



# SDNRP- Ministry of Mines and Petroleum PMU



## UP TO DATE PROGRESS REPORT (February / 2014)

### Social Issues Progress

- **Organized capacity building program for the relevant staff of the Inspections Department of the Ministry:** : Initiated training of four Inspectors in the Inspections department on important social development issues related to mining sector covering Social Policy for the Mining sector, Socio-Economic Surveys, Social Impact Assessment, Land registration, verification and land clearance, Overview of land acquisition cases in the Ministry of Mines i.e. Aynak Copper Mine, Resettlement Action Plan; planning and development, identification of affected communities, community consultation, resettlement and rehabilitation, compensation and valuation, inventory of lost assets, livelihood restoration etc. The purpose is to enhance understanding of these officials on these important issues so that they can better carry out their inspections.
- **Prepared a report on Community Development activities at Aynak-** Prepared a detailed report on the community development programs initiated under the SDNRP at Aynak. It included activities like Cadastral survey of villages around Aynak, Public Consultation by MoM, Progress of cadastre work and public consultation, Initiation of Expropriation work, Formation of Land Commission, community consultation, Cadastre Survey report & agreement with the villagers etc. The report included chronological details of all these events at Aynak to facilitate better understanding of the resettlement

process at Aynak.

- **Dissemination of ESMF:** Coordinated dissemination of Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) with relevant departments in the Ministry for their inputs and finalization of ESMF. This included coordination with Departments of Policy, Investment Promotion, Legal, Inspections, Cadastre, PMU SDNRP II, Amu Darya project etc. This was also shared with National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA).
- **Dissemination of RAP summary and GRM in Pashto to IRC and local residents:** The resettlement action plan summary and the proposed grievance redressal mechanism were got translated into Pashto and disseminated among the important stakeholders' including local residents.
- **Coordination with Indian Ministry of External Affairs and Indian School of Mines (ISM) for capacity building programs and setting up of Afghan School of Mining:** Coordinated with Indian Ministry of External Affairs and Indian School of Mines for capacity building programs and setting up of Afghan School of Mining at Kabul. The capacity building programs have been started at ISM, Dhanbad from April 2013 and 12 such programs will be conducted by ISM over the next few months. Two such programs on geological exploration and petroleum exploration have been held in April 2013 wherein 30 officials of Ministry of Mines have been trained.
- **Follow up on the Preliminary Social Impact Assessment (SIA) at Hajigak:** The technical proposal submitted by the company, STATT for SIA at Hajigak was examined and finalized. Coordinated with STATT for starting the preliminary social impact assessment at Hajigak and provided background information required for the purpose. The purpose

of the SIA is to get information on existing socio-economic conditions of the people around the mining area to develop an appropriate rehabilitation and community development program

- **Review of GRC Manual of IRC:** The grievance redressal mechanism (GRM) manual prepared by IRC was reviewed in detail and comments were given to make it in line with the resettlement action plan of the Ministry for the five villages at Aynak. I also held many meetings with IRC with regard to capacity building of the local communities at Aynak on the GRM and also coordinated regularly with Aynak Authority in this regard.
- **Follow up of social accountability model:** Apart from GRM, also coordinated with IRC through weekly meetings of the coordination committee on operationalization of other elements of the social accountability model like mobilization of CDCs at Aynak, training programs on hygiene, education, vocational training programs etc for the affected people at Aynak.
- **Follow up on implementation of Aynak RAP:** Held meetings with Aynak Authority on the modalities of the implementation of RAP in particular the issues related to compensation for land and allotment of residential plots at the resettlement site. I also followed up with the authorities on fast processing of compensation cases for PAPs in Aynak and submission of necessary land clearance documents to the court under the Land Management Law. Out of the 11 families who had to be paid cash compensation in the five villages at Aynak, three have been paid. The court verification process has been completed in case of all the 11 families. They had number of problems as the families did not have requisite documentation which court required but it has been resolved now. Deputy Governor Logar has set up Plot Allocation Committee at the

resettlement site comprising of members of all relevant departments and will associate with local villagers.

