

Biodiversity Profile of Afghanistan

An Output of the National Capacity Needs Self-Assessment for Global Environment Management (NCSA) for Afghanistan

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Acronyms and abbreviations

ACC Afghan Conservation Corps

AIMS Afghanistan Information Management Services
AVHRR Advanced Very High Resolution Radiometer

CITES Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna

CR Critically Endangered

DNRM Department of Natural Resource Management

EMBL European Molecular Biology Laboratory

EN Endangered

EX Extinct

FAO Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

GLCC Global Land Cover Classification

GRIN Genetic Resources Information Network

IBA Important Bird Area

IIP Implementation and Investment Program

IUCN World Conservation Union

MAIL Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock

MDG Millennium Development Goal

NCSA National Capacity Needs Self-Assessment for Global Environment Management

NEPA National Environmental Protection Agency

PRT Provincial Reconstruction Team

UNCBD United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
UNCCD United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

UNFCCC United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

UNEP United Nations Environment Programme

UNHCR United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

VU Vulnerable

WCMC World Conservation Monitoring Centre

WCS Wildlife Conservation Society
WMO World Meteorological Office
WPAD World Protected Areas Database

WWF World Wildlife Fund

Foreword

Afghanistan is a country rich in living resources and natural beauty. Its spectacular landscapes of mountains, deserts, woodlands and forests are home to a wide range of flora and fauna existing in multiple ecological settings. Natural resources and associated biological diversity provides the livelihood basis for up to 80% of the Afghan population. At the same time, biodiversity is being degraded as immediate needs, ongoing conflict, internal displacement, high rates of population growth, low levels of education, and poverty, result in a prioritization of survival over the longer-term sustainability of natural resource use and management. The potentially far-reaching impacts of biodiversity loss and natural resource degradation for the Afghan people led the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to sign and ratify the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) in 1992.

The year 2008, however, presents Afghanistan with many opportunities to move towards the conservation of its biological diversity. The Forest Law, Rangeland Law, Land Policy and protected area regulations have all been drafted and are currently being reviewed by the Afghan Government. There are multiple community based natural resource management initiatives being supported by the Government and the International Community around the country.

And the draft management plan for Band-e-Amir protected area is in its final stages of approval.

With funding from the European Commission, Government of Finland and Global Environment Facility (GEF), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has supported the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afahanistan to implement the National Capacity Needs Self-Assessment for Global Environment Management (NCSA) which aims to identify country level priorities and needs for capacity building to address global environmental issues and, in particular, enhance the capacity of Afghanistan to meet its existing commitments under the UNCBD, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), As part of this process, UNEP has supported the elaboration of this Biodiversity Profile of Afghanistan, 2008.

This report presents a comprehensive summary of the status of Afghanistan's biodiversity in 2008. I sincerely hope that this report will be useful not only to the people of Afghanistan, but also to all donor countries and international organizations supporting the conservation and sustainable management of the country's biological resources.

Asif Zaidi Programme Manager United Nations Environment Programme

Foreword

It is saddening to see the degradation of Afghanistan's biological diversity, to the detriment of our country's sustainable development. Drought and mismanagement of our precious water resources are affecting agricultural productivity and the health of our families, desertification is reducing the carrying capacity of our land, and the unsustainable harvesting of our precious forest resources marks the loss of a national treasure.

It is in this context that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan has paid considerable attention to environmental issues in recent years. The National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) has been established as an independent agency with the goal to "protect the environmental integrity of Afghanistan and support sustainable development of its natural resources through the provision of effective environmental policies, regulatory frameworks and management services that are also in line with the Afghanistan Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)". The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) has recently completed its 10-Year Agricultural Master Plan and associated Implementation and Investment Programme (IIP), identifying natural resources as one of the key cross-cutting priorities.

The Afghan Government has also fully recognized the important role that the Afghan people have to play in the conservation of our biological heritage. Living alongside biological resources and interacting with them on a daily basis, the active participation of local communities in natural resource management plans and strategies is considered essential.

Since 2002, UNEP has provided consistent support to institutional strengthening and capacity building within the environmental field. This report represents one example of the important outputs that have been generated during this period. This report, Biodiversity Profile of Afghanistan, 2008, provides the first-ever comprehensive review of the status of biodiversity that has been carried out in Afghanistan. The Afghan Government and international community alike will benefit greatly from this report as environmental management policies are debated, approved and implemented. On behalf of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, we urge readers to take note of Afghanistan's rich biological diversity, recognize the serious threats that face this important resource, and join forces to ensure that this rich natural heritage is not lost to Afghanistan forever.

> Obaidullah Ramin Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock

Mostapha Zaher Director-General of the National Environmental Protection Agency

Author's Note

This report is an attempt to provide a comprehensive summary of the status of Afghanistan's biodiversity in 2008. The hope is that it will serve as a handy and scientifically credible reference for anybody seeking reliable information on Afghan biodiversity.

For many reasons, comprehensively describing Afghanistan's biodiversity is a challenging task. First, little research has been undertaken on Afghan biodiversity. There are many thousands of species that have not been recognized by scientists and there is little information on the status or distribution of most of those that have been catalogued. Second, most of biodiversity research was undertaken prior to the outbreak of war in 1979 and is therefore out of date. Unfortunately, the current security situation makes it difficult to reassess, validate and update this older information. Third, much of the biodiversity research has been published in obscure journals and a wide variety of languages thereby making in inaccessible. Fourth, much of the more recent information on Afghan biodiversity has uncritically recycled old material without citing original sources making it very difficult to assess the validity of the data. And last, because Afghan species are relatively poorly known, considerable taxonomic uncertainty remains leading to constantly changing classification and scientific names.

The first part of the report is a short, narrative interpretation of Afghanistan's biodiversity emphasizing various approaches to eco-regional classification, summaries of species and species-at-risk, identification of known biodiversity hotspots,

and a short summary of the country's agricultural biodiversity.

Lists of species known to occur in Afghanistan are included as Appendices 1 – 8. In reviewing these data, it became clear how much basic fieldwork remains to be done to produce reliable species lists, even for well-known groups such as birds and mammals. Considerable botanical research has been undertaken in Afghanistan, but it has not yet been synthesized. Consequently, no checklists for vascular plants are included.

Appendices 10 and 11 list those Afghan species that are at risk of extinction at the global scale. However, almost no information is available on the current status of species within the borders of Afghanistan, although it is readily obvious that many species have declined dramatically over the past three decades. An urgent need is to initiate the process of formally assessing the distribution and population trends of Afghanistan's biodiversity, starting with mammals.

A bibliography of over 500 publications on Afghan biodiversity, sorted by subject, is included as Appendix 12. This list is by no means complete and I was unable to locate and translate most of the references. Ideally, some organization would assume responsibility for completing the bibliography and keeping it up-to-date. Acquiring the publications and scanning them into an accessible digital library would be a great service.

I hope that this profile of Afghanistan's biodiversity proves to be useful.

Christopher C. Shank

Executive Summary

Biodiversity, the variety of living things, is sometimes called 'the wealth of the poor' because rural people living close to the land depend upon biodiversity to provide natural goods and ecological services. History shows that environmental degradation is often a contributing factor to the collapse of civilizations and that vibrant, healthy societies depend on a healthy environment that is rich in biodiversity.

The intent of this report, which was an output of the National Capacity Needs Self-Assessment for Global Environment Management (NCSA) project implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), is to provide a summary of what is known in 2008 about the status of Afghanistan's biodiversity. There are three components:

- a narrative summary of Afghan biodiversity;
- a listing of known species of Afghan mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, butterflies, molluscs and liverworts; and
- a subject bibliography of published information on elements of Afghan biodiversity.

Much of the information on Afghanistan's biodiversity is old and no longer reliable. Little significant information has been gathered since the onset of war in 1978. However, the few recent investigations suggest that Afghanistan's biodiversity has suffered enormously in the last three decades.

Afghanistan is comprised of eight unique biogeographical Provinces of which seven belong to the Palaearctic Realm. Only a small area in the lower Kabul River Valley is of Indo-Malayan origin. A recent classification breaks Afghanistan down into 15 smaller eco-regions of which four are considered as critical/ endangered, eight as vulnerable and only two as relatively stable and intact.

The species composition of all eco-regions has been significantly reduced through a combination of overgrazing, fuel collection and exploitation by large herbivorous animals. Deciduous and evergreen true forests are limited to the monsoon-influenced eastern part of the country and once comprised about 5% of Afghanistan's surface area. Recent

analyses suggest that only 5% of these original forests may still exist. Open woodlands dominated by pistachio and juniper once comprised about 38% of Afghanistan. Satellite image analysis of selected areas in 2002 found that tree density was too low to be detected anywhere, suggesting that this once widespread ecosystem is on the verge of extinction in Afghanistan. The vast areas of subalpine vegetation was probably originally steppe grassland but is now almost entirely comprised of grazing-resistant cushion shrubland.

Analysis of recorded species records shows that are there are 137 to 150 species of mammals, 428 to 515 birds, 92 to 112 reptiles, six to eight amphibians, 101 to 139 fish, 245 butterflies, and 3,500 to 4,000 vascular plant species native to Afghanistan. The range in numbers results from uncertainty in taxonomy and the questionable validity of some records. A total of 39 species and eight subspecies appear on the World Conservation Union (IUCN) Red List as being globally threatened with extinction. There are 23 Afghan species listed on Appendix I and 88 on Appendix II of the Convention of the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES). No formal assessment has been made of species at risk at the national scale, but many species, particularly large mammals, are obviously at risk of extinction within Afghanistan. Only seven vertebrate species are known to be endemic to Afghanistan, but estimates for endemic plant species range from 20 - 30% (i.e. about 600 – 1,200 species).

Afghanistan is an arid country and the few wetlands that do exist are therefore of great significance to biodiversity. A list of 21 wetlands of known or potential significance is provided in this report.

Afghanistan currently has no legally instituted or effectively managed protected areas. Prior to 1978, one National Park, four Waterfowl Reserves and two Wildlife Sanctuaries were designated by the Government, but were never formally and legally declared as such and management was minimal. A list of 15 potential protected areas proposed by various parties is provided in this report.

Afghanistan was one of the most significant centres for the origin and development of humanity's crop plants. Consequently, there are numerous local

landraces of wheat and other crops in use by Afghan farmers. Nine local breeds of sheep are found in Afghanistan along with eight breeds of cattle and seven of goats.

Nine priority actions are suggested for the conservation of Afghanistan's biodiversity.

- Establish priority and feasible protected areas as legally recognized and effectively managed entities. Priority areas should be Band-i-Amir, Ajar Valley, Pamir-i-Buzurg, and Dashte Nawar.
- Develop a protected areas system plan for Afghanistan designed to protect representative areas of high biodiversity in all major ecoregions.
- Survey all wetlands and potential protected areas listed in this document to determine current status and suitability for inclusion into the protected areas system plan.

- Initiate a national Red-Listing process for Afghan mammals with the technical assistance of IUCN, incorporating targeted surveys to establish current status of priority species.
- Encourage national and international scholars to develop a comprehensive flora of Afghanistan.
- Develop effective plans to intervene in the destruction of the remaining monsoondependent forests of eastern Afghanistan.
- 7. Develop effective plans for preserving and recovering remnant pistachio and juniper forests in northern Afghanistan.
- 8. Develop programs to preserve native Afghan landraces of crop plants and livestock.
- 9. Develop a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Afghanistan.

1 Introduction

Afghanistan is a country rich in living resources and natural beauty. Its striking landscapes of mountains, deserts, open woodlands and forests are home to a vast array of species existing in a multitude of ecological conditions. Unfortunately, the upheaval of the recent decades of war, a changing climate and rapid population growth appear to have left the country's environment in ruins. Once Afghanistan achieves conditions of basic personal and political security, true development will require, among other things, maintaining and enhancing the quality of the environment that Afghans depend upon for their livelihoods.

Before concrete measures can be undertaken to protect and rehabilitate the Afghan environment, a better understanding of current conditions must be developed. Very little recent information is available, with most of the primary literature based on first-hand observations pre-dating 1980. With few exceptions, recent summaries of Afghanistan's



Band-e-Amir is located in Bamiyan Province of Central Afghanistan and is the first proposed national park in Afghanistan

biodiversity and environment have depended upon secondary sources, often uncited, ultimately referring to data that are decades old.

This report attempts to provide a focused and well-documented desk study of what is currently known about Afghanistan's biodiversity. Every attempt has been made to go back to primary sources to ensure the credibility of the data. The report consists of three parts:

- a narrative summary of the major aspects of Afghan biodiversity;
- 2. authoritative checklists of known Afghan species based on current taxonomy; and
- 3. a reference list on Afghan biodiversity categorized by major subjects.

The paper was developed for the Kabul office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as part of the National Capacity Self-Assessment for Global Environment Management (NCSA) project for Afghanistan.

2 What is Biodiversity?

Biodiversity is a contraction of "biological diversity" and defined by the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity as:

... the variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.

Central to the concept of biodiversity is the idea of "variability" or the differences among collections of living things. This variability can arise from number or types of species, from the different ways that species are organized into biotic communities and ecosystems, and from the vast array of genetic differences existing between individuals, populations and species.

Afghanistan's biodiversity is manifested in many ways: number of species, differences in groups of species in various areas, the widely differing ecosystems found in various parts of the country and the genetic variation found in natural species and in agricultural crops and animals.

3 Why is Biodiversity Important to Afghanistan?

The primary value of biodiversity to Afghans lies in the tangible goods and services that biodiversity provides to Afghans. The most obvious of these are the direct uses of the components of biodiversity from traditional crops, fruits, grazing, fuel, timber harvesting, fishing, and hunting. Less obvious are the "ecosystem services" provided by biodiversity. These include soil fertility, erosion control, crop pollination, and climatic stability, to name a few. The ecosystem services provided by biodiversity are rarely understood and usually taken for granted, but as Diamond (2005) has argued, loss of these ecosystem services has often contributed in a central way to the decline and ultimate collapse of societies.

Biodiversity has been termed "the wealth of the poor" (World Resources Institute 2005) because the poor tend to be rural people living close to the land and dependent on it for the goods and services provided by biodiversity, e.g. productive crop and grazing land, fuel, building materials, wild fish and game. Land rich in biodiversity is a form of wealth, even if that wealth cannot be measured in strictly monetary terms.

The converse is that a country that has eliminated its biodiversity is a country condemned to remain poor. Without the basic goods and services provided by biodiversity it is not possible for rural people to make a living from the land. Poverty and emigration are the only options. If Afghanistan is to develop into a vibrant and economically secure nation, it must first halt the loss of its biodiversity.

4 Afghanistan's Human Population

The estimated population of Afghanistan in July 2005 was 29,928,987 (CIA World FactBook website), nearly double the population at the beginning of the period of war and civil strife in 1978. This figure represents the upper estimate for the 2005 population predicted by the World Bank in 1978 (Sayer and Van der Zon 1981; p. 13).

Afghanistan remains a predominately rural nation, but is rapidly becoming urbanized. In 1970, only 11% of the population was urban. This rose to 23.3% in 2003 and is expected to reach 41.9% by 2030 (United Nations Population Division 2006). The natural growth rate is a 2.6% per year as compared to the 2000 global growth rate of 1.4% (Population Reference Bureau 2005). Accordingly, 44.7% of the population is under 14 years of age (CIA World Factbook website), setting the stage for rapid population growth in the future. The doubling time for the Afghan population is less than 30 years. The population projected by 2050 is 81,933,000 (Population Reference Bureau 2005). Since 2001, more than 3.5 million refuges have returned to Afghanistan while nearly two million still remain abroad (UNHCR "Return to Afghanistan" website).

More people put more demands on the natural environment, leading inevitably to decline in biodiversity. The rapidly increasing population of Afghanistan presents the major underlying challenge to biodiversity conservation and ultimately to the quality of life of Afghans.



Collection of licorice (Glycyrrhiza glabra) around the Amu River, Balkh Province, Northern Afghanistan

5 Topography, Climate and Hydrology

The area of Afghanistan is 652,089 km² (National Geographic Society 1995), just slightly smaller than the US state of Texas and just slightly larger than France. The dominating feature is the central massif forming the spine of the country. The Hindu Kush is the general name given to a 1,000 km mountain system extending southwesterly from northern Pakistan and descending in elevation into the lowlying semi-deserts of western and north-western Afghanistan. The terminology is inconsistent but, properly speaking, the Hindu Kush Range itself is comprised only of the mountains north-east of Kabul and extending into northern Pakistan. Several other ranges radiate outwards from the Hindu Kush Range including the Eastern Safed Koh (comprised of the Koh-i-Baba, Salang, Koh-i-Paghman and Spin Ghar ranges) Suleiman Range, Siah Koh, Kohi-Khwaja Mohammad Selseleh-i-Band-i-Turkestan, and the Western Safid Koh (Siah Band and Doshakh, historically referred to as the Paropamisus) (Library of Congress nd).

The highest point in Afghanistan is Mount Nowshak (or Nowshakh) at 7,484 m and the lowest about 400 m in the Siestan. Approximately 27% of Afghanistan lies above 2,500 m elevation (UNEP 2003a,

pp. 21). The mountains grade into semi-desert open woodlands and shrublands forming a great crescent surrounding the northern, southern and western parts of the mountainous regions. Extensive desert regions are found in the southwest, while the extreme east is characterized by monsoon-influenced forests.

Afghanistan has an arid and semi-arid continental climate with cold winters, hot summers and most precipitation falling in the winter. World Meteorological Organization (WMO) "Global Standard Normals" for Afghanistan were collected from seven stations over the period from 1956-1983 (National Climatic Data Centre website). Table 1 shows the Global Standard Normal mean monthly temperature (C°) for each station. It shows clearly that elevation and season strongly influence mean monthly temperature ranging from -11° at Salang (3,366 m) in January to $+34^{\circ}$ at Farah (700 m) in July.

Table 2 shows WMO Global Standard Normals for mean monthly precipitation (mm) at seven stations. Like temperature, precipitation is strongly influenced by elevation, with the highest precipitation measured at Salang (3,366 m) and the lowest at Farah (700 m). The strongly seasonal nature of precipitation is obvious with almost none falling in summer and most precipitation falling as snow in the winter and early spring.

Table 1 World Meterological Office Global Standard Normal Mean Monthly Temperature (C) from seven Afghan Stations

	m elevation	J	F	М	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	N	D	Mean
Herat	964	3	6	10	16	22	30	30	28	23	16	9	4	16
Farah	700	7	10	16	22	27	32	34	32	27	20	13	9	21
Chagcharan	2183	-9	-7	2	9	13	17	19	18	12	7	2	-4	6
Kandahar	1010	5	8	14	20	26	30	32	29	23	18	11	7	19
Kabulk	1791	-2	2	6	13	17	23	25	24	19	13	6	1	12
Salang	3366	-11	-9	-6	0	3	8	9	8	4	1	-4	-8	0
Faizabad	1200	0	2	8	14	18	24	27	26	21	8	8	3	13

Table 2 World Meteorological Office Global Standard Normal Mean Monthly Precipitation (mm) from seven Afghan Stations

	m elevation	J	F	М	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	N	D	Mean
Herat	964	51	46	56	28	10	0	0	0	0	3	10	36	239
Farah	700	25	23	23	8	3	0	0	0	0	3	3	10	97
Chagcharan	2183	30	33	41	36	20	0	0	0	0	10	15	18	203
Kandahar	1010	53	43	41	18	3	0	3	0	0	3	8	20	191
Kabulk	1791	36	61	69	71	23	0	5	3	3	3	18	23	312
Salang	3366	109	142	185	198	124	10	8	8	8	30	69	104	996
Faizabad	1200	48	66	91	99	76	8	5	0	3	23	30	33	483



Dasht-e-Nawar Flamingo and Waterfowl Sanctuary, Ghazni Province, Southern Afghanistan

The source of most of Afghanistan's surface water is winter snow falling at high elevations. Freitag (1971) argues that the long period of summer drought limits Afghanistan's vegetation much more than does mean annual precipitation. Vegetation flourishes in areas receiving summer monsoon rains.

There are eight water basins flowing radially out from the Hindu Kush System. Three join the Indus River in Pakistan while the other five have no outflow and dry up in closed basins either inside or outside the country. Coad (1981) provides the following information on Afghanistan's hydrologic basins:

- Kabul River Basin—The Kabul River arises in the Paghman Mountains west of Kabul and joins the Indus at Attock 350 km downstream. Major tributaries are the Panjshir, Laghman, Logar and Kunar Rivers.
- Chamkani (= Kurram) River Basin—the Chamkani River arises in the Safed Kho south of Jalalabad and flows southeast for 320 km before reaching the Indus in Pakistan.
- Zhob-Gowmal Basin—the Gowmal River arises in Paktika Province and flows south-southeast into Pakistan where it joins the Zhob River and flows into the Indus.
- Pishin Lora Basin—the Pishin Lora arises in Pakistan in the Toba Kakar Range and flows southwest for about 400 km through Afghanistan before re-entering Pakistan and flowing into the Hamun-i-Lora.

- Helmand-Siestan Basin—The Helmand River arises in the Koh-i-Baba Range not far from the source of the Kabul River. It flows southwest for 1,300 km before turning north and emptying into marshes and salt flats of the Hamuni-Helmand, mostly in Iran. The Helmand is Afghanistan's largest basin and drains about 40% of the country's area.
- Hari Rud Basin—the Hari Rud arises in Bamiyan Province and flows west for 490 km, passing Herat, before turning north to form the Afghanistan-Iran border.
- Murgab Basin—The Murgab River arises in the north-western Hindu Kush and flows west then north into Turkemenistan where it dries up near Merv.
- Amu Darya Basin—the Amu Darya (Oxus) River arises in the Pamirs near the Chinese border as the Pamir and Wakhan Rivers. The Amu Darya forms the northern border of Afghanistan for 1,300 km before it flows into Turkmenistan. At one time, it flowed into the Aral Sea, but it now dries up in the delta. Numerous rivers flow north into the Amu Darya from the northern Hindu Kush.

Afghanistan is particularly susceptible to global warming and its effects on precipitation and snowmelt patterns because almost all its water is derived from precipitation falling within the country rather than flowing in from surrounding countries (UNEP 2003a).

14

6 Biogeography and Ecological Classification

Plant and animal species are not homogeneously distributed across the face of the Earth. Early in the 19th century, biologists began to notice geographical patterns in species assemblages from one area to another. It was noticed that closely related species tend to occur in the same general areas and that groups of endemic but unrelated plant and animal species tend to show up in the same places. These two patterns allow bio-geographers to identify regions with distinctive biotas and histories.

Numerous schemes have been developed over the past 150 years to categorize and describe the bio-geographical regions of the world. Many such systems exist for plants and animals, with differing and overlapping typologies, nomenclatures and approaches. Many secondary sources do not reference the system used, so it is often difficult to determine which approach is being used. The remarkable correspondence between plant and animal distributions allowed Udvardy (1975) to develop an influential synthesis of all life-forms. Udvardy's scheme has often been criticized but is still used in conservation applications by the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the World Protected Areas Database (WPAD) and BirdLife International. The Udvardy approach breaks down the world into eight unique, continent-size "Realms" and 193 nested and unique, country-sized "Provinces". Each of these Provinces is then assigned one of 14 universal biome types describing the general climatic and topographical condition.

According to the Udvardy classification, Afghanistan is represented by seven Provinces in two Realms representing four global biomes (see Table 3, p.16).

Figure 1 shows the approximate boundaries of Udvardy's biotic Provinces in Afghanistan as represented by Sayer and Van der Zon (1981).

The transition to Udvary's Indo-Malayan Realm lies between the eastern border of Afghanistan and

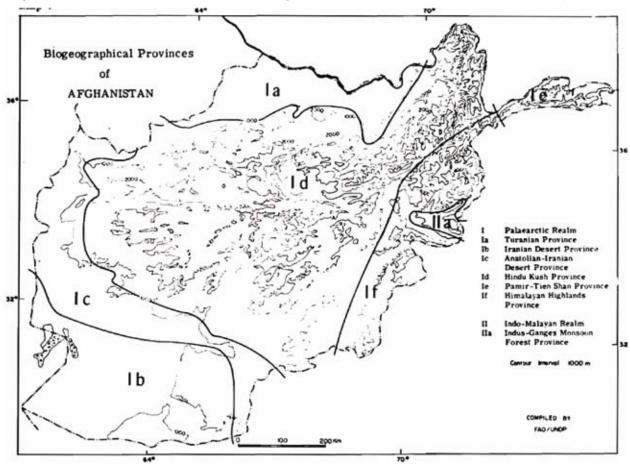


Figure 1 Map of Udvardy Provinces in Afghanistan (from Sayer and Van der Zon [1981])

Table 3 Udvardy Realms, Provinces and Biomes Present in Afghanistan

Realms/Provinces	Biomes					
Palaearctic Realm						
Hindu Kush Highlands Province	Mixed Mountain and Highland Biome					
Anatolian-Iranian Desert Province	Cold Continental Desert and Semidesert Biome					
Pamir-Tian-Shan Highlands Province	Mixed Mountain and Highland Biome					
Turanian Province	Cold Continental Desert and Semidesert Biome					
Iranian Desert Province	Warm Desert and Semidesert Biome					
Himalayan Highlands Province	Mixed Mountain and Highland Biome					
Indo-Malayan Realm						
Indo-Ganges Monsoon Province	Tropical and Subtropical Moist Broadleaf Forests					

the Indus River. This boundary corresponds to the interface of the Indian and Palaearctic tectonic plates that first collided 15 million years ago. The Indian plate is still sliding northeast causing uplift resulting in the Himalaya, Hindu Kush, Karakorum and Tien Shan Ranges and in the frequent earthquakes in the region.

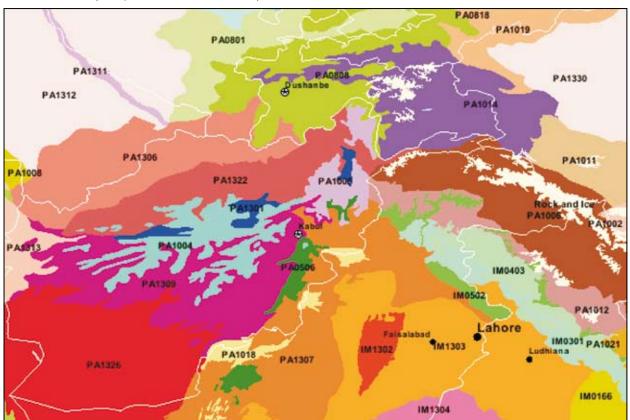
Most Afghan plant and animal species are Eurasian in origin, whereas just over the border in Pakistan species are predominantly Indo-Malayan. Nevertheless, many elements of the Indo-Malayan fauna and flora have dispersed into Afghanistan. The small area of the lower Kabul Valley is considered to be the Indus-Ganges Monsoon Forest Province (Tropical dry or deciduous forest biome) of the Indo-Malayan Realm.

Habibi (2003 p. 10) presents a simplified map of Afghanistan's bio-geographic regions

Table 4 Comparison of Differing Biogeographic Classifications for Afghanistan

Udvardy	Habibi	Takhtajan
Palaearctic Realm Himalayan Highland Province The forested region of eastern Afghanistan under the influence of the monsoon and the Kabul River valley.	Monsoon Forests The forests of Kunar and Paktya coming under the influence of the monsoon.	Holarctic Kingdom Irano-Turanian Region Western Himalayan Province
Palaearctic Realm Hindu Kush Region The Hindu Kush and Koh-i-Baba Ranges.	Central Highlands The Hindu Kush, its auxiliary ranges (Koh-i-Baba, Spinghar and Paghman Ranges), and the Pamirs.	Holarctic Kingdom Irano-Turanian Region Turkestanian Province
Palaearctic Realm Pamir–Tien Shan Region Eastern half of the Wakhan Corridor.		Holarctic Kingdom Irano-Turanian Region Tibetan Province
Palaearctic Realm Turanian Region The open woodlands and desert north of the Hindu Kush and along the Amu Darya River.	Not recognized	Holarctic Kingdom Irano-Turanian Region Turkestanian Province
Not recognized	Steppe Region Stony deserts forming an extensive arc around the Central Highlands.	Holarctic Kingdom Irano-Turanian Region Turkestanian Province
Palaearctic Realm Anatolian-Iranian Desert Region North-western mid-altitude deserts.	Not recognized	Holarctic Kingdom Irano-Turanian Region Armeno-Iranian Province
Palaearctic Realm Iranian Desert Region Low-lying desert in the southwest centred on the Seistan basin and including the Registan desert.	Southern Desert Region The Dasht-i-Margo, Registan Desert and Seistan Basin in the southwest.	Holarctic Kingdom Irano-Turanian Region Armeno-Iranian Province
Palaearctic Realm Indus-Ganges Monsoon Forest Region Lower valley of the Kabul River east of Kabul to the Pakistan border.	Eastern Intramontane Basin Low elevation area of Mediterranean climate between the Hindu Kush and Spinghar Ranges.	Holarctic Kingdom Irano-Turanian Region Province not recognized

Figure 2 WWF-US Eco-region Classification of Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries (with permission of WWF-USA)



that broadly reflects the Udvardy approach, while Takhtajan (1986) presents a global floral classification. Table 4 compares the terminology and classifications employed in these approaches.

The World Wildlife Fund - USA (Olson et al 2001)¹ has refined Udvardy's (1975) system by classifying the Earth's terrestrial environment into 867 eco-regions. These eco-regions average 150,000 km² as opposed the 740,000 km² of Udvardy's Provinces. Eco-regions are defined as "relatively large units of land containing a distinct assemblage of natural communities and species, with boundaries that approximate the

original extent of natural communities prior to major land-use change".

Figure 2 shows the WWF eco-region map available on the internet and zoomed in to Afghanistan. It shows Afghanistan with 15 eco-regions representing four biomes. Five of Afghanistan's 15 eco-regions are considered as globally "Critical/ Endangered" and eight are considered "Vulnerable". Only the "Sulaiman Range Alpine Meadows" and the "Northwestern Himalayan Alpine Shrub and Meadows" eco-regions are considered as "Stable/ Intact", and these eco-regions are barely represented in Afghanistan. This schema does not reflect the predominantly Indo-Malayan origin of the Jalalabad Valley's biota.

Web access to an interactive site is at http://www.worldwildlife.org/science/eco-regions.cfm.
One can search for individual eco-regions, and find information about each eco-region, including species lists.

Table 5 Description of WWF-US Eco-regions Found in Afghanistan

Biome	Eco-region "Zip-Code"	Eco-region Name	Global Status					
Temperate Coniferous Forests								
	PA0506	East Afghan Montane Conifer Forests	Vulnerable					
Temperate Grasslands, Savannahs and Shrublands								
	PA 0808	Gissaro-Alai Open Woodlands (minor occurrence in Afghanistan)	Critical/Endangered					
Montane Grasslands and	Montane Grasslands and Shrublands							
	PA1006	Karakoram-West Tibetan Plateau Alpine Steppe	Vulnerable					
	PA 1014	Pamir Alpine Desert And Tundra	Vulnerable					
	PA 1005	Hindu Kush Alpine Meadow	Vulnerable					
	PA 1004	Ghorat-Hazarajat Alpine Meadow	Vulnerable					
	PA 1012	Northwestern Himalayan Alpine Shrub and Meadows (minor occurrence in Afghanistan)	Relatively Stable/ Intact					
	PA 1018	Sulaiman Range Alpine Meadows (minor occurrence in Afghanistan)	Stable/Intact					
Deserts and Xeric Shrub	lands							
	PA1307	Baluchistan Xeric Woodlands	Critical/Endangered					
	PA 1309	Central Afghan Mountains Xeric Woodlands	Critical/Endangered					
	PA 1301	Afghan Mountains Semi-Desert	Critical/Endangered					
	PA 1306	Badkhiz-Karabil Semi-Desert	Critical/Endangered					
	PA 1313	Central Persian Desert Basins	Vulnerable					
	PA 1326	Registan-North Pakistan Sandy Desert	Vulnerable					
	PA 1322	Paropamisus Xeric Woodlands	Vulnerable					

7 Afghanistan's Land Cover

Afghanistan has been subjected to impacts by people and their livestock for thousands of years. There are no parts of the country, apart from high alpine areas, that have not been affected. An understanding of so-called "natural" ecological conditions (i.e. prior to major modification by humans) is useful as a benchmark indicating the potential of the land.

