



Tehran Process Secretariat  
for Low Forest Cover Countries

**Report of  
Tehran Process Secretariat for LFCCs  
to COFO17th  
March 2005**

1- Since 1995 at the international debate on forest, low forest cover countries concept has captured the world's attention by I.R. of Iran representatives, and has focused international political interest on the state of forests in this group countries.

Both the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (**IPF**) and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (**IFF**) drew attention to the particular needs and requirements of low forest cover countries in regard to sustainable forest management and restoration of forest cover.

2- In this regard, the open-ended international meeting of experts on *Special Needs and Requirements of Developing Countries with Low Forest Cover and Unique Types of Forests*, an I. R. of Iran government-led initiative in support of the programme of work of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, was held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, from 4 to 8 October 1999. The meeting was sponsored by the Government of **Islamic Republic of Iran**, with the support of the governments of **Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany and Norway** and organized with the collaboration of the governments of **Egypt and Sudan** and in cooperation with international organizations including **FAO, UNEP, UNDP and IFAD**. In this meeting 77 participants from 39 countries and 6 international and bilateral organizations and NGOs attended.



Tehran Process Secretariat  
for Low Forest Cover Countries

## Tehran Process

The meeting endorsed the proposal to launch a process, hereafter called the “*Tehran Process*”, in order to achieve the collective objectives and to pursue the implementation and further development of the outcome of the Tehran meeting was further emphasized by the participants. The participants reaffirmed their commitment to the objectives of the meeting ran Process and reiterated the necessity of active, cooperative and consistent follow-up of the final outcome of the Tehran meeting aimed at fulfilling critical human needs in low forest cover countries. The participants expressed their full support to the prospective Iranian endeavors towards continuing as a process which has been named "Tehran Process" by the participants. They

### **LFCCs in regional and international meetings**

The LFCCs issues and importance have been addressed in many international forest-related meetings. Selected quotations from key documents include:

- The Near East region is one of those with the higher number of LFCCs and most represented in the Tehran meeting of experts. A majority of member states of the Near East region may be considered LFCCs irrespective of the definition applied;
- IPF proposals for action also included to establish and manage plantations to enhance production of forest goods and services, taking into account relevant social, cultural, economic and environmental considerations in the selection.
- IPF and IFF proposals for action included to analyze and take into account the related social, economic and environmental implications, costs and benefits of non-wood substitutes and imports of forest products, take positive action towards reforestation, afforestation and conservation, using native species where appropriate, including regeneration of degraded forests, management of plantations and trees outside forests and the expansion of protected areas;
- FAO’s committee on forestry (**COFO**) at its 15<sup>th</sup> session in March 2001 and its 16<sup>th</sup> in March 2003 welcomed the establishment of the Tehran Process of Low Forest Cover Countries and requested FAO’s continued support to it;
- The United Nations Forum on Forests (**UNFF**) at its first session in June 2001 in its deliberations relating to the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests decided, *inter alia* that “initiatives are encouraged which address the special concerns and needs of least developed countries with fragile ecosystems for example, through follow-up to the Tehran Process and the third UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries”;
- **E/CN.17/2000/14**: Developing countries with low forest cover and small island countries have special problems in developing their forest sectors to meet local needs for forest products and services. They depend, in many areas, on other countries to satisfy their needs for forest goods and services. Trade is essential to meet such needs and international and economic and trade policies may have

serious impacts on the efforts of these countries to expand and rehabilitate their forest cover;



**Tehran Process Secretariat  
for Low Forest Cover Countries**

- One of the items of **UNFF2** agenda was the document E.CN.18/2002/3 entitled “*Rehabilitation and restoration of degraded lands and the promotion of natural and planted forests*” which addressed LFCCs Issues in this meeting.
- **According to the Documents of UNFF-3 (E/CN.18/2003/12) the secretariat of the Forum has judged the activities of Tehran Process secretariat of LFCCs to be relevant to the work of the Forum and it has been approved by UNFF-3 Bureau; accordingly, it is recommended that TP Secretariat be granted observer status by the Forum.**



