



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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Is Climate Change relevant for Afghanistan?

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) launched the third volume of its 4th Assessment Report "Climate Change 2007" on 4th May 2007 at the 26th session of the IPCC in Bangkok. The findings of the report will be used by governments and international organisations to map out their own plans for climate change mitigation.

Climate change is caused by an increase of greenhouse gas concentration in the earth's atmosphere changing its heat balance and leading to temperature rises and consecutively to changes in the climate system of our planet. It has been shown that human activity such as the burning of fossil fuels and the changing of land use is currently leading to unprecedented levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. As the global climate system changes, every community and place on earth will be affected in some way by this process. Theoretical models are predicting an intensification of extreme weather events and an average temperature rise.

In order to curb the effects of climate change cooperation of all countries to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases is needed on the one hand as well as the preparation of adaptation measures in order to better cope with the changes which can not be prevented.

Afghanistan's emission will rise with its development and an emphasis on the development of a low carbon economy would be desirable. Very important for Afghanistan will be what kind of adaptation plans will be prepared and implemented especially with regard to agriculture and the plantation crops adapted to higher temperatures, desertification, new irrigation schemes and heat-waves.

Afghanistan became party to the International Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2002 and is currently implementing in cooperation with UNEP a project in order to prepare its National Adaptation Programme for Action (NAPA) with regard to climate change. A representative of the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) attended the IPCC working group meeting in Bangkok.

For further information please contact:

Abdul Wali Modaqiq
United Nations Environment Programme
National Project Coordinator
Global Environment Facility (GEF)

National Environmental Protection Agency
(NEPA)

Darulaman
Kabul, Afghanistan
Tel: +.93.(0)799 .131.618
Email: wali.modaqiq@unep.ch

Belinda Bowling
United Nations Environment Programme
Environmental Law and International Conventions
Expert

National Environmental Protection Agency
(NEPA)

Darulaman
Kabul, Afghanistan
Tel: +.93.(0)799 .208.721
Email: belinda.bowling@unep.ch

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