Freitag (1972) suggests that much of Afghanistan would be dominated by oak woodlands if the summer dry period was only 3 – 4 months long, rather than the current 5 - 7 months. It is interesting to speculate whether human activity over the past several thousand years may have had an impact on the Afghan climate. Reducing vegetative cover over large regions through overgrazing, shrub collection and forest destruction increases the proportion of sunlight that is reflected back into the sky — the albedo. Some researchers suggest that a mechanism termed the "Charney effect" can result in a feedback loop in which increased albedo augments the quantity of short- and long-wave radiation escaping back to space, thereby lowering the ground surface temperature and cloud-convective activity, cooling the atmosphere, and facilitating a process called "Hadley Cell subsidence" (Anonymous, 1997), typically characterizing the atmosphere above the subtropical deserts. In essence, removal of vegetation over an entire region might change the patterns of air flow and the moisture retention capacity of the air, resulting in drier climates. It is highly speculative, but perhaps Afghanistan enjoyed a somewhat moister climate prior to widespread habitat alteration. A search of the World Data Centre for Paleoclimatology website (http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/ftp-search.html) indicate that there have been no studies on the past climate of Afghanistan except for lake levels in the Siestan and at Kandahar.

There are several land cover classifications of Afghanistan, all of which provide slightly different results depending upon the methodology and date of analysis. The following classification by the Earthtrends (2003) uses the Global Land Cover Classification (GLCC) results. GLCC data is derived primarily from the Advanced Very High Resolution Radiometer (AVHRR), with a resolution of 1 x 1 km. Consequently, the resolution is fairly coarse and small habitat fragments are not detected.

Other land cover classifications are by the Afghanistan Information Management Services (AIMS) (nd), UNOSAT (nd), and Earth Observatory (nd). They all show the largest expanses of dense vegetation in the country to be the forests along the Kunar-Nuristan border. Otherwise, dense vegetation is largely limited to watercourses and irrigated croplands. Large expanses of moderate density vegetation are found throughout the central and northern Hindu Kush. Otherwise, the country is very sparsely vegetated.

Forest	Defined as canopy cover >60% and height > 2 m.	0%
Shrubland, savannah and grassland	Defined as lands dominated by woody vegetation less than 2 metres tall and with shrub canopy cover greater than 10%.	73%
Cropland and crop/natural mosaics	Croplands are defined as lands covered with temporary crops followed by harvest and a bare soil period (e.g., single and multiple cropping systems). Cropland/natural vegetation mosaics are lands with a mosaic of croplands, forests, shrublands, and grasslands in which no one component comprises more than 60% of the landscape.	11%
Urban	Defined as buildings and other man-made structures. This class was developed from the Digital Chart of the World's "populated places layer" (Defence Mapping Agency, 1992).	0.1%
Sparse or barren vegetation, snow and ice	Defined as exposed soil, sand, rocks, or snow with never more than 10% vegetative cover during any time of the year. Snow and ice covered areas are lands under snow and/or ice cover throughout the year.	15%
Wetlands and waterbodies	Defined as lands with a permanent mixture of water and herbaceous or woody vegetation that cover extensive areas.	0%

8 Afghanistan's Eco-regions

The most complete vegetation classification for Afghanistan is that of Freitag (1971, 1972) in Figure 3. Following is an attempt to place Freitag's vegetative community types into the context of the Olson et al's (2003) eco-regions with additional information for Sayer and Van der Zon (1981).

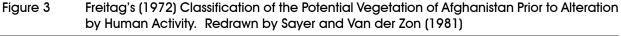
8.1 Closed Forest Vegetation

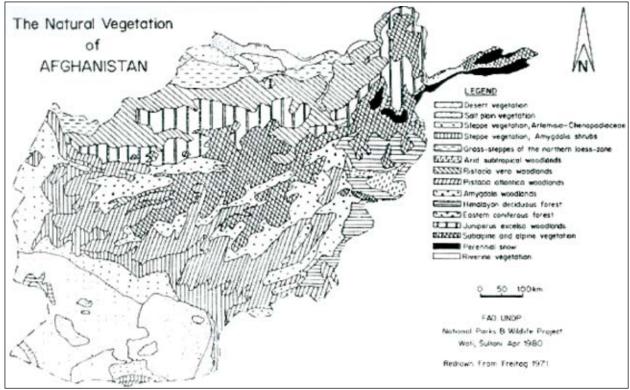
Closed forests of oak and conifers were probably always limited to the eastern part of the country where the westernmost extension of the Indian monsoon breaks the summer drought that limits plant life throughout most of the country. Examination of the potential vegetation maps of Freitag (1971, 1972) suggests that closed forests (not including northern juniper communities) may once have covered about 5% of the country², or about 34,000 km². Sayer and Van der Zon (1981) estimated that there was 3,600 km² of closed canopy forest (i.e. Conifereous, *Quercus* and *Olea-Reptonia*) remaining in the late 1970s. If the

estimates of UNEP's (2003a) satellite image analysis can be extrapolated, half of that has been lost since 1980 leaving some 1,800 km². Based on these assumptions, Afghanistan is currently left with roughly 5% of its pristine closed forest vegetation, representing about 0.25% of the country's area. Forests that have been cut do not regenerate, largely because of livestock grazing pressure and high soil temperatures and therefore they revert to shrubland.

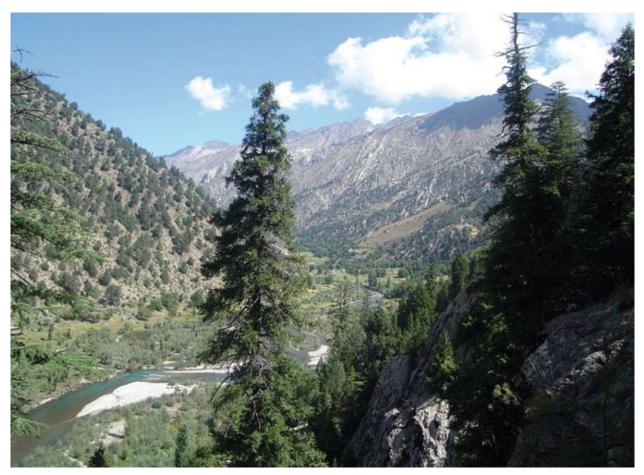
8.1.1 East Afghan Montane Conifer Forests (PA0506)

The East Afghan Montane Conifer Forest ecoregion (PA0506) corresponds to the majority of Freitag's Immergrüne Nadelwalder und Offenwālder (1971) or Evergreen Coniferous Forest and Woodlands (1972). Sayer and Van der Zon (1981) term the community Temperate Coniferous Forests. These forests are found in the areas of eastern Afghanistan receiving summer monsoon rains and are dominated by Quercus (oak), Pinus (pine), Cedrus (cedar), Picea (spruce) and Abies (fir). East Afghan Montane Conifer Forests are found primarily in Nuristan, Kunar and Nanghahar, Paktya, Khost and Paktika Provinces. Precipitation





Based on proportion of points on a regular grid of 344 points laid over Freitag's 1972 vegetation map.



Although increasingly under threat from illegal logging, large tracts of natural conifer forest can still be found in the inaccessible Nuristan Province, Eastern Afghanistan

is higher here than elsewhere in Afghanistan, is more evenly distributed throughout the year, and is less erratic between years.

Between 2,100 and 2,500 m elevation, Quercus baloot grades into Pinus gerardiana (Chilgoza pine) stands. In natural forests, shrubs are a minor component of this community, but develop quickly when trees are cut. Between 2,500 and 3,100 m, Cedrus deodara (Deodar cedar) begins to dominate. This is the most economically important forest type in Afghanistan with trees 6 – 35 m in height and a ground cover of up to 80%. In very moist areas (>800 mm), Picea smithiana (Himalayan spruce) and Abies webbiana (Himalayan fir) dominate up to 2,900 – 3,000 m. The trees are 15 – 30 m tall and create a dense, closed forest. In drier areas, Juniperus species are evident.

East Afghan Montane Conifer Forests are currently being illegally harvested at a rapid rate. Analyses by UNEP (2003a) show that between 1977 and 2002 52% of the existing forest was lost in three provinces. Nangarhar was the most affected, with a 71% decrease in forest cover. Nuristan lost 53% and Kunar 29%. Similar losses for the other Paktya, Khost and Paktika were predicted. Deodar cedar is the primary species harvested.

8.1.2 Baluchistan Xeric Woodlands (PA1307)

Freitag (1972) terms this type the Evergreen Sclerophyllous Forests and Woodlands community (sclerophyllous: small, leathery leaves). Sayer and Van der Zon (1981) refer to it as Himalayan Deciduous Forest. The eco-region is located along the Pakistan border in Laghman, Nuristan, Kunar, Khost and Paktika Provinces. It is well represented in neighbouring Pakistan. Freitag (1972) suggests that much of Afghanistan would be dominated by this forest type if the summer dry period lasted for 3-4 months rather than 5-7 months. In eastern Afghanistan, the summer monsoon rains break the long summer dry period just long enough to allow these forests to develop. Petocz and Larsson (1977)

provide a detailed summary of the *Baluchistan Xeric Woodland* vegetation in central Nuristan.

At lower elevations (800 – 1,300 m), a *Reptonia buxifolia* (Gurgura) community develops. Numerous small tree species cover 30 – 75 % of the ground. *Quercus baloot* (Holly Oak) dominates at elevations between 1,200 and 2,000 m. Depending upon local rainfall levels, *Q. baloot* stands can be scattered trees 3 – 6 m tall or pure stands of trees over 15 m in height. In areas with heavy summer rainfall, the *Q. baloot* community is replaced by a *Quecus dilatata* at 1,900 – 2,000 m and *Quercus semecarpifolia* becomes dominant at 2,400 – 2,900 m. Both species of *Quercus* form rich forests 8 – 20 m in height.

8.2 Open Woodland Vegetation

Open forests have a naturally low density of trees, creating a savannah-like landscape. Open forests originally formed a wide crescent around the north, west and south flanks of the Hindu Kush Sayer and Van der Zon (1981) present information from archaeological sites indicating, between 2,000 – 3,000 years ago, a much greater diversity of trees and other woody plants than is present in current open woodlands. Very roughly, open woodlands originally comprised some 38% (ca. 250,000 km²) of the Afghan landscape (calculated as the 48% cited by Earthtrends (2003) less 10% closed forests). In the late 1970s, approximately 32,000 km² remained, representing about 13% of the original open woodland and 5% of the Afghan landscape. UNEP's (2003a) satellite image analysis could detect no remaining open woodland in two provinces, suggesting that open woodlands are now on the verge of extinction as a viable ecosystem throughout much of Afghanistan.

8.2.1 Central Afghan Mountains Xeric Woodlands (PA1309)

This eco-region is comprised of two of Freitag's (1971 and 1972) community types and forms a broad, crescent shaped belt surrounding the eastern and southern sides of the central mountains. *Pistacia atlantica* (Mount Atlas pistache) communities are found at an altitude of 1,150 – 1,800 m where precipitation amounts to 250 – 400 mm. *Pistacia atlantica* trees grow to four to six meters in height

and under natural conditions cover 15 – 20% of the ground. At altitudes of 2,000 – 2,800 m, where 300 – 350 mm of precipitation falls, *Amygdalus* (almond) communities form the transition between *Pistacia atlantica* communities and subalpine vegetation.

8.2.2 Paropamisus Xeric Woodlands (PA1322)

On the north side of the central mountains, increasing altitude and greater precipitation (250 – 300 mm) allows open, xeric woodlands to replace the semi-desert shrublands. These woodlands are characterized by scattered trees, relatively low shrub density and a significant amount of herbaceous cover. This eco-region includes Freitag's *Pistacia vera* and northern *Juniperus* communities.

Pistacia vera communities occur in a band along the northern mountains at altitudes of 600 - 1,500 m. Pistacia vera (Pistachio) and Amygdalus bucharica (Bukhara almond) trees originally covered as much as 40% of the ground. Shrubs are generally poorly represented and meadow-like ground cover occurs. UNEP (2003a) undertook a satellite image analysis of *Pistacia* vera communities. In 1977, woodlands comprised of 40 – 100 trees per ha were found over 55% of the land in Badghis Province and 37% of Takhar Province. In 2002, no woodlands were detected in either province, indicating that tree density had declined below 40 trees per ha. UNEP (2003a) reports that most of the trees were cut for fuel and also in order to reduce hiding and ambush cover during the years of war. UNEP (2003a) found no regeneration of pistachio trees as a result of seedling destruction by grazing animals and intensive collection of pistachio nuts for sale by local residents.

Above the *Pistacia vera* communities at elevations of 1,500 – 3,200 m is a band of *Juniperus* communities. UNEP (2003a) reported that at least 50% of juniper woodlands in Herat Province have been lost in the last 30 years and as much as 80% in Badghis Province.

8.3 Semi-Desert Vegetation

Semi-deserts are characterized by precipitation below 250 – 300 mm. Generally, ground cover is less than 25% and trees are absent. Semi-deserts occur primarily in a broad arc around the Hindu Kush at lower elevations than open woodlands.

8.3.1 Afghan Mountains Semi-Desert (PA1301)

This eco-region is comprised of small, dry interior valleys of the northern Hindu Kush. The eco-region corresponds to the northern portion of Freitag's Amygdalus Semi-Desert community type. Under Freitag's scheme, the Amygdalus Semi-Desert extends in a narrow band around the western and southern Hindu Kush and forms a transition between the extreme semi-desert of the Badkhis-Karabil eco-region and the open woodland of the Central Afghan Mountains Xeric Woodlands. The eco-region is characterized by various thorny shrubs 0.5 – 1.5 m in height and covering 10% of the ground surface.

8.3.2 Badkhiz (Badghis)-Karabil Semi-Desert (PA1306)

This eco-region is a composite of several of Freitag's (1971-1972) semi-desert communities lying between the Amu Darya River and *Parapomisus Xeric Woodlands*.

A Calligonum-Aristida community occurs as a thin band along the Amu Darya River where there are mobile sand dunes and precipitation is <150

mm. Vegetation covers 1 – 25% of the land. The Calligonum-Aristida community is bounded on the south by a Chenopodium Rich community and an Ephemeral Semi-Desert community on loess soil. The Ephemeral Semi-Desert is characterized by lush, shallow-rooted herbaceous vegetation early in the year, but by the middle of May the vegetation dries up and dies. Very few woody plants occur.

8.3.3 Central Persian Desert Basins (PA1313)

This eco-region lies in the extreme north-western corner of the country and corresponds to the majority of Freitag's (1971) Chenopodium Rich community complex. The family Chenopodiaceae is comprised most of xerophytic (dry-loving) and halophytic (salt-loving) shrubs and herbs. This community develops in areas with <150 mm of precipitation and on non-sandy, salt-laden soils.

8.3.4 Registan-North Pakistan Sandy Desert (PA1326)

The eco-region covers the large semi-desert region of southern Afghanistan including the Registan Desert and the Siestan Basin. It combines all of Freitag's (1971, 1972) semi-desert communities in the south-western part of the country. This includes the *Haloxylon salicrnicum Semi-desert*,



Dasht-e-Nawar Flamingo and Waterfowl Sanctuary is not legally protected by the Afghan Government and the insecurity that characterizes the area limits the realization of practical conservation measures



Alpine landscape in the Wakhan Corridor, Badakhshan Province, Northern Afghanistan. The Wakhan Corridor is the site of two proposed protected areas and a possible international "Peace Park" that encompasses neighboring areas of China, Tajikistan and Pakistan

Calliginum-Artistida Semi-Desert, Chenopodium Rich and Amygdalus Semi-Desert communities.

8.4 Subalpine and Alpine Vegetation

Alpine and subalpine vegetation develops at elevations of 2,800 – 2,900 m in the central mountains and between 3,000 and 3,500 m in the east. In the eastern Hindu Kush, subalpine vegetation is dominated by juniper while in central Afghanistan it is largely comprised of cushion shrublands. True alpine vegetation is generally found at elevations > 4,000 m. The central Hindu Kush is not as speciesrich as alpine areas further to the east and north.

8.4.1 Karakoram-West Tibetan Plateau Alpine Steppe (PA1006)

This eco-region is represented in Afghanistan only on the south side of the Wakhan Corridor and is the westernmost extension of an extensive eco-region in the Himalayas and Karakorum Mountains to the east. Freitag (1971, 1972) labels this eco-region as a nival (snow-covered) zone and does not describe the vegetation.

8.4.2 Pamir Alpine Desert And Tundra (PA1014)

This eco-region is represented in Afghanistan only on the north side of the Wakhan corridor and is the southern extension of the extensive ecoregion through the Pamir Mountains. Freitag (1971, 1972) labels this eco-region as a combination of the *Subalpine Thickets and Cushion Shrublands* community and a nival zone.

8.4.3 Hindu Kush Alpine Meadow (PA1005)

This eco-region corresponds to the eastern and northern extension of Freitag's Subalpine Knieholz-Gesellschaften und Dornpolster-Fluren (1971) or Subalpine Thickets and Cushion Shrublands (1972). Unlike the remainder of the Hindu Kush subalpine, this area receives enough precipitation to allow development of subalpine thickets of juniper at 3,000 m.

8.4.4 Ghorat-Hazarajat Alpine Meadow (PA1004)

This eco-region corresponds to the western extension of Freitag's Subalpine Knieholz-Gesellschaften und Dornpolster-Fluren (1971) or Subalpine Thickets and Cushion Shrublands (1972). Lack of summer moisture limits vegetation to woody cushion shrubland species, such as Ononbrychis, Astragalus, Acantholimon, Cousinia, Artemisia and Ephedrus. Dieterle (1973, in Larsson 1978) considers the original vegetation to have been grass steppe, but centuries of heavy grazing have resulted in a shrubland community. Larsson (1978) provides a general overview of vegetation and management issues in this eco-region.

9 Eco-region Status

Ecosystems can be characterized by three primary attributes: composition, structure and function. Ecosystem composition relates primarily to the species that are present in an ecosystem and their population sizes. Ecosystem structure relates to the spatial arrangement of species on the ground. Vertical structure refers primarily to the growth form of the dominant plants (e.g., trees, shrubs, grass) while two-dimensional structure refers to the recurring spatial patterns. Ecosystem function relates primarily to how an ecosystem transfers energy and materials and addresses issues such as hydrological control, pollution and productivity.

There is little current information allowing an objective and accurate determination of how Afghanistan's ecosystems are faring with respect to composition, structure and function. However, it is possible to assess subjectively and roughly how each of the WWF eco-regions rank in each category. Table 6 ranks ecosystem attributes subjectively for the 11 eco-regions that are extensively represented in Afghanistan. The assessment refers to the entire eco-region and does not address localized effects, for example, along rivers or near settlements.

A number of patterns are evident in this table:

- The species composition of all eco-regions has been significantly reduced through a combination of overgrazing, fuel collection and exploitation by large herbivorous animals.
 Open woodland types have probably been most affected, over millennia of habitat alteration. The species composition of alpine regions has probably been least affected.
- Ecosystem structure has been most affected in forest and open woodland types as a result of tree cutting. To a lesser extent, the structure of semi-deserts has been affected by shrub collection and cutting of *Pistacia* trees. Deserts have little structure to begin with and are therefore not significantly affected.
- Ecosystem function is very difficult to assess, but it appears that highly altered forests have been most affected and deserts the least affected. The effects of accelerated loss of monsoon influenced forest on ecosystem function is not known, but expected to be significant.

Table 6 Subjective Classification of Human Impact on Composition, Structure and Function of WWF-US Eco-regions in Afghanistan

IMPACTS ON ATTRIBUTES OF AFGHAN ECO-REGIONS					
	Composition	Structure	Function		
Forests			,		
East Afghan Montane Conifer Forests	High	High	Medium		
Baluchistan Xeric Woodlands	Very High	Very High	High		
Open Woodlands					
Central Afghan Mountains Xeric Woodlands	High	Very High	High		
Paropamisus Xeric Woodlands	High	Very High	Medium		
Semi-Desert					
Afghan Mountains Semi-Desert	Medium	High	Medium		
Badkhiz(Badhgis)-Karabil Semi-Desert	High	High	High		
Central Persian Desert Basins	High	Medium	Low		
Registan-North Pakistan Sandy Desert	High	High	High		
Montane Grasslands and Shrublands					
Pamir Alpine Desert And Tundra	Medium	Medium	High		
Hindu Kush Alpine Meadow	High	Medium	Medium		
Ghorat-Hazarajat Alpine Meadow	Medium	Medium	Medium		

10 Afghanistan's Wetlands

Afghanistan is an arid country and the few wetlands that do exist are therefore of great significance to biodiversity. Wetlands provide habitat for many migrating water birds. They are also teeming with numerous species of aquatic plants and invertebrates, fish, and amphibians. Artificial lakes are generally not as ecologically

valuable as natural lakes because of fluctuating water levels and because natural plant and animal assemblages have not had time to develop. Nevertheless, they can provide important habitat for some species. Table 7 lists the Afghan wetlands that are known or suspected to be important for biodiversity. Examination of a map of Afghanistan suggests that there are other wetlands that could be investigated for ecological significance.

Table 7 List of Afghan wetlands known or expected to be biologically significant

Wetland Name	Wetland Type	Location	Province	Source
Hamun-i-Puzak	Natural lake and marsh	31° 29' 44"N; 61° 42' 55"E	Nimroz	Sayer and Van der Zon (1981), Scott 1995
Hamun-i-Saburi	Natural lake and marsh	31° 31' 24"N; 61° 17' 23"E	Farah	K. Habibi (pers. com. 2006)
Arghandab Reservoir	Artificial lake	31° 51' 21" N, 65° 53' 45' E	Kandahar	Sayer and Van der Zon (1981)
Kajaki Reservoir	Artificial lake	32° 19' 59" N, 65° 11' 07' E	Helmand	Sayer and Van der Zon (1981)
Ab-i-Estada	Natural saline lake	32° 28' 53" N, 67° 54' 36' E	Ghazni	Sayer and Van der Zon (1981); Scott 1995
Dashti-Nawar	Seasonal saline lake	33° 38' 00"N; 67° 43"05"E	Ghazni	Sayer and Van der Zon (1981); Scott 1995
Sardeh Reservoir	Artificial lake	33° 29' 37"N; 68° 28" 22' E	Ghazni	Sayer and Van der Zon (1981)
Qargha Lake	Artificial lake	34° 33' 18"N; 69° 01" 59' E	Kabul	Sayer and Van der Zon (1981)
Kol-i-Hashmat Khan	Natural lake and reed swamp	34° 29' 29"N; 69° 12" 13' E	Kabul	Sayer and Van der Zon (1981); Scott 1995
Darunta Lake	Artificial lake	34° 29' 31"N; 70° 21" 34' E	Nagarhar	Sayer and Van der Zon (1981); Scott 1995
Sarobi Lake	Artificial lake	34° 23' 55"N; 69° 41" 33' E	Kapisa	Sayer and Van der Zon (1981); Scott 1995
Darqad	Swamp woodlands on Amu Darya	37° 26' 39"N; 69° 32'E	Takhar	Sayer and Van der Zon (1981); Scott 1995
Imam Sahib	Swamp woodlands on Amu Darya	37° 12' 22"N ; 68° 44' 46"E	Kunduz	Sayer and Van der Zon (1981); Scott 1995
Band-i-Amir	Six natural lakes	34° 52' 40"N; 67° 16' 51"E	Bamiyan	Sayer and Van der Zon (1981); Scott 1995
Dagh-i-Tondi	Intermittent lake	Dagh-i-Tondi at 32°27'41"N; 60° 56'49"E	Farah	K. Habibi (pers. comm.)
Kowl-i-Namaksar	Salt lake	34°04'11"N; 60° 39'56"E	Herat	K. Habibi (pers. comm.)
Gawd-i-Zereh	Seasonal lake	29°43'44"N; 61° 42'41"E	Nimroz	K. Habibi (pers. comm.)
Zor Kol	High mountain lake	37°25'54"N; 73° 43'04"E	Badakhshan	Scott (1995)
Chaqmaqtin	High Mountain lake	37°13'48"N; 74° 10'29"E	Badakhshan	Scott (1995)
Ay Khanum	River, Marshy reedbeds, small ponds, and grassy meadows	37°12'17"N; 69° 26'35"E	Darqad	Khan (2005)
Weghnon	High mountain lake	36°01'45"N; 74° 00'45"E	Takhar	Khan (2005)

11 Afghanistan's Riparian Areas

Tugai is a special type of riparian forest found in the floodplains and valleys of Central Asian deserts. It is characterized by poplar and willow trees and shrubs of various genera such as tamarisk (Tamarix), oleaster (Elaeagnus), and sea buckthorn (Hippophae), along with a patchwork of tall reedgrass (Phragmites australis) and grassland clearings. Tugai ecosystems are critical to many species and are increasingly threatened by conversion to agriculture along the Amu Darya (Ahmad Khan, pers. comm., 2006). There is little information about the original and current extent of tugai forest in Afghanistan.



The Argali or Marco Polo sheep (*Ovis ammon poll*) inhabits the mountain areas of central Asia above 1,000m. The Argali is a vulnerable species (IUCN 2000) threatened by hunters for their highly prized horns and habitat loss from the grazing of domestic sheep

12 Afghanistan's Species

Afghanistan is not a global biodiversity "hotspot". Groombridge and Jenkins (1994) calculated a comparative index of biodiversity for all countries over 5,000 km² based on the number of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, vascular plants and endemic species. The index is scaled, to account for the different sizes of countries. A score of 0 is the median with half the countries having a higher biodiversity index and half a lower one. Afghanistan's index is -0.296 indicating that its biodiversity index is somewhat lower than the median. Indices of neighbouring Pakistan (-0.121) and Iran (-0.194) are somewhat higher, but still below the median. Indices for Turkmenistan (-0.572), Tajikistan (-0.536), Uzbekistan (-0.413), and Kazakhstan (-0.581) are all lower than Afghanistan's. Globally, the countries with the highest scores are Indonesia (+1.844) and Mexico (+1.621). The areas with the lowest scores are Antarctica (-3.261) and Greenland (-2.821). Much of Afghanistan's relatively low score results from the lack of endemics.

A number of factors influence species richness and number of endemic species in Afghanistan:

- More species are found at the equator and the number tends to decrease towards the poles.
 Afghanistan lies at mid-latitudes (i.e. 30° – 38° North) and is therefore predisposed to having a biota not as rich as tropical countries or as poor as more northerly ones.
- Afghanistan's mountains result in numerous habitat types. Temperature and precipitation change dramatically with elevation differences, resulting in a variety of habitats and differing suites of species adapted to them.
- 3. Afghanistan's mountains also act as a barrier to precipitation, resulting in higher moisture in the eastern part of the country, considerable snow at higher elevations, and a rain shadow to the north and west. The result is a variety of species adapted to the entire gamut of moisture regimes, ranging from desert to monsoon forest.
- 4. Afghanistan is on the boundary of Palaearctic

and Indo-Malayan Realms. Although the majority of species are Palaearctic in origin, many Indo-Malayan species have dispersed into Afghanistan.

- The size of a country influences the number of species found in its borders. Thus neighbouring Iran, which is nearly twice as large as Afghanistan, will tend to have more species.
- 6. The number of species in an ecosystem tends to be greatest at moderate levels of productivity, with fewer species in areas of very high or very low productivity. Afghanistan is a dry, high altitude and human disturbed country with low primary productivity. Consequently, Afghanistan is predisposed to having relatively few species.
- Afghanistan is a continental country with no major mountain barriers to the north and west, allowing the free mixing of species of Palaearctic origin with neighbouring countries. Consequently, Afghanistan has relatively few endemic animal species.
- 8. Afghanistan is a land-locked country and therefore lacks marine biodiversity.

A number of databases list the number of Afghan species, but they differ from one another and are usually not explicit on their data sources. Appendices 1 - 8 are checklists of Afghan mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, insects, lichens and fungi, incorporating the latest available information and taxonomy. The vertebrate checklists are very

Table 8 Number of Species Known to Exist in Afghanistan

	Known Species	Uncertain Species	Estimates
Mammals	137	13	
Birds	428	87	
Reptiles	92	20	
Amphibians	6	2	
Fish	101	38	
Insects			10s of 1,000s
Vascular Plants			3,500 - 4,000
Lichens	208	?	
Fungi			1,000s

conservative in that they include only species for which there are citable references for occurrence in Afghanistan. Many other species are suspected to occur in Afghanistan, but no authority citing first-hand evidence could be found. Table 7 is a summary of these checklists. It suggests that there are 789 - 916 species of vertebrates in Afghanistan and 3,500 – 4,000 species of vascular plants.

12.1 Mammals

The definitive work on Afghan mammals is Habibi's Mammals of Afghanistan (2003), also available in Dari. Habibi notes that knowledge of Afghanistan's mammal fauna is quite limited, having resulted largely from a series of zoological expeditions and by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO). Little work has been done since the outbreak of war in 1978.

Appendix 1 is a complete listing of known mammalian species in Afghanistan. Considerable revision of mammalian nomenclature has occurred in recent years, particularly for bats and rodents. The standardized order of listing families is based on Dunn and Lawson (2004). A total of 137 species are known to occur in Afghanistan with another 13 species having uncertain status. There are no mammal species known to be endemic to Afghanistan.

Sixteen of Afghanistan's mammal species are listed on the IUCN Red List as being globally at threat. Most of these species are carnivores and artiodactyls. Twelve Afghan mammal species are on CITES Appendix I, and 13 are on Appendix II. Many more Afghan species are threatened at the national scale, but no formal process has assessed the status of Afghan species. Two species (the cheetah and tiger) are known to be extirpated in Afghanistan, but a detailed assessment would probably extend this list. Appendix 1 includes Habibi's (2003) subjective assessment of national scale risk status as well as CITES and IUCN Red List status.

Habibi (2003) provides distribution maps and collection localities for each species. It is evident, though, that the distribution maps are based on very few collection or observation sites. As well, the only data are now decades old and Habibi's distribution maps are best considered as "potential" or "historical" ranges. The expectation

is that current ranges have been much reduced for many species. Carnivores and large herbivores have been the species most affected.

12.2 Birds

Afghanistan has a rich avian diversity, largely as a result of the combination of many Indo-Malayan species in the eastern part of the country and the predominantly Palaearctic avifauna over the remainder of the country (Evans 1994). The list of Afghan species in Appendix 2 estimates the number of known Afghan bird species at 428, with another 87 classed as uncertain. The majority of the 87 species listed as uncertain may in future be demonstrated to occur in Afghanistan. This list is dependent on the taxonomic authorities cited. Dickinson (2004) was the authority cited here. Evans (1994) suggests that as many as 235 species may breed in Afghanistan.

Most of the data on Afghan birds is more than 30 years old and probably does not reflect the current situation. Rasmussen and Anderton (2005, Vol. 2 p. 627) review the history of Afghan ornithological research. Habibi (nd) reviewed the pre-war literature and produced a list of over 450 species based on published observations.

Five species are on the IUCN Red List as globally Critically Endangered, two are listed as Endangered and 14 as Vulnerable. Nine Afghan bird species are listed on CITES Appendix I and 55 on Appendix II. There has been no examination of risk status at the national level. The last reliable sighting in Afghanistan of the Critically Endangered Siberian Crane (Grus leucogeranus) was one shot in 2000 by a hunter in the Shurtepa District of Balkh Province near the Amu Darya River (Qais Agah of Save the Environment Afghanistan, pers. comm., April 2006). The subpopulation of Siberian Cranes that migrated through Afghanistan is now extinct.

There is only one bird species considered as endemic to Afghanistan, the Afghan Snowfinch (Montifringilla (Pyrgilauda) theresae), although a part of the population winters in Turkmenistan (Rasmussen and Anderton 2005). There are also six "near-endemics" (Columba eversmanni, Phyllosopus neglectus, P. subviridis, Oenanthe picata and Passer moabiticus) meaning that

Afghanistan represents a large proportion of their breeding range (Evans 1994). Of particular significance is the Yellow-eyed Pigeon (Columba eversmanni) which is listed as "Vulnerable" by IUCN. Afghanistan also likely supports significant numbers of breeding Lammergeiers (Gypaetus barbatus), Egyptian Vultures (Neophron percnopterus), Cinereous Vultures (Aegypius monachus) and other birds of prey (Evans 1994).

The entire Himalayan uplift region presents a formidable barrier to migrant small birds traveling between wintering grounds in the Indian subcontinent and breeding areas in central and northern Asia. Afghanistan is situated at the lower, western end of the Himalayan chain and therefore receives a large passerine migration (BirdLife International nd). Afghanistan also lies in the path of the Central Asian Flyway and receives migratory "waterbirds" breeding in Central and western Siberia.

