Panjshir is located in north-western Afghanistan within the southern expanse of the Hindu Kush mountain range. It is situated between 35.08-35.90 degrees latitude and 69.24-70.30 degrees longitude. Panjshir is bordered by the provinces of Baghlan and Takhar to the north, Kapisa and Parwan to the south and Nooristan to the east. The province is divided into eight districts (listed below), and includes 392 villages. In 2012, the estimated population was 146,100 people. The province's total area is 3772 square kilometres of which 11,125 hectares are used for agriculture. Panjshir is famous for its nuts and mulberries as well as its abundance of precious minerals. Local farmers raise sheep and goats in almost all of the province's districts.



III. GENERAL GEOGRAPHIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Over the last few years, the international community, together with the Afghan government, has shown increasing commitment to make its development interventions more effective, enduring, equitable and responsive to the needs and priorities of communities at provincial and district levels. In order to transform the commitments into actions, the United Nations Development Programme, Afghanistan (UNDP) under the Sustainable Development Unit (SDU) has started an initiative to identify opportunities for income generation and employment in the vulnerable communities of the target provinces across Afghanistan. It will serve as a mechanism to support an integrated approach to rural

development, combining infrastructure development, agricultural production and market opportunities.

SDU will work in close cooperation with government authorities at the national, provincial and district levels, along with community representatives. It will also maintain very close contact with local communities to ensure that their socio-economic development needs are understood and appropriate actions are taken. Projects identified and developed by UNDP will be implemented by partner organizations within the government.

The consultant team of SDU, in coordination with DAIL, PRRD and the NEPA directorate at the provincial level, undertook consultations for the development of this project which will focus on three districts (Paryan, Abshar and Unuba) and two women associations/groups (in Bazarak) in Panjshir province.

Paryan District is located 50 km east of Bazarak (province centre), covers an area of 1270 sq. km and is predominantly a mountainous district with some agricultural land on contours and terraces. Agricultural land, where residents can grow crops, is minimal. The population consists of 14,400[9] people living in 67 villages. There are 24 Community Development Councils and 16 Clusters Community Development Councils (CCDCs). The district has sufficient sources of water. Paryan District mainly produces livestock (goats and sheep), fruits like apricot, and vegetables and cereal crops, including potatoes, wheat and maize at a subsistence level.

Due to the high elevation and harsh weather conditions, there is only one cropping season. In comparison to other crops, potatoes are grown in large quantities which are chiefly consumed by the households in the area. Surplus potatoes are either stored as seed potatoes for the next cropping season or sold to the market at a very low price 50 Afs/seer (7 kg).

There is heavy snow in the winter which often blocks the main road for several weeks. Every year there are reports of avalanches in the area. During the summer there is heavy rainfall, which destroys the agricultural land and residential areas. Every year flash floods and avalanches cause fatalities in the area.

Abshar District, newly added to the administration of Panjshir Province, lies at an elevation of 2550 metres above sea level. It is a new administrative unit, seceded from Dara District, and it is located at the far end of the district, close to Laghman and Noristan Provinces. There is more agricultural land compared to Paryan District, and the majority of the population is involved in farming.

There is only one cropping season due to the high elevation and harsh weather conditions. The crops grown in the district are wheat, maize, alfalfa, and potatoes which are grown in large quantities. There are some fruit trees like walnut and mulberry. The total population of the district is 1200 families spread over 15 villages. There are 15 CDCs established in the district. The district is prone to natural disasters, and the main road to the district is impassable in winter due to heavy snow. There are risks of avalanches which often result in the deaths of local people and livestock. In summer, when the snow thaws, the water level in natural streams and the main river in the valley rises, which causes flash floods, destroying residential areas and washing away crops and agricultural land.

Unaba District is located 15 km west of the province's capital and is bisected by the Panjshir – Kabul Main Road. Unaba covers an area of 164 sq. km and is predominantly a mountainous district.

[9] Statistical Year Book 2011-2012, Central Statistics Organization (CSO)

The total arable land is 2320[10] hectares, which is predominantly used for cereal crops like wheat, maize, barley, etc. Wheat is the primary crop grown in the district, and there are fruit trees like walnut and mulberry. The population is 17,400 people spread over 31 villages. There are 40 CDCs and 18 CCDCs. Unlike the other districts, in Unaba there is a shortage of water to irrigate the agricultural land.

Table 1: General demographic and social data for target districts

1- Paryan:

General Information	
District area (Sq. km) (NABDP)	1270
Number of CDCs and CCDCs (PRRD)	24 CDCs, 16 CCDCs
No. of villages (PRRD)	67 big villages
Height above sea level (metres)	2660
Security situation at time of survey: (good, medium, poor)	Good
Inhabitants' Profile	
Total Population (CSO)	14,400
No. of males (PRRD)	7300 (50.70%)
No. of females (PRRD)	7100 (49.30%)
Literacy rate (PRRD)	25%
Male (PRRD) L.R.	40%
Female (PRRD) L.R.	10%
Access to Transport	
Percentage of roads open to traffic in all seasons of the year	60%
Nearest main road to the district centre	Panjshir-Kabul Main Road
Percentage of the villages that have access to bazaars in all seasons of the year	40%
Nearest city	Bazarak
Irrigation Facilities & Access to Water	
River (number)	1
River length (km) (PRRD)	30
Number of main canals and sub-canals (PRRD)	2 main canals, 5 sub-canals
Main canals - total length (km) (PRRD)	3
Quality of ground water for irrigation: (good, medium, poor)	Good
Agriculture Sector (data provided by DAIL)	
Total land (hectares)	2400
Total land under cultivation (hectares)	2400
Irrigated land (hectares)	2400
Rain-fed land (hectares)	0

[10] Accelerating Sustainable Agriculture Programme (ASAP), Panjshir Province Profile 2008

Forest land (hectares)	61
Pasture land (hectares)	92
Livestock (number)	60,120
Cows	4020
Sheep	41,500
Goats	14,600

2- Abshar District:

General Information	
District area (Sq. km) (NABDP)	350
Number of CDCs	15 CDCs
No. of villages (PRRD)	15
Height above sea level (metres)	2550
Security situation at time of survey: (good, medium, poor)	Good
Inhabitants' Profile	
Total population (CSO)	10,800
No. of males (PRRD)	5500 (50.92%)
No. of females (PRRD)	5300 (49.08%)
Literacy rate (PRRD)	NA
Male (PRRD) L.R.	NA
Female (PRRD) L.R.	NA
Access to Transport	
Percentage of roads open to traffic in all seasons of the year	50%
Nearest main road to the district centre	Panjshir-Kabul Main Road
Percentage of villages that have access to bazaars in all seasons of the year	30%
Nearest city	Bazarak
Irrigation Facilities & Access to Water	
River (number)	1
River length (km) (PRRD)	40
Number of main canals and sub-canals (PRRD)	2 main canals, 5 sub-canals
Main canals - total length (km) (PRRD)	2
Quality of ground water for irrigation: (good, medium, poor)	Good
Agriculture Sector (data provided by DAIL)	
Total land (hectares)	550
Total land under cultivation (hectares)	550
Irrigated land (hectares)	550
Rain-fed land (hectares)	0
Forest land (hectares)	40
Pasture land (hectares)	500
Livestock (number)	16,000

Cows	5000
Sheep	4000
Goats	7000

3- Unaba District:

General Information	
District area (Sq. km) (NABDP)	164
Number of CDCs and CCDCs (PRRD)	40 CDCs, 18 CCDCs
No. of villages (PRRD)	31
Height above sea level (metres)	2660
Security situation at time of survey: (good, medium, poor)	Good
Inhabitants' Profile	
Total population (PRRD)	17,400
No. of males (PRRD)	9000 (51.72%)
No. of females (PRRD)	8400 (48.28%)
Literacy rate (PRRD)	NA
Male (PRRD) L.R.	NA
Female (PRRD) L.R.	NA
Access to Transport	
Percentage of roads open to traffic in all seasons of the year	85 %
Nearest main road to the district centre	Panjshir-Kabul Main Road
Percentage of villages that have access to bazaars in all seasons of the year	70%
Nearest city	Bazarak
Irrigation Facilities & Access to Water	
River (number)	1
River length (km) (PRRD)	4
Number of main canals and sub-canals (PRRD)	3 main canals, 5 sub-canals
Main canals - total length (km) (PRRD)	3
Quality of ground water for irrigation: (good, medium, poor)	Good
Agriculture Sector (data provided by DAIL)	
Total land (hectares)	2320
Total land under cultivation (hectares)	2320
Irrigated land (hectares)	2320
Rain-fed land (hectares)	0.00
Forest land (hectares)	191
Pasture land (hectares)	2155
Livestock (number)	15,693
Cows	3100
Sheep	4590

Goats	8003

UN Agencies in Panjshir

Agency	Project	Location
UNICEF	Education, child protection, water and hygiene, health and emergency aid	All districts
WFP	Food for tuberculosis patients	All districts
IOM	Reconstruction of roads	Khinj and Dara Districts
UN-Habitat	National solidarity programme	All districts
UN Women	Literacy course, health education and rights awareness	All districts
UNDP	NABDP, ASGP	All districts
UNAMA	Women support, education	Khinj, Bazarak District
UN-FAO	Urgent reconstruction of irrigation system Poultry	Tanaba, Panjpiryan, Baba Ali, Khinj, Bazarak and Rukha
UNHCR	Shelters	Paryan District

There are also several national and international Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) supporting development projects across the province in various sectors:

NGOs currently operating in different development activities

International and National Organizations Operating in Panjshir		
Organization	Activities	Location
ADB	MHPs and wind electricity generation	Unaba and Bazarak
Children and Youth Development Programme	Speed education and kindergarten	Dara, Khinj and Bazarak
Bangladesh Rural Development Committee	Training for health workers	Unaba, Rukha, Khinj and Paryan
Afghanistan Labours	Health unit in orphanage and literacy courses	Unaba
JEK	Health education, literacy and rights awareness	Rukha
Holland Committee for Afghanistan	Establishment of veterinary clinics	Shutul, Unaba, Rukha, Khinj and Dara
MASAA	Construction of school	Unaba
Emergency International	Health clinics and hospital	Unaba, Khinj and Dara
ABR	Providing shelters	Paryan
World Health Network	Provision of health trainings for 18 months to health workers	

IV. IDENTIFICATION AND PRIORITISATION OF OPTIONS FOR INTERVENTIONS

This technical chapter aims to provide information on the different options chosen for inclusion in this project for the selected districts[11] of Panjshir Province. Figure 1 (below) outlines the options identification and prioritisation process to develop, select and filter the interventions for target districts.

The 'options selection process' commenced with a series of meetings with provincial authorities and directorates of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), the provincial department of the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) and other relevant stakeholders at the provincial level. The process started after analysing the current status of the province using information gathered for developing the districts' profiles by a team of consultants. UNDP provincial partners' and stakeholders' initial consultation process led to a series of meetings with District Administration Authorities (DAA), District Development Authorities (DDA) and community representatives.

For the detailed gaps identification meetings, and to ensure maximum coverage of the area and active participation, each district was categorised into marginalised communities, vulnerable communities and those where potential for agriculture exists. From each community there was a group comprising 3-5 participants who were members of MRRD, CCDCs and various villages' representatives. A final meeting was conducted in order to prioritise the options for project interventions from the list of identified options. Additionally, budget constraints and whether the interventions met the objectives of the project were taken into consideration.

Local Consultations

Provincial Governor's Office (PGO)

A meeting was held with the deputy of the provincial governor. The deputy was briefed on the activities of the project so far regarding the formulation of interventions of the target districts in the province. The deputy thanked the UNDP for the selection of Panjshir Province for the upcoming project and recommended the following:

- The building of irrigation canals and retaining walls in the district.
- Vocational training for youth of the target districts and skill training for the women associations/groups.
- Capacity building training for the line department of MAIL, PRRD and the personnel of the districts' governor's offices.
- Provision of financial support to enhance the capacity of small and medium women's enterprises in the centre of the province.
- Establishment of bioclimatic stores in the two districts of the province where potatoes are cultivated on a large scale.

[11] Districts in the target province were selected based on certain criteria and in consultation with local stakeholders.

Provincial Rural Rehabilitation & Development Directorate (PRRD)

A meeting was held with the director of the PRRD. The director was briefed on the upcoming activities of the project. He shared the ideas with his team and requested that their opinions be reflected in the formulation stage of the project for the target districts. The PRRD recommended the following:

- Investments to improve irrigation systems (inlets, water dividers, canals, etc.) as the traditional methods are inefficient and lead to water losses and mismanagement.
- The construction of retaining walls along the canal banks.
- Cold storage facilities for potatoes and apples to be constructed on public lands.
- Greenhouses for out of season crop production and high value crops.

Department for Agriculture, Irrigation & Livestock (DAIL)

A meeting was also held with the head of the Forest Department. He was briefed on the project objective and the planned activities to be undertaken. The head of the department shared his views and recommended the following activities which meet the objectives of the project:

- Construction of check dams in areas where soil erosion is present.
- Conservation and rehabilitation of the forests in the province.
- Capacity building for members of the committees to be established by DAIL for the conservation and management and reforestation of rangelands.

Provincial Department of the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA)

Consultation with the department head of the NEPA found that most forests in the province have been destroyed. However, there are a few plantations of bitter almond species that are conserved by the local communities in some districts. Most of the native vegetation is under threat from local communities and nomads (Kochis) who migrate with their herds in the summer to pastures and rangelands in the upper lands, which results in overgrazing and soil erosion. This means that there is considerable potential for rehabilitation of rangelands with plantations that are resistant to environmental pressures. Other recommendations included:

- Construction of retaining walls along the canals and an efficient irrigation system to improve water management.
- Plantation of *heng* ('asafoetida is an herbaceous perennial plant that grows up to 2 m tall, its roots mostly used as a spice') as a cash crop for the marginalised farming communities in the target districts.

Long List of Intervention Options

The initial meetings with provincial partners and stakeholders in all three target districts were followed by gap identification meetings that were attended by members of the CDCs, village leaders representing most of the villages and the local authorities in each district. The CDC members and other participants were divided into two groups. Each group came up with various development gaps relating to livelihood and infrastructure. This process concluded with identified and initially prioritised options (the long list of interventions). These options are listed below. From this, a shortlist of options was extracted.

Identified and prioritised list of options from group A in Abshar District

- Improvement of the drinking water system for the villages in Gulab Khel, Dosti Ali and Lala Khel.
- Construction of bioclimatic stores for potato and apple storage on four accessible locations.
- Planting of walnut trees on rangelands.
- Establishment of Women Self Help Groups.
- Rehabilitation of irrigation canals to save enough water for the entire cropping season.

Identified and prioritised list of options from group B in Paryan District

- Rehabilitation and reconstruction of irrigation canals and inlets.
- Establishment of walnut plantations on communal land.
- Organization of vocational training for youth in the district.
- Construction of bioclimatic stores for vegetable (i.e. potatoes) and fruit crops.
- Provision of solar dryers for households to dry fruits (apricots) and vegetables (onions, peppers).
- Establishment of honey bee farms.
- Establishment of a Women Self Help Group.

Identified and prioritised list of options from group C (Faraj village) in Unaba District

- Rehabilitation and reconstruction of irrigation canals and inlets.
- Provision of clean drinking water for the Faraj village residents.
- Organization of vocational training for youth in the district to learn skills.

Identified and prioritised list of options from group D (Tawakh village) in Unaba District

- Provision of vocational training for women and youth in the district to learn skills.
- Establishment of a Women Self Help Group through a process of social mobilization, training sessions and capacity building to overcome poverty and generate income.
- Rehabilitation of irrigation canals and reconstruction of inlets.
- Planting of walnut trees on rangelands.

Identified and prioritised list of options from group E (women associations in Jangalak and Astana villages) in Bazarak District

- *Provision of vocational training for women to learn skills in the production of jam, marmalade, tomato ketchup, pickles and shoe making.*

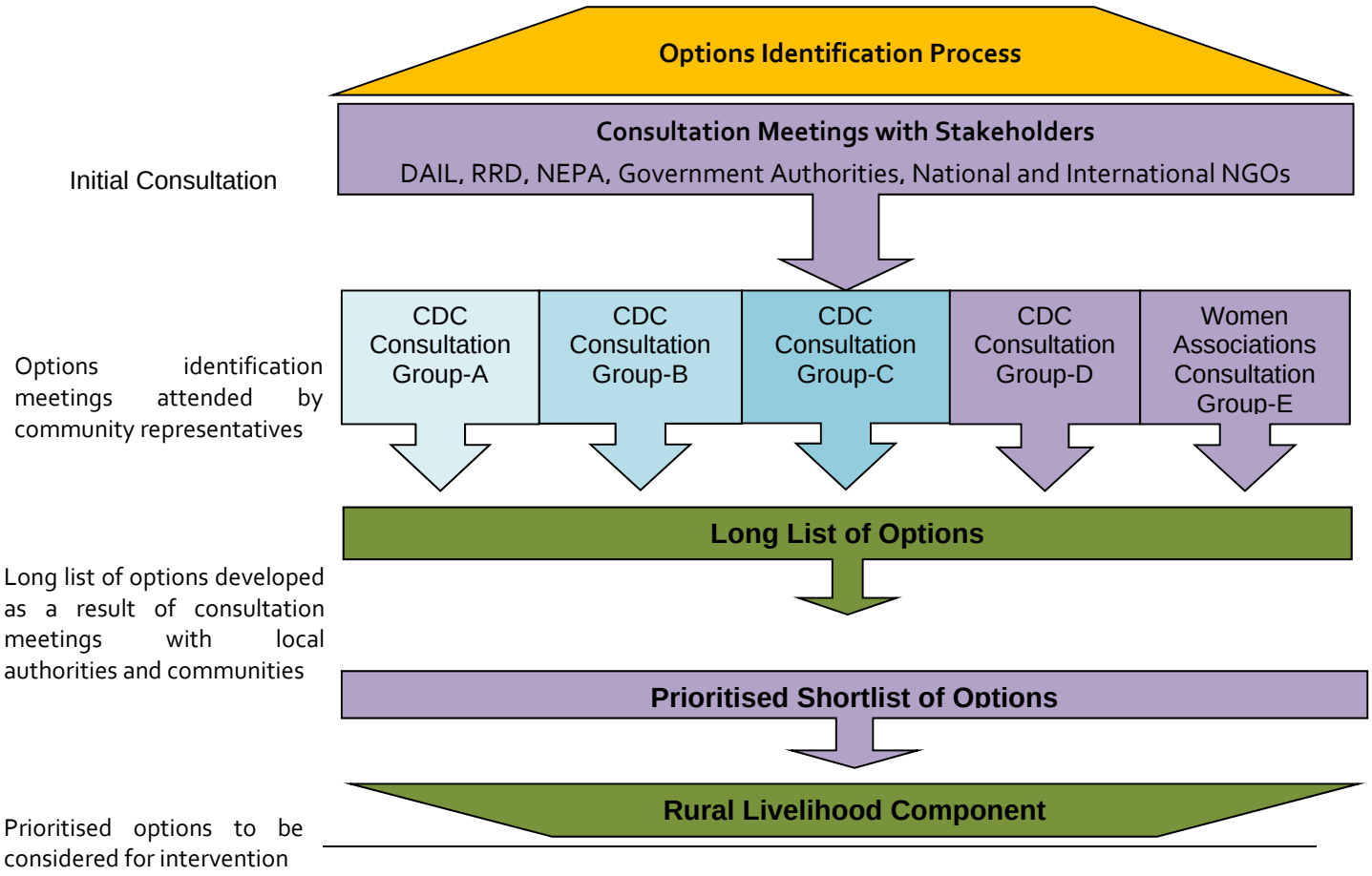
- *Provision of equipment to enable women to run their businesses so that they generate income and create jobs at the village level.*
- *Establishment of a Women Self Help Group.*
- *Provision of training sessions for women in bookkeeping, management, finance, marketing and leadership.*
- *Establishment of greenhouses for the production of out of season vegetables.*
- *Provision of solar dryers to process out of season vegetables and fruits.*

V. SHORTLIST OF INTERVENTION OPTIONS

In order to conclude the final list of prioritised options, there was a joint meeting of rural livelihood experts and civil engineers. The long list was discussed in order to reach an acceptable list (shortlist) of options for inclusion in the project for the three districts. Several factors determined whether an option met the project's objectives. These were: the budget requirements; sustainability in terms of climate change awareness; diversification of income resources; job creation at the community level. The shortlisted options are listed below:

- Construction of bioclimatic storage for potatoes and apples in two districts (Paryan and Abshar) in accessible locations.
- Establishment of Women Self Help Groups to empower women at the community level.
- Provision of equipment to women's associations to enable them to run their businesses so that they generate income and create jobs at the village level.
- Establishment of walnut plantations on communal rangelands to conserve soil fertility, avoid soil erosion and provide a source of income for the community.
- Organization of vocational training for youth and women in the target districts to learn skills and generate a source of income and job creation.
- Provision of solar dryers to process vegetables and fruits to diversify the income sources of rural women at the community level.
- *Establishment of greenhouses for production of out of season vegetables.*

Figure 1: UNDP/SDU options identification and prioritisation process for three districts in Panjshir Province



VI. PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS

Intervention for bioclimatic stores:

The use of bioclimatic storage offers farmers an opportunity to increase their income through value added marketing by allocating a percentage of their produce to storage and obtaining a higher price at a later date. Where production volumes justify it and farmers are willing to invest, the project proposes support for the construction of sufficient bioclimatic storage space for the available marketable surplus until February or March of the following year.

