



## **Forestry Outlook Study for Africa (FOSA)**

### **2nd workshop – North Africa**

**Tunis-Carthage (Tunisia), 18 October to 20 October 2000**

### **Summary of the workshop and recommendations**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The second meeting for the Focal Points of the Forestry Outlook Study for Africa (FOSA) for North Africa, was held in Tunis-Carthage, Tunisia, from 18 to 20 October 2000.

The Forestry Outlook Study for Africa (acronym - FOSA) is an initiative led by FAO and carried out in partnership with all African nations, the African Development Bank, the European Commission, regional and sub-regional inter-governmental organisations, the World Bank and others. The Forestry Outlook Study for Africa was endorsed by the African countries at the 11th Session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC), held in Dakar, Senegal in April 1998. Activities under FOSA commenced in October 1998, and will run through July 2002.

FOSA is a process for analysing the future potential of the forestry sector, contributing to the well being of African citizens through its economic, social and environmental functions. FOSA will analyse the status, trends and driving forces shaping African forestry, provide a region-wide vision of the sector for the year 2020, and identify policies, programme and investment options that will help move the sector in desirable directions.

The African Continent has been subdivided into sub-regions, regrouping the countries that have similar economic links. The sub-region of North Africa includes the following countries: Morocco, Algeria, Mauritania, Tunisia, Egypt, Sudan, Libya.

In every country, the Ministry in charge of forestry has appointed a FOSA Focal Point who will coordinate the activities at national level and who will prepare the country outlook paper. Instructions and advice concerning its content were given during the planning meetings organised in 1999 in every sub-region. FAO's financial contribution to each FOSA Focal Point is 1,000 US \$. A number of technical notes were regularly sent to support them in their reflection work on the outlook of their forestry sector.

After approximately ten months of work, every FOSA Focal Point was able to present a first draft of their country outlook paper. Besides, sub-regional consultants were identified and asked to work with the Focal Points at sub-region level. This sub-regional report will integrate these national outlook studies and will further be based on a number of special thematic studies (sub-regional and some regional in nature). The creation of an information and reflection network amongst all the FOSA Focal Points will be an important support for the writing of the sub-regional report.

The country forestry outlook papers, now underway in each country, aim to capture the African countries' perception on the future of their forestry sector by the year 2020.

## **I. OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING**

The objectives of the North African workshop for FOSA Focal Points were the following:

- present the draft country outlook paper, and state the progress made ;
- provide the FOSA Focal Points with new elements on the outlook methodology;
- introduce the sub-regional consultants and discuss the terms of collaboration with the Focal Points; and
- finally present the FOSA future activities

## **II. PROGRESSION OF THE MEETING**

### **2.1. Opening ceremony**

The meeting was opened by Mr Ahmed Ridha Fekih Salem, Managing Director of Forests in Tunisia who welcomed the participants. He thanked FAO for its competence and its involvement in the promotion of a forestry more and more adapted to each country and for its implementing strategies for rational management of natural resources taking into account the needs of the population. He stressed the importance of the FOSA study for Tunisia and the whole sub-region.

Mr Mustapha Sinaceur, the FAO Representative in Tunisia sent his regards to the participants, on behalf of all the FAO members. After a short review of the context of the FOSA study, Mr Sinaceur emphasised the integration of the study to the main concern - food security for the world's population. A world-wide day of recognition of that theme was celebrated on October 16. After a review of the meeting objectives, the strong involvement of the countries through its national representatives was congratulated and a reinforcement of relationships encouraged.

Mr Guido Castellano, on behalf of the Delegation of the European Community in Tunisia, briefly summed up the activities conducted in the country in favour of sectors such as rural development, the environment, forestry, promotion of local species (such as date palm etc...). Mr Castellano underlined the European Community's strong concern, related to all the forestry projects that are ongoing in the region.

Mr Jean Louis Blanchet, FOSA coordinator, ended this opening ceremony by reminding the participants of the project orientation and organisation. The excellent results, already obtained and the necessity to deepen the prospective part of the documents were noted. He recalled the objective of the meeting: not only to assess the national reports but also to try to identify the "strong signals" and the "weak signals" that would influence the forestry development which are to be taken into account for the work of the outlook. Finally he emphasised the sub-regional analytic approach.

