REHA ORGANIZATION
LET'S BE RESILIENT

STAKEHOLDER CAPACITY ASSESSMENT & MAPPING

FOR

CLIMATE ACTION (SCAMCA)

MARCH 2025

ACKNOWLEDGMENT:

This report reflects the collective commitment of all involved in advancing climate resilience and environmental sustainability in Afghanistan. We hope it serves as a valuable resource for policymakers, researchers, and practitioners in the fields of climate change, sustainability, and capacity building.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all stakeholders who contributed their time, insights, and expertise to this assessment. Their invaluable input was instrumental in shaping the findings and recommendations presented in this report.

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REHA ORGANIZATION

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AUTHORS:

Safiullah Khurram and Ezatullah Sediqi

LAYOUT AND DESIGN:

Zia Sultani

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EXECUTIVE **SUMMARY**

Stakeholder Mapping and Capacity Assessment for Climate Action (SCAMCA) in Afghanistan, provides a comprehensive analysis of the country's institutional and stakeholder readiness to address climate change challenges. Afghanistan, highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, faces frequent droughts, unpredictable rainfall, floods, and desertification, exacerbating socio-economic vulnerabilities and threatening food and water security. Despite progress in policy development and international commitments, its capacity for climate action is constrained by inadequate climate change governance, lack of access to international finance, limited technical expertise, insufficient infrastructures, and poor coordination.

This assessment employed a participatory methodology to ensure comprehensive stakeholder engagement. The approach included desk reviews, Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with diverse groups, such as governmental bodies, NGOs, women, youth, and private sector representatives. The Global Climate Change (GCC) Institutional Capacity Assessment Framework was applied to evaluate organizational capacities in governance, data analysis, planning, resource allocation, monitoring, evaluation, and knowledge management. These methods provided a robust understanding of Afghanistan's climate action landscape and the interactions among various stakeholders.

Stakeholders were first divided into eight categories: governmental/public organizations, international development partners, academic institutions, religious entities, NGOs/ advocacy groups, affected communities, private sector actors, and media/telecommunication companies. This comprehensive categorization ensures diverse representation, from high-level policymakers like NEPA to grassroots organizations and community groups directly impacted by climate change.

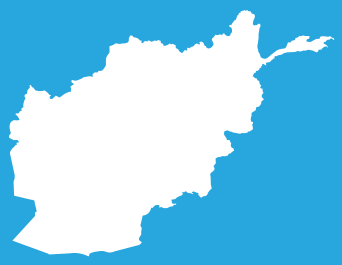
To better understand stakeholder roles, they were grouped into three thematic categories based on political authority, access to resources, and vulnerability to climate change. Key governmental sectoral ministries and organizations represented stakeholders with political authority, while resource-rich entities, such as the Ministry of Finance, the World Bank, and others, provided financial and technical support. Other governmental organizations and community groups, whose activities are impacted by climate change, were classified under the vulnerable category. This thematic division will facilitate targeted interventions to enhance stakeholder contributions.

The power and interest matrix of stakeholder was also identified. High-power, high-interest stakeholders like NEPA and international donor agencies are pivotal in policymaking, resources mobilization, and execution, while low-power but high-interest groups, such as women, youth, and grassroots NGOs, play crucial roles in advocacy and local initiatives. This analysis highlighted the need to empower underrepresented groups and better align influential stakeholders with national climate goals.
Even governmental ministries have the capacity to execute multi-million-dollar projects; however, their capacity to combat climate change reveals significant gaps. Entities like NEPA and MAIL demonstrate moderate climate

change governance capacities, but they struggle with resource mobilization and data systems. NGOs show strong grassroots engagement but lack technical expertise, and weak coordination mechanisms diminish their effectiveness in combating climate change. Women and youth actively participate in community-based initiatives but require enhanced capacity-building training, additional resources, and greater inclusion in climate actions. These insights underscore the need for comprehensive capacity-building efforts tailored to the specific needs of stakeholders.

Key action points emphasize strengthening climate change governance, improving data access and resource allocation, capacity building, and fostering collaboration for each stakeholder. Priorities include enhancing NEPA's leadership in climate policy, building the technical capabilities of NGOs, and integrating youth and affected groups into the development of national strategies. Recommendations call for shifting the roles of the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), Ministry of Finance (MoF), and Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) toward proactive approaches, with the OPM ensuring inter-ministerial coordination, the MoF allocating budgets for climate action, and the MoFA advancing climate finance diplomacy. Centralized coordination mechanisms, expanded funding, and public-private partnerships are also critical to establishing a resilient and inclusive framework for Afghanistan's climate change response.

AFGHANISTAN'S CLIMATE CONTEXT



Afghanistan, a landlocked country in South Asia, is characterized by diverse geography that includes vast mountainous regions, arid plains, and limited fertile valleys. The climate is predominantly arid and semi-arid, characterized by cold winters and hot dry summers[1]. This climatic variability, along with seasonal changes, makes the country heavily reliant on rain-fed agriculture and natural resources for its economy. Such dependence, coupled with fragile ecosystems, makes Afghanistan particularly susceptible to the repercussions of climate change[2] , ranking it as the sixth most vulnerable country to climate change globally[3].

The impacts of climate change in Afghanistan are profound, as the country experiences frequent droughts, unpredictable rainfall patterns, severe floods, and desertification[4] . These events have intensified and become more frequent in recent decades, worsening water shortage and decreasing agricultural productivity. Additionally, temperatures have increased by 1.8°C since 1950, surpassing the global average of 1.5°C. The rapid melting of glaciers in the Hindu Kush mountains poses a critical concern, threatening long-term water security for millions of Afghans[5]. These challenges are further amplified by the country's socio-economic vulnerabilities. With a significant portion of the population living in poverty and relying on subsistence farming, communities lack the resources and infrastructure needed to adapt effectively to climate shocks [6].

1. https://study.com/academy/lesson/what-is-the-physical-geography-of-afghanistan.html
2. https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/afghanistan
3. https://www.undp.org/afghanistan/blog/afghanistan-brink-climate-catastrophe-we-must-act-now
4. https://www.preventionweb.net/news/heres-why-climate-change-afghanistan-has-global-repercussions
5. Scott, C. A., Zhang, F., Mukherji, A., Immerzeel, W., Mustafa, D., & Bharati, L. (2019). Water in The Hindu Kush Himalaya. The Hindu Kush Himalaya assessment: Mountains, climate change, sustainability and people, 257-299.
6. https://www.undp.org/afghanistan/blog/afghanistan-brink-climate-catastrophe-we-must-act-now

Afghanistan's environmental challenges are closely tied to these climatic impacts. Deforestation and land degradation are widespread due to overexploitation of forest resources and unsustainable agricultural practices [7] These trends threaten biodiversity and the functioning of ecosystems, while soil erosion and declining soil quality undermine agricultural productivity. Additionally, the country faces an ecological imbalance caused by the overuse of water and other natural resources, further jeopardizing long-term environmental sustainability [8].

Institutionally, Afghanistan has made some progress in addressing climate change through the development of policies and participation in global initiatives. Key efforts include the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), led by the National Environment Protection Agency (NEPA).
Afghanistan has also committed to international frameworks like the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. Despite these efforts, the country's capacity to implement climate actions remains inadequate, hindered by insufficient technical expertise, inadequate funding, and a lack of integration of climate change into broader national policies and education systems.

These challenges, however, also present opportunities. Afghanistan can leverage its indigenous knowledge and community-based adaptation strategies to build resilience to climate change. Strengthening research and innovation, particularly through universities and NGOs, can enhance understanding of climate science and inform effective adaptation and mitigation measures. International climate finance mechanisms and regional cooperation, especially for vegetation cover restoration and water resource management, offer further potential to support climate action. By addressing these gaps and fostering stakeholder collaboration, Afghanistan can build a more sustainable and resilient future.

To successfully address climate change, harness opportunities, and implement effective adaptation and mitigation strategies, an integrated and coordinated approach is essential. All stakeholders must collaborate under a unified framework to ensure cohesive and impactful efforts in combating climate change. Fortunately, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan strongly supports these initiatives, recognizing the importance of addressing climate challenges to achieve sustainable development and resilience.

This commitment is evident in the ongoing efforts to support the mapping and capacity assessment process of stakeholders involved in climate initiatives. By clearly defining roles and responsibilities, stakeholders align their expertise, resources, and efforts to carry out activities efficiently and effectively. The Islamic Emirate's commitment fosters collaboration among governmental ministries, NGOs, community groups, and international partners. This unified approach strengthens climate governance, empowers vulnerable groups, enhances resource mobilization, and promotes innovation in addressing the wide-ranging impacts of climate change.

7. Khurram, S., Shalizi, M. N., Bashari, M., Akamani, K., & Groninger, J. W. (2024). Barriers and opportunities regarding community-based forest management in Afghanistan: considerations for fragile states. Environmental Conservation, 51(1), 6-16.
8. https://www.sipri.org/sites/default/files/2023-10/22_fs_afghanistan.pdf

CHAPTER 1:
METHODOLOGY AND RATIONAL

1.1. RATIONAL FOR STAKEHOLDER MAPPING AND CAPACITY ASSESSMENT

Afghanistan's current political situation, combined with the lingering effects of COVID-19 and the departure of climate experts, has not only intensified the country's vulnerability to climate challenges but also highlighted its inadequate capacity to respond effectively, as evident in recent climate-induced disasters. To address these pressing issues, stakeholder mapping and capacity assessment have become essential for fostering collaboration and strengthening climate action.

This initiative, conducted at the request of the National Environment Protection Agency (NEPA) of IEA, with support from the Engagement and Collaboration for Climate Action (ECCA) project, aims to enhance Afghanistan's climate response. Implemented by the Resilience, Environment, and Humanitarian Aid (REHA) organization and funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), it seeks to identify key stakeholders, clarify their roles, and assess capacities to build strategic partnerships across government agencies, NGOs, community groups, and the private sector.

By mapping stakeholders and evaluating their capabilities, the process addresses weak coordination and data gaps between governmental and non-governmental actors. It identifies strengths and weaknesses, guiding resource allocation, targeted training, and capacity-building efforts to improve resilience and adaptability. This approach empowers stakeholders to collaborate effectively and prioritize actions to support vulnerable communities.

The main objective of the Afghanistan climate change stakeholder mapping and capacity assessment was to systematically identify and engage key stakeholders across various sectors, including government, NGOs, academia, and the private sector, to enhance collaborative efforts in addressing climate challenges.

The assessment also informs policy development and promotes inclusive engagement, ensuring strategies are tailored to local needs. By fostering ownership and commitment among diverse actors, it lays the foundation for comprehensive and equitable climate strategies. Ultimately, the initiative will enable Afghanistan to strengthen its climate resilience through better coordination, strategic partnerships, and a focused response to pressing challenges like food insecurity, water scarcity, and natural disasters.

1.2. STAKEHOLDER SELECTION CRITERIA

To identify stakeholders for climate action in Afghanistan, priority was given to those directly involved, including government agencies, NGOs, academic institutions, women, youth, and the private sector, with an emphasis on policy influence, technical expertise, operational capacity, and commitment to climate action. A collaborative process involving reports, expert insights, and discussions ensured gender, sectoral, and geographic diversity, incorporating perspectives from affected communities and traditional knowledge. Strategic partnerships were formed to optimize resources, enhance collaboration, and address gaps, ensuring an inclusive and cohesive response aligned with Afghanistan's national climate strategies and international frameworks.

The following criteria were considered to ensure all relevant groups are included:

- **Relevance to Climate Action:** Involvement in climate change mitigation, adaptation, or resilience.
- **Policy Influence:** Government agencies, decision-makers, or advocates shaping climate policy.
- **Technical Expertise:** Knowledge in climate science, environmental management, or traditional practices.
- **Vulnerability Focus:** Groups working with women, children, or communities disproportionately affected by climate change.
- **Operational Capacity:** Ability to implement climate projects effectively.
- **Diversity and Inclusion:** Representation across age, and socio-economic backgrounds.
- **Commitment to Climate Action:** Willingness to engage and collaborate in sustainable initiatives.
- **Alignment with Strategies:** Supports Afghanistan's NDCs and international climate frameworks.
- **Conflict Sensitivity:** Experience working in conflict-affected or insecure areas.

1.3. METHODOLOGY

For this assessment, a participatory approach and methodology were employed to ensure meaningful engagement with all key stakeholders (Figure 1.1). Stakeholder participation was regarded as integral throughout the design, planning, data collection, and analysis stages.

Data was gathered through the following:

- Desk reviews of the available documents
- Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with NGOs, Women, experts and youth.
- Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) mainly with government partners to obtain diverse stakeholder groups' perspectives.

To understand the climate change landscape in Afghanistan, we conducted FGDs with key governmental ministries and organizations, gaining insights into their roles, responsibilities, and capacities. We also conducted KIIs with women, youth, and experts to capture diverse perspectives on climate resilience. Additionally, we engaged with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) through targeted interviews, using a semi-structured questionnaire to gather information on their programs, challenges, and capacities. This approach provided insights into NGOs' contributions, collaborations, and the gaps they face in addressing climate change.

After collecting data from desk reviews and FGDs with governmental organizations, we utilized the Global Climate Change (GCC) Institutional Capacity Assessment Framework to evaluate their capacities in five key areas: governance, data analysis, planning, resources, and implementation. This assessment helped identify the strengths and weaknesses of these organizations in addressing climate change.

Figure 1.1. Overview of the methodology used in the stakeholder mapping and capacity assessment, highlighting key research tools and techniques

1.4. DATA COLLECTION

1.4.1. DESK REVIEW

For the desk review, a range of resources related to climate change in Afghanistan was examined, including stakeholder websites, official reports, legal documents, and past project reports. This provided valuable insights into the policy frameworks, institutional structures, and operational strategies guiding climate action in the country. The review focused on identifying baseline conditions, mapping stakeholder roles and responsibilities, and highlighting gaps in current approaches. We evaluated stakeholder contributions to climate resilience and areas needing capacity improvement, uncovering synergies and overlaps. The desk review also informed stakeholder mapping and capacity assessments, providing a solid foundation for these activities and ensuring they aligned with Afghanistan's climate action framework. This approach also led to actionable recommendations that support national priorities and global climate objectives.

1.4.2. KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS (KIIS)

Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) were conducted with diverse groups, including women, youth, climate activists, and NGO representatives, to capture a wide range of perspectives on climate change impacts, challenges, and opportunities, with a focus on vulnerable groups. Two semi-structured interview guides were developed for each group. The first tool focused on women, youth, and climate activists, with 58 interviews conducted. Questions explored their awareness of climate change, involvement in climate actions, access to resources, and collaboration with other stakeholders. These interviews emphasized the need for inclusive climate action strategies, highlighting the contributions and challenges of underrepresented groups.

The second tool was designed for NGO representatives, with 76 organizations interviewed. Questions covered their roles, capacities, technical expertise, and collaboration with other stakeholders. The interviews also assessed their access to resources and involvement in government initiatives.
The KIIs provided valuable insights into the capacities and challenges of key stakeholders, underscoring the importance of inclusive approaches, empowering underrepresented groups, and strengthening NGO capacity for effective climate action. These findings helped guiding targeted strategies to enhance engagement, resource access, and coordination in combating climate change.

1.4.3. FOCUSED GROUP DISCUSSIONS (FGDS)

For this assessment, seven Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were held with six governmental ministries/ organizations, each involving 15–20 technical staff (Figure 1.2-1.7). The discussions focused on governance, data analysis, planning, resources, and implementation, monitoring and evaluation and knowledge management. Two-page information brief outlining discussion topics was shared in advance to prepare participants. Each FGD began with a brief presentation, followed by key questions displayed on PowerPoint slides to guide discussions on organizational activities, capacity, challenges, and needs. The sessions provided insights into each organization's climate change efforts, highlighting operational challenges, capacity gaps, and opportunities for improvement.
At the end of each FGD, facilitators summarized the key points and assessed the organization's capacity. Two FGDs were held with the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) staff, one with general staff and one with technical staff from the Climate Change Directorate. Five other FGDs focused on key ministries such as MAIL, MWE, MRRD, ANDMA, and public and private universities faculties, exploring their roles and capacities in addressing climate change.

