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| FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS | D:\SNB\KAPASİTE GELİŞTİRME_FAO_TIKA\watershed project\ASYA LOGOxCONVERT-2.jpg |

Capacity Building for Sustainable Management of Mountain Watersheds

In Central Asia and the Caucasus

GCP/SEC/002/TUR

**SECOND REPORT**

17 July 2014

**SUBMITTED BY:**

**İsmail Belen, TCDC** *Consultant for Public Awareness and Training*, CEM/MoFWA, Turkey

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# ABROVATIONS USED IN THE REPORT



# SUMMARY

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| **REPORTING PERSON** | | | **:** | **İsmail Belen**, TCDC Consultant *for Public Awareness and Training* **(GCP/SEC/002/ TUR**) project | | |
| **Reporting period** | | | **:** | May-June 2014 | | |
| **Date of the Report** | | | **:** | 17.07.2014 | | |
| **Purpose of the reporting:**  Within the context of the implementation of the project, “**Capacity Building for Sustainable Management of Mountain Watersheds in Central Asia and the Caucasus (GCP/SEC/002/ TUR**)”, the Progress Report (second consultancy’s report) was prepared within the framework of the following purposes;   * Summarizing the activities and duties of the consultancy carried out by the end of June 2014 including outcomes and findings of the Eskisehir and Kyrgyzstan missions, * Exchange of information and views about the findings and results of the consultancy related activities with related project bodies such as RPC, FAO-SEC, SAEPF, consultants, other project experts and staff, * Explanation on the forthcoming matters of project’s activities to be carried out during the next steps of the project and providing recommendation for. | | | | | |
| **Cleared for distribution by** | **:** | Ekrem Yazici, Senior Forestry Officer, FAO Sub-regional  Representative for Central Asia | | |

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| **Distribution:**  Ekrem Yazici (FAOSEC) (email: [Ekrem.Yazici@fao.org](mailto:Ekrem.Yazici@fao.org))  FAO-Turkey (FAOTR) (email: [FAO-TR@fao.org](mailto:FAO-TR@fao.org%20) )  Erdoğan Özevren- Project Regional Coordinator- (Email: [eozevren@ormansu.gov.tr](mailto:eozevren@ormansu.gov.tr)) |

# Purpose and Framework of this report

## Purpose

Mr. Ismail Belen, a Forest Engineer with MSc by training and a Public Management Expert, started to work for the Project entitled “**Capacity Building for Sustainable Management of Mountain Watersheds in Central Asia and the Caucasus-GCP/SEC/002/TUR**” as the “TCDC Consultant of Awareness Creation and Training” at the date of **17th of March, *2014****.*

With the framework of the Project, the Consultant shall prepare;

* Inception report including work plan and methods of study
* Draft consultant report compliant including preliminary results
* Final consultancy report with findings and recommendations

The inception report including work plan and methots of study submitted to FAOSEC Forestry Officer at the date of 26th of March, 2014 and approved (Annex I).

After this report, the reporting officer attended to “International Workshop on Nursery, Seed and Afforestation Tecniques in Arid Zones” in Eskişehir, Turkey, 7-12 April 2014. After this mission a “Back To office Report” prepared and submitted to FAO. (Annex II)

During this period; the reporting consultant (RC) travelled to Kyrgyzstan between 14-22 May, 2014, in order to attend the “Training Workshop on Participatory Integrated Watershed Rehabilitation Planning” and to provide the necessary information and support to Draft Micro Catchment Plan “Cholok Kayndil MC, Kyrgyzstan). After this mission a report prepared and submitted to FAOSEC at the date of 8 June 2014. (Annex III)

## Framework of this report

According to the project text the TCDC Consultant for Awareness Creation and Training will carry out the following tasks:

* Assist the review of the institutional setup and mechanisms related to watershed management, in particular public awareness and training development needs in the project countries;
* Establish contacts for raising interest and commitment among the high level decision makers to support testing and expansion of the holistic (integrated) participatory (collaborative) watershed management approach, integrating rehabilitation and livelihood works in the project countries.
* Provide suggestions and take initiatives for establishment useful and sustainable communication networks among the key watershed agencies of the project countries;
* Participate in the trainings in Turkey and provide practical training to concerned participants on awareness creation and interest raising for participatory integrated watershed projects;
* Assist preparation/elaboration of awareness creation materials (CDs, brochures etc.) and programmes/campaigns in the project countries;
* Work closely with the other TCDC experts and national consultants for the planning and contacting of the participatory integrated watershed management trainings;
* Conduct other tasks as required that are within sphere of competence;
* Prepare and submit a report on **“The role of training and awareness creation for development of watershed rehabilitation and management: Turkish experiences and recommendations for the Central Asian countries**”.
* Prepare and submit a final report including main comments and recommendations.

