

# FOWECA REGIONAL WORKSHOP

## REPORT

Istanbul - Turkey

5 to 8 December 2005

in Hotel Kalyon



## SUMMARY

The objectives of the workshop were to (i) review the draft FOWECA Regional Outlook Report, (ii) discuss the priorities and strategies for the future development of forestry and (iii) discuss follow up activities in the context of the findings in the report.

The workshop was held at the Kalyon Hotel from 5-8 December 2005. About 40 participants attended the workshop, of which 19 participants were FOWECA country focal points and/or their representatives from West Asia (Afghanistan, Cyprus, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen) and Central Asia and the Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) (for the list of participants, see Annex 1).

The workshop was structured into three sessions in line with the main chapters of the draft Regional Report, i.e. (i) Current state of forests and forestry; (ii) Factors impacting forests and forestry; and (iii) Possible future for the forest sector in the region. Simultaneous interpretation in English, Russian and Arabic was provided throughout the workshop. With support from the Turkish counterparts, a one-day field trip was organized to forests close to Istanbul (for the agenda, see Annex 2).

At the plenary session, FAO made a series of presentations on the overview of the report, summaries of its three main chapters and the follow-up to this workshop. The participants were divided into two working groups (i.e. West Asia Group and Central Asia and the Caucasus Group) to discuss details of the report. Outcomes of each working group discussion were shared at the plenary sessions.

The FOWECA report was well received and its main chapters were systematically reviewed. The participants made various remarks and comments, including those on the FRA2005 tables. They suggested analyzing issues that are not addressed in the current report (e.g. stability of countries) and providing further information and examples that could be useful for the report. Acknowledging the relevance of the four proposed scenarios, they requested that these be further improved. In addition, suggestions for priorities and strategies for forestry sector development were discussed.

At the end of the workshop, all agreed that additional time was required to review the report and to provide more information as agreed at the workshop. The countries will provide further comments and inputs by the end of January 2006 to the FAO FOWECA team.

As next steps, the Regional Outlook Report will be completed as well as other FOWECA studies. The main conclusions and recommendations of the Regional Outlook Report as well as the follow-up to FOWECA will be discussed and endorsed during the 17<sup>th</sup> session of the Near East Forestry Commission to be held in June 2006 in Larnaka (Cyprus).

## REPORT

### **BACKGROUND**

The Forestry Outlook Study for West and Central Asia (FOWECA) is one in a series of FAO regional forestry sector outlook studies which examine the direction of development of forests and forestry. It covers 23 countries in West and Central Asia. Upon FAO invitation, 20 of the 23 countries<sup>1</sup> have officially nominated focal points and have been preparing country outlook papers, while FAO has been preparing the FOWECA Regional Outlook Report and several thematic studies.

To support the focal points in producing country outlook papers, the FAO FOWECA team has organized a series of sub-regional workshops during 2004-2005. The focal points were invited to the workshops which provided them the opportunity to better understand the FOWECA process and the analyses, share their experiences and views, and create a network among them.

Based on the country outlook papers prepared by the participating countries, other supporting studies, as well as its own data collection and analyses, the FOWECA team has drafted a FOWECA Regional Outlook Report. To obtain feedback on the draft report, the FOWECA team organized a regional workshop, inviting all FOWECA focal points.

### **RESULTS**

The objectives of the workshop were to (i) review the draft FOWECA Regional Outlook Report, (ii) discuss the priorities and strategies for the future development of forestry and (iii) discuss follow up activities in the context of the findings in the report.

The workshop was held at the Kalyon Hotel in Istanbul from 5-8 December 2005. About 40 participants attended the workshop, of which 19 were FOWECA country focal points and/or their representatives from West Asia (Afghanistan, Cyprus, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen) and Central Asia and the Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) (for the list of participants, see Annex 1). Simultaneous interpretation in English, Russian and Arabic was provided throughout the sessions. With support from the Turkish counterparts, a one-day field trip was organized to forests close to Istanbul (for the agenda, see Annex 2).

#### *Workshop Structure*

The workshop was structured into three sessions according to the main chapters of the draft FOWECA Regional Outlook Report, i.e. (i) Current state of forests and forestry (Chapter 2); (ii) Factors impacting forests and forestry (Chapter 3); and (iii) possible future for the forest sector in the region (Chapter 4). FAO presented a summary of the respective chapters at the beginning of each session (all presentations were given to all participants on a CD and are posted on the web site).

