

Report on the
**Tehran Process Secretariat for
Low Forest Cover Countries (TPS for LFCCs)**

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September 2010

BACKGROUND

(Twenty-Sixth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East - Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, 9 - 13 March 2002 - Tehran Process for Low Cover Forest Countries - NERC/02/INF/6)

Since UN Summit on Environment and Development, the international debate on forest issues has captured the world's attention and has focused international political interest on the state of the world forests. While particular concerns of the well-forested countries have been in the forefront of deliberations in international fora, the concerns of low forest cover countries, the overwhelming majority of which are developing countries, have been inadequately addressed so far. In these countries, the lack of forests and wooded lands is negatively impacting the welfare of rural populations relating to economic, social, cultural, and environmental aspects of rural life.

Forests play a recognizable role in contributing to food security and to the protection of watersheds and eco-systems. Yet, in the Near East Region, which is mostly arid with low forest cover, forests are disappearing faster than in most parts of the world. This is caused by an amalgam of reasons, chief among which is the inability and failure of most national forest and land use policies to effectively address the burgeoning and competing demand on forests and tree resources. Therefore, there has long been a felt need to rectify this situation through coherent and deliberate action plans and programmes. The Tehran Process (1999), which emanated from the initiative of Islamic Republic of Iran, identified the needs of Low Forest Cover Countries (LFCCs) and those with unique types of forests.

THE TEHRAN INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF EXPERTS

The international meeting of experts on *Special Needs and Requirements of Developing Countries with Low Forest Cover and Unique Types of Forest*, a government-led initiative in support of the programme of work of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF), was held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, from 4 to 8 October 1999. The meeting was sponsored by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with the support of the governments of Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany and Norway. It was organized with the collaboration of the governments of Egypt and Sudan, and in cooperation with international organizations, including FAO, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Attendance of this meeting was made open for whoever was interested to participate. Seventy-seven participants from 39 countries and 6 international and bilateral organizations and NGOs attended the meeting.

The meeting was the first of its kind to address issues specifically concerning developing countries with low forest cover (LFCCs) and unique types of forest, including the special needs and requirements of more than 400 millions of people that live in and around them.

The long-term objectives of the meeting were to:

- * initiate a process towards placing the issue of low forest cover on the agenda of future international forest policy deliberations;
- * foster national forest programmes in all LFCCs, and promote in partnership with the international, regional and sub-regional donors/technical assistance agencies arrangements for the exchange of experience and support to national efforts;
- * establish linkages between actions developed by LFCCs and the objectives of the three UNCED global environmental conventions (Convention to Combat Desertification -CCD, Convention on Biological Diversity - CBD, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change - UNFCCC);
- * establish linkages with the activities of other relevant multilateral organizations;
- * develop a strategic approach in order to draw the attention of the international community to the needs of LFCCs;
- * identify common areas of cooperative action through networks, regional projects and other joint efforts, as well as through building partnerships between countries and with international organizations and donors;
- * promote research on low forest cover issues, including social, cultural, economic and environmental aspects;
- * formulate long-term approaches and strategies to address issues related to low forest cover;
- * devise appropriate follow-up mechanisms to pursue implementation and further development of the outcome of the Tehran meeting; and
- * identify areas of common interest and synergy for action between low forest cover countries and those engaged in combating desertification.

DEFINITIONS OF LOW FOREST COVER

The Tehran Expert Meeting noted that there were about 71 developing countries affected by low forest cover, involving more than 400 million people. Yet, these countries lack a forum to address common issues and needs. Despite the importance of tree, forest and woodland resources to the environment and economies of these countries, particularly the rural

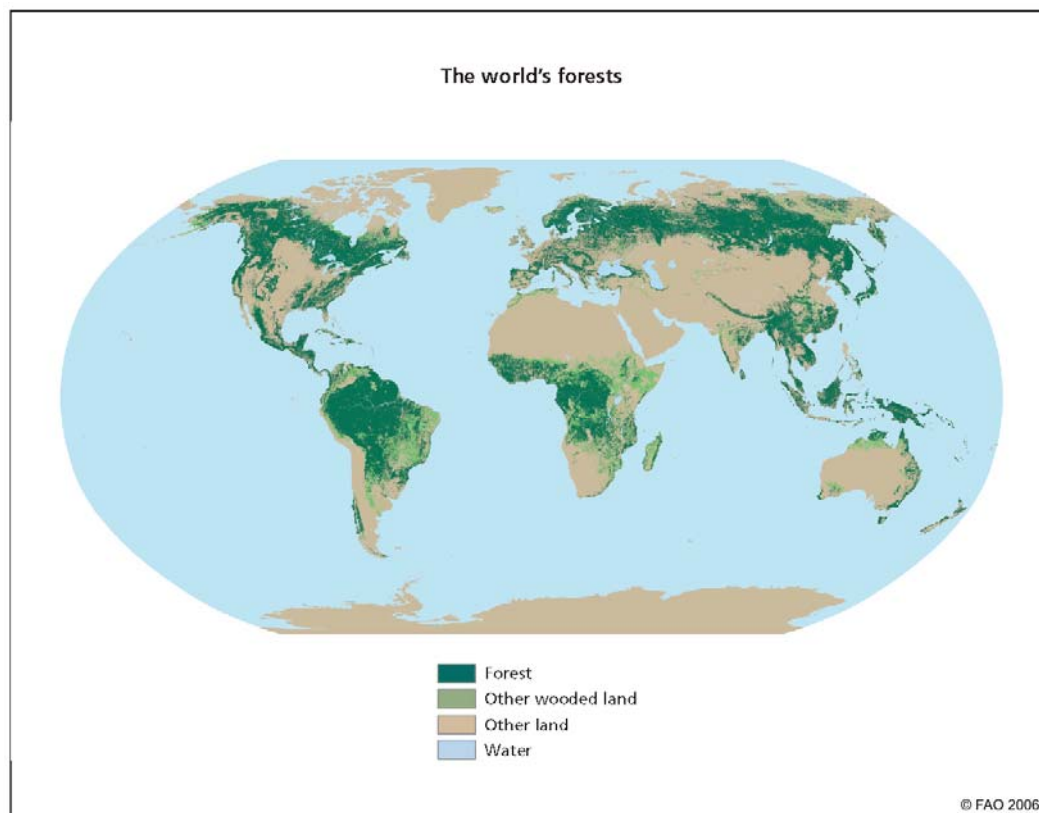
economies, little data and information exist on the extent and condition of the forest and tree resources and on processes and factors affecting them. Many of the benefits derived from these resources are un-quantified and hence, not reflected in national accounts. Furthermore, although there is a wealth of traditional forest-related knowledge on the management of trees, forests and woodlands, it is largely inaccessible.

The meeting noted that existing definitions of low forest cover countries, notably those provisionally used by FAO for the purpose of this meeting, i.e. countries with less than 10 percent of their land area covered by forests (which was adopted *pro tempore* by the meeting), do not reflect the range of conditions and needs of low forest cover countries; however, they may be defined. The meeting concluded that a working definition should take into account both low forest cover in a country as a whole, and low forest conditions in locations in certain parts of a country.

The meeting appreciated the work carried out by UNEP in collaboration with the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations (IUFRO) on the subject of new definitions to identify countries with low forest cover. The meeting concluded that this work should be further developed to take into account both LFCCs and low forest conditions within countries.

LFCCs in the world

The world's forests:





A fact not to forget.....

