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## **“Technical support for the revision of National Forestry Program and modernization of forest management system”**

### **Workshop report**

FAO Partnership and Liaison Office in Azerbaijan and the Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section, jointly with The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan, have organized National Forest Policy Dialogue Workshop on 21 February 2019 in Baku city, Azerbaijan.

#### ***Background information:***

Efficient management for forest resources for sustainable forest management is now on political agenda in the country. The key step in this direction is to apply conceptual approach and develop a long-term strategic document for forestry sector. In this regards, there is a need for review and update the draft National Forestry Program (NFP) (including policy objectives, forestry program content, priorities and the action plan for 2020-2025) which was prepared with the support of FAO in 2013. The process was initiated in 2018, while National Forestry Policy Dialogue event organized in July together with the Ministry where it was decided to proceed with NFP revision. The Ministry has officially approached FAO Azerbaijan to provide technical support and Technical Support Program Facility (TCP/AZE/3704) was launched in January 2019.

#### ***Workshop objectives:***

The Government of Azerbaijan intends to increase the importance of conserving and improving country's forest resources and strengthening the functions of forests around the country. One of the key steps in this direction is to review and update the draft National Forestry Program (NFP) (including policy objectives, forestry program content and the action plan for 2020-2030). The first stakeholder workshop was organized under TCP/AZE/3704 aimed to discuss with key national stake-holders main priorities and action plan of the program.

#### ***Workshop minutes:***

The workshop was organized at the conference room of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (agenda of the workshop is attached). 60 individuals representing the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Economy, the State Committee on Property Issues, the State Statistics Committee, IDEA, other institutions and international organizations attended the workshop.

The workshop was opened by the Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources – Mr. Mukhtar Babayev, who has indicated that their main priorities are to increase and reproduce forests, including sustainable use of forests. Despite of fact that there was done relevant work carried out in this direction, still there is a need to increase the effectiveness of these works, namely to shift from “passive mode approach” on planning and programming to “active mode approach”.



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Then, Ms Melek Cakmak, FAO Representative in Azerbaijan has taken the floor and emphasized that FAO is already supporting and will continuously support the reforms of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and particularly the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources in the fields of forestry and fisheries and share FAO experience and world best practices in this sector.

The agenda included presentations of by Mr. Ekrem Yazici, Deputy Chief of UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section, followed by presentations on Turkey experience in NFP and Proposals for Azerbaijan and Turkey experience in SFM C&I implementation, made by Mr. Tamer Otrakcier, International Consultant on Forestry.

Then the workshop was continued based on approved agenda. During the second part of the day, workshop participants have discussed the key messages of the forest policy statement and priorities of the program, as well action plan of the program covering period of 2020-2025.

#### **Workshop outputs:**

The key outputs of the workshop can be concluded as following:

- National Forestry Program (NFP) will cover period from 2020-2030 with its action plan covering period of 2020-2025.
- Background section of the NFP will be revised based on the recent developments in socio-economic and environmental policy of the country.
- NFP should be simplified, adjusted to the format of the National Programs (number of priorities will be also reduced).
- A Working Group will be formed, comprising representatives of the Ministry, FAO Azerbaijan, National Parliament and NGO that will meet on weekly base in close coordination with international expert.
- Initial draft of the NFP will be ready for the first week of April month to be discussed during the mission of the international expert visiting the country.
- Final version of the NFP will be ready by the middle of May 2019 and shared will all respective stakeholders to get feedback.
- Second (validation) workshop is planned to organized by the beginning of June 2019 to finalize the document and submit to the government for further actions for approval procedures.



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### **Conclusion:**

Stakeholder workshop has created a fruitful platform for discussions on draft National Forestry Program focusing on its main directions, priorities and action plan.

One of the key outcomes of the event was agreement on key steps to be followed in order to finalize document in 3 months period and submit to the government for official submission and approval procedures. Based on this agreement, a Working Group was formed, comprising from 9 members representing the Ministry, FAO Azerbaijan, National Parliament and NGO sector. Work Plan with detailed timeframe of the Working Group was also prepared and agreed with the Ministry.





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## UNECE/FAO National Forest Policy Dialogue

### TCP/AZE/3704/C4: Technical Support for Revision of National Forestry Plan and modernization of forest management system

#### Agenda of Stakeholder Workshop on NFP revision

21 February 2018, Baku, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources

<b>Stakeholder Workshop on NFP revision</b>	
<b>10:00-10:15</b>	<b>OPENING AND WELCOMING REMARKS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mr. Mukhtar Babayev, Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources</li> <li>▪ Ms. Melek Cakmak, Head of FAO Partnership and Liaison Office in Azerbaijan</li> <li>▪ Mr. Ekrem Yazici, Deputy Chief, UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section</li> </ul>
<b>10:15-10:30</b>	<b>The purpose of the workshop and roadmap of the NFP revision</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mr. Ekrem Yazici, Deputy Chief, UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section</li> </ul>
<b>10:30-10:45</b>	<b>Presentation of “NFP experience in Turkey and Proposals for Azerbaijan NFP”</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Tamer Otrakcier, International Consultant</li> </ul>
<b>10:45-11:00</b>	<b>Presentation of “Turkey Experience in C&amp;I for SFM as one of the main tool for NFP implementation”</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mr. Tamer Otrakcier, International Consultant</li> </ul>
<b>11:00-11:10</b>	<b>Question-answer session, feedback from stakeholders</b>
<b>11:10-11:40</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>11:40-12:00</b>	<b>NFP ant is action plan (2020-2030)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Ekrem Yazici, Deputy Chief, UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section</li> </ul>
<b>12:00-13.00</b>	<b>Question-answer session, feedback from stakeholders, discussion session on key elements of NFP and its action plan</b>
<b>13:00-14:30</b>	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>
<b>14:30-15:30</b>	<b>Discussion session on key elements of NFP and its action plan</b>
<b>15:30-15:45</b>	<b>Summary of discussions: key issues to agree for further NFP finalization</b> Mr. Tamer Otrakcier, International consultant
<b>15:45-16:00</b>	<b>Summary and conclusion</b>



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## Technical Support for Revision of National Forestry Plan (NFP) and modernization of management system – TCP/AZE/3704/C4

### List of Participants 21 February 2019, Baku, Azerbaijan Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR) Conference Room

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