



THREE-MONTH PROGRESS REPORT LEBANON RECOVERY FUND

Reporting UN Participating Organisation: FAO

Country: Lebanon

Project No. and Project Title:

LRF-14 OSRO/LEB/703/UNJ - Forest Fires Management, Prevention and Control and Damaged Forests Assessment and Rehabilitation

Reporting Period: 1 April to 30 June 2010

LRF-14 OSRO/LEB/703/UNJ: Integrated forest fires management – forest fires prevention, forest fires fighting (control) and damaged forests assessment and rehabilitation

I. PURPOSE

- **Main objectives and outcomes expected as per approved Project/Programme/project Document.**

The objective of the proposed programme is to create the enabling environment for the Government of Lebanon to address through its early recovery efforts: 1) the prevention of future forest fires; 2) the efficient fighting of fires when they occur; 3) updating the assessment of the ecological and socio-economic damage resulting from the July 2006 war as well as by the enormous fires that were erupted simultaneously and repeatedly during October 2007 in different parts of the country; and 4) the rehabilitation of forests that were damaged during the July 2006 war and recent environmental disasters to allow for re-access of rural communities to their land resources (woodlands, forests, etc.) through the alleviation of obstacles, such as demining.

- **Reference to how the programme/project relates to the national priorities and how it aims to support national reconstruction goals of Lebanon.**

The programme is part of the Ministry of Environment's (MoE) National Campaign for the management of forests in Lebanon (prevention, control and rehabilitation) that has been recently launched in cooperation with the various partners and stakeholders. The main implementing partner for the project is the Association for Forests, Development and Conservation (AFDC).

- **A listing of the main international and national implementing partners involved.**

FAO's partners include MoE, AFDC, Ministry of Agriculture and the Lebanon Agriculture Research Institute.

II. RESOURCES

This section includes total approved budget and summary of resources available to the programme/project from LRF and non-LRF resources, identifying earmarking if applicable.

Total Programme/Project Cost: US \$ 2 600 000

LRF: US \$ 2 600 000

Government Input: US \$ 0

Other: US \$ 0

Total: US \$ 2 600 000

Budget: commitment and disbursement:

The below budget reflects all expenditures up to 30 September 2009.

OSRO/LEB/703/LEB		
Item	Approved Budget (in US\$):	Estimated Disbursement/Commitment (in US\$)
Personnel and travel:	272 276	137 760
Contracts:	1 300 000	1 000 000
Supplies/Commodities/Equipment	805 000	321 143
Miscellaneous/Other:	52 724	38 010
Agency Support Costs:	170 000	75 564
TOTAL:	2 600 000	1 572 477

Personnel and travel costs:

FAO expenditures for personnel and travel cover relevant travel costs and costs for the forestry national consultant and technical backstopping missions from Headquarters on project implementation.

Item:	Approved Budget cost (US\$):	Estimated Disbursement/Commitment (US\$)
Personnel and travel:	272 276	137 760

Contracts:

FAO and AFDC entered into a contractual agreement valued at a total of USD 1 million for services under i) Letter of Agreement for the public awareness campaign and training and ii) Services Contract to undertake an assessment for land preparation and clearing, establish a tree nursery, reforest 85 hectares of damaged land, and manage rehabilitation of fire management infrastructure. During the current reporting period, 53 ha of land were reforested. In addition, suitable water outlet sites were identified and work on these sites will begin in the next reporting period. The MoE has identified nine beneficiary NGOs and Municipalities to carry out projects in forest fire prevention and control. FAO is currently preparing Letters of Agreement with the national beneficiary organizations and this budget line will be disbursed during the next reporting period.

Item:	Approved Budgeted cost (US\$):	Estimated Disbursement /Commitment (US\$)
Letter of Agreement	184 000	184 000
Services Contract	816 000	816 000
Small Grants Programme	300 000	0

Equipment:

As mentioned in previous progress reports, delivery for the following equipment was completed: fire fighting safety clothing, fire fighting manual tools and fire hose. Six pick up trucks were delivered during the fourth quarter of 2009. Tendering for truck accessories is closed and FAO is planning to issue the Purchase

Order with the supplier. The trucks will be retrofitted with fire fighting accessories during the second quarter of 2010.

