



From Aspirations to Action: Report on UN-COP29 and COP16 Engagement



UNFCCC and UNCCD

From 11 November to 13 December 2024

Prepared and designed by: Abdulhadi Achakzai Founder and CEO
EPTDO Organization



Acknowledgments

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the individuals and organizations who contributed to the success of my participation in the COP29 and COP16 conferences.

First and foremost, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to Mr. Richard Hoffman, Director of ACBAR Organization, for connecting me with Mr. Terje Watterdal, Head of the Norwegian Committee for Afghanistan (NAC). Their partnership during the Pre-COP29 Conference was invaluable.

Special thanks go to Ms. Doel Mukkerje, Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP, and Ms. Anisha Thapa from the UN Country Team for their generous collaboration and for sponsoring my flight tickets to the conference. I am also deeply grateful to Ms. Charity Watson/UNAMA for her unwavering support throughout the COP29 process.

I would like to acknowledge the entire EPTDO team for their dedication and hard work over the past year in gathering data and identifying the pressing challenges and opportunities that were prioritized for discussion at the COP conferences.

To all others who supported my mission—both directly and indirectly—thank you. Your contributions made my journey successful, and I am pleased to report that I achieved all my planned topics and objectives based on the outcomes of the Pre-COP Conferences.

Partners

Pre-COP Conference partner



UNDP Afghanistan – Sponsorship



Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	5
Acknowledgments.....	5
Preparation and Research.....	5
COP29 Overview	5
Participation of Afghan Delegates	5
Key Achievements.....	6
COP16 Overview	6
Conference on Afghanistan	6
Conclusion.....	6
PREPARATION FOR THE COP29 AND COP16 CONFERENCES.....	7
PRE-COP29 CONFERENCE	8
INTRODUCTION TO THE COP-UNFCCC CONFERENCE.....	10
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP) OF THE UNCCD	10
COP29 – UNFCCC	3
KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF COP29 CONFERENCE.....	4
BILATERAL MEETINGS	5
INDIVIDUAL MEETING.....	7
MEETING: H.E. AL GORE / THE CLIMATE REALITY PROJECT – USA.....	8
MEETING: MR. PAUL KLOUMAN BEKKEN, CHARGÉ D’AFFAIRES OF NORWAY FOR AFGHANISTAN.....	9
MEETING: MS. JANET KENNEDY / STATE DEPARTMENT – USA.....	10
MEETING: MS. ERI YAMASUMI / UNDP HQ OFFICE NY – USA.....	11
CONFERENCE OVERVIEW: FOCUSED ON AFGHANISTAN.....	13



COP16 – UNCCD 17

Summary Report: 2–13 December 2024 17

BILATERAL MEETINGS WITH KEY PARTICIPANTS 18

MEETING WITH THE GLOBAL MECHANISM OF UNCCD 18

MEETING WITH THE DIRECTOR OF THE G20 GLOBAL LAND INITIATIVE – UNCCD 19

REPORT ON DELIVERED PRESENTATION: EMPLOYING GIS AND GPS TECHNOLOGY TO AID
IN THE MAINTENANCE OF RE-GREENING PROJECTS 20

MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERACTIONAL DROUGHT RESILIENCE ALLIANCE
– UNCCD 22

MEETING WITH THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CCAD 23

The Importance of COP Conferences 31

Action Plans Post-COP Conferences 31

Key Initiatives Moving Forward 31

The Path to Collaboration 32

Conclusion 32

EPTDO an Accredited Organization of UNFCCC, UNCCD and UNEP

These accreditations allow EPTDO organization to attend all international conferences related to climate change world-wide.



Executive Summary

This report provides a comprehensive analysis of the COP29 and COP16 conferences, emphasizing their significance in addressing global climate change issues, with a particular focus on Afghanistan's unique vulnerabilities. These conferences serve as critical platforms for nations to come together and negotiate strategies to combat climate challenges. The discussions highlighted at COP29, dubbed the "Conference of Finance," underscored the urgent need for increased financial commitments and collaborative efforts among countries to tackle the escalating impacts of climate change.

For Afghanistan, which is one of the most vulnerable countries despite contributing no greenhouse gas emissions, the report stresses the importance of international engagement and support. The outcomes of these conferences are crucial for raising awareness about Afghanistan's pressing climate issues and advocating for necessary resources to implement effective climate adaptation and mitigation strategies. By documenting the insights and achievements from these significant gatherings, the report aims to foster a renewed commitment to addressing the climate crisis, particularly for nations like Afghanistan that face disproportionate challenges.

Acknowledgments

The author's participation was technically supported by various partners, including UNDP Afghanistan, ACBAR, and the Norwegian Committee for Afghanistan (NAC). Their assistance was crucial in facilitating discussions and advocating for Afghan civil society at international platforms.

Preparation and Research

Over the past year, the Environmental Protection Trainings and Development Organization (EPTDO) conducted extensive research across 29 provinces in Afghanistan, engaging with local communities to identify critical areas impacted by climate change. This groundwork laid the foundation for advocacy at the COP29 conference.

COP29 Overview

Held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from November 11-23, 2024, COP29 was termed the "Conference of Finance," attracting 65,000 delegates. Key discussions revolved around climate finance, national commitments, and the need for urgent action to address the climate crisis. A significant outcome was the establishment of a new global climate finance goal, increasing the Loss and Damage Fund to \$300 billion.

Participation of Afghan Delegates

Despite Afghanistan's exclusion from previous COP conferences, NEPA delegates participated as observers, signaling a commitment to international collaboration. The report emphasizes the



importance of Afghanistan's involvement in global climate discussions, highlighting the country's extreme vulnerability to climate change despite contributing zero emissions.

Key Achievements

Key achievements from COP29 included:

- A new global climate finance goal for over \$ 300 Billion annually.
- Approval of Article 6.4 of the Paris Agreement, enhancing the global carbon market.
- Guidelines for integrating climate actions into national plans.

COP16 Overview

The COP16 conference, held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from December 2-13, 2024, focused on addressing desertification, land degradation, and drought. The event drew significant participation and highlighted the need for cooperative efforts to combat these issues.

- A new global commitment \$ 12 Billion for the drought affected countries.
- Localizing the initiatives by engaging with local NGOs/CSOs and Indigenous people.
- Establishment of a framework to recognize the degradation of land globally

Conference on Afghanistan

A dedicated conference titled "Breaking the Cycle of Vulnerability: Climate Action and Financing for Afghanistan's Future" was held during COP29. This event brought together various stakeholders to discuss Afghanistan's pressing climate challenges and possible solutions, emphasizing the need for access to climate finance and international support.

Conclusion

The reports from COP29 and COP16 underscore the critical need for international collaboration to address climate change. Afghanistan's unique challenges necessitate increased advocacy and support from global stakeholders to ensure that the country's vulnerabilities are recognized and addressed in global climate initiatives. The EPTDO aims to leverage insights gained from these conferences to further its mission in promoting effective climate action in Afghanistan.



Preparation for the COP29 and COP16 Conferences

Research across 29 Provinces: Over the past year, the EPTDO organization has embarked on an extensive journey across 29 out of 34 provinces in Afghanistan. Our mission included conducting surveys for proposal development, engaging in climate change research, and implementing community-based projects. A key focus of our efforts was to gather information on how climate change affects rural communities, while actively engaging with locals to explore and identify sustainable local solutions.

