

**Update on Water Sector Recommendations
Submitted to USAIS-Kabul
May 2008**

Below are my ideas on Water sector funding and what I'd do if I had a little bit of money (some of these items, I believe are already funded).

1. Water Secretariat

My vision for the Secretariat is that, over time it would grow and become the water planning and regulation agency for Afghanistan. Providing leadership was the first step. Next I would begin to build the staff and technical capabilities to do water planning. Personnel, computers, GIS systems, databases, vehicles, portable water measurement equipment, etc. are all needed.

2. PRT's

Water infrastructure projects (diversion dams, rehabilitation of canal systems, village water supply) are needed, particularly in the front-line provinces. I would ask Kathryn to continue her work with the PRT's and encourage them to prioritize water projects. A couple of years ago, we developed a list of high priority projects in these provinces (attached) which could be easily updated.

However, in the past, we have had serious problems with design, materials and QAQC (quality assurance quality control). Funding could be used to provide the up-front project design through a reputable and qualified firm (check with Waleed for recommendations), then let the PRTs use their funds for construction costs. Attached is a QAQC/project inspection form from the EIRP. I would encourage PRTs to use this or something similar and provide funds to hire the provincial irrigation departments to do the site inspections. (While in Kabul this month, I worked with Marion Day to initiate such a project, so his recent experience may be useful).

3. USGS

While they are perhaps a little too scientific considering the urgency of issues in Afghanistan, I recommend keeping the USGS engaged in Afghanistan. I understand some funding is already in place.

Priorities:

- 1) AgroMet Network - continuing funding and expansion of this network is critical
- 2) Monitoring Network - provide training and assistance on data collection, processing storage, and interpretation for the monitoring network being installed under EIRP (I believe this has already been discussed and possibly funded).
- 3) Resource Assessment -continued groundwater availability studies and other work to quantify groundwater and surface water resources.

- 4) Mapping - continued support for mapping activities
- 5) Support for the Afghan Geological Survey - through USGS additional support for the AGS could be funneled to improved their capabilities and to encourage them to expand resource assessment, particularly in groundwater.

4. Data Collection activities

Donors seem very reluctant to fund data collection activities. In addition to the USGS, I would identify other organizations who are doing groundwater and surface water assessments and explore ways to increase such efforts.

5. PhD Funding for _____

_____ is the most knowledgeable Afghan on water issues and solutions, and represents an invaluable resource for the country. _____ has a MS and would like a PhD. I recommending sending him to the US for a PhD. With these credentials, he would likely be tapped for a leadership role in the Ministry or government.

6. Transboundary Water

Continued and expansion of transboundary water discussions and cooperation with Tajikistan. I would fund regular meetings with technical and executive staffs of ministries from both countries and provide portable measurement equipment, etc. to encourage a continuation of the dialog.

If the AWATT project does not provide it, I would fund short term technical experts in various topics related to transboundary water programs to work with the Afghan government and secretariat in the continuation of the formation of policy and programs.

7. Additional Army Corps of Engineers training programs.