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REPORT

**NEAR EAST
FORESTRY AND RANGE
COMMISSION**

Twenty-fifth Session

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DRAFT REPORT

of the

TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION

of the

NEAR EAST FORESTRY AND RANGE COMMISSION

Cairo, Egypt

19-21 October 2021

(Virtual)

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Regional Office for the Near East

Cairo 2021

PREVIOUS SESSIONS OF THE COMMISSION

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|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| First session | Tehran, Iran | 24-29 September 1955 |
| Second session | Cairo, 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 | Tehran, Iran | 25-30 April 1970 |
| Seventh session | Baghdad, Iraq | 30 November– 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, Egypt | 21-24 October 1996 |
| Thirteenth session | Damascus, Syria | 6-9 December 1998 |
| Fourteenth session | Tehran, Iran | 1-4 July 2000 |
| Fifteenth session | Khartoum, the Sudan | 28-31 January 2002 |
| Sixteenth session | Beirut, Lebanon | 24-27 May 2004 |
| Seventeenth session | Larnaka, Cyprus | 5-9 June 2006 |
| Eighteenth session | Khartoum, the Sudan | 18-21 February 2008 |
| Nineteenth session | Hammamet, Tunisia | 5-9 April 2010 |
| Twentieth session | Antalya, Turkey | 29 January – 2 February 2012 |
| Twenty first session | Amman, Jordan | 26-30 January 2014 |
| Twenty second session | Tlemcen, Algeria | 13-17 December 2015 |
| Twenty third session | Beirut, Lebanon | 11-14 December 2017 |
| Twenty fourth session | Antalya, Turkey | 25 – 29 November 019 |
| Twenty Fifth session | Cairo, Egypt, (Virtual) | 19 – 21 November 2021 |

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SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

FOR THE ATTENTION OF MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE COMMISSION

The Commission

took note of the important links between forests, rangelands and the need to transform agri-food systems and of the main challenges to reduce forest and rangeland degradation and deforestation without adversely affecting food security;

underlined that moving from purely sectoral approaches to cross-sectorial can help identifying innovative solutions.

stressed the need:

- to acknowledge the importance of interactions between agriculture and forestry for sustainable development;
- for farmers , in particular smallholders, to be provided with the knowledge, tools and incentives or options to adopt more sustainable practices;
- for policies to reflect these interactions, and associated legislations that focus much more on sustainable practices;
- for greener investments, from public and private sources and to ensure that all stakeholder groups are involved and listened to in the transformation towards more sustainable agri-food systems;
- to emphasize the roles of food security, agriculture, rangeland, forestry and other aspects of rural development in an integrated manner.

recommended its Members to:

- strengthen efforts to reduce forest and rangeland degradation and deforestation;
- strengthen the institutional mechanisms for silvopastoral and agroforestry approaches in integrating livestock management in forest- and tree-based production systems to maximize synergies in terms of provision of food and fibre and other essential environmental services such as biomass circulation, carbon storage, biodiversity conservation, soil fertility and water management;
- promote efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems that contribute to sustainable forest and land management, including through agricultural capacity building programmes and improved access to technologies and markets, especially for women and youth; and
- mainstream the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus approach in ongoing and future programmes and projects that integrate conflict sensitivity and context specific analysis to avoid exacerbating further degradation.

encouraged Members to:

- take advantage of the opportunities provided by the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and other related global initiatives to mobilize resources for large-scale restoration programmes that aim at reversing ecosystem degradation, halting deforestation and land degradation and enhancing ecosystem health; better utilize available FAO technical resources to enhance capacities in areas related to forest and rangelands development, including landscape restoration, sustainable forest and rangeland management, biodiversity

conservation, climate change adaption and mitigation and provide FAO with feedback on their usability and the gaps to be filled in these available resources;

- further implement the activities of the NENA Regional Forest Wildland Fire Network (NENFIRE) and Near East Network on Forest Health and Invasive Species (NENFHIS), and to strengthen regional collaboration on forest/rangeland protection;
- further include Agriculture Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) targets and activities in the context of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement, and to seek partnerships to harness international climate finance to this end;
- bring their forest and rangeland related climate concerns to the attention of the 36th session of the FAO Regional Conference for the Near East and request that it recognize the role of forests and rangelands in policies and programmes that combat climate change

stressed the need for Members to designate National Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) Correspondents for future assessments, when requested, with the aim to ensure complete national submissions to future FRA's from all countries of the region.

invited Members to increase knowledge of forests by updating national land cover maps and conducting National Forest Inventories (NFIs) in countries where forest-related data are outdated or lacking;

invited Members to raise awareness of the importance of reversing forest cover loss and degradation of forests and other lands in the region, and the function of FRA reporting in monitoring progress towards agreed national and international goals and targets.

encouraged countries to seek FAO support to undertake studies on the impact of COVID-19 on their key Non-Wood Forest Products (NWFPs) in order to strengthen the resilience of their NWFPs in the face of any similar shocks and stresses in the future and to build back better.

encouraged countries to mobilize public, private and international development finance to support the valorization of the NWFPs in their countries and develop robust national research programmes to unveil the health benefit potentials of major NWFPs that already have well-established traditional medicinal uses.

welcomed the topical focus of FAO's flagship publication "The State of the World's Forests" 2022, titled "Forestry and Green Recovery, Building Inclusive and Sustainable Green Economies";

welcomed FAO's efforts in mainstreaming forest-related issues into the preparations of the UN Food Systems Summit and its Pre-Summit and the proposed follow-up actions;

welcomed the developments under the UN Secretary-General's Initiative on Turning the Tide on Deforestation and *encourage* countries to engage in the initiative by developing policy and legislative frameworks and undertake awareness and actionable programmes aiming to halt deforestation.

welcomed the themes of the International Day of Forests 2022 (*Forests and Sustainable Production and Consumption*) and 2023 (*Forests and Health*) and will consider them in the preparation of celebration events in the region.

invited countries to support the XV World Forestry Congress (WFC) by encouraging and facilitating good attendance, and encourage countries (in a position to do so) to provide financial support to the Congress to enable balanced participation. Given the importance of the WFC - an event that is organized every 6 years and that this time has been delayed of once more year because of the effects of COVID-19 - the Commission *requested* a regional preparatory meeting prior the WFC to help prepare the region for such a relevant meeting.

