



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 and Budapest to plan FOWECA activities. In 2005, sub regional workshops were held in Damascus and in Tbilisi to discuss the findings of the draft country outlook papers. A draft regional report has been prepared and discussed during a Regional Workshop held in Istanbul in December 2005.

Progress report

The country outlook papers

West Asia: Afghanistan, Cyprus, Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Yemen have finalized their country report.

Central Asia and the Caucasus: Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan have revised and submitted their country outlook papers.

Regional outlook report

The first draft of the regional outlook report has been prepared by the FOWECA team. The draft report, written in English, has been translated into Arabic and Russian. The draft report has been thoroughly discussed during the Istanbul regional workshop.

The first draft regional report is available in the three languages on the FOWECA website. The main chapters of this draft report are:

1. Introduction
2. Current state of forests and forestry
3. Factors impacting forests and forestry
4. Possible future for the forest sector in the region.

Four possible scenarios combining the internal and external environment of the forestry sector in the region have been identified:

- Peace and progress
- Building on internal strengths
- Weak states, improving global environment;
- Fragmented world – declining economies.

A second draft of the FOWECA regional report will be prepared integrating comments made by the focal points during the Istanbul regional workshop as well as complementary information. The second draft will be made available in April 2006 in English on the FOWECA web site and in Arabic and Russian by May 2006. The second draft will be largely diffused to offer an opportunity to all interested to provide additional comments on the report findings and recommendations.

The Istanbul Regional Workshop

The FOWECA Regional Workshop was held in Istanbul (Turkey) from 5 to 8 December 2005. The workshop was organized in collaboration with the Turkish Forest Administration and particularly with the support of the Turkish Association of Forest Engineers (TMMOB).

The workshop aimed to review the draft regional report and to ensure that all critical forest related issues were reflected in the report; and to discuss the priorities and strategies for the future development of forestry in the region.

The Focal Points or their Representative from 19 countries of the all region have attended the workshop.

From Central Asia and the Caucasus: **Armenia** (R. Petrosyan); **Azerbaijan** (B. Vakilov); **Georgia** (P. Torchinava); **Kazakhstan** (M. Elemesov); **Kyrgyzstan** (C. Yapukova); **Turkmenistan** (A. Atamuradov); **Uzbekistan** (M. Ganiev);

From West Asia: **Afghanistan** (A. Ghoryani); **Cyprus** (A. Christodoulou); **Iran** (M. Seifollahian); **Iraq** (S. Alkawaz); **Jordan** (M. Al-Daqesh); **Lebanon** (G. Akl); **Oman** (S. Al-Mashikhi); **Saudi Arabia** (M. Mulgat); **Syria** (Z. Al-Jibawi); **Turkey** (T. Otrakcier); **U. A. E.:** (A. Al Mualla); and **Yemen** (G. Al-Emad).

Mr. N. Uslu, Deputy Under Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Turkey welcomed the participants and introduced the workshop.



Forestry Outlook Study for West and Central Asia

The chapters of the draft regional report were systematically reviewed by the focal points during several working sessions. Interpretation into English, Arabic, Turkish and Russian was provided. The comments provided will be integrated in second draft regional report.

The workshop report is posted on the FAO FOWECA website. Additional comments on the draft regional report can be sent to the FAO team up to the end of January 2006. All comments will be considered.

FAO team assistance

FAO FOWECA team has provided technical comments on the country outlook papers and are coordinating inputs to the draft regional report from the participating countries.

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.

H. Kangarani (Iran) has finalised a thematic study on the economic, social and institutional aspects of forests in an integrated watershed management in the Euphrates-Tigris River Basin. Her paper provides background documentation and information on the watershed (Chapter 1), an analysis of the interaction of forest, water and people and the related issues (Chapter 2), and finally some conclusions and recommendations (Chapter 3) promoting an integrated management. The study will be posted on the website.

A thematic study on the non wood forest products (NWFPs) in Central Asia and the Caucasus has been initiated with the collaboration of the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) based in Kazakhstan. The thematic study is aiming at collecting information about NWFPs and analysing their contribution to sustainable development and poverty alleviation in Central Asia and the Caucasus.

As a follow-up to the FOWECA thematic study on Urban and Peri-Urban Forestry, 6 city case studies on urban forestry have been implemented in Abu Dhabi (U.A.E), Amman (Jordan), Astana (Kazakhstan), Kabul (Afghanistan), Karsiyaka (Turkey), Tehran (Iran) and Yerevan (Armenia).

Partnership

The Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment & Development (AAAID) has financially contributed to FOWECA. The Livelihood Support Programme (DFID) is providing financial support for the thematic studies. The Danish Centre for Forest, Landscape and Planning is collaborating with FOWECA for the thematic study related to urban forestry.

Upcoming Events

Hassan Abdel Nour, Senior Forestry Officer and a corner stone of FOWECA is retiring on 31 January 2006. He will still remain involved in the study completion.

As mentioned before, the second draft of the FOWECA report will be available on the website in English, Russian and Arabic by April/May 2006 for further comments.

The Near East Forestry Commission (NEFC) will have its 17th Session held in Larnaca (Cyprus) in June 2006. An event will be organized within the NEFC session to discuss and endorse the findings of FOWECA and to propose follow-up activities.

Further guidance and information

FOWECA website

The FOWECA website is easy to find. You click 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:

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
UNEP and GEF Programme
National Project Coordinator
Department of
Environment, Darulaman
E-mail: Wali.Modaqiq@unep.ch

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

Paata Torchinava
Monitoring and Development
Division
Forestry Department
Ministry of Environment
Protection and Natural Resources
E-mail: torchinava@yahoo.com

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:
kawazsabaha@yahoo.com

Jordan

Muhammad A. Ali Al-Daqesh
Head of utilization and
protection Division
Forestry Department
E-mail: mohnsour@yahoo.com

Kazakhstan

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: surappaeva@hotmail.ru

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 - contact:

Khaled F. Nasser Al Dosary
Ministry of Municipalities and
Agriculture
Mobile: +974-58-44421

Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of

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

Syrian Arab Republic

Ziad Al-Jibawi
Assistant Forestry Department
Ministry of Agriculture and
Agrarian Reform
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: shirinkarryeva@mail.ru

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

Jameel Al-Emad
Head of the Protected Areas
Department
General Directorate of Forestry
Desertification Control
E-mail:
jameelalemad@yahoo.com