

Integrated Forest Fires Management (US\$ 2.6 m)

Development Goal: Supporting early recovery and alleviating poverty through improved forest fires management (prevention, control, assessment & 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. Assessment of the cost of environmental degradation from forest fires.
3. Assessment and rehabilitation of forests in areas that suffered from the July 2006 war and October devastating fires.
4. Restoration of livelihoods generated from the sound and sustainable use of forested trees (on the long run).

Prevention:

- Establishment of a modern and efficient early warning system particularly in high risk areas identified based on a set of criteria – a national detection and monitoring network based on a coordinated satellite system and on fixed and mobile stations automated with the use of infrared senses and remote televisions monitors
- Research/development, implementation and monitoring of an integrated forest management programme including the establishment of fire control infrastructures (reservoirs, control towers, fire breaks, well equipped guard centres, etc.), grubbing, pruning, thinning, prescribed burning as well as the adoption of fuel management techniques

Control:

- Maintenance and supply of software and hardware tools for fire fighting (personal protective equipment, first aid kits, tools kits, fire trucks, etc.)

Assessment & Rehabilitation:

- Assessment of ecological and socio-economic losses (including the cost of degradation and the cost of rehabilitation) of the recently damaged forests, based on field surveys and desk studies, & update of the national database & related maps
- Identification of best restoration techniques per affected area as well as implementation (including soil preparation) and monitoring
- Upgrading and follow up of the National Reforestation Programme, as one of the restoration techniques, - including de-mining where needed- and upgrading/maintenance of existing nurseries for seedlings production from income-generating trees such as Pine, Laurel, Carob and others

Cross-Cutting:

- Promotion of research and development related to forest fires prevention and fighting, damaged forests rehabilitation, biomass utilization and fuel management, as well as meteorological monitoring for better reforestation and fires alert.
- Organization of a targeted public awareness campaign, based on strengthened networks of knowledge sharing, for issues related to forests fire prevention, forest fires fighting, and damaged forests rehabilitation
- Organization of a training programme for local municipalities, communities and stakeholders on issues related to forests fire prevention, forest fires fighting, and damaged forests rehabilitation
- Human resources mobilization at both the public and the private sectors and encouragement of civil society initiatives
- Law development and enforcement