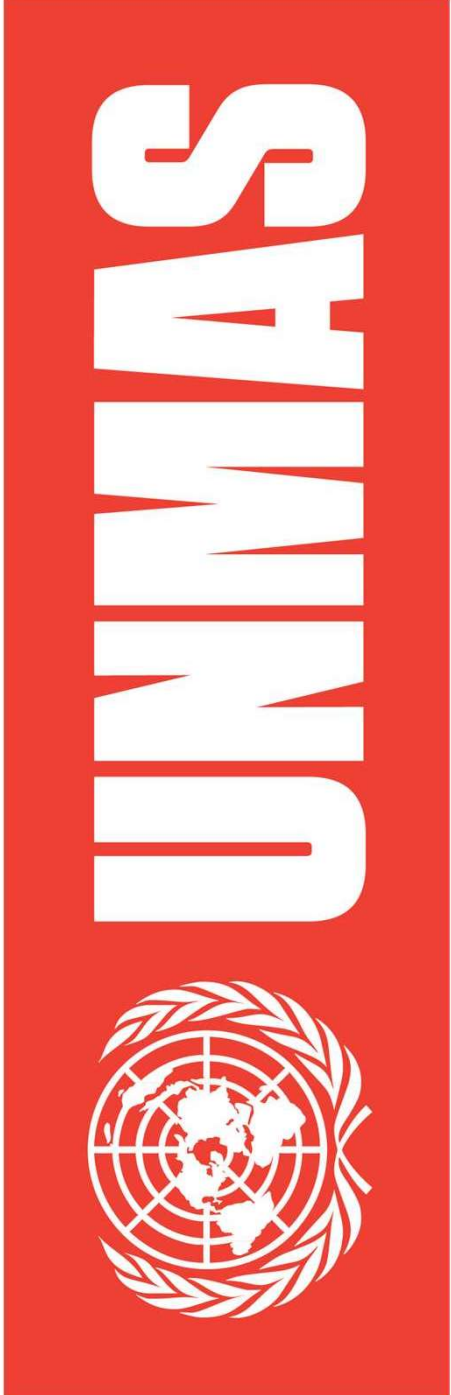


ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND MINE ACTION



NEEDS DRIVEN. PEOPLE CENTRED.

THIS PRESENTATION

- Contaminated lands environment aspects
- Current environmental safeguard policies within Mine Action Sector
- Environmental concerns beyond r action process
- Inclusive Environmental Safeguard Policy
- Funding challenges and opportun
- Examples from Afghanistan

June 2020 - Afghanistan

Contaminated lands and environmental impacts

Impact on the natural/physical environment is not all negative (outside the social impacts)

- Surface natural resources receive unplanned protection
 1. Generally, ecosystem services continue with minimum human disturbance
 2. Vegetation cover protected
 3. Unplanned wildlife sanctuary / protection
- Current environmental safeguard policies mainly consider environmental impacts related to the mine action process, some beneficiary impacts and monitoring aspects

AN ENVIRONMENTAL SAFEGUARD POLICY NEED TO BE INCLUSIVE TO CONSIDER BOTH SIDES OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND THE POST DEMINING CONSEQUENCES

Photo: Qazideh valley, Wakhan National Park, the land mine contaminated during Mujaheedin

Current environmental safeguard policies

Mainly focused on mine action processes - EIAs

1. Pre-operational safeguarding measures
 - Procurement processes, planning for EIAs, etc.
2. Preliminary site assessments
3. Mine action performance (field operations)
 - Pollution, disposal processes and recycling (explosives and operational waste)
 - Carbon foot print (transportations, energy efficiency policies, consumption practices)
 - Risks and safety management (personnel's)
4. Beneficiary impacts
 - Victim assistance (social assistance in some cases?)
 - Awareness and training programmes (social assistances)
5. Implementation monitoring

MOST ESPs STOP HERE
WHILE IT NEEDS TO MOVE BEYOND



Photo: Awareness and training initiatives is part of social environment and beneficiary impact measures by mine action sector in Afghanistan

Environmental concerns beyond mine action processes

ELEMENTS TO CONSIDER

- Cleared land/s at the bigger landscape and as part of an ecosystem
- People living within the landscape and their relation with the ecosystem services
- Mine action brings new social and ecological dynamics

Environmental sustainability of cleared lands can be addressed by an integrated landscape approach mainstreaming socio-economic development through an inclusive environmental policy

TO COVER POST DEMINING STAGES

POTENTIAL MAINSTREAMED INTERVENTIONS MIGHT INCLUDE:
ecosystem based DRR, watershed management, climate resilience (mitigation and adaptation), environmental rehabilitation, sustainable land use, vulnerability assessment and preparedness planning

FOR IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE



Photo: In rural areas (Afghanistan) livelihoods are entirely dependent on natural resources

Inclusive Environmental Safeguard Policy

- Emphasis on post mine action interventions” to ensure
 - Contributing in improving quality of life of target communities
 - Consider longer term impacts of mine action
- Ecologic and social dynamics of cleared land/s at the landscape level
- Through a landscape approach sustainability of ecosystem services are maintained
- Sustainable ecosystem services required for
 - Economical developments
 - Livelihood resources and
 - Ecosystem-based DRR (climate resilience, adaptation and mitigation)
- SDGs – Contribution and relevance
 - 7- Affordable and Clean Energy
 - 11- Sustainable Cities and Communities
 - 12- Responsible Consumption and Production
 - 13- Climate Action
 - 15- Life on Land
 - 16- Peace, Justice and Strong Institution



Photo: Rural communities across Afghanistan are affected by mine action and their environmental management policies

Funding Challenges and Opportunities

- Small scale environmental grants
 - Community based implementation
 - Technical support from Mine Action – adequate resources
 - Focused on environmental protection, poverty alleviation, education and governance capacity development
- Environment and Mine Action WG Platform
 - Design a specific funding modality to cover need of post mine action and inclusive environment safeguard policy
 - Consult with donors – existing environmental funding specified for mine action areas
 - Coordination and communication among WG members
- Mine Action core funding
 - Consultation with donors
 - Project design

Examples from Afghanistan

1. Sustainable Ecosystem Services for Reliable Alternative Livelihoods in Guldara

1. Upper catchment protection / watershed management
2. Supporting the Kabul greenbelt
3. Local governance capacities
4. Disaster Risk Reduction (Eco-DRR)



2. Management of upper catchment for Kole Hashmat Khan Protected Area

1. Upper catchment soil and water conservation (terracing, trenching and tree plantation)
2. Sustainable land management (pasture / grazing management)
3. Public awareness and education
4. Local governance capacities (watershed management associations)





NEEDS
DRIVEN.
PEOPLE
CENTRED.



THANKS



unmas.org



[UNMAS](https://www.facebook.com/UNMAS)



[@UNMAS](https://twitter.com/UNMAS)

