# Forestry Outlook Study for West and Central Asia (FOWECA) 2<sup>nd</sup> Sub-regional Workshop for Central Asia and the Caucasus 6-9 June 2005, Tbilisi, Georgia

#### **Record of the FOWECA Tbilisi Workshop**

The Forestry Outlook Study for West and Central Asia (FOWECA) is one in a series of FAO regional forestry sector outlook studies to examine the direction of development of forests and forestry. It covers 23 countries in West and Central Asia. Since early 2004, the countries have nominated focal points, formed in-country working groups and been making efforts in producing country outlook papers. The first Sub-regional Workshop for Central Asia and the Caucasus was organized in Budapest in September 2004 to make them familiarize with FOWECA and outlook approach.

As all countries have produced their draft country outlook papers, FAO, in collaboration with the Forestry Department of the Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia, has organized the second FOWECA Sub-regional Workshop for Central Asia and the Caucasus during 6-9 June 2005 at Hotel Sympatia in Tbilisi, to share their findings and improve their understanding on driving forces and scenario approaches.

All FOWECA county focal points from Central Asia and the Caucasus (i.e. Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) were invited to the Tbilisi Workshop. Except for Kazakhstan, the focal points or the representatives from the seven countries participated in the Workshop. The list of the participants is attached as Annex 1.

#### **Objectives**

The objectives of the Workshop were to (i) share and discuss trends and issues in the forestry sector in the sub-region, (ii) identify and analyze major driving forces impacting on forests and forestry, (iii) improve understanding of scenario approach and (iv) strengthen a network among the countries.

#### Agenda

The Workshop was structured into three plenary sessions according to the objectives, i.e. issues and trends in forests and forestry in the sub-region, driving forces impacting on forests and forestry and scenario approach. English-Russian simultaneous interpretation was provided throughout the plenary sessions. With a support from the Georgian Government, a one-day field trip was organized to a forest close to Tbilisi. The Workshop was held in a very friendly atmosphere throughout the whole period. The Workshop agenda is attached as Annex 2.

#### **Opening**

Mr. C. T. S. Nair, Chief of FAO Forest Economics Service welcomed the participants and this was followed by an opening speech by Mr. I. Gvaladze, Deputy Minister for Environment Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia and an introduction of the FAO activities in Georgia by Mr. M. Meskhi, Assistant FAO Representative of Georgia. After the participants' self introduction, Ms. M. Uemoto, Forestry Officer of FAO Forest Economics Service, introduced the Workshop overview and the FOWECA progress to date.

#### **Discussion**

FAO made a series of presentations on the three topics and provided exercises on each topic. All participants made two ten-minute presentations on driving forces and scenarios according to the respective draft country outlook papers. The discussions are summarized by topic as follows.

#### 1. Issues and trends in forests and forestry in the sub-region

Ms. Uemoto presented a summary of issues and trends in forests and forestry in the sub-region based on the draft country outlook papers. The participants made various comments on the presentation, such as verification, correction, addition and further explanation. The discussion is summarized as follows.

Forest lands have been under state ownership and the states keep playing a major role in forest management. However, all countries currently face a lack of sufficient state budget to carry out required forestry works. While involvement of NGOs and the private sector has been still very limited, international/donor organizations have become a key player through their assistance.

Most countries have not yet developed a long-term forestry policy except for Kyrgyzstan and Armenia. After the independence, with economic hardship and lack of access to energy as well as weak law enforcement, illegal loggings have increased in all countries.

Many wood processing/furniture industries have been shut down or become uncompetitive due to outdated infrastructure and technologies, and a lack of enough timber supply. Yet, non wood forest products have been an important source of livelihoods in all countries.

As regards expected roles of forests, Central Asian countries consider the provision of environmental services the most important, whereas Armenia and Georgia expect to benefit from their production function in addition to environmental services.

#### 2. Driving forces impacting on forests and forestry

Mr. Nair presented the concept of driving forces and the need to analyze them in considering long-term forestry development. This was followed by presentations by participants on the driving forces impacting forests and forestry in their countries. Mr. M. Garforth made a presentation on how demand and supply aspects may be taken into account in assessing the forestry situation in the region.

