

## Item 4.a. Review of actions taken by FAO on the recommendations made at the 48<sup>th</sup> session of the committee

### Recommendations

At its 48<sup>th</sup> session in Shanghai and the subsequent meeting in Rome, the ACPWP made the following recommendations to FAO:

1. Highlight the industry's contribution to sustainable forest management and carbon sequestration, in particular:
  - 1.1 Jointly organize a side event at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP 13), to be held in Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia, from 3 to 14 December 2007;
  - 1.2 Further document the social contribution of the forest products industry;

The Committee took note that the study on GDP contribution of the forestry sector is being updated. It recommended highlighting not only the economic aspect but also the industry's contribution to people's wellbeing. Wealth and forest industry are strongly related.

- 1.3 It was further recommended to produce a brief country report on the impact of the forest industry to people's wellbeing. FAO will produce a set of questions and outline of the report. Title of the report: *Social contribution of the forest industry*;
  - 1.4 Contribute to clarifying UNFCCC accounting rules for carbon sequestration by forests.
2. Actively promote understanding of the causes of deforestation.
  - 2.1 This issue is closely related to public perception of the role of the forest industry. The Committee should highlight the main causes of deforestation, which are often related to land use change, in particular to cattle raising and large-scale agriculture;
  - 2.2 The Committee recommended producing a short paper including the ten most frequently asked questions about the causes of deforestation. Two different versions should be produced: (1) FAQ for journalists and (2) FAQ in a language that farmers and the general public will understand.
3. Continue to work on the nexus of forests and energy, building on the results of the IEA-FAO-ICFPA energy conference in Rome, October 2006.
4. Undertake an analysis of the relationship between water and forestry, in the context of the increasing scarcity of water.

### Implementation

1. Highlight the industry's contribution to sustainable forest management and carbon sequestration.
  - 1.1 ICFPA (which took the lead), FAO, WBCSD and CEPI organized a side event on December 8, 2007, the Forest Day, during UNFCCC COP 13 in Bali, on the theme: *Forests, climate change and the forest industry – The business perspective*.

In spite of the small size of the room the remoteness of the location, the side event was a success. ICFPA, WBCSD, CEPI and FAO also produced and distributed wood and paper fans with the message: *Stay cool- Use wood*. These fans were highly sought after by participants at the conference.

1.2 The report on the GDP contribution of the forest products industry is under preparation, but not yet finished. It is expected to be finalized in September, 2008, and will then be circulated. Countries have been requested to share information on the social contribution of the forest products industry. The secretariat consolidated the information received and backed it up with some data by ILO and FAO. Nevertheless, it must be said that this is a subject where it is difficult to find data and information. The secretariat will continue working on this subject.

1.3 Contribute to clarifying UNFCCC accounting rules for carbon sequestration by forests.

1.3.1 On 20 June 2007, the Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC visited FAO and a number of issues were discussed, including collaboration on forests and climate change. In a meeting between the Executive Secretary of UNFCCC, the Director-General of FAO and Wulf Killmann, Mr de Boer stressed that he saw FAO's role in the work on climate change falling into three areas:

- a) adaptation to climate change;
- b) bioenergy;
- c) forests and climate change.

1.3.2 FAO is working closely with UNFCCC and IPCC on this issue and also with the IPCC. FAO recently produced a background paper on: *FAO datasets on land use, land use change, agriculture and forestry and their applicability for national greenhouse gas reporting*. We also participated in the IPCC Expert meeting on guidance for greenhouse gas inventories of land uses such as agriculture and forestry, which took place in early May in Helsinki. Mr Killmann is also contributing to the NCASI project "*Approach for estimating carbon impacts associated with land use and land-use change*".

2. Actively promote understanding of the causes of deforestation.

2.1 FAO is continuously, and in different forums, clarifying understanding about the causes of deforestation, most lately in a document on the issue of reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD). The document is being prepared by FAO, UNDP and UNEP as a "one UN approach".

Mr Killmann also addressed this issue in his keynote address to the Conference on Plantation Investment, in Singapore from 25-27 March 2008 and at the recent GEF- UNEP day in Nairobi on 11 April 2008.

2.2 A separate document with questions and answers has been prepared, as attached.

3. Continue to work on the nexus of forests and energy, building on the results of the IEA-FAO-ICFPA energy conference in Rome, October 2006.

3.1 On 10 October 2007, UNECE and FAO co-organized in Geneva a Policy Forum on the "*Opportunities and impacts of bio-energy policies and targets on the forest and other sectors*", at which ICFPA also actively participated through CEPI and AF& PA.

- 3.2 FAO strongly supports the European Task Force on Wood Availability and Demand, which held its recent 7<sup>th</sup> meeting at FAO. CEPI is a member of that task force.
  - 3.3 At the recent discussions of the integrated programme of work for the next five years for the UNECE European Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission, bioenergy took a central role. The task force was commended and requested to continue its work, and it was agreed that an activity on forest sector outlook with particular emphasis on bioenergy should be undertaken.
  - 3.4 FAO finalized a document on the nexus on forests and energy, which has been printed in the six FAO languages and distributed at the High-Level Conference on World Food Security: The Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy, from 3-5 June 2008.
4. Undertake an analysis of the relationship between water and forestry, in the context of the increasing scarcity of water.
    - 4.1 An analysis on the nexus of forests and water has been prepared and is presently being reviewed. It is expected to be published in September 2008.
5. Others
    - 5.1 FAO finalized the update of the Global Planted Forest Outlook Survey, based on the most recent data from 2005. A presentation on the results of this study will be made under Agenda item 8.