**Tehran Process Secretariat  
for Low Forest Cover Countries**

## **LFCCs Secretariat - Objectives**

- Initiate a process towards placing the issue of low forest cover on the political and policy agenda of future international forest policy deliberations;
- Foster national forest programmes in all LFCCs and promote regional and sub regional arrangements for the exchange of experience and for support to national processes, in partnership with the international donor community;
- Establish linkages between LFCCs and the objectives and proposed actions of the three UNCED global conventions (CCD, CBD, FCCC) as well as other multilateral organizations and draw the attention of the international community to the unique needs of LFCCs;
- Identify common areas of cooperative action through networks, regional projects and other joint efforts, as well as through building partnerships between countries and international organizations and donors;
- Promote research on low forest cover, including social, cultural, economic and environmental aspects;
- Formulate long-term approaches and strategies to address issues related to low forest cover;
- Devise appropriate follow-up mechanisms to pursue implementation and further development of the outcome of the Tehran Meeting;
- Identify areas of common interest and synergy for action between low forest cover countries and combating desertification; and
- Formulate national forest programmes for LFCCs.



**Tehran Process Secretariat  
for Low Forest Cover Countries**

**Activities:**

Shortly after the Tehran meeting the LFCC Secretariat was established in November, 2000 to address LFCCs issues, challenges and follow up actions. The secretariat has undertaken the following activities:

- Participated in forest-related national, regional and international meetings (IFF and UNFF, Near East Forestry Commissions and regional committees, Silvi Mediterranea, FAO's Committees on Forestry, international and national meetings on Criteria and Indicators and LFCCs regional workshops,;
- Established a national steering committee;
- Constructed a **web site** for Tehran Process and LFCCs;
- Cooperated with **FAO, UNEP, UNDP** and **UNFF** on LFCC related matters;
- Formulated a Strategy and Action Plan by joint cooperation of National Steering Committee members with FAO;
- Followed-up the implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan of LFCCs with cooperation and assistance of FAO;
- Collaborated in FAO/Netherlands Partnership Project in the Near East and Africa relating to LFCCs;
- Co-hosted the first LFCCs Near East Regional Workshop in Tehran I.R.Iran in 28 to 31 October, 2002 with FAO and the Netherlands;
- Holding an African Workshop, 10-13 December 2002 in Nairobi, Kenya entitled "The role of Planted forest, Trees outside Forests and Urban and Peri-urban Forestry to Sustainable Forest Management in Low Forest Cover Countries.
- Co-hosted the LFCCs African & Near East workshop on Urban-Peri-Urban Forestry and Green Spaces in Tehran, 7-10 July 2003.
- The secretariat has organized side events in **UNFF1, UNFF2, UNFF3** and **16<sup>th</sup> session of COFO** to address LFCCs special needs and requirements in forestry sector to support and protect member countries rights and benefits.
- **Establishment of Regional Center of Excellence in TPGSO in Tehran to understand the role of training and producing champions in trees, urban and peri-urban forests, city parks and green spaces.**
- Preparing institutional set-up programme and work plan for TP Secretariat in year 2004 by cooperation with FAO.
- **Strengthening the legal and institutional framework, international status, mandate, mechanisms and international membership of the Secretariat to the Tehran Process through consultation with legal expert of FAO.**
- Organized a joint workshop – UNEP-FAO- TP Secretariat to the Tehran Process to address forestry development issues- "from proposed actions to implementation" for Low Forest Cover Countries, from January 14-16 ,2004, in Bamako- Mali. In this workshop the participants agreed unanimously the Bamako Resolution.
- Publications:
  - The Proceedings and Final Report of the Tehran Process meeting, Strategy and Action Plan for the Secretariat,
  - The LFCCs Newsletter and Annual Report of the Secretariat.



**Tehran Process Secretariat  
for Low Forest Cover Countries**

-Two brochures of TP Secretariat and the first brochure of Center of Excellence in 2004.