Our travels took us to a diverse range of provinces, including: Kabul, Parwan, Kapisa, Panjshir, Bamyan, Daykondi, Urozgan, Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul, Herat, Farah, Nimroz, Badghis, Samangan, Baghlan, Juzjan, Mazar, Takhar, Badakhshan, Nangarhar, Laghman, Kunar, Logar, Paktiya, Khost, Maidan Wardak, Kunduz, and Ghazni. During our visits, we engaged with hundreds of local communities, marginalized groups, vulnerable populations, and families severely affected by climate change. We facilitated focus group discussions for quantitative data collection and conducted key informant interviews with community leaders, tribal elders, and other stakeholders. These interactions provided us with invaluable insights into the vulnerabilities faced by rural communities and the local solutions that can be harnessed to address these challenges.

Key Findings and Insights: Our research revealed the critical ways in which rural communities are impacted by climate change, as well as the best local strategies for adaptation. We also identified significant gaps in understanding the implications of climate change among these populations. Each visit enriched our knowledge and highlighted the pressing issues that need to be addressed in global platforms like the COP conferences.



Amplifying Voices at Global Forums: One of our primary objectives is to amplify the unheard voices of rural communities in international discussions surrounding climate change. The expertise of the EPTDO team, composed of climate change specialists, enables the process to accurately diagnose the challenges faced by these communities and to identify effective local solutions.

Through our work, we aim to ensure that the insights and experiences of rural populations are represented and considered in global discussions, particularly at the COP29 and COP16 conferences. Together, we can create a more inclusive dialogue that prioritizes the needs of those most affected by climate change.



Pre-COP29 Conference

Overview of the Event: On September 16, a significant Pre-COP29 conference was held in Kabul, organized jointly by the Environmental Protection Trainings and Development Organization (EPTDO), the Norwegian Committee for Afghanistan (NAC), and the Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief & Development (ACBAR). This dialogue session aimed to facilitate discussions on the advocacy priorities for COP29 on behalf of Afghan civil society and to develop key messages to ensure that Afghan voices are represented at the conference.

Gathering of Stakeholders: The conference brought together leaders from hundreds of international organizations, civil society groups, academia, UN agencies, and diplomatic representatives from various countries. This one-day event provided a platform for participants to share insights through discussions and group activities, culminating in the identification of specific topics and advocacy messages to be addressed at COP29.

Conference Highlights:

The conference commenced with opening remarks from Mr. Terje Watterdal, the Country Director of NAC. He emphasized the adverse impacts of climate change and the urgent need for collaborative efforts to tackle this critical issue. Mr. Watterdal underlined the importance of the pre-dialogue session as a platform for national and international stakeholders to share their ideas and advocate civil society messages at COP29.

Following Mr. Watterdal, Mr. Richard Hoffman, Director of ACBAR, spoke about the roles of national and international stakeholders in addressing climate change, highlighting that Afghanistan is severely impacted and requires more focused efforts.

Ms. Charity Watson, Climate, Peace, and Security Advisor to UNAMA, addressed Afghanistan's vulnerabilities, stressing the need for the country's presence and support in global forums.

Abdulahdi Achakzai then shared insights and mentioned that he is invited to both COP29 and COP16 conferences. He discussed his recent visits to various provinces, stating that the conference serves as an essential gathering to identify critical issues for these upcoming conferences. Mr. Achakzai also announced that EPTDO will organize a side event at COP29 and called for support from all participants.

A representative from the European Union office in Kabul contributed via an online statement, highlighting Afghanistan's extreme vulnerability and discussing potential solutions.

Technical Presentations: The event featured several technical presentations:

- **Kabul University Lecturer:** Discussed temperature increases and climate impacts on Afghanistan's five major river basins.
- **Dr. Najibullah Sadid:** Presented comparative figures illustrating Afghanistan's struggles with extreme droughts and changing precipitation patterns.



- **Mr. Abdul Basit Rahmani (EPTDO):** Shared recent research findings, emphasizing the country's extreme vulnerability.
- **Three Female Speakers from Badakhshan:** Provided insights from three districts severely impacted by climate change.

Group Discussions: After the presentations, participants were divided into three groups based on specific topics. Each group prepared talking points and key issues related to climate change. Selected speakers presented the group findings:

- 1- Mr. Guru Naik: Deputy Director of Climate Action at AfghaniAid.
- 2- Mr. Munib Noori: Program Analyst at UNDP.
- 3- Ms. Marjolaine Bos: Country Director for Afghanistan at Solidarity International.

The speakers presented their group discussions and key messages, followed by a Q&A session with participants.

Key Messages for COP29: The session concluded with the following key messages to advocate at COP29:

- Highlight Afghanistan's extreme vulnerability in every session.
- Address the issues of extreme drought and water scarcity.
- Ensure Afghanistan's inclusion in financial mechanisms.
- Conduct meetings and advocacy efforts on climate change issues.
- Promote agricultural development initiatives.
- Implement high-temperature control measures.

Follow-Up Initiatives: Following the conference, EPTDO conducted several follow-up meetings with various national and international organizations and women's groups to identify and prioritize key issues for COP29 and COP16. These initiatives equipped EPTDO delegates with the necessary knowledge and understanding to prepare impactful presentations, articulate key climate advocacy messages, and outline critical points for discussion at the upcoming conferences.



INTRODUCTION TO THE COP-UNFCCC CONFERENCE

The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the supreme decision-making body of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Established in 1992, the COP brings together countries that are party to the Convention to assess progress in dealing with climate change and to negotiate future actions. The conference serves as a critical platform for international climate negotiations, aiming to mitigate global warming and its impacts on the environment and humanity.

Organizers: The COP conferences are organized by the UNFCCC Secretariat, based in Bonn, Germany. The Secretariat is responsible for supporting the Convention and its various protocols, facilitating negotiations, and providing resources for the parties involved. Each COP is hosted by a different country, which takes on a leading role in organizing the event.

Each COP conference emphasizes the importance of cooperation among nations, the role of non-state actors, and the need for urgent action in light of scientific findings on climate change adaptation, mitigation, technologies and finance.

Participants: Participants in the COP conferences include:

- **Government Delegates:** Representatives from the 197 parties to the UNFCCC, including heads of state, ministers, and climate negotiators.
- **Intergovernmental Organizations:** Entities like the United Nations, World Bank, and

regional bodies that play a role in climate governance.

- **Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs):** Advocacy groups focused on climate action, environmental protection, and social justice.
- **Private Sector Representatives:** Businesses and industry leaders involved in climate solutions and sustainable practices.
- **Media:** Journalists and media outlets covering the developments and outcomes of the conference.

The COP conferences are pivotal in shaping global climate policy and fostering international cooperation in the fight against climate change. As the world grapples with increasingly severe climate-related challenges, the outcomes of these meetings hold significant implications for future sustainability and resilience efforts.

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP) OF THE UNCCD

The Conference of the Parties (COP) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is the governing body responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Convention. Established in 1994, the UNCCD aims to address issues related to land degradation, desertification, and drought, particularly in arid, semi-arid, and dry sub-humid areas.

Key Aspects

- **Purpose:** The COP serves as a platform for member countries to assess progress, make decisions on policies, and enhance



cooperation in combating desertification and promoting sustainable land management.

- Meetings: The COP convenes every two years, attracting representatives from governments, NGOs, and various stakeholders involved in desertification and land management.
- Main Topics: Discussions often focus on land restoration, sustainable land management practices, climate change adaptation, and financing mechanisms to support affected regions.

- Participation: The COP involves parties to the Convention, observers, and representatives from various sectors, fostering a collaborative approach to tackle desertification challenges globally.

The COP of the UNCCD is crucial in mobilizing international efforts to combat land degradation and promote sustainable practices, contributing to environmental sustainability and the well-being of affected communities.