The contracting bidder will establish the actual volume of storage and level of farmer interest. Where individual production volumes are not sufficient to fill the store, farmers should be willing to share storage space.

Produce should be packed in jute sacks and clearly labelled. Participating farmer members should also be willing to share monitoring duties to control internal store temperatures. The contracting bidder will train farmers on storage techniques and management, and where stores are to be shared, will facilitate agreements on working and management arrangements.

The implementing consultant will prepare designs for the stores, organise/supervise construction and train farmers in the correct operation of the stores. It is important to ensure that stores are adequately engineered to withstand local climatic conditions and that they are operationally safe.

Stores may either be built in banks at one or more locations, or individually to serve a cluster of farmers. It is recommended that a small fee is collected for each cubic metre of potatoes stored to manage, maintain and operate the stores.

Currently, only around 1000 tons of potatoes are produced, primarily in two districts (Abshar and Paryan) of Panjshir Province. Production can be highly variable depending on annual precipitation. It is anticipated that the implementation of working irrigation systems and improved water usage will increase the amount of irrigated land that can grow potatoes by several hectares in the Paryan and Abshar valleys.

Assuming that only 40% of the total potato crop is placed in storage to take advantage of better prices during non-peak production periods, this would correspond to around 400 tons of potatoes requiring storage. Assuming that one ton of potatoes takes up between 1.75 m^3 to 2 m^3 of cold storage space, this equates to around 800 m^3 of storage, or roughly eight bioclimatic stores with 50 m^3 internal space. This project should provide at least half of the storage space needed to allow the farmers to organise the resources for the remaining half. The estimated cost to build a single 50 m^3 store is around $6,000, and requesting an in-kind contribution of 10% from the community wishing to participate through labour, raw building materials and a site, should bring the intervention contribution down to $5,400. Only farmers willing to commit to these resource contributions should be eligible to participate in the bioclimatic storage programme.

The construction of four stores costing $ 5,400 each requires an intervention budget of $21,600. Stores can be larger or smaller, and this will have a bearing on the cost per m^3. Farmers will require training on best storage practices. The implementing consultant will be required to assist with the coordination of storage and marketing of the stored produce.

Intervention for Women Self Help Groups (SHGs):

In Afghanistan, many women are vulnerable and it is difficult for them to improve their situation. This is due to the social structure that often leads to isolation for many women. This project aims to encourage the formation of Women Self Help Groups. Every human being has tremendous potential. This hidden

potential can be unleashed if a conducive environment is provided. Individually, these women are voiceless, powerless and vulnerable. However, by bringing them together as a group, they have power.

Those in abject poverty are generally not heard or seen. They are, therefore, easily excluded from society. The SHG builds on a foundation of empowerment and is supported by three solid pillars, which are social, economic and political.

Social, economic and political empowerment is required to enable poor, rural women to realise their rights as human beings, as citizens and as equal partners in civil society.

While talking to women's groups in Bazarak District, we introduced this concept to them, encouraging their involvement in the SHGs. They were willing to participate in identifying the poorest households and most vulnerable members of their society. This approach works through the women in the community visiting the vulnerable to verify their eligibility. They then invite them to come and attend the first SHG meeting.

A SHG is made up of 10-12 members. The regular weekly meetings give them a sense of belonging. The women start sharing their lives with one another, which leads to a strong support system. The facilitator helps the members to devise appropriate, simple rules for their group. There is no chairperson in the group but a rotation of leadership that encourages women to build their self-esteem.

Saving a small weekly amount of cash in the group is an important feature of a SHG. The members are able to take small loans from their group's saving for urgent consumption needs and for micro-business. The loan is paid back later to the group with a small administrative fee.

Training and competence building is provided to the members of the groups to build their capacities. It is important to allow the groups to identify their needs and prioritise them to achieve their goals and visions.

In its initial stage this project, along with other support, will provide each group with 50,000 Afs to launch their activities. The number of SHGs per district will be verified by the implementing contractor (IC). Support should be phased out over the project's duration as the SHGs become effective and self-sufficient. Once a SHG is well established, it can be replicated.

Intervention for vocational training for youth and women:

Many youth and women in Afghanistan face a life of low literacy, limited job options and increasing debt. After graduating from high schools, youth in rural areas rarely have the opportunity to enter higher education, and so they start searching for a daily wage job or find other sources of employment like migrating to neighbouring countries to support their families.

Small enterprise of women making shoes in Astana village of Bazarak District

To break the cycle of dependency and women enhance income by providing rural youth and a trade with the skills and knowledge needed to enter aims to with higher income potential, this project youth provide short-term vocational courses to This and women in Unaba and Bazarak Districts. will increase their self-sufficiency, promote socio-

economic development and strengthen the resilience of rural livelihood options.

The IC, based on local market demand, should synthesise the programme to provide a holistic and integrated approach by identifying the best options considering available local resources. After graduation, the students should be provided with basic tool kits and enough support to launch their businesses or help them in finding jobs by linking them with local or regional private sectors. These training sessions will not only improve the participants' chances of finding a good job, they will also increase their confidence and self-worth.

Intervention for the plantation of rangelands:

Rangelands are uncultivated lands that supply a grazing or browsing resource to domestic and wild animals. In Afghanistan these lands comprise between 70 and 80% of the country[12]. In addition to livestock grazing, they supply a number of products including water, fuel woods and wildlife. Livestock provides one of the main income sources for rural people, and it has also been critical to the economy of the country in supplying products for domestic use and export. In the 1970s, livestock provided about 25% of the agriculture GDP.

With more than two decades of conflict (and collapse of national, provincial and local forms of governance), natural resources have been exploited, and most of the rangelands are degraded and misused due to overgrazing, long spells of drought, lack of proper management, utilisation of local vegetation as fuel by rural communities, and an increasing population with limited livelihood opportunities.

The rehabilitation and development of rangelands can play a role, not only in reviving the national economy, but by providing watersheds, wildlife habitat (biodiversity), and open spaces and aesthetic value.

To develop and conserve rangelands for future generations, a community-based approach must be used in the management of state or public rangelands.

Based on this approach, the UNDP/SDU consultant team visited communities in the target districts (Paryan, Abshar and Unaba) to discuss procedures to identify rangelands which are to be planted with trees. As Panjshir has a suitable climate for the plantation of walnut trees, and individuals successfully grow them in the region, the team recommended that these trees are planted in the rangelands. Walnut trees do not need intensive care and water requirements are minimal compared to other fruit trees. They will not only be a source of water and soil conservation, but will also provide a source of income to the rural communities once they start bearing fruits.

In order to strengthen the resilience of rural communities for livelihood options, the IC should plan with the rural communities of the target districts where these trees are to be planted. The IC should also determine, together with the local communities, how to utilise the income generated from these trees. Rural community members will be trained in bookkeeping, finance and management. The rangeland management plans need to be incorporated in their village development plans, community development plan and district development plan.

Intervention for the establishment of greenhouses for the women association in Jangalak village:

The environment in Afghanistan varies considerably in different parts of the country depending on the altitude. Climatic conditions in Bazarak District are characterised by cold winters where temperatures

[12] Reference: Donald J. Bedunah, Ph.D. January 5, 2006

may drop to -4°C. Summer is characterised by temperatures that may reach as high as 35°C. For year round production, greenhouse design must ensure that the environment within the greenhouse can be maintained at a level that will allow for satisfactory plant growth despite the harsh external environment. This must be achieved without the use of high-energy inputs, e.g. electric or mechanical heaters.

Solar greenhouse production offers the opportunity to grow produce at those times of year when prices are highest. Better control of the environment will lead to increased yield, higher value, improved land and water use efficiency, reduced insect and disease pressure, and decreased use of chemicals.

With a long, harsh winter season, most of the vegetables in Panjshir are imported from neighbouring provinces or from longer distances, e.g. Pakistan. This indicates that there is a market demand for out of season vegetables. Considering the demand, the potential for greenhouses in Jangalak village and the interest showed by local women, we recommend that these women are provided with both technical and financial support. A survey will be carried out by the IC to determine which size and models of greenhouses have already been proved to be effective in similar climatic conditions. The IC should also identify the sites for the greenhouses, based on the criteria developed for the selection of beneficiaries. The beneficiaries will be trained in vegetable production in protective structures, marketing and bookkeeping, and they need to be linked with input suppliers and market actors.

Conclusion

For livelihood support approximately 600,000 USD per province is available.

If we divide it equally between outputs, it comes to approx. 200,000 USD per output over five years (project life):

Outcome	Output	Costs	Remarks
Rural income and livelihood opportunities for vulnerable communities enhanced and diversified	At least 100 women trained in alternative livelihoods to farming (processing of fruits and vegetables, value added products - ketchup, jam, marmalade, pickles, shoe making, embroidery, etc.)	200,000 for 5 years 40,000 per year 5-10,000 for training 30,000 for marketing, packaging, access to raw materials and financial support to Women Self Help Groups At least 20 SHGs of 10-12 women can be supported financially with 1000 USD as rotation money to be loaned to group members	
	Business development training in shoe making, greenhouse establishment,	200,000 for 5 years 40,000 per year 5-8000 for training 10,800 for support to	

	bioclimatic stores and small-scale manufacturing provided to 20 rural entrepreneurs and 10 SMEs	bioclimatic stores (2 in second year and 2 in third year), 8000 for greenhouse establishment, and 13,200 for marketing support, packaging, advertising, machinery or equipment, and minor financial support	
	500 hectares of degraded rangelands planted with stress resistant seedling varieties	200,000 for 5 years 500 per province 1000 USD available per hectare Unaba (100 ha in Tawakh, 50 ha in Faraj), Paryan (100 ha in Qusur Payan , 50 ha in Qusur Bala) Abshar (100 ha in Gulab Khel, 50 ha in Lala Khel and 50 ha in Sangi Khan)	

BoQ for Development intervention for Afshar district/Panjsher province										
no	Activities	village name	prioritized need	capacity cum	source	dist m	Benefi fami	Q lit/min	unit rate $	Total cost USD
I	Provision of safe drinking water for Gulab khel village 35 14 53,62 N , 69 43 26.34"E,elevation= 8851'									
1	Complete installation of connection the net work with 1.5"GI pipe and its acessories with proper isolation system	Gulab khel	drinking water supply		Natural Spring	3000	265	3.5 lit/n	16	$48,000.00
2	spring out let improvement	Gulab khel							Lumpsum	1000
3	construction of 16 cum safe and isolated drinking water storage tank considering 3lit/capita/day WHO norm and standard	Gulab khel		16					300	4800
4	drop structure (speed breake and small storage structure at the middle of alignment			6					300	1800
	Sub total 1									$55,600.00
II	Provision of safe drinking water forThree villages(Doat Ali, Lala Khel and partialy Gulab khel).				Natural Spring					
4	Complete installation of connection the net work with 2"GI pipe and its acessories with proper isolation system	Dost Ali-Lalakhel and partaily Gulab khel				3500	500	3lit/mir	16	56000
5	Improvement of spring out let	Do							Lump Sum	500
6	construction of 30 cum safe and isolated drinking water storage tank considering 3lit/capita/day WHO norm and standard	Do		30					300	9000
7	drop structure (speed breake and small storage structure at the middle of alignment			12					300	3600
	Sub total 2									$69,100.00
III	30 check dams,15 m long to conserve soil & water and reduce the speed of flood drain water in watershed washes area.	several valleys		450					30	13500
	Sub total 3									$13,500.00
IV	Provision of safe drinking water forTaza Mohammad High school having 2500 students inclusive male and female.						2500			
8	Provision Solar pump+ two Solar pannels			1 each						7000
9	construction of elevated water storage with proper isolation andproper water purification system (spring was availble but with low potential head and distant location)			60	River				340	20400
10	Complete installation of connection the net work with 1.5"GI pipe and its acessories with proper isolation system					500			16	8000
	Sub total 4									$35,400.00
V	Provision the supply of drinking water for district premises + 100 families beneficiary of Dost Ali village	Dost Ali					100			
11	Connection cost of 1.5" GI pipe					2000			16	$32,000.00
12	Improvement of spring mouth								Lumpsum	$1,000.00
13	drop structure (speed breake and small storage structure at the middle of alignment			12					300	$3,600.00
	Sub total 4									$36,600.00
	Grand Total									$210,200.00

BoQ and cost estimation for Development intervention for ANABA district/Panjsher province

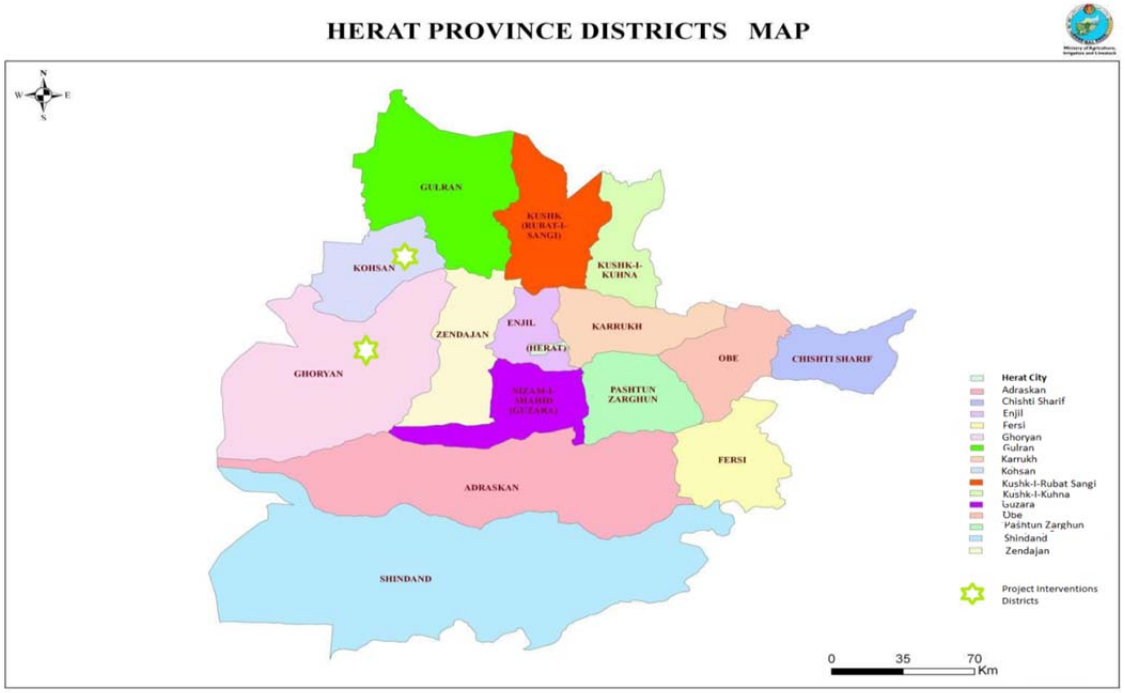
no	Activities	village name	pr. Need	capacity cum	Water source	depth m	Benefi fami	dist m	unit rate $	Total cost$
I	Provision of safe drinking water for BEGRA village									
1	Drilling 6" diamete bore well in mountanious area	BEGRA	Under Ground water		Bore well	60	310	NA	150	9000
2	Provision of one solar pump with three solar panels + any improvement	BEGRA					310		Lump sum	7000
3	construction of 45 cum drinking water storage tank considering 3lit/capita/day WHO norm and standard for 6days	BEGRA		45			310		320	14400
4	Connection of 600 m 1" GI pipe system							600	16	9600
	Sub total 1									$43,000.00
II	Provision of safe drinking water for Dost am khel (Lat 35 10 55.29"N and Long 69 22 05.70" E), Elev. 7933'	Dostam khel	Under Ground water		Bore well					
1	Drilling 6" diamete bore well in mountanious area	Dostam khel	Under Ground water		Bore well	60	285		150	9000
2	Provision of one solar pump with three solar panels + any improvement	Do					285		Lump sum	10000
3	Connection of 1000 m 1" GI pipe system	Do					285	1000	16	16000
4	construction of 45 cum drinking water storage tank considering 3lit/capita/day WHO norm and standard for 6days	Do		45					320	14400
	Sub total 2									$49,400.00
III	Provision of safe drinking water for Rashed kjel village	Rashed khel	Under Ground water		Bore well		300			
1	Drilling 6" diamete bore well in mountanious area					50			150	7500
2	Provision of one solar pump with three solar panels + any improvement								Lump sum	10000
3	Connection of 800 m 1" GI pipe system							800	16	12800
4	construction of 45 cum drinking water storage tank considering 3lit/capita/day WHO norm and standard for 6days			45					320	14400
	Sub total 3									$44,700.00
V	Provision of safe drinking water for Furaj No1, high school /students 300 inclusive Suhrab village/100 families	Suhrab+ school	Under Ground water		Bore well		100			
1	Drilling 6" diamete bore well in mountanious area					50			150	7500
2	Provision of one solar pump with three solar panels + any improvement								Lump sum	10000
3	Connection of 1200 m 1" GI pipe system							1200	16	19200
4	construction of 20 cum drinking water storage tank considering 3lit/capita/day WHO norm and standard for 6days			20					320	6400
	Sub total 4									$43,100.00
IV	Construction of 15 check dams 10 m length in upper watershed area			150					30	$4,500.00
	Grand Total									$184,700.00

VII. INTRODUCTION:

Herat Province is located in the western part of the country. It borders Iran (Islam Qala) and Turkmenistan (Torghundi). The province shares internal borders with Badghis Province in the north, Ghor in the east and Farah in the south. The province covers an area of 63,097 km^2. More than one-third (39%) of the province is mountainous or semi-mountainous terrain, while more than half (53%) of the area is made up of flat land[13], of which 113,212 hectares are used for agricultural purposes. The province is divided into 15 districts. The provincial capital is Herat city which has a population of about 436,300[14].

The climate is cold and semi-arid. Precipitation is very low, and primarily falls in the winter. In the summer it is more temperate. From May to September, a strong wind blows from the north-west.

The winter is tolerably mild, and the snow melts as it falls.



VIII. GENERAL GEOGRAPHIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

The consultant team of SDU, in coordination with DAIL, PRRD and the NEPA directorate at the provincial level undertook consultations for the development of this project which will focus on two districts (Ghoryan and Kohsan) and women associations/groups in Herat Province.

Ghoryan District is located 64 km north of Herat city (province centre), and covers an area of 7385 sq. km. It is predominantly a flat and semi-flat district with patches of agricultural land.

The district is at an elevation of 730 metres, and 65,400 hectares are classified as agricultural land, where local people grow crops like wheat, barley, saffron, karabia (black cumin), water melons and

[13] MRRD, Provincial Profile.

[14] CSO 2011-2012.

melons. The population is 85,900[15] people. There are 311 villages and 235 Community Development Councils (CDCs). The district has a single source of water, the Harirod River. Ghoryan District produces livestock (mainly goats and sheep), fruits (apples, grapes and apricots) and vegetables (mainly onions) at a subsistence level. In comparison to other crops, onions are grown in large quantities. They are chiefly consumed by households, and the remainder is sold at a very low price of 25 Afs/4 kg.

Heavy sandstorms in the summer frequently block the main road and result in animal fatalities and damage to crops. During the summer, heavy rainfall destroys agricultural land and residential areas which are close to the river banks. Residents of the district are victims of natural disasters in the form of sandstorms and flash floods every year.

