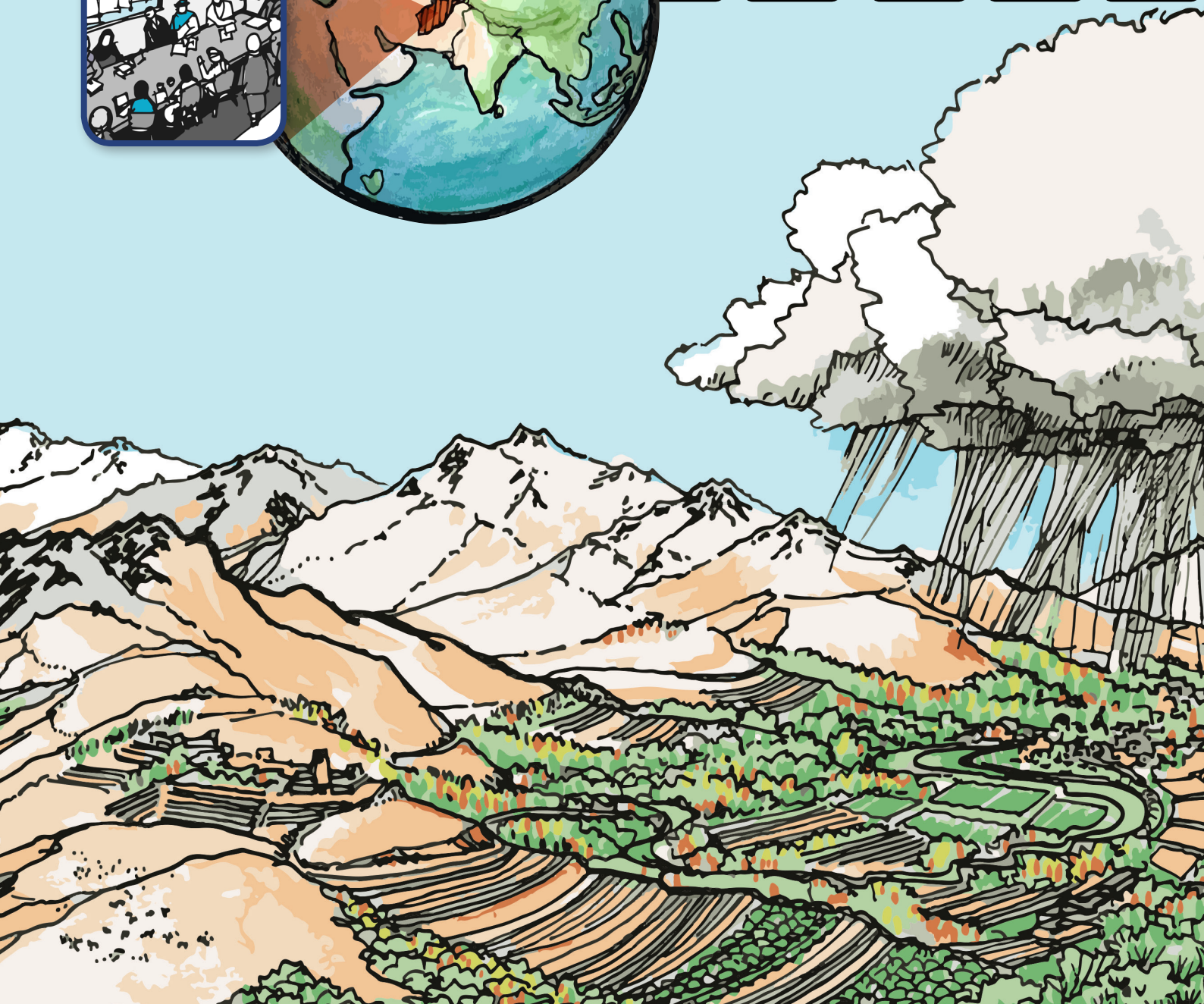
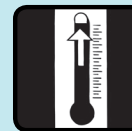




Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
National Environmental Protection Agency