Exclusion of Afghanistan from COP-UNFCCC and COP-UNCCD Conferences

Afghanistan represents a complex case in the context of the COP-UNFCCC negotiations, facing significant barriers that have led to its exclusion or limited participation in climate discussions. This country is among the top ten most vulnerable countries but this the most impacted country is excluded from the global agenda from the past 4 years. This exclusion is impacting the 40 million nation rather than political parties.

Resource Constraints: Afghanistan is one of the world's least developed countries, struggling with significant economic challenges. Limited financial and human resources restrict its ability to engage in international forums, climate negotiations and get the financial supports.

However, Afghanistan represents highest range of vulnerability, especially regarding the climate adaptation needs which are often overlooked. This can lead to policies that do not address the unique challenges faced by the country. Missed Opportunities for Support: Afghanistan could benefit from international climate finance and technology transfer to enhance its resilience to climate impacts. But unfortunately the exclusion limited access to these critical resources.

By addressing the barriers to Afghanistan's participation, the COP-UNFCCC can work towards a more inclusive approach that recognizes and responds to the unique climate challenges faced by the country, ultimately fostering a more equitable global climate response.

NEPA Delegates attended COP29 conference: NEPA delegates attended the COP29 conference, which marked a notable difference in their participation. The National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA), a government institution focused on climate change, was invited by the hosting country to attend COP29 as observers. Their involvement represented a significant milestone, contributing to trust-building among donors and party members, demonstrating that the Afghan government is ready to collaborate with international stakeholders.



World Leaders Climate Action Summit



United Nations
Climate Change



COP29
Baku
Azerbaijan

UN Climate
Conference
November 11-22, 2024

COP29 Conference of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

THE 29th CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP29)

COP29 to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) took place in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 11 – 23 November 2024. This significant gathering brought together representatives from around the globe to discuss urgent climate issues and to advance international cooperation in addressing climate change.



COP29 – UNFCCC

The 29th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29) was named the conference of finance for 2024. This conference was a big milestone where the world leaders came together they discussed pressing issues of climate change. From nearly 200 countries 65000 delegates attended the COP29 conference. This participation was bigger than other conferences but 15000 participants lower than COP28 held last year in Dubai. The head of states first 4 days delivered statements with following 3 days negotiations in plenary halls of the Blue zone. During the statements they were trying to advocate for their own countries, deliver information about their contribution, vulnerability and key achievements. They were also sharing updates on their national plans, Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs) and other key achievements.

In negotiations most of the topics were financial commitments, implementation of the NDCs, establishment of framework for Global Stocktake and other mechanisms to implement the Paris agreement.

One of the key issue during the negotiation period was that, 80 least developed countries and small island states wrote a letter to the presidency and party members of the conference. In their letter they mentioned about the commitments to be implemented by the developed countries and they also mentioned additional financial demands to be provided to the LDC countries and Small Islands by the developed countries. They also criticized in the letter from the on paper-commitments of the developed countries with no actions. They mentioned that the climate change impacts that they have been suffering because of highly economic and industrial countries. In negotiations, the LDC countries and small Island countries were making a lot of objection on the developed countries and they were stating that the developed countries are not standing on their commitments. However, the developed countries were mostly insisting on the establishment of a framework for the stopping the use of fossil fuel and implementing article 6 of the Paris Agreement about greenhouse gas emissions. Some countries emphasized that they already established the net-zero frameworks and they don't produce greenhouse gases.

In this conference, much focus was also placed on nationalizing activities. Engaging national NGOs, civil societies, indigenous peoples, and gender groups in the implementation of climate change-related national plans and strategies was emphasized. This part of the discussion captured the attention of all participants, who agreed without any objections. This consensus was highly appreciated by youth and indigenous representatives, as they recognized the importance of their specific roles in this initiative.

This agreement will be implemented to engage these groups in global discussions and financial commitments.



Key Achievements of COP29 Conference

General Observation: the COP29 conference was a significant event for gathering, networking, advocacies, raising awareness, and addressing key issues such as available opportunities, challenges, and solutions. However, the 2024 COP conference has been designated as the "Conference of Finance." At this conference, the Least Developed Countries had ample opportunities to secure the world's attention and advocate for their countries.

Participation of Afghan CSOs and Other Delegates: Compared to other countries, attending the COP conference view it as an important platform for advocacy, knowledge sharing, and calling for support while capturing the attention of world leaders. The world utilize various platforms, including Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and youth groups, to achieve these goals. Currently, Afghanistan is not benefiting from the decisions and commitments made at this crucial conference. Therefore, the participation of every individual is essential to advocate for attention and address the vulnerabilities faced by this impacted country.

COP29: Key outcomes

A New Global Climate Finance Goal that Responds to Developing Countries' Needs:

At COP29, the climate finance (Loss and Damage Funded) established in COP27 and operationalized in COP28 last year was 100 billion but now it increased to 300 billion USD Dollars. In the COP29 conference, the parties discussed this in the negotiations in how to collect and use this fund.

Element
1

Global carbon market receives a boost:

Despite the heavily criticized ending, COP29 opened strong with climate negotiators approving Article 6.4 of the Paris Agreement on the first day of the summit. Article 6.4 — also known as the Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism — identifies and supports verifiable emission reduction projects and helps draw funding needed to implement them. The mechanism also encourages cooperation among countries and companies who are interested in utilizing such projects to reduce their carbon footprint, according to the global climate accord.

Element
2

Actions and NDCs and NAPs:

During the conference some guidelines were lunched to add to the second round of the NDCs. The new NDCs tools to follow to integrate transport and ensure their NDCs are ambitious, deliverable and investible NDCs. Some additional consideration was also provided for national plans to be integrated to response to the demands of millions of people.

Element
3



Bilateral meetings

Networking and meetings were key elements during the COP29 conferences. In this significant event, world leaders, delegates from UN agencies, and international organizations—including donors—were open to individual meetings. They welcome requests from delegates to discuss climate change-related issues. In this regard, I under the role of Founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Environmental Protection Trainings and Development Organization (EPTDO), had the opportunity to attend several individual meetings with important representatives from UN agencies, donors, and other international organizations.

These meetings provided invaluable opportunities to explore networking, share relevant information, and discuss collaborative efforts to combat climate change. Engaging with key stakeholders allowed me to share the extreme vulnerability of Afghanistan, gain insights into their strategies and initiatives, fostering potential partnerships that could enhance our organization’s impact.

Participation at Plenary Discussions and Pavilions

It is essential to highlight that I attended several plenary discussions and negotiations to learn and see how the world leaders address their contributions, vulnerabilities, and how they advocate for climate change initiatives. This experience was not merely a learning opportunity; it offered a profound understanding of how various countries are grappling with the impacts of climate change and their strategies for addressing these challenges.

During plenary sessions, one notable statement was from Colombia, which captured my interest due to their emphasis on specific climate issues affecting their nation. Their approach to mitigating these challenges provided valuable lessons that can be applied in our own context.

In addition, I consistently monitored the agendas of different international organization pavilions, tracking their daily work plans and plenary sessions. This proactive approach allowed me to select the most relevant sessions to participate in. My primary aim was to raise questions, learn from their discussions, and observe how they are formulating new commitments and agreements.

During these sessions, I engaged with critical donors who were discussing their contributions to tackle climate change issues worldwide. Their insights into funding strategies and collaborative initiatives offered a clearer perspective on how resources are being mobilized to support climate actions. This engagement not only enriched my understanding but also highlighted potential avenues for our country to seek support and alignment with global efforts.

Overall, my participation in COP29 has proven to be an enriching experience, enhancing my understanding of global climate strategies and the collaborative efforts necessary to address climate change. By fostering relationships with key stakeholders and engaging in critical





Plenary Sessions

Plenary Session

The United Nations climate change conferences encompass sessions of the governing bodies, including the Conference of the Parties (COP), the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP), and the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA). Additionally, they involve the permanent subsidiary bodies: the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), along with any ad hoc working groups.

