Training on the Guidelines on Nature-based Solutions (NbSs) to Combat Negative Impact of Climate Change on Forestry in FAOSEC Countries

26-30 September 2023 Antalya, Türkiye

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Time 10:15-10:30

Dear Regional Forest Manager,

Dear Representatives of Chamber of Forest Engineers of Türkiye

Dear guests from home and abroad who came to our workshop,

Dear colleagues.

On behalf of FAO Regional office for Europe and Central Asia, I am glad to welcome you here in Antalya. You came here to attend the training workshop on the Guidelines for Nature-based Solutions to Combat Negative Impact of Climate Change on Forestry in FAOSEC Countries, which is hosted by the Chamber of Forest Engineers of Türkiye.

I am delighted to deliver a few opening remarks.

In February 2023, FAO and the Chamber of Forest Engineers of Türkiye signed an Agreement on development of sub-regional guidelines on applying nature-based solutions to combat climate change impact in forestry and organization of associated training.

* The Agreement is drawing on mutual interest in strengthening and expanding existing collaboration between the Chamber of Forest Engineers of Türkiye and FAOSEC.
* The Agreement is addressing delivery of objectives to which FAOSEC committed itself for the biennium 2022-2023 within the framework of the FAO Regional initiative 3 inter alia on delivery of the regional results related to FAO Programme Priority Area Better Environment.
* Results under the Agreement would support the SDG target promoting implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally
* More specifically, the Agreement complements delivery of the FAO output promoting nature-based solutions. This output is about establishment of regional mechanisms for mainstreaming of nature-based solutions to support countries in adopting sustainable use of natural resources in agriculture and forestry in a changing climate.

Hence, activities under the Agreement are focusing on support of capacity development of FAO members from the FAO region of Europe and Central Asia. The envisioned support includes development of a regional methodology on identifying and implementing nature-based solutions in the main agricultural production systems and an assessment of the cost-efficiency of the selected nature-based solutions mainstreaming practices.

The Agreement stipulates that technical expertise will be delivered to government officials representing FAO members of the region through the newly developed Guidelines and the related training on the use of the Guidelines.

Overall objective of the Guidelines and of the related training is to provide these FAO Members with lessons learned and good practice examples from measures to counteract impact of climate change through nature-based solutions gained by FAO in all its global regions. This should enable FAO Members to work together in support of common development objectives.

In particular, the Guidelines will share relevant technical expertise that is deemed suitable for the region, which will promote local, cost-effective and proven solutions.

All potential solutions described in the Guidelines should link their thematic focus with FAO’s Strategic Programmes and Regional Initiatives for Europe and Central Asia.

This is to ensure that the expected

* impact of the proposed nature-based solutions will lead to improved policies in support of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals,
* outcomes of the proposed nature-based solutions will enhance progress in reaching common development objectives, and
* outputs of the proposed nature-based solutions will strengthen capacities of government officials in the agriculture related technical areas on policy and strategy development.

The subject of this upcoming training workshop on use of the „Guidelines on Nature-based Solutions to Combat Negative Impact of Climate Change on Forestry in FAOSEC Countries will benefit from experiences of the pool of experts invited by the Chamber of Forest Engineers of Türkiye.

These experts will share their know-how on topics relevant for application of nature-based solutions in sustainable forest management. They will cover wide range of subjects including

* Impact of climate change on the region
* Overview of global and regional frameworks, platforms and initiatives for nature-based solutions, and
* Application of promissing approaches for forestry in the region

I believe that the upcooming three days will provide all of us with new views and inspirations that are

* indispensible for policies in support of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals,
* important for enhancing progress in reaching common development objectives, and
* useful for strengthening of capacities of government officials, who are working within the field of forestry on policies and development strategies.

Dear participants, let me close by wishing all of us a succesful workshop