



Securing sustainability through community based Rangeland Conservation, Environmental education and livelihood production

Conservation Organisation for Afghan Mountain Areas – COAM

Aim	To develop practical field based interventions, increase environmental awareness and for sustainable land management for the communities of the Koh-e-Baba.
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Support communities in Rangeland Conservation Programme 2) Create a regional Environmental Center in Bamyan and supporting Ecological Garden. 3) Support communities with the establishment of indigenous tree, plant and shrub nurseries and village eco-training centers.
Beneficiaries	Local communities in the Koh-e-Baba mountain range and students of Bamyan University.

Rational

Human survival and wellbeing depend upon biodiversity and healthy ecosystems, and the goods and services they provide. Yet, in recent decades, Afghanistan has experienced unprecedented biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation, undermining the natural resources on which rural communities rely. This has been particularly felt by the communities in the Koh-e-Baba mountain area who depend directly on nature for food, clean water, fuel, medicine, shelter, and reduced vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters. In order to support communities' resilience the integrity of their environment must be preserved.

One of the largest land uses across Afghanistan is the use of rangelands for grazing sheep, cattle and goats. In addition rangelands provide other important ecosystem services to the people in the area. Increasing population pressure and over-use has resulted in the Koh-e-Baba rangelands becoming de-vegetated and degraded leading to the increased occurrence across the area of soil erosion flash-flooding and landslides.

The project in a nutshell

Time frame	June 2013 – June 2015
Project area	Koh-e-Baba mountains
Donor	Global Environment Facility / Small Grants Programme

Activities

Capacity Building
Rangeland Conservation Knowledge Sharing
Workshops.

Encourage a community established Rangeland User Association.

Demonstration activities (Rangeland conservation Programme)

Identification tool of indicator species for degraded rangelands.

Create a regional Environmental Center

Demonstration and capacity building
Ethnobotanical Survey

Establishment of community nurseries

Expected results

Ten workshops on Rangeland Conservation delivered and sound curriculum arising from participant feedback re experiences developed.

Rangeland user associations established by communities.

An evidence based study on the effects of over grazing on rangelands and the effect of reseeded as a method of rehabilitation. Publications on best practice of rangeland management.

Simple photographic key for non-experts to identify degraded rangeland habitat.

Establishment of the Environmental Center, a first of its kind in this area.

High quality publication in English and Dari of the ethnobotanical knowledge of the area, with plant descriptions.

Community nurseries established.

COAM Head office, Bamyan,, Afghanistan.