The conference schedule typically includes both open working meetings—such as plenary sessions and contact groups—and closed negotiating meetings, which may consist of informal consultations and drafting groups. The high-level segment features statements from Heads of State and Government, ministers, and high-ranking United Nations officials, often including ministerial-level round-table discussions.



Individual meeting

During the conference, I met with representatives from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) at the ODI pavilion, as well as the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), the World Bank, the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), NDC partnership and several other significant organizations and donors. During these meetings, I raised questions about the funding available for climate change-impacted countries like Afghanistan. My primary aim was to advocate for attention to the extreme vulnerability faced by Afghan communities.

Attended Plenary Discussions

During the conference, I attended several plenary discussion sessions and negotiations. My participation in these sessions was aimed at observing how world leaders address their contributions and advocate for their countries. Attending these conferences equipped me with insights into how climate change is affecting developing countries and how developed nations are offering their commitments. However, the negotiations were different. I attended three negotiation sessions focused on the topics of water, climate justice, and the use of technology in climate change initiatives.



Meeting with the Islamic Relief Worldwide (IRW) representatives:

This significant organization has been working in Afghanistan for many years. I met with the climate and environment advisor and the dedicated team of IRW from different countries. During this meeting, we discussed the available opportunities and resources within the IRW organization, as well as the challenges they face as international stakeholders in the implementation stages. I also requested that they join us for our event on Afghanistan at the COP conference and share their valuable ideas with other international stakeholders to encourage them to support climate change initiatives in Afghanistan.





Meeting: H.E. Al Gore / the Climate Reality Project – USA

Former Vice President Al Gore is the founder and chairman of The Climate Reality Project, a nonprofit organization dedicated to solving the climate crisis. Gore was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1976, 1978, 1980, and 1982, and to the U.S. Senate in 1984 and 1990. He was inaugurated as the 45th Vice President of the United States on January 20, 1993, serving for eight years.

On November 15, 2024, The Climate Reality Project hosted an event titled "Raising Climate Ambition." Participation in this significant event was through a selection process. Fortunately, my application was accepted among hundreds of requests, and I received an invitation to attend as part of the COP29 conference. The successful session was chaired by Vice President Al Gore.

After the session, there was an opportunity for participants to network and meet Mr. Gore. During this time, I had the chance to engage in a meaningful discussion with him. I initially introduced myself and our organization, the EPTDO, and highlighted Afghanistan's extreme vulnerability to the climate crisis. I noted that Afghanistan contributes zero emissions yet ranks among the top ten most vulnerable countries. I emphasized the urgent need for action on behalf of Afghanistan. I mentioned that I have been following The Climate Reality Project's activities and initiatives since 2020. I requested that Afghanistan be included in their advocacy efforts and suggested opening an office in the country to extend their impactful projects to climate-affected communities.



Mr. Gore asked about the current opportunities in Afghanistan and acknowledged the suffering of its people due to the chronic challenges posed by climate change. He stressed the need for increased advocacy and funding for Afghanistan, a country that bears no responsibility for emissions yet is severely affected by climate change.

Finally, he confirmed that his office would be opening in Afghanistan, with the EPTDO leading this important representation. He connected me with his team for follow-up on this process. Opening this important office will take some time, but it is a significant step for the country in supporting climate change projects and initiatives. The Climate Reality Project focuses on public awareness and various capacity-building programs, which are essential for empowering communities to tackle the challenges posed by climate change effectively.



Meeting: Mr. Paul Klouman Bekken, Chargé d'affaires of Norway for Afghanistan

On November 15, 2024, I had the honor of meeting Mr. Paul Klouman Bekken at the Canada Pavilion. During our meeting, Mr. Bekken introduced his mission and the objectives of representing the Norwegian government in Afghanistan, with a particular focus on climate change. Following his introduction, I presented our organization, the EPTDO, along with our dedicated volunteer members and their activities. I shared that in 2019, we established a group of volunteers and created a platform where individuals can apply for volunteer membership. Since then, we have registered 1,500 volunteers and conducted more than 150 volunteer activities and climate actions across the country. I highlighted the essential work of EPTDO as a leading climate change-focused organization operating in all provinces of Afghanistan. I mentioned that in 2022, we received accreditation from the UNFCCC and UNEP, and we are now also accredited by the UNCCD, as well as several other important international organizations, including the tUrn Climate Action Project based in the USA and Stop Ecocide International based in the UK. Additionally, I shared insights about the collaborative efforts of international organizations working in Afghanistan. I mentioned that on September 16, our organization, EPTDO, in partnership with ACBAR and the Norwegian Afghanistan Committee (NAC), organized a pre-COP29 dialogue session in Kabul, which was attended by numerous national and international stakeholders.



Our meeting proved to be very fruitful, and Mr. Bekken expressed his appreciation for the significant work we are doing in Afghanistan. He emphasized that the Norwegian government is committed to supporting climate change-related initiatives in the country. He also outlined some of their initiatives, including the Duha meeting, which brought together various donors and Afghan representatives, as well as other support efforts aimed at affected communities.

In summary, the meeting was highly productive, and on behalf of the EPTDO organization, I would like to express our gratitude for the commendable work and initiatives of the Norwegian government in support of Afghanistan. This collaboration holds great promise for addressing the pressing climate challenges facing our nation and fostering sustainable development.



Meeting: Ms. Janet Kennedy / State Department – USA

I had the honor of meeting Ms. Janet Kennedy, working at the U.S. Department of State as Regional Climate Officer for the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs. During our meeting, Ms. Kennedy shared insights into their work on climate change in South and Central Asian affairs, noting that Afghanistan is included in their missions.

I followed the meeting by addressing the climate change crisis in Afghanistan, emphasizing that it is one of the most impacted countries and ranks among the top ten most vulnerable nations globally. However, due to political reasons, Afghanistan has not benefited from global commitments. Climate change is a scientific issue, yet it has been politicized in the context of Afghanistan, resulting in the country being unrepresented at the COP conferences for four years. I highlighted our visits to 29 provinces of Afghanistan, sharing how rural communities are suffering from the effects of climate change. I discussed both the available opportunities and the challenges that our communities are facing.



In the meeting, I introduced our organization, the EPTDO, along with our experts and the work we are doing in the country. I shared details about our research projects focused on climate change, our initiatives to support vulnerable communities, and our partnerships with various national and international organizations. I also commended the efforts of international stakeholders, including UNDP and WFP, SCA and others who are working to support climate change initiatives in Afghanistan. I stated that the funds available with international organizations are insufficient, and the impacts of climate change have significantly affected rural communities. I mentioned that UNDP has established an NGO and CSO platform in Afghanistan, registering over 900 NGOs. They conduct bimonthly meetings at national and regional levels, which I emphasized as a promising initiative. Such platforms can implement large-scale projects to provide commitments and support effectively.

Ms. Janet Kennedy acknowledged that Afghanistan is indeed among the top ten most vulnerable countries and emphasized the need for increased support. She appreciated the significant work of our organization and the national platforms established in Afghanistan to address urgent issues, including climate change. She mentioned that USAID has been providing valuable services to the people of Afghanistan and will continue their support via different interventions.



Meeting: Ms. Eri Yamasumi / UNDP HQ Office NY – USA



I had the honor of meeting Ms. Eri Yamasumi, Policy Specialist for Climate and Security Risk at the UNDP HQ office in New York, USA. During the meeting, Ms. Eri shared information about their work and capacity-building approaches in climate change. I then addressed the climate change issues in Afghanistan, mentioning the extreme vulnerability of this affected country. I also discussed the significant work of UNDP and other international organizations in Afghanistan, highlighting the EPTDO's efforts and partnership with the UNDP office in Kabul. Ms. Eri Yamasumi was very pleased and shared their new initiatives in the climate change sector. We agreed to maintain our connection and explore new activities related to climate change.

