FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Thirty-sixth Session
Managua, Nicaragua, (New dates to be determined)

Summary of the Recommendations of the Regional Commissions

Summary

FAO Regional Commissions are Statutory Bodies of the Organization. This document sets out recommendations for the FAO Regional Conference and Programme of Work issued by the following bodies: the Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC), the Commission on Livestock Development for Latin America and the Caribbean (CLDLAC), the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC), and the Commission for Small-Scale and Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture of Latin America and the Caribbean (COPPESAALC). Recommendations issued by the FAO-OEA/CIE-IICA Working Group on Agricultural and Livestock Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean are also included; the working group is not currently considered an official technical committee, however its deliberations are pertinent to the Regional Conference.

Recommendations for the attention of the FAO Regional Conference

It is suggested that the Regional Conference make a recommendation to move the ordinary sessions of the Regional Commissions to no later than the first half of the second year of the biennium. This would permit the ordinary sessions of the Regional Commissions, which are usually held towards the end of the second year of the FAO biennial programme of work to properly report to the Member Nations of the region and allow ample time to address the technical recommendations and decisions in the Regional Conferences.

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1 (C 2009/REP, para. 142).
I. Introduction

1. The regional technical commissions fall under the umbrella of FAO Statutory Bodies, and examine key issues and technical aspects in forestry (the Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission [LACFC]), livestock (the Commission on Livestock Development for Latin America and the Caribbean [CLDLAC]) and fisheries (the Commission for Small-Scale and Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture of Latin America and the Caribbean [COPPESAALC] and the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission [WECAFC]).

2. Furthermore, recommendations provided by the FAO-OEA/CIE-IICA Working Group on Agricultural and Livestock Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean are also included in this document. Although the working group is not currently considered an official technical committee, its deliberations are of relevance to the Regional Conference. The working group acts as technical secretariat for the working group on agricultural statistics of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). Despite the working group retaining its original name, it is worth noting that OEA (OAS by its acronym in English) and IICA did not attend its last four working sessions.

3. Commission delegates issue technical recommendations and lists of regional priorities which are in turn submitted to the Regional Conference under the pertinent agenda items for a given session.

II. Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC) report

4. The LACFC\(^2\) held its 31st session (September 2019) in Montevideo, at the invitation of the Government of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay. Delegates from 15 member countries attended the session, along with representatives of ten organizations including, as observers, four United Nations (UN) agencies and six international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The technical documents and full report can be viewed on the commission’s official website\(^3\).

5. LACFC delegates addressed issues pertaining to food security, poverty alleviation, sustainable production, climate change, forests and biodiversity, and forests and the bioeconomy.

   **Recommendations for the attention of the FAO Regional Conference**

6. Involve the forestry sector in the implementation of nationally determined contributions (NDCs).

7. Highlight the important role of forests in reducing socio-environmental conflicts, including those linked to human migration, land tenure, food and nutrition security, income generation and wellbeing.

   **Recommendations for the FAO Programme of Work**

8. Foster debates surrounding updated NDCs and the implications that stem from greater ambition and funding requirements.

9. Provide technical assistance for the development of carbon estimates and resource mobilization geared toward accelerating the implementation of NDCs.

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\(^2\)LACFC was established during the fourth session of the FAO Conference (1948) with the primary function of serving as a neutral forum for the countries in the region to examine forestry issues. The Commission has 33 member countries which work in subregional groups (Caribbean, Mesoamerica, Amazon and Southern Cone).

10. Develop evidence-based material on the contribution of forests to climate change adaptation and mitigation.

11. Boost regional networks for fires, health and invasive alien species in the forest sector and consolidate the forest inventory and monitoring network.

12. Support countries’ efforts to access financial resources to bolster programmes for restoration, reforestation and afforestation and for the collection and production of high-quality forest genetic material, in addition to providing guidance on diversifying the species which could potentially be used in such programmes.

13. Develop guidelines and knowledge exchange mechanisms for ecological and productive restoration techniques.

14. Foster capacity development for inventories and forest monitoring initiatives covering plantations and native forests and support the follow-up of national initiatives to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD+).

15. Resume programmes associated with trees, farms, agroforestry and social forestry and which aim to create income generation opportunities for communities, provide ecosystem services, water and land, or help adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change and natural disasters.

