REPORT

Tlemcen
Algeria
13 - 17 December
2015

NEAR EAST
FORESTRY
AND RANGE
COMMISSION

Twenty-second
Session

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

FAO
### Previous Sessions of the Commission

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First session</td>
<td>Tehran, Iran</td>
<td>24-29 September 1955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second session</td>
<td>Cairo, Egypt</td>
<td>27 October–1 November 1958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third session</td>
<td>Adana, Turkey</td>
<td>30 April – 5 May 1962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth session</td>
<td>Beirut, Lebanon</td>
<td>15-22 June 1964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fifth session</td>
<td>Amman, Jordan</td>
<td>25-30 September 1967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sixth session</td>
<td>Tehran, Iran</td>
<td>25-30 April 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seventh session</td>
<td>Baghdad, Iraq</td>
<td>30 November– December 1974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eighth session</td>
<td>Khartoum, Sudan</td>
<td>23-28 February 1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ninth session</td>
<td>Nicosia, Cyprus</td>
<td>6-10 June 1983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tenth session</td>
<td>Tunis, Tunisia</td>
<td>29 June – 3 July 1987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eleventh session</td>
<td>Ankara, Turkey</td>
<td>15-19 October 1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twelfth session</td>
<td>Cairo, Egypt</td>
<td>21-24 October 1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thirteenth session</td>
<td>Damascus, Syria</td>
<td>6-9 December 1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourteenth session</td>
<td>Tehran, Iran</td>
<td>1-4 July 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fifteenth session</td>
<td>Khartoum, Sudan</td>
<td>28-31 January 2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sixteenth session</td>
<td>Beirut, Lebanon</td>
<td>24-27 May 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seventeenth session</td>
<td>Larnaka, Cyprus</td>
<td>5-9 June 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eighteenth session</td>
<td>Khartoum, Sudan</td>
<td>18-21 February 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nineteenth session</td>
<td>Hammamet, Tunisia</td>
<td>5-9 April 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twentieth session</td>
<td>Antalya, Turkey</td>
<td>29 January – 2 February 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twenty first session</td>
<td>Amman, Jordan</td>
<td>26 – 30 January 2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS</td>
<td>i-ii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTRODUCTION AND OPENING OF THE SESSION</td>
<td>1-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS</td>
<td>8-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAO COUNTRY ACTIVITIES AND FOLLOW-UP ON REQUESTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS</td>
<td>10-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OF THE 21ST SESSION OF THE COMMISSION</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATE OF FORESTS IN THE NEAR EAST</td>
<td>12-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLOBAL POLICY PROCESSES</td>
<td>14-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRITERIA AND INDICATORS FOR SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF FORESTS AND</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RANGELANDS IN THE NEAR EAST REGION</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOREST AND RANGELAND POLICIES IN THE NEAR EAST REGION</td>
<td>17-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOREST AND LANDSCAPE RESTORATION</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT IN FORESTRY</td>
<td>20-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GENDER, YOUTH AND EDUCATION</td>
<td>22-23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRYLANDS MONITORING</td>
<td>24-25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INPUT TO FAO GOVERNANCE</td>
<td>26-30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</td>
<td>31-32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADOPTION OF THE REPORT</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLOSURE OF THE 21ST SESSION</td>
<td>35-37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANNEXES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANNEX A – LIST OF PARTICIPANTS</td>
<td>7-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANNEX B – THE FOURTH NEAR EAST FORESTRY WEEK</td>
<td>10-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANNEX C- AGENDA</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANNEX D – LIST OF DOCUMENTS</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANNEX E – Agenda</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE ATTENTION OF
MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE COMMISSION

The Commission:

*appreciated* countries’ efforts in the valuation and sustainable management of non-wood forest products.

*suggested* that countries formulate projects and programmes with a greater focus on climate change issues and with particular emphasis on adaptation due to its high relevance for forests and rangelands in the NENA region and to access multilateral funding.

*agreed* to consider the proposed C&I as an umbrella framework and *requested* countries to undertake national consultations, given each country context, and *recommended* each country to identify those indicators that are already used at the national level, indicate potential indicators that could be applied as well as report on the results of testing their application in country selected pilot sites.

*encouraged* countries to update their forest and rangelands policies and strategies, integrate them with other sectors, and demonstrate the economic and social contribution of forests and rangelands to national development and *further recommended* countries to strengthen the linkages of their policies and strategies with climate change and other emerging concerns, in order to better communicate and attract interest of decision makers, investors, and multilateral funds.

*noted with concern* the difficulties faced in the region to secure private sector financing and investment for the management of forests and *recommended* that member countries undertake measures for strengthening their national development efforts, including through the inclusive participation of local communities and reforms of policy and legal frameworks to create favourable conditions for private financing in the forest sector for small and large scale forest enterprises.

