

**UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on
Forest Policy in Eastern Europe and Central Asia**

Budapest, Hungary, 4–6 March 2009

**Turkmenistan
Country Report**

In Turkmenistan all forests are state-owned. The current Forest Code of Turkmenistan, adopted on 12 April 1993, is the statutory forestry document that defines the principles and activities related to the sustainable forest management, the forest conservation as well as the increasing environmental, economic and social potential of Turkmenistan. However, in the light of economic changes and the current situation in the country, there is a need to upgrade the Forestry Code of Turkmenistan; therefore a new draft is in the process of preparing.

The Forest Code is complemented by the following laws, which constitute the basic legislative framework for the protection, management and efficient utilization of natural resources, including forests and other vegetation cover of the country:

- The Constitution of Turkmenistan (2008)
- Law on State Strictly Protected Natural Areas (Nature Reserves) (1992)
- Law on the Protection and Rational Use of Flora (1993)
- Law on Air Protection (1996)
- Law on the Protection and Rational Use of Fauna (1997)
- The Criminal Code of Turkmenistan (1997)
- Regulation on JSC «Gok Gushak» (1999)
- Decision of the President of Turkmenistan: «On the development of horticulture and landscape gardening in Turkmenistan» (1992), as well as «On establishment of the forest park area in the foothills of the Kopetdag» (1998), «On the development of the forest park area in the foothills of the Kopetdag» (1998) and etc.

The main directions related to the development forestry policy of Turkmenistan can be summarized as follows:

- Efficient protection of existing forest resources and vegetation cover and their biodiversity.
- Renewal of degraded forest and other vegetation resources using acceptable methods.
- Establishment of multipurpose forests across the country to increase the area of woodlands to 10 million hectares in the 21st century.
- Ensuring the participation of various government organizations and local representatives as well as their communities in forestry activities related to the establishment of forest stands and a set of measures towards technical services.
- In the processes of afforestation and reforestation it should be given a particular emphasis and priority to the forest belts around big cities and settlements, the protection of basic engineering structures (highways, railways, canals), the protection of agricultural land and the implementing actions to combat desertification, the control against the destruction of river banks, high groundwater and soil salinization.
- Improvement of cultivation practices in forest nurseries as well as increase the production capacity in order to enhance the quality and quantity of seedlings required to organize implementation of the afforestation plan.
 - Enhancing public awareness, public education, professional training in environmental and forestry spheres.
 - Permanent involvement of forest-related institutions of Turkmenistan in international activities (co-operation, international programs and procedures).
 - Improvement of opportunities for developing technical skills and knowledge of the staff of JSC «Gok Gushak».