Table 9 Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in Afghanistan Listed by Evans (1994)

Name	Area (ha)	Latitude and Longitude
Ab-i-Istada	27 000	32° 28' 53" N, 67° 54' 36' E
Band-i-Amir	41 000	34° 52' 40"N; 67° 16' 51"E
Darqad	20 000	37° 26' 39"N; 69° 32'E
Dasht-i-Nawar	70 000	33° 38' 00"N; 67° 43"05"E
Hamun-i- Puzak	35 000	31° 29' 44"N; 61° 42' 55"E
Hari Rud valley	35 000	34° 16' 15"N; 62° 25' 58"E
Imam Sahib	20 000	37° 12' 22"N ; 68° 44' 46"E
Jalalabad valley	25 000	34° 27' 00"N ; 70° 25' 12"E
Khost	150 000	33° 22' 12"N ; 70° 01' 12"E
Kol-i-Hashmat Khan	191	34° 29' 29"N; 69° 12" 13' E
North-western steppe	80 000	35° 10' 12"N; 62° 00" 00' E
Pamir-i-Buzurg	67 938	35° 10' 12"N; 73° 00" 00' E
Pech and Waygal valleys	120 000	35° 00' 00"N; 70° 49" 48' E
Registan Desert	3 000 000	30° 30' 00"N; 65° 00" 00' E
Safed Koh	20 0000	34° 00' 00"N; 69° 49" 48' E
Salang Kotal	2 000	35° 24' 00"N; 69° 07" 48' E
Small Pamir	200 000	37° 04' 48"N; 74° 19" 48' E



Storks captured by people for meat in Pol-e-Sayaad, Kapisa Province, Central Afghanistan

The few large Afghan wetlands (e.g. Ab-i-Istada, Dasht-i-Nawar, Hamun-i-Puzak, Hamun-i-Saberi) are critical migration stopover points. Water-dependent species may be seen along the banks of the rivers and in the flooded floodplains.

Using a consistent set of criteria, Evans (1994) has proposed 17 areas in Afghanistan as internationally Important Bird Areas (IBAs) (Table 9). Nine of these areas have been separately proposed as protected areas (See Section 16).

Other areas of major significance to Afghan birds, suggested by Khushal Habibi (pers. com. 2006), are the Konar River (35°00'00"N; 70°24'45"E), Hamun-i-Saberi (31° 31' 24"N; 61° 17' 23"E), Dagh-i-Tondi (32°27'41"N; 60° 56'49"E), Kol-i-Namaksar (34°04'11"N; 60° 39'56"E), Gawdi-Zereh (29°43'44"N; 61° 42'41"E), and Zor Kol (37°25'54"N; 73° 43'04"E).

12.3 Reptiles

The authoritative work on Afghan reptiles is Leviton and Anderson (1970), who compiled and cited all known previous records of Afghan reptiles. They note (p. 164) that knowledge of the Afghan herptofauna is very incomplete with many species yet to be discovered, particularly in the Hindu Kush.

Appendix 3 lists the 92 reptile species currently known from Afghanistan. A further 20 species are considered as "Uncertain". One of these 112 species is a tortoise, 75 are lizards and 36 are snakes. Appendix 3 is based primarily on Leviton and Anderson's (1970) work with updated taxonomy, nomenclature and records from the EMBL Reptile Database (European Molecular Biology Laboratory 2006). The EMBL Reptile Database provides information on published authorities for each species.

Only one Afghan reptile species, the Afghan Tortoise (*Testudo horsefeldii*), is on the IUCN Red List as being globally at risk. Two species are listed by CITES as

Appendix I and nine are listed on Appendix II. It is unknown how many species are nationally at risk.

Based on the distributions provided by the EMBL database, there are four endemic Afghan reptiles. Two are glass lizards (Asiocolotes levitoni and Cyrtopodion voraginosus) and two are wall lizards (Eremias afghanistanica and E. aria).

12.4 Amphibians

Amphibians require water bodies and moderate temperature conditions. Considering that Afghanistan is characterized by high altitude and xeric conditions, it is unsurprising that the amphibian fauna of the country is scant.

AmphibiaWeb (Anonymous 2006a) lists eight species of amphibians found in Afghanistan (Appendix 4). Four are toads, three are frogs and one is a salamander. Two species (Bufo latastii, Bufo oblongus) are considered to be uncertain for Afghanistan. The Family Ranidae has undergone extensive revision recently and two of the three Rana species cited by Leviton and Anderson (1970) have been assigned to other genera.

The Afghan Mountain Salamander (*Batrachuperus mustersi*) is Afghanistan's only endemic amphibian. It exists in only one stream in the Paghman Mountains and is considered by IUCN to be "Critically Endangered". No Afghan amphibians are listed by CITES.

12.5 Fish

Appendix 5 is a checklist of the fish of Afghanistan based on Coad (1981) as updated by FishBase (Anonymous 2006b). The taxonomy and nomenclature have changed considerably since Coad's (1981) publication and remains in flux. The checklist contains 101 species of known Afghan fish species, with another 38 species suspected to occur in the country. The list is dominated by the Cyprinidae (minnows and carps-- 54% of species) and the Balitoridae (loaches-- 25% of species).

UNEP (2003a p. 26) states, without reference, that as many as eight fish species may be endemic to the Helmand River system. However, a search of FishBase suggests that only one species of fish (*Tryplophysa*)

farwelli) is known to be endemic to Afghanistan. Coad (1981) states that many species have been described as endemic to Afghanistan, particularly in the genera Schizothorax and Nemacheilus (=Noemacheilus), but that the taxonomy of these genera is so uncertain that these may prove synonymous with more widely distributed species.

According to Coad (1981) the fish fauna of Afghanistan is impoverished as a result of isolation and the high altitude of many drainages. The greatest fish diversity is found in the Kabul River where species are mostly derived from the Indus River and therefore are Indo-Malayan in origin. All of the Cyprinidae are found in the Kabul River drainage except for the Schizothorax, Schizocypris and Schizothoraichthys which are found at higher elevations in both the Helmand and Kabul drainages (Coad 1981, Habibi 2002). The Kabul drainage also contains almost all the Bagrid and Silurid catfishes and all three of Afghanistan's snakehead species (Coad 1981).

The Amu Darya is the second most diverse watershed and is characterized by affinities with the Caspian Basin and by a largely Palaearctic fauna. The fish fauna of the upper Amu Darya is impoverished in relation to the lower reaches closer to the Aral Sea. Some species, such as the Turkestan catfish (Glyptosternum reticulatum,) are shared with the Kabul drainage. The native brown trout, Salmo trutta, locally known as kalmahi, is limited to the Amu Darya drainage on north slopes of the Hindu Kush (Habibi 2002).

The Helmand River Basin, despite being Afghanistan's largest watershed, is the least diverse of the three major drainages because it has not had an historical connection with the Kabul or Amu Darya Basins. The smaller Murgab and Hari Rud drainages have faunal similarities to the Amu Darya suggesting a former connection. The minor Indus-linked drainages (Chamkani-Kurram and Zhob-Gowmal show strong affinities to the Indus Basin fauna. Coad suggests that approximately equal numbers of Indo-Malayan and Palaearctic fish species occur in Afghanistan.

Mirza (1986) states that Palaearctic fish species are restricted to the areas north of the Hindu Kush and Koh-i-Baba ranges while the so-called "High Asian" genera are mainly distributed in the upper

reaches of almost all the main rivers. Fishes of South Asian origin predominate in the Indus drainage system while the West Asian forms are dominant in the south-western Afghanistan.

Afghanistan has a long history of introduced fish stocking. A rainbow trout hatchery was established in 1967 at Qargha Dam near Kabul. In the 1970s, it produced about 30,000 fingerlings which were stocked in Qargha Reservoir and the Panjshir, Bamiyan, Salang and Sarde Rivers. In the 1970s, another trout hatchery was located near Paghman west of Kabul. From 1987 – 1989, efforts were made by UNDP/FAO to rehabilitate the Qaraha hatchery. but the venture was abandoned because of the deteriorating security situation (Petr 1999). Rainbow trout are considered by the IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group as one of the "100 Worlds' Worst Alien Invasive Species" (Lowe et. al. 2000). It is unknown how detrimental the release of rainbow trout has been to the stream ecosystems of Afghanistan.

12.6 Invertebrates

The vast majority of the world's species are invertebrate animals, yet very little investigation has been made of Afghanistan's invertebrate fauna and the information that is available has not been collated. It is likely that there are several tens of thousands of insect species in Afghanistan.

Butterflies are the most readily identifiable and best known of the insects. Appendix 6 is a checklist of 233 Afghan butterfly species in nine families compiled by Koçak and Kemal (2001). No collection records were provided, so it is not possible to assess the accuracy of this list.

Appendix 7 is a checklist of the mosquito species of Afghanistan taken from Ward (1972). This work was undertaken in the cause of malaria prevention.

Solem (1979) studied the mollusc specimens collected by the Street Expedition and from the archaeological site at Aq Kupruk Cave (Solem 1972). Of the 37 species collected by the two expeditions, Solem (1979) found 10 to be new to Afghanistan suggesting that "only the tip of Afghanistan molluscan diversity has been sampled". His review concluded that there were 73 mollusc species known from Afghanistan in 1979.

Only one Afghan invertebrate, the butterfly *Parnassius autocrator* from the Pamirs, is on the IUCN Red List as being globally threatened. No Afghan invertebrates are listed by CITES. However, a website (http://www.comch.ru/~sob/Papilionidae. html) offers *P. autocrater* specimens for \$75 – 120. The Pamirs are especially attractive to butterfly hunters (http://dinets.travel.ru/parnassius.htm).

The number of invertebrate species endemic to Afghanistan is not known, but is likely to be substantial.

12.7 Plants

There is a large amount of information on the vascular plants of Afghanistan, but little attempt has been made to consolidate the information. The most comprehensive work is the *Flora Iranica* begun in 1963 and now comprised of 174 separate volumes dealing with individual plant families. Afghanistan is within the *Flora Iranica* region. The number of Afghan vascular plants is variously cited as between 3,500 (Groombridge 1992) and 4,000 (Groombridge and Jenkins 2002).

Afghanistan's Hindu Kush is located in an area of high vascular plant diversity extending through the Pamirs and Tian Shan Ranges (Map 5.3 in Groombridge and Jenkins (2002)). However, plant diversity declines as one moves west through the Hindu Kush and its western extensions.



Natural vegetation in the Wakhan Corridor, Badakhshan Province



The more accessible conifer forests of Nuristan Province are increasingly being threatened by illegal logging. Timber is often illegally transported to Pakistan where it is sold to traders and on to carpentry workshops for secondary transformation

Liverworts are the most primitive true plants and consist of moss-like or ribbon-like leaves. They tend to grow in moist areas. Appendix 9 lists the 16 Afghan species noted by Frey (1977).

Only one plant species, *Ulmus wallichiana*, the Himalayan elm, is on the IUCN Red List. Eight plant species are listed on CITES Appendix II.

12.8 Lichens and Fungi

Fungi are plant-like organisms that lack chlorophyll and absorb food from their habitats. They do not require sunlight for their growth and can therefore live in dark places. Only three very preliminary papers (see Appendix 12) were found treating the fungi of Afghanistan. There are probably thousands of Afghan fungi species.

Lichens are combinations of a fungus and an algae growing together in a symbiotic relationship. In Afghanistan, there are 208 known species of lichens (Appendix 10). *Xanthoria elegans* is the most common lichen in Afghanistan. *X. elegans* is an orange-red, nitrogen-loving lichen with a worldwide distribution and is often associated with bird and mammal urine. Other common lichens are *Lecanora muralis* and *Caloplaca biatorina*. Genera widespread elsewhere in the world, such as *Cladonia*, *Alectoria*, *Hypogymnia* and *Usnea*, do not appear to occur in Afghanistan (Steiner & Poelt 1986).

13 Afghanistan's Species at Risk

13.1 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species

Appendix 11 is a list of all Afghan species included on the 2006 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (IUCN 2006) as Extinct, Critically Endangered, Endangered, or Vulnerable. Not included are species listed as Data Deficient, Near Threatened or Least Concern. In total, 39 species and eight subspecies are listed as being globally threatened. Sixteen of the listed species are mammals and 19 are birds. All listed subspecies are mammals. One Afghan taxon (i.e. species or subspecies) is considered globally Extinct (the Caspian tiger), seven are Critically Endangered, eight are Endangered, and 31 are Vulnerable.

The 2001 Categories and Criteria (ver 3.1) provide the following definitions of threat categories:

- EXTINCT (EX): A taxon is extinct when there is no reasonable doubt that the last individual has died. A taxon is presumed extinct when exhaustive surveys in known and/or expected habitat, at appropriate times (diurnal, seasonal, annual), and throughout its historic range have failed to record an individual. Surveys should be over a time frame appropriate to the taxon's life cycle and life form.
- CRITICALLY ENDANGERED (CR) A taxon
 is critically endangered when the best
 available evidence indicates that it meets
 any of the criteria A to E for critically
 endangered, and it is therefore considered
 to be facing an extremely high risk of
 extinction in the wild.
- ENDANGERED (EN) A taxon is endangered when the best available evidence indicates that it meets any of the criteria A to E for endangered, and it is therefore considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild.

 VULNERABLE (VU) - A taxon is vulnerable when the best available evidence indicates that it meets any of the criteria A to E for vulnerable, and it is therefore considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.

An assessment of the conservation status of Afghan species at the national scale has not yet been undertaken. Numerous species considered to be globally secure are certainly at risk within Afghanistan.

13.2 Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES)

The Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) is an international agreement between governments with an intention to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. CITES lists wild species on a series of Appendices.

CITES Appendix I includes species threatened with extinction. International trade in specimens of CITES Appendix I species is permitted only under exceptional circumstances. An import permit issued by the State of import is required. This may be issued only if the specimen is not to be used for primarily commercial purposes and if the import will be for purposes that are not detrimental to the survival of the species.

CITES Appendix II includes species not necessarily threatened with extinction. However, international trade must be controlled in order to avoid utilization incompatible with the survival of Appendix II species. An export permit is required from the exporting State and may be issued only if the specimen was legally obtained and if the export will not be detrimental to the survival of the species.

Currently, there are 23 confirmed or unconfirmed Afghan species on CITES Appendix I and 88 species on Appendix 2. Appendix 12 is a list of Afghan species on CITES Appendices I and II.

14 Afghanistan's Endemic Species

Afghanistan is not geographically isolated from neighbouring countries and consequently has very few endemic species. Only seven vertebrate species are known to be endemic, or near endemic, to Afghanistan. Coad (1981) suggests that the taxonomy of Afghan fish is so uncertain that there may be many endemic fish species. The situation for plants is even less clear. Groombridge and Jenkins (2002) indicate 20% of Afghanistan's vascular plants as being endemic and Wendelbo (1966) cites 30%, but it is not known how these estimates were derived. Nothing is known about invertebrates endemic to the country.

Table 10 Species Known to be Endemic to Afghanistan

Endemic Mammals	
None	

Endemic Birds	
Afghan Snow Finch (Montifringilla [Pyrgilauda] theresae)	

Endemic Reptiles	
Leviton's Gecko (Asiocolotes levitoni)	
Cyrtopodion voraginosus	
Eremias aria	
Point-snouted Racerunner (Eremias afghanistanica)	Uncertain in Afghanistan

Endemic Amphibians	
Paghman Mountain Salamander (Batrachuperus mustersi)	

Endemic Fish	
Triplophysa farwelli	

Endemic Invertebrates	
Unknown	

Endemic Plants	
Estimated at 20 - 30% of 3,500	
- 4,000 species	

15 Afghanistan's Protected Areas

The IUCN recognizes six categories of protected areas:

- Category Ia: Strict nature reserve/wilderness protection area managed mainly for science or wilderness protection.
- Category Ib: Wilderness area: protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection.
- Category II: National park: protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation.
- Category III: Natural monument: protected area managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features.
- Category IV: Habitat/Species Management Area: protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention.
- Category V: Protected Landscape/Seascape: protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation or recreation.
- Category VI: Managed Resource Protected Area: protected area managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural resources.

The World Database of Protected Areas (UNEP-WCMC 2006) lists 15 protected areas in Afghanistan (Table 11). Seven were provided with some level of recognition by the Government of Afghanistan in the 1970s and are recognized by IUCN (one Category II national park and six Category IV wildlife or waterfowl reserves). However, none has ever been given full legal status or official or otherwise recognized boundaries. They are not managed as protected areas.

The World Database of Protected Areas lists two protected areas twice. The Ajar Valley and Abi-Estada are listed as a Wildlife Reserve and a Waterfowl Reserve (Category IV) respectively and are also listed as proposed national parks (Category II).

Darqad, Imam Sahib, North-western Afghanistan and Registan Desert were all proposed as unspecified protected areas by Sayer and van der Zon (1981). No further efforts have been made to designate these as protected areas.

The World Database of Protected Areas also lists Zadran, Bamiyan National Heritage, and Khulm Landmark as protected areas based on a letter from Dr. Tahir Enayat in 1990. No justification was provided in the letter. Bamiyan and Khulm are likely of more cultural interest than environmental.

Two areas (Small Pamir and Waghjir Valley) have been proposed as protected areas by the Wildlife Conservation Society, but do not appear in the World Database of Protected Areas.

A description of 12 of the 15 protected areas contained in the World Database of Protected Areas is given below. The apparently cultural areas proposed by Enayat (1990) are not shown. Figure 4 (p.36) shows the location and approximate boundaries of proposed protected areas.

Table 11 UNEP-WCMC's World Database on Protected Areas Information on Afghanistan's Protected Areas

Name	Desig- nation	IUCN CAT	Min Elev (m)	Max Elev (m)	Latitude	Longitude	Udvardy Province	Biome	Event	Area (ha)	Data Source
Band-i- Amir	National Park	II	2900	3832	34° 52' 40"N (34.878°)	67° 16' 51"E (67.281°)	Anatolian- Iranian Desert (20)	Cold- winter deserts (08)	Designated 1 January 1973	41,000	
Ajar Valley	National Park		2000	3800	35° 21' 21"N (35.356°)	67° 19' 17"E (67.322°)	Hindu Kush Highlands (37)	Mixed mountain systems (12)	Proposed	40,000	
Ab-i- Estada	National Park		1900	2100	32° 28' 58"N (32.483°)	67° 56' 14"E (67.937°)	Anatolian- Iranian Desert (20)	Cold- winter deserts (08)	Proposed	27,000	
Nursitan	National Park		4876	6293	36° 34' 43"N (32.483°)	70° 50' 16"E (70.838°)	Himalayan Highlands (38)	Mixed mountain systems (12)	Proposed		
Ab-i- Estada	Waterfowl Sanctuary	IV	1950	2100	32° 28' 58"N (32.483°)	67° 56' 14"E (67.937°)	Anatolian- Iranian Desert (20)	Cold- winter deserts (08)	Designated 1 January 1977	27000	
Dasht-i- Nawar	Waterfowl Sanctuary	IV	3200	3210	33° 49' 48"N (33.830°)	67° 45'E (67.750°)	Anatolian- Iranian Desert (20)	Cold- winter deserts (08)	Designated 20 December 1977	7500	
Hamun-i- Puzak	Waterfowl Sanctuary	IV	1620	1731	31° 29' 44"N (31.496°)	61° 42' 55"E (61.715°)	Iranian Desert (24)	Cold- winter deserts (08)	Designated 1 January 1973	35,000	
Kol-i- Hashmat Khan	Waterfowl Sanctuary	IV	1792	1974	34° 30'N (34.500°)	69° 11' 59"E (69.200°)	Anatolian- Iranian Desert (20)	Cold- winter deserts (08)	Designated 1 January 1973	191	
Ajar Valley	Wildlife Reserve	IV	2000	3800	35° 21' 21"N (35.356°)	67° 19' 17"E (67.322°)	Hindu Kush Highlands (37)	Mixed mountain systems (12)	Designated 1 January 1978	40,000	

15.1 Band-i-Amir National Park

Band-i-Amir's six lakes of crystal-clear azure water, separated by travertine dams and surrounded by spectacular red cliffs, comprise one of the world's most uniquely beautiful natural landscapes. Band-i-Amir National Park is located in the western Hindu Kush in Bamiyan Province. It lies about 225 km north-northwest of Kabul and 55 km west of Bamiyan town. The Band-i-Amir lakes lie in an east-west trending valley at approximately 2,900 m elevation. From west to east, the lakes are Gholaman, Qambar, Haibat, Panir, Pudina and Zulfigar. The travertine dams separating the

lakes form when gaseous carbon dioxide from calcium-rich spring water is driven out by bacterial or algal activity causing the dissolved calcite (CaCO₃) to precipitate out, forming the mineral deposits. Because of the high calcium content of the water, the lakes are extraordinarily clear and blue. The lakes are bounded by sheer limestone cliffs topped by a high plateau.

The individual lakes differ markedly in character. Band-i-Gholaman is shallow, has extensive reedbeds and is commonly used by waterfowl. Band-i-Qambar is filled only seasonally and forms a large, wet marshy area. Band-i-Haibat has deep

Name	Desig- nation	IUCN CAT	Min Elev (m)	Max Elev (m)	Latitude	Longitude	Udvardy Province	Biome	Event	Area (ha)	Data Source
Pamir-i- Buzurg	Wildlife Reserve	IV	3250	6103	37° 8' 3"N (37.134°)	73° 3′ 3″E (73.051°)	Himalayan Highlands (38)	Mixed mountain systems (12)	Designated 1 January 1978	67,938	
Darqad (Takhar) Wildlife Managed Reserve	Other		2000	4000	37° 26' 39"N (37.444°)	69° 32'E (69.634°)	Pamir- Tian-Shan Highlands (36)	Mixed mountain systems (12)	Proposed		Sayer and von der Zon (1981)
Imam Sahib (Kunduz) Wildlife Managed Reserve	Other		1900	2095	37° 12' 22"N (37.206°)	68° 44' 46"E (68.746°)	Hindu Kush Highlands (37)	Mixed mountain systems (12)	Proposed		Sayer and von der Zon (1981)
Northwest Afghanistan Game Managed Reserve	Other		1200	2000	35° 9' 47"N (35.163°)	61° 52' 26"E (61.874°)	Anatolian- Iranian Desert (20)	Cold- winter deserts (08)	Proposed		Sayer and von der Zon (1981)
Registan Desert Wildlife Managed Reserve	Other		800	1200	30° 30'N (30.500°)	65° 0'E (65.000°)	Iranian Desert (24)	Cold- winter deserts (08)	Proposed		
Zadran	National Reserve				33° 16' 45"N (33.279°)	69° 14' 5"E (69.235°)	Anatolian- Iranian Desert (20)	Cold- winter deserts (08)	Proposed		Enayat (1990)
Bamiyan National Heritage	Protected Area				34° 49' 59"N (34.833°)	67° 49' 59"E (67.833°)	Anatolian- Iranian Desert (20)	Cold- winter deserts (08)	Proposed		Enayat (1990)
Khulm Landmark	Protected Area				36° 40' 8"N (36.669°)	67° 43' 7"E (67.719°)	Hindu Kush Highlands (37)	Mixed mountain systems (12)	Proposed		Enayat (1990)

Figure 4 Map of Afghanistan's Protected Areas



waters and a narrow, vertical-sided travertine dam on the eastern end. The dam on Band-i-Panir has a broad, smooth and undulating creamy-white surface. Band-i-Pudina is very small but surrounded by a labyrinth of small, interconnected potholes and dense vegetation. Band-i-Zulfiqar is large, deep and surrounded by steep cliffs virtually devoid of vegetation.

Band-i-Amir was declared as Afghanistan's first and only National Park on September 30, 1973, in response to a petition from the Afghan Tourist Organization. This declaration was not published in the official government Gazette by the Ministry of Justice and, therefore, has no legal status (Sayer and van der Zon 1981, IUCN 1993). The World Database on Protected Areas lists Band-i-Amir as IUCN Category II, but indicates that there is currently no active management. The boundaries of the National Park were defined by the Afghan Tourist Organization in the 1970s as being between 67°05' to 67°20'E and 34°45' to 34°55'N. However, these

boundaries were never officially gazetted. Shank and Rodenburg (1977) proposed boundaries for Band-i-Amir National Park delineated by the lakes' headwaters, and these boundaries were reflected in UNEP's (2003a) map of the park.

The UNEP Post-Conflict Assessment Team visited the area in 2002 and found the Band-i-Amir lakes largely unchanged ecologically from their condition prior to the period of conflict, which began in 1978 (UNEP 2003a). The lakes were full of water, despite the worst drought in living memory. Although no water quality testing was done, the water remains crystal clear and strikingly blue. The travertine dams appeared to be intact and the vegetation was little changed.

UNEP (2003a) found that a number of threats exist, however. Vehicles are not remaining on marked roads causing erosion. Garbage is being dumped into the lakes. Fishing with electricity and explosive devices was reported as common. Populations

of urial and ibex were reported to have declined dramatically through over-hunting. Despite a dramatic decline in livestock numbers, range conditions did not appear to have improved. Finally, Band-i-Amir was the front-line for fighting between Taliban and Northern Alliance forces during much of 2001, and large areas remained mined in 2002.

Considerable development has occurred at Bandi-Amir since 2002. The Asia Development Bank constructed an architecturally pleasing Ranger Station in 2006. The poorly-sited bazaar that had sprung up after the war was removed in late 2007 and associated clean-up activities were supported by the Afghan Conservation Corps (ACC). With assistance of WCS, the Band-i-Amir Protected Area Committee was formed in 2007. This cooperative management committee is chaired by the Bamiyan Governor and has elected representatives from all Band-i-Amir communities. This committee approved a preliminary management plan paving the way for Band-i-Amir to be legally designated as a Provisional National Park.

15.2 Ajar Valley Wildlife Reserve

The Ajar Valley Wildlife Reserve is a mountainous area in Afghanistan's central Hindu Kush that was protected for many years as a royal hunting reserve. Prior to the outbreak of hostilities in 1979, the area surrounding the Ajar Valley was ecologically undisturbed compared with most Afghan rangelands and contained large populations of ibex (Capra ibex) and smaller numbers of urial (Ovis orientalis), feral yaks (Bos grunniens), and introduced Bactrian deer (Cervus elaphus bactrianus).

The rulers of Afghanistan used the Ajar Valley as a royal hunting area for many years. Amir Habibullah built a lodge in Dara-i-Jawzari in the early 1900s and constructed the current trail into the valley. King Zahir Shah's government bought about 200 ha of land at the mouth of Dara-i-Jawzari in the 1950s and built a hunting lodge near the Ajar River.

The Ajar Valley (*Dara-i-Ajar*) is located in Bamiyan and Baghlan Provinces 70 km northwest of the town of Bamiyan. The eastern portion of the area is

in Kahmard woleswali (i.e. district) while the central and western portions are located in the woleswali of Yakowlang.

The Ajar Valley is comprised of east-west trending ridges with peaks rising to an elevation of 3,800 m. The spectacularly sheer-sided Jawzari Canyon (Dara-i-Jawzari) was cut by the Ajar River and bisects the area from east to west. The river now runs underground for most of the length of Jawzari and flows directly from the canyon wall at the spring of Chiltan. Downstream, a natural dam has created picturesque Lake Chiltan.

In the 1970s there was very little hunting, farming and livestock grazing within the locally understood reserve boundaries. As a result, the high pastures were considered to be among the least disturbed rangelands in the country.

During the mid-1970s, FAO project staff estimated ibex numbers at approximately 2,350 based on actual survey results, but accepted an estimate of 5,000 made by a local hunter as being feasible. Urial were found to be much rarer, but no



Although Band-i-Amir was declared as Afghanistan's first National Park in 1973, the fact that the declaration was not published in the official Government Gazette means that it does not have any legal status. Efforts are currently underway to secure legal protection (National Park) and effective management of the area

population estimates were provided. Bactrian deer were introduced in 1955 from the Darqad wetlands on the Amu Darya River and were reported to number 26 animals in 1976. As a consequence of relatively undisturbed habitat, birds were more diverse than FAO staff saw elsewhere in the central Hindu Kush. Common leopard (Panthera pardus), lynx (Lynx lynx), wolf (Canis lupus), fox (Vulpes vulpes), river otter (Lutra lutra), and marten (Martes foina) were all found in the reserve area, although no population estimates were available.

The Ajar Valley was gazetted as a Wildlife Sanctuary in June 1977 (FAO 1981) and IUCN recognizes the area as a Class IV reserve (World Database on Protected Areas). There appear to be no official records documenting the exact boundaries of the reserve. Shank et al. (1977) suggested that the reserve comprised approximately 50,000 ha while the World Database on Protected Areas lists the size as 40,000 ha.

Since 2006, WCS has been undertaking field surveys of the Ajar Valley and working with local communities towards establishing the area as a legally recognized Wildlife Reserve. Heavy hunting persists and only an estimated 100 – 200 ibex remain in Ajar Valley. Bactrian deer, yaks, and leopards are now gone and urial are very rare. Only one family lives and farms above Lake Chiltan, but the entire area is once again being heavily grazed. Juniper and shrubs are being heavily harvested. The hunting lodge was destroyed during the war and ownership of the royal lands near the Ajar villages is contested.

15.3 Ab-i-Estada

Ab-i-Estada is a large, saline lake occupying a flat depression on the southern edge of the Hindu Kush Mountains in Ghazni Province. The lake is a critical stopover point for thousands of migratory birds that once included the endangered Siberian Crane. Ab-i-Estada is also an important breeding ground for thousands of Greater Flamingoes (*Phoenacopterus ruber*) and other wetland-dependent birds. Ab-i-Estada was visited by the UNEP Post-Conflict Assessment team in 2002. Because of the security situation, little information is available about recent conditions at Ab-i-Estada.



Eurasian cranes (Grus grus) in Hajian Village, Parwan Province, Central Afghanistan. These cranes have been captured for their valued meat

Ab-i-Estada was reported by Förstner and Bartsch (1970) to have a normal spring volume of 270 million m³, falling to about 140 m³ in the autumn and exposing many km² of mudflats in the process. It is fed by the Ghazni, Gardez and Nahara Rivers collectively draining eastern Ghazni Province and the extreme northwest of Paktika Province. The Gardez River is now dammed at Band-i-Sardeh and the Ghazni River at Band-i-Sultan. Influx of water from the rivers is primarily from snowmelt and is largely limited to the spring. Throughout the rest of the year, the water level of Ab-i-Estada is dependent on ground water (IUCN 1993). Förstner and Bartsch (1970) characterized it as primarily a ground-water lake. During very wet years, water flows out of Ab-i-Estada through the Lora from the west side of the lake. The Lora ultimately joins the Helmand River through the Arghastan and the Dori (Khan 2002). There are currently about 30 water pumps on the west side of the lake and as many as 150 in Nawa woleswali. Typically, water pumps are run by diesel engines and water is transported through 4-inch (9-cm) diameter galvanized steel pipe (Khan 2002). According to locals, the water table is falling and the quality of the water is declining. Ab-i-Estada also experiences periodic droughts, the last one extending from 1998 to 2003. The lake is reported to have again been dry in 2004 (Omrani and Leeman 2005, pp. 706).

Using information based on previous reports, Khan (2002) estimated the bird diversity of Abi-Estada and surroundings to be 122 species. Ab-i-Estada is remarkable for the large numbers of greater flamingoes that breed on the islands. Flamingoes arrive at high water levels in late March or April and depart when water levels decline in late September or early October. Shank and Rodenburg (1977) summarized data on numbers of flamingoes breeding between 1947 and 1976. Numbers varied from none to more than 9,000. No estimates have been available since the mid-1970s. Flamingoes and other waterfowl have always been hunted by locals, but hunting was reported to be especially heavy during the period 1979-1991 when a military garrison was stationed near the lake (Jamil 1994).

Ab-i-Estada was once a critical stopover for the central population of Siberian cranes. These cranes bred in the Russian tundra and wintered in north-central India. In 1977, the western population

was estimated at only 57 individuals (Sauey 1985). The last reliable report of a Siberian Crane at Ab-i-Estada was one shot in 1986 (Khan 2000). In 2002, falcon trappers were observed working the dry flats of Ab-i-Estada targeting peregrine falcons (Falco peregrinus). There were reportedly 12 teams working the lake, each with 5-6 members.

Historically there were no settlements in the semidesert around Ab-i-Estada, although nomads from Qandahar visited the area in summer. In the recent past, nomadic Ghelzai Taraki nomads settled at Ab-i-Estada and throughout Nawa (UNHCR 1990). Currently, there are eight villages lying within 10 kilometres of Ab-i-Estada, with a population of approximately 5,000 (Khan 2002). Population levels are increasing rapidly with the return of refugees and internally displaced persons, and natural population growth.

Ab-i-Estada was declared a National Waterfowl and Flamingo Sanctuary in late 1974 by the Directorate of Wildlife and National Parks in the Ministry of Agriculture. The Head of State approved its status as a waterfowl sanctuary on December 20, 1977 (Order no. 707) based on petition no. 1765 dated June 6, 1977. Ten game guards were appointed in 1974 to stop hunting. Six guards came from the Republican Guard (Guard-i-Jamuriat) and four came from the local community (Khan 2002). Ab-i-Estada currently enjoys no institutional protection and the game guards have long since disappeared. Ab-i-Estada has never been officially recognized as a Ramsar wetland site of international importance.

