



# LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

**33<sup>rd</sup> SESSION**

**26 - 30 June 2023**

**FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND  
REQUESTS OF THE 32ND SESSION OF THE COMMISSION  
(SEPTEMBER 6-10, 2021)**

## **Executive Summary**

This document describes the follow-up activities to recommendations made during the Thirty-Second LACFC Session held virtually (Jamaica, 6-10 September 2021). This document is organized thematically according to recommendations to FAO, the Regional Conference, and to Committee on Forestry (COFO).

*Queries on the content of this document may be addressed to:*

**LACF Secretariat**  
**Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (RLC)**  
[Pieter.VanLierop@fao.org](mailto:Pieter.VanLierop@fao.org)

## RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUESTS TO FAO'S WORK

### Theme: Forestry and the COVID-19 Pandemic

*Assess the impacts of the pandemic on the forestry sector, on a country and global level, at the request of countries, considering the cost of the impact in monetary terms, and adding data on the socio-economic impacts on forest-dependent communities. (Paragraph 15.a)*

*Promote synergies between forestry and agriculture in regional initiatives and projects, through COVID-19 recovery measures. (Paragraph 15. d)*

- An assessment was made on the COVID-19 impacts on timber value chains, and the forestry<sup>1</sup> sector response and recommendations were provided to address post-pandemic challenges.
- A comprehensive and holistic COVID-19<sup>2</sup> Response and Recovery Program was prepared to address the socio-economic effects of the pandemic proactively and sustainably.

### Theme: Agri-food and forestry systems and ecosystem restoration

*Support the identification of new markets for timber and non-timber forest products and that countries promote incentives for restoration; likewise, the private sector was called upon to channel investments into restoration. (Paragraph 15. b)*

*Support the development of a comprehensive program for the restoration of degraded lands, with viable production alternatives for communities and innovative mechanisms, in order to reduce pressures on forests and natural resources. (Paragraph 15. c)*

*Strengthen the role and participation of men, women and youth, indigenous peoples and local communities in climate and environmental programs and projects (Paragraph 18.e).*

*Continue supporting countries in accessing financing for restoration actions and developing public/private partnerships to facilitate investments in restoration processes. (Paragraph 25. a)*

*Provide technical support to improve enabling conditions and support the restoration of degraded ecosystems. (Paragraph 25. b)*

*Continue developing and sharing good practices and offering advice to support forest and landscape restoration actions and the use of tools and methodologies, to help countries scale up their efforts and monitor progress. (Paragraph 25. c)*

*Facilitate coordination among UN System Agencies in supporting countries in restoration efforts and in monitoring the progress of these initiatives. (Paragraph 25. e)*

*Promote fire prevention and management as an integral part of restoration activities during the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, in order to prevent forest fires from having a negative effect on restoration efforts. (Paragraph 29. c)*

- Through the implementation of projects mostly funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF), FAO is assisting countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to achieve restoration goals, address the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Interventions consider the application of integrated approaches based on territorial and landscape specificities, the promotion of sustainable production chains, the empowerment of peasant and indigenous communities, and the inclusion of women and men for livelihood sustainability and resilience. Some results of this work are featured below:<sup>3</sup>
  - Argentina created a regulatory and public policy framework for the prevention and management of invasive alien species, in coordination with Mercosur countries and with FAO support; trained 260 conservation agents from more than 20 regional centers, national parks and reserves; published the first Official List of Invasive Alien Species in Argentina; and drafted the first draft of the Minimum Standards Law on Invasive Alien Species in a participatory manner.
  - In Brazil, a platform for landscape analysis and identification of degradation and recovery trends was created to support the decision-making process and contribute to the maintenance of ecosystem services. This tool will enable spatial analysis of degradation in at least 34 municipalities using satellite data, benefiting 1,600 people.
  - In the Caribbean region of Colombia, FAO developed productive and environmental integration strategies in five connectivity corridors and 11 conservation and sustainable use mosaics: 1,894,336 hectares of land and marine ecosystems have been connected through the corridors, and 21,765 hectares of newly declared protected areas have been included, benefiting nearly 4,000 families.
  - In Cuba, 16,373 hectares of agricultural land were managed under the sustainable agricultural production intensification approach. Transformation began on more than 35,000 hectares of agricultural areas vulnerable to the effects of climate, affected by invasive species and with degraded pastures on compacted soils that are not very productive, through the adoption and implementation of agroforestry and silvopastoral systems that will increase the resilience of 51,713 farmers to climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by nearly 2.7 million tons over the next 20 years.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/cb1987es/CB1987ES.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/cb0439es/CB0439ES.pdf> y <https://www.fao.org/partnerships/resource-partners/covid-19/es/>

<sup>3</sup> FAO. 2022. FAO in Latin America and the Caribbean 2021, available at <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/es/c/cb8501es>) and FAO in Latin America and the Caribbean 2022, to be published.

