

## **Mobilizing Stakeholders and framing Climate Agenda towards Climate Resilient and Neutral Afghanistan**

### *Concept Note*

Afghanistan's government has warned that climate change is putting "the foundation of the country's economy, stability, and food security under threat". Yet the very real risk posed by climate change to Afghanistan's development is usually overshadowed by the more immediate and visible concerns around conflict and economic crisis. This general perception of climate change as a secondary priority suggests that it is still misconceived as a purely technical, environmental problem, somehow distinct from socio-economic concerns. However, since climate change does not occur in a vacuum: its impacts are intrinsically linked to the economic and security concerns which are at the top of the government's priorities. Climate change will make it extremely challenging to maintain, let alone to increase any economic and development gains achieved so far in Afghanistan. Increasingly frequent and severe droughts and floods, accelerated desertification, and decreasing water flows in the country's glacier-dependent rivers will all directly affect rural livelihoods—and therefore the national economy and the country's ability to feed itself. It is now widely acknowledged that "large parts of the [country's] agricultural economy will become marginal without significant investment in water management and irrigation." Given the importance of agriculture to Afghanistan's economy and food security— agriculture is a source of income for 61% of the country's 29.1 million people, and accounts for 44% of employment (self-employed or salaried), this could increase both the number of food insecure people, and the severity of food insecurity (from transient/ seasonal to chronic, and from moderate to acute).

The 2012 Global Adaptation Index ranks Afghanistan among the most vulnerable countries in the world. In 2015, the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) developed a 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.<sup>1</sup> In terms of GHG emissions, Afghanistan is among the median countries in the world. It is however among the most vulnerable countries to the effects of climate change, particularly in relation to vulnerability to droughts, floods, landslides/ avalanches. Underdevelopment and chronic poverty have increased country's level of exposure and to a very high sensitivity of its population to the stimulus of climate shocks.

### **Scattered Stakeholders –**

The climate agenda in country takes back stage due to other overwhelming priorities like governance, conflict and development of the diverse society. Lack of public awareness and understanding of climate change science, language, terminologies, causes, effects and methodologies at institutional level is a major impediment to an effective national response to this phenomenon in Afghanistan. While the government is working towards achieving the development agenda ensuring security for its citizens, the climate impacts is making it impossible, dragging it back due to burden it impose on the climate variables that support agriculture, economy and related livelihoods. The poorest people, particularly subsistence farmers and pastoralists who are often already living on marginal land, are also those who suffer most from climate change. Yet the national-level understanding of where the impact of climate change on food security and livelihoods is very limited. This needs to be addressed most urgently. Climate analyses tend to show which areas have seen or are expected to see the biggest change in rainfall, temperature or other physical climate parameters. However, such climate information on its own tells us little about what impact these changes will actually have on poverty and food security as this depends on what livelihoods people depend on for food and income.

Article 6 of the UNFCCC clearly addresses the importance of climate change communication to the general public and of engaging stakeholders in the issue. Stakeholders, those working to implement development agenda with communities and observing climate impacts, those working to strengthen policy frameworks to scale up adaptation actions and those trying to mobilise the additional resources necessary for replication of best practices / solutions among communities. In Afghanistan article 6 of UNFCCC has not been undertaken, due to multiplicity of priorities, institutional weakness and continuation of armed conflict. The role of civil society actors in this respect have also been very limited and invisible.

CAN South Asia in Afghanistan proposes to organize two day national workshop in Kabul in the month of May 2018, mobilizing the diverse stakeholders and frame climate agenda by mapping the activities already being carried out at various level of governance. The two day event will be an opportunity to share the science supported climate assessment methodologies being followed, learn from peers on implementation of climate solutions through policies and community based adaptation practices and gain knowledge from its counterpart from other South Asian countries.

### **CAN South Asia Afghanistan –**

Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSAs) in Afghanistan is a network of 14 Afghan Civil Society organizations ([www.cansouthasia.net/category/regional-perspective/afghanistan/](http://www.cansouthasia.net/category/regional-perspective/afghanistan/)) actively working to address concerns due to climate change. CANSAs Afghanistan, came into shape since September 2017 and is part of 160 plus NGO network in South Asia ([www.cansouthasia.net](http://www.cansouthasia.net)) and 1200 NGOs globally ([www.climateactionnetwork.org](http://www.climateactionnetwork.org)), that strives actively towards achieving the protection of the global climate in a manner that promotes equity and social justice between peoples of Afghanistan, sustainable development of all communities, and protection of the global environment.

The National Steering Committee of CANSAs in Afghanistan was constituted in month of January 2018, comprises of experts from member organisations that bring diverse knowledge on a shared platform, that has prioritized to build an agenda through consultations and take in account shared priorities.

