

8 SUMMARY OF MAIN FOREST ISSUES IN WEST ASIA

Low forest cover and low productivity

Forest cover in most countries in West Asia is very limited, and 12 of the 15 countries in the subregion are classified as low forest-cover countries. The total forest area accounts for only 4 percent of the subregion's land area, corresponding to an average of 0.12 ha per capita. More seriously, the forest area is unevenly distributed, with Turkey and Iran accounting for 73 percent of total forests. However, West Asia countries have an average of 7 percent of their land classified as other wooded land and 42 percent as pastures with sparse trees. In view of the severe climatic conditions, growing stock and wood productivity are extremely low in most countries, not only resulting in very limited timber production, but also making it hard to re-establish forest vegetation once it has been destroyed.

Land degradation and desertification: the most critical challenges

Land degradation and desertification are widespread and are the most crucial challenges facing West Asian countries. Apart from extreme climatic conditions, land degradation and desertification are mainly caused by human intervention regarding land use and the poor management of agricultural land and rangelands. The direct causes of land degradation and desertification are:

- excessive use of irrigation water for crops, resulting in rising groundwater tables, with soil salinization and sodization problems;
- overgrazing of livestock such as camels, sheep, goats and cattle;
- uncontrolled fires in forests and on other land, caused especially by such human activities as agriculture;
- illegal and excessive fuelwood collection and charcoal production;
- conversion of forests, rangelands and croplands for unplanned urban expansion and infrastructure development;
- conversion of forests, rangelands and croplands for unplanned ecotourism development, including the construction of facilities;
- conversion of forests and rangelands to croplands;
- conflicts, resulting in the direct or indirect destruction or damage of forests.

Increasing dependence on imports

West Asia's generally low forest cover and low forest productivity limit its production of industrial roundwood and wood products. Turkey dominates the production of all types of wood product. Driven by a rising demand, West Asia has shown increasing dependence on imports of wood products, especially paper and paperboard, wood-based panels and sawnwood, over the past twenty years. During the period 1995–2004, imports grew at a rate of 5.6 percent. In 2004, West Asia's total imports were valued at about US\$5.06 billion.

Importance of biological diversity

The wide range of landforms, soils and climates in West Asia has resulted in a major variety in ecosystems, ranging from coastal mangroves to deserts and alpine forests. Mangrove ecosystems are unique and highly productive, and constitute a critical element in the hydrosphere on the coasts of the Red Sea and the Arabian Sea, while a unique cloud forest in

southern Oman has self-watering trees. West Asia has suffered a substantial loss of biodiversity and the degradation of vegetation on account of human intervention, although there is a lack of quantitative information.

Afforestation and reforestation: the main forestry activities, primarily for protective purposes

Environmental improvement is a major objective of reforestation and afforestation programmes in most of the countries. Reforestation is carried out in degraded natural forest areas to restore the biodiversity and other ecological functions of natural forests, or in cleared forest areas to rehabilitate vegetation and restore the landscape. Afforestation is carried out in barren areas for sand-dune fixation or shelterbelt establishment. However, as the main producers of wood products in the subregion, Turkey and Iran have established a certain number of plantations for wood production. West Asia had a total of 3.8 million ha of forest plantations in 2005, representing only 2.7 percent of the world total. The dry climate and sandy soil hamper any significant progress in increasing the scale of reforestation and afforestation.

Agroforestry: widespread in most West Asian countries

Agroforestry, mostly managed by private farmers, is practised fairly widely in many countries in the subregion, although information is sketchy. Its main form is as green shelterbelts to protect crops from desiccating winds and as fruit orchards to produce fruit and provide environmental services. Agroforestry also contributes significantly to domestic wood supplies, especially in Turkey and Iran. Afforestation and reforestation on rangelands is carried out in Jordan and Oman to rehabilitate rangeland ecosystems and increase their productivity.

Urban forestry receiving considerable attention

With the process of urbanization, urban forestry has received increasing attention in many countries. Urban and peri-urban forests are playing an important role in protecting cities from sand and dust storms and for recreational and other amenities. City parks and gardens have been established at high expense to enhance major urban centres, especially in the Gulf countries. Most urban and peri-urban forests in West Asia need heavy irrigation, especially in the early stages. In view of the scarcity of fresh water, the use of treated waste water has been developed in some countries to irrigate forest plantations and greenbelts.

Ecotourism: potential

Increased attention is being given to the development of forest-based ecotourism in many countries in the subregion, combined with increasing stress on managing protected areas and national parks. This development is being driven by the overall trend toward development of the tourism sector in many West Asian countries. While the scope for wood production is limited, recreational use could be an important alternative for enhancing the economic viability of forest management. Ecotourism can also help to conserve natural resources, provide employment and develop the rural economy. It is considered to have great potential in many countries.

Woodfuel and NWFPs: essential to rural livelihoods

Fuelwood and charcoal are mainly used by rural people for cooking and heating, but the extent of reliance on them varies considerably; for example, they are crucial for household energy needs in Afghanistan and Yemen. Fuelwood consumption has decreased over the past 25 years, while charcoal consumption has increased for the subregion as a whole. This trend is a result of increased incomes, ongoing urbanization and access to petroleum and natural gas in many countries. NWFPs are another important source of livelihoods and income in West Asian countries, with the production of such items as pine nuts, carob molasses, natural honey, and medicinal and aromatic plants.