- **Review of ToRs of School of Rocks:** Reviewed the ToRs of School of Rocks and gave detailed comments with regard to the time frame for the activities of the consultant considering the range of activities, covering technical assistance for the establishment of a laboratory, a school of gemology, and a school of lapidary gems, support for the recruitment and training of human resources and preparing terms of reference for the various positions etc. Rock School could be located at the same place.
- **Coordination for Mining Perception survey:** Provided necessary support in carrying forward the work of the Mining Perception survey being done by Samuel Hall funded by WB in five important mining areas in Afghanistan, including Aynak, Hajigak, Amu Darya, Qarzaghan and Nooraba. I provided all necessary information required by the Team to conduct the survey including the map of the villages at Aynak and Hajigak and reviewed the questionnaires for the Poverty Social Impact Assessment (PSIA) data collection.
- **Coordination for the Hajigak preliminary social impact assessment.** STATT is carrying out the preliminary social impact assessment at Hajigak based on the ToRs prepared under SDNRP. I regularly coordinated with STATT and PMU in this regard and reviewed and gave my detailed comments on social impact assessment- inception report and household survey questionnaire. I also gave comments on the mid- term report prepared by STATT as well as the final report structure.

**Coordination with the Indian Ministry of External**

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|   | <p><b>Affairs (MEA) and Indian School of Mines (ISM) on setting up of Afghan School of Mines:</b> Held detailed discussions in India with MEA and ISM on the draft proposal prepared by Afghan Ministry of Mines on the setting up of the School of Mines at Kabul. We also discussed the need for the team from Ministry of Mines to visit ISM in the near future to discuss the issues related to curriculum etc.</p>   |
| <p>Mes Aynak Archeological Progress</p> | <p>No general changes in staffing: currently the international team consists of <b>12 international specialists</b> (9 archaeologists, 1 archaeologist-architect, 1 conservator, 1 geomatic officer), assisted by <b>11 Afghan trainees</b>. Due to Christmas/New Year season six staff members were on holiday leave (Agnieszka Dolatowska, Rahmatsho Mahmadshev, Firuza Abdulwakhidova, Roberta Marziani, Amanda Watts, Jomakhon Saydaliev) however they returned to Afghanistan this month and resumed their duties. Also some of the graduate trainees were absent temporarily (sickness leave, annual leave).</p> <p>The bulk of staff is still comprised of Tajik archaeologists – most of them are continuing <b>excavation work in the field</b>, while the Western specialists at the present moment are more committed to <b>post-ex activities</b> such as standardizing field records, producing plans and reports, sorting and reorganizing finds in the camp etc. Four Afghan graduates are working currently as self-reliant site supervisors (areas Mes046, Mes004, Mes052 and Mes054 - the latter site officially under the MoIC supervision).</p> <p>Despite of intermittent returns of winter weather in January, no long-time snowfalls or extremely low temperatures were observed. As a result the team was able to continue work in the field according to a previous schedule and our activities were not markedly limited by decreased weather factors. Only once (on 08JAN2014) the site was inaccessible and staff remained in the camp to work on documentation, however removal of snow from the site shelter roofs and the rooms currently under excavation was consuming some amount of our time repeatedly.</p> <p>With a view to more effective coordination of the work <b>progress strategy meetings</b> with MAAP team have been continued on a weekly basis as well as <b>briefings with the graduates</b> (held every two weeks). Essential supervision on the staff through <b>individual written reporting</b> on the monthly basis is being improved and the management is</p> |

reported on the weekly basis (**MAAP Weekly Reports**). On 30JAN2014 common **weekly meetings of the MoIC and MAAP staff** were launched which are meant to be a platform for discussing ad hoc issues on several aspects of our daily cooperation. As previously, **regular co-briefings with Head of the MoIC** team took part in the field or in the MoIC camp.

On 20JAN2014 a **meeting on safety situation at Mes Aynak** was held by Mr. Arib Aziz (MoMP) with participation of the representatives of MAAP, PMU, MoIC, MoMP, MCC and ANP. The current status of security was briefly discussed, including handing over responsibility for the Afghan Camp to Commander of ANP Mes Aynak after accomplishing procedural formalities between MoMP and MoI.

