

Universal Periodic Review

Right to Environment: Progress made in Afghanistan

UNEP Submission

The right to environment is enshrined in article 15 of Afghanistan's fledgling Constitution. To achieve its goal of improving the lives of ordinary Afghans by breathing life into this right, UNEP has supported the development of a number of important environmental management tools. To establish a baseline of information, UNEP worked with the Government to develop the 2008 State of Environment Report, which provides a snapshot of the health or otherwise of the environmental resources on which so much of the Afghan populace is dependent on in order to meet their basic livelihood needs. UNEP has also worked closely with the Government to develop, enact and implement a framework Environment Law, which was approved by the Parliament in early 2007. Its stated purpose is to give effect to the right to environment laid out in the Constitution. Article 5 sets out the fundamental principles of the Law and its application, including recognition that peace, sustainable development, environmental conservation and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent. Other important policy and regulatory UNEP-led activities centred on the right to environment include development of a Forest Law, a Rangeland Law, Protected Areas Regulations, Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, Environment Impact Assessment National Policy and Pollution Control Policy.

Please go to link or see attachments for references:

- 2008 State of Environment report for Afghanistan
<http://dev.grida.no/afghansoe/revised/afgsum_rev4.pdf>
- Afghanistan's Environment Law (see in particular Articles 1 and 5)
- Handbook on Afghanistan's Environment Law