15.4 Dasht-i-Nawar

Dasht-i-Nawar is a vast (ca. 600 km²), highaltitude plain in the Koh-i-Baba range of the Hindu Kush Mountains most famous for seasonal occupation by large numbers of Greater Flamingoes (*Phoenicopterus ruber*). The plain (*dasht*) is surrounded by largely barren mountains rising to an elevation of more than 4,800 m. In the dasht there is a brackish lake (Ab-i-Nawar) approximately 14 km in length and 3 km in width with a complex of 40 islands in the range of 35 to 500 m² (Shank and Rodenburg 1977). The area's ecological significance is primarily as an important stopover and breeding ground for a variety of waterfowl and wader species.



Camels in Dasht-i-Nawar Waterfowl Sanctuary, Ghazni Province. This Sanctuary has no legal or effective protection and is increasingly being affected by heavy grazing

Dasht-i-Nawar is located in south-central Afghanistan in Nawur woleswali of Ghazni Province. The wetland can be reached by the unpaved Jaghatoo road (ca. 112 km) from the town of Ghazni via the Shamsuddin Pass. An alternative and shorter route (ca. 65 km) follows an unpaved road that breaks away from the Ghazni-Kandahar highway near the town of Moqur. The dasht is located at ca. 3,350 m elevation.

The hydrology of the Nawar catchment is very poorly known and no water flow data exist (Petocz 2006). Water in Lake Ab-i-Nawar is almost completely dependent on snow melt from the surrounding mountains. The water volume of Abi-Nawar was estimated to vary annually between 2 - 20 million m³ in the early 1970s (Nogge 1974 in Shank and Rodenburg 1977). In recent years, the lake has often dried up entirely by summer or autumn. However, water is retained in small ponds and streams created by spring waters located near villages on the west side of the dasht. A small permanent dam, the Bahaee dam (500m x 150m x 12m), was constructed and completed in 2005 by the Ghazni Provincial Rehabilitation Team (PRT) in the upper reaches of the Khafak River valley. In April 2006 the dam held a reservoir of about 424,000 cu metres of water. All of the water from the reservoir is currently channeled and directed by canal systems for irrigation and local use, and no longer supplies Ab-i-Nawar (Petocz 2006a).

Dasht-i-Nawar serves as an important breeding and staging ground for a large number of migratory waterfowl and waders. There are records of breeding populations of avocets (Recurvirosta avocetta), redshanks (Tringa totanus), greater sandplovers (Charadrius leschenaultia), and common terns (Sterna hirundo) (Klockenhoff and Madel 1970 in Shank & Rodenburg 1977). The area is the world's highest elevation breeding ground for the Greater Flamingo. Flamingo presence and breeding success is highly variable and dependent upon water levels. Petocz and Habibi (1975) report seeing 1,200 adults in 1974. UNEP (2003a) stated that flamingoes had not bred between 1998 and 2002 because of drought conditions. Petocz (2006a) reported seeing 2,500 flamingoes in April 2006, but by June the water had dried up and no birds were seen.

Freitag (1986) reports a remarkable case of plant endemism from Dasht-i-Nawar. He found four species (Cousinia ammophila, Fibigia compacta, Astragalus (Aegacantha) antheliophorus and Pipatherum rechingeri) confined to a 1 km² sand field. He concluded that these psammophytic (i.e. sand-loving) endemics evolved from nearby

alpine vegetation and not from pre-adapted psammophytes, as is common elsewhere. This suggests that Dasht-i-Nawar has experienced highly effective and long-lasting ecological isolation. Further investigations may discover other species to have evolved *in situ* making Dasht-i-Nawar a potential evolutionary hotspot.

According to local reports, the mountains to the west of Dasht-i-Nawar area still support a small population of Himalayan ibex and urial. Locals indicated that ungulates can sometimes be sighted with binoculars in the nearby mountains during winter months. Some big game hunting is undertaken by locals, but it appears to be minimal. Locals do almost no waterfowl hunting. They are particularly averse to hunting flamingoes because they associate the pink colour of the plumage with the blood of the martyred Imam Hussain.

In the 1970s, Shank and Rodenburg (1977) roughly estimated the settled Hazara population living around the *dasht* to be about 1,200 – 1,500 people. Currently, there are about 3,500-households and approximately 24,000 people living in 38 villages distributed mostly on the east side of the dasht (Petocz 2006a).

In the 1970s, Shank and Rodenburg (1977) estimated that about 1,300 nomadic people (kuchis) grazed approximately 5,000-7,000 sheep and goats and 700 camels on the dasht during the summer months. The kuchis claimed to have farmans (permits) endorsed by former Afghan kings giving them grazing rights in Dasht-i-Nawar. The traditional movement patterns of the nomadic people were disrupted during 25 years of war. The settled Hazaras initially expelled the nomads, but the kuchis returned when the dominantly Pashtun Taliban took power. Reportedly, 1,000 kuchi families now graze as many as 100,000 head of livestock in the area during the summer months. Animosity currently runs so high between the residents and the nomads that it sometimes erupts into violence (Petocz 2006a).

Dasht-i-Nawar was declared as a National Flamingo and Waterfowl Sanctuary by the Directorate of Wildlife and National Parks in 1974 (FAO 1978). This designation was approved by the Head of State on December 20, 1977 vide Order No. 707 on the basis of Petition no. 1765

dated June 6, 1977 (IUCN 1993). Game guards were stationed at Dasht-i-Nawar in1976, but their legal authority was questionable. The protection previously afforded Dasht-i-Nawar is no longer in effect. Dasht-i-Nawar is not currently on the international list of 1,198 recognized Ramsar sites, although nomination documents were presented to the Afghan Parliament for approval of accession.

15.5 Hamun-i-Puzak

Hamun-i-Puzak was proposed as a national park by Sayer and van der Zon (1981). It is a large, shallow, permanent lake located in the Seistan Basin along the border with Iran. It is part of a larger complex of shallow, intermittent lakes that includes Baringak, Chonge Sorkh, Hamuni-Hirmand, Hamun-i-Saberi, and Hamun-i-Puzak. Although the lake complex is fed almost entirely from snow melt originating in Afghanistan, only Hamun-i-Puzak is largely Afghan; approximately 1,453 km² lies in Afghanistan and 61 km² in Iran (UNEP 2006). At high water, the Hamun-i-Puzak is characterized by huge expanses of tall reeds (Phragmites australis). At one time, it was a significant wetland for waterfowl with 357,000 counted in January, 1976 (Petocz et al. 1976).

UNEP (2003a) provides a series of satellite image analyses showing how the Siestan Basin dried up between 1976 and 2001. However, periodic desiccation is natural phenomenon and recovery of the ecosystem may be possible if water flows are restored. A recent analysis (UNEP 2006) indicates that that there have been four recent phases in the hydrology of the hamun system:

- 1. A low-water period in 1985-1988.
- 2. A high-water period in 1989-1993.
- 3. A medium-water period in 1994-1999.
- 4. A dry period in 2000-2004.

At least 40% of Hamun-i-Puzak was inundated from 1985 – 2000 at which time the lake went dry until the 2005. Vegetative biomass remained fairly constant until 1999 when it collapsed sharply. There have been no recent assessments of waterfowl populations or of other aspects of biodiversity.

IUCN (World Database of Protected Areas, nd) records Hamun-i-Puzak as a Category IV Waterfowl Sanctuary, however, the area has never been recognized or gazetted by the Government of Afghanistan. No boundaries have been proposed.

15.6 Kol-i-Hashmat Khan

Kol-i-Hashmat Khan is a shallow, reed-covered lake uniquely situated at the southwest edge of the metropolis of Kabul. Kol-i-Hashmat Khan is significant as an important stopover for vast numbers of migratory birds and as a significant natural landscape within a predominantly urban setting.

Kol-i-Hashmat Khan was first mentioned in the memoirs of the Moghul Emperor Babur Shah in the 16th century. Amir Abdul Rahman Khan used the lake as a royal hunting area between 1880 and 1901. His successor, Amir Habibullah Khan (1901-1919), constructed the fort Qala-i-Hashmat Khan as a guesthouse and hunting lodge on the southeast shore of the lake. He also built an elevated brick road to the fort directly across the lake. In the 1930s, King Zahir Shah declared the area as a waterfowl reserve and afforded its protection by the royal garrison. Following the 1973 coup, Kol-i-Hashmat Khan was under the protection of the Guard-i-Jumuriat (Republican Guard) attached to the presidential office.

The area around Kol-i-Hashmat Khan contains many historical sites, including Latif's Garden, formerly located to the northwest of the lake, the shrine of Jabur Ansar built in 645 AD, and the Jabar Ansar Wali Cemetery. To the northwest lies the imposing fort of Bala Hissar overlooking the lake from a high hill.

According to Rahim and Larsson (1978), the lake proper was state property in the 1970s and was administered by the Department of Ceremonies of the President's Office. The fields to the south of the lake were property of the public baths while the fields on the northern part of the lake were owned by local residents. Ownership of other lands surrounding the lake was not registered. Rahim and Larsson (1978) noted that there were only a dozen houses between the east side of the lake and the Kabul-Gardez highway.

Historically, Kol-i-Hashmat Khan was part of a much larger marsh system on the Logar River. Rahim and

Larsson (1978) reported the lake as being about 190 ha in size and that it becomes "nearly dry" during the summer months.

Kol-i-Hashmat Khan's primary importance is as a stopover location for waterfowl migrating through the Logar Valley to and from breeding grounds to the north. Only a few species actually use the lake for breeding, although their numbers are significant. Rahim and Larsson (1978) provide a list of species observed at Kol-i-Hashmat Khan by FAO project staff and Niethammer (1967 *in* Rahim and Larsson 1978). Niethammer saw nearly 33,000 individual birds at the lake over a period of two years in the 1960s.

Originally, Kol-i-Hashmat Khan was part of an extensive marsh system created as the Logar River emptied into the broad plain south of Kabul (Scott 1995). A series of irrigation channels were developed over the years. The Kamari canal has first priority for water allocation, followed by the Shewaki canal. Water demands are increasing leading to reduced water levels in Kol-i-Hashmat Khan. In the first half of the 20th century, the lake covered much of what is now Karte Naw and Chaman-i-Huzuri. Pressure for diverting water from Kol-i-Hashmat Khan increases almost every year. As well, tube wells are proliferating around the lake for irrigation purposes, doubtlessly drawing down the water table.

Phragmites reeds in the middle of the lakebed were being harvested for sale as roof thatch reducing wildlife habitat. In 2002, UNDP implemented a Ministry of Agriculture sponsored project in which an 8-km ditch was dug completely around Kol-i-Hashmat Khan as a means of delineating the boundaries and keeping livestock out. Netting of quail and migratory birds occurs regularly at Kol-i-Hashmat Khan.

Qala-i-Hashmat Khan, Amir Habibullah Khan's hunting retreat and guesthouse, was destroyed during fighting over control of Kabul. Encroachment of houses has occurred in areas where there were once only agricultural fields and a dozen houses. Also lying between the lake and the Kabul-Gardez highway is a very large carpentry and wood bazaar. In 2002, a community of *gujars* is living in tents on the south end of the lake.

Petocz (2006c) chronicles the current abuses inflicted on Kol-i-Hashmat Khan. Influential settlers have illegally built homes and small businesses on

government land, in many cases right to the water's edge, and have reduced the size of the lake from its former size of 191 ha to about 150 ha. Other settlers have illeaally built houses on the hillside above the lake adding to the population expansion in the area and pressure on the water resources. Tube wells have been drilled along the lake shore to service the needs of the expanding population adding to the depletion of lake waters. Car washers have set up illegal businesses just below the Bala Hissar and are polluting the lake with the run-off. Hospital waste and garbage has been dumped into the lake itself, sometimes by government owned trucks from Kabul municipality. Local people continue to cut reeds and grasses in the lake, and women launder clothes and household goods at the lake shore. Hunting and harassment of birdlife is still common but now is mainly the prerogative of children and teenagers. Recently, the historical Qala-i-Hashmat Khan on the southwestern shore of the lake, once used as a guest house by former royalty and earmarked to be developed into reserve education and awareness centre was been sold and removed. Latif's garden below the Bala Hissar was once a beautiful site but is severely degraded.

Kol-i-Hashmat Khan has never received legal status as a protected area, although it has long been protected by Afghan rulers. The lake proper is currently administered and managed by the Department of Natural Resource Management (DNRM), Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL). The agricultural fields south of the lake are private property, and the northern fields are owned by local residents. Other land claims are either suspect, not registered or perhaps even forged land title documents (Petocz 2006c). A new government multiagency coalition has been formed spearheaded by the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) and MAIL to deal with the most immediate issues that threaten the integrity and survival of the Kol-e Hashmat Khan wetland. A workshop was hosted by the NEPA Director General and facilitated by UNEP on 6 June 2006 to discuss the future of Kol-i-Hashmat Khan (Petocz 2006c). An interim management plan (Petocz 2006c) has been prepared.

15.7 Wakhan

The Wakhan Corridor is a long (200 km) and narrow (20 - 60 km) panhandle of alpine valleys and high mountains stretching eastward from the province of Badakhshan. It borders Tajikistan to the north, Pakistan to the south, and China to the east. The Wakhan is part of the "Pamir Knot" from which radiate the Hindu Kush, Karakorum, Himalayan, and Tien Shan Ranges. The rich biodiversity of the



Herd of yaks (Bos grunniens) in the Wakhan Corridor, Badakhshan Province. The yaks are frequently used by local people for transportation, milk and meat

Wakhan was described in most detail by Petocz (1978a) and appears to be largely intact after 25 years of war and instability (UNEP 2003 a and b).

UNEP (2003b) divides the Wakhan into three geographical areas:

- The narrow Wakhan Valley, running approximately 110 km from Ishkishim to Qala-i-Panja, bordering Pakistan on the south and Tajikistan to the north,
- The Big Pamir, lying between the Pamir and Wakhan Rivers in the north-central portion of the Corridor and bordering Tajikistan,
- The Small Pamir consists of two mountain blocks at the eastern end of the Wakhan, separated by the Waghjir River and borders on Pakistan, China and Tajikistan.

The fabled Silk Road ran through the Wakhan and the archaeological, historical, and cultural characteristics of the area are unique. The Wakhan Valley and Big Pamir are inhabited by sedentary Wakhi people while the Small Pamir is home to the transhumant Kirghiz herders.

The Pamir-i-Buzurg, or "Big Pamir", is a high mountain and plateau area rising to 6,100 m and dominated by alpine vegetation with grasses and sedges in the valley bottoms. The area is most famous for the magnificent Marco Polo sheep (Ovis ammon poli). In 1973, Petocz (1978b) counted 500 Marco Polo sheep in the Big Pamir. In the 1950s, King Zaher Shah ordered that wild sheep be protected in a single valley of the Big Pamir and in the 1970s this protection was extended to four major valleys comprising 679 km² (Petocz 1978c). A successful tourist hunting program was run in the Big Pamir by the Afghan Tourist Organization from 1968 – 1979. The Pamir-i-Buzurg was gazetted as a Wildlife Reserve in 1978, but it currently does not enjoy protected status.

UNEP (2003b) found the Marco Polo sheep (especially females and young) were competing intensively with livestock in the wintering areas of the western Big Pamir. The UNEP team found that livestock is being overwintered in the area and that trampling had caused considerable degradation of the pastures between 4,000 to 4,300 m. Wild

sheep were also hunted opportunistically for meat. Besides Marco Polo sheep, there is also a diverse mountain fauna including ibex (*Capra siberica*), brown bear (*Ursus arctos*), wolf (*Canis lupus*), lynx (*Lynx lynx*) and snow leopard (*Uncia uncia*) remaining in the Big Pamir (UNEP 2003b).

Since 2006, WCS has been studying birds, mammals, and livestock/wildlife interactions in the Big Pamir with the ultimate goal of creating a legally recognized wildlife reserve. Rough estimates are that about 150 Marco Polo sheep remain in the Big Pamir. More detailed population estimates are underway using a DNA-based estimation technique. WCS has also been working with local Wakhan to foster community-based conservation in the Big Pamir.

The Small Pamir has never had protected status. In 1973, Petocz (1978b) saw 760 Marco Polo sheep in the Small Pamir, not including the Waghjir Valley. Intensive surveys have not been undertaken in recent years, but the UNEP team (2003b) considered that the Small Pamir population remained larger than that of the Big Pamir. WCS biologists observed 545 Marco Polo sheep in the Small Pamir in 2004 and 106 in Waghjir in 2007. WCS has recently recommended that an area of ca. 250 km² at the eastern tip of the small Pamir (east of 740 40'E) be designated a strictly protected area (P. Zahler, pers. comm., April 2006). This area is at present not used by the local Kirghiz herdsmen, and thus the habitat is in excellent condition and does not conflict with human use patterns. There is also no barrier between it and the proposed Shaymak Reserve in Tajikistan, enabling Marco Polo sheep to move freely back and forth. The eastern tip of the Waghjir Valley (about 300 km²), east of 74020'E, is at present uninhabited and used only for yak grazing in winter. WCS has recommended both the Small Pamir and Waghjir Valleys be designated as protected areas.

Marco Polo sheep move freely across the international borders of the Wakhan. Accordingly, the noted wildlife biologist, George Schaller, has long been promoting the concept of a four-country (Afghanistan, Pakistan, China and Tajikistan), transboundary protected area centring on the Wakhan. Much of the area under consideration for such a park is already or may soon be in reserves. The transboundary protected area would build upon Pakistan's Khunjerab National Park

(6,150 km²) and the contiguous Taxkorgan Nature Reserve (about 14,000 km²) in China. Other reserves with Marco Polo sheep in this border region are the Zorkul Strictly Protected Area (870 km²) in Tajikistan and the Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve (679 km²) in Afghanistan. In addition, there are two trophy hunting areas for Marco Polo sheep, one in Tajikistan and one in China, with a measure of protection. China is considering another reserve along the Tajik border, and recent WCS surveys in Tajikistan and Afghanistan suggest further additions to the system. A preliminary planning meeting was held in Urumchi, China in September 2006 with another meeting tentatively scheduled for 2008.

15.8 Nuristan

Sayer and van der Zon (1981) proposed that Nuristan National Park be created in Laghman and Kunar Provinces centred on the Paron and Kantiwa Valleys. They provided a map showing the proposed, approximate extent of the Park. The major value of the area was suggested as being the largely undisturbed monsoon-influenced forests and the unique species assemblage in the area including Himalayan black bear, markhor, leopard and snow leopard. As well, the traditional way of life is of great cultural value. Petocz and Larsson (1977) described the ecology of the area and made recommendations for management. Remote sensing analysis undertaken by UNEP indicated that 52% of forest cover was lost in Nuristan, Laghman and Nangarhar Provinces between 1977 and 2002 (UNEP 2003). WCS is currently undertaking wildlife studies in Nuristan and have confirmed the identity and distribution of mammal species through snow tracking, scat identification and camera trapping. The National Park remains a proposal and has had no formal recognition.

15.9 Zadran

Little information is available for Zadran. It was proposed in 1990 as a letter from Dr. Tahir Enayat, then Rector of Kabul University, to the World Conservation Monitoring Centre. Omrani and Leeman (2005) state that the main interest of the area is the coniferous and deciduous forests that once flourished there. They note that the area saw fighting during the Soviet war (1979 – 1989) and

during the civil wars in 1990 and again in 2001 – 2002. In 2006, the area remains unstable.

15.10 Imam Sahib

Imam Sahib is a floodplain complex of islands and river banks in the Amu Darya River. The area derives its name from an historic mosque and shrine reputed to contain the head of Hazrat Imam Hussein, the Prophet's grandson (Omrani and Leeman 2005). It was proposed as a wildlife management or nature reserve by Sayer and van der Zon (1981). Measurements using Google Earth indicate the area to be approximately 50 km in length and as much as 12 km wide. Together with Darqad, it may represent the last significant remnants of tugai vegetation in Afghanistan. The tugai in and around Imam Sahib is the last remaining habitat for the endangered Bactrian deer (Cervus elaphus bactrianus) in Afghanistan.

The UNEP Post-Conflict team visited in 2002 and reported apparently intact forests. It was reported that 300 families settled on the islands during Taliban times with about 100 remaining. These people are cutting fuelwood and clearing land for agriculture. Anthony Fitzherbert visited the area in 2004 and was told that elites commonly crossed to the island to go hunting (Omrani and Leeman 2005). Local people reported to him that some smaller wildlife, and possibly Bactrian deer, still exist on the islands. Ahmad Khan (pers. comm. 2006) visited Imam Sahib in 2005 on behalf of the Asia Development Bank and found the area almost completely converted to agricultural lands.

UNEP (2003a) reports that Imam Sahib was declared as a Royal Hunting Reserve sometime in the 20th century with restrictions on land use. The area may have been declared a government reserve in the mid-1990s, but considerable uncertainty remains (UNEP 2003a). Regardless, the area has never been gazetted or provided with formal boundaries.

15.11 Darqad

Darqad is the sister reserve to Imam Sahib and located some 25 km upstream. Sayer and van der Zon (1981) proposed it as a wildlife management or

nature reserve. Rough measurements using Google Earth indicate the area to be approximately 40km in length and as much as 20m wide. Like Imam Sahib, Darqad is significant for its *tugai* vegetation. The last sign of tigers in Afghanistan were seen at Darqad in 1967 (Habibi 2003). Ahmad Khan (pers. comm., 2006) visited Darqad in 2005 on behalf of the Asia Development Bank and found the area to be severely degraded.

Like Imam Sahib, Darqad was declared as a Royal Hunting Reserve sometime in the 20th century with restrictions on land use. However, the area has never been gazetted or provided with formal boundaries.

15.12 Northwest Afghanistan

Northwest Afghanistan was proposed as a wildlife management reserve or nature reserve by Sayer and Van der Zon (1981). It is located in the extreme north-western corner of the country along the Turkmenistan and Iranian borders. Its conservation value is primarily as a representative of Pistacia vera forests at higher elevations and Artemisia steppes in lower areas. Wild ass were reported as being hunted in the area as late as 1975, but they are almost certainly gone now (Omrani and Leeman 2005). Little current information exists on the area. It has never received any level of formal recognition and the boundaries have not been delineated. At one time, a government horse pasture existed on Hazrat Baba (33°38'46"N, 62°14'21"E), a north-western spur of the Feroz Koh about 30 km north of Herat. In the late 1970s, Hazrat Baba had some of the best range

conditions in Afghanistan (pers. obs.). This area should be investigated to determine its current status and suitability for inclusion in any future Northwest Afghanistan Wildlife Reserve.

The area has never received any level of formal recognition and the boundaries have not been delineated.

15.13 Registan Desert

Registan Desert was proposed as a wildlife management or nature reserve by Sayer and Van der Zon (1981). It is located in Kandahar and Helmand Provinces in the south-eastern corner of the country. The Registan Desert is comprised of a variety of landscapes from moving sand dunes to gravel flats. Its conservation value is as a representative of Afghanistan's desert region and for protection of its rich floral, reptile and rodent diversity.

Large herbivores (onager, chinkara, goitered gazelles) and their predators (cheetah, hyaena) were once common, but are now largely, if not completely, gone. Omrani and Leeman (2005) report that during the Taliban years, wealthy Arabs built an airstrip to provide access to gazelle and bustard hunting and that these species are now rarely seen. Toderich and Tsukatani (2005) provide some recent plant species lists and productivity estimates for the area, but little other information seems to be available.

The area has never received any level of formal recognition and the boundaries have not been delineated.

16 Afghanistan's Agricultural Biodiversity

Agricultural biodiversity refers to the variety of species of crops and livestock that farmers employ, the genetic variability within each of those species as indicated by the diversity of varieties raised, and the genetic variability of the wild progenitors of domesticated species.

16.1 The Significance of Agricultural Biodiversity

Agricultural biodiversity is important because it provides the farmer with the flexibility to adapt to changing conditions. Under any given set of stable conditions, the best single variety of the best species will provide the greatest yield per unit of land, labour and money invested. Consequently farmers often concentrate their efforts on raising the most favourable species and variety to the exclusion of others. When times are good, this monocropping strategy can result in large yields. However, the strategy is risky because if the rains do not come, if an insect attacks the crops, or if a disease strikes the livestock, the farmer who depends on one species or variety can lose everything. Monocropping is therefore a high yield/high risk approach to agriculture.

The risks of monocropping are illustrated dramatically by the disastrous Irish Potato Famine of 1845 – 1848. Potatoes grow well in Ireland and much of the population came to depend solely on large harvests from a particular variety of potato. In 1845, the fungus blight (Phytophthora infestans) struck and destroyed the potato crop for three years in a row. So dependent on potatoes were the poor people of Ireland that an estimated one million people died and more than 1.5 million people emigrated. Blight resistant potato varieties were subsequently developed, with many incorporating resistance genes from species of wild potato. The Irish Potato Famine illustrates the importance of maintaining a diversity of species and genetic varieties and in preserving the reservoir of genetic diversity existing in the wild.

16.2 Varieties of Agricultural Species

"Landraces" are varieties of a crop or livestock species developed by farmers through conscious or unconscious selective breeding. Landraces are highly adapted to local conditions. Different landraces incorporate a huge amount of genetic variability and are the source of most genetic resistance incorporated into improved seed sources. Mountainous regions, such as Afghanistan, are rich in landraces because of the isolation and differing conditions in nearby mountain valleys. Landraces often do not produce yields as large as new, "improved" varieties, although they almost always require fewer chemicals and less land preparation and they are more resistant to the specific environmental challenges found in the local environment. Planting landraces is often less expensive and risky compared to planting hightech imported seed. In Afghanistan, most crops planted in rainfed areas are still local landraces while improved seed is increasingly being used in irrigated areas (ICARDA 2002). Experiments in Afghanistan showed that improved, foreign breeds of sheep could not survive the poor ranges that local breeds were able to utilize (Yalcin, 1979 in Adil 2000).

Many traditional varieties and landraces of cultivated species are being lost. Several hundred years ago, carrots grew in a rainbow of colorsred, purple, yellow, white and orange, but now only orange and reddish carrots remain. Early farmers had to plant many varieties of each crop so at least something would make it to harvest through the vagaries of drought, flood and disease during the growing season. The development of hybrid seeds, improved livestock breeds, veterinary drugs, pesticides, chemical fertilizers and farm machinery gives farmers more control over growing conditions allowing the use of only few of the most productive varieties. Consequently, many landraces of plants and animals are in danger of being lost along with their genetic resources.

The value of genetic variability encompassed by farmer-developed landraces of crop plants has long been known. Consequently, there are many seed banks around the world that preserve as wide a diversity of genetic adaptations as

possible. Prior to the war, Afghanistan had a worldrenowned crop seed collection. Unfortunately, it was destroyed in 1992 by mujahadeen factions. Researchers then re-collected samples of the country's major food and cash crops. During the Taliban era, scientists quietly stockpiled hundreds of seed samples and hid these collections in private homes. Sometime prior to 2002, these collections were again ransacked, apparently to steal the plastic containers in which the seed was stored. The destroyed seed collection included varieties descended from many wild ancestors, representing a rich genetic diversity that may have contained rare traits for things such as disease and pest resistance and drought tolerance (Future Harvest 2002).

16.3 Wild Species as the Ancestors of Agricultural Species

All agricultural plants and animals were developed by early hunter-gatherers, farmers and herders from wild species through a process of selection of the most favourable types over a process of millennia.

There are about 200,000 species of flowering plants. Of these, thousands are edible, but humans have domesticated only a few hundred species. Only 12 species (wheat, maize, rice, barley, sorghum, soybean, potato, manioc, sweet potato, sugar cane, sugar beet and banana) provide 80% of the biomass eaten by humans worldwide. Just three species, wheat, maize and rice, account for half the calories consumed by the world's population. Even more surprising than the lack of diversity in our food crops is the fact that no new crops of any significance have been developed in the past several thousand years (Diamond 1999).

Those animal species most likely to be domesticated are terrestrial, herbivorous mammals weighing more than 100 pounds (45 kg). There are 148 such species in the world that are candidates for domestication. However, only 14 livestock species have ever been truly domesticated and only five of these (sheep, goats, cows, pigs and horses) are widespread around the world (Diamond 1999).

The pioneering Russian plant geneticist N.V. Vavilov discovered in the 1920s that there are

seven major regions in the world in which almost all of humanity's crop plants were developed by early farmers from wild species. All of them are concentrated between 20 and 45 degrees latitude and are associated with mountain ranges; conditions that describe Afghanistan perfectly. Indeed, Vavilov considered Afghanistan and its nearest neighboring countries to be the third most important centre of crop origin in the world and the original home of bread wheat, rye, barley, chickpeas, peas, flax, alfalfa, clover, apple, pear, pomegranate, quince, sweet cherry, melons, grapes, pistachio and some vegetables. Preserving the genetic diversity of these wild ancestors humanity's crop species is therefore a global imperative.

16.4 Afghanistan's Crop and Livestock Species and Varieties

Table 12 (p.48) is a summary of the food and commodity crops known to be grown in Afghanistan. Plant information is adapted from an unattributed table found on Afghanistan Online (nd) with some additions (FAO 2003) and some deletions. The list is almost certainly not complete.

Afghanistan's cereal production is heavily skewed towards production of wheat. In 2006, Afghanistan's predicted cereal production was 5.5 million tonnes of which 80% is wheat, 7% is rice, 6% maize and 7% barley (FAO 2006).

Bread wheat (Triticum aestivum) was first created about 4,700 years ago by hybridizing emmer wheat (Triticum turgidum) and wild goat grass (Aegilops squarrosa) to create a hexaploid wheat (i.e. six sets of chromosomes). It is thought by some experts that Afghanistan has more native bread wheat varieties than anywhere else in the world and is therefore likely to be the cradle of its birth (Fedak nd). Vavilov himself collected 110 landraces of wheat from Afghanistan. The Vavilov Institute in Moscow currently records 1,721 varieties from Afghanistan while the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Genetic Resources Information Network (GRIN) database lists 1,892 accessions from Afghanistan (ICARDA 2002). It is not known how many of these varieties are still in use. Less information is available on Afghan landraces of other cultivated crops.

Table 12 Species Diversity of Afghanistan's Agriculture

		, ,				
Fruit and Nuts	Cereals	Vegetables	Pulses	Fodder	Commodities	Livestock
Figs	Rice	Beets	Lentils	Clover	Cotton	Sheep
Plums	Rye	Sesame	Chick pea	Alfalfa	Tobacco	Cattle
Bananas	Wheat	Spinach	Broad bean	Vetch	Opium poppy	Goats
Dates	Barley	Radish			Flax	Donkey
Pears	Maize	Pumpkin			Rape	Horse
Peaches	Millet	Potatoes			Sugarcane	Bactrian camel
Apricots		Lettuce			Castor oil plant	Dromedary camel
Mulberries		Cabbage				Water buffalo
Grapes		Garlic				Yak
Pomegranates		Leeks				Chicken
Apples		Turnips				Turkey
Quince		Asparagus				
Oranges		Brussels sprouts				
Cherries		Eggplants				
Strawberries		Squash				
Walnuts		Cauliflower				
Almonds		Garden pea				
Pine nuts		Onions				
Pistachio nuts		Mustard				
Jujube		Cucumbers				
Loquat		Carrots				
Persimmon		Watermelons				
Mandarin		Melons				
Lemon		Sunflowers				
Quince		Artichoke				
		Tomatoes				
		Pepper				
		Broccoli				
		Cabbage				

Grapes were probably first domesticated in Herat. Currently, there are reported to be 72 – 76 local varieties of grapes in the Herat region (Oliver 2004). Some of these Afghan landraces are being used by plant breeders in the US to develop new varieties (Bohan 2003).

A March 2003 livestock census carried out by the MAIL and the FAO indicated that there are an estimated 3.7 million cattle, 8.8 million sheep, 7.3 million goats and 177,000 camels in Afghanistan (RAMP nd).

There are at least nine landraces of sheep raised in Afghanistan (Baluchi, Panjshir Gadik, Wakhan Gadik, Ghiljai, Hazaragi, Kandahari, Karakul, Afghan Arabi , and Turki), eight breeds of cattle (Afghan Kabuli, Badakhshani Bouy, Badakhshani Dasnier, Kandahari, Konari, Shankhansurri, Systani and hybrids of Friesian, Jersey and Brown Swiss), seven breeds of goats (Asmari, Kabuli, Kandahari, Kashmiri, Rahnama, Tajjiki, and Watani), six horse breeds (Herati, Mazari, Qatgani, Turkistani, Waziri and Yabu) and four varieties of chickens (Khasaki, Kulangi, Rangin and Sabw) (Khan and Iqbal nd). Although they were not first domesticated in Afghanistan, the wild progenitors of domestic sheep, goats and donkeys (urial, wild goat and onagers respectively) still exist in Afghanistan, although all are threatened with extinction.

17 Recommended Priority Actions for Conserving Afghanistan's Biodiversity

This review of the current state of Afghanistan's biodiversity suggests a number of specific actions that should be instituted in the near future to protect known biodiversity priorities and to fill key knowledge gaps.

