

United Nations Development Programme Afghanistan Strengthened Approach for the Integration of Sustainable Environmental Management in Afghanistan – (SAISEM) Third Quarter Project Progress Report –2011



Project ID: 00062490

Duration: July 2008– 6 July 2012

Strategic Plan Component: Capacity and Institutional building for Afghan government and communities for sustainable environment management

CPAP Component: CPAP Outcome #5: Capabilities of national and local governance bodies are improved for better natural resources and disaster management

ANDS Component: Cross cutting: Environment and Natural Resources

Total Budget for UNDP component: USD 2,500,000

Implementing partners: UNDP & FAO with Technical collaboration from UNEP

Government Partners: NEPA, MRRD and MAIL

SAISEM DONORS

Spanish Government through the MDG-F Achievement Fund



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List of Acronyms

| | |
|--------|--|
| ANDS | Afghanistan National Development Strategy |
| CEC | Inter-Ministerial Committee on Environment Coordination |
| CPAP | Country Programme Action Plan |
| DDAs | District Development Assemblies |
| DDPs | District Development Plans |
| EM | Environment Mainstreaming |
| ESCs | Environmental Sub-Committees |
| NEMG | National Environmental Mainstreaming Guideline |
| FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization |
| MDG | Millennium Development Goal |
| MoAIL | Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock |
| MRRD | Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development |
| NABDP | National Area Based Development Programme |
| NEAC | National Environment Advisory Council |
| NEPA | National Environment Protection Agency |
| PEAC | Provincial Environmental Advisory Council |
| SAISEM | Strengthened Approach for the Integration of Sustainable Environmental Management in Afghanistan |
| ToT | Training of Trainers |
| UNDAF | United Nations Development Assistance Framework |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| UNEP | United Nations Environment Programme |

Executive Summary

UNDP component under SAISEM Joint Program is focused on its first outcome i.e. environmental mainstreaming at National Level. During the reporting period project has taken proactive steps to facilitate the endorsement process of National Environmental Mainstreaming Guideline (NEMG). Meetings with NEPA senior officials on progress and endorsement process of the guideline have been taken place. The final version of the guideline shared with NEPA senior official for final check and its onward submission to Inter-Ministerial Committee on Environment (CEC) for endorsement.

In order to strengthen capacity of NEPA mandate to monitor environmental conditions in the country, practical training on the use of water quality toolkits was provided to Environment Impact and Sustainable Division staff at central level. The training of trainees (ToT) would help in disseminating the technology to provincial NEPA technical staff especially in monitoring of water quality and reporting.

A comprehensive website for NEPA has been designed which could serve as an online knowledge hub on environmental aspect of Afghanistan. A joint technical committee of partners was formed to ensure quality of the website. . The website will be announced by H.E Prince Mustapha Zaher- DG of NEPA during the announcement of Afghanistan species list to media.

Before the discussion of transfer of responsibilities to FAO component, Project staff had developed materials to promote environmental awareness in the country. The progress report has been submitted to FAO on activities supposed to be transferred.

Context

The SAISEM Joint Programme is designed to promote a strengthened approach for the integration of sustainable environmental management into national sectoral strategies; promote capacity and institutional development of relevant government counterparts to operationalise and implement the environmental concerns reflected in the national strategies; and support demonstration activities in the field, the lessons from which will feed into strengthening the national and sub-national planning and community-level engagement for environmentally sustainable development of Afghanistan.

The project directly contributes to the achievement of Environment and Natural Resource goals of the 2006-2008 UNDAF, as well as Afghanistan's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It also directly responds to the environment and natural resources benchmarks as articulated in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS).

The Programme will promote the formulation of suitable policy / strategic frameworks, implementation guidelines with due consideration of the environment-poverty linkage, ensure institutional capacity development towards the effective implementation of the strategies and projects, integrate environmental considerations in the national and sub-national planning process; and raise awareness on the topic at all levels. The programme will also pilot and upscale several Community-Based Natural Resources Management interventions in selected Provinces.

The Outcomes and Outputs of this Joint Programmes are:

Outcome 1: Environmental issues mainstreamed in national and sub-national policy, planning and investment frameworks;

Outcome 2: Local management of environmental resources improved and services delivery enhanced.

