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NEAR EAST FORESTRY AND RANGE COMMISSION

TWENTY-FIRST SESSION

THIRD NEAR EAST FORESTRY WEEK

Amman, Jordan, 26 - 30 January 2014

FAO AND COUNTRY ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION AND FOLLOW-UP ON REQUESTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 20TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

Summary

- This note has been prepared to inform the Near East Forestry and Rangelands Commission (NEFRC) about FAO forestry activities of interest to the region which were carried out in 2012-2013. The activities undertaken by countries in response to the requests and recommendations of the Twentieth Session of the Commission are summarized in Annex A.
- Countries that submitted reports to the Secretariat are: Iraq, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Tajikistan and Turkey. It must be noted that not all the reporting countries implemented all the recommendations.

I. REVIEW OF NEFRC AND OTHER FAO FORESTRY ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING FOLLOW-UP ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 20TH SESSION (NEFCR20)

A. FOREST RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Forest policy and sustainable development

1. In supporting the dynamic of policy dialogue and in pursuance of the recommendation of the NEFRC20, FAO conducted a regional study on "Challenges in adopting an integrated approach to managing forest and rangelands in the Near East Region". Based on country case studies in Iran, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia, the study provides an indication of the challenges in fostering collaboration between key players and integrating forest and range management among the countries of the Near East and North Africa (NENA) region and gives an indication of what needs to be done to enhance sustainability in the region.

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Non Wood Forest Products

2. In response to the recommendations of the NEFRC 20, The FAO Regional Office for the NENA commissioned a study on "Experiences of Near East countries on utilization and processing of non-wood forest products (NWFP)". The study covered five major NWFP commodities in the Near East; namely bee- honey in Yemen, Gum Arabic in Sudan, pistachios in Islamic Republic of Iran, rosemary in Tunisia and Stone Pine in Lebanon. The study is intended to support FAO efforts in raising awareness of the vital role that forest and ranges play in supporting the livelihoods of rural people and in food security in Near East Region. It is hoped that the information provided on NWFPs would help in broadening and deepening the debate on models of governance of forests and rangelands and to stimulate actions and more financing for the forest and rangeland sector in the Near East and beyond.

Drylands Restoration Initiative

3. FAO, in collaboration with its partners, is preparing guidelines for restoring the resilience of forest landscapes in drylands. Two workshops were organized along the course of this process; one in Konya (Turkey) in May 2012 to launch the process and the second in Dakar (Senegal), in February 2013 for finalization of the guidelines and exploring/ promoting their use within the Great Green Wall context. Countries from NENA involved in the process included Egypt, Sudan, Mauritania, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco and Lebanon. The initiative is contributing to the implementation of the ten-year strategy (2008–2018) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD); the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Strategic Plan for Biodiversity for 2011–2020; and the adaptation and mitigation efforts being made within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel (GGWSS)

4. FAO is actively partnering in the implementation of the African Union initiative the GGWSS. Apart from promoting the use of the guidelines developed under framework of the Drylands Restoration Initiative, FAO rendered its support to NEFRC member countries participating in the GGWSSI to develop a common strategy.

Agroforestry

5. The potential of agroforestry to contribute to sustainable development has been recognized in international policy meetings, including the UNFCCC and the CBD. However, agroforestry has not sufficiently addressed in national policy-making, land-use planning and rural development programmes and continues to face a variety of challenges. It is in this context that the FAO Forestry Department, in cooperation with the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Centre (CATIE) and the Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD) produced a guide designed to assist countries to support conditions that will optimize agroforestry's contribution to national development programmes. The guide was translated by the FAO Regional Office for the Near East into Arabic to facilitate its use in the region.

Use of Treated Waste Water (TWW)

6. In line with the requests of the Commission the GCP/RAB/013/ITA, funded by Italian partners, has demonstrated the important role of wastewater reuse in coping with water scarcity and sustaining people's livelihoods in arid zones. Lessons learned on the use of TWW in forestry and agroforestry have been disseminated and transfer of knowledge strengthened through improving communication and networking among project countries (Algeria, Morocco, Egypt and Tunisia) and within the Regional Initiative on Water Scarcity in the Near East.

