



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 January to 31 March 2011

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

I. Project summary

In order to manage, protect and control forest fires in Lebanon, FAO and partners within the project focused on a protection and prevention approach at community level to avoid losses of green areas in Lebanon. This approach is parallel with proper conservation and protection arrangements and provision of proper training and equipment to ensure sustainable use of forested areas.

Eventually, the proposed programme/project will support local communities to restore a significant part of their forest damaged areas and to develop forest fires fighting mechanisms that will reduce the risk of fires and at the same time will push forward the cooperation with the public entities involved with forest fires targeting several areas across Lebanon.

II. 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 through improved forest fires management; 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 and the Ministry of Agriculture

The MOE is the main governmental partner of the project, it provided the criteria for the selection of approved the Small Grant projects, lead the selection and approved officially these projects. The MOE had significant input in the specifications of the equipment, tools and trucks delivered to the Small Grant. It lead also most of activities related to the ecological assessment, development of the restoration and reforestation plans,

Based on the letter of Agreement signed among AFDC and the MOE, another LOA and Service Contract (SC) were signed among AFDC and FAO. Through these documents, AFDC organized training sessions, awareness campaigns, implement a forest nursery and infrastructure for forest fire prevention.

In addition to its regular tasks related to forest management and restoration plan, the MOA insured follow up of trained forest guards and assisted all consultants and experts in the performance of their assigned tasks.

III. Constraints and corrective measures:

Despite the strength of the project represented by the participatory approach and the good relationship between the project team and beneficiaries, some weaknesses were noticed during the implementation of the activities.

The slow bureaucratic procedures caused a delay in the signing of the contracts with the beneficiaries and NGO's. For a short period of the project lifetime, the absence of official focal point in the ministry of Environment responsible of the project activities affected the progress of the administrative needs of the project.

In addition, the lack of professional people among some beneficiaries and the time provided by the volunteers was a main constraint to implement the project activities. However, it requested a close follow up which created good relation among the project team and the beneficiaries.

The continuous and close follow up of the activities by the project team influenced positively the progress of work. Weekly field visits were organized to the nine beneficiaries of the Small Grant program and to the region of Andaket where the forest fire management plan was established. The technical assistance provided by the project team especially in orienting some recipients to follow good implementation way was recognized by all of them. The assistance of the project team reached also administrative and reporting issues.

During three years, the participatory approach was proved as a good way to implement multilateral project. The involvement of all stakeholders and the coordination among them is a main criteria for the success of the project. In addition, the experience in working with local authorities not only assures the sustainability of the project but it enhances them to start and spread the activity all over their territories.

III. 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 31 December 2010

OSRO/LEB/703/LEB		
Item	Approved Budget (in US\$):	Estimated Disbursement/ Commitment (in US\$)
Personnel and travel:	424 800	325 132

Contracts:	1 300 000	1 205 361
Supplies/Commodities/Equipment	620 000	467 912
Miscellaneous/Other:	85 200	69 330
Agency Support Costs:	170 000	113 970
TOTAL:	2 600 000	2 181 705

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:	424 800	325 132

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 was also achieved during the last quarter of 2010.

Item:	Approved Budgeted cost (US\$):	Estimated Disbursement /Commitment (US\$)
Equipment and supplies	620 497	467 912

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 Budgeted cost (US\$):	Estimated Disbursement /Commitment (US\$)
Equipment and supplies	620 497	467 912

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:

Under the training programme carried out by AFDC, training on forest fire fighting techniques for the staff of the municipalities in Baabda Metn Region was conducted in December 2010. The training focused on forest efficiency, causes of forest fires and increased awareness of how to reduce fires. The role of the municipalities in the forest fire management was a main subject in this training.

FAO is currently finalizing a legal framework review on forest fires and identify gaps, contradictions and recommendations with forest law in Lebanon. A workshop will be undertaken during the next reporting period.

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. These contracts consist on building water reservoirs, fire lookout, maintenance of forest, creation of buffer zones and reforestation activities. Three of these projects were completely achieved, the six others are expected to finish all the activities by the end of April 2011.

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 expected to be over by April 2011. This NGO assured the coordination among other project in the high fire risk region of Andaket.

