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ACCELERATING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PROGRAM (ASAP)

PROGRAM-WIDE ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING STATEMENT

June 22, 2008

ACCELERATING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

PROGRAM-WIDE ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING STATEMENT

USAID contract:	306-C-00-07-00501-00
Submitted by:	Chemonics International Inc. 1717 H Street, NW Washington, DC 20006
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It was prepared by Chemonics International Inc.

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Introduction

In November 2006, the United States Agency for International Development's Mission to Afghanistan (USAID/Afghanistan) selected Chemonics International to implement the Accelerating Sustainable Agriculture Program (ASAP). Its purpose "is to accelerate broad-based, market led agriculture development capable of responding and adapting to market forces in ways that provide new economic opportunities for rural Afghans."

This Environmental Scoping Statement covers ASAP activities identified as of June 2008, with the exception of the Mazar Foods initiative. The scale of the Mazar Foods initiative warrants a stand-alone Scoping Statement and Environmental Assessment (EA).

Initial Environmental Examination Findings

Prior to contract award, USAID completed an Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) for the program portfolio under its Strategic Objective Agreement with the Government of Afghanistan, entitled "A Thriving Economy Led by the Private Sector." This portfolio includes ASAP. The IEE and Environmental Threshold Decision (no. ANE 05-242) were approved by the USAID Bureau Environmental Office on September 19, 2005.

The following activities were found to have a "positive determination" in the IEE per§216.3(a)(2)(iii), signifying that an Environmental Assessment is required prior to implementation: construction or repair of irrigation supply systems, roads, and sanitation facilities; increasing the productivity of livestock, agricultural production, land leveling, and increasing access to water supplies.

The following activities were found to have a "categorical exclusion" in the IEE, signifying that no further assessment is required prior to implementation: exports of fresh and dry fruits, increased markets for horticultural crops, leveraging funds from other programs, and providing technical assistance, training, and capacity building pursuant to:

a) 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(i), for activities involving education, training, or technical assistance;

b) 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(iii), for activities involving analyses, studies, academic or research workshops and meetings; and

c) 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(v), for activities involving document and information transfers.

The following activities were found to have a "negative determination with conditions" in the IEE per 22 CFR 216.3(a)(2)(iii), signifying that USAID or the contractor will develop and implement design criteria to minimize potential adverse environmental impacts: small and medium enterprise development, small-scale construction, and distribution of agricultural production materials (food, seeds, tools, fertilizer).

Scoping Statement Requirements

This Scoping Statement is the first step in the Environmental Assessment (EA) process. In accordance with the U.S. Code of Federal Regulation §216.3(4), it includes: (a) a determination of the scope and significance of issues to be analyzed in the EA, including direct and indirect effects; (b) identification and elimination from detailed study of the issues that are not significant or have been covered by earlier environmental review or approved design considerations; (c) a description of the timing of the preparation of environmental analyses, variations required in the format of the EA, and the tentative planning and decision-making schedule; and d) a description of how the analysis will be conducted and the disciplines that will participate in the analysis.

Summary of Environmental Assessment Activities to Date

In mid-April 2008 Chemonics prepared a concise Scoping Statement encompassing all ASAP activities, including the Mazar Foods project. In early May, USAID requested a number of revisions and directed Chemonics to generate two Scoping Statements: one for “core” ASAP activities and one for Mazar Foods. This ASAP Scoping Statement responds to that request. The Mazar Foods project is addressed in a separate Scoping Statement and will be further examined in its own EA.

A program-wide Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safer Use Action Plan (PERSUAP) covering both ASAP core activities and Mazar Foods was submitted to USAID in mid-June.

