

**National Report to the Fifth Session of the
United Nations Forum on Forests**

TURKEY

December 2004

I. Key Contacts

Head of Forestry and UNFF national focal point for : Turkey

Name: Ass. Prof. Dr. Nuri USLU

Title: Deputy Undersecretary of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry

Contact information:

Address: Cevre ve Orman Bakanligi
Atatürk Bulvari 153
06100 Bakanliklar
Ankara, Turkey

Phone: +90 312 425 12 85

Fax: +90 312 418 02 37

E-mail: apkkb-ppd@cevreorman.gov.tr

Person to contact concerning the national report, if other than the UNFF national focal point:

Name: Dr. Mustafa ER

Title: Head of Division

Contact information:

Address: Cevre ve Orman Bakanligi
Dis Iliskiler ve AB Daire Baskanligi
Istanbul Caddesi, 98
06060 Iskitler
Ankara, Turkey

Phone: +90.312.3842472

Fax: +90.312.3846083

E-mail: diabd-ukisb@cevreorman.gov.tr
mustafaer63@yahoo.com

II. Progress and issues related to implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action

General

1. Please provide additional or new information on initiatives taken or lessons learned since 1997 further to the information on forests included in your national reports¹ to UNFF 2, UNFF 3 and UNFF 4, the Commission on Sustainable Development, and other international instruments and organizations on the following points:

- assessment (including of the relevance, priority, status of implementation, planned actions) of the IPF/IFF proposals for action in the national context
- development and implementation of your national forest programme or similar national policy framework for forests,
- international cooperation, including development and implementation of partnerships,
- mechanisms or initiatives to facilitate stakeholder participation, including indigenous and local communities, in forest sector planning, decision-making and/or forest management.

In this general context member States may wish to refer also to the resolutions of UNFF relevant to the above elements, in particular resolution 3/4 paras. 1.-13., and provide information on the implementation of these resolutions or their contribution to facilitating the implementation of IPF/IFF Proposals for Action.

The preparation of the Turkish “National Forest Program” (NFP) was initiated in 2001 and finalized in 2003 by the assistance of FAO. The program has been developed by a official team with the involvement of all interested parties including forest villagers, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academics, forestry sector, forestry professionals, other Governmental agencies, etc. At all stages of the development process of the NFP, participation of all stakeholders has been ensured and their views and proposals incorporated into the final report.

The NFP contains 30 policies, 56 strategies and 147 proposals for action. 40 proposals for action were identified as long-term proposals and the remaining as short-term proposals. The Program also contains a National Action Program for the period of 2004-2008.

The NFP was prepared in the light of International Forestry Regulations. Main principles of the Turkish forestry defined in the NFP are :

- (i) *Sustainability*
- (ii) *Conservation of biodiversity*
- (iii) *Multifunctional management/utilization of forests*
- (iv) *Participation*
- (v) *Just sharing of benefits*
- (vi) *Respect for the rights of local people, protection of their cultures and traditions*
- (vii) *Transparency and openness*

¹ National reports related to forests may be easily accessed on the CPF website at <http://www.fao.org/forestry/foris/webview/cpf/index.jsp?siteId=2461&sitetreeId=6947&langId=1&geoId=0>, however UNFF4 reports are available only at <http://www.un.org/esa/forests/reports-unff4.html> at the time of writing.

- (viii) *Coordination, cooperation and integration in the sector and among related sectors,*
- (ix) *Cost/benefit effectiveness:*
- (x) *Global responsibility*

Unfortunately, the NFP still waits for official approval to be put into force. Without the official approval of the Program, Turkish forestry sector will be deprived of its fundamental legislative tool to make progress in the context of global regulations.

Implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action related to thematic issues of UNFF 2

Please provide information on: activities undertaken since 1997, progress made, constraints encountered, lessons learned, and issues that have emerged, as well as relevant information related to means of implementation (financing, transfer of environmentally sound technologies, and capacity-building) related to the following elements:

Combating deforestation and forest degradation

2. preparing diagnostic studies to analyse historical and underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation, including processes outside the forest sector

One of the main targets of the Turkish Forestry Sector Review (FSR) prepared together with the World Bank and in a participatory approach was to analyse underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation in the country. The FSR study showed that there is no real deforestation in Turkey. Recent inventory studies indicated that there is a 900.000 hectares rise in total forest areas since 1972. Presently, the rise in forest areas is an average of 30-50.000 hectares per year.