- In El Salvador, FAO conducted a certificate course to strengthen technical capacities in its processes for managing seed sources, genetic conservation and management of endangered species for the conservation and proper preservation of forest seeds and their distribution of high quality forest germplasm for the restoration of more than 17,000 hectares of ecosystems and agro-systems in the country's dry corridor, aimed at 296 people from five institutions. By the end of 2022, nearly 8,000 hectares in critical areas will have been restored together with the NGO *Fondo de Inversión Ambiental de El Salvador* (FIAES).
- In Guatemala, 500 agroforestry producers have implemented agroforestry restoration practices and measures on 1,500 hectares, with the potential to be linked to the government's forestry incentive programs.
- In Honduras, a project to empower women for climate action in the forestry sector promoted 40 business plans for short agroforestry value chains, benefiting approximately 980 women, incorporating climate-smart technologies for agricultural and forestry production, together with time- and effort-saving technologies for women, which resulted in a reduction of 15,591 tons of CO<sup>2</sup> emissions and carbon capture of 414 tons of CO<sup>2</sup>.
- In Nicaragua, FAO assisted conservation planning and integrated management of 383,085 hectares of protected forests, promoting the restoration of degraded areas and ecosystem connectivity.
- In Paraguay, 1,200 farming and indigenous families have developed climate change-resilient agroforestry systems, which will improve their income while capturing carbon dioxide and generating environmental services for the benefit of society.
- In the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, 700 hectares of degraded forests were restored with 1,200,000 forestry and fruit plants produced at indigenous peoples' and State institutional nurseries.
- Within the framework of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, in coordination with UNEP and other partners, FAO:
  - Leads the Good Practices Working Group,<sup>4</sup> which focuses on knowledge management, capacity building and capitalization efforts, as well as the exchange and dissemination of good restoration practices.
  - Leads the Monitoring Working Group,<sup>5</sup> which focuses on supporting stakeholders in monitoring and reporting on ecosystem restoration progress and achievements through the Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring Framework. Following a series of consultations and analysis, the Group prioritized a set of 20 SDG indicators as Decade indicators and will enable annual progress to be reported through reports and an online dashboard starting in December 2023.<sup>6</sup>
  - Participates in the Finance, Science and Youth Working Groups.<sup>7</sup>

In addition, review documents FO: LACFC/2023/4 Non-wood forest products, FO: LACFC/2023/5 Scaling Up Finance For Sustainable Forests Management: National Experiences and FO: LACFC/2023/7 Integrated Fire Management, available at <https://www.fao.org/americas/eventos/ver/en/c/1637954/>

#### **Theme: Climate and environmental finance and investment**

*Promote the exchange of information and knowledge on best practices and lessons learned to achieve sustainable financing to halt deforestation and forest degradation, support restoration programs, as well as the preservation/conservation and sustainable use of forestry resources. (Paragraph 18. a)*

*Support member countries, upon request, to develop forest-based land projects that invest in key public goods and services to enable the transition to sustainable agri-food systems and their relationship with forests, de-risk investments and the use of public financing to encourage private investments. (Paragraph 18. b)*

*Facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experience on the promotion of private sector investment in climate and environmental projects and initiatives. (Paragraph 18. d)*

*Support national partners in Latin America to access international public and private financing for medium-term projects for reforestation and restoration of forests and landscapes through bilateral or multilateral financial instruments. (Paragraph 25. d)*

- Some of the results related to FAO's support to Latin American and Caribbean countries in terms of access to climate and environmental finance 2021 and 2022 are featured below:<sup>3</sup>
  - In 2021, FAO supported Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago in accessing USD 23.8 million from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and USD 2.5 million from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) in climate and environmental finance. These funds will improve the sustainability and resilience of agricultural production, improve forest and water management, reduce emissions related to deforestation and degradation of forests, water, coastal and marine areas, and safeguard biodiversity. Haiti received US\$6.2 million from the Global Environment Facility to sustainably manage forest productive landscapes for biodiversity conservation and enable farmers to manage their land in ways that generate multiple environmental benefits, especially through increased incorporation and improved management of woody perennials.
  - In 2022, FAO supported Brazil, Chile, Guyana, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Trinidad and Tobago and Suriname in accessing US\$21.6 million from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and Chile, Ecuador,