Description of "Core" ASAP Activities

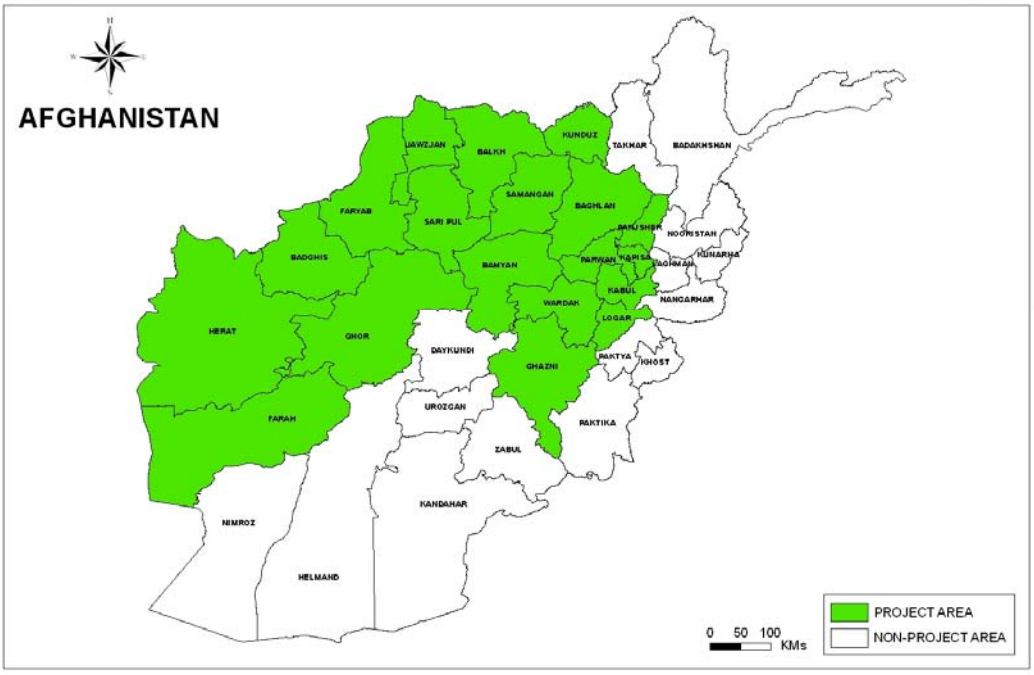
To date, ASAP has implemented the following core activities that require environmental assessment and management:

- development of a Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock (MAIL) demonstration farm at Badam Bagh (on the outskirts of Kabul), including an exhibition facility;
- hosting agricultural fairs (AgFairs) in Kabul, Mazar, and Herat;
- testing Melon Fly control measures in melon-producing provinces;
- construction of five provincial office buildings for MAIL;
- introduction of new crops (such as strawberries); and
- expansion of veterinary services in 19 provinces.

These activities were implemented in 2007 or early 2008 with mitigation measures. No further construction or land development activities are anticipated under ASAP's core program.

ASAP is active in 19 provinces across Afghanistan (Map 1).

Map 1: ASAP's Geographic Coverage



Refer to Annex 1 for a map of the Badam Bagh demonstration farm and AgFair exhibition site.

Afghanistan is located in southern Asia, to the north and west of Pakistan, and east of Iran. Its population is 32 million. Despite the progress of the past few years, Afghanistan is extremely poor, landlocked, and highly dependent on foreign aid, agriculture, and trade with neighboring countries. Much of the population continues to suffer from shortages of housing, clean water, electricity, medical care, and jobs. Criminality, insecurity, and the inability of the Government to extend the rule of law to all parts of the country pose challenges to future economic growth.

The climate is typical of an arid or semiarid steppe, with cold winters and dry summers. Precipitation generally fluctuates greatly during the course of the year in all parts of the country. Surprise rainstorms often transform the episodically flowing rivers and streams from puddles to torrents.

In the western and southern regions a northerly wind, known as the "wind of 120 days," blows during the summer months of June to September. This wind is usually accompanied by intense heat, drought, and sand storms. Rising at midday or in the early afternoon, these "dust winds" advance at velocities ranging between 97 and 177 kilometers per hour, raising high clouds of dust.

The plate-tectonic activity in Afghanistan has produced frequent earthquakes; around fifty are recorded each year. Although most are relatively mild, the most severe earthquake in recent history occurred on 29 July 1985 (7.3 on the Richter scale at its epicenter in the Hindukush).

Mountains dominate the landscape, traversing the center of the country in a northeast-southwest direction. More than 49 percent of the total land area lies above 2,000 meters. These mountainous areas are mostly barren, or at the most sparsely sprinkled with trees and stunted bushes. True forests, found mainly in the eastern provinces of Nuristan and Paktiya, cover barely 2.9 of the country's area.

ASAP Community Consultations

Community outreach/consultation related to the Badam Bagh demonstration farm and exhibition facility was conducted following site development, in association with the AgFair events; the public was invited to tour the farm during the fair. Prior to site development, nearby communities approached MAIL on their own initiative, asking if the Ministry had any plans to destroy their homes. Residents were assured by MAIL that ASAP would limit its activities to Ministry land and that their houses would not be affected. No homes have been affected by ASAP activities at the Badam Bagh site and there have been no complaints from local residents.

