

Afghanistan Research Newsletter

Number 13, April 2007

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AFGHANISTAN RESEARCH AND EVALUATION UNIT

Improving Afghan Lives Through Research

Feature: Mapping Afghanistan

by Royce Wiles, AREU Information Resources Coordinator

Maps are indispensable tools for many government ministries, development agencies, donors, NGOs, researchers and educators. The Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU) does not produce maps, but frequently receives requests for information on maps or copies of maps of Afghanistan. AREU refers these inquiries to the Afghanistan Information Management Services (AIMS) in Kabul.

The following overview of national mapping endeavours and current mapping sources has been compiled as a resource for assistance workers, researchers and others working on Afghanistan.¹ Afghanistan has no publicly accessible national map collection. A consistent feature of Afghanistan's cartographic history is a longstanding difficulty of public access to current national map series. Even today it is difficult to obtain any maps in Kabul, except those of AIMS indicated below, and as a result some organizations still publish outdated maps of Afghanistan that do not include the new provinces of Daikundi and Panjshir (established in 2005).

The production of maps is still a sensitive matter in Afghanistan; therefore, the relevant government authorities should be consulted as necessary before publication of maps (e.g. AGCHO, mentioned below).

Downloadable maps of Afghanistan

- The Afghanistan Information Management Services (AIMS): www.aims.org.af
- Relief Web: www.reliefweb.int (choose "Maps" on the right and then "Afghanistan")
- The Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection at the University of Texas at Austin: www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/afghanistan.html
From here there are many other useful links.

1. Country-wide map series

1.1 British and US military maps 1936-54

For a long period, the most reliable maps available were two series (in colour and in various editions) based on the Survey of India (1910-44) and other surveys completed between 1879 and 1929 by the British government. They were compiled from medium scale maps:²

- GSGS 3919 (Geographic Section, General Staff 1:253 440 series) (1936-54) (181 maps)
- US Army Map Service (AMS) (1942-50) (68 colour maps, many sheets jointly produced in the series GSG S3919).

None of these maps are currently available publicly in Afghanistan.

1.2 Aerial photography projects 1957-60

Both the USSR (Technoexport) and USA (Fairchild Aerial Surveys)³ participated in projects to map Afghanistan using aerial photography. In 1957, Fairchild Aerial Surveys photographed (at approx. 9800 metres) the southern part of Afghanistan below 36 degrees latitude, while Technoexport photographed above 36 degrees. High-quality maps of the entire surveyed area were then prepared for the Royal Afghan Government and the US government (1:100 000 with 50 meter contours⁴ and some sections on a 1:50 000 scale, according to some sources also a 1:100 000 series).⁵

Two collections of these aerial photographs are known to have survived in Kabul:

- Afghan Geodesy and Cartography Head Office (AGCHO) library: no details of their holdings are currently available, but they include several thousand black and white images with index sheets.

¹ Sources for the information provided here are mostly the publications cited in the text, as well as interviews with individuals in Kabul and websites such as www.cartographic.com. Individual maps or map sequences focusing on just one part of the country or one feature (eg. geology, water points) are not discussed. I am grateful to all who have supplied information compiled here.

² More details of the extensive British publications on the Afghanistan border and other activities are given at www.idcpublishers.com/ead/362.xml.

³ The archives of Fairchild Aerial Surveys are now in Whittier College, California.

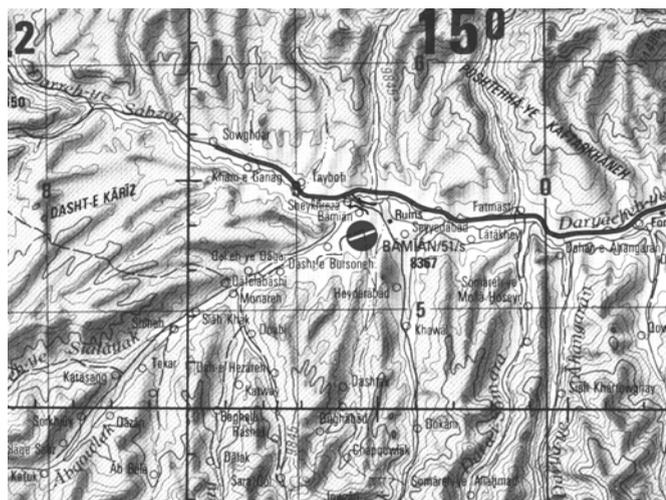
⁴ Another source says 1:250 000 with 100 metre contours (Aloys A. Michel. "On writing the geography of strange lands and faraway places: Afghanistan for example" *Economic geography*, v. 36 (no. 4) October 1960, p. 355-368, p. 359).

⁵ *Historical and political gazetteer of Afghanistan* / edited by Ludwig E. Adamec. Graz, Austria : Akademische Druck- u. Verlagsanstalt, 1972-1985 (6 v.), v. 1, p. viii-ix.

- Afghan Geological Survey library: about 7 500 images at 1:30 000, and about 54 600 images at 1:60 000 (Technoexport) and 1:50 000 (Fairchild). The surviving photographs are of good quality but in variable physical condition.

1.3 US Defense Mapping Agency (USDMA) 1968-86 (with subsequent updates)

1:100 000 scale maps were produced on the basis of the abovementioned US aerial photography series. This series has been the foundation of later mapping and was a major advance in the national mapping of Afghanistan. In 1972, the USDMA was absorbed into the US government's National Imagery and Mapping Agency (NIMA), which in turn became the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) in 2004.



JOG map detail

The NGA currently publishes US military topographic maps, either alone or in cooperation with US allies or partner countries. An important series are the Joint Operations Graphic maps (JOG, see illustration above); these are based on standard 1:250,000 medium-scale military topographic maps, but with additional information. Relief is shown by contours, gradient tints, and spot heights in meters. Current map series concerning Afghanistan from the NGA are:

- Topographic maps 1:25 000 scale (city graphic, 2 sheets for Kabul only, series U911)
- Topographic line maps 1:100 000 scale (505 sheets, series U611)
- Aeronautical maps 1:250 000 scale, Joint Operations Graphics (JOG) (65 sheets, series 1501A [aeronautical] and 1501C [combined aeronautical and ground]). These

maps are currently available for purchase on CD from AIMS in Kabul (reproduced from the map collections of the UN library in New York, dated ca. 1989-1990).

- Aeronautical maps 1:500 000 scale Tactical Pilotage Chart (7 sheets, series TPC)
- Aeronautical maps 1:1 000 000 scale Operational Navigation Chart (4 sheets, series ONC)

1.4 Soviet mapping of Afghanistan 1984-86

The Soviet Army (which entered Afghanistan in 1979) conducted comprehensive country-wide aerial photo surveys for cartographic purposes and a complete and modern 1:50,000 scale topographic map series was completed in 1984-1986 (all place-names in Russian). These maps provide a wealth of detail not found elsewhere.

Topographic maps of Afghanistan:

- City plans (1984-89) 1:10 000 or 1:25 000. Contour interval: 2m, 5m or 10m (Charikar, Herat, Jalalabad, Kandahar, Kabul [4 maps], Mazar-e-Sharif)
- 1:50 000 (1984-86) (1644 sheets) contour interval 10 m. These contain detailed information on terrain and subsequent series were produced based on these. These are available for purchase on CD from AIMS in Kabul.
- 1:100 000 (444 sheets) contour interval 20 m.
- 1:200 000 (128 sheets) contour interval 20-40 m.
- 1:500 000 (20 sheets) contour interval 50-100 m.
- 1:1 000,000 (1984-90) (7 sheets)

A recent book provides English summaries of the information about population, roads, topography and soils, hydrology, vegetation and climate contained on the Soviet military mapping agencies 1:200 000 scale maps covering Afghanistan.⁶

1.5 Afghanistan Information Management Service (AIMS), 2002-present

The Project Management Information System (ProMIS), was initiated in Islamabad, Pakistan under direct supervision of FAO in 1997, to enhance the capacity of UN Agencies, NGOs and the donor community to undertake analysis and planning for operational activities as well as common programming for Afghanistan rehabilitation and development activities. The ProMIS data

⁶ *Terrain analysis of Afghanistan*. Minneapolis : East View Cartographic, 2003. 390 p., [7] fold out map guides ; 22 cm. Vectorized map data of any of the Soviet and American topographic map series listed on the EVC website is available commercially.

center in Islamabad produced, maintained and distributed data and information related to Afghanistan, including thematic maps.