**An organizational meeting with the representatives of the MoIC** and the Afghan Institute of Archaeology was put through this month (25JAN2014). At the meeting, chaired by HE Omar Sultan, following issues were discussed: preparing a common procurement for the project; monthly reporting activities of the internationals to the MoIC; mutual exchange of field documentation and other deliverables between the teams (the problem of contrary and mutually exclusive regulations given by the PMU consultants' contracts and by Afghan "Law on Protection of Historical and Cultural Properties" that should be resolved on the departmental level); delivery small finds to the MoIC on a daily basis, registration and regular transfers to the MAAP camp; groundless accusing the Tajik specialists for damage of archaeological artifacts – hopefully definitely denied; resuming monthly working meetings on Mes Aynak for the project stakeholders; the problem of ineffective cooperation between the MoIC conservators and their international counterpart, reported several times in the past. We believe that the most important and urgent issues have been clarified beneficially for the project.

**A new medical aid ambulance** was delivered to the camp in January to provide an emergency transportation for the staff if needed. Health and Safety on the project has been upgraded significantly.

**Five workers have been arrested** by ANP at the end of the month. They are suspected of the crime of theft of historical artifacts from area Mes063 and smuggling them beyond the mining zone that was presumed to happen in October 2013. ANP will ensure a credible investigation. On 08JAN2014 three of our graduates took part in

**prerequisite tests for newly advertised posts in the Institute of Archaeology.** One of the candidates, Imam Khan Rajabi, was successful and soon he is going to begin working with the MoIC as a professional archaeologist.

A question of the nearest **procurement of equipment and materials for the fieldwork** at Mes Aynak has been resolved. After evaluation of our reliable requirements and capabilities for the forthcoming fieldwork season one common and comprehensive order was compiled (and then submitted to PMU/MoMP in late January) that includes all resources requested by the international team as well as those required by the MoIC. This should help us to avoid uncoordinated lapping the same needs and duplicate purchases. Besides managing of resources consumption and their economic distribution should be better controlled when overseen by the MAAP logistic staff.

Also the **manpower and staffing** were preliminarily estimated (total 500 workers, 60 new employees to be provided by the MoIC and 250 by PMU). The MoIC have confirmed that the team of 17 archaeologists and 8 conservators will be deployed for work at Mes Aynak.

#### **Fieldwork**

Regular archaeological excavation is currently ongoing on **8 sites supervised by MAAP**, they are as follows: Mes004, Mes038, Mes045, Mes046, Mes049E, Mes052, Mes058 and Mes059. Present staff shortage did not allow us to cover some vacancies that appeared in January, therefore work on some of the sites (Mes059, Mes049, Mes052) was being provisionally suspended and resumed respectively. In addition, some minor works were carried this month on Mes055.

- **Site Mes004** (Agnieszka Dolatowska and Firuza Abdulwahidova, assistance: Sayed Ali Shah Payeez and 9 workmen): having regard to standardize documentation, at the beginning of the month A. Dolatowska began supervising fieldwork. Guidance was provided to Ali Shah to learn some technical skills such as using record forms, photo recording etc. Context register has been established and is being updated, also preparing provisional site plan is currently ongoing. This work, aimed at an experimental unifying the records done by the Tajik colleagues with documentation produced by the Western archaeologists, has already started achieving first results. Fieldwork carried out on Mes004 in January was concentrated on entire exposing architectural remains

(especially expanding excavation on the western extend, where further wall structures continue) as well as on clarification of features and stratigraphy sequence within formerly exposed buildings: in Room 3 a trial trench has revealed the earlier occupation level, moreover stratigraphic sections were prepared for recording in Rooms 4 and 2 where phases of occupation concurrent to each other have been revealed.