7. In particular, the project provided training for young professionals and experts of Egyptian project partner institutions on forest inventories and forest management practices; organized a number of workshops on the use of TWW with the participation of representatives of the four countries and international experts; established a project website to serve as document repository of the project

activities; and funded a PhD student of the University of Marrakech to work, under the supervision of the University of Basilicata (Italy), on the implementations of new technologies on ferti-irrigation.

Watershed Management

8. FAO Interregional Project for Poverty Alleviation and Combating Desertification through collaborative Watershed Management (GCP/INT/093/SPA) in Mauritania and Morocco has recently been completed. It indicated promising results in enhancing the capacity of key stakeholders in the participating countries to design and implement collaborative and integrated watershed management programs in arid and semi-arid lands with a view to fight poverty, improve food security, combat desertification and promote environmental good governance. A Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) project was recently approved to strengthen methods and techniques and support the preparation of the second phase of the project.

B. FOREST AND RANGE INFORMATION

Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2015

9. FRA 2015 development began in June 2011 with the FRA Advisory Group discussing the FRA Long-Term Strategy and the implications for FRA 2015. The Global Meeting in Preparation for FRA 2015 and the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire Reporting was held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, on 6-10 May 2013 to set the road for implementation. To reduce forest-related reporting burden that countries face, FRA 2015 will adopt an approach of updating the FRA 2010 country reports rather than starting with blank templates, pre-filling data for countries and eliminating some of the more difficult variables. It will also introduce the new Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CFRQ) which is developed with regional data collection partners such as the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), FOREST EUROPE, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Observatory of Central African Forests (OFAC) in cooperation with countries of the Montreal Process.

State of the World's Forests (SOFO)

10. The tenth edition of SOFO 2012 explored the role of forests in human history, finding strong links between forest use and economic and social development and between unabated forest destruction and economic decline. It suggested that forest production has an important role to play in a sustainable future in which consumption and production are connected in a closed cycle. It pointed out the importance of striking a balance between forest conservation and use, and proposed four strategies for ensuring that forests make their vital contribution to a greener, more sustainable world.

11. Based on the recommendation from COFO, the next edition of SOFO will aim to inform the Committee, and through it to contribute to the review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests by assessing the achievement of or the progress towards the second global objective of forests, which addresses the forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits and their contribution to improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people. SOFO 2014 will focus specifically on the socio-economic benefits of forests. It will provide available data and information on these from a variety of sources, the measures applied to sustain them and an analysis of the effectiveness of these measures, and on this basis, make recommendations for the future,

C. SUB REGIONAL COOPERATION

Inter-session activities of the Near East Forestry and Range Commission

12. The first inter-session meeting of the Bureau of the Near East Forestry & Range Commission (NEFRC) was held in Rome in September 25, 2011. The meeting took stock of progress made by FAO in the implementation of the recommendations of the 20th session of NEFRC and provided guidance to the Secretariat for the implementation of recommendations according to countries' priorities.

13. A second Bureau meeting was held in Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, from 29 to 30 May 2013, with discussion focused on the results of the questionnaire survey which was carried out among member countries to identify priority issues and topics to be included in the agenda, as well as on the planning and preparations for the implementation of the NEFRC and the third Near East Forestry Week (NEFW).

14. The second meeting stressed the need for setting up an integrated management system of forest and rangeland resources on the basis of an integrated landscape approach; reinforcing legislation and law related to forests and rangelands management; and addressing forest fires management which became a major issue in the context of water scarcity and the negative impacts of climate change.

The African Forestry and Wildlife Commission

15. The 19th session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC) was held in Windhoek, Republic of Namibia from 30 September - 4 October 2013. The Commission supported the process lead by the UN to establish Sustainable Development Goals as launched in the Rio+20 Conference (The future we want) and called for a standalone forest Sustainable Development Goal while incorporating into it related elements like mountains, other forest lands like bush land or rangelands, sustainable use of wildlife as well as trees outside forests.

