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# COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY

## TWENTY-SECOND SESSION

**Rome, Italy, 23-27 June 2014**

### PROGRESS IN STATUTORY BODIES AND KEY PARTNERSHIPS

The Committee is invited to consider Progress Reports from Forestry Statutory Bodies and key Partnerships:

- Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries (ACFSI)
- Advisory Panel on Forest Knowledge (APFK)
- Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions *Silva Mediterranea*
- International Poplar Commission (IPC)
- Forest and Farm Facility (FFF)
- Mountain Partnership

## Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries

### I. Introduction

1. This note provides an overview of the recent activities of the renewed FAO Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries (ACSFI), and the progress of its current biennial Workplan 2014-2015.
2. The ACSFI is one of the oldest statutory bodies established in 1959 under FAO Article VI, paragraph 2. It serves as FAO Forestry Programme's main body for private sector collaboration. ACSFI's main mandate is to advise FAO on emerging challenges and opportunities in the area of forestry and forest-based industries.
3. The Workplan of the ACSFI is decided in consultation between FAO and the private sector members in the Committee. The Workplan is implemented in close collaboration between the ACSFI chairman and the members, thematic Working Groups comprising FAO staff and international experts nominated by ACSFI members, and the FAO Secretary of the ACSFI, who is responsible for the organization of all operational work.
4. The renewed membership and Statutes of the ACSFI were approved by the FAO Council at its 145<sup>th</sup> Session on 3-7 December 2012. The new membership (23 leaders of industry associations, companies and forest grower associations) is more representative across the forest industry sub-sectors and geographically better balanced. Also observers and advisers are invited to broaden the expertise upon the need of Annual Meeting agendas.

### II. 2013 MEETING RESULTS

5. The ACSFI held its first Annual Meeting pursuant to its newly established Statutes, and with the new membership, in São Paulo, Brazil on 4-6 June 2013.
6. It was decided that Michael Peter (Executive Director, Forestry South Africa) will continue the third year as a Chairman, and a Vice-Chairman will be nominated in the ACSFI-55 and will take over in May 2015. No regional ACSFI sub-committees will be supported until the consolidation of the renewed global ACSFI is fully achieved.
7. A Steering Committee was established with a mandate to meet in every Annual Meeting of the ACSFI and to provide guidance for its work. The Steering Committee nominations were agreed as follows: Michael Peter, Donna Harman, Teresa Presas, Elizabeth de Carvalhaes, Masataka Hayama, and David Rhodes with the assistance of the FAO Secretary.
8. FAO produced two Technical Reports for discussion in the ACSFI 2013 Annual Meeting:
  - a) Assessment on the Efficiency of Water Use in Planted Forests and Other Crops.
  - b) Future Workforce in Forest Industries - Skills and Educational Strategies for the Transition to a Forest-based Bioeconomy.

The Committee recommended that both reports will be complemented and finalized for publishing during 2014.

9. It was decided that the ACSFI-55<sup>th</sup> Meeting will be held in St. Petersburg, the Russian Federation, on 9-10 June 2014, in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the International Council of Forest & Paper Associations (ICFPA).
10. The ACSFI furthermore held its Preparatory Meeting for the 2014 Annual Meeting at FAO, Rome, on 28 October 2013. Priority-setting for the new ACSFI activities in 2014-2015 was agreed as follows:
  - a) **Bio-based Packaging as a Green Food Saver.** This is a cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder initiative to promote a wider application of bio-based food packaging for greening

the food chains, and help reducing the 30 percent annual food loss and waste. The initiative looks into locally adjusted technologies, optimized use of materials and designs, and collaboration models of food chain operators. The focus is on improved food packaging solutions derived from wood and other plant fibers, and on the dynamic development of bioplastics.

The ACSFI will collaborate with FAO Save Food Programme (Rural Infrastructure and Agro-Industries Division, AGS), and with the Office for Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development (OPC) for maximal synergies of in-house work and partnership mechanisms. Two public events will be held at international fora, namely:

1. An awareness-raising event for bio-packaging sector stakeholders at Interpack 2014 in Messe Düsseldorf, 9 May 2014 (done);
2. Launch of Partnerships and International Coalition to promote locally adjusted bio-based packaging solutions for improving food security, at Milan Expo 2015 (May 2015, to be confirmed).

b) **Use of Biotechnologies in Forests and Forest Industries.** FAO produces a background paper for discussion for the ACSFI-55th Meeting (St. Petersburg, the Russian Federation, 10 June 2014).

c) **Forests and Wood Products to Fight Climate Change: Which Options Align with Sustainable Development Goals?** This is an FAO Forestry Department knowledge product (publication).

d) Technical studies supporting the forest sector's contributions to bioeconomy in BRICS countries, and Global Timber Forum 2 will be implemented with support from the ACSFI during 2015.

e) Working Groups will be organized on all above-mentioned activities, with FAO technical officers taking lead and ACSFI members nominating experts from their networks.

f) The ACSFI will support the private sector participation and special events in the XIV World Forestry Congress, to be held in Durban, South Africa, on 7-11 September 2015.

### III. POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION

11. The Committee may wish to:

- recognize the role of the ACSFI as an important mechanism to channel the knowledge and solutions of the private sector into FAO Forestry Programme, and strengthen its delivery;
- support the ACSFI's new cross-sectoral initiative on **Bio-Based Packaging: a Green Food Saver**, as a way to reduce food loss and waste by strengthening collaboration between food producer groups, global food and forest product industries, brand owners, retailers, bio-based packaging manufacturers, and R&D institutions in member countries.

