



د کليو ديارغونې او پراختيا وزارت
وزارت اجيا و انکشاف د مات

د افغانستان اسلامي جمهوريت
جمهوری اسلامی افغانستان



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation & Development

معینت برنامہ ها

22nd, April, 2013

To:

Maryam Niamir-Fuller
Director, GEF Coordination Office
United Nations Environment Programme
Nairobi, Kenya
maryam.niamir-fuller@unep.org

Subject: Endorsement of Global Environment Facility (GEF) proposal "Developing Core Capacity for Decentralized MEA Implementation and Natural Resources Management in Afghanistan" from the Governor of the Province of Kabul

Dear Ms Niamir-Fuller,

In my capacity as Minister of the Ministry of Rehabilitation and Rural Development (MRRD), I would like to endorse the proposed GEF intervention for the project "Developing Core Capacity for Decentralized MEA Implementation and Natural Resources Management in Afghanistan" and confirm that it would provide important added value to our work in Kabul province and in Afghanistan.

The project is comprised of two components. Firstly, to build the capacity of central-level institutions and secondly, to build the scientific and technical capacity of sub-national stakeholders. The project will create a Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) Taskforce, made up of high-level representatives of relevant Ministries, which will coordinate the implementation of Rio Convention objectives by the Line Ministries. This will be supported by a Technical Advisory Panel made up of technical experts from those same Ministries as well as relevant community based organisations and non-governmental organisations.

Kabul province is home to Afghanistan's capital, with an estimated population of 5 million people, and is confronted by numerous environmental challenges; water and air pollution, soil erosion, climate change, informal settlements and deforestation.

As Minister of the Ministry of Rehabilitation and Rural Development (MRRD) I strongly welcome the initiation of this programme in Kabul province and endorse further actions as necessary. Of particular importance would be:

- The completion of baseline environmental assessments in the three field sites (Guldara, Istalif and Shakardara) in Kabul province.
- Hands-on training in ecosystem management practices.
- The demonstration of ecosystem management technologies and approaches for the implementation of MEA commitments.
- Capacity support for NGOs and CBOs to understand and to implement MEA requirements for poverty reduction.

The Government's National Solidarity Programme (NSP) is active in focus field sites (Guldara, Istalif and Shakardara) in Kabul province with an estimated budget of \$15,000,000 (2003 – 2015).

The Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) will complete the development projects planned as per executed budget in the stated districts. The \$ 5,500,000 of the estimated budget mentioned above will be disbursed in Block Grants in the districts of Guldara, Istalif, and Shakardar in Kabul Province and will be executed in the phase of NSP III ending in September 2015.

I thank you, in advance, for your kind and sustained cooperation. Please accept, Ms. Niamir-Fuller, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Please contact my office with any additional questions or clarifications

With best wishes,



Mohammad Tariq Ismati
Deputy Minister of Programmes, MRRD

CC:
Convention Focal Point for UNFCCC
Convention Focal Point for UNCBD
Convention Focal Point for UNCCD
UNEP Kabul, PCDMB

Copy to:
GEF Operational Focal Point for Afghanistan
Country Programme Manager, UNEP Afghanistan