

Eighth Regional EST Forum in Asia

(Integrated Conference of BAQ2014 and Intergovernmental Eighth Regional EST Forum in Asia)

“Next Generation Solutions for Clean Air and Sustainable Transport -Towards a Livable Society in Asia”
19-21 November 2014, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Country Report

(Draft)

<Afghanistan>

This country report was prepared by Afghanistan as an input for the Eighth Regional EST Forum in Asia. The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations.

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Country EST Report

a) Name of the Country: Afghanistan

b) Name, Designation and Line Ministry/Agency Respondent: National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA)

c) List other Line Ministries/Agencies contributing to preparation of the Country Report: Ministry of Urban Development Affairs (MUDA)

With the objective of demonstrating the renewed interest and commitment of Asian countries towards realizing a promising decade (2010-2020) of sustainable actions and measures for achieving safe, secure, affordable, efficient, and people and environment-friendly transport in rapidly urbanizing Asia, the participating countries of the Fifth Regional EST Forum in Asia discussed and agreed on a goodwill and voluntary declaration - “**Bangkok Declaration for 2020 – Sustainable Transport Goals for 2010-2020.**” Subsequently, at the Seventh Regional EST Forum held in Bali in 2013, the participating countries adopted the “**Bali Declaration on Vision Three Zeros- Zero Congestion, Zero Pollution and Zero Accidents towards Next Generation Transport Systems in Asia**” reinforcing the implementation of Bangkok 2020 Declaration (2010-2020) with emphasis to zero tolerance towards congestion, pollution and road accidents in the transport policy, planning and development. Bali Vision Three Zeros calls for a paradigm shift in thinking on the role of motorization and mobility in realizing sustainable development in Asia.

The objective of the Country Reporting is to share among international community the voluntary progress/achievements/initiatives include various challenges faced by countries in implementing each of the underlined goals of the Bangkok 2020 Declaration to realize the Bali Vision Three Zeros - Zero Congestion, Zero Pollution, and Zero Accidents towards Next Generation Transport Systems in Asia. This would help development agencies, donors, development banks in assessing the sustainable transport needs and challenges to better devise their existing as well as future capacity building programs and operations in sustainable transport areas.

It would be also very useful to share any major initiatives, including mega transport projects, transport master plans, special transport corridor development, expansion of railways and rail route developments, etc. which attach due importance to *Bali Vision Three Zeros – Zero Congestion, Zero Pollution, and Zero Accidents.*

Timeline for submission by 1 October 2014

by email to: est@uncred.or.jp

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Goal No.	Goal Description	Voluntary Progress/Achievements/Major Initiatives, including any transport master plans, development of special transport corridors, in Implementing the Bangkok 2020 Declaration		
I. Strategies to <u>Avoid</u> unnecessary travel and reduce trip distances				
“Avoid” Strategy	1	Formally integrate land-use and transport planning processes and related institutional arrangements at the local, regional, and national levels	Any action had been taken so far? x Not yet <input type="checkbox"/> * Some (design – piloting) <input type="checkbox"/> Largely in Place <input type="checkbox"/> Fully Completed (Please Check the box)	Challenges faced in implementation: lack of financial resources.
			Examples of pilot projects and/or policies developed or under development – include URLs where relevant	
			Important actions you will carry out in 2014~2015 <i>Finalization of the Strategic Urban Air Quality Management Framework for Afghanistan, which makes “Moving towards establishing sustainable transport system” as one of the key strategy of air quality management strategy. This strategy adopts the Bangkok 2020 declaration.</i>	

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Goal No.	Goal Description	Voluntary Progress/Achievements/Major Initiatives, including any transport master plans, development of special transport corridors, in Implementing the Bangkok 2020 Declaration	
“Avoid” Strategy	2 Achieve mixed-use development and medium-to-high densities along key corridors within cities through appropriate land - use policies and provide people - oriented local access, and actively promote transit-oriented development (TOD) when introducing new public transport infrastructure	Any action had been taken so far? x Not yet <input type="checkbox"/> Some (design – piloting) <input type="checkbox"/> Largely in Place <input type="checkbox"/> Fully Completed (Please Check the box)	Challenges faced in implementation:
		Examples of pilot projects and/or policies developed or under development – include URLs where relevant	
		Important actions you will carry out in 2014~2015 <i>Finalization of the Strategic Urban Air Quality Management Framework for Afghanistan, and also Clean Air Implementation Plan for some big cities of Afghanistan.</i>	