**Annex II****Developments in Forestry Education and Research****I. Introduction**

1. This note provides an overview of activities to further FAO Forestry's education initiatives at the regional and global levels and steps taken to establish an Advisory Panel on Forest Knowledge (APFK) to promote education and knowledge initiatives worldwide.
2. The 2010 and 2011-2012 FAO Regional Forestry Commissions (RFCs) and COFO sessions (1999, 2005, 2010, 2012), the XIII World Forestry Congress in 2009, have called upon FAO to re-establish its forest education programme, potentially through an enlarged project portfolio. Taking into consideration that various regional networks of forest education already exist and the limited staff resources, FAO activities in education could be carried out through an enlarged project portfolio and coordinated at the global level, including through the possible APFK.
3. In this connection, an Advisory Panel seems crucial in order to coordinate guidance from the main regional stakeholders regarding complementarities and the value added that FAO could contribute in the fields of forest education and knowledge. The excellent experience of a similar body, the Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest Industries (ACSFI), encourages FAO to take action in this field and form an advisory panel drawing on expertise in global forestry education and research.
4. In the Strategic Evaluation of FAO's Role and Work in Forestry, three modalities of work were identified with the third relating to areas in which FAO should not take the lead but play a catalytic role coordinating several other organizations. Such role seems the most appropriate in the case of forestry education and research.

**II. Meetings and concept development****A. Previous Committee on Forestry sessions**

5. To explore the above concepts, informal meetings of education and knowledge experts from a variety of institutions were called on the fringes of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> sessions of COFO. Representatives from several research and education organizations as well as FAO offices attended to informally ascertain support for the proposed APFK; agree on its scope and mandate; agree on short and mid-term actions; review the list of proposed members in order to avoid overlaps and significant gaps; and decide on further steps (e.g. next meetings). General support for the concept of an APFK was expressed by the majority of participants. They agreed that the overall purpose of the body, with FAO as its Chair, would be to act as a catalyst for forest education and research programmes, projects and other activities at the global and regional levels.
6. Participants agreed that FAO would seek support for the APFK from its member countries and various regional stakeholders during the coming years, noting that its general purpose would be to address two complementary aspects 1) education and 2) research and coordinate related efforts on global and regional projects and programmes. The FAO Legal Office was asked to provide guidance for the appropriate short- and long-term formalities to be followed for the establishment of the proposed new panel. At the 21<sup>st</sup> session of COFO, in 2012, Members requested further information on the modalities and financial implications related to the establishment of a possible APFK<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> COFO 2012/REP p. 71-72

## B. Follow-up meetings in 2012-2013

7. Following education and research related presentations and side events at the 21<sup>st</sup> session of COFO in September 2012, draft operational guidelines for the proposed APFK were disseminated to educational experts and other stakeholders. In April 2013, on the fringes of UNFF10, a small group of experts provided initial feedback on the draft APFK operational guidelines and further information on trends in the forest education field. Participants agreed to hold meetings at the regional level to gauge interest in the APFK, identify forest education and research trends and gaps and to receive feedback on the operational policy guidelines. Follow-up meetings were also held on the fringes of the IUFROLAT Congress in San José, Costa Rica in June 2013; during the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission in Windhoek, Namibia, in October 2013; and the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission session in Rotorua, New Zealand, in November 2013.

8. In the Near East, a regional Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) Facility project proposal was drafted to positively respond to an earlier Near East Forestry and Range Commission request for technical assistance. The TCP Facility project will address national and regional needs in forestry education, training and research, identify gaps and set priorities with the aim of promoting regional partnerships for forestry education and knowledge development. In the near term, national consultants will be selected from five countries to undertake the needs assessment and a broader follow-up workshop will be held to review the results. A similar needs assessment will likely be undertaken in the Latin American region in the near future, based on feedback received from participants at the follow-up meeting in Costa Rica.

9. Additional meetings on education in 2013 tapped into FAO partnerships, including at the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission, where the Third Forestry College Deans' Meeting discussed post-secondary forest education during a side event and launched an online forestry courses project. The FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP) also continues to sponsor children's education work through its Kids-to-Forests projects. In Europe, an event formed with the assistance of partners such as the International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA) during the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Forest Week (Metsa2013), further explored education needs in the region.

10. The Forestry Department also continues to strengthen its partnership with IFSA each year under the auspices of a FAO-IFSA Agreement of Cooperation signed in December 2011. In addition to IFSA's participation at COFO events, IFSA is helping to better integrate youth activities at the World Forestry Congress in 2015.

11. However, even as interest and support continues to grow on the themes of forest education and research, there is not yet one global mechanism that can help coordinate activities and oversee new projects driven by education-related institutions at the global and regional levels. Therefore, the APFK would help strengthen forest education projects and initiatives globally through increased coordination and greater exploration of needs in all regions supporting FAO in its catalytic role.

12. Based on the input from COFO, the RFCs as well as the preparatory meetings held on forest education and research, draft operational guidelines were developed to outline main goals and objectives as well as key elements of its suggested operations and working modalities. The draft guidelines are attached as *Appendix* to this document.

13. Forest education is proposed to have a high profile in the coming World Forestry Congress. While engaging with a considerable number of stakeholders, the discussions on forest education can provide guidance for the future on this area.

14. In 2014, several South American forest faculties and schools celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In many cases, they were established in the frame of FAO projects. FAO and ITTO are supporting these celebrations allowing more public attention to forest education.

15. While higher education in forestry is normally in the portfolio of education ministries with potential role of FAO being correspondingly modest, professional and vocational education is normally closely linked to the ministries responsible for forests. Recent reviews have shown more this area being noticeably weaker.

16. FAO has produced in the past considerable normative material (guidelines, publications, tools). Continuous learning is an issue of growing importance due to the speed of knowledge generation and the longer active life. FAO is ideally positioned to provide, in cooperation with selected educational partners, structured distance learning material prepared to satisfy these needs.

### **III. Points for consideration**

17. The Committee may wish to:

- endorse the roles of the APFK and consider the operations of such a semi-permanent advisory panel as outlined above and in the draft APFK operational guidelines and advise in particular on its goals, proposed objectives, membership and working modalities;
- determine the focus of education activities of the APFK, so as not to duplicate efforts with other partners and institutions;
- request FAO to report back on progress at the Committee's 23<sup>rd</sup> session;
- invite Committee members to support the operations of the APFK.
- guide FAO how best to serve countries in this area.

