

REPORT

**Khartoum,
Republic of
the Sudan,
28-31 January
2002**

**NEAR EAST
FORESTRY
COMMISSION**

Fifteenth session



**Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
Nations**

PREVIOUS SESSIONS OF THE COMMISSION

First session	Teheran, Iran	24-29 September 1955
Second session	Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt	27 October-November 1958
Third session	Adana, Turkey	30 April-May 1962
Fourth session	Beirut, Lebanon	15-22 June 1964
Fifth session	Amman, Jordan	25-30 September 1967
Sixth session	Teheran, Iran	25-30 April 1970
Seventh session	Baghdad, Iraq	30 November-5 December 1974
Eighth session	Khartoum, Sudan	23-28 February 1978
Ninth session	Nicosia, Cyprus	6-10 June 1983
Tenth session	Tunis, Tunisia	29 June-3 July 1987
Eleventh session	Ankara, Turkey	15-19 October 1990
Twelfth session	Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt	21-24 October 1996
Thirteenth session	Damascus, Syria	6-9 December 1998
Fourteenth session	Teheran, Islamic Republic of Iran	1-4 July 2000

REPORT

of the

FIFTEENTH SESSION

of the

NEAR EAST FORESTRY COMMISSION

Khartoum, Republic of the Sudan
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SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

PERSPECTIVES ON FORESTRY IN THE REGION: PROGRESS REPORTS (Item 4)

1. The Commission recommended that countries step up their efforts to strengthen the field-level capacity to implement the application of C&I. The Commission also recommended that the FAO Regional Office for the Near East and the concerned countries work together to bring the countries of the region to the same level as other countries as regards C&I. (para. 13)
2. The Commission recommended that FAO and the member countries strengthen the capacity of the LFCC Secretariat and member countries of the Commission. (para. 14)
3. The Commission took note of the recent efforts to address the issues of sustainable management and utilization of non-wood forest products and recommended that countries and FAO strengthen their efforts in addressing the issues in this area. (para. 15)
4. The Commission recommended that countries improve their institutional capacity to respond to the changes and to take proactive steps to face emerging situations. (para. 17)

UNCED FOLLOW-UP AS RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN THE NEAR EAST: REGIONAL INPUTS TO THE UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON FORESTS (UNFF) (Item 5)

5. The Commission took note of these developments and stressed the need for the countries to participate in the deliberations of the UNFF. It recommended that FAO facilitate the participation of the Commission's member countries in the activities of the UNFF. (para. 20)

THE USE OF TREATED WASTEWATER (TWW) IN FOREST PLANTATIONS IN THE NEAR EAST (Item 6)

6. The Commission recommended closer collaboration between FAO and member countries of the Commission. (para. 22)
7. The Commission recommended that member countries design an integrated, intersectoral treated wastewater strategy with supporting legal, policy, regulatory and planning frameworks. The Commission also recommended that FAO assist with capacity building in member countries for the use of treated wastewater in irrigating tree plantations. (para. 24)

REGIONAL INVOLVEMENT IN GLOBAL FOREST RESOURCES ASSESSMENTS (Item 7)

8. The Commission recommended that FAO pursue support to strengthen country capacity in resource assessment. (para. 27)

9. The Commission highlighted the need for closer collaboration between FAO and countries. It welcomed the idea of establishing a regional team of experts as an advisory group on FRA issues and recommended that FAO take active steps in that respect. (para. 28)
10. The Commission recommended that FAO produce a new manual on FRA. (para. 29)

FAO FORESTRY ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION: REVIEW OF FAO REGULAR AND FIELD PROGRAMMES INCLUDING FOLLOW-UP TO THE REQUESTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 14TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION (Item 8a)

11. The Commission took note of the various activities and recommended that FAO continue to strengthen field-level activities, and especially to strengthen country capacity for the implementation of sustainable forest management. (para. 34)
12. The Commission recommended that FAO assist member countries in their efforts to develop and update the forestry curricula of institutions of higher education in order to accommodate contemporary global, regional and national environmental and socio-economic variables. (para. 35)
13. The Commission recommended that member countries, especially at the subregional level, seek and institutionalize cooperation in firefighting. (para. 36)
14. The Commission recommended that, in view of the decrease in forest cover in the region and consequently the possible loss of genetic resources – especially for endangered species – activities directed at conservation and collaboration in the region should be intensified with the technical assistance of FAO. (para. 37)