Kohsan District is bisected by the main road between Islam Qala and Herat city. The district is 740 metres above sea level. It borders Iran, and the district centre benefits from the electricity supply extended from Iran. As the topography of the district is flat, it has more agricultural land than Ghoryan District, and people are primarily involved in farming. The weather is cooler in winter and warmer in summer, and there are two cropping seasons. The crops grown in the district are wheat, barley, melons and water melons. Onions are grown in large quantities. Some fruit trees are grown, including apples, grapes, pomegranates and figs. The total population of the district is 52,900 people spread over 46 villages. There are 56 CDCs established in the district. Kohsan District is prone to natural disasters, and the main road to the district is impassable in summer due to sand from dunes blocking the road. Sandstorms result in the deaths of livestock and damage to crops. In summer when the snow melts, the water level in the river rises, which causes flash floods, destroying the residential areas and washing away the crops and agricultural land.

4- Ghoryan:

General Information	
District area (Sq. km) (NABDP)	7385
Number of CDCs (PRRD)	235 CDCs
No. of villages (PRRD)	311 villages
Height above sea level (metres)	730
Security situation at time of survey: (good, medium, poor)	Good
Inhabitants' Profile	
Total Population: (CSO)	85,900
No. of males (PRRD)	43,600 (50.75%)
No. of females (PRRD)	42,300 (49.25%)
Literacy rate (PRRD)	27.69%
Male (PRRD) L.R.	40%
Female (PRRD)L.R.	15%
Access to Transport	
Percentage of roads open to traffic in all seasons	90%
Nearest main road to the district centre	Herat-Islam Qala Road
Percentage of villages that have access to bazaars in all seasons	90%
Nearest city	Ghoryan town

[15] Statistical Year Book 2011-2012, Central Statistics Organization (CSO).

Irrigation Facilities & Access to Water	
River (number)	1
River length (km) (PRRD)	50
Number of main canals and sub-canals (PRRD)	NA
Main canals - total length (km) (PRRD)	NA
Quality of ground water for irrigation: (good, medium, poor)	NA
Agriculture Sector (data provided by DAIL)	
Total land (hectares)	70,280
Total land under cultivation (hectares)	65,400
Irrigated land (hectares)	25,200
Rain-fed land (hectares)	40,200
Forest land (hectares)	2280
Pasture land (hectares)	2600
Livestock (number)	137,737
Cows	3527
Sheep	121,000
Goats	13,210

Table 2: General demographic and social data for target districts

5- Kohsan District:

General Information	
District area (Sq. km) (NABDP)	6345
Number of CDCs	56 CDCs
No. of villages (PRRD)	46
Height above sea level (metres)	740
Security situation at time of survey: (good, medium, poor)	Good
Inhabitants' Profile	
Total population (CSO)	52,900
No. of males (PRRD)	26,500 (50.09%)
No. of females (PRRD)	26,400 (49.91%)
Literacy rate (PRRD)	NA
Male (PRRD) L.R.	NA
Female (PRRD) L.R.	NA
Access to Transport	
Percentage of roads open to traffic in all seasons	95%
Nearest main road to the district centre	Herat-Islam Qalam
Percentage of villages that have access to bazaars in all seasons	95%
Nearest city	Islam Qala
Irrigation Facilities & Access to Water	
River (number)	1

River length (km) (PRRD)	50
Number of main canals and sub-canals (PRRD)	NA
Main canals - total length (km) (PRRD)	NA
Quality of ground water for irrigation: (good, medium, poor)	Good
Agriculture Sector (data provided by DAIL)	
Total land (hectares)	85,030
Total land under cultivation (hectares)	26,000
Irrigated land (hectares)	11,000
Rain-fed land (hectares)	15,000
Forest land (hectares)	4030
Pasture land (hectares)	25,000
Non-arable land (hectares)	30,000
Livestock (number)	72,772
Cows	2642
Sheep	44,908
Goats	25,222

Local Consultations

Provincial Governor's Office (PGO)

A meeting was held with the deputy of the provincial governor. The deputy was briefed on the activities of this project so far, regarding the formulation of interventions for the target districts in the province. The deputy thanked the UNDP for the selection of Herat Province for the upcoming project and recommended the following:

- The building of irrigation canals and retaining walls in the district.
- Vocational training for youth of the target district and skill training for the women association/groups.
- Capacity building training for the line departments of MAIL, NEPA and personnel of the districts' governor's offices.
- Provision of financial support to enhance the capacity of small and medium women's enterprises in the centre of the province.
- Establishment of plantations and a green belt in and around Kohsan and Ghoryan Districts where sandstorms occur frequently in the summer.

Provincial Rural Rehabilitation & Development Directorate (PRRD)

A consultation meeting was held with the deputy director of PRRD. The deputy was briefed on the upcoming activities of the project. He shared the proposals with his team and requested that their opinions be reflected in the formulation stage of the project for the target districts.

The PRRD recommended the following:

- Investments to improve the irrigation systems (intakes, water dividers, canals, etc.) as

the traditional irrigation methods are inefficient and lead to water losses and mismanagement.

- The construction of retaining walls along the canals banks.
- Cold storage facilities for onions and apples to be constructed on public lands.
- Greenhouses for out of season crop production and high value crops.

Department for Agriculture, Irrigation & Livestock (DAIL)

A meeting was also held with the director of the DAIL. He was briefed on the project objectives and the planned activities to be undertaken. The head of the directorate shared his views and the DAIL provincial plan which contains 42projects. The following activities met the objectives of the project.

- Lining of the turnouts of the main canals in all fifteen districts.
- Provision of improved saffron seed and support for farmers in marketing.
- Construction of check dams in the areas where soil erosion has occurred and the native plantations of the area have been destroyed.
- Conservation and rehabilitation of pistachio forests in the province.
- Capacity building for the members of the committees to be established by DAIL for the conservation and management of rangelands and forestation.
- Construction and rehabilitation of 15 kareze systems in the districts of Gozara, Adraskan, Gulran and Shindand.

Provincial Department of the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA)

Consultation with the department head of the NEPA found that most forests in the province have been destroyed. There are some wild plantations of pistachio that are conserved by local communities in some districts. Most of the native vegetation in the province is under threat from local communities and nomads (Kochis) who migrate with their herds in the summer to pastures and rangelands for grazing, which result in overgrazing and soil erosion. This means that there is considerable potential for rehabilitation of rangelands with plants that are resistant to environmental pressures. Other recommendations included:

- Establishment of a green belt in Kohsan and Ghoryan districts.
- Plantation of *Heng* ('Asafoetida is an herbaceous perennial plant growing up to 2 m tall, its roots are mostly used as a spice') as a cash crop for the marginalised farming communities.
- Conservation and rehabilitation of pistachio forests and medicinal plants.
- Construction of micro-hydro power units along the banks of the Harirod River.

Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (small enterprises wing)

Having introduced the upcoming project to the head of the provincial Chamber of Commerce and Industries, a healthy discussion took place. The provincial Chamber of Commerce and Industries has more than 2000 members, mainly consisting of builders, food retailers and small entrepreneurs, including a considerable number of women. It has some agro input suppliers like juice production, carpet weaving, dry fruit processing, handicrafts, and livestock products like yoghurt, buttermilk, cheese, butter, etc. Its main functions are capacity building, training workshops and visits to other areas and countries. The main market focus of the women entrepreneurs is on handicraft development, processing of fruits and carpet weaving. These products are well received in Dubai and some other international markets in Europe.

The head of the provincial Chamber of Commerce and Industries recommended the following activities:

- Establishing a green belt around the industrial park.
- Organizing vocational training sessions for women and youth.
- Strengthening the carpet weaving industry by providing training in carpet design, marketing and wool processing.
- Developing market links for the suppliers of carpet weavers and handicraft producers within the country and abroad.
- Establishing fruit processing units to make different products, create a market for fruits, diversify the income sources of the farming community and create employment for youth.

Consultation meeting with NGOs active in Herat

A joint meeting was held with five national and international NGOs (DACAAR, HELP, WASSA, SDO and RSDO)[16]. These NGOs are working in different sectors ranging from agriculture, irrigation, social and community development to women empowerment.

Long List of Intervention Options

The initial meetings with provincial partners and stakeholders in the two target districts were followed by gap identification meetings that were attended by members of the CDCs, village leaders representing most of the villages, and the local authorities in each district. The CDC members and other participants were divided into two groups. Each group came up with various development gaps relating to livelihood and infrastructure. This process concluded with identified and initially prioritised options (the long list of interventions). These options are listed below. From this, a shortlist of options was extracted.

Identified and prioritised list of options for intervention from groups A+B in Ghoryan District

- Improvement of irrigation canals for Diran and Degordan villages.

[16] For a list of the specific activities of each NGO, please refer to table (NGOs operating in the province).

- Construction of bioclimatic stores for onions and apples at two accessible locations.
- Plantations of (*taq* and *gaz*) trees on rangelands.
- Establishment of Women Self Help Groups.
- Arrangement of vocational training for women and youth.
- Support for farmers in saffron production by providing them with saffron bulbs and post-harvest management techniques.

Identified and prioritised list of options for intervention from groups C+D in Kohsan District

- Rehabilitation and reconstruction of irrigation canals and intakes.
- Establishment of walnut and native trees (*taq* and *gaz*) on communal land.
- Organizing vocational training for youth in the district to learn skills.
- Construction of bioclimatic stores for vegetable (i.e. onions) and fruit crops.
- Establishment of a milk processing unit.
- Establishment of honey bee farms.
- Establishment of Women Self Help Groups.

Identified and prioritised list of options for interventions from group E in Herat city (Arman Saba Sisters Association)

Arman Saba Sisters Association was established by a leading woman trader in 2012 with the support of the provincial Chamber of Commerce and Industries. The association has more than 1500 members with representation from all districts of the province including Herat city. The association provides vocational training to its members and other women interested in carpet weaving, embroidery, tailoring, silk production, saffron production, handicrafts, fruit processing and marketing.

The following activities were recommended by Arman Sabah Sisters Association:

- Capacity building of the association members in management, finance, leadership and record keeping.
- Provision of vocational training to women in carpet design, wool processing, embroidery and handicrafts.
- Establishment of Women Self Help Groups in the target districts.
- Provision of support in market and market linkages development.

IX. SHORTLIST OF INTERVENTION OPTIONS

In order to conclude the final list of prioritised options, there was a joint meeting of rural livelihood experts and civil engineers. The long list of options was discussed in order to reach an acceptable list (shortlist) of options for inclusion in the project for the two districts. Several factors determined whether an option met the project's objectives. These were: the budget requirements; sustainability in

terms of climate change awareness; diversification of income resources; job creation at the community level. The shortlisted options are listed below:

- Construction of bioclimatic stores for fruits and vegetables in the two target districts in accessible locations.
- *Establishment of Women Self Help Groups.*
- *Provision of equipment to women associations.*
- Establishment of plantations on communal rangelands.
- Organization of vocational training for youth and women.
- *Provision of solar dryers to process vegetables and fruits.*
- *Assistance for farmers in saffron production by providing them with saffron bulbs and post-harvest management techniques.*

X. PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS

Intervention for bioclimatic stores:

The use of bioclimatic storage offers farmers an opportunity to increase their farm income through value added marketing by allocating a percentage of their produce to storage and obtaining a higher price at a later date. Where production volumes justify it and farmers are willing to invest, the project proposes support for the construction of sufficient bioclimatic storage space for the available marketable surplus until February or March of the following year.

The contracting bidder will establish the actual volume of storage and level of farmer interest. Where individual production volumes are not sufficient to fill the store, farmers should be willing to share storage space.

Produce should be packed in jute sacks and clearly labelled. Participating farmer members should also be willing to share monitoring duties to control internal store temperatures. The contracting bidder will train farmers on storage techniques and management, and where stores are to be shared, will facilitate agreements on working and management arrangements.

The implementing consultant will prepare designs for the stores, organise/supervise construction and train farmers in the correct operation of the stores. It is important to ensure that stores are adequately engineered to withstand local climatic conditions and that they are operationally safe.

Stores may either be built in banks at one or more locations, or individually to serve a cluster of farmers. It is recommended that a small fee is collected for each cubic metre of potatoes stored to manage, maintain and operate the stores.

Currently, only around 3000 tons of onions are produced in the target districts of Herat Province. Production can be highly variable depending on annual precipitation. It is anticipated that the implementation of working irrigation systems and improved water usage will increase the amount of irrigated land that can grow onions by several hectares in the Kohsan and Ghoryan Districts.

Assuming that only 50% of the total onion crop is placed in storage to take advantage of better prices during non-peak production periods, this would represent around 1500 tons of onions requiring storage.

Assuming that one ton of onions takes up between 1.75 m^3 to 2 m^3 of cold storage space, this equates to around 1440 m^3 of storage, or roughly 20 bioclimatic stores with 72 m^3 internal space. This project should provide at least 1/4 of the storage space needed to allow the farmers to organise the resources for the remaining 3/4. The estimated cost to build a single 72 m^3 store is around $8640, and requesting an in-kind contribution of 10% from the community wishing to participate through labour, raw building materials and a site, should bring the intervention contribution down to $7800. Only farmers willing to commit to these resource contributions should be eligible to participate in the bioclimatic storage programme.

The construction of four stores at $7800 each requires an intervention budget of $31,200. Stores can be larger or smaller and this will have a bearing on the cost per m^3. Farmers will require training on best storage practices. The implementing contractor will be required to assist with the coordination of storage and marketing of the stored produce.

A case study:

Marwarid Norzai is not only a breadwinner but also beats hunger for others

Talking to a women's group in Herat one of the executive members, Marwarid Norzai, speaks softly as she takes her scarf off her face. There's a mixture of pride, amazement and hopefulness on her face as she points to her other colleagues in the group.

In response to my query about how she started her business, she said that during the Russian attack on Afghanistan she migrated with her family to Iran, and after some time she got married to her fellow countryman. After she had two children, the marriage fell apart and she was divorced. Continuing her talk, she added that after her divorce she came back to her home country, Afghanistan, and she wanted to start working to support her two children and other family members. She received some vocational training in carpet weaving and business management. Then she joined a school as a teacher but the salary was insufficient to meet her family's needs, so she took the decision to start her personal business with the money she saved from her salary and carpet weaving. She says that her first step was to coordinate with women in nearby villages to identify a gap she could fill by investing her saved money (500,000 Afs). After talking to the women, she identified the need for wool spinning because most of the village women were employed in carpet weaving. She started buying wool from sheep keepers, brought the wool to the women to spin and then sold it to the local market for carpet weaving. She paid each woman 40 Afs for 40 kg of spun wool. She says that soon she made a good profit, and with the passage of time she started developing links with carpet traders in Pakistan through the male members of her family. Her business has grown ten-fold and it is multi-faceted. She deals in carpet selling, embroidery, real estate and the import of food items from abroad. She also invested in a plaza to establish a market place for the women of Herat Province to start their businesses and sell their items and products in an atmosphere that is free of male dominance and pressure. She intends to give the interested women a shop free of charge for the first six months, and then she will charge 600 Afs per month. She also invests in the well-being of women in Herat Province by constructing schools to promote girls' education. She established an association called 'Arman Sabah Sisters Association', which is used as a forum for women to come and share ideas for their development. Now Norzai not only serves her two daughters, but also other needy women in the province.

Intervention for saffron production and post-harvest management:

According to literature, saffron, apart from its culinary and cosmetic uses, has potentially beneficial medical uses as a painkiller, antispasmodic, aphrodisiac, diaphoretic, emmenagogue, expectorant and sedative. The plant has been used as a folk remedy against scarlet fever, smallpox, colds, insomnia, asthma and cancer. Until relatively recently, saffron was widely used as a dye in fabrics and wool for carpet weaving. As a spice, saffron has been traded for about 5000 years (ICARDA 2007). Today, saffron is the most expensive spice and has been compared to gold and opium for its value by weight.

Saffron growing is highly profitable and ecologically suited to the arid growing conditions prevalent in western and north-western Afghanistan (see Box-1). Saffron is the dried stigmas of *Crocus sativus*, a type of crocus. The plant does not compete with other crops for irrigation and labour (despite being particularly labour intensive) as the harvesting time, around 2-3 weeks in October each year, occurs after other crops have been harvested.

Producing a kilogram of dried saffron requires 150,000 to 170,000 flowers and around 400 hours of labour. According to the farmers in Herat, a jerib of land (one-fifth of a hectare or 2000 square metres) can yield 1-3 kilograms of saffron worth US$2-3000 per kilogram. Annual global saffron production is around 300 tons, of which Iran is estimated to produce between 90-94%. High-quality, packaged saffron retails for as much as US$11,000 per kilogram or higher in Western markets, as recent years have witnessed a surge in demand.

The climatic conditions of the target districts are highly suitable for the production of saffron. According to the Herat branch of the DAIL, over 200 hectares of land were under cultivation in the different districts of Herat Province in 2012. In Ghoryan District there is a saffron producers' women's association which can be used as source for bulb production. Bulbs can be purchased from them and distributed among the selected farmers. The amount of bulbs to be cultivated per jerib ranges from 500-800 kg, depending on labour input, the purchasing power of the farmer and the cost per kg, which varies from 200-250 Afs.

The IC has to conduct a survey in the inception phase of the project to determine the number of farmers to be supported based on a selection criteria (preference should be given to those farmers who are marginalised, effected most by natural disasters, benefited least from the donors' support, have less purchasing power, etc.) and the amount of bulbs to be distributed to each farmer. The IC should try to purchase locally produced bulbs because they are fresher, more acclimatised and less likely to have been damaged in transportation. The IC should implement post-harvest management practices by conducting training sessions and linking the producers with provincial and national markets.

XI. CONCLUSION

For livelihood support, approximately 600,000 USD per province is available.

If we break it up equally between outputs it comes to approx. 200,000 USD per output over five years (project life):

Activity	Details	Cost in USD
Women SHGs formed	20 SHGs of 15 women = 300	500 per SHG = 10,000
Investment in SHG as initial loan funds	Two instalments of 1000 USD	40,000
Training and support other than vocational	Lump sum	25,000
Market survey	1 per district = 3	5000 per district = 15,000
Saffron production	50 farmers/district = 100 farmers	25 jeribs/district = 50 jeribs 800 per jerib = 40,000
Cold storage	4 bioclimatic storages (2/district)	8000/storage= 32,000
Rangeland rehabilitation	Lump sum	250,000
Vocational training	Lump sum	150,000
Total		**562,000**

Irrigation

Objective:

The main objective of this project is to address the most urgent and immediate adaptation needs of Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

The core objective of our mission is to assess the options and coordinate with provincial concerned authority to identify the vulnerable communities to establish the productive outputs and its related several activities to strengthen the resilience of those Afghan people in (Panjshir, Balkh, Uruzgan and Herat) Provinces to manage climate change-induce hazard (natural disaster), like periodic drought, untimely flood due to heavy rainfall).

The proposed outputs should focus on top prioritized needs (Agriculture and irrigation water resources improvement) and seeks to reduce the rural communities' livelihood vulnerability in drought and flood-prone targeted areas.

Natural disaster affected agricultural lands, destruct irrigation canals and other irrigation water resources control system which causes low crop productivity and brings causality to human being and livestock and reduce loss of soil and water conservation in upper water shed catchment areas in Afghanistan. The aim is to develop activities to enhance community resilience to withstand with the created problems and it seeks to address.

This project will cover three main areas; capacity development, enhancement rural sustainable livelihood and construction of irrigation infrastructure. Furthermore, HERAT province is one of our focused area under this project

General Information

A. Geography

Herat province is located in the western part of the country, and borders with Iran (Islam Qala Crossing) and Turkmenistan (Torghundi Crossing). It has internal borders with Badghis province in the North, Ghor in the East and Farah in the South. The province covers an area of 63097 km2. More than one third (39%) of the province is mountainous or semi mountainous terrain while more than half (53%) of the area is made up of flat land,

Topography type:

Flat Mountainous Semi Mountainous Semi Flat. The province is divided into 16 Districts. The provincial capital is Hirat center which has a population of about 397456 inhabitants.

B. Population

Hirat has a total population of 1762157. There are 226650 households in the province. The following table shows the population by district.

The concerned two vulnerable district population profile :

District name	Male	Female	Total	Remark
Ghoryan	45391	44809	90200	
Kohsan	57782	28687	86469	

Main body:

The following table shows each NGOs concerned field of Activities.

NGO	Development activity	District
DACAAR	Irrigation, soil conservation, capacity building, saffron research study	Pashton Zarghun
SDU	School construction, vocational trainings , irrigation	Kushk , Rubat sangay
WASA	Irrigation, capacity building, saffron harvesting trainings	Pashtoon Zarghon, Angel
HELP	Capacity building, vocational trainings how to protect ground water table from sewerage, drip irrigation and female literacy	In all districts

On dated 12/6/013 we had a productive meeting with Herat women commercial technical committee (ARMAN E SABAH) related their activities and how to manage the support for them.

On 12/06/013 as per recommendation of PDG we had a productive meeting with provincial directors of (RRD, PCD, DAIL, NEPA, NABDP) in RRD premise for identification of two convenient districts to start the base line survey for collection the required information.