CLIMATE CHANGE AND GOVERNANCE IN AFGHANISTAN



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (ENGLISH)	4
	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (DARI)	7
	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (PASHTO)	9
2.	INTRODUCTION	10
	2.1. OVERVIEW OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND PROJECTIONS FOR AFGHANISTAN	10
	2.2. OVERVIEW OF CLIMATE CHANGE GOVERNANCE IN AFGHANISTAN	14
	2.2.1. GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK	14
	2.2.2. NON-GOVERNMENTAL STAKEHOLDERS	16
	2.3. CLIMATE FINANCE AND TECHNICAL RESOURCES	18
3.	MAINSTREAMING CLIMATE CHANGE INTO AFGHANISTAN'S GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK	20
	3.1. AGRICULTURE	22
	3.1.1. CLIMATE IMPACT PROJECTIONS	22
	3.1.2. INSTITUTIONS	22
	3.1.3. POLICIES, STRATEGIES, AND LAWS	23
	3.1.4. INTER-MINISTERIAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS	24
	3.2. BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS	25
	3.2.1. CLIMATE IMPACT PROJECTIONS	25
	3.2.2. INSTITUTIONS	25
	3.2.3. POLICIES, STRATEGIES, AND LAWS	27
	3.2.4. INTER-MINISTERIAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS	28
	3.3. ENERGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE	30
	3.3.1. CLIMATE IMPACT PROJECTIONS	30
	3.3.2. INSTITUTIONS	32
	3.3.3. POLICIES, STRATEGIES, AND LAWS	33
	3.3.4. INTER-MINISTERIAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS	34
	3.4. FORESTS AND RANGELANDS	35
	3.4.1. CLIMATE IMPACT PROJECTIONS	35
	3.4.2. INSTITUTIONS	36
	3.4.3. POLICIES, STRATEGIES, AND LAWS	32
	3.4.4. INTER-MINISTERIAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS	34

3.5. NATURAL DISASTERS	38
3.5.1. CLIMATE IMPACT PROJECTIONS	38
3.5.2. INSTITUTIONS	39
3.5.3. POLICIES, STRATEGIES, AND LAWS	41
3.5.4. INTER-MINISTERIAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS	37
3.6. WATER	42
3.6.1. CLIMATE IMPACT PROJECTIONS	42
3.6.2. INSTITUTIONS	43
3.6.3. POLICIES, STRATEGIES, AND LAWS	44
3.6.4. INTER-MINISTERIAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS	45
4. RECOMMENDATIONS	46
ANNEX 1: OVERVIEW OF RELEVANT NATIONAL PROJECTS	51
ANNEX 2: OVERVIEW OF RELEVANT GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTION STRUCTURES	57
ANNEX 3: REFERENCES	61

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides a broad overview of the landscape of climate change governance in Afghanistan in order to identify past achievements and current and future entry points for the further mainstreaming of climate change into the country's national development framework. In doing so, this report complements existing research and literature on climate change in Afghanistan, such as the National Adaptation Programme of Action and National Communications under the UNFCCC, to bring the urgency of climate change to the attention of the Government, non-governmental organizations, civil society, academia, and the international development community.

This report focuses primarily on the government institutions, legislative frameworks, sectoral policies and strategies, and interministerial coordination mechanisms relevant to addressing Afghanistan's urgent climate change adaptation and mitigation needs. Particular emphasis is placed on the most crucial areas identified in Afghanistan's National Adaptation Programme of Action: agriculture, biodiversity and ecosystems, energy and infrastructure, forests and rangelands, natural disasters, and water. The urgency of mainstreaming climate change into Afghanistan's development processes cannot be overstated. In 2015, the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) developed the most up-to-date and detailed climate change projections for Afghanistan, which suggest that by 2100 the country will see a strong increase in mean annual temperature coupled with an overall decrease in water availability. These changes will have myriad impacts on Afghanistan's diverse ecosystems, as well as the plants and animals that inhabit them. Considering that approximately 80 percent of Afghanistan's population relies directly on the natural resource base for their livelihoods, these climatic changes also have the potential to seriously disrupt the foundation of the country's economy, stability, and food security.

Afghanistan is already highly vulnerable to natural hazards, and a changing climate is likely to significantly exacerbate their impacts unless measures are taken to strengthen the country's adaptive capacity. Mainstreaming climate change into Afghanistan's development processes is an essential step towards realizing that adaptive capacity. Thus, coordinated action is urgently needed among diverse partners and across numerous sectors to ensure that the risks of climate change are minimized and that development progress is not undermined.

Key recommendations from this report include:

- Afghanistan's Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (ACCSAP) should be urgently finalized and implemented as a primary step towards mainstreaming climate change into national development plans.
- Comprehensive capacity-building programmes should be implemented at the national, provincial, and local levels in order to raise awareness of, and support for, the mainstreaming of climate change within all levels of the country's governance processes.