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.fao.org/in-action/forest-landscape-restoration-mechanism/nuestro-trabajo/nivel-mundial/grupo-de-trabajo-sobre-buenas-practicas-del-decenio-de-las-naciones-unidas/es/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.fao.org/national-forest-monitoring/ferm/acerca-de/es/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/nj879es/nj879es.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/task-forces>

- Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago in accessing US\$5.5 million in funding from the Green Climate Fund (GCF). IICA also provided technical assistance to nine countries (Brazil, Belize, Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Jamaica, Mexico and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) in the preparation phase of climate and environmental projects. Eleven of these projects have successfully completed their design phase and will be implemented, gaining access to US\$49.8 million from the GEF to promote sustainable and resilient agriculture.
- FAO published the document "Progress of the FAO-Global Environment Facility (GEF) portfolio"<sup>8</sup> which presents the results of a systematization carried out to analyze the progress of project results, both to measure global environmental benefits and to obtain social and economic co-benefit indicators.
  - FAO has played a key role related to programs under the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF-7):<sup>9</sup>
    - Played a leadership role in launching the US\$345 million Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration Impact Program, using cross-sectoral and multidisciplinary approaches to promote sustainable integrated territories and sustainable agri-food systems.
    - Strengthened dryland restoration and management initiatives aimed at achieving land degradation neutrality targets, in particular through the GEF-7 Program on the Impact of Sustainable Forest Management on Dryland Sustainability (\$104.5 million), led by FAO.
  - The 15th World Forestry Congress in Korea in 2022 hosted numerous events focused on financing forest-related activities. The Seoul Declaration includes a call for global forest and landscape restoration investments to at least triple by 2030 in order to meet global commitments and achieve internationally agreed goals and targets.
  - In addition, review document FO: LACFC/2023/6 Update on the implementation of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, available at <https://www.fao.org/americanas/eventos/ver/en/c/1637954/>

**Theme: Sustainable agri-food and forestry systems and combating deforestation**

*Further strengthen its cross-sectoral work through activities aimed at reducing deforestation and promoting sustainable agriculture and forest management in ways that lead to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems. (Paragraph 21. a)*

*Consider specific regional-level initiatives to stop deforestation and have greener agri-food systems, considering the specific deforestation dynamics and drivers in each region. (Paragraph 21. b)*

*Continue promoting the territorial and ecosystem approach (landscape approach), through mechanisms and instruments such as territorial planning and forest zoning (Paragraph 21.c).*

*Continue developing an integrated vision at the farm level, considering forestry, agroforestry, agroforestry, agro-silvopastoral, agricultural and livestock activities, including access to incentives and investment mechanisms for small-scale producers. (Paragraph 21. d)*

*Actively participate in the promotion of the UN-Secretary-General's initiative on **Turning the Tide on Deforestation** and related activities (Paragraph 45. b).*

- Some of the results related to FAO's support for Latin American and Caribbean countries in terms of intersectoral work, promotion of sustainable agri-food and forestry systems and the fight against deforestation 2021 and 2022 are featured below:<sup>5</sup>
  - To achieve the reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+), we have reinforced capacities and supported the design and implementation of instruments and strategies in 11 countries across the region (Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay and Peru).
  - Peru estimated gross deforestation in the Amazon biome using the Collect Earth platform, which showed an annual average of 131,520 hectares of deforested land from anthropogenic causes. This was used for the presentation of the country report on the baseline level of forest emissions for the Peruvian Amazon biome and will allow the country to apply for results-based payment schemes.
  - In Peru, indigenous populations reinforced their capacity to monitor forests to reduce deforestation in the Amazon. Fifteen indigenous organizations created 45 community forest monitoring and control committees and developed a protocol for integrating the indigenous approach into the forest monitoring module of the National Forestry and Wildlife Information System.
- Funding from FAO's Forest and Farm Facility contributed to the restoration of more than 167,000 hectares of forest land. Some 66,000 people benefited from forest restoration and sustainable forest management and more than 100 forestry and agricultural organizations implemented climate change resilience plans and practices. The Forest and Farm Facility supported 144 enterprises of forestry and agricultural producer organizations based on environmentally sustainable resource use. One hundred and fifteen of these increased their added value during the year. With FAO support in 2021, 89 forest and farm producer organizations developed business plans with credible financial information.<sup>10</sup>
- FAO supported the promotion of the UN-Secretary General's initiative to reverse the trend of global deforestation, in particular through high-level international dialogues and discussions.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/es/c/cb8328es>