After our briefing related district selection criteria and scope of the mission and after long discussion finally they selected two districts (KOHSAN and GHORYAN) to carry out the survey.

Regretfully our mission was not cleared by UNDP regional office due to security existing threat. In the mean time we have drafted an alternative option to contact the selected district governors through assistance of AGSP/UNDP colleagues in Herat for consultation and introduction purposes and we follow that way and we succeeded to identify two CDCs from each selected communities across each district.

On 13/06/2013 we met, Mr. Haji Daud/ GHORYAN district governor and Mr. Haji Abdul Baqi /KOHSAN district governor for consultation of selection the two CDCs from each district and due to security restriction the executive committee members have to come to Herat center for identification of suitable productive projects.

On 14/06/013 and 15/06/013 we had a meeting with the selected communities related CDCs (Dehran and Gordan) from KOHSAN district and related CDCs (Qalate Merake and Mustafa Bik) from Ghoryan district in Herat center in our accommodation for collection the data as follow.[17]

- ✓ **GHORYAN District:**

Elevation=2606 ft,
34 20 31.34 N and 61 28 27.79 E
Total CDCS=235
Total villages= 311
Population= 311000 c

Table1. Prioritized needs assessment +rough cost analysis for two selected villages (DEHRAN and GORDAN)

Need rank	Community	Pop. F	Canal length km	Irri. Land Jerib	Source of irri. water	Out put	Cost/out put ($)
	Deh Gordan CDC						
1		600	10	2000	Hareroud river	600 m Gabion Protection wall for irrigation canal	96000
2						30- Small water dividers	6000
3						4- Flume Aqueducts	16000
	Total assumed cost						118000
	Community contribution in cash or kind						10%
	Deh Heran CDC						
1		1100	15	4444	Hareroud river	Construction of 3 km canal[18]	……..
2						20- Small water distributer	4000
3						100- Field turn outs	20000
4						2- Flume Aqueducts	8000
5						Canal intake[19]	……
	Community contribution						10%

[17] The data was collected from CDCs members in Herat center and site observation is mandatory.
[18] Site visit is required to take accurate data & measurement.
[19] Precise hydrological data and site observation of canal + river is required.

- ✓ **KOHSAN District:**

Elevation=2424 ft,
34 39 28.18 N and 61 11 18.4 E
Total CDCS=56
Total villages= 47
Population= 140000 c

Table-2. Prioritized needs assessment +rough cost analysis for two selected villages (Qalate Merake and Mustafa Bik) depends to KOHSAN district

Need rank	Community	Pop. F	Canal length km	Irri. Land Jerib	Source of irri. water	Out put	Cost/out put ($)
	Mustafa BIC CDC						
1		800	18	4500	Hareroud river	Improvement of existing drinking water supply(3 drill wells+3 solar pumps+ 3 storage 10000 lit tank	54000
2						15- Small water dividers	4500
3						1 – 20 m Supper passage + four wing walls	28000
4						150 m Stone masonry protection wall is needed for canal	70000
	Total assumed cost						155000
	Community contribution in cash or kind						10%
	Deh Heran CDC						
1		700	25	14000	Hareroud river	Provision of 4 drill wells	120000

						60 m deep+ 4-solar pumps + 10000 liters four water storage tanks	
2						Improvement of existing drinking water supply(two solar 6inch pumps +two water storage10000 lit capacity	20000
3						20- Small water distributer	4000
4						600 m Gabion wall for canal protection	96000
	Total assumed cost						240000
	Community contribution in cash or kind						10%

URUZGAN

XII. INTRODUCTION:

Uruzgan Province is in southern Afghanistan. It is surrounded by the provinces of Daykundi to the north, Helmand to the east, Kandahar and Zabul to the south, and Ghazni to the west.

There are seven districts in the province, including the capital, Tarin Kot. The total population of the province is 333,500. The province covers an area of 12,460 sq. km of which more than 72% is mountainous and semi-mountainous and 21% is flat. Uruzgan has a cold desert climate with hot summers and cold winters. Precipitation is low and mainly occurs from December to March.

Uruzgan's economy is 60-70% based on agriculture and farming; the remaining 30-40% is based on livestock and other businesses. About 90% of the agriculture in the province uses surface water irrigation from the major rivers (Teri and Helmand), and about 10-15% is based on karezes and boreholes.

The primary field crops grown in the province are wheat, maize, rapeseed, flax and opium. Fruit orchards of almonds, apricots, grapes and pomegranates are grown on a large scale in the province, especially in Tarin Kot and Dehrawod Districts.

XIII. GENERAL GEOGRAPHIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

The consultant team of SDU, in coordination with DAIL, PRRD and the NEPA directorate at the provincial level, undertook consultations for the development of this project which will focus on two districts (Tarin Kot and Dehrawod) in Uruzgan Province.

Tarin Kot District is the capital of the province and it is at an elevation of 1317 metres above sea level. The district covers an area of 1766 sq. km which is generally semi-mountainous with some patches of agricultural land along the banks of the Teri River where crops like wheat, maize, rapeseed, etc. are cultivated. There are orchards of almonds, apricots, pomegranates and grapes. Almonds are grown on a large scale because they are drought resistant. The population of the district is 99,700[20] people spread over 150 villages. There are 58 Community Development Councils and 26 Cluster Community Development Councils (CCDCs). The district has enough sources of water and the agricultural land is irrigated with water from the river.

Droughts and seasonal flash floods occur frequently in the district. Almost every year, in late spring and early summer, heavy rainfall causes flash floods, destroying the agricultural land and residential areas. Residents of the district are victims of natural disasters in the form of droughts and flash floods every year.

Dehrawod is 70 kilometres from the capital city of the province beside the Helmand River. Dehrawod District covers an area of 1644 sq. km. It has more agricultural land than other districts, and people are chiefly involved in farming. The crops grown in the district are wheat, maize, mung beans, water melons and melons. There are a large number of fruit orchards growing pomegranates, almonds, pistachios and apricots. The total population of the district is 59,400, which is spread over 97 villages. These villages are dissected by two rivers (Helmand and Teri), which are used to irrigate the agricultural land. There are 110 CDCs in the district.

Dehrawod District is prone to natural disasters. In the summer, when the snow melts, the water level in the two main rivers rises which causes flash floods, destroying the residential areas and washing away the crops and agricultural land.

Table 3: General demographic and social data for target districts

6- Tarin Kot:

General Information	
District area (sq. km) (NABDP)	1766
Number of CDCs and CCDCs (PRRD)	58 CDCs, 26 CCDCs
No. of villages (PRRD)	150
Height above sea level (metres)	1317
Security situation at time of survey: (good, medium, poor)	Good
Inhabitants' Profile	
Total population (CSO)	99,700

[20] Statistical Year Book 2011-2012, Central Statistics Organization (CSO).

No. of males (PRRD)	51,800 (51.95%)
No. of females (PRRD)	47,900 (48.05%)
Literacy rate (PRRD)	NA
Male (PRRD) L.R.	NA
Female (PRRD) L.R.	NA
Access to Transport	
Percentage of roads open to traffic in all seasons of the year	95%
Nearest main road to the district centre	Tarin Kot-Kandahar Road
Percentage of villages that have access to bazaars in all seasons of the year	90%
Nearest city	Tarin Kot
Irrigation Facilities & Access to Water	
River (number)	1
River length (km) (PRRD)	50
Number of main canals and sub-canals (PRRD)	3 main canals , 5 sub-canals
Main canals - total length (km) (PRRD)	5
Quality of ground water for irrigation: (good, medium, poor)	Good

7- Dehrawod District:

General Information	
District area (sq. km) (NABDP)	1644
Number of CDCs	110 CDCs
No. of villages (PRRD)	97
Height above sea level (metres)	1100
Security situation at time of survey: (good, medium, poor)	Good
Inhabitants' Profile	
Total population (CSO)	59,400
No. of males (PRRD)	30,700 (51.68%)
No. of females (PRRD)	28,700 (48.28%)
Literacy rate (PRRD)	NA
Male (PRRD) L.R.	NA
Female (PRRD) L.R.	NA
Access to Transport	
Percentage of roads open to traffic in all seasons of the year	90%
Nearest main road to the district centre	Dehrawod-Tarin Kot Road
Percentage of villages that have access to bazaars in all seasons of the year	95%
Nearest city	Tarin Kot
Irrigation Facilities & Access to Water	

River (number)	2
River length (km) (PRRD)	55
Number of main canals and sub-canals (PRRD)	5 main canals, 10 sub-canals
Main canals - total length (km) (PRRD)	3
Quality of ground water for irrigation: (good, medium, poor)	Good

UN Agencies in Uruzgan

Agency	Project	Location
UNOPS	National Rural Access Programme (NRAP)	All districts
WFP	Food for work, school food programme	Tarin Kot and Dehrawod Districts
IOM	Civilian assistance	All districts
UN-Habitat	National solidarity programme	All districts
UNDP	NABDP, ASGP	All districts
UNAMA	Women support, education	Tarin Kot, Dehrawod, Chora
UN-FAO	Agriculture, seed and fertiliser distribution	Tarin Kot, Dehrawod, Gizab
UNHCR	Shelters	All districts

There are also several national and international Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) supporting development projects across the province in various sectors:

NGOs currently operating in different development activities

International and National Organizations Operating in Uruzgan		
Organization	**Activities**	**Location**
ADA	MHPs and wind electricity generation	Tarin Kot, Dehrawod
Save the Children	Health, education, etc.	All districts
GIZ	Vocational training, livelihood, agriculture	Chora, Tarin Kot, Dehrawod, Khas Uruzgan
NSP	Rural development	All districts
Chemonics Inc.	Agriculture	Tarin Kot, Chora, Gizab
Holland Committee for Afghanistan	Establishment of veterinary clinics	All districts
Alternative Development Programme - South (ARD)	Agriculture value chain development	All districts
GRM	Energy, water and capacity building	Tarin Kot, Chora, Khas Uruzgan
DANIDA	Basic education	All districts
HADAF	Health services	Tarin Kot, Dehrawod, Chora

XIV. IDENTIFICATION AND PRIORITISATION OF OPTIONS FOR INTERVENTIONS

This technical chapter aims to provide information on the different options chosen for inclusion in this project for the selected districts[21] of Uruzgan Province. Figure-1 (below) outlines the options identification and prioritisation process to develop, select and filter the interventions for target districts.

The 'options selection process' commenced with a series of meetings with provincial authorities and directorates of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), the provincial department of the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) and other relevant stakeholders at the provincial level. The process started after analysing the current status of the province using the information gathered for developing the districts' profiles by a team of consultants. UNDP provincial partners' and stakeholders' initial consultation process led to a series of meetings with District Administration Authorities (DAA), Community Development Councils (CDCs) and community representatives.

For the detailed gaps identification meetings, and to ensure maximum coverage of the area and active participation, each district was categorised into marginalised communities, vulnerable communities and those where potential for agriculture exists. From each community there was a group comprising 3-5 participants who were members of existing entities of MRRD, CCDCs and various villages' representatives. A final meeting was conducted in order to prioritise the options for project interventions from the list of identified options. Additionally, budget constraints and whether the interventions met the objectives of the project were taken into consideration.

Local Consultations

Provincial Governor's Office (PGO)

A meeting was held with the deputy of the provincial governor. The deputy was briefed on the activities of the project so far regarding the formulation of interventions for the target districts in the province. The deputy thanked the UNDP for the selection of Uruzgan Province for the upcoming project and recommended the following:

- Construction of small dams and check dams.
- Vocational training for youth and skill training for women associations/groups.
- Capacity building for the line departments of the MAIL, MRRD, and the personnel of the district governors' offices.

Provincial Rural Rehabilitation & Development Directorate (PRRD)

A meeting was held with the director of the PRRD. The director was briefed on the upcoming activities of the project. He shared the ideas with his team and requested that their opinions be reflected in the formulation stage of the project for the target districts. The PRRD recommended the following:

- Investments to improve the irrigation canals.
- Construction of retaining walls along the canals banks.

[21] Districts in the target province were selected based on certain criteria and in consultation with local stakeholders.

Department for Agriculture, Irrigation & Livestock (DAIL)

A meeting was also held with the head of the DAIL. He was briefed on the project objectives and the planned activities to be undertaken. The head of the department shared his views and recommended the following activities which meet the objectives of the project.

- Establishment of greenhouses in the target districts.
- Establishment of a vegetable oil processing unit in Tarin Kot to diversify the income of farmers who produce industrial crops like cotton, sunflowers, rapeseed, etc.
- Construction of check dams in areas where soil erosion is present.
- Organization of short vocational training courses for youth and women.

Provincial Department of the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA)

A meeting was held with the department head of the NEPA. She emphasised the importance of the climate change adaptation awareness programme to be launched in the target districts. Other recommendations included:

- Organizing vocation training for women and youth.
- Establishment of a recreational park for women in Tarin Kot city.
- Enhancing the technical capacity of the personnel of the NEPA office in Tarin Kot by organizing training and providing them with logistical support for effective and efficient management and operation.

Meeting with GIZ

A meeting was held with the GIZ provincial head based in Uruzgan Province. GIZ has been operating in four districts: Tarin Kot, Dehrawod, Chora and Shaidi Hassas Charchi Nau since 2008. GIZ carries out small-scale activities in the areas of public health, agricultural productivity and transport which are financed through grants. Communities in these four districts plan, implement and evaluate their own prioritized activities. GIZ also aims to strengthen local and provincial governance and civil society, including the capacities of community-based organizations. **GIZ recommends that UNDP, through this project, should strengthen coordination with local authorities and NGOs operating in the province.** Their recommendations also include:

- Strengthening small-scale businesses at the local level through vocational training sessions for women and youth based on market demand.
- Establishing a series of greenhouses to prolong the season of high value crops like tomatoes, cucumbers, etc.

Long List of Intervention Options

The initial meetings with provincial partners and stakeholders in the two target districts were followed by gap identification meetings that were attended by members of the CDCs and village leaders representing most of the selected villages, including the local authorities in each district. The CDC

members and other participants were divided into two groups. Each group came up with various development gaps relating to livelihood and infrastructure. This process concluded with identified and initially prioritised options (the long list of interventions). These options are listed below. From this, a shortlist of options was extracted.

Identified and prioritised list of options from group A in Tarin Kot District

- Organizing vocational training for youth in the district.
- Establishment of Women Self Help Groups.
- Rehabilitation of irrigation canals.
- Establishment of greenhouses for the production of out of season, high value crops.
- Plantation of fruit and non-fruit trees on rangelands.

Identified and prioritised list of options from group B in Dehrawod District

- Rehabilitation and reconstruction of irrigation canals and intakes.
- Establishment of plantations on communal land.
- Organizing vocational training for youth.
- Provision of solar dryers for households to dry fruits (apricots) and vegetables (onions, peppers).
- Establishment of honey bee farms.
- Establishment of Women Self Help Group.
- Construction of greenhouses for the production of high value crops.

XV. SHORTLIST OF INTERVENTION OPTIONS

In order to conclude the final list of prioritised options, there was a joint meeting of rural livelihood experts and civil engineers. The long list was discussed in order to reach an acceptable list (shortlist) of options for inclusion in the project for the two districts. Several factors determined whether an option met the project's objectives. These were: the budget requirements; sustainability in terms of climate change awareness; diversification of income resources; job creation at the community level. The shortlisted options are listed below:

- *Establishment of Women Self Help Groups to empower women.*
- Establishment of tree plantations on communal rangelands to conserve soil fertility, avoid erosion and generate income for the community.
- Organization of vocational training for youth and women to learn skills and generate a source of income and job creation.
- *Provision of solar dyers to process vegetables and fruits to diversify the income sources of rural women.*
- *Establishment of greenhouses for production of out of season vegetables.*

XVI. PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS

Intervention for processing (drying) fruits and vegetable with solar dryers:

Globally, the use of dried products is widespread. Drying fruits (grapes, apricots, etc.) and vegetables (onions, tomatoes, chillies, leafy vegetables like mint, etc.) has been practised for decades in Afghanistan, primarily for home consumption and sometimes for commercial purposes. Produce is dried for three reasons: there is surplus after the harvest and farmers are unable to transport fresh produce due to poor road conditions and lack of market information; drying ensures that produce is available when it is out of season; it diversifies the farmers' income sources. Traditional drying systems have not been able to supply high quality products. Solar dryers can play a crucial role in improving this situation by reducing the volume of produce and increasing its shelf life.

Apricots, raisins, tomatoes, onions, chillies, herbs and green leafy vegetables are in high demand in neighbouring countries and on the domestic market, which has led to an opportunity for horticulture development in Afghanistan. However, the horticultural sector is constrained by the lack of knowledge, resources and skills to correctly install and operate the drying equipment.

During the consulting process, many stakeholders have indicated the potential opportunity for increased income, employment enhancement and reduced waste by drying fruits and vegetables under low-cost (solar) tunnel dryers.

Current drying techniques are unhygienic and inefficient. Dependency on the weather creates problems. Open drying processes lead to more wastage and loss of quality and quantity. Large numbers of grapes, apricots and tomatoes are spoiled.

Solar dryers will improve efficiency, product quality, hygiene and value. National and international traders are ready to pay higher prices for dried produce from Afghanistan. The proposed intervention under the CCA project will result in improvement in supply.

As Uruzgan is renowned for fruit and vegetable production, in the project's inception phase, the Implementing Contractor (IC) should conduct a survey to investigate the surplus fruits and vegetables in the selected communities, and based on this survey, the number of dryers and their capacity should be determined. Once the survey has been carried out and the number of dryers has been determined, the IC should train the beneficiaries to operate them.

Intervention for vocational training for youth and women:

To break the cycle of dependency and enhance income by providing rural youth and women with the skills and knowledge needed to enter a trade with higher income potential, this project aims to initiate short-term vocational courses in Tarin Kot and Dehrawod Districts. This will increase their self-sufficiency, promote socio-economic development and strengthen the resilience of rural livelihood options.

The IC, based on local market demand, should synthesise the programme to provide a holistic and integrated approach by identifying the best options considering available local resources. After graduation, the students should be provided with basic tool kits and enough support to launch their businesses or help them in finding jobs by linking them with local or regional private sectors. These training sessions will not only improve the participants' chances of finding a good job, they will also increase their confidence and self-worth.

Intervention for the plantation of rangelands:

Rangelands are uncultivated lands that supply a grazing or browsing resource to domestic and wild animals. In Afghanistan these lands comprise between 70 and 80% of the country[22]. In addition to livestock grazing, they supply a number of products including water, fuel woods and wildlife. Livestock provides one of the main income sources for rural people, and it has also been critical to the economy of the country in supplying products for domestic use and export. In the 1970s, livestock provided about 25% of the agriculture GDP.

With more than two decades of conflict (and the collapse of national, provincial and local forms of governance), natural resources have been exploited and most of the rangelands are degraded and misused due to overgrazing, long spells of drought, lack of proper management, utilisation of local vegetation as fuel by rural communities, and an increasing population with limited livelihood opportunities. The rehabilitation and development of rangelands can play a role, not only in reviving the national economy, but by providing watersheds, wildlife habitat (biodiversity), open spaces and aesthetic value.

To develop and conserve rangelands for future generations, a community based approach must be used in the management of state or public rangelands.

Based on this approach, the UNDP/SDU consultants' team visited communities in the target districts (Tarin Kot and Dehrawod) to discuss procedures to identify rangelands which are to be planted with trees. As Uruzgan has a suitable climate for the plantation of pistachio and walnut trees, and individuals successfully grow them in the region, the team suggested that these trees be planted in the rangelands. Pistachio and walnut trees do not require intensive care and their water requirements are minimal compared to other fruit trees. They will not only be a source of water and soil conservation but will also provide a source income for rural communities once they start bearing fruits.

In order to strengthen the resilience of rural communities for livelihood options, the IC should plan with the rural communities of the target districts where these trees are to be planted. The IC should also determine, together with the local communities, how to utilise the income generated from these trees. Community members will be trained in bookkeeping, finance and management. The rangeland management plans need to be incorporated in their village development plans, community development plan and district development plan.

Intervention for the establishment of greenhouses producing high value horticulture crops:

The environment in Afghanistan varies considerably in different parts of the country depending on the altitude. Climatic conditions in Dehrawod and Tarin Kot Districts are characterised by cold winters where temperatures may drop to -1°C. Summer is characterised by temperatures that may reach as high as 37°C. For year round production, greenhouse design must ensure that the environment within the greenhouse can be maintained at a level that will allow for satisfactory plant growth despite the harsh external environment. This must be achieved without the use of high-energy inputs, e.g. electrical or mechanical heaters.