SUMMARY OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ATTENTION OF FAO

The Commission *requested* FAO to:

strengthen action on assessing and monitoring deforestation and rangelands degradation taking into consideration regionally-specific degradation dynamics and drivers within the context of Programme Priority Area Better Life 5 (PPA BL5) on Resilient Agri-food Systems;

strengthen action on halting desertification, land degradation and deforestation while greening agri-food systems, taking into consideration regionally-specific land degradation dynamics and drivers within the context of Programme Priority Area Better Life 5 (PPA BL5) on Resilient Agri-food Systems;

further strengthen its cross-sectoral work through activities aimed at halting land degradation and deforestation, and promoting sustainable agriculture, rangeland, and forest management in ways that lead to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems.

extend and strengthen its work on rangelands;

continue to support Members with the formulation of development projects that integrate forest and rangelands within the broader food system, conserve biodiversity, adapt to climate change and combat land degradation and contribute to achieving multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

continue to support the implementation of NENFIRE and NENFHIS activities, upon request by Members, especially the Review and Analysis and Risk Reduction for forest fires and community-based fire management, as well as phytosanitary measures in forestry; and share information on the outcomes of such activities and initiatives to be translated into national and regional programmes;

continue to provide technical assistance, upon request by Members, to improve institutional capacity to combat biotic and abiotic factors affecting health and vitality of forests and rangelands, including fires, pests and diseases, in support of the development of resilient forests and rangelands in the context of climate change;

continue to provide technical assistance, upon request by Members, to bolster national forest monitoring and climate risk and vulnerability assessments to evaluate future scenarios, achieve mitigation and adaptation targets, including through leveraging innovative monitoring tools and platforms, including Open Foris and the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM);

help Members, upon their request, to enhance coordination and collaboration on climate change activities, both within the countries, and inter-regionally, with relevant and recognized institutions and international organizations at the national level and in the region respectively;

invite the Chairperson of the NEFRC to attend the Regional Conference and enhance intersessional activities by improving interactions between NEFRC and NERC Members, including Rome-based delegations, with a view to strengthening cross-sectorial policy dialogue and to ensure that important regional forestry/rangelands matters are integrated in the themes of the Regional Conferences;

synchronize the calendar of future NEFRC meetings with the timetable of FAO Regional Conference for Near East (NERC) meetings, in order to provide inputs from the Commission to the NERC in a more timely manner;

strengthen the cross-sectorial work of the NEFRC, especially on forestry and agrifood systems matters, by providing relevant and useful inputs to their Members, to FAO (including through the NERC) and to other international processes on forest related issues;

consider undertaking a detailed review of NEFRC with the aim of further enhancing its relevance, including the focus on Agenda 2030 and the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-30, and its efficiency and effectiveness;

communicate the results of the review of the NEFRC to the next session of COFO for its consideration;

continue building national capacity for harmonized FRA reporting, improve reporting on forest characteristics, continue developing the FRA data platform, and further *strengthen* its support for national forest inventory and mapping in the region;;

explore ways of improving forest data through regional collaboration on thematic mapping and monitoring and through possible linkages to other data-sources;

provide further analyses and outlooks on the status and use of the forest resources in the region, building on the FRA and other relevant data, to support related decision-making.

share its recommendations for the Near East Regional Conference (NERC), COFO and the forestry programme priorities with other Regional Forestry Commissions as well as with the secretariats of the Regional Conference and COFO;

promote SOFO 2022 within and outside of the forestry sector;

take an active part in advancing the UN Secretary-General's Initiative on Turning the Tide on Deforestation and related activities;

continue to take an active role as the Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) and through this enhance advocacy on forests through relevant global processes and initiatives;

organize a regional preparatory meeting prior to the World Forestry Congress (WFC) to allow the countries in the region to be well prepared for this event;

The Commission *recommended* that FAO, upon request from countries:

establish protocols and/or guidelines for sustainable NWFP harvest, resource management and international trade;

provide support for conversion of NWFP raw materials into finished products with value added in a way that enables NWFP producers/collectors to earn higher prices for their products;

assist countries in the identification of necessary measures and tools to overcome the impacts of the pandemic on the society and NWFPs, in particular impacts on the economic sector;

The Commission *invited* the Secretariat of the Regional Conference to give adequate attention to the recommendations of the Near East Forestry and Range Commission when developing the agenda of the Conference;

The Commission *noted* that there are many regional and international organization working in the area of forest and rangelands in the NENA region and *called* FAO to strengthen collaboration and synergies with these organizations including through in the implementation of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and other related Global initiatives and processes.

INTRODUCTION AND OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The Twenty-fifth Session of the Near East Forestry and Range Commission (NEFRC) was held virtually from 19 to 21 December 2021, hosted by the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt. The meeting attracted 110 participants for the opening session. The Commission session was attended by 87 representatives from 17 Member countries and 14 representatives from 7 global and regional intergovernmental organizations. *Annex 1* provides a full list of NEFRC participants. The session was conducted in Arabic and English.

2. Mr Yusuf Serengil, outgoing Chairperson, welcomed participants, and expressed his appreciation for the support he received to carry out his task. Mr Serengil underlined the importance of working in close collaboration with the NEFRC Secretariat in his capacity as a Chairperson of the NEFRC. He highlighted the critical challenges imposed by climate change, which is manifested in the severity of fires in Mediterranean countries of the region. He pointed to the need to build resilience to disasters, develop effective management approaches, enhance collaboration and to build capacities. He listed land cover change as another critical issue that involves the increasing levels of CO₂ emissions, and stressed that adaptation and mitigation of climate change is urgent, and in this regard, the sustainable management of forests and rangelands is crucial.