- **Site Mes038** (supervisor: Farrukh Safoyev, assisted by Sayed Hussain Burkhani, 12 labourers): excavation was focused on further clarification of the complex plan in the western extent of the site. Work in Room 27 was completed this month (on 22JAN2014 a possible hoard of 29 copper coins and fragments of a metal container were found) and Room 21 is almost accomplished. In the southern base of terraced slope exploration of a cistern (or a well?) ctx. No. 20/12, cut into consolidated bedrock and filled with ash and slag backfill, was carried out. Thanks to removal of spoil previously dumped to the west it has been confirmed that up-to-now excavated premises do not define yet its western limit. Among most interesting artifacts there is a small terracotta statuette of Zoroastrian goddess Ardokhsho.
- On **Site Mes045** (Dr. Usmon Eshonzada, assistant: Mohammad Ali Amiri, 5 workers) exposing outer terrace walls along the southern escarpment was continued this month. Three rectangular rooms were fully exposed, one of them with remains of plastered torus in the centre. Re-numeration of all stupas, room, courtyard spaces etc. was begun by Dr. Eshonzoda along with drawing a detailed site plan. Absence of the MoIC co-archaeologist resulted in undisturbed collecting and registering small finds, including 84 Kushan or Kushan-Sassanid coins.
- Excavation work on **Site Mes046** (Sultan Masoud Muradi, 12 workers) was aimed at completing the main 'tower' building. Previously unexcavated parts around the south-western limit of the building were removed, particularly in Room 16 (completed) as well as in Rooms 5 and 14 (still continued). In the central Room 18 backfill is being disposed in order to expose all features. So far a very unique and well preserved schistone window has been revealed in the western room wall. Moreover, excavation was carried out in small Rooms 6 and 8 within the adjacent eastern premises.
- Djumakhon Saydaliyev (with 12 workers): work on **Site Mes049E** on the Kuh-e Aynak hilltop was resumed on

15JAN2014 and was carried within Room 37 as well as in the area extended to the west, up to the mountain slope. Several small finds were recovered such as spindle-whorls, clay tuyeres, fragments of glassware and stone beads. Wooden roof shelter was built over Rooms 35 and 36 to provide protection from snow and rain.

- **Site Mes052** (trainee-archaeologist Hussain Ali Haidari, 7 workmen): this month work in this area was continued with several lapses. After consultation with the MAAP conservator it was confirmed that numerous small plaster fragments that were registered in Room 4/01 are simply displaced architectural material. Subsequently excavation was completed and the room has been prepared for photo recording and mapping. Also excavation was continued in Room 4/08 to the north.
- On **Site Mes058** (Dr. Dowlatkhoja Dowdy assisted by Mirwais Qaderyor, 13 workers, in early January temporally upgraded up to 23) excavation was continued on the terraces in the western and the north-western part of the site, where a wall of Space 61 (a possible room) to the west of Room 52 was exposed along with the north-south oriented corridor no. 65-66. It seems that several architectural structures cover the slope very densely. Excavation in Room 56 (above Site Mes058NW) has been nearly completed. In Room 59 a deposit of 10 coins was registered. Additionally work was initiated in several premises (no. 49, 62, 67 and 69) in the southern limit of the complex.
- Fieldwork in area **Mes059** (Dr. Rahmatsho Mahmadshev, from 20JAN2014 assisted by Khair Khairzada (MoIC) and 10 workers) on the south-western slope of Shah Tepe was resumed on 18JAN2014. In Room AA2 in the northern part of excavated area corner walls with remains of painted plaster were exposed, in addition some decorated fragments (presumably figural presentation?) were registered in situ on the floor. Moreover work was also continued within the central trial Trench 03 where further parallel stone walls were revealed accompanied by some presumable traces of melting activities. Up till now revealed architectural relics seem to prove a relatively high density of features covering the slope down to its base.
- At the beginning of January Paul Murray (accompanied by 3 workers) completed general cleaning-up of **Site Mes055**. Then a major external terrace wall ctx no. 378 that defines the southern extent of Sites Mes055 and

Mes043 was recorded (over 70 contexts distinguished), including a series of photos for further rectification and surveying reference points.

- A light excavator and one dumper track were available this month on the site (despite of a few technical failures) while a large capacity JCB digger has been inactive since several months. **Removal of spoil heaps** in the south-western limit of Site Mes058 was completed (including preparing an embankment for the dumper track) as well as most of spoil dumped in area Mes038 has been disposed. Due to shortage in machinery our former program of earthworks is significantly delayed at the moment.
- Despite of bad weather conditions and several technical impediments (level mode, broken tripod, defective batteries) in January **survey mapping** (Roberta Marziani assisted by Sayed Rahim Hussainkhel) was updated accordingly on the following sites: Mes046N, Mes004, Mes038 and Mes062. In addition on Mes046N, Mes029 and Mes030 taking levels was completed by Sayed Rahim. In the second half of the month mapping up-to-now exposed architecture on Site Mes007 (Shamar Tepe) was reinitiated, although due to complexity of structures there it will be continued in the next weeks. On Site Mes055 geo-rectified points were surveyed.

