

Scoping Mission Plan to **Kyrgyzstan** for

 “Restoration of Degraded Forests and Other Lands” Project under

FAO-Turkey Forestry Partnership Programme (FTFP)

 **(25-29 September 2019)**

FAO-Turkey Forestry Partnership Programme (FTFP)

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# Background

In June 2014, the FAO Subregional Office has signed Partnership Agreement **“FAO-Turkey Forestry Partnership Programme (FTFP)”** with Turkey. The Agreement is focusing on the forestry sector and foresees that FAO provides technical assistance in the fields of sustainable natural resources management, sustainable development and improvement of livelihoods with a view to contribute to the development of sustainable forest management, sustainable land and natural resource management including land degradation neutrality, and enhance national capacities.



The Second Steering Committee meeting of the Programme was held on 26 November 2018 and Committee endorsed the concept note on ‘Restoration of Degraded Forests and Other Lands’.

A Letter of Agreement has been signed between the Chamber of Forest Engineers (i.e. Service Provider) and FAO at the date of **2 September 2019** in support of the development of the full-fledged project document with all its mandatory annexes.

The Chamber of Forest Engineers, as The Service Provider (SP), benefiting from its pool of experts, using its extensive capacity on various fields of forestry sector as well as project development will draft the full-fledged project document through scoping missions including stakeholder workshops, meetings with government representatives and field visits. The Service Provider in close coordination with FAO will ensure the pre-endorsement of the draft of the full-fledged project document by the governments of the concerned beneficiary countries and the donor. The Service Provider will work under the overall technical guidance of FAO in line with the envisioned work plan, outputs and budget.

# Concept of the Scoping missions

According to the LoA signed, The Chamber of Forest Engineers will undertake necessary travels to the focal countries. The scoping missions will be attended by a team to be established by the SP. The team should be established in close coordination with FAO and allow FAO participation.

The objectives of the scoping missions to the countries are to

(a) coordinate identification of the technical sub-activities (in addition to main activities reflected in the concept note) with the governments and other stakeholders

(b) assess the situation on the ground by visiting pilot sites suggested by the countries,

Hence, the agenda of the scoping missions will include

(1) inception meetings with respective government representatives and other relevant parties to inform about upcoming work,

(2) stakeholder workshops to obtain feedback on proposed works and agreement on the pilot sites and

(3) field visits to the pilot sites in the countries.

An information email has been sent by FAOSEC to FAO SEC Country Offices on 5 September, 2019.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Subject: FAO-Turkey Forestry Partnership Programme (FTFP) – Country Scoping Missions***Dear Colleagues, I have the pleasure to inform you that starting from next week there will be scoping missions to your countries within the framework of the full project document preparations under FTFP. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your kind support and interest during the concept note development process, namely “Restoration of Degraded Forests and Other Lands” (attached). Please kindly note that a Letter of Agreement is signed with Chamber of Forest Engineers of Turkey in support of the development of  the draft of the full-fledged project document. During the scoping missions to countries, a team of experts of the Service provider will; (a) coordinate identification of the technical sub-activities (in addition to main activities reflected in the concept note) with the governments and other stakeholders, (b) assess the situation on the ground by visiting pilot sites suggested by the countries. The agenda of the scoping missions will include (1) inception meetings with respective government representatives and other relevant parties to inform about upcoming work, (2) stakeholder workshops to obtain feedback on proposed works and agreement on the pilot sites and (3) field visits to the pilot sites in the countries. The travel programme can be found attached. Detailed country agendas will be shared soon. The team of experts of the service provider will be composed of ;1.    A Team Leader- İsmail Belen2.    A Forestry  Expert from Turkey- Özgür Balcı, and3.    One Local Forestry Expert from countries In this regard, I would highly be appreciated if you could inform focal points (given below), provide a name as a local forestry expert and confirm the concerned departments and ministries’ participation to the Scoping Missions. You may contact with Ms Yasemen Asli Karatas for further information.  P.S Below given names were provided from your Offices during the concept note preparation phase. Azerbaijan: Gulnare Mammadova, FTFP focal point, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Forest Development Department, gmgulnare@gmail.com, 0099455455344 Kazakhstan: NN, Kazakh Research Institute for Forestry and Agroforestry (Almaty Branch), los-almaty@mail.ru, 87272393931, 87771164037; NN, Badam State Agency for forest protection of Turkestan Oblast Kyrgyzstan: NN, Government of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, State Agency of Environmental Protection and Forestry, Department of Forest Ecosystems, E-mail :departmentlesa@mail.ru,Tel: +996312537452, +99631254991 Uzbekistan: Abduvokhid Zakhadullaev, Head of Department, State Committee on Forestry of the Republic of Uzbekistan, miyon2001uz@mail.ru, +998977732991; With best regards, Mr Fazil DusunceliSEC OIC