### **2.2. Technical introduction (see annex 1)**

Mr Blanchez defined the science called “prospective” and recalled the usefulness of the method for the FOSA project, as well as its characteristics. He ended his presentation on the prospective method by stating two goals to be reached before the end of the meeting, i.e. to manage to identify at least 3 strong signals and 5 weak signals that will likely affect the forestry sector at the sub-regional level.

### **2.3. Presentation of national reports**

According to the specifications proposed by the organisers of this second meeting, the national representatives presented their method of work (difficulties and degree of collaboration), the content of the main chapters dealing with the engines of change, the forestry sector by the year 2020, and its implications.

#### a) National report from Morocco: Mr Mohamed BENDAHMANE

During the meeting, it was explained that the report was based on an official document of forestry policy in Morocco, finalised in 1999. The FOSA Focal Point had to convince his ministry in charge that the FOSA method is appropriate despite the recently and similarly written document. The work group was composed of a small number of civil servant foresters (7). Within the course of his presentation, Mr Bendhamane gave details on the engines or instigators of change (population growth, global economic performances, environmental resources, tourism, agriculture...). Then he explained that several scenarios had been proposed but only one was retained: the one called “specialisation”.

#### b) National report from Algeria: M. Mustapha GOUSSANEM

The report was achieved by a pluri-disciplinary working group composed of 15 persons. Mr Goussanem stressed how interesting such a process was for his country.

After identifying the main engines of change, two identified scenarios were described: the first one predicts the worsening of the present tendencies and the second one the moderation of these tendencies. Mr Goussanem analysed succinctly the improving factors and then drew some general conclusions from the study.

#### c) Report from Tunisia: M. Ghazi GADER and Hamed DALY

The national report was achieved by a small working group that mainly comes from the “Direction Générale des Forêts”.

Mr Gader and Daly could identify the engines of change, among which were burdensome tendencies. They presented the situation of the forestry sector in Tunisia and emphasised the efforts undertaken in various fields of forestry and mainly in the forest industry. They talked about the changes and the measures required to facilitate their execution.

#### d) National report from Libya: Mr. Adman GIBRIEL

The new representative of Libya first apologised for his country's delay in producing the national report, which is due, in particular, to the recent restructuring of the administrative system. He presented an overview of the Libyan forestry, its potential and its close links to other sectors such as agriculture. He also talked about the difficulties the sector faced, amongst other, desertification. The need for a reflection in terms of sustainable development was stressed.

e) National report from Sudan: Mrs Amira AWAD

Mrs Awad explained that the report had been undertaken by a multidisciplinary working group that regularly met. She pointed out that it had been difficult to think about the future, because the country was going through a terrible crisis. She presented the engines of change and the factors of inertia for the future of the forest sector. Then she gave details on two scenarios: the scenario "the dream" and the pessimistic scenario (prolongation of present tendencies).

Mauritania and Egypt: the focal points coordinator from Mauritania and Egypt could not take part in the workshop for various reasons, although their reports had been handed out before the meeting.

### **Remarks**

The presentation of national reports was followed by discussions that mainly concentrated on the changes and more particularly on the identification of strong and weak signals for every country.

The difficulties encountered by some countries concerning the work were mentioned. (see recommendations).

### **2.4 Field trip**

Within the context of this second workshops the participants went to the Bizerte region where they visited the Zilia site. A participative rural development pilot project is being carried out there. The participants were warmly welcomed by the members of the forestry service of Sejenare (district of Bizerte Forests), as well as by the inhabitants and members of the AFIC Association, with whom several exchanges took place.

## **2.5 Summary and prospective exercise**

### a) Summary on the factors of changes (see annex 2)

During the exercise led by Mr Blanchez, the participants could synthesised the factors of changes. These were classified in strong and weak signals, according to the impact they have already had on forestry. First of all, a list was established for every country, then a summary was made for the sub-region as a whole. This was the opportunity to settle all the details of the present questions which were little relevant ten years ago but which will probably be strong in ten years from now. The participants also had the opportunity to reflect about the interpretation of these signals and their implications.