We planned a Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with private sector representatives from the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment to explore their role in climate action, challenges in adopting sustainable practices, and needed support. However, due to time constraints and unavailability, the event did not take place. Instead, we engaged in a separate discussion with private sector representatives from "Engaging Minds for Cop-29" about their message to COP-29, gathering valuable insights on their role and capacity in addressing climate change, which were included in this assessment (Photo 1.8).

Figure 1.2. Engaging minds for climate action: Focused Group Discussion with the National Environment Protection Agency (NEPA) staff.

Figure 1.3. Engaging minds for climate action: Focused Group Discussion with public and private universities' lecturers conducted at Kabul University.

Figure 1.4. Engaging minds for climate action: Focused Group Discussion with the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) staff.

Figure 1.5. Engaging minds for climate action: Focused Group Discussion with the Ministry of Water and Energy staff.

Figure 1.6. Engaging minds for climate action: Focused Group Discussion with the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) staff.

Figure 1.7. Engaging minds for climate action: Focused Group Discussion with the Ministry Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) staff.

1.5. DATA ANALYSIS AND SYNTHESIS

The data collected through desk reviews, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) were analyzed and synthesized to understand Afghanistan's climate change landscape. The desk reviews provided insights into existing policies, institutional roles, and stakeholder contributions, establishing baseline conditions and identifying gaps. The FGD data were used for stakeholder mapping and capacity assessment, helping to identify key roles and capacities, and to recommend strategies for addressing capacity needs. For the institutional capacity assessment, the Global Climate Change (GCC) Institutional Capacity Assessment Framework was utilized to assess the capacity of each governmental ministry and organization.

The KII data from women, youth, and NGOs were analyzed to understand their perceptions of climate change and the status of NGO initiatives. This analysis highlighted the unique challenges and contributions of these groups, emphasizing their importance in climate action. Insights from diverse stakeholders, including underrepresented groups, were integrated to propose more inclusive and effective strategies.

1.5.1. GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

The Global Climate Change (GCC) Institutional Capacity Assessment Framework was used for desk reviews and FGD data analysis. Prior to FGDs, GCC-related questions were shared with each ministry/organization to guide discussions. During the sessions, these questions were presented via PowerPoint, and participant responses were recorded and categorized.

The framework evaluates five key areas of institutional capacity (Figure 1.9):

1. Governance: Assesses leadership commitment, organizational structure, and climate change integration into the core mission.
2. Information, Data, and Analysis: Evaluates access to reliable climate data, capacity for monitoring, and data systems.
3. Planning: Reviews the integration of climate goals into strategies and stakeholder involvement.
4. Resources: Examines availability of budgets, personnel, and infrastructure for climate action.
5. Implementation, Monitoring, and Knowledge Management: Focuses on executing initiatives, monitoring progress, gathering feedback, and sharing lessons learned.

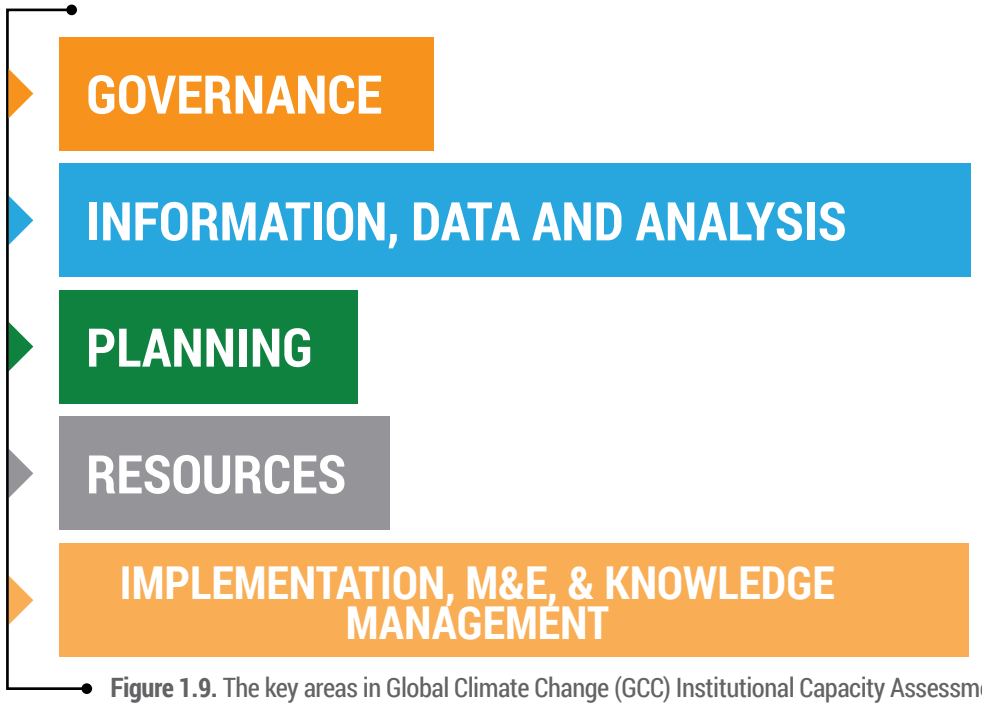


Figure 1.9. The key areas in Global Climate Change (GCC) Institutional Capacity Assessment Framework.

TABLE 1.1. A GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE (GCC) INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY ASSESSMENT TOOL USED FOR GOVERNMENTAL MINISTRIES/ ORGANIZATIONS CAPACITY ASSESSMENT.

GOVERNANCE				
1.1: MANDATE MISSION	**1= LOW CAPACITY** The organization lacks a clear mandate or mission to address climate change, which is neither recognized nor accepted by relevant stakeholders and is not considered in decisions regarding priorities and actions.	**2= BASIC CAPACITY** The organization has a mandate or mission related to climate change that is unclear or conflicts with its overall mission, is not broadly recognized or accepted by relevant stakeholders, and is only occasionally used to set priorities and guide actions.	**3= MODERATE CAPACITY** The organization has a clear mandate or mission to address climate change that aligns with its overall mission, is reasonably recognized and accepted by relevant stakeholders, and is consistently considered in setting priorities and guiding actions.	**4= HIGH CAPACITY** The organization has a clear mandate or mission to address climate change that supports its overall mission, is widely recognized and accepted by relevant stakeholders, and is usually considered in setting priorities and guiding actions.
1.2: LEADERSHIP AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE	The organization lacks a formal structure to address climate change, has not defined the roles and responsibilities of departments and functions for establishing climate change policies, and rarely coordinates across departments or key functions when defining its climate change goals and objectives.	here is a documented organizational structure that is insufficient for effectively implementing the climate change mandate, mission, or policy (or is not being followed), with unclear roles and responsibilities for departments and functions in defining the organization's climate change policies, and weak coordination across departments or key functions when establishing climate change goals and objectives.	The documented organizational structure is sufficient for leading and implementing the climate change mandate, mission, or policy, with clearly defined and adequate roles and responsibilities for leadership, departments, and functions, as well as adequate coordination across departments or key functions when defining the organization's climate change goals and objectives.	The documented organizational structure supports effective leadership and execution of the climate change mandate, mission, or policy, with clearly defined and effective roles and responsibilities for leadership, departments, and functions, as well as strong coordination across departments or key functions when defining the organization's climate change goals and objectives.

2: INFORMATION AND DATA				
	The organization has very limited access to climate information, data, and analysis, which is often poor quality, untrustworthy, and not archived. There is a lack of knowledgeable staff, systems, procedures, and resources for monitoring, generating, and using climate data, which is rarely monitored for quality, produced internally, or utilized for decision-making.	Access to climate information, data, and analysis is ad-hoc and primarily in paper format, with basic information rarely meeting the spatial or temporal scales needed for effective decision-making. Although data is archived, it is not widely accessible. While some staff have knowledge of climate information use, their numbers and expertise are insufficient. Systems and procedures for monitoring, generating, and using climate data are low quality, and resources for these activities are inadequate. As a result, climate information, data, and analysis are only occasionally monitored, generated, or used for decision-making.	Access to climate information, data, and analysis is occasional and unsustainable due to costs and a lack of standard operating procedures, with only some information available electronically. The quality is moderate and often meets the necessary spatial and temporal scales for decision-making. Data is archived and accessible to climate change professionals, and enough staff have a moderate understanding of its appropriate use. The systems and procedures for monitoring, generating, and utilizing climate data are of moderate quality, supported by modest resources. Consequently, climate information, data, and analysis are adequately monitored, generated, and used for decision-making.	There is sufficient access to climate information, data, and analysis, available electronically and considered "state of the art," meeting the necessary spatial and temporal scales for decision-making. Data is archived and accessible to all, and enough staff have a strong understanding of its appropriate use. High-quality systems and procedures are in place, supported by adequate resources, including budget and staff. Consequently, climate information, data, and analysis are effectively monitored, generated, and utilized for decision-making.

3: STRATEGIC PLANNING	A climate change plan or a general plan with climate change objectives does not exist. Or a climate change plan exists but is dismissed by stakeholders. Reasons may include: Exits, but climate change objectives conflict with organization's broader mission/mandate Uses dated or inadequate climate information, data, and analysis or uses information inappropriately Does not identify resources to address climate change Does not reflect stakeholders' climate change priorities Does not appropriately incorporate gender and cultural considerations related to climate change Does not identify climate change priorities or lacks measurable climate change objectives and targets Plan or climate change content within plan not regularly reviewed based on information and learning Not regularly reviewed based on appropriate climate information, data and analysis Climate change plan or portion of plan not used for management decisions or operational planning.	A climate change plan or a general plan with climate change objectives exists and includes more than three of the following attributes: Climate change is extensively incorporated (e.g., in problem analysis, objectives, metrics) Reflects the organization's vision, mission, and values related to climate change Problem analysis, objectives and approaches are based on sound analysis of climate change risks and opportunities Includes realistic resource requirements to implement climate change objectives Identifies adequate resources to implement climate change objectives Integrates win-win climate change adaptation/mitigation objectives into broader organizational objectives Reflects stakeholders' climate change priorities Appropriately incorporates gender and cultural considerations related to climate change Includes clear and specific climate change priorities, measurable objectives/targets Plan is regularly reviewed based on information, learning, and appropriate climate information, data and analysis Consistently used for management decisions or operational planning for climate change	A climate change plan or a general plan with climate change objectives exists and includes more than five of the following attributes: Climate change is extensively incorporated (e.g., in problem analysis, objectives, metrics) Reflects the organization's vision, mission, and values related to climate change Problem analysis, objectives and approaches are based on sound analysis of climate change risks and opportunities Includes realistic resource requirements to implement climate change objectives Identifies adequate resources to implement climate change objectives Integrates win-win climate change adaptation/mitigation objectives into broader organizational objectives Reflects stakeholders' climate change priorities Appropriately incorporates gender and cultural considerations related to climate change Includes clear and specific climate change priorities, measurable objectives/targets Plan is regularly reviewed based on information, learning, and appropriate climate information, data and analysis Consistently used for management decisions or operational planning for climate change	A climate change plan or a general plan with climate change objectives exists and includes more than seven of the following attributes: Climate change is extensively incorporated (e.g., in problem analysis, objectives, metrics) Reflects the organization's vision, mission, and values related to climate change Problem analysis, objectives and approaches are based on sound analysis of climate change risks and opportunities Includes realistic resource requirements to implement climate change objectives Identifies adequate resources to implement climate change objectives Integrates win-win climate change adaptation/mitigation objectives into broader organizational objectives Reflects stakeholders' climate change priorities Appropriately incorporates gender and cultural considerations related to climate change Includes clear and specific climate change priorities, measurable objectives/targets Plan is regularly reviewed based on information, learning, and appropriate climate information, data and analysis Consistently used for management decisions or operational planning for climate change

4.1: HUMAN RESOURCES	Key climate change-related positions have either not been established, remain vacant, or are filled by individuals lacking appropriate skills, and the staffing plan is either nonexistent, poorly aligned, or does not facilitate the achievement of climate change goals and priorities.	Key climate change-related positions have been established, with some filled by individuals possessing appropriate skills, but the staffing plan is only minimally aligned with climate change goals and objectives.	Key climate change-related positions have been established and funded, with most filled by individuals possessing appropriate skills, while the staffing plan is moderately aligned with climate change goals and objectives.	All key climate change-related positions have been established and filled with candidates possessing appropriate skills, and the staffing plan is well aligned with climate change goals and objectives.
4.2: FINANCIAL RESOURCES	There are currently inadequate financial resources, unstable funding sources, and insufficient future budgets to achieve climate change priorities and objectives.	There are currently minimal financial resources, future year budgets can only minimally support climate change priorities and objectives, and funding sources for climate change are occasionally stable and reliable.	There are currently modest financial resources, future year budgets can moderately support climate change priorities and objectives, and funding sources for climate change are generally stable and reliable.	There are currently adequate financial resources, future year budgets can effectively support climate change priorities and objectives, and funding sources for climate change are stable and reliable.
4.3: INFRASTRUCTURE (HARDWARE, SOFTWARE)	The infrastructure (e.g., hardware, software) needed to achieve climate change priorities and objectives has either been inadequately assessed, inadequately planned, or is currently insufficient.	The infrastructure (e.g., hardware, software) required to achieve climate change priorities and objectives has been minimally assessed, planned, and is only capable of providing minimal support.	The infrastructure (e.g., hardware, software) necessary for achieving climate change priorities and objectives has been moderately assessed and planned, and both current and planned infrastructure can provide moderate support for these goals.	The infrastructure (e.g., hardware, software) required to achieve climate change priorities and objectives has been adequately assessed and planned, and both current and planned infrastructure can fully support these goals.
5.1: DESING AND IMPLEMENTATION	The organization's programs do not adequately address climate change risks, opportunities, objectives, or stakeholder priorities identified in the strategic plan. They are uninformed by climate data, fail to follow best practices for adaptation and mitigation, and do not address gender or cultural barriers, ultimately not achieving measurable climate results.	The organization's programs minimally address climate change risks and opportunities from the strategic plan and are only marginally informed by adequate climate data. They are based on best practices for adaptation and mitigation to a limited extent and only indirectly address climate change objectives and priorities. Stakeholders' climate priorities, along with gender and cultural barriers, are also minimally considered, resulting in only modest progress on climate change outcomes.	The organization's programs moderately address climate change risks and opportunities from the strategic plan and are informed by adequate climate data. They generally follow best practices for adaptation and mitigation while moderately addressing climate change objectives, priorities, and stakeholder concerns. These programs also moderately consider gender and cultural barriers related to climate goals, resulting in tangible climate change adaptation or mitigation results.	The organization's programs effectively address climate change risks from the strategic plan and are well informed by adequate climate data. They consistently follow best practices for adaptation and mitigation while addressing climate objectives, priorities, and stakeholder concerns. These initiatives also tackle gender and cultural barriers, resulting in significant, sustainable, and systemic climate change adaptation or mitigation outcomes.