- 4 countries possess half of the world's forest area;
- 10 countries possess two thirds of the world's forest area;
- The forest area of 15 countries adds up to three quarters of the world's forest area;
- The other 198 countries possess only 25% of the world's forest area.**

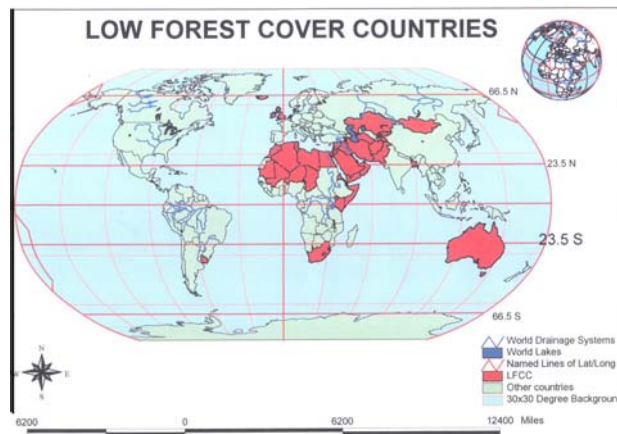
	Forest area (million ha)	Cumulative forest area (million ha)	Relative to total forest area (%)	Cumulative relative figures (%)
Russia	851	851	22.4	22
Brazil	543	1394	14.3	36
Canada	244	1638	6.4	43
USA	226	1864	5.9	49
China	163	2027	4.3	53
Australia	154	2181	4.1	57
DRC	135	2316	3.6	61
Indonesia	104	2420	2.7	63
Angola	69	2489	1.8	65
Peru	65	2554	1.7	67
India	64	2618	1.7	69
Sudan	61	2679	1.6	70
Mexico	55	2734	1.4	72
Bolivia	53	2787	1.4	73
Colombia	49	2836	1.3	74
Other 198 countries	964	3800	25.4	100

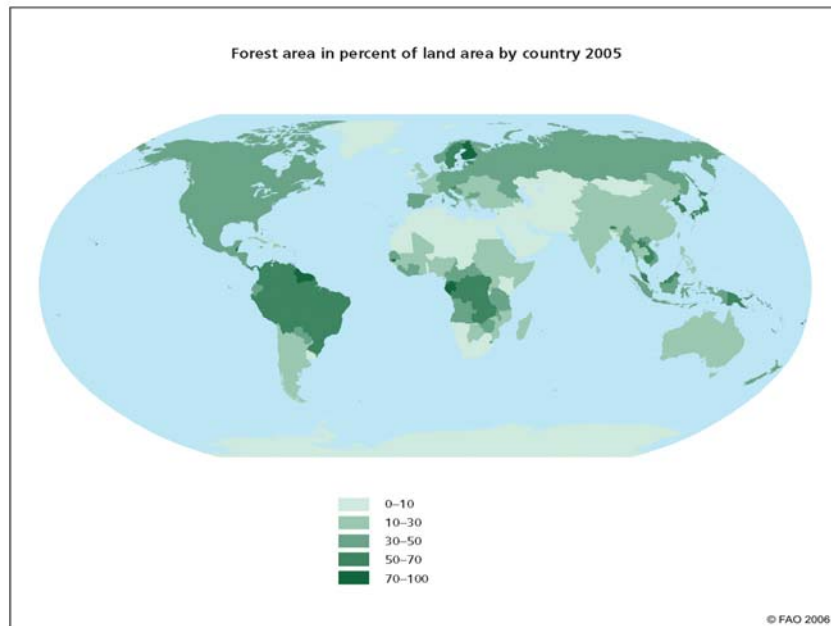
One third (1/3) of the world countries are in LFC category.

All of the NE countries have arid and semi-arid climate, and nearly most of the NE countries have less than 10% of the forest coverage.

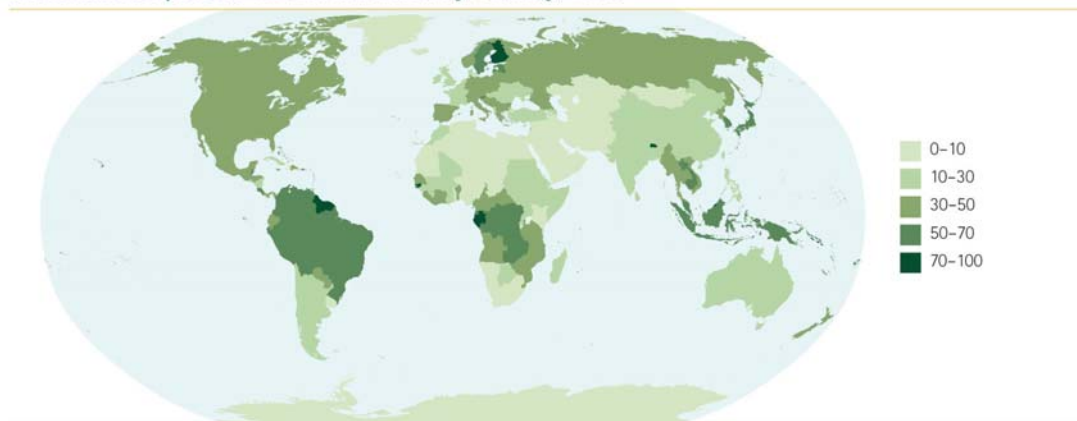
20 countries of 43 African countries have less than 10% forest coverage

Off course some of the developed countries have less or nearly 10% forest coverage, but because of primary objective of TPS for LFCCs, they are not included.





Forest area as percent of total land area by country, 2010



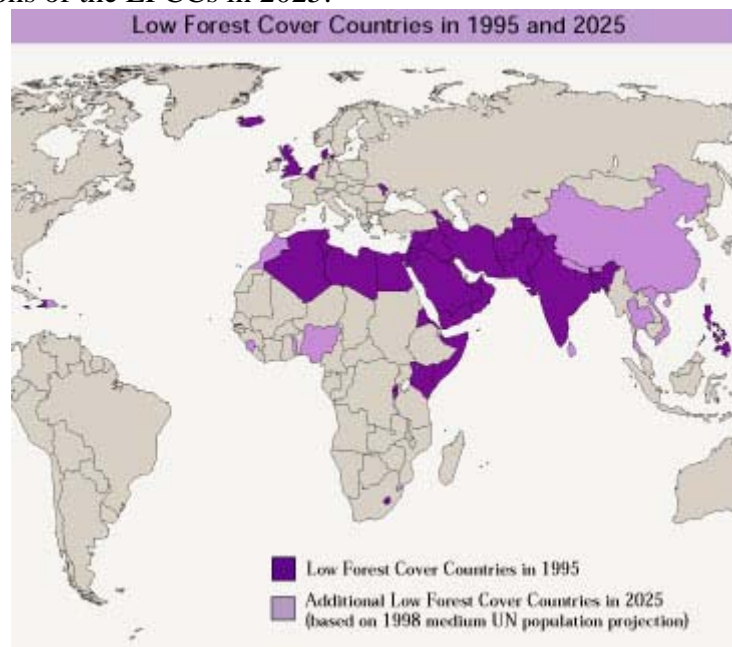
Low Forest Cover Countries (LFCC) has been defined by FAO (LFCC: FAO, 2000. FAO, 2003) as those countries with less than 10 per cent of their land under forest. According to this definition there are 55 LFCC countries reported in FRA2005 (FAO 2006), of which twelve are Commonwealth countries: four in Africa, one in the Caribbean, three in South Asia, three in South-east Asia and the Pacific, and one in Europe (Commonwealth Forests, An overview of the Commonwealth's forest resources: <http://www.cfa-international.org/CWF/index.html>). Details are in (<http://www.cfa-international.org/CWF/CWF-698.htm>). A meeting of LFCC in 1999 in Iran accepted FAO's definition, established the Tehran Process, identified the potential roles of NGOs, the private sector, research and training institutions and the rural poor, and called for increased investment. Rural people in these countries, especially the poorest, are highly dependent on the forest for products such as fuelwood and non-wood forest products such as fodder. Low rainfall is common to LFCC countries, often combined with high population, and the environment therefore tends to be highly degraded. Periodic droughts may affect not only the

local people but the forest on which they depend, while urban populations, often far from the forest, may also source fuelwood or charcoal from the forest.