Moreover, although there are several businesses squatting on lower portions of the Badam Bagh site, no action has been taken against them. One of the squatters has actually received a substantial amount of business from ASAP, as the program has purchased and rented ornamental plants for the Badam Bagh site and project guesthouses. ASAP has also loaned them tables and chairs for an “open house” event for the Minister of Agriculture.

Community consultation related to ASAP activities in northern Afghanistan were more complex, but still well addressed. Several Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)—35 families—occupied MAIL land used for the AgFair in Mazar. ASAP project staff had numerous informal conversations with the IDPs prior to the AgFair event and facilitated a meeting between IDP representatives, UNHCR, the local PRT, the Provincial Department of Refugee Resettlement, and the mayor to reach a resettlement solution. The project provided each family $50 for moving and resettlement costs. IDPs were also allowed to salvage for their own use building materials from a large MAIL building demolished at the site. ASAP further arranged for project contractors to provide families with dirt and gravel for their new site. UNHCR also committed to providing IDPs a "winter package". ASAP understands these arrangements were satisfactory to the families involved.

Issues Considered to be Significant for Core ASAP Activities

Table 1 presents a list of ongoing core ASAP activities that have potential adverse impacts. It specifies the underlying program component/activity and briefly describes the scope of each activity. In most cases, cost-effective mitigation measures can be—or already have been—implemented, reducing potential adverse impacts. The implementation of these measures and their significance is also summarized in the table.

All potential adverse impacts in this Table will be addressed in the EA. However, not all potential impacts are equally significant. Impact significance is indicated using a star system: one star meaning “least significant” and four stars meaning “greatest significance”.

Table 1: Potential Environmental Issues for Core ASAP Activities

Potential Impacts	Program Component(s)/Activities	Scope	Mitigation Measures and Significance
Soil erosion (wind) and associated dust	Cultivation at Badam Bagh demonstration farm.	The enclosed farm site covers 41 ha; three greenhouses have also been installed on site.	Enhanced vegetative cover reduces soil erosion and dust compared to land's previous fallow status; soil analysis at site will determine silicon content of soil. **Impact significance: ♦♦**
Soil erosion (water) and associated run-off	Cultivation and irrigation at Badam Bagh demonstration farm.	Both drip and flood irrigation systems are used at the 41 ha farm site. Three greenhouses have also been installed at the farm.	Land leveling reduces water consumption, erosion and associated run-off. **Impact significance: ♦♦♦**
Soil salinization	Irrigation at Badam Bagh demonstration farm.	41 ha site relies on drip and flood irrigation systems.	Soil salinization will be mitigated through efficient irrigation techniques and land leveling that promotes proper drainage. **Impact significance: ♦♦♦♦**
Soil water-logging	Irrigation at Badam Bagh demonstration farm.	41 ha site relies on drip and flood irrigation systems.	Water-logging of farm soils is prevented through irrigation techniques such as drip irrigation and land leveling that promotes proper drainage. **Impact significance: ♦♦♦**
Soil contamination	Use of agro-chemicals at Badam Bagh demonstration farm.	Farm staff used very small amounts of pesticides (less than $100 total). In addition, approximately $20,000 was spent on fertilizers (urea and diammonium phosphates).	A Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safer Use Action Plan (PERSUAP) will be completed and implemented to mitigate the potential buildup of pesticide residues is farm soils. **Impact significance: ♦♦♦♦**
Solid Waste Generation	Road construction at Badam Bagh demonstration farm.	Road construction as described above.	Construction subcontractors were required to clean the construction site of debris during and after construction. Quality environmentally sound design and management oversight is important. **Impact significance: ♦♦**

Potential Impacts	Program Component(s)/Activities	Scope	Mitigation Measures and Significance
Solid Waste Generation (cont.)	Building construction/ refurbishment at Badam Bagh AgFair exhibition site.	Three poultry buildings were refurbished: two were converted to exhibition halls by building interior booths, and one was converted to a 500-person-capacity (approx.) meeting hall. A circular outdoor exhibition facility was also built, the outer diameter of which is approx. 100 m. The facility comprises 120 booths, a performance stage, and three entrances. Each booth is 3 m (h) x 2.5 m (w) x 2.5 m (d); inner circle is covered with gravel.	Construction subcontractors were required to clean the construction site of debris during and after construction. Management oversight is important. **Impact significance: ♦♦**
	Construction of five office buildings for Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock (MAIL).	ASAP constructed five provincial office buildings for MAIL in Panjshir, Kunduz, Mazar, Parwan, and Herat.	Construction subcontractors were required to clean the construction site of debris during and after construction. Management oversight is important. **Impact significance: ♦♦**
Human waste generation	Refurbishment of rural farm stores.	ASAP funds used to construct/ refurbish 300 farm stores as described above.	Environmental Review for grant-funded activities completed by ASAP prior to implementation. **Impact significance: ♦♦♦**
	AgFair events at Badam Bagh (Kabul) and exhibition sites in Herat and Mazar.	At Badam Bagh, 40 public toilets that can serve up to 800 people per hour were installed; water supply is from the on-site reservoir (described below).	Toilets are connected to a concrete septic tank and a drain field located at the back (western side) of the exhibition site. **Impact significance: ♦♦**

