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Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
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Organisation des Nations
Unies pour l'alimentation
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Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الأغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

NORTH AMERICAN FOREST COMMISSION

THIRTIETH SESSION

Missoula, Montana, USA 9 - 12 September 2019

REPORT OF THE URBAN FOREST PROGRAMS WORKING GROUP

PERIOD: September 2017 – July 2019

1. WORKING GROUP COMPOSITION

Chairperson	Country	Organization
Christian Couture	Canada	Canadian Forest Service
Members	Country	Organization
Ramón Silva Flores	Mexico	CONAFOR
José Ricardo Sanchez Valasquez	Mexico	CONAFOR
Jacinto Samuel García	Mexico	CONAFOR
Verna Crossman	Canada	Canadian Forest Service
Ken Farr	Canada	Canadian Forest Service
Liza Paqueo	United States	US Forest Service International Programs
Rachel Sheridan	United States	US Forest Service International Programs

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2. LIST OF ACTIVITIES COMPLETED DURING THE PAST 2 YEARS

Meetings	Location	Date
Quarterly meeting	<i>Teleconference</i>	<i>29 January 2018</i>
Quarterly meeting	<i>Teleconference</i>	<i>18 June 2018</i>
Quarterly meeting	<i>Teleconference</i>	<i>8 August 2018</i>
Annual in-person meeting	<i>Montreal</i>	<i>10-11 September 2018</i>
Quarterly meeting	<i>Teleconference</i>	<i>15 November 2018</i>
Quarterly meeting	<i>Teleconference</i>	<i>4 March 2019</i>
Quarterly meeting	<i>Teleconference</i>	<i>2 July 2019</i>

ACTIVITIES:

- Profile of the working group's objectives and mission at the 2018 World Forum on Urban Forests in Mantova, Italy.
 - o The United States delegation reached out to other delegations present at the World Forum.
- Development of a speaker series on emerging issues on urban forestry (presentations to the working group members or to wider audience). Working group members invited expert speakers on the following topics:
 - o Urban forests, health and urban heat islands (Canada)
 - o i-Tree (United States)
 - o USFS Urban Forest Research curriculum (United States)
- Contact: Mr Simone Borelli, Agroforestry and Urban/Peri-urban Forestry Officer (Forest Resources Management Team, Forestry Policy and Resources Division, Forestry Department of the FAO).
 - o Mr Borelli delivered a presentation to the WG members in April, 2019 and a Working relationship was established.
- 2019 International Seminar on Urban Forestry hosted by the United States Forest Service.
 - o The seminar took place in Chicago and New York, gathering 22 participants from 17 countries. Themes explored included stakeholder and community-level engagement, environmental and social justice, and the value of trees in urban spaces.

3. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT 2 YEARS

Activity	Location	Date	Status (ongoing/new)
Identify non-governmental organizations and community groups working on social aspects of urban forestry (community engagement and stewardship). Explore options with Tree Canada to initiate STEW MAP pilot projects in Canada.	NA	2021	Ongoing
Develop a single-window hub of resources for urban forest programs applicable in Mexico, Canada and the United States.	NA	2021	Ongoing
Work with NAFC Liaison to reach out to other NAFC working groups to identify potential synergies.	NA	2021	Ongoing
Working group members to revisit definitions of urban Forests initially adopted by the Group, to facilitate long-term collaboration with other NAFC working groups.	NA	2021	Ongoing
Obtain data on i-Tree users and applications in Canada.	NA	2021	Ongoing
Explore ways for forestry agencies in Canada, Mexico and United States to strengthen their forest science and policy roles relating to urban forests and green spaces.	NA	2021	Ongoing
Raise the profile of urban forest issues and subjects by successfully connecting with the appropriate inter-governmental or agency groups (such as the International Union of Forest Research Organizations) and other multilateral and/or regional organizations.	NA	2021	Ongoing

4. WORKING GROUP FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS AND/OR NETWORKING

None.

5. REQUEST FOR FUNDING AND/OR OTHER SUPPORT

None.

6. CLOSING REMARKS

During the first two years of existence of the working group, the members activities have focused on learning and on information sharing between Mexico, the United States and Canada. It is expected that the same level of effort will be expended over the coming years, furthering the fruitful collaboration occurring between Mexico, the United States and Canada, under the aegis of the NAFC Urban Forest Programs Working Group.