<sup>9</sup> Paragraphs 14 and 16 of COFO/2022/7.1 "FAO's work on forestry in accordance with the Organization's 2022-2031 Strategic Framework 2022-2031," available at <https://www.fao.org/3/nk026es/nk026es.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> See items 10e and 10k of COFO/2022/INF/1, available at <https://www.fao.org/3/nk058es/nk058es.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> See item 10b of COFO/2022/INF/11, available at <https://www.fao.org/3/nk058es/nk058es.pdf>

**Theme: National and global forest monitoring and FRA**

*Maintain and strengthen its support to countries in national and global forest monitoring, inter alia, by building greater capacity of forest administrations in the implementation of their national forest monitoring systems and the integration of national forest inventories into FAO's Mano a Mano initiative. (Paragraph 32. a)*

*Complete the FRA's global participatory remote sensing assessment and support countries by providing tools and methodologies to generate better data on the contribution of forests to the SDGs, and to the NDCs in accordance with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's Enhanced Transparency Framework. (Paragraph 32. b)*

*Continue supporting the consolidation of the Latin American Network of National Experts on National Forest Inventories as a mechanism for South-South cooperation, and facilitate exchanges of experiences, technologies and systems related to forest monitoring. (Paragraph 32. c)*

*Continue work to improve reporting on forest characteristics, including primary forests, and report on the first results of the work at the 26th session of COFO. (Paragraph 32. d)*

*Support the identification of resources to strengthen forest inventories and forest monitoring in the countries (Paragraph 32. e).*

*Continue working on developing, making available and training countries in the use of open source tools, such as Collect Earth and SEPAL (Paragraph 32. f).*

- Through GEF- and the GCF-funded projects, FAO and national counterparts in Latin American and Caribbean countries are working to strengthen their information and monitoring systems related to the forestry sector:
  - In Bolivia, work is focused on the development and implementation of Big Data at INFO-SPIE to enable monitoring of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) targets associated with Forests, Biodiversity and Water.
  - In Paraguay, actions are focused on the development and implementation of an Integrated Forestry Management System for the collection, access, visualization, analysis, automation and processing of data and information collected from and for the stakeholders involved in forestry management.
  - In Venezuela, the National Integrated Forestry Information System (SINIIF) was developed and implemented with the purpose of gathering and processing data associated with forest resources, producing information as an input for decision making.
- In terms of strengthening national monitoring and inventory, FAO:
  - has developed the National Forest Monitoring System assessment tool to identify needs and gaps to help establish or strengthen a national forest monitoring system.<sup>12</sup>
  - has launched the National Forest Monitoring E-Learning Modules<sup>13</sup> to provide an overview of the main phases of planning and implementing a national forest inventory.
  - published the document "Forest and landscape restoration integrated into national forest monitoring systems."<sup>14</sup>
- FAO supported the national forest inventory network in the Latin American and Caribbean region to develop the publication entitled National Forest Inventories in Latin America and the Caribbean: Towards the Harmonization of Forest Information.<sup>15</sup>
- The FRA participatory global remote sensing assessment<sup>16</sup> consisted of 35 capacity building workshops held between 2018 and 2021, training more than 800 national experts from 126 countries. Through these workshops, a global network of FRA remote sensing focal points was created, and data was collected on 400,000 remote sensing samples. The results confirmed an overall slowdown in global deforestation and showed that the impact of agricultural expansion on forests is greater than previously thought, causing almost 90% of deforestation.
- FAO continued to work on developing and promoting the use of modern techniques and digital innovations for forest data collection, communication and dissemination:<sup>17</sup>
  - FAO compiles annual global statistics on the production, import and export, and consumption of forestry products (FAOSTAT-Forestry database<sup>18</sup> and FAO Yearbook of Forest Products<sup>19</sup>); pulp and paper production and production capacities, and information on the production of recovered wood and paper; and a Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) report<sup>20</sup> on forest resources, their management and uses. In addition, FAO collects data on the conservation, use and development of forest genetic resources to monitor the implementation of the Global Plan of Action (every five years) and prepare the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources reports<sup>21</sup> (every ten years).
  - FAO has worked continuously to improve data and information collection, management and dissemination in support of members. In today's world, this involves using digital technologies to address these key elements. In