The participants completed an exercise on assessing the current situation as regards various driving forces (i.e. demographic situation, economic situation, policy and institutions, technological aspects and environmental aspects) and to what extent the situation is likely to change by 2020. The list provided by FAO formed a checklist that could be used by the participants in improving their analysis of the driving forces.

#### 3. Scenario approach

Mr. Nair presented the basic concept of scenario approach and why it could be helpful in considering the future development of forests and forestry. He also provided an example of possible scenarios with two driving forces (economic situation, and politics and institutions). All participants presented their scenarios developed for the draft country outlook papers. The significance of scenario approach in defining the priorities and strategies in the forest sector was elaborated and discussed.

#### Closing

All focal points and country representatives agreed to revise their country outlook papers, taking in to account what they have learned during the Workshop, and finalize and submit them to FAO by 31 July 2005.

In closing, all participants expressed their views on the Workshop. They all appreciated FAO for organizing the Tbilisi Workshop and the Government of Georgia for its warm hospitality and support to the Workshop. FAO thanked their active and constructive participation as well as considerate support provided by the Government of Georgia.

#### Annex 1: List of participants of the Tbilisi Workshop

#### FOWECA country focal points and country representatives

#### Armenia

Mr. Ruben Petrosyan\*
Chief Forester, "Hayantar" SJSC, Ministry of Agriculture

#### Azerbaijan

Mr. Bahadir Vakilov\* Head Specialist, Communication Center, Forest Development Department Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources

#### Georgia

Mr. Giorgi Chkonia\* Vice Chairman, Department of Forestry Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources

#### Kyrgyzstan

Ms. Chinara Yakupova Main specialist, Department of Monitoring and International Cooperation State Forest Service

#### Tajikistan

Mr. Ivan Ustyan Head of Science, Monitoring and Ecological Education Department State Directorate of Protected Areas "Tajik National Park" State Committee on Environment Conservation and Forestry

#### Turkmenistan

Mr. Akmuhamed Kuliev Chief Specialist, Kopetdag State Reserve Ministry of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan

#### Uzbekistan

Ms. Galina Reshetnikova Chief Expert on Forestry Main Forestry Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources

Note: \* FOWECA country focal point

#### Other participants

#### Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia

Mr. Irakli Gvaladze

Deputy Minister for Environment Protection and Nature Resources

Mr. Zurab Gugunishvili

Head, Division of Forest Protection, Forestry Department

Mr. Zaza Kvantaliani

Head, Division of Forestry Development and Monitoring, Forestry Department

Mr. Paata Torchinava

Forestry Officer, Division of Forestry Development and Monitoring, Forestry Department

Mr. Murtaz Megrelishvili

Forestry Officer, Division of Forestry Development and Monitoring, Forestry Department

Ms. Maia Bachilava

Forestry Officer, Division of Forestry Development and Monitoring, Forestry Department

#### **Others**

Ms. Keti Metreveli Technical Manager Forest Sector Development Center

Mr. Sandro Urushadze Coordinator for NFPS Forest Development Center

Mr. Mike Garforth Consultant Tacsus Ltd.

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Mr. Mamuka Meskhi Assistant FAO Representative, Georgia

Mr. C. T. S. Nair Chief, Forest Economics Service

Ms. Makiko Uemoto Forestry Officer, Forest Economics Service

Mr. Kartlos Gviniashvili Consultant, Forest Economics Service

# Annex 2: Agenda of the Tbilisi Workshop

# Monday 6 June (Day 1)

09:00–10:15	<ul> <li>1) Opening</li> <li>Welcome remarks (Government of Georgia, FAO)</li> <li>Introduction of participants</li> <li>Overview of the Workshop (FAO)</li> <li>Report on the FOEWCA process (FAO)</li> </ul>
10:15-10:45	Coffee/tea break
10:45–12:30	<ul> <li>2) Issues and trends in forests and forestry</li> <li>Overview and summary of the country outlook papers (FAO)</li> <li>Discussion on key issues and trends in forests and forestry at the sub-regional level</li> </ul>
12:30-14:00	Lunch
14:00–15:30	<ul> <li>2) Issues and trends in forests and forestry (cont.)</li> <li>Discussion on key issues and trends in forests and forestry at the sub-regional level</li> </ul>
15:30–16:00	Coffee/tea break
16:00–18:00	<ul> <li>3) Identification and analyses of driving forces</li> <li>Introduction (FAO)</li> <li>Country findings on driving forces, based on the country outlook papers (country presentations, 10 minutes each)</li> </ul>
18:30	Reception hosted by FAO
sday 7 June (Day 2	
09:00_11:00	3) Identification and analyses of driving forces (cont.)

