**Inception Meeting on the LoA between FAO and OMO for drafting of “Restoration of Degraded Forests and Other Lands Project” under FTFP**

**13 September 2019, Friday, FAO-SEC**

**11:30-12:30**

|  |
| --- |
| **Participants**: |

1. Aysegul Selisik, Assistant FAO Representative
2. Sumiter Broca, Senior Policy Officer
3. Hasan Turkyilmaz, President of the Chamber of Forest Engineers (OMO)
4. Ismail Belen, OMO Team Leader for the project
5. Ozgur Balci, OMO Forestry Expert
6. Caglar Bassullu, National Forestry Consultant
7. Nilgun Temerit, Assistant of FTFP National Programme Coordinator
8. Yasemen Karatas, Forestry Expert (FTFP Support)
9. Pinar Koksal, Operation Specialist
10. Yeryeong Joo, Forestry Specialist

**Purpose of the Meeting:**

* General overview of the required coordination and arrangements before the scoping missions to be done by OMO for the draft full-fledged project of “Restoration of Degraded Forests and Other Lands Project” under Letter of Agreement (LoA)

**Points:**

* Ms. Aysegul Selisik welcomed the participants from FAO and OMO to the inception meeting on LoA. She gave a brief information about the signed LoA and the scoping missions plan include Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan.
* Mr. Hasan Turkyilmaz thanked FAO for hosting this meeting stating that as a leading professional association in Turkish forestry, OMO has been working with FAO for 2 years and they are pleased to see the positive reflection of FAO on this collaboration also adding that they give full authority to Mr. Ismail Belen and Mr. Ozgur Balci as a project team to carry out and complete successfully the activities of LoA and they will be visiting the mentioned four countries by Monday.
* Mr. Sumiter Broca asked who will be included in the team for scoping missions.
* Mr. Ozgur Balci replied that the team will be formed with Mr. Turkyilmaz. Mr. Belen and himself expressing that the mission expenses of Mr. Turkyilmaz will be covered by OMO.
* Mr. Belen provided a brief update on the current status as follows:

-LoA was signed on 2 September 2019,

-In the frame of LoA, the main items of works are respectively scoping missions, drafting the full project document according to FAO rules and finally endorsement process,

-Concerning the scoping missions, he stated that they had a few consultation meeting with the relevant staff of the Ministry and also General Directorates to highlight the roadmap properly.

* Ms. Selisik asked if the experts from the General Directorates might participate in the scoping missions and Mr. Turkyilmaz responded that it will not be foreseen now but at the later stages.
* Ms. Selisik also asked whether Mr. Peter Pechacek had shared officially the other Concept Notes (CN2 and CN3) with OMO to avoid overlapping the project activities and upon Mr. Belen’s answer no, she instructed these all three CNs should be sent to Mr. Belen.
* Mr. Caglar Bassullu explained that he has been in the process since it started, and “in Samarkand Workshop the representatives of SEC countries set out their priorities in the forestry and they sent us ten CNs. We, as FAO-SEC Forestry Unit, assessed and analyzed all CNs by taking account country priorities. Forestry Unit developed three regional CNs but the development of the fourth CN on the watershed management was postponed to the later stage of FTFP due to lack of demand on this area”. He also indicated that they are carrying out projects in some of the SEC countries having the similar activities such as the establishment of a forest nursery or rehabilitation of degraded forest areas. OMO was informed about the ongoing projects, so they are aware of avoiding the duplication of the same activities in the new project under FTFP.
* Mr. Sumiter Broca asked the differences between Turkey and FAO approaches on the restoration activities.
* Mr. Belen answered that actually there is no differences between FAO and Turkey approaches on the rehabilitation. As an example, together with FAO experts, Turkish forestry specialists prepared *[Global Guidelines for the Restoration of Degraded Forests](http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5036e.pdf)*
* *[And Landscapes in Drylands](http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5036e.pdf)*. So, these are commonly accepted approaches. He also pointed out that OMO will request officially CN 2 and CN 3, and the information about the ongoing activities and projects implemented by FAO in these four focal countries.

In addition to these points, he noted that the necessary appointments with the high level managers and expert level staff from Azerbaijan Forestry Agency were arranged for the inception meeting and the required e-mail correspondences and telephone calls with relevant representatives from the Uzbek Ministry were made and lastly the contact with Kyrgyz representatives from the Ministry and liaison officer from FAO Kyrgyz’s Offices was built up, as well.

* Ms. Selisik indicated that right after the scoping missions, a comprehensive evaluation meeting should be organized with OMO after 5 October, to be held out of Ankara with participation of Mr. Viorel Gutu. She added also that OMO should take account of Tajikistan situation and its budget to attend all capacity building activities of the project.
* Mr. Broca asked who will be responsible for executing the capacity development activities and Ms. Selisik replied that these will be identified mutually during the drafting of the project according to the FAO rules and procedures.
* Mr. Turkyilmaz invited FAO authorities and experts at an opportune time to show and explain their organizational structure and national and international capacity building activities including professional trainings.
* Ms. Selisik thanked all participants and closed the meeting.

**Follow up points:**

* Ms. Temerit to send all three Concept Notes to Mr. Belen prior to the scoping missions.
* OMO to send a letter to FAO requesting officially the Concept Notes and FAO projects and other relevant activities in the SEC countries.
* FTFP Team to provide consistent coordination and information flow between FAO country offices and OMO project team.
* Mr. Ahmet Senyaz, FTFP National Programme Coordinator, to participate in Kazakhstan part of the scoping missions.