After 11 September 2001 and the subsequent fall of the Taliban government, ProMIS was transformed into AIMS by the sponsoring agencies UNDP, FAO and UNOCHA (UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs). Its main aim was to provide basic mapping and information management services to the humanitarian community. AIMS moved all its operations to Afghanistan in 2002.

AIMS does not do any surveying or raw data compilation of its own, the sources of information used to compile AIMS maps are basically the USDMA maps mentioned above (1:100 000), along with the FAO 1999 land cover series (1:250 000 scale, see below), and additional data provided as necessary by individual agencies for various thematic maps.

Since 2002, AIMS has printed and sold a series of thematic maps of Afghanistan, including provincial maps, district maps, district vulnerability maps, physical maps, regional maps, topographic maps, land cover maps, health maps, road reconstruction maps, river maps, city maps, and maps showing the location of ministries, UN offices and embassies. Many AIMS resources are available on their website, www.aims.org.af.

2. Atlases of Afghanistan

2.1 National atlas of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan (1985)

National atlas of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan / [editing, Organization for Surveying and Cartography GEOKART ; co-operation, Afghan Geodesy and Cartography Head Office (AGCHO) ... et al.]. [Warsaw] Poland : Organization for Surveying & Cartography GEOKART, [1985?]. 1 atlas (xiv, 27 leaves of plates [some folded]) : col. maps ; 37 cm.

Afghanistan's first official national atlas with 63 colour maps on 36 pages was published with assistance of the Polish People's Republic in separate English and Dari volumes in 1985. According to the foreword, the basis for most maps was data relating to 1975-81, but the administrative divisions showed are those of 1984. Maps at 1:3 000 000 included geology, heights above sea-level and tourism; while those at 1:6 000 000 included seismicity, geomorphology, landscape, mineral resources, hydrography, temperature, winds and languages.

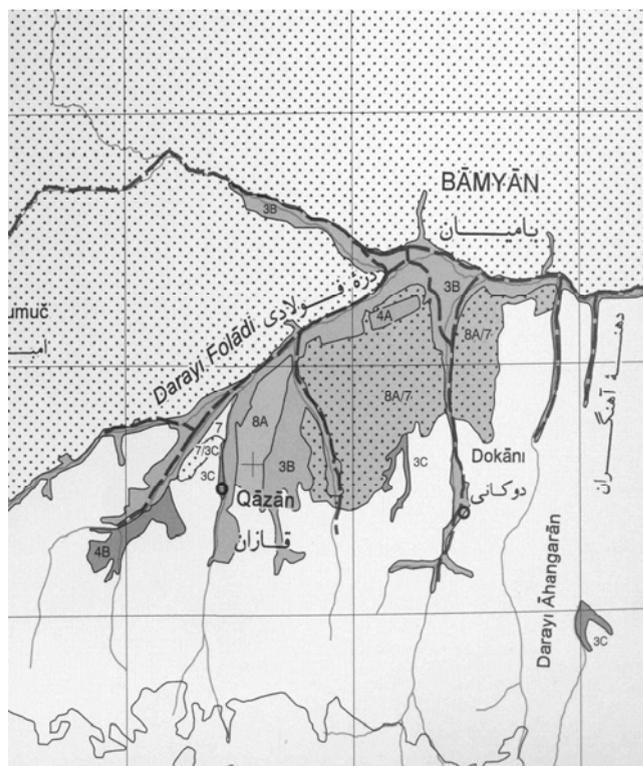
This atlas is still available for purchase from AGCHO (see below) and at some bookshops in Kabul. Some of the maps are currently available for download from the AIMS website (www.aims.org.af)

2.2 Provincial land cover atlas (1999)

Provincial land cover atlas of Islamic State of Afghanistan: Utilization of remote sensing for the inventory and monitoring of agricultural land in Afghanistan, FAO/UNDP Project AFG/90/002. Rome: FAO, 1999. 78 p.: col. maps ; 30 x 44 cm.

The main objective of this FAO/UNDP project was to prepare an accurate, up-to-date land cover map series of Afghanistan, chiefly to assist with the management of agricultural activity and rehabilitation. It was completed entirely from Rome because of the difficulties of working in Afghanistan at that time. The base datasets for this project were 1) a series of hand-drawn, crayon-coloured maps, drawn up by AGCHO, apparently in 1972, based on visual interpretation of aerial photographs acquired in the late 1960s and early 1970s; and 2) 1990/93 satellite imagery (see image below).

A separate output of this project was the production of *Land cover maps of Afghanistan* (1:250 000) comprising a boxed set of 82 colour maps covering the entire country. Maps are dated 1375 (1997). It would appear



Detail from Land cover maps of Afghanistan (1:250 000)

that much of this information was passed on to the ProMIS project mentioned below.

2.3 Afghanistan: Geographic and thematic layers (ProMIS, 2001)

Afghanistan: Geographic and thematic layers [electronic resource] / Programme Management Information Systems (ProMIS). Islamabad: ProMIS, 2001. 1 computer optical disc : col. ; 12 cm.

Though not strictly an atlas, this CD-ROM contained more than 38 separate map layers covering all of Afghanistan compiled from a wide variety of sources specifically indicated on each map. The sources included the USDMA maps mentioned above, Central Statistics Office data, FAO surveys and satellite images.

The contents include maps of government administrative units (both the 29 and 32 province models), satellite images, topography (transportation, hydrology, slope, elevation), climate (precipitation, temperature), land cover (FAO and Oak Ridge National Laboratory versions), agriculture and livestock (bovines, small ruminants, FAO head counts, length of growing period), population (Oak Ridge 1999, 2000; CSO 1979, 1997; UNIDATA 1991; USAID 1990), health (facilities, polio, malaria), current issues (IDPs, drought, landmines, UNDCP poppy surveys), and archaeological sites (with photos).

The format is not very user-friendly; the small map viewing window limits the usefulness of this resource.

2.4 Watershed atlas (2004-05)

Watershed atlas of Afghanistan, first edition: working document for planners / Raphy Favre, Golam Monowar Kamal (AIMS). Kabul: Ministry of Irrigation, Water Resources and Environment (MIWRE), 2004. 183 p. : col. maps, col. ill. ; 33 cm.

This recent atlas aimed to support natural resources management and related monitoring activities (e.g. river flow, climatic data, agricultural production) with a planning tool in the form of geo-referenced river-basin and watershed maps. It includes descriptions of the five river basins and 41 watersheds of Afghanistan. Annexes include historical climatic data (precipitation, evapotranspiration, temperature, wind speed, sunshine, etc.).

The second volume ("Book 2", 145 pages of colour maps) is dated June 2005 and includes for each watershed 1) elevation maps with 500 metre contour intervals, road, administrative boundaries, settlements; 2) land cover maps (FAO land cover classification based on 1990/93 satellite imagery); and 3) satellite images

(Landsat-5 Thematic mapper scenes "acquired within one or two years of 19[90]"). Both volumes are available from AIMS in Kabul (www.aims.org.af, two-volume set is US\$50).

2.5 Afghanistan country stability picture

Afghanistan country stability picture (ACSP) [electronic resource]. 6th ed. Kabul: International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), 2007. 6 computer optical discs ; 12 cm.

The ACSP is a geographic database of over 45,000 reconstruction and development projects across Afghanistan. The ISAF-led project merges data from Afghan government ministries, donors, IO/NGOs and provincial reconstruction teams across the full spectrum of the Afghan National Development Strategy sectors. The ACSP multi-CD package allows users to view the data displayed geographically or, if desired, to access the raw geodatabase files. The database is intended for widespread use and distribution throughout the development community. Contact: ISAF NU HQ Mary Froehlich mary.froehlich@hq.isaf.nato.int.

3. AGCHO – Afghan Geodesy and Cartography Head Office

AGCHO is the central government agency responsible for the production and management of all kinds of land surveys, maps and mapping activities. AGCHO was established in 1958 and took over responsibilities previously held by the Ministry of National Defence (an earlier name was the Afghan Cartographic and Cadastral Survey Institute). The head of AGCHO is appointed by the President of Afghanistan and reports directly to that office.

The main AGCHO office in Kabul is directly behind the Ministry of Mines on Pashtunistan Watt. There are also 16 regional offices mostly working on cadastral maps. AGCHO will provide information to NGOs and others if they have a letter from an Afghan ministry.

During 1958-79, AGCHO completed 26% of the instrument-based measurements and 30% of the land registration survey necessary to map the country in detail. The cadastral (land registration) section initiated the National Cadastral Survey in 1966 but ceased work when the Taliban took power in 1996 (the exact reasons for this are unclear). During this 30-year period, state-of-the-art mapping and printing equipment was installed, including a large camera and off-set printing machines.

