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Konu: Avrasya Ormancılık Ağı Hk.

Sayın Üyemiz,

TMMOB Orman Mühendisleri Odası'ndan gelen bir yazı ile Bölgesel Ormancılık Ağı için Orman Mühendisleri Ağı (OMO) tarafından "Taslak Ana Çerçeve" hazırlanıldığı bilgisi tarafımıza iletilmiştir. Yine aynı yazıda, metnin oluşturulmasına sebebiyet veren gelişmeler aşağıda iletilmektedir.

Azerbaycan, Kazakistan, Kırgızistan, Özbekistan, Tacikistan, Türkmenistan ve Türkiye'yi içeren BM Gıda ve Tarım Örgütü (FAO) Orta Asya Alt Bölge Ofisinin Ankara'da kurulmasına ilişkin anlaşma 24 Ağustos 2006 tarihinde, FAO-Türkiye Ormancılık Ortaklık Programı (FTFP) anlaşması ise 4 Haziran 2019 tarihinde imzalanmıştır.

FTFP kapsamında hazırlanan projelerden birisi kısaca FRIENDS şeklinde ifade edilen "Orta Asya'da Çevresel Kalkınma ve Sürdürülebilirlik İçin Orman Restorasyonun İyileştirilmesi Projesi" dir. FRIENDS kapsamında "hükümet kurumlarının, sivil toplum kuruluşlarının, özel sektör temsilcilerinin ve diğer ilgili paydaşların dahil olduğu bölgesel çok paydaşlı bir ormancılık ağı" oluşturulması hedeflenmiş olup, bunun için 19.12.2024 tarihinde FAO ile OMO arasında bir Mutabakat Mektubu (Letter of Agreement – LoA) imzalanmıştır. Bu LoA kapsamında, OMO tarafından öncelikle bir "ihtiyaç tespiti-durum değerlendirmesi" yapılacak, ardından hazırlanan metin FAO ve ülkelerin onayına sunulacak, devamında 2025 yılı sonbaharında düzenlenmesi planlanan bir çalıştayla işlemleri tamamlanacaktır.

Bu "Bölgesel Ormancılık Ağının" FAOSEC Ülkeleri ile sınırlı kalması düşünülebileceği gibi, FTFP kapsamında Orta Asya, Balkanlar, Doğu Avrupa, Orta Doğu gibi bölgeleri, diğer bir ifade ile "Euro-Asia Bölgesi" ni ihata eden bir ağ olabileceği, bu ağın bir FAO Anayasasının XIV. Maddesi çerçevesinde FAO Komitesi ve Komisyonu şeklinde isim ve işlevle hazırlanabileceği değerlendirilmektedir. Diğer taraftan Türkiye'nin oldukça etkin olması beklenen böyle bir ağın ormanların korunması dahil, orman ürün ve ticaretinin geliştirilmesinde önemli katkılar vereceği öngörülmektedir.

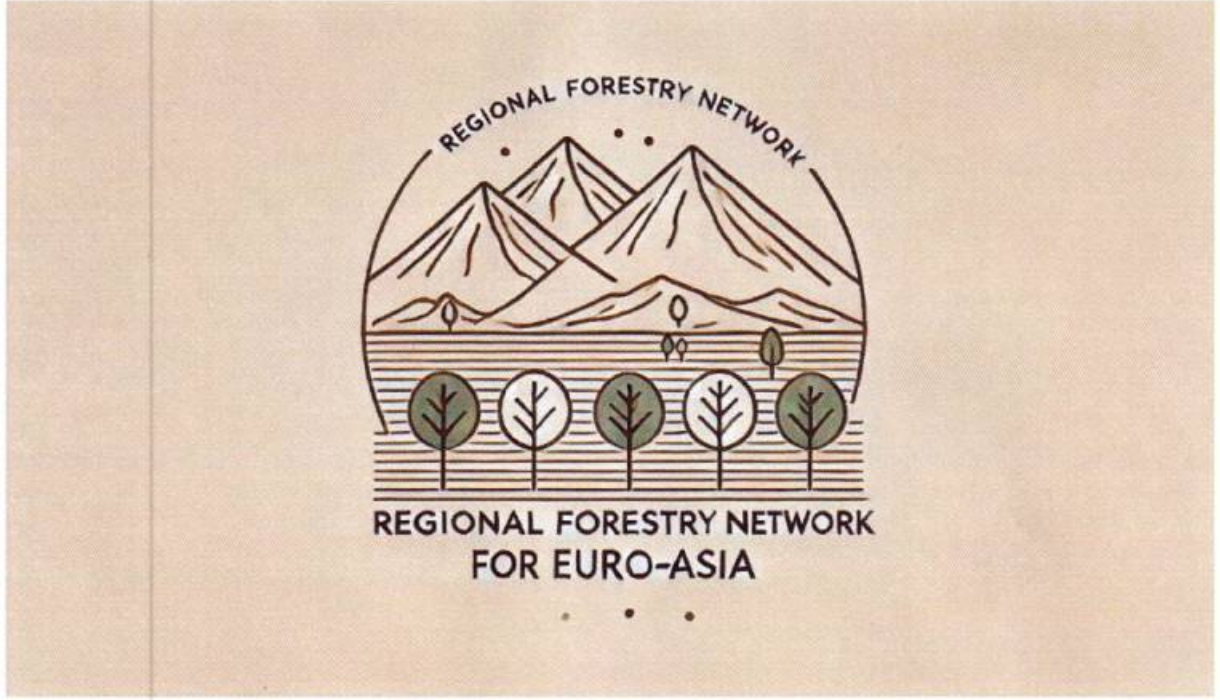
Bu çerçevede, ekte sunulan ve OMO tarafından hazırlanan "Taslak Ana Çerçeve" metninin incelenerek, görüş ve önerilerinizin **23 Ocak 2025 Perşembe** gününe kadar Birliğimize (omkoekip@oaib.org.tr) ulaştırılması hususunda bilgileri ve gereğini rica ederim.