- Accurate and sound scientific analysis of climate change impacts and adaptation measures should be brought to the attention of policy-makers to encourage further mainstreaming of climate considerations into sectoral planning and reduce the adverse impacts of climate change on the country's population.
- Civil Society and Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs), particularly involving women and youth, should be involved in awareness-raising events and capacitybuilding activities to generate greater public awareness of climate change and foster greater political will to address Afghanistan's urgent climate change needs.
- Climate change should be integrated into higher education curricula to promote further mainstreaming across relevant disciplines as well as build national capacity to understand and apply key climate change adaptation and mitigation approaches.
- The technological needs for both adaptation and mitigation should be identified for each sector and vulnerable area. Current efforts, which include those through the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), should be expanded and prioritized in the national development agenda.
- Public-private partnerships should be promoted to increase availability of funds and resources for climate-friendly technologies, particularly in the areas of decentralized energy and rural electrification.
- Infrastructure projects should integrate climate-proofing (preferably with ecosystem-based adaptation) in order to better protect roads, bridges, water supply, energy, and other infrastructure from extreme weather events and ensure that development progress made in recent years is not undone.
- The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock (MAIL) and NEPA should launch a work programme of scientific research and piloting of drought-resistant crop varieties and Affordable Micro-irrigation Technology (AMIT) in order to build a body of knowledge and institutional capacity to better address a warmer and drier future climate.
- In rural areas without access to electrical grids, decentralized, low emission, and climate-friendly energy projects should be prioritized in order to provide accessible energy to rural populations and stimulate rural economic growth.
- A comprehensive survey of forest and rangeland species (flora and fauna) should be conducted in order to identify which species are most threatened by and resilient to climate change, and subsequently integrate these findings into national forestry and rangeland management policies.
- In rural areas, community-based water harvesting, water conservation, and watershed management techniques and practices should be promoted in order to improve management of existing water resources and decrease vulnerability to droughts.

- نیاز است تا تغییر اقلیم در نصاب تحصیلی تحصیلات عالی گنجانیده شود تا مسئله تغییر اقلیم در بخش‌های مهم به صورت اساسی مدغم گردیده و ظرفیت ملی در مورد رسیدگی به اثرات منفی تغییرات اقلیم ارتقاء یابد.
- نیازها در قسمت تکنالوژی‌های سازگاری و کاهش دهی (کاهش گازات گلخانه‌ای) در ساحات مختلف شناسایی گردد. تلاش‌های جاری در مورد و خصوصاً توسط مرکز و شبکه تکنالوژی اقلیمی (CTCN) توسعه داده شود و در پروسه‌های ملی مدنظر گرفته شود.
- مشارکت دولتی-خصوصی جهت دسترسی به منابع پولی و تکنالوژی اقلیمی مخصوصاً در بخش انرژی و برق رسانی، ترویج داده شود.
- در طرح و تطبیق پروژه‌های زیربنایی "پوشش اقلیمی" علاوه گردد، تا جاده‌ها، پل‌ها، سیستم آبرسانی، انرژی و سایر زیربناها از اثرات منفی تغییر اقلیم در امان مانده و سبب پیشرفت پایدار پروژه‌های انکشافی گردد.
- لازم است تا وزارت محترم زراعت، آبیاری و مالداري و اداره محترم ملی حفاظت محیط زیست مشترکاً روی یک برنامه کاری مشترک کار کنند که شامل تحقیقات علمی و پروژه‌های نمونه‌ای روی وراثتی‌های مقاوم در مقابل خشکسالی، و تکنالوژی‌های مناسب سیستم آبیاری باشد. تا بتواند باعث ایجاد دانش و ظرفیت اداری جهت رسیدگی به اقلیم خشک و گرم در آینده‌ها، گردد.
- در مناطق روستایی که دسترسی به برق ندارند، به پروژه‌های غیر متمرکز، با انتشار گازات گلخانه‌ای کم، و اقلیم پسند اولویت داده شود، تا بتواند این مناطق را به برق وصل نموده و سبب انکشاف اقتصادی روستاها گردد.
- لازم است تا یک سروی جامع انواع (حیوانات و نباتات) جنگلات و چراگاه‌ها صورت گیرد، تا انواع آسیب پذیر در مقابل اثرات منفی تغییر اقلیم شناسایی گردیده و از معلومات نهایی آن در تهیه پالیسی‌ها و استراتژی‌ها استفاده گردد.
- در ساحات روستایی روش‌های مناسب از طریق جوامع جهت مدیریت حوضه‌های آبریز و حفاظت و برداشت آب ترویج گردد، تا در مدیریت منابع آبی موجوده و کاهش آسیب پذیری در مقابل خشکسالی مؤثر تمام گردد.

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