



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 English, Arabic 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) have participated in two sub regional planning workshops organised in Beirut (May 2004) for West Asia and Budapest for Central Asia and the Caucasus (September 2004).

Progress report

The country outlook papers

In West Asia: Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Cyprus, Syria, Oman, UAE, Lebanon have already provided the first or the final draft of their country paper. All country papers should be sent to the FOWECA team before the Damascus workshop to be held in April 2005.

In Central Asia and the Caucasus: Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan have provided their draft country papers. Georgia is currently translating their draft paper into English. The Focal Points have committed themselves to provide their papers in February. The country paper should be ready before the sub-regional meeting for Central Asia and the Caucasus to be held possibly in May.

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

News from the countries

In Jordan, Muhammad A. Ali Al-Daqesh is working with his working group and the outlook report is already well advanced.

A. Walli Modaqiq, focal point in Afghanistan, has been promoted as responsible of a UNEP project. However, he has kept the coordination of the outlook study. G. Ghani, from the Forestry Directorate is assisting in preparing the country outlook paper. The working group is meeting once a week.

M. Akl and F. Asmar from Lebanon have submitted their first draft of the country paper and it is being studied by FOWECA Team.

M. Salim Al-mashikhi has submitted the first country paper draft which is being translated from Arabic into English prior to comments by FOWECA Team

M. Ziad Jebbaouy has been nominated as Focal Point in Syria. He will be assisted by M. Abido. A. Dawood has been called to other functions

Akmurad Atamurov in Turkmenistan, K. Kassirov in Tajikistan and V. Surappaeva in Kyrgyzstan are working hard with their working group to prepare their country outlook paper.

B. Vakilov (Azerbaijan) has submitted the draft outlook paper translated into English.

K. Ustemirov (Kazakhstan) met an FAO mission in the framework of the preparation of a GEF project.

Regional Forest Congress (25-27 November 2004, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan)

The three-day Regional Forestry Congress was organized by the initiative of Kyrgyzstan with the theme of "Forestry Policy: Problems and Solutions". More than 200 participants attended the Congress mainly from Central Asian countries. Makiko Uemoto participated and introduced FOWECA. The Congress provided an excellent opportunity to exchange and update experiences and information.

FAO team assistance

Makiko Uemoto visited Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in November-December 2004 and Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan in February 2005. She supported their preparing country outlook papers through the Working Group meetings and meetings with other stakeholders



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Qiang Ma visited the FAO Near East Regional Office in Cairo in November 2004 to identify cross-cutting topics, driving forces and main forestry issues at the regional level. She visited UAE and Oman during February and March 2005 to support the Country Focal Points in preparation of country outlook paper.

H. Abdel Nour visited Saudi Arabia in December.

CTS Nair visited Iran and the LFCC Secretariat in March 2005.

J.L. Blanchez visited Jordan last December in the framework of a World Bank mission. He met the FOWECA working group and advises to organize meetings with other stake holders.

He also visited Afghanistan in January to help starting the implementation of a FAO technical Cooperation Programme (TCP). The aim of the TCP is focusing on a strategy development and capacity building for forestry sector rehabilitation. The country outlook paper will be integrated as an important input into the new forest strategy.

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

FOWECA thematic Studies

A series of thematic outlook studies related of common issues for forestry sector development in the region were identified during the planning meetings. A call to recruit consultants was sent on internet in December to work on the three thematic studies. Lama Bashour (Lebanon) has been selected to work on land use dynamics and institutional changes in West Asia; Iliia Osepashvili (Georgia) will study the same subject in Central Asia and the Caucasus; Ulrika Akerlund (Sweden) has been recruited to work on Urban forestry development in the region and to support the implementation of six city case study in the region.

M. Kananian (Iran), M. Melekber (Turkey), A. Asanbaeva (Kyrgyzstan), Prof. Naseri (Afghanistan) have been trained in livelihood approach in Izmit (Turkey) in February. They will conduct a study and a survey on the linkages forestry-poverty in their own country. The reports should be available by end of May.

Partnership

The Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment & Development (AAAID) has financially contributed to the implementation of FOWECA and has been invited to the Workshop to be held in Damascus in April 2005

The Livelihood Support Programme (DFID) is providing financing support for the Forestry-Poverty study.

Upcoming Events

The first FOWECA sub regional outlook workshop will be hosted by the Government of the Arab Republic of Syria. It will be organized by the FOWECA team and held in Damascus during the period 11-14 April, 2005. Invitations have been issued to FOWECA member governments.

