

Expert Group Meeting on Promoting Best Practices  
On sustainable Rural Livelihoods in the ESCWA Region  
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**SUSTAINABLE RURAL LIVELIHOODS THROUGH FAO  
PRIORITIES AND ACTIVITIES ON NATURAL RESOURCES:  
Integrated Forest Fires Management, Prevention, control Project  
(OSRO 703)**

*by*

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## Sustainable Rural Livelihoods

### Through FAO priorities and activities on Natural Resources

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## FAO global goal :

Eliminating hunger malnutrition and poverty

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is working with its Members and the entire international community for achievement of the

## Millennium Development Goals

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development

Within the priorities and activities of FAO related to Goal 7 in the Near East Region

Water

Fishery

Forestry

...

### Some figures on Forests in Lebanon

- Forests cover 13% of the total land area and 12% OWL
- No data on forestry sector (fuel consumption/income...)
- Responsible institutions: MOA and MOE
- Total budget for these two ministries is around 1.5% depending on the years, however they have additional national activities

### Some figures on Forests in Lebanon

- State land Forests is about 10% of total country area
- Additional funding from international donors for forestry sector goes to NGOs
- Lack of coordination among NGOs and among NGOs and governmental institutions

### Role of Forests

- Fruits/Medicinal and aromatic plants/ No timber
- Soil and water conservation
- Control of erosion, landslide, flood and drought
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Non Wood Forest Products (NWFP) to the local consumers and even for export
- Contribute to livelihoods and employment of many people in the Region, and generate food, energy and cash.

### Challenge and needs

- Forest management plans and policy
- Enhance and improve the NWFP of the forest and Investment in forestry sector
- Implement long term comprehensive strategies, policies and institutions
- Preserve the unique environmental role of the forestry and range land in the Region.
- Adopt the participatory approach

### **Integrated Forest Fires Management, Prevention, control Project (OSRO 703)**

- Starting date 2008 / After 2006 hostilities and 2007 fires
- Ending date 2011
- Evaluation is not done

The impact of Forestry projects is at long term basis

### **Project Objectives**

Support early recovery and poverty alleviation through improved forest fires management and their associated benefits to environment and rural communities through:

### **Project Objectives, cont'd...**

Adoption and implementation of preventive and control measures aiming at forests protection and fighting fires

Rehabilitation of damaged forests

Restoration of livelihoods generated from the sound and sustainable use of forested trees (in the long run).

### **Activities**

- Tools / Equipment / Safety clothing
- Vehicles
- Small Grant Programme
- Nursery
- Reforestation
- Infrastructure
- Legal review
- Training / Awareness

### Experience

- Good contact was done with the local authorities (municipalities) which shared the responsibility in choosing the project activities such as reforestation sites and guarantee the maintenance and the follow up activities of the project.
- The small grant program is financing various activities such as plantation, establishment of water reservoirs, watching towers, maintenance of the local forests... So this program will be implemented in nine villages, and will have good impact on forest protection and the livelihood. Watching towers will be also implemented and will have their impact on livelihood and in the creation of part time activities during the fire season.

•The rehabilitation of two lookout towers  
Will create opportunities for local people to participate in the fire fighting program

•The creation of buffer zones around the roads needed a lot of local labour in addition to the tractors and trucks used. This activity will be an example to be followed by the local authorities to establish more buffer zones and reduce biomass in order to protect their forests.

•The Municipalities will be provided with equipment to create and maintain yearly buffer zones around the roads which will need the participation of the local people.

• The production of 100,000 seedlings yearly will need local labour and will urge people To plant and maintain trees and harvest them in the future



- The forest fire protection activities will save the forest and keep it at the disposal of the local population to collect non wood forest product and fuel wood

- The protection of forest has an important role in the ecotourism which creates work opportunities for the local people

### Conclusion

- Good forest management and protection can improve the livelihood of the local people especially when all the project is implemented in mountainous villages. In these villages, people depend on the neighboring forest to collect fuel wood, non wood forest product, medicinal plants

- The project should be based participatory approach / local needs / sustainable management of natural resources

Thank you