



United Nations Environment Programme

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة • 联合国环境规划署
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT • PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE
ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

PRESS RELEASE

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Environment-Friendly Mountaineering Course Part II

Kabul, Afghanistan – Under the auspices of the Afghanistans National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA), Mountain Wilderness International (MWI), an International NGO, is currently delivering the first advanced course on Environment-Friendly Mountaineering for Liason Officers in Afghanistan.

This course is being held in the mountains of the Wakhan Corridor and follows last years beginners course, which was held in the Panjshir Valley. A group of 17 young Afghans, including three women, coming from various regions of the country, are being trained in the techniques of climbing on rock, moving on snow and ice, first aid and rescue operations, high-altitude medicine, map and compass reading, logistics of an expedition, management of foreign tourists, correct environmental behaviour, hygiene, history of nature and history of mountaineering in Afghanistan.

The training program is designed to reinvigorate Afghanistan's trekking industry and to impart skills necessary for guiding treks and climbs, and promoting community- based and environmentally-friendly tourism development.

This year's course is mainly funded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Department of Cooperation for Development and partially funded by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Aga Khan Foundation. In Italy, the initiative enjoys the assistance of WWF of Italy and the Mountaineering School of the Italian Alpine Club in Chieti. The Tourist Department of the Afghan Ministry of Information, Culture and Youth is also providing assistance to the initiative.

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