

**Memorandum
on Mutual Cooperation Between
the Ministry of Forestry of the
Republic of Turkey
and the Ministry of Nature
Utilization and Environmental
Protection of Turkmenistan**

The following issues which aim at strengthening and improving the cooperation on forestry by the Ministry of Forestry of the Republic of Turkey and the Ministry of the Utilization and Environmental Protection of Turkmenistan, which will henceforth be referred to as "The Parties", have been agreed upon.

Article I

Taking into consideration the similarity of climatic and natural conditions and close bilateral relations,

Aware of the importance of the protection, management and sustainable development of forests, to be able to meet the social, economic, ecological, cultural and spiritual needs of present and future generations,

Drawing attention to the fact that cooperation between the Parties is important in terms of bilateral carrying out their responsibilities concerning the protection and development of regional and global forest resources of the Parties, and that this will lead to mutual benefit,

In the field of sustainable forest management, The Parties have agreed upon the following issues:

1. The Parties will ensure that the development of cooperation in the field of forestry will be based on the principles of equality and reciprocity and mutual interest.

2. The Parties will ensure the participation of the private sector and non governmental organisations along with official forestry institutions in the afore-mentioned cooperation activities.

3. The issues below are those which have been determined to be the fields of cooperation within the above-mentioned framework:

3.1. The designing or revision of forestry master plans on a country basis, covering all forestry activities,

3.2. The evaluation of existing forestry regulations with regard to international organisations and regulations,

3.3. The drafting or revision of modern management plans for sustainable forest resource management,

3.4. The drafting of silviculture plans which are in conformity with modern management plans i.e. those which take into consideration the multiple functions of forests,

3.5. The development of production mechanisation, and the planning, drafting and amelioration of production and conservation methods,

3.6. The combatting of forest fires and diseases,

3.7. The production and cultivation of non-wood forest products,

3.8. The harvesting and marketing of wood and non-wood forest products,

3.9. The establishment of industrial plantations with fast growing tree species, dry land forestation, erosion control and sand dune fixation activities, wind belts and gallery plantations,

3.10. The improvement of seeding production techniques and the modernization of existing nurseries,

3.11. The application of mechanization techniques in forestation activities,

3.12. The improvement of forest trees which have economic value,

3.13. The rehabilitation of non-productive forest areas and energy forestry,

3.14. The revision and development of legislative systems based on rural development,

3.15. The development and implementation of alternative projects which implement participatory approaches, aimed at the improvement of economic conditions of rural people, and the organization of forest-people relations,

3.16. The determination and protection of natural resources which have importance regarding biological and genetic diversity,

3.17. The determination of endangered flora and fauna and their protection in accordance with integrated planning, and the preparation of natural resource management plans within this context,

3.18. The observation, evaluation and improvement of the potentials of existing forest resources, including national parks regarding hunting and eco-tourism,

3.19. The definition of the necessary criteria for determining national parks and other conservation areas, and the designing of these areas,

3.20. The taking of common action in the conservation of natural ecosystems which are under the risk of desertification and the provision of support from international organizations and funding agencies.

3.21. The adaptation of international forestry policies and actions to the highest possible degree and the search for possibilities of collaborative actions at a global or regional level.

4. Priority programmes involving the fields of cooperation shall be;

4.1. Research and development programmes, forestry policies, and information exchange on forestry legislations and their practices,

4.2. The exchange of production material (eg. seeds, cuttings, seedlings etc.),

4.3. The exchange of experts to be employed in research and active work on mid and long term basis.

4.4. The utilisation and transfer of appropriate technology in research and implementation.

4.5. The organisation of short investigation trips for experts from both sides, aiming at the development and diversification of possibilities for cooperation.

4.6. The organisation of short trips with the aim of technical studies.

4.7. The organization of joint conferences, symposia and seminars on cooperation issues which experts and authorities from the involved countries will attend,

4.8. The preparation and implementation of joint training programmes aimed at training qualified experts in the fields of cooperation,

5. The Parties will each appoint a coordinator who will organise and implement cooperation programmes; and a working group will be established, consisting of two representatives from each country headed by the afore-mentioned coordinators; and this working group will meet as soon as possible in order to determine the working procedures, principles and cooperation programmes.

Article II

The costs emerging within the host country, from the exchange of forestry expert delegations, will be met by the host country. All travel costs will be paid by the country sending the delegations.

Article III

This memorandum will enter into force on the date of notification by the Turkish side to the Turkmen side that the national procedures for the ratification of this memorandum have been accomplished. The memorandum will remain in effect for a period of five years. It will be automatically renewed for another five years unless one of the parties, six months before the expiration of the current period gives a written statement to terminate the memorandum. This memorandum may be changed by mutual consent of the parties at any time.

Done in Ashgabat on this twenty-eightday of December 1997, in two originals each in Turkish, Turkmen, Russian, and English, all of them being equally authentic.

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