Afghanistan PEACE Project
Reducing Risk for the Kuchi People

Afghanistan
Pastoral Engagement, Adaptation and Capacity Enhancement (PEACE) Project

Quarterly Report

April 1, 2009 through June 30, 2009

Submitted By:
University of California at Davis

In Collaboration With:
Texas A&M University System

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June 30, 2009
Introductory Note

The 2009 field season is drawing to a close. Traveling in the lowland Provinces this year was more difficult than in the previous 2 years. Security concerns prevented us from visiting several areas within some of the Provinces. Border areas were particularly concerning this year and with the help of the Provincial Kuchi leaders we were able to avoid dubious areas. Even with the security concerns this season, by the middle of July we will have visited 14 Provinces to monitor rangelands for productivity.

Summary - Activities conducted this quarter

- Rangelands surveyed and monitored in 10 additional Provinces
- Diet quality data collected from 3 rangelands
- Nutritional Profiling scans conducted in NIRS lab
- Kuchi Trainers conducted Peace Building Workshops
- Facilitating Kuchi Shuras
- Capacity building efforts continue for all components

Major Implementation Activities conducted this Quarter

A. Infusion of the Forage Monitoring System

Forage Predictions are now available on the PEACE Project website. These predictions are updated every 10 days as information is received from the climate satellite. Currently we are predicting forage quantity at 52 sites located in 12 provinces in Northern and Central Afghanistan. In addition to forage information we have also placed survey site information on the website. Site information includes the plant species composition, soil type, elevation, and a photograph of the area. This year’s sites have not been added yet but will be added by the end of the summer.

Collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture (MAIL) has been very good this year. MAIL staff have accompanied us on all field trips and we have been able to include provincial MAIL staff in our work as we normally done in this past. Security on the ground has made it more difficult this field season but we are coping with this problem with some new protocols to ensure everyone’s safely. We have two more survey areas to visit during this field season to complete this year field season. Bamyan and Badakhshan have been moved into July due to the cool spring temperatures in the mountains.

We have collected some interesting anecdotal information during the field season. At the landscape scale, Malcomia turkestanica and Roemeria refracta dominate areas of northern Saripul. It is no wonder that this is what is fed to the livestock during the winter months since there is no other native forage in abundance for harvesting. The herders claim that their animals like this forage but we suspect that if this all...
that is offered to them, it is not surprising that they like it.

What was also interesting after driving for many hours, through Saripul, was that this year there was very little cultivation outside of the valley bottoms despite evidence that cultivation of more than 99% of the upland areas had occurred in the recent past. It was reported to us that many of the owners of these lands fled to either Iran or Pakistan during the Russian occupation. Some are reported to be currently engaged in crop-sharing from a distance using local labor. Many villages in the upland areas are now abandoned or settled with so few people it is surprising they still remain given the obvious state of poverty in which they exist. The absence of livestock was also quite noticeable. This may have been due to the large die-off during last year’s drought but we suspect that instead, it was also due to the poor condition of the range. There is little palatable forage available during the growing season based on our observations this year. The potential exists to rehabilitate these areas but this will come at a significant cost given the thousands of hectares in need of rehabilitation. The area is quite useless otherwise, however, leaving rehabilitation as the only viable option.

B. Infusion of the NIRS Nutritional Management System.

The Nutritional profiling laboratory in Darulaman has been improved this quarter. The lab manager from MAIL has moved his office into the lab in preparation for the field season work plan. Fecal samples have been collected in several rangelands so far this quarter. Samples have been prepared for scanning to determine diet quality of sheep and goats for different areas across Afghanistan. The lab manager has been active in all aspects of the testing. We are asking the MAIL to assign an additional person to the lab this year so that we can have two people responsible for the work.

Fecal Sample Collections
Dr. Hamidullah from MAIL Veterinary Institute accompanied both teams in order to collect fecal samples. In the vicinity of site AF65, he was able to collect 7 fecal samples and in the vicinity of AF66, he was able to collect 12 fecal samples. At site AF67, Dr. Hamidullah was able to collect 10 fecal samples. The site southwest of Samangan also yielded fecal samples (12), despite our inability to conduct a survey in this area. The trip to Kunduz yielded 18 fecal samples from the Dasht-e-Abdan area. These will augment our efforts to analyze diet quality over time, in this area.
C. Outreach and Linking the Technology with Herder Alliances

Facilitating Kuchi Shuras

Provincial Kuchi Directors have provided us with updated information regarding their conflict, water, school, health, forage and veterinary health issues. We have created a database with this information that break down those issues by clan and by season. This has enabled us to produce maps that display the seasonal issues encountered by a particular clan. We have made these maps available to the independent department of Kuchi to serve 2 purposes. First they can be used to prioritize and plan development initiatives for the Kuchi. Secondly, they can be used to quickly convey the extent of specific issues for extensive livestock producers. All the information displayed on these maps has been provided to us through the Kuchi Provincial leaders.