The main partner UN organizations of this Joint Programme are FAO, UNDP and UNEP. The FAO and UNDP are direct implementing partners, while UNEP plays an advisory role in the implementation of the programme including coordination and harmonization of joint activities. The main government partners are the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA), Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) and Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MoAIL).

i) Project rationale, objectives, intended beneficiaries, main stakeholders, and brief overview of implementing arrangements

(ii) Major changes in development condition (policies, strategies, action, events etc.) in the Government, Donors and UNDP that has affected or is likely to affect the project implementation.

Status of the progress towards the achievement of output/outcome

JP Output 1: National environmental concerns reflected in the ANDS and selected sectoral plans, and institutional capacity strengthened to operationalize them

ENVIRONMENTAL MAINSTREAMING GUIDELINE: The final translated version has been shared with NEPA for its approval, it is planned to conduct inter-ministerial Committee for Environment Coordination (CEC) meeting to present the guideline for the endorsement process.

A concept note and ToR for Environmental Mainstreaming Network was finalized in consultation with NEPA. The Network is composed of officials from all the line ministries, and is responsible for Environmental Mainstreaming Guideline implementation.

WATER QUALITY MONITORING: During the reporting period, six technical personal from National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) was trained on water quality monitoring. As part of sustainability, the trained staff (ToT) will in turn train other staff of NEPA at provincial level. During the training participants were encouraged to share their ideas, knowledge and experiences. The trainers used several different participatory methods that proved successful. The content of the module proved useful to the participants, which maintained their interest. The participants were also extremely appreciative of the handouts in local languages and attendance certificates. The trainees are using the technical skills and knowledge to monitor water quality condition in Kabul City and such trainings can strengthen NEPA mandate to monitor environmental condition in the country.

NEPA WEBSITE OPERTIONALIZATION: Website is an important source of information, which remains open 24/7 to promote environmental education and awareness. Website development and launching is one of the NEPA priorities for advocating, improving credibility and lobbying for environment with donors and institution. During the reporting period, the consulting firm was selected for designing, developing and launching of the website. Two focal points have been identified with in NEPA to be in contact with company and receive training on website management and administration after completion of the website development. NEPA Website has been developed by the company with the close consultation of SAISEM and NEPA. A Quality Control Committee has been established in NEPA. The committee will be control the data which will be uploaded to the website.

For the maintenance, administration and management of website two NEPA staff were trained. SAISEM with the consultation of partners developed a draft content menu for the website. In recent future the data will be uploaded to the website and will be launched.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND AWARENESS: Before the discussion of transfer of responsibilities to FAO, SAISEM-Under UNDP component has already worked on environmental education and awareness materials. Art Competition program was planned in Kabul districts for selected schools. As three activities will be shifted to FAO therefore, SAISEM staff entirely focused on achieving outcome 1. During the reporting period, the following steps were taken.

- Draft concept note has been developed in consultation with NEPA.
- All the required materials for training and art competition are prepared.

- Consultation meetings with NEPA and ministry of education for Schools selection are carried out.
- About two meeting were conducted with EQUIP, one of the World Bank Projects working for MoE. The purpose of the meetings was to synergize the activity with EQUIP project. EQUIP is working for the improvement of education quality by training teachers and it has established school committees with in 13,000 schools throughout the country.

A number of environmental awareness and education materials were drafted which includes;

- Production of posters on environment (visual demonstration of local environmental issues with a messages)
- Production of leaflets (one pager on Key environmental problems and how an individual can best play their role)
- Production and dissemination of schools bags (environmental friendly)
- Organization of Art competition among all selected schools (provision of all tools) and speech on environment.
- Videos on current environment problems of Kabul and other cities (Probably a part of the video will contain a message from H.E prince Mustapha Zaher).