Meeting with the Woodwell Climate Research Center representatives based in USA:

I had the honor of meeting the representatives of the Woodwell Climate Research Center. We discussed the pressing issues of climate change and how they can be addressed through research projects. This center is implementing climate change-related research projects worldwide and is committed to continuing its efforts in the most affected countries, like Afghanistan. We agreed to maintain our strong connection, map out new initiatives related to climate change, and explore how we can collaborate in the future.







PART – 1

We played a video for 20 minutes that outlined how climate change has been impacting rural communities in Afghanistan.

PART – 2

Presentations were delivered that highlighted the findings of research on the impacts of climate change in Afghanistan.

PART – 3

Panel discussions focused on sharing academic insights, experiences from international stakeholders, and the demands of youth.

Networking and questions and answers.



THE ONLY CONFERENCE FOCUSED ON AFGHANISTAN

Title of the Conference:

“Breaking the Cycle of Vulnerability: Climate Action and Financing for Afghanistan’s Future”

Organized by:

Abdulahadi Achakzai Founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Environmental Protection Trainings and Development Organization (EPTDO)

Space provided by ODI-Global



Conference Overview: Focused on Afghanistan

Climate Change Challenges in Afghanistan

Climate change presents a significant threat to the lives of millions in Afghanistan. The extreme impacts—such as rising temperatures, increased flooding, prolonged droughts, and various disaster risks—compound existing issues like poverty and forced migration. These challenges create a cycle of vulnerability that disproportionately affects the most marginalized communities in the country.

One of the critical barriers Afghanistan faces in addressing climate change is the lack of access to climate finance. Since 2021, the country has been largely excluded from global climate financing mechanisms, hindering its ability to implement effective climate adaptation and mitigation strategies. This exclusion not only limits financial resources but also restricts access to the technical support and expertise essential for developing sustainable solutions.

Conference Goals and Initiatives: To tackle these pressing challenges and garner the attention of international stakeholders, collaborative efforts from all sectors are crucial. The United Nations Conference of the Parties (COP) serves as a key platform for initiatives aimed at raising awareness and advocating for change. During this significant conference, the EPTDO organization leveraged its networks, connections, partnerships, and experiences from previous COP events.

The EPTDO organization submitted a concept that received approval from ODI-Global, a UK-based think tank organization, which provided the venue for this session. Despite facing several challenges, we ultimately succeeded in organizing the event. These obstacles equipped us with valuable insights on how to mitigate anticipated risks in future endeavors.

Conference Objectives: The primary purpose of the conference was to highlight the pressing challenges of climate change in Afghanistan and to discuss major climate-related issues, as well as opportunities and approaches for overcoming them. By bringing together representatives from various sectors—including UN agencies, delegates from different countries, international organizations, youth representatives, and academia—we aimed to foster collaborative frameworks where stakeholders could share insights and strategies.

This gathering served as a vital platform to raise awareness about Afghanistan's extreme vulnerability to climate change and emphasized the need for immediate and coordinated action. Additionally, the conference offered participants an opportunity to learn about the initiatives of other international organizations operating in Afghanistan.

Notably, this conference was the only dedicated session on Afghanistan during COP29, where delegates from various countries, international stakeholders, and donors came together to learn about the country's severe vulnerability to climate change.



Key Participants: Key in-person participants at the conference included:

- U.S. Department of State - Regional Climate Officer for the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs.
- The Minister of Urban Development and a member of parliament
- Youth delegates from YOUNGO
- Representatives from the ODI-Global Think Tank Organization
- Journalists from various international news outlets
- Representatives from different international organizations
- Academics from various universities

The side event was broadcast live through the UNFCCC official platform and was recorded and published across various resources. The conference comprised three main sections/parts:

Part 1: Opening Remarks and Video Presentation

After the opening remarks and introduction of the agenda, a 20-minute video prepared by AfghanAid-UK organization was presented. This video highlighted Afghanistan's vulnerability to climate change and explored potential opportunities for addressing these challenges.

Part 2: Presentations on the Climate Crisis

The second part of the agenda featured two presentations focused on the climate crisis in Afghanistan:

- Abdulhadi Achakzai / EPTDO: His presentation provided an overview of the climate crisis in Afghanistan, drawing on findings from visits to 29 provinces.
- Mr. Akram Yasin Abdulrahman (Islamic Relief Worldwide): His presentation emphasized reducing climate vulnerability through participatory and community-based approaches.

Part 3: Panel Discussion

The final part of the conference was a panel discussion where four members shared their insights on reducing the impacts of climate change in Afghanistan, securing financial support, and addressing the urgent climate challenges facing the country. The session was chaired and moderated by Mr. Abdulhadi Achakzai, the founder and CEO of EPTDO. The panel included:

1. Abdulhadi Achakzai - Climate Change Advocate, Founder and CEO of EPTDO Organization (Moderator)
2. Akram Yasin Abdulrahman - Advisor for Environment & Climate at Islamic Relief. Topic: "Reducing Climate Vulnerability through Participatory and Community-Based Approaches in Afghanistan using the H-CVCA Method."
3. Sayed Shoaib Sadaat - ENR Manager at The Liaison Office (TLO). Topic: "Representing Afghan Youth."
4. Dr. Abdullah Fahimi - Research Fellow at the German Council on Foreign Relations. Topic: "Climate and Energy Policies; Climate Action in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Countries."



- Dr. Giriraj Amarnath - Principal Researcher in Disaster Risk Management and Climate Resilience at the International Water Management Institute. Topic: "Disaster Risk Management Adaptation Planning and Investment; Climate Resilience Strategies."

This comprehensive structure allowed for a rich exchange of ideas and strategies aimed at addressing the urgent climate challenges in Afghanistan.

In conclusion, the conference served as a vital platform for addressing the urgent climate challenges facing Afghanistan. By bringing together diverse stakeholders, including experts, youth representatives, and international organizations, the event facilitated meaningful discussions on strategies for reducing climate vulnerability and securing necessary support. The insights gained from the presentations and panel discussions emphasized the importance of collaboration and innovative approaches in tackling the climate crisis, ensuring that Afghanistan's needs are recognized and prioritized on the global stage.

Link of the conference recorded by ODI: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a1Ur2b6HHGQ>





COP16 Conference of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

THE 16th CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP16)

COP16 to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) took place in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from 2 – 13 December 2024. This significant gathering brought together representatives from 200 countries to discuss urgent climate issues and to advance international cooperation in addressing droughts, land degradations and desertification.

16



Bilateral meetings with key participants

During the conference, bilateral meetings played a crucial role, providing a platform for party members to engage openly with all participants. I had the opportunity to meet with senior delegates from various international organizations, fostering important discussions and collaborations. These meetings occurred both individually and alongside plenary sessions and negotiation processes, allowing for a comprehensive exchange of ideas and strategies. The interactions not only enriched my understanding of the issues at hand but also strengthened relationships among stakeholders committed to addressing desertification and related challenges.

Meeting with the Global Mechanism of UNCCD

On December 6, 2024, I had the honor of meeting with two senior members of the UNCCD Executive Secretariat who are involved in country proposals support and engagement processes. During our meeting, they introduced their areas of responsibility, specifically focusing on the support for engaging countries.