16. Systematize and disseminate relevant regional experiences in sustainable forest management and the development of forest and environmental policies.

17. Enable the exchange of knowledge on urban forestry, green areas and tree planting as well as South-South Cooperation mechanisms relating to forest fires, green taxation, and forest monitoring and inventories.

III. Commission on Livestock Development for Latin America and the Caribbean (CLDLAC)

18. The 14th session of the Southern Cone and Andean Chapter of the CLDLAC was held in Montería, Colombia (August 2018), at the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Colombia. Six out of the nine member countries from the South America chapter took part in the session, with a total of 50 participants, with a strong turnout from the private sector, academia and civil society.

19. Delegates emphasized the importance of livestock production in the region, which accounts for a quarter of the beef and poultry produced worldwide. The LAC (Latin America and the Caribbean) region produces more than 29.2 percent of the world’s beef, 24.5 percent of the planet’s poultry, and is their top exporter, in addition to being a major pork and dairy producer and exporter. LAC provides 10 percent of global egg and milk exports. The meeting’s technical documents and report are available on the commission’s official website.⁵

20. CLDLAC delegates tackled issues relating to climate change and low-emission production, animal health under the “One Health” approach, and information and communication technology (ICT).

Recommendations for the attention of the FAO Regional Conference

21. Recognize the existing heterogeneity (natural resources, socioeconomic landscape, production systems) and differences among countries as factors to be taken into consideration when establishing

subregional and national initiatives with a view to promoting low-emission livestock production, and in addressing emerging challenges pertaining to markets and consumers.

22. Delegates from member countries supported a proposal for the establishment of a subcommittee on livestock under FAO’s Committee on Agriculture (COAG), and further urged that CLDLAC be the chosen body or platform tasked with identifying regional priorities.

Recommendations for the FAO Programme of Work

23. Include the recommendations of the 14th session of the Southern Cone and Andean Chapter of the Commission on Livestock Development for Latin America and the Caribbean in the biennial programme of work, namely those relating to technical cooperation for the livestock sector in the areas of sustainable development, health and biodiversity.

24. Given the funding needs associated with putting in place measures needed to achieve low-emission livestock production, backstop country efforts to secure investments and financing.

25. Assist countries in moving towards sustainable, low-emission livestock production; identify initiatives, platforms, existing projects, etc., with a view to leveraging synergies for the implementation of a roadmap to that end. Carry out an assessment of the funding needs, so as to enable the implementation and upscaling of measures for the achievement of low-emission livestock production.

26. Continue to support the implementation of best practices for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the livestock sector.

27. Quantify the costs as well as the economic, social and environmental benefits of innovation, technology and practices which have been identified as favouring low-emission livestock production, and their contribution to NDCs.

28. Support capacity development geared toward identifying and managing animal genetic resources.

29. Establish a communications strategy aimed at attaining broader involvement on the part of the private sector, consumers, and vulnerable communities (e.g. indigenous peoples, rural populations and rural women, among others).

IV. Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) report

30. The 17th Session of the WECAFC was held in Miami, United States of America, from 15 to 18 July 2019. Official delegates from 25 member countries and members of the Commission and 20 partner organizations attended. The documents and report are available on the official website of the Commission.6

31. The Commission discussed inter-sessional activities (2016-2018) and approved the Programme of Work (2019-2020) in support of the regional framework on fisheries and ocean governance, climate change, and other environmental and socio-economic related issues.

32. The Commission adopted seven regional fisheries management recommendations respectively on:

- the conservation and management of sharks and rays;

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• the regional plan for the Caribbean spiny lobster (*Panulirus argus*) fishery;
• the management of shrimp and groundfish resources of the North Brazil-Guyana shelf;
• improved compliance with trade measures for queen conch and queen conch conversion factors;
• the sustainability of fisheries using anchored fish aggregating devices;
• the regional data access and sharing policies; and
• the sustainable management of spawning aggregations and aggregating species.

**Recommendations for the attention of the FAO Regional Conference**

33. Strongly support the endorsement of the Regional Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing 2019-2029, an essential instrument in the cohesive fight against IUU fishing by countries in the WECAFC area and call for support for its enforcement and systematic reviews.

