

Mandate & Activities of Regional Forestry & Rangeland Bodies in the Near East:

An Overview

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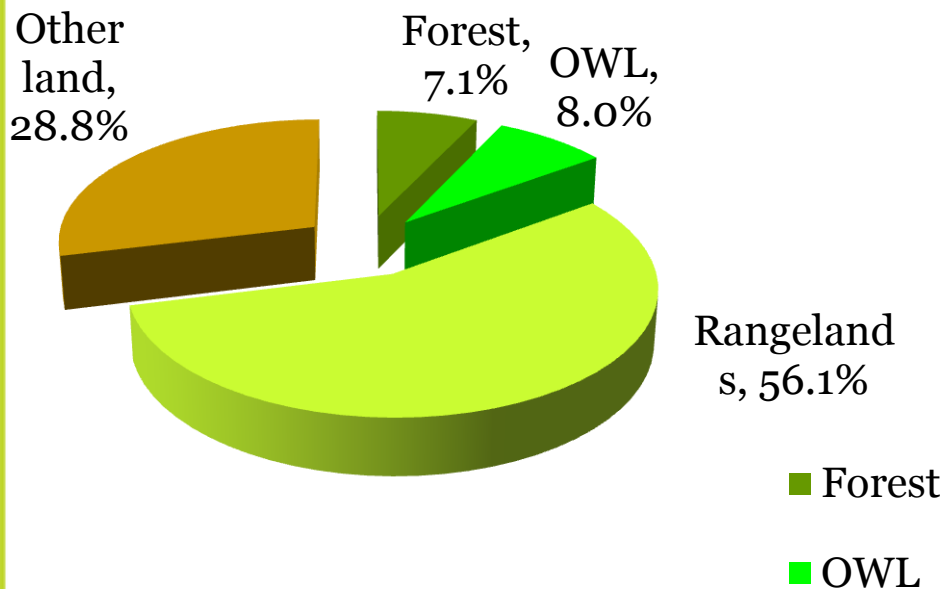
**FORESTS:
A GREEN PATHWAY
FOR HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT**

COFO 21
WORLD FOREST WEEK



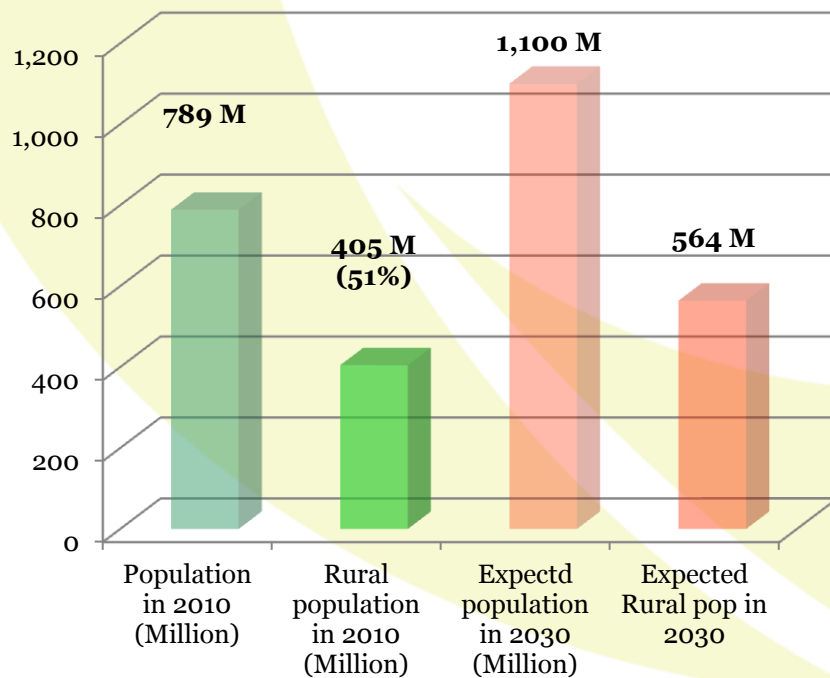
Background

Land use



- Forest area: 137.8 million ha
- Planted forest: 14.6 million ha
- Other wooded land: 154.2 million ha
- Rangelands: 1,085.7 million ha

Population in the Near East



Sources: FRA 2010 & FAOSTAT



Natural Resources Base: Threatened

- Forest & rangelands in NE: steady decline due to adverse social & environmental contexts
- Their dependent population: almost doubled in last 50 years --- led to more competition on shrinking resources
- Livestock number: more than doubled in last 40 years in Near East
- Climate change: added stress on natural ecosystems caused already complex effects on bio-physical processes
- The more plants we loose the more is likely to exacerbate climate change & lead to desertification
- Global economic context (soaring prices of commodities) added devastating effect on limited natural resources in forests & range: more degradation & desertification

Actions by NEFRC & FAO

- NE countries aware of challenges facing forests & rangelands
- NEFC 18 recommended including Range concerns in name & activities of the Commission
- Proposal of amendment approved by NEFRC 19 in April 2010, by Committee on Constitutional & Legal Matters (CCLM) in April 2010 & by Council in its 139th session in May 2010
- FAO DG approved amendments to Rules of Procedure of NEFRC in November 2010

Request

October 2010: COFO requested NEFRC to review the activities of relevant bodies engaged in forest and range activities in the region, with the view to promoting coordination and collaboration and report its findings to the next session of COFO

Action

Review of mandate & activities of regional bodies in NE dealing with forestry & rangelands took place in 2011 (Item 7.b)



Major Findings

Forests & rangelands:

- closely inter-related natural resources often operating in one ecosystem.
- management can operate in one production system such as silvo-pastoral system
- often tackled from narrow sectoral perspective without giving due attention to totality & integrity of the ecosystem
- predominantly public resources: low priority due to limited knowledge of economic, social & environmental significance & inappropriate governance (financing, capacity, institutional arrangements)



Major Findings

cont

- Wide range of players in forestry and rangelands in the NE :
 1. United Nations & International Bodies/Organizations (besides FAO)
 2. Regional Development Agencies
 3. Regional Research Organisations
 4. Regional Multilateral Financing Agencies
 5. Regional Education and Training Organisations
 6. International Bilateral Development Agencies and
 7. National Forestry and Range Institutions
- Need for Integration of/& coordination & synergy between NEFRC work and that of those bodies for conservation, management & sustainable development of forests & rangelands
 - Study on barriers to coordination between F&R underway
 - Valuing Economic & Social Contribution of Forests and Rangelands to the Near East



The Committee may wish to advise on ways to:

- Ensure adequate level of interdepartmental cooperation for interest of forest and rangeland sectors in the Near East Region.
- Improve financing of forestry & rangelands programme(s) in members countries in the region

The Committee may wish to recommend to FAO to:

- Seek support for its field programme to enable FAO to broaden its support to member countries in the region
- Ensure that national forest monitoring and assessments in dry lands include rangelands and rangeland specific indicators

Thank you!