JP out 1.2: Environmental Concerns are fully reflected in provincial and district development plans (Though NABDP and ASGP)

As this output is already transferred to NABDP, SAISEM Project has planned to carry out follow-up meetings.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|-----|
| | the approval of contents from H.E Prince Mustapha Zaher. | | |
| | Secondary data collected for the development of NEPA strategic plan. Capacity need assessment is under process in central NEPA for the development of capacity development plan | Development and dissemination of NEPA strategic intent, capacity development plans. | 30 |
| | Water Quality Monitoring training provided to technical personnel (ToT) of NEPA. | NEPA mandate strengthening | 100 |
| | The final check of the translated version of Environment Mainstreaming Guidelines completed. | | 90 |
| JP out 1.2: Environmental Concerns are fully reflected in provincial and district development plans (Though NABDP and ASGP) | Agreed on the replication of Environmental Sub-committee in the existing structure of DDAs. SAISEM delivered technical assistance to Community Mobilizers of NABDP in environment and Natural Resource Sector. | Implementation of Training Curriculum for Community Mobilizers. | 50 |

Challenges:

- ▶ The key Government Partners do not have the ability to integrate sustainable Environmental approaches into the national development framework. Environment has not been given priority in the National Strategic documents and Donor's Conferences to allocate proper budget for environment program at national and sub-national level.
- ▶ Limited public awareness of environmental and natural resource issues both at institutional and community level.

- ▶ Insecurity is a major challenge in terms of achieving all the targeted results in remaining 8 months
- ▶ Transfer of responsibilities to FAO on an urgent basis complying with all the procedural steps.

Risks:

- 1- If SAISEM fails to demonstrate itself as a success example, it may create a negative image among DPs and government agencies, which may reduce enthusiasm of potential partners in environment and natural resources programming initiative of UNDP

Issues:

Delay in the formulization of transfer of responsibilities process by FAO.

Future Plans:

1. Endorsement of the EM guideline from NEPA
2. Development of Organization Strategy, Business Development Plan and Capacity Development for NEPA.
3. Formalization of the agreement on the transfer of resources to FAO.
4. Launching of NEPA Website.

Financial Section: SAISEM

Table 1. Total Income and Expenditure

| | INCOME | | | EXPENDITURES | | | BALANCE | Remarks |
|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--|--|---------------------------|---|---------|
| Donor | Total Commitment (a) | Total Received (b) | Total Receivable c= (a-b) | Total Cumulative Expenditures Dec 2010 (d) | Total Expenditure from Jan to Sep 2011 (e) | Total Expenditures f= d+e | Total Received minus Total Expenditures g=(b-f) | Remarks |
| MDG-F Spanish Funds | 2,500,000 | 2,265,380 | 234,620 | 1,538,403 | 140,649 | 1,679,052 | 586,328 | |

Note:

i) Expenditure reported for 2011 is provisional

ii) Income received in currency other than USD is approximated to USD based on UN operational rate of exchange.

Table 2. Expenditure by Major Outputs (2011)

| Project Output | Budget (AWP 2011) | Total Expenditure from Jan to Sep 2011 | Delivery Rate* | Remarks |
|--|-------------------|--|----------------|---------|
| Output 1: Support to the national level development and implementation of policy and regulatory frameworks | 669,921 | 133,235 | | |
| <i>GMS 7%</i> | <i>46,894</i> | <i>9,326</i> | | |
| Sub-total Output 1. | 716,815 | 142,561 | 20% | |
| Output 3: Community Capacity Building for CBNRM | 101,885 | 645 | | |
| <i>GMS 7%</i> | <i>7,132</i> | <i>45</i> | | |
| Sub-total Output 3 | 109,017 | 690 | 1% | |
| Output 5:Project Management | 81,000 | (2,432) | | |
| <i>GMS 7%</i> | <i>5,670</i> | <i>(170)</i> | | |
| Sub-total Output 5 | 86,670 | (2,602) | -3% | |
| Grand Total | 912,502 | 140,649 | 15% | |

Table 3. Expenditure by Donors (2011)

| Donor | Project Output | Budget (AWP 2011) | Total Expenditure from Jan to Sep 2011 | Delivery Rate* |
|---------------------|--|-------------------|--|----------------|
| MDG-F Spanish Funds | Output 1: Support to the national level development and implementation of policy and regulatory frameworks | 669,921 | 133,235 | 20% |
| | Output 3: Community Capacity Building for CBNRM | 101,885 | 645 | 1% |
| | Output 5:Project Management | 81,000 | (2,432) | -3% |
| | <i>GMS 7%</i> | <i>59,696</i> | <i>9,201</i> | 15% |
| Grand Total | | 912,502 | 140,649 | 15% |