



## Forestry Outlook Study for West and Central Asia

FOWECA UPDATE is a link among 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. In 2004, sub regional workshops were organised in Beirut in May and Budapest in September to plan FOWECA activities. In 2005, sub regional workshops were held in Damascus in April and in Tbilisi in June to discuss the findings of the draft country outlook papers.

### Progress report

#### The country outlook papers

West Asia: All West Asia countries have already submitted a draft country outlook paper to the FOWECA team for review. Afghanistan has submitted its first draft paper which has been reviewed. Yemen has provided its final country outlook paper.

Central Asia and the Caucasus: All countries in Central Asia and the Caucasus have submitted their draft country outlook papers. The papers are to be revised and finalized by 31 July 2005, as agreed at the Tbilisi Workshop (see more below).

#### The Tbilisi Workshop

The Second Sub-regional Workshop for Central Asia and the Caucasus was held in Tbilisi (Georgia) from 6 to 9 June 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 or his/her Representative have attended the Workshop from **Armenia** (R. Petrosyan); **Azerbaijan** (B. Vakilov); **Georgia** (G. Chkonia); **Kyrgyzstan** (C. Yakupova); **Tajikistan** (I. Ustyan); **Turkmenistan** (A. Kuliev); **Uzbekistan** (G. Reshetnikova). The Focal Point from **Kazakhstan** could not attend due to urgent official commitment. Other participants include those from Georgia and FAO.

Mr. I. Gvaladze, Deputy Minister for Environment Protection and Nature Resources of Georgia, C. T. S. Nair, Chief of FAO Forest Economics Service and M. Meskhi, Assistant FAO Representative to Georgia opened the Workshop and welcomed the participants.

FAO staff made a series of technical presentations on a summary of trends and issues in the forestry sector, driving forces and scenarios. All country representatives presented driving forces and scenarios according to their draft country outlook papers. All participants actively participated in the discussion.

At the end of the workshop, the participants agreed to revise, finalize and submit their country outlook papers by 31 July 2005.

For more details, see the workshop report sent to all the Focal Points and posted on the FAO FOWECA website.

#### FAO team assistance

Hassan Abdel Nour during his visits to Nicosia (Cyprus) and to Riyadh (KSA) had the opportunity to discuss with the local FOWECA team final stages of country outlook paper.

Makiko Uemoto visited Kazakhstan in July to support the FOWECA implementation at both country and regional level. She had a series of discussions with the Focal Point, the Working Group members, various government agencies, international/donor organizations and NGOs.

Qiang Ma has provided technical comments on the country outlook papers received from Syria, Iran and United Emirates.



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

### **FOWECA thematic Studies**

The thematic outlook studies are focusing on common issues for forestry sector development in the region. These thematic studies implemented by consultants provide in depth analysis of these issues.

The thematic reports related to Urban and Peri-urban Forestry and Greening in West and Central Asia (Ulrika Akerlund), Land Use Dynamics and Policy and Institutional Changes in West Asia countries (Lama Bashour), Land use Dynamics and the Changes in Policy, Legal and Institutional Framework in Central Asia and the Caucasus (Ilia Osepashvili), Forest-Poverty Linkages in Turkey, Iran and Kyrgyzstan from a sustainable livelihood perspective (P. Baumann) will be made available soon on the FOWECA web site.

A thematic study has been implemented on the forest related environmental issues in the region. That study is focusing on the conservation of biological diversity, forests and watershed management, combating desertification, opportunities and constraints for forest based ecotourism, carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation. Problems and outlook are discussed. A. Boulay (France) has contributed to the desk study by collecting and analysing all available information on these various subjects.

H. Kangarani (Iran) has just started a thematic study on social and institutional aspects of forests and watershed management in the Euphrates-Tigris river basin. S. deVoghel (Belgium) is helping the FOWECA team on a voluntary basis to organize information collection.

### **Regional outlook report**

The first draft of the regional outlook report is being prepared by the FOWECA team. Information provided by country outlook papers, thematic studies, workshops and country visits will be integrated.

### **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.

The Danish Centre for Forest, Landscape and Planning is collaborating with FOWECA for the thematic related to urban forestry.

### **Upcoming Events**

The **FOWECA Regional Workshop** will be organized in Turkey during the week of 5 to 9 December 2005. Official invitation to all FOWECA Focal Points from West and Central Asia and the Caucasus will be sent by October. Please book your agenda!

International organizations interested in natural resources management in the Region are kindly invited to participate and contribute.

The main objectives of the workshop will be to discuss the main findings and scenario approach as proposed in the draft regional outlook report. Implications of the outlook study will be analysed.

The draft outlook report will be made available to the workshop participants in English, Arabic and Russian in advance to the Turkey Workshop.

### **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](http://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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