



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Study “State of Forests of the Caucasus and Central Asia”



FORESTS



Publication series launch
State of Forests of the Caucasus and Central Asia

29 May 2019



The forests of the region have many functions: protection, livelihoods ...



FORESTS



They are valuable, but under pressure

FORESTS



Objectives of the first regional overview:

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



Process of the study

FORESTS



- Country profiles based on available data were reviewed by national experts
- Study based on profiles was reviewed at a workshop, and conclusions agreed
- Revised and published April 2019

Features of process:

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

The region's forests in figures

FORESTS



- 27 million ha of forest and other wooded land, most in Central Asia;
- Average forest cover 6.5% (Georgia is an exception, at 41%)
- All forest publicly owned
- 89% designated for protective functions
- 11% conserved for biodiversity

Main conclusions

FORESTS



- Forests play an essential role in protecting against erosion and desertification, conserving biodiversity, supplying livelihoods and energy
- Forests are under severe pressure, from demand for fuelwood and grazing, leading to informal/illegal harvesting and forest degradation
- A formal legal framework is in place, and policy goals articulated
- Information is improving, but not adequate
- State forest organisations and their decentralised agencies play a key role
- Resources for sustainable forest management are inadequate: finance, human, skills

Main challenges

FORESTS



- Maintain and restore existing forests
- Increase benefits provided by forests to society
- Improve information base and use that information for policy
- Decentralise decision making to the extent possible
- Provide adequate education and training,
- Improve social protection and provide decent working and financial conditions for forest workers,
- Strengthen forest sector institutions, by allocating sufficient resources and removing bureaucratic structures and processes, while maintaining monitoring and responsibility
- Integrate Sustainable Forest Management into national development strategies



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Thank you!



FORESTS



Kit Prins
Consultant
UNECE/FAO
29 May 2019

