



UNECE



Workshop

**“Capacity Building in Sharing Forest and
Market Information”**

24 – 28 October 2005, Prague and Křtiny, Czech Republic

Country statement

Tajikistan

**- Policies affecting forest land use and forest
products markets -**

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Tajikistan

Forestry Policy in Tajikistan

a) Forms of property in forestry

Under Constitution of Republic of Tajikistan, article 13 “Land, soil, water, air, flora and fauna and other natural resources is an exclusive property of the state and the state guarantees their effective use in the interest of the people”

Country’s forest fund – it’s soil, water and other natural riches constitute state property and are transferred into permanent use by the forestry enterprises with the target goal – to develop agriculture.

In the state legislation there is no such thing as private land use.

It is allowed to rent land upon long-term contracts (10-20 and more years), even for life inheritance with the right to transfer to one of the tenants who also work with other family members or members of the group of labourers.

In the forestry, as of lately there has been a tendency to lease land and from the first years of its implementation it proved to be positive. It instills hope with the farmers that the land reform conducted by the state is irreversible. Tenantry income is calculated by the results of their work and depends on them.

Along with the individual there is also family and group tenancy, it’s when part of the crop, under their agreement remains with the tenantry.

Leasing relationships are regulated by a special law “On Leasing in the Republic of Tajikistan” adopted by the Government on 04.11.95.

A «Law on Land Assessment», adopted by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan on 12.05.2001 stipulates legal grounds for land assessment. A Land Register assessment is done in order to identify cadastre cost of the land plots for different use.

Land assessment is conducted to stipulate the norm price of the land with the aim of objective taxation and leasing. Thus, the grounds for taxes on land is land register documentation of the land user.

b) Main needs of the society in forest land use

All forests of the republic constitute first group of forests, they have a very high ecological, economic and social importance because most of them, being placed in the mountainous region have first of all protective, anti-erosion, soil – sustaining and water-regulation functions and at the same time are a great source of timber, raw materials and food products including almonds and nuts so loved by our people.

There are no industrial forests in Tajikistan, that’s why there is no cutting as the main use, only sanitary and care cuttings which results mainly in getting firewood, hence there are no industrial wood-processing enterprises in the forestry system. Under the Soviet Union in 70-80 of the past century Tajikistan consumed wood brought from the Russian Federation in the amount of 400 thousand cubic meters a year, 350 thousand cubic meters – functional and 50 thousand cubic meters – firewood.

Functional wood was used for construction purposes and also for furniture manufacturing. Currently supply of the functional wood from Russian Federation goes through commercial channels in the amount of 50 cubic meters a year and is used to satisfy construction needs. The Furniture Factory of Dushanbe and other furniture manufacturing companies have been idle for more than 10 years due to the lack of raw materials.

During the last years due to the draining, thinning out of forest resources, and decrease of their protective functions, there’s considerable drop in the planned volume of stored wood in Tajikistan, in fact only 7 thousand cubic meters annually is being stored out of sanitary cuttings done by forestry, which meets the need in fuel of the republic by less than 5%. Functional wood isn’t stored at all.

This having been said, the volumes of natural gas, coal, residual oil and other imported fuels have significantly dropped – this caused large scale wood cuttings, the result being – draining and degradation of forests and soil, increase of erosion and deforestation, which causes big concern and worry all over the country.

Tajik forests, due to their natural specifics, namely the existence of a large number of nut and wild fruit species (walnuts, peanuts, almonds, apricots, mulberries, apples, cherry plums, cherries, haw thorns, pomegranates, persimmons and others) historically served local population supplying it with forest food products, building materials and also served as pastures and bee gardens and so on.

In the 70-80ies of the past century forestries only stored up to 500-600 metric tons of nuts, = the same amounts of dried fruit, medicinal raw material (Ephedra, Victor Ungernia, fruit of rose hips, buck thorn, haw thorn, barberry, medicinal herbs). Up to 800 and more metric tons of these were stored annually. Also those years saw the development of bee keeping, horse breeding, cattle raising, fur farming, dags deer farming, poultry keeping, gardening, plantations of nuts and so on.