The framework of this report has been prepared with the line of ToR’s of the Consultancy as follows:

1. Institutional setup and mechanisms
2. public awareness and training development needs
3. Establishing contacts among the high level decision makers
4. Communication networks
5. Participate in the trainings in turkey
6. Assist preparation/elaboration of awareness creation materials
7. Work closely with the other tcdc
8. Prepare and submit a report on T**urkish experience**
9. Final Report

# Activities, Main Findings and Recommadations

## Institutional setup and mechanisms

*ToR: Assist the* review of the institutional setup and mechanisms *related to watershed management*

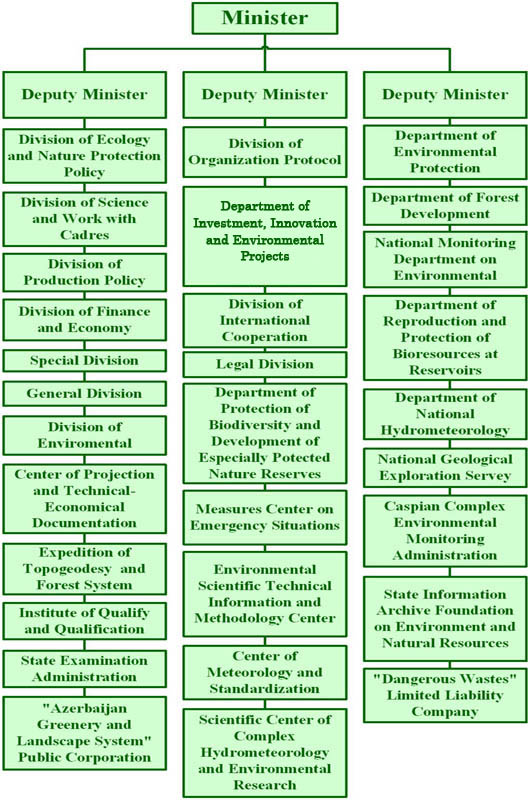
During the preparation of this report it has been used the reports listed below:

1. The Mission reports prepared by the other Consultans; Mevlüt Düzgün, Muzaffer Doğru and mission report of Erdoğan Özevren, Regional Coordinator.
2. Report of the Regıonal Workshop and Training Course on Participatory-Integrated Watershed Management and Rehabilitation[[1]](#footnote-1), Antalya, Turkey 05–09 November 2012 ,
3. Report of the Regional Workshop and Training Course on “Integrated Participatory Watershed Management[[2]](#footnote-2): Planning, Rehabilitation and Income Generation; Mersin-Kahramanmaraş, Turkey, 26 May – 02 June 2013
4. Country reports presented during abovementioned workshops[[3]](#footnote-3)
5. Report of the “International Workshop on Nursery, Seed and Afforestation Tecniques in Arid Zones” in Eskişehir, Turkey, 7-12 April 2014.
6. Meeting of the National Project Coordinator organized in 4th of April, 2014.
7. Report of the “Training Workshop on Participatory Integrated Watershed Rehabilitation Planning”; 14-22 May, 2014.

It was also used the results of meetings with officials, web pages, documents, publications and some internal reports which are not published. Some concrete information about institutional setup and mechanism at the project countries provided below.

### **Azerbaijan**

The main Ministry for “water, forest and environment” in Azerbaijan is the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources[[4]](#footnote-4). The structure of the Ministry like below:



As it was seen at the chart, under the Ministry there are departments like below;

* Department of Forest development
* Depertment of National Hydrometeorology
* Scientific Center of Complex Hydrometeorology and Environmental Research
* Department of Protection of Biodiversity and development of Especially Protected Nature Reserves
* Division of Ecology and Nature Protection
* Division of Environmental
* “Azerbaijan Greenery and landscape System” Public Copraration

Together with this Ministry, the Ministries listed below seems too have responsibility on “watershed management”

* Ministry of Agriculture -(Kənd Təsərrüfatı Nazirliyi) - [www.agro.gov.az](http://www.agro.gov.az)
* Ministry of Energy-(Energetike Nazirliği- [www.minenergy.gov.az](http://www.minenergy.gov.az)
* Ministry of Emergency Situation- (Fövqəladə Hallar Nazirliyi ) – [www.fhn.gov.az](http://www.fhn.gov.az)

Regarding the mechanism related to “watershed management” it is worthy to look over the following activities.

#### National Forest Programme of Azerbaijan[[5]](#footnote-5)

A Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) project, TCP/AZE/3303, to support the development of a national forest programme and legislation in Azerbaijan ran from July 2012 until December 2013. A proposal for a National Forest Programme was presented at a national multistakeholder workshop and comprised of a forest policy statement, strategies and action plans for their implementation. Proposals for the amendments to the Forest Code in line with the new policy priorities were also elaborated.

 The main challenges of Azerbaijan forestry, identified in various national documents, include:

* + degradation of forest resources and deforestation;
  + inadequacies in responding the needs and demands of the society for environmental, social and economic goods and services at the national as well as local levels;
  + Inadequate stakeholders’ participation and intersectoral collaboration in the protection; restoration and sustainable use of forest areas and resources.