#### Post-ex work

- **GIS, digitizing field plans and production of final site plans** (Roberta Marziani, assistance: Sayed Rahem Hussainkhel): as the most of current excavation has been updated in the past months, more focus was given to digitizing and data entry. Roberta worked on digitizing site plan of area Mes005 (about 95% completed until the end of the month) and a provisional printing version was prepared in order to be reviewed in the field and to add all missing contexts and other archaeological features. Sayed Rahem completed digitizing area Mes028 including all necessary corrections and edition – this work has proved effectiveness of training provided to him so far in order to make him fully skilled in an entire process of the map production according to the international standards. Moreover, as every month Master Site Plan (updated as for mid-January 2014) was produced as well as some gridded site plans were prepared at the individual archaeologists' request (Mes045, Mes043+Mes055, Mes004).

- **Architectural studies** (Rahmatjon Salamov): work is ongoing on preparing final general plans and phasing study plans of the **Sites 038, 042, 046 and 049E**. R. Salamov is using Auto-Cad files handed over by our GIS team for preparing digitized versions as well as cross-sections through selected areas of Sites Mes049 and Mes058 in order to clarify common stratigraphic and structural relations between rooms, courtyards, altars and other architectural features.
- Paul Murray is continuing working on **final reports on Sites 043, 032 and 055** (26 plans were re-drawn, 447 context sheets had to be reviewed and corrected due to inadequate quality of previous records). Apart of that, several small finds from areas 006, 055 and 054 were photographed.
- **Basic conservation, studies on dating and attribution of coins** are being continued by Dr. Dawlatkhoja Dowdy and Farrukh Safoyev – in January ca. 100 coins were processed.
- Firuza Abdulwakhidova (with guidance provided by A. Dolatowska) is working on a **catalogue of ceramic materials from Mes004** with implementation of catalogue forms translated into English and pottery diagnostic templates prepared in 2013 by Rafael Sequeira.
- In January **transfers of movable finds from the site to Afghan Camp**, such as baulk ceramics material (over 70 bags), stone querns, random assortment of small finds as well as a series of vessels, were organized relatively regularly: on 02JAN2014, 06JAN2014 and again on 20JAN2014. However it must be emphasized that several artifacts were misplaced by the Afghan conservators in the course of registration which resulted in frequent postponing previously arranged transport.
- **Report on field walking survey** in December 2013 and **“Provisional winter schedule”** were being prepared by M. Lemiesz.
- Agnieszka Dolatowska is reorganizing **the baulk ceramic material and small finds currently stored in the camp**. This work is aimed at preparing easily accessible storage space for collecting and systematic storing movable artifacts recovered during consecutive months of extensive field excavation. Hundreds of bags of pottery (currently from areas Mes046, Mes035 and Mes030) are being manhandled, sorted by context numbers and dates, repacked and distributed to respective storerooms accordingly. Lack of any pottery from area Mes048 has

been noticed and - as regards some other sites – it has been found out that no ceramics was even initially sorted since as yet over 100 unregistered small finds were already recovered during re-packing. Also, as a consequence of an evident careless abandon of packs of ceramics outside the storage, being exposed to long-term weather conditions, labels and plastic bags got damaged. As a result, so far ca. 20 bags have been entirely discarded. These activities are attended by some of the graduates who are acquainting with standards of pottery processing. In addition, a wooden shelter has begun to be erected for storing stones and other categories of finds that do not require special storage conditions.