In Turkey, the main factors in forest degradation are of urbanization and industrialization. Frequent modifications in forestry legislation is another cause. Besides, clearing of forest areas, illicit cutting, grazing which results from poverty, ownership problems causes forest degradation.

3. formulating and implementing national policies and strategies, through an open and participatory process, for addressing the underlying causes of deforestation

The National Forestry Program which is about to be approved officially is the most important study which will assist to develop effective policies and strategies against the threats that leads to deforestation. In addition, the National Environment and Forestry Assembly which will be held in March 2005 will contribute to develop policy and strategies.

4. raising awareness of the importance of issues related to deforestation and forest degradation and the multiple values of forests

The budget allocated for raising public awareness about deforestation, forest degradation, and multiple use of forest resources is bigger than before. Several studies on this area have been carried out. Cooperation with NGO's is increasing day by day. In the recent

years an important step has been taken by the Urban Forestry studies.

Forest conservation and protection of unique types of forest and fragile ecosystems

5. creating or expanding protected areas to safeguard forest and related ecosystems and their full range of values and, developing and applying criteria and methodologies for assessing the conditions and management effectiveness in protected forest areas

There are several protected forest areas under different status in Turkey. In the planning process of forests, areas which do not have any protection status but of importance for the protection of soil and/or water are reserved as “protective management class”. GD of Forestry and GD of Nature Protection and National Parks work in collaboration in the protected zones.

Necessary legal arrangements were made for the protection of fragile and important zones in accordance with management plans. Therefore misallocation of this kind of forest areas is prevented.

6. developing and implementing partnership mechanisms to engage forest owners, private sector, indigenous people and local communities in the planning and management of forest conservation areas and developing and implementing a range of innovative mechanisms for financing and encouraging forest conservation

There are some on going or pipe-line projects to contribute planning and management of protected areas. For example, a project by an NGO, Küre Mountains National Park project is supported by our Ministry. GEF II project has been implemented for 3 years, etc.

There is a new approach for the protection of forest areas in Turkey. Previously, all areas were protected by the government officials, but now as a result of new regulations it is transferred to the local people and the money directly transferred to the forest people. This application was started in 1998 and 102 villages benefited from this practice in 2004.

7. giving high priority in national forest programs to the rehabilitation and sustainable management of forests and trees in environmentally critical areas, recognising the linkage between forest protection and sustainable development and improving the coordination among such policies and programmes

This issue is widely included in the National Forestry Program.

Rehabilitation and conservation strategies for countries with low forest cover

8. expanding forested area, establishing and managing plantations to enhance production of forest goods and services, while avoiding the replacement of natural ecosystems, and recognizing the role of imports in satisfying the needs for forest products and services
9. promoting the regeneration and restoration of degraded forest areas including through partnerships and building capacities to promote effective participation in decision making, and development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies
10. improving the efficiency of international cooperation to support the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and building capacity to monitor forest resources

Rehabilitation and restoration of degraded lands and promotion of natural and planted forests

11. promoting the regeneration and restoration of degraded forest areas including through partnerships and building capacities to promote effective participation in decision making, and development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies

Establishment of new forest resources and establishment of plantations where appropriate, encouragement of private sector to establish plantations to alleviate pressure of logging on ecologically important natural forests are among our main policy issues. A panel was held on this issue.

Furthermore, great importance is given to the rehabilitation and restoration of degraded forest areas for the last two years. Turkey has accomplished to rehabilitate and reforestation of 9700 hectares degraded forest until today.

12. improving the efficiency of international cooperation to support the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and building capacity to monitor forest resources

Sustainability is fully implemented in production of wood and non wood forest products. Turkey produces an average of 7-7.5 million m³ of industrial wood per year. This amount is lower than possible. Therefore, any possible increase in demand will be met without experiencing any problem.