The colour maps of Afghanistan known to have been produced by AGCHO before 1996 include Kabul, Mazar-e-Sharif, Kandahar, Jalalabad (1:10,000); Kabul-Jalalabad Kandahar (1:25,000), all Afghanistan (1:50,000, 1:100,000, 1:250,000, 1:500,000); provincial maps (1:250 000); political map (1:1 000 000); official administrative units (1:2 000 000); distances (1:2 000 000).

No complete set of these older maps is available anywhere in Afghanistan for public consultation. Other land registration maps are reported to exist in some land registries, but these have never been officially described.

4. Afghan place names

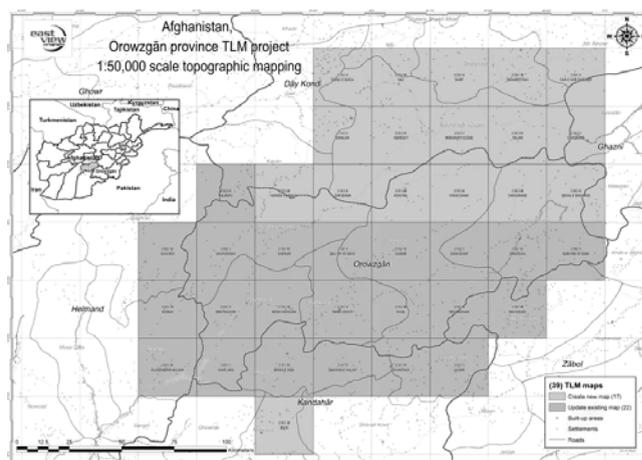
Rendering Afghan place names is a continuing source of difficulty for two reasons: 1) imprecise naming, and 2) the different systems for converting Afghan place names into Roman script. In spite of an earlier agreement between Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan to standardize spellings there is currently no agreed standard involving all three countries. There are two major systems codifying name transliteration in Afghanistan:

4.1 AIMS list of place names

This listing of around 32,000 place names (in Roman script only) with coordinates has been prepared by experienced Afghan AIMS staff, and is currently being updated. This list takes into consideration the earlier systems in use in Afghanistan, the needs of the Afghan government and other users. It has been accepted by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) and other Afghan government bodies. The AIMS list of place names is used on maps released by AIMS.

4.2 National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA)

In 1952 and again in 1971 the United States Army published lists of Afghan place names. Those lists were the standards used by many western geographic agencies. Today, the US government's National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) provides complete files of geographic names information covering countries or geopolitical areas, including Afghanistan (these lists replace the earlier ones). The files are not in customary gazetteer format, but are in a format suitable for input into geographic information systems, databases, and spread



EVC Index map of Uruzgan province. © East View Cartographic

sheets. This system for representing Afghan place names is used by US government agencies, but differs from the AIMS listing. The file for Afghanistan is 7 MB <http://earth-info.nga.mil/gns/html/namefiles.htm>

5. East View Cartographic (EVC)

East View Cartographic (EVC) completed a large scale mapping project of Afghanistan's Uruzgan province in September 2006, including the production of completely new map sheets as well as the updating of pre-existing maps. Under contract with the Royal Netherlands Army Geographic Agency, EVC produced new 1:50,000 scale topographic maps. EVC delivered 39 topographic line map sheets in total, with the project area covering over 25,000 km². See the EVC index map for Uruzgan above. Extraction and attributing of map features was performed based on 2.5 meter resolution SPOT-5 satellite imagery supplemented by a variety of other data sources, including unique sources procured by EVC. Map products were delivered in multiple geospatial industry standard digital formats and adhered to precision military standards.

The finished maps represent the most complete and up-to-date large-scale maps available of the area and will initially support Dutch military deployments in the region as responsibility for this province is handed over from US troops. EVC maintains one of the largest commercially available collections of maps covering Afghanistan, see www.cartographic.com. ■

AREU News & Updates

AREU library catalogue now online

By the time this issue of the *Afghanistan Research Newsletter* goes to print the AREU library catalogue will be available online, accessible from the library page of the AREU website, www.areu.org.af. The AREU collection has continued to grow over the past few years and the online catalogue now makes our resources available to researchers in Afghanistan and around the world. The catalogue provides URLs for many documents available elsewhere on the Internet as well as downloadable PDFs for certain important documents not available elsewhere (subject to copyright permission). An easy way to gain access to the publications listed in previous issues of the *Newsletter* is to do a search of the library catalogue.

Using the UNESCO-sponsored software Greenstone, AREU has developed English, Dari and Pashto catalogue interfaces. This technology has also been shared with AREU's sister library, the Afghanistan Centre at Kabul University (ACKU), whose catalogue is now available from their website, www.ackuaf.org. By searching these two catalogues, users have access to the most substantial indexed collections of library materials currently available in Afghanistan.

The AREU online catalogue is still being quality checked, so please let us know about any errors in or glitches with the database (in any language version) by sending an email to library@areu.org.af.



The *Afghanistan Research Newsletter* is a quarterly publication of the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU). The purpose of the *Newsletter* is to alert readers to new research being undertaken on Afghanistan and to help disseminate research findings and analysis. Some of the resources cited are available on the internet; most books and other publications are available at the AREU library, located in the AREU office (corner of Flower Street and Street 2) and open to researchers Sunday to Thursday, 9am-12.30pm and 1pm-4pm. The *Newsletter* is compiled by Royce Wiles and Dr Abdul Jamil Alkozai, edited and designed by Anja Havedal, and translated by Ahmadullah Amarkhil and Faraidoon Shariq. If you have ideas for books or other publications or resources that should be included in the *Newsletter*, please send an email to newsletter@areu.org.af.

AREU's mission is to conduct high-quality research that informs and influences policy and practice. AREU also actively promotes a culture of research and learning by strengthening analytical capacity in Afghanistan and facilitating reflection and debate. Fundamental to AREU's vision is that its work should improve Afghan lives. Current funding for AREU is provided by the European Commission (EC), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Bank, and the governments of Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. More information and PDF files of all AREU publications are available at www.areu.org.af.

Current Research

Wildlife Conservation Society

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) is working to conserve Afghanistan's wildlife and wildlands through its Afghanistan Biodiversity Conservation Program. The program has four major components.

First, WCS is collecting extensive scientific, economic, sociological, and remotely sensed data in Afghanistan's three most biologically significant areas (Wakhan, the Eastern Forests, and the Hazarajat Plateau). These surveys will allow WCS to analyze the status and threats to biodiversity in Afghanistan, and include the first wildlife surveys in 30 years of all three regions.

Second, WCS is strengthening laws, policies, and institutions to develop effective institutions, protected areas, and policies that will mitigate existing threats, increase enforcement and the rule of law, and increase opportunities for biodiversity conservation.

Third, WCS is developing Community-Based Initiatives to better understand local threats to biodiversity, increase capacity for local communities to manage their natural resources wisely, and design strategies for mitigating those threats.

Finally, WCS is implementing a comprehensive program of training and capacity building to assist Afghanistan's ability to manage its biodiversity, including practical field-based mentorships with WCS scientists, and access to the most current scientific approaches to conservation. Contacts: Alex Dehgan adehgan@wcs.org and Peter Zahlerp Zahler pzahler@wcs.org.

A CD compilation of WCS reports and a compilation of relevant scientific literature has also been released in early 2007, partial contents are listed below:

WCS Afghanistan biodiversity conservation project field reports. All by Stéphane Ostrowski (most papers have colour illustrations):

- *Wildlife trade: a visit to the bird market in Kabul (Ka ferushi)*, 27 August 2006. (10 p.)
- *Wildlife trade: a visit to the bird market of Kabul (Ka ferushi)*, 20 December 2006 (6 p.)

- *Golden eagle killing: a rare case of golden eagle (Aquila chrysaetos) destruction for use in traditional medicine, Wakhan, Afghanistan* (3 p.)
- *Wakhan winter avifauna: an annotated list of bird species observed by the ecosystem health team in Wakhan in November-December 2006* (13 p.)
- *Aves: an annotated list of bird species observed by the ecosystem health team in Wakhan and Big Pamir in July-August 2006* (16 p.)
- *Wildlife immobilization: chemical restraint of Afghan mammals, a document for Afghan veterinarians* (4 p.)
- *Wakhi livestock in the Big Pamir in 2006* (January 2007, 49 p.)