The main objectives of the workshop are to present and discuss key issues and main trends and to share information on scenarios and outlook for the forestry sector based on the country outlook papers and to discuss and identify key issues and possible future scenarios of the sector at sub-regional and regional level.

Further guidance and information

Please send to the FOWECA team draft country outlook papers for the team to be able to provide comments and advice in time.

During the sub regional outlook workshop for West Asia (Damascus) and Central Asia/Caucasus, proposals for sub regional scenario and forestry development priorities will be discussed.

Requests for information and assistance can be sent to:

Mr. Hassan Abdel-Nour

E-mail: Hassan.AbdelNour@fao.org

Mr. Jean-Louis Blanchez

E-mail : Jeanlouis.Blanchez@fao.org

Ms. Qiang Ma

E-mail: Qiang.Ma@fao.org

Ms. Makiko Uemoto

E-mail: Makiko.Uemoto@fao.org

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

20 of 23 countries have nominated their FOWECA focal point

Afghanistan

Abdul Wali Modaqiq

Director of Forest
Improvement
Forest and Range Department
E-mail: modaqiq@yahoo.com

Armenia

Ruben Petrosyan

Chief Forester of "Hayantar"
State owned Ltd.
E-mail: green.land@web.am

Azerbaijan

Bahadir Vakilov

Head Specialist, Ministry of
Ecology and Natural Resources
E-mail: kamil-mid@rambler.ru

Bahrain

Not yet nominated

Cyprus

Alexandros Christodoulou

Chief Conservator of Forests
E-mail:
management@cytanet.com.cy

Georgia

Giorgi Chkonia

Vice-Chairman of the
Department of Forestry
Ministry of Environment and
Natural Resources Protection
E-mail: chkoni@freemail.ru

Iran

Shamsellah Shariatnejad

Head of High Council for
Forest, Range and Soil
E-mail: s-shariatnejad@frw.ir
faro_high_concil@mavara.com

Iraq

Sabah Salem Al-Kawaz

General Director of
Horticulture and Forestry
E-mail:
kawzasabah@yahoo.com

Jordan

Muhammad A. Ali Al-Daqesh

Head of utilization and
protection Division
Forestry Department
E-mail: mohnsour@yahoo.com

Kazakhstan

Mr. Kairat Ustemirov,

Head of Department of
Regulation and Control of
Forestry and Protected Areas,
Forestry and Hunting
Committee
E-mail: Ustemirov@minagri.kz

Kuwait

Not yet nominated

Kyrgyz Republic

Venera Surappaeva

Chief of the monitoring and
intercooperation Department of
the State Forest Service
E-mail: forest@bishkek.gov.kg

Lebanon

Ghattas Akl

Director, Rural Development
and Natural Resources
Department
E-mail: fadyasmar@terra.net.lb

Oman

Mohamed Salim Al-Mashikhi

Manager of Range Resources
Department
Ministry of Agriculture and
Fish Resources
E-mail: kabori@hotmail.com

Qatar

Not yet nominated

Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of

Abdu Al Assiri

Director-General
Range and Forests Department
E-mail:
abdo_hashem@agrwat.gov.sa

Syrian Arab Republic

Ziad Jebbaouy

Forestry Directorate
E-mail: forestry@mail.sy

Tajikistan

Kokul H. Kassirov

Director General of the State
Directorate of protected areas
"Tajik National Park"
E-mail: kokul@tojikiston.com

Turkey

Tamer Otracrier

Department Head – RPC
Forestry
General Directorate of Forestry
E-mail: apk@ogm.gov.tr

Turkmenistan

Akmurad Atamuradov,

Head of the Forest Seed
Growing and Natural Parks
Protection Service, Ministry of
Nature Protection
E-mail: vk@untuk.org

United Arab Emirates

**Abdullah Bin Rashed Al
Moalla**

Director of Central
Agricultural Region
E-mail:
almoalla.maf@uae.gov.ae

Uzbekistan

Murat Sh. Ganiev

Deputy Head of the Main
Forestry Department, Ministry
of Agriculture and Water
Resources
E-mail: muratles@mail.ru

Yemen

Mohamed H. Moqbil

Head of Natural Forest
Department
General Directorate of Forestry
Desertification Control
E-mail: mhmoqbil@yahoo.com
gdfdc@yemen.net.ye