3. Mr Serge Nakouzi, Deputy Regional Representative for the Near East and North Africa expressed, on behalf of the Director-General, FAO's gratitude to the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt. He noted that forest and rangelands in the region are inseparable and they provide a range of goods and services essential to the livelihoods of the people, to biodiversity conservation and to halting desertification and combatting sand and dust storms. The two resources are, however, subject to mounting human pressure from irrational use, leading to their rapid degradation. He underscored the need to adopt integrated and inclusive approaches in their management, the need for a shift in policy and institutional set-up and for a revision of forest and rangelands educational curricula to build such integration in the minds and hearts of professionals.

4. Mr Naiim Moselhy, Advisor to the Minister presented the speech on behalf of H.E. El-Said El-Qosair, Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, Arab Republic of Egypt and opened the session. He expressed his Government's pleasure in hosting the session. He highlighted that recommendations of the Commission are crucial as they bring regional issues to a higher level and support Members to exchange views and ideas. He recalled that Egypt, due to aridity and water scarcity, has a limited forest area. However the country has taken an active role in promoting afforestation programmes using treated waste water, and that Egypt has gained wider experience in this area that it can share with countries of the region. He noted that the vision of Egypt for the period 2021-2025 is the improvement of rangelands through restoration of natural lands along the seasonal water streams using rainfall water.

5. A side event on integration of the efforts of the Arab Organization on Agricultural Development (AOAD) and FAO in sustainable management of forest and rangeland in the Arab region was organized by AOAD in conjunction with the 25th Session of the NEFRC. In addition to NEFRC Members, the side event was attended by the national focal points of the Arab Network on Sustainable Pastoral Resources, established by AOAD in 2016. Participants of the side event called for strengthened collaboration between AOAD and FAO on forest and rangelands matters, including under the framework of the Letter of Agreement (LoA) signed by the two organizations in 2020 (concept note and the report of the side event added in annexes 2 and 3).

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

6. The provisional agenda was adopted (see *Annex 4*). The documents considered by the Commission are listed in *Annex 5*.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

7. In accordance with the provisions of Rules II-1 and II-5 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission elected the Chairperson, three Vice-Chairpersons and one Rapporteur. The composition of the Executive Committee of the Near East Forestry and Range Commission following these elections is as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Chairman: | Mr Alaa Azouz, Egypt |
| 1 st Vice-Chairperson: | Mr Khalid CHERKI Morocco |
| 2 nd Vice-Chairperson: | Mr Mr. Jamel KAILENE, Tunisia |
| 3 rd Vice Chairperson: | Mr Qutaibah Hamood, Saudi Arabia |
| Rapporteur: | Ms Ayşenur KASIMOĞLU DEMİR, Turkey |

8. Mr Abdelhamied Adam Hamid, Senior Forestry Officer, FAO Regional Office for the Near East, served as Secretary of the Commission.

REGIONAL CROSS-SECTORIAL DIALOGUE ON FORESTRY - AGRICULTURE MATTERS – High-Level Panel

9. The Commission welcomed document FO:NEFRC/2021/6 “Regional cross-sectorial dialogue on forestry – agriculture matters”.
10. Members took note of the important links between forests, rangelands and the need to transform agri-food systems and of the main challenges to reduce forest and rangeland degradation and deforestation without adversely affecting food security.
11. A High-Level Panel on ‘Strengthening the dialogue between Forestry and Agriculture’ (see concept note in *Annex 6*), moderated by Ms Ismahane Elouafi, FAO Chief Scientist, was held to raise awareness on the role of sustainable agri-food systems in the improvement of food security and nutrition and in the protection and restoration of forests and rangelands. The event provided an opportunity to share country experiences and good practices and produced practical recommendations.
12. Ms Maria Helena Semedo, FAO Deputy Director-General, opened the High-Level Panel and reminded delegates of the importance of a multidisciplinary approach and integrated policies. This is reflected in FAO’s vision focusing on achieving the SDGs, and FAO’s new Strategic Framework, which aims for more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems for better production, better nutrition, better environment and better life, leaving no one behind. She called for developing innovative solutions to address the nexus between agriculture and forestry.
13. Ms Wilkie presented session document FO:NEFRC/2021/6 and noted that agriculture and forestry are intrinsically linked and that forests provide many services. She noted that the world’s agri-food systems are under stress from loss of biodiversity and climate change, yet forests and agrosilvopastoral systems can provide solutions to reduce this pressure and essential services to agriculture as well, such as water regulation, pollination, halt land degradation and desertification. She underscored that the UN Food System Summit produced clear solutions and mentioned concrete examples of action on the ground in many countries of the region.