As mentioned in last quarter’s report the Shuras continue to serve multiple functions in that they are used to collect data, resolve conflicts and serve as herder alliances. Development of these herder alliances is continuing through helping the herders understand how to collect and interpret information. This is a key step in the transfer of information that they will be receiving about the rangeland quantity and quality.

D. Building Capacity within the MAIL, NGOs and the University

Expanded Capacity for Kuchi Leaders

Kuchi leaders from 3 Provinces, Balkh, Kunduz, and Paktia have been undergoing development as peace-building trainers. Last fall these 9 leaders went through a month-long training course to learn how to raise awareness about peace, to solve conflicts and to establish multi-ethnic peace shuras. They have reached another milestone in their development this quarter as they conducted their first solo workshops to raise awareness for Kuchi leaders at the district level in each of the Provinces. They reached an additional 51 Kuchi leaders during the workshops. The hope is that with continued follow-up and training these 9 leaders will develop into expert trainers and expand the ability for the Kuchi to resolve conflicts.

These long-term training efforts are not only proving promising now but have the potential to initiate widespread awareness among the Kuchi to settle access conflicts peacefully. The biggest winners from this effort to solve conflicts will be the Afghan people, the environment and the economy.

Government and University Training and Improving Capacity

The current field season has provided more training for government staff and university graduates. Expertise development has continued in support of the Livestock Early Warning System and the Nutritional Profiling systems that are being adopted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock. Training efforts have focused on plant species identification, plant collection, vegetation survey methods, monitoring methods, animal diet nutrition, and near-infrared scanning of diet samples. In addition to building capacity in a technical way the PEACE Project also works hand in hand with the Ministry of Agriculture staff. This is particularly useful when we meet rural community leaders because the MAIL staff is seen by the communities assisting in Afghans with their needs. We have had many occasions when the rural representatives begin to complain about the lack of interest and concern from the government in general. When they learn that our MAIL colleagues are working together with us they are reassured that someone in the government is interested in their issues.
E. Conduct Economic Assessment of Kuchi Livestock

Understanding how much of the livestock market is made up of Kuchi animals is important to address the needs of extensive producers. A detailed assessment was initiated to determine the Kuchi contribution to the Afghanistan economy and projected impact of the project on local, regional and national economies. We subcontracted Altai Consulting to implement our work plan. The livestock market assessment is a four-part data collection effort with that hopes to capture market variability throughout the year. The 3rd survey is scheduled to begin at the end of June. The report from the 3rd survey should be available by August.

F. Other Achievements

Peace Building and Conflict Resolution Program between Kuchi and Hazara

The PEACE Project facilitated an effort to bring Kuchi and non-Kuchi representatives together during this past quarter. We were able to conduct 6 workshops for 5 regions. Two workshops in April were focused on the Besud situation in Wardak Province. We also held workshops for representatives from Ghazni, Baghlan, Kunduz, Takhar, Badakhshan, Balkh, Faryab. This effort was an attempt to initiate a dialog between the Kuchi and Hazara or villagers that are disputing grazing rights. We worked with the Independent Department of Kuchi and the President Karzai’s Commissioner on Tribal Affairs, Wahidullah Sabawoon. Over 300 community leaders attended these peace building workshops. In addition to the workshops, we also nominated 10 Peace Ambassadors to continue working to resolve the issues in Wardak. Five Hazara and 5 Kuchi leaders are still working in their respective communities to discuss ways to resolve the conflict. The workshops were implemented by the Sanayee Development Organization and sponsored with funds from the GL-CRSP at UC Davis.
**Afghanistan PEACE Project Accomplishments and Targets**

**Standard Indicators and Targets FY2009**
Numbers reported by USAID fiscal year and not by PEACE Project fiscal year

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<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>3rd Quarter Target</th>
<th>3rd Quarter Act</th>
<th>Variance</th>
<th>4th Quarter Target</th>
<th>Fiscal Year Target</th>
<th>Fiscal Year Actual</th>
<th>LOP Target</th>
<th>LOP Actual</th>
<th>FY10 Target</th>
<th>Disaggregated</th>
<th>Provincial Breakdown</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>5.1 Agriculture Enabling Environment</strong></td>
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<td>Number of policy reforms/regulations/administrative procedures drafted and presented for public/stakeholder consultation as a result of USG assistance</td>
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<td>-1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>Number of hectares under improved natural resource management as a result of USG assistance</td>
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<td>Balkh 85,000</td>
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<td><strong>8.1 - Natural Resources And Biodiversity</strong></td>
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<td>Number of people receiving USG supported training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation (male/female)</td>
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<td>310/16</td>
<td>431/5</td>
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<td>Kabul 10</td>
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