18. The Committee may further wish to recommend forestry education and research initiatives to be linked to 2014-2015 regional activities under FAO's Strategic Objectives.

## **DRAFT OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES AND MODALITIES**

### **A. Goal**

1. The goal of the Advisory Panel on Forest Knowledge (APFK) is to strengthen global and regional forest knowledge networks; create education and research projects and activities with added-value; and build a more capable forestry workforce in a cohesive, collaborative and informal manner to sustain the future of forest education and knowledge worldwide.

### **B. Objectives**

2. Based on the above background information and feedback from education experts around the globe, the following are the proposed objectives of the APFK:

- 1) Working with partners, develop and conduct a forest education programme, both normative and operational, in coordination with existing regional forest faculties, networks and other institutions to ensure value-added, complementarities and long-lasting efforts. The setting should favour the establishment of joint projects, and assist the implementation of the FAO capacity development strategy.
- 2) Establish a close relationship with regional and/or global forest research networks in order to channel the best available knowledge for FAO Forestry normative and project work, implement joint projects and contribute to defining mid- and long-term research priorities.
- 3) Establish an efficient mechanism of dissemination of FAO's and other international institutions' vacancies in order to attract the best candidates.
- 4) Strengthen regional and global networks in forest education, research and profession.
- 5) Place FAO normative work on guidelines, publications and tools as a useful distance learning and capacity development tool.

### **C. Modalities**

#### *Structure*

3. The APFK is an informal, collaborative mechanism consisting of not more than 20 members from global and/or regional organizations and institutions that can contribute to the formulation and implementation of long-term improvements in forest education and knowledge. Given the informal nature of this mechanism, the panel will leverage resources and the comparative advantages of its members to implement its regular and ad hoc work.

4. An APFK Chair will provide leadership, oversight and will host and, in collaboration with members, set the agenda for meetings. It will provide financing where available for members' attendance at meetings and strategically identify new opportunities for the formation and marketing of APFK ideas and products. Members of the APFK will exchange ideas and collaboratively, on a consensus basis, take decisions related to the Panel's products and activities.

#### *Meetings*

5. Informal meetings to be held at least once a year and where relevant, in conjunction with the FAO regional forestry commissions and other regional meetings. The APFK Secretariat will distribute the draft agenda to members at least three weeks before the meeting, and members will approve the agenda when the meeting is held. The Secretariat will draft meeting minutes and reports and distribute to members in a timely manner, for members' review and approval. Regular meetings should not last more than two hours and be held on the sidelines of major events, where regional forestry or COFO meetings are not held. Members will work on an informal basis and connect using electronic means, including through web-based platforms and skype teleconferences, to exchange information in the absence of formal meetings.

*Scope of Work*

6. The APFK has the potential to address gaps and needs in the education and knowledge sector in the near and medium-term. These include to:

- produce quality learning materials and resources, in particular for vocational training;
- provide short-term training through its members, as appropriate;
- formulate forestry education guides and plans, in consultation with forestry departments from around the world;
- manage and identify global and regional gaps in forest knowledge data and information;
- facilitate university partnership and exchanges for professors and students to provide a comparative educational practice and experience;
- take stock of educational and knowledge management practices in the forestry sector;
- formulate, provide oversight on, and connect implementing bodies of education-related projects, including those related to forestry curricula;
- improve the use of online educational and capacity development tools to promote forest knowledge;
- improve coordination on forestry education and knowledge at the global and regional levels;
- other activities on an as-needed and strategic basis.

7. APFK members will select the three key priority items from the above for implementation in a given biennium and focus continuously on coordinating and identifying needs of regional and global forest education departments and institutions.

#### **D. Membership**

8. Members of the APFK should have an understanding of forest knowledge issues and have substantive programmes in forest education, research, innovation and profession, in order to add value to discussions, decisions and actions taken of the Panel. They should be representatives from regional and/or global networks and not be individuals. They should provide a regional, diverse set of priorities and perspectives on forest knowledge and education.

9. Founding members of the APFK provided strategic direction for the Panel and are included in the initial list below.

Global:

Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)

Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)

International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA)

International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO)

UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)

Regional:

African Forest Forum

African Network for Agriculture, Agroforestry and Natural Resources Education(ANAFE)

African Research Institute

Asia-Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI)

Asia Pacific Forestry Net (APFNet)

Association for European Life Science Universities (ICA)

European Forest Institute (EFI)

International Partnership for Forestry Education (IPFE)  
Latin American Network on Forestry Education (RELAFOR)  
Silva Network

Academic:

Association of Forestry Deans  
University of British Columbia

10. Limited membership should allow for efficient meetings and strong commitment to the APFK's objectives while ensuring broad representation. Specific membership for country-based associations will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Future members of the APFK will be considered on a periodic basis where they can demonstrate their comparative advantage to the APFK and receive 2/3 of APFK members' favorable vote. Total membership of the APFK is expected not to exceed 20 members.

### **E. Funding and fees**

11. While there are no membership fees for the APFK, members are expected to provide resources to facilitate the implementation of activities and initiatives of the Panel. This may mean providing in-kind human resources to support the creation of APFK information and project documents to provide co-financing for project work where feasible.

12. As Chair, FAO would cover the cost of the Secretariat and, should a dedicated fund for APFK activities be available, the cost of travel for developing country delegates. As APFK members define and refine the APFK's priorities on a biennial basis, funding will be sought on an as needed basis to cover the costs of activities. Ideally, ongoing activities will be covered through donor contributions over the medium-term.

### **F. Reporting and review**

13. The APFK would be expected to report its progress at each FAO's Committee on Forestry (COFO) meeting, to update Committee members and provide an overview of activities and projects, where appropriate. A periodic review of the Panel's outputs and outcomes will be conducted every two years, ideally in line with progress reports to COFO. Every five years, the panel will be subject to an evaluation to determine whether the Panel's objectives were met, gauge performance and stakeholder impact, and indicate value-for-money.

