



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
Nations

Organisation
des
Nations
Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et
l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная
организация
Объединенных
Наций

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY

TWENTIETH SESSION

Rome, Italy, 4-8 October 2010

DRAFT REPORT (as adopted)

OPENING OF THE SESSION (Item 1)

1. The Twentieth Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) was held at FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy, from 4 to 8 October 2010 in conjunction with the 2nd World Forest Week.
2. The session was attended by delegates from 117 countries and one member organization. Representatives of nine United Nations Agencies and Programmes and observers from 34 intergovernmental organizations and international non-governmental organizations were also in attendance.
3. Ms. Conceição Ferreira, Vice-Chair, 19th Session of COFO, opened the session, highlighting the timeliness of the topics to be addressed. She introduced the speakers of the opening session, which included Mr. Changchui He, Deputy Director General of FAO, who welcomed delegates on behalf of the Director-General. Mr. Eduardo Rojas-Briales, Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department, presented some reflections on current challenges affecting FAO's future work in forestry.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Item 2)

4. The Commission appreciated the special efforts that had been made to include the chairs of the regional forestry commissions in the development of the COFO agenda by convening a session of the COFO Steering Committee for this purpose in 2010. The Agenda (*Appendix A*) was adopted. The documents considered by the Committee are listed in *Appendix C*.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DESIGNATION OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE (Item 3)

5. In keeping with the tradition started at its 18th Session, the Committee agreed that the COFO Steering Committee should comprise the Chairpersons of the regional forestry commissions or their representatives.

6. The Committee elected Mr Anders Lönnblad, representing the European Forestry Commission, as Chairperson and Mr. Donatien N'Zala, representing the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission, as First Vice-Chair.

7. The Committee elected as Vice-Chairpersons:

- Mr. Karma Dukpa, representing the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission
- Mr. Josué Morales Dardón, representing the Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission
- Mr. Ahmed Ridha El Fekih Salem, representing the Near East Forestry and Range Commission
- Mr. Jim Farrell, representing the North American Forest Commission

8. The following Members were elected to the Drafting Committee for the COFO Report: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, China, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kenya, Morocco, Sudan, Switzerland and USA. The representative of China, Ms. Wangxin Xiao, was elected Chairperson of the Drafting Committee and the representative of Australia, Mr. Ben Mitchell, was elected Vice-Chairperson.

GLOBAL FOREST RESOURCES ASSESSMENT: THE WAY FORWARD

(Item 4)

9. The Committee recommended that the next Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) be prepared by 2015 and that:

- FRA 2015 give priority to improving information on rates of deforestation and forest degradation, forest carbon stocks, trees outside forests and the roles of forests in protection of soil and water resources and in the provision of livelihoods;
- countries actively contribute to the FRA process, including through the provision of high quality information on forests and forest-related social, institutional and legal framework conditions according to national capacities; and
- due attention be given to finding a balance between quality of the data and information and expanding the already extensive set of indicators.

10. The Committee invited countries in a position to do so to contribute to the voluntary open-ended trust funds with a strong focus on country capacity building.

11. The Committee invited the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) members and other relevant forest-related organizations to continue supporting the FRA process.

12. To promote a Global Forest Resources Assessment that meets long-term global needs, the Committee requested FAO to:

- prepare a long-term strategy for the FRA programme consistent with prospects for sustainable funding;
- continue streamlining forest-related reporting, especially with regional initiatives, and building capacity nationally and internationally;
- investigate the feasibility of more frequent updates on a selection of key variables without unduly increasing the reporting burden on countries;
- continue to coordinate international efforts to efficiently use remote sensing to monitor forests at the global level; and
- build capacities in countries in the use of remote sensing data and tools for their interpretation.

13. The Committee invited the governing bodies of the CPF member organizations to consider the information and analysis provided by FRA in their work and invited the United

Nations Forum on Forests to use the results of FRA 2010 and FRA 2015 as a tool for measuring progress towards sustainable forest management.

FOREST BIODIVERSITY, FIRE AND WATER IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE CHANGE (Item 5)

(a) Forest Biodiversity in the Context of Climate Change

14. The Committee requested FAO to strengthen its capacity to assist member countries in effectively integrating the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in the management of forests, including in production forests, in collaboration with CPF members and others partners.

15. The Committee welcomed the initiative to develop a comprehensive report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources (SOW-FGR) and recommended that FAO continue this important effort.

16. The Committee invited the governing bodies of the CPF member organizations to consider the information and analysis provided by FRA and the report on the SOW-FGR in their work.

17. The Committee further requested FAO to strengthen its capacity to respond to the international reporting and information sharing needs related to the conservation of forest biological diversity, including through the Global Forest Resources Assessments, National Forest Monitoring and Assessment and the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources.

