

REFORLEB: Building-up a participatory governance framework for the sustainable development of forests in Lebanon (EU-EuropeAid)



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BACKGROUND

Over the last 50 years, Lebanon lost 35% of its forest due to overexploitation for timber, charcoal production, overgrazing, urban expansion, quarries and fires.

In 2012, the government launched the 40 Million Forest Trees Program and the National Reforestation Program to raise the forest cover from 13% to 20% by 2030.

This Action contributes to the government's goals by building an **INNOVATIVE PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK** to support the involvement of the Municipalities and local stakeholders in forest and rural development actions.

The activities place in the municipalities of Barka, Deir el Ahmar and Ainata, with and for local communities.

Each partner municipality will reforest between 5 and 7 ha of land, involving community members in the process to improve their perception towards forest development actions.



WP0: ACTION COORDINATION, MANAGEMENT, MONITORING, EVALUATION

WP1: PARTICIPATORY TERRITORIAL DIAGNOSIS

Resources quantification, stakeholder mapping, SWOT analysis, strategic orientations & shared vision of the territory and development pathways

WP2: PARTICIPATORY FOREST DEVELOPMENT PLANNING & IMPLEMENTATION

Pilot reforestation, afforestation, agroforestry actions

WP3: PARTICIPATORY SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING & IMPLEMENTATION

Income-generating forest activities; Tourism

WP5: BUILD-UP OF THE PARTICIPATORY FOREST AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

Good governance; Participation; Rights & responsibilities; Benefits sharing; Legal, administrative, financial & political aspects; Finance mechanisms

WP4: CAPACITY BUILDING & KNOW-HOW TRANSFER

Training municipalities & stakeholders on participation, project management, marketing, terroir, tourism

Training municipalities and stakeholders on reforestation/afforestation, forest management, agroforestry, forest products' valorisation

Networking & exchange good practices, know-how

WP6: COMMUNICATION, DISSEMINATION, AWARENESS

Information, sensibilization, territory promotion, lobbying, etc.

OBJECTIVES

GENERAL

- To increase the forest cover of Lebanon
- To restore the socio-economic functions of forests

SPECIFIC

- To support the engagement of municipalities & local stakeholders in forest development activities and forest products and services valorization



RESULTS

- R1. INCREASE FOREST COVER** in each partner municipality.
- R2. Initiate INCOME-GENERATING INITIATIVES** linked to sustainable forestry management.
- R3. Build-up a PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK** for forest and rural development, adaptable to other regions of Lebanon.
- R4. CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES:** Train municipalities and local stakeholders, including vulnerable groups, to increase their skills, knowledge and capacity to participate actively in forest management and rural development activities.
- R5. RAISE AWARENESS** regarding the environmental and socioeconomic benefits of forest conservation.