جمهوری اسلامی افغانستان

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA)

اداره ملـــی حفـــاظت محـیط زیســـت

PRESS RELEASE

June 5, 2006

World Environment Day 2006
Afghanistan

World Environment Day is celebrated every year on 5 June to rally worldwide awareness and support for environmental issues. The theme for this year's World Environment Day is Deserts and Desertification, which is particularly relevant to Afghanistan as an arid country often negatively affected by water shortages and drought.

All around the world citizens and governments will give a human face to environmental issues by promoting an understanding that communities are pivotal to changing attitudes towards the environment, and by supporting partnerships that will ensure all nations and peoples enjoy a safer and more prosperous future.

Recently, Afghanistan's Environment Law was enacted. The Law is a critically important step in the direction of an effective environmental management regime. In addition, the environment features prominently within the UN Development Assistance Framework. With the assistance of international partners, significant other steps are also currently being taken to conserve and rehabilitate Afghanistan's vulnerable and degraded environment.

The National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) and partner organizations have organized events in several regional centers around Afghanistan to demonstrate the growing cooperation for the management and protection of Afghanistan's environment.

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The following activities are scheduled for Monday, 5 June 2006:

Kabul

Coordination:	NEPA and UNEP
Location:	Ministry of Public Health Conference Hall
Time:	1000 – 1200
Activities:	Messages and speeches by President Karzai, King Zaher Shah, representatives from NEPA, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Upper and Lower House Parliamentary Commissions on the Environment, UNEP, Kabul Municipality.
Contact:	Mr. Dost Mohammad Amin, Deputy Director-General, NEPA 070 201 323

Kabul

Coordination:	Kabul University
Location:	Kabul University Auditorium
Time:	0900-1130
Activities:	Speeches by Chancellor Ghani, the Environment Conservation Center for Afghanistan, the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, UNEP; song and dance by school children; musical performance by Kabul University students; tree planting and clean-up projects around the campus.
Contact:	Professor Nesar Ahmad Kohestani 070 297 339

Kabul

The event at Kole Hashmat Khan Wetlands had to be cancelled due to security restrictions.

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Mazar-e-Sharif

Coordination:	NEPA and UNDP/GAIN
Location:	Hotel Kefayat / Mazar
Time:	1700 – 2000
Activities:	Speeches by the Governor of Balkh, the provincial director of NEPA, the UNDP/ GAIN coordinator, the Head of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission in Mazar; drama performance
Contact:	Ahmaduddin Asem Sahibi, GAIN 0799 28 48 07

Jalalabad

Coordination:	NEPA and Afghan Conservation Corps (ACC)/UNOPS
Location:	Department of Information and Culture conference hall
Time:	1000-1600
Activities:	Presentations; city beautification and clean up projects; mural drawing with school children
Contact:	Mr. Abdul Razaq, NEPA Provincial Director Nangarhar
	Mr. Hamidullah Akbary, ACC 0799 33 22 19
	Mohammadulla Karimi, ACC 070 27 69 94

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Herat

Coordination:	UNEP, ACC/UNOPS, Herat University
Location:	Talar-e Busurg / Herat
Time:	0830 - 1130
Activities:	Speeches by the Governor of Herat, the provincial director of NEPA, the Afghan Conservation Corps (ACC), UNEP and AREA
Contact:	Abdullah Faiz, ACC 0799 34 83 86
	Obaidullah Ghafoori, ACC 0799 37 22 27

The NEPA Provincial Directors from the following twenty provinces will also try to hold press briefings and public discussions: Logar, Laghman, Parwan, Kunduz, Khost, Kandahar, Paktia, Kapisa, Samangan, Faryab, Helmand, Bamyan, Takhar, Ghazni, Nimroz, Baghlan, Paktika, Kunar, Nuristan, and Maidan Wardak.