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/cb0988es/cb0988es.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.fao.org/national-forest-monitoring/areas-of-work/nfi/modules/es/>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/es/c/cb6021es>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/es/c/cb7791es>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.fao.org/forest-resources-assessment/remote-sensing/fra-2020-remote-sensing-survey/en/>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/nj860es/nj860es.pdf>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.fao.org/faostat/es/#data>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.fao.org/forestry/statistics/80570/es/>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.fao.org/forest-resources-assessment/es/>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.fao.org/policy-support/tools-and-publications/resources-details/es/c/453621/>

<p>this regard, the development of tools and platforms, notably Open Foris,<sup>22</sup> the FRA Platform,<sup>23</sup> the Hand in Hand Geospatial Platform,<sup>24</sup> and the like, has facilitated new opportunities for practitioners to take advantage of the best available forest and land measurement and monitoring methods and data.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Forestry data is included in the Hand in Hand geospatial platform, the primary analytical platform supporting FAO's Hand in Hand initiative, which is also linked to platforms such as Open Foris and the FRA.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Additionally, review document FO: LACFC/2023/3 Sustainable Wood Value Chains, available at <a href="https://www.fao.org/americas/eventos/ver/en/c/1637954/">https://www.fao.org/americas/eventos/ver/en/c/1637954/</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Theme: Fire prevention and management</b></p> <p><i>Support the Regional Expert Group on Forest Fires promoted by the EU in collaboration with FAO through its technical capacity, its projects and its network of national offices, promoting coordination with existing formal and informal networks, generating synergies and avoiding duplication of functions. (Paragraph 29. a)</i></p> <p><i>Support coordination among the different regional fire management initiatives, including the Regional Group of Experts. (Paragraph 29. b)</i></p> <p><i>Strengthen its technical team, allowing it to accompany and strengthen national technical and institutional fire management capacities. (Paragraph 29. d).</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Some of the results related to FAO's support for Latin American and Caribbean countries in fire prevention and management are featured below:<sup>3</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Development of country profiles for the region in the context of the Global Wildland Fire Information System (GWIS), which provides access to information on the geographic distribution of fires, burned areas, emissions, and their impacts at the global, regional, national and subnational levels. These profiles provided a starting point for country information on forest fires.</li> <li>○ Under the leadership of FAO, the UN regional inter-agency group to strengthen coordination on climate change, resilience and disaster-risk reduction produced a report that analyzed forest fires in the region and highlighted existing services and products across the UN system to support country teams on issues related to integrated forest fire management.</li> <li>○ Honduras, through the SMART FIRE platform developed by FAO, has managed to improve statistical data on forest fires in the country, as well as field measurement procedures of burned areas at the national level, which provided information to initiate restoration processes in these areas, achieving substantial improvements in the management of existing natural resources.</li> <li>○ FAO supported Paraguay in the design of a national system for monitoring forest fires, for subsequent implementation with resources from the Green Climate Fund, which will allow for a rapid response and coordinated control by national institutions, reducing the loss of ecosystems and carbon dioxide emissions.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● In addition, review document FO:LACFC/2023/8 Forest Health in Latin America and the Caribbean, available at <a href="https://www.fao.org/americas/eventos/ver/en/c/1637954/">https://www.fao.org/americas/eventos/ver/en/c/1637954/</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Theme: LACFC operations and coordination with other platforms and mechanisms</b></p> <p><i>Synchronize the schedule of future LACFC sessions with the Regional Conference schedule of meetings, in order to provide LACFC inputs to the Regional Conference in a timelier manner (Paragraph 35. a).</i></p> <p><i>Invite the LACFC Chair to attend the Regional Conference and to improve intersessional activities, optimizing interaction between LACFC members and the Regional Conference, including Rome-based delegations, with a view to strengthening cross-sectoral policy dialogue and ensuring that important regional forestry issues are integrated into the themes of the Regional Conferences. (Paragraph 35. b)</i></p> <p><i>Conduct a detailed review of the LACFC with the objective of strengthening its functions in order to improve its relevance and communicate the results at the next LACFC session. (Paragraph 35. c)</i></p> <p><i>Prioritize the themes to be discussed during the LACFC, according to issues of common interest (Paragraph 35. d).</i></p> <p><i>Promote SOFO 2022 within and outside the forestry sector (Paragraph 45. a).</i></p> <p><i>Continue to play an active role as Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and, through it, enhance forest advocacy in relevant global processes and initiatives. (Paragraph 45. c)</i></p> <p><i>Be actively involved in and support the integration and role of sustainable forestry management in any multilateral intergovernmental deliberation or negotiation within the United Nations system that addresses or seeks to define nature-based solutions. (Paragraph 18. c)</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The calendar of the 33rd Session of the LACFC is synchronized with that of the Regional Conference. The 33rd Session of the LACFC will be held during the first semester of 2023 in order to provide inputs for the 38th Regional Conference, planned for March 2024 with Guyana as host country.</li> <li>● The Chair of the 32nd Session of the LACFC participated in the 37th Regional Conference held in March 2022. The summary of the LACFC recommendations reported to the members of the Regional Conference can be found in document LARC/22/INF/8, available at <a href="https://www.fao.org/3/mi101es/mi101es.pdfhttps://www.fao.org/3/mi091es/mi091es.pdf">https://www.fao.org/3/mi101es/mi101es.pdfhttps://www.fao.org/3/mi091es/mi091es.pdf</a></li> </ul>