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Goal No.	Goal Description	Voluntary Progress/Achievements/Major Initiatives, including any transport master plans, development of special transport corridors, in Implementing the Bangkok 2020 Declaration	
“Avoid” Strategy	3 Institute policies, programmes, and projects supporting Information and Communications Technologies (ICT), such as internet access, teleconferencing, and telecommuting, as a means to reduce unneeded travel	Any action had been taken so far? x Not yet <input type="checkbox"/> Some (design – piloting) <input type="checkbox"/> Largely in Place <input type="checkbox"/> Fully Completed (Please Check the box)	Challenges faced in implementation:
		Examples of pilot projects and/or policies developed or under development – include URLs where relevant	
		Important actions you will carry out in 2014~2015 <i>Finalization of the Strategic Urban Air Quality Management Framework for Afghanistan, and also Clean Air Implementation Plan for some big cities of Afghanistan. One of the strategy is about use of ICT to reduce unneeded travel.</i>	
II. Strategies to <u>Shift</u> towards more sustainable modes			

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Goal No.	Goal Description	Voluntary Progress/Achievements/Major Initiatives, including any transport master plans, development of special transport corridors, in Implementing the Bangkok 2020 Declaration	
“Shift” Strategy	4 Require Non-Motorized Transport (NMT) components in transport master plans in all major cities and prioritize transport infrastructure investments to NMT, including wide-scale improvements to pedestrian and bicycle facilities, development of facilities for intermodal connectivity, and adoption of complete street design standards, wherever feasible	Any action had been taken so far? x Not yet <input type="checkbox"/> Some (design – piloting) <input type="checkbox"/> Largely in Place <input type="checkbox"/> Fully Completed (Please Check the box)	Challenges faced in implementation:
		Examples of pilot projects and/or policies developed or under development – include URLs where relevant	
		Important actions you will carry out in 2014~2015 <i>Finalization of the Strategic Urban Air Quality Management Framework for Afghanistan, which include developing strategies for sustainable transport management system.</i>	

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Goal No.	Goal Description	Voluntary Progress/Achievements/Major Initiatives, including any transport master plans, development of special transport corridors, in Implementing the Bangkok 2020 Declaration	
“Shift” Strategy	5 Improve public transport services including high quality and affordable services on dedicated infrastructure along major arterial corridors in the city and connect with feeder services into residential communities	Any action had been taken so far? <input type="checkbox"/> Not yet <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Some (design – piloting) <input type="checkbox"/> Largely in Place <input type="checkbox"/> Fully Completed (Please Check the box)	Challenges faced in implementation:
		Examples of pilot projects and/or policies developed or under development – include URLs where relevant <i>Kabul Urban Transport Efficiency Improvement Project is developed to be implemented with World Bank support. Component A is one road improvements and transport efficiency including promoting public transport and connecting feeder services into residential communities.</i>	
		Important actions you will carry out in 2014~2015 <i>Above mentioned project implementation.</i>	

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Goal No.	Goal Description	Voluntary Progress/Achievements/Major Initiatives, including any transport master plans, development of special transport corridors, in Implementing the Bangkok 2020 Declaration	
“Shift” Strategy	6 Reduce the urban transport mode share of private motorized vehicles through Transportation Demand Management (TDM) measures, including pricing measures that integrate congestion, safety, and pollution costs, aimed at gradually reducing price distortions that directly or indirectly encourage driving, motorization, and sprawl	Any action had been taken so far? x Not yet <input type="checkbox"/> Some (design – piloting) <input type="checkbox"/> Largely in Place <input type="checkbox"/> Fully Completed (Please Check the box)	Challenges faced in implementation: No studies carried out to support such decisions.
		Examples of pilot projects and/or policies developed or under development – include URLs where relevant	
		Important actions you will carry out in 2014~2015 This is part of the strengthening legal framework strategy of the proposed above mentioned draft Air Quality Strategy which can be initiated during this period.	

