



NORTH AMERICAN FOREST COMMISSION

THIRTIETH SESSION

Missoula, Montana, USA 9 - 12 September 2019

REPORT ON PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING PREVIOUS DECISIONS

1. The 29th Session of the North American Forest Commission made several recommendations for enhancing the work of the Organization. A brief account of actions taken on these recommendations are presented in Annex 1.
2. The Commission may wish to review the progress made so far and on this basis, develop further recommendations for its members and for FAO.

ANNEX 1

**Actions taken in response to the recommendations of the 29th Session of
the North American Forest Commission**

Area/ action for FAO programme of work	Actions taken
47. ... urged FAO to fill the FAO position that oversees global fire capacity, given the importance of the topic..	The position was filled in April 2018. The Forestry Officer (Fire Management) has been active in the NAFC Fire Management Working Group and in ongoing interaction with partners from North America. The FAO Fire Management Strategy has been prepared to guide the work with an emphasis on Review and Analysis of the Fire Problem for developing countries and estimation of emissions from fires in support of NDCs in which partners from North America have been involved. FAO has been represented in a series of international fora, conferences and meetings; including the NAFC FMWG meeting 2018 and will include 2019, International Conference on Forest Fire Research (representing the DG of FAO), European Climate Change and Adaptation Conference, the European Expert Group on Forest Fires, and in October the International Wildland Fire Conference in Brazil where FAO is on the International Liaison Committee. FAO Forestry is making contributions and input to FAO and partner projects in countries, the GOFC-GOLD Fire IT group, supporting the World Bank in development of a fire management policy paper and the International Savannah Fire Management Initiative.
52. ... requesting FAO to provide technical assistance and, as far as possible, financial support for the preparation of national and regional reports [on forest genetic resources] when required..	FAO provided technical assistance, as requested, to the countries for the preparation of progress reports on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action on forest genetic resources. All three countries submitted their reports to FAO. At its Fifth Session in May 2018, the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources reviewed a draft of the first global report on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action. FAO then finalized the report to the 17th Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture held in February 2019 (see http://www.fao.org/3/my877en/my877en.pdf). In 2019-2020, FAO will continue providing technical support to the countries for the preparation of country reports to The Second Report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources (SoW-FGR-2). In June 2019, FAO invited its Members to update their nominations of National Focal Points on forest genetic resources by 31 August 2019, and to submit their country reports for the preparation of SoW-FGR-2 by 30 June 2020. FAO has also continued its collaboration with the Forest Genetic Resources Working Group of the NAFC.
85. ... requested FAO to assist countries in improving their capacity to monitor forest indicators for the	During the FRA 2020 reporting process, FAO has organized one global and nine regional /sub-regional workshops to support the reporting on forest resources including SDG indicators 15.1.