Unfortunately after the disintegration of the Soviet Union storage of nuts and development of nuts plantations has decreased and over the past few years amount to 40-60 metric tons per year. Breaking of relations among former republics, lack of consumers' resulted to minimum volumes of non-wood forest products storage.

The forestry market mechanism isn't functioning properly and because of that there are no factors which would give an impetus to agriculture as a whole as well as to its different directions.

c) Use of forest land, sustainable development factors and threats for the forestry development

Being a mountainous country Tajikistan lacks arable land (less than 7% of its territory. Despite the fact that the country economy first of all depends on agro-industrial sector and consequently on presence and quality of soil, forest lands, their territory is constantly decreases.

The problem of land degradation is becoming more and more relevant, not only arable lands are decreasing but also forest lands, almost extinct are field protective lanes on agricultural properties. Before there used to be 5 000 hectares of them, forests are being cut, erosion processes are on the rise and annually about 50 000 hectares of cultivable lands go through the process of desertification.

Soil degradation leads to a lesser amount of food products, deterioration of the living standard and even causes migration of the population in some regions of the republic.

Unjustified plowing of lands at the cost of eradication of forest and shrub vegetation and also because of the dismembered terrain leads to desertisation.

Intensive development of erosion processes is caused by agricultural use of mountainous slopes with the level of steepness more than 15°.

Agriculture is the major branch of the country's economy. More than 70 % of its population lives in the countryside. Although forestry economically is not a determining branch of economy, with the land being its major wealth and the state forest fund occupies 13 % of its territory, forestry thus can make a major impact on the development of country's economy.

Transition to market relations in the economy, land reform and later on forest reform, set up of different types of management in the agriculture is one of the major directions to lead the country out of economic crisis.

Land reform, revamping of agricultural enterprises structure is considered to be one of the most important state programs

As of 2004 in the Republic of Tajikistan there were 20,8 thousand farms (dekhans) with the total land areas of – 4686 thousand hectares or 62 % of the overall number of agricultural farms including – 397,2 thousand hectares (67 %). Set up of the farms touches upon the

interests of the forestry as well because many of those are set up on the State Forest Fund lands.

State policy is aimed at forests conservation and sustainable forestry development which encompasses efficient and reasonable use of land and forest resources given the complicated market transition which the country is going through at the present moment.

d) Problems of the further development of forestry

These are the major driving forces capable to have an impact on the forestry development in the future:

1) Demographic factor

Tajikistan is a republic with traditionally high growth of population. The problem of employment given the high birth rate, especially in the rural areas, along with the impoverished population will always be relevant.

Because of that there will always arise a natural need for the citizens to reclaim new territories for arable land in the mountains.

Besides, there will always arise a need to provide citizens with fuel, first of all firewood and also wood for construction

- 2) The necessity to build new power plants and to provide the citizens with sources of energy.
- 3) The necessity to master new coal deposits in order to reach affordable prices for the purchase of coal.
- 4) The necessity to further perfect legislation as far as the environment and especially forestry are concerned.

e) Problems of illegal activities within forestry

Due to the deterioration in supplying the citizens with electricity, natural gas, coal and other sources of energy after the disintegration of the Soviet Union, there have been an increase in illegal wood cutting, especially in the mountains. That's how mountainous woods get thinner with their territories dropping. Even Fruit trees get cut, such as peanut, almond, bud thorn and other valuable species.

Because of the uncontrolled eradication of slope forests mountains themselves turn into deserted areas. Currently about 90% of the slopes in the country are barren deserts.

Even more dangerous phenomenon is ever growing soil erosion. Wind erosion now covers 24% of all agricultural lands, whereas water erosion – 41%, irrigational - 26% of all irrigated lands.

Currently more than 50 000 landslides have been registered, 1200 of which jeopardize the safety of settlements, road and so on. Scale of black mold humus losses is on the rise - this is one of the most valuable part of the agricultural land which determines its fertility.

Annual washout of the soil constitutes 87 millions of tons, whereas humus losses reach 11-13 million tons a year.

As a result of deforestation due to the ever growing erosion processes in the mountains, mudslides are on the rise as well as flow slides and other environmental phenomena which cause emergencies and elemental calamities.

The period after 1997 through now witnessed an unprecedented number of emergencies.