**Strengthening the legal and institutional framework and international status of TP Secretariat:**

The status and structure of the LFCC Secretariat were discussed and assessed in cooperation with TP Secretariat and a Legal consultant of FAO during one month. The following tasks have been undertaken during the mission:

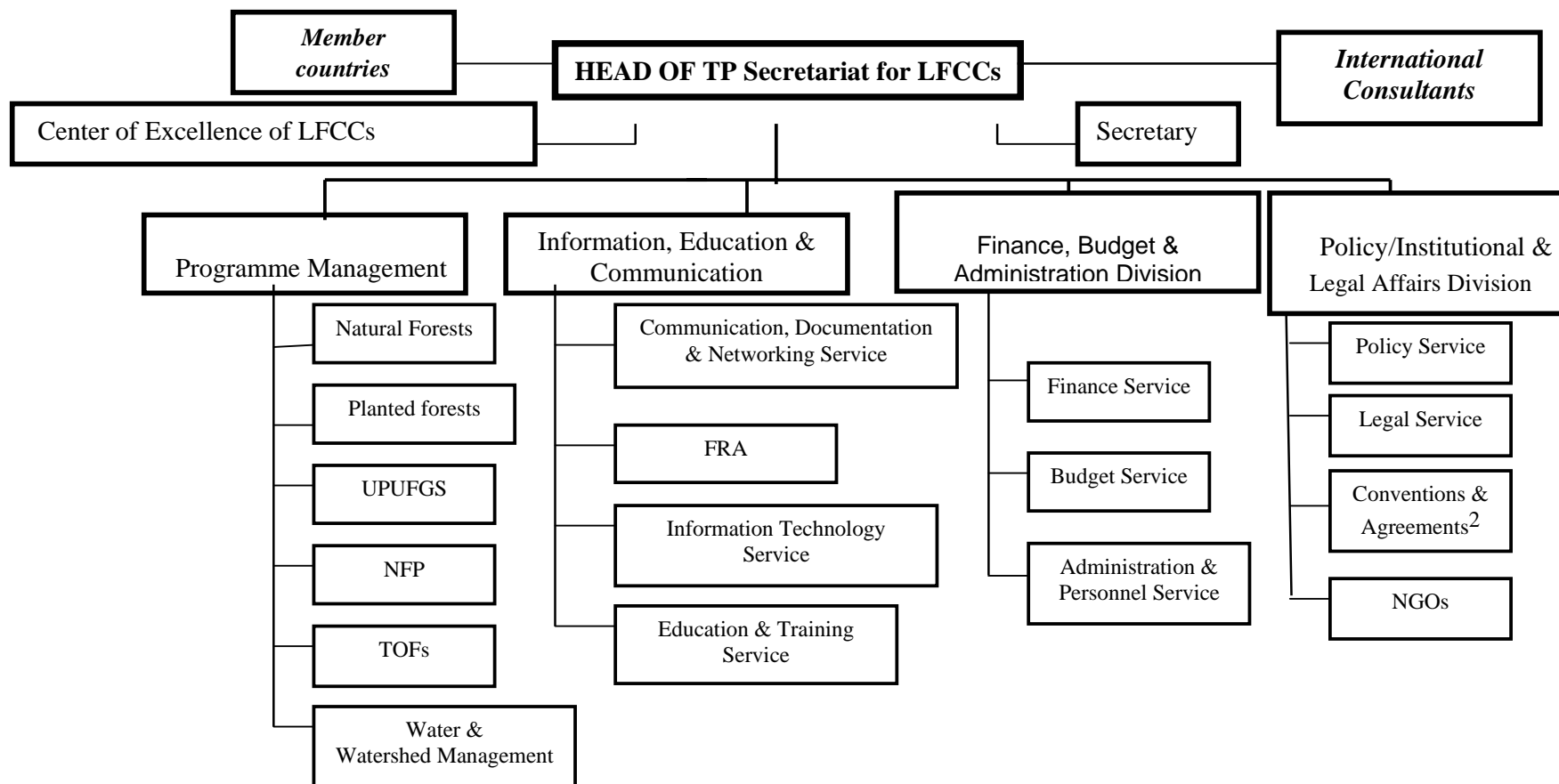
- Discussion the background of the Tehran Process/LFCCs with FAO concerned staff and the government of The Islamic Republic of Iran and the Secretariat;
- Assessment and analyse the current status of the Secretariat, including financial and human resources, institutional weakness and strengths;
- Proposed appropriate constitution and institutional framework (charter, council, advisory body to TP, Secretariat, focal points, etc.) to be implemented by the member countries, including legal framework, membership and functioning mechanisms and procedures (agreements, meetings, financial support, etc.) and clear mandate of the governing bodies (council, secretariat, member countries, national focal points);
- Proposed measures to link the TP with other similar regional and sub-regional organizations;
- Proposed concrete actions and measures for strengthening the Secretariat (legal and technical capacities, role, responsibilities, host institution or country, etc.);
- Recommended practical way and measures for the adoption and implementation of the legal and institutional framework;
- Prepared and a mission report to FORC and LEG, including conclusions and recommendations.