The project developed a new forest policy framework that will lay a basis for sustainable development and use of forests with an increased cross-sectoral importance of forestry and secured interests and rights of people living in the countryside whose welfare depends on the surrounding forests. The collaborative approaches introduced by the process are expected to pave the way for sustainable development and management of the country’s forests while contributing to rural development and poverty alleviation.

The project was implemented through a close collaboration between several FAO offices: FOE and LEGN from the HQ; Sub-regional office in Ankara and the FAO country office in Bakû to support the key-stakeholders in Azerbaijan.

With the framework of this TCP/AZE/3303 project, “National Forest Policy and Action Plan” has been also eloborated and submitted to the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources for their approval.

* For FAO’s Related Web Page: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/82979/en/>
* For National Forestry Programe:<http://www.fao.org/forestry/39774-0e03f4576d53ec8aeeba6da1d02f63922.pdf>
* For Action Plan: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/39774-0e03f4576d53ec8aeeba6da1d02f63922.pdf>

With the framework of this action plan, there some projects related to;

1. Capacity development for assessment and monitoring of forest resources (fra), including forest inventory and management planning in azerbaijan.
2. Development of communıty based forestry practıces ın azerbaıjan
3. Technical support and capacity building for development of afforestation and forest restoration works, including forest nursery production, plantation techniques and assessment of potential afforestation areas.

### Kırgızistan

Watershed management is under the responsibility of several Ministeries in Kyrgzystan like other countries and needs the cooperation and integrated participatory approeches.

As 2014, the Responsible Ministries and Agencies[[6]](#footnote-6) related to watershed could be listed below:

1. State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry (SAEPF)
2. Ministry of Agriculture and Melioration of the Kyrgyz Republic
3. Ministry of Social Development
4. Ministry of Energy and Industry
5. Ministry of Emergency

In Kyrgyz Public Management system, the State Agencies like SAEPF has same statu like the Ministries and the Heads of these Agencies have been appointed by the President of State and they have been represented at the Council of Ministers.

Regarding forests of Kyrgyz; the forests of Kyrgyzstan are predominantly mountain forests. Around 90 % of the Kyrgyz forests are located at an altitude of 700 to 3500 m above sea level. They contain rather fragile ecosystems, the management of which requiring, apart from the availability of relevant experience and knowledge, the application of both reasonable and cautious approaches and methods.

According to the Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic, forests in Kyrgyzstan are state-owned property as part of the State Forest Fund (SFF), which comprises forest lands and lands not covered by forest but earmarked for forestry needs (e.g., mountain grasslands).

The State Agency for Environment Protection and Forestry (SAEPF) under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic is in charge of forest management functions, with its national, regional and local levels units.

With support from the FAO Project “TCP/KYR/3204 - Capacity Building for National Forest and Tree Resources Assessment and Monitoring”, the SAEPF continues to work at the system of National Forest Monitoring and Assessment and including similar to most European countries a new survey activity – the national forest inventory (NFI) for defining and completing the data on forests in the country.

In close cooperation SAEPF, FAO is developing a GEF project for the “Sustainable Management of Mountainous Forest and Land Resources under Climate Change Conditions in Kyrgyzstan”. The project will be inplemented in 2013-2017 and GEF contribution will be about 6 million US $.

When we look over the institutional setup and mechanism on “mountains and watershed management” in Kyrgyzstan it is clear that The Government of Kyrgyzstan had undertaken several initiatives to enhance economic development, social welfare and ecological sustainability in mountain regions.

It proposed that the United Nations General Assembly devote a United Nations International Year to mountain areas. The Government of Kyrgyzstan hosted the Bishkek Global Mountain Summit from 19 October to 1 November 2002. Also in 2002, the Government of Kyrgyzstan approved the National Strategy and Action Plan on Sustainable Development in Mountain Areas. This document mentions the need to develop a programme to promote the production and marketing of both primary and processed products so as to integrate the mountain farming population more effectively into the national economic system.

However around this period, the government lacks the expertise and knowledge to implement such a programme. It therefore sought FAO’s assistance in building institutional capacity (at the national, district and local levels) for developing viable income-generating small-scale enterprises for poor inhabitants of mountain areas. This TCP responded to that request through a training programme based on FAO’s market analysis and development (MA&D) approach, an innovative participatory process for the development of small-scale enterprises based on natural resources.

To build institutional capacity in running MA&D processes at the national, regional and local levels, the project achieved:

* training approximately 20 staff from national and district government agencies and NGOs, and six village facilitators;
* setting up six demonstration sites in pilot villages, as part of the practical training programme;
* translating and adapting training and extension materials to support the development of small-scale enterprises in mountain communities;
* Developing a long-term investment programme that expands successful pilot projects to other areas of the country.

The project started in April 2005 and ended in September 2007.