Solar greenhouse production offers the opportunity to grow produce at those times of year when prices are highest. Better control of the environment will lead to increased yield, higher value, improved land and water use efficiency, reduced insect and disease pressure, and decreased use of chemicals.

In the winter, most of the vegetables in Uruzgan are imported from neighbouring provinces or from longer distances, e.g. Pakistan. This indicates that there is a market demand for out of season

[22] Reference; Donald J. Bedunah, Ph.D. January 5, 2006

vegetables. Considering the demand, the potential for greenhouses in selected districts and the interest of the communities, we recommend that they are provided with technical and financial support. A survey will be carried out by the IC to determine which sizes and models of greenhouses have already been proved to be effective in similar climatic conditions. The IC should also identify the sites for the greenhouses, based on the criteria developed for the selection of beneficiaries. The beneficiaries will be trained in vegetable production in protective structures, marketing and bookkeeping, and they need to be linked with input suppliers and market actors.

XVII. CONCLUSION

For livelihood support, approximately 600,000 USD per province is available.

If we divide it equally between outputs, it comes to approx. 200,000 USD per output over five years (project life).

Activity	Details	Cost in USD
Women SHGs formed	20 SHGs of 15 women = 300	500 per SHG = 10,000
Investment in SHG as initial loan funds	Two instalments of 1000 USD	40,000
Training and support other than vocational	Lump sum	25,000
Market survey	1 per district = 3	5000 per district = 15,000
Fruit and vegetable processing (solar dryers)	Lump sum	35,000
Greenhouse establishment	Lump sum	40,000
Rangeland rehabilitation	Lump sum	250,000
Vocational training	Lump sum	150,000
Total		**565,000**

Irrigation

1. Meeting with Deputy Provincial Governor

The deputy governor of Uruzgan province welcomed UNDP mission members (Mohammad Salim and Iqbal) to Uruzgan province. He was very delighted from UNDP for the selection of such a remote and insecure province like Uruzgan for the implementation of Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded project. He further promised to support UNDP and other implementing partners who really work for the poor and vulnerable people of the country like Uruzgan and added that women of this province are the most vulnerable population of the whole country, if UNDP really wants to reach the poor people and focus on gender, Uruzgan is the best place to work. Overall the Deputy Governor highlighted below potential development opportunities in this province.

- Dams, Intakes and weirs construction with irrigation canals and power generators

- Establishment of Research farms with trained extension workers who can assist them farmers with new agriculture mechanisms
- Introduction of mechanized agriculture in particular water saving mechanisms such as drip irrigation and etc.
- Support for farmers' association establishment and their capacity building and supporting it with loans, tractors, improved seeds etc.
- Assisting livestock owners & Kuchi with business centers / Associations and assisting in associations' capacity building to run the business centres, which deal in animal fodder, wool and skins and hides.
- Main road between Kandahar-Uruzgan asphalt while other access roads connecting Terinkot to districts and districts to districts all in poor conditions

2. Meeting with Provincial Rural Rehabilitation Development (PRRD)

The head of the PRRD mentioned that so far no major projects or investments have been taking place to develop a major project in the province. There is potential for improvement of irrigation as well as power generation for local electrification in Uruzgan province through the construction of dams. He further mentioned that Uruzgan has got few main rivers flowing in the province and irrigating the agricultural lands in the province.

1) Helmand River – from Gizab via Char Chinu (Shahid Hasas) to Deharawood
2) Teri River – from Khas Uruzgan via Terinkot to Dehrawood joining Helmand river
3) Darwishan or Chor River – from Chora to Terinkot joining Teri River in Terinkot
4) Khalaj River – from Gaizab to Dehrawood joining Helmand River
5) Tamazan River – from Daikundi to Gaizab joining Khalaj River and joining finally Helmand

3. Meeting with Agriculture, Irrigation & Livestock (DAIL)

The director of this department was also brief about overall project objectives where they added the following;

Uruzgan economy is 60-70% based on agriculture and farming, and the rest 30-40% on livestock and other businesses; therefore strong attention should be paid to the improvement of agriculture and empowerment of farmers. Uruzgan agriculture is based on both rain-fed and irrigated system, while about 90% of agriculture is based on surface water irrigation coming from the major rivers flowing in the province and about 10-15% is based on karezes and boreholes.

The drought has strongly affected the agriculture and farming of the province since the rivers don't contain sufficient water for the irrigation requirements. It is said that farming and agriculture is dropped by 30-40% in the province. As mentioned the main irrigation is based on surface water flowing in the rivers passing through the districts and water is being diverted from the rivers via traditional canals. All these canals require proper structuring in order to avoid water wastage and have better water management. Construction of dams could improve the irrigation system and consequently help in better farming and higher production and better economy.

Uruzgan agriculture could be divided into 2 categories (i) Crops and (ii) Orchards.

a) The main crop in the province is mainly wheat as main crop, of course after poppy, while there are also cumin/caraway, maize, barley, corn, Potatoes, Rice, Melon and Watermelon and some vegetables for domestic use. Rice is coming mainly from Dehrawood, Terinkot and Charchino and potatoes from Khar Uruzgan, Mellon and Watermelon from Deharawood mainly.
b) Uruzgan also has got orchards mainly apricots and almonds. Uruzgan almond is very famous and has got good market in Kandahar

It should also be mentioned that currently **poppy** is considered the most important crop in terms of revenue in Uruzgan, which has overshadowed all other crops in the province.

There are no major agricultural support services in apart from the department of Agriculture within the government administration; however there are some NGOs who help the farmers in a very small scale such as ADA, ALP and PRT. There were also WFP FFW projects implemented by local NGOs in the province who worked for canals cleaning and roads graveling, but this kind of projects were not sustainable and could hardly be considered as bringing structural change to the area.

According to head of DAIL information there was no active farmer association or cooperative in Uruzgan province just five months back while there was strong need for encouragement towards establishment of farmers' cooperatives. However, after visiting of Minister of MAIL and encouragement to establish farmer association, DAIL could establish more than 20 farmer associations which is one of the big achievements of DAIL in Uruzgan during this year. He further mentioned that some of the agricultural interventions should be considered in CCA project explained in details in livelihood reports.

4. Meeting with department of NEPA

The head of the NEPA in Uruzgan province was a woman who was also briefed about the overall project objectives where she recommended the following points to be considered in the project formulation and design phase of this project.

- Awareness training should be considered in this project because the overall knowledge of Uruzgan people is very less.
- NEPA/Uruzgan provincial office should be equipped enough to operate effectively and efficiently. For example, there are not enough computers as well as furniture in this department. Hence she requested UNDP to consider the purchasing of some equipment in the project development phase.

After consultation with the provincial deputy governor as well as with other line department heads, the following districts were recommended and identified for CCA project interventions.

a) Center of Uruzgan province Trinkot
b) Dehraoud district

5. Center of Uruzgan province Trinkoti

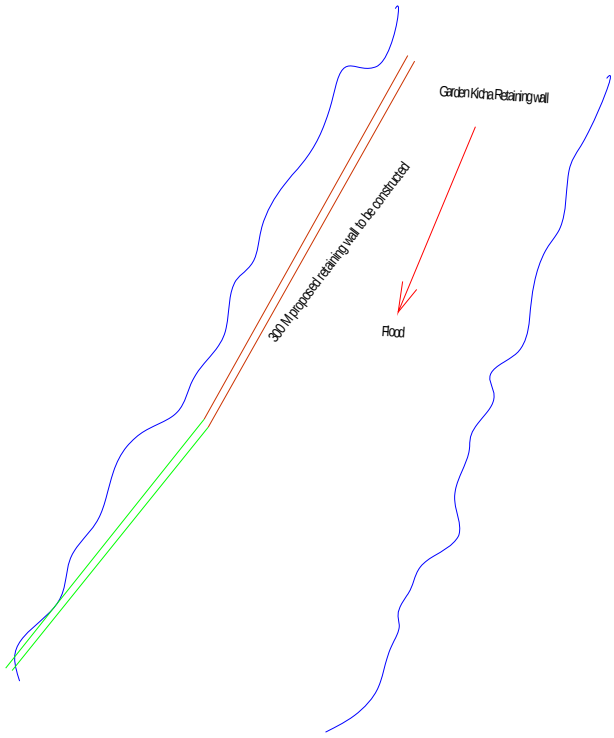
Garden Kecha Protection Wall: After meeting with CDC and irrigation department in Trinkot there is a canal lining named Garden Kecha Canal approximately 300m long where one side is being destroyed every year by flood. Then the villagers construct it from local material which is a huge problem for them. Approximately 2000 jerib of land is being cultivated through this canal lining. If a retaining wall to one side is constructed then more than 3000 Jerib land will be irrigated through this canal lining. That means 1000 jerib of land will be cultivated increasingly. On the other hand it will prevent erosion of land when there is flood. This is a good project in terms of Disaster Risk Reduction also.

Below is the approximate estimation of this protection wall which should be re-estimated once engineers have done complete technical assessment and have the available date after visiting the site.

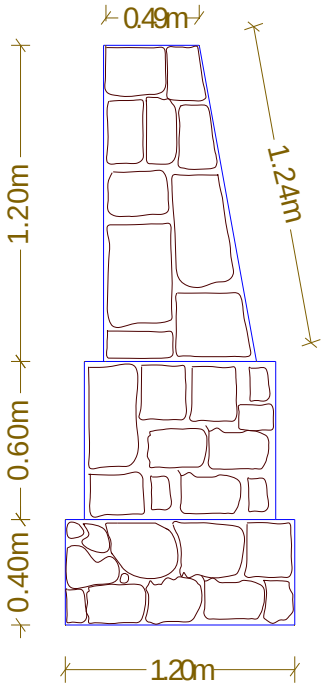
Estimation of Garden Kecha Canal with 250 m length

S/N	Description	Unit	No	Length	Width	Height	Total	Unit cost	Total Cost
1	Excavation	M3	1	250	1.2	1	300	2	600
2	PCC (150 Mark 1:2:4)	M3	1	250	1.2	0.1	30	55	1650
3	Stone Masonry	M3	1	250	1.2	0.4	120	70	8400
4	Stone Masonry	M3	1	250	1	0.6	150	70	10500
5	Stone Masonry	M3	1	250	0.65	1.2	195	70	13650
6	PCC over stone masonry (1:1.2:3)	M3	1	250	0.5	0.07	8.75	70	612.5
7	Pointing (1:3)	M2	2	250	1.2	1	600	3	1800
8	Miscellanies cost						0		5000
Grand Total									**42,213**

Sketch of Garden Kecha Canal Lining



Section of Garden Kecha Canal Lining

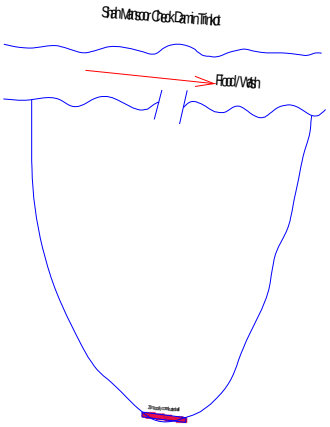


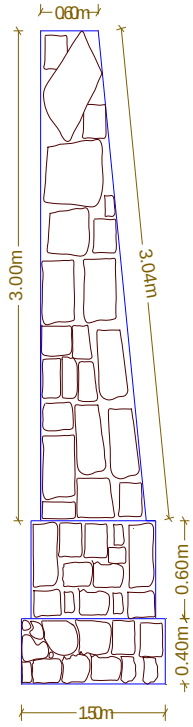
Shah Mansoor Check Dam: This dam is located in one of the villages of Trinkot called

Naqleen. As it is seen in below sketch only 30 m wall is needed to be constructed where this wall had been constructed by villagers from local material. Therefore, when there is heavy flood, then this wall is being destroyed as mentioned is it build from local material.

Estimation of Shah Mansoor Check Dam with 30 m length

S/N	Description	Unit	No	Length	Width	Height	Total	Unit cost	Total Cost
1	Excavation	M3	1	30	1.5	1	45	2	90
2	PCC (150 Mark 1:2:4)	M3	1	30	1.5	0.1	4.5	55	247.5
3	Stone Masonry	M3	1	30	1.5	0.4	18	70	1260
4	Stone Masonry	M3	1	30	1.3	0.6	23.4	70	1638
5	Stone Masonry	M3	1	30	0.85	3	76.5	70	5355
6	PCC over stone masonry (1:1.2:3)	M3	1	30	0.6	0.07	1.26	70	88.2
7	Pointing (1:3)	M2	2	30	3	1	180	3	540
8	Miscellanies cost						0		2000
Grand Total									11,219





1. **Dehdadi District**: After meeting with DDA, three villages (Lablan, Meyan Doo and Takr Yatemak) were selected for implementation of CCA project activities.

Lablan Village: In Lablan village there is 600 m canal lining where 30m goes in a tunnel. The community through local method excavated rock part of the mountain and had a tunnel which is not enough for a big amount of water goes in it. Therefore the community wants to excavate the tunnel to make it bigger. Now approximately 3000 Jerib of land is being cultivated, after completion of this project 1000 jerib will be increased in cultivation which means that approximately 4000 Jerib of land will be cultivated.

Estimation of Lablan Canal Lining

S/N	Description	Unit	No	Length	Width	Height	Total	Unit cost	Total Cost
1	Excavation	M3	1	30	2	4	240	120	28800
2	Purchasing of Equipment	M3	1	1	1	1	1	1	2000
3	Miscellanies cost						0		2000
Grand Total									**32,800**

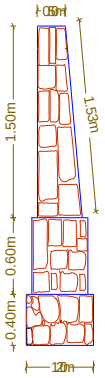
Meyan Doo Village: The CDC of this village recommended construction of 16 turn outs, that they can easily turn their water to different lands when they have their turns. The approximate estimation is given below. They also requested some stone masonry walls next to these turn outs in order to manage irrigation water properly.

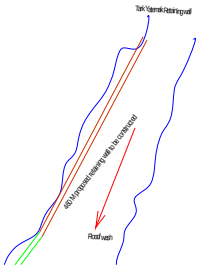
Meyan Doo Turn Outs and Stone Masonry Wall Estimation

S/N	Description	Unit	No	Length	Width	Height	Total	Unit cost	Total Cost
1	Construction of Turn Outs	M3	16	0	0	0	0	750	12000
2	Construction of stone masonry wall	M3	16	10	0.8	2	256	70	17920
3	Miscellanies cost						0		3000
Grand Total									**32,920**

Tark Yatemak village canal lining Estimation:

S/N	Description	Unit	No	Length	Width	Height	Total	Unit cost	Total Cost
1	Excavation	M3	1	460	1.5	1	690	2	1380
2	PCC (150 Mark 1:2:4)	M3	1	460	1.5	0.1	69	55	3795
3	Stone Masonry	M3	1	460	1.5	0.4	276	70	19320
4	Stone Masonry	M3	1	460	1	0.6	276	70	19320
5	Stone Masonry	M3	1	460	0.65	1.2	358.8	70	25116
6	PCC over stone masonry (M300)	M3	1	460	0.5	0.07	16.1	70	1127
7	Pointing (1:3)	M2	2	460	1.5	1	1380	3	4140
8	Miscellanies cost						0		5000
Grand Total									**79,198**





BALKH

XVIII. INTRODUCTION:

Balkh Province is located in northern Afghanistan, approximately seven hours drive from Kabul. It is bordered by Darya Amu (the Oxus River), which forms the national border with Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. Balkh is surrounded by the provinces of Kunduz to the north-east, Samangan to the east, Sarl Pul to the south and south-west, and Jowzjan to the north-west.

Balkh Province is divided into 15 districts, and the capital city is Mazar-i-Sharif with a population of 368,100 people. Balkh covers an area of 16,186 sq. km, of which 113,212 hectares are cultivated. Balkh has 1182 villages with an estimated population of 1,245,100 (based on CSO 2012-2013 data). The province is renowned for its fresh and dried fruits and nuts, including melons, watermelons, pistachios and almonds, and livestock products like cashmere and wool. The majority of its inhabitants raise sheep, cattle and goats.

The climate is semi-arid with hot summers and cold winters. Precipitation is low, and mainly falls between December and April. It is very hot during the summer with daily temperatures of over 40 °C (104 °F) from June to August. The winters are cold with temperatures falling below freezing.

Balkh District is located 20 km to the west of Mazar-i-Sharif city (the province centre), and it covers an area of 481 sq. km, which is predominantly flat and semi-flat. As the main road between Mazar and Shabarghan traverses the district, it has good road access to Mazar city and Kabul.

Balkh District lies at an elevation of 346 metres, and there are 53,440 hectares of agricultural land, where crops including wheat, barley, cotton, mung beans, watermelons, melons and carrots are grown. The population is 116,300[23], spread over 118 villages. There are 46 Community Development Councils (CDCs) and 27 Cluster Community Development Councils (CCDCs). The district has one source of water, the Sholgara River. Balkh District produces livestock (primarily cattle and sheep), fruits (peaches, grapes and almonds) and vegetables (mainly carrots). In comparison to other crops, carrots are grown in large quantities and are generally consumed locally. The remainder is sold to the market at a very low price, 30 Afs/7 kg.

Like other parts of Balkh Province, Balkh District is highly vulnerable to natural disasters, especially to long periods of drought and flash floods. In early summer the water level in the Sholgara River rises as

[23] Statistical Year Book 2011-2012, Central Statistics Organization (CSO).

the snow melts, and this coincides with heavy late spring rainfalls. This results in flash floods, which destroy the agricultural land and the residential areas close to the river.

Khulm District is bisected by the main road between Mazar and Kabul. It is 60 km east of Mazar city. The district is at an elevation of 565 metres above sea level.

Khulm District covers an area of 3043 sq. km and is semi-flat with some flat areas near the Oxus River (Amu River). The landscape of the district forms trenched valleys where fruit orchards and other crops are cultivated. The total area of arable land is 102,000 hectares. The main crops grown are wheat, barley, vegetables (carrots, tomatoes and onions), and fruit crops (melons, watermelons, almonds, apricots, pomegranates, grapes, etc). There are 75 CDCs which are grouped into 20 CCDCs. The population of the district is 68,900, spread over 91 villages.

Khulm District is prone to natural disasters, especially to periods of drought and water shortage when the water level of the Khulm River drops in the summer. Every year in early spring, heavy rainfall results in flash floods that wash away agricultural crops and lead to livestock fatalities.

Table 4: General demographic and social data for target districts

1- Balkh:

General Information	
District area (sq. km) (NABDP)	481
Number of CDCs and CCDCs (PRRD)	46 CDCs, 27 CCDCs
No. of villages (PRRD)	118 villages
Height above sea level (metres)	346
Security situation at time of survey: (good, medium, poor)	Good
Inhabitants' Profile	
Total Population (CSO)	116,300
No. of males (PRRD)	59,200 (50.9%)
No. of females (PRRD)	57,100 (49.1%)
Literacy rate (PRRD)	NA
Male (PRRD) L.R.	NA
Female (PRRD) L.R.	NA
Access to Transport	
Percentage of roads open to traffic in all seasons of the year	100%
Nearest main road to the district centre	Mazar-Shabarghan Road
Percentage of villages that have access to bazaars in all seasons of the year	100%
Nearest city	Mazar-e-Sharif
Irrigation Facilities & Access to Water	
River (number)	1
River length (km) (PRRD)	30
Number of main canals and sub-canals (PRRD)	3 main canals, 5 sub-canals
Main canals - total length (km) (PRRD)	5
Quality of ground water for irrigation: (good, medium, poor)	Good

Agriculture Sector (data provided by DAIL)	
Total agricultural land (hectares)	53,440
Total land under cultivation (hectares)	53,440
Irrigated land (hectares)	38,448
Rain-fed land (hectares)	14,992
Forest land (hectares)	106
Pasture land (hectares)	236
Livestock (number)	69,624
Cows	12,095
Sheep	46,164
Goats	11,365

2- Khulm District:

General Information	
District area (sq. km) (NABDP)	3034
Number of CDCs and CCDCs	75 CDCs, 20 CCDCs
No. of villages (PRRD)	91
Height above sea level (metres)	565
Security situation at time of survey: (good, medium, poor)	Good
Inhabitants' Profile	
Total population (CSO)	68,900
No. of males (PRRD)	35,400 (51.38%)
No. of females (PRRD)	33,500 (48.62%)
Literacy rate (PRRD)	NA
Male (PRRD) L.R.	NA
Female (PRRD) L.R.	NA
Access to Transport	
Percentage of roads open to traffic in all seasons of the year	100%
Nearest main road to the district centre	Mazar-Kabul Highway
Percentage of villages that have access to bazaars in all seasons of the year	100%
Nearest city	Mazar-e-Sharif
Irrigation Facilities & Access to Water	
River (number)	1
River length (km) (PRRD)	20
Number of main canals and sub-canals (PRRD)	2 main canals, 3 sub-canals
Main canals - total length (km) (PRRD)	5
Quality of ground water for irrigation: (good, medium, poor)	Good
Agriculture Sector (data provided by DAIL)	
Total land (hectares)	102,000

Total land under cultivation (hectares)	29,300
Irrigated land (hectares)	28,800
Rain-fed land (hectares)	500
Forest land (hectares)	42,700
Pasture land (hectares)	10,000
Non-arable land (hectares)	20,000
Livestock (number)	102,914
Cows	3714
Sheep	74,000
Goats	25,200

Table-3: NGOs currently operating in different development activities.