*recommended* countries to share experiences and improve communication on forests, gender and youth initiatives to improve the understanding of these themes in the field of forests and rangelands and *suggested* the sensitization of local communities via forest extension and the creation of e-learning materials to improve forest education.

*encouraged* countries to consider how to integrate gender mainstreaming into policies and initiatives, including at the household level.

*suggested* that countries engage youth in country-level initiatives including on forest monitoring, inventories and the collection of data, and to create incentives for youth to participate in diversified forestry education programmes, including through the creation of jobs for youth.
SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

FOR THE ATTENTION OF FAO

The Commission:

recommended further engagement of FAO in creating projects and initiatives in the region, including under the framework of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative.

recommended FAO to support coordination of the implementation of international commitments at the regional level, including through the Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism (FLRM).

requested FAO to provide technical assistance to improve the quality of data reporting and urged FAO to promote capacity development actions on forest monitoring.

requested FAO to assist countries in undertaking a thorough assessment and valuation of forest and rangelands resources in the region.

urged FAO to assist the region in developing a regional forestry and rangelands strategy with action plans to improve the NENA forest and rangelands information and implementation of global processes.

requested FAO to follow up with countries at the national and regional levels on the adoption and use of C&I for sustainable management of forests and rangelands; support countries in this regards and assist in adopting a harmonized set of indicators, thus enabling reporting in a synergetic manner to global processes and conventions.

requested FAO to establish a system to exchange country experiences on policy development and implementation.

requested FAO to support assessing and monitoring previous and ongoing country restoration initiatives and developing sound restoration programmes in drylands.

recommended FAO to support capacity development in the NENA countries on Forest and Rangeland monitoring, including through training on new technologies such as Collect Earth.

recommended that FAO mobilize resources to support countries to adopt operational national forest and rangeland monitoring systems able to detect land use changes and to inform decisions for sustainable management of forests and rangelands and their adaptation to climate change.
INTRODUCTION AND OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The Twenty-second Session of the Near East Forestry and Range Commission (NEFRC) and the Fourth Near East Forestry Week (NEFW) were held in Tlemcen, Algeria, from 13 to 17 December 2015, at the kind invitation of the Government of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria. The meetings attracted over 300 participants for the opening session. The Commission session was attended by 29 representatives from 14 member countries and 2 representatives from regional intergovernmental organizations. Annex A provides a full list of NEFRC participants. Parallel to the Commission’s session, the fourth NEFW was attended by 137 participants from 5 countries and 15 national companies. Both events were conducted in Arabic, English and French.

2. The 22nd Session of the Commission and the Fourth Near East Forestry Week were held under the common theme of “Sustainable management of forests and rangelands in the Near East: building resilient landscapes in drylands for sustainable livelihoods and social welfare”. Through this theme, the 22nd NEFRC and related activities during the week strived to bring to the fore front the importance of forests and rangelands to the livelihood of millions of rural people, to the social and economic development and to environmental protection in the Near East and North Africa (NENA) region. They also aimed to provide an opportunity for the participants of the NEFRC and wide spectrum of other stakeholders with an interest in forest and rangeland issues to address common challenges and to share and exchange information and experiences on good practices and innovations.

3. A series of sessions were held during the Fourth Near East Forestry Week. The programme is given in Annex B.

4. In the opening session, Mr Mohamed Amieur, Secretary General, Wilaya de Tlemcen, welcomed participants to Algeria, Tlemcen and its national park. He said the territory had a unique forest land and as a result the local population appreciated the important role of forests in everyday life. He encouraged all participants to contribute to protecting the forests and wished them a successful meeting.

5. The Chair of the 21st NEFRC, Mr Issa Al Shoubaki, Assistant Secretary-General for Forestry and Rangelands, Ministry of Agriculture, The Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan, recalled the productive and interesting meetings during the previous day’s session of the 4th Near East Forestry Week, which would influence the proceedings of the NEFRC. He emphasized that the Commission belonged to the countries and called for greater country ownership of its results. He thanked all participants for attending, extended his appreciation to the Government of Algeria for the warm welcome and excellent meeting arrangements and gave special thanks to FAO for assisting in organizing the meeting.

6. Mr Eduardo Mansur, Director of the FAO Forest Assessment, Management and Conservation Division of the Forestry Department, expressed, on behalf of the FAO Director-General, FAO’s gratitude to the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria for hosting the session. Saying the outcome of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations in Paris would start a new era for forests and climate change work, he encouraged countries to increase the visibility of their work in this area. He noted the interconnection of forests to other international arrangements, including the UN Convention to Combat Desertification commitments on land degradation neutrality, and the results of the 11th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), which had extended the International Arrangement of Forests beyond 2015. Noting FAO’s readiness to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), he stressed the importance of forests in delivering multiple results for the achievement of the Goals and the essential contributions needed from Near East and North African countries to reach them.

