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Climate Change Workshop in Bamiyan 20 – 21 October 2007 - NCSA and NAPA Process in Afghanistan

Initiated in 2004 with support from the United Nations Environment Programme and the Global Environmental Facility, the National Capacity Needs Self Assessment for Global Environmental Management (NCSA) and National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA) projects have two aims. Firstly, their purpose is to improve the capacity of the Government to implement three international conventions to which Afghanistan is Party: Biodiversity (UNCBD), Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Desertification (UNCCD). Secondly, they support the development of a program of action for adapting to climate change.



Bamiyan is home to the beautiful Band-e-Amir lakes. These intensely blue, spring-fed, crystalline clear lakes are nestled in a spectacularly stark mountain landscape. Their unique beauty has led the Afghan Government to propose the area as the country's first National Park. Photo: Band-e-Amir, 2006, by Linda Norgrove.

Around the world, climate change is posing potentially catastrophic and long-term changes to the environment and people's lives. Here in Afghanistan, it is thought to be one of the key driving forces behind longer and more severe droughts, increased intensity of flash floods, and reduced snowfall. In a country where almost 80% of the population relies on the country's natural resource base for their livelihoods, the balance between nature and humans is precarious.



The arid mountain ecosystems of Afghanistan are particularly vulnerable to climatic changes. Photo: Samangan, 2006, by Linda Norgrove.

The NCSA and NAPA processes will contribute towards addressing this pessimistic situation. Through identifying the impacts of climate change at a local level, national and international resources can be better targeted and new activities more appropriately designed to address priority actions and mitigating negative impacts on rural people's livelihoods.



Kabul-based workshops are running alongside four regional workshops. During the month of September, farmers and pastoralists from the Provinces of Badakhshan and Herat met to discuss local impacts of climate change. This series of workshops will continue in October in Bamiyan (20th to 21st) and with rural people from Ghazni, Wardak, Logar and Daikundi in Kabul in the month of November. Their analysis will include the effects of climate change on their livelihoods and the biodiversity of the Central Highlands and adaptation mechanisms being adopted at the local level.

Knowledge gathered at the local and provincial levels will be used to inform the National Capacity Self Assessment for environmental management, the main effects of climate change on rural livelihoods, and the identification of priority follow-up projects that can prevent and mitigate the negative impacts of climate change on rural livelihoods.

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