Dr. Fatih YUMUŞ
Genel Sekreter V.

Ek: Bölgesel Ormancılık Ağı Taslak Ana Çerçeve-İngilizce



EK:1: Bölgesel Ormancılık Ağı Taslak Ana Çerçeve-İngilizce



Draft Outline of the Proposal on Regional Network of Forestry Actors

EAFoN – *Euro-Asia Forestry Network*

09.01.2025

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background, Context and Rationale

Forests and natural resources play a crucial role in supporting biodiversity, mitigating climate change, and sustaining local economies across the world, particularly in Central Asia, the Caucasus, and neighboring regions.

Despite their importance, these ecosystems face significant degradation due to deforestation, desertification, over-exploitation, and climate-induced challenges. This degradation threatens not only environmental stability but also economic development and the livelihoods of communities dependent on these resources.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) stands as the leading specialized agency within the United Nations for addressing natural resource management and environmental challenges. FAO works to provide solutions to complex transboundary environmental problems, fostering cooperation among countries to ensure sustainable resource use and ecological resilience.

As part of its regional efforts, FAO has been actively engaged in Central Asia, the Caucasus, and neighboring regions, promoting sustainable forestry practices and land restoration. In 2014, the FAO-Türkiye Forestry Partnership Programme (FTFP) was launched between the Republic of Türkiye and FAO. The FTFP aims to strengthen forestry cooperation, restore degraded lands, and build the capacity of local forestry actors, aligning with FAO's Strategic Framework for 2022-2031, which focuses on 'Better Production, Better Nutrition, a Better Environment, and a Better Life.'

Among the key initiatives under the FTFP is the FRIENDS (Forest Restoration Improvement for Environmental Development and Sustainability) project, launched by FAO and Türkiye in 2022. The FTFP also supports several other projects aimed at restoring ecosystems, combating desertification, and enhancing the resilience of forest landscapes across Central Asia and neighboring regions. FRIENDS highlights the importance of regional cooperation in addressing shared environmental challenges. The project targets sustainable forest restoration and ecosystem resilience in Central Asia.

One significant output of the FRIENDS project is the establishment of a Regional Forestry Network for Central Asia, the Caucasus, and neighboring regions in the Euro-Asia. This network is designed to facilitate knowledge exchange, enhance capacity building, and scale up forest restoration efforts throughout the region. The network will act as a platform for regional actors to coordinate activities, develop joint projects, and collectively tackle environmental challenges such as forest degradation, desertification, and climate resilience.

This initiative, guided by the principles enshrined in **Article XIV: Conventions and Agreements of the Constitution of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (1944)**, seeks to establish the **Regional Network of Forestry Actors (EAFoN – Euro-Asia Forestry Network)**. Drawing inspiration from the **Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission (CACFish)**—which was established under **Article XIV** of the FAO Constitution and approved by the FAO Council at its 137th Session in 2009—this network aims to address critical environmental challenges and foster sustainable land and forestry management practices across Central Asia, the Caucasus, and neighboring regions, collectively referred to as **Euro-Asia**.

