



**Economic and Social Commission  
for Western Asia (ESCWA)**

---

Distr.  
LIMITED  
E/ESCWA/SDPD/2005/WG.3/L.1  
25 July 2005  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Expert Group Meeting on Reversing Land Degradation:  
Issues and Options  
Beirut, 25-27 July 2005

## **AGENDA**

### **MONDAY, 25 JULY 2005**

09:00 – 10:00 - Registration

#### **Opening Session**

- 10:00 – 11:00 - Introductory and opening speeches by:
- Ms. A. Hegazi, Chief SDPD
  - Ms M. Awadi, Deputy Executive Secretary, ESCWA
  - His Excellency, Mr. Talal Al-Sahili, Minister of Agriculture, Lebanon
- Coffee Break

#### **Session I: Land Degradation Overview, Assessment and Economic Issues**

**Chair: Mr. Adel Cortas**

**Co-Chair: Mr. Jomaa Al Kaabi, Bahrain**

- |               |   |                                  |
|---------------|---|----------------------------------|
| 11:00 – 11:15 | - Reversing land degradation: an overview                                       | M.E. Osman, ESCWA                |
| 11:15 – 11:30 | - Land degradation in the Near East:<br>A regional perspective                  | G. Hamdallah, FAO/RNE            |
| 11:30 – 12:00 | - Assessing land degradation in the ESCWA region:<br>A methodological framework | R. Ponce, ESCWA Consultant       |
| 12:00 – 12:15 | - Diagnostic, analysis and mitigation of coastal land<br>degradation in Lebanon | T. Darwish,<br>CNRS/NCRS/Lebanon |
| 12:15 – 13:00 | - General Discussion  |                                  |
| 13:00 – 14:00 | - Lunch break   |                                  |

---

Note: This document has been reproduced in the form in which it was received, without formal editing.

- |               |  |                            |
|---------------|--|----------------------------|
| 14:00 – 14:15 | - Review and analysis of best practices and approaches in reversing land degradation in the ESCWA region | B. Salem, ESCWA Consultant |
| 14:15 – 14:30 | - The economics of land degradation in the ESCWA region  | F. Byiringiro, ESCWA       |
| 14:30 – 15:30 | - General Discussion   |                            |

**TUESDAY, 26 JULY 2005**

**Session II: Assessment Methods and Experiences at Regional and Country Levels**

**Chair: Mr. Ghassan Hamdallah, FAO/RNE**

**Co-Chair: Mr. Mohammad E. Osman, ESCWA**

- |               |  |                                  |
|---------------|--|----------------------------------|
| 09:00 – 09:15 | - Combating land degradation in West Asia: overview, progress and challenges | A.A. Ghosn, UNEP/ROWA            |
| 09:15 – 09:30 | - Sustainable management of marginal Drylands, Experience of the UNU-INWEH   | W. Saleh, UNU/INWEH              |
| 09:30 – 09:45 | - Country paper – Bahrain  | N.S. Al-Hamdan                   |
| 09:45 – 10:00 | - Country paper – Jordan   | W.M. Al-Sartawy                  |
| 10:00 – 11:00 | - General Discussion   |                                  |
| 11:00 – 11:15 | - Coffee Break   |                                  |
| 10:15 – 10:45 | - Agro-forestry development project of degraded lands in Lebanon             | M. Hammady, Makhzoumi Foundation |

**Session II: Assessment Methods and Experiences at Regional and Country Levels (Cont'd)**

**Chair: Mr. Ahmad Ghosn, UNEP/ROWA**

**Co-Chair: Mr. Mohammad E. Osman, ESCWA**

- |               |                                |                   |
|---------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| 11:45 – 12:00 | - Country paper – Lebanon      | H. Nasrallah      |
| 12:00 – 12:15 | - Country paper – Oman         | S. Al-Habsi       |
| 12:15 – 12:30 | - Country paper – Kuwait       | A.A.K. Al-Shamali |
| 12:30 – 12:45 | - Country paper – Palestine    | Z. Salawdeh       |
| 12:45 – 13:15 | - General Discussion           |                   |
| 13:15 – 13:30 | - Coffee Break                 |                   |
| 13:30 – 13:45 | - Country paper – Qatar        | G. Al-Ghanim      |
| 13:45 – 14:00 | - Country paper – Syria        | M.H. Naji         |
| 14:00 – 14:15 | - Country paper – Saudi Arabia | N. Al-Marri       |
| 14:15 – 14:30 | - Country paper – UAE          | S.A. Al-Tamimi    |

14:30 – 15:00 - General Discussion

**WEDNESDAY, 27 JULY 2005**

**Session II: Assessment Methods and Experiences at Regional and Country Levels (Cont'd)**

**Chair: Mr. Walid Saleh, UNU**

**Co-Chair: Mr. Ghanim Al-Ghanim, Qatar**

- |               |  |                     |
|---------------|--|---------------------|
| 10:00 – 10:15 | - Green Plan Paper   | Raymond El-Khoury   |
| 10:15 – 10:30 | - Lebanese Women's Association Deir El-Ahmar paper                 | Dunia Al-Khoury     |
| 10:30 – 10:45 | - Paper by the Ministry of Energy and Water                        | F. Comair, Lebanon  |
| 10:45 – 11:00 | - Paper on crop choice to combat land degradation in South Lebanon | C. Chouchani, ESCWA |
| 11:00- 11:15  | - Coffee Break   |                     |
| 11:15 – 12:15 | - General discussion   |                     |

**Session IV: Conclusions, Recommendations and the Way Forward**

**Chair: Mr. Mohammad E. Osman, ESCWA**

**Co-Chair: Mr. Hussein Nasrallah, Lebanon**

- |               |  |  |
|---------------|--|--|
| 12:15 – 12:45 | - Conclusions, Recommendations and the Way Forward |  |
| 12:45 – 13:45 | - Closing Session                                  |  |
|               | - Evaluation                                       |  |
|               | - Overall remarks                                  |  |