Need for integrated management of forests and trees

In view of the multiple functions performed by forests and trees, and especially the very low forest cover and large areas covered by scattered trees in most countries in West Asia, forests cannot exist as a distinct sector, but forestry concerns should be addressed in conjunction with other land uses, especially agriculture and range management. Although current forest policy and management are part of agricultural or rangeland policy or management in most countries in West Asia, forest issues tend to be handled on a case-by-case basis, rather than in a comprehensive manner.

Poor information and weak institutional capacity

The state of information on forests and forestry is very poor in West Asia. Many countries have been unable to provide recent information on the area under forests and other wooded land, the condition of forests, growing stock, etc. The situation is similar with regard to the production, consumption and trade of forest products, and also to the environment. Many countries do not have remote sensing equipment for forests and carry out no forest resource surveys. The lack of forest specialists and the lack of capacity for strategic planning and policy formulation are common weaknesses in many forestry departments in the subregion.

Weak policy and legislative framework

Forest policies and legislative frameworks are not in general comprehensive and systematic, since forest issues have been addressed within agricultural or environmental policies and laws in many countries. Only very specific forest issues, such as limitations on fuelwood collection, the promotion of certain NWFPs, the protection of mangroves, incentives for afforestation and reforestation, and the establishment of protected areas are addressed largely from legal perspective. Planning, management and development concerns seldom receive the attention they deserve. Many countries therefore lack any comprehensive development strategy for the forest sector. In addition, decentralization and public participation in forest planning and management decision-making have not yet been reflected in the legislation of many countries. In many countries, the lack of a coherent policy framework, appropriate, complementary legislation and a well-defined institutional structure are recognized as the most important factors leading to forest degradation.

Centralized public management systems and limited private-sector participation

The administration and management of the forest sector in most West Asian countries highly centralised with a top-down approach to planning and decision-making processes, although the extent of this situation in the various countries differs. The centralized management system has resulted in the weakness and ineffectiveness of local institutions and the lack of participation on the part of local people and other stakeholders. The private sector's involvement in forest management in West Asia is very limited, largely because of the predominantly public ownership of forests and the limited commercial viability of forestry on account of the unfavourable growing conditions.

NGOs and rural communities: growing importance

NGOs are active in several countries in West Asia. Local NGOs are mainly supported by international NGOs, national governments and individuals. The main spheres of action of NGOs in West Asia have been in raising public awareness concerning environmental and forest issues, conserving and managing forest and wildlife protected areas, supplementing or undertaking development tasks on behalf of government organizations and implementing afforestation and reforestation activities or projects. The formal involvement of community organizations in resource management is still in its very early stages and initiatives to involve local communities in the management of forest and tree resources are only limited. There is also growing recognition of the role of local communities in decision-making relating to forests and woodlands. Overall, the participation of NGOs and rural communities in forest management and activities is increasing in West Asia, driven by growing concern for environmental protection and rural development.

ANNEX 1 DEMOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW OF WEST ASIA IN 2004

Country	Total population (millions)	Population growth (%)	Urban population (% of total)	0-14 (% of total)	15-64 (% of total)	64 and above (% of total)
Afghanistan	28.6*	..	24	..	..	..
Bahrain	0.7	1.4	90	27.5	69.6	3
Cyprus	0.8	1.2	69	20.4	67.7	11.9
Iran	67	0.9	67	29.8	65.7	4.5
Iraq	28.1*	..	67	..	..	..
Jordan	5.4	2.5	79	37.6	59.3	3.1
Kuwait	2.5	2.6	96	24.5	73.8	1.7
Lebanon	3.5	1	88	29.1	63.6	7.3
Oman	2.5	0.9	78	34.9	62.7	2.5
Qatar	0.8	5.8	92	22.3	76.5	1.3
Saudi Arabia	24	2.6	88	37.8	59.4	2.9
Syria	18.6	2.5	50	37.4	59.5	3.1
Turkey	71.7	1.4	67	29.5	65.1	5.4
United Arab Emirates	4.3	6.7	85	22.4	76.5	1.1
Yemen	20.3	3.1	26	28.5	64.2	7.3
West Asia	278.8					

Source: World Development Indicators database.

* Country outlook reports.

ANNEX 2 ECONOMIC OVERVIEW OF WEST ASIA IN 2004

Country	GDP (current US\$) millions	GDP growth (annual %)	GDP per capita (constant 2000 US\$)	Agriculture, value added (% of GDP)	Industry, value added (% of GDP)	Services, value added (% of GDP)
Afghanistan	5 761	8	..	..	..	..
Bahrain	11 012	5	13 852	..	..	..
Cyprus	15 418	4	12 439	..	..	..
Iran	163 445	6	1 885	10.8	41.5	47.7
Iraq	..	47	..	..	..	..
Jordan	11 515	8	1 940	2.8	28.9	68.4
Kuwait	55 718	7	17 674	..	..	..
Lebanon	21 768	6	5 606	6.9	20.8	72.3
Oman	24 284	3	8 961	1.9	56	42.1
Qatar	..	..	..	..	..	..
Saudi Arabia	250 557	5	8 974	4	58.9	37.2
Syria	24 022	2	1 115	23	27.2	49.8
Turkey	302 786	9	3 197	12.9	22.4	64.7
United Arab Emirates	104 204	8	22 173	2.7	55.1	42.2
Yemen	12 834	3	534	13.8	37.5	48.7
West Asia	1 003 324					