Regarding to internationalize the status of TP Secretariat, three main options proposed that could be considered as a means for achieving the necessary clarification and strengthening of the status of the Tehran Process and its international secretariat. These are **a formal process through the negotiation and adoption of an international agreement; a less formal process through the establishment of the LFCC grouping /Tehran Process as a subsidiary body or commission of an existing international organization such as UNEP or FAO, and the least formal process through the adoption of a resolution by the LFCCs themselves.** Each of these options examined, together with their respective advantages and disadvantages through the mission.



Tehran Process Secretariat  
for Low Forest Cover Countries

Proposed Structural Framework for TP Secretariat for LFCCs<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Prepared by consultative work (2003)

<sup>2</sup> All Conventions and Agreements to, which the I.R. of Iran is signatory, including Desertification control, Climatic change, biodiversity etc.



Tehran Process Secretariat  
for Low Forest Cover Countries

## **Resolution of Bamako Regional Workshop for African and the Near East Low Forest Cover Countries:**

In the workshop for African and the Near East Low Forest Cover Countries from 14- to 16 January 2004 in Bamako, Mali the participants agreed unanimously of what follows:  
to Governments,FAO,UNEPand Donors:

- 1- Reaffirm their adherence to the process and positively endorsed the findings and the recommendations presented in the background documents discussed at the time the workshop.
- 2- Imp,ement the Tehran Process through actions at political, institutional level as well at political level.
- 3- Request FAO, UNEP and UNFF, including countries and donors involved to continue to support and reinforce financially and technically the Tehran Process and the Secretariat.
- 4- Request the Government of Iran to continue its support to the Tehran Process and to the Secretariat and invite other Low Forest Cover Countries as well as the donors to joint the process.
- 5- Request the Secretariat to elaborate, with assistance of UNEP and FAO,appropriate related legal texts and propose the institutional setting to be adopted by a ministerial conference of which date and venue are to defined later one. The documents should be made available to the countries for observations at least three months before the conference.
- 6- Request the Secretariat, with assistance of UNEP and FAO, to amend the texts on the basis of comments and suggestions made by the countries, at least one month before the conference.
- 7- Request the Secretariat, with assistance of UNEP and FAO, to compile the conclusions and recommendations and the resolution of the Bamako Workshop and send it to all LFCCs, potential members of Tehran Process.
- 8- Request the Government of Iran, with assistance of Secretariat and FAO to approach LFCCs governments to discuss the opportunity to organize a ministerial conference in early 2005 which conference will adopt the legal and institutional framework proposed by the Secretariat and FAO and officially endorse the Tehran Process and create the organization.
- 9- Request the Ministers of the Low Forest Cover Countries to seize all opportunities of any international meeting to debate the adoption and the stake of the Tehran Process.
- 10- On the basis of the propositions submitted to the participants, it has been agreed to privilege the option to set up the institution on the basis of simple resolution adopted by a Ministerial Council of which modalities, the date and the venue of the first meeting will be defined later on.
- 11- The council, chaired by a Minister of one of the member countries, will be advised by a scientific and technical committee, composed of high level scientists and experts.
- 12- To develop a synergy between the Tehran Process and related international conventions endorsed by Rio and Johannesburg conferences on sustainable





