

**UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on  
Forest Policy in Eastern Europe and Central Asia**  
Budapest, Hungary, 4–6 March 2009

**Republic of Uzbekistan  
Country Report**

**1. The basic documents governing the forestry policy in Uzbekistan**

“The development program of the forest sector in 2006–2010 in Uzbekistan”, adopted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Management is a basic document governing the forestry policy of Uzbekistan. This program has mainly declared the technical activities to be carried out by forest enterprises, e.g. plans for planting forests, forests fire protection, etc.

In order to successfully execute the forestry policy in Uzbekistan, on demand of the Government, two years ago the project “Support to the development of national forestry program and forest legislation” was launched in collaboration with the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

At present, in the frame of the project a National Forestry Program of Uzbekistan has been developed. In the course of preparing Uzbekistan's National Forestry Program, a diverse range of stakeholders related to forestry, including also representatives of local communities, NGOs and the private sector, was actively involved.

In June 2009, the document will be submitted to the Government for approval. After that, an Action plan is to be worked out to implement the National Forestry Program of Uzbekistan.

**2. Institutional framework**

The General Directorate of Forestry under the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Management is the governmental organ responsible for forest management in Uzbekistan.

The former structure of the General Directorate of Forestry has been modified and improved according to the resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of 10/08/2005, №191.

In addition, the State Committee for Nature Conservation, the State Geological Committee, the Joint Stock Company ‘Uzavtoyol’, the State Joint Stock Company ‘Uzbekistan Temir Yullari’, the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Tashkent Regional Administration (Khokimiyat) are managed the state forest lands.

A new National Forest Program of Uzbekistan has proposed to move the General Directorate of Forestry from the Ministry of Agriculture and Water management into the new department of the Cabinet of Ministers.

The institutional structure of the General Directorate of Forestry is attached (Annex 1).

**3. Forestry legislation**

All affairs and relations concerning the forests in the Republic of Uzbekistan are regulated primarily by “Law On the forests” adopted on 15/04/1999.

The project of a new Forest Code has been updated and being submitted to Parliament for consideration.

In the project of a new Forest Code, local population on a base of long-term lease agreement (up to 49 years) pays special attention to the initiative of renting forests.

Numerous constraints limit the improvement of regulations aimed at adjustment of forest relations.

Forest enterprises are still being used according to regulations developed in the former USSR. These regulations are outdated and are not able to meet today's demands.

Now, the General Directorate of Forestry in the framework of FAO nfp-Facility has been examining the procedural practicability (practicability study) of improving law acts.

#### **4. Database**

To achieve sustainable forest management and to make well-founded decisions regarding the forests, there is a great demand for accurate and reliable data on the status of forests.

In this regard, the General Directorate of Forestry conducts works on forest inventory and forest cadastre on the base of an integrated system developed in the Republic of Uzbekistan.

However, the forest inventory and forest cadastre **do not provide** the possibility for determining the real state of forests.

Particular attention has to be given to the National Forest Inventory in order to obtain accurate and reliable data on the state of forests. It should be noted that the last National Forest Inventory was assembled in March 1989.

The Directorate of Forestry is currently performing negotiations regarding the implementation of the National Forest Inventory in collaboration with FAO under the JICA project.

#### **5. The professional and technical capacity in the forest sector**

Issues of capacity building in the field of forestry are in the focus of interest in Uzbekistan. However, the training courses conducted in recent years were low-level and insufficient.

In this regard, in cooperation with FAO a project proposal for the implementation of the technical capacity building training programs in Central Asia has been developed. Opportunities of financial support are currently being sought for this training program.