Item:	Approved Budgeted cost (US\$):	Estimated Disbursement /Commitment (US\$)
Equipment and supplies	805 000	321 143

Other costs (General Operating Expenses, and Miscellaneous):

Expenses under “Other”, which groups budget lines such as general operating expenses, miscellaneous and overhead costs are indicated below.

Item:	Approved Budget cost (US\$):	Estimated Disbursement/Commitment (US\$)
Other:	52 724	38 010

III. RESULTS

Outcome:

Supporting early recovery and alleviating poverty through improved forest fires management (prevention, control, assessment and rehabilitation) and their associated benefits to environment and rural communities.

Immediate Objectives:

1. Adoption and implementation of preventive measures aiming at forests protection from fires and other risks. Adoption and implementation of control measures aiming at efficient forest fire fighting.
2. Adoption and implementation of control measures aiming at efficient forest fire fighting.
3. Assessment of the cost of environmental degradation from forest fires.
4. Assessment and rehabilitation of forests in areas that suffered from the July 2006 war and October devastating fires.
5. Restoration of livelihoods generated from the sound and sustainable use of forested trees (longterm).

Outputs:

Output 1: Prevention

Establishment of fire breaks, forest cleaning and clearing, promotion of research and development related to forest fire prevention.

Output 2: Control:

Software and hardware tools for fire fighting supplied and maintained

Output 3: Assessment & rehabilitation

Ecological and socio-economic losses from forest fires assessed and best restoration techniques for damaged forests identified, implemented and monitored

Output 4 awareness and capacity building:

Targeted public awareness and knowledge increased and strengthened for issues related to forests fire prevention, forest fires fighting, and damaged forests rehabilitation. Capacity building for local municipalities, communities and stakeholders on issues related to forests fire prevention, forest fires fighting, and damaged forests rehabilitation.

Main activities undertaken and achievements:

FAO closed the tender for truck accessories and will issue a purchase order to the supplier for equipment to retrofit the six pick up trucks purchased under the project. The equipment is expected to be delivered during the third reporting period of 2010.

Irrigation and follow up activities were carried out by FAO's implementing partner, AFDC for 53 hectares of reforested land.

Under the Small Grants Programme, the Ministry of Environment approved the beneficiary NGOs and Municipalities that will receive grants (averaging USD 30 000). FAO is currently preparing the Letters of Agreement with the beneficiary organizations and implementation of this programme will begin during the next reporting period.

Implementation constraints, lessons learned from addressing these and knowledge gained from evaluations and studies that have taken place during the reporting period.

- Current general political and security situation.

Key partnerships and inter-agency collaboration: impact on results.

- Close collaboration with MOE as the main national counterpart is continuous.
- Close collaboration with MOA on the development of the restoration plans for the targeted areas.
- Close collaboration with AFDC as main implementing partner

Other highlights and cross cutting issues pertinent to the results being reported on.

The project activities and agreement modalities with AFDC are now underway and more details on implementation will be reported on in the next progress report.

IV. FUTURE WORK PLAN

Information in this section includes:

Priority actions planned for the subsequent reporting period to overcome constraints, build on achievements and partnerships, and use the lessons learned during the previous period.

Action plan proceeding as per established workplan approved at the first Project Steering Committee Meeting. The main activities for next reporting period are the following:

- Retrofitting with water tanks and equipment on fire trucks;
- Planting of seedlings by end of 2010;
- Completion of all training to Civil Defense.

Indication of major adjustments in the strategies, targets or key outcomes and outputs.

- Due to identification of reforestation sites and delivery of all equipment for the project, a request for no-cost extension of the project has been sent to the Chair, LRF to February 2011.

Estimated Budget required (including any major funding shortfalls).

Currently no funding shortfall is foreseen.