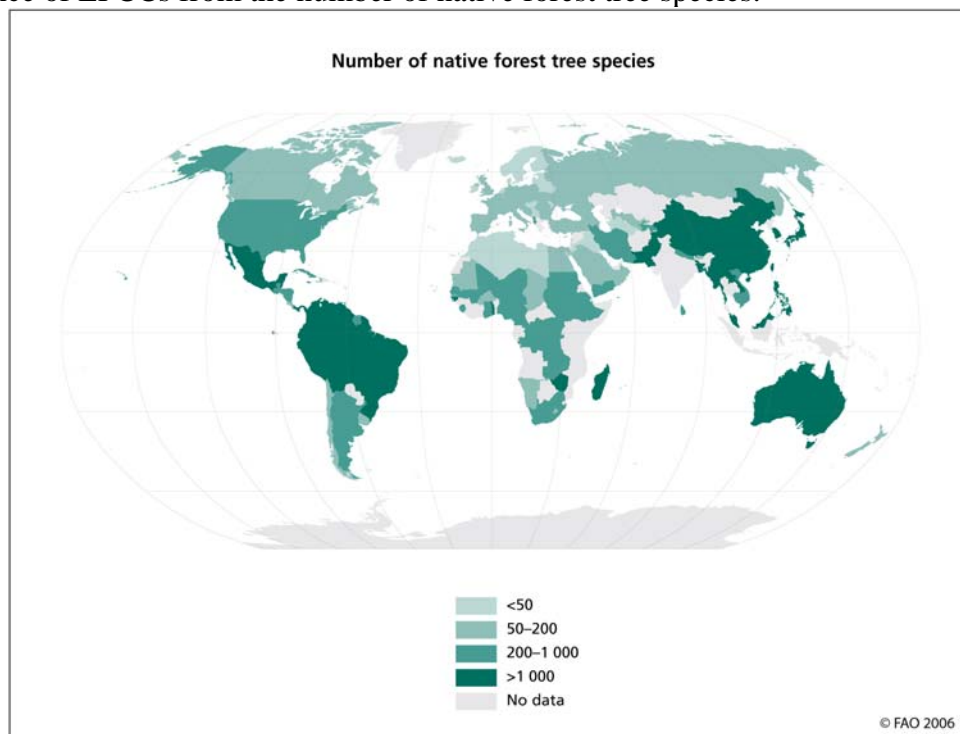
There is no internationally accepted definition of a small island developing state. They were, however, given an international political identity with the establishment in 1991 of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS). Although commonly called Small Island Developing States (SIDS), some are not small, others are not islands and a few are not developing economies. Twenty-seven of the 39 AOSIS countries are members of the Commonwealth, mostly in the Pacific or the Caribbean – see (<http://www.cfa-international.org/CWF/CWF-698.htm>).

Trees are important in SIDS for the provision of products, coastal protection and in support of tourism. Most Commonwealth SIDS is quite well forested; only two are LFCC (Maldives and Nauru). But forests on island SIDS are especially vulnerable to damage and destruction by hurricanes and typhoons, or tidal surges. Climate change threatens unique island tree species and ecosystems, which may have developed in isolation; some endemic species are being conserved ex situ. All Commonwealth SIDS import oil as a fuel, which accounts for a high proportion of earnings; alternative and affordable renewable energy sources, such as wood, are required to reduce vulnerability to price rises. Isolation from markets also limits their commercial opportunities. (Sources: Special issue of the International Forestry Review Vol. 4(4), December 2002, devoted to Forestry and Small Island Developing States; Website of the Mountain Partnership <http://www.mountainpartnership.org/>; (Commonwealth Forests, BOX 1.1 Forests in Low Forest Cover Countries (LFCC), Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and on mountains: <http://www.cfa-international.org/CWF/CWF-679.htm>; Chapter 1: The Forest Resource: <http://www.cfa-international.org/CWF/CWF-676.htm>).

Possible expansions of the LFCCs in 2025:



Importance of LFCCs from the number of native forest tree species:



THE TEHRAN DECLARATION AND THE TEHRAN PROCESS

The meeting formulated the *Tehran Declaration* (Annex 1) and proposed a new Process (to be known as the *Tehran Process*) which would bring together low forest cover countries (including small island states with low forest cover) to address their common issues and needs. Further details on the Tehran Process are provided in Annex 2.

FOLLOW-UP TO THE TEHRAN MEETING

Shortly after the international meeting of experts, a Secretariat was established by the Islamic Republic of Iran to lead and coordinate regional and international efforts in terms of follow-up, namely to:

- * place key concerns on the political and policy agenda in future international deliberations;
- * prepare approaches and strategies based on the report of the Tehran meeting;
- * enhance cooperation among LFCCs and partnerships with organizations, institutions and donor countries, including the exchange of information and experience; and
- * implement the recommendations of the meeting.

In November 2000, FAO, at the request of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, provided the services of two international consultants to assist in the formulation of terms of reference and action plan for the LFCC Secretariat over the next five years.

The Consultants noted *inter alia* that all proposed activities were deemed relevant to accomplishing the tasks identified by LFCCs during their deliberations. However, the extent to which they could be carried out would depend, in large measure, on available funding. Much of the success of the Tehran Process would also be related to the level of commitment of LFCCs, individually and as a group.

It was noted with appreciation that the Islamic Republic of Iran had already invested significant resources for the cause of LFCCs and for the Tehran Process, in addition to those already expended to host the international meeting of experts. It had also undertaken several initiatives to raise the profile of LFCC issues in Iran and to increase collaboration and team work among its relevant ministries and organizations.

A STRATEGY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TEHRAN PROCESS

The Tehran Process through its Secretariat (TPS for LFCCs) is intended to serve as a focal point to address a range of issues relating to information, data experiences; policy, planning and institutions; participatory processes; funding and investment; technical matters; and future international arrangements and mechanisms. Some recommendations arising from the meeting of experts of LFCCs are addressed to governments while others are addressed to international and regional organizations, urging to provide the needed assistance. Where primary responsibility and authority to implement initiatives rest with Governments, the Secretariat should generally limit its involvement to facilitating the exchange of information among member countries. Where proposed actions are broader in scope and extend beyond country borders, the Secretariat has a key role to play in fostering collaboration and in coordinating efforts.

As a matter of priority, the Secretariat recognizes the urgency of placing the issues facing LFCCs on the political and policy agenda during international deliberations. It also stresses the importance of securing stable sources of funding for the implementation of national forest programmes. The need for information and data collection, analysis and dissemination; capacity building, including training; and research and education figure prominently as well. In particular the Secretariat should promote or work towards the following:

- * placing issues of LFCCs on the political and policy agenda;
- * enhancing cooperation and partnerships;
- * enhancing information collection, analysis and dissemination;
- * estimating and including forest goods and services in national accounts;
- * establishing criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management (C& I for SFM);
- * promoting forest education and research;
- * improving policy, planning and institutions; and

- * enhancing participatory processes.

FUNDING FOR THE SECRETARIAT AND ITS ACTIVITIES

LFCCs are currently seeking funds from a number of sources to support their efforts to improve sustainable forest management on a bilateral basis. The sought funding sources include existing provisions in UN Conventions and partners such as the World Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Asian Development Bank (AsDB) and the African Development Bank (AfDB). Given the importance of securing stable funding sources for LFCCs, additional funding opportunities should be sought through the following possibilities:

- * soliciting support from wealthy LFCCs to establish a common fund to be used for assigning staff from other LFCCs to the Secretariat and for regional forest activities;
- * encouraging LFCCs to create or manage funding mechanisms for social and economic development that make special provisions for forestry activities benefit of LFCCs;
- * approaching donors from developed countries to either contribute to the common fund, establish trust funds with relevant organizations or fund forestry projects in LFCCs on a bilateral basis;
- * approaching influential member countries in regional and international organizations such as IFAD, AsDB, AfDB and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), to support forestry projects in LFCCs; and
- * convincing international financial institutions, such as the World Bank, UNDP, Global Environmental Facility (GEF), to also provide all possible support.