5.2: MONITORING	The organization struggles to establish meaningful climate change performance indicators that align with its goals and set realistic targets. It lacks expertise in collecting and analyzing climate change baseline and performance monitoring data, leading to missing, unreliable, or untimely information. Consequently, the organization rarely identifies discrepancies between actual results and targets, along with necessary remediation measures and lessons learned. Additionally, it does not transparently report climate change performance data to stakeholders and inadequately incorporates gender and cultural considerations into its monitoring efforts.	The organization struggles to establish meaningful climate change performance indicators that align with its goals and set realistic targets. It has weak expertise in collecting and analyzing climate change baseline and performance monitoring data, resulting in incomplete or untimely information. Although it occasionally identifies discrepancies between actual results and targets, along with necessary remediation measures and lessons learned, it only sometimes collects and transparently reports this data to stakeholders. Furthermore, gender and cultural considerations are inadequately incorporated into climate change performance monitoring.	The organization typically establishes meaningful climate change performance indicators that align with its goals and set realistic targets. It has moderate expertise in collecting and analyzing climate change baseline and performance data, resulting in reasonably complete and reliable information, though it may not always be timely. The organization often identifies discrepancies between actual results and targets, along with necessary remediation measures and lessons learned. Additionally, it frequently collects and transparently reports climate change performance data to stakeholders and moderately incorporates gender and cultural considerations into its monitoring efforts.	The organization consistently establishes meaningful climate change performance indicators that align with its goals and set realistic targets. It has strong expertise in collecting and analyzing complete, reliable, and timely climate change baseline and performance data. The organization consistently identifies discrepancies between actual results and targets, along with necessary remediation measures and lessons learned. Furthermore, it regularly collects and transparently reports climate change performance data to stakeholders, effectively incorporating gender and cultural considerations into its monitoring efforts.
5.3: EVALUATION	The organization lacks adequate expertise in climate change program evaluation and rarely conducts these evaluations. The few that are performed are of poor quality, with often inappropriate findings and recommendations. Relevant stakeholders are seldom included in the evaluation process, and results are rarely disseminated. Additionally, the organization infrequently incorporates evaluation findings and recommendations into existing and new strategies and programming.	The organization has minimal expertise in climate change program evaluation and rarely conducts these evaluations. When performed, they are of minimal quality, with findings and recommendations that are sometimes appropriate. Relevant stakeholders are occasionally included in the evaluation process, and results are sometimes disseminated. The organization also occasionally incorporates evaluation findings and recommendations into existing and new strategies and programming.	The organization has moderate expertise in climate change program evaluation and occasionally conducts these evaluations. When performed, they are of moderate quality, with often appropriate findings and recommendations. Relevant stakeholders are frequently included in the evaluation process, and results are often openly disseminated. Additionally, the organization often incorporates evaluation findings and recommendations into existing and new strategies and programming.	The organization has strong expertise in climate change program evaluation and conducts an appropriate number of high-quality evaluations with suitable findings and recommendations. Relevant stakeholders are consistently included, and results are openly disseminated. Additionally, evaluation findings and recommendations are effectively integrated into existing and new strategies and programming.

5.4: KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT				
	The organization struggles to identify best practices and lessons learned in climate change strategy and programming due to the lack of a systematic approach for documenting, storing, and disseminating internal and external climate change knowledge. Consequently, best practices and lessons learned are rarely analyzed, shared, or applied, and the organization seldom participates in climate change-related knowledge-sharing networks.	The organization struggles to identify best practices and lessons learned due to weak systems for managing internal and external climate change knowledge. Best practices and lessons learned are rarely analyzed, shared, or applied through a regular process. Although the organization has joined climate change-related knowledge-sharing networks, it rarely participates in them.	The organization generally identifies best practices and lessons learned in climate change strategy and programming and has moderate systems for documenting, storing, and disseminating climate change knowledge. Best practices and lessons learned are occasionally analyzed, shared, and applied, and the organization also participates in climate change-related knowledge-sharing networks.	The organization effectively identifies best practices and lessons learned in climate change strategy and programming and has sufficient systems for documenting, storing, and disseminating climate change knowledge. Best practices and lessons learned are analyzed, shared, and applied regularly, and the organization frequently participates in climate change-related knowledge-sharing networks.

CHAPTER 2:
CLIMATE CHANGE STAKEHOLDER MAPPING AND ROLE ANALYSIS

2.1. STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFICATION

A collaborative process was employed to identify key stakeholder groups involved in climate change action in Afghanistan. This process utilized various sources, including electronic document reviews, past reports, expert insights, and discussions with technical staff from relevant organizations. Stakeholders were categorized into eight groups based on their roles, responsibilities, and past actions to provide a clearer understanding of their contributions to climate initiatives (see Figure 2.1) and with below details. The mapping process acknowledged that stakeholder involvement may vary depending on the specific climate change actions being addressed, reflecting diverse opinions and perspectives.

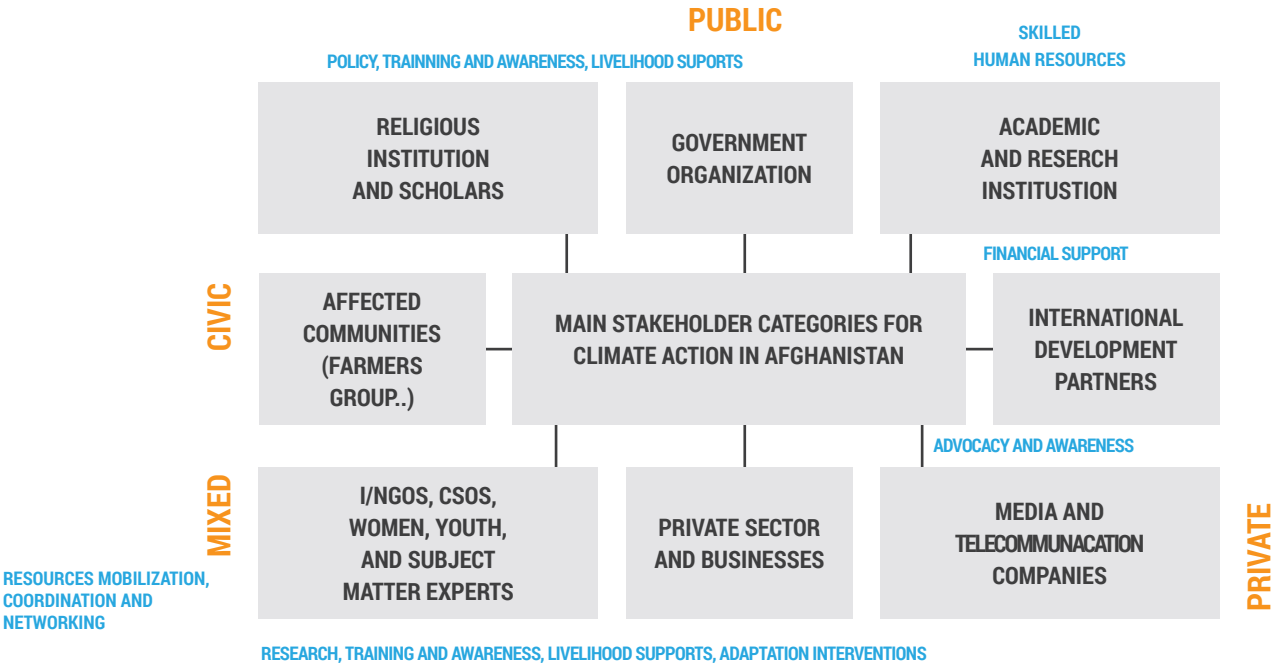


Figure 2.1. Eight climate change stakeholder categories in Afghanistan.

2.1.1 GOVERNMENTAL/ PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS WITH THE ROLE OF POLICY FORMULATION AND REGULATION OF SECTORS RELATED TO CLIMATE CHANGE:

There are numerous governmental organizations that could play role in climate action in Afghanistan, but the most relevant are listed below:

- Office of the Prime Ministry (OPM)
- National Environment Protection Agency (NEPA)
- Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL)
- Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA)
- Ministry of Water and Energy (MWE)
- Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD)

2.1.2 INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, COOPERATION AGENCIES, AND DONORS:

Donors can play a vital role in climate action in Afghanistan by providing essential financial resources and technical support to enhance the country's capacity for climate resilience and adaptation initiatives, which are crucial given its vulnerability to climate-related disasters. Following is the list and categories of the most relevant development partners that could play significant role in climate action in Afghanistan:

BILATERAL DONORS INCLUDING:

- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
- UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)
- Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- Swiss Agency for International Development and Cooperation (SDC)
- Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)

MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS INCLUDING:

- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- World Bank Group (WBG)
- Asian Development Bank (ADB)

CLIMATE FUNDS INCLUDING:

- Green Climate Fund (GCF)
- Global Environment Facility (GEF)
- Adaptation Fund (AF)
- Climate Investment Fund (CIFs)
- Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF)

2.1.3 ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED IN EDUCATION AND RESEARCH:

Academic institutions in Afghanistan can play a pivotal role in climate action by conducting essential research, providing education on climate change impacts and mitigation strategies, and fostering collaboration with local communities and international organizations to develop innovative solutions tailored to the country's unique environmental challenges. Many academic institutions may play supportive or beneficial role in climate action in Afghanistan, but the key faculties that are most relevant to support climate action in Afghanistan are listed below:

- Environmental Sciences Faculty at Kabul University
- Agriculture Faculty at Kabul University
- Geo-Sciences Faculty at Kabul University
- Engineering Faculty at Kabul University

2.1.4 RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES AND SCHOLARS:

led by the Ministry of Hajj and Islamic Affairs in Afghanistan, can play a crucial role in climate action by leveraging their influence to promote environmental stewardship and sustainable practices within communities, framing climate change as a moral and ethical imperative aligned with Islamic teachings.

2.1.5 NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, ADVOCACY GROUPS INCLUDING YOUTHS, AND SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS INSIDE OR OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY INVOLVED IN ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADVOCACY AND RELATED ACTIVITIES:

This group can play a vital role in climate action by mobilizing grassroots support, raising awareness about climate issues, and advocating for policy changes that prioritize environmental sustainability, while also implementing community-based projects that enhance resilience to climate impacts. Following is the category of most relevant non-governmental organizations that involved in climate action within the country:

- National NGOs
- International NGOs
- Advocacy Groups
- Youth and Women-Lead Organizations

2.1.6 AFFECTED COMMUNITIES WHO EXPERIENCE CLIMATE CHANGE EFFECTS INCLUDING WOMEN AND CHILDREN, FARMERS, REFUGEES, BUSINESSES, AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS:

This group face significant challenges due to the impacts of climate change. Here are some insights into how these communities are affected:

- **Women:** Women, particularly those engaged in agriculture, face heightened risks as climate change reduces agricultural productivity, which often translates into increased poverty, and food insecurity. Women in remote areas of Afghanistan play a significant role in meeting their families' water needs by providing water to their homes. However, climate change has affected these water resources, forcing women to travel longer distances to fetch water.

- **Children:** Children are adversely affected by climate change through increased malnutrition and health risks associated with food insecurity, as well as the disruption of education due to displacement or economic hardship faced by their families.

- **Farmers:** Farmers are significantly impacted as climate change leads to decreased crop yields and increased drought conditions, threatening their livelihoods and food security.

- **Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs):** Many individuals are forced to flee their homes due to extreme weather events such as droughts and floods, exacerbating their vulnerability and limiting their access to essential resources.

- **Other Vulnerable Groups:** Marginalized communities, including those living in remote areas and depends on natural resources, experience compounded vulnerabilities as they often lack access to resources and support systems necessary for adaptation to climate change effects.

- **Persons with Disabilities:** Persons with disabilities and their groups are disproportionately affected by climate change, especially in conflict-affected regions like Afghanistan. Their inclusion in climate action is vital to ensure policies address their unique needs, promote equity, and build resilience in vulnerable communities.

2.1.7 Private sector and businesses: The private sector in Afghanistan can play a key role in climate change mitigation by promoting renewable energy and green economy initiatives. With energy shortages and reliance on biomass, adopting renewable sources like solar energy is essential for sustainability. Programs like the Afghanistan Rural Energy Market Transformation Initiative aim to create a renewable energy market through solar mini grids, providing power to underserved communities and encouraging private investment.

2.1.8 MEDIA AND TELECOMMUNICATION COMPANIES: Media and telecommunications companies in Afghanistan can support climate action by raising awareness on climate change, promoting renewable energy, and sharing climate resilience strategies. They can provide connectivity to access climate data, fostering collaboration among NGOs, government, and the public. This approach enhances understanding and empowers action against climate challenges in a vulnerable country.

Source: Review of the electronic sources and FGDs conducted with relevant stakeholders

2.2. STAKEHOLDER ROLE ANALYSIS AND MAPPING:

A collaborative approach involving diverse stakeholders is vital for effectively addressing climate change in Afghanistan. Key actors—such as governmental organizations, international partners, academic institutions, advocacy groups, the private sector, and the media—each play a critical role in tackling the country's climate challenges. Considering Afghanistan's high vulnerability to climate impacts, coordinated and unified engagement among these stakeholders is essential.

Stakeholders' roles and influence vary based on political authority, resources, and their vulnerability to climate change. To understand their contributions, stakeholders were categorized using a three-circle prioritization and influence framework.
This model allows for flexible categorization based on their evolving engagement and resources. The analysis focused on three key themes: political authority, resources, and those vulnerable to climate change, which shape how each group contributes to national and local climate actions (Figure 2.1).

Categorizing diverse stakeholders by political authority, resources, and those affected is essential for effectively addressing climate change in Afghanistan.

2.2.1 CATEGORY ONE: STAKEHOLDERS WITH POLITICAL AUTHORITY:

Political authority is predominantly exercised by governmental and public organizations, which hold the mandate to develop and enforce climate policies and regulations. Entities such as the Office of the Prime Ministry (OPM), National Environment Protection Agency (NEPA), and key ministries like the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), Ministry of Water and Energy (MWE), and Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) are central to formulating strategies and aligning national efforts with international commitments. These institutions ensure the integration of climate change into broader governance frameworks and act as conduits for mobilizing support from global platforms. Their political authority enables the establishment of regulatory frameworks, implementation of climate action plans, and advocacy for climate-sensitive policies that prioritize national adaptation and mitigation goals.

Afghanistan's climate action is driven by key government bodies like NEPA, OPM, and ministries (MAIL, MWE, MRRD), which shape policies and implement climate plans.

Similarly, religious institutions, under the leadership of the Ministry of Hajj and Islamic Affairs, wield significant political influence within communities. These institutions promote environmental stewardship through faith-based initiatives, framing climate action as a moral obligation. Their role in fostering grassroots support amplifies the political authority of formal institutions by building societal consensus around sustainable practices.

2.2.2. CATEGORY TWO: STAKEHOLDERS WITH ACCESS TO RESOURCES:

Access to resources is a crucial determinant of stakeholder effectiveness in climate action, including financial capital, infrastructure, human capital, and advocacy. Key stakeholders with access to these resources include the government, international development partners, and universities. The Afghan government is responsible for allocating a budget for climate initiatives, with the Ministry of Finance overseeing the distribution of national funds. It is essential for this ministry to prioritize climate change funding, while relevant technical ministries develop and request funds for implementation.

International development partners and donors provide critical financial and technical support to address Afghanistan's climate vulnerabilities. They can fund large-scale projects, capacity-building initiatives, and renewable energy programs, and have access to global financial mechanisms like the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Adaptation Fund to support Afghanistan's climate goals. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) leverage external funding to implement community-based projects and advocacy, bridging the gap between donors and local communities.

The private sector can drive climate action through clean energy investments, eco-friendly innovations, job creation, and sustainable practices, supported by international financing, technical assistance, and capacity building. Academic institutions, like Kabul University, can contribute by conducting research, developing solutions, and training future climate leaders, but require increased funding, modern facilities, and collaboration opportunities. Women, youth, and community-based organizations can advance climate initiatives through advocacy and awareness campaigns and empowering them with training and resources will enhance their impact and foster sustainability in Afghan communities.

Effective climate action in Afghanistan relies on resources like funding, infrastructure, and human capital. The government allocates funds, while international partners, universities, NGOs, and the private sector provide support. Universities contribute through research and capacity-building. Youth, and advocacy groups advocate for climate action, and municipalities lead local initiatives. Leveraging these

Municipalities in Afghanistan can drive local climate action through projects like waste management, energy-efficient infrastructure, and green spaces. Telecommunication companies support climate efforts by providing infrastructure for data collection and early warning systems. Social media platforms raise awareness, mobilize support, and share climate information, while media outlets (radio and TV) can broadcast educational programs, promote climate action, and reach a wide audience. Each organization can leverage its resources to enhance climate resilience and sustainability in Afghanistan.

2.2.3. CATEGORY THREE: VULNERABLE STAKEHOLDERS:

Vulnerable communities, including farmers, refugees, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups, are crucial to climate action as they face the greatest impacts, such as droughts, floods, and displacement. Although lacking formal mandates, their involvement is vital for identifying pressing issues, understanding local challenges, and ensuring climate initiatives address their needs.

