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COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Item 10.3 of the Provisional Agenda

Seventeenth Regular Session

Rome, 18–22 February 2019

PREPARATION OF *THE SECOND REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES*

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CGRFA 17

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the Commission), at its Sixteenth Regular Session in 2017, adopted a schedule for monitoring the implementation of the *Global Plan for Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources* (Global Plan of Action) and the preparation of *The Second Report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources* (Second Report).¹ According to the schedule, the Commission should consider the preparation of the Second Report and guidelines for the preparation of country reports for the Second Report at this session.²

2. The Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources (the Working Group) considered the preparation of the Second Report and *Draft Guidelines for the Preparation of Country Reports* at its Fifth Session in May 2018. The Working Group recommended the Commission to approve the proposed outline and timeline for the preparation of the Second Report, and recommended some changes to the draft reporting guidelines.³ It further requested the Secretariat to invite the National Focal Points (NFPs) on forest genetic resources to comment on the draft reporting guidelines and finalize them in the light of comments received, for consideration by the Commission at this session. Comments and/or feedback were received from the NFPs of Australia, Finland, Germany, Madagascar, Spain and the United Republic of Tanzania.

3. This document presents the scope, outline and preparatory process for the Second Report, for consideration by the Commission. The revised draft reporting guidelines are contained in the document *Revised draft guidelines for the preparation of country reports for The Second Report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources*, as revised in the light of comments received from the Working Group and NFPs.⁴

II. PROPOSED SCOPE AND OUTLINE OF THE SECOND REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES

4. At its last session, the Commission stressed that the information to be collected for the Second Report should cover the state of forest genetic resources themselves, in addition to efforts related to the conservation, sustainable use and development of these resources.⁵ A draft outline for the content of the Second Report is given in *Appendix I* to this document. It is proposed that the structure of the Second Report highlight the contributions of forest genetic resources to sustainable development, especially Sustainable Development Goal 15 (Life on land) and describe consequences of any changes identified in the forest sector for forest genetic resources and their management. The Second Report should continue to cover the genetic resources of forest trees and other woody plant species used for multiple purposes and managed in the broad range of forest management systems. The Second Report should also provide information relevant to the possible updating of the Global Plan of Action.

III. PREPARATORY PROCESS FOR THE SECOND REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES

5. The primary source of data and information for the preparation of the Second Report continues to be country reports on forest genetic resources. The schedule adopted by the Commission for monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action envisages that the preparation of the Second Report and the Second Report on the Implementation of the Global Plan of Action (Second Implementation Report) will be carried out in parallel.⁶

6. It is proposed that the reporting guidelines for preparing the country reports consist of two sections. The first section would consist of the questionnaire prepared in 2017 for the preparation of the country progress reports on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, including the state of

¹ CGRFA-16/17/Report/Rev.1, paragraph 74.

² CGRFA-16/17/20, *Appendix C*.

³ CGRFA-17/19/10.1, paragraphs 15–16.

⁴ CGRFA-17/19/10.3/Inf.1.

⁵ CGRFA-16/17/18, paragraph 19.

⁶ CGRFA-16/17/20, *Appendix C*.

conservation, use and development of forest genetic resources, as well as the state of related policies and institutions. In 2020, countries would only need to update any changes in the data and information they provided for the First Implementation Report in 2018 through the online questionnaire on the Open Foris platform. The questionnaire is presented in Annex 1 of *Appendix I* to the document *Draft guidelines for the preparation of country reports for The Second Report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources*.⁷

7. The second section of the reporting guidelines for the Second Report will seek complementary information that is needed for its preparation. The reporting guidelines used for the preparation of the first report on *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources* (2014) have been adapted with a view to reduce the reporting burden of countries. FAO will not request countries to provide any data that they provide, or have provided, to FAO as part of other reporting processes. For example, FAO will not request any overall data on forest resources as part of the preparation of the Second Report as these data are collected through the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA).⁸ The proposed complementary information for the Second Report is presented in Annex 2 of *Appendix I* to the document *Draft guidelines for the preparation of country reports for The Second Report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources*.⁹

8. The preparation of country reports will, in principle, follow the same procedure that was used for the preparation of the First Report. In May 2019, FAO will invite Members of the Commission to confirm the existing or nominate a new NFP on forest genetic resources, and to submit their country reports for the preparation of the Second Report by 30 June 2020. Subject to the availability of extra-budgetary resources, limited financial assistance will be made available for developing countries to support the preparation of country reports, including national workshops and other consultations with stakeholders. FAO and its partners will also explore the possibility of organizing regional or sub-regional consultations in 2019 to discuss the findings of the First Implementation Report, to clarify reporting requirements for the preparation of the Second Report and to identify challenges and opportunities for further enhancing the conservation, sustainable use and development of forest genetic resources. More details on the timeline for the preparation of the Second Report are given in *Appendix II* to this document.