Source: World Development Indicators database

ANNEX 3 LAND USE OVERVIEW OF WEST ASIA IN 2003

Country	Land area*	Arable land		Permanent Pasture		Forests and woodland	
	1000 ha	1000 ha	%	1000 ha	%	1000 ha	%
Afghanistan	65 209	7 910	12.1	30 000	46.0	867	1.3
Bahrain	71	2	2.8	4	5.6	0	0.0
Cyprus	924	100	10.8	4	0.4	388	42.0
Iran	163 620	16 117	9.9	44 000	26.9	16 415	10.0
Iraq	43 737	5 750	13.1	4 000	9.1	1 749	4.0
Jordan	8 824	295	3.3	742	8.4	135	1.5
Kuwait	1 782	15	0.8	136	7.6	6	0.3
Lebanon	1 023	170	16.6	16	1.6	242	23.7
Oman	30 950	37	0.1	1 000	3.2	1 305	4.2
Qatar	1 100	18	1.6	50	4.5	0	0.0
Saudi Arabia	214 969	3 600	1.7	170 000	79.1	36 883	17.2
Syria	18 378	4 593	25.0	8 338	45.4	496	2.7
Turkey	76 963	23 358	30.3	13 167	17.1	20 864	27.1
United Arab Emirates	8 360	64	0.8	305	3.6	316	3.8
Yemen	52 797	1 537	2.9	16 065	30.4	1 955	3.7
West Asia	688 707	63 566	9.2	287 827	41.8	81 621	11.9

Source: FAOSTAT, 2006

* excluding inland water

ANNEX 4 ESTIMATED MANGROVE AREA IN WEST ASIA

Country	Mangrove area (ha)	Reference year
Bahrain	100	1992
Iran	20 700	1994
Kuwait	2	2000
Oman	2 000	1992
Qatar	500	1992
Saudi Arabia	20 400	1985
United Arab Emirates	4 000	1999
Yemen	927	1993
West Asia	48 629	

Source: Status and trends in mangrove area extent worldwide, FRA 2000 working paper 63, FAO, 2003.

ANNEX 5 EXTENT OF FORESTS AND OTHER WOODED LAND IN 2005

Country	Forest (1000 ha)			% of land area (2005)			Planted forests (1000 ha)			% of forests (2005)			Other wooded land (1000 ha)			% of land area (2005)		
	1990	2000	2005	1990	2000	2005	1990	2000	2005	1990	2000	2005	1990	2000	2005	1990	2000	2005
Afghanistan	1 309	1 015	867	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bahrain	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.	0.6	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.	100	100	100	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Cyprus	161	173	174	18.9	3	3	3	5	5	2.9	2.9	2.9	-	214	214	214	23.1	
Iran	11 075	11 075	11 075	6.8	616	616	616	616	616	5.6	5.6	5.6	5 340	5 340	5 340	5 340	3.2	
Iraq	804	818	822	1.9	15	15	13	13	13	1.6	1.6	1.6	1 245	1 033	927	927	2.1	
Jordan	83	83	83	0.9	40	40	40	40	40	47.6	47.6	47.6	55	54	52	52	0.6	
Kuwait	3	5	6	0.3	3	3	5	6	6	100	100	100	0	0	0	0	0.0	
Lebanon	121	131	136	13.3	-	-	-	8	8	5.7	5.7	5.7	-	117	106	106	10.2	
Oman	2	2	2	n.s.	2	2	2	2	2	100	100	100	1 303	1 303	1 303	1 303	6.1	
Qatar	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
Saudi Arabia	2 728	2 728	2 728	1.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	34 155	34 155	34 155	34 155	15.9	
Syria	372	432	461	2.5	175	234	234	264	264	57.3	57.3	57.3	35	35	35	35	0.2	
Turkey	9 680	10 052	10 175	13.2	1 839	2 304	2 304	2 537	2 537	24.9	24.9	24.9	10 905	10 728	10 689	10 689	13.8	
United Arab Emirates	245	310	312	3.7	245	310	310	312	312	100	100	100	4	4	4	4	0.0	
Yemen	549	549	549	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 406	1 406	1 406	1 406	2.7	
West Asia	27 132	27 373	27 390		2 938	3 529	3 529	3 803	3 803				54 448	54 389	54 231	54 231		

Source: FRA 2005, FAO.