The potential for non wood forest products is not known exactly. A study was initiated to assess this potential and to inform the people about the topic. At the first stage of the study an inventory was conducted and results of this study was published. In recent years a higher priority is given to the sustainable production of non wood forest products. On the topic, panels were organized at various places and solutions for co-determined problems with the relevant stakeholders, especially private sector, are sought.

In the reorganization scheme of the official institutions, a department for Non Wood Forest Products and Services was proposed, by doing so an increased institutional capacity is intended.

In addition, member States may wish to refer to the resolutions of UNFF relevant to the above elements, i.e. resolution 2/2 A paras. 1.-7., 2/2 B paras. 1.-6., 2/2 C paras.1.-3, 2/2 D paras. 1.-4., respectively, and provide information on the implementation of these resolutions or their contribution to facilitating the implementation of IPF/IFF Proposals for Action.

Implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action related to thematic issues of UNFF 3

Please refer to your national report if appropriate, or provide new or updated information on: activities undertaken since 1997, progress made, constraints encountered, lessons learned, and issues that have emerged, as well as relevant information related to means of implementation (financing, transfer of environmentally sound technologies, and capacity-building) to support the following actions:

Economic aspects of forests, including trade

13. valuation of forest goods and services (this may include, among other things, the development and use of new valuation methodologies, valuation of a wider range of goods and services, and policy decisions that reflect a more comprehensive assessment of forest values)

The prices of forest products are mainly formed under free market conditions. The allocation prices which are determined by the Ministry are also determined according to the market prices. But, the prices the forest villagers pay to the government for the non wood forest products produced out of a program are intentionally determined low, so that it contributes to the development of forest villagers.

Additionally, new practises to decrease the production costs are being developed, but these practises not widespread enough yet.

14. the amount, scope, or quality of market data and information for wood and non-wood forest products and their substitutes

There are continuing research and monitoring studies on the amount, scope, or quality of market data and information for wood and non-wood forest products and their substitutes.

15. use of economic and policy instruments to facilitate progress toward sustainable forest management (these may include improved tax policies and forest revenue collection systems)

There is no fiscal component of national revenue system for sustainable forest management. Especially, legal instruments which were developed to support aforestation/reforestation activities are not successful in practice. Incomes of funds are generally supported by deductions from forest goods and services.

16. efforts to reduce negative impacts of trade,

To reduce negative impacts of trade, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry tries to improve competitive capabilities of local forest management directories. In 2003, 24 non productive (non-functional) local directories were closed down.

17. participation in forest certification and labelling schemes and work toward mutual recognition and comparability of such schemes, and

Unfortunately there is no important progress in forest certification and labelling schemes. Because, 90% of the forests are state owned, certification and labelling is not a priority. Besides, certification and labelling activities comprises all forestry activities, and our partially responsible institutions experience difficulties in making progress.

18. efforts to reduce illegal trade (exports from or imports into your country) in wood or non-wood forest products. Please indicate achievements made, lessons learned, constraints encountered, and planned initiatives.

Effective measurements are taken against illegal trade of wood or non-wood forest

products. In the country the existing system to combat illegal trading of forest product is strengthened and ORKUT (Forest Protection Teams) teams are established. These teams which works in a decentralized manner are pretty effective and first results are satisfactory. That's why it is planned to raise the number of these teams to 50 in 2005. As for international illegal trade, there is a good cooperation with our neighbouring countries, especially with Georgia. In developing of this cooperation participation and contribution of civil organizations is important in both countries. In addition, we are welcoming the ministerial process initiated by the Russian Federation and aims to prevent the trade of illegal forest products in the region. Our country will participate to this process actively.

Forest health and productivity

19. If damage to forests from air pollution is a significant problem in your country, please provide information on recent national strategies or programmes to minimize damaging air pollution. Please indicate if your country is involved in any international cooperation efforts aimed at strengthening scientific knowledge, increasing information access or reducing the impacts of long-range air pollution on forests, as well as your views on the role of enhanced cooperation at the regional and international levels to facilitate such work.