<p>Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), as well as to highlight their contributions to the 2030 Agenda in a more comprehensive and documented way</p>	<p>and 15.2.1. Furthermore, in late 2018, FAO initiated a participatory global remote sensing survey which focuses on building national capacities in using remote sensing for assessing forest area and its changes as well as producing independent estimates for these indicators at regional and global levels.</p>
<p>86. ... requested FAO and COFO to continue their work to promote inter-sectoral dialogue, including with other FAO Technical Committees and relevant international initiatives, in order to support efforts to mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into productive sectors, particularly forestry, at all levels and scales, by involving stakeholders through cross-sectoral platforms</p>	<p>In line with the recommendation of the Commission COFO had several items on its agenda that were addressed in collaboration with other technical committees. These included: Accelerating progress towards SDG15, Climate Change and its impact on the work and activities of FAO, Mainstreaming biodiversity into agriculture, forestry and fisheries. SOFO2018 spoke extensively about the contribution of forests to multiple SDGs and their cross-sectoral approaches and impacts. The four technical committees held a joint side event in December 2017 during the 158th Session of the FAO Council to present the results and potentials of their collaboration.</p> <p>The bureaux of the technical committees held two joint meetings in 2018 and 2019 and requested the secretariats to prepare a recommendation for future joint topics and another side event in 2019. In addition to healthy diets (the common theme for 2020-2021), the UN Decade for Family Farming and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration were suggested, together with biodiversity.</p>
<p>102. ... requested FAO, in coordination with the relevant national institutions, to undertake extensive dissemination of the results of the [HLPE] study, particularly among decision-makers, in order to promote greater integration of sectors involved in land-use planning to take into account the benefits provided by forests ecosystem services to food security and nutrition; he also supported the request to FAO to support countries in identifying, documenting and disseminating best practices for integration of food and nutritional security criteria in forest management and development of technical guidelines with this purpose.</p>	<p>The CFS44 policy recommendations on Sustainable Forestry for Food Security (based on the HLPE Study outcomes) were further disseminated and promoted at the Committee on Agriculture (COAG 26) and the Committee on World Food Security (CFS 45) in 2018. The use of CFS44 policy recommendations as well as relevant policy guidance notes were promoted at various occasions at national and regional levels (through regional network meetings, FAO commission meetings, regional training workshops etc.)</p> <p>A Regional Training Workshop for Policy Makers on “Beyond Planting Trees: Forest Pathways to No Poverty (SDG1) and Zero Hunger (SDG2)” took place with the government officials across 10 member countries, resulting in improved understanding of the contribution of forests to SDG1 and SDG2 and enhanced cross-sectoral policy development capacities.</p>
<p>103. ... suggested that FAO focus their efforts on metrics definitions (recommendation 1b and 1d of the report) and incorporating relevant food security and nutrition datasets into the FRA. She noted that FAO</p>	<p>FAO is initiating work on new dissemination and analysis modules for the FRA Platform. During the development of these components, possibilities to enrichen the content with other non-sectoral data from FAOSTAT will be explored.</p>

could also play an important role on 2a, 2b, and category 4 of the report's recommendations	
105. ... encouraged FAO to support countries in enhancing the contributions of forests and trees to food security, in documenting and disseminating best practices, and for further work on mainstreaming food security objectives into SFM policies and practices.	FAO supported 3 countries with their National Cross-sectorial Forestry and Food Security Policy Assessments in 2018. The findings which included a set of key recommendations were disseminated to key national stakeholders for possible follow-up actions. As a result, two Technical Cooperation Programme Facility projects have been formulated and implemented on developing cross-sectoral capacities to enhance the contributions of forests and trees to food security. Some country cases/best practices were further disseminated at regional level in 2019 through workshops and meetings.
121. requested FAO to invite its member countries to do the same [i.e. report to FRA2020], as well as to promote synergies to avoid duplication of efforts	FAO had launched its new online FRA reporting platform in 2018 in Mexico and provided training for national focal points for using it. The FRA reporting cycle has concluded successfully and currently the review of results is being performed. Information was collected for most of the Tier 1 indicators of the Global Core Set through FRA and this information will also be used by the UNFF reporting process, thereby decreasing reporting burden on countries. Both UNFF and COFO invited relevant international organizations an processes to consider using the information collected through the Global Core Set to further decrease reporting burden. For the same reason COFO repeatedly invited UNFF to consider using FAO's analytical products, in particular FRA and the SOFOs in its review function.
122. ... requested FAO to continue working in developing the global core set of forest-related indicators in coordination with CPF, which will be useful in the reporting progress in achieving the UNFSP Global Forest Goals and associated targets, as well as the SDGs. He requested FAO to present progress and results of this work at the next session of COFO and UNFF for consideration and analysis by member countries	The Global Cores Set was presented to UNFF13, UNFF14 and COFO 24. Both fora welcomed the results, encouraged use of the Global Core Set and requested further work in particular on Tier 2 and Tier 3 indicators. Information has been collected for the agreed indicators through the FRA 2020 reporting process. An expert meeting was held at FAO in November 2018 to discuss the socio-economic indicators and another global meeting will be held in October 2019 to deal with Tier 2 and Tier 3 indicators and make a recommendation to the CPF Task Force for further work.
136. ... if work needs to be done, the focus should be on boreal and that FAO should work closely with other organizations and processes, including the Circumboreal Working Group.	The Forestry Department established contacts with the International Boreal Forest Research Association (IBFRA) and the circumboreal cooperation group to explore future opportunities for joint work on boreal forests. The UNECE/FAO Joint Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management had considered establishing a Teams of Specialists on Boreal Forests and discussed a draft terms of reference. Decision will be taken at the joint session of the UNECE Committee of Forests and the Forest Industry and the FAO European Forestry Commission.