Potential Impacts	Program Component(s)/Activities	Scope	Mitigation Measures Implemented and Significance
Worker safety issues	Refurbishment of rural farm stores.	ASAP funds used to construct/ refurbish 300 farm stores as described above.	Environmental Review for grant-funded activities completed by ASAP prior to implementation. **Impact significance: ♦♦**
	Cultivation at Badam Bagh demonstration farm.	27 ha of 41 ha farm site are cultivated and managed by ASAP, using heavy machinery.	Workers were trained on safety measures and provided with safety gear for operation of heavy machinery. **Impact significance: ♦♦♦**
	Use of agro-chemicals at Badam Bagh demonstration farm.	Limited use of pesticides and fertilizers at farm site as described above.	A PERSUAP will be completed and implemented to ensure worker safety in the handling of hazardous chemicals and to mitigate the impacts of potential exposure. **Impact significance: ♦♦♦♦**
Public safety issues	Refurbishment of rural farm stores.	ASAP funds used to construct/ refurbish 300 farm stores as described above.	Environmental Review for grant-funded activities completed by ASAP prior to implementation. **Impact significance: ♦♦♦**
	Building construction/ refurbishment at Badam Bagh AgFair exhibition site.	Conversion of poultry buildings and construction of circular exhibition facility as described above.	A suitable building code accounting for earthquake risks for this location was specified in subcontracts and construction activities were monitored to ensure compliance. Quality environmentally sound design and management oversight is important. **Impact significance: ♦♦**
	Construction of five MAIL office buildings.	ASAP construction of provincial office buildings as described above.	Design specifications were prepared, construction was overseen by ASAP's Director of Infrastructure (an engineer), and offices were inspected by USAID. Shortcomings identified in inspections have been or are currently being addressed. Quality environmentally sound design and construction oversight is important. **Impact significance: ♦♦**

Potential Impacts	Program Component(s)/Activities	Scope	Mitigation Measures Implemented and Significance
Quality and quantity of water resources	Use of agro-chemicals at Badam Bagh demonstration farm.	Limited use of pesticides and fertilizers at farm site as described above.	Land leveling at farm site will minimize run-off of agro-chemical contaminants, mitigating the potential impact on ground and surface water resources. **Impact significance: ♦♦♦♦**
Consumer exposure to chemical residues and consumption of unsanitary horticulture products	Use of agro-chemicals at Badam Bagh demonstration farm.	Limited use of pesticides and fertilizers at farm site as described above.	A PERSUAP will be completed and implemented to mitigate the potential impact of chemical residues on food crops that pose risks to consumers. **Impact significance: ♦♦♦♦**
	Fresh and dried fruit and vegetable production for export and sale.	ASAP will broker deals by identifying buyers, connecting buyers to sellers, and working with producers/ processors to meet buyers' demands. The actual products and volumes will be determined based on buyer interests.	ASAP will work with producers and processors to meet the phytosanitary standards of buyers. **Impact significance: ♦♦♦♦**
Introduction of new pests or pathogens	Introduction of strawberries and other new plant and seed varieties.	ASAP will subcontract nursery production of strawberry runners on approx. 50 ha in higher altitude districts near Kabul. Plants will be purchased by Mazar Foods and/or Pakistani nurseries. Initial experiments conducted at Badam Bagh demonstration farm.	Initial mother plant material will be sourced from approved, tissue cultured plant suppliers and imported in compliance with Afghan phytosanitary regulations. As with all purchases of agricultural inputs these will require prior CO approval. If new seed varieties or fruit stock is introduced, USAID and Afghanistan GMO and biosafety policy must be followed with approval by USAID's biosafety officer. **Impact significance: ♦♦♦♦**