ANNEX 6 CHARACTERISTICS OF FORESTS

Country	Total area 1000 ha	Primary 1000 ha	Modified natural 1000 ha	Semi-natural 1000 ha	Productive plantation 1000 ha	Protective plantation 1000 ha	Forest growing stock (m ³ /ha)
Afghanistan	867	-	867	-	-	-	16
Bahrain	n.s.	-	-	-	-	n.s.	-
Cyprus	174	22	111	36	0	5	46
Iran	11 075	200	10 031	228	616	-	48
Iraq	822	0	809	0	0	13	-
Jordan	83	0	37	6	0	40	30
Kuwait	6	-	-	-	-	6	-
Lebanon	136	0	129	0	8	0	36
Oman	2	-	-	-	-	2	-
Qatar	n.s.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Saudi Arabia	2 728	-	2 728	-	-	-	8
Syria	461	-	198	-	-	264	-
Turkey	10 175	975	5 925	738	1 916	621	138
United Arab Emirates	312	0	0	0	0	312	49
Yemen	549	-	161	388	-	-	9
West Asia	27 390	1 197	20 996	1 396	2 540	1 263	

Source: FRA 2005, FAO.

ANNEX 7 EXTRACTION OF WOOD PRODUCTS

Country	1990	2000	2005			% of growing stock
	Total	Total	Total	Industrial roundwood	Woodfuel	
	1000 m ³ o.b.	1000 m ³ o.b.	1000 m ³ o.b.	1000 m ³ o.b.	1000 m ³ o.b.	
Afghanistan	2 391	1 033	863	170	693	6.4
Bahrain	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cyprus	56	28	13	9	4	0.2
Iran	1 681	2 105	2 468	2 448	20	0.5
Iraq	0	9	0	0	0	-
Jordan	6	10	12	3	9	0.5
Kuwait	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lebanon	0	0	0	0	-	0.0
Oman	-	-	-	-	-	-
Qatar	-	-	-	-	-	-
Saudi Arabia	35	46	0	0	0	0.0
Syria	6	5	-	-	-	-
Turkey	36 104	32 024	29 983	11 836	18 147	2.1
United Arab Emirates	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Yemen	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Asia	40 279	35 260		14 466	18 873	

Source: FRA 2005, FAO.

ANNEX 8 OWNERSHIP OF FORESTS AND OTHER WOODED LAND

Country	Forest				Other wooded land			
	Total	Public	Private	Other	Total	Public	Private	Other
	1000 ha	%	%	%	1000 ha	%	%	%
Afghanistan	1 015	100	0	0	-	-	-	-
Bahrain	n.s.	100	0	0	0	-	-	-
Cyprus	173	61.2	38.8	0	214	23.7	76.3	0.0
Iran	11 075	100	0	0	5 340	100.0	0.0	0.0
Iraq	818	100	0	0	1 033	0.0	0.0	100.0
Jordan	83	85.5	0	14.5	54	55.6	22.2	22.2
Kuwait	5	100	0	0	0	-	-	-
Lebanon	131	38.2	60.3	1.5	117	13.7	79.9	6.4
Oman	2	-	-	100.0	1 303	100.0	-	-
Qatar	1	100	0	0	0	-	-	-
Saudi Arabia	2 728	99.3	0.7	0	34 155	99.6	0.4	0.0
Syria	432	100	-	-	35	100.0	-	-
Turkey	10 052	99.9	0.1	0	10 728	100.0	n.s.	0.0
United Arab Emirates	310	100	0	0	4	100.0	0.0	0.0
Yemen	549	5	80	15.0	1 406	5.0	80.0	15.0

Source: FRA 2005, FAO.