The mission of CANSAs Afghanistan is to support and empower civil society organizations to influence the design and development of an effective national and global strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and build climate resilience through effective implementation at international, national and local levels in the promotion of equity and sustainable development.

### **Objectives –**

The objectives of the proposed two day national workshop are based on an approach to bring forth the information from ongoing efforts on common platform and frame a shared coordinated program networked with partners like bi-lateral, multi-lateral and government agencies.

- to mobilise diverse actors to undertake a shared climate change program towards long term resilience and carbon neutrality in Afghanistan
- to raise profile of climate agenda and bring it forward in national priorities that would be crucial to integrate climate compliant actions in ongoing development and national security agenda that would be crucial to effectively respond to the adverse impacts of climate change in Afghanistan.
- to introduce CAN South Asia as shared platform of civil societies in Afghanistan.

### **Expected Outcomes –**

- An enhanced understanding on existing initiatives being carried out by NGOs, Bi-lateral organisations, Multi-lateral Organisations and Government agencies
- The climate agenda is framed in two strands of Adaptation and Mitigation with climate finance and technology cutting across.
- List of Stakeholders with partnerships emerging on addressing climate impacts.
- CANSA Positions are shared and enriched with more robust technical inputs
- An advocacy group emerge within civil society to carry forward the climate inputs in policy frameworks.
- Networked CANSA with non-CANSA organisations or agencies.

### **Activities –**

- 1. Mapping of Organisations to be invited that are working on climate actions or related programs** – The list of such individuals will be prepared that would ensure the necessary technical expertise available in the two day event, enriching the discussions.
- 2. NEPA as Co-organiser** – The team would reach out to NEPA to be the Government representative and ensure the buy-in on need to frame climate agenda. NEPA has already expressed interest to support such initiative.
- 3. Draft background Note** – The document will be an opportunity to collate the scientific findings on vulnerability to climate impacts and list down the solutions that has been recommended by various scientific studies in the country. The document will be drafted with an aim to bring all participants on same level of understanding before attending the two day event.
- 4. Drafting agenda with technical sessions** – The agenda will be drafted in consultation with CANSA members and other partner organisations. The agenda would aim to bring forth the technical efforts being made to address climate posed challenges.
- 5. Identifying the Resource Persons** – The technical experts will be identified and invited from country as well as from other South Asian Countries (especially from Least Developing Countries like Nepal, Bangladesh and Bhutan), that share the same climate challenges and learn from them.
- 6. Arranging Logistics** – The Venue and travel arrangements will be made to ensure participation from out station experts and participants.
- 7. Collating Climate related literature for dissemination** – The knowledge products will be collated to be distributed as USB drives that would be handy for reference by participants.
- 8. Invitations** - will be sent to identified participants to ensure rich and resourceful participation in the event.
- 9. Proceedings of the Workshop** – The discussion will be documented ensuring the suggestions to detailed and next steps are identified. That would act as a guiding reference documents for CAN South Asia in Afghanistan.

### **Organizing Committee –**

National Steering Committee of CANSA in Afghanistan would act as two day national workshop ‘organizing committee’ with presence of SDC representation. NSC will constitute an oversight committee to help the organizing of event on day to day basis. All the decision taken by Organising Committee will be executed by ‘oversight committee’. A CANSA member organisation Tadbeer Consultancy and Research Organisation TCRO is being

designated by NSC would be responsible overall management including financial management and reporting to SDC.

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**Budget –**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Numbers</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Rate US\$.</b>	<b>Total (USD)</b>
1	International Resource Persons Fee	4	Persons	300	12,000
2	Resources Persons Flight (International)	4	Return ticket	400	1,600
3	Provincial Representatives Flight (National)	10	Return ticket	200	2,000
4	Accommodation for international and provincial guests	28	Nights	100	2,800
5	Per Diem	28	Days	50	1,400
6	Conference Hall Rent	2	Days	300	600
7	Catering (for 80 Participants)	160	Persons	30	4,800
8	Publications, Printing, USB, Folders, etc..	80	Pieces	36	2,880
9	Audio and Visual	2	Days	500	1,000
10	Local Transport	3	Days	300	900
11	Communication Costs	2	Months	200	400
12	Coordination Costs (4 team members)	10	Days	100	1,000
13	Office Costs	2	Months	300	600
				<b>TOTAL (USD)</b>	<b>31,980</b>

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<sup>i</sup> CLIMATE CHANGE AND GOVERNANCE IN AFGHANISTAN: First published in September 2015 by the National Environmental Protection Agency, NEPA ©2015, National Environmental Protection Agency. Abdul Azim Doosti and Mohammed Haris Sherzad, UNEP/PCDMB