14. H.E. Mr. Fakhar Imam, Minister of National Food Security & Research, Pakistan, indicated the critical role that agriculture plays for the economy, for food security, and for employment in Pakistan, but also reminded delegates of the tremendous challenge associated with feeding a growing population, and the extremely high environmental impact of unsustainable food systems in terms of Greenhouse gas (GHG) production and deforestation. He mentioned an important afforestation programme that his country is implementing under the “Ten Billion Tree initiative” and stressed that healthy ecosystems are essential for agricultural production. He called for technology transfer and capacity development for sustainable and climate resilient agricultural practices.
15. H.E. Mr. Eltahir Ismail Harbi, Minister of Agriculture, Sudan shared the perspective from his country. He highlighted the importance of agricultural crop production, animal production and forestry. He stressed the increasing problems related to climate change and over-use of natural resources. He informed about tree planting campaigns and actions undertaken to reduce deforestation and damage to field crops, through opening and demarcation of livestock routes. He pointed out that Sudan is active in implementing landscape restoration programmes under the Africa Union Great Green Wall Initiative and mentioned new policies towards alternative energy, addressing the food-energy-environment nexus.
16. Dr. ElDukeri, Director, Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD) stressed three types of interventions needed: i) technological packages to enhance agricultural productivity to promote intensification rather than expansion; ii) policies and legislations that are required to foster more sustainable practices; and iii) community based and civil society organizations as key force for leading the change.
17. In the follow-up discussion, Saudi Arabia mentioned two initiatives: the “*Green Saudi Arabia*” initiative and the “*Green Middle East*” initiative which both aim at combating deforestation and reducing land degradation, and requested FAO to extend and strengthen its work on rangelands.
18. Morocco highlighted that forests are key elements of terrestrial ecosystems. To support the agriculture and forestry nexus, food waste should be reduced and a change in societal food habits through the promotion of better consumption schemes should be implemented. He pointed out that solutions exist for more sustainable, climate-smart practices, and reminded delegates that there are many synergies between solutions to address the climate, biodiversity and desertification agenda. He stressed that synergies are not an option, but “a must”.
19. Turkey highlighted that their forestry sector strategy was recently developed. Combatting climate change and rehabilitating degraded land are primary points of the country’s forestry policies. Turkey is committed to plant 300 thousand hectares of forests in the framework of the Bonn Challenge, but there is also a need to plant forests for other protection services as a means of reducing the occurrences of avalanches and landslides.
20. Tunisia highlighted the need for integration of forests and rangelands in rural development programmes and mentioned the country’s experience in promoting collaborative forest management with community groups. The national strategy of Tunisia is based on three main axes: 1) strengthening the institutional legal framework; 2) strengthening the social economic aspects; 3) sustaining the vegetative cover in the country.
21. The panel underlined that moving from purely sectoral approaches to cross-sectorial can help to identify innovative solutions.
22. The Commission stressed the need to:
 - acknowledge the importance of interactions between agriculture and forestry for sustainable development;

- provide farmers - in particular smallholders - with the knowledge, tools and incentives or options to adopt more sustainable practices;
 - see these interactions reflected in policies and associated legislations that focus much more on sustainable practices;
 - secure greener investments, from public and private sources and to ensure that all stakeholder groups are involved and listened to in the transformation towards more sustainable agri-food systems;
 - consider food security, agriculture, rangeland, forestry and other aspects of rural development in an integrated manner.
23. The Commission requested FAO to:
- strengthen action on assessing and monitoring deforestation and rangelands degradation taking into consideration regionally-specific degradation dynamics and drivers within the context of Programme Priority Area Better Life 5 (PPA BL5) on Resilient Agri-food Systems;
 - strengthen action on halting desertification, land degradation and deforestation while greening agri-food systems, taking into consideration regionally-specific land degradation dynamics and drivers within the context of Programme Priority Area Better Life 5 (PPA BL5) on Resilient Agri-food Systems;
 - further strengthen its cross-sectoral work through activities aimed at halting land degradation and deforestation, and promoting sustainable agriculture, rangeland, and forest management in ways that lead to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems.
24. The Commission recommended its Members to:
- strengthen efforts to reduce forest and rangeland degradation and deforestation;
 - strengthen the institutional mechanisms for silvopastoral and agroforestry approaches in integrating livestock management in forest- and tree-based production systems to maximize synergies in terms of food and fibre provision, biomass circulation, carbon storage, wildfire prevention, restoration capacity, biodiversity conservation, soil fertility and water management;
 - promote efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems that contribute to sustainable forest and land management, including through agricultural capacity building programmes and improved access to technologies and markets, especially for women and youth; and
 - mainstream the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus approach in ongoing and future programmes and projects that integrate conflict sensitivity and context specific analysis to avoid exacerbating further degradation.

FAO AND COUNTRY ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION AND FOLLOW-UP ON REQUESTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 24TH SESSION OF THE NEFRC

25. The Secretariat introduced document FO:NEFRC/2021/2, presenting the activities carried out both by the NEFRC Members and FAO's forestry and rangelands unit in follow-up to the recommendations of the 24th session of the Commission.
26. The Commission acknowledged the activities carried out and encouraged Members to:
- take advantage of the opportunities provided by the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and other related global initiatives to mobilize resources for large-scale restoration

programmes that aim at reversing ecosystem degradation, halting deforestation and land degradation and enhancing ecosystem health;

- better utilize available FAO technical resources to enhance capacities in areas related to forest and rangelands development, including landscape restoration, sustainable forest and rangeland management, biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation and mitigation and provide FAO with feedback on their usability and the gaps to be filled in these available resources.

The Commission requested FAO to continue to support Members with the formulation of development projects that integrate forest and rangelands within the broader food system, conserve biodiversity, adapt to climate change and combat land degradation and contribute to achieving multiple SDGs.

NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA (NENA) FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

27. The Commission appreciated FAO support in the region related to climate resilience, adaptation and mitigation, including the activities related to risk prevention and response to forest/rangelands and fires, pest and diseases and dust and sand storms. It also identified major capacity challenges, especially related to Measuring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) of Green House Gases (GHGs) emissions and fire management systems, and recognized the need for enhanced cooperation and coordination both within the countries and inter-regionally, among the relevant institutions.

28. The Commission *encouraged* Members to:

- further implement the activities of the NENA Regional Forest Wildland Fire Network (NENFIRE) and Near East Network on Forest Health and Invasive Species (NENFHIS), and to strengthen regional collaboration on forest/rangeland protection;
- further include Agriculture Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) targets and activities in the context of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement, and to seek partnerships to harness international climate finance to this end;
- bring their forest and rangeland related climate concerns to the attention of the 36th session of the FAO Regional Conference for the Near East and request that it recognise the role of forests and rangelands in policies and programmes that combat climate change.

29. The Commission requested FAO to :

- continue to support the implementation of NENFIRE and NENFHIS activities, upon request by Members, especially on the Review and Analysis and Risk Reduction for forest fires and on community-based fire management, as well as phytosanitary measures in forestry; and share information on the outcomes of such activities and initiatives to be translated into national and regional programmes;
- continue to provide technical assistance, upon request by Members, to improve institutional capacity to combat biotic and abiotic factors affecting health and vitality of forests and rangelands, including fires, pests and diseases, in support of the development of resilient forests and rangelands in the context of climate change;
- continue to provide technical assistance, upon request by Members, to bolster national forest monitoring and climate risk and vulnerability assessments to evaluate future scenarios, achieve mitigation and adaptation targets, including through leveraging innovative monitoring tools and platforms such as Open Foris and the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM).