Farmers, for instance, are directly impacted by changing weather patterns that affect crop yields and water availability. Returnees, and internally displaced persons (IDPs) often face unstable living conditions and limited access to resources, further exacerbating their vulnerability. Persons with disabilities may experience additional barriers in adapting to climate-induced challenges, such as limited mobility during extreme weather events or lack of access to adaptive technologies.

Affected stakeholders, such as farmers, returnees, and vulnerable communities, are directly impacted by climate change. Their involvement is crucial for developing context-specific solutions. Empowering these groups through support and capacity-building enhances resilience and ensures inclusive climate action.

Involving affected stakeholders in climate action is crucial for creating adaptive strategies that reflect local realities. These communities' traditional knowledge and local coping mechanisms can offer valuable insights for developing sustainable and context-specific climate solutions. Empowering these groups through support, resources, and capacity-building can enhance their resilience to climate impacts and ensure a more inclusive approach to climate change adaptation.

CATEGORY 1: STAKEHOLDERS WITH POLITICAL AUTHORITY

These stakeholders have the Power to make decisions, influence policies, Or govern the implementation of strategies and they are listed below:

- Office of the Prime Ministry (OPM)
- National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA)
- Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Livestock
- Ministry of Water and Energy (MWE)
- Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD)
- Afghanistan National Disaster Management authority (ANDMA)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoF)
- Ministry of Economy (MoE)
- Ministry of urban development and housing (MUDH)
- Ministry of transport (MoT)
- Religious institution and scholars

CATEGORY 2: STAKEHOLDERS WITH RESOURCES

These stakeholders control, distribute, or have access to financial, technical, and Human resources that are essential for climate action, and they are listed as below:

- Ministry of Finance
- UN- Agencies
- International Development Donors
- Municipalities
- National Statistics and Information Authority (NSIA)

Afghanistan Meteorological Department

Public and Private Universities

Private Sector Business

Youths, Women and their Groups

Media Outlets and Social Media Platforms

Independent Research Organization

Telecommunication Companies

CATEGORY 3: VULNERABLE STAKEHOLDERS

THESE STAKEHOLDERS OR THEIR MANDATES ARE THE MOST VULNERABLE TO CLIMATE IMPACTS, AND THEY ARE LISTED AS BELOW:

Ministry and Public health and Health Workers and Organization

Other Governmental Ministries their Mandates affected by climate change

Farmers and their Organizations

Urban Poor

Children, Youth, and Women

Women Engaged in Agriculture

Disable and their Groups

Pastoralists

Returnees and Displaced Persons

All other organizations and Groups affected by climate change

Figure 2.2. Afghanistan climate change stakeholder major groups based on political authority, access to resources and those affected by climate change.

2.3. CLIMATE CHANGE STAKEHOLDERS' POWER AND INTEREST ANALYSES

In Afghanistan, stakeholders in climate change initiatives have categorized based on their influence (power) over policies and resources, and their level of commitment (interest) to climate goals (Figure 2.3). High-power stakeholders typically have access to resources, decision-making authority, or control over infrastructure, while interest levels reflect how much climate change aligns with their goals. Considering the power and interest of the stakeholder they are listed in four classes.

The first class includes stakeholders with high power but low interest, such as key government ministries (Finance, Economy, Industry and Commerce, Interior Affairs, and Transport) and the Office of the Prime Minister. These institutions have significant influence over economic and policy resources but are less focused on climate change. Similarly, the National Statistics and Information Authority supports climate initiatives with data but is not primarily concerned with climate action (Figure 2.4).

The stakeholders in the power and interest matrix are classified according to two key factors: their ability to influence climate change policies, resources, or decision-making (power), and their degree of involvement or alignment with climate change goals (interest).

The second class, stakeholders with both high power and high interest, includes organizations like the National Environment Protection Agency (NEPA), Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), Ministry of Water and Energy (MWE), Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA), and international organizations such as the UN, USAID, EU, ADB, WBG, SDC, JICA, and GIZ. These stakeholders have strong mandates for climate action and the resources to make a significant impact (Figure 2.4).

The third class, consisting of entities with low power and low interest, includes some governmental ministries, telecommunication companies, and others. This category is not deeply engaged in climate change action, and their role in climate policies is minimal or lacks formal influence. However, their inclusion can sometimes be important in specific climate actions (Figure 2.4).

Finally, stakeholders with low power but high interest include affected communities, advocacy groups, youth organizations, universities, and NGOs (Figure 2.4). These entities actively engage in advocacy, raise awareness, and support climate action through research and community initiatives, although they lack the authority to implement policy changes. Unfortunately, these groups are often underrepresented in decision-making processes. This matrix helps prioritize engagement with stakeholders based on their power and interest, guiding the strategic approach to climate action. High-power, high-interest stakeholders are key partners, while low-power, high-interest groups play an essential role in advocacy and public support.

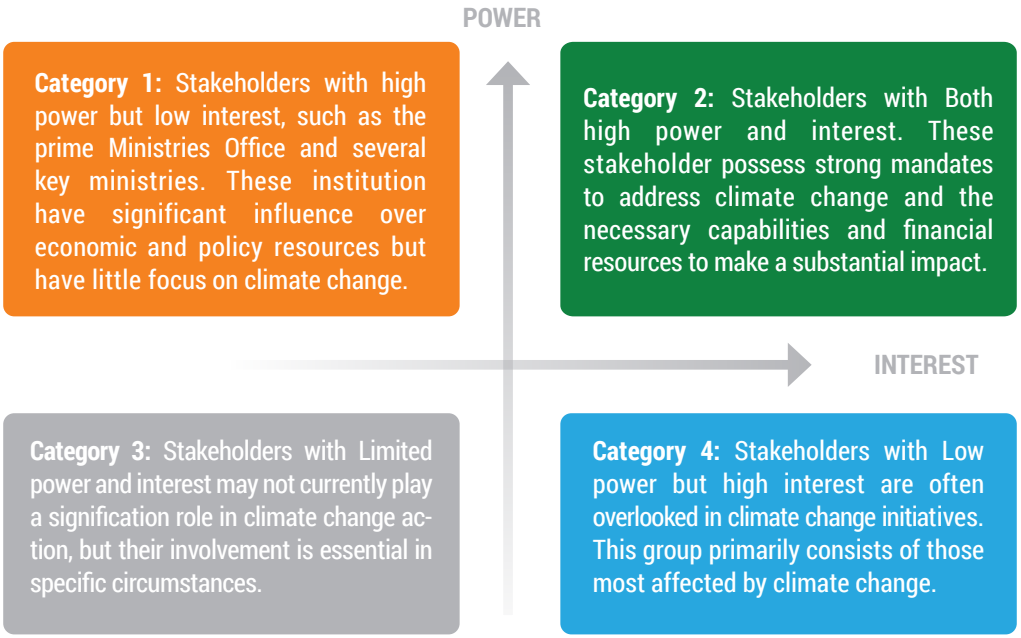


Figure 2.3. Afghanistan climate change stakeholder power and interest Analysis.

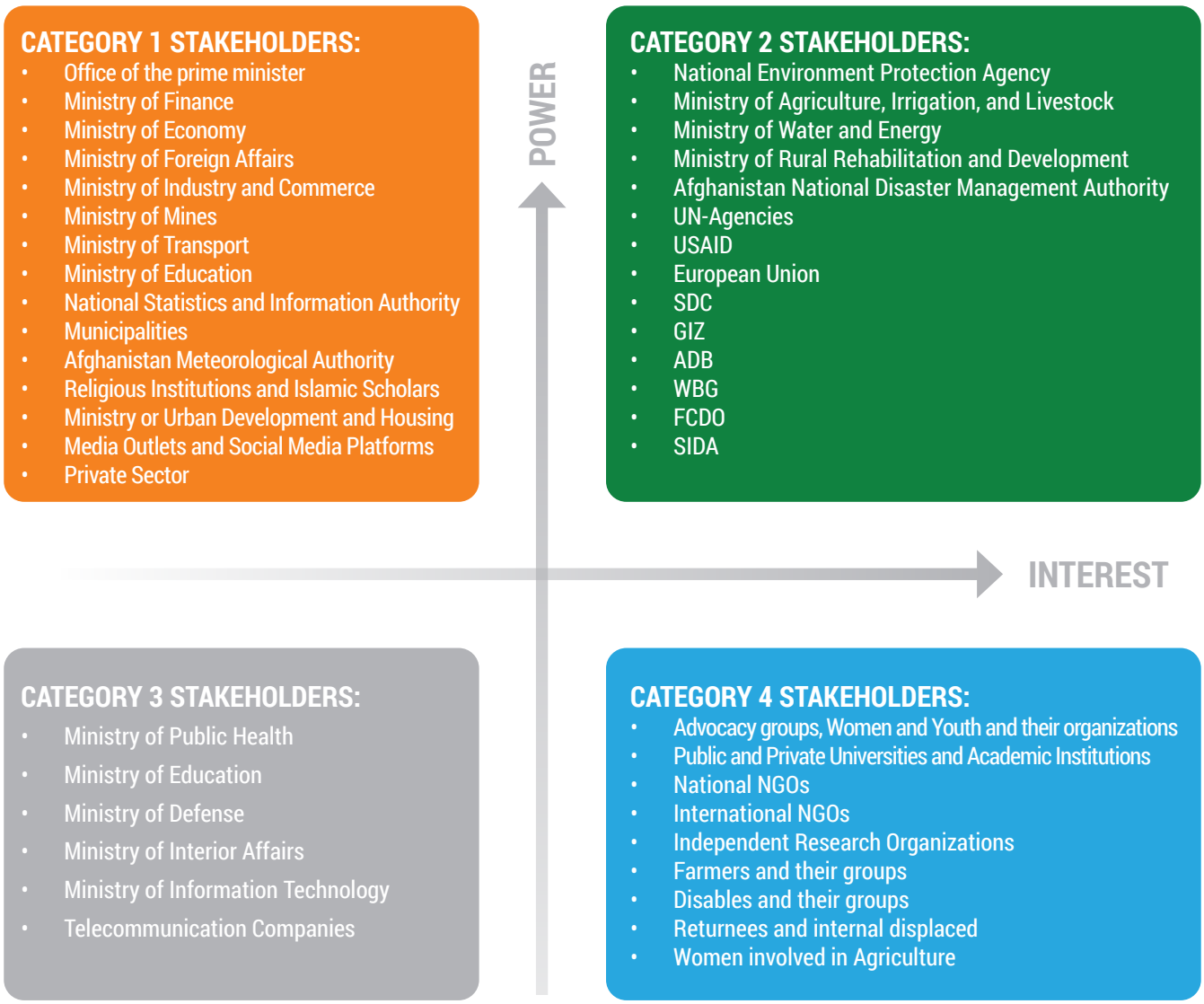


Figure 2.4. Power and interest matrix of climate change stakeholders in Afghanistan, Power indicates how much influence or decision-making authority the stakeholder has, and interest indicates how involved or concerned the stakeholders is with climate action.

This chapter focused on identifying and mapping stakeholders involved in climate change action in Afghanistan, emphasizing a collaborative approach that incorporated diverse perspectives. It outlined a stakeholder mapping process that categorized key groups: governmental organizations, international development partners, academic institutions, advocating groups, the private sector, and affected communities. Each group was analyzed based on roles, responsibilities, and past actions, highlighting their contributions to addressing climate challenges. The stakeholders were classified into eight categories, including policy-making bodies, international donors, and grassroots NGOs.

The chapter further examined the roles of these stakeholders using a three-circle prioritization framework, considering political authority, resource access, and those impacted by climate change. Governmental organizations held political power to enforce policies, while international partners provided funding and technical support. Academic institutions contributed research and education, and advocacy groups advocated for community engagement. The analysis emphasized the need for coordinated efforts to build resilience and effectively implement climate strategies tailored to Afghanistan's unique challenges. The next chapter will explore the capacity of key ministries, NGOs, and the involvement of women and youth in climate actions.

CHAPTER 3:
STAKEHOLDER CAPACITY ASSESSMENT

3.1. CAPACITY GAP ANALYSIS OF KEY GOVERNMENTAL STAKEHOLDERS

The climate change stakeholders' capacity assessment in Afghanistan was aimed to evaluate the readiness of various organizations, particularly key governmental stakeholders, NGOs, and women and youth, to respond effectively to climate challenges. The analysis relies on data from a desk review, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with targeted ministries, organizations and individuals. As already elaborated in the data analysis section, the capacity analysis of the five key governmental organizations was performed based on the Global Climate Change (GCC) Institutional Capacity Assessment Framework.

These findings focus Gely on the capacities of key ministries in integrating climate change into their respective mandates and activities. It is important to note that climate change is a relatively new issue in Afghanistan, a country that has endured five decades of instability. Therefore, these findings do not fully represent the overall capacity of these ministries.

Most of the sectoral ministries in Afghanistan possess significant institutional capacity and have successfully implemented multi-million-dollar projects and programs on a national scale. However, the challenge lies in the fact that climate change considerations have not yet been adequately integrated into their planning, policies, or operational frameworks. This indicates a gap in aligning their existing capacities and resources with the urgent need to address climate change.

Moving forward, it is crucial to build on the existing strengths of these ministries while fostering a deeper understanding of climate change and its implications. By incorporating climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies into their planning and activities, these ministries can play a pivotal role in advancing sustainable development and improving resilience against climate-related challenges. This process will require targeted capacity-building initiatives, enhanced coordination, and support from national and international stakeholders to ensure climate action is mainstreamed across all relevant sectors.

3.2. ASSESSMENT FINDINGS BASED ON GCC FRAMEWORK

The climate change capacities of five key sectoral ministries and organizations are illustrated using radar charts, which provide a comprehensive evaluation of their capabilities across the five core areas outlined by the Global Climate Change (GCC) Institutional Capacity Assessment Framework. These data reveal significant variations in capacity levels among the organizations, showcasing distinct strengths in certain areas while underscoring critical gaps in others. This visual representation highlights not only the diverse capabilities within each institution but also the opportunities for targeted capacity-building initiatives to address identified weaknesses. Such an analysis offers valuable insights into how these entities can enhance their roles in addressing climate change challenges effectively.

3.2.1. NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AGENCY (NEPA)

The capacity assessment of the National Environment Protection Agency (NEPA) reveals an **overall average score** of **2.5**, indicating a **capacity level between basic and moderate** across its functional areas. NEPA excels in **governance** (average score: 3) and **strategic planning** (average score: 3), reflecting a strong alignment between its mandate, mission, and planning frameworks. The agency also demonstrates **moderate capacity** in **information, data, and analysis** (score: 2.5), highlighting the presence of some systems for collecting and utilizing climate change data, although there is room for improvement. However, weaknesses in **resources** (average score: 2) and **implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and knowledge management** (average score: 2) underscore critical areas that require significant attention to enhance NEPA's operational effectiveness and its ability to achieve long-term environmental goals (Figure 3.1).

3.2.2. MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, IRRIGATION, AND LIVESTOCK (MAIL)

The capacity assessment of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock (MAIL) reveals an **overall average** score of 2.3, indicating a **basic-to-moderate capacity** level across various functional areas. While the ministry demonstrates **strengths** in **strategic planning** (average score: 3) and some aspects of resources (average score: 2.7), it faces significant challenges in implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and knowledge management (average score: 1.5). In the information, data, and analysis section, MAIL (scored: 2), reflecting a basic capacity to manage and utilize data for climate-related decision-making. Governance shows a mixed capacity with an average score of 2.5, reflecting moderate capacity in organizational structure but basic capacity in its mandate/mission (Figure 3.2). These results indicate a need for focused interventions to address gaps in operational and evaluative systems, as well as improving data management capabilities, to enhance the ministry's overall effectiveness.

3.2.3. MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENERGY (MWE)

The capacity assessment of the Ministry of Water and Energy (MEW) reveals an overall average score of 2.1, indicating a basic-to-moderate capacity across its functional areas. MEW demonstrates its strongest capacity in strategic planning, scoring 3, which reflects the ability to align plans with its objectives effectively. However, other areas, such as governance, resources, and information, data, and analysis, scored 2, suggesting only basic capacity in managing and utilizing data for climate decision-making. The ministry's weakest area is implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and knowledge management, with a low average score of 1.5, highlighting critical challenges in executing, monitoring, and evaluating programs (Figure 3.2).