Silva Mediterranea

16. The 21th session of *Silva Mediterranea* held in Antalya, Turkey in February 2012 supported the initiative for the deployment of an Integrated Strategy on Mediterranean Forests as a planning tool for the period 2012-2016, with a broader vision of forests' contribution to rural development and other functions played by Mediterranean forests in overall development and a green economy, in particular in the light of climate change. The session adopted a number of decisions including the creation of two new working groups: 'Desertification and Restoration of Forest Ecosystems in Arid Zones' to be led by Turkey with FAO technical support; and "Urban and Periurban Forestry (UPF)", and extended the mandate of the Working Group on Cork oak to include other Mediterranean Non-Wood Forest Products in order to reinforce the active participation of non-cork producing countries.

17. The new Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests (SFMF) were prepared and launched during the International Day of Forest in Tlemcen, Algeria. SFMF has two major components: i) a strategic analysis based on the information in the State of Mediterranean Forests (SoMF); ii) three main objectives for the Mediterranean region to be reached. Detailed information is available at: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/silvamed/en/> and <http://www.iii-med.forestweek.org/>.

The Near East Regional Conference

18. The 31st FAO Regional Conference for the Near East (NERC-31) was held at FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy, from 14 to 18 May 2012. The RNE Senior Forestry Officer presented a paper titled "Contribution of natural resources in forests and ranges in food security: programmes, policies and good governance". Based on the paper, the Conference requested FAO to assist member countries in the Region in enhancing their technical capacity to deal with the impacts of climate change on forest and rangeland ecosystems, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture resources; and to address problems affecting natural resources from an integrated perspective through special studies and in-depth analyses elaborating appropriate national policies, strategies and programs to be implemented in mitigating the impact of Climate Change. The Conference also called for an increased financial allocation from FAO to the region through the Program of Work and Budget 2014 -15 and through increasing the share of the Near East in the Technical Cooperation Program.

Forests, Rangelands and Climate Change

19. Climate change was at the centre of the discussions of the UN General Assembly meeting on 24 September 2013 in New York as one of the most pressing problems currently facing humanity. The Near East Region is among regions the most prone to climate change effects evidenced by recurrent cycles of drought, floods and wind storms. The topic had been also at the focus of discussions in the last three NEFRC sessions. However, the response of the countries to climate change effects and the

degree of their involvement in climate change processes varies greatly. In addition to GEF funding, REDD+ offers an innovative and effective approach for the countries in the region to tackling deforestation, forest and rangelands degradation and reducing emissions.

20. In response to the request of country members, a sub-regional workshop was organized in December, 2013 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to work with the Nile basin countries (Egypt, Ethiopia, Sudan and South Sudan) and potential partners and donors on project identification and development of a project titled “Sustainable Ecosystem Management for Adaptation to Climate Change and Livelihoods Improvement in the Nile Basin”. Another similar process is planned to follow for the other three Subregions; North African countries, the Gulf Cooperation Council States and the non-Arabic speaking West Asian member countries.

State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources

21. A major exercise has been completed by FAO on this important subject which will be reported to the Commission separately as Secretariat Note FO:NEFRC/2014/15 "The state of the World's Forest Genetic Resources".

The Mountain Partnership

22. The Fourth Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership was held in Erzurum, Turkey on 17 – 20 September 2013. Participants to the meeting emphasized their willingness to conserve mountain environments and improve the livelihoods of mountain people while also empowering them. The meeting approved the four-year Strategy and Governance Document (2013 -2017) and developed a two-year work plan. The meeting invited all States, relevant United Nations bodies, regional organizations and other interested parties to ensure that mountains are included in relevant international processes.

