Main Department of Forestry
Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of the
Republic of Uzbekistan

National Forest Programme Facility

Public Center “Environment for healthy life”

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Participation: Political Rhetoric or Real Necessity?

Background Paper

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Stakeholder Analysis

Primarily, the identification of stakeholders plays an important role in the National forest programme.

The stakeholders in the forestry sector in Uzbekistan can be divided in two groups in the nfp process:

1. Government institutions;
2. NGOs, academic institutions, private sector and the local community;

1. **Government institutions** are the main stakeholders in the nfp process. The following government institutions play an important role directly involved in forest management.
   - local Government authorities;
   - state forestry organizations;
   - state nature protection organizations.

Local Government authorities are the locally main state institutions carrying out general control and management.

**State forestry organizations** are the institutions organizing main forest management activities such as conducting forest policy, protection and use.

**State nature protection organizations** are the institutions carrying out state control of forest protection and use.

2. Moreover, NGOs, academic institutions, private sector and the local community are the stakeholders actively participating in the nfp in Uzbekistan. While NGOs and academic institutions participate in project and programme implementation, and carry out researches, private sector and the local community are directly characterized in forest resources use.

Experiences with stakeholder participation in the nfp process of Uzbekistan

Development of the National Forest Programme started in 2006 in cooperation with UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) in Uzbekistan.

As known, National forest programme consists of the following 4 phases:

1. Analysis;
2. Planning and policy formulation;
3. Implementation;

The participation of stakeholders in the nfp process plays an important role. With this regard, NGOs, educational establishments, state forest management organizations, private sector and the local community played an active role in the Analysis, planning and policy formulation phase of the nfp in Uzbekistan. This, mainly, was carried out by conducting surveys with stakeholder groups and by actively participating in local and national workshops and discussions. The recommendations and suggestions of these stakeholder groups were taken into account in the formulation of forest policy and development of forest legislation.

Provision of active participation of stakeholders in the nfp process – requires carrying out a number of activities in this regard and the implementation of these activities with the active involvement of stakeholders.
With this regard, a number of activities are being carried out with the support of the Facility to support the active participation of stakeholders in the nfp, upon the conclusion of a Partnership Agreement in 2007 between the the Main Department of Forestry of the Republic of Uzbekistan and UN FAO.

They are the following:

**Develop the Concept for the active involvement of the rural local communities through new partnership agreements**

The Uzbek forestry sector is facing the major challenge in engaging civil society in particular the rural population to sustainable forest resources management (SFRM). There is only very limited experience in the country on participatory forestry and support is much needed to develop approaches and models that can be adapted to the national context. The official and growing recognition of the potential of participatory forestry to prevent forest degradation and to contribute to the socio-economic development of the local population provides adequate conditions for such approaches and models.

Within the framework of nfp-Facility programme the needs of local community were studied with the involvement of NGOs, and the Concept of involvement of rural population in the forest management process was developed. The current Concept was presented to the public for consideration.

**Research on improving the forestry related normative documents (procedures, rules, instructions, etc.)**

After gaining independence Uzbekistan has started implementation its own step-by-step policy aimed at increasing the level of social and economic development of the country. In particular, certain measures have been undertaken in order to improve the legal framework. This process has also covered legislation related to environmental aspects, such as conservation forests.

As a result, most legislative acts in this field have been amended, some were abolished and some new legislative acts were developed and adopted by the government of Uzbekistan. Most of the current legislation complies with the international standards. However there is still a small gap in the existing legislative framework in the field of forestry management.

Most of the legislative acts that have been developed up to present days have only general meaning and context. However, no particular attention has been paid to development of new
technical procedures and norms to fulfill the requirements of current laws in forestry management. For this reason only old technical procedures and norms (adopted in 1970-1980), which do not satisfy present requirements, are being used in the field of forestry management. Applying this outdated legislation may negatively affect conservation, utilization and regeneration of forests.

With this regard, within the framework of the nfp-Facility the state of the normative documents (procedures, rules, instructions, etc..) was studied and recommendations were also developed for their improvement. In particular, the recommendations were developed and submitted to the related governmental agencies on the creation of normative documents, which must be approved. This, in turn, enables improvement of normative documents in the field of forest resource management.