## Annex III

## Progress report of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions- *Silva Mediterranea* from September 2012 to June 2014

### I. Key results of the third Mediterranean Forest Week (Tlemcen – Algeria)

#### 1. The Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea* organized the third Mediterranean Forest Week (III MFW) in Tlemcen (Algeria) from 17 to 21 March 2013.

The III MFW was held with the support of the Algerian Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and several other key members of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests. This event, entitled "*Mediterranean forests for sustainable development of territories: strategies of mitigation and adaptation to global change?*", will remain a milestone in the history of the regional cooperation on Mediterranean forest ecosystems with the following main results:

- The launch of the first edition of the State of Mediterranean Forests<sup>2</sup> (SoMF);
- The organization of a high level segment, chaired by the Algerian Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, to endorse a new Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests<sup>3</sup> (SFMF) and to adopt the Tlemcen Declaration<sup>4</sup>;
- The celebration of the first International Day of Forests on 21 March 2013. The tree planting ceremony was an excellent opportunity to highlight the importance of forest ecosystems and other wooded lands for Mediterranean landscapes.

#### 2. The SFMF aims at achieving three main objectives:

- 1) **Developing and promoting goods and services** provided by forest ecosystems and other wooded lands in the Mediterranean region;
- 2) **Promoting the resilience of these forest ecosystems and other wooded lands** in the Mediterranean to face global changes;
- 3) **Enhancing capacity of stakeholders and the resources mobilization** necessary for the sustainable management of forest ecosystems and other wooded lands in the Mediterranean.

3. Each of the three main objectives propose the implementation of three key strategic lines with expected results and concrete recommendations addressed to decision makers for the sustainable management of forest ecosystems and other wooded lands in the Mediterranean.

*1) Developing and promoting goods and services provided by forest ecosystems and other wooded lands in the Mediterranean through implementation of the following strategic lines:*

- Improve sustainable production of goods and services by Mediterranean forests;
- Enhance the role of Mediterranean forests in rural development;
- Promote forest governance and land tenure reform in Mediterranean landscapes.

*2) Promoting resilience of forest ecosystems and other wooded lands in the Mediterranean to face global changes through the implementation of the following strategic lines:*

- Promote wildfire prevention by integrating the increasing risks associated to ongoing climate change in the Mediterranean;
- Manage forest genetic resources and biodiversity to enhance adaptation of forest ecosystems and other wooded lands to climate change in the Mediterranean;
- Restore degraded Mediterranean forest landscapes.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/i3226e/i3226e.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.fao.org/forestry/36307-08d6b55472cb0b492a9c2f3e23e7bece3.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.fao.org/forestry/36632-03883494ea162d6695e84f2182b57129f.pdf>

3) *Enhancing capacity of stakeholders and the resources mobilization necessary for the sustainable management of forest ecosystems and other wooded lands in the Mediterranean through the implementation of the following strategic lines:*

- Develop knowledge, training and communication on Mediterranean forests;
- Reinforce international cooperation on Mediterranean forests;
- Adapt existing financing schemes and develop innovative mechanisms to support implementation of forest policies and programs on Mediterranean forests.

4. **The high-level segment, chaired by the Algerian Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, adopted the Tlemcen Declaration on 21 March 2013.** The Declaration calls for an increased focus on the sustainable development of Mediterranean landscapes and the implementation of the main recommendations proposed in this "*Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests: policy orientations for integrated management of forest ecosystems in Mediterranean landscapes*" taking into account characteristics and needs of each country.

5. The new Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests adopted in Tlemcen should become in the coming years an efficient tool in order to:

- Improve the visibility of the forest sector and promote the mobilization of financial and human resources in the coming years;
- Provide a consensual framework to improve intersectoral coordination and fostering partnerships between the various stakeholders involved in the management of forest ecosystems and other wooded lands in countries of the region after its integration in national policies (public/private);
- Contribute to a better coordination for development and implementation of sub-regional and intersectoral programmes and/or projects;
- Facilitate identification and promotion of common positions on Mediterranean forest ecosystems and other wooded lands in international fora;
- Provide a common vision and roadmap to the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea*.

## **II. Evaluation of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea***

6. At the 21<sup>st</sup> session of *Silva Mediterranea*, held in Antalya (Turkey) in February 2012, it was decided to make an evaluation of the several working groups by end of 2013. The Secretariat of *Silva Mediterranea* also launched this evaluation, led by an Independent Panel chaired by Ms Christine Farcy (BE), in January 2013.

7. The final version of the evaluation report<sup>5</sup> was sent to all member states in April 2014 (French/English).

8. Discussion of the main recommendations with all member states of *Silva Mediterranea* is scheduled during an Extraordinary session to be held in Rome on the occasion of the Committee on Forestry of FAO in June 2014.

## **III. Working groups *Silva Mediterranea***

9. All activities achieved (2012/2013) or scheduled (2014/2015) by the various working groups of *Silva Mediterranea* are available in the last report of the Enlarged Executive Committee<sup>6</sup>, held in Hammamet in December 2013.

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.fao.org/forestry/silvamed/35411/en>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.fao.org/forestry/39941-0d8c75e800c0bb210c66a2fef22dff266.pdf>

#### IV. Points for consideration

10. The Committee may wish to:
- welcome the first edition of the State of Mediterranean Forests (SoMF);
  - take note of the Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests and the *Tlemcen Declaration* adopted by *Silva Mediterranea* member States during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Mediterranean Forest Week ;
  - consider Strategic Lines and related actions proposed in the Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests and make recommendations for their implementation by *Silva Mediterranea* member states;
  - take note of the evaluation report prepared by the Independent Panel on the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea*;
  - encourage the member states of *Silva Mediterranea* to take into account key recommendations proposed by the Independent Panel during their extraordinary session scheduled on June 21, 2014;
  - encourage countries to contribute to the work of *Silva Mediterranea*.