- help Members, upon their request, to enhance coordination and collaboration on climate change activities, both within the countries, and inter-regionally, with relevant and recognized institutions and international organizations at the national level and in the region respectively.

LINKING THE WORK OF FAO FOREST-RELATED STATUTORY BODIES WITH RELEVANT POLICY AREAS

30. The Commission took note of document FO:NEFRC/2021/7, presented in support of the NEFRC discussion on ways to help facilitate policy dialogues and technical exchanges.

31. In response to the request for inputs on possible options for further linking the work of the forest-related FAO Statutory Bodies to the work of the Forestry Division and other policy areas with relevance for forestry to increase their relevance and efficiency and to create synergies and enhance participation, the Commission made the following recommendations.

32. The Commission highlighted the need to:

- synchronize the calendar of future NEFRC meetings with the timetable of FAO Regional Conference for Near East (NERC) meetings, in order to provide inputs from the Commission to the NERC in a more timely manner;
- strengthen the cross-sectorial work of the NEFRC, especially on forestry and agri-food systems matters, by providing relevant and useful inputs to their Members, to FAO (including through the NERC) and to other international processes on forest related issues.

33. The Commission requested FAO to:

- invite the NEFRC Chairperson to attend the Regional Conference, and enhance intersessional activities by improving interactions between NEFRC and NERC Members, including Rome-based delegations, with a view to strengthening cross-sectorial policy dialogue and to ensure that important regional forestry matters are integrated in the themes of the Regional Conferences;
- consider undertaking a detailed review of NEFRC with the aim of further enhancing its relevance, including the focus on Agenda 2030 and the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-30, and its efficiency and effectiveness;
- communicate the results of the discussion on this item to the next session of COFO for its consideration.

NENA REGIONAL FOREST RESOURCES ASSESSMENT (2020) IN THE GLOBAL CONTEXT

34. In the context of the Global Forest Resources Assessment Programme (FRA), the Secretariat presented document FO:NEFRC/2021/3, summarizing the key findings of the regional report *Near East and North Africa Forest Resources Assessment 2020 – Extent, Change and Trends*¹.

35. The Commission welcomed the background document, took note of the key findings, the main data gaps and challenges and the proposed means to consolidate the country reporting process going forward.

36. The Commission stressed the need for Members to designate National FRA Correspondents for future assessments, when requested, with the aim to ensure complete national submissions to future FRAs from all countries of the region.

37. The Commission invited Members to:

¹ <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb7174en>

- increase knowledge of forests by updating national land cover maps and conducting National Forest Inventories (NFIs) in countries where forest-related data are outdated or lacking;
 - raise awareness of the importance of reversing forest cover loss and degradation of forests and other lands in the region, and the function of FRA reporting in monitoring progress towards agreed national and international goals and targets.
38. The Commission requested that FAO:
- continue to build national capacity for harmonized FRA reporting, improve reporting on forest characteristics, strengthen support for national forest inventory and mapping in the region and to continue developing the FRA data platform;
 - explore ways to improve forest data through regional collaboration on thematic mapping and monitoring and through possible linkages to other data-sources;
 - provide further analyses and outlooks on the status and use of the forest resources in the region, building on the FRA and other relevant data, to support related decision-making.

EFFECT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON NON-WOOD FOREST PRODUCTS VALUE CHAINS

39. The Commission welcomed the presentation of the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic for the non-wood forest products (NWFPs) supply and value chain activities in the NENA region.
40. The Commission encouraged countries to:
- seek FAO support to undertake similar studies for their key NWFPs in order to strengthen the resilience of their NWFPs in the face of any similar shocks and stresses in the future and to build back better; and
 - mobilize public, private and international development finance to support the valorization of the NWFPs in their countries and develop robust national research programmes to unveil the health benefit potentials of major NWFPs that already have well-established traditional medicinal uses.
41. The Commission may recommend that FAO, upon request from countries:
- establish protocols and/or guidelines for sustainable NWFP harvest, resource management and international trade;
 - provide support for conversion of NWFP raw materials into finished products with value added in a way that enables NWFP producers/collectors to earn higher prices for their products; and
 - assist countries in the identification of necessary measures and tools to overcome the impacts of the pandemic on society and NWFPs, in particular impacts on the economic sector.

INPUT TO FAO GOVERNANCE: RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE 26TH SESSION OF COFO AND THE 36TH SESSION OF THE NEAR EAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE

42. The Commission took note of the need to further strengthen the interaction and collaboration of the Near East Forestry and Range Commission (NEFRC) with the other FAO forestry-related statutory bodies.
43. The Commission requested that its recommendations for the Near East Regional Conference (NERC), COFO and the forestry programme priorities be shared with other Regional Forestry Commissions as well as with the secretariats of the Regional Conference and COFO. Details of input to FAO governance are shown in the table in *annex 7*.

44. The Commission invited the Secretariat of the Regional Conference to give adequate attention to the recommendations of the Near East Forestry and Range Commission when developing the agenda of the Conference

UPDATE ON GLOBAL PROCESSES AND INITIATIVES OF RELEVANCE FOR THE REGIONAL FORESTRY COMMISSIONS

45. The Commission thanked the Secretariat for providing an overview of key global developments of relevance to forests and the forest sector and of interest to the Commission, as well as of preparations for the XV World Forestry Congress.

46. The Commission Members welcomed:

- the topical focus of FAO's flagship publication "The State of the World's Forests" 2022, titled "Forestry and Green Recovery, Building Inclusive and Sustainable Green Economies";
- FAO's efforts in mainstreaming forest-related issues into the preparations of the UN Food Systems Summit and its Pre-Summit and the proposed follow up actions;
- the developments under the UN Secretary-General's Initiative on Turning the Tide on Deforestation;
- the themes of the International Day of Forests 2022 (*Forests and Sustainable Production and Consumption*) and 2023 (*Forests and Health*) and consider them in the preparations of celebration events in the region.