9. The data and information provided through the country reports will be complemented by data and information obtained from other relevant assessments and data providers, as well as from scientific literature. Subject to the availability of extra-budgetary resources, FAO will conduct expert meetings on selected topics to obtain specific and state-of-the-art inputs to different chapters of the Second Report. Furthermore, funds permitting, FAO will hire consultants, as needed, to support the preparation of the Second Report.

10. During the preparation of the Second Report, FAO will continue collaborating with regional networks on forest genetic resources and relevant international organizations, and invite them to contribute to the preparation of the Second Report.

11. If considered useful by the Commission, FAO is ready to explore the possibility of developing a new global information system on forest genetic resources. As part of the preparation of the First Report, efforts were made to upgrade the existing REFORGEN database on forest genetic resources, initiated in 1993, to store and manage data and information from country reports. However, this proved to be problematic owing to the outdated software architecture and the design of the database. Furthermore, because of technical issues, it was not possible to create an online interface for the NFPs to access or upload data in REFORGEN. In 2017, FAO created an online reporting system based on the Open Foris platform for the preparation and submission of country progress reports for the First Implementation Report. The reporting system allowed NFPs to complete country progress reports online while FAO provided specific technical support, as requested. While this reporting system can also be used for preparing the country reports for the Second Report, it has limited functionalities in

⁷ CGRFA-17/19/10.3/Inf.1.

⁸ *Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020. Guidelines and specifications*. Forest Resources Assessment Working Paper 189, FAO, Rome. <http://www.fao.org/3/I8699EN/i8699en.pdf>

⁹ CGRFA-17/19/10.3/Inf.1.

terms of making available online the data and information submitted by countries. A new global information system on forest genetic resources could overcome these limitations.

12. At its Fifth Session, the Working Group noted that the development of such an information system should be considered as a priority for making key data from the country reports publicly available. It also noted that the information system should enable countries to generate copies of the reports for their own use. The Working Group, thus, recommended that the Commission request FAO to initiate the development of a new information system on forest genetic resources, subject to the availability of additional extra-budgetary resources.¹⁰

IV. REQUIRED FINANCIAL RESOURCES

13. FAO's work on forest genetic resources is included in FAO's Strategic Programme 2 (*Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable*). For the biennium 2018–19, available resources include one regular programme post (Forestry Officer P-4 level, Forest Genetic Resources and Biodiversity), earmarked financial resources for the organization of the Fifth Session of the Working Group and contributions of support staff to the work on forest genetic resources. The regular programme resources for the work on forest genetic resources are not expected to increase significantly from 2020 to 2023. Therefore, extra-budgetary resources are critical for preparing the Second Report within the given timeframe.

14. The estimated extra-budgetary resources required for the preparation and publishing of the Second Report are presented in *Appendix III* to this document. Apart from the financial resources needed for supporting developing countries in the preparation of country reports and for regional consultations, additional technical and support staff will be needed to help preparing the Second Report. From July 2019 to June 2023 one Forestry Officer (P-3 level) and one General Service staff (G-3 level) would be required. The costs of developing a possible new information system on forest genetic resources are not included in the tentative budget presented in *Appendix III*.

V. GUIDANCE SOUGHT

15. The Commission may wish to:
- i. consider the proposed outline and timeline for the preparation of the Second Report, with a view to adopting them;
 - ii. consider the draft guidelines for preparing the country reports, with a view to adopting them;
 - iii. encourage countries to initiate the collection of information and data for the preparation of their country reports;
 - iv. call upon countries to submit their country reports for the preparation of the Second Report by 30 June 2020;
 - v. request FAO to invite regional networks on forest genetic resources and relevant international organizations to contribute to the preparation of the Second Report;
 - vi. request FAO to initiate the development of a new global information system on forest genetic resources, subject to the availability of additional extra-budgetary resources;
 - vii. encourage FAO to consider ways to strengthen national and regional information systems on forest genetic resources, including by offering technical and financial support;
 - viii. invite donors to support the preparation of the Second Report, taking note of the extra-budgetary resources required, as indicated in *Appendix III*

¹⁰ CGRFA-17/19/10.1, paragraph 17.