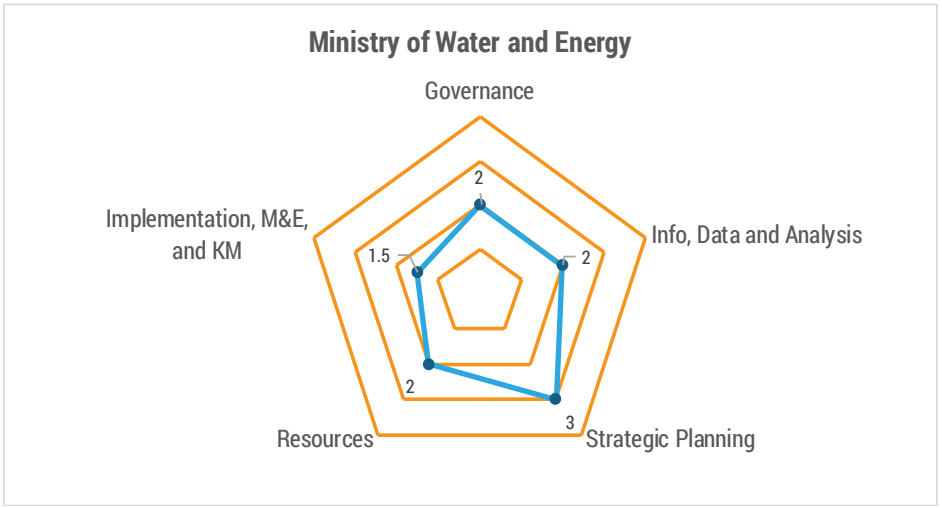
3.2.4. MINISTRY OF RURAL REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT (MRRD):

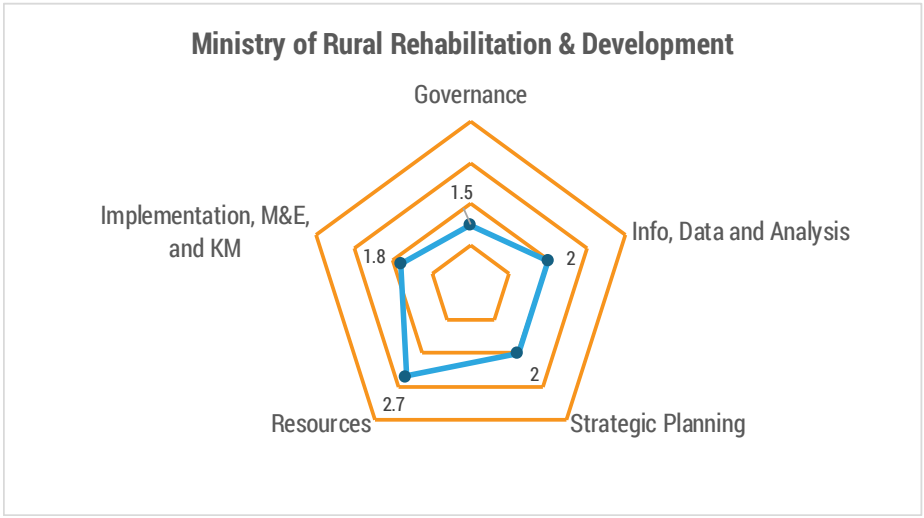
The capacity assessment of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) reveals an overall average score of 2, indicating a basic capacity level across most functional areas. The ministry shows moderate strengths in resources, with an average score of 2.7, and relatively better performance in design and implementation within the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation category. However, the scores in governance, information, data, and analysis (scoring 2), and strategic planning are limited to basic levels, while critical weaknesses exist in monitoring and evaluation, both scoring 1, reflecting low capacity (Figure 3.2). These gaps significantly hinder the ministry's ability to track progress, ensure accountability, and achieve its objectives effectively.

3.2.5. AFGHANISTAN NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (ANDMA)

The capacity assessment of the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) reveals an overall average score of 1.7, the lowest compared to other ministries. This indicates a predominantly basic capacity level across most functional areas, with critical weaknesses in information, data, and analysis (scoring 1) and implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and knowledge management. While ANDMA demonstrates some alignment in governance (average score: 2) and strategic planning (average score: 2), its ability to manage data, resources, and program implementation remains highly constrained, significantly limiting its effectiveness in disaster management (Figure 3.2).

Figure 3.1. Capacity assessment of the National Environmental Protection Agency across key areas: Governance; Data & Analysis; Strategic Planning; Resources; and Implementation, Monitoring, and Evaluation, and Knowledge Management.





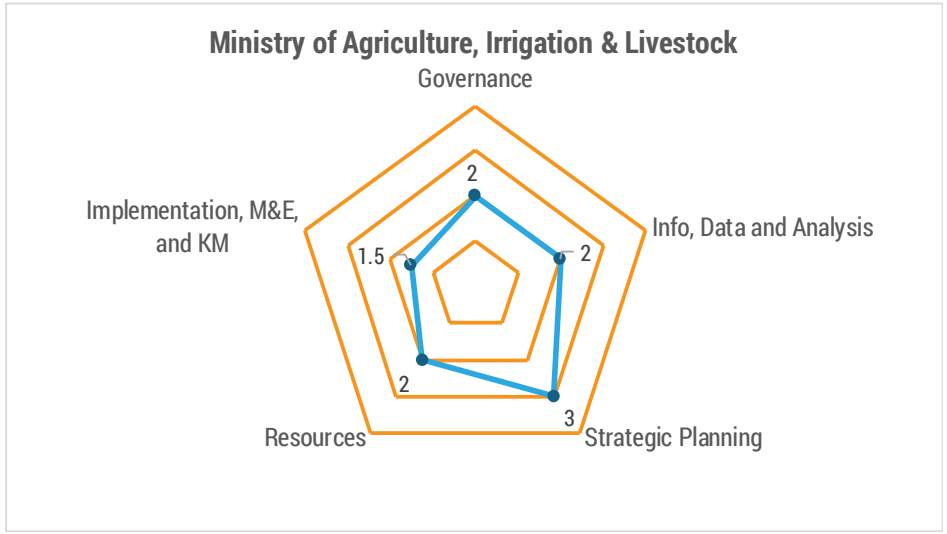


Figure 3.2. Capacity assessment of four other governmental ministries/ organizations across key areas: Governance; Data & Analysis; Strategic Planning; Resources; and Implementation, Monitoring, and Evaluation, and Knowledge Management.

The capacity assessments of the five governmental ministries and agencies reveal varying levels of readiness to address climate-related challenges in Afghanistan. NEPA stands out with moderate-to-high capacity, particularly in governance and strategic planning, though significant improvements are needed in resources and implementation areas. Similarly, MAIL demonstrates strong planning but faces substantial challenges in monitoring, evaluation, and data management.

MEW's overall capacity is also moderate-to-basic, with strengths in strategic planning but weaknesses in execution and data management. MRRD shows moderate performance in resource management but struggles in governance and critical areas such as monitoring and evaluation. ANDMA, with the lowest overall score, faces the most severe constraints, particularly in data management and program execution, severely limiting its effectiveness. Across all ministries and agencies, improving data management, strengthening implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and knowledge management systems, and addressing resource gaps are essential for enhancing their capacity to effectively tackle climate change and related challenges in Afghanistan.

3.3. THE PRIVATE SECTOR CAPACITY ANALYSIS

The analysis of the private sector was not conducted using the Global Climate Change (GCC) Institutional Assessment Framework; however, significant gaps exist in the climate action capacity of Afghanistan's private sector and this information were collected through a FGD conducted with the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce representatives. Despite these challenges, the private sector has the potential to play a critical role in addressing climate change by driving innovation, promoting sustainable practices, and contributing to economic resilience.

Afghan businesses are uniquely positioned to support the transition to renewable energy, adopt climate-resilient industrial practices, and mobilize resources for environmental initiatives. Additionally, the private sector bears a responsibility to collaborate with international organizations and the government to align their practices with global sustainability goals and advocate for Afghanistan's formal engagement in international climate negotiations.

Despite these opportunities, the private sector in Afghanistan faces substantial gaps in its ability to address climate change effectively. Key challenges include limited access to renewable energy technologies, insufficient financial resources for infrastructure development, and a lack of technical expertise to implement sustainable practices. The lack of significant international support further exacerbates these challenges, leaving Afghan businesses struggling to adapt to the impacts of climate change without adequate funding or capacity-building initiatives. Additionally, prolonged conflict and political instability have disrupted the growth of domestic industries, making the private sector increasingly vulnerable to climate-related risks.

Addressing these gaps requires targeted financial aid, technical assistance, and policy interventions to empower the private sector role. Such measures would enable Afghan businesses to play a more active and effective role in building climate resilience and contributing to sustainable development in Afghanistan.

3.4. UNIVERSITIES AND ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS CAPACITY ANALYSIS

Universities and academic institutions in Afghanistan are crucial stakeholders in addressing climate change through research, education, capacity building, and community engagement. A FGD was conducted with the public and private universities lecturers to understand about their current role and capacity. Many faculties are conducting research on climate-related challenges and integrating climate topics into their academic programs. New degree programs focused on climate change and sustainable development are being introduced to build specialized expertise in resilience and adaptation. Curricular innovations, such as capstone projects, allow students to engage in practical research on climate and environmental issues, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to address these challenges effectively. These institutions also play an important role in raising public awareness about climate change. Universities actively engage in public outreach through environmental awareness campaigns, certifications of environmental days, and involving students in community-based projects. Collaboration with external stakeholders, including NGOs, government entities, and private sector representatives, ensures that academic programs align with practical needs and contribute to broader climate action initiatives.

Despite their contributions, universities in Afghanistan face significant gaps and challenges in their ability to address climate change effectively. Capacity building remains a critical need, as many faculty members and students lack specialized training in areas such as renewable energy, waste management, and climate adaptation. Additionally, newly hired faculty members require professional development opportunities to enhance their knowledge and expertise in climate-related fields. Private institutions face further challenges, including limited enrollment in environmental programs and insufficient collaboration with public institutions to strengthen their initiatives.

Funding shortages also hinder the ability of universities to update curricula, conduct climate vulnerability studies, and support new academic programs focused on climate change. Financial assistance is needed for research initiatives, internships, and community engagement projects to enhance practical skills and climate awareness. Collaboration between institutions also needs improvement, with private institutions often reporting limited support from public universities. However, partnerships with NGOs and other organizations have demonstrated the potential to enhance curriculum development and student training.

3.5. NGOs' CAPACITY ANALYSIS FOR CLIMATE ACTION IN AFGHANISTAN

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are vital to Afghanistan's climate action. An online survey of 172 NGOs, with 76 responses, assessed their role, capacity, coordination, and resource needs. NGOs were selected based on their involvement in environmental initiatives, including experience, projects, and focus on sustainability and climate resilience. The findings highlight strengths, challenges, and capacity gaps, providing recommendations to enhance their contributions to climate action.

3.5.1. GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT NGOS SURVEYED

National NGOs comprised 84.3% (64) of respondents, highlighting their key role in Afghanistan's climate-related activities. International NGOs made up 11.8% (9), indicating moderate involvement, while Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) represented only 3.9% (3), reflecting a limited role. The data emphasizes the need for greater participation from international entities and CSOs to foster a more collaborative approach. The surveyed organizations in Afghanistan had work experience ranging from 1 to 41 years, with an average of 16.67 years. This highlights a mix of longstanding expertise and fresh perspectives within the NGO sector. Of the 76 surveyed NGOs, 55.3% (42) operate nationally, 23.7% (18) regionally, and 21% (16) provincially. This distribution highlights varying operational scales, with most focusing on national initiatives and fewer on regional and provincial levels.

3.5.2. CLIMATE CHANGE RELATED CAPACITY OF NGOS

Among the 76 surveyed NGOs, 65.79% (50) have fewer than 10 employees working on climate-related projects, while 7.89% (6) reported none. Only 5.26% (4) have over 100 employees, and another 5.26% (4) employ 51–100 staff. Medium-sized organizations with 11–50 employees account for 15.79% (12) (Figure 3.3). This distribution highlights that smaller NGOs dominate the sector, with only a few larger organizations contributing to this sector.

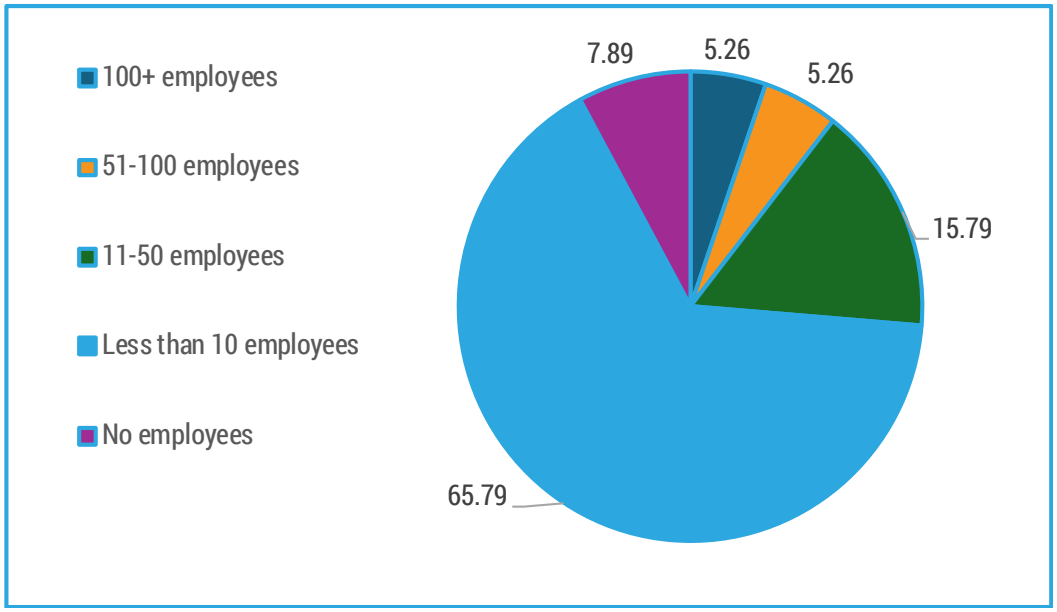


Figure 3.3. Number of employees working on climate-related projects in 76 NGOs operating in Afghanistan.

Among the surveyed organizations, there is a diverse range of expertise, with a strong emphasis on implementation, adaptation, and advocacy (Figure 3.4). Many organizations focus on various aspects such as climate policy, climate-smart agriculture, resilience building, renewable energy, mitigation efforts, research, data analysis, vulnerability assessments, and finance/resource mobilization. This indicates a broad and varied commitment to addressing climate-related challenges across different sectors.

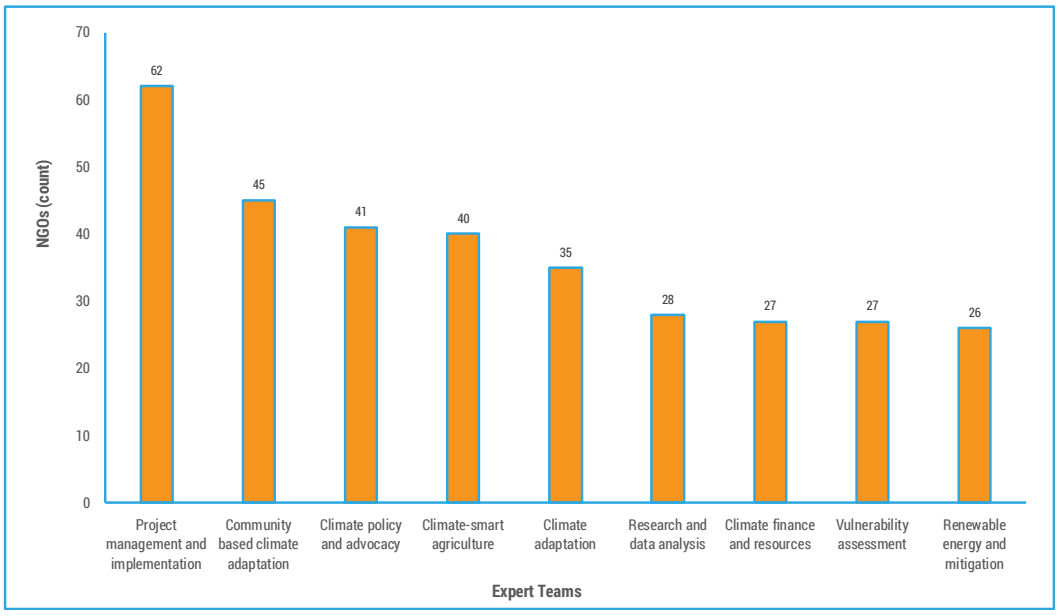


Figure 3.4. Existence of expert teams focused on climate change related actions in NGOs surveyed.