- Establish priority and feasible protected areas as legally recognized and effectively managed entities. Priority areas should be Band-i-Amir, Ajar Valley, Pamir-i-Buzurg, and Dashte Nawar.
- Develop a protected areas system plan for Afghanistan designed to protect representative areas of high biodiversity in all major ecoregions.
- Survey all wetlands and potential protected areas listed in this document to determine current status and suitability for inclusion into the protected areas system plan.
- Initiate a national Red-Listing process for Afghan mammals with the technical assistance of IUCN, incorporating targeted surveys to

- establish current status of priority species.
- Encourage national and international scholars to develop a comprehensive flora of Afghanistan.
- Develop effective plans to intervene in the destruction of the remaining monsoondependent forests of eastern Afghanistan.
- Develop effective plans for preserving and recovering remnant pistachio and juniper forests in northern Afghanistan.
- 8. Develop programs to preserve native Afghan landraces of crop plants and livestock.

These detailed actions must be undertaken within the context of broader institutional initiatives to conserve biodiversity including:

- Improving the capacity of government institutions to effectively manage biodiversity.
- 2. Increasing public awareness of biodiversity and its value to the Afghan people.
- 3. Developing a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Afghanistan.



Owl species, Wakhan Corridor, Badakhshan Province

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Appendix 1 The Mammals of Afghanistan: A Checklist

Mammals of Afghanistan

Taxonomy, nomenclature and order of families from

Duff, A. and A. Lawson 2004. Mammals of the World- A Checklist. A&C Black, London

Scientific Name	Common Name	Habibi's Threat Assessment	IUCN Red List	CITES	Authority	Notes	
Lepordiae	Rabbits and Hares						
Lepus capensis	Cape Hare	Common			Habibi (2003)		
Lepus nigricollis	Indian Hare	Unknown			Habibi (2003)		
Ochotona macrotis	Large-eared Pika	Common			Habibi (2003)		
Ochotona rufescens	Afghan Pika	Common			Habibi (2003)		

Sciuridae	Squirrels	Squirrels						
Hylopetes fimbriatus	Small Kashmir Flying Squirrel	Threatened		Habibi (2003)				
Hylopetes baberi	Afghan Flying Squir	rel		Dunn and Lawson (2004)	Roberts (1997) disputes the recognition of <i>H. baberi</i> as a separate species from <i>H. fimbriatus</i> .			
Marmota caudata	Long-tailed Marmot	Common		Habibi (2003)				
Petaurista petaurista	Giant Flying Squirrel	Threatened		Habibi (2003)				
Spermophilus fulvus	Ground Squirrel	Common		Habibi (2003)				
Spermophilus leptodactylus	Long-clawed Ground Squirrel	Unknown		Habibi (2003)				
Funambulus pennantii	Northern Palm Squirrel			Listed by IUCN (http://www.iucnredlist.org/search/details.php/8702/all)				

Dipodidae	Jerboas				
Allactaga elater	Small Five-toed Jerboa	Common		Habibi (2003)	
Allactaga euphratica	Euphrates Jerboa	Unknown		Habibi (2003)	
Allactaga hotsoni	Hotson's Five- toed Jerboa	Unknown		Habibi (2003)	
Jacalus blanfordi	Greater Three- toed Jerboa	Unknown		Habibi (2003)	
Salpingotus thomasi	Thomas's Pygmy jer	rboa		Listed for Afghanistan by IUCN (http://www. iucnredlist.org/search/ details.php/19868/ summ)	Uncertain in Afghanistan. Dunn and Lawson state that type locality (Afghanistan) is "doubtful".

Muridae	Mice and relative	es					
Dryomys nitedula	Forest Dormouse	Unknown		Habibi (2003)			
Alticola roylei	Royal's High Mountain Vole	Unknown		Habibi (2003)			
Apodemus sylvaticus	Field Mouse	Unknown		Habibi (2003)			
Apodemus wardi	Ward's Field Mouse			Listed for Afghanistan b Lawson (2004) and by I iucnredlist.org/search/c summ)	UCN (http://www.		
Blanfordimys afghanus	Afghan vole	Common		Habibi (2003)	Microtus afghanus in Habibi (2003).		
Calomyscus bailwardi	Long-tailed Hamster, Mouse- like Hamster	Unknown		Habibi (2003)			
Calomyscus baluchi	Baluchi Mole-like Ha	amster		Listed for Afghanistan by (2004) and by IUCN (http://org/search/details.php/3	://www.iucnredlist.		
Calomyscus mystax	Afghan Mouse-like I	Hamster		Lawson (2004) and by IU	Listed for Afghanistan by Dunn and Lawson (2004) and by IUCN (http://www.iucnredlist.org/search/details.php/3621/dis		
Cricetulus migratorius	Gray Hamster	Common		Habibi (2003)			
Ellobius fuscocapillus	Afghan Mole Vole	Unknown		Habibi (2003)			
Ellobius talpinus	Northern Mole Vole	Unknown		Habibi (2003)			
Gerbillus aquilus	Swarthy Gerbil			Listed for Afghanistan by IUCN (http://www. iucnredlist.org/search/ details.php/9106/dist)	Split from <i>G.</i> cheesmani. Habibi cites <i>G.</i> cheesmani from Afghansitan. Duff and Lawson cite <i>G. aquilus</i> from Afghanistan.		
Gerbillus nanus	Baluchsitan Gerbil	Unknown		Habibi (2003)			
Meriones crassus	Sundevall's Jird	Unknown		Habibi (2003)			
Meriones hurrianae	Indian Desert Gerbil	Unknown		Habibi (2003)			
Meriones libycus	Libyan Jird	Common		Habibi (2003)			
Meriones meridanus	Midday Gerbil	Unknown		Habibi (2003)			
Meriones persicus	Persian Jird	Unknown		Habibi (2003)			
Meriones zarudnyi	Zarudny's Jird	Unknown	EN	Habibi (2003)			
Microtus arvalis	Common Field Vole	Unknown		Habibi (2003)			
Microtus juldaschi	Pamir Vole	Common		Habibi (2003)			
Microtus kirgisorum	Tien Shan vole			_	Listed for Afghanistan by IUCN (http://www.iucnredlist.org/search/details.php/13438/dist)		
Microtus socialis	Social Vole	Unknown		Habibi (2003)			
Microtus transcaspicus	Transcaspian vole			Listed for Afghanistan by Dunn and Lawson (2004) and by IUCN (http://www.iucnredlist.org/search/details.php/13459/dist)			

Muridae	Mice and relative	Mice and relatives (Continued)						
Millardia gleadowi	Sand-coloured soft-	furred rat		Listed for Afghanistan by Dunn and Lawso (2004) and by IUCN (http://www.iucnredlistorg/search/details.php/13522/dist)				
Mus musculus	House mouse Common			Habibi (2003)				
Nesokia indica	Short-tailed Bandicoot Rat	Common		Habibi (2003)				
Rattus rattus	Black Rat	Common		Habibi (2003)				
Rattus tanezumi	Tanezumi rat			Listed for Afghanistan by Dunn and Lawson (2004) and by IUCN (http://www.iucnredlist.org/search/details.php/19366/dist)				
Rattus turkestanicus	Turkestan rat	Common		Habibi (2003)	R. rattoides in Habibi (2003)			
Rhombomys opimus	Great Gerbil	Common		Habibi (2003)				
Tatera indica	Indian Gerbil	Common		Habibi (2003)				
Gerbillus cheesmani	Cheesman's gerbil	Unknown		Habibi (2003)	G. cheesmani split into C. aquila and C. cheesmani. Dunn and Lawson cite G. cheesmani from Iran west.			

Hystricidae	Old World Porcu	Old World Porcupines					
Hystrix indica	Crested Porcupine	Common			Habibi (2003)		

Viverridae						
Herpestes auropunctatus	Small Indian Mongoose	Common		Habibi (2003)	Considered as included in <i>H. javanicus</i> by IUCN.	
Paguma larvata	Masked Palm Civet			Listed for Afghanistan by IUCN (http://www.iucnredlist.org/search/details.php/41692/dist)		
Viverricula indica	Small Indian Civet			Listed for Afghanistan by IUCN (http://www.iucnredlist.org/search/details.php/41710/dist)		

Felidae	Cats					
Acinonyx jubatus venaticus	Cheetah	Extirpated	VU	I	Habibi (2003)	
Caracal caracal	Caracal	Threatened		1	Habibi (2003)	
Felis chaus	Jungle Cat	Threatened		II	Habibi (2003)	
Felis sylvestris	Wild Cat	Threatened		II	Habibi (2003)	Cited as <i>F. libyca</i> by Habibi (2003)
Lynx lynx	Lynx	Threatened		II	Habibi (2003)	
Otocolobus manul	Pallas' Cat	Threatened		II	Habibi (2003)	
Panthera pardus	Leopard	Threatened		1	Habibi (2003)	
Panthera tigris	Tiger	Extirpated	EN	I	Habibi (2003)	

Felidae	Cats (Continued)	Cats (Continued)						
Prionailurus bengalensis	Leopard Cat	Unknown		II	Habibi (2003)			
Uncia uncia	Snow Leopard	Threatened	EN	1	Habibi (2003)			
Felis margarita	Sand Cat			II	Cited by IUCN as ? for Afghanistan (http://www. iucnredlist.org/search/ details.php/8541/dist). Cited as an Afghan species by CITES	Unconfirmed for Afghanistan		
Panthera leo	African lion		VU	I or II	Listed for Afghanistan by IUCN (http://www. iucnredlist.org/search/ details.php/15951/ dist)	No records for Afghanistan. Historic range suggests it may have been present.		

Herpestidae				
Herpestes edwardsii	Common Grey Mongoose	Unknown	IUCN lists it for Afghanistan (http:// www.iucnredlist. org/search/details. php/41611/dist)	Uncertain in Afghanistan, see Habibi (2003)

Hyaenidae	Hyaenas				
Hyaena hyaena	Striped Hyena	Common		Habibi (2003)	

Canidae	Dogs and foxes					
Canus aureus	Jackal	Rare			Habibi (2003)	
Canus lupus	Wolf	Threatened		II	Habibi (2003)	
Vulpes cana	Blandford's Fox	Threatened	VU	II	Habibi (2003)	
Vulpes corsac	Corsac Fox	Threatened			Habibi (2003)	
Vulpes ruepelii	Sand Fox	Threatened			Habibi (2003)	
Vulpes vulpes	Red Fox	Common			Habibi (2003)	

Ursidae	Bears					
Ursus arctos	Brown bear	Threatened		II	Habibi (2003)	
Ursus thibetanus	Asiatic Black Bear	Threatened	VU	ı	Habibi (2003)	

Mustelidae	Weasels				
Lutra lutra	Common Otter	Threatened	1	Habibi (2003)	
Martes flavigula	Yellow-throated Marten	Threatened		Habibi (2003)	
Martes foina	Stone Marten	Threatened		Habibi (2003)	
Mustela eriminea	Ermine	Rare		Habibi (2003)	
Mustela nivalis	Weasel	Threatened		Habibi (2003)	
Vormela peregusna	Marbled Pole Cat	Rare		Habibi (2003)	

Mustelidae	Weasels (Continued)				
Meles meles	Badger	Unknown		Habibi (2003)	Uncertain in Afghanistan, see Habibi (2003)
Mellivora capensis	Ratel	Unknown		Cited for Afghanistan by IUCN (http://www. iucnredlist.org/search/ details.php/41629/dist	Uncertain in Afghanistan, see Habibi (2003)

Erinaceidae	Hedgehogs	Hedgehogs					
Hemiechinus auritus	Long-Eared Hedgehog	Common			Habibi (2003)	H. megalotis, cited in Habibi (2003) is now included in H. auritus.	
Hemiechinus hypomelas	Brandt's Hedgehog	Unknown			Habibi (2003)		

Soricidae	Shrews			
Crocidura gmelini	Gmelin's Shrew		Cited for Afghanistan by IUCN (http://www.iucnredlist.org/search/details.php/41319/dist)	
Crocidura pullata	Dusky Shrew		Insectivore Specialist G Crocidura gmelini. In: IL IUCN Red List of Threat Dunn and Lawson (2004	JCN 2004. 2004 ened Species.
Crocidura russula	Common White- Toothed Shrew	Unknown	Habibi (2003)	
Crocidura suaveolens	Lesser White- Toothed Shrew	Unknown	Habibi (2003)	
Crocidura zarudnyi	Pale Gray Shrew	Unknown	Habibi (2003)	
Suncus etruscus	Etruscan pygmy shr	rew	Listed for Afghanistan by IUCN (http://www.iucnredlist.org/search/details.php/29671/dist)	
Suncus murinus	House Shrew	Unknown	Habibi (2003)	
Sorex minutus	European Pygmy Sh	nrew	Listed by IUCN as a ? F (http://www.iucnredlist.o php/29667/dist)	ŭ

Emballonuridae	Sheath-tailed bat	Sheath-tailed bats				
Taphozous nudiventris	Naked-Rumped Tomb Bat	None			Habibi (2003)	

Rhinopomatidae	Mouse-tailed bat	Mouse-tailed bats				
Rhinopoma hardwickei	Lesser Mouse- Tailed Bat	None		Habibi (2003)		
Rhinopoma microphyllum	Greater Mouse- Tailed Bat	None		Habibi (2003)		
Rhinopoma muscatellum	Small Mouse- Tailed Bat	None		Habibi (2003)		

Megadermatidae	False vampires				
Magaderma lyra	Greater False	None		Habibi (2003)	
	Vampire				

Rhinolophidae	Horseshoe bats				
Asellia tridens	Trident Bat	None		Habibi (2003)	
Hipposideros fulvus	Bicolored Leaf- Nosed Bat	None		Habibi (2003)	
Rhinolophus blasii	Blasius' Horseshoe Bat	None		Habibi (2003)	
Rhinolophus clivosus	Geoffroy's horseshoe bat	None		Habibi (2003)	R. bocharicus cited by Habibi (2003) but now included in R. clivosus
Rhinolophus ferrumequinum	Greater Horseshoe Bat	None		Habibi (2003)	
Rhinolophus hipposideros	Lesser Horseshoe Bat	None		Habibi (2003)	
Rhinolophus lepidus	Blyth's Horseshoe Bat	None		Habibi (2003)	
Rhinolophus mehelyi	Mehelyi's Horseshoe	e Bat	VU	Koopman (199	3)

Molossidae	Free-tailed bats					
Tadarida aegyptiaca	Egyptian Free- Tailed Bat	None			Habibi (2003)	
Tadarida teniotis	European Free- Tailed Bat	None			Habibi (2003)	

Vespertilionidae	Evening bats				
Barbastella leucomelas	Eastern Barbastelle	Not indicated		Habibi (2003)	
Eptesicus bottae	Botta's Serotine	None		Habibi (2003)	
Eptesicus nilssoni	Northern Bat			E. gobiensis listed for Afghanistan by IUCN (http://www. iucnredlist.org/search/ details.php/41531/dist)	Cited by IUCN as <i>E. gobiensis;</i> now included in <i>E. nilssoni</i>
Eptesicus nasutus	Sind Serotine Bat	None	VU	Habibi (2003)	
Eptesicus serotinus	Serotine Bat	None		Habibi (2003)	
Miniopterus schreibersi	Schreiber's Long- Fingered Bat	Not indicated		Habibi (2003)	
Myotis blythii	Lesser Mouse- Eared Bat	None		Habibi (2003)	
Myotis emarginatus	Geoffroy's Bat	None	VU	Habibi (2003)	
Myotis formosus	Hodgson's Bat	None		Habibi (2003)	
Myotis frater	Fraternal Bat			Chiroptera Specialist Gr frater. In: IUCN 2004. 20 of Threatened Species. org>. Dunn and Lawsor	004 IUCN Red List <www.iucnredlist.< td=""></www.iucnredlist.<>
Myotis longipes	Kashmir Cave Bat	None	VU	Habibi (2003)	

Vespertilionidae	Evening bats (Co	ontinued)		
Myotis mystacinus	Whiskered Bat	None	Habibi (2003)	
Nyctalus leisleri	Lesser Noctule		Chiroptera Specialist Gro Nyctalus leisleri. In: IUCN Red List of Threatened S iucnredlist.org>. Dunn ar	N 2004. 2004 IUCN Species. <www.< td=""></www.<>
Nyctalus montanus	Mountain Noctule	None	Habibi (2003)	
Mytotis muricola	Whiskered Myotis		Chiroptera Specialist Gr muricola. In: IUCN 2004 List of Threatened Spec Lawson (2004)	. 2004 IUCN Red
Otonycteris hemprichii	Hemprich's Long- Eared Bat	Not indicated	Habibi (2003)	
Pipistrellus babu	Himalayan Pipistrelle	Not indicated	Habibi (2003)	
Pipistrellus coromandra	Indian Pipistrelle	Not indicated	Habibi (2003)	
Pipistrellus javanicus	Javan Pipestrelle		Listed for Afghanistan b www.iucnredlist.org/sea php/17344/dist)	
Pipistrellus kuhlii	Kuhl's Pipistrelle	Not indicated	Habibi (2003)	
Pipistrellus mimus	Indian Pygmy Pipistrelle	Not indicated	Habibi (2003)	
Pipistrellus pipistrellus	Common Pipistrelle	Not indicated	Habibi (2003)	
Pipistrellus savii	Savi's Pipistrelle		Listed for Afghanistan by IUCN (http://www. iucnredlist.org/search/ details.php/44856/ dist)	Cited by IUCN as <i>Hypsugo</i> savii. Now considered as <i>Pipistrellus savii</i> .
Plecotus austriacus	Grey Long-Eared Bat	Not indicated	Habibi (2003)	
Scotophilus heathi	Asiatic Greater Yellow House Bat	Not indicated	Habibi (2003)	
Vespertilio murinus	Particolored Bat	Not indicated	Habibi (2003)	
Pipistrellus tenuis	Least Pipistrelle		Listed for Afghanistan by IUCN (http://www. iucnredlist.org/search/ details.php/17368/ dist)	Range maps show it to be resticted to SE Asia. (http:// www.funet. fi/pub/sci/bio/ life/mammalia/ chiroptera/ vespertilionidae/ pipistrellus/ index.html)

Cercopithecidae	Old World Monkeys					
Macaca mulatta	Rhesus Macaque	Common		II	Habibi (2003)	

Suidae	Swine				
Sus scrofa	Wild Boar	Common		Habibi (2003)	

Cervidae	Deer	Deer						
Cervus elaphus bactrianus	Bactrian Deer	Threatened	VU	II	Habibi (2003)	Subspecies listed as Vulnerable by IUCN		
Moschus chrysogaster	Himalayan Musk Deer, Alpine Musk Deer	Extremely rare		I	Habibi (2003)	M. moschiferus in Habibi (2003). This species occurs in NE Asia.		

Bovidae	Oxen and relative	res				
Capra aegagrus	Wild Goat or Bezoar Goat	Threatened	VU		Habibi (2003)	
Capra falconeri	Markhor	Threatened	EN	I	Habibi (2003)	Two subspecies in Afghanistan. <i>C.f.heptneri</i> is Red Listed as Critically Endangered. <i>C.f. megaceros</i> is Red Listed as Endangered.
Capra siberica	Siberian Ibex	Rare			Habibi (2003)	Capra ibex in Habibi (2003). Now usually considered <i>C. siberica</i> .
Gazella bennettii	Chinkara	Threatened			Habibi (2001)	May no longer exist in Afghanistan.
Gazella subguterosa	Goitered Gazelle	Threatened			Habibi (2003)	
Ovis ammon	Argali	Threatened	VU	II	Habibi (2003)	A.a. poli subspecies in Afghanistan. Subspecies listed as Vulnerable by IUCN
Ovis vignei	Urial	Unknown	VU	II	Habibi (2003)	Taxonomy is unsettled. IUCN and others consider this <i>0.orientalis</i> . Regardless, <i>cycloceros</i> is the only subspecies found in Afghanistan.

Bovidae	Oxen and relative	es (Continued)			
Naemorhedus goral	Goral			I	Listed by IUCN as ? For Afghanistan (http://www. iucnredlist.org/search/ details.php/14296/ dist)	"Hearsay" reports from Nangarhar and Kunar (Sayer and van der Zon 1981; p. 33). Range maps in Shackleton (1997) do not suggest occurrence in Afghanistan.
Bos mutus	Wild Yak		VU	I	Cited for Afghanistan by the CITES database. See Naumann 1970.	Uncertain for Afghanistan. Sometimes considered <i>Bos</i> <i>grunniens</i> .

Equidae	Horses				
Equus onager	Onager or Asian	Threatened	II	Habibi (2003)	Considered
	Wild Ass				<i>E. hemionus</i> by
					Habibi (2003)
					and IUCN.
					Considered E.
					onager by IUCN
					and by Duff and
					Lawson (2004).
					Regardless,
					the Afghan
					subspecies are
					onager and kulan.

Rhinoceritidae					
Rhinoceros unicornis	Indian Rhinoceros		I	Fitzherbert (2005) says cited for Nangahar in early "namas". Rookmaaker (2000) notes a 1556 report of rhinoceros on either the Afghan or the Pakistan side of the mountains.	Uncertain for Afghanistan.

Note: this list follows the McKenna-Bell sequence of mammalian orders (McKenna, M.C. and Bell S.K. 1997. Classification of Mammals Above the Species Level. New York, Columbia University Press)

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Appendix 2 The Birds of Afghanistan: A Checklist

Afghanistan Bird Checklist

Taxonomy and Order of Families Follows

Dickenson, E.C. (ed). 2004. The Howard and Moore Complete Checklist of the Birds of the World. 3rd ed., Christopher Helm, London.

		IUCN Red List	CITES	Notes		
Phasianidae	Turkeys, Grouse, Pheas	sants an	d Partrid	lges		
Himalayan Snowcock	Tetraogallus himalayensis					
Chukar	Alectoris chukar					
See-see Partridge	Ammoperdix griseogularis					
Black Francolin	Francolinus francolinus					
Common Quail	Coturnix coturnix					
Koklass Pheasant	Pucrasia macrolopha					
Himalayan Monal	Lophophorus impejanus		I			
Ring-necked Pheasant	Phasianus colchicus					
Rock Partridge	Alectoris graeca			Unconfirmed. Cited by Habibi (nd)		
Gray Francolin	Francolinus pondicerianus			Unconfirmed. Cited by Avibase		
Rain Quail	Coturnix coromandelica			Unconfirmed. Cited by Habibi		
Cheer Pheasant	Catreus wallichi	VU	I	Unconfirmed. Cited by Avibase		
Red Junglefowl	Gallus gallus			Unconfirmed. Cited by Avibase. Possibly feral?		

Anatidae	Ducks, Geese and Swar	Ducks, Geese and Swans					
Mute Swan	Cygnus olor		Perhaps introduced.				
Whooper Swan	Cygnus cygnus						
Greylag Goose	Anser anser						
Bar-headed Goose	Anser indicus						
Ruddy Shelduck	Tadorna ferruginea						
Common Shelduck	Tadorna tadorna						
Cotton Pygmy-goose	Nettapus coromandelianus						
Eurasian Wigeon	Anas penelope						
Falcated Duck	Anas falcata						
Gadwall	Anas strepera						
Eurasian Teal	Anas crecca						
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos						
Northern Pintail	Anas acuta						
Garganey	Anas querquedula						
Northern Shoveler	Anas clypeata						
Marbled Teal	Marmaronetta angustirostris	VU					
Red-crested Pochard	Netta rufina						
Common Pochard	Aythya ferina						

Anatidae	Ducks, Geese and Sw	ans (Cor	tinued)	
Ferruginous Pochard	Aythya nyroca			
Tufted Duck	Aythya fuligula			
Greater Scaup	Aythya marila			
Common Goldeneye	Bucephala clangula			
Smew	Mergellus albellus			
Red-breasted Merganser	Mergus serrator			
Common Merganser	Mergus merganser			
White-headed Duck	Oxyura leucocephala	EN	Ш	
Greater White-fronted Goose	Anser albifrons			Unconfirmed. Rasmussen and Anderton (2005) cite only undocumented sight reports from Afghanistan
Lesser White-fronted Goose	Anser erythropus	VU		Unconfirmed. Cited by IUCN Red List.
Baikal Teal	Anas formosa	VU	II	Unconfirmed. Cited by Avibase
Greater Scaup	Aythya marila			Unconfirmed. Cited by Avibase
White-winged Scoter	Melanitta fusca			Unconfirmed. Cited by Avibase

Podicipedidae	Grebes			
Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis			
Great Crested Grebe	Podiceps cristatus			
Horned Grebe	Podiceps auritus			
Eared Grebe	Podiceps nigricollis			
Red-necked Grebe	Podiceps grisegena			

Phoenicopteridae	Flamingoes	Flamingoes				
Greater Flamingo	Phoenicopterus roseus	II				
Lesser Flamingo	Phoenicopterus minor	II	Unconfirmed. Cited by Avibase and Habibi. Rasmussen and Anderton (2005) suggest identification may be confounded with Greater Flamingo.			

Ciconiidae	Storks		
Black Stork	Ciconia nigra	II	
White Stork	Ciconia ciconia		

Threskiornithidae	Ibises and Spoonbills		
Glossy Ibis	Plegadis falcinellus		
Eurasian Spoonbill	Platalea leucorodia	II	

Ardeidae	Herons and Bitterns			
Gray Heron	Ardea cinerea			
Purple Heron	Ardea purpurea			
Great Egret	Ardea alba			
Little Egret	Egretta garzetta			
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Nycticorax nycticorax			
Little Bittern	Ixobrychus minutus			

Ardeidae	Herons and Bitterns (Continued)			
Great Bittern	Botaurus stellaris			
Squacco Heron	Ardeola ralloides		Unconfirmed. Rasmussen and Anderton (2005) state only one sight report from Afghanistan	

Pelecanidae	Pelicans			
Great White Pelican	Pelecanus onocrotalus			
Dalmatian Pelican	Pelecanus crispus	VU	ı	

Phalacrocoracidae	Cormorants			
Great Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo			
Pygmy Cormorant	Phalacrocorax pygmaeus			
Little Cormorant	Phalacrocorax niger		Unconfirmed. Cited by Avibase and Habibi. Rasmussen and Anderton (2005) state that the only Afghan specimen was misidentified, but that the species may occur in Afghanistan.	

Falconidae	Falcons and Caraca	ras		
Lesser Kestrel	Falco naumanni	VU	П	
Eurasian Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus		II	
Merlin	Falco columbarius		II	
Eurasian Hobby	Falco subbuteo		II	
Laggar Falcon	Falco jugger		I	
Saker Falcon	Falco cherrug	EN	II	
Barbary Falcon	Falco pelegrinoides		I	Rasmussen and Anderton (2005) consider F. pelegrinoides to be synonymous with F. peregrinus
Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus		I	
Red-footed Falcon	Falco vespertinus		II	Unconfirmed. Cited by Habibi. Sight reports from Afghanistan needing verification (Rasmussen and Anderton 2005).
Amur Falcon	Falco amurensis		II	Unconfirmed. Cited by Avibase. Sometimes considered conspecific with <i>F. vespertinus</i> .
Gyrfalcon	Falco rusticolus		I	Unconfirmed. Cited by Habibi. Rasmussen and Anderton (2005) cite it as hypothetical for Afghanistan. No specimens were traced.

Accipitridae	Secretary Bird, Ospre	Secretary Bird, Osprey, Kites, Hawks and Eagles				
Osprey	Pandion haliaetus		II			
Black-shouldered Kite	Elanus caeruleus		II			
Black Kite	Milvus migrans		II	Cited as <i>M. lineatus</i> in CITES. The <i>M. migrans</i> complex is likely to contain more than one species (Rasmussen and Anderton 2005)		
Pallas's Fish-Eagle	Haliaeetus leucoryphus	VU	II			
White-tailed Eagle	Haliaeetus albicilla		I			
Lammergeier	Gypaetus barbatus		II			

Accipitridae	Secretary Bird, Ospre	y, Kites,	Hawks	and Eagles (Continued)
Egyptian Vulture	Neophron percnopterus		II	
White-rumped Vulture	Gyps bengalensis	CR	II	
Himalayan Griffon	Gyps himalayensis		II	
Eurasian Griffon	Gyps fulvus		II	
Cinereous Vulture	Aegypius monachus		II	
Short-toed Eagle	Circaetus gallicus		II	
Western Marsh-Harrier	Circus aeruginosus		II	
Northern Harrier	Circus cyaneus		II	
Pallid Harrier	Circus macrourus		II	
Montagu's Harrier	Circus pygargus		II	
Shikra	Accipiter badius		II	
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	Accipiter nisus		II	
Northern Goshawk	Accipiter gentilis		II	
White-eyed Buzzard	Butastur teesa		II	
Long-legged Buzzard	Buteo rufinus		II	
Rough-legged Hawk	Buteo lagopus		II	Rasmussen and Anderton (2005) cite <i>B.</i> lagopus as as a winter vagrant in Afghanistan
Greater Spotted Eagle	Aquila clanga	VU	II	
Steppe Eagle	Aquila nipalensis		II	
Imperial Eagle	Aquila heliaca	VU	ı	
Golden Eagle	Aquila chrysaetos		II	
Bonelli's Eagle	Aquila fasciatus		II	Cited as Hieraaetus fasciatus in CITES
Booted Eagle	Aquila pennatus		II	
Indian Vulture	Gyps indicus	CR	11	Unconfirmed. Sometimes lumped as <i>G. bengalensis</i> . Sight reports for Afghanistan are unlikely and need verification (Rasmussen and Anderton 2005).
European Honey-buzzard	Pernis apivorus		II	Unconfirmed. Cited by Avibase and Habibi. Undetailed sight report from Afghanistan (Rasmussen and Anderton 2005).
Eurasian Buzzard	Buteo buteo		II	Cited by Avibase and Habibi. Rasmussen and Anderton (2005) consider only Afghan specimen actually a Long-legged Buzzard.

Otididae	Bustards			
Great Bustard	Otis tarda	VU	II	
Houbara Bustard	Chlamydotis undulata	VU	I	
Little Bustard	Tetrax tetrax		II	

Turnicicae	Buttonquails	
Andalusian Hemipode, Small Buttonquail	Turnix sylvatica (sylvaticus)	Unconfirmed. Cited by Habibi. Rasmussen and Anderton (2005) indicate range near Afghan-Pakistan border.