ANNEX 9 MAIN SUPPLIERS OF WOOD-BASED FOREST PRODUCTS TO WEST ASIA IN 2004

Total forest products			Sawnwood			Plywood			Particle board			Fibreboard			Paper & paperboard		
Supplier	Value: 1000 US\$	Quantity: m ³	Supplier	Value: 1000 US\$	Quantity: m ³	Supplier	Value: 1000 US\$	Quantity: m ³	Supplier	Value: 1000 US\$	Quantity: m ³	Supplier	Value: 1000 US\$	Quantity: m ³	Supplier	Value: 1000 US\$	Quantity: tonnes
Germany	513 273	185 391	Romania	1 787 736	143 552	Indonesia	372 637*	22 813	Bulgaria	120 392	22 813	Romania	505 922*	70 756	Germany	403 479*	429 621
Russian Fed	469 041	168 870	Russian Fed	1 409 485	16 128	China	49 704	19 597	Turkey	85376*	19 597	Italy	477 592*	66 905	Finland	471 106*	313 394
Finland	385 025	76 442	Chile	430 274	14 082	Finland	18 153*	16 052	Greece	87 328	16 052	China	494 624*	60 155	Sweden	524 042*	265 482
Sweden	373 203	33 627	Canada	425 774	9 999	UAE	23 800	12 484	Italy	70957*	12 484	Germany	127 453	50 290	Russian Fed	406 406*	197 998
Indonesia	359 058	37 832	USA	223 351	8 131	Malaysia	30 017	9 780	Spain	60125*	9 780	Spain	334 360*	47 045	Italy	233 323*	190 009
USA	330 404	7 488	Ukraine	171 854	5 772	Singapore	25 312	9 282	Romania	63267*	9 282	Turkey	206 773*	40 151	Indonesia	260 355*	173 981
Romania	306 220	70 019	Sweden	156 097	4 705	Russian Fed	9 366*	4 883	Germany	13784*	4 883	Poland	266 555*	37 438	Austria	237 070*	154 492
Italy	284 098	18 600	Austria	145 361	4 699	Jordan	11 512*	3 185	Austria	10919*	3 185	Switzerland	67 543*	25 702	France	161 324*	137 729
Austria	201 851	11 125	Germany	138 667	2 549	Romania	5 848*	2 557	Pakistan	8214*	2 557	Indonesia	155 945*	21 885	Netherlands	186 963*	120 638
Spain	160 006	29 087	Finland	95 445	2 394	Germany	2 521*	2 528	Indonesia	10 782	2 528	Malaysia	108 765	16 762	USA	201 474*	113 794
France	156 795	3 598	Turkey	89 032	3 598	India	3 939	2 196	France	6385*	2 196	Brazil	123 183*	15 495	Korea Rep	166 024*	107 131
Canada	153 871	4 759	Italy	81 371	4 759	Italy	2 530*	1 971	Belgium	7366*	1 867	Luxembourg	30 049	12 807	Canada	196 841*	98 086
Netherlands	128 295	16 458	UAE	76 608	1 802	Pakistan	4 003*	1 802	Chile	4 882	1 046	UAE	48 569	9 921	Spain	126 986*	90 687
Korea Rep	110 247	5 089	Singapore	76 250	5 089	Unspecified	2 424*	1 686	Saudi Arabia	1 897	915	UK	65 473*	9 569	Portugal	91 250*	59 671
China	103 283	23 507	Malaysia	54 262	23 507	Austria	3 288*	1 456	China	3469*	899	Russian Fed	57 559	8 416	UK	44 981*	56 883
Turkey	101 024	1 676	Saudi Arabia	41 712	1 676	Turkey	2 718*	1 437	Poland	2915*	896	Austria	11 336*	6 970	Belgium	105 684*	55 944
Brazil	97 501	4 441	India	41 646	4 441	Bulgaria	1 988*	1 378	Thailand	2 593	819	Argentina	56 006*	6 447	Brazil	83 072*	44 431
Chile	82 824	1 498	Spain	25 625	1 498	Spain	1 274	1 317	Malaysia	3 199	780	France	15 604*	6 260	Japan	42 800*	38 051
Belgium	73 717	2 547	New Zealand	5 622	2 547	Thailand	1 583	1 245	Unspecified	915	593	Belgium	15 929*	5 680	Romania	78 066*	34 417
UK	71 733	1 363	Slovenia	5 394	1 363	France	1 627*	1 096	India	925*	569	Portugal	27 629	4 449	India	45 640*	33 672
Ukraine	71 157	2 354	Cameroon	4 964	2 354	Sweden	2 494	647	Sweden	468*	497	Thailand	16 192	4 427	Turkey	34 135*	33 140

Source: UN COMTRADE database. * declared by partner.

ANNEX 10 STATUS OF PROTECTED AREAS IN WEST ASIAN COUNTRIES

Country	Total sites	Ia to VI, no category (M & T) sites	Ia to VI (M & T) sites	Ia to VI, no category (M & T)		Ia to VI (M & T)		Total land area*
				Area (ha)	% of land area	Area (ha)	% of land area	
Afghanistan	7	7	7	218 629	0.34	218 629	0.34	65 209
Bahrain	5	4	2	6 000	8.45	850	1.20	71
Cyprus	19	19	10	91 982	9.94	78 232	8.46	925
Iran	152	152	129	11 463 764	6.96	11 001 430	6.67	164 820
Iraq	8	8	8	541	0.00	541	0.00	43 832
Jordan	36	36	12	973 403	10.91	917 300	10.28	8 921
Kuwait	7	7	5	59 700	3.35	27 250	1.53	1 782
Lebanon	24	24	2	7 818	0.75	4 000	0.38	1 040
Oman	6	6	6	2 982 840	14.04	2 982 840	14.04	21 246
Qatar	13	13	4	13 669	1.24	1 669	0.15	1 100
Saudi Arabia	81	81	78	82 643 217	38.44	82 365 945	38.32	214 969
Syria	28	28	0	358 348	1.94	0	0.00	18 518
Turkey	477	474	85	3 353 170	4.33	1 255 922	1.62	77 482
United Arab Emirates	19	19	2	455 866	5.45	40	0.00	8 360
Yemen	4	4	0	362 500	0.69	0	0.00	52 797
West Asia	886	882	350	102 991 447	15.12	98 854 648	14.51	681 072

Source: GEO 4 statistics: <http://www.unep-wcmc.org/wdpa/>

* FRA 2005, FAO.

ANNEX 11 RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES OF SELECTED COUNTRIES IN WEST ASIA

Country	Programme/plan	Summary
Cyprus	Rural Development Plan 2004–2006	Within this plan, the Government provides finance for forest owners taking measures to protect and conserve their forests. The plan also provides grants to encourage public and private owners to restore burnt areas.
Turkey	8 th Five-Year Development Plan 2000–2005	The Government aims to help the rural economy by reducing pressure on forests. It also plans to reduce the proportion of the rural population and the share of agriculture in the national economy.
Iran	4 th Five-Year Development Plan 2005–2010 (in preparation)	The Government intends to integrate agricultural and rural development efforts into the goal of economic liberalization while maintaining an emphasis on equitable distribution.
Lebanon	Rural Development Programme	The programme provides assistance to small and medium-scale farmers, with a view to sustainable human development through start-up activities, including improvements in health, social services, education and income-generating non-agricultural activities.
Yemen	2 nd Five-Year Economic and Social Development Plan 2001–2005	The plan aims to confront the dual challenge of poverty and unemployment by encouraging investment to absorb the annual increase in the labour force, particularly focusing on labour-intensive activities such as agriculture, construction and small-scale manufacturing, by providing incentives to labour-intensive methods and technologies and encouraging their settlement in rural areas.