34. Stress the importance of analysing, understanding and addressing climate change impacts in a comprehensive and inclusive manner consistent with an ecosystem approach to fisheries, taking into account poverty reduction and small-scale fisheries, the observed and projected impacts of climate change on fisheries management arrangements and the need for inclusion of gender issues in climate-related studies.

35. Emphasize the importance of capacity building on climate finance to facilitate access to funds from bodies such as the Global Environment Facility or Green Climate Fund and the inclusion of the fisheries sector in NDCs.

36. Recommend to strengthen the scientific research on *Sargassum* and its impacts in the region on fish populations, fisheries and fishing communities.

37. Voice support for the Regional Management Plan of the Caribbean Spiny lobster (*Panulirus argus*), a significant species of the region, and recommend the sharing of information and common management measures for this plan.

38. Commend the development of the *Interim* Data Collection Reference Framework (DCRF) and urge members to generate national data and statistics for the Regional Database in line with the DCRF.

39. Request an in-depth analysis on the potential for aquaculture development to better understand the reasons for the slow growth witnessed in the region.

40. Stress the need for greater sectoral engagement to improve coordination and cooperation in all areas of common interest within the wider Caribbean region, particularly on issues relating to biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) and urge Members to ensure full engagement of fisheries experts and stakeholders in the UN negotiations on an international legally binding instrument under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of ABNJ (General Assembly Resolution 72/249).

41. Express support for strengthened cooperation between WECAFC and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and request the development of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two organizations on matters of common interest.

**Recommendations for the FAO Programme of Work**

42. Welcome the roadmap for progressing towards the development of a model for a regional fisheries management entity or arrangement in the WECAFC area and call for FAO support to the Ad Hoc Inter-sessional Working Group to advance the transformation process of the Commission.
43. Recognize WECAFC’s growing workload as a result of ever-increasing regional fisheries management challenges and threats to long-term sustainable development, and underscore the urgent need for members to ensure dedicated financial resources be made available to FAO to support the programme of work agreed upon and committed to by the Commission.

V. Commission for Small-Scale and Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture of Latin America and the Caribbean (COPPESAALC) report

44. COPPESAALC held its 15th session in Havana (September 2019), upon the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Cuba. The meeting was attended by 34 delegates from 17 member countries of the Commission, as well as a representative from the Central American Organization of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector (OSPESCA), one from the Centre for Marketing Information and Advisory Services for Fishery Products in Latin America and the Caribbean (INFOPESCA) and one from the WECAFC Secretariat. The session documents and final report are available on the commission’s website.³

Recommendations for the attention of the FAO Regional Conference


46. Continue to afford technical assistance to member countries in line with the agreements reached during the High-Level International Meeting on the Global Blue Growth Initiative for Latin America and the Caribbean (Mexico, 2017), through ongoing regional initiatives.

47. Strengthen aquaculture-based food systems, as a pillar of food and nutrition security (FNS) and as a means of alleviating poverty in rural areas facing migration pressure.

48. Foster South-South Cooperation with a view to enhancing fishery and aquaculture research and statistics mechanisms, as well as monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) in this domain, given that these are the cornerstones for the sustainable management of fisheries resources and for protecting the livelihoods which depend on them.

49. Continue to implement the Agreement on Port State Measures and all other related international instruments which contribute to combating IUU fishing.

Recommendations for the FAO Programme of Work

50. Assist countries in implementing measures that will enable them to fulfil the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that relate to fisheries and aquaculture.

51. Continue to support countries in the adoption of the Agreement on Port State Measures and other instruments designed to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing.

52. Support country efforts to develop plans for climate change adaptation and mitigation, including those for clean energy and natural disaster risk assessments in the fishery and aquaculture sector, favouring resource mobilization from global financial sources with links to climate and environmental issues.

³ COPPESAALC was established in 1976 by the FAO Council during its 70th session (Resolution 4/70), to promote the sustainable use of inland fishery resources, act as an advisory body to governments on fisheries management and to support aquaculture development.

53. Continue to provide assistance in developing national and regional strategies to increase fish consumption, emphasizing the inclusion of fish in school feeding programmes and similar programmes for vulnerable groups.