47. The Commission invited countries to support the XV World Forestry Congress (WFC) by encouraging and facilitating good attendance, and encourage countries in a position to do so to provide financial support to the Congress to enable balanced participation.

26. Given the importance of the WFC, an event that is organized every 6 years and that this time was delayed one more year because of the effects of COVID-19, Saudi Arabia requested a regional preparatory meeting prior the WFC to help prepare the region to such a relevant meeting.

48. The Commission requested FAO to:

- promote SOFO 2022 within and outside of the forestry sector;
- take an active part in advancing the UN Secretary-General's Initiative on Turning the Tide on Deforestation and related activities;
- continue to play an active role as the Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and through this enhance advocacy on forests through relevant global processes and initiatives.
- organize a regional preparatory meeting prior to the World Forestry Congress to allow the countries in the region to be well prepared for this event.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

49. The Commission noted that there are many regional and international organizations working in the area of forest and rangelands in the NENA region and called FAO to strengthen collaboration and synergies with these organizations, including through in the implementation of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and other related Global initiatives and processes.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION

50. The Commission requested Members to consult with their governments and inform the Secretariat on their availability to host the 26th session of NEFRC. The Commission called the Secretariat to follow on this matter with Members and to decide in consultation with them on the date of the next Session.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

51. The Commission adopted the report as amended.

52. Mr Alaa Azouz, Head of Extension Sector, deliver closing remarks on behalf of Egypt Government. He thanked the participants for their active participation and reminded Members on the importance of follow-up on the implementation of NEFRC recommendations within their countries and to report back the actions taken to the next session of NEFRC.

53. Ms Mette, Director of Forestry Division, thanked in her closing remarks the Government of Egypt for the virtual hosting of the Session, the participants for their participation and the Chairman for his leadership to the session, indicating that time has come to translate the Session recommendations into actions.

54. The Chair closed the Session at 12:25.

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ANNEX 2**PROPOSED CONCEPT NOTE ON SIDE EVENT UNDER NEFRC25 (19-21 October 2021)****20 October 2021 - 14:00 to 15:30 (Cairo Local Time)****Title:****Towards AOAD/ FAO integrated efforts in forest and rangeland sustainability in the Arab region.****Background:**

The AOAD and the FAO are interested in forest development and sustainability; one of the components included in the agreement made between both organizations in 2017, in order to exert more coordination and integrated efforts for the implementation of AOAD and FAO common activities in this area. Since its inception, the AOAD has been concerned with forest and rangeland development in the Arab region, through relatively similar activities and programmes to those of the FAO in the NENA region. Resource persons in rangeland and forests in the Arab countries engage in specialized meetings, often organized by both organizations, especially the member States of the FAO's NEFRC and the AOAD's Arab network for the sustainable management of pastoral resources. In addition to other relevant studies and events.

The AOAD seizes the opportunity of this optimal event for technical collaboration with the FAO in rangelands and forests, through the NEFRC meetings. The AOAD will present its projects and activities included in 2021-2022 action plan for rangelands and forests to serve as subject matter of the discussion and partnership with the FAO, represented by the NEFRC in the area of rangelands and forests in the Arab region.

Objectives:

- promote collaboration and partnerships between both organizations in the area of rangelands and forests in the Arab region;
- present and discuss the AOAD's proposed projects and activities for partnership and mainstreaming in the FAO and NEFRC activities; and
- reflect and engage in dialogues on partnerships and coordination mechanisms for joint projects.

Main topics and speakers:

| Topic/ Speaker | Time |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Welcoming remarks: FAO Representative Prof. Ibrahim El Dukheiry, General Manager, AOAD | 14:00 |
| Presentation on the project for the stocktaking of rangeland and forest policies and strategies in the Arab region Prof. Abdel Azeem Merghany, AOAD | 14:15 - 14:30 |
| Presentation on the Arab network for the sustainable management of pastoral resources Dr. Khalil Abu Afifah, AOAD | 14:30 - 14:45 |
| Discussion/ participants' contributions Prof. Mubarak Abdel Rahman, Moderator, AOAD | 14:45 - 15:25 |
| Recapitulation of the event and key recommendations | 15:20 - 15:30 |

Expected outputs:

- Propose a common vision for partnerships and collaboration in the various areas of discussion.
- Technical recommendations on the various areas of discussion.



Report on Side event

“Integration of the efforts of the Arab Organization on Agricultural Development (AOAD) and FAO in sustainable management of forest and rangeland in the Arab region”

- In cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, AOAD organized a side event on “integration of the efforts of the Arab Organization on Agricultural Development (AOAD) and FAO in sustainable management of forest and rangeland in the Arab region. The side event holds in conjunction with the 25th Session of the NEFRC. It aimed to strengthen the collaboration between AOAD and FAO on forest and rangelands matters.
- In addition to NEFRC Members, the side event was attended by the national focal points of the Arab Network for Sustainable Rangelands Management Resources, with total 68 participants.
- After the welcoming speeches from both organizations, AOAD Experts presented two working papers on models for integration and partnership with AAAID, which included:
 - a. Inventory of rangeland and forest policies and strategies in the Arab region, presented by Prof. Abdelazim Mirghani.
 - b. The Arab Network for the Sustainable Management of Pastoral Resources, presented by Dr. Khalil Abu Afifeh.
- Participants emphasized that forests and Rangeland in the Arab area are inseparable components, and all means to achieve integration between them must be supported. Also they emphasized on the partnership between FAO/NEFRC and AOAD in the fields of rangeland and forests.
- Some state representatives presented their national efforts in rangeland and forest development, as well as national and regional initiatives. Participants to the event reached to the following recommendations:
 1. Activating the MU signed between AOAD and FAO since 2020, especially in the fields of range and forests.
 2. Emphasis on the recommendations contained in the two papers submitted by the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development.
 3. Develop forest education programs in order to reduce the negative repercussions as a result.
 4. Introducing joint projects to implement cooperation between the AOAD and FAO/ NEFRC.
 5. Network national coordinators participate (with referring to countries) in the NEFRC activities related to forests and rangelands.
 6. Linking of relevant websites between AOAD and the NEFRC in the fields of rangelands and forests.
 7. Develop a vision to assist Arab country to implement their policies.
 8. Increasing cooperation with other organizations in the region to strengthening integration and obtaining better results.
 9. Documenting success stories and exchanging them between countries.

