

*REPORT*

**Guatemala City,  
Guatemala,  
24 – 28 May  
2010**

# **Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission**

**Twenty-sixth Session**





## PREVIOUS SESSIONS OF THE COMMISSION

1 <sup>st</sup> Session	Río de Janeiro, Brasil	23 May 1949
2 <sup>nd</sup> Session	Lima, Peru	14 November 1949
3 <sup>rd</sup> Session	Santiago, Chile	11 December 1950
4 <sup>th</sup> Session	Buenos Aires, Argentina	16-23 June 1952
5 <sup>th</sup> Session	Caracas, Venezuela	4-15 October 1955
6 <sup>th</sup> Session	Antigua, Guatemala	4-15 November 1958
7 <sup>th</sup> Session	Mexico City, Mexico	3-6 August 1960
8 <sup>th</sup> Session	Santiago, Chile	13-19 November 1962
9 <sup>th</sup> Session	Curitiba, Brazil	5-12 November 1964
10 <sup>th</sup> Session	Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago	4-9 December 1967
11 <sup>th</sup> Session	Quito, Ecuador	11-21 November 1970
12 <sup>th</sup> Session	Havana, Cuba	2-7 February 1976
13 <sup>th</sup> Session	Pátzcuaro, Michoacán, Mexico	18-22 February 1980
14 <sup>th</sup> Session	Lima, Peru	15-18 November 1982
15 <sup>th</sup> Session	San José, Costa Rica	6-10 October 1986
16 <sup>th</sup> Session	Kingston, Jamaica	18-22 April 1988
17 <sup>th</sup> Session	Ciudad Guayana, Venezuela	18-22 February 1991
18 <sup>th</sup> Session	Maldonado, Uruguay	6-10 December 1993
19 <sup>th</sup> Session	Ciudad de Panama, Panama	17-21 June 1996
20 <sup>th</sup> Session	Havana, Cuba	10-14 September 1998
21 <sup>st</sup> Session	Santa Fe de Bogota, Colombia	4-8 September 2000
22 <sup>nd</sup> Session	Buenos Aires, Argentina	7-11 October 2002
23 <sup>rd</sup> Session	San José, Costa Rica	18-22 October 2004
24 <sup>th</sup> Session	Santo Domingo, Dominican Rep.	26-30 June 2006
25 <sup>th</sup> Session	Quito, Ecuador	29 September-3 October 2008



FO:LACFC/2010/REP

**REPORT**

of the

**TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION**

of the

**LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION**

Guatemala City, Guatemala  
24 - 28 May, 2010

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
Santiago, Chile  
2010



## CONTENTS

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUESTS.....	Page v
	Paragraphs
INTRODUCTION.....	1 - 6
ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA.....	7
ELECTION OF OFFICERS.....	8 - 9
Matters of information from FAO.....	10 - 17
Development of Project “Exemplary Cases of Sustainable Forest Management in Latin America and the Caribbean.....	18 - 23
GOVERNANCE, INSTITUTIONS AND FORESTRY LEGISLATION .....	24 - 25
FOREST HEALTH IN THE CONTEXT OF THE SOUTHERN CONE OF LATIN AMERICA.....	26 - 33
STATE OF FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES IN LATIN AMERICA.....	34 - 43
INFORMATION ON FOREST RESOURCES WITH AN EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL FOREST INVENTORIES .....	44 - 51
COMMUNITY FORESTRY IN THE CARIBBEAN .....	52 - 58
Parallel meetings of the Subregional Groups .....	59 - 61
IN-SESSION SEMINAR: FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE - WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION .....	62 - 67
REGIONAL ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE COMMISSION FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY (COFO) .....	68 - 70
OTHER BUSINESS.....	71 - 73
DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION .....	74
ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND CLOSURE OF THE SESSION .....	75 - 76
<i>Appendix A – Agenda.....</i>	<i>page 11</i>
<i>Appendix B – List of Participants .....</i>	<i>page 12</i>
<i>Appendix C – List of Documents.....</i>	<i>page 25</i>
<i>Appendix D – Workplans of the Subregional Groups of the Commission for the period 2010-2012.....</i>	<i>page 26</i>
<i>Appendix E – Summary of the Proceedings of the In-Session Seminar: Forests and Climate Change – with a special focus on climate change adaptation .....</i>	<i>page 33</i>





## SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUESTS

1. The Commission requested that FAO recover its capacity to support countries in the thematic areas of forestry education and research. (para. 15)
2. The Commission welcomed the proposal for a second project phase and recommended its early implementation for the addition of further cases of sustainable forest management in Latin America and the Caribbean. It stressed that the execution of this phase should attach special importance to the transfer of knowledge and the building of capacity at national level. (para. 21)
3. The Commission also recommended that the study and its results be more broadly disseminated, especially given that 2011 was to be the International Year of Forests. (para. 22)
4. The Commission requested that FAO issue a certificate of excellence sponsored by the LACFC to the exemplary cases of sustainable forest management that had been studied in the Region. (para. 23)
5. The Commission recommended that existing regional forest health organizations be strengthened, giving them added capacity to transfer information and knowledge at academic and governmental level. (para. 32)
6. The Commission expressed its concern over the appropriation and inappropriate use of the Region's forest genetic resources and requested that FAO provide support to the countries to avoid such situations. (para. 41)
7. On the basis of the presentation by the Caribbean Subregional Group, the Commission recommended that COFO examine mechanisms and the identification and mobilization of sources of funding that would enable FAO to provide greater support to community forestry in the countries of the Region, and of the Caribbean in particular. (para. 57)
8. The Commission expressed its concern over the reduced attention that was given to community forestry development in FAO's programme of work and support to the countries of the Region, so that continuity could be given to their past efforts in this thematic area. The Commission recommended that this concern be brought to the attention of COFO so that renewed priority could be given to this topic in the programme of work of the Forestry Department. (para. 58)
9. The Commission requested FAO to take a strong role in the coordination of efforts in the region related to forests and climate change adaptation. It further requested FAO to work with Commission members and with other partners to identify needs for forests and climate change adaptation in Latin America and the Caribbean and to develop proposals and seek funding to support regional or sub-regional activities and cooperative action on forests and climate change adaptation. (para. 66)
10. The Commission requested FAO to synthesize and disseminate information on forests and climate change, with the objectives of raising awareness of the contributions of sustainable forest management to climate change adaptation and mitigation, disseminating country experiences and successful outcomes, providing guidance to countries for practical action, and strengthening country knowledge and capacity as relates to forests and climate change adaptation and mitigation. (para. 67)



