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70 YEARS WORKING TOGETHER IN THE SERVICE OF FORESTS AND PEOPLE

Introducing the work of FAO-Sub-regional office (SEC) for Turkey, Azerbaijan and Central Asia



**Las2017 - Joint Session of the ECE Committee on Forests and
the Forest Industry and the FAO European Forestry Commission**
9-13 October 2017, Warsaw, Poland

Natural setting

LAS 2017



Countries	Forest cover	Other wooded land	Annual change (20 years)	Growing stock
REU (Europe)	45%	5%	+ 0.08%	111 m3/ha
SEC (Central Asia)	6%	6%	+ 0.34%	95 m3/ha

Data source: GFRA, 2010

Challenges & opportunities

LAS 2017



- Forest governance (policy, legal and institutional structures)
- Forest/tree resources assessment and monitoring system
- Land-tenure security and forest ownership
- Deforestation and degradation of forests (fuelwood, grazing)
- Restoration and sustainable management of mountain watersheds and riparian forests (tugai)
- Climate change impact on forests and land resources

Assistance to the countries

LAS 2017



- Normative work (technical workshops, guidelines, etc.)
 - International workshop on forest health in Dushanbe 2017
 - Opportunities arising from sustainable management of dry-land forests: Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification in Ankara (in preparation for 2017)
- Projects
 - Extent
 - Single country → 8 projects
 - Multi-country → 1 project
 - Various stages: Concept, preparation, implementation



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- **Forest resources assessment and monitoring to strengthen forest policy and knowledge framework**

- > USD 1,400,000 from GEF 6
- Implementation 2017 - 2019

- **Issue**

Degradation and small scale deforestations due to

- Over-grazing, livestock raising and illegal cuttings
- Gaps in current management practices (no thinning)



- Objective

Introduce sustainable forest management for

- Social and economic benefits
- Quality of existing forests
- Carbon sequestration

- Components

- Forest resource information management system
- Multifunctional forest management leading to carbon sequestration, improvement in forest and tree resources and contribution to local livelihoods
- Monitoring, evaluation and knowledge-sharing



- **Sustainable management of mountainous forest and land resources under climate change conditions**
 - > USD 5,400,000 from GEF 5
 - Implementation 2014 – 2018
- **Issues**
 - Overharvesting of forests & pastures
 - Degradation (soil erosion, floods, landslides, deterioration of irrigation systems)
 - Inadequate legal framework & outdated land management



- Objectives
 - Enabling environment for forestry & agriculture
 - Productivity of silvo-agro-pastoral ecosystems including enhancement of carbon stock
- Components
 - Enabling environment for sustainable forest & land management
 - Enhanced carbon stock by innovative management & rehabilitation
 - Climate-friendly agriculture for sustainable land & water management



- **Sustainable Land Management and Climate-Friendly Agriculture in Konya Basin**
 - > USD 5,700,000 from GEF 5
 - Implementation 2015 – 2018
- **Issues**
 - Human pressure on the limited surface water and groundwater resources
 - Degradation (soil erosion, floods and landslides, declining groundwater tables and drying out of wetlands)



- Objectives
 - Sustainability of farm and land management
 - Adaptation and dissemination of low carbon technologies
- Components
 - Rehabilitation of degraded forests and pastures
 - Adoption of climate-friendly agricultural practices
 - Formation of legal, political & institutional environment



- **Conservation and Sustainable Management of Turkey's Steppe Ecosystems**
 - > USD 2,300,000
 - Implementation 2016 – 2020
- **Issues**
 - Integrity of steppe threatened (expanding cultivation & infrastructure, overuse → livestock, medicinal plants collection, gazelle & bustard poaching)
 - Loss of connectivity (species endangered, ecosystem services of uplands affected)



- Objectives
 - Steppe conservation through protected area management
 - Mainstreaming steppe conservation into production landscapes
- Components
 - Effectiveness of protected areas system to conserve steppe biodiversity
 - Steppe biodiversity conservation mainstreamed into production landscapes
 - Model steppe conservation training program for pastoralists
 - Enabling environment for conservation of steppe biodiversity across large landscapes



- **Applying the Land Degradation Neutrality Concept in the Upper Sakarya Basin for Scaling up at National Level**
 - > USD 2,800,000 from GEF 6
 - Implementation presumably 2018 - 2021
- **Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management in Kaz Daglari**
 - > USD 4,600,000; GEF 6 or GEF 7
 - Not yet included in the GEF work program for project preparation



- **Sustainable Management of Forests in Mountain and Valley Areas**
 - > USD 3,100,000 from GEF 6
 - Implementation 2017 - 2022
- **Issues**
 - Inadequate data on forests for management planning
 - Carbon sequestration limited
 - Lacking forest cover
 - Degradation (livestock grazing, unsustainable harvesting of timber, fuel wood and non-forest products)



- Objectives
 - Introduction of sustainable forest management
 - Improved status of forest and tree resources
- Components
 - Information system for sustainable forests management
 - Multifunctional forest management at four pilots
 - Upscaling sustainable forest management
 - Monitoring, evaluation and knowledge-sharing



- **Integrated forest land and tree resources assessment**
 - > USD 400,000 from Technical Cooperation Program of FAO
 - Implementation 2016 - 2017
- **Issue**

Forest figures in Uzbekistan have been not updated over the last thirty years due to

 - Limited coordination among involved institutions
 - Lack of
 - Qualified personnel
 - Funds



- Objective

Introduce a sound data-collection system

- Output → Strengthening of national capacities for
 - Implementing an integrated forest and tree resources assessment
 - Applying Geographical Information System and Remote Sensing analysis for mapping and monitoring
 - Collecting and analyzing field data

Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan

L A S 2017



- **Central Asian Desert Initiative (CADI): Conservation and sustainable use of cold winter deserts in Central Asia**
 - > USD 1,200,000 from Internationale Klimainitiative (IKI)
 - Implementation 2017 - 2019 by FAO and Michael von Succow Foundation
- **Issues**
 - Overuse and degradation of temperate deserts by overgrazing, firewood collection and infrastructure development
 - Losses of ecosystem services (ES) and biodiversity
 - Lacking integration of ES and biodiversity into land management practices



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Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan

L A S 2017



- Objective
 - Conservation & management of ES and biodiversity across borders
 - Strengthening stakeholder capacities on participatory approaches
- Outputs
 - Evidence on ecosystem services and biodiversity for application in land use management
 - Multi-stakeholder-based sustainable land management
 - Conditions for management and establishment of protected areas
 - CADI secretariat



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Thank you!



Peter Pechacek

Forestry Officer, SEC Ankara, Turkey

**UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber
Section**

Day October 2017, Warsaw