THE RELEVANCE OF THE TEHRAN PROCESS TO THE NEAR EAST REGION

Compared to other Regions, the Near East has the highest number of LFCCs. Most of these LFCCs were represented in the Tehran meeting of experts. The majority of member states in the Near East Region may be considered LFCCs irrespective of the definition applied.

FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO), at its 15th Session in March 2001, welcomed the establishment of the Tehran Process on Low Forest Cover Countries, and requested FAO to continue its support to Tehran Process, and repeated its support on COFO16, COFO17, COFO18 and COFO19.

The United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), at its first session in June 2001, in its deliberations on the development of a plan of action for the implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF)/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) decided *inter alia* that "initiatives are encouraged which address the special concerns and needs of least developed countries as well as low forest cover countries and other countries with fragile ecosystem, for example, through follow-up to the Tehran process and the third UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries".

The UNFF also decided to include in its multi-year programme of work a topic on "rehabilitation and conservation strategies for countries with low forest cover." This will be on the agenda of the second session of the UNFF to take place in Costa Rica in March 2002.

The permanent position of TPS for LFCCs as observer to the Forum (ECOSOC) has been approved in UNFF3 – Geneva, 2003.

The UNFF also decided to improve its concern in UNFF meeting and include in its programme of work a topic on "forest financing in countries with low forest cover - LFCCs" This will be on the agenda of the ninth session of the UNFF to take place in New York in Jan- Feb. 2011.

The Conference (NERC 26th) has recognized the importance and role of forest and tree resources in most countries of the Region and especially relating to the conservation of the resource base for food production and food security and recommend sustained action for their conservation, management and sustainable development.

The Conference also has recognized the relevance and support to the IPF/IFF proposals for action related to LFCCs (more than 50 proposals for actions). In particular, the Conference recommended and supported the preparation and implementation of national forest programmes (nfp) in Near East Region countries to build capacity, improve institutional setting and policies for sustainable management of forest and tree resources.

The Conference has considered the relevance of the Tehran Process to its member countries and discussed ways and means by which mutually supportive actions may be undertaken.

Brief report on the TPS for LFCCs activities:

TPS for LFCCs work plan for 2004-2005 (2005):

http://lfccsandclimatechange.pbworks.com/f/Work%20plan%20for%20the%20TPS%20of%20LFCCs%202004-2005_.pdf/



Tehran Process Secretariat of LFCCs

Date: 26/06/2004
Our ref: LFCCs/1/4
Your ref:

**Subject: Work plan for the Tehran Process Secretariat of LFCCs
Year 2004 - 2005**

Dear Colleague,

The TP Secretariat of LFCCs, with due respect to its objectives and responsibilities and in collaboration with FAO, UNEP as well as member countries has prepared its work plan for 2004-2005.

Concerning the specific significance of programme in determining and enhancing of international status of the secretariat and also suggested responsibilities for member countries and international agencies in Bamako Resolution, in the work plan convening of LFCC Ministerial Conference and an International Expert Meeting in mid 2005 have been anticipated.

We deeply appreciated to have your comment and point of views on different aspects especially related to date and venue of LFCC Ministerial Conference and also International Expert Meeting by the end of July 2004.

Sincerely Yours,

Mostafa Jafari (Ph.D)
Head of TP Secretariat of LFCCs

Tehran Process Secretariat of Low Forest Cover Countries
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TPS for LFCCs main activities:

Joint project FAO- Netherlands on LFCCs in Near East and Africa

Preparation and Identified strategies and action program for LFCCs

UNFF3: Accreditation of TPS for LFCCs as IGO Status of Permanent Observer to UNFF (ECOSOC) (Annex 3) **(19 May 2003, UNFF3)**

<http://lfccsandclimatechange.pbworks.com/f/ECOSOC%20accreditation%20document%20of%20TPS%20for%20LFCCs.pdf/>

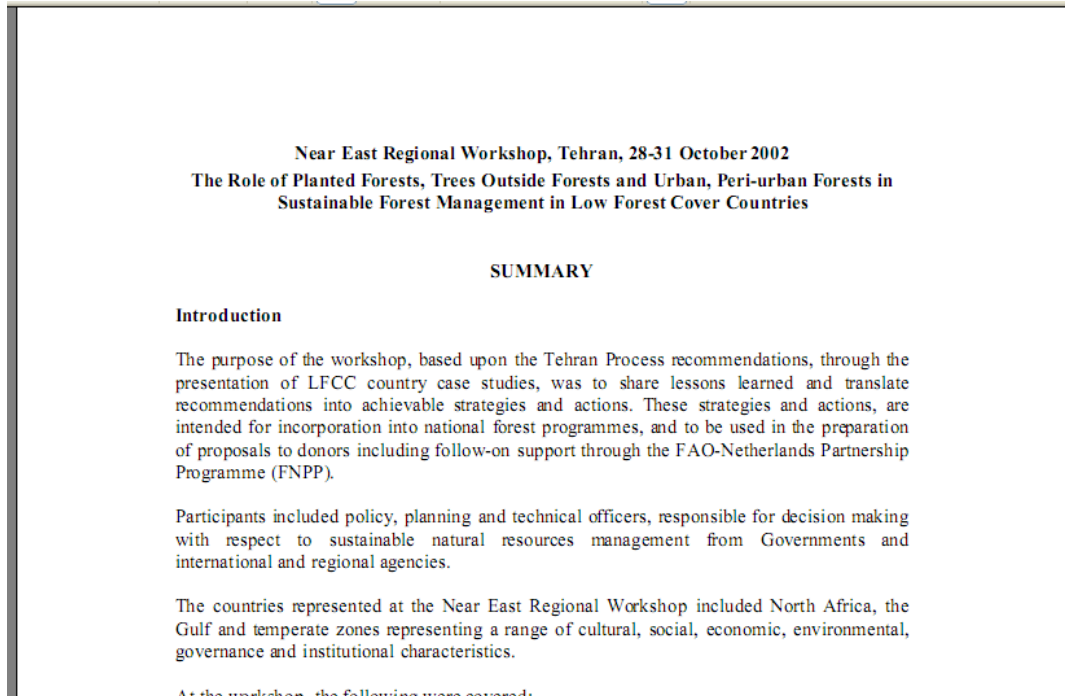
With FAO: Institutional Set- up and Programme of Work

Legal and Institutional Framework, Legal status of TPS for LFCCs (structure, human resources, financial resources, strengthen and weakness) FAO legal office and I.R. of Iran