## INTRODUCTION

1. The Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) held its 26th Session from 24 to 28 May 2010 in Guatemala City, Guatemala, at the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of Guatemala. The Session was attended by delegates from 22 member countries and representatives of 13 organizations, including United Nations agencies and international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, attending as observers. The Agenda is provided in *Appendix A*, the List of Participants in *Appendix B*, and the List of Documents submitted to the Commission in *Appendix C*.

2. Mr Gustavo Galindo, Delegate, National Forestry Department of the Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Ecuador and serving Chair of the LACFC, presided over the Opening Session. Mr Eduardo Rojas Briales, Assistant Director-General of the FAO Forestry Department, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Director-General of FAO, Dr Jacques Diouf. Mr Juan Alfonso De León, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food of Guatemala, also addressed the assembly. Finally, Mr Rafael Espada, Vice-President of the Republic of Guatemala addressed the participants before formally opening the Session.

3. Mr Rojas thanked the Government of the Republic of Guatemala for its generous offer to host the Session and for its effort in organizing it. He also thanked the members of the LACFC Executive Committee for their active involvement in the Commission's activities in the last two years and in the preparation of the technical topics to be examined during the Session. He stated that the Regional Forestry Commissions were of high importance to FAO as their deliberations and recommendations enabled COFO to draw up the programme of work for the Forestry Department. In response to the request made by countries at the last LACFC session in 2008 in Quito, Ecuador, FAO and the Executive Committee had modified the traditional session format, leaving the initiative to countries to select the technical topics and to prepare the associated documents.

4. He went on to announce that only a few weeks earlier, FAO had released the main findings of the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010. Although the trends were positive, deforestation figures for Latin America and the Caribbean continued to be of great concern, with its annual loss of 4 million hectares of forest. In closing he referred to the Buenos Aires Declaration that had resulted from the XIII World Forestry Congress held in October 2009.

5. Mr De León remarked on the importance of the day which represented the culmination of a process that had begun at the previous session of the LACFC session, when Guatemala had offered to host its 26<sup>th</sup> Session. He expressed his gratitude for the ample participation of international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and acknowledged the important role that the Commission played in the Latin America and Caribbean region. He ended by welcoming the delegates and observers attending the Session.

6. Mr Espada extended a warm welcome to the representatives of Latin America and the Caribbean. He informed them that the President of the Republic would have liked to attend the inauguration of such an important meeting but had regrettably had too many other commitments. Mr Espada therefore had the honour of representing the President. He lamented the destruction of forests in Guatemala and the negative consequences for land and water. He called for a halt to this process, which he affirmed was within the capability

of Latin America and the Caribbean provided all countries acted in unison. Finally, he thanked the participants for their presence and formally opened the Session.

### **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Item 1)**

7. The Agenda was adopted without amendments.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Item 2)**

8. In accordance with Articles II-1 and II-5 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission elected a Chair, three Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur. The following members of the Commission were unanimously elected:

Chair: Josué Morales (Guatemala), Mesoamerican Subregional Group

Vice-Chairs: Carlos Díaz (Cuba), Caribbean Subregional Group  
Liliana Corinaldesi (Argentina), Southern Cone Subregional Group  
Gustavo Galindo (Ecuador), Amazon Subregional Group

Rapporteur: Carlos Mantero (Uruguay)

9. Mr Carlos Marx R. Carneiro, Senior Forestry Officer of the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, acted as Secretary.

### **Matters of information from FAO**

10. Before this starting on this item, heartfelt tribute was paid to Mr Jorge Luis Menéndez of Argentina who had suddenly passed away. For many years Mr Menéndez had provided strong support to the Commission's activities.

11. The Secretariat informed the Commission of the following matters:

### **Actions in follow-up to the 25th Session of the Commission**

12. The Commission was informed of actions taken in follow-up to its 25th Session and, in particular, actions relating to its recommendations and requests at the time.

### **Items of general interest**

13. The Commission was informed of certain matters of general interest to be borne in mind during the course of proceedings: FRA-2010; FAO activities in the REDD and REDD+ processes; replenishment of the *Global Environment Facility* (GEF) 2010-2014; outcome of the World Forestry Congress, and the XXIII IUFRO World Congress to be held from 23 to 28 August 2010 in Seoul, Korea.

14. The Secretariat informed the participants of a study conducted by FAO together with universities in Chile and Venezuela. It emphasized the need to update the curriculum of forestry courses and to adapt it to the requirements of forestry activity, including environmental and social aspects.

15. The Commission requested that FAO recover its capacity to support countries in the thematic areas of forestry education and research.

#### **The FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO)**

16. The Commission was informed of the outcome of the last meeting of the COFO bureau, which had been held in May 2010 in Mexico, and of the new structure of the Committee.