Annual and other reports:

- *Hazarajat component (2006 annual report)* / Christopher C. Shank (January 2007, 34 p.)
- *Status of large mammals in proposed Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve, Wakhan, Afghanistan: annual report 01* / Bilal Habib (45 p.)
- *Biodiversity conservation in Afghanistan: a program of the Wildlife Conservation Society supported by USAID : 2006 annual report* (20 p.)
- *Afghanistan Biodiversity Conservation Program: technical reports* (June/Sept 2006 (24 p.), December 2006 (33 p.)

Older scientific reports included on the CD:

- *Trees, shrubs and some subshrubs of Afghanistan* / Mohammad Alam (p. 13-61). Société vaudoise des sciences naturelles (89.1 (2004)).
- *An analysis of Afghanistan's rangelands and management issues for the development of policy and strategies for sustainable management* / Donald J. Bedunah (2006, 80 p.)
- *A survey of land, vegetation and irrigation systems in North Afghanistan and neighbouring Tajikistan* / Kristian Toderich and Tsuneo Tsukatani (2004, 45 p.)

Afghanistan Institute for Rural Development

The new Afghanistan Institute for Rural Development (AIRD) has been set up within the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) as a centre for policy formulation and capacity development in the process of rural development. The institute is structured on the basis of the twin pillars of Policy Research and Educational Training. The programs of the two pillars are designed on the foundation of a comprehensive and integrated approach to rural development. The website includes a proposal for a Afghanistan Rural Development Report. See www.mrrd.gov.af/aird.

Alama Habibi website www.alamahabibi.com

This new website contains downloadable PDF versions of books and articles by the famous Afghan scholar Alama Habibi (in Dari, Pashtu and English).

Afghan calendars

Three calendar systems are used in Afghanistan:

- **Hejrah-e Shamsi (solar Islamic) calendar**, Afghanistan's official calendar, established in the constitution and in use officially since 1957 (month names differ from the Iranian or Persian forms).
March 21 2007 = 1 Hamal 1386.
- **Hejrah-e Qamari (lunar Islamic) calendar**, used for religious events and holidays.
- **Gregorian calendar = Miladi (solar Christian)**, used in international relations.

A new website, www.nongnu.org/afghancalendar provides downloadable versions of Afghanistan's official calendars. The website includes a presentation of errors made in English and German translations of the 2003 Afghanistan constitution because of date conversion difficulties.

To convert dates between Qamari and Miladi years (or to Persian dates using Iranian names) see: www.fourmilab.ch/documents/calendar or www.iranchamber.com/calendar/iranian_calendar_converter.php



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Recent AREU Reports

The following publications were released by AREU between January and April 2007. All AREU publications may be downloaded from www.areu.org.af, and hard copies are available for free at the AREU office. To receive electronic announcements of new AREU publications, send an email with name and affiliation to publications@areu.org.af.

A to Z Guide to Afghanistan Assistance

The fifth edition of the A to Z Guide to Afghanistan Assistance is now available in English and Dari (the Pashto version will be available in May). The A to Z Guide, AREU's flagship publication, aims to ensure a shared vocabulary and common understanding of the forces at play by providing a glossary of assistance terms, an overview of Afghanistan's system of government, a series of locator maps, key primary documents, Web links, and an extensive contact directory. The Dari and Pashto versions are free, while the English can be purchased for US\$10.



Governance/Aid Effectiveness

The briefing paper *Aiding the State? International Assistance and the Statebuilding Paradox in Afghanistan* by Hamish Nixon explores the relationship between foreign aid, statebuilding and the crisis currently facing Afghanistan. It analyses the effects of assistance to date, and presents a series of recommendations for future action by the Afghan government and donors.

Livelihoods

Informal Credit Practices in Rural Afghanistan: Case Study 3, Ghor by Floortje Klijn, is the last of three case studies providing insight into how micro-credit may intersect with and affect informal credit practices. It also provides insight into the changes in credit practices over

time and their impact on socio-economic relations within the village. A synthesis paper drawing on the three case studies will be released in June.

To Return or to Remain: The Dilemma of Second-generation Afghans in Pakistan, by Mamiko Saito and Pamela Hunte. This case study analyses the narratives of second-generation Afghans living in Peshawar, Quetta, and Karachi, who are struggling with the dilemma of whether to return to Afghanistan or to remain in Pakistan. It is one in a series of three; another case study was also conducted in Iran by the University of Tehran, in partnership with AREU, and a third in Afghanistan by AREU focusing on young, second-generation Afghans who decided to return.

Health

The briefing paper *Afghanistan's Health System Since 2001*, by Dr. Ronald Waldman, Lesley Strong and Dr. Abdul Wali, examines the development of Afghanistan's health system since 2001 and tries address future challenges for the government, the donor community and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). It focuses on the progress of the Ministry of Public Health's contracting arrangement with NGOs to deliver basic health services to the Afghan population.

Natural Resources

AREU's three-year study "Applied Thematic Research into Water Management, Livestock and the Opium Economy" (WOL) analyses current practices in water management, livestock production, land tenure, as well as the context and drivers of opium poppy cultivation. A new WOL case study *Options for Land Registration*, by Alec McEwen and Sharna Nolan, was released in February.

Translations: Dari and Pashto

In January and February, AREU released translated versions of the briefing paper *Putting the Cart before the Horse? Privatisation and Economic Reform in Afghanistan* (Dari and Pashto), the *Afghanistan Research Newsletter* issue 11/12 (Dari and Pashto), and the synthesis paper *Going to Market: Trade and Traders in Six Afghan Sectors* (Dari). The fifth edition of the A to Z Guide to Afghanistan Assistance has also been translated into both Dari and Pashto.

New Publications & Resources

Agriculture

A selection of grasses from Central Afghanistan / [Dan Robinett]. [Kabul] : USAID, 2006. 33 p. : col. ill. ; 22 cm. Full page colour illustrations and descriptions in English and Dari of 33 important grasses, as a starting point for a rangeland inventory and assessment in Afghanistan.

Agrometeorological monthly bulletin / Agromet Project of USGS. Kabul: Agromet Project of USGS. Issues for October and November 2006, January, February 2007.

Agrometeorological seasonal bulletin / Agromet Project of USGS. Kabul: Agromet Project of USGS. 2005-2006 (24 p.) issue received. Contact fahimzaheer@yahoo.com or <http://afghanistan.cr.usgs.gov/agro.asp>

Infrastructure and water distribution in the Asqalan and Sufi-Qarayateem canal irrigation systems in the Kunduz river basin: field report, March-June 2006 / Bernie ter Steege. Bonn: Zentrum für Entwicklungsforschung, 2006. 40 p. : ill., map ; 30 cm. (Amu Darya series; paper no. 5). (Social Management of Water in Afghanistan (SMWA) ; paper no. 2). This paper aims to give an outline of the social and infrastructure organization associated with the irrigation systems of the Asqalan and Sufi-Qarayateem canals (Kunduz Province). It does this by using field surveys to explore the correlations between system layout, water distribution and water rights. <http://131.220.109.9/index.php?id=752> (3.16 MB)

Livelihoods in the Asqalan and Sufi-Qarayateem canal irrigation systems in the Kunduz river basin: field report, March-June 2006 / Usman Shah. Bonn: Zentrum für Entwicklungsforschung, 2006. 21 p. : map ; 30 cm. (Amu Darya series; paper no. 4). (Social Management of Water in Afghanistan (SMWA); paper no. 1). "November 2006." This brief report is based on empirical data gathered during field work research carried out between March 15th and June 15th 2006 ... In total 15 days were spent in the Asqalan irrigation system, whilst 30 days were spent in the Sufi-Qarayateem irrigation system. <http://131.220.109.9/index.php?id=752> (450 KB)

Rangeland assessment of the Wakhan: preliminary results from the 2006 field season [photocopy] / by Donald J. Bedunah. 2006. 34 p. : col. ill., col. map ; 30 cm.

Reconstructing agriculture in Afghanistan / edited by Adam Pain and Jacky Sutton. Rugby, Warwickshire, UK: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2007. 335 p. ; 30 cm. ISBN 9789251054475 (FAO), 9781853396342 (Practical Action Publishing). Contents: Introduction (p. 1-10)—Afghanistan: the context / Adam Pain (p. 11-28)—2. Rural resilience and diversity across Afghanistan's agricultural landscapes / Anthony Fitzherbert (p. 29-48)—3. Rural livelihoods in Afghanistan / Adam Pain (p. 49-64)—4. The evolution of food security information in Afghanistan: a case of limited "availability", "access", and "utilization" / Wendy Johncheck (p. 65-92)—5. Towards a public nutrition response in Afghanistan: evolutions in nutritional assessment and response (p. 93-118)—6. Food security in Afghanistan after 2001: from assessment to analysis and interpretation to response / Andrew Pinney and Scott Ronchini (p. 119-164)—7. Narratives of rehabilitation in Afghan agricultural interventions / Ian Christoplos (p. 165-188)—8. Afghan women, Afghan livelihoods / Elizabeth Stites (p. 189-212)—9. 'Economical with the truth': the limits of price and profitability in both explaining opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan and in designing effective responses / David Mansfield (p. 213-250)—10. Markets in Afghanistan / Adam Pain and Sarah Lister (p. 235-250)—11. Towards a framework for agricultural development and food security in Afghanistan / Alberto Zezzo and Mauro Migotto (p. 251-282)—12. Responding to food insecurity: could we have done it better? / Margarita Flores (p. 283-296).

