



**REPORT From CO-HAIRS
Niamey (NIGER), January 2012,**

BACKGROUND

- ❑ 30 October 2009, a landmark resolution was adopted at the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) on the means of implementation of sustainable forest management (SFM).
- ❑ Project on identifying gaps, obstacles and opportunities in financing SFM in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Low Forest Cover Countries (LFCCs).
- ❑ Teheran workshop : the first of a set of four workshops

OPENING

The first day of the meeting (14th November 2011) included an opening ceremony comprising a speech by Mr. Orangi, the Deputy Minister of the Forest, Range and Watershed Management Organisation (FRWO) of the Islamic Republic of Iran, a welcome address in the form of a video message by the Director of the UNFF Secretariat and the unveiling of a special stamp celebrating the International Year of Forests in the Islamic Republic of Iran.



ELECTION OF CO-CHAIRS

The participants elected Mr. Oyétoundé Djiwa (Togo) and Mr. Aliost Montazeri (Islamic Republic of Iran) as the Co-chairs of the workshop



OBJECTIVE OF THE WORKSHOP :

- ❑ Validate the findings of the preliminary studies (prepared as part of the first component), particularly to identify gaps, obstacles and opportunities in financing SFM in LFCCs, and
- ❑ Initiate a network of forest financing stakeholders in the LFCCs and at the international level.

41 country representatives and experts

□ **11 LFCCs countries** (Afghanistan, Chad, Iraq, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Togo, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Yemen),

.... and experts from :

TPS LFCC, UNFF,
CDB, FAO, UNDP,
GEF, UNFF major
group; GIZ, University
Of Teheran,



STRUCTURE, VENUE AND DATES

❑ Two-day field trip to Mazandaran and Gilan Provinces on the Caspian Sea (12-13 November 2011)

Visite to Benishki Forest Cooperative near Ramsar, Mazandaran Province : meeting with cooperative leaders who explained the successful commercialisation of a range of products from the region (notably timber, fish and agricultural products) in local markets, and the benefits derived for the welfare and development of local communities.



STRUCTURE, VENUE AND DATES

□ Three and half days (3,5) workshop (14th -17th November 2011), comprising a series of presentations on forest financing : participants were split into 5 working groups by language (French, English, Arabic, Russian and Farsi) to discuss and answer a series of questions on forest financing in two sessions, and to report to the plenary after each session.

□ On 17th November 2011, an expert panel summarized the main findings which were then discussed among participants before an agreed conclusion was reached.



AGREED MAIN CONCLUSIONS

1. In order to address the low human, financial and technical capacity of public authorities in tackling forest financing, a capacity assessment would need to be made of all public agencies involved in financing SFM in LFCCs.

2. Structured inter-agency coordination through national committees or other means is needed in the National Forest Program preparation and implementation processes to overcome the lack of inter-sectoral collaboration. In addition, public, private, NGO, civil society, local community and farmer levels need to be involved, often through relevant associations or other umbrella entities.

3. In order to overcome low political commitment at national and international levels which is a major obstacle for increasing forest financing in most of the LFCCs, a range of recommendations were put forward, including

- holding a ministerial meeting for LFCCs with assistance from the UNFF;
- supporting information generation and information management as well as promoting media coverage and specialized communication on the full value of forests to the national development,
- information generation, management and dissemination to demonstrate the role of forests in poverty reduction, and
- strengthening international coordination to provide a voice for all LFCCs in international fora.

4. The important role of private sector in mobilizing additional financing and investments in forests , the importance of adequate rules and regulations as well as law enforcement to secure the sustainability of forest utilization and fair income and benefit sharing within the society : the government's role in providing an enabling environment particularly in reducing the risks of investments in sustainable forest management and utilization, including of NTFPs, was emphasized.

5. The TPS for LFCCs would need to be strengthened, encouraging LFCCs to nominate focal points. It is recommended that the TPS for LFCCs play a double role: (i) a horizontal role by encouraging the exchange of experiences between LFCCs, and (ii) a vertical role by promoting the coordination of LFCCs to increase the visibility of LFCCs at the UNFF and other international fora,

- 6. The UNFF should further focus on the specific conditions of LFCCs and encourage other CPF Members to take account of them in their programs of work in order to overcome the perceived handicap that most innovative financing mechanisms, especially REDD+, are primarily aimed, and thus designed and adapted to, high forest cover countries.**

- 7. Regional economic committees (REC) and the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Combating Drought in the Sahel (CILSS) could be used as “nodes” of communication between the intergovernmental and national levels in order to further bolster coordination between LFCCs at the supranational level.**

8. Given that timber production is generally limited (and in many cases non-existent) in LFCCs, NTFPs represent a potential alternative to giving monetary value to forests. Many forests in LFCCs are actually very rich in NTFPs, including shea nuts and gum Arabic in Africa, and a variety of nuts and fruit in Near East and Central Asia. Promoting the market chains of these NTFPs through developing networks, encouraging certification and training local communities in collecting and product transformation would help LFCCs unleash this potential. In this context, FAO is called upon to support LFCCs under the framework of “innovative partnerships” model.

9. Many LFCCs also have a great potential for forest landscape restoration (FLR), a relatively low-cost and cost-efficient means of increasing production in forests, reconciling different sectors and their land use, and meeting the development needs of local communities. Moreover, donor enthusiasm for FLR has increased in recent years. The UNFF, with its experience in the Rwanda FLR Initiative, could assist in coordinating such initiatives.

10. Finally, in order to further identify common issues, challenges and opportunities to forest financing in LFCCs, research coordination should be improved between these countries, with the TPS for LFCCs as a potential coordinating organization.

CONCLUSION

The workshop was closed with a ceremony organized by the Forest, Range and Watershed Management Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran, where each participant was rewarded with a medal of the organization.

Merci pour votre attention



Thank you for your attention