#### **The National Forest Programmes (NFPs) in Latin America and the Caribbean**

17. The Commission was briefed on the NFPs in the Region. These were processes based on country leadership, broad participation, integration with national strategies and collaboration with other sectors. A total of 17 countries and three regional organizations were involved in such processes in the Latin America and Caribbean region. The Commission was also informed of related challenges and the progress of NFPs.

#### **Development of Project “Exemplary Cases of Sustainable Forest Management in Latin America and the Caribbean”**

18. The Secretariat informed the Commission of the book “Exemplary Cases of Sustainable Forest Management in Latin America and the Caribbean”.

19. The Commission was informed of the near completion of this book which describes 35 exemplary cases of sustainable forest management in 14 countries of the Region. The cases were selected by an Iberoamerican Panel of Experts on the basis of 11 minimum criteria of exemplarity. The study was conducted by FAO as part of an LACFC initiative, with cooperation from the member countries and funding from Spain’s Regional Government of Castilla and León.

20. A draft proposal for a second project phase was submitted to the Commission for its consideration, with the aim of increasing the case studies, training and the transfer of knowledge and experiences in order to strengthen the application of sustainable forest management in the Region.

21. The Commission welcomed the proposal for a second project phase and recommended its early implementation for the addition of further cases of sustainable forest management in Latin America and the Caribbean. It stressed that the execution of this phase should attach special importance to the transfer of knowledge and the building of capacity at national level.

22. The Commission also recommended that the study and its results be more broadly disseminated, especially given that 2011 was to be the International Year of Forests.

23. The Commission requested that FAO issue a certificate of excellence sponsored by the LACFC to the exemplary cases of sustainable forest management that had been studied in the Region.

### **GOVERNANCE, INSTITUTIONS AND FORESTRY LEGISLATION (Item 3)**

24. This item was introduced by Mrs Tania Villegas, Undersecretary of Natural Resources, Ministry of the Environment, Ecuador.

25. During her presentation, Mrs Villegas underscored the importance of effective forest governance to, for example, avoid deforestation and illegal logging, and to generally foster conditions for sustainable forest management. She stated that several international initiatives had emerged to support the enhancement of forest governance and that several countries of the Region were implementing corresponding actions and processes, including, notably, the review or replacement of forestry legislation and the improvement of forestry institutional structure, both governmental and non-governmental, so that it had greater capacity to enforce forestry legislation and to perform other important functions under better conditions.

### **FOREST HEALTH IN THE CONTEXT OF THE SOUTHERN CONE OF LATIN AMERICA (Item 4)**

26. Before the presentation of Item 4, the Chair gave the floor to Mr Robert M. Persaud, Minister for Agriculture of Guyana, who reported on progress in his country's forestry sector and conveyed the interest of the Government of Guyana in hosting the 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the LACFC.

27. Following Mr Persaud's intervention, the Southern Cone Subregional Group presented document FO:LACFC/2010/2 "Forest Health in the Context of the Southern Cone of Latin America".

28. The Commission took note of various subregional cooperation agreements and activities between countries of the Southern Cone on matters relating to forest health. The Commission was also informed of several national and subregional achievements with regard to pest control.

29. The Commission was asked to look into various matters related to this topic, in particular the establishment of a programme for the transfer of knowledge on international forest health practices and standards, the creation of a virtual platform of forest health research and development for the Region, the compilation of a related regional database and the establishment of a regional mechanism to coordinate international bodies active in this field, which would identify common health problems in the countries of the Region and would propose joint management strategies and regional policy guidelines.

30. Following the presentation by the Southern Cone Regional Group, the Secretariat took the floor to report on the preparation of the "Guide on phytosanitary forestry practices and international standards". The guide was being drawn up by a group of experts convened by FAO with funding from the FAO/Finland Project. It comprised the compilation of International Plant Protection Convention regulations that were applicable to the forestry sector. The Secretariat urged countries to review the document and send their comments.

31. After discussion during which some countries commented on the difficulties that existed between the national phytosanitary authorities and the forestry authorities, the Southern Cone Regional Group indicated that its member countries were able to work in a coordinated manner.

32. The Commission recommended that existing regional forest health organizations be strengthened, giving them added capacity to transfer information and knowledge at academic and governmental level.

33. The Commission expressed its appreciation of the presentation by the Southern Cone Regional Group and endorsed the continuation of the project in the framework of the LACFC.

#### **STATE OF FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES IN LATIN AMERICA (Item 5)**

34. The Amazon Subregional Group presented document FO:LACFC/2010/3 “State of Forest Genetic Resources in Latin America”.

35. The Secretariat Note prepared by the Amazon Subregional Group with the collaboration of the Latin American Network for the Conservation and Use of Forest Genetic Resources (LAFORGEN) and *Bioversity International*, referred to the state of genetic resources of Latin America. It emphasized the threats and risks to forest genetic resources that arose from deforestation and forest degradation in the Region; the lack of national policies for the conservation and management of forest genetic resources; the insufficiency of information and research on forest genetic resources; and the absence of a land register of exploration activities relating to forest genetic resources.

36. A number of achievements in the Region were also reported. The presentation ended with proposed topics for discussion by the Commission.

37. Before discussions were initiated, the Secretariat informed the Commission of the request to FAO by the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) for the preparation of a study on the state of the world’s forest genetic resources, to be completed in 2013. For the realization of this work, which represented an enormous challenge, FAO had requested the support of other organizations working in this thematic area (CBD, ICRAF, *Bioversity International*, CATIE, and others), together with that of countries and of regional networks on genetic resources (LAFORGEN, SAFORGEN, APFORGEN and EUFORGEN).