### b) A prospective exercise for a “hypothetical country” (see annex 3)

Under Mr Blanchez's coordination, the exercise was carried out around an “hypothetical country”, that has been described beforehand. Priority actions to be undertaken in the forestry sector had to be reflected according to two different scenarios: a pessimistic scenario and a more optimistic one. In the 1<sup>st</sup> case, the actions to be undertaken aim at preparing for the pessimistic scenario or trying to avoid it, and in the second, the objective is to do everything possible to facilitate the charge and to move more easily towards the optimistic option.

## **2.6 Presentation of the sub-regional consultant**

Mrs Hayeth Sidhoum, consultant for the North African sub-region, presented a methodological outline to write the sub-regional report and gave details on the next stages.

In the second part of his presentation, the consultant identified the advantages, the drawbacks and the characteristics of a study based on two levels: the national and sub-regional level. In the third part of the presentation, the consultant reminded the audience of his role and responsibilities concerning the finalisation of national reports - the focal points' coordinator roles and responsibilities for the execution of the sub-regional study were also pointed out.

## **2.7 Sequence of FOSA activities**

The activities to be carried out for the next few months in the sub-region are the following:

- Finalising and handing-over of the national prospective reports;
- Reviewing of the national report by the sub-regional consultant;
- Carrying out of sub-regional thematic studies under the auspices of the African Development Bank from January to March 2001;
- Developing an information exchange network in the sub-region concerning the prospective analysis in the forestry sector; FAO can support such exchange initiatives through its TCDC Programme or through visits of experts;
- Giving support to the sub-regional consultant and other consultants for data collection;
- Assuring the FOSA focal points participation in the third meeting expected in the course of July 2001, to discuss the final sub-regional report.

## **2.8. Conclusions and recommendations of the meeting (see annex 4)**

At the end of the working sessions, the participants found it necessary to make some suggestions that would facilitate the execution of the FOSA objectives. These suggestions are summed up in the recommendations (see part III).

## **2.9. Closing session: Reading of recommendations and expressions of appreciation.**

### **III. Recommendations of the TUNISIA-Carthage meeting**

#### **Considering:**

- The importance of forestry resources for the social, economic and environmental development of the countries;
- The technical, institutional and socio-economic problems of the forestry sector;
- The direct or indirect consequences from the degradation of forestry resource on the daily life of the North African populations;
- The importance and advantage to dispose of a forestry sector outlook to direct on a solid ground the forestry sector development towards the year 2020, and to put at the disposal of the concerned countries a tool that can help them in planning and implementing forest policies in their respective countries;
- The strong motivation shown by the FOSA Focal Point when preparing the country outlook papers, and motivation shown also during the workshop sessions; and
- The difficulties encountered to collect information and establish multidisciplinary working groups for the elaboration of national outlook papers,

#### **The participants' recommendations are the following:**

##### ***At the level of FOSA focal points***

- That the exchanges between the FOSA Focal Points continues and be reinforced;
- That the country papers be completed by 15 January 2001 ;
- That some extra funds be identified for the organisation of additional working group sessions;
- that the sub-regional consultant be supported in his work .

##### ***At the level of the sub-regional consultant***

- That the Sub-regional Consultant reviews the country outlook papers and suggests ways to improve them;
- That he speed up the information exchange with the national FOSA focal points;
- That he keeps regular contact with the FOSA Focal Point to inform them about the progress of the study at sub-regional level, of the different methods followed and the scenarios proposed,

##### ***At the level of the FAO***

- That FAO puts at the disposal of the FOSA Focal Point a copy of all the national outlook documents and all the additional sub-regional studies done within the framework of FOSA;
- That FAO informs the FOSA Focal Points regularly on the situation of the study and on the organisation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> FOSA workshop ;
- That FAO facilitate contacts and exchanges between FOSA Focal Points through TCDC (Technical Cooperation between Developing Countries) or other type of contracts.