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Goal No.	Goal Description	Voluntary Progress/Achievements/Major Initiatives, including any transport master plans, development of special transport corridors, in Implementing the Bangkok 2020 Declaration	
“Shift” Strategy	7 Achieve significant shifts to more sustainable modes of inter-city passenger and goods transport , including priority for high-quality long distance bus, inland water transport, high-speed rail over car and air passenger travel, and priority for train and barge freight over truck and air freight by building supporting infrastructure such as dry inland ports	Any action had been taken so far? <input type="checkbox"/> Not yet <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Some (design – piloting) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Largely in Place <input type="checkbox"/> Fully Completed (Please Check the box)	Challenges faced in implementation: <i>Financial resources</i>
		Examples of pilot projects and/or policies developed or under development – include URLs where relevant	
		Important actions you will carry out in 2014~2015 <i>Ongoing works on major highways, with a view to restoring the national-level ring highway that links all major cities and main border crossing points will continue. Feasibility study of expanding rail network will also continue.</i>	
III. Strategies to <u>Improve</u> transport practices and technologies			

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Goal No.	Goal Description	Voluntary Progress/Achievements/Major Initiatives, including any transport master plans, development of special transport corridors, in Implementing the Bangkok 2020 Declaration	
“Improve” Strategy	8 Diversify towards more sustainable transport fuels and technologies , including greater market penetration of options such as vehicles operating on electricity generated from renewable sources, hybrid technology, and natural gas	Any action had been taken so far?	Challenges faced in implementation:
		<input type="checkbox"/> Not yet <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Some (design – piloting) <input type="checkbox"/> Largely in Place <input type="checkbox"/> Fully Completed (Please Check the box)	
		Examples of pilot projects and/or policies developed or under development – include URLs where relevant	
		Important actions you will carry out in 2014~2015 <i>Standards for vehicles to switch from diesel/petrol to LPG will be developed,</i>	

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Goal No.	Goal Description	Voluntary Progress/Achievements/Major Initiatives, including any transport master plans, development of special transport corridors, in Implementing the Bangkok 2020 Declaration	
“Improve” Strategy	<p>9 Set progressive, appropriate, and affordable standards for fuel quality, fuel efficiency, and tailpipe emissions for all vehicle types, including new and in-use vehicles</p>	<p>Any action had been taken so far?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not yet</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Some (design – piloting)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Largely in Place</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Fully Completed</p> <p>(Please Check the box)</p>	<p>Challenges faced in implementation:</p>
		<p>Examples of pilot projects and/or policies developed or under development – include URLs where relevant</p> <p><i>Fuel quality standards as per EURO III already made mandatory.</i></p> <p><i>Standards for import of vehicles are finalized.</i></p>	
		<p>Important actions you will carry out in 2014~2015</p> <p><i>Standards for tailpipe will be approved and implemented with private sector participation..</i></p>	

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Goal No.	Goal Description	Voluntary Progress/Achievements/Major Initiatives, including any transport master plans, development of special transport corridors, in Implementing the Bangkok 2020 Declaration	
“Improve” Strategy	10 Establish effective vehicle testing and compliance regimes, including formal vehicle registration systems and appropriate periodic vehicle inspection and maintenance (I/M) requirements, with particular emphasis on commercial vehicles, to enforce progressive emission and safety standards, resulting in older polluting commercial vehicles being gradually phased-out from the vehicle fleet, as well as testing and compliance regimes for vessels	Any action had been taken so far? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not yet <input type="checkbox"/> Some (design – piloting) <input type="checkbox"/> Largely in Place <input type="checkbox"/> Fully Completed (Please Check the box)	Challenges faced in implementation:
		Examples of pilot projects and/or policies developed or under development – include URLs where relevant	
		Important actions you will carry out in 2014~2015 I/M mechanism with private sector participation will be implemented. Policy initiatives to phase out old commercial vehicles will be taken.	

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Goal No.	Goal Description	Voluntary Progress/Achievements/Major Initiatives, including any transport master plans, development of special transport corridors, in Implementing the Bangkok 2020 Declaration	
“Improve” Strategy	11 Adopt Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), such as electronic fare and road user charging systems, transport control centres, and real-time user information, when applicable	Any action had been taken so far? x Not yet <input type="checkbox"/> Some (design – piloting) <input type="checkbox"/> Largely in Place <input type="checkbox"/> Fully Completed (Please Check the box)	Challenges faced in implementation:
		Examples of pilot projects and/or policies developed or under development – include URLs where relevant	
		Important actions you will carry out in 2014~2015	
“Improve” Strategy	12 Achieve improved freight transport efficiency, including road, rail, air, and water, through policies, programmes, and projects that modernize the freight vehicle technology, implement fleet control and management systems, and support better logistics and supply	Any action had been taken so far? <input type="checkbox"/> xNot yet <input type="checkbox"/> Some (design – piloting) <input type="checkbox"/> Largely in Place <input type="checkbox"/> Fully Completed (Please Check the box)	Challenges faced in implementation:

