

Afghanistan

Country Status on EST

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY, Afghanistan

I Strategies to Reduce unnecessary travel and Travel Distances

- ANDS, the national development strategy and vision 2020 for Afghanistan has priorities on urban planning including transport planning but with limited concept of environmentally sustainable transport concept.
- Afghanistan need to learn from the experiences of other countries in the region to benefit and redirect planning process to integrate the concept of EST
- Afghanistan has already started introducing use of electronic media in the government processes including electronic tendering, and financial transaction taking place through banking system only
- Use of internet is gaining momentum and also access to telephone is reaching to villages
- Use of fax and email is being officially accepted partially

II Strategies to Shift Towards More Sustainable Mode

- Public Transport system in Afghanistan is very poor (because of security situation) , customs to vehicles is very low comparatively in the region promoting private vehicles
- No much attention on non motorized transport system (mainly due to security)
- No pollution related costs are on vehicles
- NEPA is now advocating for environmental fund and making pollution costs (tax on fuel, road maintenance, size of vehicles,) as sources on fund
- Congestion is becoming a big concern in Kabul mainly due to poor road quality and also poor traffic management system
- Construction of highways to connect cities is highly prioritized area in Afghanistan and also now connectivity through railways is also started and will be continued specially through Extractive Resources Corridor Program
- Significant progress has been made in air connectivity in the country in recent years (one of the reason may be security concern on road transport)

III Strategies to Improve Transport Practices and Technologies

- Afghanistan has introduced EURO III equivalent fuel quality standards for both diesel and gasoline (only this quality of fuel is imported)
- CNG (exploration is on going) will be promoted as vehicle fuel and also LPG
- Working towards custom reform to promote hybrid vehicles
- Mass emission standards (EURO III) for vehicle to be imported in Afghanistan is in the process of approval and also standards for in-use vehicles
- Vehicle registration is made compulsory and also yearly renewable with inspection for safety. Compliance to in-use standards will be made compulsory for renewable and registration.
- Partnership with Vocation Training Institute will be established to train private workshop for vehicle emission testing and certification with NEPA and Traffic Department monitoring performance of workshops (this mechanism to be approved and introduced in this year)
- Establishment of Environment Fund is under discussion and one of the source of fund considered is road maintenance tax and tax on fuel

Cross Cutting Strategies

- Safety is must in road design and construction, Afghanistan has strict regulation now to enforce driver license, and insurance system is being introduced
- Afghanistan has introduced National Ambient Air Quality Standard in 2011, and approval of Ambient Noise Quality Standard (as part of Noise Pollution Control Regulation) is in process
- Emission inventory for 2005 was developed and it is being updated for 2012 now, and also burden of diseases associated with air pollution is estimated for 2005 and will also be updated for 2013
- Afghanistan became party to Kyoto Protocol this year, submitted INC this year, and is seeking technical support to introduce projects for CDM including in transport sector
- EIA is mandatory for transport infrastructure and currently a big railway project EIA and several road project EIAs are under way
- Financing institution are not promoting cleaner vehicles, Afghanistan need to learn from other countries
- A very limited awareness program is in place but will be expanded this year on preventing vehicle emissions, congestion and good driver behavior
- High level air pollution commission is constituted as per Clean Air Regulation for better coordination and one of the focus area is making transport sector less polluting.

Thank you