I addressed the adverse impacts of climate change on Afghanistan, highlighting severe issues such as extreme droughts that have damaged our land and led to the loss of greenery. I emphasized that since 2021, Afghanistan has not benefited from global commitments, and the situation will deteriorate further if Afghanistan is excluded from decision-making processes. I urged that the international community should adopt flexible approaches and explore alternative financing options for significant projects in Afghanistan. I stressed that if the current government is not receiving financial assistance, various national and international organizations, along with UN agencies, are ready to implement these projects. I mentioned that organizations like UNDP, WFP, DACAAR and many others are actively working in rural communities to support affected populations. Additionally, I pointed out the presence of national and international consortiums capable of executing impactful projects. I insisted that Afghanistan be included in the new commitments of \$12 billion for 80 drought-affected countries. The UNCCD Secretariat members expressed great interest in this issue, acknowledging the importance of alternative options and the need to support a country like Afghanistan. We agreed to follow up on this crucial matter after the COP16 conference, and they promised to support us in the process.



Meeting with the Director of the G20 Global Land Initiative – UNCCD

On December 6, 2024, I had the honor of meeting Dr. Muralee Thummarukudy, the Director General of the G20 Global Land Initiative of UNCCD. The meeting was very productive, and Mr. Thummarukudy demonstrated a strong awareness of the context in Afghanistan.

During our discussion, I emphasized the extreme vulnerability of Afghanistan to the adverse impacts of climate change. I also shared information about the financial support available to Afghanistan with both national and international platforms. Additionally, I highlighted the efforts of the EPTDO organization in combating drought and building resilience in communities affected by climate change.

I shared insights gained from my visits to 29 provinces of Afghanistan, where I encountered numerous organizations providing vital services to affected communities. One notable example is the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA), which has been doing exemplary work.

I suggested that if the G20 Global Land Initiative has relevant projects, they could consider financing various national and international consortiums in the country and through these initiatives they can provide assistance to the affected communities of Afghanistan.

Mr. Thummarukudy acknowledged the hardships Afghanistan is facing and shared that he has previously traveled to the country. He mentioned that the G20 Global Land Initiative is committed to providing assistance to affected communities worldwide through calls for applications for various activities. He stated that we can submit the proposal through this process.



About G20 Global Land Initiative

The G20, or Group of Twenty, is an intergovernmental forum of the world’s major developed and developing economies. In November 2020, at the Riyadh (Virtual) Summit of the G20 leaders, the G20 launched the Global Initiative on Reducing Land Degradation and Enhancing Conservation of Terrestrial Habitats. The ambition of this Global Initiative is to prevent, halt and reverse land degradation and reduce degraded land by 50 per cent by 2040. **Collectively, the G20 accounts for 85% of global GDP, 75% of international trade and two-thirds of the world population, making it the premier forum for international economic cooperation.**



Report on Delivered Presentation: Employing GIS and GPS Technology to Aid in the Maintenance of Re-greening Projects

On December 7, 2024, I had the honor of delivering a professional presentation titled "Employing GIS and GPS Technology to Aid in the Maintenance of Re-greening Projects" at the G20 Global Land Initiative of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). This significant event took place in the Blue Zone – Restoration Pavilion from 14:00 to 15:00. The session gathered a diverse audience comprising experts, academics, country delegates, and representatives from various international organizations, emphasizing the importance of technology in sustainable land management.

Overview of the Session: The session was structured to last one hour, featuring three selected speakers from different countries, each discussing specific topics related to land restoration and sustainability. As a partner organization with UNCCD, the EPTDO was privileged to be chosen for this critical session. This opportunity underscored the significance of our work and our commitment to advancing re-greening initiatives globally.

Presentation Highlights: During my presentation, I focused on the integration of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Global Positioning System (GPS) technologies in the design and maintenance of re-greening projects. I outlined several key points:

Importance of GIS and GPS: I discussed how GIS and GPS technologies can enhance the planning and monitoring of re-greening efforts. These tools enable precise mapping of project areas, facilitate data collection, and support decision-making processes.

Case Studies: I shared case studies that demonstrated successful applications of GIS and GPS in re-greening projects around the world. These examples illustrated how technology can improve project outcomes, ensuring more effective use of resources and better tracking of environmental changes.

Stakeholder Engagement: Emphasizing the participatory nature of re-greening projects, I highlighted how GIS and GPS tools can foster collaboration among stakeholders. This approach ensures that local communities, governments, and organizations work together towards common goals.

Panel Discussion

Following the presentation, a panel discussion took place, featuring the speakers who shared their insights on related topics. The interactive nature of the session encouraged questions and discussions, allowing participants to engage deeply with the subject matter. The diverse perspectives presented enriched the dialogue, highlighting the multifaceted challenges and solutions in re-greening efforts.



Conclusion: The session was a resounding success, marked by active participation and rich discussions. The use of GIS and GPS technologies was recognized as crucial in enhancing the effectiveness of re-greening projects worldwide. This event not only underscored the importance of technological integration in sustainable land management but also fostered a collaborative spirit among participants. The positive feedback received from attendees reaffirmed the relevance of our work and the potential impact of technology in addressing global environmental challenges. As we move forward, it is imperative to continue leveraging these tools and fostering partnerships to ensure successful re-greening initiatives in the future.



Meeting with representatives of Interactional Drought Resilience Alliance – UNCCD

I had the honor of meeting with the representatives of the International Drought Resilience Alliance within the UNCCD. Initially, I shared information about the extreme vulnerability of Afghanistan and the urgent need for it to be financially supported. I highlighted the activities of the EPTDO organization in building rural community resilience to extreme droughts. The International Drought Resilience Alliance delegates expressed their concerns about the severe impact of climate change on the world, particularly the occurrence of severe droughts. They emphasized the work of the alliance, mentioning that it is a global initiative aimed at providing support to the countries most affected by these issues. We agreed to follow up this for Afghanistan after the COP conference.





During the COP16 conference, I participated in global advocacy campaigns through media outlets. I was invited to attend the UNCCD G20 Global Land Initiative campaign, where I recorded voice messages. I spoke about how climate change is impacting developing countries like Afghanistan. I addressed key solutions for responding to extreme droughts and other aspects of land degradation. The UNCCD communication team is publishing these advocacy messages on their official platforms. They are recording the voices of many selected NGO delegates and will use these as advocacy messages to help the world understand how countries are suffering and what local solutions exist

***** *



Meeting with the director general of CCAD



I had the honor of meeting Mr. El Salvador, the Director General of the Comisión Centroamericana de Ambiente y Desarrollo (CCAD), based in Central America. During the meeting, we discussed how we can collaborate to promote land conservation and explore various approaches. Although the CCAD is based in Central America, it is also working in other countries to save the land and establish partnerships.

We agreed to follow up after the COP16 conference to work together on all aspects of land conservation, and we need to map out some new activities in the relevant fields.

Meeting with the Director General of CCAD:

During the COP16 conference, I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Iain Stewart, Director of Membership, Commissions, and Communications at the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Mr. Iain introduced the membership process of the IUCN and mentioned that our NGO is eligible to apply for partnership. He highlighted the importance of this partnership, stating that NGOs can access several benefits, such as funding and participation in a fully funded conference every four years.

In the meeting, we agreed to follow up after COP16, and the EPTDO will apply for membership.





Advocacy Letter Highlights Afghanistan's Climate Crisis

Several national and international organizations and experts based in Afghanistan have co-authored an advocacy letter published by Al Jazeera News. This letter aims to convey a clear message to the world about the chronic challenges Afghanistan faces due to climate change.

Initiated by the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA), this advocacy effort underscores the urgent need for global attention and action. The SCA is actively engaged in rural communities across Afghanistan, providing sustainable services to support the affected population.