International and National Organizations operating in Balkh			
No	**Abbreviation**	**District**	**Activities**
1	Joint Development Association International (JDA)	Balkh	Agriculture
2	Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA)	Balkh, Dehdadi, Charkint and Nahr-e-Shahe	Veterinary
3	Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC)	Dehdadi, Balkh and Nahr-e-Shahe	Education
4	People In Need (PIN)	Nahr-e-Shahe and Balkh	Irrigation & NSP implementing partner
5	Action Aid	Balkh	Social activities with community women
7	Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees (DACAAR)	Balkh, Nahr-e-Shahe and Dehdadi	Irrigation
8	Swedish Committee	Balkh & Nahr-e-Shahe	Irrigation
9	Afghan Centre	Balkh & Nahr-e-Shahe	Education

Local Consultations

Provincial Governor's office (PGO)

A meeting was held with the deputy of the provincial governor. The deputy was briefed on the activities of the project so far regarding the formulation of interventions for the target districts in the province. The deputy thanked the UNDP for the selection of Balkh Province for the upcoming project and recommended the following:

- Assist the local government in developing the canal system of Mazar city.
- Capacity building of the concerned local government institutions in technical spheres.

Provincial Rural Rehabilitation & Development Directorate (PRRD)

A meeting was held with the director of the PRRD. The director was briefed on the upcoming activities of the project. He shared the ideas with his team and requested that their opinions be reflected in the formulation stage of the project.

The director placed emphasis on coordinating all the training sessions with NABDP. He also recommended:

- Launching an awareness programme on climate change and its effects.
- Improving the irrigation systems of the target districts to conserve water and maximize its usage.

Department for Agriculture, Irrigation & Livestock (DAIL)

A meeting was also held with the director of DAIL. He was briefed on the project objectives and the planned activities to be undertaken. The head of the directorate stated that farmers in the target districts need to be supported to diversify the farming system. He added that it is important to coordinate with DAIL while implementing the project activities. His other recommendations included:

- Plantation of orchards with resilient, productive varieties of stone fruits like almond, apricot, peaches, etc.
- Establishing wool processing units in the target districts to support the livestock sector.

Provincial Department of the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA)

The department head of NEPA talked about the rapid urbanisation of Balkh Province and the influx of people from other districts to Mazar city. He added that there is no bypass around Mazar city for trucks and lorries transporting goods to other districts and provinces. He raised the issue of the Mazar city canal system which is in very poor condition and needs rehabilitation. Other recommendations included:

- Establishing a green belt around Mazar city to decrease the effects of air pollution. The green belt will help to keep the city clean and provide a recreation area for the citizens.
- Conservation and re-establishment of pistachio forests and medicinal plants.
- Construction of check dams in the target districts.

Long List of Intervention Options

The initial meetings with provincial partners and stakeholders in the two target districts were followed by gap identification meetings that were attended by CDC members and village leaders representing the selected villages, including the local authorities in each district. The participants were divided into two groups. Each group came up with various development gaps relating to livelihood and infrastructure. This process concluded with identified and initially prioritised options (the long list of interventions). These options are listed below. From this, a shortlist of options was extracted.

Identified and prioritised list of options from group A consultation in Khulm

District

- Improvement of irrigation canals for Namazgah-i-Payan village.
- Plantation of appropriate species of fruit and non-fruit trees on rangelands.
- Establishment of Women Self Help Groups.
- Arrangement of vocational training for women and youth.

Identified and prioritised list of options from group B consultation in Balkh District

- Rehabilitation and reconstruction of irrigation canals and intakes in Maidan and Katakhel villages.
- Organization of vocational training for youth.
- Establishment of honey bee keeping farms.
- Establishment of Women Self Help Groups.
- Establishment of pistachio trees on communal land.

XIX. SHORTLIST OF INTERVENTION OPTIONS

In order to conclude the final list, the long list of options was further screened in order to reach an acceptable and prioritised list (shortlist) of options for inclusion in the project for the two districts. Several factors determined whether an option met the project's objectives. These were: the budget requirements; sustainability in terms of climate change awareness; diversification of income resources; job creation at the community level. The shortlisted options are below:

- *Establishment of Women Self Help Groups to empower women at the community level.*
- Establishment of plantations on communal rangelands to conserve soil fertility, avoid erosion and generate income for the community.
- Organization of vocational training for youth and women to learn skills and generate a source of income and job creation.

XX. CONCLUSION

For livelihood support, approximately 600,000 USD per province is available. If it is divided equally between outputs, it comes to approx. 200,000 USD per output over five years (project life).

Activity	Details	Cost in USD
Women SHGs formed	20 SHGs of 15 women = 300	500 per SHG = 10,000
Investment in SHG as initial loan funds	Two instalments of 1000 USD	40,000

Trainings and support other than vocational	Lump sum	30,000
Market survey	1 per district = 3	5000 per district = 15,000
Rangeland rehabilitation	Lump sum	250,000
Vocational training	Lump sum	200,000
Total		**545,000**

Irrigation

Security in Balkh Province:

Security elsewhere in northern Balkh province has been improved as compared to the past, local officials said. The officials link the improved security situation to the deployment of Afghan Local Police (ALP) to the province, extended cooperation of the people with the police, and efforts of national police force. The province has immense stability now, the officials said, adding that even small scale attacks and other security threats by rebels are encountered by the security forces efficiently.

"The province isn't destabilized. Even small security threats are encountered," Deputy governor mentioned. Earlier, the insurgents were hampering security in Balkh, Chaharbolak, Chamtal, and Sholgar Districts but enhanced cooperation by the people and efficient role of the ALP helped thwarted those threats.

After the deployment of 300 ALP officials to the districts, security parameters have been improved. They said that earlier the Mazar-i-Sharif- Shiberghan Highway used to come under frequent attacks, which have now been foiled. Although there are no major security threats in the Balkh Province but the target killings by unidentified gunmen have raised concerns among the public, the head of the Sameer Walid Hotel said.

6. Meeting with Deputy Provincial Governor

The deputy governor of Balkh province welcomed UNDP mission members (Mr. Benjamin, Mohammad Salim and Iqbal) to Balkh province. He was very delighted from UNDP for the selection of Balkh province for the implementation of Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded project. Overall the Deputy Governor highlighted below major problems of Balkh province of climate change.

- There is no proper canalization system in this province. Therefore, most of the residents do not have access to potable water.
- Agricultural land has been converted to residential land where people have constructed house in agricultural land.
- No sufficient shallow wells in most of the remote villages
- No proper weir, intakes and check dames

During the meeting with deputy governor he suggested two districts for CCA project named Khulam and Dehdadi districts.

Note: Details of other government meetings is provided livelihood report

Khulam district: After meeting with CDC there is a protection wall located in Nemaz Gan Payan. Total length of this protection wall is 100 m. when there is flood every year approximately 18 Jerib of land and 100 houses are being partially destroyed. There is a big canal lining flowing along this retaining wall which irrigate approximately 64,800 Jerib of land. It will prevent erosion of land when there is flood. This is a good project in terms of Disaster Risk Reduction.

Below is the approximate estimation of this protection wall which should be re-estimated once engineers have done complete technical assessment and have the available date after visiting the site.

Estimation of protection wall 1000 m length

S/N	Description	Unit	No	Length	Width	Height	Total	Unit cost	Total Cost
1	Excavation	M3	1	100	2.5	1	250	3	750
2	PCC (150 Mark 1:2:4)	M3	1	100	1.4	0.1	14	55	770
3	Stone Masonry	M3	1	100	1.4	1	140	70	9800
4	Stone Masonry	M3	1	100	1	1.5	150	70	10500
5	Stone Masonry	M3	1	100	0.65	2	130	70	9100
6	PCC over stone masonry (1:1.2:3)	M3	1	100	0.5	0.07	3.5	70	245
7	Pointing (1:3)	M2	2	100	2	1	400	3	1200
8	Miscellanies cost						0		5000
Grand Total									**37,365**

Construction of Stone Masonry Canal Lining in Tahtetaq village:

One part of this canal lining was constructed by CARE International in Afghanistan through its emergency programme. However, due to limitation of budget they could not construct the remaining part. The estimation of this part is below;

S/N	Description	Unit	No	Length	Width	Height	Total	Unit cost	Total Cost
1	Excavation	M3	2	200	1	1	400	2	800
2	PCC (150 Mark 1:2:4)	M3	2	200	1	0.1	40	55	2200
3	Stone Masonry	M3	2	200	1	1	400	70	28000
4	Stone Masonry	M3	2	200	0.7	2.6	728	70	50960
5	Stone Masonry	M3	1	200	2.5	0.1	50	70	3500
6	PCC over stone masonry (1:1.2:3)	M3	2	200	0.6	0.07	16.8	70	1176
7	Pointing (1:3)	M2	2	200	2.6	1	1040	3	3120
8	Miscellanies cost						0		5000
Grand Total									**94,756**

Dehdadi District: The district governor of Dehdadi district welcomed UNDP mission members to this district. Mr. Benjamin briefed the district governor about the overall objective of the CCA project. However, district governor mentioned that there is not space for CCA project to be implemented in this district because most of the activities of capacity development, sustainable livelihood and irrigation infrastructure (CCA components) have already been done by other organizations like NSP, PRT and NABDP.

The district governor request the mission team for construction of a big Micro Hydro Power (MHP) project which will produce more than 100KW of electricity. Actually this project was not covering the scope of CCA project. Therefore, the mission decided to have another districts for CCA project. After discussion among the mission team, it was decided to have Balkh district for this preliminary survey.

Balk District:

The members of the CDC of this district mentioned that the security situation in Balkh District was relatively peaceful, and its various ethnicities and tribes live in mutual harmony. Moreover, the local communities and tribal councils, in collaboration with the local Government security departments, have eradicated poppy cultivation, eliminated crime and narcotics smuggling and strive to maintain law and order in the district, and women freely participate in security activities and planning. However, the local security departments have shortage of essential equipment and supplies, and professional and properly trained personnel.

The local residents have relatively better access to basic infrastructure services such as roads, irrigation systems, telecommunications network coverage, and private transportation systems. However, most of the villages lack access to electricity, and most roads in the district have been destroyed and require restoration and gravelling.

A great portion of the district residents are engaged in agricultural and livestock activities, with every family possessing few sheep and/or goats, and farmers producing crops such as wheat, barley, maize, potatoes and beans. However, the district lacks adequate funding for the development of its agriculture sector, a trade center and profitable marketing systems for locally produced goods, and farmers lack access to agricultural mechanisation equipment

After having discussion with members of CDC, the following two villages were identified.

1. Kata Khil village
2. Medain Villages

Kata Khil Village: the CDC of the this village recommended the following projects

Flume Aqueduct of Sheni Ghundi Wala: The people of this village use an artificial channel of wood or other material for the diversion of water from one side of stream to other. After sometimes the wooden flume is destroyed and people again repair it. Below is the rough estimation.

S/N	Description	Unit	No	Length	Width	Height	Total	Unit cost	Total Cost
1	Excavation of pillars	M3	2	1.2	1.2	1.5	4.32	3	12.96
2	Excavation of protection walls	M3	4	5	1.2	1.5	36	3	108
3	PCC (150 Mark 1:2:4) for pillars	M3	2	1.2	1.2	0.1	0.288	55	15.84
4	PCC (150 Mark 1:2:4) for protection wall	M3	4	5	1.2	0.1	2.4	55	132

5	Stone Masonry of pillars	M3	2	1.2	1.2	1.5	4.32	70	302.4
6	Stone Masonry of pillars	M3	2	1	1	2	4	70	280
7	Stone Masonry of retaining walls	M3	4	5	1	1	20	70	1400
8	Stone Masonry of retaining walls	M3	4	5	0.7	1.5	21	70	1470
9	PCC over stone masonry (1:1.2:3)	M3	4	6	0.8	0.1	1.92	70	134.4
10	Pointing (1:3)	M2	4	6	1.5	1	36	3	108
11	RCC	M3	1	7	1.2	0.2	1.68	380	638.4
12	Miscellanies cost						0		2000
Grand Total									**6,602**

Note: In this village there is need for two flumes Aqueduct which should be constructed with same size and dimensions. Therefore, the total required budget is 2 x 6,602 = USD13,204

Gabion wall of Kata Khil district: in order to protect land erosion and destruction of irrigation production the CDC requested the mission one gabion wall (L=40m) to be constructed. Below is the rough estimation of the required wall

S/N	Description	Unit	No	Length	Width	Height	Total	Unit cost	Total Cost
1	Excavation	M3	1	40	2.5	1.5	150	3	450
2	Stone Masonry in Foundation	M3	1	40	2.5	1.5	150	20	3000
3	Stone Masonry above foundation with gibion	M3	1	40	2	3	240	30	7200
4	Miscellaneous cost						0		4000
Grand Total									**14,650**

Medain Villages: Three flumes Aqueducts were recommended by the CDC of this village.

S/N	Description	Unit	No	Length	Width	Height	Total	Unit cost	Total Cost
1	Excavation of pillars	M3	2	1.2	1.2	1.5	4.32	3	12.96
2	Excavation of protection walls	M3	4	5	1.2	1.5	36	3	108
3	PCC (150 Mark 1:2:4) for pillars	M3	2	1.2	1.2	0.1	0.288	55	15.84
4	PCC (150 Mark 1:2:4) for protection wall	M3	4	5	1.2	0.1	2.4	55	132
5	Stone Masonry of pillars	M3	2	1.2	1.2	1.5	4.32	70	302.4
6	Stone Masonry of pillars	M3	2	1	1	2	4	70	280

7	Stone Masonry of retaining walls	M3	4	5	1	1	20	70	1400
8	Stone Masonry of retaining walls	M3	4	5	0.7	1.5	21	70	1470
9	PCC over stone masonry (1:1.2:3)	M3	4	6	0.8	0.1	1.92	70	134.4
10	Pointing (1:3)	M2	4	6	1.5	1	36	3	108
11	RCC	M3	1	7	1.2	0.2	1.68	380	638.4
12	Miscellanies cost						0		2000
Grand Total								**6,602**	

Annex IV. Stakeholder involvement plan

Background

Stakeholder consultation has been a key feature in the design of this LDCF Proposal, and stakeholders have been involved in identifying and prioritizing the proposed intervention activities. Details of the stakeholder engagement during the Preparatory phase were provided in Section 2.1.3 above. Ongoing public consultation is critical for successful implementation. This section outlines some of the key consultation principles and processes at a strategic level that will need to be translated into practical action during the project implementation. It provides guidance based on the initial stakeholder analysis, conducted as part of the project preparation process, and the consultations so far. This can be used to define exact activities that will form part of a communications and consultation strategy developed during the inception period of implementation.

Objectives

The stakeholder consultation during project implementation will be expected to support all outcomes. Overall, the objective of the consultation plan is to provide a framework to guide and promote two way engagements between the key implementing partner **(MAIL)** and the key stakeholders **(NEPA, MEW, MRRD, PEACs, provincial and district governors, government institutions at sub-national level, DDAs, CDCs, farmers cooperatives and associations, villagers, ICIMOD, international donors (USAID, ADB, DFID, AusAID, KOICA, WB), FAO, WFP, UNHCR, UNCHA, UNEP, NGOs (ACTED, CARE International) and private sector, ACCI)** with whom the project will engage and directly impact upon.

It is proposed that several more specific objectives for consultation are adopted:

1. To ensure a general vision and understanding of the project and it's expected outcomes by all concerned stakeholders.
2. To engage key stakeholders in planning, implementing and monitoring of specific interventions.
3. To ensure consistent, supportive and effective communication (information, documentation, sharing, learning and feedback) processes with key implementing partner as well as the wider public including farmers groups, CDCs' members, DDAs' members and pastoralists/livestock keepers.

4. To influence and ensure strategic level support for project implementation from state and non-state organizations and international agencies through engagement in effective community, private sector and donor forums or platforms.

In delivering these objectives, there are a number of simple qualitative considerations that need to be taken into account when planning engagement processes and what they should be seeking to achieve:

- Identify constraints and solutions: As a two way engagement, the consultation process should be used as an opportunity to identify with stakeholders possible constraints to or with the project's implementation and to work with the stakeholders in finding sustainable solutions.
- Managing expectations: The LDCF investment is relatively minor, compared to the adaptation demands facing the country. It will be important that consultations take due consideration to manage expectations of stakeholders and stakeholder groups.
- Partnerships for co-financing: The LDCF seeks to add value to their investments by building on existing and parallel projects that represent co-financing and consultations should consider opportunities for partnerships that will leverage co-financing into innovative approaches or technologies that may improve efficiencies and enhance impact.

Stakeholders

Stakeholders include a range of types of groups, all with their own interests and concerns. They have different roles to play in the project and the Table below indicates key stakeholders and their possible roles.

Activities planned during implementation and evaluation

During implementation, the communication and consultation process should be divided into three main phases, being:

Phase 1 – this is the **mobilization** phase in the first year of the project. The fine details of the activities and implementation structures will be designed, partnerships for action will be forged and stakeholder engagement will focus around these design processes.

Phase 2 – represents the main **implementation** phase where investments will be made on the ground in the target areas and stakeholder consultation about engagement will focus on output oriented action.

Phase 3 – represents the **completion** of the project and the plans for scale-up and long-term sustainability of the LDCF investments. Consultation will focus on learning, bringing experience together and looking at processes for continued post-project impact.

Phase I – Developing a strategy and action plan

At mobilization, a simple communications strategy should be developed. Key principles to be considered in the development of the strategy include:

Who? Implementer needs to understand the stakeholders well – their needs, the impacts of interventions on each stakeholder group, the opportunities for

contribution/engagement, and their power/influence. Whilst, as part of the project preparation, a stakeholder analysis was carried out, during this phase this should be reviewed as stakeholders should be seen as dynamic. The stakeholders that may be involved in or affected by the project are multiple, diverse; so an effective stakeholder identification process will be an important contributor to identifying key factors for success and risks to mitigate.

Gender: In engagement with the project implementation, it will be important to consider the different ways that the benefits derived from this project are equally accessed, understood and utilized by both women and men. The project implementer will need to consider how these two groups access project benefits and get feedback through consultation process in selected areas of implementation.

Table 1: Matrix of stakeholders and activities planned during implementation and evaluation

		Outcome 1 **Climate change risk and variability integrated into local planning and budgeting processes**			Outcome 2 **Rural income and livelihood opportunities for vulnerable communities enhanced and diversified**			Outcome 3 **Productive infrastructure improvements**						
Stakeholder	Steering Committee	Climate change scenarios developed for the agriculture sector in selected provinces	Trained at least 250 provincial MAIL officials, farmers and pastoralists on climate risk information and appropriate response measures	10 climate sensitive Community Development Plans formulated	At least 100 women trained on alternative livelihoods to farming (e.g. embroidery and carpet weaving)	Business development training in handicrafts and small-scale manufacturing provided to 20 rural entrepreneurs and 10 SMEs	2,000 hectares of degraded rangelands planted with stress resistant seedling varieties	Small-scale storage reservoirs (less than 20m high) built in selected river sub-basins in 10 communities	Micro-water harvesting techniques introduced in 10 communities	20 karezes[24] and canals improved and rehabilitated to reduce water losses	At least 20 check dams, contour bunds and other facilities built to conserve water and enhance groundwater recharge	Evaluation	Awareness	Strategic Lessons
NMA:														
• Deputy minister office for irrigation and agriculture infrastructure	SC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓		
• Directorate of Natural Resource Management	SC	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
• Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓				

[24] A kareze is an underground canal system that taps aquifers by gravity through a series of subsurface tunnels. It often extends for many kilometers before surfacing to provide water for drinking and irrigation.