Although there is a pollution problem from domestic resources and from long-range resources, there is not a pollution monitoring system for forests in Turkey. Therefore we don't have enough information to what extent air pollution causes damages on our forests countrywide. In the National Forestry Program there are some action proposals on this topic.

Maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs

20. Please indicate progress made and lessons learned in efforts to harmonize or to make compatible policy frameworks in your country (e.g. national forest programme or a similar policy framework for forests, biodiversity strategies and action plans, national action plans to combat desertification, etc.) that collectively address the full range of forest values.

There is no general effort to harmonize different policy frameworks related to forests. But, in an ongoing project, GEF II, there is an effort to develop an integrated management method for forest areas.

21. Please provide information on recent efforts to assess long-term trends in national supply and demand for wood, non-wood forest products and services and whether your country's national forest programme or similar policy framework for forests takes into consideration future needs for forest goods and services. Please provide views on how enhanced cooperation at the regional and international levels, including through UNFF, could further facilitate implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action

Some researches to forecast future supply and demand schemas for wood and non wood forest products carried out by the Statistics Division of the Ministry in coordination with ECE and FAO-COFO. In addition, EFISCEN-ETTS scenario and a study by European Research Institute were published.

FOWECA process which was initiated by FAO for Eastern and Central Asia Countries

also contains that kind of national estimations. The process is still in progress and it is planned to send Turkey's National Program by early 2005.

In addition, member States may wish to refer to the resolutions of UNFF relevant to the above elements, i.e. resolutions 3/1 paras. 1.-12., 3/2 paras. 1.-7., 3/3 paras. 1.-13, , respectively, and provide information on the implementation of these resolutions or their contribution to facilitating the implementation of IPF/IFF Proposals for Action.

Implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action related to thematic issues of UNFF 4

Please refer to your national report if appropriate, or provide new or updated provide information on: activities undertaken since 1997, progress made, constraints encountered, lessons learned, and issues that have emerged, as well as relevant information related to means of implementation (financing, transfer of environmentally sound technologies, and capacity-building) related to the following elements:

Social and cultural aspects of forests

22. promoting the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of forest genetic resources and addressing the issue of intellectual property rights, including the identification of the origins of forest genetic resources, taking into account work undertaken by the Convention on Biological Diversity and other international agreements
23. strengthening the role of women in sustainable forest management, including through capacity building and greater participation in community-based forest management
24. integrating local and indigenous communities in sustainable forest management programmes, particularly as regards (a) recognition and respect of the customary and traditional rights and privileges of indigenous and local communities, (b) participation in decision making regarding the management of forests, (c) the attainment of secure land tenure arrangements, (d) capacity building and technology transfer for sustainable forest management directed at indigenous and local communities

Traditional rights of forest villagers on forests and their priorities in using these rights included in the forest law for a long time. During this period there is no negative practise against these rights, but in some specific cases some legislative amendments were made to guaranty these rights. For example, article 34 of the Forest Law was amended to prevent possible negative effects of price fluctuations on villagers.

There is no legal means to facilitate participation of forest villagers to the decisions of forest management, but this is realised practically in some ways. Wages in forestry activities are determined in cooperation with relevant NGO's (cooperatives and cooperative associations) and this agreement is fixed with a protocol. Additionally, in the process of preparation of management plans, needs and priorities of the local people are usually taken into consideration.

According to our Constitution, management of all forest types is granted to the Government in Turkey. Under this framework, resolving of land tenure problems in forest areas and agricultural areas are under responsibility of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. But, usually because of legal inconsistencies and discontinuity of

definitions, cadastral works have not been completed yet. To complete the cadastral works and registration of land are important preconditions of “reliable land tenure regulations”. To attain this result the portion of the budget allocated for cadastral works has been increased in 2004. As a result of these efforts, cadastral works have been completed on lands amount to some 1 million hectares. In 2005, it is planned to complete registration of 2 million hectares of land. This figure was about an average of 300.000 hectares per year in previous years.