The NGOs were inquired regarding the establishment or maintenance of climate change expert teams in the future, A majority of NGOs (93.42%) plan to establish or maintain climate change expert teams, showing strong commitment to addressing climate challenges. Regarding overall capacity, 32.9% of NGOs consider their capacity sufficient, 50% moderately sufficient, and 17.1% insufficient, indicating some gaps in addressing climate issues effectively.

When asked about capacity building, the majority of NGOs identified the need for training in climate change adaptation and mitigation, managing climate finance, and technical skills. Other areas of interest included funding for staff conference attendance, monitoring and evaluation, vulnerability and risk assessments, and integrating climate change into policies. Only 5.26% of NGOs felt no additional training was needed (Figure 3.5)

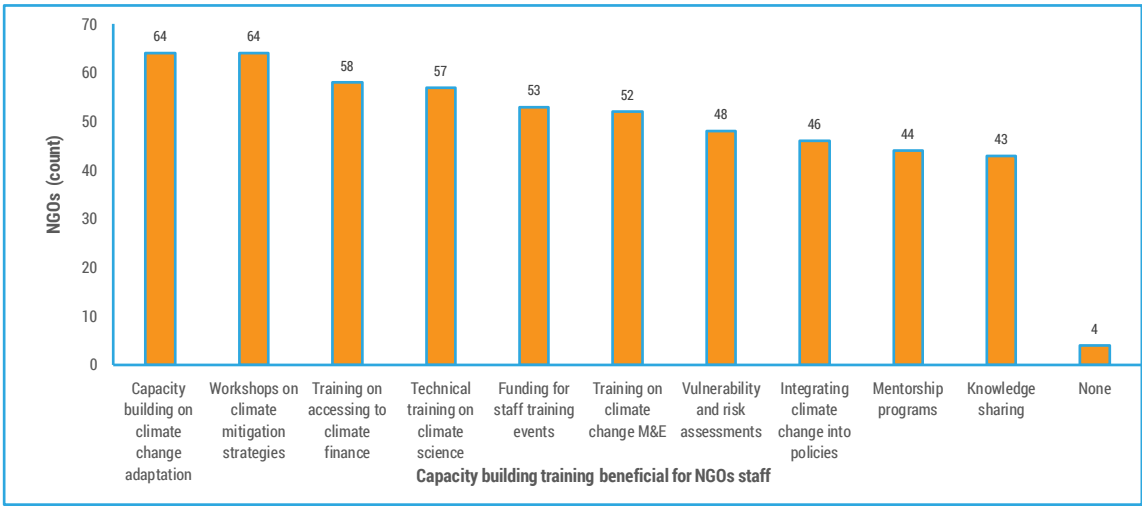


Figure 3.5. Preferred training programs identified by NGOs to strengthen their staff capacity addressing climate change challenges in Afghanistan

3.5.3. COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION WITH OTHER NGOS

Coordination and collaboration between NGOs and other stakeholders were key aspects of this assessment. The most common mechanisms for coordination included joint projects, participation in national climate action networks, and membership in national commissions or committees (Figure 3.6). Other methods included information sharing, joint capacity-building programs, and coordinating advocacy efforts. Resource mobilization and aligning activities with government policies were also practiced by a significant proportion of NGOs. Only one NGO reported not using any coordination mechanisms, indicating widespread engagement.

The challenges faced during coordination with other climate change stakeholders were primarily a lack of communication and information sharing, followed by the absence of a centralized coordination mechanism and ineffective communication channels (Figure 3.7). Other challenges included inconsistent information sharing, competition for resources, political barriers, lack of staff or time, bureaucratic barriers, conflicting priorities, and the absence of monitoring and evaluation frameworks. These findings highlight the need to address communication gaps, establish centralized mechanisms, and overcome resource challenges to improve coordination.

The improvements suggested for better coordination included regular communication channels, NGO membership in national platforms, and facilitating partnerships. Improved funding and resource mobilization were also emphasized. Other key areas included harmonizing stakeholders' objectives, simplifying bureaucratic processes, enhancing monitoring and accountability, using digital tools, and engaging local communities (Figure 3.8). These findings suggest that effective communication, partnerships, resource mobilization, streamlined processes, and community engagement are crucial for improving coordination in climate initiatives.

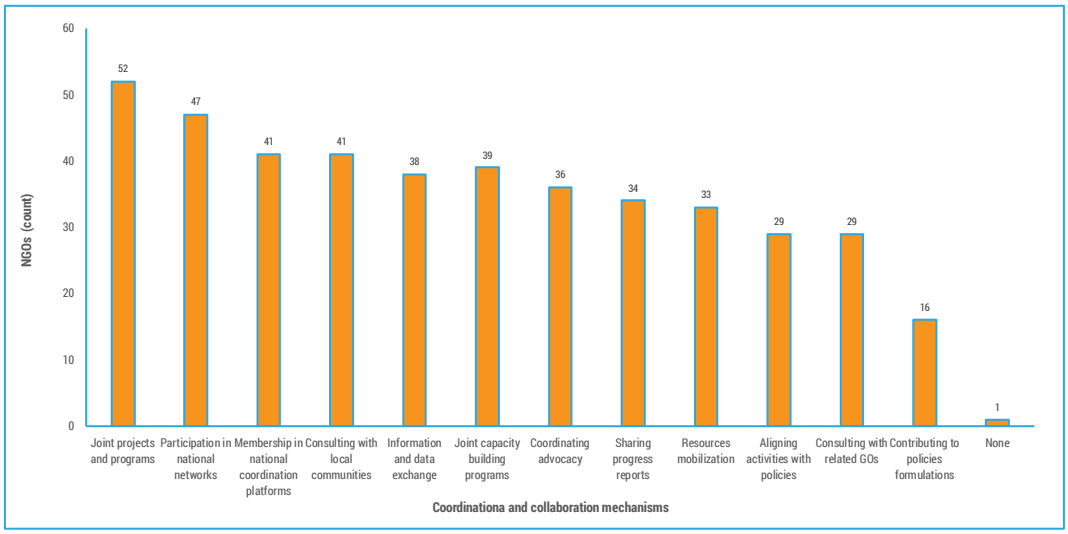


Figure 3.6. Mechanisms utilized by NGOs for coordination and collaboration with climate change stakeholders in Afghanistan.

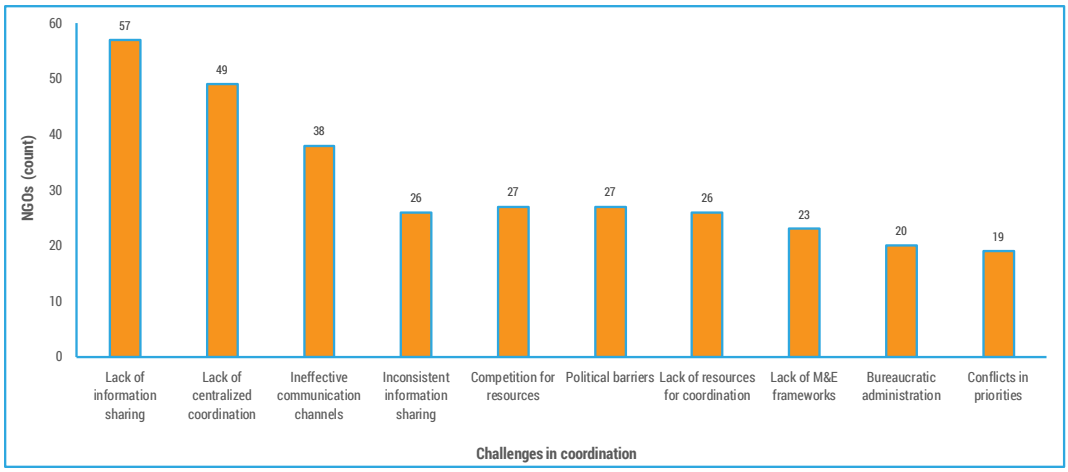


Figure 3.7. Key challenges the NGOs encountered in coordinating with other climate change stakeholders in Afghanistan

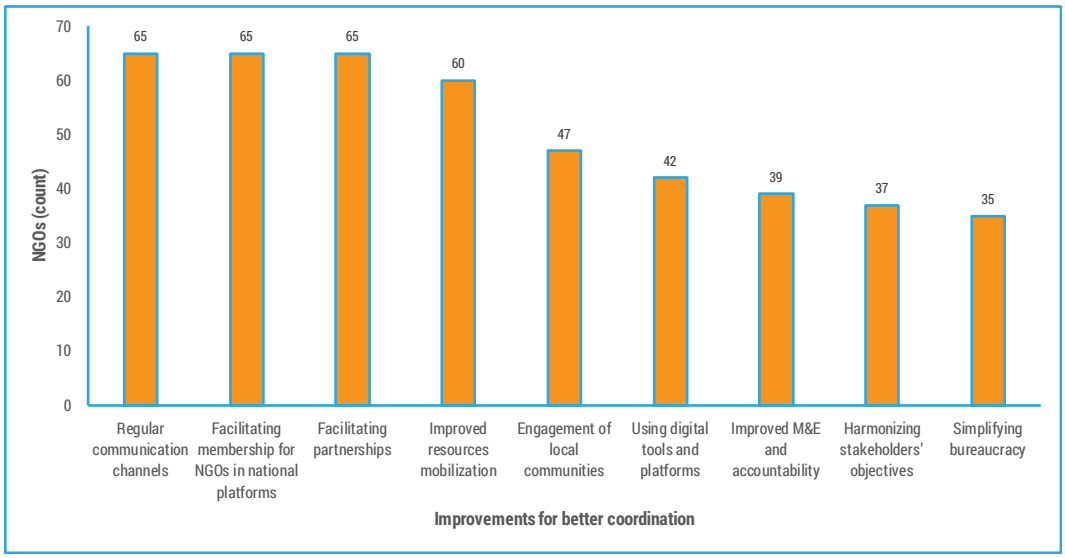


Figure 3.8. Key improvements proposed for enhanced coordination between NGOs and other climate change stakeholders in Afghanistan

3.5.4. NGOs COORDINATION WITH GOVERNMENT

Coordination between NGOs and governmental bodies was a key focus of this assessment. The most common forms of engagement reported by NGOs included regular meetings and consultations, information sharing, and data exchange with government agencies. Other forms of engagement included collaborative project development, providing feedback on climate policies, and participating in national climate change action platforms. A smaller proportion of NGOs were involved in joint funding applications with government agencies or other forms of engagement (Figure 3.9).

The National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) is the primary body for climate change policy and financial mechanisms in Afghanistan. A majority of NGOs (55.3%) collaborate with NEPA, but 44.7% do not. Regarding support, 51.3% of NGOs report receiving limited support from NEPA, while 26.3% receive strong support and 22.4% receive conditional support.

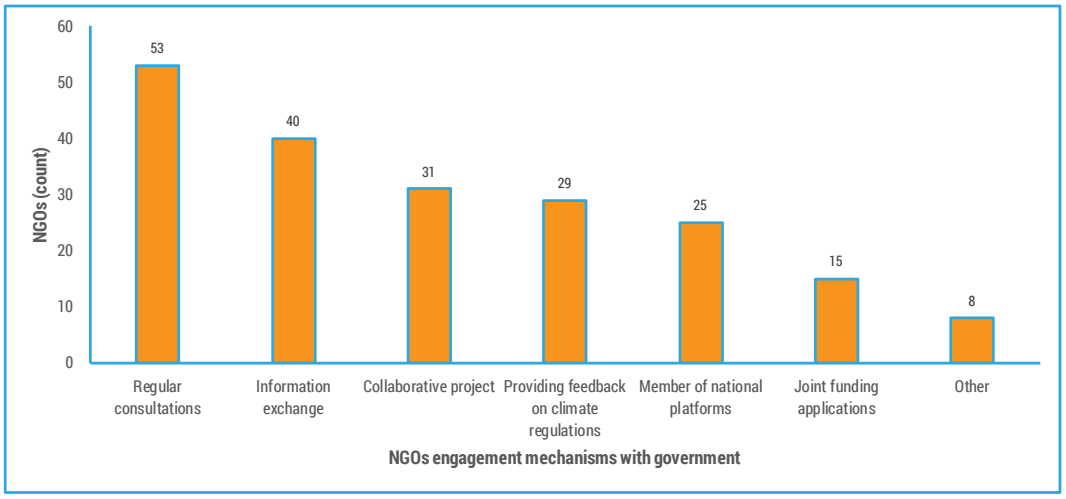


Figure 3.9. NGO engagement with government agencies in climate change action in Afghanistan

NGOs suggested several improvements to government policies, with 78.95% advocating for the inclusion of these suggestions in regulatory frameworks, despite facing challenges in gaining acknowledgement from donors. 75% urged inclusion in national climate plans, while 69.74% called for better resource sharing and clearer communication. Simplifying project approval was highlighted by 64.47%, and many NGOs sought guidance documents from NEPA and MAIL (Figure 3.10). These findings highlight the need for greater NGO involvement in government processes to strengthen climate action.

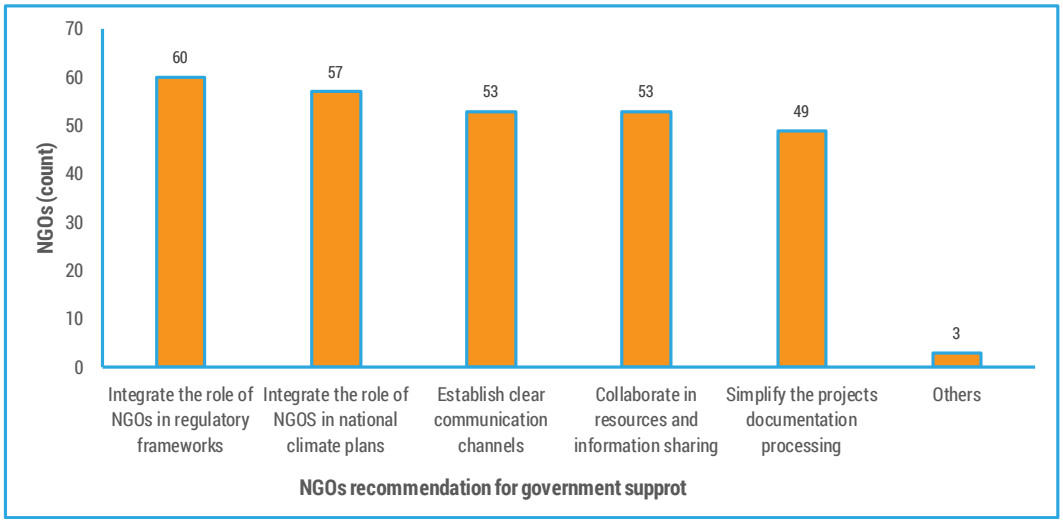


Figure 3.10. NGO Recommendations for Improving Government Policies to Support Climate Action in Afghanistan

To strengthen the role of NGOs in climate action in Afghanistan, it is essential to enhance collaboration, improve resource mobilization, and establish regular communication channels between NGOs, the government, and other stakeholders. While many NGOs are actively engaged in climate action, there remains a gap in coordination and support from key bodies like the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA). Establishing formal partnerships, simplifying bureaucratic processes, and integrating NGOs into national climate plans can foster more inclusive climate action. NGOs should also be included in policy formulation and regulatory frameworks to ensure their contributions are recognized and effectively supported.