		Outcome 1 **Climate change risk and variability integrated into local planning and budgeting processes**			Outcome 2 **Rural income and livelihood opportunities for vulnerable communities enhanced and diversified**			Outcome 3 **Productive infrastructure improvements**						
Stakeholder	Steering Committee	Climate change scenarios developed for the agriculture sector in selected provinces	Trained at least 250 provincial MAIL officials, farmers and pastoralists on climate risk information and appropriate response measures	10 climate sensitive Community Development Plans formulated	At least 100 women trained on alternative livelihoods to farming (e.g. embroidery and carpet weaving)	Business development training in handicrafts and small-scale manufacturing provided to 20 rural entrepreneurs and 10 SMEs	2,000 hectares of degraded rangelands planted with stress resistant seedling varieties	Small-scale storage reservoirs (less than 20m high) built in selected river sub-basins in 10 communities	Micro-water harvesting techniques introduced in 10 communities	20 karezes24 and canals improved and rehabilitated to reduce water losses	At least 20 check dams, contour bunds and other facilities built to conserve water and enhance groundwater recharge	Evaluation	Awareness	Strategic Lessons
and Livestock (Provincial level)														
• Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (District Level)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
MRRD														
• Deputy Minister Office for programs	SC	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
• Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Program		✓			✓	✓								
• National Area Based		✓			✓	✓								

		Outcome 1 **Climate change risk and variability integrated into local planning and budgeting processes**			Outcome 2 **Rural income and livelihood opportunities for vulnerable communities enhanced and diversified**			Outcome 3 **Productive infrastructure improvements**						
Stakeholder	Steering Committee	Climate change scenarios developed for the agriculture sector in selected provinces	Trained at least 250 provincial MAIL officials, farmers and pastoralists on climate risk information and appropriate response measures	10 climate sensitive Community Development Plans formulated	At least 100 women trained on alternative livelihoods to farming (e.g. embroidery and carpet weaving)	Business development training in handicrafts and small-scale manufacturing provided to 20 rural entrepreneurs and 10 SMEs	2,000 hectares of degraded rangelands planted with stress resistant seedling varieties	Small-scale storage reservoirs (less than 20m high) built in selected river sub-basins in 10 communities	Micro-water harvesting techniques introduced in 10 communities	20 karezes24 and canals improved and rehabilitated to reduce water losses	At least 20 check dams, contour bunds and other facilities built to conserve water and enhance groundwater recharge	Evaluation	Awareness	Strategic Lessons
Development Program														
• National Solidarity Program		✓						✓	✓	✓	✓			
• Directorate of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (Provincial level)		✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
• District Development Assemblies				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
• Community Development Councils				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
MoWE														
Deputy Minister Office for water	SC	✓								✓		✓		

		Outcome 1 **Climate change risk and variability integrated into local planning and budgeting processes**			Outcome 2 **Rural income and livelihood opportunities for vulnerable communities enhanced and diversified**			Outcome 3 **Productive infrastructure improvements**						
Stakeholder	Steering Committee	Climate change scenarios developed for the agriculture sector in selected provinces	Trained at least 250 provincial MAIL officials, farmers and pastoralists on climate risk information and appropriate response measures	10 climate sensitive Community Development Plans formulated	At least 100 women trained on alternative livelihoods to farming (e.g. embroidery and carpet weaving)	Business development training in handicrafts and small-scale manufacturing provided to 20 rural entrepreneurs and 10 SMEs	2,000 hectares of degraded rangelands planted with stress resistant seedling varieties	Small-scale storage reservoirs (less than 20m high) built in selected river sub-basins in 10 communities	Micro-water harvesting techniques introduced in 10 communities	20 karezes24 and canals improved and rehabilitated to reduce water losses	At least 20 check dams, contour bunds and other facilities built to conserve water and enhance groundwater recharge	Evaluation	Awareness	Strategic Lessons
MoF														
Deputy Minister Office for Finance	SC					✓						✓		
NEPA	SC	✓		✓			✓	✓				✓		
Government Institutions (sub-national Level)										✓				
Provincial Governor Office		✓										✓		
District Governor Office		✓		✓								✓		
Private Sector														
Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries					✓	✓	✓							
Donor Partners														

		Outcome 1 **Climate change risk and variability integrated into local planning and budgeting processes**			Outcome 2 **Rural income and livelihood opportunities for vulnerable communities enhanced and diversified**			Outcome 3 **Productive infrastructure improvements**						
Stakeholder	Steering Committee	Climate change scenarios developed for the agriculture sector in selected provinces	Trained at least 250 provincial MAIL officials, farmers and pastoralists on climate risk information and appropriate response measures	10 climate sensitive Community Development Plans formulated	At least 100 women trained on alternative livelihoods to farming (e.g. embroidery and carpet weaving)	Business development training in handicrafts and small-scale manufacturing provided to 20 rural entrepreneurs and 10 SMEs	2,000 hectares of degraded rangelands planted with stress resistant seedling varieties	Small-scale storage reservoirs (less than 20m high) built in selected river sub-basins in 10 communities	Micro-water harvesting techniques introduced in 10 communities	20 karezes24 and canals improved and rehabilitated to reduce water losses	At least 20 check dams, contour bunds and other facilities built to conserve water and enhance groundwater recharge	Evaluation	Awareness	Strategic Lessons
USAID, AusAID, WB, Danish Embassy		✓		✓		✓								
NGOs														
ACTED		✓		✓	✓	✓								
CARE Int.		✓		✓	✓	✓								
UN agencies														
UNDP	SC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
FAO		✓			✓	✓	✓							
WFP					✓	✓								
UNOCHA														
UNHCR					✓	✓								

Why? Implementers need be clear about the purpose of the consultation process as so that the right stakeholders make the right inputs to the planned activities. During Phase I, MAIL will seek to have secured the support and commitment of key stakeholders required for project implementation.

Implementers should make key stakeholders aware of the plan and its intended activities and outcomes and make clear their role and scope for contributing to project decisions and activities.

What? In planning stakeholder involvement, the strategy should make as much use of existing mechanisms (institutions and process) as possible, avoiding establishing project oriented structures.

Types of consultation mechanism:

- An overarching multi-stakeholder group, such as a steering committee will form a governance role, but also be a forum for stakeholder engagement.
- Specific focus groups on technical interventions,
- Information briefings for government and con-financing institutions.

Phase II - Consultation through implementation

Once implementation begins, public consultations should become more of an ongoing exchange of information, and there are two main purposes for the various mechanisms outlined under Phase I:

- to gather information from beneficiaries and stakeholders about the impact and effectiveness of the planned adaptation interventions to support adaptive management; and
- To provide interested government and donor stakeholders and the general public with information about the progress and impact of the project as it is implemented.

The first purpose relates to engagement for effective implementation and monitoring, whilst the latter is more concerned with information dissemination, 'public relations' and expectation management. Good public relations will also help encourage collaboration with respect to the objective of the LDCF project.

Phase III - Project completion and scale up promotion

This will be a process of ensuring completion, hand-over and long-term sustainability of the LDCF investment. Consultation will focus on bringing experience together, sharing key lessons learnt (through the UNDP SDU and other forums) and looking at processes for promoting scale up of this project in order to have efficient and reliable structures in the country.

Social issues and impacts

Different assessments indicate that women and children; elderly people, small scale farmers and pastoralists are among the most affected groups in the society by climate change.

The implementation of this project will improve the resilience of rural livelihood options of the Afghan community in the selected provinces.

Hence, the project will benefit all the communities equally but the most affected group like women will have a comparative advantage as most of burden is on them.

Annex V: Terms of Reference

A. Project Board

The Project Board is responsible for making management decisions for a project in particular when guidance is required by the Project Manager. The Project Board plays a critical role in project monitoring and evaluations by quality assuring these processes and products, and using evaluations for performance improvement, accountability and learning. It ensures that required resources are committed and arbitrates on any conflicts within the project or negotiates a solution to any problems with external bodies. In addition, it approves the appointment and responsibilities of the Project Manager and any delegation of its Project Assurance responsibilities. Based on the approved Annual Work Plan, the Project Board can also consider and approve the quarterly plans (if applicable) and also approve any essential deviations from the original plans.

B. Project Manager

The Project Manager will report to the PB and will lead the project team through the planning and delivery of the Project. The PM will be in the MAIL and will have the authority to run the project on a day-to-day basis on behalf of the Implementing Partners, within the constraints laid down by the Board. The Project Manager's prime responsibility is to ensure that the project produces the results specified in the project document, to the required standard of quality and within the specified constraints of time and cost. The PM will be responsible for financial management and disbursements, with accountability to the government and UNDP. The PM will work closely with MAIL staff, MRRD, MoF, MEW and the Regional Bureaus.

Responsibilities

- Ensuring effective partnership working between the sub-national implementing Bureaus and the participating national agencies.
- Managing human and financial resources in consultation with the NPC to achieve results in line with the outputs and activities outlined in the project document.
- Leading the preparation and implementation of annual results-based work plans and logical frameworks as endorsed by the management.
- Liaison with related and parallel activities both within MAIL, NEPA and with cooperating implementing Ministries and Bureaus.
- Monitoring project activities, including financial matters, and preparing monthly and quarterly progress reports, and organising monthly and quarterly progress reviews.
- Supporting the NPC to organise task team meetings and annual lesson learning conferences
- Coordinating the distribution of responsibilities amongst team members and organising the monitoring and tracking systems.
- Reporting and providing feedback on project strategies, activities, progress, and barriers to PB.

C. Provincial Project Coordinator

The Project Manager will appoint a Provincial Project Coordinator who will be responsible for the overall administration, on behalf of the MAIL, for the project. The PPC reports to the PM and Deputy Minister of

MAIL and maintains liaison with UNDP. The PPC will be located in the province and will be responsible for

- Day-to-day oversight and coordination of implementation of project activities
- Recruitment and supervision of technical and training expertise as required for implementation of the project.
- Developing and maintaining close linkages with relevant sectoral government agencies, UNDP, NGOs, civil society, international organizations and implementing partners of the project.
- Coordinating the project team in carrying out their duties at an optimum level through ensuring efficient and effective resource utilization.
- Coordinating inputs into annual results-based work plans and logical frameworks as endorsed by the management.
- Preparing detailed annual breakdowns of the work plan for all project objectives. And preparation of quarterly work plans.
- Coordinating inputs into all project reports as required (including Annual Project Reports, Inception Report, Quarterly Reports and the Terminal Report).
- Preparing quarterly status and financial reports for comments and approval by the PM
- Coordinate the establishment of sub-national project Task Teams.
- Organize annual task team meetings for experience sharing and lesson learning/

D. Administrative and Financial Assistant

One administrative and financial assistant will report to PM or PPC and will contracted by the MAIL or UNDP. Their responsibilities will be to:

- Set up and maintain project files and accounting systems whilst ensuring compatibility with FDRE and UNDP financial accounting procedures.
- Prepare budget revisions of the project budgets and assist in the preparation of the annual work plans.
- Process payments requests for settlement purposes including quarterly advances to the implementing partners upon joint review.
- Update financial plans, prepare status reports, progress reports and other financial reports.
- Undertake project financial closure formalities including submission of terminal reports, transfer and disposal of equipment, processing of semi-final revisions, and support professional staff in preparing the terminal assessment reports.
- Assist in the timely issuance of contracts and assurance of other eligible entitlements of the project personnel, experts, and consultants by preparing annual recruitment plans.
- Collect and maintain project related information data and establish document control procedures.
- Administer Project Board meetings
- Administer project revision control
- Compile, copy and distribute all project reports
- Provide support in the use of Atlas for monitoring and reporting

E. Livelihoods Expert (International/national Short Term)

The Alternative Livelihoods Expert will support the project task team in devising strategies and plans for the implementation of the alternative livelihoods outcome of this project. Technical knowledge, surveys and training programs will be part of the skill set.

Main responsibilities:

- Provide technical and planning support to the PM and the project task team.
- Contribute technical specifications for the market surveys, training of beneficiaries on various skills
- Provide technical guidance for the marketing and market forward and backward linkages for the alternative livelihoods and SMEs.
- Contribute to rangeland management strategies and reforestation.
- Apiculture, including honey and beeswax processing and marketing

G. Monitoring and evaluation expert

The M&E expert will report to the PM and will support the PM and the project task teams to prepare the relevant M&E systems required to monitor and assess quality of progress, to identify, collect, analyse, document and disseminate lessons learned through an annual project meeting, and support the preparation of project evidence for sharing through the Woreda.net and the UNDP ALM. The M&E expert will liaise with the Planning and Risk management expert to prepare the data collection protocols to enable the task teams to consistently collect data on project progress from project sites and its processing by the PM for national reporting purposes.

Responsibilities

- Establish the overall results-based M&E strategy in accordance with M&E plans outlined in the project document.
- Together with the climate planning expert, design a system for collecting information on project lessons to be used in annual progress meetings.
- Develop data collection instruments, cognisant of the spatial data requirements advised by the climate specialist.
- Guide and coordinate the review of the project Strategic Results Framework, including:
    a. Provide technical advice for the revision of performance indicators.
    b. Identify sources of data, collection methods, who collects data, how often, cost of collection and who analyses the data.
    c. Facilitate annual review of risks by PM.
- Prepare reporting formats and support NPC to prepare the required reports. Guide project task teams in preparing their progress reports in accordance with the approved reporting formats. This includes quarterly progress reports, annual project reports, inception reports, and ad-hoc technical reports.
- Foster participatory planning and monitoring by advising the training institutions on content for participatory monitoring and evaluation of activities.
- Assist the NPC to collate technical reports and other documents from the project and contribute to the ALM.

I. Water management infrastructure expert (National/international Regional Short Term)

Engineer with good experience in water and irrigation infrastructure rehabilitation. Will provide support and technical guidance to the PM and project task team for the building and rehabilitation of small scale irrigation infrastructure.

- Survey existing irrigation and water harvesting infrastructure
- Prepare bill of quantities, sketches (in AutoCAD or any other similar software)
- Supervise implementation work and provide technical guidance to CDCs and communities
- Design water harvesting structures, check dams, irrigation canals, retaining walls…etc.

H. Climate change and Technical Experts (international/Regional Short Term)

The climate planning and risk management expert will report to the PM and support the PM and Project task teams with aspects of climate risk analyses, capacity building and integrated climate planning.

Responsibilities

- Contribute to the technical specification for the training for the Province and MAIL with respect to approaches and requirements for the preparation of climate risk analyses, vulnerability analyses and the preparation of multi-sectoral development plans based on the outcome of the risk analysis.
- Outline data requirements and analytical frameworks for risk and vulnerability analyses and support the Project Task Teams to undertake the analyses.
- Assist in the preparation of future climate scenarios and their evaluation for planning purposes, including the climate impact assessment and the trade off analysis.
- Participate in and present materials where appropriate at stakeholder workshops and project board meetings.
- Assist with training and capacity development activities as necessary.
- Assist in the identification of policy and scale up recommendations.

Annex VI: Capacity Assessment

Results of capacity assessments of Implementing Partner (including HACT Micro Assessment)

Annex VII: Special Clauses

In case of government cost-sharing through the project which is not within the CPAP, the following 10 clauses should be included:

1. The schedule of payments and UNDP bank account details.
2. The value of the payment, if made in a currency other than United States dollars, shall be determined by applying the United Nations operational rate of exchange in effect on the date of payment. Should there be a change in the United Nations operational rate of exchange prior to the full utilization by the UNDP of the payment, the value of the balance of funds still held at that time will be adjusted accordingly. If, in such a case, a loss in the value of the balance of funds is recorded, UNDP shall inform the Government with a view to determining whether any further financing could be provided by the Government. Should such further financing not be available, the assistance to be provided to the project may be reduced, suspended or terminated by UNDP.
3. The above schedule of payments takes into account the requirement that the payments shall be made in advance of the implementation of planned activities. It may be amended to be consistent with the progress of project delivery.
4. UNDP shall receive and administer the payment in accordance with the regulations, rules and directives of UNDP.
5. All financial accounts and statements shall be expressed in United States dollars.
6. If unforeseen increases in expenditures or commitments are expected or realized (whether owing to inflationary factors, fluctuation in exchange rates or unforeseen contingencies), UNDP shall submit to the government on a timely basis a supplementary estimate showing the further financing that will be necessary. The Government shall use its best endeavours to obtain the additional funds required.

7. If the payments referred above are not received in accordance with the payment schedule, or if the additional financing required in accordance with paragraph ( ) above is not forthcoming from the Government or other sources, the assistance to be provided to the project under this Agreement may be reduced, suspended or terminated by UNDP.
8. Any interest income attributable to the contribution shall be credited to UNDP Account and shall be utilized in accordance with established UNDP procedures.

In accordance with the decisions and directives of UNDP's Executive Board:

The contribution shall be charged:

(a) […%]cost recovery for the provision of general management support (GMS) by UNDP headquarters and country offices

(b) Direct cost for implementation support services (ISS) provided by UNDP and/or an executing entity/implementing partner.

9. Ownership of equipment, supplies and other properties financed from the contribution shall vest in UNDP. Matters relating to the transfer of ownership by UNDP shall be determined in accordance with the relevant policies and procedures of UNDP.
10. The contribution shall be subject exclusively to the internal and external auditing procedures provided for in the financial regulations, rules and directives of UNDP.

Annex VIII: Inventory of climatic hazards and basic impact evaluation

Hazard	Narrative	Impacts	Loss of life	Duration	Spatial extent (km^2)	Frequency	Tendency
Periodic drought	Decrease in productivity of crops; forced migration; changes in livelihood; decrease in amount of exports; and financial losses.	3	3	4	6	2	▲
Floods due to untimely and heavy rainfall	Collapse and sedimentation of irrigation canals; destruction of agricultural lands; loss of crops and livestock; collapse of dwellings; spread of epidemic diseases; destruction of infrastructure such as roads and bridges; and damage to the national economy.	3	3	1	4	3	▲
Frost and cold spells	River levels rise; destruction of riverside agricultural and non-agricultural (forest, range, etc.) lands; land slides; soil erosion; destruction of infrastructure such as bridges and gabions.	3	1	1	5	3	▲
Flooding due to thawing of snow and ice	Increase in levels of incidence of diseases that affect humans, agriculture and livestock; habitat changes affect wildlife; changes in vegetation cover and associated grazing patterns.	3	2	3	5	3	▲
Rise in temprature	Degradation of fruits, crops, vegetable and health disease, poor economy and increasing of poverty.	3	3	3	6	3	▲
Hail, thunder and lightening	Destruction of crops (particularly horticultural crops); human and livestock losses; and outflow/gush from floods.	2	1	1	3	3	△
Monsoon and 120-day winds	Desertification; degradation of agricultural lands and crops; destruction of infrastructure; air pollution; spread and transmission of diseases and respiratory problems; sedimentation of irrigation systems and springs; local and national economy negatively affected.	2	1	3	5	3	△

1. Impacts: 1 = US$1 per capital; 2 = $10; 3 = $100; 4 = $1,000; 5 = $10,000
2. Loss of life: 1 = 1 person per event; 2 = 10 people; 3 = 100 people; 4 = 1,000 people
3. Duration: 1 = 1 day; 2 = 10 days; 3 = 100 days; 4 = 1,000 days (more than 1 year)
4. Spatial extent: 1 = 1km2; 2 = 10km2; 3 = 100km2; 4 = 1,000km2; 5 – 10,000km2; 6 = 100,000km2
5. Frequency: 1 = 1% probability of occurrence in a year; 2 = 10%; 3 = 100% (occurs once a year)
6. Trend: ▲ = significant increase; △ = moderate increase; ? = uncertain trend

Annex IX: Stakeholder Baseline Analysis

Stakeholder	Involvement in Baseline Assessment	Identification of intervention	Intervention Risk Analysis	Policy/ Strategic alignment to priorities	Co-financing Identification	Capacity Assessment	Implementation planning	National Inception & Validation Workshops	Document Endorsement
MAIL									
• Deputy minister office for irrigation and agriculture infrastructure	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	PSC
• Directorate of Natural Resource Management	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
• Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (Provincial level)	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	
• Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (District Level)	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	
MRRD									
• Deputy Minister Office for programs	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	PSC
• Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Program	✓	✓						✓	
• National Area Based Development	✓	✓						✓	

Program									
• National Solidarity Program	✓	✓	✓					✓	
• Directorate of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (Provincial level)	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
• District Development Assemblies	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
• Community Development Councils	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
MoWE									
• Deputy Minister Office for water	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	PSC
MoF									PSC
• Deputy Minister Office for Finance	✓			✓	✓				
NEPA	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	PSC
Government Institutions (sub-national Level)									
• Provincial Governor Office	✓	✓	✓						
• District Governor Office	✓	✓	✓						
Private Sector									
• Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries	✓	✓			✓				
Donor Partners									
USAID, AusAID, WB, Danish Embassy	✓	✓		✓	✓				
NGO's									

ACTED	✓	✓			✓				
CARE Int.	✓	✓			✓				
UN agencies									
FAO	✓	✓			✓				
WFP	✓	✓			✓				
UNOCHA	✓	✓			✓				
UNHCR	✓	✓			✓				

Annex X: LDCF project's relevance and contribution to National Priority Programs

National Priority Programs	LDCF project contribution
Security	
1. Peace and Reintegration	
Human Resource Development	
1. Skills Development and Labor	Direct contribution
2. Education for All	
3. Higher Education	
4. Women Affairs	Direct contribution
5. Capacity Building for Health	
Infrastructure Development	
1. National Regional Resource Corridor	
2. Extractive Industries	
3. National Energy Program	
4. Urban Development	
Private Sector Development	
1. Trade Facilitation and SME	
2. E-Afghanistan	
Agriculture and Rural Development	
1. Water and Natural Resource Management	Direct contribution to component 1 on water resources and irrigation development and component 2 on environmental conservation and management
2. Comprehensive Agriculture Production and Market Development	Direct contribution to component 2 on enterprise and market development
3. Rural Access	
4. Strengthening Local Institutions	Indirect contribution
Governance	
1. Economic and Financial Reform	
2. Transparency and Accountability	
3. Efficient and Effective Government	
4. Local Governance	Indirect contribution
5. Justice for ALL	
6. Human Rights	

UNDP Environmental and Social Screening Template

(December 2012)

QUESTION 1:

Has a combined environmental and social assessment/review that covers the proposed project already been completed by implementing partners or donor(s)?

