

August 2009

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منظمة الأغذية  
والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

Organisation  
des  
Nations  
Unies  
pour  
l'alimentation  
et  
l'agriculture

Продовольственная и  
сельскохозяйственная  
организация  
Объединенных  
Наций

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

## Item 6.2 of the Provisional Agenda

**COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

**Twelfth Regular Session**

Rome, 19 -23 October 2009

**FOLLOW-UP TO RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING  
FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES**

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its Eleventh Session, the Commission approved the inclusion of *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources* in its Multi-Year Programme of Work. The presentation of the *State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources* is foreseen at the Fourteenth Session of the Commission. The Commission recommended that its preparation be undertaken in cooperation and synergy with relevant global and regional instruments and programmes.<sup>1</sup>
2. The Commission requested the Secretariat to prepare, for its Twelfth Session, a scoping paper for *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources*. Such scoping analysis is presented in document *Analysis of key issues in forest genetic resources, for the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources*.<sup>2</sup> Follow-up to the recommendation to establish an Intergovernmental Technical Working on Forest Genetic Resources<sup>3</sup> is presented in document *Establishment of an Intergovernmental Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources*.<sup>4</sup>
3. This document presents the follow-up activities undertaken by FAO to support the preparation of the scoping paper referred above and to strengthen international cooperation in preparation of *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources*.

## II. PROGRESS SINCE THE ELEVENTH SESSION

### *On-going collaboration with international forums and FAO statutory bodies*

4. At its Eleventh Regular Session, the Commission requested FAO to seek synergies and build partnerships with relevant international organizations to facilitate the implementation of the Multi-Year Programme of Work.<sup>5</sup> In relation to the coverage of forest genetic resources, the Commission recommended that the FAO Committee on Forestry and the FAO Regional Forestry Commissions be fully involved in the preparation of *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources*, which should be undertaken in synergy with relevant regional and global programmes and instruments, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity.<sup>6</sup> The Commission agreed that the work carried out by the Convention on Biological Diversity on forest genetic resources in its Expanded Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity, as well as the relevant decisions of the United Nations Forum on Forests, should be taken into account in the development of the Multi-year Programme of Work.<sup>7</sup>
5. Since the last Session, FAO has continued its collaboration with relevant international forums. At the Ninth Meeting (May 2008) of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), FAO informed Parties of the adoption of the Commission's MYPOW. The CBD Conference of the Parties welcomed the plan of FAO to develop *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources*.<sup>8</sup> The CBD Secretariat participated in the Fifteenth Session of the Panel of Experts on Forest Gene Resources, and has therefore been actively involved in the discussion on the proposal for the possible structure and contents of *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources*, its preparatory process and tentative list of thematic studies. Collaboration with the CBD Secretariat in the preparation of *The State of the World's Forest*

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<sup>1</sup> CGRFA-11/07/Report, para. 55.

<sup>2</sup> CGRFA-12/09/12.

<sup>3</sup> CGRFA-11/07/Report, para. 103.

<sup>4</sup> CGRFA-12/09/14.

<sup>5</sup> CGRFA-11/07/Report, para. 92.

<sup>6</sup> CGRFA-11/07/Report, para. 56.

<sup>7</sup> CGRFA-11/07/Report, para. 55.

<sup>8</sup> COP Decision IX/5.

*Genetic Resources* has been specifically included in the Joint Work Plan between the Secretariats of the CBD, FAO and the Commission.<sup>9</sup>

6. At its Nineteenth session (March 2009), the FAO's Committee on Forestry discussed and supported the preparation of *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources*, urging member countries to collaborate with FAO and partner organizations in producing the Report, and requesting a specific reference to forest genetic resources in the FAO Forestry Strategy.

7. All FAO Regional Forestry Commissions, held between February and October 2008, were informed on the plan to prepare *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources*.

8. Finally, the Thirteenth World Forestry Congress is being organised by Argentina in collaboration with FAO, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in October 2009. The Congress will include a thematic session on genetic diversity organized by FAO and partners, which will contribute to build awareness of the important role of forest genetic resources, and will serve to gather support for the preparation of *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources*.

*Activities undertaken by FAO to support the preparation of the Analysis of key issues in forest genetic resources, for the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources*

9. As a follow up to the recommendations of the Commission, FAO has built awareness about the plan to prepare *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources* with its main international and regional technical partners on forest genetic resources and gathered inputs from these partners to support the preparation of the analysis of key issues for preparation of *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources*. Regional consultations were held back-to-back with other workshops or events to optimise the resources available. These consultations were organised in collaboration with international partners, in particular Bioversity International and the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), regional networks and national partners:

- *Africa*: two sub-regional workshops were organised in collaboration with Bioversity International, ICRAF, the Sub-Saharan Africa Forest Genetic Resources Programme (SAFORGEN) and the National Environment and Agricultural Research Institute (INERA) of Burkina Faso. A consultation for Eastern and Southern Africa was held in Nairobi, Kenya (January 2009), and another one for Central and Western Africa was conducted in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso (February 2009).
- *Latin America*: a regional discussion took place during a meeting of the Latin American Forest Genetic Resources Programme (LAFORGEN). The meeting was organised by Bioversity International, with the support of Spain, in the Agronomic Tropical Center for Research and Training (CATIE), Costa Rica (September 2008).
- *North America*: inputs were provided by the Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources of the North American Forestry Commission (NAFC).
- *Asia-Pacific*: a regional workshop was organised in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, October 2008, in collaboration with the Asia-Pacific Association of Forest Research Institutions (APAFRI), Asia-Pacific Forest Genetic Resources Programme (APFORGEN), Bioversity International and the Forestry Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM).
- *Europe*: inputs were obtained through the European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN) in collaboration with Bioversity International, in particular during the sixth meeting of the EUFORGEN Steering Committee, Thessaloniki, Greece (June 2009).

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<sup>9</sup> See document CGRFA-12/09/20, *Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity*, and document CGRFA-12/09/Inf. 8, *Joint work plan of the Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and its Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.

10. A specific consultation on *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources* for the Mediterranean Region, including Near East countries, will be programmed during a Workshop on Mediterranean Forest Genetic Resources and Climate Change, planned to be held in Chania, Greece (November 2009). The workshop is being organised by FAO/Silva Mediterranea, the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), the European Forest Institute and Bioversity International.

11. At its Fifteenth Session (December 2008), the Panel of Experts on Forest Gene Resources reviewed a first draft of the FAO proposal for the possible structure and contents of *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources*, its preparatory process and tentative list of thematic studies.

### III. GUIDANCE SOUGHT

12. The Commission may wish to take note of progress made on forest genetic resources since the last Session, and welcome the support received by the CBD Conference of the Parties and the Committee on Forestry for the preparation of *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources*.