Recommendations to bolster the capacity of NGOs in climate action include focusing on targeted capacity-building initiatives, such as training on climate change adaptation, mitigation strategies, and accessing climate finance. Ensuring adequate funding, technical support, and mentorship will enable NGOs to address the country's climate challenges more effectively. Moreover, enhancing monitoring, evaluation, and accountability mechanisms, along with utilizing digital tools for coordination, can streamline efforts and improve the effectiveness of climate projects. Strengthening local community engagement and providing platforms for knowledge sharing will ensure that NGOs play a pivotal role in building climate resilience in Afghanistan.

3.6. WOMEN AND YOUTH CAPACITY ANALYSIS FOR CLIMATE ACTION IN AFGHANISTAN

An online survey was conducted to understand the role, capacity, and activities of women and youth in climate change efforts across Afghanistan. A total of 128 individuals were invited, with 58 responding. These participants were selected based on their recognized roles in environmental initiatives. Although the respondents were based in Kabul, but their influence spans nationwide. Many women participants were former government employees. Their responses highlighted involvement in community outreach, awareness campaigns, and local-level adaptation and mitigation projects, providing valuable insights to empower women and youth in Afghanistan's climate action agenda.

3.6.1. GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE RESPONDENTS

The survey of 58 women and youth involved in climate action in Afghanistan revealed a significant youth presence, with 84.5% aged 15–34 (37.9% aged 15–24 and 46.6% aged 25–34). The gender distribution showed a notable disparity, with 74.1% male and 25.9% female, indicating a need for targeted efforts to include more women. The majority of respondents had a background in Environmental Sciences (44.8%) and Agriculture (22.4%), with others in Engineering (13.8%), Business Administration and Economics (5.2% each), and Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (3.4%). This reflects a diverse, interdisciplinary approach to climate challenges. In terms of occupation, 60.3% were Government Employees, 19.0% were Students, 10.3% were activists, and 8.6% were Unemployed. This indicates strong state involvement in climate action, with significant contributions from students and activists.

3.6.2. WOMEN AND YOUTH CAPACITY TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGES

The majority of women and youth in Afghanistan are well-informed about climate change, with 79.3% reporting being Very Aware and 20.7% Somewhat Aware. The primary sources of climate change information for respondents are media (41), conferences and workshops (37), and schools/universities (35). NGOs (28) and community programs (26) also play significant roles, while government publications (18) and self-study (1) have less influence (Figure 3.11).

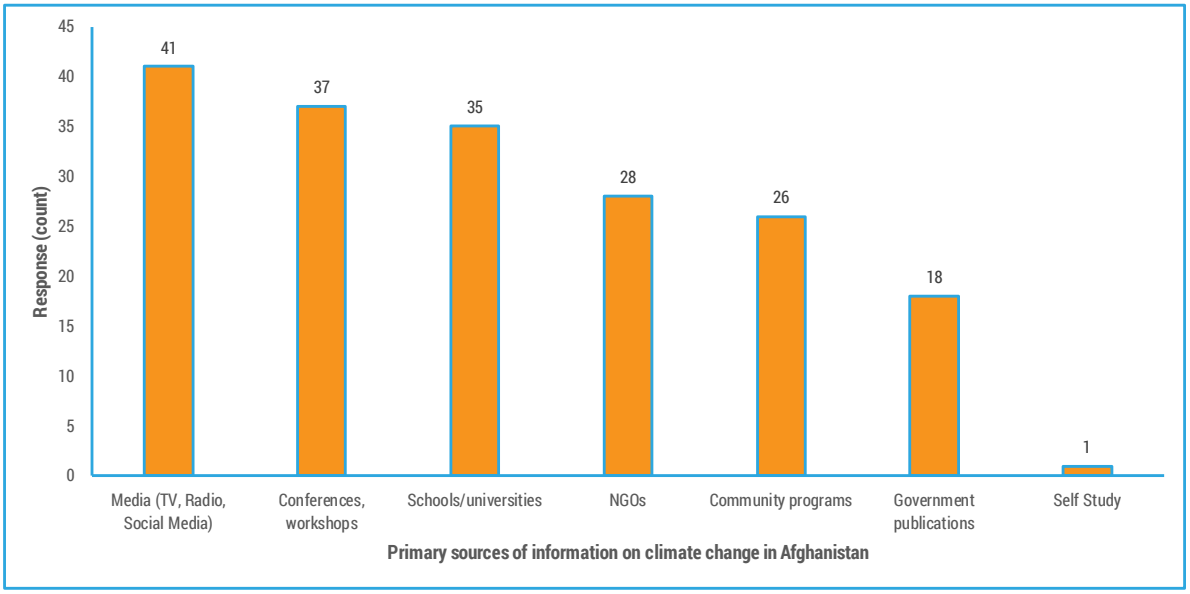


Figure 3.11. Primary sources of information about climate change for women and youth in Afghanistan

Of the surveyed women 89.7% (52 individuals) were engaged, while 10.3% (6 individuals) have not participated in climate change initiatives. Majority of the respondents focused on advocacy and environmental conservation, with 27 involved in advocacy and community awareness, and 22 in conservation projects. Fewer participated in policy advocacy (2) or strengthening community resilience (1) (Figure 3.12.). This highlights advocacy and conservation as the primary areas of involvement.

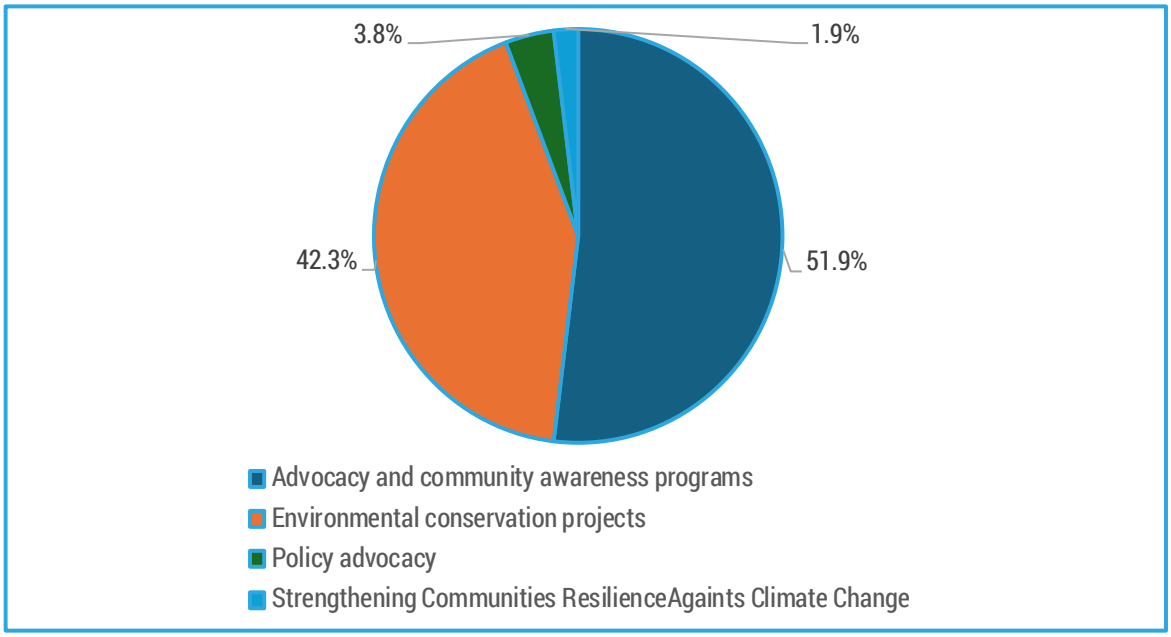


Figure 3.12. Types of climate change initiatives participated in by women and youth in Afghanistan

Women and youth in Afghanistan perceive their strengths in several areas, with 46 respondents highlighting advocacy and awareness, 45 citing community mobilization, 39 mentioning technical skills and leadership, and 27 identifying policy influence. These findings suggest they are viewed as capable in advocacy, community organization, technical action, leadership, and policy (Figure 3.13).

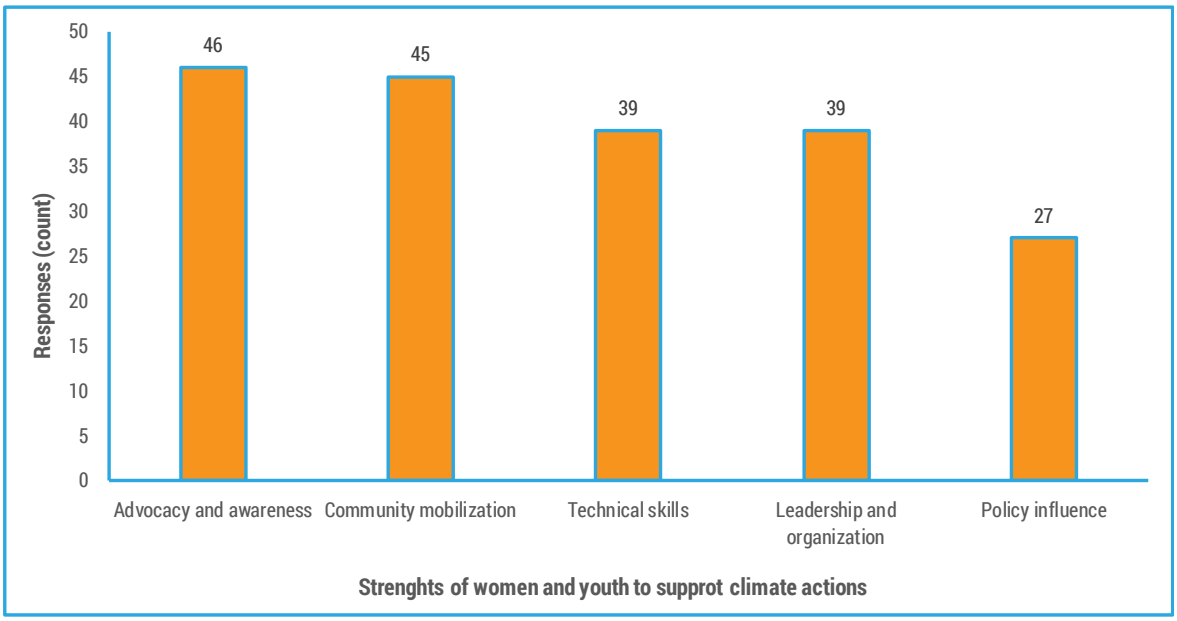


Figure 3.13. Perceived strengths of women and youth in addressing climate change in Afghanistan

The availability of resources for women and youth in climate change initiatives in Afghanistan presents a divided perspective. While 41.4% of respondents believe resources are sufficient, an equal number disagree, with 17.2% unsure. This highlights a gap in perceptions, with nearly half feeling resources are inadequate, potentially hindering effective engagement. Perceptions of government collaboration with women, youth, and community groups are also mixed. While 44.8% are unsure of its effectiveness, 29.3% view it positively, and 25.9% believe it is ineffective, indicating varying views on the government's engagement. Levels of involvement in climate change initiatives show that 62.1% of respondents feel somewhat involved, 20.7% feel fully involved, and 17.2% feel not involved, suggesting significant engagement but also room for more participation and opportunities for full involvement. To enhance engagement, 55.2% of respondents identified training and capacity building as key areas of support, while 32.8% emphasized employment opportunities. A smaller portion (12.1%) highlighted access to information and resources, suggesting that focusing on capacity building and job opportunities would be most beneficial.

The vast majority of respondents (94.8%) believe that including women and youth in climate change decision-making is crucial. To support their involvement, capacity building, inclusive policies, and increased access to resources are essential. Training on climate adaptation, mitigation, and technical skills, alongside financial support for women and youth-led projects, will help close engagement gaps. Promoting government-NGO collaboration, integrating climate change education, and simplifying bureaucratic processes will further empower women and youth to take active roles in climate action. These measures will foster a more inclusive, effective approach to addressing climate change in Afghanistan.

CHAPTER 4:
KEY ACTION POINTS RECOMMENDED FOR INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING

4.1. POLICY ACTION POINTS

Addressing the climate change effectively, sector-specific action points have been proposed to enhance governance, strengthen institutional capacities, and promote resilience across key areas such as environmental protection, agriculture, water and energy, rural development, disaster management, education, and research. These actions emphasize integrating climate considerations into national and sectoral plans, promoting sustainable agricultural practices, improving water and energy management, and fostering community-driven resilience projects. Strengthening education and research efforts, alongside ensuring better coordination and stakeholder engagement, is also crucial for building long-term climate resilience in Afghanistan. The following (table 4.1) highlights the key policy action points for the key climate change stakeholders in Afghanistan.

TABLE 4.1. POLICY ACTION POINTS FOR THE KEY CLIMATE CHANGE GOVERNMENT STAKEHOLDERS IN AFGHANISTAN.

ORGANIZATION	POLICY ACTION POINTS	DETAILS
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (NEPA)	Strengthen climate governance	Finalize and implement the National Environmental Policy (NEP) and integrate climate change governance into all sectoral plans.
	Develop National Adaptation Framework	Create sector-specific adaptation plans and a National Adaptation Plan to address vulnerabilities and risks.
	Establish Monitoring and Reporting Systems	Develop a database to track climate-related activities and progress across organizations.
	Improve Collaboration	Mandate coordination between NEPA and stakeholders for streamlined climate action plans and policy integration.
	Budget Allocation for Vulnerability Studies	Advocate for dedicated budgets to conduct vulnerability studies and identify at-risk areas.
	Access to Climate Finance	Develop a national framework for accessing climate finance to support rural resilience programs.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, IRRIGATION, AND LIVESTOCK (MAIL)	Integrate Climate Resilience in Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy	Align agricultural and natural resources policies with climate adaptation goals, including sustainable agriculture and crop diversification.
	Strengthen Stakeholder Collaboration	Ensure mandatory involvement of MAIL in NGOs relevant projects from the planning phase to improve alignment with national priorities.
	Promote Climate-Smart Agriculture	Introduce policies for promoting adaptive farming techniques, water-efficient irrigation, and soil conservation.
	Develop Early Warning Systems for Farmers	Establish early warning systems to provide farmers with timely climate and weather updates for informed decision-making.
	Access to Climate Finance	Develop a national framework for accessing climate finance to support rural resilience programs.
MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENERGY (MWE)	Strengthen Water Resource Policies	Update water allocation and management policies to address the impacts of climate change on glaciers and river flows.
	Scale Up Renewable Energy Policies	Expand renewable energy initiatives (solar, wind, biomass) through favorable policies and public-private partnerships.
	Develop Water Conservation Strategies	Introduce policies on wastewater reuse, efficient irrigation systems, and transboundary water management.
	Improve Coordination Mechanisms	Establish platforms for better internal and external stakeholder coordination to avoid duplication of efforts.

MINISTRY OF RURAL REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT (MRRD)	Prioritize Community-Based Climate Action	Training for DDCs on vulnerability assessments and climate resilience planning.
	Institutionalize Knowledge Management	Introduce policies mandating documentation and sharing of lessons learned from climate-related programs.
	Promote Rural Resilience Infrastructure	Create policies for building climate-resilient infrastructure like check dams, flood protection walls, and water storage systems.
	Access to Climate Finance	Develop a national framework for accessing climate finance to support rural resilience programs.
AFGHANISTAN NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (ANDMA)	Revise Disaster Risk Reduction Policies	Update disaster management frameworks to explicitly include climate-induced risks and adaptation strategies.
	Develop Climate Risk Mitigation Policies	Formulate policies for sustainable land management, reforestation, and vegetation cover to reduce disaster risks.
	Enhance Coordination with NGOs	Develop MOUs with NGOs to formalize partnerships and align disaster risk reduction projects with national priorities.
	Access to Climate Finance	Develop a national framework for accessing climate finance to support rural resilience programs.