### **Conservation**

- Preliminary assessment inspections to Sites Mes038, Mes046, Mes052, Mes054 and Mes058 were carried out on 13-14JAN2014 by Amanda Watts, Marek Lemiesz) in order to establish timeframe of activities in the coming weeks.
- Afterward (20JAN2014) several vessels from Sites Mes038, Mes046 and Mes054 were excavated, wrapped and lifted from excavation and transferred to the Afghan Camp laboratory.
- Emergency lift of a highly friable wooden gate lock mechanism (?) from the complex Mes045 was carried out on 22JAN2014. The object was covered with plastic sheeting, wrapped in foam padding and secured to a wooden board to prevent damage. Two other fragments of wooden doorframe were also collected.
- In January A. Watts, with an occasional assistance of Imam Khan Rajabi, continued work on reconstruction the vessels brought from Mes029, Mes046 and Mes038 (using 30% paraloid B72 in acetone, joins cleaned with swabs of acetone) and two large storage jars from Mes033 (30% B72 adhesive used, high quality reconstruction impossible due to an incrustation of soluble salts on the surfaces). Upon completion of reconstruction drawing documentation was prepared. Additionally, the team completed surface cleaning of a carnelian seal (Mes054) with 50% ethanol aqueous solution. The surface of the wooden mechanism was cleaned and the surface was consolidated with 10% B72 in acetone.
- Conservatory monitoring conducted in January: visit to Room 30 on Mes058 aimed at controlling the deteriorating condition of surfaces of the exposed Buddha

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|   | <p>statue) and a rapid assessment of painted surfaces and sculptures at Shamar Tepe (area Mes007).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation on the excavation of room fills that contain several plaster fragments was provided on Site Mes054 (ctx 401) and in Room 4/01 in area Mes052. Additionally: winter covering of a painted plaster remains in Room 38 on Mes054 was accomplished (the absorbent paper followed by a few layers of cotton cloth and plastic foil).</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Policy Support to Ministry of Mines</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The main purpose of the Ministry of Mines is what is mentioned in its vision. It states: <b><i>“To be the leading economic ministry in the Government of Afghanistan, supporting national and local economic development and ensuring optimum revenues for Afghanistan from its mineral resources in a responsible manner”</i></b></li> <li>• Still focusing on capacity building process. We have started the discussion at the end of May regarding how to prepare work plan and how to do the assessment of different departments of the ministry and based on what each department needs, we will propose a program or programs for further development of that section with the support of donor/s.</li> <li>• Different donors are focusing on different areas within the ministry. The main issue that has been prioritized is the issue of gender and capacity building process.</li> <li>• The planning and the assessment will be covered during June.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Aynak Compliance Monitoring Project</b></p> | <p>The Ministry of Mines and Petroleum (MOMP) and MJAM have agreed on parameters for the feasibility study, taking account of the lack of phosphate in the country, required to neutralise acid produced during smelting.</p> <p>MJAM has undertaken to provide the draft feasibility study in March.</p>  |

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|  | <p>The MCC - Jiangxi Copper Consortium, a joint venture between the Metallurgical Corporation of China Ltd. (MCC) and Jiangxi Copper Company Ltd. (JCL), originally bid for and won the Aynak Mining Contract. The consortium formed its Afghan subsidiary, the MCC-JCL Aynak Minerals Company (MJAM) which currently holds the mining license and is effectively one of the parties to the Aynak Mining Contract, along with MOMP.</p> <p>Archaeological excavations continue at the mine site, under the supervision of the Ministry of Information and Culture, with strong logistical support from the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum, the World Bank and other interested parties. It is very difficult to plan in detail for the completion of work by any given date as the time required depends on what is discovered as work proceeds. The work consists not only of excavation of large areas of the surface, some in very rugged terrain, but painstaking exposure of any relics detected, detailed recording, photography and delicate preparations for final excavation, preservation and transportation. This project is being conducted in close consultation with MJAM officials to afford priority to the areas most urgently required by the company for the start of their operations.</p> <p>The GAF Aynak Compliance Monitoring team continues to work closely with MOMP officials and other experts in providing advice and support on these issues, including legal advice.</p> |
| <p><b>Environmental Issues Support to NEPA</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working on State of Environment Report of NEPA to be published soon. I am leading the technical issues of the preparation of this report from the beginning, which started last year up to now. Currently the report is in its designing and about printing stages. During two last weeks we are working very hard to have its printed copies.</li> <li>• <b>(Continued from last month). It is now in printing and it will be on table in the first week of .</b></li> <li>• Participation and technical support to the Environmental Technical Committee of Standards which is in ANSA, and I am representing NEPA officially and developing various environmental standards. We have proposed a required</li> </ul>  |