APPENDIX I

PROPOSED OUTLINE OF *THE SECOND REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES*

Foreword

Acknowledgements

Abbreviations and Acronyms

About this publication

Executive summary

Part 1: The contributions of forest genetic resources to sustainable development

Chapter 1. Value and importance of forest genetic resources

- Definition of forest genetic resources
- Economic, environmental, social and cultural values of forest genetic resources
- The role of forest genetic resources in achieving relevant Sustainable Development Goals

Part 2: State of diversity in forests and other wooded lands

Chapter 2. State of forests

- Relevant results from the 2020 Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA)
- Drivers of change in the forest sector

Chapter 3. State of other wooded lands

- Overview based on available assessments of other wooded lands that are not classified as “forests” by the FRA¹

Chapter 4. State of diversity between trees and other woody plant species

- Overview based on the findings of the ongoing Global Tree Assessment by the Botanical Gardens Conservation International and the IUCN/SSC Global Tree Specialist Group, and the data available from the GlobalTreeSearch database

Chapter 5. State of diversity within trees and other woody plant species

- Overview of inventories, characterization and monitoring of forest genetic resources based on scientific literature and other available information, including relevant data and information from the country reports

Part 3: State of forest genetic resources conservation

Chapter 6. *In situ* conservation of forest genetic resources

- Conservation of forest genetic resources in natural and planted forests

Chapter 7. *Ex situ* conservation of forest genetic resources

¹ *Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020. Terms and definitions*. Forest Resources Assessment Working Paper 188, FAO, Rome. <http://www.fao.org/3/I8661EN/i8661en.pdf>

- Conservation of forest genetic resources in *ex situ* conservation stands, provenance and progeny trials, seed banks, clonal collections etc

Part 4: State of use, development and management of forest genetic resources conservation

Chapter 8. The state of use

- Selection, production, delivery and deployment of forest reproductive material
- Economic and livelihood aspects of forest reproductive material

Chapter 9. The state of genetic improvement and breeding programmes

- Status and trends of tree improvement and breeding programmes
- Productivity gains and economic aspects

Chapter 10. Management of forest genetic resources

- Genetic considerations in managing natural and planted forests and their economic implications
- Consequences of the changes in the forest sector for forest genetic resources and their management

Part 5: State of capacities and policies

Chapter 11. Institutional framework for the conservation, use and development of forest genetic resources

- Capacities for the conservation, use and development of forest genetic resources
- National coordination mechanisms and other institutions dealing with forest genetic resources
- Policies and strategies relevant for forest genetic resources
- Stakeholders involved in the conservation, use and development of forest genetic resources
- Research and development

Chapter 12. International and regional cooperation on forest genetic resources

- International organizations and regional networks dealing with forest genetic resources
- Contributions of international and regional cooperation to the conservation, use and development of forest genetic resources

Part 6: Challenges and opportunities

Chapter 13. Recommended actions for the future

- Availability of information on forest genetic resources
- Conservation of forest genetic resources
- Use, development and management of forest genetic resources
- Policies, institutions and capacity-building

References

Annexes

APPENDIX II

PROPOSED TIMELINE FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE *SECOND REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES*

	2019			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Mobilization of extra-budgetary resources for the preparation of the Second Report				
CGRFA-17 considers the preparation of the Second Report				
Development of a global information system (possible activity)				
Preparation of country reports for the Second Report				
Regional consultations				

	2020				2021			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Preparation of country reports for the Second Report								
Regional consultations								
ITWG-FGR-6 considers the status of preparation of the Second Report								
Data cleaning and analyses								
Preparation of data and information syntheses for different chapters								
CGRFA-18 considers the status of preparation of the Second Report								
Expert meetings on selected topics relevant for the Second Report								
Preparation of draft chapters of the Second Report								
Peer-review of draft chapters of the Second Report								

APPENDIX III

**ESTIMATED EXTRA-BUDGETARY RESOURCES REQUIRED FOR THE PREPARATION
OF THE SECOND REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S FOREST GENETIC
RESOURCES (amounts in USD 1 000)²**

Item	2018– 19	2020– 21	2022– 23	Total
National stakeholder consultations and preparation of the country reports (70 x USD10 000/country)	700			700
Regional and sub-regional consultations in Asia, Africa, Near East, LAC, Pacific (5); USD 125 000/region)	375	250		625
Expert meetings (4) (USD30 000/meeting)		120		120
Consultants supporting the preparation of the SoW-FGR-2	34	269	51	354
Technical support (1 Forestry Officer (P3), , 48 months)	80	321	241	642
Administrative support (1 General Service staff, 48 months)	39	155	116	310
Operations (staff travel, consumables, miscellaneous costs)	30	30	30	90
Production, printing and distribution; preparation of summaries and infographics in six languages; launching of the Second Report			170	170
Sub-total				3 011
Indirect support costs (7%)				211
Total				3 222

² The costs of developing a possible new information system on forest genetic resources are not included in the tentative budget.