Pastoral Engagement, Adaptation and Capacity Enhancement (PEACE)

This six-year project, with UC Davis and Texas A&M University, will promote livestock sector development by resolving pastoral land tenure conflicts resulting from years of war, rangeland conversion, land grabbing, the expansion of villages, and village relocations. It will introduce Afghanistan’s Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) to new technologies in rangeland management and livestock production and marketing.

OBJECTIVES

The $6.7-million project’s goal is to reduce economic risk for Kuchis, who are nomadic herders, by helping MAIL develop rangeland monitoring techniques and by facilitating the resolution of land access and tenure issues along important migration routes. It will build government capacity by training those responsible for livestock production, rangeland management, and land conflict resolution. This includes staff at the MAIL, Independent Department of Kuchi, President's Peace Commission, and Kabul University.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Pastoral conflict resolution and rural land tenure policy: Enabling Village and Herder stakeholders to resolve long-standing land-use conflicts resulting from years of war, rangeland conversion, land-grabbing, expanding villages, and relocations.
- Livestock Early Warning System (LEWS): Implementing LEWS, which is a satellite-based weather and vegetation greenness technology provides information on forage conditions. LEWS will enable herders and decision makers to put in place mitigating measures to prevent or lessen the adverse impacts of drought.
- Livestock nutritional profiling system: Generating information on forage quality to manage risk in the livestock sector. Diet quality will allow the MAIL to rank rangeland quality and determine whether to use alternative supplemental feeds for certain rangelands.
- Livestock marketing information system: Providing market information, price, and quantity at different locations to give livestock raisers wider access to current market prices.
- Capacity building: Developing a more professional Independent Department of Kuchi through additional training for Provincial Directors and adult training courses for IDK Staff. Provides technology trainings for MAIL Staff.
RESULTS TO DATE

- 75 PEACE Ambassadors have now solved more than 800 land-use conflicts in 7 regions.
- Facilitating monthly meetings for Kuchi leaders in 31 provinces for purpose of disseminated information related conflict resolution, peace building, and rangeland management.
- IDK Provincal Directors from 31 provinces trained in peace and negotiation methods to resolve land conflicts with the MAIL.
- More than 500 Kuchi and non-Kuchi leaders trained in joint peace-building workshops.
- Rangeland surveys conducted in 15 provinces, including important summer grazing areas.
- Contributed to the development of MAIL's National Plan for Rangeland Management and Rangeland Law.
- Developed e-learning modules for nutritional profiling technology in Dari and Pashto.
- Trained 1687 individuals in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation.
- Developed a website for information dissemination: http://afghanpeace.org/ for the Weekly livestock market prices and volumes currently collected from Kabul, Mazar, and Jalalabad and accessible by sms messaging or website http://afghanmarketprices.org/lmis
- *Funding for this activity ended on June 30, 2010. Beginning May 1st, 2011 technical support for this is being provided to MAIL.