D. FORESTRY FIELD PROGRAMMES

23. TCP/LEB/3301 Development of a GCP-project proposal for a national reforestation programme in Lebanon: FAO is providing assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) of the Government of Lebanon for developing a roadmap and formulating a GCP-project proposal for a National Afforestation/ Reforestation Programme (NARP). The roadmap was intended to draw strategic course of actions starting with the 13% forest cover in 2013 to reach by the year 2030 the level of 20% and starting with a given operational capacity within the MoA and its partners to end up with strengthened institutions at the central and local levels. In this context, a communication strategy for fundraising was also formulated and submitted to the MOA. .

24. TCP/TUN/3304 Promotion of micro forest enterprises based on NWFPs promoting small forestry enterprises in Tunisia: The project aims at identifying and supporting opportunities offered by forestry resources in promoting the livelihoods of those depending on forests and enhance their contribution to sustainable forest management. The project also intends to put in place a partnership between public and private sections and the population at large through a promotion of micro forest enterprises based on harvesting and valorization of identified NWPS in the north-western part of Tunisia (Jendouba and Beja)

25. TCP/INT/3303(D) “Enhancing regional capacities for the conservation and sustainable management of wildlife and protected areas in the Near East”: the project aims at (i) improvement of knowledge on the conservation status of key wildlife species in the countries concerned, (ii) creation of mechanisms for reinforced regional collaboration, (iii) enhancement of national and regional capacities, (iv) creation of tools for application of policies and legal frameworks, and (v) replication of positive experiences through the operationalization of the Near East Working Group on Wildlife and Protected Area Management (NEWPAM) working group.

E. SUPPORT TO COUNTRY INITIATIVES

26. GCP/IRA/064/GFF "Rehabilitation of forest landscapes and degraded land with particular attention to saline soils and areas prone to wind erosion": The project aimed at reducing land and

forest degradation by investing in sustainable land and forest management in three target provinces and developing national and local capacity to support the widespread implementation of these techniques across the whole of the country.

27. UTF/SAU/039/SAU "Sustainable Management of the Natural Forests and Rangelands in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia": The main outputs of the project concern institutional strengthening by assisting in the creation of a National Forest Development Centre, developing a national rangelands strategy, developing forest and range management and development technologies, strengthening awareness raising efforts and establishing a forest-range database aimed at providing decision makers and stakeholders with accurate information.

28. FAO is formulating a UTF project under the framework of Libya/FAO Cooperative Agreement titled "UTF/LIB/047/UTF Protection and Development of Forest and Natural Rangelands". The project is expected to be approved and start functioning in 2014.

F. DISCUSSION ITEMS

The commission may wish to consider:

- Strengthening the regional and sub-regional cooperation under the framework of the current initiatives such as the GGWS and the newly developed ones for better addressing forests and rangelands restoration related issues.
- Supporting country members to take proactive role in on-going global climate change processes and in accessing climate finance.
- Supporting the AWFC call for a standalone forest SDG at the upcoming discussions of the Open Ended Working Group in New York in February 2014.

Annex A. REPORT ON MEASURES TAKEN BY MEMBER TO FOLLOW-UP TO RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TWENTIETH SESSION OF THE NEAR EAST FORESTRY AND RANGE COMMISSION

Recommendations made by the Near East Forestry and Range Commission, Session 20	Activities proposed or taken
<p>1. Nominate, for the sake of continuity and institutional memory, a permanent representative to the NEFRC together with a permanent alternate.</p>	<p>Jordan has nominated Eng. Eid Alzubai as permanent representative to NEFRC and Dr. Mohammad Alnsour as his alternate.</p> <p>Morocco designated the Division of Forest Management in the Directorate of Forestry Development as permanent representative to NEFRC.</p> <p>Saudi Arabia nominated Mr. Abdulaziz Alhowaish, the Director General of the Department of Natural resources in the NEFRC and the Director of the Forestry Division the permanent alternate.</p> <p>Somalia designated The Director (Senior Officer) of Forest and Range Department to act as the Permanent representative.</p>
<p>2. Take concrete measures to access finance through international conventions and bodies and request FAO's support to promote this access.</p>	<p>Kyrgyzstan developed with FAO support a project on "Sustainable management of mountainous forest and land resources under climate change conditions" and seeking financial funding from GEF.</p> <p>Turkey is considering to add forestry to the existing framework of partnership agreement between Turkey and the FAO Sub-regional Office for Central Asia which encompasses cooperation in the fields of agriculture, rural development and food security.</p> <p>Somalia has accessed resources from the GEF to develop its first national Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan through FAO.</p>
<p>3. Allocate sufficient human and financial resources to the forests and rangelands programme.</p>	<p>Forestry and rangelands sectors receive sufficient human and financial resources allocation in Iraq.</p> <p>Jordan established separate directorates for forestry and rangelands, equipped with staff.</p> <p>Kyrgyzstan recommended developing the list of the priorities actions for allocating sufficient human and financial resources to the forests and rangelands programme.</p> <p>Lebanon recruited engineers and forest guards and moreover rehabilitated nurseries to increase availability of plants for reforestation program.</p>