This book is designed to address two main issues (1) to review the current understanding of agriculture and food security issues in Afghanistan, to synthesize what was known and not known and how evidence was built at the beginning of the 21st century and (2) to bring together lessons on the nature and practice of interventions in support of food security and agriculture, particularly in the post-2001 period. The findings are a testimony to what worked and what did not work, and they explore wider implications for future practice in building food security under conditions of political instability.

Cross-cutting & General

Afghan public opinion amidst rising violence: a World Public Opinion poll / fielded by D3 systems and Afghan Center for Social and Opinion Research in Kabul; principal investigator Stephen Weber; research staff Clay Ramsay ... [et al.]. Washington, D.C.: WorldPublicOpinion.org, 2006. 11 p. ; 30 cm. www.WorldPublicOpinion.org.

Afghanistan Quarterly v. 1/2 (no. 3) 1384 (2005) / Academy of Sciences of Afghanistan. Contents: Importance of management in production with some views / M. Nasser Stanikzai (p. 1-8)—Afghan national fighters : Abdul Ghafoor Sewat / A. Madady (p. 9-11)—Afghan freedom fighters in the 19th century (p. 12-18)—Guidance and its relation to education / M Yunus Beria (p. 19-25)—Widow marriage in Afghanistan / Jalat K. Hekmaty (p., 26-38)—Mir Ghulam Mohammad Ghoobar and his researches / Abdul Sabor Jonbesh (p. 39-47)—They dynamics of the current situation of Afghanistan / M. Raziq Bahir (p. 48-56)—Methodology of the price index in Afghanistan / M. Nasar Stannikzai (p. 57-61)—Dowry custom and the fate of girls and women among Pashtuns / by Jalat Khan Hekmaty (p. 62-70).

Afghanistan's endangered Compact. Kabul/Brussels: International Crisis Group, 2007. 15 p. ; 30 cm. (Asia briefing ; no. 59). While the growing insurgency is attracting increasing attention, long-term efforts to build the solid governmental institutions a stable Afghanistan requires are faltering. This paper examines progress one year after the Afghan government and the international community committed to a "shared vision of the future" for a "stable and prosperous Afghanistan" at the London Conference of 31 January – 1 February 2006. Following the conclusion of the Bonn process, which created the country's elected bodies, the Compact was meant to create a framework for all stakeholders involved in Afghanistan's reconstruction. But the assumption of relative stability upon which the Compact was premised has been undercut by an insurgency sustained by cross-border sanctuaries and support. And state-building was warped from the start because of a refusal to exclude undesirable elements from positions of power in the new institutions. www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm

Breaking point: Measuring progress in Afghanistan / lead author Seema Patel; coauthor Steven Ross. Washington, D.C.: Post-Conflict Reconstruction Project, Center for

Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), 2007. February 23, 2007. The study is a follow-up to the 2005 baseline report "In the balance: measuring progress in Afghanistan". www.pcrproject.com (1.3 MB)

Bribes or bargains? Peace conditionalities and 'post-conflict' reconstruction in Afghanistan / Jonathan Goodhand and Mark Sedra. Published in "International peacekeeping" v. 14 (no.1, January 2007), p. 41-61. This article focuses on the role of international aid donors in Afghanistan since the signing of the Bonn Agreement in 2001. Specifically, it explores the scope and utility of peace conditionalities as an instrument for peace consolidation in the context of a fragile war-to-peace transition. Geo-strategic and institutional concerns have generally led to an unconditional approach to assistance by international actors. It is argued that large inflows of unconditional aid risk re-creating the structural conditions that led to the outbreak of conflict. Aid conditionalities need to be re-conceptualized as aid-for-peace bargains rather than as bribes for security. Some forms of conditionality are necessary in order to rebuild the social contract in Afghanistan. This finding has wider relevance for aid donors and they should reconsider orthodox development models in 'fragile state' settings. Rather than seeing conditionalities and ownership as two ends of a policy spectrum, the former may be a necessary instrument for achieving the latter.

On living with negative peace and a half-built state: gender and human rights / Sippi Azarbaijani-Moghaddam. Published in "International peacekeeping" v. 14 (no.1, January 2007), p. 127-142. This article examines the double standards associated with a precarious international peacebuilding strategy in Afghanistan based on impunity and half-truths rather than accountability and transitional justice. Many international organizations have turned a blind eye to past and current human rights atrocities through forms of rationalization based on an empowerment of cultural differences, relativization of progress and 'policy reductionism'. Consequently, and in the absence of consistently applied rights instruments, societal divisions along gender, ethnic and other lines have intensified Afghanistan's culture of intolerance to human rights, thereby violating the very principles the international community purports to uphold. Drawing on first-hand experiences, personal interviews and a sober analysis of trends, this article chal-

lenges some of the conventional assumptions held about the perception and knowledge of human rights among Afghans. It concludes by identifying possible areas of future study to better understand both the prospects for transitional justice and how ordinary Afghans continue to cope with widespread injustice and inequality.

Saving Afghanistan / by Barnett R. Rubin. 2007. [11] p. ; 30 cm. Published in "Foreign Affairs" (January/February 2007). Overview of the current state of Afghanistan's security situation and reconstruction efforts. www.foreignaffairs.org/20070101faessay86105/barnett-r-rubin/saving-afghanistan.html. With the Taliban resurgent, reconstruction faltering, and opium poppy cultivation at an all-time high, Afghanistan is at risk of collapsing into chaos. If Washington wants to save the international effort there, it must increase its commitment to the area and rethink its strategy — especially its approach to Pakistan, which continues to give sanctuary to insurgents on its tribal frontier.

Economic Development

Afghanistan: challenges & the way ahead / Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB). Kabul: JCMB, 2007. 7 p. ; 30 cm. "Position paper presented by the Government of Afghanistan at the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board meeting in Berlin, January 30-31, 2007." www.and.gov.af

Integrity in reconstruction: Afghan roads reconstruction: deconstruction of a lucrative assistance / report author Lorenzo Delesgues. London: Tiri, 2007. 10 p.: ill. ; 30 cm.

Interim strategy note for [the] Islamic Republic of Afghanistan for the period FY[20]07-FY[20]08. Washington, D.C.: The World Bank, [2006]. xi, 90 p. : col. ill. ; 28 cm. The Interim Strategy Note (ISN) will guide the Bank's engagement in Afghanistan for the next two years. By then the government plans to have developed its full Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS), also known as Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) in Bank terminology, paving the way for preparation of a Country Assistance Strategy. Executive summary printed in English, Dari and Pashto. www.worldbank.org.af/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/SOUTHASIAEXT/AFGHANISTANEXTN/0,,contentMDK:20149725~menuPK:305990~pagePK:1497618~piPK:217854~theSitePK:305985,00.html (6.03 MB)

Summary of business-related features of the Afghan economy: www.doingbusiness.org

This World Bank site offers data on and comparative rankings of aspects of the Afghan economy related to business, such as number of days to register a business, register land ownership, export a container, and pay tax. The link to Afghan laws lower down the webpage provides access to PDF versions of selected Afghan commercial laws and regulations in Dari and English, including:

Regulations

- Regulation on [providing credit to] a related person
- Regulation on asset classification and loan-loss provisioning
- Regulation on capital adequacy
- Regulation on control
- Regulation on corporate governance
Regulation on depository microfinance institutions (DMFI)
- Regulation on enforcement
- Regulation on foreign exchange dealers
Regulation on large exposures
Regulation on licensing
- Regulation on liquidity
- Regulation on money service providers
- Regulation on open foreign exchange position
- Regulation on prohibited and authorized activities
- Regulation on protection of the payment system
- Regulation on reserve requirement for monetary policy purposes