# Tueso

09:00–11:00	<ul> <li>3) Identification and analyses of driving forces (cont.)</li> <li>Overall economic development in the sub-region (Presenter to be confirmed)</li> <li>Discussion</li> </ul>
11:00-11:30	Coffee/tea break
11:30–12:45	<ul> <li>3) Identification and analyses of driving forces (cont.)</li> <li>Discussion on key driving forces at the sub-regional level</li> </ul>
12:45–14:15	Lunch
14:15–16:00	<ul> <li>4) Scenario approach I</li> <li>Introduction (FAO)</li> <li>Scenarios identified in the country outlook papers (country presentations, 10 minutes each)</li> </ul>
16:00–16:30	Coffee/tea break
16:30–18:00	4) Scenario approach I (cont.)

- Scenarios identified in the country outlook papers (country presentations, 10 minutes each)
- Discussion on identified scenarios at the country level

# Wednesday 8 June (Day 3)

Field Trip

### Thursday 9 June (Day 4)

09:00-11:00	<ul> <li>5) Scenario approach II</li> <li>Introduction to exercise on scenario development (FAO)</li> <li>Exercise on scenario development</li> </ul>
11:00-11:30	Coffee/tea break
11:30-12:30	<ul><li>5) Scenario approach II (cont.)</li><li>Exercise on scenario development</li></ul>
12:30-14:00	Lunch
14:00-16:00	<ul><li>5) Scenario approach II (cont.)</li><li>Findings from the exercise on scenario development</li></ul>
16:00-16:30	Coffee/tea break
16:30-18:00	<ul> <li>6) Wrap-up and closing</li> <li>Summary of the Workshop and next step (FAO)</li> <li>Closing</li> </ul>

Annex 3: Factors impacting forests and forestry

		Current	Current situation (2005)	002)		Expectations in the next 15 years (indicate what is the likely situation by 2020)
DEMOGRAPHIC SITUATION						
Population growth	Very High (more than 3%)	High (2-3%)	Medium (1- 2%)	Low (0- 1%)	Negative	
Migration to other countries	High	Low	Negligible	Reverse		
Proportion of rural population	Very high (over 70%)	High (50- 70%)	Low (30-50%)	Very low (less than 30%)		
Rate of urbanisation	Very high	High	Medium	Low	Negligible	
Proportion of population below the age of 15	High (over 40%)	Medium (20- 40%)	Low (below 20%)			
ECONOMIC SITUATION						
Overall state of the economy	Very good	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	Very poor	
Growth of GDP in the last 5 years	High (over 5%)	Medium (3- 5%)	Low (0 -3)	Zero	Negative (less than 0)	
Importance of agriculture in the economy	High	Medium	Low			
Growth of industrial sector (last 5 years)	Over 10%	3-10%	0-3%	Negative		
Development of services sector (last 5 years)	Over 10%	3-10%	0-3%	Negative		
Difference between rich and poor	High	Medium	Low			
Extent of Poverty (Proportion of people below the poverty line)	High	Medium	Low			
Trends in state of poverty	Increasing rapidly	Increasing	Unchanged	Declining		
Importance of land based activities (agriculture, animal husbandry, etc. ) as	High	Medium	Low	Negligible		

a source of livelihood for majority of the population					
State of health care and education	Well developed health care and education	Health and education access limited	Poorly developed health and		
	services		education services		
Share of wood energy in total household energy use	High	Medium	Low	Negligible	
Commercial energy availability	Able to export and forms an	Just enough to meet domestic	Partly dependent on	Highly or completely	
	important source of revenue	needs	imports	import dependent	
State of governments finance	Highly satisfactory –	Government just manages to	Faces serious resource		
	Government is able to mobilise	make both ends meet.	constraints and unable to raise		
	adequate		even the		
	support its activities		resources required.		
POLICIES, LEGISLATION AND INSTITUTIONS					
Democracy in government	Democratically elected	Early stages of	Largely top-		
	government and	transition			
Decentralisation	Highly decentralised	Limited	Highly centralised		
Policy formulation	Highly consultative	Limited use of	Completely top		
	process	process			