38. Before opening the debate, the floor was given to the representative of the Latin American Forest Genetic Resources Network (LAFORGEN), who informed the Commission that LAFORGEN was a network designed to promote the exchange of scientific and technical information and collaboration on forest genetic resources. LAFORGEN comprised 22 institutions that could play a fundamental role in preparing the study on the world’s forest genetic resources.

39. The floor was also given to *Bioversity International* which emphasized the need to generate information on the state of conservation and the value of forest genetic resources contained in the forest ecosystems of Latin America and the Caribbean. In March 2010 *Bioversity International* and FAO had trained several members of the Latin American Forest Genetic Resources Network (LAFORGEN) in the preparation of national reports on the state of forest genetic resources who could be contacted by ministries to help with the preparation of such reports.

40. The Commission highlighted the importance of the study on the state of the world's forest genetic resources and agreed that such a study would require strong commitment and support from the countries. Some delegates offered their immediate collaboration.

41. The Commission expressed its concern over the appropriation and inappropriate use of the Region's forest genetic resources and requested that FAO provide support to the countries to avoid such situations.

42. The Commission indicated the importance of strengthening the exchange of knowledge and experiences between countries on the subject of forest genetic resources and mentioned in particular *ex situ* conservation and the formulation of legal instruments to protect those resources in the countries and to ensure that intellectual property was respected.

43. The delegates of the Amazon Subregional Group suggested that the paragraphs on certificate of origin/source/legal provenance in document FO:LACFC/2010/3 include what was agreed at the CBD with regard to the ABS regime.

#### **INFORMATION ON FOREST RESOURCES WITH AN EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL FOREST INVENTORIES (Item 6)**

44. The Meso-America Subregional Group presented document FO:LACFC/2010/4 "Information on forest resources with an emphasis on national forest inventories".

45. The Group stated that the level of information on the state of forest resources in the Region was generally insufficient to meet demands. In most cases, such information was very general or scattered which made it difficult to conduct a meaningful assessment of the forest sector. While acknowledging this situation and identifying a number of challenges that needed to be considered, the Group reported that many countries had made significant efforts to bolster their national forest inventories so that they truly met information requirements.

46. The Commission was asked to examine the challenges mentioned during the presentation and to provide guidelines to countries and FAO on the strengthening of horizontal cooperation in the Region, technical support and the consolidation of institutional structures in countries relating to the national compilation of forest resource information. It was also emphasized that national forest inventories needed to include aspects relating to forest services and land use.

47. Before discussion of this item, the floor was given to the representative of the Amazon Regional Centre of Brazil's National Institute for Space Research (INPE), who briefed the Commission on the various programmes that had been developed to monitor forest cover using satellite imagery. The Centre had developed programmes that were able to monitor forest cover effectively and at low cost.

48. Brazil offered the use of these programmes to the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. To facilitate the transfer of this technology, INPE would sign a Memorandum of Understanding with FAO so that the latter could take care of contact with countries and the training of specialists.



49. The Commission expressed its appreciation of the presentation by INPE and warmly welcomed the Memorandum of Understanding to be signed with FAO, which would permit technical cooperation with countries interested in monitoring their forest areas.

50. The Commission recognized the importance of strengthening capacity to conduct national inventories and supported FAO's work in this regard. Mexico offered its collaboration in this initiative through its National Forest Commission (CONAFOR).

51. The Secretariat was then given the floor to present the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010. It reported the main findings of FRA-2010 which had included 233 countries and territories, more than 90 variables covering the extent, condition, uses and values of forests and four points in time: 1990, 2000, 2005 and 2010. Notable among the findings for Latin America and the Caribbean were the annual net loss of 4.2 million hectares of forest cover and the annual reduction in primary forest of more than three million hectares. On the positive side, there had been a significant expansion of protected areas in the Region, increasing almost 60 million hectares in the last 20 years.

### **COMMUNITY FORESTRY IN THE CARIBBEAN (Item 7)**

52. The Caribbean Regional Group presented document FO:LACFC/2010/5 "Community Forestry in the Caribbean".

53. The purpose of the presentation was to share knowledge and experiences on community forestry in the Caribbean with the delegates of other subregional groups and to explain how this contributed to the strengthening of forest management, conservation and the provision of important social and economic benefits to local communities. A number of challenges hampering greater progress in community forestry were also highlighted.

54. Before discussion of Item 7, the floor was given to the representative of the National Alliance of Community Forestry Organizations of Guatemala, who informed the Commission that the Alliance grouped eleven second-tier organizations representing more than 300 grassroots community organizations, 77 000 members and more than 380 000 indirect forest beneficiaries. He also stated the Alliance's objectives, strategic planning framework and associated actions, and other features.

55. The Commission underlined the importance of community forestry and welcomed the presentation of the National Alliance of Community Forestry Organizations of Guatemala. It emphasized the relevance of exchanging experiences to facilitate community forestry processes in other countries of the Region.

56. The Commission stressed that community forestry constituted a fundamental process for strengthening sustainable forest management, generating social and economic benefits to local communities and providing appropriate environmental protection.

57. On the basis of the presentation by the Caribbean Subregional Group, the Commission recommended that COFO examine mechanisms and the identification and mobilization of sources of funding that would enable FAO to provide greater support to community forestry in the countries of the Region, and of the Caribbean in particular.

58. The Commission expressed its concern over the reduced attention that was given to community forestry development in FAO's programme of work and support to the countries

of the Region, so that continuity could be given to their past efforts in this thematic area. The Commission recommended that this concern be brought to the attention of COFO so that renewed priority could be given to this topic in the programme of work of the Forestry Department.