Title of the Article

Afghanistan: Caught Between Climate Change and Global Indifference

Co-Authors:

- **Abdulhadi Achakzai:** Climate activist attending COP29 and Director of Environmental Protection Trainings and Development Organization
- **Dr. Assem Mayar:** Post-doctoral researcher specializing in climate change
- **Charles Davy:** Managing Director, Afghanaid
- **Klaus Lokkegaard:** Head of Secretariat, DACAAR
- **Nasr Muflahi:** Country Director for Afghanistan, People in Need

Link to read the article

<https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2024/11/21/afghanistan-caught-between-climate-change-and-global-indifference>

Partnered organizations logos



Swedish Committee
for Afghanistan

Afghanaid



National and International Media Coverage of My Participation at COP29 and COP16

The media plays a crucial role in advancing advocacy, amplifying messages, and informing the public about decisions made at high-level conferences. The UNFCCC recognizes the media as a powerful tool, providing accreditations to international outlets to attend COP conferences and report on the decision-making processes.

I view engaging with the media as one of my key responsibilities. My primary aim is to disseminate the messages conveyed by world leaders and advocate for climate change issues through various media platforms. Below is a list of media outlets that published my interviews during the conferences, although I also participated in several live programs for which records are not available.

No	Name of the news channel	Theme of the article published	Link
1	Reuters	The Taliban's presence could build trust between Afghanistan and international donors, said Abdulhadi Achakzai, founder of the Afghanistan climate nonprofit Environmental Protection Trainings and Development Organization	reut.rs/4eG0XHh
2	Reuters	UN moves to unlock stuck climate financing for Afghanistan. The Taliban's presence could build trust between Afghanistan and international donors, said Abdulhadi Achakzai, founder of the Afghanistan climate nonprofit Environmental Protection Trainings and Development Organization, on the sidelines of COP29. <i>"It will be a safer world for the future to include Afghanistan officially in the agenda," he said. "We see this is an opportunity. There are funds for Afghanistan, we just need to secure it."</i>	https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/sustainable-finance-reporting/un-moves-unlock-stuck-climate-financing-afghanistan-agencies-say-2024-11-20/
3	NPR News	A first-ever invite to Taliban reps from the U.N. climate	https://www.google.com/search?q=Abdulhadi+Achakzai&sca_esv=cefaafe02d65fc56&rlz=1C1GCEV_enAF1056AF



		"Afghanistan is not officially in the agenda, but having NEPA delegates as observers makes a difference," says Abdulhadi Achakzai, a climate activist with a Kabul-based environmental nonprofit who participated in the summit as an observer.	1056&sxsrf=ADLYWIIJo4pOyxObrnas6F54bl28vhJ-A7Q:1736398303320&ei=31V_Z7KgE-PBhblPhsG6gAo&start=10&sa=N&ssstk=ATObxK6Ap2VIhwjNjn9_HGplzZCavV9oqngAoBiXZxc9mJahaqhG3e6m8CTt3Mc2KzuK5-PACTfw0KGQ9QwPxM1XoNjydMz6JqUBMg&ved=2ahUK Ewji7vg6-eKAXXjYEEAHYagDqAQ8NM DegQIChAW&biw=1280&bih=593&dpr=1.5
4	The Straits Times	UN moves to unlock stuck climate financing for Afghanistan The Taliban's presence could build trust between Afghanistan and international donors, said Abdulhadi Achakzai, founder of the Afghanistan	https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/un-moves-to-unlock-stuck-climate-financing-for-afghanistan-agencies-say
5	Tolo News	Afghan Delegation Attends COP 29 Meeting in Baku Abdulhadi Achakzai, a participant at COP 29, said: "We will meet and discuss with officials from other organizations to share Afghanistan's situation with them so that they consider financial and technical support for Afghanistan."	https://tolonews.com/index.php/afghanistan-191620
6	Trend News Agency	Afghanistan to participate in COP29 in Azerbaijan Afghanistan will participate in COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, Trend reports referring to Abdulhadi Achakzai, an Afghan representative on climate change.	https://en.trend.az/business/green-economy/3885565.html
7	The Hindu	Climate-financing for Afghanistan: UN moves to unlock stuck funds, say U.N. officials "The Taliban's presence could build trust between Afghanistan and international	https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/climate-financing-for-afghanistan-un-moves-to-unlock-stuck-funds-say-un-officials/article68889365.ece



		donors,” said Abdulhadi Achakzai, founder of the Afghanistan climate non-profit Environmental Protection Trainings and Development Organization, on the sidelines of COP29.	
8	StreetInsider	Exclusive-UN moves to unlock stuck climate financing for Afghanistan, agencies say The Taliban's presence could build trust between Afghanistan and international donors, said Abdulhadi Achakzai, founder of the Afghanistan climate nonprofit Environmental Protection Trainings and Development Organization, on the sidelines of COP29.	https://www.streetinsider.com/Reuters/Exclusive-UN+moves+to+unlock+stuck+climate+financing+for+Afghanistan%2C+agencies+say/24007635.html
9	Media.az	Афганистан примет участие в COP29 в Баку Об этом сообщил афганский представитель по вопросам изменения климата, участник COP27 и COP28 от Афганистана Абдулхади Ахакзай (Abdulhadi Achakzai)	https://media.az/politika/afganistan-primet-uchastie-v-cop29-v-baku
10	cfpublic.org Central Florida Public Media	For the first time ever, Taliban reps were invited to the big U.N. climate conference "Afghanistan is not officially in the agenda, but having NEPA delegates as observers makes a difference," says Abdulhadi Achakzai, a climate activist with a Kabul-based environmental nonprofit who participated in the summit as an observer.	https://www.cfpublic.org/2024-11-22/for-the-first-time-ever-taliban-reps-were-invited-to-the-big-u-n-climate-conference
11	The Heart of Asia News	Afghan Delegation Attends COP 29 Meeting in Baku Abdulhadi Achakzai, a participant at COP 29, said: “We will meet and discuss with officials from other organizations to share Afghanistan’s situation with them so that they consider financial and technical support for Afghanistan.”	https://heartofasia.af/afghan-delegation-attends-cop-29-meeting-in-baku/



12	Vivekananda International Foundation	<p>Neighborhood News Digest- 13 November 2024</p> <p>Abdulhadi Achakzai, a participant at COP 29, said: "We will meet and discuss with officials from other organizations to share Afghanistan's situation with them so that they consider financial and technical support for Afghanistan.</p>	https://www.vifindia.org/print/13114?via=Azure
13	Pak Afghan Youth Forum	<p>UN to unlock Afghanistan climate financing</p> <p>The IEA's presence could build trust between Afghanistan and international donors. Abdulhadi Achakzai, founder of the Afghanistan climate nonprofit Environmental Protection Trainings and Development Organization, stated this. He shared this view on the sidelines of COP29.</p> <p>"It will be a safer world for the future to include Afghanistan officially in the agenda," he said. "We see this is an opportunity. There are funds for Afghanistan, we just need to secure it."</p>	https://pkafgyouthforum.com/un-to-unlock-afghanistan-climate-financing/
14	Offshore Engineer Magazine	<p>QUOTES-COP29 climate top in overtime, what are nations saying?</p>	https://energynews.oedigital.com/environment/2024/11/23/quotescop29-climate-top-in-overtime-what-are-nations-saying
15	Ariana News	<p>UN moves to unlock stuck climate financing for Afghanistan</p> <p>The IEA's presence could build trust between Afghanistan and international donors, said Abdulhadi Achakzai, founder of the Afghanistan climate nonprofit Environmental Protection Trainings and Development Organization, on the sidelines of COP29.</p>	https://www.ariananews.af/un-moves-to-unlock-stuck-climate-financing-for-afghanistan/
16	daidoanket.vn	<p>Mắc kẹt với hậu quả biến đổi khí hậu</p>	https://daidoanket.vn/mac-ket-voi-hau-qua-bien-doi-khi-hau-khi-hau-10296303.html