Legal system	Well developed,	Effective, but	Weak	
	effective and impartial	not impartial		
Institutions	Strong and effective	Trend towards improvement	Weak	
Freedom of expression	Completely free	Limited	Non-existent	
Development of civil society organizations	Well developed	Partly developed, but dependent on government/ external	Poorly developed	
		support		
Development of private sector	Well developed.	Early stages of	Very limited	
•	Private sector	private sector	role for the	
	plays a key role	development	private sector	
	activities			
Local level community participation	Well developed	Partly	Poor	
		developed		
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES				
Current state of awareness of environmental issues.	High	Satisfactory	Low	
Overall state of environment	Faces serious	Manageable	No serious	
	environmental	environmental	environmental	
	problems	problems	problems	
Biodiversity management	Highly Effective	Satisfactory	Ineffective	
Watershed management	Highly effective	Satisfactory	Ineffective	
Land degradation and desertification	Severe land	Land	Not an	
	degradation and	degradation	important	
	desertification	and	problem	
	affecting large	desertification		
	parts of the	in some parts		
	country	of the country		
Ability of countries to fulfil their	Able to fulfil	Requires	Entirely	
commitments as per the various	commitments	partial external	dependent on	

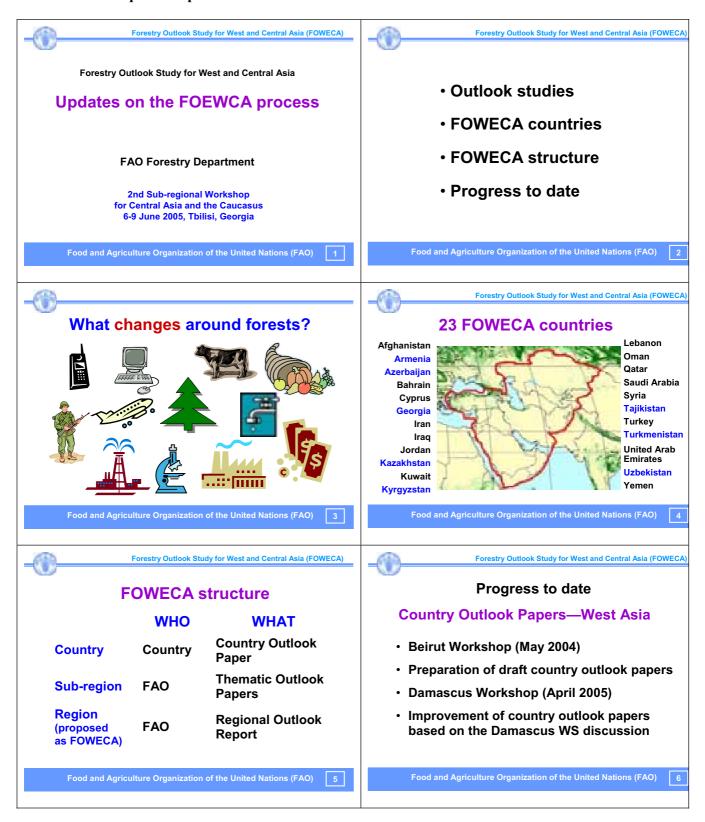
international agreements and	entirely based	technical and	external		
conventions?	on internal	financial	financial and		
	resources.	support	technical		
			support		
Willingness to modify policies,	High	Satisfactory	Limited	Non-	
strategies and programmes in key				existent	
economic sectors to avoid/ minimise					
environmental problems					
State of development of nature based	Highly	Satisfactory	Poorly		
tourism	developed		developed		
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY					
Investment in research and technology	High	Low	Extremely		
development in the forest sector.			negligible		
Overall scientific and technical	Well developed	Moderately	Poorly		
capability in the forest sector.		developed	developed		
Ability of forestry organizations to	Good	Satisfactory	Very limited		
adopt new technologies.					
Ability of other stakeholders/ actors	Good	Satisfactory	Very limited.		
(communities, private sector, farmers)					
to adopt improved technologies					