Source: FOWECA thematic study, Bashour 2005

ANNEX 12 STATUS OF RATIFICATION OF INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND AGREEMENTS AS AT 2006

Country	UNCBD	UNFCCC	Kyoto Protocol	UNCCD	CITES	Ramsar Convention	World Heritage Convention
Afghanistan	*	*		*	*		*
Bahrain	*	*		*		*	*
Cyprus	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Iran	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Iraq							*
Jordan	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Kuwait	*	*	*	*	*		*
Lebanon	*	*		*		*	*
Oman	*	*	*	*			*
Qatar	*	*	*	*	*		*
Saudi Arabia	*	*	*	*	*		*
Syria	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Turkey	*	*		*	*	*	*
United Arab Emirates	*	*	*	*	*		*
Yemen	*	*	*	*	*		*

Source: *State of the World's Forestry*, FAO, 2005; websites of the various conventions

ANNEX 13 STATUS OF NATIONAL FOREST POLICY, LEGISLATION AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Country	National forest legislation	National forest policy ⁵	National forest programme	National forest authority ⁶
Afghanistan	*	x ⁷		*
Bahrain				
Cyprus	*	*	*	*
Iran	*			*
Iraq	*			*
Jordan		x		*
Kuwait				
Lebanon	*			*
Oman				*
Qatar				*
Saudi Arabia	*			*
Syria	*	x		*
Turkey	*	*	*	*
United Arab Emirates				
Yemen				*

Source: Country outlook reports, 2005
UNFF, UNCCD, UNCBD website
FOWECA thematic study, Bashour 2005

⁵ Refers to independent forest policy statement at national level.

⁶ Refers to authority responsible at central governmental level.

⁷ Refers to the policy that is in the process of formulation.

ANNEX 14 GOVERNMENT/LOCAL AUTHORITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR OR CONCERNED WITH FORESTS

Country	Authorities responsible	Mandate of authorities responsible	Organization/capacity of authorities responsible	Other authorities concerned
Afghanistan	Department of Forestry and Rangeland, Ministry of Agriculture and Food	management, use, protection and regeneration of natural forests, forest plantations, rangelands, national parks and wildlife resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 directorates in HQ • 1 office in each of 34 provinces • 196 technical staff • 1 215 administrative and support staff • very limited budget • very little access to training • no survey or inventory of forest resources 	
Cyprus	Department of Forests, Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and the Environment (MANRE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • administration of state forests • implementation of government forest policy • implementation of forest development plans • cooperation with the fire brigade regarding fire-fighting • collaboration with other government services and NGOs to implement the National Forest Programme and forest policy 	<p>719 staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 professional foresters and university graduates • 263 foresters and college graduates • 158 permanent forest workers, skilled and semi-skilled • 273 seasonal forest workers, skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled <p>the forestry budget has been steadily increased over the past 10 years; forestry has been cofinanced by the European Union and the national budget, with a total budget of US\$24.2 million in 2004</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Service of MANRE • Department of Agriculture of MANRE • Wildlife and Game Service of the Ministry of the Interior • Town Planning Department of the Ministry of the Interior • Land and Survey Department of the Ministry of the Interior • Cyprus Tourism Organization of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism • Police Fire Service of the Ministry of Justice and Public Order • Environmental Committee • Planning Bureau of the Ministry of Finance

Country	Authorities responsible	Mandate of authorities responsible	Organization/capacity of authorities responsible	Other authorities concerned
Iran	Forest, Rangeland and Watershed Management Organization, Ministry of Agricultural Jihad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> establishment of guidelines, planning, implementation and monitoring of programmes for desertification control, forestry and rangeland management and development, and urban and peri-urban forestry enforcement of policies, legislation and regulations pertaining to land use, forestry, conservation, rangeland management and desertification control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Departments include Forest Management, Afforestation and Parks, Rangeland Management, Sand Dune Fixation and Desertification Control, Extension and Public Participation, Training, Protection, Legal Affairs, Land Survey, Planning, and Institutional Affairs. 32 provincial offices with a few subunits each; weak in resource inventory, long-term planning, extension and the participatory approach 	
Iraq	Horticulture and Forests Public Company of the Ministry of Agriculture Directorates of Agriculture of the various governorates	supervision of agricultural, administrative and financial aspects of forests		
Jordan	Forestry Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> forest conservation and protection enforcement of the Agriculture Law with regard to forest protection 	36 field offices within the agricultural directorates Divisions include: Afforestation and Nurseries, Forest Management, Land and Survey, and Biodiversity and Seeds	
	Ministry of the Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> management of nature reserves 		