### Uzbekistan

Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan[[7]](#footnote-7) is resonsible for “watershed management”. Main tasks, functions and rights are as follows:

* *conducts monitoring over compliance with the legislation on water, cooperatives (shirkat), private farms, considers infringement facts and issues appropriate decisions in a prescribed;*
* *participates in development and implementation of branch and regional agriculture and water management development programs in conjunction with the ministries and agencies of the Republic of Uzbekistan, state committees, local and government state bodies;*
* *prevents (suppresses) actions of infringement of legislation on agriculture, water and water use;*

**Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan in accordance with the assigned tasks is empowered to:**

* *give conclusions on draft materials concerning the use of land and water resources submitted to the Ministry for consideration;*
* *determine conditions of water supply for the enterprises and organizations of all sectors of economy of the Republic of Uzbekistan;*
* *issue technical specifications for water intake from irrigation systems, construction of water intake and water release structures on them, crossing of water flows by the engineering communications, as well as carry out the control during their design and construction;*
* *provide conclusions on water resources availability and agreements having an obligatory force during construction of new facilities and reconstruction of existing ones which use water resources;*
* *issue within its competence a decision on bringing officials to the responsibility for infringement of water legislation;*
* *define the order of the register development of economic enterprises – water forestry-based resources of the republic;*
* *approve in prescribed order and within its competence normative acts and methodological documents related to the issues of agriculture management and use of water resources.*

The Law on “Water and Water Use” has been approved in 1996 in Uzbekistan.

All forestland is the property of the State. The Main Department of Forestry and Nature Protection, which was originally established in 1945, went through a number of reorganizations and was transformed into the Main Forestry Department (MFD) in 2000 and was placed under the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources. The MFD is the principal government agency having the direct responsibility for administering the State Forest Fund (SFF). It consists of six divisions and manages 97 local departments and forestry enterprises.

Becouse of the forestry department establisment backs to 19th century, special emphasises was given to its history. Systematic management of forests in Uzbekistan dates back to 1897 when the first legislation related to forestry in Turkestan, the “Regulations on Forest Protection” was promulgated. This legislation framed the basic regulations for forest management and established a forest land-use register. Later, following the **First Turkestan Congress of Foresters held in 1899**, the “Law on Nationalization of Lands and Forests” was adopted **in 1918**. In compliance with this law, all forests in the Turkestan Republic became part of the State Forest Fund (SFF). The forestry sector was reorganized, and its main activity became forest protection and restoration.

Besides the MDF there are some other institutes which have forests and some rights on related areas.

* + Main Forestry Department - 8055,4 thousand hectare;
  + State Nature Protection Committee – 867,1 thousand hectare;
  + Tashkent Region Hokimiyat – 488,6 thousand hectare;
  + Agricultural cooperatives, farmer and dehkan farms – 185,7 thousand hectare;
  + State Concern " UZAVTODOR" – 3,4 thousand hectare;
  + State Committee on Geology – 4 thousand hectare;
  + Academy of Sciences –0,6 thousand hectare;
  + State JS Railway Company « Uzbekiston Temir Yullary » – 2,7 thousand hectare.

### Tajikistan

Tajikistan is a mountainous country, with 93 percent of its territory located in mountains, almost half of it at more than 3 000 m above sea level. The farming system in the uplands consists of rainfed agricultural, including cereals, and pastures. Forests and bushes are limited to the highest parts of the mountain catchments[[8]](#footnote-8).

Over the last decade, most of the uplands have become marginal lands owing to high pressure from grazing, deforestation and inappropriate agricultural practices. Recent statistics show that about 98 percent of the upland is affected by severe erosion and overall degradation. Watershed degradation not only has negative effects on upland areas, but also leads to severe hydrological imbalance in nearby downstream areas.

In recent years, and with support from many partners, the Government of Tajikistan has undertaken several initiatives related to the sustainable management of upland resources. Based on these experiences, Tajikistan has realized that an integrated approach with people’s participation is essential to achieving sustainable management of upland resources, controlling watershed degradation and improving the livelihoods of upland inhabitants. However, these concepts are new for most of the concerned government ministries and institutions. The Republic of Tajikistan therefore requested FAO’s assistance in addressing these problems, through its TCP. The project, which ran from 2003 to 2005, provided assistance in establishing the prerequisites for rehabilitating and developing the country’s upland resources. The following project results are particularly worthy of note:

* The Bodomo sub-watershed in Faizabad district was selected for the project’s field component. Several pilot interventions and trials have been initiated in the area, such as afforestation, agroforestry and gully rehabilitation, pasture management, drip irrigation technologies, and farmers’ ponds construction of a modern greenhouse.
* The pasture management interest group works resulted in the introduction of controlled grazing, recovering of the vegetation and a significant reduction of the degradation. The work of the water interest group led to the introduction of an irrigation calendar, which allocates irrigation water to each household on a specific date and in a specific quantity. The income generation group realized the introduction of a revolving fund and successfully implementation of small projects.
* Staff and technicians at different levels are now aware of the seriousness of watershed degradation problems and have acquired knowledge and skills in integrated watershed management. Training sessions and study tours to India and Nepal resulted in the implementation of this knowledge in the pilot project site. The final national seminar, at which different project modules for the follow-up investment programme were discussed, was an important awareness raising opportunity.
* Implementation of the project has promoted closer collaboration of government agencies (central, district and community levels). Four interest groups have been established in the pilot sites: income generation, water, agroforestry and horticulture, and pasture and livestock. The awareness raised and the capacity created though the project is expanding beyond the project context. A watershed management unit has been created in the Soil Science Research Institute, where staff used project experiences to develop a watershed management plan for the Toirsy River, which flows through Dangara district.
* In the past, the general perception of Tajik authorities and donors was that Tajikistan’s resources and potential lay in the lowland cotton producing areas. The TCP has made it clear that Tajikistan is a mountain country of great diversity, with many opportunities and much potential specifically related to and located in mountains. As a result of this paradigm shift and of the project experience, the government and donors now consider watershed management an important priority for the country.

