



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 (FOWECA). It aims at regularly providing general information, progress reports on FOWECA implementation, and guidance for further activities.

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

Since the invitation of the Director-General of FAO to the member countries to participate in FOWECA, 20 focal points (the list of the Focal Points is given in annex) are coordinating the drafting of a country forestry outlook paper towards year 2020. Two sub regional planning workshops (Beirut - May 2004 and Budapest in September 2004) have been organised. The West Asia country focal points met recently in Damascus (Syria) in April 2005.

Progress report

The country outlook papers

In West Asia: Most of the West Asia countries have already submitted their draft country outlook paper to the FOWECA team for review. Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Lebanon and Cyprus have already finalized their paper. Afghanistan has committed to send its paper by end of May. All papers written in Arabic are being translated into English.

In Central Asia and the Caucasus: Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan have submitted their country outlook papers translated into English. All papers should be made available in English for the outlook workshop to be held in June 2005 in Georgia.

The Damascus Outlook Workshop

As scheduled, a workshop gathering all West Asia countries focal points was held in Damascus (Syria) from 11 to 14 April 2005.

The workshop aimed to present and share the findings of the country outlook papers and to further discuss forestry key issues and development trends. Main driving forces and possible future scenarios for forestry sector development in the sub-region were also discussed.

The focal points representing **Cyprus** (A. Christodoulou); **Iran** (M. Seifollahian; R. Farzaneh; S. Shariatnejad); **Iraq** (S. Saleim Alkawaz); **Jordan** (M. Al-Daghesh); **Lebanon** (G. Akl; F. Asmar; I. AlHawi); **Oman** (M. Al-Mashikhi); **Qatar** (Khaled Al Dosary); **Saudi Arabia** (A. Al-Assiri); **Turkey** (T. Otrakcier); **United Arab Emirates** (A. Al Moalla); and **Yemen** (J. Saif Al-Emad) participated in the workshop. **Syria** was strongly represented (Z. Al-Jibawi, the focal point; R. Al Lahham; W. Al Khoury; H. Yaness; Ms. G. Samman; M. Al Semara; O. Zereq; Eng. S. Al Kaseer; Ms. Hasnaa Kawardi. From **FAO**, H. AbdelNour, J.L. Blanchez and Q. Ma contributed technically to the workshop.

Afghanistan focal point could not attend the workshop but he sent his presentation via e-mail.

Dr. M. Abido represented the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD) and Dr.Y. Bakkor, the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Developments (AAAID).

The workshop was opened by H.E. H. Ibrahim, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform of Syria.

All countries presented their issues and trends driving the forestry sector. Country forestry sector scenarios were discussed and sub regional driving forces were discussed as well as country scenarios. Technical presentations were made by FAO staff to help building country scenarios.

Follow up activities were discussed for finalizing the outlook papers and for contributing to the regional reports. Turkey has agreed to host the Regional Outlook Workshop to be held in October/November in Istanbul - Turkey.

Special thanks go to the Syria team for the welcome and the perfect organization of the workshop.

The workshop report has been sent to all the Focal Points and will be posted on the FAO FOWECA website.

FAO team assistance

Hassan Abdel Nour visited Cyprus 3-4 May, 2005 and discussed the progress of finalization of the country outlook paper



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Makiko Uemoto visited Armenia in collaboration with the NFP Facility mission. She assisted R. Petrosyan and his working group in preparing the country outlook paper as well as integrating outlook into the national forest programme.

Qiang Ma visited Yemen from 14 to 21 May. With the Focal Point Mr. Al Emad, she visited governmental institutions, international donor agencies, local NGOs and a rural community. She discussed with the working group about the revision of the outlook paper draft and especially the redesign of the country scenarios.

The FAO team thanks all visited Focal Points for their warm welcome and support.

Collaboration with NFP Facility and FRA

Close collaboration has been established between various forestry programme coordinated by FAO, such as the Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) and the National Forest Programme Facility.

Information collected by the FRA programme is used as a basis for FOWECA. FRA and FOWECA focal points are sometimes the same people.

A NFP Facility - FOWECA joint mission to Armenia has strengthened synergy between the two activities. FOWECA work will be integrated into the country's national forest programme process within the framework of the NFP Facility assistance.

FOWECA thematic Studies

The thematic outlook studies related to common issues for forestry sector development in the region are going on at FAO Head Quarters and in the field.

Related to urban and peri urban forestry, seven city case studies will be implemented in the region. The cities of Amman, Kabul, Tehran, Izmir, Yerevan, Astana, and Abu Dhabi have been selected and a local consultant has been recruited. The legal and institutional aspects of urban forestry are going to be reviewed.

M. Kananian (Iran), M. Melekber (Turkey), A. Asanbaeva (Kyrgyzstan), and Prof. Naseri (Afghanistan) are presently conducting their field survey about the relationship between poverty and forestry in their respective country.

W. Osman (Sudan) is preparing a paper on the fuelwood energy issues in the region. A. Lebedys, FOPE staff, has started an analysis of long trends and possible options for wood products trade and supply in the region. Comments have been received from the WWF Central Asia programme on the paper prepared by R. Czudeck, FAO staff, on the wildlife issues in the region.

Partnership

The Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment & Development (AAAID) has financially contributed to FOWECA.

The Livelihood Support Programme (DFID) is providing financing support for the thematic studies.

Upcoming Events

The FOWECA Outlook Workshop for the Central Asia and the Caucasus countries will be held in Tbilisi (Georgia) from 6 to 9 June 2005. Invitations have been issued to the FOWECA focal points.

The main objectives of the workshop are to share country information, to identify key issues and driving forces, and to discuss possible options (scenarios) for forestry sector development at sub-regional level.

Further guidance and information

FOWECA website

The FOWECA website is easy to find. You can go on the FAO website, enter into Forestry Department and then go to Sector Studies and Outlook Studies or click on: www.fao.org/forestry/site/26071/en

Requests for information and assistance can be sent to:

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List of Names/Titles/E-mail addresses of the FOWECA focal points.

20 of 23 countries have nominated their FOWECA focal point

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