



پروگرام محیط زیست ملل متحد  
د ملگرو ملتونو د چاپیریال پروگرام  
United Nations Environment Programme



اداره ملی حفاظت محیط زیست  
د چاپیریال ساتنی ملی اداره  
National Environmental Protection Agency

**JOINT PRESS RELEASE  
30 April 2008**

**National Environmental Advisory Council (NEAC)  
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan  
Inaugural Meeting**

In May 2005 the National Environmental Protection Agency was created to provide effective environmental guidance and management services to protect the environmental integrity of Afghanistan and support the sustainable development of its natural resources.

NEPA's structure foresees the establishment of fora to ensure national participation and inter-ministerial coordination with regard to the implementation of NEPA's mandate and the effective integration of environmental considerations into government policies and public life.

The Inaugural Meeting of the National Environmental Advisory Council (NEAC) will take place on 3 – 4 May 2008 at the Intercontinental Hotel Kabul.

The purpose of NEAC, as it is set out in Afghanistan's Environment Law, is to advise the National Environmental Protection Agency on financial matters (including budgets and annual accounts), regulatory matters (including the development of policy, procedures and legislation) and environmental matters that are of national public importance. The composition of the Council, which is deemed to meet once a year, is to be determined by the Director General of NEPA and includes governors, chairpersons of provincial councils, Islamic scholars and tribal elders. The Council members have been appointed by the President on the recommendation of NEPA's Director General.

The first meeting of the NEAC will have the form of a two-day conference for approximately 300 participants and invitees. High-ranking representatives of the Afghan government as well as representatives of the Civil Society, UN, Donor agencies and NGOs will be expected to attend the opening ceremony for the formal establishment of the NEAC.

As NEPA is a recently created institution, the main objectives of the two-day conference will be to explain the terms of reference of the NEAC to the council members, secure an agreement on the duties and responsibilities of the membership, establish the NEAC and give high visibility to the environmental issues that impact negatively on Afghanistan. In order to achieve these objectives, essential background information on the state of Afghanistan's environment, NEPA's responsibilities and functions, the environmental legislative framework and the roles of other government institutions with regard to environmental management will be provided to the participants on the first day of the meeting. Emphasis of the second day lies on the dialogue with the provincial and district representatives and the NEAC members will work in sub-committees on different environmental issues and present their findings and suggestions to the plenary.

The Inaugural Meeting of the National Environmental Advisory Council is being organized by the National Environmental Protection Agency with assistance from UNEP and financial support from the European Commission.

NEPA's Vision:



*A healthy, safe, rich and diverse environment for Afghanistan's present and future generations that enhances the quality of life and social and economic well-being of the people.*

*A population that cares for, enjoys and conserves its environment.*

\*\*\*

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

Jarullah Mansoori  
Chief of staff  
National Environmental Protection Agency  
Kabul, Afghanistan  
Tel: +93(0)799 302 284  
Email: [j.mansoori@nepa.gov.af](mailto:j.mansoori@nepa.gov.af)

Asif Zaidi  
Programme Manager  
United Nations Environment Programme  
Post-Conflict & Disaster Management Branch  
National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA)  
Darulaman Kabul, Afghanistan  
Tel: + 93 (0)799 325 678  
Email: [asif.zaidi@unep.ch](mailto:asif.zaidi@unep.ch)