<sup>22</sup> <https://openforis.org/> which includes Arena, Calc, Collect, Collect Earth, Collect Earth Online, Collect Mobile, Earth Map and SEPAL tools.

<sup>23</sup> <https://fra-data.fao.org/assessments/fra/2020>

<sup>24</sup> <https://data.apps.fao.org/>

- The agenda of the 33rd Session of the LACFC was prepared in consultation with member countries, in coordination with the FAO Forestry Department, and under the leadership of the steering committee comprised of the Chair of the 32nd Session of the LACFC, and the Vice-Chairs representing the Caribbean, Mesoamerica, Amazonia and the Southern Cone.
- FAO led, facilitated and chaired meetings of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests,<sup>25</sup> supporting its promotion at the global level, providing expertise and advice on relevant technical issues.
- FAO co-led the implementation of the UN-Secretary-General's initiative to reverse deforestation, in particular through the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) and high-level dialogues, for example, those held at the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP 26) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

## RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUESTS TO THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE<sup>26</sup>

*Consider food security, agriculture, forestry and other aspects of rural development in an integrated manner. (Paragraph 39. a)*

*Include the forestry sector in National Development Plans to promote rural livelihood opportunities. (Paragraph 39. b)*

*Strengthen strategies and coordination of actions to prevent deforestation (Paragraph 39. c).*

*Promote the inclusion of trees in agriculture through agroforestry and silvopastoral systems, promote sustainable forestry management for climate change mitigation and adaptation, and community empowerment. (Paragraph 39. d)*

*Support the creation of the necessary conditions for the management and mobilization of financing to facilitate the restoration of productive landscapes. (Paragraph 39. e)*

*Discuss the issue of forest fires and promote integrated fire management in agricultural and forestry systems (Paragraph 39. f).*

- At its 37th hybrid session, held in March 2022 under the leadership of Ecuador, the members of the Regional Conference presented national innovations to achieve better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life, where the roles of the agricultural and fisheries production sectors and the forests and forestry sector were highlighted. The innovations presented highlighted the importance of coherence, coordination and multisectoral synergies at the territorial level, which made it possible to promote complementary approaches to strengthen the agri-food sector, especially based on micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, tourism, fisheries, forestry, integrated landscape management and ecosystem services, and social protection.
- Regarding forests and the forestry sector, the 37th Regional Conference:
  - Included the recommendations of the 32nd Session of the LACFC, presented in document LARC/22/INF/8.<sup>27</sup>
  - Recognized the threats and challenges to agri-food systems posed by climate change, water scarcity and drought, soil degradation, biodiversity loss, deforestation, plant and animal pests and diseases, and natural phenomena and disasters.
  - Acknowledged FAO's support to Members around family farming, with technical assistance for the design and implementation of policies and programs in the context of the UN Decade of Family Farming (2019-2028) and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030).
  - Recommended that FAO consider international environmental agreements in its work, such as those of the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP 26) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) through the Glasgow Climate Pact and the Paris Agreement and, as appropriate, the Glasgow Declaration on Forests and Land Use.
  - Recommended that FAO encourage the adoption of urgent measures to help agri-food systems, in keeping with their features, to adapt and contribute to climate change mitigation, addressing natural resource degradation, ecosystem restoration, and the increases frequency and intensity of disasters and natural phenomena, recognizing the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and the role of the region in global food security.
  - Recommended that FAO provide technical assistance for the design, implementation and evaluation of policies and programs in the context of the UN Decade of Family Farming (2019-2028) and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030).
  - Recommended that FAO use holistic and innovative approaches in its work, including biotechnology, genome editing, no-till farming and other technical tools, promoting the linkages between climate change, restoration of productive ecosystems, integrated water resource management, land-use planning and management, and combating desertification, land degradation and illegal deforestation.
  - Recommended that FAO support Members in ensuring land use diversity, soil fertility and health, the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in agri-food systems and the provision of ecosystem services.