NEAR EAST FORESTRY AND RANGE COMMISSION
TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION
19 – 21 October 2021
PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the Session
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Election of Officers
4. Regional Cross-sectorial Dialogue on Forestry - Agriculture Matters
5. FAO and Country Activities in the Region and Follow-up on Requests and Recommendations of the 24th Session of the NEFRC
6. NENA Forests and Climate Change
7. Linking the Work of FAO Forest-related Statutory Bodies with relevant Policy Areas.
8. NENA Regional Forest Resources Assessment (2020) in the Global Context
9. Effect of COVID-19 Pandemic on Non-timber Forest Products Value Chains
10. Input to FAO governance:
 - A. Options for further linking the work of Statutory Bodies to the work of the Forestry Division and other policy areas with relevance for forestry.
 - B. Recommendations to the 26th Session of COFO and the 36th Session of NERC
11. Update on global processes and initiatives of relevance for the Regional Forestry Commissions
12. Any Other Business
13. Date and Place of Next Session
14. Adoption of the Report and Closure of the Session

Near East Forestry and Range Commission**Twenty-fifth Session****19 – 21 October 2021****LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| FO:NEFRC/2021/1 | Provisional Agenda |
| FO:NEFRC/2021/2 | FAO and Country Activities in the Region and Follow-up on Requests and Recommendations of the 24 th Session of the NEFRC |
| FO:NEFRC/2021/3 | Near East and North Africa Forests and Climate Change: Climate Induced Forest Disturbances, Building Resilience and Boosting Implementation of Countries Nationally Determined Contributions (N)DCs |
| FO:NEFRC/2021/4 | Effects of COVID-19 Pandemic on Sustainable Non Wood Forest Products Value Chains: Linking Forests with Community for Sustainable Rural Development |
| FO:NEFRC/2021/5 | Forest Resources Assessment for Near East and North Africa 2020 in the Global Context |
| FO:NEFRC/2021/6 | Integrating Forestry in FAO's Work on Food Systems |
| FO:NEFRC/2021/7 | Linking the Work of FAO Forest-Related Statutory Bodies with Relevant Policy Areas, and Facilitating Policy Dialogues and Technical Exchanges |
| FO:NEFRC/2021/8 | Update on Global Initiatives and Processes of Relevance for the Regional Forestry Commissions |
| FO:NEFRC/2021/9 | Input to FAO Governance |
| FO:NEFRC/2021/Inf.1 | Provisional Timetable |
| FO:NEFRC/2021/Inf.2 | Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors in the Near East and North Africa region |
| FO:NEFRC/2021/Inf.3 | Effects of Conflicts on Forests and Rangelands in the Near East and North Africa Region |
| FO:NEFRC/2021/Inf.4 | Assessment of the Effect and Spread of Cactus Cochineal Insect Pest in the Near East and North Africa region |
| FO:NEFRC/2021/Inf.5 | List of Documents |

Near East Forestry and Range CommissionTwenty-fifth Session19 – 21 October 2021High-Level PanelStrengthening the dialogue between Forestry and AgricultureGuiding Note**Objectives and outcome of the session**

The agri-food systems of the world are under tremendous stress from loss of biodiversity and climate change. In the NENA region, increasing productivity to meet the growing demand for food has often been associated with unsustainable agriculture practices that result into widespread land and water degradation, biodiversity loss, deforestation and degradation of vegetation cover and depletion of aquifers.

Forests and trees have multiple linkages and relationships with agri-food systems. While it is well acknowledged that healthy forests and sustainable agriculture depend upon each other, evidence shows that, in the Near East and North Africa region (NENA), agriculture remains the main driver of deforestation. This calls for an urgent need to transform agri-food systems to provide growing population with healthy, affordable diets in a way that is economically profitable and environmentally friendly.

FAO's Strategic Framework 2022-2031 was developed to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Its strategic narrative is aimed at transformation to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems for better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life, leaving no one behind.

In line with the new FAO's Strategic Framework, the 35th Session of the Regional Conference for the Near East identified four priorities for transforming agri-food systems, responding to COVID-19 and achieving the SDGs in the region. The third priority on *Greening Agriculture* focuses on addressing the sustainability of natural resources in its broad sense, including in land, water, forestry, marine and aquatic resources and biodiversity and calls for a transformative shift that brings the issues of sustainability, climate adaptation and resource efficiency to the forefront.

Central to agri-food systems transformation is the need for a multi-sectorial approach that acknowledges its multiple objectives and identifies and addresses possible trade-offs while strengthening actions that offer synergetic responses. Multi-sectorial dialogues are therefore an essential element of this transformation process.

The objectives of the High-Level Panel (HLP) are to:

1. **Raise awareness** about the need to move away from the current unsustainable agricultural practices to sustainable agri-food systems that improve food security and nutrition while at the same time protect, restore and sustainably manage forests, rangelands and related natural resources towards achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs).
2. **Share country experiences and good practices** in pursuing synergies and managing trade-offs between agriculture and forests to achieving food security without leading to deforestation, land degradation and biodiversity loss.
3. **Agree on clear and practical recommendations** to member countries, FAO and other stakeholders to ensure more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems with far less environmental footprints to be submitted to the 36th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for the Near East (NERC) for formal endorsement by the Member countries.