17	TOLO News	محور - آغاز نشست اقلیمی کاپ ۲۹ در پایتخت آذربایجان	https://tolonews.com/fa/mehwar-191627
18	Shamshad News	گوترش به کشورهای صنعتی؛ به کشورهای آسیب دیده از تغییرات اقلیمی کمک کنید عبدالهادی اچکزی، یکی از شرکت کنندگان نشست کاپ می گوید: «هدف از این کنفرانس این است که بتوانیم مشکلات تغییرات اقلیمی را که در حال حاضر در افغانستان تجربه می کنیم و مسائل مالی و تخنیکی که در افغانستان داریم، اما افغانستان از آنها استفاده کرده نمی تواند، در این کنفرانس مورد بحث قرار خواهد گرفت»	https://shamshadnews.com/fa/2024/11/19/%DA%AF%D9%88%D8%AA%D8%B1%D8%B4-%D8%A8%D9%87-%DA%A9%D8%B4%D9%88%D8%B1%D9%87%D8%A7%D8%B8C-%D8%B5%D9%86%D8%B9%D8%AA%DB%8C%D8%9B-%D8%A8%D9%87-%DA%A9%D8%B4%D9%88%D8%B1%D9%87%D8%A7%D8%B8C-%D8%A2%D8%B3%DB%8C/
19	خبرگزاری دید	هرج و مرج اقلیمی در افغانستان امسال، مانند ۲۰۲۳، عبدالهادی اچکزی، فعال تغییر اقلیم افغانستان، از سوی مقامات سازمان ملل اجازه یافت شرکت کند COP29 تا به عنوان ناظر در	https://didpress.com/143927-2/
20	دی دبلیو DW	ملل متحد در تلاش آزادسازی کمک مالی اقلیمی برای افغانستان است عبدالهادی اچکزی، بنیانگذار سازمان غیرانتفاعی حفاظت از محیط زیست، آموزش و توسعه در افغانستان، در حاشیه «کاپ ۲۹» گفت که حضور طالبان در این نشست می تواند بین افغانستان و کمک کنندگان بین المللی اعتماد ایجاد کند	https://www.dw.com/fa-af/%D9%85%D9%84%D9%84-%D9%85%D8%AA%D8%AD%D8%AF-%D8%AF%D8%B1-%D8%AA%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%B4-%D8%A2%D8%B2%D8%A7%D8%AF%D8%B3%D8%A7%D8%B2%DB%8C-%DA%A9%D9%85%DA%A9-%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%84%DB%8C-%D8%A7%D9%82%D9%84%DB%8C%D9%85%DB%8C-%D8%A8%D8%B1%D8%A7%DB%8C-%D8%A7%D9%81%D8%BA%D8%A7%D9%86%D8%B3%D8%AA%D8%A7%D9%86-%



			%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%AA/a-70833373
21	Tolo News	د کاپ ۲۹ مه غونډه د افغانستان د پلاوي په گډون باکو کې پيل شوه	https://tolonews.com/pa/afghanistan-191620
22	ReliefWeb logoRelief Web	No Climate Change Deniers: The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan goes to COP29, as an observer	https://reliefweb.int/report/afghanistan/no-climate-change-deniers-islamic-emirate-afghanistan-goes-cop29-observer



The Road Ahead: Building a Climate-Resilient Future for Afghanistan

Participating in both the COP29 and COP16 conferences marked a significant milestone in my journey as an advocate for climate action. For a nation like Afghanistan, representation in global forums is not just a matter of pride; it underscores the urgent need to address pressing environmental challenges. These conferences, while not platforms for direct financial transactions or formal agreements, serve as critical venues for advocacy, networking, and raising awareness about a country's vulnerabilities. We highlight the contributions Afghanistan is making in the global fight against climate change, and for NGOs like the EPTDO (Environmental Protection and Development Organization), these events are invaluable opportunities for collaboration and learning.

The Importance of COP Conferences

The COP conferences are not merely events; they are catalysts for change. They provide a stage for nations to share their experiences, challenges, and commitments related to climate action. These gatherings are vital for developing countries like Afghanistan, where the impacts of climate change are felt most acutely. The conferences foster an environment where international and national organizations can engage in dialogue, share best practices, and forge strategic partnerships.

For NGOs, attending these conferences can enhance their ability to influence policy and mobilize resources. The EPTDO, for instance, leverages the insights gained from these events to strengthen its operational framework and align its initiatives with global standards. The knowledge and networks acquired at COP conferences empower organizations to implement effective climate strategies within their communities.

Action Plans Post-COP Conferences

With the conclusion of COP29 and COP16, the real work begins. It is essential to translate commitments made during these conferences into actionable plans. The EPTDO is currently drafting a comprehensive action plan that outlines specific steps and strategies to achieve the goals set forth during these discussions. This plan will serve as a roadmap for collaboration with both national and international organizations, ensuring that commitments are not just words but lead to tangible outcomes.

Key Initiatives Moving Forward

1. **Follow-Up on COP Decisions:** We will actively track the commitments made during COP29 and COP16, ensuring accountability and progress.
2. **Funding Proposals:** The EPTDO will establish national and international partnerships to jointly collaborate and communicate with the UNFCCC secretariat to submit proposals aimed at securing funding for new projects. We are targeting a substantial amount of \$300 billion fund established this year to address pressing climate issues.



3. **Engagement with UNCCD:** We will pursue funding opportunities from the UNCCD, aiming to secure funding from the newly established \$12 billion funds to support our communities and initiatives.
4. **Collaboration with International Organizations:** The EPTDO is committed to engaging with over ten international organizations interested in collaborating on projects in Afghanistan. This collaboration will be pivotal for implementing effective climate strategies.
5. **Preparation for Upcoming Conferences:** We will prepare for the UNFCCC-SBI Bonn Conference and the COP30 to be held in Brazil in November 2025, ensuring that Afghanistan's voice is heard in future discussions.
6. **Collaboration with NEPA:** The EPTDO will work closely with the National Environment Protection Agency (NEPA) to align our efforts with new commitments regarding Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and National Adaptation Plans (NAP).

The Path to Collaboration

To realize these ambitious goals, the EPTDO is open to collaboration with all national and international organizations. We believe that collective action is key to addressing the multifaceted challenges posed by climate change. By fostering partnerships, we can leverage resources, share knowledge, and amplify our impact.

The path forward requires a concerted effort from all stakeholders involved in climate action. It is essential to create inclusive platforms that allow for diverse voices to contribute to the discourse. Through collaboration, we can develop innovative solutions that are tailored to the unique challenges faced by Afghanistan and similar nations.

Conclusion

The journey towards a climate-resilient future for Afghanistan has only just begun. The insights and connections gained from the COP29 and COP16 conferences provide a strong foundation for our future endeavors. By implementing actionable plans, securing funding, and fostering collaboration, we can ensure that Afghanistan not only participates in global climate discussions but also leads by example.

The commitment to addressing climate change is a shared responsibility that requires dedication, innovation, and collaboration. As we move forward, the EPTDO stands ready to engage with partners from around the world to create a sustainable and resilient future for Afghanistan. Together, we can turn the promises made at these global conferences into reality and pave the way for a brighter, more sustainable tomorrow.





Contact EPTDO organization via below emails:

Website: <https://www.eptdo-evn.org/>

Email: Eptdo.ngo@gmail.com | info@eptdo-evn.org

Phone & WhatsApp: +93707288062

