Who We Are

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Who We Are

**Historic background**
- created in 2003 by H.E Mr. Hamid Karzai, foreign counterparts from the DoS, USDA, and UNOPS; envisioned as a labor-based program designed to provide immediate employment benefits to vulnerable people and contributing to restoration and rehabilitation of Afghanistan’s environment. ACC works closely with the MAIL and the NEPA.

**Type of organization**
- Special project of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, managed by the United Nations Office of Project Services (UNOPS)
- Grantee under USAID/USDA

**Presence in Afghanistan**
- Two central offices in Kabul & four regional offices – Herat, Kunduz, Jalalabad, and Mazar
- 15 national program staff & 2 expatriates
Where We Operate

– Currently implementing sub-projects with communities in 13 Provinces
– Kabul, Bamyan, Ghazni, Herat, Balkh, Samangan, Baghlan, Kunduz, Takhar, Nangarhar, Laghman, Kunar and Nuristan.
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### Main Assets We bring

- Technical, socio-organizational and managerial capacities
- Experienced staff
- Physical presence in 13 Provinces (experience in over 22 Provinces)

### Objectives of ACC

1. Improve rural livelihoods through community forestry, rangeland and integrated watershed management;
2. Contribute to the conservation of Afghanistan’s cultural and biological diversity;
3. Develop the capacity of the Afghan Government and people to sustainability manage their natural resources; and
4. Provide employment to vulnerable Afghans.
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Key words

• Conservation, biological diversity, watershed management, community-based natural resource management, forestry, pistachios, horticulture, nurseries, medicinal plants, natural protected areas, disaster prevention
• Community, CDCs, governance, Government, women
• Environmental education, tourism

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How We Operate

• Key actions

  Sub-project implementation:
  • Participatory identification and prioritization of natural resource-related issues;
  • Identification of representative community leader;
### How We Operate

- Participatory elaboration of project work plan and BOQ;
- Payments made according to schedule and physical progress;
- Development of small-scale contract;
- Implementation of identified activities by community members with technical input from ACC and Government (MAIL / NRM)

### Payment Plan for Bamyan Park Beautification

**April - 30th July 2009**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Items</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>1st payment April 09</th>
<th>2nd payment July 09</th>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Supervisor, 15 days per month for 4 months</td>
<td>MD</td>
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<td>180.00</td>
<td>360.00</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Van women gardeners each one 30 days per month, for both 60 MD per month for 4 months</td>
<td>MD</td>
<td>180.00</td>
<td>180.00</td>
<td>360.00</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Shoveling of 3 jerib for seeding of grass in the Park</td>
<td>MD</td>
<td>180.00</td>
<td>180.00</td>
<td>360.00</td>
<td></td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Soil preparation, 3 jerib</td>
<td>MD</td>
<td>180.00</td>
<td>180.00</td>
<td>360.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
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<td>MD</td>
<td>180.00</td>
<td>180.00</td>
<td>360.00</td>
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<td>180.00</td>
<td>360.00</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Pit digging for 200 sapling, ornamental trees and roses : 15 pit/ md</td>
<td>MD</td>
<td>30.00</td>
<td>30.00</td>
<td>60.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
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<td>1,000.00</td>
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<td>1,000.00</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td>3,141.00</td>
<td>780.00</td>
<td>3,921.00</td>
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How We Operate (cont.)

- **Target beneficiaries**
  - Small scale farmers/ livestock owners and their families
  - Women
  - Communities
  - Government ministries and agencies

- **Subcontractors/ grantees**
  - Community Development Councils or elected community representatives
  - Women’s groups

- **Key operating partners**
  - USDA – technical assistance and training
  - MAIL
  - NEPA
  - Other international organizations working in NRM

• ACC has implemented a total of 355 sub-projects since 2003, 41 subprojects in 2009 and these include:
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- Establishment 750 orchard and home nurseries (Ghazni, Herat, Nangarhar, Laghman, Nuristan, Kunar and Takhar Provinces)

- More than 3.5 million saplings produced in Gov and community nurseries.
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• Rehabilitation of 21 Government nurseries in 9 provinces (most of them have been supported for the past six years).

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• 200 ha direct Pistachio seeding projects have been implemented Herat, Badghis, Faryab, Balkh, Samangan, Baghlan and Takhar provinces)
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- 1.5 million sapling planted in (Kabul green belt (Qargha, Bagh-e-Bala, Badam Bagh, TV hills, Kolola Pushta and Maranjan Hills), Gov organization, Kabul university, Kabul municipality and communities.

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- Total 500,000 fruit and non fruit saplings distributed during Hashar spring plantation in 2009 from Gov and private nurseries support by ACC.
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• Improved 6 km hiking trails around Band-e-Amir lake.
• Improved tourism infrastructure in Band-e-Amir and also production of publicity materials for visitors to the area.

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• Environmental education and training posters being developed (Forbs, grass book and Forestry manual).
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• Total 15 women projects being supported (Kabul, Ghazni, Herat, Mazrar, Kunduz and Nangarhar provinces).

• Building Environment Education Training Centre next to Kol-e-Hashmat Khan Wetland.

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• Construction of six training and demonstration centers in Ghazni, Herat, Takhar, Laghman, Kunar and Nuristan completed.

• Seed storage facilities in Kabul, Herat and Takhar provinces.
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• Rehabilitation of Paghman, Guzar Gah and Dehmurad Khan nurseries in Kabul province to support Kabul green belt.

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• Spring development and building a water reservoir in Rustaq
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- Building retaining wall to control river bank erosion
Any question?

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For example: use of satellite imagery

Significant remaining areas of natural pistachio forest in Northern Afghanistan were identified using satellite imagery.