Potential Impacts	Program Component(s)/Activities	Scope	Mitigation Measures Implemented and Significance
Increased livestock production	Provision of veterinary services through Veterinary Field Units (VFUs)	ASAP continues to train paravets and basic veterinary workers to establish new VFUs in previously un-served or under-served areas, and to expand the services of existing VFUs. Through the Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA), ASAP is also importing quality vaccines and selling to VFUs at cost (except new VFUs, which receive a 20 percent subsidy that is phased out within a year). DCA is the sole importer of livestock vaccinations licensed by MAIL in Afghanistan.	Capacity building is generally exempt from EA requirements; however, it is listed here since veterinary services increase livestock production, which was assigned a "positive determination" in the IEE for potential adverse impacts associated with the use of pesticides, antibiotics and other drugs. **Impact significance: ♦♦♦♦** Note that livestock herds nationwide have been substantially reduced in recent years due to extended drought and harsh winters. Herders are rebuilding their herds. ASAP will work with producers to market any excess production, thereby raising rural incomes and minimizing the risk of over-grazing.
Threats to endangered species	Project implementation across 19 provinces may impact endangered species and habitat(s).	IUCN indicates 16 endangered species (plant and animal) associated with Afghanistan nationwide.	The potential impact of project activities on endangered species will be addressed in the forthcoming EA. **Impact significance: ♦♦**
Impacts on cultural heritage assets	Project implementation across 19 provinces may impact cultural heritage assets.	Presence and significance of cultural heritage assets can be difficult to ascertain; broad geographic scope of ASAP activities warrants more detailed assessment	Development of Badam Bagh site does not impact known cultural or heritage assets; full extent of potential project impacts on cultural heritage assets will be addressed in forthcoming EA. **Impact significance: ♦♦♦**
Dust generation	Use of on-farm roads at Badam Bagh; use of tractors and other equipment in cultivation/harvesting at demonstration farm.	More than 5 km of farm roads (2-4 m wide) have been constructed at 41 ha enclosed farm site.	Potential impact of dust generation will be mitigated by proper road construction techniques (i.e., compacting and grading), limitations on vehicle traffic and the use of heavy machinery, and creation of windbreaks; soil analysis at site will determine silicon content of soil used for road construction and affected by on-farm vehicle traffic and cultivation/ harvesting activities. **Impact significance: ♦♦♦♦**

Issues Considered to be Not Significant for Core ASAP Activities

Table 2 lists the issues considered to be not significant for core ASAP activities and presents the justification for this determination. These do not appear to require detailed further study.

Many activities in the list are completed activities that do not have significant impacts beyond the construction or implementation phases. A program-wide Environmental Management and Monitoring Plan (EMMP) will be completed as part of the EA, and include mitigation measures for all completed, ongoing, and planned activities.

Table 2: Issues Considered to be Not Significant for Core ASAP Activities

Potential Impacts	Program Component(s)/Activities	Scope	Mitigation Measures Implemented and Significance
Soil erosion (wind) and associated dust	Road construction at Badam Bagh demonstration farm.	More than 5 km of farm roads (2-4 m wide) and 30 culverts (4-6 m wide) have been constructed.	Wind erosion and dust associated with road construction were short-term impacts and standard dust control measures were implemented.
	Land leveling at Badam Bagh demonstration farm and AgFair exhibition site.	34 ha were leveled using laser land leveling technology and a tractor, and 11.4 ha requiring more than 30 cm of cutting were leveled using heavy earth-moving equipment.	Land leveled on the farm was divided into several plots to minimize cutting and filling quantities. Construction of the concrete pad at the AgFair site involved some cutting on the western side. Upon completion, grass was planted on side slopes to minimize the risk of soil erosion.
Soil erosion (water) and associated run-off	Road construction at Badam Bagh demonstration farm.	Road construction as described above.	Culverts were installed at all road crossings to drain rainwater. Check dams were also installed along flood ditches to avoid washout of the banks and channel bed and to recharge groundwater.
	Land leveling at Badam Bagh demonstration farm and AgFair exhibition site.	45.4 ha leveled at Badam Bagh as described above	Mitigation measures for Badam Bagh leveling activities were implemented as described above.
Slope instability	Land leveling at Badam Bagh AgFair exhibition site.	Construction of the concrete pad at the AgFair site involved some cutting on the western side.	Upon completion, grass was planted to help stabilize side slopes.