Select answer below and follow instructions:

☐ →YES: Continue to Question 2 (do not fill out Table 1.1)

☒→NO: No further environmental and social review is required if the existing documentation meets UNDP's quality assurance standards, and environmental and social management recommendations are integrated into the project. Therefore, you should undertake the following steps to complete the screening process:

1. Use Table 1.1 below to assess existing documentation. (It is recommended that this assessment be undertaken jointly by the Project Developer and other relevant Focal Points in the office or Bureau).
2. Ensure that the Project Document incorporates the recommendations made in the implementing partner's environmental and social review.
3. Summarize the relevant information contained in the implementing partner's environmental and social review in Annex A.2 of this Screening Template, selecting Category 1.
4. Submit Annex A to the PAC, along with other relevant documentation.

Note: Further guidance on the use of national systems for environmental and social assessment can be found in the UNDP ESSP Annex B.

TABLE 1.1: CHECKLIST FOR APPRAISING QUALITY ASSURANCE OF EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT	**Yes/No**
1. Does the assessment/review meet its terms of reference, both procedurally and substantively?	
2. Does the assessment/review provide a satisfactory assessment of the proposed project?	
3. Does the assessment/review contain the information required for decision-making?	
4. Does the assessment/review describe specific environmental and social management measures (e.g. mitigation, monitoring, advocacy, and capacity development measures)?	
5. Does the assessment/review identify capacity needs of the institutions responsible for implementing environmental and social management issues?	
6. Was the assessment/review developed through a consultative process with strong stakeholder engagement, including the view of men and women?	
7. Does the assessment/review assess the adequacy of the cost of and financing arrangements for environmental and social management issues?	

Table 1.1 (continued) For any "no" answers, describe below how the issue has been or will be resolved (e.g. amendments made or supplemental review conducted).

QUESTION 2:

Do all outputs and activities described in the Project Document fall within the following categories?

- ☐ Procurement (in which case UNDP's Procurement Ethics and Environmental Procurement Guide need to be complied with)
- ☐ Report preparation
- ☐ Training
- ☐ Event/workshop/meeting/conference (refer to Green Meeting Guide)
- ☐ Communication and dissemination of results

Select answer below and follow instructions:

- ☒ **NO** → Continue to Question 3
- ☐ **YES** → No further environmental and social review required. Complete Annex A.2, selecting Category 1, and submit the completed template (Annex A) to the PAC.

QUESTION 3:

Does the proposed project include activities and outputs that support *upstream* planning processes that potentially pose environmental and social impacts or are vulnerable to environmental and social change (refer to Table 3.1 for examples)? (Note that *upstream* planning processes can occur at global, regional, national, local and sectoral levels)

Select the appropriate answer and follow instructions:

☐ **NO** → Continue to Question 4.

☒ **YES** →Conduct the following steps to complete the screening process:

1. Adjust the project design as needed to incorporate UNDP support to the country(ies), to ensure that environmental and social issues are appropriately considered during the upstream planning process. Refer to Section 7 of this Guidance for elaboration of environmental and social mainstreaming services, tools, guidance and approaches that may be used.
2. Summarize environmental and social mainstreaming support in Annex A.2, Section C of the Screening Template and select "Category 2".
3. If the proposed project ONLY includes upstream planning processes then screening is complete, and you should submit the completed Environmental and Social Screening Template (Annex A) to the PAC. If downstream implementation activities are also included in the project then continue to Question 4.

TABLE 3. 1 EXAMPLES OF UPSTREAM PLANNING PROCESSES WITH POTENTIAL DOWNSTREAM ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACTS	Check appropriate box(es) below
1. Support for the elaboration or revision of **global- level** strategies, policies, plans, and programmes. *For example, capacity development and support related to international negotiations and agreements. Other examples might include a global water governance project or a global MDG project.*	
2. Support for the elaboration or revision of **regional-level** strategies, policies and plans, and programmes. *For example, capacity development and support related to transboundary programmes and planning (river basin management, migration, international waters, energy development and access, climate change adaptation etc.).*	
3. Support for the elaboration or revision of **national-level** strategies, policies, plans and programmes. *For example, capacity development and support related to national development policies, plans, strategies and budgets, MDG-based plans and strategies (e.g. PRS/PRSPs, NAMAs), sector plans.*	X
4. Support for the elaboration or revision of **sub-national/local-level** strategies, polices, plans and programmes. *For example, capacity development and support for district and local level development plans and regulatory frameworks, urban plans, land use development plans, sector plans, provincial development plans, provision of services, investment funds, technical guidelines and methods, stakeholder engagement.*	X

QUESTION 4:

Does the proposed project include the implementation of *downstream* activities that potentially pose environmental and social impacts or are vulnerable to environmental and social change?

To answer this question, you should first complete Table 4.1 by selecting appropriate answers. If you answer "No" or "Not Applicable" to all questions in Table 4.1 then the answer to Question 4 is "NO." If you answer "Yes" to any questions in Table 4.1 (even one "Yes" can indicated a significant issue that needs to be addressed through further review and management) then the answer to Question 4 is "YES":

☐ **NO** → No further environmental and social review and management required for downstream activities. Complete Annex A.2 by selecting "Category 1", and submit the Environmental and Social Screening Template to the PAC.

☒ **YES** → Conduct the following steps to complete the screening process:

1. Consult Section 8 of this Guidance, to determine the extent of further environmental and social review and management that might be required for the project.
2. Revise the Project Document to incorporate environmental and social management measures. Where further environmental and social review and management activity cannot be undertaken prior to the PAC, a plan for undertaking such review and management activity within an acceptable period of time, post-PAC approval (e.g. as the first phase of the project) should be outlined in Annex A.2.
3. Select "Category 3" in Annex A.2, and submit the completed Environmental and Social Screening Template (Annex A) and relevant documentation to the PAC.

TABLE 4.1: ADDITIONAL SCREENING QUESTIONS TO DETERMINE THE NEED AND POSSIBLE EXTENT OF FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL REVIEW AND MANAGEMENT		
1.	**Biodiversity and Natural Resources**	**Answer** (Yes/No/ Not Applicable)
1.1	Would the proposed project result in the conversion or degradation of modified habitat, natural habitat or critical habitat?	No
1.2	Are any development activities proposed within a legally protected area (e.g. natural reserve, national park) for the protection or conservation of biodiversity?	No
1.3	Would the proposed project pose a risk of introducing invasive alien species?	No
1.4	Does the project involve natural forest harvesting or plantation development without an independent forest certification system for sustainable forest management (*e.g. PEFC, the Forest Stewardship Council certification systems, or processes established or accepted by the relevant National Environmental Authority*)?	No
1.5	Does the project involve the production and harvesting of fish populations or other aquatic species without an accepted system of independent certification to ensure sustainability (*e.g. the Marine Stewardship Council certification system, or certifications, standards, or processes established or accepted by the relevant National Environmental Authority*)?	No
1.6	Does the project involve significant extraction, diversion or containment of surface or ground water? *For example, construction of dams, reservoirs, river basin developments, groundwater extraction.*	Yes
1.7	Does the project pose a risk of degrading soils?	No

TABLE 4.1: ADDITIONAL SCREENING QUESTIONS TO DETERMINE THE NEED AND POSSIBLE EXTENT OF FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL REVIEW AND MANAGEMENT		
2.	**Pollution**	**Answer** (Yes/No/ Not Applicable)
2.1	Would the proposed project result in the release of pollutants to the environment due to routine or non-routine circumstances with the potential for adverse local, regional, and transboundary impacts?	No
2.2	Would the proposed project result in the generation of waste that cannot be recovered, reused, or disposed of in an environmentally and socially sound manner?	No
2.3	Will the propose project involve the manufacture, trade, release, and/or use of chemicals and hazardous materials subject to international action bans or phase-outs? *For example, DDT, PCBs and other chemicals listed in international conventions such as the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, or the Montreal Protocol.*	No
2.4	Is there a potential for the release, in the environment, of hazardous materials resulting from their production, transportation, handling, storage and use for project activities?	No
2.5	Will the proposed project involve the application of pesticides that have a known negative effect on the environment or human health?	No
3.	**Climate Change**	
3.1	Will the proposed project result in significant[25] greenhouse gas emissions? *Annex E provides additional guidance for answering this question.*	No
3.2	Is the proposed project likely to directly or indirectly increase environmental and social vulnerability to climate change now or in the future (also known as maladaptive practices)? You can refer to the additional guidance in Annex C to help you answer this question. *For example, a project that would involve indirectly removing mangroves from coastal zones or encouraging land use plans that would suggest building houses on floodplains could increase the surrounding population's vulnerability to climate change, specifically flooding.*	No
4.	**Social Equity and Equality**	**Answer** (Yes/No/ Not Applicable)
4.1	Would the proposed project have environmental and social impacts that could affect indigenous people or other vulnerable groups?	Yes
4.2	Is the project likely to significantly impact gender equality and women's empowerment[26]?	No
4.3	Is the proposed project likely to directly or indirectly increase social inequalities now or in the future?	No
4.4	Will the proposed project have variable impacts on women and men, different ethnic groups, social classes?	Yes

[25] Significant corresponds to CO_2 emissions greater than 100,000 tons per year (from both direct and indirect sources). Annex E provides additional guidance on calculating potential amounts of CO_2 emissions.

[26] Women are often more vulnerable than men to environmental degradation and resource scarcity. They typically have weaker and insecure rights to the resources they manage (especially land), and spend longer hours on collection of water, firewood, etc. (OECD, 2006). Women are also more often excluded from other social, economic, and political development processes.

TABLE 4.1: ADDITIONAL SCREENING QUESTIONS TO DETERMINE THE NEED AND POSSIBLE EXTENT OF FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL REVIEW AND MANAGEMENT	
4.5 Have there been challenges in engaging women and other certain key groups of stakeholders in the project design process?	Yes
4.6 Will the project have specific human rights implications for vulnerable groups?	No
5. Demographics	
5.1 Is the project likely to result in a substantial influx of people into the affected community(ies)?	No
5.2 Would the proposed project result in substantial voluntary or involuntary resettlement of populations? *For example, projects with environmental and social benefits (e.g. protected areas, climate change adaptation) that impact human settlements, and certain disadvantaged groups within these settlements in particular.*	No
5.3 Would the proposed project lead to significant population density increase which could affect the environmental and social sustainability of the project? *For example, a project aiming at financing tourism infrastructure in a specific area (e.g. coastal zone, mountain) could lead to significant population density increase which could have serious environmental and social impacts (e.g. destruction of the area's ecology, noise pollution, waste management problems, greater work burden on women).*	No
1. Culture	
6.1 Is the project likely to significantly affect the cultural traditions of affected communities, including gender-based roles?	No
6.2 Will the proposed project result in physical interventions (during construction or implementation) that would affect areas that have known physical or cultural significance to indigenous groups and other communities with settled recognized cultural claims?	No
6.3 Would the proposed project produce a physical "splintering" of a community? *For example, through the construction of a road, powerline, or dam that divides a community.*	No
2. Health and Safety	
7.1 Would the proposed project be susceptible to or lead to increased vulnerability to earthquakes, subsidence, landslides, erosion, flooding or extreme climatic conditions? *For example, development projects located within a floodplain or landslide prone area.*	No
7.2 Will the project result in increased health risks as a result of a change in living and working conditions? In particular, will it have the potential to lead to an increase in HIV/AIDS infection?	No
7.3 Will the proposed project require additional health services including testing?	No
3. Socio-Economics	
8.1 Is the proposed project likely to have impacts that could affect women's and men's ability to use, develop and protect natural resources and other natural capital assets? *For example, activities that could lead to natural resources degradation or depletion in communities who depend on these resources for their development, livelihoods, and well-being?*	No
8.2 Is the proposed project likely to significantly affect land tenure arrangements and/or traditional cultural ownership patterns?	No
8.3 Is the proposed project likely to negatively affect the income levels or employment	No

TABLE 4.1: ADDITIONAL SCREENING QUESTIONS TO DETERMINE THE NEED AND POSSIBLE EXTENT OF FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL REVIEW AND MANAGEMENT		
	opportunities of vulnerable groups?	
9.	**Cumulative and/or Secondary Impacts**	**Answer** (Yes/No/ Not Applicable)
9.1	Is the proposed project location subject to currently approved land use plans (e.g. roads, settlements) which could affect the environmental and social sustainability of the project? *For example, future plans for urban growth, industrial development, transportation infrastructure, etc.*	No
9.2	Would the proposed project result in secondary or consequential development which could lead to environmental and social effects, or would it have potential to generate cumulative impacts with other known existing or planned activities in the area? *For example, a new road through forested land will generate direct environmental and social impacts through the cutting of forest and earthworks associated with construction and potential relocation of inhabitants. These are direct impacts. In addition, however, the new road would likely also bring new commercial and domestic development (houses, shops, businesses). In turn, these will generate indirect impacts. (Sometimes these are termed "secondary" or "consequential" impacts). Or if there are similar developments planned in the same forested area then cumulative impacts need to be considered.*	No

ANNEX A.2: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SCREENING SUMMARY

(to be filled in after Annex A.1 has been completed)

(to be filled in after Annex A.1 has been completed)

Name of Proposed Project: Strengthening the resilience of rural livelihood options for Afghan communities in Panjshir, Balkh, Uruzgan and Herat Provinces to manage climate change-induced disaster risks

A. Environmental and Social Screening Outcome

Select from the following:

☐ Category 1. No further action is needed

☐ Category 2. Further review and management is needed. There are possible environmental and social benefits, impacts, and/or risks associated with the project (or specific project component), but these are predominantly indirect or very long-term and so extremely difficult or impossible to directly identify and assess.

☒ Category 3. Further review and management is needed, and it is possible to identify these with a reasonable degree of certainty. If Category 3, select one or more of the following sub-categories:

☒ Category 3a: Impacts and risks are limited in scale and can be identified with a reasonable degree of certainty and can often be handled through application of standard best practice, but require some minimal or targeted further review and assessment to identify and evaluate whether there is a need for a full environmental and social assessment (in which case the project would move to Category 3b).

☐ Category 3b: Impacts and risks may well be significant, and so full environmental and social assessment is required. In these cases, a scoping exercise will need to be conducted to identify the level and approach of assessment that is most appropriate.

B. Environmental and Social Issues (for projects requiring further environmental and social review and management)

In this section, you should list the key potential environmental and social issues raised by this project. This might include both environmental and social opportunities that could be seized on to strengthen the project, as well as risks that need to be managed. You should use the answers you provided in Table 4.1 as the basis for this summary, as well as any further review and management that is conducted.

There were four points marked in the Table 4.1: First, the project will support the development of certain water retention infrastructures such as small-scale storage reservoirs (less than 20m), micro-water harvesting and karizes and canal system improvement, restoration and rehabilitation. The mentioned infrastructures will be designed and implemented with the highest level of environmental and social controls measures. Appropriate consultation with government, communities and other stakeholders will also take place to ensure that the project interventions are socially sound and environmentally benign. The principal aim of these structures will be to retain rain water to increase ground water recharge and the efficiency of karizes.

The second point was on the environmental and social impacts on indigenous people and vulnerable groups. In fact, the project will be focusing on benefit to indigenous and vulnerable people in the target area to enhance their access to water, alternative and diversified livelihood opportunities.

The third point was on the variable impacts on women and men, different ethnic groups and social classes. The project will train and empower women for their engagement in alternative livelihood and rural entrepreneurship. This will also provide the different ethnic groups and social classes with non-agricultural and diversified economic activities in order to better resist climate shocks such as floods and droughts. Rangeland restoration with local and drought resistant species will improve soil conservation and reduce soil erosion. Additionally, it will provide supplemental nutritious foods such as almonds, berries and walnuts to the local population.

The 4^{th} point was on challenges in engaging women in the project design process especially in Uruzgan province. The project, in consultation with the government, will ensure women participation in decision making all through the project cycle including design and implementation.

The last point marked in Table 3.1 Regarding support for the elaboration or revision of national and sub-national level policies and plans, the project will carry out proper consultation at both upstream and downstream level to ensure all stockholders are aware and have their voices in the policies and plans.

C. Next Steps (for projects requiring further environmental and social review and management):

In this section, you should summarize actions that will be taken to deal with the above-listed issues. If your project has Category 2 or 3 components, then appropriate next steps will likely involve further environmental and social review and management, and the outcomes of this work should also be summarized here. Relevant guidance should be obtained from Section 7 for Category 2, and Section 8 for Category 3.

All issues identified have been incorporated into the project document. It is important to note that the project reduces the possibility for chances of elite capture and issues related to impacts originating from development of agriculture infrastructure by adopting appropriate approaches mentioned above. All the infrastructure activities will be planned and implemented in consultation with upstream and downstream communities and will be monitored closely for ensuring proper compliance and effective results. Improving access to water will ensure better and increased agricultural as well as ecosystem productivity and ground water recharge. To ensure proper monitoring by the project, a relevant risk has been added to the project risk matrix.

D. Sign Off

Project Manager

Date 2 Dec 2013

Country Office Environment Focal Point

PAC

Date

Programme Manager

Date

SIGNATURE PAGE

Country: Afghanistan

Project Title: Strengthening the resilience of rural livelihood options for Afghan communities in Panjshir, Balkh, Uruzgan and Herat Provinces to manage climate change-induced disaster risks

UNDAF Outcome (s)/Indicator (s):

Outcome 5: Improved capacity to manage natural resources to support poverty reduction and dispute resolution, and to reduce vulnerability to natural disaster

Outcome 6: Opportunities for decent work and income are improved and diversified, especially for vulnerable groups

CP Outcome(s)/Indicator(s):

Outcome 5: Capacities of national and local governance bodies are improved for better natural resources and disaster risk management.

Outcome 6: Increased opportunities for income generation through the promotion of diversified livelihoods, private sector development and public private partnerships.

CPD Output(s)/Indicator(s):

Output 5.1: Government capacity to develop policies to manage natural resources enhanced

Output 5.2: Sub-national institutions and communities are able to promote environmental protection and use natural resources responsibly

Output 5.3: Government and communities have better capacity for disaster risk reduction

Executing Entity/Implementing Partner: Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL)

Implementing entity/Responsible Partner: Province level Department for Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, District level Department for Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, Ministry and Departments for Rural Rehabilitation and Development, Ministry and Departments for Energy and Water, National and Provincial Environmental Protection Agency, Community Development Councils.

Programme Period:	2014 - 2019
Atlas Award ID:	00076056
Project ID:	00087639
PIMS #	5098
Start date:	1 April 2014
End Date	31 March 2019
Management Arrangements	NIM
PAC Meeting Date	15 January 2014

Total resources required	$112,000,000
Total allocated resources:	$112,000,000
o LDCF	$9,000,000
o UNDP	$1,000,000
o Government of Afghanistan	$32,000,000
o USAID	$70,000,000
Total:	$112,000,000

***Agreed by (Government)**:*

NAME SIGNATURE Date/Month/Year

Agreed by (Executing Entity/Implementing Partner):

NAME SIGNATURE Date/Month/Year

Agreed by (UNDP):

NAME SIGNATURE Date/Month/Year