### **Parallel meetings of the Subregional Groups**

59. Before the Subregional Group meetings, the National Forest Programme Facility briefed the Commission on a process of regional dialogue that had begun in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on the occasion of the XIII World Forestry Congress in October 2009. The purpose of the dialogue was to share experiences and suggestions for institutional change and governance. The topics for dialogue identified at Buenos Aires were: decentralization, forestry round tables, financing and investment strategies, intersectoral relations and political support to small-scale producers. The presentation was followed by a brief discussion of these topics by the Commission delegates. The Facility offered to finance the activities that the subregional working groups might identify regarding these topics.

60. During the parallel meetings, the Subregional Groups drafted their plans of work for the period 2010-2012. The proposals formulated by the Subregional Groups are included in *Appendix D*.

61. The Caribbean Subregional Group requested the other Subregional Groups to exchange information, cooperation and invitations to courses organized by those Subregional Groups.

### **IN-SESSION SEMINAR: FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE - WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION (Item 8)**

62. The LACFC Secretariat introduced document FO:LACFC/2010/6 "Forests and Climate Change – with a special focus on climate change adaptation". The Secretariat summarized the status of negotiations of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) related to forests and highlighted issues of significance to Commission delegates regarding climate change adaptation.

63. Mr. Ariel E. Lugo and Mrs. Kathleen McGinley, on behalf of the Secretariat of the North American Forestry Commission (NAFC), gave two presentations to supplement that of the LACFC Secretariat. These presentations summarized progress on a survey inquiring about the threats to forests in Latin America and the Caribbean and exploring the vulnerability of the region to climate change. The work was done in response to a request made by the LACFC during its 25<sup>th</sup> Session.

64. The presentations were followed by three others, which provided information on some national experiences on forests and climate change and perspectives on areas for regional activities and collaboration. José Armando Alanís delivered a presentation entitled "Forests of Mexico in the face of climate change". Miguel Segur Pelayo spoke on "Basis for a climate change adaptation strategy for forests in Latin America and the Caribbean: Phytoclimatic mapping, future climate scenario building and risk analysis." Raffaele Vignola made a presentation on "Forests and climate change: Regional perspective on research and capacity building". Appendix E has additional information on the proceedings of the in-session seminar.

65. The Commission thanked FAO for organizing the in-session seminar, which it found extremely relevant and informative. The Commission also expressed its appreciation and recognized the excellent quality of the presentations. During the discussion session, several members shared their countries' experiences and views on areas of common interest in the region.

66. The Commission requested FAO to take a strong role in the coordination of efforts in the region related to forests and climate change adaptation. It further requested FAO to work with Commission members and with other partners to identify needs for forests and climate change adaptation in Latin America and the Caribbean and to develop proposals and seek funding to support regional or subregional activities and cooperative action on forests and climate change adaptation.

67. The Commission requested FAO to synthesize and disseminate information on forests and climate change, with the objectives of raising awareness of the contributions of sustainable forest management to climate change adaptation and mitigation, disseminating country experiences and successful outcomes, providing guidance to countries for practical action, and strengthening country knowledge and capacity as relates to forests and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

#### **REGIONAL ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE COMMISSION FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY (Item 9)**

68. The Commission requested that FAO to issue a certificate of excellence sponsored by the LACFC to the exemplary cases of sustainable forest management that had been studied in the Region.

69. Following the presentation on community forestry of the Caribbean Subregional Group, the Commission recommended that COFO examine mechanisms and the identification and mobilization of sources of funding that would enable FAO to provide greater support to community forestry in the countries of the Region, and of the Caribbean in particular.

70. The Commission expressed its concern over the reduced attention that was given to community forestry development in FAO's programme of work and support to the countries of the Region, so that continuity could be given to their past efforts in this thematic area. The Commission recommended that this concern be brought to the attention of COFO so that renewed priority could be given to this topic in the programme of work of the Forestry Department.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS (Item 10)**

71. The Secretariat informed the Commission that the reference document on forest legislation in South America "Leyes forestales en América del Sur" was available on the FAO Regional Office website (<http://www.rlc.fao.org/es/pubs/>). This document contained information on national forest programmes and institutional structures and, principally, on aspects of legislation relating to forests, environment and environmental services in the countries of South America.

72. The delegate of Mexico informed the Commission of the following meetings, among others, that would take place in his country during 2010: a) Workshop on forest governance, decentralization and REDD+ in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in Oaxaca from 30 August to 3 September; b) 8<sup>th</sup> Expo-Forestal, Centro Banamex, in Mexico City from 30 September to 3 October; and c) 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 16) to be held in the Centro Cancún from 29 November to 10 December 2010.

73. FAO stated that the Symposium on Climate Change and Protected Areas of Latin America would be held in Huaraz, Peru, from 8 to 12 November 2010. The symposium would take place in the framework of the Latin American Technical Cooperation Network on National Parks, Other Protected Areas and Wildlife which is sponsored by the FAO Regional Office.

#### **DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION (Item 11)**

74. During the first day of the Session, the Minister for Agriculture of Guyana had expressed the interest of the Government of Guyana in hosting the 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the LACFC (para. 26). The delegate of Paraguay reiterated the offer to host the 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the LACFC which had already been formally made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Paraguay to FAO. With regard to the date of the Session, from 20 to 24 March 2012, the delegate of the Dominican Republic reported that 21 March coincided with World Forest Day and he would certainly have to remain in his country to celebrate this event.

#### **ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND CLOSURE OF THE SESSION (Item 12)**

75. The draft report was adopted by the Commission with minor amendments.

76. The Session was drawn to a close by Messrs José Antonio Prado, on behalf of FAO, and Josué Iván Morales, on behalf of the Republic of Guatemala.