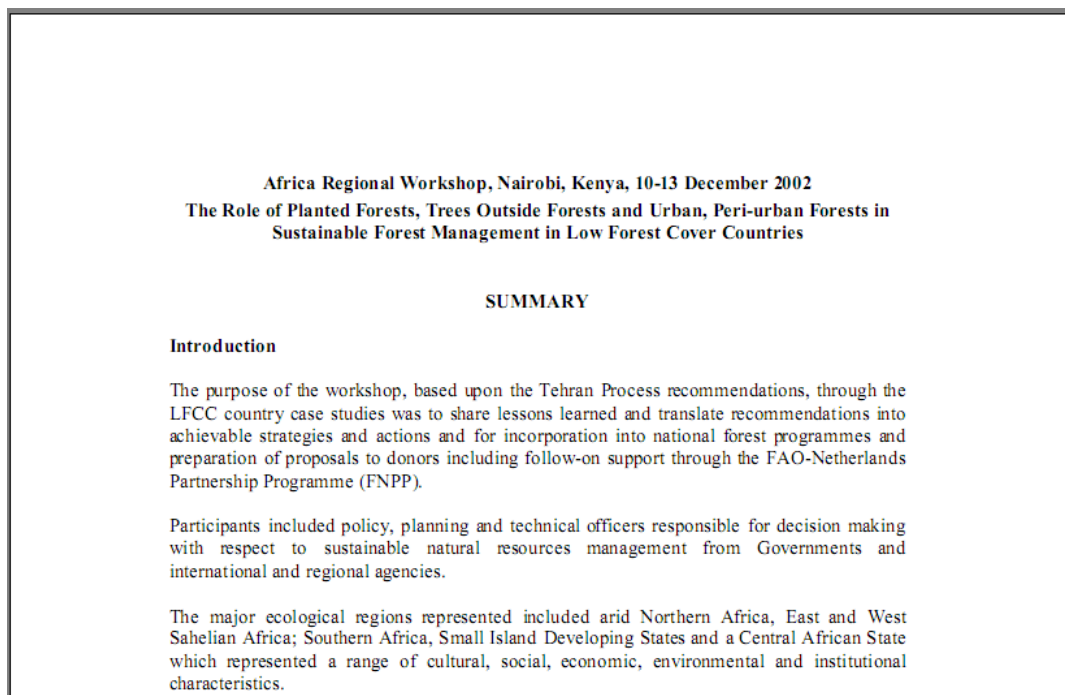
Four regional workshops in I.R. of Iran (2), Kenya and Mali on SFM, Urban and Pre-Urban Forestry, and Policy in LFCCs

Role of planted forest in LFCCs:

http://www.afenconsult.com/doc/landscape_resto.pdf



http://www.afenconsult.com/doc/landscape_resto.pdf



Bamako Resolution, Policy in LFCCs, Bamako, Mali, January 2004, H.E. Minster of Mali opened the meeting, 17 countries, representatives of ICRAF, FAO, UNEP, CENESTA, UEMOA

Bamako Resolution (Bamako, Mali meeting, 2004) (Annex 8)

<http://lfccsandclimatechange.pbworks.com/f/Bamako%20Resolution%20for%20African%20and%20the%20NE%20LFCCs.pdf/>

http://www.afenconsult.com/doc/landscape_resto.pdf



TPS for LFCCs Joint approach with UNCCD (UNCCD 2005) (Annex 4)

<http://lfccsandclimatechange.pbworks.com/f/COP7-5+UNCCD+2005+%26+LFCCs.pdf>

TPS for LFCCs and UNCBD (SABSTA 14 Nairobi 2010)

Outcomes of SBSTTA-14 meeting in Nairobi May 2010 (**Annex 5**)

<http://lfccsandclimatechange.pbworks.com/f/sbstta-14-L-07+CBD+2010+%26+LFCCs.pdf>

TPS for LFCCs and CPF (2009)

Collaborative Partnership on Forests, Summary report of Strategic Dialogue II, 2-3 July 2009

In Attendance:

FAO, ITTO, IUCN, IUFRO, CBD, GEF, UNCCD, UNFCCC, UNFF, UNEP and World Bank (**Annex 6**)

[http://lfccsandclimatechange.pbworks.com/f/CPF-+Strategic Dialogu+summary+%26+LFCCs+July+2009.pdf](http://lfccsandclimatechange.pbworks.com/f/CPF-+Strategic+Dialogu+summary+%26+LFCCs+July+2009.pdf)

Forests Finance in LFCCs and UNFF (UNFF9 2011)

Forests in a Changing Environment, Preparatory Meeting for African Delegates to UNFF8 Nairobi, Kenya, April 2009, Jan L. McAlpine, Director, UNFF Secretariat (**Annex 7**)

<http://lfccsandclimatechange.pbworks.com/f/UNFF+8+%26+LFCCs+Nairobi+April+2009.pdf>

Side event in UNFF1, UNFF2, UNFF3, UNFF5, UNFF6 (in the document file) and COFO16 to support LFCCs needs and requirements

Work with UNFF in program and implementation

Follow up of the issue in the international, regional and national levels

Cooperation and working with international conventions (UNCCD, UNCBD, UNCCC) and UNFF



Executive Secretaries of the Rio Conventions



Joint meeting between the IPCC and the SBSTTA bureau of the CBD

II. Key Articles and Decisions of the UNCCD

Key Articles

Key Decisions

- **Decision 8/COP.4** on commitments to enhance the implementation of the obligations of the UNCCD (Bonn Declaration) **item V**: Launch of reforestation/afforestation programmes and intensification of soil conservation programmes

<http://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/LTD/G00/707/19/pdf/G0070719.pdf?OpenElement>

- **Decision 12/COP.6**, which called on the secretariat to contribute with other partners to strengthening the capacity of low forest cover countries (LFCCs) to combat desertification, land degradation and deforestation

<http://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/LTD/G03/705/42/pdf/G0370542.pdf?OpenElement>

- **By decision 12/COP.7**, the COP of the UNCCD requested the Executive Secretary to pursue consultations and closer collaboration with other members of the CPF and other interested organizations with a view to fostering joint initiatives relating to sustainable forest management.

<http://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/LTD/G05/708/82/pdf/G0570882.pdf?OpenElement>

Three recommended possibilities for TPS for LFCCs future processes:

- 1- Like other international conventions
- 2- As subsidiary body to an existing organization
- 3- Approving by the minister of LFCCs (council of ministers) (accepted and best choice), H.E. Minister of Agriculture (I.R. of Iran) is in favor of third alternative and wishing to support in UNFF9 (2011) for the ministerial meeting

Recommendation on membership, working mechanisms and management system of TPS for LFCCs

Special regional meeting on The Role of Planted Forests, Trees Outside Forests and Urban, Peri-urban Forests in Sustainable Forest Management in Low Forest Cover Countries - LFCCs, 2002

Near East Regional Workshop, Tehran, 28-31 October 2002

Approving Centre of Excellence (CE) of Low Forest Cover Countries (LFCCs) in Tehran parks and green space organization as supporting tools for TPS for LFCCs (**Annex 9**)

This CE as able arm of LFCCs is especially working on Urban and Pre-Urban Forestry.

Regional Centre of Excellence of Low Forest Cover Countries CE of LFCCs) established in Tehran Parks and Green Space Organization (TPGSO):

In cooperation with FAO and some other organization preparation of "Guidelines for Good Forestry and Range Practices in Arid and Semi-Arid Zones of the Near East" in year 2009

Forest finance in LFCCs has been considered in "Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on Forest Financing" which took place in Ad hoc Expert Group Meeting, 13-17 September 2010, Nairobi, Kenya, and further details can be obtained from following address:
<http://www.un.org/esa/forests/adhoc-forestfinance.html>

<http://www.un.org/esa/forests/pdf/aheg/aheg1/LFCCs1.pdf>

<http://www.un.org/esa/forests/pdf/aheg/aheg1/LFCCs2.pdf>



Photo: Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on Forest Financing Meeting, 13-17 September 2010, Nairobi, Kenya

List of some of the TPS for LFCCs publication is provided in Annex 10

<http://lfccsandclimatechange.pbworks.com/LFCCs>

Also list of some of the Relevant UN document on LFCCs is provided in Annex 11

<http://lfccsandclimatechange.pbworks.com/LFCCs>

Annex 1:

THE TEHRAN DECLARATION

(In Proceedings of the International Meeting on Special Needs and Requirements of Developing Countries with Low Forest Cover and Unique Types of Forests, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, October 1999. Forest and Range Organization, Tehran.)