Potential Impacts	Program Component(s)/Activities	Scope	Mitigation Measures Implemented and Significance
Soil contamination	Melon Fly control.	ASAP conducted melon fly control programs in 2007on 288 ha in key melon growing regions (200 ha in Herat, 50 ha in Badghis, and 38 ha in Balkh, Sar-e-pul and Jawzjan provinces). All activities used an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach and were experimental in nature. No USAID funds were used to purchase pesticides. Small amounts of Deltamethrin ULV were provided by the Italian PRT in Herat and Spanish PRT in Badghis. Prior to ASAP's intervention, it was common for melon farmers to apply pesticides 12 to 25 times per growing season, which was ineffective and posed substantial risks to farm laborers and consumers. ASAP trained farmers to apply the pesticide only twice, 7-10 days apart. Emphasis was placed on non-chemical field sanitation methods, such as removing infested melons and feeding to livestock (or cutting and drying on road surfaces) and collecting pupae from the soil beneath infested melons.	ASAP trained 35 melon growers in Herat and Badghis in the safe use and handling of the pesticide and provided each with safety gear (coveralls, plastic boots, gloves, eye protection glasses, a mask, and a hat). Growers were also provided with an ULV pesticide application machine. In turn, these farmers provided application services to other farmers participating in the program. Pesticide use on melons was dramatically reduced, mitigating the potential impact of soil contamination by pesticide residue buildup. Melon Fly infestation rates were reduced from an average of 45 percent to 1 percent of melons in the 250-ha target area in Herat and Badghis. No further Melon Fly control measures are anticipated in 2008 and beyond due to budget constraints.
Human waste generation	Road construction & building construction/refurbishment at Badam Bagh.	Construction laborers required temporary bathroom facilities.	Construction subcontractors were required to provide portable toilets for their labor and staff; these were subsequently removed from site.
	Construction of five MAIL office buildings.	ASAP construction of provincial office buildings as described above.	Subcontractors were required to provide portable toilets for their labor and staff, which were subsequently removed from site.

Potential Impacts	Program Component(s)/Activities	Scope	Mitigation Measures Implemented and Significance
Worker safety issues	Building construction/ refurbishment at Badam Bagh AgFair exhibition site.	Conversion of poultry buildings and construction of circular exhibition facility as described above.	Construction workers were provided with raincoats, hard hats, and warm clothes during winter; a rest break every two hours for warming in cold weather; gloves and high boots while pouring concrete; and rubber boots, gloves, protective glasses and masks while welding steel.
	Construction of five MAIL office buildings.	ASAP construction of provincial office buildings as described above.	Construction workers were provided with the same safety measures outlined above.
	Road construction at Badam Bagh demonstration farm.	Road construction as described above.	Worker safety measures implemented as described above.
	Melon Fly control.	ASAP-administered Melon Fly control program conducted in 2007 as described above.	35 melon growers in Herat and Badghis received pesticide training and were provided with coveralls, plastic boots, gloves, eye protection glasses, a mask, and a hat, as well as an ULV pesticide application machine. These farmers in turn provided application services to other participating farmers, mitigating the potential impact of worker exposure to hazardous chemicals.
Quality and quantity of water resources	Reservoir construction at Badam Bagh.	Reservoir capacity is 10,166.85 m^3 (88.6 m long x 27 m wide x 4.25 m deep) and holds 6 million liters.	Reservoir bottom is unlined to allow seepage for groundwater recharge purposes.
	Melon Fly control.	ASAP-administered Melon Fly control program conducted in 2007 as described above.	Program helped to reduce overall pesticide use on melons, mitigating the potential impact of pesticide contaminants on surface and groundwater resources.
Consumer exposure to chemical residues and consumption of unsanitary horticulture products	Melon Fly control.	ASAP-administered Melon Fly control program conducted in 2007 as described above.	Program helped to reduce overall pesticide use on melons, mitigating the risk of consumer exposure to chemical residues.

