**Fifth Near East Forestry Week -** Technical workshop

**Title:** Challenges and opportunities for climate change adaptation with drylands forests

**Date:** Monday, 11 September 2023, from 16.00 to 17.30 UTC+3 (Amman, Jordan)

**Background:** Forests have been high on the climate change agenda mainly for their contributions to climate change mitigation. However, forests and trees do more than sequester and store carbon. They provide a host of ecosystem services that help people and ecosystems adapt to climate change. Forests and trees are already affected by climate change, including through more frequent and intense climate impacts. The role of forests and trees in mitigating climate change and buffering its impacts depends on their ability to adapt and maintain resilience in a changing environment.

Covering five per cent of the land area of the region of Near East and North Africa, dryland forests provide crucial ecosystem services and livelihoods for communities engaged in sustainable forest management, non-wood forest value chains, and silvopastoralism. The specific challenges in the region with regards to land and water management call for discussions on opportunities and benefits from the conservation and sustainable management of dryland forest systems for enhancing food security under additional constraints of increasing population, climate change, conflicts and migration.

This technical workshop will highlight the contributions of forests to climate change adaptation, as well as the challenges climate change presents to dryland forests. This event contributes to the FAO *Regional priority 3: Greening agriculture, water scarcity, and climate action*.

**Main objectives**

* Highlight good practices in adaptation of dryland forests and their contributions to livelihoods
* Share with country stakeholders FAO’s offer of support and discuss entry points for integrating forest-based adaptation into national and sectoral adaptation and resilience policy documents
* Explore interlinkages between dryland forests, biodiversity, and resilient agrifood systems.

**Speakers**

Houria Djoudi - Senior Scientist, Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry

Shahbano Tirmizi - United Arab Emirates COP28 Presidency task force Nature, Land use, Oceans (tbc)

Mohammed Alrababa - Jordan University of Science and Technology

Razan Zuayter, Arab Group for the Protection of Nature, Jordan

İsmail Belen - Chamber of Forest Engineers (OMO), Türkiye

Khalid Khawaldeh - World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous Peoples (WAMIP), Jordan

Alaa Azzouz Salama Abdel Maqsoud - Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, Egypt

Nurzhijit Asranbekov - Head of Forestry Department, Kyrgyz republic

Theresa Wong - Natural Resources Officer, FAO Regional Office for the Near East & North Africa

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| **Time** | **Content** | **Speaker** |
| 16.00 - 16.05 | Welcome and housekeeping rules | Facilitator (FAO) |
| 16.05 - 16.10 | **Opening remarks** | FAO |
| 16.10 - 16.30 | **Opening presentation**: Dryland forests and climate change adaptation | CIFOR-ICRAF |
| 16.30 - 17.10 | **Panel: Challenges and opportunities in dryland forests adaptation** |  |
| 17.10 - 17.20 | Q&A and collaborative discussion | Facilitator |
| 17.20 - 17.30 | **Discussant’s remarks** | FAO |

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