

Forestry Outlook Study for West and Central Asia (FOWECA)

Planning Workshop Programme

23 May 2004, Beirut, Lebanon

Background

At the specific request of the member countries during the 15th Session of Near East Forestry Commission in 2002, FAO is coordinating the Forestry Outlook Study for West and Central Asia (FOWECA). The Director-General of FAO has already written to the ministers of member countries outlining the background to the study and seeking their government's active support in undertaking the study. FOWECA will focus on providing a better understanding of emerging issues in the forest sector to the year 2020, specifically taking into account the inter-sectoral issues that impact forests and environment. By providing a regional and global perspective, FOWECA will help countries to better understand the implications of globalization in the forest sector, help to identify emerging opportunities and challenges and facilitate appropriate investment decisions. Several briefings regarding the objectives and activities have been made to member countries by taking opportunities of other FAO meetings or workshops. This workshop will be the first workshop of FOWECA focusing on the implementation of the study.

Objectives

The FOWECA workshop will be organized in conjunction with the 16th Session of NEFC. The National Focal Points of FOWECA from 15 countries are invited to participate in the workshop. The main objectives are to discuss the project workplan and the preparation of the country outlook paper; to identify topics and issues for the thematic studies; to take an overview of the trends and status of the forestry sector; and to identify the driving forces affecting forestry in the region.

Programme

09:00 – 09:30	Opening of the workshop – introduction of the workshop objectives <i>Mr. Hassan AbdelNour, RNE, FAO</i>
09:30 – 10:00	The FOWECA process: activities and outputs <i>Mr. JeanLouis Blanchez, FOPE, FAO</i>
10:00 – 10:30	Discussion: outlook approach – opportunities and constraints.
10:30 – 11:00	Tea/Coffee Break
11:00 – 11:30	Driving forces affecting forestry sector in West and Central Asia: <i>Ms. Qiang Ma, FOPE, FAO</i>

11:30 – 12:00	Questions and discussions
12:00 – 12:30	Contribution of the forestry sector to socio-economic development: present trends and the concept of future scenarios <i>Mr. JeanLouis Blanchez, FOPE, FAO</i>
12:30 – 13:00	Questions and discussions
13:00 – 14:30	Break
14:30 – 15:30	Group discussion: identifying and prioritizing topics or issues for the thematic studies
15:30 – 16:00	Wrap up group discussion
16:00 – 16:30	Discussion on preparation of country outlook paper <i>Ms. Qiang Ma, FOPE, FAO</i>
16:30 – 17:00	Closing of the workshop – conclusions <i>Mr. Hassan AbdelNour, RNE, FAO</i>