Rallidae	Rails, Waterhens and Coots			
Water Rail	Rallus aquaticus			
Corn Crake	Crex crex	VU		
Little Crake	Porzana parva			
Baillon's Crake	Porzana pusilla			
Spotted Crake	Porzana porzana			
Purple Swamphen	Porphyrio porphyrio			
Common Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus			
Eurasian Coot	Fulica atra			

Gruidae	Cranes			
Demoiselle Crane	Anthropoides virgo		II	
Siberian Crane	Grus leucogeranus	CR	I	Extirpated in Afghanistan
Common Crane	Grus grus		II	

Burhinidae	Thick-Knees		
Eurasian Thick-knee	Burhinus oedicnemus		

Haematopodidae	Oystercathers		
Eurasian Oystercatcher	Haematopus ostralegus		

Recurvirostridae	Stilts and Avocets
Black-winged Stilt	Himantopus himantopus
Pied Avocet	Recurvirostra avosetta

Charadriidae	Plovers		
Northern Lapwing	Vanellus vanellus		
Red-wattled Lapwing	Vanellus indicus		
Sociable Lapwing	Vanellus gregarius	CR	
White-tailed Lapwing	Vanellus leucurus		
Black-bellied Plover	Pluvialis squatarola		
Pacific Golden-Plover	Pluvialis fulva		
Common Ringed Plover	Charadrius hiaticula		
Little Ringed Plover	Charadrius dubius		
Snowy Plover	Charadrius alexandrinus		
Lesser Sandplover	Charadrius mongolus		
Greater Sandplover	Charadrius leschenaultii		

Rostratulidae	Painted-Snipe		
Greater Painted-snipe	Rostratula benghalensis		

Jacanadae	Jacanas		
Pheasant-tailed Jacana	Hydrophasianus chirurgus		

Scolopacidae	Sandpipers and Snipe)		
Eurasian Woodcock	Scolopax rusticola			
Jack Snipe	Lymnocryptes minimus			
Solitary Snipe	Gallinago solitaria			
Common Snipe	Gallinago gallinago			
Black-tailed Godwit	Limosa limosa			
Bar-tailed Godwit	Limosa lapponica			
Whimbrel	Numenius phaeopus			
Eurasian Curlew	Numenius arquata			
Spotted Redshank	Tringa erythropus			
Common Redshank	Tringa totanus			
Marsh Sandpiper	Tringa stagnatilis			
Common Greenshank	Tringa nebularia			
Green Sandpiper	Tringa ochropus			
Wood Sandpiper	Tringa glareola			
Terek Sandpiper	Xenus cinereus			
Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos			
Ruddy Turnstone	Arenaria interpres			
Sanderling	Calidris alba			
Little Stint	Calidris minuta			
Temminck's Stint	Calidris temminckii			
Curlew Sandpiper	Calidris ferruginea			
Dunlin	Calidris alpina			
Ruff	Philomachus pugnax			
Red-necked Phalarope	Phalaropus lobatus			
Slender-billed Curlew	Numenius tenuirostris	CR	I	Unconfirmed. Rasmussen and Anderton (2005) state only unconfirmed breeding reports from Iranian Siestan
Broad-billed Sandpiper	Limicola falcinellus			Unconfirmed. Cited by Habibi.
Pintail Snipe	Gallinago stenura			Unconfirmed. Cited by Avibase

Glareolidae	Coursers and Pratincoles		
Cream-colored Courser	Cursorius cursor		
Collared Pratincole	Glareola pratincola		
Small Pratincole	Glareola lactea		

Laridae	Gulls, Terns and Skimmers	
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Larus fuscus	Rasmussen and Anderton (2005) note that the genus <i>Larus</i> is confused and subject to revision. May be best referred to as <i>L. heuglini</i> .
Great Black-headed Gull	Larus ichthyaetus	
Black-headed Gull	Larus ridibundus	
Slender-billed Gull	Larus genei	
Kittiwake	Rissa tridactyla	
Gull-billed Tern	Sterna nilotica	

Laridae	Gulls, Terns and Skimmers (Gulls, Terns and Skimmers (Continued)		
Caspian Tern	Sterna caspia			
Common Tern	Sterna hirundo			
Little Tern	Sterna albifrons			
Whiskered Tern	Chlidonias hybridus			
Caspian Gull	Larus cachinnans	Unconfirmed. Split from <i>L. argentatus</i> . Cited as <i>L. argentatus</i> by Habibi. Records/ specimens were misidentified andare probably <i>L. heuglini</i> [barabensis] (Rasmussen and Anderton 2005)		
Mew Gull	Larus canus	Unconfirmed. Cited by Avibase. No specimens, but sight reports from Afghanistan (Rasmussen and Anderton 2005)		
River Tern	Sterna aurantia	Unconfirmed. Cited by Habibi. Sight reports of immatures (Rasmussen and Anderton, 2005)		
Brown-headed Gull	Larus brunnicephalus	Unconfirmed. Cited by Avibase.		
White-winged Tern	Chlidonias leucopterus	Cited by Avibase. Sight record for Kabul (Rasmusssen and Anderton, 2005)		
Black Tern	Chlidonias niger	Unconfirmed. Cited by Avibase. Perhaps a very rare passage migrant, Rasmussen and Anderton (2005)		

Pteroclidae	Sandgrouse		
Pin-tailed Sandgrouse	Pterocles alchata		
Spotted Sandgrouse	Pterocles senegallus		
Black-bellied Sandgrouse	Pterocles orientalis		
Crowned Sandgrouse	Pterocles coronatus		
Pallas's Sandgrouse	Syrrhaptes paradoxus	Unconf	firmed. Cited by Habibi.
Tibetan Sandgrouse	Syrrhaptes tibetanus	Unconf	firmed. Cited by Avibase.
Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse	Pterocles lichtensteinii	(2005)	firmed. Rasmussen and Anderton say there is no evidence from sitan, but the species might occur

Columbidae	Doves and Pigeons		
Rock Pigeon	Columba livia		
Snow Pigeon	Columba leuconota		
Stock Pigeon	Columba oenas		
Pale-backed Pigeon	Columba eversmanni	VU	Near endemic (Evans 1994)
Blue Hill Pigeon	Columba rupestris		
Common Wood-Pigeon	Columba palumbus		
Eurasian Turtle-Dove	Streptopelia turtur		
Oriental Turtle-Dove	Streptopelia orientalis		
Eurasian Collared-Dove	Streptopelia decaocto		
Spotted Dove	Streptopelia chinensis		One record from Jalalabad (Rasmussen and Anderton, 2005)
Laughing Dove	Streptopelia senegalensis		
Red-collared Dove	Streptopelia tranquebarica		Cited by Habibi. One sight report from Jalalabad is questionable. Rasmussen and Anderton (2005)

Psittacidae	Cockatoos and Parrots			
Alexandrine Parakeet	Psittacula eupatria		II	
Rose-ringed Parakeet	Psittacula krameri		II	
Slaty-headed Parakeet	Psittacula himalayana		II	

Cuculidae	Cuckoos		
Common Cuckoo	Cuculus canorus		
Pied Cuckoo	Clamator jacobinus	Unconfirmed. Cited by Avibase.	
Lesser Cuckoo	Cuculus poliocephalus	Unconfirmed. Cited by Avibase and by Dickinson (2003). No evidence traced for Afghanistan (Rasmussen and Anderton, 2005)	

Strigidae	Owls		
Pallid Scops-Owl	Otus brucei	II	
European Scops-Owl	Otus scops	II	
Eurasian Eagle-Owl	Bubo bubo	II	
Tawny Owl	Strix aluco	II	
Little Owl	Athene noctua	II.	
Long-eared Owl	Asio otus	II	
Short-eared Owl	Asio flammeus	II	
Collared Owlet	Glaucidium brodiei	II	
Brown Fish-Owl	Ketupa zeylonensis	II	Unconfirmed. Cited for Afghanistan by Avibase and by Dickinson (2003)
Spotted Owlet	Athene brama	II	Unconfirmed. Cited by Avibase. One old record with uncertain provenance (Rasmussen and Anderton, 2005)

Caprimulgidae	Nightjars	
Eurasian Nightjar	Caprimulgus europaeus	
Egyptian Nightjar	Caprimulgus aegyptius	
Sykes's Nightjar	Caprimulgus mahrattensis	
Indian Nightjar	Caprimulgus asiaticus	nconfirmed. Cited by Habibi. Needs bstantiation (Rasmussen and Anderton, 05)

Apodidae	Swifts			
Alpine Swift	Tachymarptis melba			
Common Swift	Apus apus			
Little Swift	Apus affinis			

Coraciidae	Rollers
European Roller	Coracias garrulus
Indian Roller	Coracias benghalensis

Alcedinidae	Kingfishers	
Common Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis	
White-throated Kingfisher	Halcyon smyrnensis	
Pied Kingfisher	Ceryle rudis	
Crested Kingfisher	Megaceryle lugubris	Considered <i>Ceryle lugubris</i> by Rasmussen and Anderton (2005)

Meropidae	Bee-eaters	
Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	Merops persicus	Split from <i>M. superciliosus</i> . <i>M. superciliosus</i> cited by Habibi.
European Bee-eater	Merops apiaster	
Green Bee-eater	Merops orientalis	Unconfirmed. Cited by Avibase and Habibi. One questionable record from NE Afghanistan (Rasmussen and Anderton, 2005)

Upupidae	Hoopoes		
Hoopoe	Upupa epops		

Indicatoridae	Honeyguides		
Yellow-rumped Honeyguide	Indicator xanthonotus		Unconfirmed. Cited for Afghanistan Aviibse
			and by Sibley and Monroe (1996).

Picidae	Woodpeckers		
Eurasian Wryneck	Jynx torquilla		
Brown-fronted Woodpecker	Dendrocopos auriceps		
White-winged Woodpecker	Dendrocopos leucopterus		
Himalayan Woodpecker	Dendrocopos himalayensis		
Scaly-bellied Woodpecker	Picus squamatus	II	Subspecies <i>flavirostris</i> listed as CITES Appendix II. <i>P.s. falivirostris</i> found in NW and SW Afghanistan (Rasmussen and Anderton 2005)
Speckled Piculet	Picumnus innominatus		

Campephagidae	Cuckoo-shrikes			
Long-tailed Minivet	Pericrocotus ethologus			
Rosy Minivet	Pericrocotus roseus		Unconfirmed. Cited for Afghanistan by Avibase and by Dickinson (2003). Listing for Afghanistan unsupported (Rasmussen and Anderton, 2005)	

Laniidae	Shrikes		
Rufous shrike	Lanius phaoenicuroides		Lanius taxonomy is unsetlled. L. phaoenicuroides sometimes included under L. isabellinus
Isabeline Shrike	Lanius isabellinus		
Bay-backed Shrike	Lanius vittatus		
Long-tailed Shrike	Lanius schach		

Laniidae	Shrikes (Continued)	
Southern Grey Shrike	Lanius meridionale	Lanius taxonomy is unsettled. Formerly considered conspecific to L. excubitor . L. excubitor not found in Afghanistan.
Lesser Gray Shrike	Lanius minor	
Woodchat Shrike	Lanius senator	Vagrant, Rasmussen and Anderton (2005)
Red-backed Shrike	Lanius collurio	Unconfirmed. Cited by Avibse and Habibi. Lanius taxonomy is unsetlled. L. collurio often includes L. isabellinus and L. phoenicuroides. L. collurio sensu Rasmussen and Anderton (2005) probably does not occur in Afghanistan.
Masked Shrike	Lanius nubicus	Unconfirmed. Cited by Habibi. <i>Lanius</i> taxonomy is unsetlled. <i>L. nubicus</i> Sometimes considered conspecific with <i>L. schach</i> (Rasmussen and Anderton, 2005). Possible vagrant in Afghanistan.

Oriolidae	Orioles and Figbirds			
Eurasian Golden Oriole	Oriolus oriolus	a A	0. oriolus subspecies often split into 0. oriolus and 0. kundoo. 0. o. oriolus is a vagrant in ofghanistan. 0. o. kundoo is a regular breeder in ofghanistan (Rasmussen and Anderton, 2005)	

Dicruridae	Drongos			
Black Drongo	Dicrurus macrocercus			
Ashy Drongo	Dicrurus leucophaeus			
Square-tailed Drongo	Dicrurus ludwigii		Unconfirmed. Cited by Habibi. Restricted to Africa.	

Monarchidae	Monarchs		
Asian Paradise-Flycatcher	Terpsiphone paradisi		

Corvidae	Crows and Jays	
Black-headed Jay	Garrulus lanceolatus	
Eurasian Magpie	Pica pica	
Eurasian Nutcracker	Nucifraga caryocatactes	Sometimes split into <i>N. caryocatactes</i> and <i>N. multipunctata</i> If split, <i>N. caryocatactes</i> not found in Afghanistan while N. multipunctata is (Rasmussen and Anderton, 2005).
Red-billed Chough	Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax	
Yellow-billed Chough	Pyrrhocorax graculus	
Eurasian Jackdaw	Corvus monedula	
Rook	Corvus frugilegus	
Carrion Crow	Corvus corone	
Large-billed Crow	Corvus macrorhynchos	
Brown-necked Raven	Corvus ruficollis	
Common Raven	Corvus corax	
Hooded Crow	Corvus cornix	
House Crow	Corvus splendens	Unconfirmed. Cited by Avibase, Habibi and Kullberg. No evidence traced for Afghan specimens (Rasmussen and Anderton 2005)

Bombycillidae	Waxwings and Allies			
Bohemian Waxwing	Bombycilla garrulus			
Hypocolius	Hypocolius ampelinus			

Paridae	Tits and Chickadees	Tits and Chickadees				
Fire-capped Tit	Cephalopyrus flammiceps	One record from Afghanistan (Rasmussen and Anderton, 2005)				
Black-breasted Tit	Parus rufonuchalis	Cited for Afghanistan by Dickinson (2003). Split from <i>P. rubidiventris</i>				
Black-crested Tit	Parus melanolophus					
Great Tit	Parus major					
Turkestan Tit	Parus bokharensis	Cited for Afghanistan by Sibley and Monroe (1996)				
Yellow-breasted Tit	Parus flavipectus	Cited for Afghanistan by Sibley and Monroe (1996)				
Rufous-vented Tit	Parus rubidiventris	Cited by Habibi. <i>P. rubidiventris</i> split from <i>P. rufonuchalis</i> and, in strict sense, not found in Afghanistan.				
Willow Tit	Parus montanus	Unconfirmed. Cited by Habibi.				
Azure Tit	Parus cyanus	Unconfirmed. Cited by Avibase and Habibi.				
Blue Tit	Parus caeruleus	Unconfirmed. Cited by Habibi. "Speculative" in W Afghanistan (Rasmussen and Anderton, 2005)				

Remizidae	Penduline Tits			
Eurasian Penduline-Tit	Remiz pendulinus		R. pendulinus sometimes split into R. pendulinus and R. coronatus. Both forms are found in Afghanistan (Rasmussen and Anderton, 2005)	

Hirundinidae	Swallows and Martins			
Collared Sand Marten/Bank Marten	Riparia riparia	Some genuine and some fraudelent specimens from Afghanistan (Rasmussen and Anderton, 2005)		
Pale Sand Martin	Riparia diluta	Earlier included as <i>R. riparia</i> (Rasmussen and Anderton, 2005)		
Plain Martin	Riparia paludicola	Considered <i>R. chinensis</i> in Rasmussen and Anderton (2005).		
Eurasian Crag-Martin	Ptyonoprogne rupestris			
Pale Crag Martin	Ptyonoprogne obsoleta			
Wire-tailed Swallow	Hirundo smithii			
Cliff Swallow	Hirundo fluvicola			
Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica			
Red-rumped Swallow	Cecropis daurica			
Streak-throated Swallow	Petrochelidon fluvicola	Cited as <i>Hirundo fluvicola</i> by Habibi and by Rasmussen and Anderton (2005)		
Common House-Martin	Delichon urbica			
Rock Martin	Ptyonoprogne fuligula	Unconfirmed. Cited by Avibase. Often considered conspefiic to <i>P. obsoleta</i> (Rasmussen and Anderton, 2005).		

Aegithalidae	Long-tailed Tits		
White-cheeked Tit	Aegithalos leucogenys		

Alaudidae	Larks	
Bar-tailed Lark	Ammomanes cinctura	Cited for Afghanistan by Dickinson (2003)
Desert Lark	Ammomanes deserti	
Greater Hoopoe-Lark	Alaemon alaudipes	
Calandra Lark	Melanocorypha calandra	
Bimaculated Lark	Melanocorypha bimaculata	
Greater Short-toed Lark	Calandrella brachydactyla	Cited by Habibi as C. cinerea
Hume's Lark	Calandrella acutirostris	
Lesser Short-toed Lark	Calandrella rufescens	
Sand Lark	Calandrella raytal	Cited for Afghanistan by Dickinson (2003)
Crested Lark	Galerida cristata	
Eurasian Skylark	Alauda arvensis	
Oriental Skylark	Alauda gulgula	
Horned Lark	Eremophila alpestris	
Wood Lark	Lullula arborea	Unconfirmed. Cited by Avibase.
Rufous-tailed Lark	Ammomanes phoenicurus (phoenicura)	Unconfirmed. Cited by Habibi. Sometimes confused with <i>A. cinctura</i> (Rasmussen and Anderton 2005).
Temminck's Horned Lark	Eromophila bilopha	Unconfirmed. Cited by Habibi.

Cisticolidae	Cisticolas and Allies	
Streaked Scrub-Warbler	Scotocerca inquieta	
Zitting Cisticola	Cisticola juncidis	
Striated Prinia	Prinia criniger (cringera)	
Graceful Prinia	Prinia gracilis	

Pycnonotidae	Bulbuls			
White-eared Bulbul	Pycnonotus leucotis			
White-cheeked Bulbul	Pycnonotus leucogenys			
Common Bulbul	Pycnonotus barbatus			Introduced
Black Bulbul	Hypsipetes leucocephalus			Lumps <i>Microscelis psaroides</i> in Habibi (nd)
Red-vented Bulbul	Pycnonotus cafer			Unconfirmed. Cited by Kullberg.

Sylviidae	Old World Warblers	
Cetti's Warbler	Cettia cetti	
Grasshopper Warbler	Locustella naevia	
Moustached Warbler	Acrocephalus melanopogon	
Paddyfield Warbler	Acrocephalus agricola	
Blunt-winged Warbler	Acrocephalus concinens	
Eurasian Reed-Warbler	Acrocephalus scirpaceus	
Blyth's Reed-Warbler	Acrocephalus dumetorum	
Great Reed-Warbler	Acrocephalus arundinaceus	One record only (Rasmussen and Anderton, 2005)

Sylviidae	Old World Warblers (Continued	1)
Clamorous Reed-Warbler	Acrocephalus stentoreus	
Booted Warbler	Hippolais caligata	
Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	Hippolais pallida	
Upcher's Warbler	Hippolais languida	
Common Chiffchaff	Phylloscopus collybita	
Mountain Chiffchaff	Phylloscopus sindianus	Cited for Afghanistan by Dickinson (2003), one record only from Siestan (Rasmussen and Anderton, 2005)
Plain Leaf-Warbler	Phylloscopus neglectus	Near endemic (Evans 2006)
Greenish Warbler	Phylloscopus trochiloides	
Sulphur-bellied Warbler	Phylloscopus griseolus	
Lemon-rumped Warbler	Phylloscopus proregulus	Considered as <i>P. chloronotus</i> by Rasmussen and Anderton (2005)
Brooks's Leaf-Warbler	Phylloscopus subviridis	Near endemic (Evans 2006)
Hume's Warbler	Phylloscopus humei	
Green Warbler	Phylloscopus nitidus	
Tytler's Leaf-Warbler	Phylloscopus tytleri	
Western Crowned Leaf- Warbler	Phylloscopus occipitalis	
Greater Whitethroat	Sylvia communis	
Lesser Whitethroat	Sylvia curruca	
Hume's Whitethroat	Sylvia althaea	
Asian Desert Warbler	Sylvia nana	
Barred Warbler	Sylvia nisoria	
Desert lesser whitethroat	Sylvia minula	
Eastern Orphean Warbler	Sylvia hortensis	Rasmussen and Anderton (2005) separate S. crassirostris from S. hortensis. Crassirostris form found in Afghanistan but hortensis is not. Dickenson (2003) lumps them.
Menetries's Warbler	Sylvia mystacea	
Pallas's Warbler	Locustella certhiola	Unconfirmed. Cited by Avibase and Habibi. Afghan specimens are frauds (Rasmussen and Anderton, 2005)
Radde's Warbler	Phylloscopus schwarzi	Unconfirmed. Cited by Avibase and Habibi. Afghan specimens are frauds (Rasmussen and Anderton, 2005)
Yellow-browed Warbler	Phylloscopus inornatus	Unconfirmed. Cited by Avibase and Habibi. Formerly included <i>P, hume</i> i. <i>P. inornatus</i> does not occur in Afghanistan (Rasmussen and Anderton, 2005)
Large-billed Leaf-Warbler	Phylloscopus magnirostris	Unconfirmed. Cited by Avibase. Needs confirmation from Afghanistan (Rasmussen and Anderton, 2005)
Pallas's Warbler	Locustella certhiola	Unconfirmed. Cited by Avibase and Habibi. Afghan specimens are frauds (Rasmussen and Anderton, 2005)
Radde's Warbler	Phylloscopus schwarzi	Unconfirmed. Unconfirmed. Cited by Avibase and Habibi.Afghan specimens are frauds (Rasmussen and Anderton, 2005)

Sylviidae	Old World Warblers (Continued)		
Yellow-browed Warbler	Phylloscopus inornatus	Unconfirmed. Cited by Avibase and Habibi. Formerly include P, humei. P. inornatus does not occur in Afghanistan (Rasmussen and Anderton, 2005)	
Large-billed Leaf-Warbler	Phylloscopus magnirostris	Unconfirmed. Cited by Avibase. Needs confirmation from Afghanistan (Rasmussen and Anderton, 2005)	
Pale-rumped Warbler	Phylloscopus chloronotus	Unconfirmed. Cited by Avibase.	

Timaliidae	Babblers and Parrotbills		
Streaked Laughingthrush	Garrulax lineatus (lineatum)	Rasmussen and Anderton (2005) give genus as <i>Trochalopteron</i>	
Variegated Laughingthrush	Garrulax variegatus (variegatum)	Rasmussen and Anderton (2005) give genus as <i>Trochalopteron</i>	
Common Babbler	Turdoides caudatus (caudata)	Rasmussen and Anderton (2005) split <i>huttoni</i> (Afghan Babbler) from <i>caudatus</i> . The <i>caudatis</i> form not found in Afghanistan.	
Bearded Tit (Bearded Reedling)	Panurus biarmicus	Cited by Avibse and Habibi. No records but likely to occur in Siestan and NW (Rasmussen and Anderton, 2005)	

Zosteropidae	White Eyes		
Oriental White-eye	Zosterops palpebrosus		

Regulidae	Goldcrests and Kinglets		
Goldcrest	Regulus regulus		

Troglodytidae	Wrens		
Winter Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes		

Sittidae	Nuthatches and Wallcreeper	Nuthatches and Wallcreeper		
Kashmir Nuthatch	Sitta cashmirensis	Cited for Afghanistan by Dickinson (2003).		
White-cheeked Nuthatch	Sitta leucopsis			
Persian Nuthatch	Sitta tephronota			
Wallcreeper	Tichodroma muraria			
Nuthatch	Sitta europaea	Unconfirmed. Cited by Habibi. Considered conspecific with <i>S. cashmirensis</i> (Rasmussen and Anderton, 2005)		
Rock Nuthatch	Sitta neumayer	Unconfirmed. Cited by Habibi.		

Certhiidae	Treecreepers		
Bar-tailed Treecreeper	Certhia himalayana		

Sturnidae	Starlings	
Common Myna	Acridotheres tristis	Habibi cites both Acridotheres tristis and Sturnus tristis
Bank Myna	Acridotheres ginginanus	Cited as <i>Sturnus gingianus</i> by Habibi. One old specimen (Rasmussen and Anderton, 2005)
Brahminy Starling	Temenuchus pagodarum	
Rosy Starling	Pastor roseus	
European Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	

Turdidae	Thrushes	
Rufous-tailed Rock-Thrush	Monticola saxatilis	
Blue-capped Rock-Thrush	Monticola cinclorhynchus	
Blue Rock-Thrush	Monticola solitarius	
Blue Whistling-Thrush	Myophonus caeruleus	
Eurasian Blackbird	Turdus merula	
Chestnut Thrush	Turdus rubrocanus	
Dark-throated Thrush	Turdus ruficollis	
Redwing	Turdus iliacus	Cited for Afghanistan by Sibley and Monroe (1996). Winter vagrant (Rasmussen and Anderton, 2005).
Mistle Thrush	Turdus viscivorus	
Tickell's Thrush	Turdus unicolor	Unconfirmed. Cited by Avibase
Fieldfare	Turdus pilaris	Unconfirmed. Cited by Avibase
European Robin	Erithacus rubecula	Unconfirmed. Cited by Avibase. One uncertain sight record from Afghansitan (Rasmussen and Anderton, 2005)

Muscicapidae	Chats and Old World Flycatchers	
Spotted Flycatcher	Muscicapa striata	
Siberian Flycatcher	Muscicapa sibirica	
Rusty-tailed Flycatcher	Muscicapa ruficauda	
Red-breasted Flycatcher	Ficedula parva	
Ultramarine Flycatcher	Ficedula superciliaris	
Common Nightingale	Luscinia megarhynchos	
White-tailed Rubythroat	Luscinia pectoralis	
Bluethroat	Luscinia svecica	
Indian Blue Robin	Luscinia brunnea	
White-throated Robin	Irania gutturalis	
Rufous-tailed Scrub-Robin	Cercotrichas galactotes	
Rufous-backed Redstart	Phoenicurus erythronota	
Blue-capped Redstart	Phoenicurus caeruleocephalus (coeruleocephala)	
Black Redstart	Phoenicurus ochruros	
White-winged Redstart	Phoenicurus erythrogaster (erythrogastrus)	
Blue-fronted Redstart	Phoenicurus frontalis	
White-capped Redstart	Chaimarrornis leucocephalus	
Plumbeous Redstart	Rhyacornis fuliginosus	

Muscicapidae	Chats and Old World Fly	catchers ((Continued)
Little Forktail	Enicurus scouleri		
Spotted Forktail	Enicurus maculatus		
Stonechat	Saxicola torquata (torquatus)		Sibley and Monroe (1996) splits <i>S. maura</i> from <i>S. torquata</i> and cite <i>S. maura</i> from Afghanistan. Dickinson (2003) does not recognize the split. Rasmussen and Anderton (2005) follow Dickinson.
White-browed Bushchat	Saxicola macrorhyncha	VU	
Pied Bushchat	Saxicola caprata		
Hume's Wheatear	Oenanthe alboniger (albonigra)		
Northern Wheatear	Oenanthe oenanthe		
Finsch's Wheatear	Oenanthe finschii		
Variable Wheatear	Oenanthe picata		Near endemic (Evans 2006)
Pied Wheatear	Oenanthe pleschanka		
Red-tailed Wheatear	Oenanthe chrysopygia		O. chyrsopygia long considered conspecific with O. xanthoprymna. Latter not found in Afghanistan (Rasmussen and Anderton 2005). Habibi cites O, xanthprymna. Avibase cites both.
Desert Wheatear	Oenanthe deserti		
Isabelline Wheatear	Oenanthe isabellina		
Orange Flanked Bush Robin	Luscinia cyanurus		Unconfirmed. Cited as genus <i>Tarsiger</i> by Sibley and Monroe (1996). Cited for Afghanistan by Sibley and Monroe. Cited as <i>Tarsiger ruflatus</i> by Rasmussen and Anderton (2005)
Common Redstart	Phoenicurus phoenicurus		Unconfirmed. Cited by Avibase and Habibi. Likely found in NE Afghanistan, but no genuine records (Rasmussen and Anderton, 2005)
Whinchat	Saxicola rubetra		Unconfirmed. Cited by Avibase and Habibi. Single observer sight records from Afghanistan need verification Rasmussen and Anderton (2005)
Brown-backed Indian robin	Saxicoloides fulicata		Cite by Habibi. One old Afghan record needs confirmation (Rasmussen and Anderton, 2005)
Hooded Wheatear	Oenanthe monacha		Unconfirmed. Cited by Avibase, Habibi, and Kullberg. Rasmusssen and Anderton's (2005) maps suggest it does not occur in Afghanistan.
White-tailed Wheatear	Oenanthe leucopyga		Unconfirmed. Cited by Habibi. Rasmussen and Anderton (2005) do not list it occuring in the region.
Black Wheatear	Oenanthe leucura		Cited by Habibi. Rasmussen and Anderton (2005) do not list it occuring in the region.

Cinclidae	Dippers		
White-throated Dipper	Cinclus cinclus		
Brown Dipper	Cinclus pallasii		

Nectariniidae	Sunbirds		
Purple Sunbird	Cinnyris asiaticus		Cited by Habibi as <i>Nectarinia asiatica</i>

Passeridae	Sparrows, Snowfinches	and Allies	
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus		
Spanish Sparrow	Passer hispaniolensis		
Russet Sparrow	Passer rutilans		
Dead Sea Sparrow	Passer moabiticus		"Near endemic" (Evans 1994)
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	Passer montanus		
Chestnut-shouldered Petronia	Petronia xanthocollis		
Rock Petronia	Petronia petronia		
Pale Rock Sparrow	Petronia brachydactyla		
White-winged Snowfinch	Montifringilla nivalis		
Afghan Snowfinch	Montifringilla theresae		Near endemic to Afghanistan
Saxaul Sparrow	Passer ammodendri		Unconfirmed. Cited by Avibase. Said to occur on Iran-Afghanistan border, but no records traced (Rasmussen and Anderton, 2005)

Estrildidae	Waxbills, grass finches, munia and allies			
White-throated Munia	Lonchura malabarica			Unconfirmed. Cited by Avibase. Sometimes called <i>Euodice malabarica</i> .

Prunellidae	Accentors		
Alpine Accentor	Prunella collaris		
Himalayan Accentor	Prunella himalayana		
Rufous-breasted Accentor	Prunella strophiata		
Brown Accentor	Prunella fulvescens		
Black-throated Accentor	Prunella atrogularis		

Motacillidae	Wagtails and Pipits	
White Wagtail	Motacilla alba	
Citrine Wagtail	Motacilla citreola	
Yellow Wagtail	Motacilla flava	
Gray Wagtail	Motacilla cinerea	
Meadow Pipit	Anthus pratensis	Overlooked specimen from Kabul, other records require verification (Rasmussen and Anderton, 2005)
Oriental Pipit	Anthus rufulus	Cited by Habibi as <i>A. novaeseelandiae</i> which has been split into several species.
Tawny Pipit	Anthus campestris	
Long-billed Pipit	Anthus similis	
Tree Pipit	Anthus trivialis	
Red-throated Pipit	Anthus cervinus	
Rosy Pipit	Anthus roseatus	
Water Pipit	Anthus spinoletta	

Motacillidae	Wagtails and Pipits (Continued)				
Upland Pipit	Anthus sylvanus				
Large Pied Wagtail	Motacilla maderapatensis		Unconfirmed. Cited by Kullberg. Noted from Wakhan		
Olive-backed Pipit	Anthus hodgsoni		Unconfirmed. Cited by Avibase and Habibi. Records of breeding in Afghanistan "dubious" (Rasmussen and Anderton, 2005)		

Fringillidae	Finches and Hawaiian Honeycreepers			
Chaffinch	Fringilla coelebs			
Brambling	Fringilla montifringilla			
Plain Mountain-Finch	Leucosticte nemoricola			
Black-headed Mountain-Finch	Leucosticte brandti			
Common Rosefinch	Carpodacus erythrinus			
Pale Rosefinch	Carpodacus synoicus	Cited for Afghanistan by Dickinson (2003)		
White-browed Rosefinch	Carpodacus thura			
Red-mantled Rosefinch	Carpodacus rhodochlamys	Considered <i>C. grandis</i> by Rasmussen and Anderton (2005)		
Great Rosefinch	Carpodacus rubicilla	Considered <i>C. severtzovi</i> by Rasmussen and Anderton (2005)		
Red-fronted Rosefinch	Carpodacus puniceus	Considered <i>Pyrrhospiza punicea</i> by Rasmussen and Anderton (2005)		
Red Crossbill	Loxia curvirostra	Multiple sight records for Wakhan (Rasmussen and Anderton, 2005)		
European Greenfinch	Carduelis chloris			
European Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis			
Twite	Carduelis flavirostris	Cited as Acanthis flavirostris by Habibi		
Eurasian Linnet	Carduelis cannabina	Cited as Acanthis cannabina by Habibi		
Fire-fronted Serin	Serinus pusillus			
Hawfinch	Coccothraustes coccothraustes			
Black-and-yellow Grosbeak	Mycerobas icterioides			
White-winged Grosbeak	Mycerobas carnipes			
Crimson-winged Finch	Rhodopechys sanguinea			
Mongolian Finch	Rhodopechys mongolica	Considered <i>Bucanetes mongolica</i> by Rasmussen and Anderton (2005)		
Trumpeter Finch	Bucanetes githaginea			
Desert Finch	Rhodospiza obsoleta			
Eurasian Siskin	Carduelis spinus	Unconfirmed. Cited by Avibase. Sight records from NE Afghanistan (Rasmussen and Anderton, 2005)		

Emberizidae	Buntings, American Sparrows and Allies				
Yellowhammer	Emberiza citrinella				
Pine Bunting	Emberiza leucocephalos				
Rock Bunting	Emberiza cia				
Gray-hooded Bunting	Emberiza buchanani				

Emberizidae	Buntings, American Sparrows	and Allies (Continued)
Ortolan Bunting	Emberiza hortulana	
Chestnut-breasted Bunting	Emberiza stewarti	Cited for Afghanistan by Dickinson (2003)
House Bunting	Emberiza striolata	
Black-headed Bunting	Emberiza melanocephala	
Red-headed Bunting	Emberiza bruniceps	
Reed Bunting	Emberiza schoeniclus	
Corn Bunting	Emberiza calandra	
Grey-headed Bunting	Embriza fucata	Unconfirmed. Cited by Habibi. One questionable record (Rasmussen and Anderton, 2005)
Cinereous Bunting	Emberiza cineracea	Unconfirmed. Cited by Avibase. Two unlikely sight records from Afghanistan (Rasmussen and Anderton, 2005)
Little Bunting	Emberiza pusilla	Unconfirmed. Cited by Avibase.
Rustic Bunting	Emberiza rustica	Unconfirmed. Cited by Avibase. Unsubstantiated sight records (Rasmussen and Anderton, 2005)
Snow Bunting	Plectrophenax nivalis	Unconfirmed. Cited by Habibi. Largely Nearctic and European range.
Lapland Bunting	Calcarius Iapponicus	Unconfirmed. Cited by Habibi.