Laws

- Customs code
- Customs law
- Law on income tax 2005 (also in Pashto)
- Income tax manual (also in Pashto)
- Law of banking
- Law on combating the financing of terrorism
- Law on domestic and foreign private investment in Afghanistan
- Law on private investment (Draft of 8 October 2005)
- Telecommunications services regulation act

The National Skills Development Programme (NSDP): strategy summary. [2007]. 11 p. ; 21 x 30 cm. (114 KB)

Reconstruction National Integrity System survey: Afghanistan 2007 / report authors Lorenzo Delesgues, Yama Torabi. London: Tiri, 2007. 105 p. ; 30 cm. This paper is part of a group of papers concerning post-war reconstruction countries, the research providing a basis for advocacy and monitoring agenda to promote integrity in reconstruction within the eight countries and internationally. www.tiri.org

Assessing the NSP: the role of accountability in reconstruction / report author Yama Torabi. London: Tiri, 2007. 32 p. ; 30 cm. This paper is part of a group of papers concerning post-war reconstruction countries, the research providing a basis for advocacy and monitoring agenda to promote integrity in reconstruction within the eight countries and internationally. www.tiri.org

War and peace economies of Afghanistan's strongmen / Antonio Giustozzi. Published in *International peacekeeping* v. 14 (no. 1, January 2007), p. 75-89. Afghanistan's war economy started taking its current shape after 1992, when the main politico-military actors had to find alternative sources of revenue, having been dropped by their international sponsors. The same actors integrated into

Disaster preparedness in Afghanistan

Since 2004 UN-HABITAT has been implementing the Community-Based Disaster Awareness and Mitigation Programme (C-DAMP) in Afghanistan. In 2006 three guidebooks were published in English, Dari and Pashtu. They are available from the UN-HABITAT office in Kabul.

Guidelines for drought preparedness and mitigation training / produced by C-DAMP Project of UN-HABITAT, Afghanistan. Kabul : UN-HABITAT, [2006]. v, 26 p. : col. ill. ; 30 cm.

Guidelines for earthquake preparedness and mitigation training / produced by C-DAMP Project of UN-HABITAT, Afghanistan. Kabul : UN-HABITAT, [2006]. v, 24 p. : col. ill. ; 30 cm.

Guidelines for earthquake resistant construction of non-engineered, rural and suburban houses in Afghanistan. Kabul : UN-HABITAT, 2006. iv, 37 p. : col. ill., map ; 30 cm.

the 'peace economy' following the official end to the war in 2001, in a process which resembles the formation of 'mafia' networks, in which the narcotics trade appears to play an important role. If the central government turns out to be ... uncommitted to address the issue, the international community might one day have to directly engage these actors in order to facilitate their evolution from 'robber barons' to legitimate magnates.

Education

Afghan policy for the development of the book industry. [Kabul] : Ministry of Youth and Culture, [2006?]. 6 p. ; 30 cm. PDF (269 KB)

Audit of USAID/Afghanistan's primary education program / Office of the Inspector General. Manila, Philippines: USAID, 2005. 14 p. ; 30 cm. www.usaid.gov/oig/public/fy05rpts/5-306-05-005-p.pdf

The national strategic plan for education in Afghanistan: draft. Kabul, Afghanistan : Ministry of Education, 2006. 129 p. ; 30 cm. "December 2006." Contents: 1. Situation analysis (p. 22-53)—2. Strategic framework (p. 54-56)—3. Priority programmes (57-118)—4. Implementation and monitoring framework (p. 119-124).

National education programme: five year strategy 1385-1389. [Kabul, Afghanistan: Ministry of Education], [2007?]. 16 p. : col. ill. ; 21 x 30 cm. Overheads from a PowerPoint presentation.

Gender

Outreach to Afghan women guide / [writer] Sippi Azarbaijani-Moghaddam; [editors] Sahar Alnouri, Wazhma Frogh. Kabul: Counterpart International, 2006. 37 p. : col. ill. ; 30 cm. The aim of this guide is to show ways to include both women and men in development projects, it provides practical advice on appropriate ways to maximize involvement by women. www.counterpart-afg.org/pub.html PDF (1 MB)

Geology

Seismicity of Afghanistan and vicinity / edited by James W. Dewey. Reston, Virginia : US Department of Interior, US Geological Survey, 2006. 55 p. : col. maps ; 30 cm. Contents: Overview of the seismicity of Afghanistan and vicinity / by James W. Dewey ... [et al.]. (p. 1-13)—A comprehensive earthquake catalog for the Afghanistan region / by Eric A. Bergman (p. 14-55 — [Plate 1] Instrumental seismicity (1964-2004) of the Afghanistan region / by Stuart A. Sipkin ... [et al.] — [Plate 2] Damaging

historical earthquakes in the Afghanistan region / by Margaret G. Hopper ... [et al.]. Includes bibliographical references (p. 36-37, 47-48). www.dec.org (enter PN-ADH-238) Plate 1 and plate 2 available separately for download at http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/related/PNADH238plates.zip (49 MB).

Governance and politics

Afghanistan. Berlin: Heinrich Boell Foundation, 2006. 84 p. : ill. ; 24 cm. ISBN 3927760552. (Promoting Democracy under Conditions of State Fragility ; 1). Contents: Preface / Barbara Umßüig, Antonie Nord and Dirk Spiller (p. 5-7)—The Dilemma of reconstruction in Afghanistan: international intervention between the state, civil society and traditional elites / Conrad Schetter (p. 9-11)—Gender in Afghanistan / Sippi Azerbaijani-Moghaddam (p. 25-45)—Reconstructing Afghanistan for Afghans? reflections on the work of the Heinrich Boell Foundation in Afghanistan / Marion Regina Muller (p. 47-57)—Integration of traditional structures into the state-building process: lessons from the Tribal Liaison Office in Loya Paktia / Masood Karokhail and Susanne Schmeidl (p. 59-78).

Afghanistan on the brink: where do we go from here? Hearing before the Committee on Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives, February 15, 2007. 2007. 1 v. (various pagings) ; 30 cm. Contents: Member statements/witness testimony 1) Tom Lantos [2 p.]— 2) Mark Kirk [10 p.]— 3) David W. Barno [8 p.]— 4) Peter Bergen [12 p.]— 5) Anthony H. Cordesman [8 p.] <http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/dayevent.asp?date=2/15/2007> (428 KB)

Better elections, better future: the case for civic educations [sic] and political awareness in Afghanistan. Kabul: The Human Rights Research and Advocacy Consortium (HRRAC), c2006. I, 12 p. ; col. ill. ; 30 cm. "February 2007." This report focuses on voter awareness during the 2005 Wolesi Jirga elections. Over 1300 survey participants were asked whether they had received information about the election, what information they would like to have and how they rated their level of voter awareness.

Building democracy in Afghanistan: the statebuilding agenda and international engagement / Hamish Nixon and Richard Ponzio. Published in "International peacekeeping" v. 14 (no.1, January 2007), p. 26-40. This article examines the international community's commitment, since the December 2001 Bonn Agreement, to build democratic institutions and practices at national

and local levels in Afghanistan. The tensions between democracy promotion activities and the statebuilding exigencies of political stabilization are identified through an examination of the 2005 elections and creation of the National Assembly, Provincial Councils, and Community Development Councils. The analysis demonstrates the existence of multiple, competing agendas in Afghanistan, embodied in contradictory elements found in those institutions. Policy recommendations are advanced for forging a coherent statebuilding agenda that can garner the legitimacy needed to complete the important transition signalled by the Interim-Afghanistan National Development Strategy and the Afghanistan Compact, concluded in January 2006 in London.

From Bonn to London: governance challenges and the future of statebuilding in Afghanistan / Barnett R. Rubin and Humayun Hamidzada. Published in "International peacekeeping" v. 14 (no.1, January 2007), p. 8-25. Following the four-year Bonn Agreement implementation period, from December 2001 to December 2005, the London Conference on Afghanistan was convened, 31 January — 1 February, to reaffirm the commitment of world leaders to the next phase of statebuilding and reform in Afghanistan. The central document of this gathering, the Afghanistan Compact, sets

Afghanistan government yearbook

1384 edition released Hoot 1385 (March 2007)

This annual publication, with content in Dari and Pashto (but not evenly), provides information on official activities for 1384. This is issue four of the second series (re-begun in 1381); it contains:

- Information on the activities of cabinet, President Karzai and Zahir Shah, including meetings and conferences attended, full text of some speeches from the President (p. 1-568)
- Detailed chronology of events for 1384 (p. 573-840)
- Reports from individual ministries, the parliament, government agencies, etc. often highlighting significant new programmes or changes within the ministry during the year (p. 841-1480)
- Photographs of official meetings and events (about 30 pages).

forth a number of time-bound benchmarks for the next five years in the areas of security, governance and development. This article examines key aspects of the Afghanistan Compact and what will be required for the Afghan government to meet the targets, along with the support of the international community. Policy recommendations are further advanced to facilitate reconstruction efforts and to sustain a sufficient level of international engagement to avert failure in Afghanistan.