Potential Impacts	Program Component(s)/Activities	Scope	Mitigation Measures Implemented and Significance
Reduced agricultural productivity and economic returns (from low-yielding variety combinations)	Almond tree distribution.	ASAP provided 17,000 locally produced, budded almond tree saplings to the Governor of Uruzgan, to be awarded to growers who have eradicated their opium poppies (TD 3/26/08).	Almonds are a known and desired orchard crop in the target area. The provincial MAIL nursery will use these saplings to produce multiple pollinator varieties with good yields.
Unexploded ordnance (UXO)	Development of Badam Bagh site.	limited UXO at the Badam Bagh demonstration farm and AgFair exhibition site	Site was cleared of UXO by the United Nations Mine Action Center for Afghanistan (UNMACA) and Halo Trust
Construction-related dust emissions	Building construction/ refurbishment at Badam Bagh AgFair exhibition site.	Badam Bagh site is located in a less densely populated, peri-urban area	Distance from construction site to surrounding properties/neighbors mitigated impact of construction-related dust.
Floodplain impacts	Development of Badam Bagh site and other infrastructure efforts	The project does not affect or modify existing floodplains	Any flood-prone areas will be identified in order to qualify future infrastructure development.
Noise Emissions	Building construction-related noise at Badam Bagh	Badam Bagh site is located in a less densely populated, peri-urban area	Distance from construction site to surrounding properties/neighbors mitigated impact of building construction-related noise.
Light Emissions		project is primarily agricultural in focus and will not produce significant light pollution.	

Description of How Further Environmental Assessment will be Conducted

Chemonics International will subcontract one or more firms and/or independent consultants to complete the following:

1) a Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safer Use Action Plan (PERSUAP) for *all* ASAP Project activities (including Mazar Foods); and
2) an Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for core ASAP activities.

The program-wide PERSUAP will be prepared by a consultant with PERSUAP experience and attached as an annex to the PEA.

A detailed Scope of Work (SOWs) for the PEA will be prepared, specifying the required expertise, level of effort, deliverables, and schedule. Refer to Annex III for a proposed Table of Contents for the PEA.

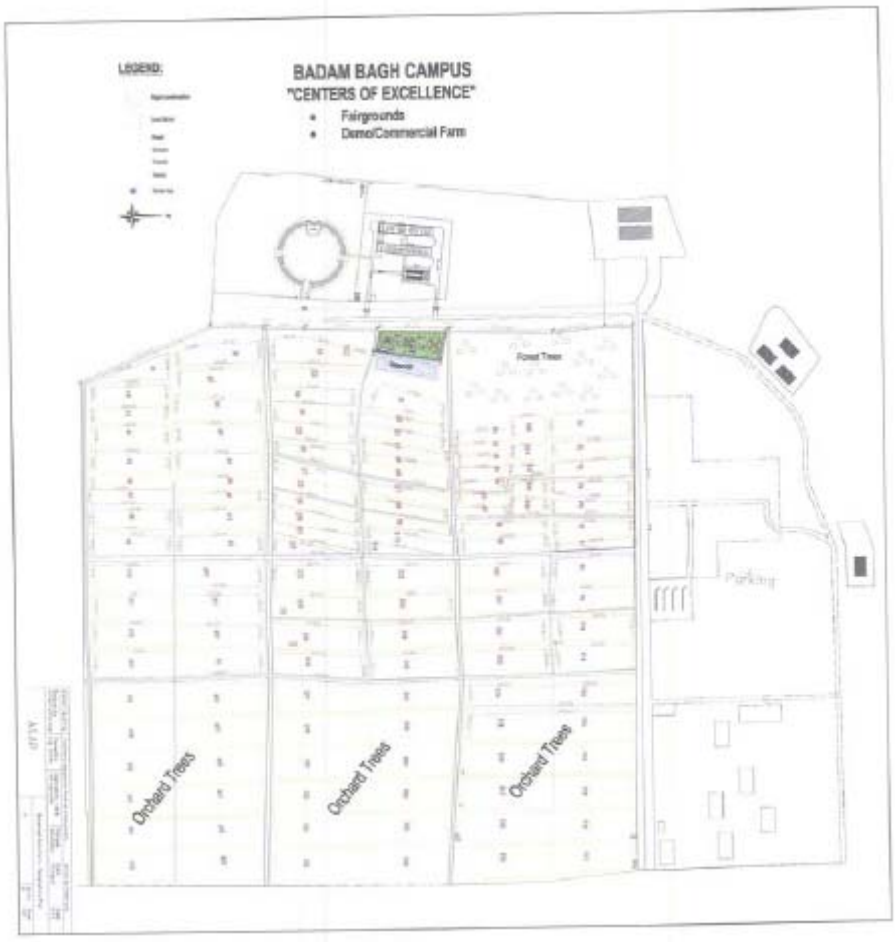
Proposed Schedule for Environmental Assessment and Decision-Making

Date	Milestone
Mid-April 2008	Abbreviated Program-Wide Scoping Statement submitted to USAID.
Mid-June 2008	Revised ASAP-Core Scoping Statement and PERSUAP submitted to USAID.
TBD	USAID response to revised ASAP-Core Scoping Statement.
July – August 2008	Environmental Assessment conducted for core ASAP activities[1].
August 2008	Submit completed ASAP-Core PEA.
TBD	USAID response to ASAP-Core PEA.

