

REPORT

**Teheran,
Islamic Republic of Iran,
1-4 July
2000**

NEAR EAST FORESTRY COMMISSION

Fourteenth 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 – 1 November 1958
Third session	Adana, Turkey	30 April – 5 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

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REPORT

of the

FOURTEENTH SESSION

of the

NEAR EAST FORESTRY COMMISSION

Teheran, Islamic Republic of Iran
1-4 July 2000

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
Rome, 2000

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SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

STATE OF FORESTRY IN THE REGION: NATIONAL PROGRESS REPORTS (Item 3)

1. The Commission noted that member countries had been requested to submit their country reports in advance of the meeting, and recommended that greater efforts be made in this regard in future to report on current developments. (para. 7)
2. In the field of forest protection, the Commission noted the scope for regional collaboration in developing techniques to combat fires and outbreaks of insect and disease attacks (with particular reference to recent attacks of *Cephalcia tannourinensis* on *Cedrus libani*), as well as in mitigating the effects of drought, and recommended that FAO assist countries in these fields. (para. 9)

UNCED FOLLOW-UP AS RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN THE REGION (Item 4)

3. The Commission recommended that FAO continue to support the intergovernmental forest policy dialogue, and in particular the United Nations Forum on Forests as and when established. (para. 19)
4. The Commission recommended that FAO provide support to the Teheran Process in collaboration with other international organizations and donor agencies. (para. 24)

NON-WOOD FOREST PRODUCTS FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE NEAR EAST (Item 5)

5. The Cairo (May 1997) and Beirut (May 1999) meetings led to the formulation of recommendations on actions to be undertaken in various fields in order to promote the sustainable use of NWFP, which were endorsed by the Commission, with particular reference to:
 - policy and institutional issues, especially cooperation between countries, through regional projects and the strengthening of networking to exchange information and experiences; reviews of contractual arrangements and legislation; and the preparation of plans for national NWFP development, in particular the regulation of harvesting;
 - resource management issues, including the need for regional assessment studies for important NWFP species; and studies to determine sustainable harvest levels to accompany commercialization studies for NWFP;
 - product management issues, including the importance of added-value at the local and national level; the need for the regulation of trade in rare species; and the importance of socio-economic studies to assess the impact of NWFP commercialization on local communities. (para. 26)
6. The Commission recommended the involvement of FAO, along with partners such as the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), in the implementation of the Cairo and Beirut workshop recommendations on NWFP activities in the Region, especially the promotion of improved networking; support to the preparation of regional development projects and common programmes; and a review of national forest policies and regulations in the Region, to identify critical gaps which could impede the conservation of forest biodiversity and at the same time the sustainable development of NWFP. (para. 27)

CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR INTERACTIVE DATA COLLECTION FOR FORESTRY POLICY AND PLANNING (Item 6)

7. The Commission recommended that FAO provide technical advice and institutional support to member countries on forestry sector data collection, storage, analysis and the dissemination of information nationally, within the Region, and globally. (para. 32)

FAO FORESTRY ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION (Item 7)

8. The Commission recognized the need for adequate time for preparation for the next meeting of *Silva Mediterranea* scheduled to be hosted by Egypt in November 2000 and recommended the meeting to be postponed to 2001 at a time to be determined. In the meantime, further analysis should be made of the functioning of the research networks, and documentation could be prepared in a timely fashion. (para. 41)

FORESTRY AND THE KYOTO PROTOCOL (Item 8)

9. The Commission noted that even if the process of clarification and legalization takes a considerable time, carbon offset trading will almost certainly become one of the tools for financing certain forest operations in developing countries. The Commission thus endorsed the endeavours of FAO's Forestry Department to increase its activities addressing the contribution of forests to mitigating climate change and to strengthening its capacity to advise and guide member countries to make the best use of the new opportunities offered through the Kyoto Protocol. In particular, it recommended that FAO give its support to the organization of workshops related to the impact of the UNFCC and the Kyoto Protocol on the forestry sector of the countries of the Near East Region. (para. 47)

REPORT OF THE FAO WORKSHOP ON NATIONAL FOREST PROGRAMMES IN THE NEAR EAST REGION (11-12 October 1999, Istanbul, Turkey) (Item 9)

10. The Commission noted that many countries of the Region continue to face difficulties in the preparation and implementation of nfps and in the updating or revision of forest policies. The Commission endorsed the recommendations of the Istanbul Workshop, with particular reference to the appointment of a national forest programme regional advisor to the Near East Regional Office. (para 51)

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

11. The Commission recommended that the following items be brought to the attention of the Committee on Forestry at its next session:
- (a) in recognizing the importance of data and information for the development of the forestry sector in the region, the FAO Forestry Department should further support capacity-building for data collection, storage, analysis, dissemination and use;
 - (b) the relevance to countries with low forest cover in other regions of the Teheran Process and the Teheran Declaration, arising from the initiative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in convening the international meeting of experts on the *Special Needs and Requirements of Developing Countries with Low Forest Cover and Unique Types of Forests*, as well as the intention of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to establish a secretariat to promote the Teheran Process;

- (c) the importance of non-wood forest products to the countries of the Region, and the initiatives to sustainably manage, develop and promote NWFP which may be of relevance to countries in other regions;
- (d) steps taken to further develop and implement criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management through the Near East Process;
- (e) steps taken to develop national forest programmes and the revision of forest policies, with FAO support, within the Region, and the need to continue this endeavour;
- (f) the potential importance to forestry sector development of certain of the provisions of the Kyoto Protocol.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

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Egypt
Ethiopia
Iran (Islamic Rep. of)
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Jordan
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Libya

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Somalia
Sudan
Syria
Tunisia
Turkey
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