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Appendix 3 The Reptiles of Afghanistan: A Checklist

Reptile Species of Afghanistan						
Scientific Name	Common Name	Authority	Red List	CITES	Notes	
Testudinae	Tortoises					
Testudo horsefeldii	Afghan Tortoise	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EMBL database (2006)	VU	II		

Agamidae	Agama Lizards			
Calotes versicolor	Common Tree Lizard, Eastern Garden Lizard, Oriental Garden Lizard	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EMBL database (2006)		
Laudakia nupta	Spiney-head Rock Agama	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EMBL database (2006)	Named changed from Agama nupta	
Laudakia nuristanica	Nuristan Agama	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EMBL database (2006)	Named changed from Agama nuristanica	
Laudakia tuberculata	Kashmir Rock Agama, Blue Rock Agama	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EMBL database (2006)	Named changed from Agama tuberculata	
Laudakia agrorensis	Agror Agama	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EMBL database (2006)	Name changed from Agama agrorensis	
Laudakia badakhshana	Badakhshan Rock Agama	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EMBL database (2006)	Named changed from Agama badakhshana	
Laudakia caucasia	Caucasian Agama	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EMBL database (2006)	Named changed from Agama caucasica	
Laudakia erythrogastra		Leviton and Anderson (1970); EMBL database (2006)	Named changed from Agama erythrogastra	
Laudakia himalayana himalayana	Himalayan Agama	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EMBL database (2006)	Named changed from Agama himalayana	
Laudakia lehmanni		Leviton and Anderson (1970); EMBL database (2006)	Named changed from Agama lehmanni	
Phrynocephalus clarkorum	Toadhead Agama	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EMBL database (2006)		
Phrynocephalus euptilopus	Spotted Toad Agama, Alcock's toad-headed agama	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EMBL database	e (2006)	
Phrynocephalus interscapularis	Lichtenstein's Toadhead Agama	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EMBL database	e (2006)	
Phrynocephalus luteoguttatus	Yellow-speckled toad- headed agama	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EMBL database	e (2006)	
Phrynocephalus maculatus	Blacktail Toadhead Agama, Whip-tail Toad Agama	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EMBL database	e (2006)	
Phrynocephalus mystaceus	Secret Toadhead Agama	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EMBL database	e (2006)	
Phrynocephalus ornatus	Striped Toad Agama,	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EMBL database	e (2006)	
Phrynocephalus reticulatus boettgeri	Reticulated toad- headed Agama	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EMBL database	e (2006)	
Phrynocephalus scutellatus	Gray Toadhead Agama	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EMBL database	e (2006)	

Agamidae	Agama Lizards (Conti	Agama Lizards (Continued)				
Trapelus agilis	Brilliant Ground Agama	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EMBL database (2006)			Name changed from Agama agilis	
Trapelus ruderatus	Horn-scaled Agama, Baluch ground Agama	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EMBL database (2006)			Named changed from Agama rederata	
Uromastyx asmussi	Iranian Uromastyx, Iranian Mastigure	Leviton and Anderson (1970); II EMBL database (2006)		II		
Uromastyx hardwickii	Indian Spiny Tail Lizard, Hardwick's Spiny-tailed Lizard	Leviton and Anderson (1970)		II	Not IN EMBL database	

Anguidae	Glass lizards		
Pseudopsis apodus		Leviton and Anderson (1970); EMBL database (2006)	Name changed from Ophisaurus apodus
		database (2000)	ортноватае аровае

Gekkonidae	Geckoes					
Agamura femoralis	Pointed-tail Spider Gecko	Leviton and Anderson (1970)		Not in EMBL database		
Agamura persica	Persian Spider Gecko	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EM	IBL database (2006)		
Alsophylax laevis	Kaspischer Even- fingered Gecko	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EN database (2006)		Name changed from A. pipiens		
Asiocolotes levitoni	Leviton's Gecko	EMBL database (2006)		Endemic to Afghanistan		
Bunopus tuberculatus	Tuberculated Desert Gecko, Baluch Rock Gecko	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EN	IBL database (2006)		
Crossobamon eversmanni	Comb-toed Gecko	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EMBL database (2006)		Includes <i>C. lumsdeni</i> and C. maynardi of Leviton and Anderson (1970). See EMBL database.		
Cyrtopodion caspius		Leviton and Anderson (1970); EMBL database (2006)		Name changed from C. caspius		
Cyrtopodion fedtschenkoi		Leviton and Anderson (1970); EMBL database (2006)		Name changed from <i>Cyrtodactylus</i> fedtschenkoi		
Cyrtopodion scabrum	Rough-tailed Gecko	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EMBL database (2006)		Changed from Cyrtodactylus scaber		
Cyrtopodion watsoni	Watson's Gecko	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EMBL database (2006)		Changed from Cyrtodactylus watsoni		
Eublepharis macularius	Fat-tail Gecko, Common Leopard Gecko	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EMBL database (2006)				
Hemidactylus flaviviridis	Yellow-belly Common House Gecko	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EMBL database (2006)				
Teratoscincus bedriagai	Bedraiga's Wonder Gecko	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EMBL database (2006)				
Teratoscincus microlepis	Baloch Sand Gecko, Small-scaled Wonder Gecko	Leviton and Anderson (1970)		Not in EMBL database		
Teratoscincus scincus	Common Wonder Gecko	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EMBL database (2006)				

Lacertidae	Wall lizards			
Acanthodactylus cantoris	Indian Fringe-fingered Lizard	Leviton and Anderson (1970)	Clark (1990) cites <i>A.</i> blanfordi as a probably subspecies of A. cantori	
Eremias acutirostris	Point-snouted Racerunner	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EN database (2006)	/IBL	
Eremias aria		Leviton and Anderson (1970); EN database (2006)	ABL Endemic to Afghanistan	
Eremias fasciata	Striped Sand Lizard	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EN	MBL database (2006)	
Eremias grammica	Reticulate Racerunner	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EN	MBL database (2006)	
Eremias intermedia		Leviton and Anderson (1970)	Not in EMBL database	
Eremias lineolata		Leviton and Anderson (1970); EN	/IBL database (2006)	
Eremias nigrocellata		Leviton and Anderson (1970); EN	/IBL database (2006)	
Eremias persica	Persian Sand Lizard	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EN database (2006)	MBL Name changed from E. velox persicahttp:// www.embl-heidelberg. de/~uetz/	
Eremias regeli		Leviton and Anderson (1970); EN	/IBL database (2006)	
Eremias scripta	Vermiculate Sand Lizard	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EN	MBL database (2006)	
Eremias velox	Rapid Racerunner	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EN database (2006)	ABL Considered by Leviton and Anderson to be <i>E. velox velox</i>	
Mesalina guttulata	Small Spotted Lizard	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EM database (2006)	MBL Considered by Leviton and Anderson to be Eremia guttalata watsonana	
Mesalina watsonana		Leviton and Anderson (1970); EM database (2006)	MBL Considered by Leviton and Anderson to be <i>Eremia guttalata</i> watsonana see EMBL database	
Ophisops jerdoni	Rugose Spectacled Lizard	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EN	MBL database (2006)	
Scapteira aporosceles	Greater Reticulate Sand Lizard	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EN database (2006)	MBL Name changed from Eremisa aporosceles see EMBL database	
Scincidae	Skinks			
Ablepharus pannonicus	Red-tailed Snake-eyed Skink	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EN	MBL database (2006)	
Ablepharus bivittatus lindbergi	Two-striped Skink	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EN	MBL database (2006)	
Eumeces schneideri	Red-striped Skink	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EN	MBL database (2006)	
Eurylepis taeniolatus	Alpine Punjab Skink	Leviton and Anderson (1970)	Name changed from Eumeces taeniolatussee EMBL database	
Mabuya dissimilis	Striped Grass Skink	Leviton and Anderson (1970)		
Ophiomorus tridactylus	Three-toed Sand Swimmer	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EMBL database (2006)		
Scincella himalayana	Himalayan Skink	Leviton and Anderson (1970)	Not in EMBL database. Some consider it to be Asymblepharus himalayan or Lygosoma himalayanun (Das et al. 1998).	

Varanidae	Monitor lizards			
Varanus bengalensis bendalensis	Bengal Monitor	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EMBL database (2006)	I	
Varanus griseus caspius	Desert Monitor, Grey Monitor, Caspian Monitor	Leviton and Anderson (1970); I EMBL database (2006)		
Boidae	Boas			
		1 '1 (4070)		
Eryx elegans	Elegant Sand Boa	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EMBL database (2006)	II .	
Eryx johnii	Indian Sand Boa	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EMBL database (2006)	II	
Eryx tataricus	Tartary Sand Boa	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EMBL database (2006)	II	
Eryx miliarus	Dwarf Sand Boa	EMBL database (2006)	II	Not in Leviton and Anderson (1970)
Colubridae	Colubrids			
			MDL databa	(0000)
Boiga trigonata melanocephalus	Indian Gamma Snake	Leviton and Anderson (1970); E	:MBL databa	se (2006)
Eirinis persica	Persian Dwarf Snake	Leviton and Anderson (1970)		
Elaphe dione	Dione Snake	Leviton and Anderson (1970); E	MBL databa	se (2006)
Hemorrhois ravergieri	Ravergier's Whip Snake	Leviton and Anderson (1970); E database (2006)	MBL	Name changed from Coluber ravergieri
Lytorhynchus maynardi	Maynard's Awl Headed Snake	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EMBL database (2006)		
Lytorhynchus ridgewayi	Afghan Awl Headed Snake	Leviton and Anderson (1970); E	MBL databa	se (2006)
Natrix tesellata tessellata	Dice Snake	Leviton and Anderson (1970); E	MBL databa	se (2006)
Platyceps karelini	Spotted Desert Racer	Leviton and Anderson (1970); E database (2006)	MBL	Name changed from Coluber karelinii
Platyceps rhodorichis	Jan's Whip Snake	Leviton and Anderson (1970); E database (2006)	MBL	
Platyceps ventromaculatus	Spotted Whip Snake	Leviton and Anderson (1970); E database (2006)	MBL	Name changed from Coluber ventromaculatus
Psammophis lineolatus	Steppe Ribbon Snake	Leviton and Anderson (1970); E database (2006)	MBL	
Psammophis schokari	Forskal's Sandsnake	Leviton and Anderson (1970); E	MBL databa	se (2006)
Ptyas mucosa	Oriental Rat Snake or Whipsnake	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EMBL database (2006)	II	Name changed from <i>P. mucosus</i>
Spalerosophis diadema schirazana	Diadem Snake	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EMBL database (2006)		
Xenochrophis piscator	Chequered Keelback, Asiatic Watersnake	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EMBL database (2006)		
Elapidae	Cobras			
Naja oxiana	Central Asian Cobra	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EMBL database (2006)	II	

Leptotyphlopidae	Slender blind snakes			
Leptotyphlops blandfordi		Leviton and Anderson (1970); EME	3L database	(2006)
Typhlopidae	Blind snakes			
Typhlops vermicularis	Worm Snake	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EMB	BL database	(2006)
Viperidae	Vipers			
Echis carinatus	Saw-scaled Viper, Carpet Viper	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EME	BL database	(2006)
Eristicophis macmahoni	MacMahon Viper	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EME	BL database	(2006)
Gloydius halys	Crotalid Halys Viper	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EMB database (2006)	3L	Name changed from Agkistrodon halys
Gloydius himalayanus	Himalayan Pit Viper	Leviton and Anderson (1970)		Name changed from <i>Agkistrodon himalayanus</i> . Leviton and Anderson (1970) cite a specimen apparently collected in Nuristan. Not in EMBL database.
Macrovipera lebetina	Desert Adder	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EMB database (2006)	3L	Name changed from Vipera lebetina
Pseudocerastes persicus persicus	Persian False Hornviper	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EMB database (2006)	3L	
Uncertain species				
Cyrtopodion longipes		EMBL database (2006)		Not in Leviton and Anderson (1970)
Cyrtopodion russowii		Leviton and Anderson (1970)		Not confirmed from Afghanistan, Name changed from <i>Cyrtodactylus russowii</i> , Not in EMBL database
Cyrtopodion turcmenicus		EMBL database (2006)		Not in Leviton and Anderson (1970)
Cyrtopodion voraginosus		EMBL database (2006)		Not in Leviton and Anderson (1970); endemic to Afghanistan
Acanthodactylus blanfordii	Blanford's Fringe- fingered Lizard	EMBL database (2006)		Not in Leviton and Anderson (1970)
Eremias afghanistanica	Point-snouted Racerunner	EMBL database (2006)		Not in Leviton and Anderson (1970); endemic to Afghanistan
Ablepharus grayanus	Earless Snake-eyed Skink	Leviton and Anderson (1970); EMB database (2006)	BL	Not confirmed from Afghanistan
Eumeces blythianus		Leviton and Anderson (1970)		Not confirmed from Afghanistan
Mabuya aurata		Leviton and Anderson (1970)		Not confirmed from Afghanistan
Ophiomorus brevipes	Short-legged Snake Skink	EMBL database (2006)		Not in Leviton and Anderson (1970)
Ophiomorus chernovi	Chernov's Snake Skink	EMBL database (2006)		Not in Leviton and Anderson (1970)

Uncertain species	(Continued)			
Eryx miliaris	Dwarf Sand Boa	EMBL database		Not in Leviton and Anderson (1970)
Lycodon striatus bicolor	Northern Wolf Snake	Leviton and Anderson (1970 database (2006))); EMBL	Not confirmed from Afghanistan
Oligodon taeniolatus	Streaked Kukri Snake	Leviton and Anderson (1970 database (2006))); EMBL	Not confirmed from Afghanistan
Psammophis leithii	Pakistan Sand Racer or Leith's Sand Snake	Leviton and Anderson (1970 database (2006)); EMBL	Not confirmed from Afghanistan
Pseudocyclophis persicus	Dark-headed Dwarf Racer	EMBL database		Not in Leviton and Anderson (1970)
Telescopus rhinopoma	Indian Desert Tiger Snake	EMBL database (2006)		Not in Leviton and Anderson (1970)
Bungarus caeruleus	Indian Krait	EMBL database (2006)		Not in Leviton and Anderson (1970)
Naja naja	Indian Cobra	EMBL database (2006)		Not in Leviton and Anderson (1970); EMBL database cites Afghan distribution with a ?
Gloydius intermedius	Central Asian Pitviper	EMBL database		Not in Leviton and Anderson (1970)

Appendix 4 The Amphibians of Afghanistan: A Checklist

Amphibian Species of Afghanistan				
Hynobiidae	Asiatic Salamanders			
Batrachuperus mustersi	Paghman Mountain Salamander	Leviton and Anderson (1970)	Endemic and Critically Endangered	

Bufonidae	True Toads				
Bufo stomaticus	Indus Valley Toad	Leviton and Anderson (1970)	Previously called Bufo andersonii		
B. viridis	European Green Toad	Leviton and Anderson (1970)			

Ranidae	True Frogs				
Euphlyctis cyanophlyctis	Skipping Frog, Skittering Frog among others	Leviton and Anderson (1970)	Previously called Rana cyanophlyctis		
R. ridibunda ridibunda	Marsh Frog, Lake Frog, Laughing Frog	Leviton and Anderson (1970)			
Paa sternosignata	Baluch Mountain Frog, Malir Paa Frog, Murray's Frog, Karez Frog	Leviton and Anderson (1970)	Previously called Rana sternosignata		

Uncertain species			
Bufo latastii	Ladakh Toad	Listed on AmphibiaWeb	Unable to verify published record
Bufo oblongus		Listed on AmphibiaWeb	Unable to verify published record

Appendix 5 The Fish of Afghanistan: A Checklist

Fish Species of Afghanistan					
Scientific Name	Authority	Common Name	Status	Notes	
Acipenseridae	Sturgeons				
Acipenser nudiventris	Coad (1981)	Fringebarbel sturgeon	Coad-= native; Fish	base = extiprated	
Pseudoscaphirhynchus hermanni	Coad (1981)	Dwarf sturgeon	native		
Pseudoscaphirhynchus kaufmanni	Coad (1981)	Amu Darya sturgeon	native		

Salmonidae	Salmonids			
Oncorhynchus mykiss	Coad (1981)	Rainbow trout	introduced	Oncorhynchus gairdneri in Coad (1981)
Salmo trutta	Coad (1981)	Sea trout, Brown	native	
		trout		

Cyprinidae	Minnows and	carps		
Alburnoides bipunctatus	Coad (1981)	Chub	native	
Alburnoides taeniatus	Coad (1981)	Striped bystranka	native	
Amblypharyngodon mola	Coad (1981)	Mola carplet	native	
Aspidoparia jaya	Coad (1981)	Jaya	native	
Aspiolucius esocinus	Coad (1981)	Pike asp	native	
Aspius aspius	Coad (1981)	Asp	native	
Bangana diplostomus	Coad (1981)	None	native	Labeo diplostomus in Coad (1981)
Barbus brachycephalus	Coad (1981)	Aral barbel	native	
Barbus capito	Coad (1981)	Bulatmai barbel	native	
Barilius vagra	Coad (1981)	None	native	
Capoeta capoeta	Coad (1981)	Transcaucasian barb	native	
Capoetobrama kuschakewitschi	Coad (1981)	Sharpray	native	
Carassius auratus	Coad (1981)	Goldfish	introduced	
Crossocheilus diplochilus	Talwar and Jhingram (1991)	None	native	Crossocheilus latius diplochilus in Coad (1981)
Crossocheilus latius	Coad (1981)	None	native	
Ctenopharyngodon idella	Coad (1981)	Grass carp	introduced	
Cyprinion microphthalmum	Talwar and Jhingram (1991)	None	native	
Cyprinion milesi	Talwar and Jhingram (1991)	None	native	
Cyprinion watsoni	Coad (1981)	None	native	
Devario devario	Coad (1981)	Sind danio	native	Danio devario in Coad (1981)
Esomus danricus	Coad (1981)	Flying barb	native	

Cyprinidae	Minnows and	carps (Continued	(k	
Garra rossica	Coad (1981)	None	native	
Gobio gobio	Coad (1981)	Gudgeon	native	
Hemiculter leucisculus	Coad (1981)	Sharpbelly	introduced	
Hypophthalmichthys molitrix	Coad (1981)	Silver carp	introduced	
Labeo angra	Coad (1981)	None	native	
Labeo ariza	Coad (1981)	Reba	native	Cirrhinus reba in Coad (1981)
Labeo dyocheilus	Coad (1981)	None	native	
Labeo gonius	Coad (1981)	Kuria labeo	native	
Labeo pangusia	Coad (1981)	None	native	
Leuciscus latus	Coad (1981)	None	native	
Pelecus cultratus	Coad (1981)	Ziege	native	
Pseudorasbora parva	Coad (1981)	Stone moroko	introduced	
Puntius conchonicus	Coad (1981)	Rosy barb	native	
Puntius sarana	Coad (1981)	Olive barb	native	
Puntius sophore	Coad (1981)	Pool barb	native	
Rhodeus sinensis	Coad (1981)	none	introduced	
Rutilus rutilus	Coad (1981)	Roach	native	
Salmostoma bacaila	Coad (1981)	Large razorbelly minnow	native	
Schizocypris brucei	Coad (1981)	Waziristan snowtrout	native	
Schizocypris ladigesi	Coad (1981)	None	native	
Schizopygopsis stoliczkae	Coad (1981)	False osman	native	Schizocypris stolickzkae in Coad (1981)
Schizopyge curvifrons	Menon (1999)	Sattar snowtrout		
Schizothorax edeniana	Coad (1981)	None	native	
Schizothorax esocinus	Coad (1981)	Chirruh snowtrout	native	Coad (1981) also recognized <i>S. barbatus</i> , now included with <i>S. esocinus</i>
Schizothorax intermedius	Coad (1981)	Common marinka	native	Coad separately lists <i>S. schumacheri</i> which is now considered as <i>S. intermedius</i>
Schizothorax labiatus	Coad (1981)	Kunar snowtrout	native	
Schizothorax microcephalus	Coad (1981)	None	native	
Schizothorax pelzmani	Coad (1981)	Transcaspian marinka	native	
Schizothorax plagiostomus	Coad (1981)	None	native	
Schizothorax richardsonii	Talwar and Jhingram (1991)	Snowtrout	native	
Schizothorax zarudnyi	Coad (1981)	None	native	
Sinilabeo dero		Kalabans	native	Labeo dero in Coad (1981)
Tor putitora	Coad (1981)	Putitor mahseer	native	

Balitoridae	River Loache	S		
Dzihunia amudarjensis	Coad (1981)	Bukhara stone loach	native	Noemacheilus (Triplophysa) amurdarjensis in Coad (1981)
Nemacheilus baluchiorum	Coad (1981)		native	Noemacheilus baluchiorum in Coad (1981)
Nemacheilus Iongicaudus	Coad (1981)	Eastern crested loach	native	Noemacheilus longicauda in Coad (1981)
Nemacheilus oxianus	Coad (1981)	Amu Darya stone loach	native	Noemacheilus oxianus in Coad (1981)
Paracobitis boutanensis	Coad (1981)	None	native	Noemacheilus boutanensis in Coad (1981)
Paracobitis ghazniensis	Coad (1981)	None	native	Noemacheilus ghaznienesis in Coad (1981)
Paracobitis rhadineus	Coad (1981)	None	native	Noemacheilus rhadineus in Coad (1981)
Paracobitis malapterura	Coad (1981)	Western crested loach	native	Noemacheilus malapterurus in Coad (1981)
Schistura alepidotus	Coad (1981)	None	native	Noemacheilus alepidotus in Coad (1981)
Schistura alta	Nalbant and Bianco (1998)	None	native	
Schistura cristata	Coad (1981)	Turkmenian crested loach	native	Noemacheilus or Paracobitis cristatus in Coad (1981)
Schistura kessleri	Coad (1981)	Kessler's loach	native	Noemacheilus kessleri in Coad (1981)
Schistura lindbergi	Talwar and Jhingram (1991), Nalbant and Bianco (1998)	None	native	
Schistura prashari	Coad (1981)	None	native	Noemacheilus prashaari in Coad (1981)
Schistura sargadensis	Coad (1981)	Turkmenian loach	native	Noemacheilus sargadensis in Coad (1981)
Triplophysa brahui	Coad (1981)	None	native	Noemacheilus brahui in Coad (1981)
Triplophysa farwelli	Coad (1981)		native and endemic	Noemacheilus farwelli in Coad (1981)
Triplophysa griffithi	Coad (1981)		native	Noemacheilus griffithi in Coad (1981)
Triplophysa kullmanni	Coad (1981)		native	Noemacheilus kullmani in Coad (1981)
Triplophysa stoliczkae	Coad (1981)	Tibetan stone loach	native	Noemacheilus stoliczkae in Coad (1981). Coad (1981) cited N. (Triplophysa) akhtari which is now included in T. stoliczkae
Triplophysa tenuis	Coad (1981)		native	Noemacheilus tenuis in Coad (1981)

Cobitidae	Loaches			
Sabanajewia aurata	Coad (1981)	Golden spined loach	native	

Bagridae	Bagrid catfish	Bagrid catfishes			
Mystus tengara	Coad (1981)	None	native		
Rita macracanthus	Ng (2004)	None	native		
Rita rita	Coad (1981)	Rita	native		
Sperata sarwari	Eschemeyer (2004)	None	native		
Sperata seenghala	Coad (1981), Talway and Jhingram (1991)	Giant river catfish	native	Mystus seenghala in Coad (1981)	

Siluridae	Old-world catfishes			
Ompok bimaculatus	Coad (1981)	Butter catfish	native	
Ompok canio	Coad (1981)	None	native	
Ompok pabda	Coad (1981)	Padbah catfish	native	
Pterocryptis afghana	Talwar and Jhingram (1991)	None	native	
Silurus glanis	Coad (1981)	Wels catfish	native	
Wallago attu	Coad (1981)	Wallago	native	

Sisoridae	Sisorid and sucker catfishes			
Glyptosternum akhtari	Coad (1981)	None	native	
Glyptosternum reticulatum	Coad (1981)	Turkestan catfish	native	
Glyptothorax jalalensis	Coad (1981)	None	native	

Poeciliidae	Mummichogs			
Gambusia affinis	Coad (1981)	Mosquito fish	introduced	

Percidae	Perches			
Sander lucioperca	Coad (1981)	Zander	native	Stizostedium lucioperca in Coad (1981)

Gobiidae	True gobies			
Rhinogobius similis	Coad (1981)	none	introduced	

Channidae	Snakeheads			
Channa gachua	Coad (1981)	None	native	Ophiocephalus gachua in Coad (1981)
Channa orientalis	Talwar and Jhingram (1991)	Walking snakehead	native	
Channa punctatus	Coad (1981)	Spotted snakehead	native	Ophiocephalus punctata in Coad (1981)

Uncertain occurrence	Uncertain occurrence in Afghanistan			
Nemacheilus kuschakewitschi	Coad (1981)	Kuschakewitsch loach	Coad = uncertain; Fishbase = native	Noemacheilus kuschakewitschi in Coad (1981)
Schistura corica	Coad (1981)	none	Coad = uncertain; Fishbase = native	Noemacheilus corica in Coad (1981)
Schistura naseeri	Coad (1981)		Coad - Uncertain; not in Fishbase Afghan database	Noemacheilus naseeri in Coad (1981)
Schistura pakistanicus	Coad (1981)		Coad - Uncertain; not in Fishbase Afghan database	Noemacheilus pakistanicus in Coad (1981)
Triplophysa choprai	Coad (1981)	None	Coad = uncertain; Fishbase = native	Noemacheilus choprai in Coad (1981)
Triplophysa dorsalis	Coad (1981)	Gray loach	Coad = uncertain; Fishbase = native	Originally cited as Noemacheilus dorsalis

Triplophysa stenura	Coad (1981)		Coad = uncertain;	Noemacheilus stenurus in Coad (1981)
			Fishbase = native	
Ptychobarbus conirostris	Coad (1981)	Indus snowtrout	Coad = native; Fish	base = questionable
Puntius ticto	Coad (1981)	Ticto barb	Coad - Uncertain; n	ot in Fishbase Afghan database
Puntius chelynoides	Coad (1981)	Dark mahseer	Coad - Uncertain; not in Fishbase Afghan database	Tor chelenoides in Coad (1981)
Salmostoma punjabensis	Coad (1981)	Punjab razor- belly minnow	Coad - Uncertain; n	ot in Fishbase Afghan database
Cirrhinus burmesiana	Coad (1981)		native	Not a valid species?
Scardinius erythrophthalmus	Coad (1981)	Rudd	uncertain	
Schizothorax anjac	Coad (1981)		uncertain	Possibly <i>S. zarudnyi</i> (Coad 1981). <i>S. anjac</i> not a recognized species.
Schizothorax chrysochlora	Coad (1981)	None	native	Not a recognized species?
Schizothorax gobioides	Coad (1981)		native	Not a recognized species?
Abramis brama	Coad (1981)	Carp bream	Coad - uncertain; F	ishbase = native
Abramis sapa	Coad (1981)	White-eye bream	Coad - uncertain; F	ishbase = native
Aspidoparia morar	Coad (1981)	None	Coad - uncertain; F	ishbase = native
Capoeta fusca	Coad (1981)	None	Coad - uncertain; Fishbase = native	
Chalcalburnus chalcoides	Coad (1981)	Danube bleak	Coad - uncertain; F	ishbase = native
Cyprinus carpio	Coad (1981)	Common carp	Coad = native; Fishbase = introduced	
Garra gotyla	Coad (1981)	Sucker head	Coad - uncertain; Fishbase = native	
Garra rufa	Coad (1981)	None	Coad - uncertain; F	ishbase = native
Hemigrammocapoeta elegans	Coad (1981)		Coad - uncertain; Fishbase = native	Hemigarra elegans in Coad (1981)
Leuciscus idus	Coad (1981)	Ide	Coad - uncertain; F	ishbase = native
Leuciscus lehmanni	Coad (1981)	Zeravshan dace	Coad - uncertain; F	ishbase = native
Leuciscus leuciscus	Coad (1981)	Common dace	Coad - uncertain; F	ishbase = native
Esox lucius	Coad (1981)	Northern pike	Coad - Uncertain; n	ot in Fishbase Afghan database
Pungitius platygaster	Talwar and Jhingram (1991)	Southern ninespine stickleback	Coad = uncertain; F	Fishbase = native
Mastacembelus armatus	Coad (1981)	Zig-zag eel	Coad - Uncertain; n	ot in Fishbase Afghan database
Gymnocephalus cernua	Coad (1981)	Ruffe	Coad =- uncertain;	Fishbase = native
Perca fluviatilis	Coad (1981)	European perch	Coad =- uncertain;	Fishbase = native
Clupisoma naziri	Coad (1981)	None	Coad = uncertain; F	Fishbase = native
Glyptothorax cavia	Coad (1981)	None	Coad = uncertain; F	Fishbase = native
Glyptothorax naziri	Coad (1981)		Coad - Uncertain; n	ot in Fishbase Afghan database
Glyptothorax punjabensis	Coad (1981)		Coad - Uncertain; n	ot in Fishbase Afghan database
Glyptothorax stocki	Coad (1981)		Coad - Uncertain: n	ot in Fishbase Afghan database

Appendix 6 The Butterflies of Afghanistan: A Checklist

Butterflies of Afghanistan

Taken from Koçak & Kemal, Checklist of the Butterflies of Afghanistan

http://www.members.tripod.com/entlep/Af.htm

Desert Apollo
Clouded Apollo
Regal Apollo
Banded Apollo
Common Red Apollo
Honrath's Common Blue Apollo
Keeled Apollo
Celestial Apollo
Rose Windmill
Lime Butterfly
Common Peacock
Southern Swallowtail, Tiger Swallowtail
Swallowtail, Common Yellow Swallowtail

Family Pieridae, Whites and Sulphers	
Aporia (Metaporia (Turanoporia)) leucodice	Blackvein
Aporia (s.str.) crataegi	Black-veined White
Belenois aurota	Pioneer, Caper White
Colotis fausta	Large Salmon Arab
Delias belladonna	
Euchloe (s.str.) ausonia	Dappled White, Green-Dapled White
lxias pyrene	Yellow Orange Tip
Pieris (Artogeia) canidia	
Pieris (Artogeia) krueperi	Kruper's Small White
Pieris (Artogeia) rapae	Small White
Pieris (s.str.) brassicae	Large White
Pontia callidice	Small Bath White
Pontia chloridice	Hübner's Mountain White
Pontia daplidice	Bath White
Zegris fausti	Faust's Orange Tip
Catopsilia crocale	Common Emigrant
Catopsilia pyranthe	Mottled Emigrant

Family Pieridae, Whites and Sulphers (Continued)			
Colias alpherakii	Green Clouded Yellow		
Colias cocandica	Khokandian Clouded Yellow		
Colias erate	Eastern Pale Clouded Yellow		
Colias fieldii	Himalayan Clouded Yellow		
Colias marcopolo	Marcopolo's Clouded Yellow		
Colias poliographus	Motschulsky's Clouded Yellow		
Colias shahfuladi	Clench's Clouded Yellow		
Colias wiskotti	Broad Bordered Clouded Yellow		

Family Libytheidae, Snout Butterflies		
Libythea myrrha		

Family Danaidae, Milkweed Butterflies	
Danaus (Anosia) chrysippus	Milkweed, Monarch, Plain Tiger
Parantica melaneus	
Parantica sita	
Tirumala hamata	Blue Tiger
Tirumala limniace	

Family Argynnidae		
Cyrestis thyodamas		
Euthalia aconthea		
Hypolimnas misippus	False Plain Tiger	
Limenitis lepechini	Hipolimnas-	
Pantoporia selenophora		
Precis almana	Peacock Pansy	
Precis hierta		
Precis orithya	Blue Pansy	
Sephisa dichroa		
Nymphalis xanthomelas	Yellow-legged Tortoiseshell	
Aglais kaschmirensis	Kashmiri Tortoiseshell	
Aglais nixa		
Aglais rizana		
Vanessa indica	Indian Red Admiral	
Cynthia cardui	Painted Lady	
Polygonia c-album	Comma Butterfly	
Polygonia egea	Southern Comma, Pellitory Butterfly	
Polygonia undina		
Argynnis (Argyreus) hyperbius		
Argynnis (Fabriciana) argyrospilata		
Argynnis (Fabriciana) jainadeva		
Argynnis (Pandoriana) pandora	Cardinal, Great Fritillary	
Argynnis (Protodryas) kamala		

Family Argynnidae (Continued)	
Boloria (Proclossiana) erubescens	
Boloria (s.str.) generator	
Issoria lathonia	Queen of Spain Fritillary
Melitaea arduinna	
Melitaea avinovi	
Melitaea didymina	
Melitaea fascelis	Lesser Spotted Fritillary
Melitaea kuchi	
Melitaea lutko	
Melitaea minerva	
Melitaea paludani	
Melitaea persea	Persian Fritillary,Desert Fritillary
Melitaea shandura	Dardic Fritillary
Melitaea tangigharuensis	