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|   | <p>draft to the Technical committee it is in the stage to have inception session on the effluent standard. The meetings of this committee is on monthly basis. <b>(Continued from last month).</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attending in Environmental Coordination meeting of NEPA which meets every month and discusses various environmental issues of the country and specially of the Kabul City. <b>(Continued from last month).</b></li> <li>• During this month, I have managed consultation meeting with ESIA International Advisor for about 40 participant in NEPA in 17 Nov, 2013 for one day. Still we are receiving the comments of the ministries and will be incorporating in the ESIA draft to finalize it. <b>(Continued from last month).</b></li> <li>• During December 2013, I was nominated by NEPA to attend the 13th Governing Council meeting of SACEP, in Islamabad, Pakistan, 2 - 7 December 2013, with H.E DG of NEPA. (New).</li> <li>• During December, I was nominated by NEPA to attend the GEF Expanded Constituency Workshop in Marrakech, Morocco, from 14 to 19 December, 2013. (New).</li> <li>• Our technical support continues with all relevant divisions of NEPA.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>NRRCP “National and Regional Resource Corridor Program”</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drafted REoI (ARCP’s ARAZI project) and sent it to Afghanistan Land Authority for comment.</li> <li>• Researched on how mining projects are electrified.</li> <li>• Conduced preliminary works on infrastructure assessment for minerals in Afghanistan.</li> <li>• Attending Gas Economics Training in the MoMP.</li> <li>• Met with President of Afghan American Chamber of Commerce (AACC) and discussed the issues in respect to U.S. investments on mining and natural resources.</li> <li>• Continuous work on the ARCP recruitment and financing stage.</li> </ul>  |

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worked on the list of mines from Afghanistan Geological Survey (AGS). Jointly, sorted out the mines with specific coordinate locations and predicted reserves. The next step is to plan basic infrastructure (roads, electricity and water supply) to selective mines after they are categorized.</li> <li>• Attended the monthly meeting of Regional Economic Cooperation Conference for Afghanistan (RECCA). The form of RECCA can't be filled yet, because it requires information from the Petroleum Authority of the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum. Official letter was sent to the Petroleum Authority requesting information regarding Afghanistan Tajikistan Gas Pipeline (ATGP) and TAPI (Turkmenistan Afghanistan Pakistan India) pipeline;</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Support to AGS Capacity Building (CBAGS)</b></p> | <p><b>Technical support</b> to AGS in strengthening the geologists capacities continued in February, with the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continuation of the rocks identification training started in November 2013, in order the AGS staff to be able to understand how the three rock classes (igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic) have been formed and how to recognize different rocks within these three classes</li> <li>- Continuation of the Geographical Information System training started in November 2013, in order the AGS to accurately convey the field surveyed information into geological databases and maps, in order to deliver the most relevant information to the users</li> </ul> <p><b>AGS Database:</b> the consistency assessment was completed, the indexation is ongoing, as well as the identification of new data and the upgrading of design and functionality</p> <p><b>AGS laboratories:</b> the professional assessment and recommendations for improvements were released and are under review of the PMU/WB. The procurement of more than 50,000 USD of equipment, spare parts and consumables, financed by the WB, has been launched.</p> <p>The <b>Graduate Management Training (GMT) Program</b> has been nationwide advertised by the MoMP, with a deadline on 28 Feb. It is dedicated to junior and middle engineers and management Civil Servants, in the areas of</p> |

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|  | <p>(1) geology, cadastre, mine inspection and (2) law, finance, administration and management; the age condition is below 32, and the candidates must already be fluent in English and computer use.</p>  |
| <p><b>Support to Reform of the Afghan Gas State Enterprise</b></p> | <p><b>Activities:</b><br/> Document Review (previous technical reports) and Consultations with Donors, consultants and other organizations.</p> <p>Review and analysis of Afghan Gas functions started: covering HR, organizational structure, finances and accounts, information flows.</p> <p><b>Outputs:</b><br/> Task 1 report (Literature Review and Donor Consultations)<br/> Task 1 presentation</p> <p><b>Afghan Gas HQ:</b><br/> A two week visit was made by the Project Team to Afghan Gas at their HQ. Afghan Gas continue to be very helpful and supportive. The purpose was to start the data collection and work on site at Afghan Gas in Sheberghan. A first visit had been made by the project team to Afghan Gas in December, but that was largely an introductory visit for the project team to gain a first familiarity about the enterprise and for senior management to learn about the project and the team work plan.</p> |