

## **Post-Taliban Governance of Natural Resources in Afghanistan**

**Belinda Bowling and Asif Zaidi**

More than three decades of conflict devastated Afghanistan's natural resource base and shattered its environmental governance institutions. In the eight years since the fall of the Taliban regime in 2001, the Government of Afghanistan, with support from UNEP and other international partners, has made notable progress towards establishing institutions for environmental management and developing policy and regulatory framework for natural resource management. This framework has in common a community-based approach to natural resource management, which is being tested on pilot scales at the community level in different parts of the country. It is hoped that the combination of bottom-up and top-down approaches will result in community-based natural resource management programmes on a broad scale, which should assist in restoration of the natural resource base and improvement of rural livelihoods, reducing the number of natural resource related disputes and conflicts. This overarching approach is, however, threatened by the ongoing insurgency and resulting lack of peace and stability, as well as the continued failure to establish rule of law in most parts of the country.