The following governmental institutions involved to the watershed rehabilitation/development works in Tajikistan[[9]](#footnote-9):

* Environmental Committee under Government of Tajikistan;
* Agency on forestry under Government of Tajikistan;
* Ministry of Agriculture;
* Ministry of Energy and water resources;
* Agriculture Academy of Science of RT;
* Agency for Melioration and Irrigation under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Due to having limit of resources the ministries and agencies are working very few and through partnership of donors and international agencies are working on rehabilitation/development works.

The following non-governmental institutions involved to the watershed rehabilitation/development works in Tajikistan: Swiss Confederation Office in Tajikistan, GIZ, CARITAS, GAA, FAO, Project Management Units (through find of IFAD).

Many local NGOs are receiving fund from the donors and international organization for watershed related issues, mostly from the GEF Small Grant Fund (UNDP), Christian Fund, EU and WB. Unfortunately the reports and information on the implemented projects are not available.

On legal framework (laws, government decrees) related to rehabilitation and management of mountain watershed areas are working many governmental organizations. Last year under project one German project established working group on updating of the pasture law and during short time they achieved for adopting the pasture law.

### Turkey

According to the ToR; together with the other Consultants, the Reporting Consultant should prepare and submit a report on “The role of training and awareness creation for development of watershed rehabilitation and management: Turkish experiences and recommendations for the Central Asian countries”. So more emphasise will be given at that stage but in this section a brief information about “TURKEY National Basin Management Strategy- NBMS”.

The NBMS (2014-2023) has been published at the Turkish Official Gazette at the date of 4th of July, 2014 with a High Planning Council Resolotion. This Strategy Document is considered to be a good example for other Project conutries.

According to this Document; in Turkey, including the Prime Ministry, there are several Ministries involved the watersehed management. These are;

1. Ministry of Forest and Water Affairs
   1. General Directorate of Combating Desertification and Erosion
   2. General Directorate of Forestry
   3. General Directorate of State Hydrolic Works
   4. General Directorate of Water Management
   5. General Directorate of Nature Protection and National Parks
   6. Genereal Directorate of Meteorology
   7. Department of Data Processing
   8. Department of Strtegy Development
   9. Turkey’s Water Institute
2. Ministry of Food Agriculture and Livestock
3. Ministry of Environment and Settlement
4. Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources
5. Ministry of Culture and Turism
6. Ministry of Interior
7. Ministry of National Education
8. Ministry of Health
9. Ministry of Development
10. Local Outhorities

### In General

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Order | Country | Relavent Institute | Web Page |
| 1 | Azerbaijan | Ministry of Ecology and Natural Re sources | <http://www.eco.gov.az/> |
| 2 | Kyrgyzstan | State Agency On Envıronment Protectıon And Forestry  Under The Government Of The Kyrgyz Republıc  Mınıstry Of Agrıculture And Melıoratıon Of The Kyrgyz Republıc [[10]](#footnote-10) | 1. <http://www.nature.kg/index.php?option=com_xmap&sitemap=1&Itemid=46&lang=en> 2. Not Found |
| 3 | Uzbekistan | Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan | <http://www.gov.uz/en/authorities/ministries/1297> |
| 4 | Tajikistan | The State Committee for Environmental Protection and Forestry of the Republic of Tajikistan | Not found |
| 5 | Turkey | The Ministry of Forests and Water Affaires | [www.ormansu.gov.tr](http://www.ormansu.gov.tr) |

## **Public awareness and training development needs**

ToR: Assist the review of public awareness and training development needs in the project countries

As it was seen at the Turkish National Basin (Watershed) Management Plan; several ministries and institutions as well as other stakeholders involved to watershed management. Becouse of this complexity and involvement of several stakeholders and not clear ownership, understanding the topic as a whole, describing, creation of public awareness, determining the educational needs seems to be very difficult. It is obvios that working and describing the task in the area which the boundaries and ownerships are clear. But working at the watersheds areas are considered as a difficult task indeed.

There are different interests and priorities for the people who are living at the beginning and end of watersheds. This is the case for the institutes. Sometimes conflicts could be observed even for the organisations not only for the people as well as for the countries especially cross bounduring watersheds.