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# Obtaining the feedback and pre-endorsement

FAO, in close coordination with the SP, will submit the cleared first version of the document to the beneficiary countries through official letters for feedback. Based on the feedback received from the beneficiary countries, the SP will revise the document and FAO will re-submit the second version of the document for pre-endorsement by beneficiary countries. Following successful pre-endorsement, SP will organize donor debriefing in coordination with FAO. The aim of the debriefing is to introduce the pre-endorsed second version of the document to the donor. The ultimate objective of the debriefing is to obtain donor’s pre-endorsement for the proposed works in the project.

# Draft Programme of the Scoping Mission to Kyrgyzstan

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| **Date** | **Time** | **Action** | **Notes** |
| Wednesday, September 25, 2019 | 17:20-19:30 | Flight to Bishkek from Tashkent  | Tashkent-BishkekUzbekistan Airways |
|  | Overnight in Bishkek |  |
| Thursday, September 26, 2019 | 09.00 -11.00 | Meeting at FAO Partnership and Liaison Office in Kyrgyzstan  | FAO office |
| 14:00-15:00 | **Meeting** with the State Agency of Environmental Protection and Forestry under the Kyrgyz Republic’s Government | State Agency Office |
| 15:00– 17:00 | **Stakeholder Workshop** to obtain feedback on proposed works and agreement on the pilot sites (At the Committee premises) | State Agency Office |
| FridaySeptember 27, 2019 | 09.00 -12.00 | **Field visit** to the pilot sites for nursery Unit, reforestation and forest rehabilitation (to be decided by the Ministry) |  |
| 14.30 – 17.00 | Debriefing mission results with related forestry stakeholders and discuss next steps | State Committee Office |
| Saturday, September 28, 2019 | Free time in Kyrgyzstan |  |  |
| Sunday,September 29, 2019 | 11:00-15:00 19:45-21:30  | Bishkek-Almaty (by car) Almaty-Nursultan (by airways) | Air Astana19:45-21:30 |
|  | Overnight in Nursultan |  |  |

# Expert Team of the Chamber of Forest Engineers

1. **Mr. Hasan Türkyılmaz**, President of the Chamber of Forest Engineers,
2. **Mr. İsmail Belen**, Forestry Specialist for Central Asia – Team leader of the FAO-Turkey Forestry Partnership Programme (FTFP) Project “Restoration of Degraded Forests and Other Lands”
3. **Mr. Özgür Balcı,** Forestry Expert for Turkey of the FAO-Turkey Forestry Partnership Programme (FTFP) Project “Restoration of Degraded Forests and Other Lands”

# Issues to be discussed and decided during the scoping mission

The purpose of this scoping is to determine the works and procedures to be carried out in Uzbekistan within the scope of the “**Restoration of Degraded Forests and Other Lands**” project. This will be based on the concept note already prepared and approved by the FAO-Turkey Forestry Partnership Programme (FTFP) Steering Committee.

# Outline of the Concept Note

## 7.1. Outcome / Goals

Enhanced capacity and improved knowledge for sustainable forest/land management including specifically plantation and restoration techniques, assessment and monitoring of forest lands, drought impact mitigation, combating desertification and counteract impact of climate change through forest management.

## 7.2. Major outputs

* Identification of degraded forest and other lands in need of restoration
* Restoration of degraded forests and other lands
* Provision of technical capacity building and contribution to awareness raising on sustainable use of forests and other lands through trainings, workshops, study tours, etc.