Experts from countries with low forest cover met for the first time in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, from 4 to 8 October 1999, and discussed their common concerns. The meeting was supported by the governments of Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany and Norway, and organized with the collaboration of the governments of Egypt and Sudan and in cooperation with international organizations, including FAO, UNEP, UNDP and IFAD. During the five-day International Meeting of Experts on the Special Needs and Requirements of Developing Countries with Low Forest Cover and Unique Types of Forests, a government-led initiative in support of the programme of work of Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF), participants from 39 countries and 6 international and bilateral organizations addressed a wide range of issues. The experts noted that several hundred million people, in over 70

developing countries with low forest cover, live in and around forests and depend on them for their subsistence. The participants recognized that increased population pressure and widespread poverty are resulting in an alarming rate of deforestation and forest degradation. The consequent loss of productivity and biological diversity is affecting human well-being. The meeting underscored the urgent need to undertake corrective actions to reverse this negative trend.

The experts reviewed the existing literature and instruments, and relevant international/ intergovernmental deliberations on forests, including the IPF/IFF process, in the context of meeting the special human needs and requirements of developing low forest cover countries. In addressing the objectives of the expert meeting, the participants adopted a report containing a set of conclusions and a number of short- and long-term concrete and practical recommendations. These recommendations will be presented to the fourth session of the IFF (New York, 31 January- 11 February 2000).

Within the overall framework of global collective endeavours for management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests, the participants emphasized the long-term objectives including, *inter alia*, placing the issue of low forest cover countries on the political and policy agenda of future international deliberations on forests and other development issues, including combating desertification, and formulating long-term approaches and strategies. Priority should be given to the enhancement of cooperation among LFCCs, partnerships with multilateral organizations and instruments, as well as with the donor community.

The meeting endorsed the proposal to launch a process, hereafter called the "**Tehran Process**", in order to achieve these collective objectives and to pursue the implementation. Further development of the outcome of the Tehran meeting was further emphasized by the participants. The participants reaffirmed their commitment to the objectives of the "**Tehran Process**" and reiterated the necessity of active, cooperative and consistent follow-up of the final outcome of the Tehran meeting aimed at fulfilling critical human needs in low forest cover countries. They also expressed their appreciation to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the initiative and for holding the successful meeting and expressed their full support to the prospective Iranian endeavours towards continuing the "**Process**". They further agreed to hold the first follow-up meeting of the "**Tehran Process**" at the sidelines of the fourth session of the IFF in New York, early February 2000.

Annex 2:

THE TEHRAN PROCESS

(In Proceedings of the International Meeting on Special Needs and Requirements of Developing Countries with Low Forest Cover and Unique Types of Forests, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, October 1999. Forest and Range Organization, Tehran.)

The Process would provide a forum to address the specific needs of developing countries with low forest cover and to place the issue of LFCCs on the political and policy agenda of future international deliberations. The process should be action-oriented, should secure political support and guidance, and serve as the focus for:

* collection, analysis and dissemination of data and information;

- * exchange of information and experience;
- * capacity building, especially related to the collection of timely and reliable data and its processing into information and knowledge;
- * quantification of non-marketed goods and services and their reflection in national accounts, including the contribution of trees, forests and woodlands in LFCC to food security;
- * development of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management for LFCCs, benefiting from the existing processes, particularly Dry-zone Africa and the Near East;
- * joint research projects on issues affecting low forest cover countries, particularly the development of models for the management and rehabilitation of natural forests and woodlands; and
- * development of a definition of low forest cover that more precisely identifies countries falling within this category.

Policy, Planning and Institutions

It was recommended that forest policy in many LFCCs needed to be reviewed, taking into account broader perspectives and the wide variety of needs and demands from society, which can be fulfilled by the forest sector. There is a need to facilitate the building of partnerships to reduce conflicts with other sectors, but also taking into account the environmental, social and human aspects of forest and rangelands to secure the livelihoods of people in rural areas.

Increased emphasis is required in developing new policies for the forest sector in the following fields:

- * Non-wood forest products;
- * Increased market orientation of locally-produced forest products;
- * Services, including the provision of clean water, soil and water conservation with particular reference to fragile ecosystems, desert control, and protection from the effects of wind and water;
- * Food security, including the provision of fuel wood, and fodder;
- * Carbon sequestration;
- * Conservation and utilization of biological diversity.

In meeting these new challenges from society, the forest and rangeland sectors should re-define their missions and integrate forest and rangeland policies with other sectors. Institutions concerned with forest and rangelands should be restructured and strengthened in accordance with the newly defined objectives to serve people's needs. Institutional capacity in rural areas needs to be strengthened to support the implementation of policies.

National forest programmes could be used as appropriate tools to secure broad participation, noting a special need to secure the participation of women in the management of forest and rangeland resources and in decision-making processes.

The meeting also recommended that the report of this meeting be submitted to the COP3 of the CCD to raise the profile of forest and rangeland in NAPs.

Participatory Processes

Rehabilitation of forest, woodland, tree and rangeland resources will require the active participation of rural communities.

Programmes aiming at reversing deforestation and forest degradation must be formulated and implemented with the effective participation of the concerned population, including local as well as indigenous communities.

Participatory approaches should generate income and employment and should be based on existing cultures. They should involve local as well as indigenous communities, with special consideration given to nomadic and transhumant peoples, to forest dwellers and to the role of women and youth. Full use should be made of traditional forest-related knowledge (TFRK).

LFCCs should support and facilitate an increased role for non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including providing assistance to:

- * strengthen and improve the organization of rural communities;
- * strengthen their capacity for planning and decision-making;
- * provide technical information and training; and
- * formulate and develop national forest programmes.

Funding and Investment

Governments should create an enabling environment for investments by individuals, communities and the private sector. Creation of this environment would include offering secure land tenure arrangements and devolution of decision-making power, as well as establishing incentives and removing disincentives, and providing for the sharing of costs and benefits, and for generating income and employment opportunities.

LFCCs that are in a position to do so are invited to establish a special fund to assist LFCCs in their efforts to improve sustainable forest management at the regional level.

LFCCs are also encouraged to seek funds from the existing provisions of the UN Conventions to meet the needs clearly defined in national forest programmes and in regional strategies. Donor countries are encouraged to increase their ODA to LFCCs for these purposes, with due consideration to avoiding the fragmentation of funding efforts.

LFCCs, with the assistance of relevant partners such as the World Bank, FAO, UNEP, IFAD and UNDP, are invited to explore opportunities for further investment in the forest sector,

including making the fullest use of possible investment opportunities in forest-related areas arising from multilateral environmental agreements, such as the CCD. The UNFCCC, with particular reference to the Kyoto Protocol and its Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), should accommodate, in future, a forestation and rehabilitation of degraded lands in LFCCs, taking into account the UNCED decisions on Sustainable Forest Management.

Technical Matters

Measures should be put in place by LFCC governments to apply or develop suitable technologies related to:

- * the management and rehabilitation of natural forest, woodland, trees and rangeland resources, taking into account ecosystem management, the needs of communities (including herders) and their effective involvement in planning and decision-making;
- * the recognition of the importance of non-wood forest products in the rural economy, and the need to make provision for the improvement of their quality and for adding local value in their processing, as well as their potential for genetic improvement and development;
- * small-scale industries based on wood and non-wood forest products;
- * the conservation of examples of natural ecosystems and unique types of forest;
- * the establishment of plantations and planted trees, taking into account the matching of species to site and to objectives and the use of indigenous species where possible, as well as the potential of trees and woodlands to ameliorate the urban environment and provide multiple goods and services;
- * renewable energy programmes, based on wood, which should include the application of technology to increase efficiency in the utilization of wood energy, and the removal of price disincentives.