**Tehran Process Secretariat  
for Low Forest Cover Countries**

- 13- development, e.g. UNCCD (Combating desertification), Climate Changes, UNCBD (Biological Diversity), etc.
- 14- A strong support is awaited from the member countries and partners currently involved in the Tehran process and in Low Forest Cover Countries.
- 15- Reaffirm the independency of the secretariat in order to assist in all neutrality the countries to design and implement their programmes.
- 16- Request FAO to continue its technical assistance to low forest cover countries and finalize the formulation of forest resources assessment and institutional and technical capacity building of the Secretariat and countries, as discussed at the workshop , to be submitted to the country for comments and endorsement before their implementation, with particular focus on natural resource use, sustainable forest and tree management, planted forest and trees outside forests promoting.

To the Tehran Process Secretariat:

- 17- Invite the secretariat to work on the definitions of Low Forest Cover Countries (forest cover percentage, areas, types, etc ) based on clear and consensual criteria to be discussed in workshop.**
- 18- Request the secretariat to continue, in the interim period, to continue liaising with the country interim focal points, coordinate activities related to the formulation of the legal and institutional framework, formulation of mandate of the council and the secretariat and the establishment of the network.**



Tehran Process Secretariat  
for Low Forest Cover Countries

## LFCC Secretariat - Potential Future Activities

- ◆ Establish an **international steering committee** for the LFCCs secretariat to guide programmes and ratify activities; encourage member states to nominate LFCCs Focal Points and mobilize the necessary financial resources;
- ◆ **Preparing definitions and terminology for Low Forest Cover Countries as a project to clarify concepts and terms related to LFCCs. The term of references of the project has prepared and the staff of the secretariat are preparing themselves to launch it.**
- ◆ Upgrading the web site of the secretariat.
- ◆ Champion the cause of LFCCs on the political and policy agenda of future international forest policy deliberations and coordinate with environmental conventions on LFCC issues;
- ◆ Support the national forest programmes in LFCCs with FAO assistance, to enhance progress towards sustainable forest management and include forest goods and services in poverty alleviation strategies;
- ◆ Set up a data bank to monitor LFCCs forest resources and publish a World LFCCs Atlas;
- ◆ Exchange experiences gained from scientific and indigenous knowledge and integrate these into future programmes;
- ◆ Identify unique forest types for forest protection purposes and scarce indigenous species of high genetic conservation value in LFCCs;
- ◆ Study the causes and effects of forest decline and degradation in LFCCs to focus actions and programmes towards achievable and balanced solutions;
- ◆ Study the role of planted forests, trees outside forests (TOF) and urban/peri-urban forests in the LFCCs;
- ◆ Generate materials to raise awareness and support training centres and curricula development in LFCCs;
- ◆ Strengthen the cooperation with NGOs at the national, regional and international levels;
- ◆ Launch at least an annual LFCCs expert meeting on a targeted geographic basis;
- ◆ Introduce an international directory of forestry-related experts in LFCCs.
- ◆ Participation in potential international meetings related to LFCCs such as COFO17th in March 2005, UNFF-5 in May 2005, **12th** and organizing a side event in this meeting.



Tehran Process Secretariat  
for Low Forest Cover Countries

## **Work plan for the Tehran Process Secretariat of LFCCs Year 2004 – 2005:**

TP secretariat will work to move to put in action the mentioned recommendations, through its programme of work that should be finalized through consultation with member countries, FAO and UNEP and other related agencies.