## 7.3. Main activities foreseen

* Identification of degraded forests and other lands in need of restoration
* Assessment of land degradation in pilot sites via Collect Earth
* Assessment of degradation drivers and suitability of degraded lands for rehabilitation through reforestation to achieve land degradation neutrality (LDN)
* Spatially and temporary explicit prioritization of rehabilitation activities (prioritization list)
* Identification of native species which are well adapted to local conditions and have potential for income generation for rehabilitation activities including fast growing species, medicinal/aromatic plants and IUCN Red List species
* Restoration of degraded forests and other lands
* Selection of demo sites for rehabilitation
* Establishment/modernization of nurseries/storage banks/NWFP and ornamental trees gardens/poplar plantations/seed gardens including mechanization and equipment to supply high quality seeds/seedlings for rehabilitation activities (i.e. Black Saxual seeds) through for example procurement of equipment such as walnut processing machine, cold storage depot, etc. and other investments
* Performing actual rehabilitation of degraded forests by showcasing primary means for erosion/desertification control and water conservation through reforestation according to the prioritization list
* Performing demo activities for showcasing supplementary erosion/ desertification control through barrier constructions in drylands
* Support local communities with incentives that prevent relapse into behaviors that originally lead to degradation; and taking precautions for improved living conditions (e.g. providing solar power equipment, demonstrating grafting techniques for pistachio, etc.)
* Provision of technical capacity building and contribution to awareness raising on sustainable use of forests and other lands through trainings, workshops, study tours, etc.
* Introduction to Collect Earth, assessment and monitoring of degradation and its drivers, and prioritization of restoration activities
* Seed collection, seed storage, germination and nursery infrastructure/techniques
* Technologies for combatting erosion and desertification and cultivation of restored lands
* Enabling environment to prevent illegal activities and overgrazing
* Fundaments and techniques for conservation and reproduction of IUCN Red List species (i.e. Populus pruinosa)
* Technical study tours to share experience and witness best practices on rehabilitation
* Grassroots level (gender sensitive) awareness raising activities, meetings with villagers, income generation, harvesting, processing and storing of NWFP etc.
* PR strategy and visibility materials

## 7.4. Key inputs

* Financial support (if possible also co-financing by respective governments)
* Human Resources (experts from Turkey, FAO and the countries)
* Infrastructure of countries including office and work facilities, equipment, etc.

# Project Outputs and Activities

**Output 1: Identification of degraded forests and other lands in need of restoration**

1. Assessment of land degradation in pilot sites via Collect Earth
2. Assessment of degradation drivers and suitability of degraded lands for rehabilitation through reforestation to achieve land degradation neutrality (LDN)
3. Spatially and temporary explicit prioritization of rehabilitation activities (prioritization list)
4. Identification of native species which are well adapted to local conditions and have potential for income generation for rehabilitation activities including fast growing species, medicinal/aromatic plants and IUCN Red List species

**Output 2: Restoration of degraded forests and other lands**

1. Selection of demo sites for rehabilitation
2. Establishment/modernization of nurseries/storage banks/NWFP and ornamental trees gardens/poplar plantations/seed gardens including mechanization and equipment to supply high quality seeds/seedlings for rehabilitation activities (i.e. Black Saxual seeds) through for example procurement of equipment such as walnut processing machine, cold storage depot, etc. and other investments.
3. Performing actual rehabilitation of degraded forests by showcasing primary means for erosion/desertification control and water conservation through reforestation according to the prioritization list
4. Performing demo activities for showcasing supplementary erosion/ desertification control through barrier constructions in drylands
5. Support local communities with incentives that prevent relapse into behaviours that originally lead to degradation; and taking precautions for improved living conditions (e.g. providing solar power equipment, demonstrating grafting techniques for pistachio, etc.)

**Output 3: Provision of technical capacity building and contribution to awareness raising on sustainable use of forests and other lands through trainings, workshops, study tours, etc.**

1. Introduction to Collect Earth, assessment and monitoring of degradation and its drivers, and prioritization of restoration activities
2. Seed collection, seed storage, germination and nursery infrastructure/techniques
3. Technologies for combating erosion and desertification and cultivation of restored lands
4. Enabling environment to prevent illegal activities and overgrazing
5. Fundaments and techniques for conservation and reproduction of IUCN Red List species (i.e. Populus pruinosa)
6. Technical study tours to share experience and witness best practices on rehabilitation
7. Grassroots level (gender sensitive) awareness raising activities
8. PR strategy and visibility materials