Country	Authorities responsible	Mandate of authorities responsible	Organization/capacity of authorities responsible	Other authorities concerned
Lebanon	Rural Development and Natural Resources Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • implementation of forestation projects • natural resource protection, supervision and management, including forest fire prevention, management and control; combating of illegal wood harvesting; and forest pest control • provision of assistance whenever necessary 	<p>175 staff, with a plan to recruit 75 new forest guards</p> <p>receives an annual budget of about US\$1 million for afforestation and reforestation activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Plan, Ministry of Agriculture • National Centre for Remote Sensing, National Council for Scientific Research
	Ministry of the Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • implementation of the National Reforestation Plan • natural resource protection and management, including protected areas 	<p>established in 1993</p> <p>US\$16 million for a five-year reforestation programme</p>	
Oman	Rangeland Resources Department, General Directorate of Animal Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • livestock breeding programmes • woodland and rangeland management • combating of soil and vegetation degradation • desertification control • environmental protection 	<p>the central government has been allocating decreasing financial support to DGAAF has been receiving decreasing financial support in recent years</p> <p>no forest and rangeland survey</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • municipalities of the various governorates • Town Planning High Committee
	Directorate General of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (DGAAF), Dhofar Governorate				Ministry of Regional Municipalities, the Environment and Water Resources Directorate General of the Environment and Water Resources, Dhofar Governorate	• environmental protection, including rangeland and forest protection • desertification control

Country	Authorities responsible	Mandate of authorities responsible	Organization/capacity of authorities responsible	Other authorities concerned
Qatar	Forestation and Rangeland Division of the Department of Agricultural Development, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • development, protection and establishment of forest areas • maintenance of new types of forest and grazing plants in cooperation with other agencies • expansion of mangroves along the coasts • expansion of nature reserves • proposal of legislation to develop forests 		
Saudi Arabia	Directorate of Rangelands and Forests, Ministry of Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • implementation of forestation programme • forest improvement • sand-dune stabilization • forest protection • development and supervision of rangelands • supervision of national parks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lack of forestry specialists • lack of forest management plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministerial Committee for the Environment • National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development • Meteorology and Environmental Protection Administration • Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs • Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Wealth • Ministry of Finance • Ministry of Economy and Planning • Ministry of the Interior • Ministry of Transport • Ministry of Water • Supreme Commission for Tourism
Syria	Directorate of Forests and Afforestation, Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • forest management, development and protection • supervision of forestation projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 560 forest rangers • 142 fire fighters and supervisory technicians • 69 forest offices and monitoring towers • 15 fire-fighting centres <p>Departments include Investment, Biodiversity Protection, and Protected Area Management</p> <p>the Directorate of Forests and Afforestation has been receiving increasing funds in recent years</p>	

Country	Authorities responsible	Mandate of authorities responsible	Organization/capacity of authorities responsible	Other authorities concerned
Turkey	Ministry of the Environment and Forestry (MEF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reforestation • erosion control • range improvement • seedling production • protected areas • national parks • wildlife • forest villages • research work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 units • 81 provincial directorates • 11 forest research institutes <p>the combined budgets of MEF and GDF in 2003 were about US\$820 million</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs • Ministry of Tourism
	General Directorate for Forestry (GDF), in coordination with an MEF unit	forest protection, development and management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 units • 27 regional directorates • 217 forest district directorates • 1 312 forest subdistricts <p>most resources, both capital and human, are allocated to forest fire control</p>	
United Arab Emirates	<p>Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries</p> <p>Special Bureau of His Highness the Head of the State and His Highness the Crown Prince</p> <p>Forest Departments of Abu Dhabi and Al Ain</p> <p>municipalities of the various emirates.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • afforestation and reforestation • urban forestry • desertification control • wildlife and protected areas 	no forest survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine Resource Research Centre • Natural History Museum
Yemen	General Directorate of Forestry and Desertification Control, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supervision of the forest sector • formulation of policies and preparation of forest management strategies and plans • desertification control • implementation of forestation campaigns 	<p>120 staff, including 24 professionals</p> <p>minimal financial resources allocated, less than 1% of the total Ministry of Agriculture budget</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Corporation for Environmental Protection • General Corporation for Water Resources • General Corporation for Water and Sewage Disposal • General Corporation for the Tourism Development • General Corporation for Development of the Islands • General Corporation for Agricultural Research and Extension
	Environment Protection Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • management of protected areas 	a 4-year protected natural area project, implemented by the World Bank and funded by GEF, with a total budget of US\$740 000	

Source: Country outlook reports, 2005
Country travel reports, 2004 and 2005
FOWECA thematic study, Bashour 2005

ANNEX 15 INSTITUTIONS OF NGOS AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

