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	منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة	联合国 粮食及 农业组织	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture	Продовольственная и сельскохозяйственная организация Объединенных Наций	Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación
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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
FORESTRY POLICY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Background

1. The 18th Session of the Near East Forestry Commission stressed the importance of forest policies and legislation and the role they play in the conservation and management of forests, other wooded lands, rangelands and trees outside forests. It noted that, while all countries in the region have developed forest policies and legislation in the past, some were in the process of revising and updating them. It was also stressed that some countries lacked the necessary measures and institutional setting to implement such laws and legislation. Member countries were invited to strive to create synergies and strengthen cooperation among all the institutions and sectors dealing with forest-related activities and trees outside forests, including urban forests and trees, protected areas and other ecosystems. The Commission also noted the importance and benefits of including the various stakeholders concerned in the formulation of policies and legislation.

(a) Institutions and legislation

2. The 18th Session of the Near East Forestry Commission recommended that FAO undertake a study on the forest policies, laws and institutions in the countries of the region. The study was intended to serve as a baseline for providing the necessary support to countries when updating their legislation and policies, where these exist, and when drafting new policies and

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legislation, if necessary. It should also help creating synergies among all the institutions concerned. Intending to first organize a regional expert consultation on forest policies before undertaking such a study, it was suggested hold such a consultation after the completion of the development of guidelines for forest policy formulation. As adjustments in institutions and legislation is usually a follow-up step after (larger) revisions of the forest policy, this would form part of the expert consultation.

(b) Guidelines for forest policy formulation

3. FAO has recently concluded the development of “Guidelines for Forest Policy Development”. These guidelines are intended to provide the necessary support to countries in developing new or revising existing policies. They should allow sharing the experiences of countries in forest policy development and related implications on implementation, including on forest laws and institutions. The guidelines clarify what a national forest policy is and what it should help to achieve, and how it relates to other means of governance, including forest legislation and national forest programmes. They provide detailed guidance on how to go about in national forest policy development, formulation, and adoption. The guidelines also cover main aspects of preparing for the implementation of a new policy, including review and reform of institutions and forest legislation. It is planned to test the guidelines in 2010 with a view to develop training and other support materials in order to better support countries in forest policy development and implementation.

Topics for discussion at the 19th NEFC

4. Given the recent and rich experiences in forest policy development in a range of countries in the region, the Near East Forestry Commission is invited to:

- identify requirements for training and support materials for forest policy development, and dissemination of the related guidelines.
- identify capacity building needs in the region for reviewing and strengthening forest policy and its integration with other sector policies.