7. Mr Yattou Abdelkader, Director-General, General Directorate for Forests, Algeria, opened the Twenty-second Session of the Commission and the Fourth Near East Forestry week on behalf of H.E. Sid-Ahmed Ferroukhi, Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries. He expressed his Government’s pleasure to host the session. He mentioned Algeria’s political action towards the protection of natural resources through the implementation of national plans of action for reforestation, the fight against desertification and watershed and natural ecosystems protection as well as through information and participation. He noted Algeria had established a monitoring system to regularly check
the status of the landscape’s resilience and to enforce actions against desertification. He encouraged further monitoring of steppe ecosystems.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Item 2)**

8. Under the guidance of Mr Issa Al Shobaki (Jordan), the outgoing Chairman of the Commission, the provisional agenda (FO:NEFRC/2015/1) was adopted (see Annex C). The documents considered by the Commission are listed in Annex D.

The Commission elected the Chairperson, two Vice-Chairpersons and one Rapporteur. The composition of the Executive Committee is as follows:

- **Chairman**: Mr Yattou AbdelKader, Algeria
- **1st Vice-Chairperson**: Mr Seyed Hossein Mousavinia, Iran
- **2nd Vice-Chairperson**: Mr Taher El Hasoumi, Libya
- **Rapporteur**: Mr Ali Temerit, Turkey

9. Mr Abdelhamied Adam Hamid, Senior Forestry Officer, FAO Regional Office for the Near East, Cairo, served as Secretary of the Commission.

**FAO AND COUNTRY ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION AND FOLLOW-UP ON REQUESTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 21ST SESSION OF THE COMMISSION (Item 3)**

10. Outlining forestry activities and projects that took place during 2014-2015 as included in document FO:NEFRC/2015/2, “FAO and country activities in the region and follow-up on requests and recommendations of the 21st Session of the NEFRC”, the Secretariat noted the very low number of country reports (9) submitted on the measures taken to implement the recommendations from the 21st Session, which proved to be very challenging for some countries due to domestic developments. The Commission recommended countries to strengthen their engagement in and ownership of the Commission. The Commission applauded countries’ ongoing initiatives to follow up NEFRC21 recommendations, particularly on Criteria and Indicators (C&I) for sustainable management of forests and rangelands, national forest and rangelands policies, and action plans for implementing the Great Green Wall of the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative (GGWSSI).

11. The Commission noted with satisfaction the achievements of FAO since the 21st Session of the Commission and recommended further engagement of FAO in creating projects and initiatives in the region, including under the framework of the GGWSSI. The Commission further recommended FAO to support coordination of the implementation of international commitments at the regional level, including through the Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism (FLRM). The Commission also noted with appreciation the unique sharing of country experiences through collaboration and coordination under Silva Mediterranea.

**STATE OF FORESTS IN THE NEAR EAST (Item 4)**

12. As part of a joint NEFRC/NEFW session, presentations were given on Non-Wood Forest Products (NWFPs) and forest data in the NENA region as presented in FO:NEFRC/2015/6, “State of Forests in the Near East”. Sudan informed on progress made on a gum Arabic project for the Sudan, noting the project increased local stakeholders’ income by 60% and brought back youth to the local villages. Algeria explained its experience with medicinal plants, saying some aromatic and medicinal plants were endangered species and that the country would develop a programme for sustainable management of aromatic and medicinal plants. Algeria also informed on the Mentha viridis plant, which has a strong antibiotic action and is being used to prepare medicinal products. The Commission expressed appreciation for the reports on NWFPs and encouraged countries’ efforts in the valuation and sustainable management of NEFPs.

13. The Secretariat presented regional forest data based on the results of the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015 (FRA 2015), which indicated a very limited area of forest (42.5 m hectares) and other wooded lands (41 m hectares) in the region and that both suffered from large losses concentrated in a
few countries. The Commission requested FAO to provide technical assistance to improve the quality of data reporting and urged FAO to promote capacity development actions on forest monitoring. The Commission also expressed concern over the high forest loss in certain countries relative to the NENA region’s low forest cover.

GLOBAL POLICY PROCESSES (Item 5)

14. The Secretariat presented documents FO:NEFRC/2015/7 and FO:NEFRC/2015/7.1, “Global Policy Processes”, explaining: the UN Forest Instrument, which was negotiated under the UNFF; the SDGs, under which forests are explicitly addressed in Goals 6 and 15; the outcome of the World Forestry Congress (September 2015); and the agreement reached at the UNFCCC 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) in December 2015. Saying the SDGs would guide international efforts over next 15 years, the Secretariat noted it would work with UNFF and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) to support implementation of the SDGs, and encouraged countries to establish stronger coordination between climate financing and the broader financing for SFM. The Commission requested FAO to assist countries in undertaking a thorough assessment and valuation of forest and rangelands resources in the region. The Commission also urged FAO to assist the region in developing a regional forestry and rangelands strategy with action plans to improve NENA forest and rangelands information and implementation of global processes.

