



MOUNTAIN PARTNERS

APPLYING ECOSYSTEM-BASED DISASTER RISK
REDUCTION (ECO-DRR) FOR SUSTAINABLE AND
RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT PLANNING
IN THE KOH-E BABA MOUNTAINS, AFGHANISTAN



CONSERVATION
ORGANISATION FOR
AFGHANISTAN'S
MOUNTAIN AREAS



سازمان تحفظ ساحات
کوهستانی افغانستان

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LIST OF FIGURES	5
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	6
1. INTRODUCTION TO THE ECO-DRR PROJECT IN AFGHANISTAN	10
2. MAIN HAZARDS, DEVELOPMENT TRENDS AND CHALLENGES IN THE KOH-E BABA MOUNTAINS	22
2.1 MOUNTAIN HAZARDS AND EXPOSURE	24
2.2. ROOT CAUSES OF DISASTER VULNERABILITY	24
2.3. UNSUSTAINABLE LAND USE INCREASES DISASTER VULNERABILITY	26
2.4. NATIONAL POLICY CONTEXT ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION, CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING	26
3. MAIN COMPONENTS OF THE ECO-DRR PROJECT IN AFGHANISTAN	28
3.1 MAINSTREAMING ECO-DRR IN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING	34
3.2 ECO-DRR FIELD INTERVENTIONS IN THE KOH-E BABA MOUNTAINS AND INITIAL RESULTS	47
3.3 STRENGTHENING LOCAL AND NATIONAL CAPACITIES FOR MAINSTREAMING ECO-DRR	58
4. HOW DID THE PROJECT CONTRIBUTE TO DISASTER RISK REDUCTION?	76
5. LESSONS LEARNED	80
6. ANNEXES, ACRONYMS, ABBREVIATIONS & REFERENCES	86

MAP 1. Location of Koh-e Baba Mountains in Bamyan Province, in the Central Highlands of Afghanistan	16
MAP 2. The seven target villages of the Eco-DRR project in Koh-e Baba	17
TABLE 1. Population of Eco-DRR project villages	18
MAP 3. Elevation map of the Koh-e Baba area	19
FIGURE 1. Eco-DRR approach in the Koh-e Baba Mountains	30
FIGURE 2. Diagram of the upward planning approach	33
FIGURE 3. Hotspots of flooding and avalanche in Petab and Geru Villages in Chapdara valley	37
FIGURE 4. Land-use and land cover map.	37
FIGURE 5. Proposed model of upward planning for sustainable and resilient development in the Koh-e Baba area of Bamyan	38
FIGURE 6. Schematic summary of the Green and Resilient Village plan of Yatimak village	39
FIGURE 7. Location of Eco-DRR interventions in Yatimak village	40
FIGURE 8. An initial schematic view of Khushkak valley's green and resilient development plan	41
FIGURE 9. Three Management Zones for Koh-e-Baba Protected Area	44
FIGURE 10. Pedestrian access trails are planned in the landscape plan of Koh-e Baba Mountains	45
FIGURE 11. Guidelines for Eco-DRR measures were developed by UNEP at the landscape level	45
FIGURE 12. Guidelines for Eco-DRR flood reduction measures in the upper catchment	46
FIGURE 13. Seven-year business cycle for the community tree nurseries	48
TABLE 2. Number of saplings produced per nursery	48
FIGURE 14. Revenue from 1 jerib (2,000 m ²) of land under fruit tree production in nursery	54
TABLE 3. Local, provincial and national trainings and workshops delivered by the project	60
FIGURE 15. Awareness-raising poster on Ecosystem-based DRR and climate change adaptation	64



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Orgosh village tree nursery
after establishment.

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In 2013-2016, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the European Commission (EC) supported a pilot demonstration project on Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction (Eco-DRR) in the Koh-e Baba Mountains of the Province of Bamyan, Afghanistan. Implemented in partnership with the National Government, the Conservation Organization for Afghan Mountain Areas (COAM), and the Community Development Councils, the Eco-DRR project aimed to reduce harsh winter, flood, and avalanche risks and support community livelihoods through applying a landscape approach to development planning in the mountain environment of Afghanistan.

It also promoted linkages to climate change adaptation under the umbrella of strengthening community resilience. The Eco-DRR project closely complemented resilience-building projects, which were carried out by UNEP with support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Department of International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom and the Government of Estonia.

The project had four main components:

- 1. Mainstream Eco-DRR in local development planning**
- 2. Undertake practical field interventions, including community tree nurseries and stabilizing streambanks and degraded slopes through re-planting activities**
- 3. Develop local and national skills and capacity for implementing Eco-DRR and Green and Resilient Development Planning**
- 4. Support advocacy on Eco-DRR for enhancing national disaster and climate resilience**

The project has provided a practical field-based model for Eco-DRR in the Koh-e-Baba Mountains of Afghanistan. Significant investment was made

to raise awareness and build capacity in relevant Government agencies, and local and provincial partners. Multiple, national workshops and seminars, as well as frequent communication with policy-makers, provincial and local authorities were an essential component of the project, with the aim to engage and motivate Government stakeholders to effectively advocate for Eco-DRR mainstreaming in the country. The capacity built within the Government is evidenced by the increased engagement of the Government of Afghanistan in global DRR events and reporting against DRR targets, for instance through the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) Monitoring Tool.¹

The project clearly demonstrated that Eco-DRR can be successfully applied using a landscape approach, to ensure that future development is ecologically sound and resilient to disasters. At the same time, it enhanced local and national capacities to integrate Eco-DRR in national and local development planning and increased support for Eco-DRR among policy-makers, as well as humanitarian, development and disaster management actors.



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