

Balkh River Basin Integrated Water Resources Management



Location

Afghanistan

Client

Government of Afghanistan

Project Value

US\$1.5 Million

Start Date

June 2005

Completion Date

March 2008

Associate

SMEC (Australia)

Donor

ADB

Office Responsible

Cardno Agrisystems

Responsibilities

Natural Resource Management

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Project Scope

The objective of the project is to improve water resource management and associated agricultural productivity and to reduce rural poverty in the Balkh river basin. The project is intended to address the rehabilitation of irrigation systems and build the capacity within the MEW and water user groups to ensure continued operation and maintenance. The project has three components:

1. Irrigation rehabilitation, civil works
2. Irrigation infrastructure, operation and maintenance
3. Building physical and organisational capacity within MEW to implement rehabilitation works

The project will develop new institutional arrangements for integrated water resource management by strengthening the traditional water management mechanisms through a community based approach. The project will also support the rehabilitation and upgrading of traditional irrigation systems.

The goal of the project is to establish a technical unit and commence work on the study, design and rehabilitation of irrigation and drainage assets on the Balkh River and to enhance the sustainable development of river basin water management approach institutionally.

The project will result in improved basin level planning and bulk water allocation to local communities together with the formation of a river basin organisation/authority to monitor and implement the plan.

The capacity building will range from awareness building at regional and local level to specialist technical training at the national level. Works to be completed include, River diversion intakes, Sediment control, Flood routing, Canal rehabilitation, and Construction of field offices.