CRITERIA AND INDICATORS FOR SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF FORESTS AND RANGELANDS IN THE NEAR EAST REGION (Item 6)

15. The Secretariat also noted the COP21 universal agreement to take effect in 2020, which explicitly mentions REDD+, links adaptation and mitigation and encourages coordination of funding including through the Green Climate Fund. The Commission suggested countries to formulate projects and programmes with a greater focus on adaptation due to its high relevance for forests and rangelands in NENA region and to access multilateral funding.

FOREST AND RANGELAND POLICIES IN THE NEAR EAST REGION (Item 7)

17. Noting the need for stronger policy implementation tools in the region, the Secretariat presented background document FO:NEFRC/2015/11, “Forest and Rangeland Policies in the Near East Region” and called attention to the gaps and opportunities for the region including in climate change, forest and landscape restoration, economic valuation and participation. It noted the potential to link forest and rangeland policies to different international conventions and to develop measures to build a green economy.

18. The Commission requested FAO to establish a system to exchange country experiences on policy development and implementation. The Commission encouraged countries to update their forest and rangelands policies and strategies, integrate them with other sectors, and demonstrate the economic and social contribution of forests and rangelands to national development. The Commission further recommended countries to explore the linkages of their forest and rangelands policies and strategies to climate change, in order to better communicate and attract interest of decision makers, investors, and multilateral funds.
FOREST AND LANDSCAPE RESTORATION (ITEM 8)

19. The Secretariat presented the background document FO:NEFRC/2015/9, “Forest and Landscape Restoration”, noting that over 2 billion hectares of global degraded lands could be restored for productive purposes and provision of ecosystem services. The Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR) Mechanism was launched at COFO22 to help countries meet commitments including the Bonn Challenge, CBD Aichi Targets and land degradation neutrality, and currently operates in 7 countries to prepare wide scale restoration programmes. The Commission requested FAO to support assessing and monitoring previous and ongoing country restoration initiatives and developing sound restoration programmes in drylands.

PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT IN FORESTRY (Item 9)

20. The Secretariat presented document FO:NEFRC/2015/4, “Mobilizing private sector investment in small scale forest enterprises (SSFE)” describing the context under which SSFE operated, the key challenges they faced and the opportunities they presented for corporate private investment. The main forms of corporate private sector involvement in SSFE and key enabling factors were also described. The Secretariat informed the Commission about FAO’s support in other regions to demonstrate how to potentially strengthen the enabling environment and increase capacities in SSFE in the Near East.

21. Highlighting the need for further investment in the region, the Commission noted with concern the difficulties faced in the region to secure private sector financing and investment for the management of forests. The Commission recommended that member countries undertake measures for strengthening their national development efforts, including through the inclusive participation of local communities and reforms of policy and legal frameworks to create favourable conditions for private financing in the forest sector for small and large scale forest enterprises.

GENDER, YOUTH AND EDUCATION (Item 10)

22. The Secretariat presented document FO:NEFRC/2015/9, “Gender Youth and Education”, explaining the key role gender mainstreaming, engagement of youth and revitalization of forestry education have in ensuring the sustainability of forests. In the ensuing discussion, participants noted: the lack of available updated materials for undergraduate and postgraduate education and limited interest from youth to engage in practical training; the importance of engaging women in rural areas and sharing information on forests and medicinal plants for the next generation; and the need for greater job opportunities to attract youth in forest education programmes and the profession.

23. The Commission recommended countries to share experiences and improve communication on forests, gender and youth initiatives to improve the understanding of these themes in the field of forests and rangelands and suggested the sensitization of local communities via forest extension and the creation of e-learning materials to improve forest education. Noting the importance of women in rural areas, the Commission encouraged countries to consider how to integrate gender mainstreaming into policies and initiatives, including at the household level. The Commission further suggested countries to engage youth in country-level initiatives including on forest monitoring, inventories and the collection of data, and to create incentives for youth to participate in diversified forestry education programmes, including through the creation of jobs for youth.