In order to find the best way for creating public awareness and determining educational needs many interviews were conducted with project consultants and partners and were attended trainings.

In this regard, the reporting officer attended to “International Workshop on Nursery, Seed and Afforestation Tecniques in Arid Zones” in Eskişehir and travelled to Kyrgyzstan, 14-22 May, 2014, in order to attend the “Training Workshop on Participatory Integrated Watershed Rehabilitation Planning”.

It is clear that watershed management issues need to be addressed at both national and international level in cooperation with relevant institutions and stakeholders. In this context, especially for Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan which are the large portion of the countries are mountainous area, the activites carried out by German Technical Cooperation (GIZ), the Swiss Development Agency, TIKA, FAO and other organizations were seen very beneficial for training. International Year of Mountains, Mountains Partnership initiative considered to be an important contribution to understanding of the issue. These gains should be used more effectively and improved.

International conventions, meetings, conferences, reports, guidelines, arrangments and partnerships are very important for public awareness and training. So the Projects Countries should use the advantage of international institutes like FAO, UNECE, Mountains Partnerships and some meetings like COFO.

As it was known very well currently the international arena has been working on “Sustainable Development Goals for the Post 2015 Development Agenda”. During the COFO 22nd Session held in Rome, 23-27 June 2014, the RC made a statement on behalf of Turkish Delegation to COFO and stressed the importance of Mountains on eradication poverty and other relavant issues like water, biodiversity and proposed that the mountains should have priorities.

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| **ITEM 5.1**  **“FORESTS AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS”**  **24 June 2014, Rome**  **Republic of Turkey**  **The Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs**  Mr. Chairman,  Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,  We all recognize that forests are crucial for sustainable development as a renewable natural resources. In this regard the forestry community must collaborate and take an active role in the General Assembly during the negotiations of the post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We need to ensure that the Sustainable Development Goals include forests in a holistic way.  We have concerns that the full spectrum of the social, economic and environmental benefits of forests are not properly reflected in the “Zero Draft”. Forests are not just a threatened natural resource and we should include the full potential of forests’ contributions to sustainable development.  When we look through the proposed goal 15 of the “Zero Draft”, first we notice that the title does not include “forests”. If forests are to be hosted in a single SDG with biodiversity, there must be a special sub-section focusing on the forests. Also the targets should be identified specific for forests and those targets should reflect the social, environmental and economic aspects. Especially forest’s contribution to a green economy and the socioeconomic contributions of forests must be included and made visible. If possible, we should also integrate the contributions of forests under the other goals that could include forest relevant issues.  Mr. Chairman,  Turkey also gives great importance on improving the lives of mountain peoples and protecting mountain environments and therefore appreciates the work done by Mountain Partnership (MP) so far.  Turkey and other Mountain Partnership (MP) members are also concerned that the current SDG working document does not mention mountains enough and recognize their economic importance to sustainable development.  We tried hard to highlight during the Open Working Group discussions requesting attention to mountain ecosystems and made interventions targeting mountains with other countries. This strong call is however still not reflected in the current “Zero Draft”.  Mr. Chairman,  Another important point is organizing, coordinating and joining our forces during the discussions of the Zero Draft in OWG and the General Assembly. We believe that, during these negotiations of the SDGs, establishing a communication platform between CPF and the National representatives will be very useful. The process is in our hands and Turkey is ready and committed for taking active role in this respect.  Yesterday we had a side event on Sustainable Development Goals and we had a chance to discuss the future of the negotiations of the SDGs. In the light of this side event and fruitful discussions made, we would like to propose sending a strong message from COFO on including the contributions of “forests” and “mountains” to sustainable development in the “Zero Draft”.  Mr. Chairman,  Regarding the proposed goal 15 on ecosystems and biodiversity, we would like to propose changing the chapeau and targets.  The proposed text will read as follows;  **Proposed goal 15.** **Enhance sustainable management of forests, rangelands, mountains, land and other terrestrial ecosystems and halt all biodiversity loss**  15.1 By 2030, ensure sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside forests, as well as sustainable mountains development;   * 1. By 2030 reverse the loss of and enhance forest cover worldwide and increase the socio-economic benefits generated by forests, including through increased protection, afforestation and reforestation including by providing adequate incentives for developing countries.   2. By 2030 halt the loss of all biodiversity and protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.   3. By 2030, halt and prevent land degradation, reclaim land affected by desertification and drought, and improve land productivity and soil quality, with a particular focus on drylands.   Thank you for your consideration. |

All the projects countries have been affected by drought, land degradation, desertification. It also seems there is a huge capacity to rehabilitate some areas in these countries. So project countries may wish to consider being a member of “FAO Forest and Lanscape Restoration Mechanism[[11]](#footnote-11)”

The Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Convention of Desertification to be held in Turkey in 2015 could be a wonderfull opportunity to increase public awareness on watershed management. The project countries also may wish to consider to use this opportunity.