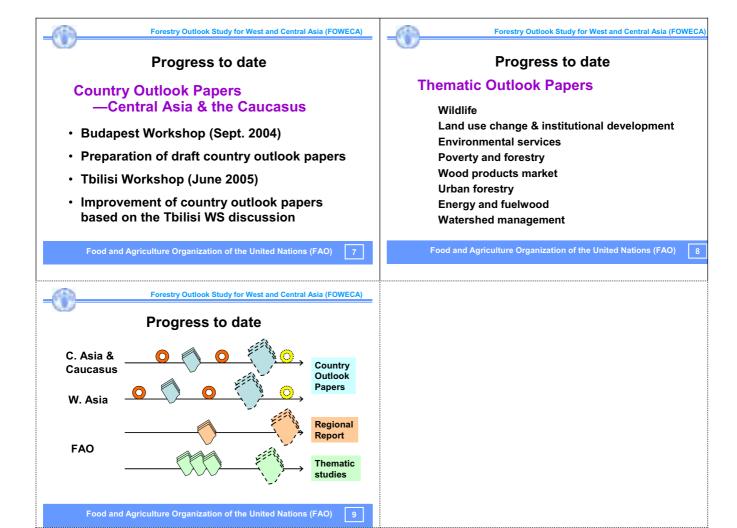
#### Annex 4: FAO presentations during the workshop

#### I. General Overview of the Workshop



#### II. FOWECA process update





#### **III. Driving Forces (Introduction)**





#### IV. Driving Forces (Part II)



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# DRIVING FORCES IMPACTING FORESTS AND FORESTRY

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2nd Sub-regional Workshop for Central Asia and the Caucasus 6-9 June 2005, Tbilisi, Georgia

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➤ Overall state of the economy? Is it growing, static or contracting?

**ECONOMIC SITUATION** 

- Changing importance of different sectors?
  Are the industrial and service sectors growing?
- > Is the dependence on land increasing/diminishing?

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# ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF LIBERALISATION

- Impact on resource availability to the forest sector ( Will the sector be able to raise resources?)
- Developments in the energy sector and their impact.

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## DEMOGRAPHY

Too many mouths to feed or more hands to work?

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- > Is it putting too much pressure on limited resources?
- > Impact of urbanisation: Is it reducing the pressure on forests and other lands?

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# ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF LIBERALISATION

- Impact of transition and how economies are re-establishing linkages.
- Growth of private sector How this is affecting the economy and the forest sector?
- Sustainability of economic growth?

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#### **POLICIES AND INSTITUTIONS**

- Shift from central planning to market decision making:
  - ✓ Effectiveness of market mechanism in making efficient resource allocation?
  - ✓Impact of shift from centralised planning on agriculture and other sectors?
  - $\checkmark Implications \ on \ the \ forest \ sector?$
  - √Who will provide environmental goods and services and repair the damage done earlier?

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#### **POLICIES AND INSTITUTIONS**

- **→** Ability to resolve conflicts
  - **❖Local and regional conflicts**
  - ❖Impact on resources and economy
  - ❖Direct and indirect impact on forest resources

#### >Local community participation

Appropriate policies, legislation and institutional capacity

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### **ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

- ✓Increasing awareness of environmental problems
- ✓ Concern about loss of biodiversity, watershed degradation, desertification and climate change.
- ✓International agreements and commitments.
- ✓Increased demand for nature-based tourism.

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### POSSIBLE IMPACTS OF SELECTED FACTORS

Factors	Impact on the forest sector
Improving economic situation	Increased ability to invest in forestry by key actors.     Reduced need to exploit forest resources
Structural shifts in economies	Reduced dependence on land and consequent reduction of pressure on forests
Policy and institutional changes	Improved commitment and participation by all stakeholders/ actors     Improvement in forest protection.
Increased awareness of environmental issues	Increased emphasis on the environmental functions of forests.

