

February 2010

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منظمة الأغذية  
والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

Organisation  
des  
Nations  
Unies  
pour  
l'alimentation  
et  
l'agriculture

Продовольственная и  
сельскохозяйственная  
организация  
Объединенных  
Наций

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

## NEAR EAST FORESTRY COMMISSION

### NINETEENTH SESSION

### NEAR EAST FORESTRY WEEK

HAMMAMET, TUNISIA  
5 – 9 APRIL 2010

**Forests and range: adapting to global changes for sustainable  
development**

### WORKING GROUPS AND NETWORKS

#### Near East Network on Forest Health and Invasive Species (NENFHIS)

1. The network was established in December 2007 and was further endorsed by the 18th session of the Near East Forestry Commission (NEFC) in Khartoum, Sudan, February 2008. Tunisia is the current coordinator of the NENFHIS Secretariat .
2. The Network seeks to promote collaboration, sharing of expertise and information, and implementation of projects to mitigate the adverse affects of biological invasion and the subsequent impacts and declining health of forest ecosystems for the mutual benefit of member countries.
3. The main achievement so far has been the creation of a newsletter and publication of a flyer. The Secretariat is currently working on the preparation of country profiles on forest pests and diseases.
4. On the occasion of the XIII WFC in Buenos Aires, Argentina, October 2009, members of the network met with those of other networks and they further decided to establish/maintain closer collaboration in order to benefit from mutual experiences and from other more advanced networks.

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### **Near East Working Group on Wildlife Conservation and Protected Areas Management (NEWPAM)**

5. At the initiative of the Regional Office for the Near East and in collaboration with the Forest Conservation Service, HQ, FAO organized a regional workshop on wildlife conservation and protected area management in Syria in May 2009.
6. The workshop was attended by 27 participants representing 11 Near East countries, one non-governmental organization and FAO staff. During the meeting an exhaustive overview of opportunities for technical cooperation with FAO, as well as the potential mechanisms for developing field programmes on wildlife and protected areas, was introduced.
7. An interim Executive Committee to assist the Secretariat in establishing NEWPAM was agreed upon to include representatives from the following countries: Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Mauritania, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen. Focal points from these countries will be selected following in-country consultations.
8. The composition of the Working Group and its Secretariat will be submitted for formal endorsement at the 19<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission in Tunisia in April 2010.

### **Creation of the Near East Regional Network on Forest and Wildland Fires**

9. In follow-up to the Commission's discussions in Larnaka, Cyprus, in June 2006 and Khartoum, Sudan, February 2008 as well as the request of the 18<sup>th</sup> Session of COFO in 2007, to establish a regional network, a proposal to establish the Near East Network on Forest and Wildland Fires was prepared at a regional workshop in Lattakia, Syria, in November 2009. The proposal will be considered for endorsement by the Commission.
10. The mission of the Near East Regional Network on Forest and Wildland Fires (**NENFIRE**) would promote collaboration, sharing of expertise and information, implementation of projects and combat and manage forest and wildland fires<sup>1</sup> in the region, for the mutual benefit of member countries.

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<sup>1</sup> Definition: The workshop agreed to define wildland fires as: "*Unplanned and uncontrolled fires affecting forests, wooded lands, rangelands and other natural ecosystems, regardless of ignition sources and which may require suppression response or other action according to national and international policies.*"