	<p>Morocco annually recruits up to 40 foresters and provide ongoing training to technical staff. Forestry programmes are funded under the state budget and the National Forest Fund.</p> <p>Saudi Arabia efforts toward resources allocation are underway and gradually improving.</p> <p>Sudan has developed and is raising funds for a UN Joint Programme for Sustainable Charcoal Production and Alternative Livelihoods (PROSCAL) with support from FAO, UNEP and UNDP.</p> <p>Turkey, executed by units under the Directorate General of Forestry, carried out national and regional projects or activities related to sustainable forest management. The technical expertise of the Turkish Forest Service is transferred to the countries particularly in Central Asia Region as well the countries in the Balkans, Northern Africa and Near East through training programmes, study tours and through cooperation with a FAO TCP project. A new Division of Rangelands Improvement has been established under the Department of Soil Protection and Watershed Improvement.</p>
<p>4. Continue working with FAO to further develop the proposals for sub-regional cooperation programmes; quickly seek financial support for them; and to work in order that the proposed sub-regional programmes facilitate networking, dissemination of best practices, sharing of experiences, capacity strengthening and countries' efforts to integrate climate change into the forest and range sector.</p>	<p>Jordan continues its cooperation with FAO on issues related to forests and rangelands.</p> <p>The FAO Subregional Office and FAO country office are helping Kyrgyzstan to strengthen cooperation and coordination with national, regional and international bodies to further synergize forestry and rangelands issues in the region.</p> <p>Morocco initiated several cooperation programmes with FAO on forest fires, forest health and invasive species, climate change, REDD+, fight against desertification and worked with the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM) regional project towards "Optimizing the production of goods and services by Mediterranean forest ecosystems in the context of global changes".</p> <p>Iraq continues its cooperation with FAO on staff training, exchange of experiences and capacities strengthening.</p> <p>Saudi Arabia Cooperation with FAO takes place within the framework of Cooperation Programme between the MOA and FAO, specifically the UTF/SAU/039/SAU Project. It includes activities on data collection and dissemination of best forest practices, sharing experiences within KSA and with other countries, capacity strengthening.</p> <p>Somalia contributed to the development of Intergovernmental Authority on Development Regional program under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).</p> <p>Turkey increased its membership contribution to FAO from 0.38% to 0.62 % since 2011. Moreover, the country has provided 10 million USD in 5 years for the Partnership Programme to support projects developed for Central Asian countries and an additional 300.000 USD contribution to the FAO Sub-regional Office's costs. Turkey is a member of the European Regional Group and is an observer in the Near East Regional Group and is represented</p>