Country	NGOs/civil society organizations	Functions/programmes	Sponsors/partners
Cyprus	Federation of Environmental and Ecological Organizations of Cyprus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protection of nature and wildlife • genetically modify organisms • waste management etc. • exhibitions, demonstrations, symposia and lectures on environmental and cultural issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • founded in 1988 by a number of environmental NGOs • comprised of 15 member NGOs • financial resources: members' environmental projects; UNOPS; and Research Promotion Foundation (government funding)
	Cyprus Professional Foresters Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support to the Forestry Department's mandate • focus on private forest management 	supported by the Forest Department
	Union of Cyprus Communities	rural villages	composed of the presidents of rural villages
Jordan	Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature	responsible for the supervision of wildlife protected areas, including the reintroduction of extinct species, the control of hunting and the supervision of hunting rules and regulations	
Lebanon	Friends of the Cedars of God	a local NGO, working on the protection, management and conservation of the Cedars of God Forest	<u>personal sponsorship</u>
	Association for Forest Development and Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reforestation activities • building awareness of natural resource conservation • tree nurseries • workshops, seminars, training courses for local communities 	Forest Development and Conservation Centre of Lebanon, WWF, Spanish Aid Agency, European Union, Istituto per la Cooperazione Universitaria, Government of Lebanon
	Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon	management of protected areas based on the traditional <i>hima</i> system, combined with ecotourism development	local communities
Turkey	Turkish Foundation to Combat Soil Erosion and for Reforestation and Natural Habitat Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • building of public awareness of various environmental issues such as land erosion, deforestation, the falling productivity of farmland and threats to the biodiversity • development and implementation of model projects for rural development, rangeland rehabilitation and reforestation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • founded in 1992 by two prominent Turkish businessmen • more than 177 000 members and 555 volunteer representatives • main challenge is villagers' participation
	Forestry Cooperatives Central Union of Turkey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • organization of forest villagers • timber harvesting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a semi-NGO supported by the government • legally founded in 1997 • 1 822 member cooperatives, encompassing 1.2 million forest farmers

Source: Country outlook reports, 2005
Country travel reports, 2004 and 2005

ANNEX 16 INSTITUTIONS OF FOREST EDUCATION, TRAINING AND RESEARCH

Country	Education and training	Research
Afghanistan	<p>undergraduate level at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Forestry and Natural Resources of the Faculty of Agriculture, Kabul University Agricultural Faculties of Balkh, Herat and Nagehar Universities 	
Cyprus	Cyprus Forestry College (providing 2-year diploma course)	
Iran	7 natural resource faculties, providing training on forest, rangeland, watershed and desert management, including PhD courses in the field of renewable natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forest and Rangeland Research Institute 7 faculties as listed in the education and training square to the left
Jordan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forestry Directorate conducts local training on forest resource management and conservation technicians are trained in Syria or Cyprus professional foresters are trained in Turkey and Iraq 	
Lebanon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> American University of Beirut University of Saint Joseph Balamand University Holy Spirit University Lebanese University Forest Development and Conservation Centre of Lebanon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> American University of Beirut University of Saint Joseph Balamand University Holy Spirit University Lebanese University
Saudi Arabia		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural and Environmental Research Institute Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz Centre for Environmental, Water and Desert Research, King Saoud University other universities
Syria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faculty of Agriculture, Halab University Faculty of Agriculture, Latakia University Faculty of Agriculture, Damascus University Faculty of Agriculture, Dier Ez Zur University Arab Institute for Forestry and Rangeland Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> universities Public Corporation for Scientific and Agricultural Research
Turkey	9 forestry faculties in various universities, such as the University of Istanbul	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research and Development Department of the Ministry of the Environment and Forestry 11 other forest research institutions
Yemen	non-existent	non-existent

Source: Country outlook reports, 2005
Country travel reports, 2004 and 2005

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FORESTRY POLICY AND INSTITUTIONS WORKING PAPERS

No.	Title
1	<i>Understanding the interface between natural woodlands and HIV/AIDS-affected communities in Southern Africa.</i> 2004.
2	<i>Miombo woodlands and HIV/AIDS interactions: Mozambique country report.</i> 2004.
3	<i>Forestry Education in Sub-Saharan Africa and Southern East Asia: Trends, myths and realities.</i> 2004.
4	<i>Simpler Forest Management Plans for Participatory Forestry.</i> 2004.
5	<i>The management of villagers owned stone pine plantations in Kozak Region, Turkey: a case study.</i> 2004.
6	<i>Miombo woodlands and HIV/AIDS interactions: Malawi country report.</i> 2005.
7	<i>Exploring options for joint forest management in India.</i> 2004.
8	<i>Empowering communities through Forestry. The Market Analysis and Development (MA&D) experience in the Gambia.</i> 2005.
9	<i>Tree seed education at agricultural and forestry colleges in eastern and southern Africa. An interactive needs assessment and proposed curriculum.</i> 2005.
10	<i>Desarrollo empresarial comunitario de Biocomercio Sostenible en Colombia. Aplicación de la Metodología Análisis y Desarrollo de Mercado.</i> 2006.
11	<i>Community based enterprise development for the conservation of biodiversity in Bwindi World Heritage Site, Uganda.</i> 2006.
12	<i>Community-based tourism: income generation and conservation of biodiversity in Bwindi World Heritage Site, Uganda. The Bushoma Village Walk Case Study.</i> 2006.
13	<i>État et besoins d'enseignement en politique forestière dans les pays en développement et en transition. Résultats et recommandations d'une enquête.</i> 2006.
14	<i>Understanding Forest Tenure in South and Southeast Asia.</i> 2006.
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18	<i>Gender mainstreaming in forestry in Africa.</i> 2007.
19	<i>Understanding forest tenure in Africa: opportunities and challenges for forest tenure diversification.</i> 2008
20	<i>The status and trends of forests and forestry in West Asia. Subregional report of the Forestry Outlook Study for West and Central Asia.</i> 2008

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