FAO FORESTRY ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION: 18TH SESSION OF *SILVA MEDITERRANEA* (Item 8b)

15. The Commission acknowledged the importance of *Silva Mediterranea* as a valuable forum for the region and recommended that FAO convene its eighteenth session in conjunction with other functions in early 2002, at FAO headquarters, to ensure wide participation of member countries. (para.40)

FORESTRY OUTLOOK STUDY FOR AFRICA: PROGRESS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND FOLLOW-UP ACTION (Item 9)

16. The Commission noted the implications and recommendations from FOSA and noted the relevance of the findings in strengthening national forest programmes, and recommended that:
- member countries that are involved in the FOSA process undertake a detailed review of the draft regional and subregional reports and provide comments and suggestions to FAO within one month; and
 - FAO proceed with the finalization of the report taking into account the comments and suggestions received as well as the review process planned during the thirteenth session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (25-29 March 2002). (para. 44)

17. The Commission recommended that FAO should continue to facilitate regional outlook studies, including covering the Near East countries not included in the ongoing FOSA, and help capacity building in strategic planning at the national level. (para. 45)

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS AND INITIATIVES (Item 10)

International Year of Mountains – 2002

18. The Secretariat stressed the need for member countries that had not formed national committees for the IYM to do so as early as possible in order to ensure active participation in the observance of the IYM. (para. 47)

Arrangements for the XII World Forestry Congress, Canada, 2003

19. The Commission acknowledged the importance of the World Forestry Congress and recommended that FAO facilitate and ensure a high participation from the developing countries. (para. 49)

National Forest Programme Facility

20. The Commission recommended that FAO, in collaboration with member countries, pursue the implementation of the Facility as a highly flexible and adaptable mechanism to provide timely support to member countries. In this regard the Commission emphasized the need to widen the involvement of donors and to ensure that complementarities of ongoing efforts were fully considered. (para. 52)

REPORT OF THE REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE ROLE OF PRIVATE SECTOR, NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND CIVIL SOCIETY IN FOREST MANAGEMENT/FOREST POLICY IN THE NEAR EAST REGION (27 January 2002, Khartoum, Sudan) (Item 11)

21. The Commission noted the recommendations of the workshop, which emphasized the need to strengthen the participation of the private sector and civil society in forestry in the region. It recommended that the countries institutionalize the process by establishing appropriate bodies at the national and local levels and develop frameworks that will encourage the active participation of all the stakeholders. (para. 54)
22. In order to strengthen the national-level initiatives, the Commission recommended that FAO strengthen the forestry capacity at the Regional Office for the Near East in order to provide timely technical support to the member countries, especially as related to national forest programmes. (para. 55)

REGIONAL ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE COMMISSION FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY (Item 12)

23. The Commission recommended that the following items be brought to the attention of the Committee on Forestry at its next session:

- Recognizing the importance of improving the information base on forest resources, especially in the context of the increasing emphasis on the global environmental functions of forests, the FAO Forestry Department should facilitate the strengthening of national capacity in resource assessment.
 - Considering the need to provide support to countries in the formulation and implementation of national forest programmes, the FAO Forestry Department should strengthen its technical capacity at the Regional Office for the Near East.
 - Recognizing that the Near East Region primarily consists of low forest cover countries, and recognizing the critical nature of these countries' limited forests for protecting the environment and for other economic and social values, the Commission called upon FAO to support the LFCC process, including strengthening of the LFCC Secretariat as an effective network.
37. Considering the importance of regional and global outlook studies in providing a long-term framework for preparation of national forest programmes, and especially in giving an indication of the emerging opportunities and constraints in an increasingly integrated world, it is recommended that FAO should continue to facilitate regional outlook studies, including studies covering the Near East countries not included in the ongoing FOSA, and should help build capacity in strategic planning at the national level. (para. 56)

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

Afghanistan	Pakistan
Cyprus	Qatar
Egypt	Saudi Arabia (Kingdom of)
Ethiopia	Somalia
Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	Sudan
Iraq	Syria
Jordan	Tunisia
Kuwait	Turkey
Lebanon	United Arab Emirates
Libya	Yemen