	<p>in FAO's technical committees, commissions, consultative meetings etc. Turkey is an active member in the Near East Forestry and Range Commission, the European Forestry Commission and Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-Silva Mediterranea. The Forest Research Institute within the DG Forestry is implementing 162 on-going applied research projects to integrate climate change into the forest and range sector.</p>
<p>5. Continue to strengthen cooperation and coordination with national, regional and international bodies to further synergize forestry and rangelands issues in the region.</p>	<p>In Iraq the Ministry of Ecology cooperated with Iraqi universities.</p> <p>In Jordan efforts are undertaken and being facilitated by the Ministry of Planning to increase cooperation.</p> <p>Lebanon has implemented several projects within the Agriculture and Rural Development Programme: Reforestation Activity is in progress. Optimization and valorization of the mitigation potential of Mediterranean forests. GIZ Project on adaptation of forest policy to climate change. National forest programme is in progress. IFAD: Project "Climate Smart Agriculture: Enhancing Adaptive Capacity of the Rural Communities in Lebanon (AgriCAL)", Vegetation survey and development of natural grassland areas in the Republic of Lebanon- Hermel Region, Deir El Ahmar – baalbak Village development.</p> <p>Regional project GIZ-Silva Mediterranea on adapting to climate change within forest policy in the MENA region (2011-2016) based in Morocco, represent a success story on cooperation between Moroccan Forest Directorate and FAO, and serves as a platform to initiate other projects.</p> <p>Cooperation is ongoing in Saudi Arabia with other national, regional and international institutions in forestry and range management, including the Ministry of Agriculture, Saudi Wildlife Commission, the Presidency for Meteorology and Environment, FAO, UNCCD, ACSAD, ICARDA and others.</p> <p>Turkey strengthened its cooperation and coordination with FAO as well as international and national bodies in the integration of rangelands issues into sustainable forest management.</p> <p>Somalia has contributed to the development of IGAD with the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme.</p>
<p>6. Identify and publicize best practices and experiences of integrating forests and rangelands in the Near East and elsewhere</p>	<p>In Jordan administrative as well as practical procedures are being implemented for integrating forests and rangelands.</p> <p>Iraq held training in the field of forests, rangeland, national parks.</p> <p>Kyrgyzstan recommended using the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT) for publicizing best practices and experiences of integrating forests and rangelands.</p> <p>Morocco capitalized on best practices and experiences and participated in the technical and scientific events and exchanges of experiences organized within the Near East region.</p>

	<p>Saudi Arabia is developing integrated practices and experiences in combating deforestation, grazing management, and developing forest and range strategies, which could be publicized in the future.</p> <p>Presidential launch of National Tree planting campaign took place in Somalia.</p> <p>Turkey recommended twenty best practices and experiences gained from the applied research projects and activities on forest and rangelands integration.</p>
<p>7. Support development and validation of the Agroforestry guidelines and further adopt and implement them.</p>	<p>In Jordan on-going projects emphasize the development of the community forestry and rangelands users in its management.</p> <p>Kyrgyzstan is recommending to organize trainings on use of the Agroforestry Guidelines.</p> <p>Lebanon's new Ministerial Decision 179/1 (March 2012) provides for the harvesting of <i>Salvia fruticosa</i> and <i>Origanum syriacum</i>.</p> <p>Morocco is undertaking efforts in rangeland management as a key area of agroforestry that led to an annual sylvopastoral programme encompassing 10 000ha and supporting 143 community users.</p> <p>Somalia did not yet validate the guidelines neither started implanting them.</p> <p>Sustainable forest management in Turkey concerned forest and trees outside forest with an ecosystem approach. The Turkish Forest Service is promoting an integrated approach in forest management using agroforestry, non-wood forest products inventory and monitoring system and valuation of ecosystem services.</p>
<p>8. Support development of the International Urban and Periurban Forestry Guidelines and further validate, adopt & implement them.</p>	<p>Awareness raising and cooperation with Baghdad municipality and governorates is underway to establish greenbelts to stop desertification and improve climate in Iraq.</p> <p>An urban and periurban community project has been formulated and being initiated in Jordan.</p> <p>Morocco's 2007 National Strategy for Urban and Periurban Forests provides for the conservation and development of forest including communication and awareness raising and partnership with local communities. A total of 50 urban forests have been implemented with an average amount of 80 million dirhams for the period of 2009-2012.</p> <p>Somalia has yet to validate and implement the guidelines.</p> <p>To build resilient cities and optimize the contributions of trees and forests to the settlements, urban forests are established and reforestation takes place and degraded land as urban and periurban forests in Turkey. The FAO voluntary guidelines constitute a valuable reference used by Turkish forestry institutions in the promotion of urban and periurban forestry using integrated approaches for resource management.</p>