## **Thematic expansion of the International Poplar Commission (IPC)**

### **Progress Report on the Proposed IPC Reform**

#### **I. Introduction**

1. Across temperate, boreal and tundra ecosystems, some 95 million hectares of poplars and willows, mostly natural and semi-natural (ca. 90 percent), but also in planted forests and agroforestry systems (ca. 10 percent), provide a wide range of multiple benefits, including wood, non-wood products and ecological services that are socially, economically and environmentally significant. Being an important forest resource, poplars and willows support smallholders and communities as well as farmers and companies towards sustainable livelihoods and socio-economic development in many rural areas.
2. Poplar cultivation was deemed a priority to help rebuild destroyed economies in the aftermath of World War II destructions. This brought about the creation of the International Poplar Commission (IPC) in 1947, the oldest statutory body of FAO. The Commission was originally created by six European countries (Belgium, France, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom). After the IPC's placement within the framework of FAO as an Article XIV body, its membership grew steadily worldwide, particularly between the 1960s and the 1990s. Currently, 37 countries from five continents are members of the IPC, more than half of which are developing economies (20 countries). However, no new member has joined the Commission since the year 2000. This stagnant status in membership is one of the driving factors of the proposed IPC reform.
3. The possibility of a thematic expansion of the IPC was explored in September 2012 through the Committee on Forestry (COFO), which took note of the suggested expansion and requested FAO to provide further information, including at the next session of the IPC, held from 29 October to 2 November 2012 in Dehradun, India.

#### **II. Main challenges**

4. The limited geographic and thematic scope of the IPC has made it difficult to attract interest of multi-lateral and bilateral partners in participating and funding in the absence of clear links with broader developmental issues such as sustainable livelihoods and land-use. The technical fields represented by the working parties need to be more integrated into multi-disciplinary and inter-sectoral environmental and development issues. The IPC-Secretariat has experienced a lack of resources in recent years and so have a number of national poplar commissions which are facing challenges in meeting their obligations.
5. In recent years, consideration was given to expanding the IPC's thematic scope to include, besides poplars and willows, other genera and species of socioeconomic and ecological importance in order to broaden the interest of FAO's member countries in the Commission and to attract more funding options for an enlarged membership.
6. The 46<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting in Dehradun, India, recommended recognizing and supporting the reform process in response to paragraph 70 of the Report of COFO in 2012 and, after in-depth discussion, agreed to establish a Task Force to explore the options to implement such reform. The IPC Executive Committee further recommended that action be taken to review its institutional, administrative and reporting procedures with the objective to streamline application for new membership, as well as to rationalize its procedures and to consider a more flexible use of the official languages.

### III. The proposed reform: issues and options

7. The options given for the proposed IPC-reform are based on two consultancy reports commissioned by the IPC-Secretariat (September 2012, January 2014)<sup>7</sup>; the official report of the 24<sup>th</sup> IPC-Session and the 46<sup>th</sup> meeting of its Executive Committee (January 2013)<sup>8</sup>, two strategy papers prepared by the IPC-Secretariat (July and October 2013)<sup>9</sup>, as well as on extensive consultations with the IPC-Executive Committee and the IPC-reform task force.

8. In summary, these documents recommend that maintaining the status quo of IPC is not a viable option for long-term relevance and impact of the IPC in environmental and development programmes in member countries. They recommend adopting a comprehensive reform that includes poplars, willows and other genera/species of high socio-economic or ecological significance for livelihoods, food security and poverty alleviation, on the assumption that expanding the developmental and environmental scope of the Commission would increase its relevance and impacts, invigorate membership interest, and attract a wider range of partners and donors. This option would require amendments to the IPC Convention text, and accordingly, modifying arrangements for the working parties, the national poplar commissions and the IPC-Secretariat to better integrate the various activities.

9. In detail, the IPC reform proposes the following amendments:

- **Expansion of the thematic scope.** While maintaining the existing mandate on poplars and willows, the IPC Executive Committee may consider expanding the geographic, biological and technical scope of the IPC by including a wider range of fast-growing genera/species with similar attributes for industrial and energy uses and environmental applications present in any climate. Such expansion might for instance cover both natural and planted trees of the genera *Acacia*, *Cunninghamia*, *Eucalyptus*, *Gmelina*, *Paraserianthes*, *Paulownia*, *Robinia* and *Tectona*.
- **Title of the Convention.** An expansion of the thematic scope would need to be reflected in a new title of the Convention. Several suggestions for revised titles have been made by members of the Executive Committee. The option preferred by most members calls for retention of the traditional title while adding an explanatory subtitle as follows: *Convention on the International Poplar Commission: Fast-growing Trees for Society and the Environment*.
- **Working parties.** A thematic restructuring of the existing working parties would call for the merger or termination of some of them, besides the establishment of new ones as appropriate. Such changes should be aimed at streamlining, integrating and revitalizing the working parties and are to be worked out through consultations amongst their members and joint discussions within the Executive Committee. Restructuring the working parties would not, however, require amendments to the Convention.
- **National poplar commissions.** The need to revise arrangements for the national poplar commissions (NPCs) or equivalent bodies was identified as a means to reactivate them on account that some of them have become dormant owing to the lack of leadership, institutional support and/or adequate funding. More vigorous NPCs would increase their relevance in addressing IPC matters both within their own governments and through the Commission for enhanced cooperation. Revitalizing and strengthening the NPCs would not require amendments to the Convention, however, in line with the agreed new name of the IPC, the NPCs would have to be renamed.

<sup>7</sup> Carle, J. Options for International Poplar Commission Reform. Concept note, September 2012

Mekouar, A.M. Reform of the International Poplar Commission: legal and institutional considerations. Consultancy report, April 2014.

<sup>8</sup> IPC. Report of the 24<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission and of the 46<sup>th</sup> session of its Executive Committee. Dehradun, India, 29 October-2 November 2012. January 2013.

<sup>9</sup> IPC-Secretariat. How to pursue and achieve the reform objectives of the International Poplar Commission (IPC)? A strategy paper, July 2013.

IPC-Secretariat. Options for an expansion of the thematic scope of the International Poplar Commission (IPC). A discussion paper, October 2013.