The future of the mujahideen: legitimacy, legacy and demobilization in post-Bonn Afghanistan / Michael Bhatia. Published in "International peacekeeping" v. 14 (no. 1, January 2007), p. 90-107. This article examines the competition over the mujahideen and its implications for future politics in Afghanistan. The question of the mujahideen is a critical part of the contest for legitimacy in Afghanistan, in terms of the right to rule, conduct violence and retain combatants.

Inter Communal Rural Development Project (IRDP): project implementation plan-1, first phase. [photocopy] [Kabul]: Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), 2006. 1-13, 2-36, 3-29, 4-13 : ill., maps ; 30 cm. The aim of this project is to accelerate community-led development by reinforcing the Community Development Councils (CDCs) established through the National Solidarity Programme. The project will strengthen both poverty alleviation and governance capacity.

NGOs as political actors: a Japanese approach? / Emily Perkin. 2006. 4 p. ; 30 cm. "30 Nov 2006". Focuses on Japanese NGOs in Afghanistan. www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/KH11-6WA9EM?OpenDocument

The missing ingredient: non-ideological insurgency and state collapse in Western Afghanistan, 1979-1992 / Antonio Giustozzi. London: Crisis States Programme, Development Research Centre, 2007. 21 p. ; 30 cm. Crisis States Programme working papers. Series no. 2, ISSN 1749-1797 (print), 1749-1800 (online) ; no. 11. This paper studies the jihad movement in Afghanistan, in particular within Herat province in the west of the country, examining the problems that arise when trying to explain the failure of these organisations to maintain, or re-establish, a nation-wide state structure after 1992. The paper argues that the ultimate cause of failure was the weak role of ideological organisations in the original jihadi movement. It goes on to seek explanations for

New edited volume

Scratching the surface: democracy, traditions, gender / edited by Jennifer Bennett. Lahore : Heinrich Boell Foundation, 2007. 369 p. ; 23 cm. ISBN 9699080000. This book collects short articles on democratic processes and concepts in South Asia (Afghanistan, India, Pakistan). www.hbfasia.org. The papers below have Afghanistan-specific content:

Women's "empowerment" in post conflict Afghanistan / Palwasha Hassan, p. [39]-51.

Aspects of citizenship in the special context of Afghan refugees and return and reintegration in Afghanistan / Katharina Lump, p. [53]-[69].

Legal pluralism and women's rights in Afghanistan / Hangama Anwari, p. [119]-133.

Advocates on trial [the situation of Afghan women] / Roya Rahmani, p. [157] -166.

Some considerations on local democracy and traditional societies [some discussion of Afghanistan] / Hamish Nixon, p. [171]-191.

Informal structures and the approach of the Tribal Liaison Office / Masoo Karokhali, p. [193]-211.

Establishing village institutions through the National Solidarity Programme / Bijay Karmacharya, p. [213]-228.

Gender aspects of traditional structures and local governance in Afghanistan / Shinkai Karokhail and Mariane Elliott, p. [227]-254.

How to accommodate the agenda of the Afghan government, local communities and development actors? / Raphaëlle Guillon and Bobby Anderson, p. [333]-357.

why ideological actors remained marginal in the struggle. www.crisisstates.com/Publications/wp/WPseries2/wp11.2.htm

Report on the accomplishments of [the] Wolesi Jirga: 2005-2006. [Kabul : National Assembly, 2006]. 36 p. ; col. ill. ; 22 cm. Includes listing of laws passed and activities of the National Assembly Commissions.

The state of pro-poor governance in Afghanistan : findings of a study in 12 villages of Afghanistan. Kabul : Actionaid, 2006. 25 p. : col. ill., col. maps ; 30 cm. Contact: mudasser@actionaidafg.org.

Health

Afghanistan National Strategic Framework for HIV/AIDS (2006-2010): working draft [July 2006]. Kabul : Ministry of Public Health, DG Preventive Medicine and PHC, National HIV/AIDS and STI Control Programme, 2006. Bound with: *Harm reduction strategy for IDU (injecting drug use) and HIV/AIDS prevention in Afghanistan: draft for discussion only* / HIV/AIDS Unit, Ministry of Public Health, Demand Reduction Section, Ministry of Counter Narcotics (May 2005) (11 p.) and *National guideline[s] for voluntary HIV/AIDS counseling and testing: VCT guideline[s]* / Ministry of Public Health, DG. Preventive Medicine and PHC, National HIV/AIDS/STI Control Program (June 2006) (36 p.).

Community hospital boards: purpose and experiences from Afghanistan and other countries / by Jay Clark and Dr. Shinwary. [Kabul]: Tech-Serve/MSH, 2007. 6 p. ; 30 cm. Overheads from a PowerPoint presentation. "19 March 2007." PDF (83 KB)

Humanitarian Assistance

Code of conduct for NGOs engaged in humanitarian action, reconstruction and development in Afghanistan. [Kabul]: ACBAR, [2006?]. 14 p. ; 30 cm. Available in Dari and Pashto. www.acbar.org/display.php?page_id=66.

Local perceptions of assistance to Afghanistan / Antonio Donini. Published in "International peacekeeping" v. 14 (no.1, January 2007), p. 158-172. Local perceptions of aid in crisis contexts is an under-researched area. This article, which is based on extensive interviewing of affected individuals and communities in Afghanistan, sets out key issues affecting the provision of international assistance and in particular analyses the 'perceptions gap' between outsiders and local communities and its implications for the aid community. Humanitarian action is seen by local people as part of a 'northern enterprise'. Even if the universalist values of the enterprise do not clash with local views of the world, the baggage, modus operandi, technique and personal behaviour of aid workers often do. Suggestions on how this gap could be addressed are also put forward.

Law, Justice and Human Rights

Land, law, and Islam: property and human rights in the Muslim world / Siraj Sait and Hilary Lim. London and New York: Zed Books, 2006. xi, 241 p. ; 24 cm. Contents: Islamic theories of property and land — Islamic law relat-

ing to property and land — Islamic land tenure — Islam, human rights, and land — Muslim women's right to property — Islamic inheritance laws and systems — Waqf (endowments) and Islamic philanthropy — Islamic finance and microcredit. The Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) has distributed this book based on research carried out by scholars from the University of East London and the Land and Tenure Section of the Shelter Branch, UN-HABITAT. Islamic aspects of land and property rights have generally been under-researched and this is an early contribution to the challenge of documenting and developing workable Islamic land tools. A centre has also been set up at the University of East London to facilitate an Islamic land tools initiative: Global Land Tools Network (GLTN) Secretariat, UN-HABITAT, Nairobi, www.gltn.net. Centre for Innovative Land Rights, School of Law, University of East London. Contact: s.a.senner@uel.ac.uk

National Assembly's resolution regarding national reconciliation and amnesty: draft translation / by Wahdat Wassel. 1385. 3 leaves ; 30 cm. "Government Minister's office in Parliamentary Affairs and General Directorate of Administrative Affairs and Cabinet Secretariat."

The role of Italy in rebuilding the judicial system in Afghanistan / Matteo Tondini. 2006. p. 79-118 ; 30 cm. Published in "Revue de droit militaire et de droit de la guerre" (45.1) (2006) p. 79-118. This paper examines the role of Italy in judicial reform, in addition the endnotes contain a wealth of references to other sources of information on the Afghan legal system. PDF (354 KB)

Laws recently published in the Official gazette

901, 903, 904-905, 907-909	Registration of commercial documents and trade marks.
906	Regulation on dispatching labourers abroad.

Media

Internews network, final report: building independent media in Afghanistan / Internews. [Kabul]: USAID, 2006. 47 p. ; 30 cm. "When the Taliban government ended in late 2001, Afghanistan had no functioning press. For its entire history, Afghan broadcast media was state-run.

Gemstones of Afghanistan

Gemstone mining in Afghanistan is typically an activity of artisan miners, done by people living in the villages near the mines. Tunnels are excavated and gems extracted using hand drills, dynamite and often high-explosives recycled from weapons. These techniques lead to much waste and damage to gems, the results are a low yield.