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Goal No.	Goal Description	Voluntary Progress/Achievements/Major Initiatives, including any transport master plans, development of special transport corridors, in Implementing the Bangkok 2020 Declaration		
	chain management	Examples of pilot projects and/or policies developed or under development – include URLs where relevant		
		Important actions you will carry out in 2014~2015		
IV. Cross-cutting strategies				
“Cross-Cutting” Strategy	13	Adopt a zero-fatality policy with respect to road, rail, and waterway safety and implement appropriate speed control, traffic calming strategies, strict driver licensing, motor vehicle registration, insurance requirements, and better post-accident care oriented to significant reductions in accidents and injuries	Any action had been taken so far? <input type="checkbox"/> Not yet <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Some (design – piloting) <input type="checkbox"/> Largely in Place <input type="checkbox"/> Fully Completed (Please Check the box)	Challenges faced in implementation:
			Examples of pilot projects and/or policies developed or under development – include URLs where relevant Work on speed control, strict drivers license procedures, vehicle registration, and insurance system is being implemented.	

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Goal No.	Goal Description	Voluntary Progress/Achievements/Major Initiatives, including any transport master plans, development of special transport corridors, in Implementing the Bangkok 2020 Declaration	
		Important actions you will carry out in 2014~2015 Will continue work on speed control, strict drivers license procedures, vehicle registration, and insurance system.	
“Cross-Cutting” Strategy	14 Promote monitoring of the health impacts from transport emissions and noise, especially with regard to incidences of asthma, other pulmonary diseases, and heart disease in major cities, assess the economic impacts of air pollution and noise, and devise mitigation strategies, especially aiding sensitive populations near high traffic concentrations	Any action had been taken so far? x Not yet <input type="checkbox"/> Some (design – piloting) <input type="checkbox"/> Largely in Place <input type="checkbox"/> Fully Completed (Please Check the box)	Challenges faced in implementation: <i>Lack of capable human resources</i> <i>Time series data on level of air pollution not available</i> <i>Time series data on health of people not available</i> <i>Insufficient financial resources</i>
		Examples of pilot projects and/or policies developed or under development – include URLs where relevant	
		Important actions you will carry out in 2014~2015 <i>One of the priority focus on the proposed Air Quality Strategy which will be approved</i>	

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Goal No.	Goal Description	Voluntary Progress/Achievements/Major Initiatives, including any transport master plans, development of special transport corridors, in Implementing the Bangkok 2020 Declaration	
“Cross-Cutting”	<p>15 Establish country-specific, progressive, health-based, cost-effective, and enforceable air quality and noise standards, also taking into account the WHO guidelines, and mandate monitoring and reporting in order to reduce the occurrence of days in which pollutant levels of particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, sulphur oxides, carbon monoxide, and ground-level ozone exceed the national standards or zones where noise levels exceed the national standards, especially with regard to environments near high traffic concentrations</p>	<p>Any action had been taken so far?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not yet</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Some (design – piloting)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Largely in Place</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Fully Completed</p> <p>(Please Check the box)</p>	<p>Challenges faced in implementation:</p> <p><i>Lack of financial resources to expand the monitoring network.</i></p> <p><i>Need of technical support in running continuous monitoring system.</i></p>
		<p>Examples of pilot projects and/or policies developed or under development – include URLs where relevant</p> <p><i>National Ambient Air Quality standard for Afghanistan</i></p> <p><i>One continuous monitoring station established.</i></p> <p><i>National Ambient Noise Quality Standard for Afghanistan</i></p>	
		<p>Important actions you will carry out in 2014~2015</p> <p><i>Plan of expanding the monitoring system in Kabul as part of proposed air quality management strategy.</i></p>	

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Goal No.	Goal Description	Voluntary Progress/Achievements/Major Initiatives, including any transport master plans, development of special transport corridors, in Implementing the Bangkok 2020 Declaration	
“Cross-Cutting” Strategy	16 Implement sustainable low-carbon transport initiatives to mitigate the causes of global climate change and to fortify national energy security , and to report the inventory of all greenhouse gases emitted from the transport sector in the National Communication to the UNFCCC	Any action had been taken so far? <input type="checkbox"/> Not yet <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Some (design – piloting) <input type="checkbox"/> Largely in Place <input type="checkbox"/> Fully Completed (Please Check the box)	Challenges faced in implementation:
		Examples of pilot projects and/or policies developed or under development – include URLs where relevant <i>In 2013 Afghanistan became party to Kyoto Protocol</i> <i>Draft on DNA framework developed.</i>	
		Important actions you will carry out in 2014~2015 <i>Plan to register at least two projects with CDM Executive Board.</i> <i>Develop a project proposal to be financed under Climate Fund.</i>	