Family Satyridae, Satyrs and Wood Nymphs		
Hipparchia (Neohipparchia) parisatis	White-bordered Grayling, White-bordered Black	
Paralasa afghana		
Paralasa chitralica		
Paralasa danorum		
Paralasa howarthi		
Paralasa icelos		
Paralasa kotzschae		
Paralasa pagmanni	Afghan Ringlet	
Paralasa shakti		
Aulocera padma		
Aulocera swaha	Common Satyr	
Chazara (Neochazara) enervata	Dark Rockbrown, Turanian Grayling	
Chazara (Neochazara) heydenreichi		
Chazara (s.str.) briseis	Hermit	
Kanetisa digna		
Karanasa bolorica		
Karanasa huebneri		
Karanasa kotandari		
Karanasa moorei		
Karanasa pamira		
Karanasa voigti		
Pseudochazara (Achazara) kanishka A	Aussem's Tawny Rockbrown	
Pseudochazara (Achazara) telephassa	Telephassa Grayling, Turanian Tawny Rockbrown	
Pseudochazara (s.str.) droshica	Tytler's Tawny Rockbrown	
Pseudochazara (s.str.) panjshira	Afghani Tawny Rockbrown	
Pseudochazara (s.str.) porphyritica		
Pseudochazara (s.str.) sagina		

Family Satyridae, Satyrs and Wood Nymphs (C	continued)
Pseudochazara (s.str.) turkestana Turkestani Tawny Rockbrown	
Satyrus pimpla	
Hyponephele (s.str. (Caspinephele)) dysdora	Lederer's Steppe Brown
Hyponephele (s.str. (Ereminephele)) capella	Christoph's Steppe Brown
Hyponephele (s.str. (Ereminephele)) huebneri	Hübner's Steppe Brown
Hyponephele (s.str. (Iranonephele)) amardaea	Hyrcanian Steppe Brown
Hyponephele (s.str. (Iranonephele)) glasunovi	Glasunov's Steppe Brown
Hyponephele (s.str. (Iranonephele)) hilaris	Cheerful Steppe Brown
Hyponephele (s.str. (Iranonephele)) perplexa	Omoto's Steppe Brown
Hyponephele (s.str. (Orientinephele)) difficilis	Shoumatoff's Steppe Brown
Hyponephele (s.str. (Orientinephele)) mussitans	Clench's Steppe Brown
Hyponephele (s.str. (Tengrinephele)) pamira	Pamir Steppe Brown
Hyponephele (s.str. (Turaninephele)) brevistigma	White-ringed Ladakhi Steppe Brown
Hyponephele (s.str. (Turaninephele)) davendra	White-ringed Steppe Brown
Hyponephele (s.str.) interposita	Intermediate Steppe Brown
Hyponephele (s.str.) lupina	Oriental Steppe Brown
Hyponephele shivacola	Wyatt's Steppe Brown
Hyponephele sussurans	
Coenonympha mangeri	Afghani Heath
Lyela amirica	
Esperarge eversmanni	
Lasiommata hindukushica	
Lasiommata menava	Sooty Argus
Lethe sidonis	
Ypthima asterope	African Ringlet, Common Three-Ring-
Ypthima bolanica	Desert Four-ring

Family Riodinidae, Metalmarks	
Abisara bifasciata	
Polycaena tamerlana	

Family Lycaenidae, Blues and Coppers	
Chaetoprocta odata	
Neozephyrus syla	
Callophrys mystaphia	Miller's Green Hairstreak
Callophrys paulae	Pfeiffer's Green Hairstreak
Callophrys suaveola	Alpine Green Hairstreak
Satyrium (Strymonidia) spini	Blue-spot Hairsreak
Satyrium (Superflua) hyrcanicum	Hyrcanian Black Hairstreak
Satyrium (Superflua) sassanides	Persian Black Hairstreak
Cigaritis acamas	Lebanese Silver-line, Levantine Leopard Butterfly
Cigaritis epargyros	Turanian Leopard Butterfly
Jamides celeno	

Family Lycaenidae, Blues and Coppers (Continued)	
Lampides boeticus	Long-tailed Blue, Pea Blue-Lampides
Tarucus balkanicus	Little Tiger Blue
Tarucus nara	
Tarucus rosaceus	Mediterranean Tiger Blue
Zizeeria karsandra	Indian Grass Blue
Azanus uranus	Dull Babul Blue
Acytolepis puspa	
Celastrina argiolus	Holly Blue
Celastrina carna	
Celastrina kollari	Indian Holly Blue
Udara (Penudara) albocaerulea	
Glaucopsyche (s.str.) alexis	Green-underside Blue
Glaucopsyche (s.str.) seminigra	Afghani Green-underside Blue
Micropsyche ariana	Arian Small Blue
Praephilotes violacea	
Pseudophilotes vicrama	Lesser Chequered Blue
Turanana anisophtalma	Iranian Odd-spot Blue
Turanana grumi	
Turanana laspura	
Plebejus (Alpherakya) bellonus	
Plebejus (Alpherakya) devanicus	
Plebejus (Kretania) iranicus	Persian Brown Argus
Plebejus (Lycaeides) christophi	Christoph's Blue
Plebejus (ardis-gr) eversmanni	Eversmann's Blue
Plebejus (ardis-gr) firuskuhi	
Polyommatus (Agriades (s.str.)) pheretiades	
Polyommatus (Agriades (s.str.)) walterforster	
Polyommatus (Albulina (Pamiria)) chrysopis	
Polyommatus (Albulina (Pamiria)) issus	
Polyommatus (Albulina (Pamiria)) selma	
Polyommatus (Albulina (Plebejidea)) loewii	Loew's Blue
Polyommatus (Albulina (Vacciniina)) omotoi	
Polyommatus (s.str. (Agrodiaetus (Juldus))) afghanicus	Afghani Blue
Polyommatus (s.str. (Agrodiaetus (Paragrodiaetus))) bogra	
Polyommatus (s.str. (Agrodiaetus (Paragrodiaetus))) erschoffii	
Polyommatus (s.str. (Agrodiaetus (Paragrodiaetus))) frauvartianae	Frauvartian's Blue
Polyommatus (s.str. (Agrodiaetus (Paragrodiaetus))) nadirus	Nadir's Blue
Polyommatus (s.str. (Sublysandra)) adulterinus	
Polyommatus (s.str. (Sublysandra)) cornelius	Small Anatolian Blue
Polyommatus (s.str. (Sublysandra)) muetingi	
Polyommatus (s.str. (Sublysandra)) nuksani	
Polyommatus (s.str.) eros	Eros Blue
Polyommatus (s.str.) icarus	

Family Lycaenidae, Blues and Coppers (Continued)		
Polyommatus (s.str.) omotoi	Omoto's Blue	
Polyommatus (s.str.) persicus	Persian Common Blue	
Polyommatus (s.str.) venus	Venus Blue	
Chilades (Freyeria) trochylus	Jewel Blue	
Chilades (Lachides) contracta	Oriental Jewel Blue	
Chilades (Lachides) galba	Small Desert Blue	
Chilades (s.str.) parrhasius		
Hyrcanana caspia	Caspian Copper	
Lycaena (s.str.) kiyokoae		
Lycaena (s.str.) phlaeas	Small Copper	
Margelycaena margelanica		
Phoenicurusia athamantis		
Thersamonia (Thersamolycaena) aeolus		
Thersamonia (s.str.) aditya		
Thersamonia (s.str.) alaica		
Thersamonia (s.str.) eberti		
Thersamonia (s.str.) thersamon	Lesser Fiery Copper	
Heliophorus (Nesa) sena		

Family Hesperiidae, Skippers	
Badamia exclamationis	
Coladenia dan	
Carcharodus (Lavatheria) stauderi	Stauder's Skipper
Carcharodus (Reverdinus) dravira	
Carcharodus (s.str.) alceae	Mallow Skipper
Carcharodus (s.str.) swinhoei	Swinhoe's Skipper
Erynnis marloyi	Inky Skipper, Oriental Jet Skipper
Muschampia antonia	
Muschampia musta	
Muschampia proteus	
Pyrgus alpinus	
Pyrgus badachschanus	
Pyrgus cashmirensis	
Pyrgus darwazicus	
Spialia (Neospialia) orbifer	Red Underwing Skipper
Spialia (s.str.) osthelderi	Osthelder's Skipper
Gegenes nostrodamus	Mediterranean Skipper, Peaty Skipper
Hesperia comma	Silver-Spotted Skipper
Thymelicus alaicus	
Thymelicus lineolus	Essex Skipper

Appendix 7 The Mosquitoes of Afghanistan: A Checklist

Mosquitoes of Afghanistan
Ward, R.A. 1972. <i>Mosquitoes of Afghanistan – an annotated bibliography.</i> Mosquito Systematics 4 No. 3: 93 – 97.
1. Anopheles (A.) algeriensis Theobald
2. Anopheles (A.) claviger Meigen
3. Anopheles (A.) habibi Mulligan and Puri
4. Anopheles (A.) hyrcanus Pallas
5. Anopheles (A.) lindesayi Giles
6. Anopheles (A.) peditaeniatus Leicester
7. Anopheles (A.) sacharovi Favre
8. Anopheles (Cellia) annularis Van der Wulp
9. Anopheles (C.) culicifacies Giles
10. Anopheles (C.) fluviatilis James
11. Anopheles (C.) maculatus Theobald
12. Anopheles (C.) maculatus wilmosi James
13. Anopheles (C.) moghulensis Christophers
14. Anopheles (C.) multicolor Cambouliu
15. Anopheles (C.) pulcherrimus Theobald
16. Anopheles (C.) splendidus Koisumi
17. Anopheles (C.) stephensi Liston
18. Anopheles (C.) subpictus Grassi
19. Anopheles (C.) superpictus Grassi
20. Anopheles (C.) turkhudi Liston
21. Anopheles (C.) vagus Donitz
22. Uranotaenia (Uranotaenia) unguiculata Edwards
23. Aedes (Ochlerotatus) caspius Pallas
24. Culiseta (Allotheobaldia) longiareolata Macquart
25. Culex (Barraudius) pusillus Macquart
26. Culex (Neoculex) deserticola Kirkpatrick
27. Culex (N.) quettensis Mattingly
28. Culex (Culex) pipiens fatigans Wiedeman
29. Culext (C.) theileri Theobald

30. Culex (C.) univittatus Theobald

Appendix 8 The Liverworts of Afghanistan: A Checklist

Liverworts of Afghanistan		
Family	Species	Province of Occurence
Targionaceae	Targonia hypophylla	Farah, Helmand
Aytoniaceae	Plagiochasma sp	Bamiyan, Konar
Aytoniaceae	Reboulia hemisphaerica	Kabul, Konar, Zabul
Aytoniaceae	Mannia fragrans	Bamiyan, Konar
Aytoniaceae	Mannia androgyna	Kabul, Konar
Conocephalaceae	Conochephalun conicum	Konar
Cleveaceae	Athalamia hyalina	Kabul
Marchantiaceae	Preissia quadrata	Kabul, Kapisa, Konar
Marchantiaceae	Marchantia polymorpha	Bamiyan, Faryab, Kabul
Marchantiaceae	Wiesnerella denudata	Konar
Ricciaceae	Riccia fluitans	Kabul
Pellicaceae	Pellia endivifolia	Kabul
Lophocoleaceae	Chiloscyphus polyanthos	Konar
Radulaceae	Radula complanata	Unknown
Porellaceae	Porella cordaeana	Unknown (Hindu Kush noted)
Porellaceae	Porella platyphylla	Laghman

Appendix 9 The Lichens and Fungi of Afghanistan: A Checklist

Lichens and Lichenicolous Fungi of Afghanistan Feuerer, T. 2006. (Ed.). Checklists of lichens and lichenicolous fungi. Version 1 (http://www.biologie.uni-hamburg.de/checklists/asia/afghanistan_l.htm) Acarospora altissima H. Magn. Caloplaca persica (J. Steiner) M. Steiner & Poelt Acarospora assimulans Vain. Caloplaca polycarpoides Acarospora bohlinii H. Magn. Caloplaca pyracea (Ach.) Th. Fr. Acarospora brevilobata H. Magn. Caloplaca saxicola (Hoffm.) Nordin Acarospora cervina A. Massal. Caloplaca sororicida ined. Acarospora lavicola J. Stein Caloplaca tominii Sav. Acarospora rufa (Vain.) H. Magn. Caloplaca trachyphylla (Tuck.) Zahlbr. Acarospora rufoalutacea (Harm.) H. Magn. Caloplaca transcaspica (Nyl.) Zahlbr. Acarospora scabrida H. Magn. Caloplaca variabilis (Pers.) Müll. Arg. Acarospora sinopica (Wahlenb.) Körb. Candelaria concolor (J. Dicks.) Stein Acarospora stapfiana (Müll. Arg.) Hue Candelariella aurella (Hoffm.) Zahlbr. Acarospora strigata (Nyl.) Jatta Candelariella kansuensis H. Magn. Acarospora suprasedens H. Magn. Candelariella oleifera H. Magn. Acarospora verruciformis H. Magn. Candelariella vitellina (Ehrh.) Müll. Arg. Anaptychia desertorum (Rupr.) Poelt Cladonia fimbriata (L.) Sandst. Anaptychia elbursiana (Szat.) Poelt Cladonia fimbriata (L.) Sandst. var. simplex Hag. Anaptychia roemeri Poelt Collema cristatum (L.) Weber ex F. H. Wigg. Anaptychia ulotrichoides (Vain.) Vain. Collema polycarpum (Schaer.) Kremp. Apiosporella caudata (Kernst.) Keissl. Collema tenax (Sw.) Ach. em. Degel. Aspicilia calcarea (L.) Mudd Conotrema freyi Vezda & Poelt Buellia elegans Poelt Dermatocarpon miniatum (L.) Mann Buellia epipolia (Ach.) Mong. Dermatocarpon moulinsii (Mont.) Zahlbr. var. moulinsii Buellia longispora Scheidegger Dermatocarpon moulinsii (Mont.) Zahlbr. var. pellitum Poelt & Buellia populorum (A. Massal.) Clauzade & Roux Dermatocarpon perumbratum Nyl. Caloplaca anchon-phoeniceon Poelt & Clauzade in Poelt Dermatocarpon vellereum Zschacke Caloplaca biatorina (A. Massal.) Steiner Dermatocarpon werneri Rouss.

Didymosphaeria sporastatiae (Anzi) Winter

Dimelaena oreina (Ach.) Norm.

Echinothecium reticulatum Zopf

Fulgensia desertorum (Tomin) Poelt

Fulgensia subbracteata (Nyl.) Poelt

Glypholecia scabra (Pers.) Müll. Arg.

Lecania ochronigra J. Steiner

Lecania triseptata (Vain.) Zahlbr.

Lecania diplococca M. Steiner & Poelt

Lecania erysibe (Ach.) Mudd. f. nigra B. de Lesd.

(Müll. Arg.) Poelt

Caloplaca bicolor H. Magn.
Caloplaca cerina (Ehrh.) Th. Fr.

Caloplaca hedinii H. Magn.

Caloplaca juniperina Tomin

Caloplaca paulii Poelt

Caloplaca intrudens H. Magn.

Caloplaca paulsenii (Vain.) Zahlbr.

Caloplaca circumalbata var. circumalbata

Caloplaca decipiens (Arnold) Jatta

Caloplaca biatorina (A. Massal.) Steiner var. gyalotechnicides

Lecanora albescens (Hoffm.) Flörke	Melanelia infumata (Nyl.) Essl.
Lecanora argopholis (Ach.) Ach.	Melanelia subargentifera (Nyl.) Essl.
Lecanora asiatica H. Magn. var. subfarinosa H. Magn. T	Melanelia tominii (Oksner) Essl.
Lecanora baicalensis Zahlbr.	Muellerella pygmaea (Körb.) D. Hawksw.
Lecanora bohlinii H. Magn.	Neofuscelia glomellifera (Nyl.) Essl.
Lecanora crenulata Hook.	Neofuscelia loxodes (Nyl.) Essl.
Lecanora dispersa (Pers.) Sommerf.	Neofuscelia pulla (Ach.) Essl.
Lecanora disperso-areolata (Schaer.) Lamy	Neofuscelia verruculifera (Nyl.) Essl.
Lecanora frustulosa (J. Dicks.) Ach.	Parmelina tiliacea (Hoffm.) Hale
Lecanora garovaglii (Körb.) Zahlbr.	Peccania crispa ined.
Lecanora hagenii Ach.	Peccania terricola H. Magn.
Lecanora hagenii Ach. var. umbrina (Ehrh.) Arnold	Peltigera lepidophora (Nyl.) Vain.
Lecanora hartliana Steiner	Peltigera praetextata (Flörke) Zopf
Lecanora hedinii H. Magn.	Peltigera rufescens (Weis) Humb.
Lecanora invadens H. Magn.	Peltigera scabrosa Th. Fr.
Lecanora koerberiana Lamm	Phaeophyscia kairamoi (Vain.) Moberg
Lecanora maculata H. Magn.	Phaeophyscia nigricans (Flörke) Moberg
Lecanora microspora Arnold	Phaeophyscia orbicularis (Neck.) Moberg
Lecanora monodi R. G. Werner	Phoma lichenis Pass.
Lecanora pachyphylla H. Magn.	Physcia adscendens (Fr.) H. Oliv.
Lecanora percrenata H. Magn.	Physcia aipolia (Humb.) Fürnr.
Lecanora placentiformis J. Steiner	Physcia caesia (Hoffm.) Fürnr.
Lecanora scabridula H. Magn.	Physcia caesia (Hoffm.) Fürnr. var. ventosa (Lynge) Frey
Lecanora subalbicans H. Magn.	Physcia dimidiata (Arnold) Nyl.
Lecanora subcaesia H. Magn.	Physcia dubia (Hoffm.) Lettau
Lecanora zederbaueri Zahlbr.	Physcia grisea (Lam.) Zahlbr. var. pithyrea Flag.
Lecidea atrobrunnea (Ramond) Schaer.	Physcia hispidula (Ach.) Frey subsp. Hispidula
Lecidea oreja Stizenb.	Physcia hispidula (Ach.) Frey subsp. primaria Poelt
Lecidea paratropoides Müll. Arg.	Physcia latifolia Steiner & Poelt
Lecidea pavimentans H. Magn.	Physcia leptalea (Ach.) DC.
Lecidea percrassata H. Magn.	Physcia magnussonii Frey
Lecidea pulcherrima Vain.	Physcia pusilloides Zahlbr.
Lecidea tessellata Flörke var. caesia (Anzi) Arnold	Physcia sciastra (Ach.) Nyl.
Lecidea tessellata Flörke var. tessellata	Physcia semipinnata (Gmel.) Moberg
Lecidella alaiensis (Vain.)	Physcia stellaris (L.) Nyl.
Lecidella carpathica Körb.	Physcia strigosa Poelt & Buschardt
Lecidella elaeochroma (Ach.) M. Choisy	Physcia tenella DC. em. Bitter
Lecidella euphorea (Flörke) Nyl.	Physconia detersa (Nyl.) Poelt
Lecidella patavina (A. Massal.) Knoph & Leuckert	Physconia distorta (With.) J. R. Laundon
Lecidella stigmatea (Ach.) Hertel & Leuckert	Physconia farrea (Ach.) Poelt
Lichenostigma epipolina NavRos., Calatayud & Hafellner	Physconia grisea (Lam.) Poelt
Lichenostigma semiimmersa Hafellner	Protoblastenia immersa (Web.) Steiner
Lobothallia praeradiosa (Nyl.) Hafellner	Protoparmeliopsis muralis (Schreb.) M. Choisy var. muralis
Melanelia exasperatula (Nyl.) Essl.	Protoparmeliopsis muralis (Schreb.) M. Choisy var. diffracta (Ach.) "Rabenh."

Lichens and Lichenicolous Fungi of Afghanistan (Continued)	
Protoparmeliopsis muralis (Schreb.) M. Choisy var. dubyi (Müll. Arg.)	Rinodina violascens H. Magn.
Psora decipiens (Hedw.) Hoffm.	Sarcogyne gyrocarpa H. Magn.
Psora rubiformis (Wahlenb.) Hook.	Sarcogyne privigna (Ach.) A. Massal.
Ramalina sinensis Jatta	Sphaerothallia desertorum (Kremp.) Szatala
Rhizocarpon disporum (Naeg.) Müll. Arg.	Sphaerothallia straussii (Steiner) Szatala)
Rhizocarpon effiguratum (Anzi) Th. Fr.	Sporastatia asiatica H. Magn.
Rhizocarpon geminatum Körb.	Sporastatia testudinea (Ach.) A. Massal.
Rhizocarpon geographicum (L.) DC.	Staurothele clopima (Wahlenb.) Th. Fr.
Rhizocarpon kansuense H. Magn.	Staurothele levinae Oxner
Rhizocarpon macrosporum Räsänen	Teloschistes brevior (Vain.) Hillm.
Rhizocarpon pusillum Runem. var. asiaticum Poelt	Teloschistes contortuplicatus (Ach.) Clauzade & Rondon 1)
Rhizocarpon ridescens (Nyl.) Zahlbr.	Tichothecium gemmiferum (Tayl.) Körb.
Rhizocarpon solitarium H. Magn.	Toninia sedifolia (Scop.) Timdal
Rhizoplaca melanophthalma (Ramond) Leuckert & Poelt	Tornabea scutellifera (With.) J. R. Laundon
Rhizoplaca peltata (Ramond) Leuckert & Poelt	Umbilicaria aprina Nyl. 58), Steiner & Mayrhofer (1987: 322)
Rinodina afghanica M. Steiner & Poelt	Umbilicaria decussata (Vill.) Frey
Rinodina bischoffii (Hepp) A. Massal.	Umbilicaria hirsuta Ach. em. Frey
Rinodina epiianthina (Harm.) Zahlbr.	Umbilicaria vellea (L.) Ach. em. Frey
Rinodina guzzinii Jatta	Verrucaria amphibola Nyl.
Rinodina pycnocarpa H. Magn.	Xanthomendoza fallax (Hepp) Søchting, Kärnefelt & S. Kondr.
Rinodina pyrina (Ach.) Arnold	Xanthoparmelia mexicana (Gyeln.) Hale
Rinodina straussii Steiner	Xanthoria candelaria (L.) Kickx.
Rinodina subnigra H. Magn.	Xanthoria elegans (Link) Th.
Rinodina tominii Mayrh.	Xanthoria sorediata (Vain.) Poelt

Appendix 10 Afghan Species Listed on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species

MAMMALS			
Species Listing	Subspecies Listing	Common Name	Threat
Ovis ammon		Argali	VU
	Ovis ammon ssp. poli	Marco Polo Argali	VU
Ovis orientalis		Urial	VU
	Ovis orientalis ssp. cycloceros	Afghan Urial	VU
Panthera leo		African Lion	VU
	Panthera pardus ssp. saxicolor	North Persian Leopard	EN
Panthera tigris			EN
	Panthera tigris ssp. virgata	Caspian Tiger	EX
Rhinolophus mehelyi		Mehely's Horseshoe Bat	VU
Uncia uncia		Snow Leopard	EN
Ursus thibetanus		Asiatic Black Bear	VU
Vulpes cana		Afghan Fox	VU
Acinonyx jubatus		Cheetah	VU
Capra aegagrus		Wild Goat	VU
	Capra aegagrus ssp. aegagrus	Wild Goat	VU
Capra falconeri		Markhor	EN
	Capra falconeri ssp. heptneri	Tadjik Markhor	CR
	Capra falconeri ssp. megaceros	Straight-Horned Markhor	EN
Cervus elaphus			
	Cervus elaphus ssp. bactrianus	Bactrian Deer	VU
Gazella subgutturosa		Goitered Gazelle	VU
Eptesicus nasutus		Sind Bat	VU
Meriones zarudnyi		Zarundny's Jird	EN
Myotis emarginatus		Geoffroy's Bat	VU
Myotis longipes		Kashmir Cave Bat	VU

BIRDS				
Species Listing	Subspecies Listing	Common Name	Threat	
Numenius tenuirostris		Long-Billed Curlew	CR	
Otis tarda		Great Bustard	VU	
Oxyura leucocephala		White-Headed Duck	EN	
Pelecanus crispus		Dalmatian Pelican	VU	
Saxicola macrorhyncha		Stoliczka's Bushchat	VU	
Vanellus gregarius		Sociable Lapwing	CR	
Anas formosa		Baikal Teal	VU	
Anser erythropus		Lesser White-Fronted Goose	VU	
Aquila clanga		Greater Spotted Eagle	VU	

BIRDS (Continued)				
Species Listing	Subspecies Listing	Common Name	Threat	
Aquila heliaca		Imperial Eagle	VU	
Chlamydotis undulata		Houbara Bustard	VU	
Columba eversmanni		Pale-Backed Pigeon	VU	
Falco cherrug		Saker Falcon	EN	
Falco naumanni		Lesser Kestrel	VU	
Grus leucogeranus		Siberian Crane	CR	
Gyps bengalensis		Asian White-Backed Vulture	CR	
Gyps indicus		Indian Vulture	CR	
Haliaeetus leucoryphus		Band-Tailed Fish-Eagle	VU	
Marmaronetta angustirostris		Marbled Duck	VU	

REPTILES					
Species Listing	Subspecies Listing	Common Name	Threat		
Testudo horsfieldii		Afghan Tortoise	VU		

AMPHIBIANS				
Species Listing	Subspecies Listing	Common Name	Threat	
Batrachuperus mustersi		Afghani Brook Salamander	CR	

INSECTS				
Species Listing	Subspecies Listing	Common Name	Threat	
Parnassius autocrator		None	VU	

PLANTS					
Species Listing	Subspecies Listing	Common Name	Threat		
Ulmus wallichiana		Himalayan elm	VU		

Appendix 11 Afghan Species Listed on Appendices I and II of the Convention on the Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)

AUNA (ANIMALS)			
Common Name	Scientific Name	Appendix	Notes
Class: MAMMALIA (Mam	mals)		
Rhesus Macaque	Macaca mulatta	II	
Wolf	Canis lupus	II	
Blandford's Fox	Vulpes cana	II	
Brown Bear	Ursus arctos isabellinus	I	
Asiatic Black Bear	Ursus thibetanus	1	
Common Otter	Lutra lutra	1	
Cheetah	Acinonyx jubatus	1	Extirpated in Afghanistan
Caracal	Caracal caracal	1	
Jungle Cat	Felis chaus	II	
Sand Cat	Felis margarita	II	Unconfirmed from Afghanistan
Wildcat	Felis silvestris	П	
Lynx	Lynx lynx	II	
Pallas's Cat	Otocolobus manul	П	
Leopard	Panthera pardus	1	
Tiger	Panthera tigris	1	Extirpated in Afghanistan
Leopard Cat	Prionailurus bengalensis	П	
Snow Leopard	Uncia uncia	1	
Onager or wild ass	Equus onager	II	O. e. onager and O.e. khulan occur in Afghanistan. O. e. khur occurs in India and Pakistan and is Appendix I. Considered Equus hemionus by Duff and Lawson (2004)
Himalayan Musk Deer	Moschus chrysogaster	1	
Bactrian Deer	Cervus elaphus bactrianus	II	Subspecies only, probably extirpated in Afghanistan
Wild Yak	Bos mutus	I	Unconfirmed from Afghanistan
Markhor	Capra falconeri	1	
Goral	Naemorhedus goral	I	Unconfirmed from Afghanistan
Argali	Ovis ammon	II	Only <i>0. a. poli</i> in Afghanistan
Urial/Mouflon	Ovis vignei [orientalis]	II	The Afghan subspecies (cycloceros) is considered 0. orientalus by IUCN and Duff and Lawson (2004). Considered 0. vignei by CITES.

Clas	Class : AVES (Birds)				
	Dalmatian Pelican	Pelecanus crispus	I		
	Black Stork	Ciconia nigra	II		
	Eurasian Spoonbill	Platalea leucorodia	II		

	inued)		Harris Coursel Course AC 1
Lesser Flamingo	Phoenicopterus minor	II	Unconfirmed from Afghanistan
Greater Flamingo	Phoenicopterus ruber	II	
Baikal Teal	Anas formosa	II	Unconfirmed from Afghanistan
White-headed Duck	Oxyura leucocephala	II	
Osprey	Pandion haliaetus	II	
Shikra	Accipiter badius	II	
Northern Goshawk	Accipiter gentilis	II	
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	Accipiter nisus	II	
Cinereous Vulture	Aegypius monachus	II	
Golden Eagle	Aquila chrysaetos	II	
Greater Spotted Eagle	Aquila clanga	II	
Steppe Eagle	Aquila nipalensis	II	
Imperial Eagle	Aquila heliaca	I	
White-eyed Buzzard	Butastur teesa	II	
Eurasian Buzzard	Buteo buteo	II	Uncertain for Afghanistan
Rough-legged Hawk	Buteo lagopus	II	
Long-legged Buzzard	Buteo rufinus	II	
Short-toed Eagle	Circaetus gallicus	II	
Western Marsh-Harrier	Circus aeruginosus	II	
Northern Harrier	Circus cyaneus	II	
Pallid Harrier	Circus macrourus	II	
Montagu's Harrier	Circus pygargus	II	
Lammergeier	Gypaetus barbatus	II	
White-rumped Vulture	Gyps bengalensis	II	
Eurasian Griffon	Gyps fulvus	II	
Himalayan Griffon	Gyps himalayensis	II	
Indian Vulture	Gyps indicus	II	Unconfirmed from Afghanistan
Pallas's Fish-Eagle	Haliaeetus leucoryphus	II	
White-tailed Eagle	Haliaeetus albicilla	ı	
Bonelli's Eagle	Hieraaetus fasciatus	II	Cited as <i>Aquila fasciatus</i> by Dickinson (200
Black Kite	Milvus lineatus [migrans]	II	Cited as <i>Milvus migrans</i> by Dickinson (200
Egyptian Vulture	Neophron percnopterus	II	
European Honey-buzzard	Pernis apivorus	II	Unconfirmed from Afghanistan
Amur Falcon	Falco amurensis	II	Unconfirmed from Afghanistan
Saker Falcon	Falco cherrug	II	Ţ
Merlin	Falco columbarius	II	
Laggar Falcon	Falco jugger	1	
Lesser Kestrel	Falco naumanni	II	
Barbary Falcon	Falco pelegrinoides	1	
Eurasian Hobby	Falco subbuteo	II	
Eurasian Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	II	
Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus	1	
Himalayan Monal	Lophophorus impejanus	1	
Common Crane	Grus grus	ıı	
Demoiselle Crane	Grus virgo	II	Anthropoides virgo in Dickinson (2003)

Class : AVES (Bird	Class : AVES (Birds) (Continued)						
Siberian Crane	Grus	leucogeranus	1				
Houbara Busta	ard <i>Chlai</i>	nydotis undulata	1				
Great Bustard	Otis i	tarda	II				
Little Bustard	Tetra	x tetrax	II				
Alexandrine Pa	arakeet <i>Psitta</i>	acula eupatria	II				
Slaty-headed	Parakeet <i>Psitta</i>	acula himalayana	II				
Rose-ringed P	arakeet Psitta	acula krameri	II	Not listed for Afghanistan by CITES.			
Short-eared O	wl Asio	flammeus	II				
Long-eared O	wl Asio	otus	II				
Little Owl	Athei	ne noctua	II				
Eurasian Eagle	e-Owl Bubo	bubo	II				
Collared Owle	t <i>Glaud</i>	cidium brodiei	П				
Pallid Scops-0	Owl Otus	brucei	II				
European Sco	ps-Owl <i>Otus</i>	scops	II				
Tawny Owl	Strix	aluco	II				
Scaly-bellied W	oodpecker Picus	s squamatus flavirostris	II				

Class: REPTILIA (Reptiles)	Class: REPTILIA (Reptiles)				
Afghan Tortoise	Testudo horsfieldii	II			
Iranian Uromastyx	Uromastyx asmussi	П			
Indian Spiny Tail Lizard	Uromastyx hardwickii	II			
Bengal Monitor	Varanus bengalensis	1			
Desert Monitor	Varanus griseus	I			
Elegant Sand Boa	Eryx elegans	II			
Indian Sand Boa	Eryx johnii	II			
Dwarf Sand Boa	Eryx miliaris	II			
Tartary Sand Boa	Eryx tataricus	II			
Oriental Rat Snake or Whipsnake	Ptyas mucosus	II			
Central Asian Cobra	Naja oxiana	II			

Class: ACTINOPTERYGII (Bony Fishes)							
	Fringebarbel sturgeon	Acipenser nudiventris	II				
	Dwarf sturgeon	Pseudoscaphirhynchus hermanni	II				
	Amu Darya sturgeon	Pseudoscaphirhynchus kaufmanni	II				

FLORA (PLANTS)						
No Common Name	Sternbergia fischeriana	II				
Elephant's foot	Dioscorea deltoidea	II				
No Common Name	Dactylorhiza hatagirea	II				
Southern Marsh Orchid	Dactylorhiza majalis majalis	II II				
No Common Name	Eulophia turkestanica	ll l				
No Common Name	Habenaria josephii	II				
No Common Name	Orchis latifolia	II II				
Himalayan yew	Taxus wallichiana	II				

Appendix 12 A Subject Bibliography of Afghan Biodiversity

Biodiversity-Rich Area

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