- **IPC-Secretariat.** Greater support for the IPC-Secretariat should be secured as part of the proposed reform including through increased funding from voluntary contributions of external resources.
- **Membership application.** The application for membership is governed by the General Rules of the Organization (GRO). In accordance with this provision, instruments of acceptance of the IPC Convention are to be signed by a competent authority at a high-ranking level (head of state, head of the government, the minister for foreign affairs or the minister of the department concerned). It would not be advisable to consider an acceptance modality for this Convention that would not be consistent with the General Rules of the Organization.
- **Use of official languages.** IPC main sessions are held in three languages, namely English, French and Spanish. Meetings of the Executive Committee and of the Working Parties are usually conducted in English only. The language policy of the Organization is grounded on the principle of parity and balance in the use of FAO's languages, combined with the need to maintain a pragmatic approach in this respect. Within this framework, Statutory Bodies established under Article XIV of the Constitution normally decide the language composition for their meetings taking into account the geographical distribution of members and their working languages. No change or addition to the text of the Convention would be required for a more flexible use of languages, should it be agreed to do so.
- **General Committee.** Provision is made in the IPC Convention for the setting up, at each session, of a General Committee consisting of the chair and two vice-chairs of the session, as well as the chair and vice-chair of the Executive Committee. Its role, however, is not specified in the text of the Convention. In practice, the General Committee has not been formed at IPC sessions for an extended period of time, at least since 1984, which is a clear indication that it has become obsolete. Since no particular purpose would be served by forming the General Committee, it could be eliminated from the Convention, in keeping with the call for simplification.
- **Gender neutral language.** In the text of the IPC Convention, the words "chairman" and "chairmen" are used several times. In keeping with Resolution 7/99 on the use of gender-neutral language in the FAO Basic Texts, adopted by the Conference in 2009, wherever such terms appear in the Convention, they should be replaced with "chairperson" or "chairpersons", which are unbiased on account of gender.

10. The proposed reform adjustments will be discussed at the forthcoming 47<sup>th</sup> IPC Executive Committee meeting to be held in Vancouver in July 2014. Ultimately, the reform adjustments as proposed by the Executive Committee would have to be considered, and if agreed, endorsed by the Commission at the 25<sup>th</sup> IPC Session in 2016. Following, the IPC recommendations and decisions would be submitted to the FAO Conference for approval.

#### IV. Points for consideration

11. The Committee on Forestry may wish to:
- invite countries to strengthen their agriculture and forest sectors by considering membership in the International Poplar Commission;
  - invite member countries to strengthen their national poplar commissions in line with the proposed IPC reform;
  - encourage the Executive Committee to continue the reform process of the International Poplar Commission as indicated in this note broadening the scope to equivalent species of other regions.

## Forest and Farm Facility

### I. Background

1. The Forest and Farm Facility (FFF) is a multi-donor programme, housed within the Forest Economics, Policy and Products Division (FOE) of FAO and managed as a partnership between FAO, the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The FFF was officially launched on 28 September 2012 during the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO). The FFF builds on over 10 years of experience with the National Forest Program Facility, and several programmes such as the Growing Forest Partnerships and the Forest Connect programme. Over the last year the FFF has consolidated its organizational structure and programmes and initiated activities in six countries, as well as globally.

### II. Organizational Development

2. The first meeting of the fully constituted Steering Committee of the FFF was held in Guilin, China on 23-24 November, 2013. The Steering Committee includes a balance of female and male members affiliated with forest producer, community forestry, and indigenous peoples' organizations; international research community; international advocacy and policy NGOs, business development service provider organizations; private finance sector; government and international development agencies.

3. The FFF has consolidated its work around a new Vision, a mission and three pillars of work. The Vision of the FFF is that: "Smallholders, communities and indigenous peoples and women's organizations have improved livelihoods and decision-making over forest and farm landscapes". The Mission of the FFF is: "To promote sustainable forest and farm management by supporting local, national, regional and international organizations and platforms for effective engagement in policies and investments that meet the needs of local people". Work is organized around three distinct pillars as follows:

- Strengthen smallholder, women, community and Indigenous Peoples' producer organizations<sup>10</sup> for business/livelihoods and policy engagement;
- Catalyze multi-sectoral stakeholder policy platforms with governments at local and national levels;
- Link local voices and learning to the global level through genuine participatory processes, communication and information sharing.

4. These three pillars are seen as essential elements for successful forest and forest based landscape development across the board and the lessons learned will be widely shared to provide inputs into large initiatives like REDD+, Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade, the Forest

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<sup>10</sup> The FFF's definition of Forest and Farm Producer Organizations: Forest and farm producers are women and men, smallholder families, indigenous peoples and local communities who have a strong relationship with forests and farms within forested landscapes for their livelihood. They grow, sustainably manage, harvest and process a wide range of natural resource based goods and services for subsistence use and for the local, national or international markets. Coming together in a diverse array of traditional, informal and formal forest and farm Producer Organizations (PO's) helps producers share knowledge and experience; engage in policy advocacy; secure tenure and access rights to forest, land and natural resources; improve sustainable forest and farm management; expand markets; build enterprises and increase income and wellbeing. Forest and farm PO's may vary widely in size and institutional form, focusing on forests or combinations of forest and farm related activities and may include indigenous peoples and local community organizations; tree grower and agro-forestry associations; forest owners' associations; producer cooperatives and companies; and their umbrella groups and federations...

Investment Programme, landscape restoration programmes and the implementation of the Non-legally Binding Instrument on all types of Forest and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests. The FFF's focus on forest and farm producer organizations as the primary actors (the "largest rural private sector") in sustainable rural development, intentionally stresses linkages between forestry and other major sectors within forest based landscapes.

### III. FFF and the Strategic Objectives

5. In this way, FFF is situated squarely within the new cross-cutting Strategic Objectives of FAO, (particularly SO3 on reducing rural poverty and strengthening rural institutions). The FFF proposes a focused and practical approach to working within the current global agenda: the growing global interest in forests within landscapes, the role of forests for food security and nutrition, the emphasis on a "green economy", the role of the small and medium scale private sector and a new sustainable development framework. Furthermore FFF is attracting significant interest from other sectors within the international development community, including the agricultural sector, rural development and livelihoods funders – thereby raising the profile of forestry. As an example of this AgriCord, a global organization funded by farmer based agri-agencies, has offered Euro 1 Million to the FFF over 4 years. In this International Year of Family Farming – FFF makes visible the connection between family forests, forest families and family farming.