54. Analyse migratory processes in the fishery and aquaculture sector so as to prevent the risk of overfishing and illegal fishing.

55. Provide assistance with a view to consolidating the Aquaculture Network for the Americas and implementing its strategic programmes. Grant technical assistance for the development of low-cost food alternatives for resource-limited aquaculture and micro and small-scale enterprise aquaculture (AMYPE by its Spanish acronym).

56. Support the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries.

57. Broaden the scope of the baseline study on the inclusion of artisanal fishers, resource-limited aquaculture and AMYPE in social protection systems.

58. Develop a proposal for general guidelines for the sustainable development of inland fisheries.

59. Continue to provide support toward the assessment of the fishery and aquaculture sectors’ vulnerability to climate change and the development of national adaptation strategies.

60. Assist countries in implementing measures geared toward the achievement of the SDGs, and in particular targets under SDG 14 and the contribution of fisheries and aquaculture to other goals.

VI. FAO/OEA-CIE/IICA report

61. The 28th session of the FAO/OEA-CIE/IICA Working Group on Agricultural Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean was held in the Dominican Republic from 18 to 20 September 2019, at the invitation of the country’s Government. A total of 23 countries from the region attended the session and were represented by 38 delegates and observers. This FAO-led working group acts as technical secretariat for the working group on agricultural statistics of the ECLAC. Furthermore, FAO provides technical assistance to countries in the areas of agricultural statistics and monitoring for SDG indicators under FAO custodianship.

Recommendations for the attention of the FAO Regional Conference

62. Encourage country involvement in the development of the new National Quality Assurance Frameworks (NQAFs) for data, in particular those pertaining to food and agriculture, with an emphasis on producing statistics using multiple data sources, using this as a key approach to improving information quality, especially in the realm of land use and crops.

63. Promote and enhance the timeliness of key data collection tools at country level; emphasis should be placed on resource mobilization and the design and implementation of statistics operations which generate data for SDG indicators in the short and medium term.

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9 Its role is to examine the state of agricultural and food statistics in LAC and to advise member countries on the development and standardization of agricultural statistics services. It was established under the name CMEN Subcommittee on Agricultural and Livestock Statistics by the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI) at its 24th meeting (1964) and officially approved by the Committee for the Improvement of National Statistics (CMEN) at its 8th Meeting (1964). IASI withdrew from the Working Group in 1995 and was replaced by the Organization of American States (OAS, OEA in Spanish) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). OAS and IICA have not taken part in the last four sessions. The working group has retained its original name. The proposed recommendations were put forward by delegates.
64. Accelerate efforts to strengthen coordination among countries in monitoring progress toward the SDGs, highlighting the importance of designating focal points to ensure coordination between national statistics offices and international bodies which measure and report on SDG indicators under FAO custodianship.

65. Promote the use of geospatial variables for analytical, academic and public policy purposes in statistics offices and government bodies. The principle of confidentiality, as well as other conditioning factors, must be borne in mind at all times when making use of microdata.

66. Foster an open dialogue with government institutions, and involve academia as well as the private sector in the planning phase. This especially applies to agricultural censuses, in order to ensure that the data collected are useful and relevant to the end users.

**Recommendations for the FAO Programme of Work**

67. Continue to provide technical assistance and training geared toward gathering the data necessary for measuring the SDG indicators under FAO custodianship and for the methodology behind indicator measurement. This type of assistance should combine regional workshops and courses with individual support to countries to enable them to adapt the above to their national contexts.

68. Compile business models and approaches so that countries might draw on other experiences when learning to address legal and technical challenges which generally prevent them from openly disseminating microdata.

69. Develop NQAFs specific to databases for food and agriculture statistics, which would involve a stocktaking exercise of preexisting manuals, guidelines and best practices at national and/or international level and take into account all of the existing national statistics systems. The importance of processes for producing data from multiple sources for food and agriculture statistics should also be stressed.

70. Provide greater support to countries on the FAO methodological framework for food balance sheets (FBSs) and coordinate adequate technical assistance for the training of national teams on how to compile them. Countries recognize the role of FBSs as a statistics framework for analysing food security and for monitoring progress toward SDG indicators 2.1.1 (Prevalence of undernourishment) and 12.3.1 (Post-harvest losses).