

Presentation issued without formal editing

FOR PARTICIPANTS ONLY

14 March 2017

ENGLISH ONLY

**UNITED NATIONS
CENTRE FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

In collaboration with

**Ministry of Public Works and Transport, the Government of Lao PDR,
Ministry of the Environment (MOE), Japan
Partnership on Sustainable, Low Carbon Transport,
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and
United Nations Office for Sustainable Development**

**TENTH REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT (EST)
FORUM IN ASIA,
14-16 MARCH 2016, VIENTIANE, LAO PDR**

**Country Presentation
(Afghanistan)**

(Presentation for EST Plenary Session 6: of the Provisional Programme)

This presentation has been prepared by the Government of Afghanistan for the Tenth Regional EST Forum in Asia. The views expressed herein are those of the author/s only and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations.

Disclaimer: The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

10th Regional EST Forum in Asia
on 14-16 March 2017, Vientiane
PDR

Afghanistan
Country Status

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY, Afghanistan

I Strategies to Reduce unnecessary travel and Travel Distances

- The National Development Framework (ANDF) and vision for 2016 to 2025 has prioritized urban planning including transport, but with limited concept of environmentally sustainable transport.
- During the past 16 years, Afghanistan has made significant efforts to tackle emergency reconstruction with major support from the international community.
- There has been good initiatives on Urban and Roads strategies and master plan

II Strategies to Shift Towards More Sustainable Mode

- Significant progress has been made in air connectivity in the country through partnership of private sector
- Setup National Railways Authority of Afghanistan with the mandate of Connection through railways have started in recent years and will be continued especially through Extractive Resources Corridor Program
- Environmental Sustainability as a major tool for socio-economic development has been considered
- Advocacy for environmental fund and making pollution costs (tax on fuel, road maintenance, size of vehicles,) as sources of fund is going on

III Strategies to Improve Transport Practices and Technologies

- Strategies to connect regional Highways and Ring Road
- National Highways to connect the capitals of the 34 provinces to the Regional Highway Network.
- Provincial Roads to link provincial capitals to district headquarters.
- Rural Roads, have been paved, or graveled
- Most of the regional roads are also being repaired or improved.
- A 10 kilometer long rail road extends from Turkmenistan to the town in west Afghanistan.
- From Iran to west Afghanistan 114 km rail road has been planned
- Pakistan and Afghanistan signed a MOU for going ahead with the laying of rail truck between the two countries.

Air Transport

- Until 2001 only one airline was operated
- In 2014, five national and private airlines provides domestic and Int services
- Air India, Emirates, Gulf Air, Iran Aesman, PIA and Turkish airlines and others are also active.
- As of May, 2014 the country has four international airports and around a dozens of domestic airports that regularly schedules
- The nation has approximately 53 airports (about 21 have paved runways. Four have runways over 3,000 meters, 3 have runways between 2,500 and 3,000 meters, 8 have runways between 1500 and 2500 meters, and 2 has a runway under 1000 meters.
- About 34 have unpaved runways with length varies from 1000 meters to 3500M
- There are around 11 heliports.

Public Transportation

- According to a 2013 estimation, around 1,224,000 vehicles are registered consisting of mostly small cars (66.2%) followed by trucks.
- 10% buses, 3% foreign vehicles and 1.5% rickshaws. The vehicle population increases by approximately 11% annually.
- Silk Route and Lapislazuli Transport Corridors
- Railway infrastructure from Iran, Turkmenistan, China
- The previous system of trolleybuses, established in the 1980s was destroyed in civil war, which is now under review of reinstallation
- Hybrid system of used imported cars

Environmental Sustainability

- introduced EURO III equivalent fuel quality standards for both diesel and gasoline (only this quality of fuel is imported)
- CNG/LPG conversion is on going process in all major cities) and has promoted to reduce vehicle emission
- Public private transport initiative (First in the history)
- Afghanistan Railway Authority (AFRA) was found in 2014 as the governing body for all railway planning,
- development, network, operations and maintenance in Afghanistan.
- Working towards custom reform to promote hybrid vehicles
- Mass emission standards (EURO III) for vehicle to be imported in Afghanistan is in process of approval and also standards for in-use vehicles has been developed

Cont.

- Digitize vehicle registration is compulsory every 3 yrs with inspection for safety.
- Compliance to in-use standards has been made compulsory during registration.
- Partnership with Vocational Training Institute has been established to train workshops for vehicle emission testing and certification with NEPA and Traffic Department monitoring performance of workshops (this mechanism to be approved and introduced in 2015)
- 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 to enforce ESIA
- Air quality regulation is strictly achieved and has introduced National Ambient Air Quality Standard in 2011,
- Approval of Noise Pollution Control Regulation and Ambient Noise Quality Standard is in process
- Emission inventory for 2005 was developed and it is being updated for 2012 now, and also the strategy of burden of diseases associated with air pollution will be updated for 2015

Energy and Power

- The availability of power in Afghanistan has improved significantly over
- the last few years:
- North Eastern Power System improving power imports from Uzbekistan was commissioned in 2010 and added an extra 550MW capacity to regional grid
- Rehabilitation of Hydro Stations serving Kabul: Naghlu, Sarobi, Mahipar
- Power supply to Kabul has improved dramatically
- The challenge is now to improve commercial performance and customer
- service and reduce non-technical losses.
- Kabul Electricity Service Improvement Program (KESIP) is a USAID initiative to support the commercialization and revenue improvement at DABS

Communication

- Communication has been strongly developing
- since the end of the war.
- In the last 13 years most of the investment was made in communication sector.
- Totally to 12636817 SIMcards sold by private communication
- The number of fixed line telephone subscribers has increased substantially from 140205 in 2009-10, to almost 1000000 in 2015

Challenges

- Afghanistan faces major challenge of post-war reconstruction that resulted in widespread suffering and massive displacement of people
- Public Transport system in Afghanistan is extremely poor (because of 3 decades of conflicts, land use and poor road infrastructures. Efforts have been made to improve the system
- Congestion is becoming a major concern in Kabul and other major cities and construction of highways to connect cities are highly prioritized in Afghanistan
- Complying to environmental requirements are underway and need to be strengthening
- There is long way ahead to tackle the challenges
- Used vehicle Fleets during the years of conflicts
- customs to vehicles is low compare to the region and import of used cars have legally banned
- No much attention on non motorized transport system (mainly due to security and low awareness)
- No pollution related costs are on vehicles

Thank you