Proposed Agenda of the HLP² Time: 11:00 – 12:30 (Cairo time)**Moderator:** Ms Ismahane Elouafi, FAO Chief Scientist

| Time | Title | Speaker/presenter |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8 m | Opening remarks with reflection on Strengthening cross-sectorial dialogue and coordination between agriculture and forestry within FAO | Ms MariaHelena Semedo, Deputy Director General, FAO |
| 7 m | Message from the UNCCD | Mr Ibrahim Thiaw, UNCCD Secretary (confirmed) |
| 7 m | Presentation of thematic paper on Regional cross-sectorial dialogue on forestry - agriculture matters | Ms Mette Wilkie, Director Forestry Division, FAO |
| Panel Discussion: Country experience in forestry-agriculture cross-sectorial dialogues | | |
| 7 m | 1st Speaker | H.E Mr. Fakhar Imam, Minister of National Food Security & Research |
| 7 m | 2nd Speaker | H.E. Mr Eltahir Ismail Harbi, Minister of Agriculture - Sudan (confirmed) |
| 7m | 3rd Speaker | Mr Ibrahim Adam ElDukeri, Director, Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (confirmed) |
| Questions and Answers | | |
| 40 | Open Discussion | Participants (NEFRC Members) |
| 7 m | Concluding remarks | Mr JeanMarc Faures, Regional Programme Coordinator, FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa |

Proposed questions to panellists:

The panel discussion should cover the following aspects:

- how to **move away** from current unsustainable agricultural practices in the NENA region to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems that have less environmental footprint;
- what **trades-off and synergies** (economic, environmental and social) are needed to reinforce more sustainable agri-food systems?; and
- what **policy measures, partnerships and other enablers** are needed to support a shift from unsustainable to sustainable agricultural practices?

What are the **lessons** to be drawn from country experiences to facilitate such a move or to build on for upscaling?

ANNEX 7

Annex 7.1: NEFRC recommendations for the attention of COFO (issues to be considered for inclusion in the Agenda)

| Priority issues for COFO to consider | Expected outcome (information/discussion/decision) | Possible follow-up activities for COFO and FAO | Reference to other NEFRC recommendation |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <i>Extend</i> and strengthen its work on rangelands | Discussion | | |
| <i>strengthen</i> cross-sectoral work and promoting sustainable agriculture, rangeland, and forest management in ways that lead to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems | Discussion | | |
| strengthen the cross-sectorial work of the RFCs, especially on forestry and agrifood systems matters, by providing relevant and useful inputs to their Members, to FAO (including through the Regional Conferences) and to other international processes on forest-related issues | information | | |
| Consider the report of the NERFC and to consider the results/progress of the NEFRC review to the next session of COFO for its consideration | information | | |

Annex 7.2: NEFRC recommendations for the attention of the NERC

| Priority issues for NERC to consider | Expected outcome (information/ discussion/decision) | Possible follow-up activities for FAO |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| synchronize the calendar of future NEFRC meetings with the timetable of FAO Regional Conference for Near East (NERC) meetings, in order to provide inputs from the Commission to the NERC in a more timely manner. | decision | |
| address cross-sectorial forestry/rangelands and agrifood systems matters, at the next NERC as an agenda item | discussion | |
| Invite the Chairperson of the NEFRC to attend the Regional Conference and enhance intersessional activities by improving interactions between NEFRC and NERC Members, including Rome-based delegations, with a view to strengthening cross-sectorial policy dialogue and to ensure that important regional forestry/rangelands matters are integrated in the themes of the Regional Conferences; | decision | |
| emphasize the need to consider food security, agriculture, rangeland, forestry and other aspects of rural development in an integrated manner in the work of the NERC | information | |

Annex 7.3: NEFRC recommendations for the FAO Programme of Work in Forestry related to the agenda of the current session

| Area/ action for FAO programme of work | Priority (High, Medium, Low, De-emphasis) | Type (new, continued) | Level of action (sub-regional/ regional/global) | Link to relevant PPAs ³ | Global Forest Goal of UNSPF |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| continue to support Members with the formulation of development projects that integrate forest and rangelands within the broader food system, conserve biodiversity, adapt to climate change and combat land degradation and contribute to achieving multiple SDGs. | High | continued | | | |
| strengthen the cross-sectorial work of the NEFRC, especially on forestry/rangelands and agrifood systems matters, | High | new | | | |
| consider to undertake a detailed review of NEFRC with the aim of further enhancing its relevance, including the focus on Agenda 2030 and the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, and its efficiency and effectiveness; | | | | | |
| strengthen action on assessing and monitoring deforestation and rangelands degradation taking into consideration regionally-specific degradation dynamics and drivers within the context of Programme Priority Area Better Life 5 (PPA BL5) on Resilient Agri-food Systems | High | New | | | |
| strengthen action on halting desertification, land degradation and deforestation while greening agri-food systems, taking into consideration regionally-specific land degradation dynamics and drivers within the context of Programme Priority Area Better Life 5 (PPA BL5) on Resilient Agri-food Systems | High | New | | | |
| help Members to enhance coordination and collaboration on climate change activities, both within the countries, and inter-regionally, with relevant and recognized institutions and international organizations at the national level and in the region respectively. | High | New | | | |

³ <http://www.fao.org/3/ne577en/ne577en.pdf>

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-----------|--|--|--|
| support Members with the formulation of development projects that integrate forest and rangelands within the broader food system, conserve biodiversity, adapt to climate change and combat land degradation and contribute to achieving multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) | High | Continued | | | |
| support the implementation of NENFIRE and NENFHIS activities, upon request by Members, especially the Review and Analysis and Risk Reduction for forest fires and community-based fire management, as well as phytosanitary measures in forestry; and share information on the outcomes of such activities and initiatives to be translated into national and regional programmes; | High | Continued | | | |
| provide technical assistance to improve institutional capacity to combat biotic and abiotic factors affecting health and vitality of forests and rangelands, including fires, pests and diseases, in support of the development of resilient forests and rangelands in the context of climate change | High | Continued | | | |
| <i>continue</i> to provide technical assistance to bolster national forest monitoring and climate risk and vulnerability assessments to evaluate future scenarios, achieve mitigation and adaptation targets, including through leveraging innovative monitoring tools and platforms, including Open Foris and the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM); | High | Continued | | | |
| <i>promote</i> SOFO 2022 within and outside of the forestry sector | High | New | | | |