

Update on study on forests of Caucasus and Central Asia

Kit Prins



FORESTS



**Second (27th) meeting of the
UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on monitoring
sustainable forest management**

22-23 November 2018, Vienna, Austria



Objectives of the study

FORESTS



- Describe resources, sector, trends and pressures
- Describe policies and institutions
- Identify major challenges and policy responses

Also

- Improve visibility and understanding of policy makers and international community
- Encourage regional dialogue and cooperation
- Improve the situation as regards data availability and quality

It appears an international forest sector study has not been done before in the region

Process of the study

FORESTS



- Consultant prepared country profiles using available data (FRA, other national and international sources, development community)
- National correspondents review country profiles, revised profiles prepared.
- Study drafted for review, based on profiles
- Workshop (Tbilisi, December 2018) reviews draft, asked to agree on conclusions of study
- Revision, publication early 2019

Features of process:

- Use best available data
- Work closely with national correspondents
- Focus on policies and institutions

Structure of the study

FORESTS



- Introduction
- Background (population, GDP, extreme poverty)
- Characteristics of forests, and pressures on them (energy, grazing)
- Goods and services supplied by the forest (protection, biodiversity, wood and non-wood products, climate change mitigation, employment, livelihoods)
- Legal, policy and institutional framework
- Forest degradation and forest landscape restoration
- Conclusions and challenges

Forests of the Caucasus

FORESTS



Forests of Central Asia

FORESTS



Data issues in the region

FORESTS



- Only one country (Kyrgyzstan) has a recent sample-based inventory, which discovered a large area of previously unmeasured forest
- Most based on “forest accounts” – reporting by managers of state forests
- Widespread sparse forests, notably saxaul: “forest” or “other wooded land”?
- Confusion between State Forest Fund and “forest” as defined internationally
- Very little on forest health and vitality, employment, livelihoods, wood supply
- Good progress on data with national correspondents. Basis for FRA 2020?

Some issues

FORESTS

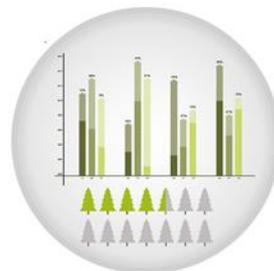


- Fuelwood demand. Need for affordable rural energy sources
- Overgrazing degrades forests but often essential source of livelihood for forest managers.
- Rural poverty and livelihoods
- Economic sustainability of local forest management units: inadequate support from central budget + lack of opportunity for revenue generation
- Scope to increase benefits of forests through (re)afforestation, improving protection, developing revenues from services

(To be discussed further!)



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



Thank you!

FORESTS



Kit Prins

Independent consultant

UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on monitoring SFM

22-23 November 2018, Vienna