Governments should seek, and donors should provide, assistance for the transfer of appropriate technology and backup support services.

Future international arrangements and mechanisms

The special needs and requirements of LFCCs should receive due attention in any new arrangements and mechanisms dealing with forests, including technical and financial assistance related to developing and implementing national forest programmes.

Annex 3:

**THE TPS for LFCCs permanent observer position in ECOSOC
(19 May 2003, UNFF3)**

<http://lfccsandclimatechange.pbworks.com/f/ECOSOC%20accreditation%20document%20of%20TPS%20for%20LFCCs.pdf/>

**United Nations Forum on Forests**

Third session

Geneva, 28 May-6 June 2003

Item 2 of the provisional agenda*

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters**Accreditation of intergovernmental organizations to the
United Nations Forum on Forests****Note by the Secretariat**

1. The secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests has reviewed the credentials of the following intergovernmental organizations that have requested accreditation to the Forum:

- (a) International Network for Bamboo and Rattan;
- (b) International Centre for Research in Agroforestry;
- (c) Secretariat of the Tehran Process for Low-Cover Forest Countries.

2. The secretariat of the Forum has judged the activities of these organizations to be relevant to the work of the Forum and they have been approved by its Bureau; accordingly, it is recommended that they be granted observer status by the Forum.

* E/CN.18/2002/1.

Annex 4:

TPS for LFCCs Joint approach with UNCCD (UNCCD 2005)

<http://lfccsandclimatechange.pbworks.com/f/COP7-5+UNCCD+2005+%26+LFCCs.pdf>



UNITED
NATIONS



Convention to Combat
Desertification

Distr.
GENERAL

ICCD/COP(7)/5
5 August 2005

Original: ENGLISH

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Seventh session

Nairobi, 17–28 October 2005

Item 10 of the provisional agenda

**REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE PROMOTION AND STRENGTHENING OF
RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER RELEVANT CONVENTIONS AND RELEVANT
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES, IN
ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 8 AND ARTICLE 22, PARAGRAPH 2(i)
OF THE CONVENTION**

Note by the secretariat

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Annex 5:

TPS for LFCCs and UNCBD (SABSTA 14 Nairobi 2010)

Outcomes of SBSTTA-14 meeting in Nairobi May 2010

<http://lfccsandclimatechange.pbworks.com/f/sbstta-14-L-07+CBD+2010+%26+LFCCs.pdf>



CBD



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

Distr.
LIMITED

UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/L.7
14 May 2010

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL
AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Fourteenth meeting

Nairobi, 10-21 May 2010

Agenda item 4.3

**FOREST BIODIVERSITY: COLLABORATION WITH THE UNFF SECRETARIAT AND
REPORT ON COOPERATION ON THE MONITORING OF FOREST BIODIVERSITY AND
ON CLARIFYING THE DEFINITIONS OF FOREST AND FOREST TYPES**

Draft recommendation submitted by the Chair of Working Group I

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *recommends* that the
Conference of the Parties adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties

*Cooperation with the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and the International Tropical Timber
Organization (ITTO)*

1. *Welcomes* resolution 8/1 of the United Nations Forum on Forests on forests in a changing environment, enhanced cooperation and cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination, regional and subregional inputs;
2. *Welcomes and supports* the Memorandum of Understanding between the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Forum on Forests, as signed on 15

Annex 6:

TPS for LFCCs and CPF (2009)

Collaborative Partnership on Forests, Summary report of Strategic Dialogue II, 2-3 July 2009

In Attendance: FAO, ITTO, IUCN, IUFRO, Secretariats: CBD, GEF, UNCCD, UNFCCC, UNFF, UNEP and World Bank

http://lfccsandclimatechange.pbworks.com/f/CPF-+Strategic_DialogueII_summary_+%26+LFCCs+July+2009.pdf

**Collaborative Partnership on Forests
Summary report of Strategic Dialogue II
2-3 July 2009**

In Attendance

FAO: Jan Heino (Chair)
Rosalie McConnell
Peter Holmgren
Michael Martin
Rikiya Konishi

ITTO: Eduardo Mansur
IUCN: Stewart Maginnis
IUFRO: Alexander Buck

Secretariats

CBD: Tim Christophersen
GEF: Dirk Gaul
UNCCD: Elisabeth Barsk
UNFCCC: Florin Vladu
UNFF: Jan McAlpine
Peter Csoka
Mita Sen
UNEP: Mario Boccucci
World Bank: Gerhard Dieterle

Regrets: CIFOR, ICRAF, UNDP

1. Opening and Welcome

The Chair welcomed participants to the second strategic dialogue, noting that the first one took place seventeen months earlier. He mentioned the recent climate change initiative, launched by F. Brown, which called on donor countries to contribute \$100 billion annually to help fund climate adaptation activities in developing countries. The Chair noted that such developments increased the need for CPF members to work collaboratively.

The Director of the UNFF Secretariat reaffirmed the need to work together on critical emerging issues mentioned in UNFF8 outcomes, including the resolution on "Forests in a Changing Environment".

Annex 7:

Forests Finance in LFCCs and UNFF (UNFF9 2011)

Forests in a Changing Environment, Preparatory Meeting for African Delegates to UNFF8
Nairobi, Kenya, April 2009, Jan L. McAlpine, Director, UNFF Secretariat

<http://lfccsandclimatechange.pbworks.com/f/UNFF+8+%26+LFCCs+Nairobi+April+2009.pdf>



Forests in a Changing Environment

Preparatory Meeting for African Delegates to UNFF8
Nairobi, Kenya, April 2009

Jan L. McAlpine
Director, UNFF Secretariat

Annex 8:

Bamako Resolution (Bamako, Mali meeting, 2004)

<http://ifccsandclimatechange.pbworks.com/f/Bamako%20Resolution%20for%20African%20and%20the%20NE%20LFCCs.pdf/>

Resolution of Bamako Regional Workshop for African and the Near East Low Forest Cover Countries

(January, 2004, Bamako- Mali)

In the workshop for African and the Near East Low Forest Cover Countries organized by the TP Secretariat, FAO and UNEP, from 14- to 16 January 2004 in Bamako, Mali the participants agreed unanimously of what follows:

To Governments, FAO, UNEP and Donors:

- 1- Reaffirm their adherence to the process and positively endorsed the findings and the recommendations presented in the background documents discussed at the time the workshop.
- 2- Implement the Tehran Process through actions at political, institutional level as well at political level.
- 3- Request FAO, UNEP and UNFF, including countries and donors involved to continue to support and reinforce financially and technically the Tehran Process and the Secretariat.
- 4- Request the Government of Iran to continue its support to the Tehran Process and to the Secretariat and invite other Low Forest Cover Countries as well as the donors to join the process.
- 5- Request the Secretariat to elaborate, with assistance of UNEP and FAO, appropriate related legal texts and propose the institutional setting to be adopted by a ministerial conference of which date and venue are to be defined later on. The documents should be made available to the countries for observations at least three months before the conference.
- 6- Request the Secretariat, with assistance of UNEP and FAO, to attend the texts on the basis of comments and suggestions made by the countries, at least one month before the conference.
- 7- Request the Secretariat, with assistance of UNEP and FAO, to compile the conclusions and recommendations and the resolution of the Bamako Workshop and send it to all LFCCs, potential members of Tehran Process.
- 8- Request the Government of Iran, with assistance of Secretariat and FAO to approach LFCCs governments to discuss the opportunity to organize a ministerial conference in early 2005 which conference will adopt the legal and institutional framework proposed by the Secretariat and FAO and officially endorse the Tehran Process and create the organization.
- 9- Request the Ministers of the Low Forest Cover Countries to seize all opportunities of any international meeting to debate the adoption and the stake of the Tehran Process.
- 10- On the basis of the propositions submitted to the participants, it has been agreed to privilege the option to set up the institution on the basis of simple resolution adopted by a Ministerial Council of which modalities, the date and the venue of the first meeting will be defined later on.

