



FOWECA UPDATE

Vol.2 November 2004

Forestry Outlook Study for West and Central Asia

FOWECA UPDATE is a link between the FAO team, all country focal points and other partners of the Forestry Outlook Study for West and Central Asia. It aims at regularly providing general information, progress reports on FOWECA implementation, and guidance for further activities.

The FOWECA UPDATE issues are available in English, Arabic and Russian on the FOWECA website (see further).

Since the invitation of the Director-General of FAO in February 2004, 20 countries of 23 in the region have officially nominated a FOWECA focal point. The list of the focal points is given in annex.

The FOWECA process is going on: the two sub regional planning workshops have been organised in Beirut and Budapest, the FOWECA web site has been established, forestry thematic priorities have been identified, and many working groups are established and working on the country forestry outlook.

Progress report

Planning Workshop for Central Asia and Caucasus Countries held in Budapest

The planning workshop for Central Asia and the Caucasus for FOWECA was organized at the FAO Sub-regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe (SEUR) in Budapest (Hungary) from 27 to 30 September 2004.

The participants were the focal points from Central Asia (Kairat Ustemirov from Kazakhstan, Venera Surappaeva from Kyrgyzstan, Akmurad Atamuradov from Turkmenistan, Murat Sh. Ganiev from Uzbekistan), one representative (Ivan Ustyian from Tajikistan) and the focal points from the Caucasus (Ruben Petrosyan from Armenia, Bahadir Vakilov from Azerbaijan, Giorgi Chkonia from Georgia). The FAO team provided the workshop technical support. It consisted of M. Uemoto, J.L. Blanchez, A. Lebedys, C. Schaaff, and V. Sasse.

The main objectives of the Workshop were to encourage the participants to (i) understand the FOWECA objectives, its process, its expected outcomes and the framework of country outlook

paper preparation, (ii) identify topics/issues for thematic outlook papers and (iii) agree on activities for producing country outlook papers.

The Workshop provided opportunities to the participants to better understand outlook studies and the FOWECA, consider various driving forces to the forestry sector and discuss and identify common issues that could be addressed as thematic outlook studies.

The participants agreed that the draft country outlook papers would be submitted to FAO by 28 February 2005, both in English and Russian. The need for establishing an in-country working group and preparing a work plan, and a study budget proposal was emphasized. The FAO contribution to each country study is fixed at 2000 US\$ and will be provided through the UNDP or FAO country office.

The participants extend their thanks to the FAO staff in Budapest who assisted so efficiently in organizing the workshop and to Gyula Holdampf, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Forestry of Hungary for his presentation on the forestry evolution in Hungary and organizing a field trip.

News from the countries

Saudi Arabia submitted its first draft of the country outlook paper. This draft has been translated into English. It is being circulated within all stakeholders and will be discussed during a meeting to be held on 27 November. The draft has been translated into English by FAO.

In Turkey, an electronic survey has been organized to help identify some of the current and potential issues of forest and forestry in Turkey. More than 300 answers have been received. The results emphasized the expectation of the respondents for institutional improvement and reforms in the forestry sector. The questions and results are available on the web site: <http://www.ogm.gov.tr/foweca/foweca.htm>

In Syria, Ali Daoud organized two meetings with his working group to discuss the study organization and activities. Although, the Forest Department and FOWECA team were distracted by a series of extensive forest fires, the first draft of the outlook paper has been prepared and sent to FAO.



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Cyprus has submitted the first draft of the country outlook paper. The draft has been reviewed thoroughly during Qiang Ma's visit to Cyprus.

G. Akl and F. Asmar in Lebanon will hold a national FOWECA workshop on 19th November with all stakeholders.

M. Ganiev of Uzbekistan, G. Chkonia of Georgia, V. Surappaeva of Kyrgyzstan, K. Kasirov of Tajikistan and K. Ustemirov of Kazakhstan have formed a working group and prepared a work plan to draft the respective country outlook paper.

FAO team assistance

The first instalment of the FAO contribution to the country study has already been sent to FAO or UNDP offices for Georgia, Uzbekistan, Cyprus, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, U A Emirates, Yemen.

Qiang Ma visited Turkey from 19 to 25 September. She worked with Mr. Tamer Otracrier, and the country working group members, and visited some NGOs, private sectors and other international organizations.

Qiang Ma visited also Cyprus and Mr. Alex Christodoulou from 1 to 5 November. She worked with the FOWECA team to review the first draft of the country outlook report, and to meet with some forest stakeholders.

H. Abdel Nour visited A. Daoud in Syria and M. Al-Mashikhi in Oman. Constructive discussions have been made to implement FOWECA.

The FAO team thanks the visited focal points for their warm welcome and support.

FOWECA thematic Studies

The thematic outlook studies have been discussed during the two planning workshops with the focal points. The main themes related to forestry are identified as follows:

- Rural and urban development – social issues
- Biodiversity conservation;
- Land-uses: interface range, agriculture and forestry
- Governance and institutions;
- Technical capacities in forestry;

- Economics in forestry.

These themes will include topics and issues which may need to be considered in the outlook study at the national and regional levels. A detailed explanation note will be posted on the web site.

Partnership

So far, the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment & Development (AAAID) and the LSP (DFID) programme are providing support. FOWECA is looking for more technical and financial partners.

Further guidance and information

FAO has developed a web site:
www.fao.org/forestry/site/26071/en

The FOWECA focal points in Qatar, Kuwait, and Bahrain are not yet nominated.

The Central Asia Regional Forest Congress will be organized by the Government of Kyrgyzstan from 25 to 27 November in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. The focus will be on forest policy: problems and solutions.

The **driving forces** of the forestry sector are key in developing outlook studies, and they should be identified in all countries. The analyses of the agriculture development and environmental policies in respective countries might bring a lot of insights. Please feel free to contact us to obtain more information or explanation on the driving forces!!

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20 of 23 countries have nominated their FOWECA focal point

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