



## **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 June to 30 September 2010**

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### **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 forests 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.

<b>OSRO/LEB/703/LEB</b>		
Item	Approved Budget (in US\$):	Estimated Disbursement/ Commitment (in US\$)
Personnel and travel:	272 276	163 830
Contracts:	1 300 000	1 150 000
Supplies/Commodities/Equipment	805 000	450 545
Miscellaneous/Other:	52 724	36 346
Agency Support Costs:	170 000	80 456
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>2 600 000</b>	<b>1 881 177</b>

### **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	163 380

### **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. FAO issued nine contracts through the Small Grant Programme implemented through the MoE for community level fire prevention and control activities.

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	231 600

### **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. The supplies and equipment for the fire truck were delivered during the reporting period and retrofitting of the trucks with fire fighting accessories is planned to be completed during the last quarter of 2010.

Item:	Approved Budgeted cost (US\$):	Estimated Disbursement /Commitment (US\$)
Equipment and supplies	805 000	450 545

**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	36 346

**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:**

Truck accessories for retrofitting six pick up trucks purchased under the project into fire trucks are being delivered to Lebanon and will be installed during the last quarter of 2010.

Under the training programme carried out by AFDC, training on forest fire fighting techniques for volunteers was conducted for 22 participants. The training focused on forest efficiency, causes of forest fires and increased awareness of how to reduce fires. Four Lebanese Air Force pilots participated in the aerial fighting Conference in Canada while 25 Lebanese Air Forces pilots were also trained in Lebanon on aerial forest fire fighting; 30 participants from various governmental and non governmental organization participated in the three trainings on Integrated Command system. Four trainings for volunteers focused was conducted with 100 participants. Eighty sessions of awareness campaign were undertaken in Lebanese villages and schools all over Lebanon.

FAO is currently finalizing a legal framework review on forest fires and identify gaps, contradictions and recommendations with forest law in Lebanon.

Under the Small Grants Programme, FAO entered into contractual agreements with nine beneficiary organizations that will carry out activities at the local and community level for forest fire prevention and control. The total value of these agreements is valued at USD 231 600.

## **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;

### **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.

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