The EAFoN – Euro-Asia Forestry Network will function as a collaborative platform, uniting regional stakeholders to harmonize efforts in combating land degradation, restoring forest landscapes, conserving biodiversity, and adapting to climate change. It will draw inspiration from the Article XIV framework, leveraging its proven mechanisms for multilateral cooperation, scientific guidance, and capacity building.

This network aspires to:

- Promote sustainable forest management by integrating ecological, economic, and social dimensions.
- Strengthen regional cooperation through shared knowledge, best practices, and innovative technologies.
- Enhance community livelihoods by supporting local engagement and fostering resilience against environmental shocks.

The success of CACFish, which operates under binding agreements to ensure the sustainable management of inland fisheries and aquaculture in Central Asia and the Caucasus, demonstrates the potential of such region-specific frameworks. Similarly, the EAFoN – Euro-Asia Forestry Network will serve as a catalyst for policy, technical, and cooperative advancements in forestry, ensuring the long-term sustainability of forest resources and the livelihoods of communities that depend on them.

By aligning with the objectives of EAFoN, this initiative will provide a regional framework for collaboration among forestry actors, echoing the success of CACFish in fostering sustainable practices through legally binding mechanisms. The network aims to become a cornerstone for regional cooperation, contributing significantly to the broader goals of environmental sustainability and resilience in the Euro-Asia region.

The proposed network will operate on the principles of inclusivity, transparency, and shared responsibility. It will provide a platform for countries to jointly develop strategies, exchange knowledge, and mobilize resources to tackle common forestry challenges.

This cooperative approach is expected to yield numerous benefits, including:

- Enhanced resilience to transboundary environmental risks, addressing critical challenges such as desertification, drought, water scarcity, land degradation, and the movement of dust and sand. Sustainable use of non-wood forest products (NWFPs) and managed grazing in forested areas will strengthen food security and improve livelihoods. Cross-border collaboration will enable countries to mitigate these risks collectively.
- Development of unified regional policies and governance frameworks, promoting harmonized strategies and joint action plans that drive sustainable land management and forest conservation efforts. These frameworks will support ecological restoration and foster regional stability.
- Strengthened capacity building, forestry education, and institutional collaboration, through joint training programs, technical assistance, and knowledge exchanges. Facilitating cooperation between forestry institutions, private sector actors, and regional stakeholders will foster innovation and improve sustainable practices.

- Increased trade of forest products and services, promoting economic growth and market expansion for forest-based industries. Supporting sustainable forest product trade will contribute to economic diversification and enhance regional development.
- Accelerated restoration of degraded ecosystems and forests, coordinated through joint projects and the adoption of best practices from both regional and global experiences. These efforts will improve ecosystem resilience, combat land degradation, and contribute to long-term environmental sustainability.

Ultimately, the **Regional Forestry Network for Euro-Asia** will play a pivotal role in promoting environmental sustainability, preserving biodiversity, and enhancing the livelihoods of communities across the region. It will serve as a vital platform for fostering long-term ecological balance and driving economic prosperity through sustainable forestry and land management practices.

The proposed regional network aims to address this gap by strengthening dialogue, promoting the exchange of best practices, and enabling the development of joint projects across the region. This initiative aligns with FAO's Regional Priority Programme on "managing natural resources sustainably and preserving biodiversity in a changing climate, which seeks to strengthen countries' knowledge, enable sustainable management of natural resources, and assist in adaptation to and mitigation of climate change. <https://www.fao.org/europe/work-in-the-region/regional-priority-programmes/en> By providing a platform to enhance technical capacity, implement coordinated restoration activities, and mobilize resources more effectively, the network will contribute to more resilient and sustainable forestry outcomes throughout the region.

1.2 Objectives of the Regional Network

1.3 Alignment with FAO and Regional Goals-Relevant FAO and Regional Policies

1.4 Scope and Geographic Focus

1.4.1. FAOSEC Countries

1.4.2. Expanded Regions: Central Asia, Balkans, Caucasus, Russia, Middle East, Eastern Europe

2. Justification and Rationale

2.1 Current Challenges in Forestry Coordination

2.2 Importance of Regional Collaboration

2.3 Expected Benefits and Long-term Impact

2.4. Article XIV of the Constitution of FAO (1944)

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- 5.1 Primary Goals
- 5.2 Specific Objectives

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