### IV. FFF is a Partnership

6. The Partnership between FAO, IIED and IUCN brings together three large global networks, unique skill sets and a history of relevant work. IIED takes on a primary role in Learning and Knowledge Generation with country partners around key themes and help capture and synthesize lessons from the participatory Monitoring and Learning System. IUCN is taking on the support to regional and global forest and farm producer groups, helping them extending their influence and access to major decision making processes. IUCN also partners on the country level implementation. The team at the FAO Secretariat plays the primary role in coordination, country implementation, communications and management of the administrative and financial aspects of the programme, as well as ensuring a strategic global presence and agenda for the FFF and its partners.

### V. Implementation at country, regional and global levels

7. Implementation takes place primarily at the country level, but also regionally and globally through:

- *Multi-year partnership agreements and grants with forest and farm producer organizations, government agencies and service providers at the country level* in six countries currently: Guatemala and Nicaragua, Gambia and Liberia, and Nepal and Myanmar. Four more countries are currently being selected – two from Africa and one each from Latin America and Asia which will bring the total to ten countries.
- *Planning grants and partnership agreements made to support forest and farm producer organizations to play a more active and strategic role at regional and global levels.* A call for proposal for these grants generated a great deal of interest and up to six proposals will be selected.
- *Communication, learning and knowledge sharing between partners in countries, between countries and regions, and globally.* In the last year these have included: exchange visits between women producer groups of Nicaragua, Guatemala and Honduras; a national exchange between forest and farm producer groups in Myanmar; regional exchanges (in Nepal with producer groups and government officials from Myanmar and in The Gambia with visitors from Liberia); an International Conference on Supporting Forest Producer Groups in Guilin, China in November 2013, co-organized with APFNet and the State Forestry Administration of China; a training on Market Analysis and Development for participants from 9 countries in Guatemala; a set of policy briefs on Nicaragua, Gambia and Myanmar; participatory

monitoring and learning events; a working paper series, various articles, videos and the website: <http://www.fao.org/partnerships/forest-farm-facility/en/>

## VI. Country updates

8. Launching meetings were held in each country and individual facilitators or lead organizations were selected to support the initial planning process. Baseline studies and annual work plans have been developed in each country. In 2013 a number of important meetings at national and more local levels have brought together producer organizations to develop capacity building agendas, including priorities for training in group formation, business management, marketing and other skills; exchanges and cross visits; and advocacy strategies.

9. Cross sectoral work has involved strengthening of multi-stakeholder forestry forums previously supported by the NFP or finding emerging opportunities for new and innovative platforms.

10. In keeping with its responsive and programmatic approach the kind and variety of activities FFF is supporting varies from country to country.

- In Guatemala, primary support to POs is given through the Alianza Nacional de Organizaciones Forestales Comunitarias de Guatemala (the National Alliance of Community Forestry Organizations of Guatemala) a national federation of community and POs for meetings and workshops related to policy engagement around issues like REDD+, FLEGT, and PROBOSQUE ( a new forest incentive programme) at the national level. FFF supports the inter-sectoral and multi-stakeholder platforms and assists the government to put into place pilot programs on landscape level reforestation incentives and food security work.
- In Nicaragua, activities are focused more exclusively on the Bosawas region, guided by an inter-departmental steering committee under the leadership of the Ministry for Conservation and Natural Resources with representation from the Mayangna indigenous peoples, and support for women's producer groups.
- In The Gambia, the FFF has established a significant presence as a facilitator of the new Agriculture and Natural Resources legislation, and a resource for a forest and farm producer sector. The FFF has stimulated the active participation of representatives of forest and farm producer groups in the established Agriculture Natural Resources Platform and Working group.
- In Liberia, the FFF will provide direct support to the Farmers Union Network (FUN), beginning in three counties to help train and establish forest and farm producer organizations and link them to County Forest Forums and the National Forest and Landscape Forum.
- In Nepal, support is divided between i) the Federation of Forest User Groups of Nepal (FECOFUN) to organize trainings and workshop around more effective policy advocacy, and ii) the Federation of Nepal Cottage and Small Industries (FNCSI) for enterprise development and producer organization training.
- In Myanmar, the Environmental Resources Network (MERN) facilitated small grants allocation to six NGOs to help start forest and farm producer organizations in different parts of the country. Successful efforts have been made to link FFF work with major donor funded initiatives including the LIFT and the Pyoe Pin projects – with the latter offering to co-fund learning activities.
- Four new countries will be selected in May 2014.
- The FFF has had expressions of interest from producer organizations and government officials from dozens of additional countries and is ready to expand to provide them with support.

## VII. Points for consideration

11. The Committee may wish to:

- take note of the report on progress in operationalizing the Forest and Farm Facility and commend countries for supporting these efforts;

- note further the growing interest in several countries in collaboration with the Facility and invite member countries in a position to do so to make financial or in kind contribution to the Facility to help meet growing demands.

## The Mountain Partnership

### Report 2012-2014

1. The Mountain Partnership (MP) is a United Nations voluntary alliance that brings members together to work towards a common goal: improving the lives of mountain peoples and protecting mountain environments around the world. It has around 230 members from governments, intergovernmental organizations, civil society and the private sector. The Mountain Partnership is supported by a Secretariat financed by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The Forestry Department of FAO hosts the Mountain Partnership Secretariat . The World Bank provides a grant to fund activities on mountains and climate change.
2. The Partnership works as a platform for joint action and programmes. Members join forces to promote, facilitate and implement initiatives at national, regional and international level and to raise awareness about the challenges faced by mountain peoples and environments. The work is organized under four main pillars: advocacy activities; joint projects; sharing knowledge; and capacity development in the field of sustainable mountain development.

