

جمهوری اسلامی افغانستان  
اداره ملی حفاظت محیط زیست



د افغانستان اسلامي جمهوریت  
د چاپیریال ساتنې ملی اداره

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan  
National Environmental Protection Agency

**Afghanistan Ozone Programme  
National Stakeholders Capacity Building Workshop  
Kabul, 21-23 August, 2006**

**PRESS RELEASE  
20 August 2006**

The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan ratified the Vienna Convention on the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer on 17 June 2004. With the support of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the National Ozone Unit (NOU) was established in September 2004 and is working to fulfill the Afghanistan's requirements under the convention and its protocol.

The NOU is organizing a Capacity Building Workshop for National Stakeholders, which will take place from 21 – 23 August 2006 in the Safi Landmark Hotel in Kabul. In total 35 representatives from national and provincial government as well as 10 international participants have been invited.

Representatives of the Ministries of Justice, Foreign Affairs, Finance, Commerce, Public Works and Interior (Fire Extinguishing Department) will be participating from the Central Government.

From the border provinces of Herat, Kandahar and Nangarhar provincial government representatives from the Ministry of Commerce, the Customs Departments of the Ministry of Finance and the National Environmental Protection Agency will participate as well as representatives from the Chambers of Commerce of Herat and Nangarhar.

International participants and presenters will comprise of representatives of GTZ-Proklima/ Government of Germany, UNEP ROAP Compliance Assistance Programme– Bangkok, Pakistani Ozone Authorities, GTZ experts of Iran and the Director of the Iran Ozone Programme.

The main objective of this workshop is to involve the relevant stakeholders in the country in the implementation of the National Phase-out Plan of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) for Afghanistan. The workshop will provide the opportunity to create awareness on the use of ODS, their effect on the environment and the global response to meet the obligations of the Montreal Protocol. The workshop will also help and assist the participants to understand the overall requirements of the Montreal Protocol, the challenges and the specific responsibilities faced by the stakeholders and the actions required to achieve the objectives of the National ODS Phase-out Plan.

Expected short term results of the workshop are expedited control and monitoring activities of all stakeholders due to enhanced ability to understand the national and international obligations under the Montreal Protocol.

The south-south cooperation concept developed by the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and Pacific (ROAP) will be utilized by involving local and regional experts as well as by presenting regional case studies. Group discussions on these issues will provide the necessary

جمهوری اسلامی افغانستان  
اداره ملی حفاظت محیط زیست



د افغانستان اسلامي جمهوریت  
د چاپیریال ساتنې ملی اداره

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan  
National Environmental Protection Agency

regional and global perspective to enable the participants to formulate a set of practical and implementable recommendations, which will enable Afghanistan to meet its obligations in a timely and effective manner.

The press is invited to observe the workshop, the workshop agenda in Dari and English is enclosed.

**For further information and interviews, please contact:**

Zahid Ullah Hamdard Ozone Officer National Ozone Unit (NOU) National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) Darul Aman Road, Kabul, Afghanistan Tel: +93(0)79 565 458 Email: zahidhamdard1@yahoo.co.in	Asif Zaidi United Nations Environment Programme Programme Manager National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) Darulaman Kabul, Afghanistan Tel 1: +.93.(0)79 9 .325.678 Tel 2: +.93.(0)70.276.431 Email: asif.zaidi@unep.ch
---	---