DRYLANDS MONITORING (Item 11)

24. The Secretariat presented the Document FO: NEFRC/2015/5, “Rome Promise on monitoring and assessment of drylands for sustainable management and restoration”. The presentation highlighted that the global drylands assessment included forests, trees, shrubs and grasslands as a follow-up to the recommendation of COFO22, and considered it as a first step to implement the Rome Promise adopted during the first Drylands Monitoring Week held in Rome, in January 2015. The Secretariat briefed the Commission on the methodology as well as the preliminary results from the global assessment, which included results from the North Africa and Middle East, noting the full report would be launched by July 2016.
25. The Commission expressed its appreciation for the ongoing Global Drylands assessment and **recommended** FAO to support capacity development in the NENA countries on Forest and Rangeland monitoring, including through training on new technologies such as Collect Earth. It further **recommended** that FAO mobilize resources to support countries to adopt operational national forest and rangeland monitoring systems able to detect land use changes and to inform decisions for sustainable management of forests and rangelands and their adaptation to climate change.

**INPUT TO FAO GOVERNANCE (Item 12)**

26. The Secretariat presented document FO:NEFRC/2015/10, “Input to FAO Governance”. Drawing on the previous priorities identified by other Regional Forestry Commissions, the Commission identified the following priorities for the attention of FAO Regional Conference, COFO and the FAO Forestry’s program of work:

27. The Commission **recommended** the following recommendation be brought to the attention of the FAO Regional Conference for the Near East: Support the development of a regional forestry and rangelands strategy with action plans to improve the NENA forest and rangelands information and implementation of global processes; Strengthen countries forest and rangelands policies and strategies; demonstrate their environmental, economic and social contributions to national development; and explore their linkages with climate change, food security and other areas and sectors of interest in the NENA region.

28. The Commission **recommended** the following actions to COFO:

- On the development of a regional forest and rangelands strategy and action plan: provide guidance on coordination and collaboration between countries and FAO.
- On Criteria and Indicators for sustainable forests and rangelands management: identify areas for further support through new or existing Working Groups under COFO and assist with the adoption of C&I in the region.
- On implementation of international commitments related to forests and rangelands at the regional level: provide guidance on coordination and collaboration for members and FAO.
- On forest and landscape restoration: support the implementation of FLR in the NENA region.
- On drylands monitoring: provide guidance on building capacity and training on new technologies in NENA countries.

29. The Commission **recommended** the following for inclusion in the FAO Programme of Work:

**a. Forest and Landscape Restoration:**

- support in assessing and monitoring previous and ongoing country restoration initiatives and in developing restoration programmes in drylands to address, among other related targets, land degradation neutrality;
- undertake sustainable management of biological diversity in forest rangelands in the NENA region, including through the monitoring of species, especially plants;
- develop adaptive management to build resilient forests and rangelands in the region.

**b. Gender, Youth and Education:**

- assist in mainstreaming gender into policies and initiatives in the NENA region;
- engage youth participation in country-level initiatives, including in forest monitoring and collection of data and create incentives, including through jobs, to encourage youth to enroll in forestry education;
- share experiences on forestry education, including through the provision of e-learning materials, and improve communication on forests and rangelands.

**c. Forest and Rangelands goods and ecosystem services and investment in small-scale enterprises:**

- support countries to assess the valuation of forests and rangelands goods and services in the NENA region;
encourage the creation of favorable policy and legal conditions for attracting private financing in forest and rangelands sector for small and large-scale enterprises.

30. The Chairperson reminded the Commission that based on geographical rotation, the next Chair of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) should come from the Near East and North Africa region. The Chair reviewed the tasks of the COFO Chair and noted the person selected should have wide experience in the region, including where possible broad experience working with FAO and relatively high political visibility to carry forward the work of COFO. The Commission expressed its support for H. E. Mr. Akram Chahayeb (Minister of Agriculture Lebanon) to be nominated as COFO Chair at the 23rd Session of COFO in July 2016.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS (Item 13)

31. The Commission thanked the Secretariat for its seminar on ‘Global Guidelines for the restoration of degraded forests and landscapes in drylands’, which took place during the 4th Near East Forestry Week, and requested FAO to: convene capacity building workshops to improve countries’ mastery of the guidelines and enable their practical use as well as of the use of the restoration monitoring tool; offer support for making the global guidelines available in Arabic; and consider establishing a functional network for exchanging and compiling experiences and lessons learnt on the restoration of degraded forests and landscapes in the region.

32. The Commission also appreciated the helpful information on forest communication presented during the 4th Near East Forestry Week, which was acknowledged as an important tool to influence decisions at the regional level. The Commission encouraged FAO to strengthen the capacity of Near East Communicators’ Network, facilitate the flow of information on NENA experiences via the Network and urged countries to support communications efforts at the outset of any process instead of at the end, and to provide funding to improve communications at all levels, with the aim of soliciting the support of decision makers and all stakeholders.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION (Item 14)

33. The delegate of Lebanon made the generous offer to host the 23rd session of the NEFRC in December or January 2017, which was supported by the Commission.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 22ND SESSION

34. The Commission adopted the report as amended.

CLOSING OF THE SESSION

35. Mr Doumi Mohamed, Representative of the Secretary General, Wilaya de Tlemcen, thanked participants for their innovative contributions, including by adding ideas on reforestation and land degradation, and encouraged partners to undertake actions as needed.

