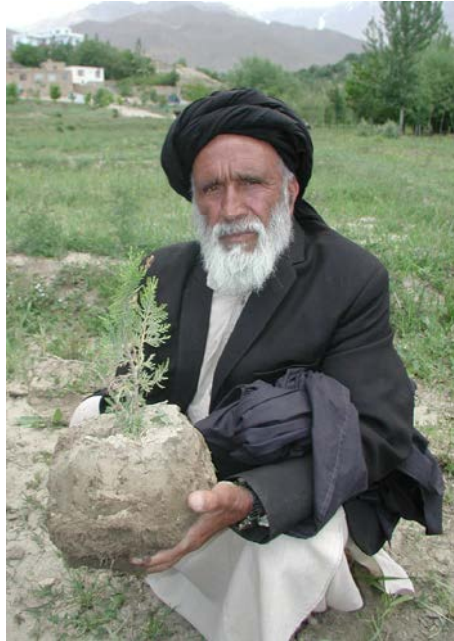# Principles of Effective Reforestation

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Prepared for USAID/Afghanistan,
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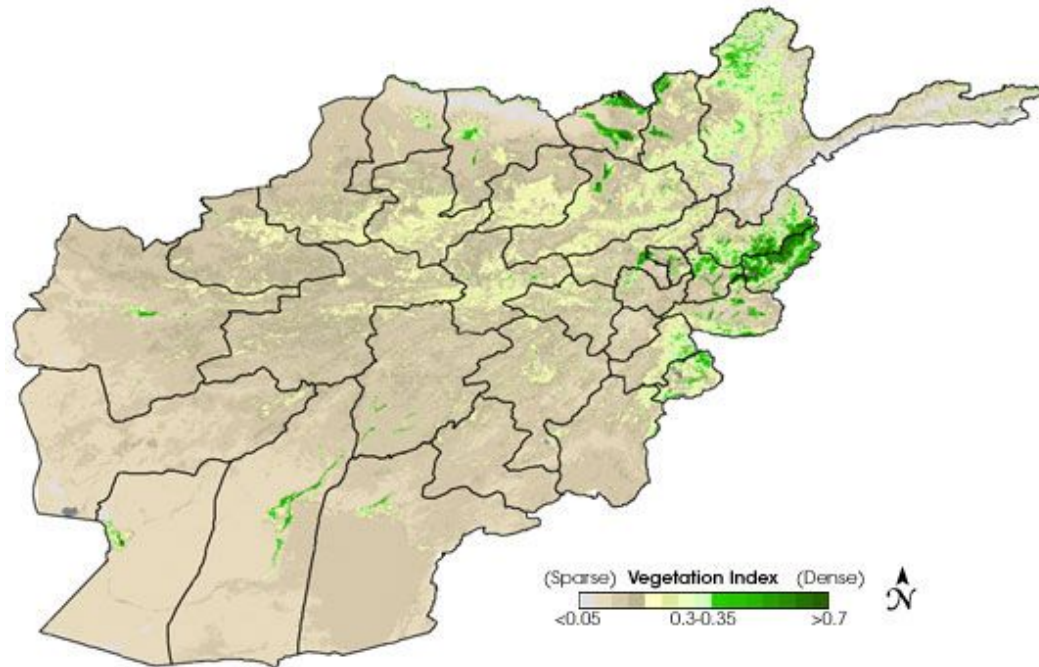**Lucky Peak Nursery**
USDA Forest Service, Boise, Idaho

Under the United States Department of Agriculture,
Foreign Agricultural Service, Office of Capacity Building
and Development
Participating Agency Service Agreement
with the
United States Agency for International
Development/Afghanistan

Definition of "Effective Reforestation"

1. Sustainable (healthy, long-term viability)
2. Meets desired goals and objectives

Components of "Effective Reforestation"

First part: Planning (one-third)
Second part: Execution (one-third)
Third part: Monitoring (one-third)

Examples of Effective Reforestation in Afghanistan

1. Kabul Greenbelt plantings (Tapi-Maranjan)
2. Cottonwood plantings in Logar
3. Pistashio plantings in Samangon

Steps For Effective Reforestation in Afghanistan

1. **Clearly Stated Objective (Goal) of Planting**

Why It's Important:
   a. This becomes the "what"
   b. "Desired Future Condition" is identified
   c. "If you don't know where you are going, any road will get you there."
   d. Must be attainable.
   e. Must be "ecologically compatible" (Douglas-fir for Kabul Greenbelt)

Examples:
   a. Pole production for houses
   b. Re-establish natural woodlands for fruit production
   c. Re-establish natural woodlands for wood production

Steps For Effective Reforestation in Afghanistan

2. **Consultation/Community Involvement**

Why It's Important:
   a. This becomes the "who"
   b. Understanding of need of the project
   c. Increased participation (historical record, reduced destruction)
   d. Potential for improved project through collaboration
   e. Greater chance for longevity of project after project life

Examples:
   a. Meet with community leaders on project acceptance
   b. Meet with local farmers on local practices
   c. Identify local expert or "champion"

Steps For Effective Reforestation in Afghanistan

3. **Establish Standards and Guidelines**

Why It's Important:
   a. This becomes the "how"
   b. These become the "roadmap"
   c. These become the details; must be specific
   d. The more complete the details, greater chance of success
   e. Identifies weakness to strengthen

Examples:
   a. What tree species to plant?
   b. Where is the source?
   c. Identifying the "target seedling" for the specific sites.
   d. What is the site preparation prior to plantings? How? Who?
   e. What is the post-planting care? How? Who?
   f. Where will the funding come from? For how many years?
   g. Provide training workshops to employees.
   h. Seek out and retain skilled advisors.

Examples of Standards and Guidelines (Tools)

Seed Storage for Future Projects

Seed Orchard for Seedling Production

Examples of Standards and Guidelines (Tools)

Technical Seed and Nursery Workshops

Example of Standard and Guidelines: Target Seedling Concept

Rural Planting Sites

Urban Planting Sites

Steps For Effective Reforestation in Afghanistan

4. Monitor the Process and Results

Why It's Important?
   a. Did we reach our destination?
   b. Did we begin to accomplish our stated objective?
   c. Did we follow the established standard and guidelines?
   d. Does the community still support our joint project?
   e. Could we improve our results with a change standards/guidelines?
   f. Is this objective simply unobtainable; should it change?
   g. Monitoring should occur all long the process, not just at the end.
   h. It can cause the standards and guidelines to change during the process.

Examples:
   a. Seedling survival surveys every first, third, fifth years.
   b. Changes in technology from planning stage to implementation stage.
   c. Are there standards/guidelines that could be changed to get same or improved result?

Increasing Need for Wood Products

The future of Afghanistan's forests is now