Participatory analysis with communities living around pistachio forest

- Communities approached & assessments of interest in pistachio forest management realized
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**Participatory mapping**

- Participatory mapping of pistachio forests by FMC members

**Participatory natural resource with communities analysis identified the following problems**

| Lack of protection guards. |
| Cutting of forest for fuel wood. |
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- Conversion pistachio wood land for wheat production

Participatory natural resource with communities analysis identified the following problems (cont.)

- Overgrazing.
Participatory natural resource with communities analysis identified the following problems (cont.)

- Harvesting pistachio nuts before ripening time.

Participatory natural resource with communities analysis identified the following problems (cont.)

- Low knowledge of community about forest rehabilitation and problems associated with over-harvesting.
- Lack of coordination between communities and government.
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**Suggestions of the communities to resolve the problems faced**

- Establish community based forest management committees
- Protection guards from the surrounding villages to be hired for each site.

**Suggestions of the communities to resolve the problems faced (cont.)**

- Move those people who live inside the pistachio forest, back to their original villages
- Establishment of grazing plan.
- Awareness program for communities concerning the importance of forests and their sustainable management.
- Provide pistachio nut harvesting guide to the community.
Suggestions of the communities to resolve the problems faced (cont.):

- Increase number of visits by government and aid agencies to the forest and surrounding villages.
- Realize monthly coordination meetings between DFR, FMCs and ACC.
- Provision of transportation facilities to DFR and FMCs to facilitate visits to the field (car or motorbike).

Actions taken: Management

- Four Pistachio Forest Management Committees have been created in four different locations (Tikhonak, Shareek Yaar, Rubatak and Farkhar) Samangan and Takhar Provinces to assist in the sustainable management of over 3200 hectares of natural pistachio forest.
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**Actions taken: Management (cont.)**

**Forest Management Committee Members Selection Process:**

All FMC members were selected by the communities using PRA methods.

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**PRA sheet to select head of FMC for Pistachio forest Shareek Yaar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Bori</th>
<th>Rozi</th>
<th>Abdul Ahmad</th>
<th>Mula Faizullah</th>
<th>Abdul Hamid</th>
<th>Merajuddin</th>
<th>Abdul Razaq</th>
<th>Mohammad Qul</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Juma</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Bori</td>
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<td>Bori</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bori</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Actions taken: Management (cont.)

- For example: Shareek Yaar Forest Management Committee

  - Abdul Hamid
  - Abdul Ahmad
    - Juma
    - Mohammad Qul
    - Merajuddin
  - Mula Faizullah
  - Abdul Raziq
  - Bori

Actions taken: Protection

- 40 protection guards have been hired by the FMCs from villages surrounding the pistachio wood land.
### Actions taken: Protection (cont.)

- 9 protection check posts have been built (location selected by FMCs and DFR).
- Water tank and other necessary equipment provided to these protection check posts.
- Eight tents provided to FMCs to use as mobile protection check posts during harvesting time.

### Actions taken: Protection (cont.)

- Over 3,200 hectares of pistachio forest now being protected by over 50 villages.
Coordination meetings continually being held between Governor offices, DFR, FMCs and ACC.

Transportation facilities provided to FMCs to meet with DFR in regional DFR offices, Samangan and Takhar provinces; and to meet with other FMCs.

Two off road motor bikes provided to DFR Samangan.

ACC has conducted community awareness and environment education workshops for 20 schools and 50 villages near to pistachio woodland.
• four community mobilizers/ mullahs raise awareness amongst the villagers during social gatherings and on Fridays pray.

Actions taken: Harvesting

• FMCs and DFR manage harvesting of pistachio nuts
• Pistachio harvesting time (Shool Pista) set up by FMCs, DFR and ACC each year.
Actions taken: Restoration of degraded areas within the pistachio forest

- Direct pistachio seeding projects on over 10ha of degraded land established inside the forest in different areas.
- Hing and Licorice nurseries established by three committees, (total 252 kg pistachio, 50 kg hing and 50 kg licorice seeds have been planted in three sites corresponding with the three FMCs)

Actions taken: Sale of natural pistachios

- Participation of FMCs during Agriculture Fair in Badam Bagh, Kabul and Mazar.
- Looking to develop market chain in further.
• The quality and quantity of pistachio nuts harvested by local people has increased.
• Increase in yields and locally-retained income from the pistachio forests by 40-50% during each of the first two years of community management.

• Empowerment of communities to work together with the government to manage their natural resource base.
• Learning experience for the new Forestry Law.
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Future plans

- Expand FMC to other province in Afghanistan
- Continued support to existing projects.
- Develop market chain (stared)
- Increase value of pistachio forest through intercropping of medicinal plants and other valuable resources.

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Principles contributing to success

1. Active collaboration between the community, provincial government and the DFR.
2. Community led initiative.
3. Participatory establishment of community based forest management institutions based on traditional governance structures and CDCs.
4. Capacity building of community members and Gov in pistachio forest management (conduction training workshop, meeting with high level MAIL/USAID, USDA).
Principles contributing to success (cont.)

5. Valuable resources (pistachio nuts and medicinal plants).
6. Involvement of religious leaders in community awareness raising.
7. Regular visits and continuous follow up by experienced local staff.
8. Site visit by MAIL, USAID/USDA) and meeting among FMCs.

Challenges faced

1. Interference of a few individuals in the process for personal benefits.
2. Lack of an approved Forest Law that provides the formal legal framework for community based pistachio forest management.
3. Low levels of formal education and awareness about environmental and sustainability issues.
4. Still some people do not want to move from the pistachio wood land.
Challenges faced (cont.)

5. Alternatives to fuel wood are not available.
6. There are capacity needs within the government to facilitate community based forest management.

Thank you