36. Mr Nabil Assaf, (OIC) FAO Representative for Algeria, thanked countries for exchanging views on a variety of issues, and called for countries to continue their efforts to sustainably manage forests and rangelands ecosystems in light of climate change and instability in the region. Recalling the FAO Director-General’s observation that there is ‘no security without food security’, he highlighted the importance of forests and rangeland ecosystems to ensuring food security in the region. He thanked the host country for the meeting arrangements as well as the Chair of the 21st Session of the NEFRC for setting the favorable conditions to convene the 22nd NEFRC.

37. The Chair closed the session at 9:57 am.
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

ALGERIA
Yattou AbdelKader
Directeur General de Forêts
Direction Générale des Forêts
Alger, Algeria
Tel: 0661 51 74 31
Fax:023 23 82 46
Email: yettouk@yahoo.com

Abdelfettah Abelmalek
Inspecteur General
Direction Générale des Forêts
Alger, Algeria
Tel: 0661 53 69 96
Fax:023 23 82 86
Email: abdelfettahadelmalek@gmail.com

Benkheira Abdelkader
Directeur de la protection
Direction Générale des Forêts
Alger, Algeria
Tel: 023 23 82 81
Fax:
Email: benkheira@gmail.com

Abbas Mohamed
Sous Directeur de la Normalisation et de la Vulgarisation
Direction Générale des Forêts
Alger, Algeria
Tel: 023 23 82 88 - 0771504872
Fax:
Email: mohamedabbas@yahoo.fr

EGYPT
Abdallah Kasim Zaghloul
Vice president of Desert Research Center (DRC )
Ministry of Agriculture
Cairo, Egypt
Mobile: +201004312280
Fax: +26444907
Email: a.zaghlol@yahoo.com

IRAN
Seyed Hossein Mousavinia
Senior Forestry Expert
Forest, Range & watershed Management Organization (FRWO)
Ministry of Jihad-e- Agriculture
Islamic Republic of Iran
Tel: +98-11-52326126
Fax: +98-11-52326126
Email: moosavinia16@yahoo.com
International@frw.org.ir

IRAQ
Khalil Ismael Hamad
Senior Prime Agricultural Engineers

Baghdad, Iraq
Tel: 0790717739
Fax:
Email: usamags2@gmail.com

JORDAN
Issa Al Shoubaki
Secretary General Assistant
Ministry of Agriculture
Amman, Jordan
Tel: +962799059191
Fax: +96265686310
Email: issasho@yahoo.com

Talal Al Fayez
Programme Expert
Ministry of Agriculture
Amman, Jordan
Tel: +962795500085
Fax: +96265562553
Email: Talal.alfayez@fao.org

LEBANON
Chadi Mohanna
Director of Rural Development and Natural Resources
Ministry of Agriculture
Jnah – Lebanon
Tel: +961 1848447 - 916 3456794
Fax: +961 1849621
Email: cmohanna@agriculture.gov.lb

LIBYA
Taher EL Hasoumi
Forestry Directorate DG
Ministry of Agriculture Animal Marine Wealth
Tripoli, Libya
Tel: +218-92-2539953
Fax: +
Email: Taher.Tripoli@gmail.com

MAURITANIA
Ethmane ould boubacar
Directeur Adjoint de la Protection de la Nature
Ministère de l’Environnement et du Développement Durable
Tel: +222 22 17 47 74
Fax +222 45 24 31 39
Email: ouldboubacar@yahoo.fr

MOROCCO
Naima Amahboub
Consul Général
Embassy of Morocco in Algeria
Alger, Algeria
Tel: 048.54.34.70 / 048.54.22.15
Fax:
Email: CGSBA@live.fr
PAKISTAN
Sarwat N. Mirza
Professor
Department of Forestry & Range Management
Arid Agriculture University
Tel: +92- 51 92 92 234
Mob: +92- 0300 9107270
E-mail: sarwat_mirza123@yahoo.com

SUDAN
Abdelmuineim Osman Hassa Idris
Head of Natural Range Administration
Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rangelands
Range and Pasture General Directorate
Khartoum, Sudan
Tel: +249- 912811697
Fax: +249-183- 77 5231
Mobile: +249-912811697
E-mail: abdelmonem2009@live.com

Mohamed Ali ElHadi Ali
Director General
Forest National Corporation
Khartoum, Sudan
Tel: +249- 0911243948
Fax: +249 183 471659
Mobile: +249-912302110
E-mail: Manager-fnc@gmail.com

