



## Forestry Outlook Study for West and Central Asia

FOWECA UPDATE a link aiming at providing general information, progress reports on the Forestry Outlook Study for West and Central Asia (FOWECA) implementation, and guidance for further activities.

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

### Background

Since the FAO Director-General's invitation sent to the member countries early 2004 to participate in FOWECA, 20 Focal Points (see list in annex) have coordinated the drafting of a country forestry outlook paper. 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 Tbilisi to discuss the findings of the draft country forestry outlook papers. The draft regional forestry outlook report prepared by FAO team was discussed during a regional workshop held in Istanbul in December 2005. The findings and recommendations of the FOWECA final report were reviewed during the 17<sup>th</sup> session of the Near East Forestry Commission (NEFC) held in Larnaka (Cyprus) in June 2006.

### Progress report

#### The Near East Forestry Commission (NEFC)

FAO supports six Regional Forestry Commissions one each for Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe, the Near East and North America. These commissions meet every second year, and provide a forum for FAO member countries to discuss technical and policy issues at the regional level, linking international dialogue with national action. The Regional Forestry Commissions feed the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO), a global forum that brings together the heads of the world's national forestry agencies once every two years. The NEFC includes all North African countries and most of the West Asian as well as Central Asian countries.

#### In-session seminar: outcome of FOWECA

NEFC delegations discussed the outcome of FOWECA during a half-day in-session seminar. The Commission agreed with the conclusions of FOWECA and particularly the severity of desertification, worsening water scarcity, the

growing dependence on imports of wood and wood products and the institutional problems arising from instability. Considering the strong linkages between forests, rangelands and agriculture, the Commission underscored the importance of integrated approaches to resource management.

Delegations made observations about the scenarios and figures provided in the FOWECA report. The Commission recommended that the report take on board the observations and be published as soon as possible. The Commission further recommended that appropriate support be provided to countries for follow-up activities, including the dissemination of experiences, especially success stories.

### Regional outlook report

The draft regional outlook report, as submitted to the NEFC session is available in English, Arabic and Russian on the FOWECA website.

The final version of the FOWECA report is currently being redrafted taking into account the recommendations made by NEFC delegations. The regional report should be ready for publication and dissemination by end of December 2006.

### The country outlook papers

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

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

The country forestry outlook papers in original language or translated into English have not been edited by FAO. There are available at request to the country Focal Points.

### Sub regional reports

A sub regional report analysing forestry issues in Central Asia and the Caucasus has been drafted by Makiko Uemoto synthesizing information from the country outlook papers and other sources. A similar sub regional report focusing on forestry issues in West Asia is being prepared by Qiang Ma.



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### FOWECA thematic Studies

A series of the thematic studies focusing on common issues for forestry sector development in the region have been implemented.

The thematic study reports are available on the FOWECA website. The studies are:

- Non wood Forest Products in Central Asia and Caucasus – prepared by Carec (Kazakhstan)
- Forestry and poverty linkages in West and Central Asia - The outlook from a sustainable livelihoods perspective - P. Baumann
- Assessing the access to forest resources for improving livelihoods in West and Central Asia countries – Shimizu T.
- Methodology and case studies on linkages between poverty and forestry: Afghanistan, Iran, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey – Shimizu T., and Trudel M., with case studies by Asanbaeva A., Kananian M., Naseri Gh. and Süliüşoğlu M.
- Urban and peri-urban forestry and greening in west and Central Asia: Experiences, constraints and prospects - Åkerlund U., in collaboration with Knuth L., Randrup T. and Schipperijn J.
- Greening cities for improving urban livelihoods: Legal, policy and institutional aspects of urban and peri-urban forestry in West and Central Asia (with a case study of Armenia) prepared - Knuth L.
- Wood products in the WECA region – situation and prospects - A. Lebedys.
- Land use dynamics and institutional changes in Central Asia - Ilia Osepahvili
- Land use dynamics and institutional changes in West Asia - Lama Bashour
- Wildlife issues and development prospects in West and Central Asia – R. Czudeck.
- Forest related environmental issues in West and Central Asia: problems and outlook – A. Boulay

Two additional working papers have been prepared:

- Energy and fuel wood issues in the West and Central Asia – O. Wisam
- Euphrates and Tigris Watershed – integrated watershed management aspects – H. Kangarani.

### Retirement and appointment

**Hassan Abdel Nour** retired Senior Forestry Officer continued to assist in completing FOWECA up to June 2006. The FOWECA team, including the Focal Points would like to express their gratitude to Hassan Abdel Nour for his outstanding contribution to FOWECA implementation.

**Djiby Koné** from Senegal has joined as Senior Forestry Officer FAO Near East Regional Office. He has long experience as Forestry Group Leader in Africa. He was deeply involved in the implementation of FOSA (Forestry Outlook Study for Africa).

**Makiko Uemoto** left FAO in August 2006 to take up a position in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan. She is currently working as Deputy Director in the Country Assistance Planning Division, responsible for the technical review of development projects in Africa.

### FOWECA follow up activities

Follow up activities will be discussed and agreed during the meeting of the Near East Forestry Commission Task Force to be held in Cairo in December 2006.

### A call for initiatives and proposals is sent to all forest institutions in the WECA region.

A regional workshop is planned in 2007 to strengthen capacity building in strategic planning and incorporation of FOWECA/FOSA findings in the national forest programmes.

Visits will be made by FAO officers to key regional development agencies to inform about FOWECA findings and to highlight how they could use FOWECA products.

### 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](http://www.fao.org/forestry/site/26071/en)

Requests for information 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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### **Bahrain**

Not yet nominated

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