

Item 7a. Forestry and climate change after Bali

Before the discussion of this item, a video was shown by Mr Killmann, entitled “A convenient truth”. The video, which discussed the linkage between forests and climate change, was produced by the U.K. Forestry Commission with the collaboration of FAO and is available in seven languages at the following site: ftp://ext-ftp.fao.org/fo/data/Upload/Convenient_truth/Translated%20Videos/
The Director encouraged participants to order copies of the video and translate it into other different languages if necessary.

Item 7b. Working with Countries to Reduce Deforestation and Forest Degradation: Taking Climate Change Action through Sustainable Forest Management

A paper on a Joint Proposal from A3P (Australian plantation products and paper industry council) and the new Zealand Forest Owners’ Association Inc to the ICFPA and invited member organizations was distributed to participants. This is a draft of common positions on climate change, LULUCF and REDD. It was suggested that the paper could be submitted for analysis to FAO’s Interdepartmental Working Group on Climate Change with a view to presenting the final version in November 2008 to FAO Conference.

There was some discussion of definitions in the context of REDD (Reduction of Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation). Killmann mentioned that the climate change community is very sensitive as regards definitions. FAO and partners held three meetings to harmonize definitions (in English) in the forestry sector, but the process got blocked over the term “forest degradation”. It is hoped to reactivate this process in future. Mr Killmann also mentioned that a workshop on harvested wood products (HWP) will take place in September 2008 in Geneva, organized by FAO, UNECE and the Swedish Government. The results will be presented at the European Forest Week (20-24 October 2008) in Rome. This workshop will be focused between other subjects in the Role of harvested wood products for climate change mitigation. It was noted that as carbon storage each wood product has a different percent of carbon stored.

Item 8. Planted forests in the world

Mr Killmann advised the meeting that FAO is working on this theme and that a Code of Voluntary Guidelines had been finalized and presented during the last COFO. The latest data regarding planted forest is from 2005 and is available on CD Rom . The world’s planted forests account for 2 percent of the total forest cover and supply 60 percent of total worldwide industrial roundwood. Its Carbon Sequestration is around 1.6 Giga tons, equivalent to the carbon emissions from deforestation.

Item 9. Summary of country reports, including the social impacts of forest industries

A short presentation on the status of forest industries and main important related issues was introduced by each country (See Annex 2).

Item 10. Recommendations of the Committee to FAO for 2008-2009

The Committee proposed the following recommendations to FAO:

- (a) reaffirmed the importance of further strengthening the cooperation between FAO and the private sector through the ACPWP;
- (b) requested FAO to work further with the International Council of Forest and Paper Associations on promoting positions for the UNFCCC COP 15 reflecting the contributions of sustainable forest management to climate change mitigation;
- (c) requested FAO to keep the private sector informed on further analysis and forecasts on the

- evolving relationship between liquid biofuels, food and fibre, and the impacts on forest and forest product sectors;
- (d) requested FAO to facilitate private sector involvement in the Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP);
 - (e) recommended FAO to analyze the impacts of forest-based industries' operations on availability and quality of water;
 - (f) requested FAO to expand the analysis on the contribution of the forest sector to the GDP, including contribution to communities and to individual well-being;
 - (g) requested FAO to facilitate private sector participation in the World Forestry Congress 2009;
 - (h) agreed to hold an informal interim meeting in conjunction with the European Forest Week on October 20, 2008 in Rome;
 - (i) agreed to hold its 50th Session in Brazil during the first week of June, 2009.

Programme, Policy and Financial Implications

The work areas of forests and climate change, forests and water, forests and energy, forests and livelihoods and the land-use linkage between forest, food, and fuel proposed by ACPWP may require additional funds but certainly will be the major themes for the forestry sector and thus may indeed require increased attention.

Item 11. Election of Chairperson

The Chairperson of the 50th Session will continue to be Mr. Avrim Lazar to facilitate activities in view of the large number of recent and upcoming changes of members and participants.

Item 12. Date and place of next session

The Committee proposed to hold its 50th Session in Brazil, tentatively on one of the last four days of May or 1, 2 or 3 June 2009. The preparatory meeting will be on 20 October 2008 in Rome.