## Establishing contacts among the high level decision makers

ToR: Establish contacts for raising interest and commitment among the high level decision makers to support testing and expansion of the holistic (integrated) participatory (collaborative) watershed management approach, integrating rehabilitation and livelihood works in the project countries,

For a better and sustainable integrated watershed management, both national and international level of cooperation is required. If we examine the national co-operation necessity in the case of Turkey; "Turkey National Watershed Management Strategy (2014-2023)" published in the Official Gazette dated 4 July 2014 as the annex of a "High Planning Council” determined the need of cooperation of 11 Ministries including the Prime Ministry.

The aim and framework of this National Staretegy has been determined as;

“Provide guidance on medium and long-term decisions and investments programs for conservation, development and sustainable use of Turkey’s water catchments and their natural resource. Provide guidance and find a common way for the activities to be carried out related to the expectations and needs of society from watersheds ecological, economi, social and culturel services and benefits”

. Ministry of Forest and Water Affairs

1. Ministry of Food Agriculture and Livestock
2. Ministry of Environment and Settlement
3. Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources
4. Ministry of Culture and Turism
5. Ministry of Interior
6. Ministry of National Education
7. Ministry of Health
8. Ministry of Development
9. Local Outhorities

It is ver clear that without the guidance and support of the high level decision makers, at the level of Ministers, Prime Ministers, Unsecretaries and Director Generals, gaining the best or sufficient result seems to impossible.

For this end, the reporting consultant met with Turkish and Kyrgyz officials and visited to Azerbaijan Ambassador in Ankara. Furher an official visit will be paid to Azerbaijan, 22-24 July 2014 as it was indicated at the inception report. The result will be included the final report.

## Communication networks

ToR: Provide suggestions and take initiatives for establishment useful and sustainable communication networks among the key watershed agencies of the project countries;

The issue of the creation of inter-agency network should be considered both national and international levels. Regarding the issue of “National network”, “Turkey Experience on National Watershed Management Strategy (2014-2023)" is planned to be discussed in more detail.

Regarding to the international network, the following examples considered to be a good example in order to see the situation. The Project countries could be divided into two groups namely Central Asia (Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan) and West Asia (Turkey and Azerbaijan).

The most important rivers of Azerbaijan Aras and Kur born in Turkey and runs to Caspian Sea[[12]](#footnote-12).



There are many cooperation initiatives between Turkey and Azerbaijan as well as the area of water and forestry. As it was seen at the “Turkey-Azerbaijan Intergovernmental Joint Economic Commission Seventh Session Protocol” signed in Ankara on July 11, 2014 ", partners agreed on;

* Cooperation and implement the joint projects on the use of water resource, as well as the “watershed management principle” in the river basin and Turkish experience on European Unioun Water Framework Directive[[13]](#footnote-13)
* Cooperation between the relevant institutes on combating desertification, soil planning and soil protection.

As it was know countries signing Memorandum of Undesrtanding (MuO) for specific area like forestry, agriculture between the relavant Ministries. Besides these agrements it is worty to take note the benefits of IJEC.

On the other hand, at the date of 4 June 2014, FAO and the Government of Turkey agreed to extend and reinforce their longstanding partnership on food security, forestry and other issues confronting the countries of Central Asia. Two equally important agreements were signed, with the objective of providing technical assistance to and sharing Turkey’s experience with countries in the region, as well as improving capacities for international cooperation in the Ministry of Food, Livestock and Agriculture and in the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs[[14]](#footnote-14).

The FAO-Turkey Partnership Programme has entered its fifth year of operations, encompassing 29 projects with a total budget of $10 million and covering Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan along with Turkey.

With broader geographic coverage and scope, the second phase of the agreement will operate for an initial period of five years (2015-2019), benefitting countries assisted by **FAO’s Sub-regional Office for Central Asia**, in Ankara. The programme’s primary objective is to provide a substantive, financial and operational framework for active cooperation on food security and rural poverty reduction.

A second agreement on the sustainable management of forests and tree resources starts a new chapter in relations between FAO and Turkey’s Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs. The new programme covers an initial period of five years (2014-2018) focusing on the areas such as forest management and protection, forest policy and institutional development, and other cross-cutting issues. Projects countries are the countries of FAOSEC and this new area of Turkish-FAO Cooperation could be very good oppurtunity to have communication network.

When we look to Central Asian case, National Policy Dialogues[[15]](#footnote-15) (NPDs) on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and Water Supply and Sanitation (WSS) considered to be a good oppurtunity and baseline to have a network.

National Policy Dialogues (NPDs) on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and Water Supply and Sanitation (WSS) are the main operational instrument of [the European Union Water Initiative (EUWI)](http://www.euwi.net/) Component for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The EUWI, including its Component for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, was launched at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002 with the aim to support the implementation of the water-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) is the strategic partner for support to the policy dialogue processes on IWRM, whereas the Organisation for [Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)](http://www.oecd.org/environment/outreach/recentnationalpolicydialoguesonfinancingwatersupplyandsanitationsectorimplementedsince2007.htm) is the strategic partner for WSS and economic and financial aspects of IWRM. Altogether, since 2006 EUWI NPDs have been carried out in nine countries.