<sup>25</sup> COFO/2022/7.4 Rev.1 available at <https://www.fao.org/3/nj876es/nj876es.pdf>

<sup>26</sup> Based on the Report of the 37th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean, available at <https://www.fao.org/3/cc0269es/cc0269es.pdf>

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/ni101es/ni101es.pdf>

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUESTS TO COFO<sup>28</sup></b>
<p><b>Theme: Forests and the COVID-19 pandemic</b></p> <p><i>Identify mechanisms to strengthen <b>forestry financing</b>, including the mobilization of new and additional resources needed by the countries of the region, to make progress concerning <b>forestry sector reactivation</b>. (Paragraph 38. a)</i></p> <p><i>Address the <b>impact and damage caused by the COVID 19 pandemic on the forestry sector</b> in monetary terms and propose response measures (Paragraph 38. b).</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Committee took note of the main findings of the 2022 edition of The State of the World's Forests (SOFO 2022)<sup>29</sup> and its three interrelated tracks and recognized the potential of forests to help mitigate the effects of global challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.</li> <li>• In addition, review the section herein entitled "Recommendations and requests to FAO's work. Theme: Forests and the COVID-19 pandemic."</li> </ul>
<p><b>Theme: Agri-food and forestry systems and the fight against deforestation</b></p> <p><i>Suggest mechanisms to achieve sustainable and deforestation-free agricultural production, including certification systems (Paragraph 38. c).</i></p> <p><i>Promote measures to prevent and reduce illegal logging, as well as the promotion of legal trade in forestry products (Paragraph 38. g).</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some of the items mentioned by the Committee in this area are highlighted below; they focus on the promotion of policy coherence, the expansion of sustainable production practices and the strengthening of data related to deforestation and land degradation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Committee invited members to promote greater and more inclusive policy coherence in the agriculture and forestry sectors, in particular through integrated land-use planning, territorial approaches and secure access to land, as well as by supporting small producers, family farmers, women, youth, indigenous peoples and local communities.</li> <li>○ The Committee emphasized FAO's technical role in supporting the scaling up of sustainable agricultural practices to contribute to the conservation and sustainable management and use of forests, minimizing environmental degradation, increasing productivity, and harnessing the potential of science and innovation, with particular attention to addressing the main drivers of deforestation.</li> <li>○ The Committee recommended that FAO continue to collect and analyze the necessary science- and evidence-based data on the interdependence of agriculture and forestry, in particular on the direct and underlying drivers of deforestation and land degradation, strengthening the consistency between agriculture and forestry data sets, and compiling case studies and good practices for presentation at the 27th Session of COFO, and requested the COFO Secretariat to share this information with the secretariats of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) and the Committee on Fisheries (COFI).</li> <li>○ Regarding deforestation and land degradation drivers, the Committee requested FAO and members to place greater emphasis on how to decouple the growth of agricultural production from the loss of forests and other types of biodiversity, taking into account the need to eradicate poverty and fight hunger, as well as the needs of developing countries for financial assistance and capacity building.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Theme: Integrated fire management</b></p> <p><i>Promote measures to strengthen countries' <b>integrated fire management capacity</b>, including fire monitoring (Paragraph 38. d).</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the discussion on forest fires, it is emphasized that the Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Welcomed the joint initiative of FAO and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to develop and implement the Global Platform for Fire Management to reduce the negative impacts of wildfires on livelihoods, territories and the global climate in consultation with Members and building on existing expertise, processes and expert networks to avoid duplication and overlap.</li> <li>○ Appreciated the FAO Strategy for Fire Management and the tools developed by the Organization to strengthen forest fire management.</li> <li>○ Invited FAO to support the coordination of efforts among Members in areas such as knowledge sharing, fire review and analysis, risk reduction, preparedness, response and recovery, for example, through fire management networks.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Theme: Forest product chains</b></p> <p><i>Discuss opportunities for the <b>development of timber and non-timber forest product chains</b> to promote the <b>bioeconomy</b> as one of the possible tools for sustainable forest management and climate change mitigation. (Paragraph 38. f)</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Committee discussed the role of forests and the sustainable production of timber and non-timber forest products in meeting demand and supporting resilient local economies.<sup>30</sup></li> <li>• FAO is preparing a report entitled "Forest products in the global bioeconomy" and a manual on agroforestry business models.</li> </ul>