TURKEY
Ali Temerit
Senior Forestry Engineer
Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs
Ankara, Turkey
Tel: +90312248 17 19
Fax: +90 312 248 1712
Mobile: +90 535 200 80 93
E-mail: alitemerit@ogm.gov.tr

TAJIKISTAN
Rustam Musoev
Director of Forestry
Esanboy Rudaki district
Tel: +992-918-31-43-03
Fax: +992-372-25-59-95
Email: Forestry-agencytj@mail.ru

YEMEN
Jamil Al-Emad
Head of Protected Areas Division
Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
Sana’a, Yemen
Tel: + 967-733721329
Fax: 
Email: jameelalemad@yahoo.com

ORGANIZATIONS

ACSAD
Zuheir Shater
Prof. Biodiversity Expert
Arab Centre for the studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands(ACSAD)
Damascus, Syria
Tel: +963-955271914
Fax +963 11 2264707
Email: zahater@scs-net.org
ruheirshater@yahoo.com

ICARDA
Mounir Louhaichi
Principal Scientist
Amman, Jordan
Tel: +962 796123068
Fax: +962 6 5903133
E-mail: M.Louhaichi@cgiar.org

FAO SECRETARIAT

FAO HQ
Eduardo Mansur
On behalf of FAO DG -Director
Rome, Italy
Tel: +390657055978
Email: Eduardo.Mansur@fao.org

Lauren Flejzor
Forestry Officer
Rome, Italy
Tel: +390657053081
Email: Lauren.Flejzor@fao.org

Nora Berrahmouni
Forester Officer
Rome, Italy
Tel: +390657052938
Email: Nora.Berrahmouni@fao.org

Danilo Mollicone
Forester Officer
Rome, Italy
Tel: +390657052044
Email: Danilo.Mollicone@fao.org

Dominique Rozas
Liason and Meetings Officer
Rome, Italy
Tel: +390657052630
Email: Dominique.Rozas@fao.org

FAO ALGERIA
Nabil Assaf
TECHNICAL OFFICER/FAOR,
Alger, Algeria
Tel: +213-661-700827
Email: Nabil.Assaf@fao.org
FAO RNE
AbdelHamied Hamid
Senior Forestry Officer
Cairo, Egypt
Tel: +20233316000
Fax: +37495981
Email: AbdelHamied.Hamid@fao.org

Myriam Aziz
Technical Programme Assistance
Cairo, Egypt
Email: myriam.aziz@fao.org
Tel: +202-33316000
Fax: +202-37495981
## ANNEX B

### THE FOURTH NEAR EAST FORESTRY WEEK PROGRAMME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Speaker/Presenter</th>
<th>Moderator</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Day One</td>
<td>13 December 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 – 9:00</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 – 9:30</td>
<td>Opening</td>
<td>1-Mr Domi Mohamed – Representative of Wali Welayet Tlemcen</td>
<td>Nedjma Rahmani</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>2. Mr Issa Alshobaki – Chairperson NEFRC 21</td>
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<td>2-Mr Eduardo Mansur – on behalf of the FAO</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3- Yettou AbdelKader – DG Directorate of Forests, Algeria</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 – 10:30</td>
<td>NENA process and the proposed set of sustainability indicators for sustainable management of forests and rangelands in the NENA region</td>
<td>Abdel Hamied A Hamid (FAO Regional Office for the Near East) (20 min pp+ 40 min discussion)</td>
<td>Nedjma Rahmani</td>
<td>All Participants (NEFRC22 &amp; NEFW)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 – 11:00</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 – 12:00</td>
<td>The way forward for promoting and strengthening the use of C&amp;Is for SFRM in the NENA region</td>
<td>Fady Asmer (Consultant) (20 min pp+ 40 min discussion)</td>
<td>Nedjma Rahmani</td>
<td>All participants (NEFRC 22 &amp; NEFW)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 – 14:00</td>
<td>Lunch Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:00 – 15:30</td>
<td>Seminar on &quot;Global Guidelines for the restoration of degraded forests and landscapes in drylands: building resilience and benefiting livelihoods</td>
<td>Eduardo Mansur (FOM-Director) Nora Berahmouni (FAO) Bayram HOPUR (Turkey) Abdelmoneem Osman (Sudan) Chadi MOHANNA (Lebanon)</td>
<td>Abas Mohamed</td>
<td>All participants (NEFRC 22 &amp; NEFW)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:30 – 16:00</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>16:00 – 16:30</td>
<td>Korean Experience in rehabilitation of degraded forestlands and lessons learned for NENA region</td>
<td>Jimo Kwon (15 min pp+ 15 Min discussion)</td>
<td>Abas Mohamed</td>
<td>All participants (NEFRC 22 &amp; NEFW)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16:30 – 17:00</td>
<td>Experience of Pakistan in Restoration of Drylands Forests</td>
<td>Sarawat Mirza</td>
<td>Abas Mohamed</td>
<td>All participants (NEFRC 22 &amp; NEFW)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Speaker</td>
<td>Participants</td>
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<tr>
<td>17:00 – 18:00</td>
<td>Side event - National Endowment for mutually reinforcing agricultural services</td>
<td>Abas Mohamed</td>
<td>All Participants (NEFRC 22 &amp; NEFW)</td>
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</table>