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Goal No.	Goal Description	Voluntary Progress/Achievements/Major Initiatives, including any transport master plans, development of special transport corridors, in Implementing the Bangkok 2020 Declaration	
“Cross-Cutting” Strategy	17 Adopt social equity as a planning and design criteria in the development and implementation of transport initiatives, leading to improved quality, safety and security for all and especially for women, universal accessibility of streets and public transport systems for persons with disabilities and elderly, affordability of transport systems for low-income groups, and up-gradation, modernization and integration of intermediate public transport	Any action had been taken so far? <input type="checkbox"/> Not yet <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Some (design – piloting) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Largely in Place <input type="checkbox"/> Fully Completed (Please Check the box)	Challenges faced in implementation: Insufficient financial resources.
		Examples of pilot projects and/or policies developed or under development – include URLs where relevant <i>Improvement of the road network system is the priority of the government and ongoing.</i>	
		Important actions you will carry out in 2014~2015 <i>Improvement of the road network will continue to maximize the facilities for poor and low income population.</i>	

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Goal No.	Goal Description	Voluntary Progress/Achievements/Major Initiatives, including any transport master plans, development of special transport corridors, in Implementing the Bangkok 2020 Declaration	
“Cross-Cutting” Strategy	18 Encourage innovative financing mechanisms for sustainable transport infrastructure and operations through measures, such as parking levies, fuel pricing, time-of-day automated road user charging, and public-private partnerships such as land value capture, including consideration of carbon markets, wherever feasible	Any action had been taken so far? x Not yet <input type="checkbox"/> Some (design – piloting) <input type="checkbox"/> Largely in Place <input type="checkbox"/> Fully Completed (Please Check the box)	Challenges faced in implementation:
		Examples of pilot projects and/or policies developed or under development – include URLs where relevant	
		Important actions you will carry out in 2014~2015 <i>Feasibility study on carbon market will be initiated.</i>	

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Goal No.	Goal Description	Voluntary Progress/Achievements/Major Initiatives, including any transport master plans, development of special transport corridors, in Implementing the Bangkok 2020 Declaration	
“Cross-Cutting” Strategy	19 Encourage widespread distribution of information and awareness on sustainable transport to all levels of government and to the public through outreach, promotional campaigns, timely reporting of monitored indicators, and participatory processes	Any action had been taken so far? <input type="checkbox"/> Not yet <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Some (design – piloting) <input type="checkbox"/> Largely in Place <input type="checkbox"/> Fully Completed (Please Check the box)	Challenges faced in implementation: <i>Lack of financial resources.</i> <i>Capacity development</i> <i>Low level of media participation.</i>
		Examples of pilot projects and/or policies developed or under development – include URLs where relevant <i>Public awareness campaign is initiated in a nascent stage.</i>	
		Important actions you will carry out in 2014~2015 <i>Public awareness campaign to continue.</i>	

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Goal No.	Goal Description	Voluntary Progress/Achievements/Major Initiatives, including any transport master plans, development of special transport corridors, in Implementing the Bangkok 2020 Declaration	
“Cross-Cutting” Strategy	20 Develop dedicated and funded institutions that address sustainable transport-land use policies and implementation, including research and development on environmentally-sustainable transport, and promote good governance through implementation of environmental impact assessments for major transport projects	Any action had been taken so far? <input type="checkbox"/> Not yet <input type="checkbox"/> Some (design – piloting) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Largely in Place <input type="checkbox"/> Fully Completed (Please Check the box)	Challenges faced in implementation: <i>Inadequate professional capacity in the field ESIA planning, implementation and monitoring.</i>
		Examples of pilot projects and/or policies developed or under development – include URLs where relevant <i>Legal system on ESIA is in place and currently being upgraded.</i> <i>Capacity enhancement activities on strengthening the ESIA procedures initiated.</i>	
		Important actions you will carry out in 2014~2015 <i>Capacity enhancement activities on strengthening the ESIA procedures will continue.</i>	