Traditional forest-related knowledge

25. inventorying, cataloguing, and applying traditional forest related knowledge for sustainable forest management and promoting research on TFRK with the involvement of the knowledge holders
26. supporting the application of intellectual property rights and/or other protection regimes for traditional forest related knowledge, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of traditional forest related knowledge, innovations and practices

Scientific forest-related knowledge

27. disseminating scientific knowledge to all interested parties, including through new and innovative ways, and strengthening capacity and mobilizing funding for national and regional research institutions and networks

The R&D Department of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry was established by the Establishing Law of the Ministry. Research and development activities in the Ministry are conducted under the coordination of the R&D Department. Capacity building activities continue in the forestry research institutions. Turkey is a member of EFI (European Forestry Institute). The scientific knowledge is disseminated by periodics (technical bulletins, reports etc.), seminars, meetings and Web pages to the interested parties and implementing units.

28. enhancing interaction between scientific research and policy processes, including priority setting of research, addressing of knowledge gaps and using scientific knowledge to support decision-making

Forestry Master Plan will be revised in the light of the National Forestry Program prepared to create solutions on social demands, research policies and implementing institutions. Thus, it will be possible to produce necessary projects taking into account participation, novelty, social and economic development.

Monitoring, assessment and reporting, concepts, terminology and definitions

29. improving information on national forest resources, making the information widely available, assisting other countries in their related efforts

Most of the geographic, administrative and civil information about state owned, private and public forest are obtained from forest management plans prepared for certain periods and evaluation of the information included in these plans. Utilization of CIS practises

increase day by day. Harmonization of the management plan model prepared by the FRIS project with conventional management plans is still in progress.

As known, there is no common set of concepts, terminology and definitions unanimously agreed upon globally. But, there are not great differences between our definitions and that of FAO-FRA's. International developments on reporting, concepts, definitions and terms are closely monitored and followed. Adaptation efforts to conform to this international progress are an everlasting process for our Ministry.

criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management

30. developing and using criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management (at national level and/or subnational level and for policy, planning, management and/or monitoring purposes), and participating in regional and/or international C&I processes

Studies on this field still continue. Two training program were organized for the Heads of Division of Planning and Projects of Regional Forest Directories in this process. Firstly, taking into consideration Near East Criteria and Indicators, criteria and indicators under the responsibility of our ministry were set and all of our local forest authorities are asked for reporting these indicators since 1999. After three years of testing, a commission was set up in the GD of Forestry to evaluate and develop these indicators for the national context. Following the recommendations of this commission a workshop was organized in 2003. This workshop was conducted in a participatory way and finally, a set of national level criteria and indicators for GD of Forestry were developed. Local Forest Authorities are required to report this form to the Ministry via internet. This reporting process still continues. It is planned to develop criteria and indicators at local levels in 2005.

Nevertheless, there is no comprehensive study to develop necessary indicators and criteria including all relevant sectors.

In addition, member States may wish to refer to the resolutions and decision of UNFF relevant to the above elements, i.e. resolutions 2/2 E paras. 1.-4., 4/1 paras. 1.-16., 4/2 paras. 1.-8., 4/3 paras. 1.-18, respectively, and provide information on the implementation of these resolutions or their contribution to facilitating the implementation of IPF/IFF Proposals for Action.

III. Preparation of the Report

31. Describe the process of preparing this report, including which government agencies and stakeholder groups were involved, and the extent to which they contributed. Provide information on successes, challenges and lessons learned in the preparation of this report.

The proposed Guidelines and Suggested Format for Voluntary National Reports to the Fifth Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) was sent to related

institutions/departments. But mostly because of a general ignorance about international agreements on forests, only a few respond have taken, especially the GD of Forestry.

The main sources of information for this report are the study of "Turkey's Forestry Sector Review, Draft Report of the National Forestry Program, VIII National Development Plan, and Forest Management Plans, periodic reports of the State Statistics Institute and the various reports and document of the Ministry of Forestry. Additionally, some information was also compiled from the special reports and the discussion papers related the assessment of the implementation of IPF and IFF proposals for action in Turkey.