It is worthy to note that; The ninth Steering Committee meeting of the **National Policy Dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management** in Kyrgyzstan was held in 13 March 2013, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. It was an [ongoing initiative](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/water/meetings/NPD_meetings/2013/Kyrgyzstan/SC_Mar2013/KG_9SC_agenda_EN.pdf) of the Ministry Of Agriculture And Melioration Of The Kyrgyz Republic (Department Of Water Management And Melioration) and European Union Water Initiative National Policy Dialogue Component for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.

There is close link between desertification, drought, water scarcity, land and watershed management. In this regard, the Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management [(CACILM](http://www.rferl.org/content/water-desertification-central-asia-un/25019469.html))[[16]](#footnote-16) considered to be an impartant initivative established by UNCCD Secretariat between Kazakhstan, **Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan**, Turkmenistan, and **Uzbekistan**. This initiative was not succesfull but the Project Countries can take note to renew it again.

One of the other possibilities for the projects countries to have a “network” is the [Cooperation Council of Turkic-Speaking States (CCTS)](http://www.turkkon.org/en-US/HomePage). **The CCTS was establihed in 2009 as an international intergovernmental organization, with the overarching aim of promoting comprehensive cooperation among Turkic Speaking States. Its four founding member States are Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey.**

## Participate in the trainings in Turkey

ToR : Participate in the trainings in Turkey and provide practical training to concerned participants on awareness creation and interest raising for participatory integrated watershed projects.

The Reporting Consultant attended to the training programs listed below and provided necessary information to participants related to practical ttarinings needs in close cooperation with the other consultants and regional project coordinator.

* “International Workshop on Nursery, Seed and Afforestation Tecniques in Arid Zones” in Eskişehir, Turkey, 7-12 April 2014.
* Meeting of the National Project Coordinator organized in 4th of April, 2014.
* Report of the “Training Workshop on Participatory Integrated Watershed Rehabilitation Planning”; 14-22 May, 2014. After these programmes mission report prepared and submitted to FAOSEC.

Apart from these trainings programmes, the RC gave support to the preparation of Cholok Kainydy Micro Cachment Plan, generated detailed proposals related to training needs and creation public awareness. These proposals have already been included to the plan. With in this scope the RC is going to attend to the training programe to be held in Turkey and in Kyrgyztan in the summer of 2014 and spring of 2015 with the participation of villagers, local outhorites and technical staffs. During this programmes practical tranining matariels will be provided.

## Assist preparation/elaboration of awareness creation materials

ToR: Assist preparation/elaboration of awareness creation materials (CDs, brochures etc.) and programmes/campaigns in the project countries;

The RC has been working on this issue together with the other consultant and project regional coordinator and has been providing with necessary information to the Practial Guidelines, especially to the part of “ awareness creation and training” section. So far, RC has supported the creation the web page of the project and some posters which can be found at following link: <http://www.cem.gov.tr/erozyon/AnaSayfa/oak.aspx?sflang=tr>

## Work closely with the other tcdc

Work closely with the other TCDC experts and national consultants for the planning and contacting of the participatory integrated watershed management trainings and conduct other tasks as required that are within sphere of competence;

During the project, the RC has been worked in close cooperation with other Consultant and conducted other task as required. Together with the other consultant several meetings organized and attended to Eskişehir and Kyrgyzstan programmes. After this period the RC is going to work with Consultants.

## Turkish Experience

*ToR:* Prepare and submit a report on “The role of training and awareness creation for development of watershed rehabilitation and management: Turkish experiences and recommendations for the Central Asian countries”.

## Final report

ToR: Prepare and submit a final report including main comments and recommendations.

1. <http://www.cem.gov.tr/erozyon/Files/000projeler/oak1/05-09%20November%20workshop%20report.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <http://www.cem.gov.tr/erozyon/Files/000projeler/oak2/mersin%20mara%20%20workshop%20report.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <http://www.cem.gov.tr/erozyon/AnaSayfa/oak/Havza_planlama_2013.aspx?sflang=tr> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <http://www.eco.gov.az/> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. http://www.fao.org/forestry/82979/en/ [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. <http://tr.shafaqna.com/topnews/item/11898-k%C4%B1rg%C4%B1zistan%C4%B1n-yeni-koalisyon-h%C3%BCk%C3%BCmeti-yemin-etti.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. <http://www.gov.uz/en/authorities/ministries/1297> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. <http://www.fao.org/forestry/watershedmanagementandmountains/74914/en/> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. These informations provided by Ibrohim Ahmadov, National Consultant for Watershed Rehabilitation and Management [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. <http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/water/meetings/NPD_meetings/KG_SC_2012-04-18_Protocol_Eng.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mk173e.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aras\_River [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/ [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. http://www.carfu.org/?p=175 [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. http://www.unece.org/env/water/npd.html [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. <http://www.rferl.org/content/water-desertification-central-asia-un/25019469.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-16)