UNIVERSITIES (PUBLIC AND PRIVATE)	Support Curriculum Development Policies	Encourage the integration of climate change and sustainability into national education policies.
	Strengthen Research Policies	Develop funding and policy support for climate research at universities, with a focus on applied and local research.
	Establish Collaboration Platforms	Introduce policies promoting university partnerships with NGOs, private sectors, and governmental institutions.
	Promote Climate Awareness	Develop policies for universities to lead climate awareness campaigns through seminars, workshops, and public events.

4.2. CAPACITY BUILDING INTERVENTIONS

To enhance the effectiveness of climate change responses, comprehensive training programs tailored to the specific needs of different organizations and sectors are crucial. Each organization should focus on developing expertise that aligns with its role in the national climate strategy. This approach will help build the necessary capacity to address climate challenges, improve collaboration across sectors, and support informed decision-making for climate resilience and sustainable development. The following (table 4.2) highlights the key capacity building action points for the climate change stakeholders in Afghanistan.

TABLE 4.2. CAPACITY BUILDING ACTION POINTS RECOMMENDED FOR THE KEY CLIMATE CHANGE GOVERNMENT STAKEHOLDERS IN AFGHANISTAN.

ORGANIZATION	POLICY ACTION POINTS	DETAILS
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (NEPA)	Advanced Climate Change Training	- Vulnerability assessments, - Adaptation planning, - International reporting protocols, - Climate finance proposal development.
	Database Management	Training in creating and managing monitoring databases for climate-related activities and organizations.
	Stakeholder Engagement	Workshops on coordination strategies and building partnerships with NGOs, sectoral organizations, and donors.
	Knowledge Management	Workshops on documenting lessons learned and improving knowledge-sharing practices.
	Climate Finance	Training on accessing and managing international climate finance for adaptation projects.
	Public Awareness Campaigns	Training on designing and executing effective public awareness campaigns.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, IRRIGATION,AND LIVESTOCK (MAIL)	Climate-Resilient Agriculture and Natural Resources Management	Sustainable farming techniques, crop diversification, and use of climate data for adaptive farming and natural resources management
	Community Training	Techniques to educate farmers about water conservation and climate adaptation practices.
	Research and Data Analysis	Climate modeling, early warning systems, and vulnerability assessments for agricultural planning.
	Policy Development	Workshops on integrating climate considerations into organizational plans.
	Climate Finance	Training on accessing and managing international climate finance for adaptation projects.
	Knowledge Management	Training on solar, wind, and biomass technologies for climate mitigation and energy efficiency.

MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENERGY (MWE)	Water Resource Management	Adaptive water management strategies, glacier and watershed studies, and telemetry-based monitoring systems.
	Renewable Energy	Training on solar, wind, and biomass technologies for climate mitigation and energy efficiency.
	Climate Finance	Concept development for accessing international climate finance mechanisms.
	Stakeholder Engagement	Public awareness strategies for water conservation and climate adaptation.
	Climate Finance	Concept development for accessing international climate finance mechanisms.
	Knowledge Management	Workshops on documenting lessons learned and improving knowledge-sharing practices.
MINISTRY OF RURAL REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT (MRRD)	Community-Based Climate Action	Training for CDCs on vulnerability assessments and climate resilience planning.
	Infrastructure Development	Technical training on climate-resilient infrastructure (check dams, protection walls).
	Knowledge Management	Workshops on documenting lessons learned and improving knowledge-sharing practices.
	Climate Finance	Training on accessing and managing international climate finance for adaptation projects.

AFGHANISTAN NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (ANDMA)	Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)	ToT on climate-induced disaster preparedness and response strategies.
	Policy and Legal Frameworks	Support for revising ANDMA's frameworks to integrate climate change considerations.
	Learning from Case Studies	Exposure to international best practices in climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction.
	Knowledge Management	Workshops on documenting lessons learned and improving knowledge-sharing practices.
	Climate Finance	Guidance on integrating climate change concepts into degree programs and creating MSc programs.
UNIVERSITIES (PUBLIC AND PRIVATE)	Curriculum Development	Guidance on integrating climate change concepts into degree programs and creating MSc programs.
	Research Capacity	Workshops on vulnerability studies and climate change research.
	Stakeholder Collaboration	Training on forming partnerships with NGOs, government organizations, and private sector entities.
	Public Awareness and Engagement	Seminars on outreach programs for raising climate awareness in affected communities.
	Knowledge Management	Workshops on documenting lessons learned and improving knowledge-sharing practices.
	Climate Finance	Training on accessing and managing international climate finance for adaptation projects.

4.3. COLLABORATIVE PLATFORMS

The importance of fostering collaboration among various stakeholders to enhance climate action in Afghanistan is clear. The proposal includes the creation of platforms such as the National Climate Change Forum to facilitate dialogue between the government, NGOs, and other actors, as well as an Inter-Ministerial Coordination Group to ensure alignment across ministries. Additionally, local Community Engagement Networks are recommended to involve communities in grassroots initiatives, while Public-Private

Partnerships (PPPs) and an Academic and Research Collaboration Hub are suggested to promote sustainable development and climate research. These platforms aim to strengthen coordination and minimize duplication of climate-related efforts. The following (table 4.3) highlights the key collaboration platforms for the climate change stakeholders in Afghanistan.

TABLE 4.3. PROPOSED COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION PLATFORMS FOR KEY CLIMATE CHANGE STAKEHOLDERS IN AFGHANISTAN.

COLLABORATION PLATFORM	PURPOSE	KEY FEATURES
NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE FORUM	Facilitate dialogue among government agencies, NGOs, and stakeholders on climate policies and strategies.	- Regular meetings to discuss progress and challenges. - Sharing best practices and lessons learned.
INTER-MINISTERIAL COORDINATION GROUP	Enhance collaboration between different ministries (e.g., ANDMA, MAIL, MWE) to align climate action efforts.	- Joint planning sessions for integrated approaches. - Development of a unified national climate strategy.
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT NETWORKS	Involve local communities in climate adaptation and mitigation efforts through grassroots initiatives.	- Establish local committees for community-led projects. - Workshops to educate communities on adaptation strategies.
PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (PPP) INITIATIVES	Engage the private sector in funding and implementing climate-related projects.	- Create incentives for businesses to invest in sustainable practices. - Collaborate on renewable energy projects.
ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH COLLABORATION HUB	Foster partnerships between academic institutions and government bodies for research on climate impacts and solutions.	- Joint research projects focusing on local climate issues. - Development of training programs based on research findings.
NGO COORDINATION PLATFORM	Streamline NGO activities to avoid duplication of efforts and enhance synergy in climate initiatives.	- Regular coordination meetings among NGOs. - Shared databases for project tracking and resource allocation.

MEDIA AWARENESS COALITION	Leverage media to raise public awareness about climate change impacts and adaptation measures.	- Campaigns utilizing various media outlets. - Training sessions for journalists on climate issues.
INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION NETWORK	Build partnerships with international organizations for technical assistance and funding for climate initiatives.	- Establish MOUs with global NGOs and agencies. - Participation in international climate forums to advocate for Afghanistan's needs.
ULAMA AND RELIGIOUS SCHOLARS	Engage the religious scholars in climate awareness and advocacy	- Engaging religious scholars and Ulama in public awareness programs through the relevant ministry - Engaging Ulama in advocacy programs implemented by other bodies

4.4. LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY

Addressing the need for comprehensive capacity-building initiatives is essential to enhance the skills and knowledge of key stakeholders, including government bodies, NGOs, local communities, and the private sector. These initiatives should focus on climate adaptation, mitigation, and risk management strategies. Additionally, integrating climate considerations into national and local policies is crucial for embedding climate resilience across sectors such as agriculture, water, energy, and urban development, ensuring cohesive and effective climate action. Strengthening coordination mechanisms is necessary to avoid duplication and promote efficient resource use, while community involvement is vital for the success of climate strategies. The following (table 4.4) highlights the proposed action points for long-term sustainability of climate action for the climate change stakeholders in Afghanistan.

TABLE 4.5. PROPOSED ACTION POINTS FOR THE LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY OF CLIMATE ACTION IN AFGHANISTAN.

SUSTAINABILITY PLATFORMS	DESCRIPTION	PROPOSED ACTIONS
CAPACITY BUILDING	Enhance the skills and knowledge of stakeholders involved in climate action to improve effectiveness and resilience.	- Develop comprehensive training programs on climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction. - Implement Training of Trainers (ToT) initiatives.
POLICY INTEGRATION	Revise and integrate climate change considerations into national and local policies across all relevant sectors.	- Update regulatory frameworks to explicitly address climate change impacts. - Develop a national climate change policy in collaboration with stakeholders.
STRENGTHENED COORDINATION MECHANISMS	Establish platforms for improved coordination among government entities, NGOs, private sector, and communities.	- Create inter-ministerial committees for climate action. - Formalize partnerships through Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with NGOs.
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	Involve local communities in decision-making processes related to climate adaptation and mitigation strategies.	- Facilitate community-led initiatives and workshops. - Promote awareness campaigns to educate communities about climate impacts and adaptation strategies.
DATA COLLECTION AND MONITORING	Improve access to reliable climate data for better planning and response strategies.	- Establish a centralized database for climate data collection. - Upgrade monitoring systems for accurate data analysis on climate impacts.
RESOURCES MOBILIZATION	Secure sustained financial resources for implementing adaptation and mitigation projects.	- Engage international donors for funding support. - Develop innovative financing mechanisms for climate-related initiatives.
PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS	Raise awareness about the importance of climate action among the general public and stakeholders.	- Launch nationwide campaigns using media, religious leaders, and community organizations. - Highlight successful case studies of local adaptation efforts.
TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION	Foster the development of new technologies to enhance disaster preparedness and response capabilities.	- Invest in early warning systems and climate adaptation technologies. - Promote research on innovative solutions for sustainable practices in agriculture and water management.

CHAPTER 5:
RECOMMENDATION

The most critical step following the completion of the SCAMCA is the effective execution of the proposed interventions, actions, and recommendations. To ensure that, the following recommendations should be considered by all relevant stakeholders. These recommendations are categorized into two distinct groups:

5.1. STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CLIMATE ACTION

5.1.1. STRENGTHEN LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS:

The Afghan government should review and strengthen existing legal and regulatory frameworks related to environmental protection and climate action. This involves ensuring that laws are enforced and that penalties for non-compliance are clearly defined. A focus on integrating climate considerations into existing legislation will ensure that climate action is prioritized across all sectors.

5.1.2. STRENGTHEN GOVERNANCE:

To effectively address climate change in Afghanistan, it is essential to establish a comprehensive climate governance framework. This framework should empower key institutions such as the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA), the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), the Ministry of Water and Energy (MWE), and the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) to lead climate initiatives. Critical to this framework are clear accountability mechanisms, including performance metrics and regular evaluation processes that ensure transparency and responsiveness in climate actions. Additionally, institutionalizing inter-ministerial coordination will ensure that climate strategies are cohesive and aligned with national development goals.

5.1.3. DEVELOP LONG-TERM STRATEGIC PLANS:

A comprehensive, long-term national climate action strategy must be formulated to integrate adaptation and mitigation efforts, outlining specific goals, timelines, and responsibilities for each stakeholder group. This strategy should align with national development goals and include mechanisms for regular review and adaptation based on emerging challenges and stakeholder feedback. Such a proactive approach will ensure that climate actions remain relevant and effective over time. This strategy should prioritize actions based on the most pressing climate issues facing Afghanistan, such as drought management, flood response, and desertification control. Regular progress reviews should be scheduled to adjust strategies as necessary.

5.1.4. ADDRESS RESOURCE GAPS AND SECURE CLIMATE FINANCING:

Developing a strategic plan for effectively accessing and managing national and international climate funds is essential. This plan should include robust project proposal frameworks tailored to meet donor requirements, maximizing funding opportunities. Additionally, training relevant stakeholders in financial planning and management will ensure sustainable funding for climate initiatives, allowing Afghanistan to implement critical projects that address its unique challenges. It is imperative to identify and allocate specific financial and human resources to fill resources and capacity gaps in climate action. Establishing dedicated funding streams will ensure clear budget allocations for climate initiatives within government and donor frameworks.

5.2. SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SCAMCA IMPLEMENTATION

5.2.1. ESTABLISH A NATIONAL CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE (NCAC):

To maintain effective coordination and collaboration, the Afghan government should create a dedicated National Climate Action Committee that includes representatives from key ministries, local governments, NGOs, private sector, donor community and local/community organizations. This committee would be responsible for overseeing the implementation of climate policies, ensuring that stakeholder contributions are coordinated, and providing a platform for continuous dialogue among all parties involved. To foster strategic collaboration such partnerships should also include shared funding mechanisms to support collaborative projects that address climate challenges across various sectors, ensuring that resources are utilized efficiently, and synergies are maximized.

5.2.2. ENHANCE STAKEHOLDER COMMUNICATION CHANNELS:

To ensure effective communication, develop formal communication channels between government bodies, NGOs, and community organizations to facilitate the sharing of information and best practices. Regular stakeholder meetings, newsletters, and online platforms can be utilized to ensure that all parties are informed and engaged in the climate action process.

5.2.3. PROMOTE INCLUSIVITY:

To ensure that diverse voices are heard in climate action and planning processes, it is necessary to mandate the inclusion of Ulama, experts, youth, media, activists, women, and marginalized communities in addition to the relevant stakeholders. This can be achieved through dedicated forums and advisory committees that guarantee substantial representation in policy development. Implementing community engagement strategies will actively involve affected populations in climate initiatives, fostering a sense of ownership and accountability.

5.2.4. DEFINE CLEAR OBJECTIVES FOR CAPACITY BUILDING:

Start by establishing clear objectives for the capacity-building initiative. These should align with the identified needs from the comprehensive assessment, focusing on enhancing stakeholders' abilities in areas such as climate data management, project implementation, climate action proposal development, climate vulnerability and risk assessments and advocacy among others.

5.2.5. DEVELOP TAILORED TRAINING MODULES:

Create tailored training modules that directly address the identified capacity gaps. These modules should be designed with varying levels of complexity to cater to different stakeholder backgrounds and expertise. For instance, a module on climate data management could include beginner, intermediate, and advanced tracks, ensuring inclusivity and maximizing learning outcomes.

5.2.6. CONDUCT CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMS:

Investing in comprehensive training initiatives is vital for enhancing the capabilities of government entities, NGOs, and marginalized groups, particularly women and youth. Tailored workshops and seminars focused on climate science, project management, and advocacy will empower these stakeholders. Additionally, creating mentorship programs will help emerging leaders from underrepresented groups gain experience and confidence in climate action roles, fostering a more inclusive approach to addressing climate challenges.

5.2.7. RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS:

Implementing a comprehensive national climate awareness campaign is essential to educate the public about climate change and promote sustainable practices. This campaign should engage multiple media outlets, including television, radio, print, and social media, to reach diverse audiences. Partnering with local organizations will ensure grassroots engagement and enable the development of tailored messages that resonate with specific community needs.

5.2.8. ENGAGE WITH INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE NETWORKS:

Afghanistan should actively participate in international climate networks and forums to share experiences, learn from best practices, and attract additional funding and technical support. By positioning itself as an active member in the global climate community, Afghanistan can leverage international expertise and resources to enhance its climate action efforts.

5.2.9. LEVERAGE TECHNOLOGY:

Utilizing cutting-edge technologies for monitoring, reporting, and public engagement is vital for enhancing climate resilience. Mobile applications can be developed for data collection, enabling communities to report climate-related data and access information on best practices. Public engagement platforms should leverage social media and other digital channels to raise awareness and mobilize community action on climate issues, fostering a culture of climate responsiveness.

5.2.10. ENHANCE DATA SYSTEMS:

An integrated national climate data platform must be developed to facilitate robust data collection, analysis, and dissemination. This platform should provide stakeholders with real-time access to accurate climate data, thus improving risk assessment and policy formulation. Collaborative data-sharing agreements among governmental bodies, NGOs, and academic institutions will enhance data quality and accessibility, allowing for informed decision-making that can adapt to evolving climate challenges.

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