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 last Project Steering Committee Meeting. The main activities for next reporting period are the following:

- Organizing a closing workshop
The closing event will be held close to an intervention project site. It will be under the patronage of the Minister of Environment as he is the head of the national implementing agency. Other ministers might be invited. All stakeholders will be invited, Civil Defense, Lebanese Army, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, NGOs, Nature Reserve Committees, Municipalities...
- Finalization of activities for the six small grant projects

Association	Amount	Activities
ARAYA Environment Association	28,000	Printing brochures / Cleaning - Reforestation
GREEN SQUARE	27,500	Water infrastructure for fire fighting
HAKEL Sportive Club	28,000	Water reservoir / Watching place / Fence / Cleaning
Municipality of DAROUN/Harissa	22,600	Water reservoir / Management of a touristic track
Municipality of HARDINE/BEIT KASSAB	21,500	Printing brochures / Cleaning, pruning and thinning of the forest
Municipality of KOUSSAYA	28,000	Plantation
Municipality of MAKNOUNIEH	28,000	Water reservoir / Plantation / Pruning
SAFADI Foundation	28,000	Plantation
T.E.R.R.E. Liban	20,000	Alarm system / Roads / Fence / Gates

Follow up, monitoring and technical support are being conducted by FAO in close coordination with MOE to ensure proper implementation of these projects

- Finalizing the infrastructure activities
Through the Service Contract signed with AFDC, the helispot is being constructed, it consists the main infrastructure pending activity, it is expected to be achieved within the life time of the project.

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 no-cost extension was approved by the LRF to 30 May 2011.

Estimated Budget required (including any major funding shortfalls).

Currently no funding shortfall is foreseen.

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baselines	Planned Indicator Targets	Achieved Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance (if any)	Source of Verification	Comments (if any)
Outcome 1							
Improve forest fire management, prevention and control.							
Output 1.1 Assessment of locations and extent of forest and other wooded land burned	Indicator 1.1.1 # of critical target areas selected	Exact locations of damaged sites identified	Target areas selected (cooperating municipalities, forest locations)	all achieved		Assessment results and formal approvals from municipality government	
Output 1.2 Adoption and implementation of preventive measures aiming at forest protection from fires	Indicator 1.2.1 # of ha reforested and # of infrastructure installed	Reforestation and infrastructure installed for forest protection	85 ha of severely burned forest area reforested; tree nursery installed, 3 water outlets installed and 23 km firebreak completed	98% achieved		Site visits	5 ha left for reforestation under completion;
Outcome 2							
Training for improved coordination and response to forest fires and equipment and tools for fire fighting supplied and maintained							
Output 2.1 Training on best practices for fire suppression and control	Indicator 2.1.1 # of trainings provided	Training to Civil Defense and volunteers	50 volunteers and 45 municipality guards trained in forest fighting; 35 Lebanese Air Force crew trained on aerial fire fighting; 28 Internal Security Forces, Lebanese Air Forces and Forest Guards from MoA trained on Command systems	95% achieved		Training reports and feedback forms	training to municipalities in late March 2011
Output 2.2	Indicator 2.2.1 # of equipment and	Equipment provided to	Six fire trucks with full equipment delivered to	all achieved		Inspection of full delivery	fire trucks to be handed over to

Forest fire equipment and tools provided for better fire control and response	tools delivered	counterparts for improved fire control	six municipalities; five bumbi buckets delivered to Lebanese Air Force; Fire fighting equipment delivered to 3 municipalities;			undertaken	municipalities; awaiting government decree for handover
Outcome 3							
Rehabilitation techniques for infrastructure							
Output 3.1 Rehabilitation of forest infrastructure to improve fire control and prevention.	Indicator 3.1.1 # of rehabilitated and newly established forest infrastructure	Forest infrastructure in place for improved response to fire outbreaks	Three water outlets installed; Rehabilitation of two watch towers; Helispot prepared;	95% achieved		Inspection of all sites to ensure	Helispot to be completed in March 2011; One water outlet to be installed in Andket;
Outcome 4							
Increased public awareness on forest prevention, control and management							
Output 4.1 Knowledge increase on issues related to forests, fire prevention and conservation	Indicator 4.1.1 # of awareness campaigns and publications produced	Public awareness and dissemination of information	Media ads in five tv stations, 4 radio stations and 200 billboards target entire Lebanese population; implementation of an average of 100 awareness sessions in rural villages in 2010; 500 forest fire awareness kits distributed; 5,000 magnetic forest calendars; 1,000 brochures	all achieved		all material distributed, campaigns advertised	