#### I. Advocacy

3. The Mountain Partnership and its members often organize mountain-related meetings at major United Nations events including the Conference of the Parties (COP) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
4. In 2012, the MP held Mountain Day 2 on the sidelines of COP 18 of UNFCCC . The event was entitled "Mainstreaming Rio+20 outcomes into the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) processes for prosperous, resilient and sustainable mountain ecosystems and communities". In 2013, during the Global Landscapes Forum on the sidelines of COP 19 of the UNFCCC, the Mountain Partnership organized a session called "Building Climate Change Resilience in Mountains", focusing on the need to address glacial melt caused by climate change and its far-reaching impacts on the water cycle and the livelihoods of mountain and lowland communities.
5. Recognizing the importance of keeping mountains on the international development agenda beyond 2015, the Mountain Partnership's Fourth Global Meeting decided in Erzurum, Turkey, in September 2013, that specific advocacy efforts should be undertaken. Thus, the Secretariat together with FAO, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and several UN Member States are holding a series of meetings and drafting papers to inform the Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In particular, the Secretariat convened Partnership member governments and US-based NGOs at a series of events in New York, USA:
  - a meeting of the Mountain Focus group hosted by the Permanent Mission of Italy to the UN, highlighting the importance of including mountains in the SDGs (17 October 2013);
  - a gathering to celebrate International Mountain Day hosted by Argentina and FAO (11 December 2013);
  - a side event organized by Argentina, Italy, Kyrgyzstan and Peru, the Secretariat, FAO and UNEP called "Building resilience to climate change in mountain areas," during the seventh session of the OWG (8 January 2014);
  - a side event organized by Bhutan, Peru, Romania, the Secretariat and FAO, called "Forests and Mountains in the Post-2015 Development Agenda," during the eighth session of the OWG (5 February 2014);
  - and a working lunch held at the Permanent Mission of Peru to the UN, with MPS and FAO support, to discuss how to integrate mountains in the Post-2015 development agenda (6 February 2014).

## II. Strengthening capacity

6. In 2012, the Secretariat initiated an FAO Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) bringing together six Andean Governments – Argentina, Chile, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia and Bolivia – to work together on strengthening and expanding institutional capacity for promoting SMD in the region. A key output of the project will be the creation of a regional mechanism for promoting exchange, dialogue and action on mountain issues among the region’s governments. The mechanism will be launched in Argentina on 7-9 May 2014. In addition, national committees for mountains have been established or strengthened within this TCP.

7. In the context of the World Bank-funded Strategic Initiative on Mountains and Climate Change, the Mountain Partnership Secretariat organized four regional meetings in Chile, Tajikistan, Uganda and Morocco. Each regional meeting brought together government delegates, policy makers, scientists and climate change experts, to strengthen knowledge about the climate change impacts in mountain areas, to discuss adaptation options in mountain ecosystems and to promote better alliances and cooperation amongst countries with mountain territories so to reinforce their understanding of key issues.

8. Every year, the International Programme on Research and Training on Sustainable Management of Mountain Areas (IPROMO), trains students, researchers and technicians in the management of mountain areas. The 2012 course was devoted to "Understanding and Adapting to Climate Change in Mountain Areas", the 2013 focused on "Understanding Upland Watershed Management" and the 2014 will look at promoting "Sustainable Farming in Mountain Agriculture".

## III. Joint projects

9. The Partnership aims to function as a broker for joint activities, facilitating contacts between countries and institutions and creating conditions for partnerships, technical cooperation and resource mobilization at all levels.

10. The Partnership supports the GEF project "Sustainable Management of Mountainous Forest and Land Resources under Climate Change Conditions in the Kyrgyz Republic". The project has a four year duration and the expected contribution from GEF is US\$6 000 000. The project also includes an institutional strengthening component.

11. Mountain Partnership members created a new Mountain Partnership African Champions Committee during a meeting in Kigali, Rwanda in 2013. The Champions Committee is tasked with moving the region’s sustainable mountain development agenda forward, sharing information and promoting the Partnership’s activities in Africa.

12. In the framework of UNESCO’s Climate Change Platform Project 'Climate Change Impacts in Major Mountainous Regions of the World', the Secretariat supported the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) by participating in two regional workshops to gather inputs from Asia and in Latin America in 2013.

## IV. Sharing Knowledge

13. The Partnership creates, collects and shares relevant information to raise awareness of mountain issues. Communications activities include producing key publications and multimedia on sustainable mountain development, taking an active role in the celebration of International Mountain Day and sharing mountain news and events via the [Mountain Partnership website](#), social media channels and through the monthly Peak to Peak newsletter. In 2013, the Secretariat published in collaboration with FAO, the Austrian Development Agency, the Center for Development and Environment of the University of Bern, the Centre for Development Research of the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna and the Swiss Development Cooperation, the publication [Mountain Farming is Family Farming](#) as a contribution to the International Year of Family Farming 2014.

## V. The way ahead

14. In September 2013, during the Fourth Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership in [Erzurum](#), members renewed their commitment to conserve mountain environments and improve the livelihoods of mountain peoples while also empowering them. A four-year [Governance and Strategy](#) document was endorsed and a 16-member Steering Committee was elected. The strategy will be implemented from 2014 to 2017 by the Secretariat and members. The regional and thematic working group sessions established the priority outputs and activities to be undertaken in the next two years, setting up the workplan based on six pillars: advocacy, joint action, knowledge management and communication, capacity development and technology transfer, innovation and resource mobilization.

15. In the Erzurum conclusions, the Partnership invited countries whose objectives and activities are consistent with sustainable mountain development to strengthen their presence in the Mountain Partnership and recommended that countries strengthen their capacities in sustainable mountain development so to contribute to the achievement of this common objective.

## VI. Points for consideration

16. The Committee may wish to take note of this report and invite countries to:

- engage in or strengthen presence in the Mountain Partnership;
- strengthen their capacities in sustainable mountain development;
- make financial or in kind contributions to support the work of the Partnership.