**Day 2**

**14 December 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 – 9:30</td>
<td>Opening of NEFRC 22</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 – 10:30</td>
<td>Integration of forest policy into national rural development policy: the case of Algeria</td>
<td>Mme HAZEM Lynda</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 – 11:00</td>
<td>Break</td>
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</table>
| 11:00 – 12:00| 1) Development of sustainable agropastoral systems: the experience of ICARDA  
                     2) Experience of Algeria in rangelands management | Bouziane AbdelKrim       |
| 12:00 – 14:00| Lunch Break                                                        |                          |
| 14:00 – 15:00| Role of NWFPs in empowering rural communities; the case of the gum Arabic – Sudan  
                     2) Valorization of medicinal & aromatic plants in Algeria | NEFRC Chair person      |
| 15:00 – 15:30| State of Forests in the Near East                                    | NEFRC Chair person      |
| 15:30 – 16:00| Break                                                               |                          |
| 16:00 – 17:00| 1) Goods and services provided by forest ecosystems case of Chréa park, Algeria  
                     2) 3) Relationship between humans and forests | Naimi Bendouina         |

**Day 3**

**15 December 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Country/Institution</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 – 10:30</td>
<td>Countries experiences in combating desertification and sand dunes fixation</td>
<td>Mr TOLBA Kamel &amp; Mr SADJI Ahmed (Algeria)</td>
<td>Ould Mohammed Yousif</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Session</td>
<td>Speaker</td>
<td>Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 – 11:00</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 – 11:30</td>
<td>Private Sector involvement in Forestry (Document FO:NEFRC/2015/4)</td>
<td>Lauren Flejzor (FAO)</td>
<td>NEFRC Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 – 11:50</td>
<td>The Role of Communication in enhancing the visibility of forests and forestry in the NENA region</td>
<td>Patricia Sfeir (Lebanon)</td>
<td>NEFRC Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:50 – 12:00</td>
<td>Closure of the Week</td>
<td>DG- Forestry Directorate</td>
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<td>Nabil Assaf (FAO Algeria)</td>
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</table>
AGENDA

1. Opening of the 22nd Session of the Near East Forestry and Range Commission (NEFRC)
2. Adoption of the Agenda and Election of Officers
3. FAO and Country activities in the region and Follow-up on requests and recommendations of the 21st Session of the NEFRC
4. Plenary session with NEFW on role of Non-wood Forest Products in empowering rural communities (cases from Algeria, and Sudan)
5. State of Forests in the Near East
6. Global Policy Processes
7. Criteria and Indicators for sustainable management of forests and rangelands in the Near East region
8. Forest and Rangeland Policies in the Near East region
9. Forest and Landscape Restoration
10. Private Sector involvement in Forestry
11. Gender, Youth and Education
12. Drylands Monitoring
13. Input to FAO Governance
14. Any other business
15. Date and Place of next session
16. Adoption of the Report and Closure of the 22nd Session of the Commission
## LIST OF DOCUMENTS

### Agenda Item Code Title

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>FO:NEFRC/2015/1</td>
<td>Provisional Agenda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>FO:NEFRC/2015/2</td>
<td>Review of Near East Forestry and Range Commission and other FAO forestry activities, including follow-up to the recommendations of NEFRC 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>FO:NEFRC/2015/6</td>
<td>State of Forests in the Near East</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>FO:NEFRC/2015/7</td>
<td>Global Policy Processes</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>FO:NEFRC/2015/3</td>
<td>Criteria and indicators for sustainable management of forests and rangelands in the Near East</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>FO:NEFRC/2015/11</td>
<td>Forest and Rangeland Policies in the Near East region</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>FO:NEFRC/2015/9</td>
<td>Forest and Landscape Restoration</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>FO:NEFRC/2015/4</td>
<td>Mobilizing corporate private sector investment in small scale forest enterprises</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>FO:NEFRC/2015/8</td>
<td>Gender, youth and education</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>FO:NEFRC/2015/5</td>
<td>Drylands monitoring</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>FO:NEFRC/2015/10</td>
<td>Input to FAO governance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Information documents

- FO:NEFRC/2015/Inf.1 Information Note for Participants
- FO:NEFRC/2015/Inf.2 Provisional Timetable
- FO:NEFRC/2015/Inf.3 List of Documents
MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Afghanistan</th>
<th>Oman</th>
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<tr>
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