**APPENDIX A****AGENDA**

1. Opening of the Session and adoption of the Agenda.
2. Election of Officers.
3. Governance, institutions, and forestry legislation.
4. Forestry health in the context of the Southern Cone of Latin America.
5. State of forest genetic resources in Latin America.
6. Information on forest resources with emphasis to national forest inventories.
7. Community forestry in the Caribbean.
8. Forests and Climate Change - with a special focus on climate change adaptation. (In-session seminar).
9. Regional issues identified by the Commission for the attention of the Committee on Forestry (COFO).
10. Other business.
11. Place and date of the next Session.
12. Adoption of the report and closing of the Session.

**APPENDIX B****LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

Chairman: Josué Morales (Guatemala)

Vice-Chairmen: Carlos Díaz (Cuba)  
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Gustavo Galindo (Ecuador)

Rapporteur: Carlos Mantero (Uruguay)

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**APPENDIX C****LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Title</b>
1	FO:LACFC/2010/1	Provisional agenda
4	FO:LACFC/2010/2	Forestry health in the context of the Southern Cone of Latin America
5	FO:LACFC/2010/3	State of forest genetic resources in Latin America
6	FO:LACFC/2010/4	Information of forest resources with emphasis to national forest inventories
7	FO:LACFC/2010/5	Community forestry in the Caribbean
8	FO:LACFC/2010/6	Forests and Climate Change – with a special focus on climate change adaptation

**Information documents**

FO:LACFC/2010/Inf.1	Information Note for the Participants
FO:LACFC/2010/Inf.2	Provisional timetable
FO:LACFC/2010/Inf.3	List of Documents

**APPENDIX D****WORKPLANS OF THE SUBREGIONAL GROUPS OF THE COMMISSION  
FOR THE PERIOD 2010-2012*****WORKPLAN OF THE CARIBBEAN SUBREGIONAL GROUP***

**Countries present:** Cuba, Puerto Rico of the United States of America, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, and Suriname.

The procedure of this Subregional Group was confirmed whereby it conducted specific works in groups of countries that have similar ecological and social conditions.

Work is currently conducted in three main groups:

1. Small and medium-size English-speaking islands: Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Granada, Trinidad and Tobago, and Barbados.
2. Spanish- and French-speaking islands: Cuba, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico of the United States of America and Haiti.
3. Countries with large forest areas: Belize, Guyana, French Guyana, Suriname.

Membership of these working groups is not exclusive as participation in any activity ultimately depends on the topic and the interest of individual countries. Cross-cutting issues are discussed at Subregional level.

**Main areas of common interest**

- Community forestry.
- Forest cover monitoring systems (including remote monitoring systems) with a focus on climate change and forest fires.
- Assistance in the preparation of reports on forest genetic resources and plans of action.
- Aspects of governance for watershed land-use planning.
- Facilitation of a mechanism of exchange of forest information for the Caribbean.

**Proposed activities**

- *Community forestry*

Identify and record cases of community forestry in the Caribbean countries, documenting experiences of interaction between forest authorities and local communities, small enterprises and small owners.

Organize a regional workshop to examine factors determining the success of community forestry activities and document the results in a regional study.

With regard to this initiative, Jamaica and the Dominican Republic offered to support and lead the process, for which they presented their programme of work to the delegates of the Subregional Group.

- *Forest cover monitoring systems (including remote monitoring systems) with a focus on climate change and forest fires*

Guyana offered to host a workshop to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and methodologies on the monitoring of forest cover in the countries of the Subregional Group, with a focus on remote monitoring systems. One aim of the workshop would be to look into the possibility of designing a monitoring training programme.

This activity will be led by Guyana with support from Puerto Rico.

- *Assistance in the drafting of reports on forest genetic resources and the design of country plans of action*

Organize a workshop on training and exchange of experiences on forest genetic resources and their conservation.

This initiative will be led by Cuba with support from Puerto Rico.

- *Aspects of governance for watershed land-use planning*

Initiate a process of regional dialogue on how to strengthen the role of the forestry sector in land-use planning. A proposed first step would be to hold a workshop for countries to report their methodology experiences in this regard.

This initiative will be led by Cuba with support from Grenada and the Dominican Republic.

- *Facilitation of a mechanism of exchange of forest information for the Caribbean*

Help forestry authorities set up their web pages and facilitate exchanges on their design and continued presence on the Web.

The International Institute of Tropical Forestry Information (IITF) has designed a Caribbean Foresters website (<http://www.caribbeanforesters.org/>) which it makes available to the Caribbean Subregional Group to facilitate the exchange of information.

The initiative to help national forest authorities establish their websites will be led by Cuba with support from Jamaica and Puerto Rico.

### **Bilateral activities**

Cuba and the Dominican Republic agreed to explore opportunities for the exchange of information on endemic plants and forest legislation.