# Country Forestry Profiles

| **Country**  | **Challenges And Development Needs**  | **Country Priorities**  | **Reference Document** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **AZERBAIJAN** | * Development of policy and legislation frameworks, strengthening institutional structures and capacities
* of forestry
* Strengthening public awareness and stakeholders’ participation for sustainable forest management .
* Strengthening inter-sectoral linkages of forestry
* Development of forest planning and monitoring
* Prevention of illegal logging and other destructive interventions, strengthening protection and
* conservation of forests
* Improvement of existing forests and expansion of forest areas
* Strengthening sustainable use and utilization of forests, with special focus on securing environmental and protective functions as well as for meeting needs and demands of the society and local communities for
* Social and economic services and benefits of the forests.
* Climate change adaptation
* Development of research and education
 | * Forest policy is well integrated with the national, regional and sectoral policies and is put high in the national development agenda.
* Given the first priority to preservation of ecological and protective functions of forests, sustainable
* management and use of forest resources is contributing to a better satisfaction of the needs of society at large and rural population in particular.
* Negative impacts on forests are reduced and forest resources and biodiversity are effectively protected and conserved.
* Forest areas and tree cover are significantly expanded through afforestation on suitable lands and restoration of degraded forest areas.
* Forests are managed in line with integrated multipurpose management plans, elaborated based on reliable information and modern methodologies for forest resource inventory, and assessment.
* People of Azerbaijan are aware of the benefits of forests and actively involved in sustainable forest management.
* Institutional capacity, financial mechanisms and regulatory (legal) framework for sustainable forest management are improved and strengthened.
* Enhanced forest education and research is providing essential backstopping to sustainable forest management.
* Climate change adaptation and mitigation concerns are integrated into forest management decisions and implementations.
 | National Forest Program (Forest Policy Statement And The Action Plan)2015-2030 |
| **TAJIKISTAN** | * Erosion and desertification,
* Lack of conservation
* Increasing use of water resources,
* Number of livestock
* Lack of legislation, methods and new directions of information
* Marketing and processing of forest products
 | * The purpose of the Program is to protect, reinstate, and recover, sustainable and effective use of forest resources
* Environmental protection and the establishment of a clean environment;
* Establishing additional jobs, providing citizens with work and reduction of the poverty rate especially in the mountainous regions;
* Development of legislation
* Combating erosion and in turn, yielding pastures;
* Creating forest protection zone
* Pest control
* Development and promotion of advanced methods of forest management;
* Development of action plans for forest pests
* Development of NWFP
* Ensuring forest protection from violations;
* Do not allow illegal hunting of animals in the land
 | National Forest Program 2015 |
| **KYRGYZSTAN** | * Annual amount of timber received by the leshozes makes about 50 000 cubic meters. The harvested timber is processed locally in a traditional way and it is obvious that this amount cannot satisfy the needs of the country.
* Human pressure, considerably increased over the recent past, caused by illegal fellings and firewood cutting, and also uncontrolled cattle grazing, has inflicted substantial damages to the forests, as a result, the forest covered area has almost a 1\3 decrease, comparing to the 1930s.
* Forest legislation of the past decades which banned forest regeneration fellings in the forests, did not promote forestry development.
* Low interest in conservation of forest plantations, lack of creation of industrial plantations with fast growing species, insufficient nurseries development and planning, badly organized collection and processing of forest fruit and berries together with medicinal herbs, resulted in the restriction of forestry contribution in the economy of the country.
 | * Ensure protection of all the forests and biodiversity in the country
* Definition of technical norms for sustainable forest management
* Transfer of productive activities to the private sector
* Improve the system of collaborative forest management and leasing relations
* Rationalize forest service structure at territorial and national levels
* Implementation of economic reform of structural management units
* Improve the status of Forest Service personnel
* Improvement of forest research and education
* Improve efficiency of funding system for forestry sector
* Raise public awareness on forestry-related issues
 | DecreeOf The Government Of The Kyrgyz RepublicOn approval of the ConceptOf forestry development in Kyrgyz Republic |
| **UZBEKISTAN**  | * Land degradation
* Capacity building need for government agencies
 | * Improving the Government's capacity in forestry
* Rehabilitation of degraded land resources,
* Saving resource for land use practices and application of innovative approaches
 | FAO- Drafted Country Framework for 2018 to 2022 |
| **KAZAKHSTAN** | * Salinity
* Lack of harmonization of legislation related to natural resources and coordination among institutions
* Lack of forest monitoring and assessment.
* Capacity development need for national and local authorities to use more effective mechanisms and promote cross-sectoral dialogue that enable them to prepare, respond, and recover from natural disasters such as drought.
* Capacity enhancement need for national institutions, natural resources managers for sustainable natural resources management
* Capacity need for climate-friendly water use and halting land degradation
* Need for development of a national forestry program
* Need for assessment and monitoring forest and tree resources, reforestation and watersheds.
 | * Assessment of land degradation and enhancing Sustainable Land Management (SLM) for increasing resilience of production systems to climate change
* Mapping land degradation as a support for planning SLM best practices
* Development of national forestry program (NFP) s
* Monitoring and assessment of forest
* Capacity building for biodiversity conservation
* Capacity development of Government staff
* Providing higher quality seedlings
* Improving policies, regulatory frameworks and public goods enhance inclusiveness and efficiency of food, agriculture and forestry systems
 | FAO- Drafted Country Framework for 2014-2017 |

# Related Documents for Reading and Preparation

* Concept note on Restoration of Degraded Forests and Other Lands
* Work plan for Concept Note Restoration of Degraded Forests and Other Lands
* The FAO Country Programming Framework for the Kyrgyz Republic- <http://www.fao.org/europe/news/detail-news/en/c/1073809/>