The secretariat is going to implement its work plan in three phases:

### **A- Continuing tasks:**

#### **I. Follow up Bamako resolution**

- LFCCs International Ministerial Conference
- An International expert meeting

#### **II. Important issues to be followed by TP secretariat of LFCCs**

- Scientific and Technical Support
- Strengthening A Regional Centre of Excellence in TPGSO
- Collection and sharing of information with LFC countries
- Participation in international negotiations on forests
- Publications
- Upgrading and Improvement of the LFCCs website

#### **III. Linkage with other organizations and processes**

### **B - New tasks:**

#### **I. Preparation and Organization of LFCCs Ministerial meeting**

- To prepare an expert meeting
- LFCCs Ministerial Meeting

#### **II. International Settlement of TP Secretariat of LFCCs**

- Staff Recruitment
- Fund Mobilization

### **C - Proposed Work shops:**

The proposed workshops programme should be changed because of receiving no confirmation from FAO and other related international Agencies.

- National forest programmes and Criteria & Indicators for Near East, Lebanon in December 2005 (to be discussed).
- National forest programmes and Criteria & Indicators for Africa, Sudan in March 2005(to be discussed).
- National forest programmes and Criteria & Indicators for Asia, Mongolia in May 2005(to be discussed).



**Tehran Process Secretariat  
for Low Forest Cover Countries**

- Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting (IPF/IFF Proposals for Action), Morocco in April 2005 (to be discussed)
- Preparing a training workshop for LFCCs on Tree Planting and Management to be held tentatively in Egypt, in February 2005 (to be confirmed);
- Preparing a training workshop for LFCCs on Sustainable Forest Management to be held tentatively in Africa or Asia, in April 2005 (to be confirmed);

**Steering Committee:**

The steering committee meetings chair by **H.E. Mr. Mohammad Samadi**, Deputy Minister and Head of Forest, Range and Watershed Management Organization and Organized by the **Head** of the LFCCs secretariat. Other members are as follow:

**Dr. Ali Hakimi**

Representative of FAO Office in Tehran

**Mr. Mojtaba Rajab bigi**

Director General of International and Regional Organizations Bureau

**Dr. Taghi Shamekhi**

Representative of the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology (Faculty of Natural Resources)

**Dr. Shamsollah Shariatnejad**

Head of High Council for Forest, Range and Soil of FRWO

**Representative of**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Department for International Economic Affairs

**Representative of**

Research Institute of Forest and Rangelands

**Representative of**

Department of Environment

**Representative of**

NGOs



**Tehran Process Secretariat  
for Low Forest Cover Countries**

***Staff of the Secretariat:***

**Mr. Mostafa Jafari (Ph.D)**

Head of TP Secretariat for LFCCs

And

Advisor to the Deputy Minister & Head of FRWO

[mostafajafari@libero.it](mailto:mostafajafari@libero.it)

[Head.TPsec@lfccs.net](mailto:Head.TPsec@lfccs.net)

**Mr. Kourosh Kabiri Koupaei (M.Sc., Senior Forestry Expert)**

Chief of

Programme Management Division

TP Secretariat for LFCCs

[koroush\\_kako@yahoo.com](mailto:koroush_kako@yahoo.com)

**Ms. Fatemea Hatami (M.Sc., Senior Forestry Expert)**

Chief of

Administration & Communication Division

TP Secretariat for LFCCs

[hatam\\_f@yahoo.com](mailto:hatam_f@yahoo.com)

**Mr. Ahmad Lahouti (M.Sc. Plant Pathology Expert)**

Chief of

Financial Affairs Division

[a\\_lahouti@yahoo.com](mailto:a_lahouti@yahoo.com)

***Addresses:***

**Tehran Process Secretariat for Low Forest Cover Countries:**

No. 4, Shemshad Lane, Felestin St., Tehran, I.R. Iran.

Postal Code: 1416843953

Tel: +98-21-649 7925

+98-21-649 7935

Fax: +98-21-649 7926

Email Address: [TPSecretariat@lfccs.net](mailto:TPSecretariat@lfccs.net)

Web Site: <http://www.lfccs.net>

**Center of Excellence of LFCCs:**

Dialogue Park, Eastern Piroozi St., Nasr Ave., Tehran, I.R. Iran

Tel: +98-21-8286075

Email Address: [CE.LFCCs@neda.net](mailto:CE.LFCCs@neda.net)