

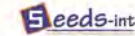
REFORLEB: Building-up a participatory governance framework for the sustainable development of forests in Lebanon (EU-EuropeAid)



Karam B², Sfeir P², Solano D²

¹Forest Sciences Centre of Catalonia (CTFC), Directorate of International Affairs, Spain

²Seeds-international



BACKGROUND

(Restoring deforested lands (allows the restoration of the ecological and productive function of forests and is being perceived as a solution to land degradation and for supporting communities living in marginalized rural areas through the valorization of forest products.) Forests play a vital role in mitigating poverty and ensuring food security. Lebanese communities living in marginalized rural areas benefit from forests through the sale of goods and services or forest-derived employment and income.

The Forest Sciences Centre of Catalonia (CTFC) joins efforts with the Lebanese municipalities of Deir el Ahmar, Ainata and Barqa in a participatory reforestation Action financed by the EU Agricultural and Rural Development Program on demand of the Ministry of Agriculture of Lebanon, as part of the 40 million trees Program. The project supports the engagement of Municipalities and local stakeholders and strengthens their capacities in the planning, implementation, management and monitoring of sustainable forest development activities and in the valorization of forest goods and services, as to enhance territory socioeconomic development and welfare.

The project seeks to **restore 15 hectares of deforested lands in deir el Ahmar and Ainata** and to identify economic opportunities and market niche for development of forest resources and their related services as a way to sustain local communities. Participatory approaches are used to consult stakeholders, understand their vision and perception of the territory, and identify economic, social and environmental challenges and opportunities.



OBJECTIVES

GENERAL

- Increase the forest cover in Lebanon. /Restore deforested lands in 2 municipalities in Lebanon
- Restore Forest socio-economic functions in Lebanon

SPECIFIC

- Support the engagement of Municipalities & local stakeholders in forest development activities and forest products and services valorization

WPO: 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

WPS: 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

WP6: COMMUNICATION, DISSEMINATION, AWARENESS

Information, sensibilization, territory promotion, lobbying, etc.

Networking & exchange good practices, know-how

RESULTS

R1. INCREASE FOREST COVER in each partner municipality/ **Restore 15 hectares of deforested lands in the partner municipalities**

R2. Initiate INCOME-GENERATING INITIATIVES linked to sustainable forestry management/

R3. Build-up a PARTICIPATORY TERRITORIAL 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