The participants were subsequently divided into two working groups, i.e. West Asia Group and Central Asia and the Caucasus Group, to discuss and review more details in each working session. Q. Ma and H. Abdel Nour facilitated the West Asia working group, while M. Uemoto and J.L. Blanchet facilitated the Central Asia and the Caucasus Group. The results of the working group discussions were shared at the plenary meeting immediately following each working group discussion.

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<sup>1</sup> The 20 countries which have nominated the focal points are Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Georgia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Lebanon, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan and Yemen. Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar have not nominated their focal points.

The participants actively contributed to the discussions and provided comments and remarks on the draft report, reflecting country-specific circumstances.

#### *Opening and overview*

Mr. A. Kucukaydin, President of the Chamber of Forest Engineers (Turkish NGO), welcomed the participants to the workshop. This was followed by an opening speech by Ms. M. Cakmak, Assistant FAO Representative to Turkey, an overview on the FOWECA process by H. Abdel Nour, Senior Forestry Officer, RNE, and an opening speech by Mr. N. Uslu, Deputy Under Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Turkey.

J.L. Blanchet introduced the workshop objectives and the overview of the draft FOWECA Regional Outlook Report.

#### *Discussion on the draft FOWECA Regional Outlook Report*

FAO made a series of presentations on the three chapters and facilitated all discussions. The discussions are summarized by chapter as follows.

### **1. Current state of forests and forestry (Chapter 2)**

M. Uemoto presented Chapter 2 of the draft report, i.e. current state of forests and forestry, at the plenary session. The main issues discussed in each working group were summarized as follows.

#### West Asia

- The countries basically agreed to use FRA2005 data in this chapter. However, some countries (e.g. Afghanistan, Lebanon and Syria) highlighted inconsistencies between FRA data and their own.
- The participants suggested adding some issues that were missing in the report, e.g. watershed management including the importance of water harvesting in tree plantation and pasture development; agro-forestry's contribution to domestic wood supply; urgent need for economic assessment of environmental functions of trees and forests; and economic contribution of forests and trees to rural development and poverty alleviation.
- Additional information has been or will be provided right after the workshop to support the revision of the report.

#### Central Asia and the Caucasus

- There was disagreement with some data, including areas of planted forests based on the FRA2005. In particular Uzbekistan has indicated that its planted forests are much larger than the FRA data would suggest.
- It was suggested to include issues not addressed in the current report, e.g. figures related to the number of livestock causing rangeland degradation, forest fires and diseases.
- Problems with Russian translation, which caused some misunderstandings, were pointed out.

## **2. Factors impacting forests and forestry (Chapter 3)**

Q. Ma presented Chapter 3 of the draft report, i.e. factors impacting forests and forestry, at the plenary session. Main discussion on each working groups was summarized as follows.

### West Asia

- Several sections in the chapter were amended, e.g. agriculture expansion has been at the expense of both rangeland and forest land, rather than at the expense mainly of rangeland.
- Some issues were suggested for inclusion or enhancement, e.g. negative impacts of globalization and urbanization on forests and forestry; negative impacts of war and conflicts; illegal activities in timber harvesting and tourism expansion.
- More relevant information was, or will be, provided by the participants to support the revision of the report.

### Central Asia and the Caucasus

- The link between forests and economic growth is very important and has to be stressed. For instance, the impact of the construction sector needs to be addressed (e.g. road, railway, pipeline and building construction) as well as that of taxes and other subsidies. Impacts of political stability have not been adequately emphasized as an important driving force.
- The countries did not agree with the pessimistic manner in which Central Asia was presented. They believe that situations are currently improving and this should be emphasized.
- In general, all countries agreed on positive effects of the international conventions on the forestry sector. The example of the Aral Sea was discussed.

## **3. Possible future for the forest sector in the region (four scenarios and priorities/strategies for forestry sector development) (Chapter 4)**

J.L. Blanchet presented Chapter 4 of the draft Report, i.e. possible future for the forest sector in the region, at the plenary session. The participants discussed more details of the proposed scenarios during the working group session.

In the session, that followed, the participants were requested to: a) locate their country in one of the four proposed scenarios; b) identify main driving forces impacting the forestry sector; c) select two such forces which are likely to change by year 2020; d) propose priority actions to be taken today to address expected changes identified in (c) above. The discussion of each working group was summarized as follows.

### West Asia

- It is suggested that Scenario I could be a goal of many countries, and Scenario IV should be excluded. Scenario I and II are applicable to most countries in West Asia. However, a more realistic scenario needs to be established by combining Scenarios I and II.
- The participants anticipate various changes by year 2020 including: an increase in forest cover, vegetation and green spaces; improvement of natural forest and its protection; new forest policy focusing on recreations, tourism and nature protections; population growth but with a decreased growth rate; further urbanization; water scarcity and desertification; economic growth and improved standard of living; and political and institutional changes.

