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	منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة	联合国 粮食及 农业组织	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture	Продовольственная и сельскохозяйственная организация Объединенных Наций	Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura
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NEAR EAST FORESTRY AND RANGE COMMISSION**TWENTY-FIRST SESSION****THIRD NEAR EAST FORESTRY WEEK****Amman, Jordan, 26 - 30 January 2014****FACILITATING SUB-REGIONAL COOPERATION ON FORESTS,
RANGELANDS AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION****Secretariat Note****I. Background**

1. FAO's work to facilitate collaboration among the Near East and North Africa countries on forests and climate change originated with the request of the Near East Forest and Range Commission at its 19th session in 2009 that FAO help to develop the concept of regional or sub-regional networks or support mechanisms on climate change.

2. In 2010, FAO published an analysis entitled "Forests and Climate Change in the Near East Region." This study highlighted needs and opportunities for regional cooperation on forests and climate change. Building on it, FAO organized a regional workshop from 20-22 September 2011 in Cairo. The workshop was attended by nineteen members of the NEFRC. The participants developed logical frameworks for four sub-regional projects on forests and climate change adaptation – for the North African countries, Nile Basin countries, the Oriental Near East and Gulf State countries and the Non-Arabic speaking countries. Concept notes along with these logframes were presented to the NEFRC members at a side event at the 20th session of the Commission held in Antalya, Turkey in January 2011. The Commission requested FAO and the Commission members to further develop the proposals for sub-regional cooperation programmes and to seek financial support for them.

II. Development of a project for the Nile Basin countries

3. FAO has been able to initiate work with one of the sub-regions: the Nile Basin countries. It organized the "Workshop on Forests, Rangelands and Climate Change in the Nile Basin" in Addis Ababa from 9 – 12 December 2013, which was attended by representatives of Egypt, Ethiopia, Sudan and South Sudan. Each country was invited to nominate three representatives: one from the forest or rangeland sector, another from the climate change sector, and one from its Global Environmental Facility unit. In addition to the countries, representatives of the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) attended, as well as the European Union Delegation to the African Union (AU) on 12 December. As this is a tripartite effort on the part

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of FAO, staff from its Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa (Cairo), Sub-Regional Office for East Africa (Addis Ababa), and Headquarters (Rome) supported the workshop.

4. The objectives of the workshop were to share information on recent initiatives related to forests, rangelands and climate change in the four countries; to review the concept note and logframe from 2011; to further elaborate, in detail, the activities countries propose to be included in the project; and agree on the next steps and a timetable for the development of the project proposal. The results of the intensive discussions of the countries on the first two days were presented to the representatives of IGAD, AUC and the EU Delegation to the AU on 12 December and an extremely fruitful discussion ensued.

5. The four countries indicated the need for the project, their interest in participating in it and, informally, a commitment to work together with the support of FAO to develop the project document and seek external financing. Key points agreed upon were as follows:

- The project's objective would be to increase resilience and adaptive capacity of vulnerable rural populations through management of forest, trees and rangeland resources in the Nile Basin, and its duration should be five years.
 - The project will have four outcomes: supportive national level strategies, policies and institutions to increase resilience and adaptation capacity to climate change through forest and rangeland management in place; adaptation measures in the forest and range sectors implemented in 12 pilot sites; awareness raising and capacity strengthening of stakeholders at all levels related to the contribution of actions in forests and rangelands to climate change adaptation; and lessons learnt shared and disseminated through regional collaboration.
 - The project should be consistent with the countries' national policies and strategies on forests, rangelands, and climate change, including their National Adaptation Plans and National Adaptation Programmes of Action.
 - The project should complement existing initiatives, the principal ones being the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative (GGWSSI), the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), the Nile Basin Initiative and IGAD's Drought, Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative.
 - The project was considered suitable for GEF funding. The project document/project identification form will be developed quickly so as to be in time for the countries to consider it under their GEF6 allocation which begins in July 2014. Other sources of funding (e.g. the EU) will also be sought. The importance of integrating the eventual project into national development plans was underlined.
 - FAO will develop a first draft of the project document based on the outputs of the workshop, will invite each of the four countries to nominate a focal point to assist with the further development of the project document and will contact potential donors to assess their interest in supporting the project. A timetable of the next steps for developing the project document was agreed.
6. More information may be found in the workshop report at:
<http://www.fao.org/forestry/climatechange/64863/en/>

Points for consideration

7. The Commission may wish to consider:
 - Actions that members could take in their own countries to strengthen and implement national action and regional cooperation on climate change adaptation in the forest, trees and range sectors.
 - Views on subregional, regional coordination and collaboration to effectively access resources from existing and emerging international funding opportunities.