Table to be completed in consultation with USAID.

[1] Per instructions from the Mission Environmental Officer, it is not necessary to obtain approval of the Scoping Statement prior to commencing PEA activities. To expedite the PEA, a PEA subcontract will be issued by the end of June and work on the PEA will begin immediately thereafter. The scope of the PEA will be modified as needed to reflect any changes to the Scoping Statement that arise during the approval process.

Annex I: Map of Badam Bagh



Annex II: Credentials of Scoping Team

Weston Fisher (Environmental Assessment Specialist), MS Geology (1966), BS Geology (1965), and AB Biology (1964), all from Stanford University.

Patrick Hall (Environmental Specialist), MA Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning, Tufts University (2006), BA History, University of Missouri-Columbia (1994).

Lorene Flaming (Director of Performance Monitoring), BA Environmental Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara (1987), Master of Public Policy, Harvard University (1995).

John Priest (Infrastructure and Resources Specialist, Mazar Foods): BS Civil Engineering, Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy (1952), MA Managerial Economics, University of Oklahoma (1993), a Registered Professional Engineer (PE) in Missouri since 1958.

Ibrahim Sultani (Engineer).

Mumtaz Ahmad (Environmental Specialist, on loan from Afghanistan FEWSNET project): MSc Environmental Science, University of Montana (2007), BSc Civil Engineering, Nangarhar University, Afghanistan (1997).

Annex III: Proposed Outline for the ASAP Programmatic Environmental Assessment

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3.4.1 Description of residential and occupational population in or near project areas
3.4.2 Description of previous, current, and planned land use activities and ownership in or near the project area (e.g., agriculture, agribusiness, livestock and fisheries), including use or habitation by indigenous peoples
3.4.3 Other existing or proposed agriculture/irrigation, agribusiness projects in the region
3.4.4 Local/regional cultural and institutional setting
3.4.5 Sites of archeological, historical or cultural importance
3.4.6 Socio-economic characteristics

4. Environmental Consequences

4.1 Impact Analysis Framework

4.2 Potential Adverse and Beneficial Impacts

4.2.1 Water hydrology, demand, quantity and quality, and aquifer abstraction impacts
4.2.2 Water management issues demand management, distribution system construction, operation and maintenance, use of equipment and equipment maintenance
4.2.3 Potential salinization issues
4.2.4 Potential pesticide related impacts
4.2.5 Impacts of fertilizer use
4.2.6 Seed selection and genetically modified organism issues
4.2.7 Potential impacts on soil conditions, including soil erosion
4.2.8 Impacts on vegetation
4.2.9 Other potential impacts on natural and biological resources
4.2.10 Potential effects on biodiversity and threatened or endangered species

4.2.11 Potential impacts on parks, reserves or other protected areas
4.2.12 Potential adverse and beneficial human impacts:
- 4.2.12.1 Population and settlements (including impacts on adjacent communities – health, water, waste)
- 4.2.12.2 Sensitive cultural, historic, or archaeological resources
- 4.2.12.3 Potential health and disease impacts in the project area and regionally
- 4.2.12.4 Potential occupational and safety hazards in the project area & region
- 4.2.12.5 Other socio-economic considerations, with and emphasis on conformity

6.2 General Mitigation Approach

6.2.1 Mitigation measures linked to specific impacts with specific assigned responsibility for implementation

6.2.2 Costs

6.3 Monitoring Approach

6.3.1 General monitoring framework

6.3.2 Recommended information requirements, potential sources of information, proxies and indicators

6.3.3 Specific monitoring plan activities (when, where, how often, who (specific responsibilities)

6.3.4 Temporal bounding (how long should monitoring continue)

6.3.5 Costs

6.4 Mitigation and Monitoring Budget

6.5 Annual Mitigation and Monitoring Plan Review Process

7. Public Stakeholder and Comment

8. Conclusions

9. List of Preparers

10. Author information

10.1 Names, affiliations and qualifications of project team

10.2 Relationship of authors to project sponsors

11. Appendix (Scoping and Other Documents)

11.1 Record of meetings held as part of EA, including public hearings and consultations

11.2 Persons and organizations contacted

11.3 Documents consulted

11.4 Technical Data not included in text