Although Government of the Republic of Tajikistan are doing a lot for the restoration and sustainable development of the country's forestry, still because of the lack of material-technical basis and due to the deficiencies of the funding ecological problems year by year become more relevant and represent an ever growing threat. Tajikistan, being a mountainous country doesn't have enough arable land (less than 7% of its territory). Despite the fact that the economy of the country depends on agricultural-industrial sector, i.e. on soil, forest lands, their area is constantly decreases.

The problem of land degradation gains momentum, not only arable lands are diminishing their territories, but also forest stands? Almost totally cut are field-protective forest lanes on the lands of agricultural enterprises, there used to be 5 000 hectares of them, forests are being thinned out, erosion processes are on the rise and annually about 50 000 hectares of the cultivated lands turn into deserts

Soil degradation leads to the reduction of food products, deterioration of the living standard and even causes migration of the population in some regions of the republic.

Unjustified plowing at the expense of eradication of trees and bushes under the conditions of dismembered terrain promotes desertification.

Intensive erosion of soil is caused by the reclamation of the mountainous slopes with the level of steepness more than 15°.

The negative impact of global warming, soil erosion due to the anthropogenic factor, increased frequency of natural disasters - all this can lead the country to the unprecedented natural calamities and even to the environmental catastrophe.

According to the greenhouse gases inventory from 1991 to 2002 because of the unsanctioned wood cutting and the reduction of work aimed at forest restoration the accumulation of carbon by the wood has decreased by 33 %. Without measures aimed at forests conservation and increase in forest areas at the expense of forest restoration work up to 4,5 thousand of hectares a year the accumulation of carbon by the wood biomass will continue its reduction

t) Help provided by the international organisations

Currently in the Republic of Tajikistan there are a great number of different international organizations, all of them have their specific programs, for example, The Agahana Foundation, German Agro-Aktion, FAO Program "Food for work", "Fight Against Poverty" Program and others which cooperate with the certain agencies or local governments and in one way or another provide help to those who work in the forestries. However, there are no special programs on the development of specific directions within the forestry and quite naturally real help does not meet the expectations of the forestry.

k) Expected changes related to the use of forest land

In the years to come there are no envisioned radical changes related to the use of forest land.

l) Concernment in the international information network on forest policy

In order to avoid isolation from the processes going on in the international forestry the Forestry of the Republic should participate in the international information network, so much so that there are no considerable impediments to this.

g) state agencies (ministries) responsible for the forestry management in state forests

Policy Field	Ministry	Main Goal	Main Instruments			Year	Source
			Laws	Economic Incentives	Information		
Forestry	State Committee on Nature Protection and Forestry	Forest Protection and Creation of New Forest Plantations	Forest Code, Law on Nature Protection	Allocation of funds from the State Budget	In the stage of development	2005	State Committee "Priroda"
Plantation Forest-growing	State Committee on Nature Protection and Forestry	Creation of peanut, walnut and poplar plantations	Economic Program to develop the country and State Planning	Allocation of funds from the State Budget	In the stage of development	2005	State Committee "Priroda"
Health of Forest Implantation	State Committee on Nature Protection and Forestry	To sustain forest plantations in an adequate sanitary condition	Economic Program to develop the country and State Planning	Allocation of funds from the State Budget	In the stage of development	2005	State Committee "Priroda"
Side manufacturing	State Committee on Nature Protection and Forestry (Forestry and Hunting Agency)	Development of economic accountability and concernment	Forest Code of the Economic Program of Tajikistan	Determined by the possibilities of the forestry	In the stage of development	2005	State Committee "Priroda"
Hunting	State Committee on Nature Protection and Forestry (Forestry and Hunting Agency)	Development of economic accountability and concernment	Forest Code of the Economic Program of Tajikistan	Determined by the possibilities of the forestry	Publishing of advertisements	2005	State Committee "Priroda"
Accumulation of Carbon	State Committee on Nature Protection and	Carbon Dioxide accumulation by the wood biomass	R of T has signed a Frame Convention	None		2005	State Committee "Priroda"