**Public awareness raising**

In the realization of the nfp of Uzbekistan, there is a special significance to inform the local community and other related stakeholders about the forest resources and the suitable access to them.

Within the framework of the nfp-Facility, an official web-site of the Main Department of Forestry was developed as well as the opportunity to inform the public about the matters related to forestry.

In particular, for the journalists, working in the field of ecology, the special training workshops were organized, and due to their knowledge increase and experience in the field of forestry, several programs are broadcast on TV and radio channels, and articles are being published in journals and newspapers about the issues of forestry sector of Uzbekistan. Owing to these conducted events, as well as with provision the population with the information related to forestry, the journalists are adapting to the field of forestry.
Uzbekistan’s forest fund is rich in resources which produce lots of marketable non-wood forest products.

Non-wood forest products are multi-dimensional in scope. They comprise a wide range of forest goods (and services) differing in their source, characteristics and uses. From time immemorial these products have contributed greatly to human welfare and progress. NWFPs are significant sources of food, fodder, fertilizer, fiber and flosses, herbal medicine, organic construction materials and cultural products. They also provide industrial raw material to support processing enterprises. They are used at the subsistence, local use and commercial levels. Being capable of providing all the basic needs of the people, NWFPs represent a complete resource base.

Besides, NWFPs can support economic growth through activities related to their growing, harvesting, processing and marketing. Development of NWFPs can go a long way in providing additional rural employment and household income, and thus contribute to a better livelihood to the rural people.

The availability of non-wood forest products in Uzbekistan calls for further studies. These products have not been well studied and could be potentially promoted for the socio economic benefits of the people.

Within the framework of the nfp-Facility, potential nonwood products are being studied in detail and the strategy of development of this field is being developed.

To establish the school forestry works system to ensure the development and expansion of forest and ecological views and knowledge among the youth as well as educational establishments

The number of youth in the Republic of Uzbekistan has reached 60 percent. On the occasion of declaring the year 2008 as a “Year of Youth”, as the youth constitutes the main part of our society, provision of active participation and creation of necessary conditions for youth to participate in social-economic and political processes have been set as a high priority.
In particular, one of the main tasks is attraction of the most part of youth for implementation of the policy of environmental preservation by extending their knowledge on environment and ecology, by ensuring their direct participation in such activities.

The teaching of ecology is well organized in educational institutions of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Particularly, there are additional ecological circles operating in educational institutions.

But, it is significant to state here, that school forestry works circles aren’t established at educational institutions nearby forest areas. That is, in turn, causing not to extend the knowledge of youth on forestry broadly.

Within the framework of the nfp-Facility, the activities are being carried out directed to strengthening the cooperation between the governmental and non-governmental organizations on development of ecological education, as well as education in forestry sector, and the creation of necessary allowances to the educational establishments, increase of knowledge in the field of forestry.

Besides that, the contest «Young foresters» is organized at Republican level among the youth.

### Capacity building of forestry specialists

In the meantime, the work is being carried out on improvement of the legislation in the field of forest management of Uzbekistan. In particular, new normative documents are developed, which are being put into action. This, in turn, requires capacity building of forestry specialists in place in the application of the new normative documents. In this direction, within the framework of the nfp-Facility, training workshops are being organized in 5 regions of the Republic on application of the normative documents in the field of forestry, in which the forestry specialists increase their knowledge.

### Perspectives for the future

Last nfp-process evaluation of Matrix results show the increase in the participation of stakeholders in forest related activities in the Republic. Moreover, still, the basic legal rights highlighting the mechanism of participation of stakeholders in the forest related issues are not
developed. Additionally, the indevelopment of methods soliciting the stakeholders’ participation is also bearing problems for the stakeholders. With this regard, the issue of development and approval of legal instruments supporting the participation of stakeholders in forest relations should be resolved. This instrument, firstly, is directly related to the approval of the recently developed Forest Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Furthermore, the development of Guidelines of the participatory tools will enable to enrich the capacity of stakeholders in active participation in forest relations.