### **WORKPLAN OF THE SOUTHERN CONE SUBREGIONAL GROUP**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Topic leader</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Recommendations to the Commission</b>
Criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management	Chile	Stronger and better country capacity, and exchange of information in the Southern Cone.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Implement the selected indicators (17 indicators).</li> <li>2. Classify, apply and maintain data and</li> </ol>	FAO is requested to conduct review 2 of TCP 3203 to adapt it to the new activity priorities of

			<p>information in a subregional information system.</p> <p>3. Standardization of knowledge and technologies to generate and maintain indicators in the bodies generating the information.</p> <p>4. Appraisal in each country of the state of the art (information) to build permanent mapping information to reflect change in land use.</p> <p><i>Note: Brazil is not a member of the Montreal Process.</i></p>	<p>countries, and to consider increasing the budget.</p>
<p>Forest protection</p> <p>1. Forest health</p> <p>2. Forest fires</p>	Argentina	<p>Promoted transfer of knowledge and technologies for detection, early warning and forest protection.</p>	<p>1.1 Proposed harmonization of legal frameworks.</p> <p>1.2 Subregional contingency plan.</p> <p>1.3 Mechanism of knowledge transfer.</p> <p>1.4 Information system for detection and early warning.</p> <p>2.1 Work in the Southern Cone countries on the subject of forest fires in the framework of the existing network.</p> <p>2.2 Exchange of experiences in the control of forest fires.</p> <p>2.3 Organization of a parallel seminar of the Southern Cone to coincide with the Congress on Forest Fire Control to be held in Curitiba (2011).</p>	<p>FAO is requested to continue its support for the approval of the project that the Southern Cone countries are preparing on forest health and for implementation of the envisaged actions.</p>

Experiences in intersectoral relations	Paraguay	Strengthened forest institutional structures in each country.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identification of players in the forest sector and other related sectors.</li> <li>2. Identification of intersectoral conflicts.</li> <li>3. Case studies to resolve intersectoral conflicts.</li> <li>4. Exchange of experiences between countries.</li> </ol>	Support is requested from FAO, the National Forest Programme Facility and other bodies to finance these activities.
Valuation of forests and financing	Brazil	<p>Information available to Southern Cone countries contemplating instruments to assess the value of forest environmental goods and services, with a focus on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Environmental services (water/forest).</li> <li>2. Certification.</li> <li>3. Minimum prices.</li> <li>4. Environmental compensation.</li> <li>5. Incentives.</li> <li>6. Ecological ICMS.</li> </ol> <p>* Legal frameworks.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Preparation of reports on Brazil's experiences.</li> <li>2. Regional meeting for presentation.</li> <li>3. Regional report – with the inclusion of initiatives of the other Southern Cone countries.</li> </ol>	
Subregional round table on forestry	Uruguay	Establishment of an institutional framework for the subregional round table.	<p>Identify/establish a permanent platform for discussion between countries on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Valuation and financing.</li> <li>2. Climate change and carbon REDD.</li> <li>3. Climate change and energy.</li> <li>4. Incorporation of players in forest negotiation.</li> <li>5. Biodiversity and forests.</li> </ol>	

**Countries present:** Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay.

**General recommendation:** The National Forest Programme Facility should take steps to consider as beneficiary countries the other countries of the Southern Cone Subregional Group that still do not have Partnership Agreements.

***WORKPLAN OF THE MESO-AMERICA SUBREGIONAL GROUP***

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Outcome(s)</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Comments</b>
1. Establishment of systems of forest information, evaluation and monitoring (incl. preparation of REDD)	A designed Central American forest information system.	Conduct a country appraisal of the state of progress of the Forest Resource Information Systems, with an emphasis on data relating to REDD.  Design a Central American forest information system, with a specific section on REDD-related topics	With regard to this topic, FAO should collaborate with other existing initiatives, such as UN-REDD, the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility and the CCAD-GTZ project.
2. Forest protection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forest health</li> <li>• Forest fires</li> </ul>	A revised, updated and operational Central American Forest Fire Management Strategy	Convene a meeting of country liaison officers of the Central American Forest Fire Management Strategy  Produce a consolidated report on forest fire management in Central America.	The Technical Committee on Forests had reached such an agreement in 2009 in Managua.  The topic of forest fires should be linked to the topic of the REDD.
3. Incorporate community forestry as a strategic element of coordination of the multi-functionality of forest ecosystems	Participation of players from rural and indigenous groups in forest coordination arenas.  Formulated community forestry programmes.	Review of existing legally recognized arenas permitting meaningful participation of relevant players, representatives of rural and indigenous groups.  Strengthening of institutional programmes designed to promote the participation of grassroots organizations in the production of forest ecosystem goods and services.	How are the arenas that forest policy has opened up to these grassroots groups?  How many programmes or projects are being implemented in the countries?

**Countries present:** Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama.



**WORKPLAN OF THE AMAZON SUBREGIONAL GROUP**

<b>Spheres of action</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Specific activities</b>	<b>Expected outcomes</b>	<b>Inputs and possible sources of funding</b>
Forest information systems	Continue building national capacity for forest information management	Implementation of the forest cover monitoring project	Real-time forest cover monitoring system implemented and functioning in its first phase	Co-financed by ITTO, ABC and ACTO
			Personnel trained by the INPE.	Country and INPE inputs
		Implementation of forest sector satellite accounts	Country reports on evaluation and proposals for implementation of forest sector satellite accounts.	FAO resources, country inputs and ACTO
			Holding of a regional workshop to discuss progress and determine way forward	
Instruments of forest policy and legislation	Exchange of experiences with instruments of forest policy and legislation	Training in appropriate national initiatives of implementation of forest policy and governance instruments	Forest policies with a broader support base	FAO resources, country inputs and ACTO
		Identification and dissemination of exemplary cases of SFM	Exemplary cases of SFM disseminated within countries	FAO resources, country inputs and ACTO
International agreements	Strengthen dialogue aimed at reaching consensus regional positions and with international bodies	Coordination and organization of meetings for dialogue and coordination	Regional reports of preparatory meetings and videoconferences held	FAO resources, country inputs and ACTO

	such as UNFF, ITTO, CBD, UNFCCC	Support for the creation of committees to celebrate the International Year of Forests	Plan of action implemented for celebration of the International Year of Forests	FAO resources, country inputs and ACTO
Funding mechanisms for the forest sector	Aim to standardize knowledge and information on funding mechanisms for the forest sector	Support country actions to build national capacity for the implementation of financial mechanisms	Regional workshop on the exchange of experiences	FAO resources, country inputs and ACTO
		Promote internal debate within countries of the Region where feasible	National workshops where feasible	
Systems of forest and genetic resource protection	Contribute towards improving national capacity for the control of pests and diseases and forest fires in the Region	Design and formulation of national forest protection strategies	Strategy document for forest protection	Country inputs and FAO resources
			Building of capacity for transboundary control	
			Warning standards in the countries of the Region	
	Promote understanding of the state of forest genetic resources	Develop national studies of forest genetic resources	Information on genetic resources included in national policies	Country inputs, FAO in cooperation with <i>Bioversity</i> , LAFORGEN.

