



Title	Innovative Institutional Mechanisms to Promote Forest and Landscape Restoration and Community Resilience: Experiences from the Islamic Republic of Iran
Organizer	Forest Range and Watershed Management Organization (FRWO), Islamic Republic of Iran
Type of event	Discussion forum
Venue	Room 207
Date/Time	Wednesday, June 19; 13:30-15:00

Event description

The Islamic Republic of Iran (IR Iran) has been very proactive in promoting policies for combating desertification and restoration of degraded lands. In realization of these goals, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) supported FAO project on rehabilitation of forest landscapes and degraded lands has made significant contribution to a number of policy and institutional changes. These reforms particularly focused on the promotion and use of integrated (e.g. land-use planning and cross-sectoral co-ordination), inter-sectoral (e.g. forest, rangeland, livestock and water) and multidisciplinary approaches to protect and restore degraded lands. As a result, the project has strengthened national and local capacities across a broad range of stakeholders in the two provinces where it is being implemented. Through the approaches that are developed and implemented, it has also helped to raise awareness at the national level about the potential to control desertification in a sustainable manner in the country. Additionally, with the focus on community based approaches and strengthened extension, the project has generated long-term interest and support from local communities (who are one of the major driving forces behind land degradation but also the ones most adversely affected by it). The focus on participatory approaches to sustainable land management with possibilities to enhance local income generation is in line with the priorities of the government. By demonstrating successful examples of best practices in desertification control, the project is also expected to boost national investment in forest and landscape restoration in the future. Now the next step is widespread application (up-scaling) of these institutional mechanisms and approaches through complementary policies and programs including raising awareness about the importance of natural resource conservation and rehabilitation in the country. Forests, Rangelands and Watershed Organization (FRWO), Government of Iran will share its experiences implementing these innovative institutional mechanisms and future plans.

Time	Speaker / Panelist	Theme
13:30-15:00	Mohammad Amin Fasihzadeh, RFLDL Project Provincial Manager, FRWO	
	Mohammad Reza Abbaspour, Expert, BIASO	
	Rao Matta, Chief Technical Adviser, FAO Iran	
	Kenichi Shono, Forestry Officer, FAO	