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11



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#### **POLICIES AND INSTITUTIONS**

- New stakeholders and actors:
  - √Diversification of stakeholders and actors?
  - √How effective are they?
  - ✓ Do they have adequate resources or are dependent on government and other agencies?
  - ✓ Are the conditions favourable for their functioning?
  - ✓Influence of international stakeholders (donors, international NGOs) and international instruments.

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# **TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGES**

- Technological capability exists, but institutional capacity remains weak.
- > Technologies not adequately sensitive to environmental problems.
- > Ability to adapt/ innovate to deal with new problems.

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10

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#### **IMPACT OF DRIVING FORCES**

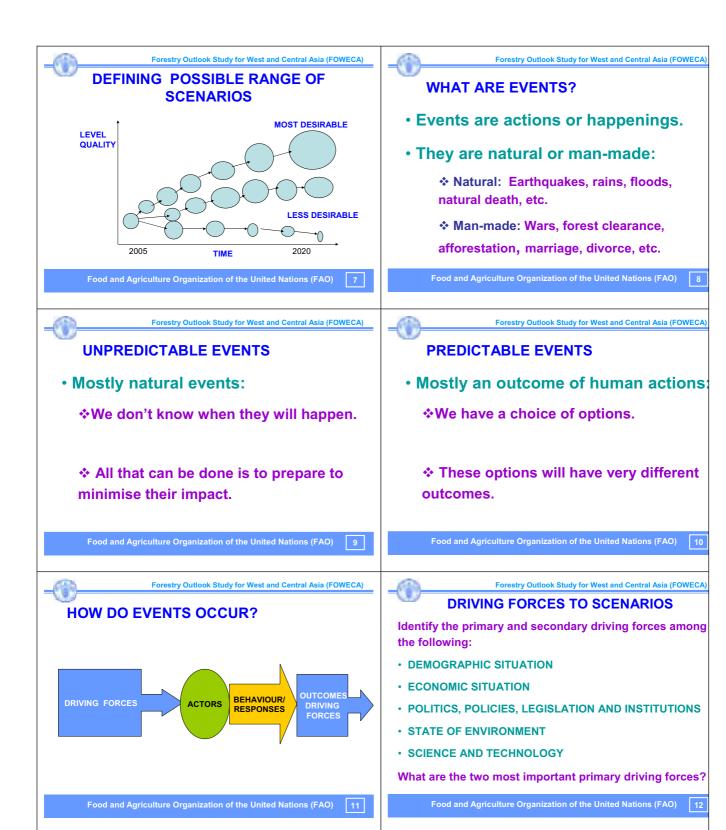
- Strong linkages between driving forces, some positive and some negative.
- > The impact of driving forces is collective.
- >Relative importance of each of the driving forces differ between countries and within countries

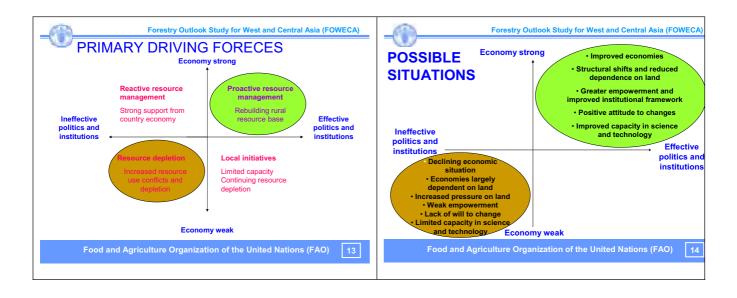
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#### V. Scenario Analysis







#### VI. Wrap Up



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#### **FOWECA**

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**2nd Sub-regional Workshop** for Central Asia and the Caucasus 6-9 June 2005, Tbilisi, Georgia

**FAO Forestry Department** in collaboration with the Forestry Department Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Georgia

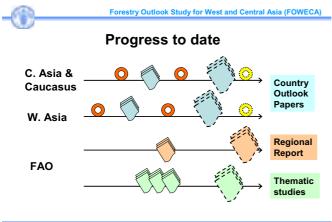
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#### **Objectives**

- · Share/discuss trends and issues in the forestry sector
- · Identify and analyze major driving forces impacting on forests and forestry
- · Improve understanding of scenario approach
- · Strengthen a network among the countries

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