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Продовольственная и
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организация
Объединенных
Наций

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

NEAR EAST FORESTRY COMMISSION

NINETEENTH SESSION

NEAR EAST FORESTRY WEEK

HAMMAMET, TUNISIA
5 – 9 APRIL 2010

**Forests and range: adapting to global changes for sustainable
development**

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FORESTS (2011)

1. In its resolution 61/193, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2011 as the International Year of Forests (IYF). FAO will work in close collaboration with countries and the IYF focal point, the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) Secretariat, and other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) in the implementation of the year.
2. The celebration of the IYF aims at raising general awareness of the important role of forests in national socio-economies, welfare of rural populations, environmental protection as well as informing the public on the need for their conservation and sustainable development. Governments, regional and international organizations, civil society organizations and other stakeholders are expected to actively observe this year by organizing related activities.
3. In response to the UN declaration, a number of member countries and organizations indicated their strong interest in engaging in the celebration of the IYF. The Year will be marked by observances at major forest events in several regions of the world such as Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin and North America and by numerous countries. To facilitate the organization of activities in support of the IYF, governments and stakeholders are also expected to set up national committees and designate country focal points.
4. The celebration of the IYF represents a unique opportunity which should be seized in the Near East region, both by individual countries and the region as a whole, to increase the profile of both forestry and range sectors and to raise public awareness of the key role of forests and range

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and their social, economic and environmental values and functions. This occasion also offers the possibility to draw national, regional and international attention to the need for greater commitment and support to these vital sectors.

5. In this vein, it is recommended that the region focus on events and activities on which strategic partnerships can be built, arouse the interest and commitment of the public, and youth in particular, to exercise greater responsibility towards forests and environment protection, and to encourage enhanced public participation in forest-related activities at all levels. Examples of activities for awareness raising are listed below.

I. National level

- (a) Mass media:
 - (i) preparation and broadcast of television and radio messages;
 - (ii) publication of articles on newspapers; and
 - (iii) press conference regarding the events to be organized;
- (b) web sites: information regarding the IYF and the planned activities;
- (c) publications: booklets, brochures, leaflets, posters, education materials;
- (d) contests: children's paintings, sport events, essay and article writing;
- (e) exhibitions: photos, film and video projections (in schools in particular);
- (f) tree planting operations, organization of tours and excursions;
- (h) other items: postal stamps, stickers, badges.

II. Regional level

At regional level, awards can be granted to agencies, associations or individuals including youth for remarkable actions/practices in favour of forest/environment protection. Such awards could include grants for the best work in the case of children and teenagers (painting, essay, photo etc.), for the most efficient actions or practices for forests and forest tree species preservation (associations, communities etc.) and for the best forest/range management programmes (projects, etc.). Other events can include regional round tables, publications (flyers, posters etc.)

6. The Commission may wish to:
- Identify events and activities to organize throughout 2011 at regional and national levels in order to make the IYF as successful as possible for a more distinctive accrued profile of forestry and range sectors, and a more equitable and sustainable future.
 - Discuss ways and means to facilitate and promote activities related to the International Year at the local and national levels and to create voluntary partnerships among Member States, international organizations and major groups.