	Forestry						
Biodiversity	State Committee on Nature Protection and Forestry	To sustain the biodiversity of flora and fauna on the forest plantations	National Strategy and Action Plan to sustain biodiversity	On some programs	Through the National Centre of Biodiversity	2005	State Committee "Priroda"
Protection from erosion	State Committee on Nature Protection and Forestry	Fight against soil erosion	National Program to fight soil erosion and desertisation	Upon the results of work	There are positive provisions and projects	2005	State Committee "Priroda"
Tourism	State Committee on Nature Protection and Forestry (Forestry and Hunting Agency)	To determine routes, their set-up and to launch tourism	Law on Tourism	Upon the results of tourism	Through advertisements, Internet	2005	State Committee "Priroda"
Public Relations	State Committee on Nature Protection and Forestry	Proliferation of knowledge on nature and forest protection	Law on NGOs	Will be in the future	Through the mass-media, TV, special booklets	2005	State Committee "Priroda"
Education and Research	Ministry of Education through the National University and agricult. University	To prepare forestry experts with university degrees	High Education Programs	Will be in the future	Through printed media	2005	State Committee "Priroda"
Research	National Academy of Science, through чепез research institutes of Botany, Zoology, Forestry	Scientific research on the most important issues in forestry and conservation of the rare animals and plants species	Program of Economic Development of the country	Not enough	Through printed media, booklets, radio and TV	2005	State Committee "Priroda"
Cultural Value of forests	State Committee on Nature Protection and Forestry, NGO	Proliferation of knowledge about forests	Law on NGOs	None	Mass-media, p	2005	State Committee "Priroda"
National Parks	State Committee on Nature	Preservation of Reserves, scientific	State Program of development of	All national importance of	Printed media, advertisements	2005	State Committee

	Protection and Forestry, State Company of especially protected species «Nat.Park Of Taj.»	research, proliferation of knowledge on nature protection	the especially protected nature territories	the especially protected territories	and so on.		“Priroda
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h) state enterprises responsible for the implementation of laws on forests and forestry

	Forests and forest lands (hectares)	Management is done (%)		Year	Source
		state	private		
State Committee on Nature Protection and Forestry	1 897 000	100	-	2005	State Committee “Priroda
Ministry of Agriculture	90 000	50	50	2005	Ministry of Agriculture
Dushanbe Mayor’s Office	900	100	-	2005	Dushanbe Mayor’s Office
State Forests Total	1 987 900				

i) state enterprises responsible for the implementation of laws on forests and managing forestry

	Institutions responsible for the implementation of laws and management of the forestries			Year	Source of information
	Name of Institution	Number	Average area (hect)		
State Level (1-ministry)	State Committee on Nature Protection and Forestry	1		2005	State Committee "Priroda"
Regional Level 2 nd importance	State Agency of Forestry and Hunting	1	1 800 000	2005	State Committee "Priroda"
	State Agency of especially protected natural territories «Tajik National Park»	1	2 780 000	2005	State Committee "Priroda"
Regional Level 3 rd importance	District and regional forestries	4	450 000	2005	State Committee "Priroda"
	District and regional Hukumats	-	-	2005	State Committee "Priroda"
Regional Level 4 th importance	Forestries	40	45 000	2005	State Committee "Priroda"
	Sanctuaries	4	48 500		
	National Park	1	2 600 000		

j) major forestry related stakeholders

Type of organization	Name of organization	Main goal	Adress
State forestries	State Agency of Forestry and Hunting, Forestries	Protection and restoration of forests	Dushanbe, Karoteginskaya str, Forestry and Hunting Agency
	Arboretums	Growing of forest plantation material	
	Hunting forestries	Protection and restoration of forests and management of commercial game hunting	
NGOs	«Aral» Foundation	Management of international nature and forest protection programs	Dushanbe
	«Kuhiston» Foundation		
	Global Ecological Foundation		
Education and research	Botanics Research Institute	Research on the flora species and its status in sanctuaries and forest lands	Dushanbe, Karamov str.Botanical Institute
	Zoology Research Institute	Research on the fauna species and its status in sanctuaries and forest lands	Dushanbe
	Forestry Research Institute	Complex research on forest protection, selection of individual breeds, biology of rare species of animals and so on.	Dushanbe
	National University (chair of biology)	Management of scientific research on biology of plants and animals. Management of students' practical training	Dushanbe, Rudaki ave.

