Since 2011, the U.S. Forest Service through support from the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (DOS-OES), has conducted a technical assistance program on disaster management issues with the Sultanate of Oman. Currently, the U.S. Forest Service collaborates with Oman’s National Committee for Civil Defense (NCCD), the governmental coordinating organization managing all national disaster response activities in Oman. This collaboration supports NCCD efforts to update the Sultanate’s disaster management planning and response systems and develop improved training programs on these new systems.

U.S. Forest Service program activities have introduced U.S. systems and best practices to stakeholders across Oman’s disaster management and response sector. The NCCD is currently adapting and integrating the Incident Command System (ICS) into Oman’s National Emergency Management System. Adopting ICS will help to improve the delivery of emergency services and promote the efficient use of resources during disasters. It will also improve coordination between actors throughout the sector.

With U.S. Forest Service support, the NCCD is developing a comprehensive training program introducing ICS to key stakeholders throughout the Omani government. Program activities focused on developing a core group of disaster management professionals fluent in ICS and its role within Oman’s National Emergency Management System. At the conclusion of these activities, it is hoped that program participants will then serve on fledgling Incident Management Teams (IMTs) and as master trainers for the program.

The disaster management program concluded with a ICS Capstone and training of trainers course in January 2016. 25 Omani participants participated in the training, resulting in Oman’s first Incident Management Teams (IMTs) and as master trainers for the program. Oman serves as a leader in emergency management on the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and its Disaster Preparedness Committee. USFS will support Oman’s effort by offering technical assistance to develop curriculum, trainings and best practices relevant to regional partners.

**PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS**

Since May 2013, more than 200 Omani officials have completed introductory Incident Command System (ICS) curriculum developed by a local cadre of experts and instructors.

In November 2013, 96 officials completed an intermediate ICS course.

Over the course of 2014, 113 Omani experts completed advanced courses on ICS Command and General Staff functions.

In January 2015, 22 Omani officials completed a five day Incident Commander training.

In January 2016, 25 Omanis completed an intensive ICS Capstone and Training of Trainers course; developing their first IMTs.

**KRISTINA BELL**
Africa and Middle East Program Specialist
U.S. Forest Service
1 Thomas Circle, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC, 20005
202-644-4582 (tel)
kristinanbell@fs.fed.us

**NATASHA MARWAH**
Africa and Middle East Program Specialist
U.S. Forest Service
1 Thomas Circle, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC, 20005
202-644-4581 (tel)
natashamarwah@fs.fed.us