<p>9. Consider Silva Mediterranea as a platform for coordinating and promoting work with international organizations.</p>	<p>Silva Mediterranea is coordinating many activities mainly in CPMF where FAO, GIZ, FFEM and other partners are being strongly involved in Lebanon.</p> <p>In Morocco, Silva Mediterranea has been used by the regional project GIZ-Silva Mediterranea on adaptation to climate change framework conditions for forest policy in the MENA region.</p> <p>Turkey is an active member of Silva Mediterranea, sharing experiences and cooperating with the countries in the Mediterranean region on key forestry issues. The Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA), and the UNDP Country Office in Turkey have agreed, among other, to collaborate within the agreed annual operational plan for the Mediterranean forests.</p>
<p>10. Consider how drylands can be integrated into REDD+ and in decisions to COFO; and focus on applied research projects in the region.</p>	<p>Integration of drylands into REDD+ is recognized in the FAO/GEF Project of Kyrgystan.</p> <p>Lebanon is launching the activity component No 4 with FFEM project “Optimization and valorization of the mitigation potential of Mediterranean forests (carbon sinks)” which will integrate REDD + in the National Reforestation Programme.</p> <p>In Morocco, dryland restoration is a major component of the fight against desertification programme and is being implemented in consultation with concerned stakeholders, forestry programs on silvopastoral, conservation and development of biodiversity, conservation of water and soil, watershed activities.</p> <p>A feasibility study on REDD+ programme for Morocco was completed with support of GIZ – Silva Mediterranea. Main focus areas were on sylvopastoral restoration through National Programme for the Fight Against Desertification (PAN-LCD), wood energy, forest fire, reforestation and land tenure</p> <p>Certain applied research from the Universities and research institutions in Saudi Arabia is suggested to be integrated in the REDD+ framework.</p> <p>In Turkey REDD+ as a critical mechanism is emerging to tackle deforestation and climate change.</p>
<p>11. Improve cooperation and mechanisms for coordination at national and regional levels.</p>	<p>Jordan continues its cooperation with national agencies involved in forestry and rangelands, while the Ministry of Planning is in charge of facilitating the cooperation at the regional level.</p> <p>A coordination mechanism is being established in the Ministry of Agriculture of Kyrgyzstan to improve national cooperation within MOA staff and different institutions.</p> <p>Morocco has developed a strategy for cooperation at regional and international levels to address forest issues and the fight against desertification. In this respect, several cooperation projects with various agencies for International Cooperation (GIZ, JICA, AFD, CIDA AECID) were initiated along with GIZ Silva Mediterranea. The Sectoral Policy Support Programme on Forest supported by EU was designed to improve governance of</p>

	<p>forest sector through strengthening the coordination between the various departments concerned and integration activities related to the forest.</p> <p>The National Committee for the follow-up and implementation of forestry strategy in Saudi Arabia plays a coordination role at national level.</p> <p>In Turkey it is recommended that the strategy on forests, forestry and rangelands for 10 years be available as first guidance tools that reflect changing priorities and expectations of the countries in the region.</p>
<p>12. Set up national technical committees to follow up on the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative at the national level and that FAO play a catalytic role in harmonizing and facilitating the monitoring and evaluation of restoration programmes in countries, in collaboration with donors.</p>	<p>Morocco is a member of the Technical Monitoring Committee of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel and attended the meeting held in Senegal in 2013.</p> <p>Turkey is strengthening its cooperation with African countries in accordance with its Africa Strategy Document. Technical assistance, financial contribution and project development has been provided including in the Great Green Wall Initiative. A new Directorate General of Combating Desertification and Erosion under the Ministry of Forestry and Water Works has been established.</p>