**Countries present:** Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador

1. Community development.
2. Control of illegal activity with an emphasis on transboundary movement.

**APPENDIX E****SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE IN-SESSION SEMINAR: FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE - WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION (Item 8)**

Ms. Susan Braatz, on behalf of the LACFC Secretariat, introduced document FO:LACFC/2010/6 "Forests and Climate Change – with a special focus on climate change adaptation". The document reviewed the status of negotiations of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) related to forests and highlighted issues of significance to Commission delegates.

Mr. Ariel E. Lugo and Mrs. Kathleen McGinley, on behalf of the Secretariat of the North American Forestry Commission (NAFC), gave two presentations to supplement that of the LACFC Secretariat. They summarized progress on a survey inquiring about threats to forests in Latin America and the Caribbean and exploring the vulnerability of the region to climate change. This work had been requested by Mexico, Chile and the United States of America at the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the LACFC. The study, which was still in progress, benefited from the participation of most countries in the region. Preliminary results showed that threats to forests and vulnerabilities to climate change, as perceived by country experts, were geographically sensitive, and would require country and region-specific analysis.

Mr. José Armando Alanis' presentation on "Forests of Mexico in the face of climate change" indicated the potential scope and considerable magnitude for forest-related mitigation in Mexico, impacts of climate change on the country's forest ecosystems, and planned mitigation and adaptation measures. In his presentation on "Basis for a climate change adaptation strategy for forests in Latin America and the Caribbean: Phytoclimatic mapping, future climate scenario building and risk analysis", Mr. Miguel Segur Pelayo spoke of work in progress in Argentina on using phyto-climatic maps and climate change scenario models to assess possible future changes in forest species distributions and facilitate planning of adaptation responses. Mr. Raffaele Vignola, in speaking on "Forests and climate change: Regional perspective on research and capacity building", focused on the limited attention the scientific literature on tropical forests gave to climate change adaptation as compared with mitigation; suggested that the rapid rate of change and high degree of uncertainty in predicting future climate change scenarios necessitated the development of flexible and adaptable governance arrangements and sound information to inform responses; and underlined the importance of capacity strengthening on forests and climate change as well as communication efforts targeted at policy makers and the public.

Commission members shared countries' experiences and needs in addressing forest and climate change issues. Among the points raised were the following. Honduras spoke about its efforts in integrated landscape planning in conjunction with the implementation of its water resources strategy. Paraguay drew attention to the need to strengthen the voice of many countries in the region as regards forestry issues in the international climate change negotiations. Uruguay shared its experience in fostering multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder processes for the development of climate change strategies and highlighted its work to protect native forests. Chile provided information on its efforts to enhance forestry-agriculture linkages in addressing climate change issues. Grenada spoke about impacts of drought and climate change in the country, and also about the special needs of small island developing states. Brazil highlighted the need for strong public policies to encourage adaptation; its work to strengthen linkages among energy, agriculture and forestry policy and practices; and its goals to promote planted forests. Other countries that provided

comments were Argentina, Guatemala, Ecuador, Surinam, Cuba, Nicaragua, and Dominican Republic.

The following key points were summarized from the discussion. Forest policy makers and managers face considerable challenges in making decisions and carrying out long-term planning for adaptation in light of the high degree of complexity and uncertainty about the magnitude, rate and impacts of climate change. In such an environment of uncertainty, the creation and maintenance of policy frameworks and governance arrangements that are conducive to adaptive management were considered to be very important. Strong intersectoral coordination and cooperation would be increasingly crucial in order to maximize the effectiveness and minimize possible negative spin-off effects of adaptation measures. Opportunities for capitalizing on the potential synergies between climate change mitigation and adaptation in the forestry sector should be captured. Climate change scenario modelling is a useful tool, but its value is dependent in large part on the availability of good data. Sustainable forest management is a fundamental foundation for climate change adaptation in the sector, but forest policy and practices will, in many places, need to be adjusted in response to new conditions posed by climate change.

The Commission highlighted various appropriate roles for FAO in this field, including: helping countries translate scientific findings into practical action; fostering sub-regional and regional activities and cooperation, providing factual information on the importance of forests to climate change adaptation and mitigation in order to raise awareness of high level policy makers and the general public, helping to document and disseminate successful results of the region's countries in forestry adaptation and mitigation, and helping to enable foresters become more directly involved in the international climate change policy process in UNFCCC.

The Commission requested FAO to take a strong role in coordinating efforts in the region related to forests and climate change adaptation. It also requested the organization to work with countries and other organizations to identify needs of countries in the region related to forests and climate change adaptation and to develop proposals and seek funding to support regional or sub-regional activities and cooperative action in this field. It further requested FAO to synthesize and disseminate policy-relevant and technical information on forests and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

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Costa Rica	Peru
Cuba	Saint Kitts and Nevis
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