Most of the gemstones mined in Afghanistan leave the country illegally, 90-95% of them go to Peshawar where they are sorted for quality. The low-value stones are cut for the domestic Pakistan market and the medium- and high-quality stones are sent around the world for accurate cutting for international markets. With this pattern of trade Afghanistan gains little value from its gemstones. The potential annual value of gemstones to the Afghan economy could be as high as USD \$160 million if better techniques were used at the mines and all known deposits were worked.

Recent government initiatives are addressing the economic issues with gemstone production (a new mining law, and new regulations for formal exploration and mining). The gem trade can now be more legalized and encourage greater investment in the mines. Afghanistan has a great opportunity to increase its share of this market, particularly because of proximity to India, the world's largest coloured gemstones import market.

The Secretariat for the Ministry of Mines has released a number of illustrated brochures detailing aspects of Afghanistan's natural resource wealth:

- Aynak copper deposit
- Gemstones of Afghanistan
- Hajigak iron deposit
- Potential for copper
- Potential for gold
- Rare-metal deposits

Some of these brochures are currently available at: www.bgs.ac.uk/afghanminerals/mininfo.htm

Private press, if allowed under the various regimes, was frequently censored by authorities. Given this background, developments across the media sector in the past four years should be seen as an immense success. Today there are 18 television stations, some 40 independent radio stations and upwards of 300 newspapers and magazines. Radio, the dominant medium of news and information access reaches approximately 62 percent of the Afghan population."—p.3 www.dec.org (enter PDA-CI-368)

Natural Resources

Water Users Association (WUAs) in Afghanistan: report / prepared by the Institution Building and Advisory Services Team, Development Alternatives Inc. (DAI). [Kabul?]: RAMP/USAID, 2006. 156 p. ; 30 cm. Includes: Charter of Water Users' Association : draft (p. 14-34)—Internal regulations of Water Users' associations (p. 35-45)—Training manual for Water Users' Association trainers in the RAMP project areas : draft (p. 46-68)—Training manual for Water Users' Associations in the RAMP pilot project areas : draft (p. 69-111)—Report of the research on current irrigators' social structure in Hilmand (p. 111-125)—Report of the research on current irrigators' social structure in Herat : draft (p. 126-136). "January 2006." www.dec.org (enter PN-ADH-209)

Opium

Afghanistan: opium winter rapid assessment survey / United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; Government of Afghanistan, Counter Narcotics Ministry. Kabul: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), 2007. 47 p. : col. ill., col. maps ; 30 cm. "February 2007." In most of Afghanistan opium poppy planting has been completed. While the seedlings for the 2007 harvest have just started to grow, UNODC has assessed the likely cultivation trends. This survey suggests that opium cultivation in Afghanistan in 2007 may not be lower than the record harvest of 165,000 hectares in 2006, although trends may vary among provinces. ... While opium attracts most attention, this report raises a new and disturbing trend: a significant increase in cannabis cultivation. www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/RMOI-6Z225M?OpenDocument (4.5 MB)

Le défi afghan de l'opium / Pierre-Arnaud Chouvy. 2006. p. 597-607 ; 30 cm. Published in "Etvdes" Tome 405/6 (Decembre 2006) p. 597-607. Brief overview of opium

production in Afghanistan. www.geopium.org/Chouvy-ETVDES-2006-Defi_afghan_opium.html

Poppies for peace: reforming Afghanistan's opium industry / Peter van Ham and Jorrit Kamminga. Published in 'The Washington quarterly' 30.1 (Winter 2006-2007) (p. 69-81). www.twq.com (108 KB)

Statebuilding, conflict and narcotics in Afghanistan: the view from below / Jan Koehler and Christoph Zuercher. 2007. Published in "International peacekeeping" v. 14 (no.1, January 2007), p. 62-74. This essay explores the interdependence between statebuilding, narcotics and conflict through an analysis of interviews and a survey conducted, in the spring of 2005, in the Laghman and Nangarhar provinces of Afghanistan. Rural Afghanistan is characterized by weak conflict-processing mechanisms, combined with a high propensity towards the escalation of violence. State-sponsored institutions for conflict processing hardly exist, and donor attempts to prop up traditional institutions, such as the village shura, as a substitute for local government have failed to produce tangible results. Farmers widely acknowledge the benefits of opium as one of the few available cash crops. As a result, competition over scarce land and propensity for violence are affected indirectly by the drug economy. The study concludes with a criticism of current poppy eradication efforts. Under an informal 'eradication contract', provincial leaders are induced to comply with the request of the central government to reduce opium cultivation, in exchange for increased political autonomy and the promise of donor funds.

Security

Canada in Afghanistan: is it working? / by Gordon Smith. Calgary, Canada : Canadian Defence and Foreign Affairs Institute, 2007. 27 p. ; 30 cm. www.cdfai.org/indexmockup.htm PDF (364 KB)

A clash of mindsets? An insider's account of Provincial Reconstruction Teams / Touko Piiparinen. Published in "International peacekeeping" v. 14 (no.1) (January 2007), p. 143-157. Previous analyses have provided extensive and in-depth insights into the external relations of Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) in Afghanistan, particularly the division of labour between them and the humanitarian assistance community. This article broadens and deepens this literature by focusing on the internal relations of PRTs, particularly the cooperation between military and civilian sections within them. It

shows that the successes and failures of PRTs are not just on the part of individual advisers, officers or uncooperative partners, but can also be located in the organizational culture of a PRT as a whole. On the one hand, a PRT constitutes a forum in which diverging civilian expert, military and national interests may collide, producing a potential for a 'clash of mindsets'. On the other, such a collision can lead to fruitful results and innovative policies in which different viewpoints complement each other.

Countering the insurgency in Afghanistan: losing friends and making enemies. London : Senlis Afghanistan, 2007. v. 157 p. ; col. ill. ; 30 cm. ISBN 095550080X. http://senliscouncil.net/modules/publications/018_publication (8.8 MB)

FAST update Afghanistan : semi-annual risk assessment (June to November 2006). (10 p.) www.swisspeace.org/fast/default.htm

National internal security strategy / Ministry of Interior. [Kabul] : Ministry of Interior, 2006. 51 p. ; 30 cm. "September 2006." PDF (2 MB)

Police-building in Afghanistan: a case study of civil security reform / Tonita Murray. Published in "International peacekeeping" v. 14 (no.1, January 2007), p. 108-126. Despite considerable effort and large sums of money spent over five years of police reform in Afghanistan, the investment has yet to yield significant results. Among the reasons outlined in this article are the failure to distinguish clearly between the different roles of the police and the military in contributing to security sector reform; a lack of strategic vision and effective planning; and a failure to capitalize on the insights, best practices and lessons learned from the last 30 years of police reform in the West. Finally, recommendations are made for remedying current problems and re-directing reform to achieve greater effectiveness.

Provincial Reconstruction Team handbook / International Security Assistance Force. Edition 3 (3 Feb [20]07). [Kabul] : International Security Assistance Force, 2007. [207 p.] ; 30 cm. "Unclassified: for official use only"-running caption. PDF (5 MB) Contact: roger.barajas@hq.isaf.nato.int

Provincial Reconstruction Team handbook: draft / International Security Assistance Force. [Kabul] : International Security Assistance Force, 2006. 85, 1/1-1/20, 2/1-2/11, 3/1-3/2, 4/1-4/4, 6/1-6/4, 7/1-7/6, 8/1-8/4,

9/1-9/2, 2, 3, 2, 10 p. ; 30 cm. "Unclassified : for official use only"-cover. "Version 6 as at 14 July [20]06"-cover.

The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security / report of the Secretary-General. New York : United Nations. Report to the 61st session of the General Assembly, 15 March 2007. Summaries of current UN assessments of security, political developments, human rights, economy etc. This report has appeared regularly since 1997. www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/EGUA-6ZFSUK?OpenDocument ; www.un.org/Docs/sc/index.html

Understanding the Taliban and insurgency in Afghanistan / by Thomas H. Johnson and M. Chris Mason. 2006. p. 1-19 ; 30 cm. Published in "Orbis" 416 (Winter 2007) p. 1-19. The common view of the Taliban as simply a radical Afghan Islamist movement is overly simple, for that organization has been able to build on tribal kinship networks and a charismatic mullah phenomenon to mobilize a critical and dynamic rural base of support. www.fpri.org/orbis/ PDF (486 KB)

Urban development

Report on the property transfer tax regime in Afghanistan / Land Titling & Economic Restructuring in Afghanistan Project. [Kabul?] : Emerging Markets Group, 2006. 14 p. ; 30 cm. "April 2006." www.dec.org (enter report no. PN-ADH-445)

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