#### **Annex 4. Summary of the sub-regional consultant's presentation**

**The prospective at the sub-regional level**  
**by Mr Hayeth Sidhoum**

**Introduction**

There are certainly risks involved in the effacing disparity between the countries when changing from the national level to sub-regional level. Yet, it is possible to make this passage and obtain good results, with some efforts of analysis.

On one hand, it is necessary to finely analyse in-depth the national reports, and on the other hand there must be some constant concertation with the FOSA Focal Points. Besides, for a better understanding of the process, several exchanges between the two levels should be constantly carried out.

*Therefore, thanks to this sustained effort, one should arrive from the start of the work at a formulation of the common problems.*

Concerning this matter, we can already say that the most burdensome tendencies that mark the regions are common to most countries (population, water...).

Despite the difficulties encountered, when passing from one level to another, there are nevertheless some advantages.

- some problems cannot be easily expressed at the national level;
- the sub-regional report takes inspiration from national reports, this can forecast the importance of reflections. Reflections from individuals who work in different countries face different problems. Besides, there are no data at the sub-regional level, compared with the national level.
- the sub-regional consultant should be given more autonomy, which will contribute to a more concise analysis of national reports.
- The dynamics of the national level must be passed to the sub-regional level for the initial prospective analysis. The community dynamics at the level of decision making, must be passed, at the contrary, to the national level.

Among other objectives, the study at the sub-regional level must provide food for overall thought, which aims at a common action on the major problems of the sector.

The sub-regional study has to the objective, amongst others, to feed a global reflection aiming at a common action of the major problems facing the sector.

Given the fact that the sub-regional study is founded on the national reports, permits the orientation for actions which are essentially better adapted to the local conditions or at least adapted nationally.

## **I. Analysis of national presentations**

First of all, congratulations must be given to countries for their work and their good will to take part in the finalisation of this study and consequently, in ensuring the future of the forestry sector.

It is certainly too early to take full advantage of the national reports, since it is always difficult to show several months' work in a thirty minute presentation. The reports require a thorough reading and re-reading.

Nevertheless, some very useful information can be drawn from these reports.

### **The issues that appear are the following:**

- The important role of the forest for the improvement of standards of living.
- The multifunctional role of the forest.
- The fight against desertification (forestation, reforestation)
- Improved production through better techniques relating to forest exploitation.
- Slowing down of forest degradation.

Finally, the issue can be summed up in one sentence: "how can the actors of forestry contribute to ensure an optimal and sustainable economic and social development of their sector while at the same time protecting the natural resource?"

## **II. How to establish a prospective**

We could add to the report that is considered finalised by the author the following:

- Any new idea or change or data
- the elements of the meetings
- Some additional illustrations: age charts synthesising and classifying information
- Some additional information or reflections on the land and its organisation in the country, the evolution of pastoralism and the problems related to it, the integration of the forest sector within the framework of the territorial management, the way the future foresters' training can be conceived.

## **III. The focal point coordinators' role in relation to the sub-regional report writing**

First of all, it is necessary to point out that the regional consultant must pay attention to the national coordinators' ideas and draw upon them. This obviously reflects the very important role he plays in the sub-regional report writing.

Consequently, we hope for a real "working group", where everyone would actively take part in the study process.

The members of this group need to be strongly motivated, and actively take part in a network where they will exchange ideas and experiences and discuss the problems they encounter.



It will be necessary to establish a dialogue between national FOSA focal points and the sub-regional consultant until the end of the study, in order to be able to discuss the important points of the outlook study (hypotheses – scenarios...) in a permanent way.

From now on, within the framework of the sub-regional report, the consultant would like to emphasise the following points:

- keep in touch with everyone, according to their availability, to inform others about the progression of work.
- widen the reflection, a processes that has already been started for a rather long time, thanks to the hers' experience and their critical awareness.
- sustain the work relating to the sub-regional report and maintain this impetus, so that it can serve as a prospective for monitoring.
- and, finally keep the sub-regional network animated.

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