- 11- The council, chaired by a Minister of one of the member countries, will be advised by a scientific and technical committee, composed of high level scientists and experts.
- 12- To develop a synergy between the Tehran Process and related international conventions endorsed by Rio and Johannesburg conferences on sustainable development, e.g. UNCCD (Combating desertification), Climate Change, UNCBD (Biological Diversity), etc.
- 13- A strong support is awaited from the member countries and partners currently involved in the Tehran process and its Low Forest Cover Countries.
- 14- Reaffirm the independency of the secretariat in order to assist in a neutrality the countries to design and implement their programmes.
- 15- Request FAO to continue its technical assistance to low forest cover countries and finalize the formulation of forest resources assessment and institutional and technical capacity building of the Secretariat and countries, as discussed at the workshop, to be submitted to the country for comments and endorsement before their implementation, with particular focus on natural resource use, sustainable forest and tree management, planted forest and trees outside forests promoting.

To the Tehran Process Secretariat:

- 16- Invite the secretariat to work on the definitions of Low Forest Cover Countries (forest cover percentage, areas, types, etc.) based on clear and consensual criteria to be discussed in workshop.
- 17- Request the secretariat to continue, in the interim period, to continue liaising with the country interim focal points, coordinate activities related to the formulation of the legal and institutional framework, formulation of mandate of the council and the secretariat and the establishment of the network.

Bamako Resolution, Policy in LFCCs, Bamako, Mali, Jan. 2004, H.E. Minister of Mali opened the meeting, 17 countries, representatives of ICRAF, FAO, UNEP, CENESTA, UEMOA

Page 177-192 in the following FAO document:

http://www.afenconsult.com/doc/landscape_resto.pdf

**Regional Workshop for African and the Near East Low Forest Cover Countries
Bamako, Mali, 14-16 January 2004
"Strengthening the Tehran Process and support to countries"**

SUMMARY

Introduction

In the context of the Tehran Process, a technical workshop was jointly organized by FAO, UNEP and the TP/Secretariat of Low Forest Cover Countries in Bamako, Mali, from 14 to 16 January 2004, hosted by the Government of Mali.

This workshop follows the three workshops organized successively in Tehran in October 2002, in Nairobi in December 2002 and in Tehran again in July 2003. The objectives, on the basis of the findings and recommendations of these previous workshops, were:

To determine the legislative and institutional setting of the organization and to propose a priority action programme to the backing of the Tehran Process, the Secretariat and national forestry programmes of the countries, keeping at the forefront plans to combat desertification.

The following took part in this workshop: the representatives of LFCCs of the Near East

Annex 9:

Centre of Excellence of LFCCs (CE of LFCCs) (Tehran meeting 2005)

<http://lfccsandclimatechange.pbworks.com/CE>

Special regional meeting on The Role of Planted Forests, Trees Outside Forests and Urban, Peri-urban Forests in Sustainable Forest Management in Low Forest Cover Countries - LFCCs, 2002

Near East Regional Workshop, Tehran, 28-31 October 2002

Annex 10:

List of some of the TPS for LFCCs publication

<http://lfccsandclimatechange.pbworks.com/LFCCs>

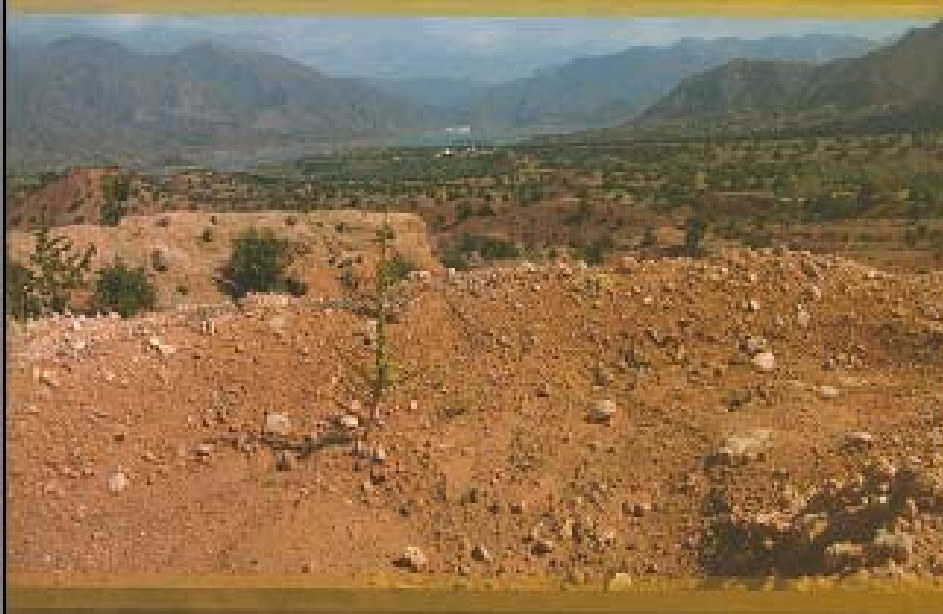
NEAR EAST FORESTRY
COMMISSION (NEFC)



GUIDELINES FOR
**GOOD FORESTRY AND
RANGE PRACTICES**

IN ARID AND SEMI-ARID ZONES
OF THE NEAR EAST

WORKING PAPER - RNEO 1-09



FAO Regional Office for the Near East
Cairo, 2009





CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

A quick view on
CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
OF LFCCs



Municipality of Tehran
Urban Services Deputy
Tehran Parks & Green
Space Organization



Tehran, Goftogoo Park, a view of center



**TEHRAN PARKS
& GREENSPACE ORGANIZATION**
2005

Annex 11:

Some of the Relevant UN document on LFCCs

<http://lfccsandclimatechange.pbworks.com/LFCCs>

Report of the United Nations Secretary General on Progress in Implementation of Rehabilitation and Conservation Strategies for Countries with Low Forest Cover (LFCCs) at UNFF2, 2002:

<http://lfccsandclimatechange.pbwiki.com/f/Report%20of%20the%20Secretary%20General%20on%20LFCCs%20UNFF2.pdf/>

- Special document of E.CN.18/2002/3 to the subject of (Report of the Secretary-General on rehabilitation and restoration of degraded lands and the promotion of natural and planted forests)
- Approval of status of independent observer for TPS for LFCCs in UNFF 3, document E/CN.18/2003/12
- Report of UNEP to UNFF 5 in 2005
- Report of FAO to UNFF 5 in 2005
- Special report of UN Secretary General to UNFF 5 in 2005
- Report of CPF to UNFF 5 in 2005
- Document E/CN.18/2005/5 in UNFF 5
- UNFF 6 report in 2006
- UNFF 7 report in 2007
- The Secretary-General in his report E/CN.18/2007 (Forests in a Changing Environment: Low Forest Cover Countries, Small Developing Island States, and High and Medium Forest Covers Countries) identifies the challenges facing these countries.
- UNFF 8 report in 20 April to 1st May 2009 – UN NY (UNFF 9: Jan- Feb. 2011 in UN NY)
- Decision 12/ COP.6 of UNCCD in cooperation with UNCBD, UNCCC and TPS for LFCCs for enhancement of activities
- Joint Approach between UNCCD and TPS for LFCCs in COP7 in Nairobi in 2005
- UNFF' contract with Finish Company for Forest Finance in LFCCs in 2010
- Decision in SBSTTA 14 (UNCBD) in Kenya in May 2010 requesting UNCBD secretary General to collaborate with TPS for LFCCs to conserve genetic resources