- Based on the anticipated changes, the countries suggested priorities and actions to be taken today, e.g. implementation of the most important international commitments for SFM; regional agreement for fighting forest fires; formulation and enforcement of effective legislation and forest policies; institutional capacity building; decentralization and effective participation of civil society; use of treated waste water for plantations; and development of ecotourism.

### Central Asia and the Caucasus

- In general, all scenarios were considered as relevant for Central Asia and the Caucasus. The countries emphasized political stability as an important factor to be considered in the scenarios.
- The participants anticipate various changes by year 2020 including: globalization and institutional changes; economic development and growth; improvement of the environmental situation; an increase in international cooperation; improved contribution of forestry to the national economy; improved communication and technological advancement; cease of some conflicts; expansion of protected areas; increased public awareness on environmental issues.
- In anticipating such changes, the countries suggested some actions to be taken today, e.g. provision of alternative energy, fulfilment of international obligations, involvement of population and the private sector in forest management, and development of science and technology.

## **NEXT STEPS**

### *Finalization of the Regional Outlook Report*

Some workshop participants did not seem to have completely understood the report and its analyses, especially the scenario approach. The FOWECA team need to elaborate the report to make it more comprehensible. Considering comments from the participating countries, the FOWECA team needs to revise the draft FOWECA Regional Outlook report and it should then be posted on internet for wider review and comments.

### *Preparation for 17<sup>th</sup> Near East Forestry Commission*

The final draft report must be ready for the 17<sup>th</sup> Near East Forestry Commission (NEFC) (Cyprus, June 2006) for its approval. The FOWECA team will organize an adjacent side event on FOWECA to present the final draft report to the countries.

### *Follow up to FOWECA*

While preparing the report and the side event at NEFC, the FAO FOWECA team must consider concrete follow up activities to the FOWECA process after its termination.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The participants to the workshop would like to extend their appreciation to the Government of Turkey and the FAO Office in Ankara for their substantial support to the workshop organization. A special thank goes to Tamer Otrakcier, Turkish FOWECA Focal Point. The Turkish Chamber of Foresters Engineers was particularly helpful in facilitating the organization of the workshop and recruiting the interpreters.

## Annex 1

### List of Participants

#### FOWECA country focal points and country representatives

##### Central Asia and the Caucasus

Armenia	Ruben PETROSYAN	Chief Forester, Hayantar, Ministry of Agriculture
Azerbaijan	Bahadir VAKILOV	Forestry Officer, Forestry Department
Georgia	Paata TORCHINAVA	Forestry Officer, Forestry Department, Ministry of Environment Protection and Nature Resource
Kazakhstan	Maksat ELEMESOV	Forestry Engineer, Forestry and Hunting Committee, Ministry of Agriculture
Kyrgyzstan	Chinara YAKUPOVA	(English provided later)
Turkmenistan	Akmurad ATAMURADOV	Head of the Forest Seed Growing and Natural Parks Protection Service, Ministry of Nature Protection
Uzbekistan	Muratbay GANIEV	First Chairman, Main Forestry Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources

##### West Asia

Afghanistan	Abdul Ghani GHURIANI	Director of Forest Improvement, Ministry of Agriculture and Food/Forest and Range Land Dept.
Cyprus	A. CHRISTODOULOU	Chief Conservator of Forests, Dept. of Forests, Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment
Iran	Majid SEIFOLLAHIAN	Member of High Council for Forestry, Forestry Organization of Iran
Iraq	Sabah Saleim ALKAWAZ	Director-General, General Company for Horticulture and Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture
Jordan	M.A. Ali AL-DAQESH	Directorate of Forestry
Lebanon	Ghattas AKL	Director of Rural Development and Natural Resources, Ministry of Agriculture
Oman	M. Salim AL-MASHIKHI	Manager, Range Resources Department
Saudi Arabia	M. Ali MELQAT	Manager ASIR National Parks, Ministry of Agriculture
Syria	Ziad AL-JIBAWI	Director of Forestry, Forestry Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture
Turkey	Tamer OTRAKCIER	Head of Department, General Directorate of Forestry, Ministry of Environment and Forestry
U.A.E.	A. Bin Rashed AL MOALLA	Director of Agriculture Central Zone, Ministry of Agriculture and Fish
Yemen	Jameel A.S. AL-EMAD	Head of Department Protected Area (Natural Reserves), Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation

## **Other participants**

Turkey	Muzaffer DOGRU	Projects Coordinator, National Union of Forest Village Cooperatives (ORKOOP)
Turkey	Mehmet BAL	Forest Engineer, TEMA
Turkey	Sedat AYANOGLU	University of Istanbul, Faculty of Forestry
Turkey	Gulen OZALP	University of Istanbul, Faculty of Forestry
Turkey	Servet INCE	Chief of Section, Forestry Provincial Directorate
Turkey	Celal TONBUL	Chief of Section, Forestry Provincial Directorate
Turkey	Kenan ERYIGIT	Deputy Director General, Forestry Provincial Directorate
Turkey	Hikmet KARADUMAN	Forest Engineer, National Union of Forest Village Cooperatives (ORKOOP)
Turkey	Ali KUCUKAYDIN	President of Chamber of Forest Engineers
Turkey	Tevfik SUMER	Forest Engineer, Forestry Provincial Directorate
Turkey	Ikram CELIK	Chief, Forestry Provincial Directorate
Turkey	Nuri USLU	Deputy Undersecretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry
Turkey	Talat MEMIS	Forest Engineer, Chamber of Forest Engineers; General Directorate of Forest, Division, Director at Department of Silviculture

## **FAO**

FAO-Turkey	Melek CAKMAK	Assistant FAO Representative
FAO-Turkey	Elif ERKAL	Administrative Assistant
FAO-Turkey	Pinar PERCİNEL	Information Clerk
FAO-Turkey	Mehmet YALCIN	Messenger
RNE	Hassan ABDEL NOUR	Senior Forestry Officer
FOPE	Jean Louis BLANCHEZ	Forestry Officer
FOPE	Qiang MA	Forestry Officer
FOPE	Makiko UEMOTO	Forestry Officer



## Annex 2

### Agenda

#### Regional Workshop for Forestry Outlook Study for West and Central Asia (FOWECA) 5-8 December 2005, Istanbul, Turkey

##### Day 1 – Monday December 5

8:30 – 9:00	Registration of the participants
09:00 – 12:00	<b>Opening of the workshop - plenary</b>
	Official introduction: Minister (or Representative) of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry in Turkey
	FAO activities in Turkey
	Forestry in Turkey - Forestry Department
	Near East Forestry Commission and FOWECA
	Workshop Objectives and organization
	<i>Tea/Coffee Break</i>
	<b>FOWECA – Overview of the draft regional report</b>
	Discussion
12:00– 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 14:00	<i>Plenary</i> - Workshop agenda - organization of the working groups
14:00 – 14:30	<b>Plenary - FOWECA – introduction to the regional forestry issues</b>
14:30 – 16:30	<b>Working session 1</b> – Are all country forestry issues really captured in the draft regional report ?
	<i>Tea/Coffee Break during the session</i>
16:30 – 17:30	<b>Plenary session</b> – reporting of the working group
Evening	<i>Cocktail FAO</i>

##### Day 2 – Tuesday December 6

08:30 – 09:00	<b>Plenary - FOWECA – introduction to the driving forces</b>
09:00 – 10:30	<b>Working session 2:</b> Are all driving forces really captured in the draft regional report??
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Tea/Coffee break</i>
11:00 – 12:30	<b>Plenary session:</b> reporting of the groups on driving forces and discussion
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 14:30	<b>Plenary - FOWECA – introduction to scenarios and implications</b>
14:30 – 16:00	<b>Working session 3:</b> Analysis of the scenarios – what should be improved in the proposed scenarios and their implications for the forestry sector?
16:00 – 16:30	<i>Tea/Coffee Break</i>
16:30 – 17:30	<b>Plenary session</b> – reporting on scenarios and implications
Evening	<i>Turkish invitation</i>

##### Day 3 – Wednesday December 7

Field trip: - Visit of forest field operations
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**Day 4 – Thursday December 8**

08:30 - 09:00	<b>Plenary - FOWECA – Introduction on regional priority and strategy of actions for forestry development</b>
9:00: -10:30	<b>Working session 4:</b> what regional priorities and strategies could be proposed to face the future challenges for forestry sector development?
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Tea/Coffee Break</i>
11:00: 12:00	<b>Plenary session</b> – reporting about priorities and regional strategies
12:00 – 12:30	Discussing priorities and strategies
12:30 –14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 15:30	<b>Plenary - The FOWECA process and conclusions - lessons learned - discussion</b>
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Tea/Coffee Break</i> – workshop assessment
16:00 – 16:30	Workshop wrap up
16:30 – 17:00	<b>Plenary - Closing of the workshop</b>