<sup>28</sup> Based on the Report of the 26th Session of the Committee on Forestry, available at <https://www.fao.org/3/nk728es/nk728es.pdf>

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/cb9360es/cb9360es.pdf>

<sup>30</sup> Item VI of the Report of the 26th Session of COFO, available at <https://www.fao.org/3/nk728es/nk728es.pdf>



<p><b>Theme: Exchanging experiences</b></p> <p><i>Provide opportunities to <b>exchange successful experiences</b> on forest restoration, reduction of deforestation and land degradation, conservation and rational use of forests, forest traceability system, forest incentives, forest genetic resources, and forest zoning. (Paragraph 38. h)</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 8th World Forest Week (WFM2022)<sup>31</sup> was held at the margins of the 26th Session of the COFO, providing participants and partner organizations with a unique opportunity to exchange views, connect and demonstrate actions and best practices on the ground, and contribute from the forestry community to the global international debate on forestry and environmental issues.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Theme: Biodiversity</b></p> <p><i>Strengthen guidelines and policies to proceed towards sustainable management of native forests and plantations, including biodiversity aspects. (Paragraph 38. i)</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<p><b>Theme: Climate change and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)</b></p> <p><i>Continue supporting countries in <b>integrating the forestry sector into the NDCs</b>. (Paragraph 38. k)</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The new and updated FAO Climate Change Strategy (2022-2031) is organized around three pillars focused on action at three levels, where the forestry sector and forests are considered throughout: i) global and regional level: strengthening global and regional climate policies and governance; ii) national level: building countries' climate action capacity; and iii) local level: scaling up climate action on the ground. Document CL 170/4 Rev.1<sup>32</sup> summarizes the process of the update, the proposed approaches and the role of the forest sector in its implementation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Theme: Forestry dialogue and statutory bodies</b><sup>33</sup></p> <p><i>Promote measures to strengthen the <b>capacity of local communities and forestry sector organizations for effective involvement and participation in the national forestry dialogue</b>, including the institutionalization of incentive programs. (Paragraph 38. e)</i></p> <p><i>Strengthen and promote the role of statutory bodies, such as the International Commission on Poplars and Other Fast-Growing Trees Sustaining People (Paragraph 38. j).</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Committee recognized the importance of the Regional Forestry Commissions as statutory bodies, and invited FAO to strengthen their role in technical and policy dialogue and cross-sectoral work, particularly on forestry and agri-food systems.</li> <li>• The Committee reviewed and provided recommendations on the work of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-Silva Mediterranea, the activities of the Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries, and the work of the International Commission on Poplars and Other Fast-Growing Trees Sustaining People and the Environment (IPC).</li> </ul>
<p><i>Discuss how to facilitate <b>access to forestry education in countries with limited access to it, such as SIDS</b>. (Paragraph 38. i)</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Although the theme was not prioritized for discussion on the COFO 26 agenda, document COFO/2022/7.1<sup>34</sup> on FAO's work on forestry notes among the gaps and lessons learned that <i>"The forestry sector faces issues related to strategic human resource capacity that need to be addressed, e.g. the need to improve research, education, training, professional capacity building, extension services and peer learning networks in the forestry sector. Enhancing capabilities to innovate and deliver solutions will help address the many opportunities and challenges facing the forestry sector."</i></li> </ul>
<p><i>Promote the development of <b>urban forestry</b> (Paragraph 38. m).</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Although the theme was not prioritized for COFO 26, FAO has led the Third Latin America and Caribbean Forum on Urban and Peri-urban Forests held in Mexico in 2022, following up on the results of the first two forums (Lima 2017 and Bogota 2019).</li> <li>• Since 2020, FAO has been promoting the Green Cities Initiative,<sup>35</sup> which aims to increase people's well-being through products and services provided by urban and peri-urban forestry, agriculture and food systems on a sustainable basis. The initiative's target countries in Latin America and the Caribbean are Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Colombia, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico and Peru.</li> </ul>

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.fao.org/events/detail/8th-world-forest-week/es>

<sup>32</sup> For more information see <https://www.fao.org/3/ni706es/ni706es.pdf>

<sup>33</sup> Based on document COFO/2022/6.6 Rev.1. "Dialogue with forest statutory bodies," available at <https://www.fao.org/3/nj910es/nj910es.pdf>

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/nk026es/nk026es.pdf>

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.fao.org/green-cities-initiative/en>