18. The Committee encouraged countries to provide additional resources within their means to support these initiatives.

(b) Forest Health and Forest Fire in the Context of Climate Change

19. The Committee encouraged FAO to distribute the *Guide to implementation of phytosanitary standards in forestry* as guidance on practices that minimize pest prevalence and spread without impacting on trade and encouraged countries, FAO and partners to strengthen country capacity to use these measures through pilot activities, the development of training material and enhanced cooperation and the exchange of experiences on this issue within and among regions.

20. The Committee encouraged countries to pay attention to the issue of forest invasive species and actively enhance cooperation and exchange of experiences within and among regions accordingly.

21. The Committee invited countries to:

- consider the contribution of forest fires to the emission of greenhouse gases (GHGs) and the importance of including forest fire management in their reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD-plus) programmes;
- incorporate vegetation fire management in broader sustainable land-use and landscape policies, planning and practices;
- cooperate in wildfire prevention and suppression and to develop mutual-aid agreements;
- involve communities in the prevention of wildfires; and
- contribute to the existing voluntary trust fund focused on helping developing countries implement the principles and strategic actions of the fire management voluntary guidelines which need to be adapted to local conditions.

22. The Committee encouraged FAO to further develop activities that promote regional and international cooperation and to promote the exchange of experiences among countries on all aspects of vegetation fires.

(c) Forests and Water in the Context of Climate Change

23. The Committee recommended that countries intensify work in the area of forest and water, taking into account the outcomes of relevant international initiatives.

24. The Committee recommended that countries pay increased attention to socio-economic issues related to forests and water and to financing mechanisms such as payments for environmental services provided by forests.

25. The Committee further invited countries to consider water and forest issues in climate change negotiations and to develop integrated approaches in planning processes at national and regional levels, as appropriate.

26. The Committee welcomed FAO's work on a synthesis report on forests and water and recommended that FAO continue to review critical issues, knowledge gaps and lessons learned in relation to forests, water and soil such as dam filling due to siltation problems within rivers and

water basins with particular focus on semi-arid and arid areas and climate change, and requested FAO to continue its technical support to member countries in this area.

27. The Committee recommended that FAO facilitate the exchange of information and experiences on institutional arrangements in relation to forest and water management, including on transboundary issues.

EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES IN FOREST FINANCE AND FOREST GOVERNANCE (Item 6)

(a) Strengthening Public and Private Sector Financial Support for Sustainable Forest Management

28. The Committee recommended that countries take full advantage of the existing experiences and lessons to broaden and diversify their economic base for financing sustainable forest management from all sources.

29. The Committee requested FAO to support national efforts to strengthen public and private sector financial support for forests with specific emphasis on:

- promoting necessary institutional capacity and knowledge sharing;
- developing viable national forest financing strategies through mechanisms such as national forest programmes;
- mainstreaming sustainable forest management in national sustainable development plans and strategies; and
- assisting in the formulation of innovative mechanisms such as national forest development funds and exploring innovative forms of financing for development currently under consideration within the framework of the United Nations.

30. The Committee further requested FAO to collaborate with the members of the CPF on forest financing and to support the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) Ad Hoc Expert Group (AHEG) on forest financing.

(b) Forest Governance

31. The Committee invited countries to strengthen their efforts to address the challenges of forest governance, in collaboration with other sectors, in order to achieve sustainable forest management, including to reduce deforestation and forest degradation, curtail illegal activities in

the forest sector that are in contravention of domestic legislation and provide land and resource tenure security.

32. The Committee recommended that FAO support countries to achieve their goals in strengthening domestic forest law enforcement and governance especially in relation to:

- assessment and monitoring of the governance situation in forestry;
- improving transparency and accountability in decision-making on forests;
- reinforcing institutional capacity for forest policy development and implementation, including forest law enforcement;
- developing options for forest tenure reform based on country experiences; and
- strengthening programming processes such as national forest programmes as a platform for improving forest governance.

33. The Committee recommended that FAO take into account existing regional initiatives, including criteria and indicator processes, in its joint work with countries and other international organizations to propose an analytical framework for the assessment and monitoring of socio-economic and institutional indicators at country level based on existing FRA indicators and report back on this work at its next session.

(c) Emerging Opportunities and Challenges in the Context of Climate Change, including REDD-plus

34. The Committee requested FAO to assist countries in their efforts to value and utilize the potential contributions of forests and trees outside forests in climate change mitigation and adaptation, including in REDD-plus, focusing on the areas of its comparative advantage such as:

- (i) ***Integrating forests in national climate change strategies***
 - Assist countries in revising and adapting forest policies and national forest programmes, including national forest financing strategies for sustainable forest management to better respond to climate change requirements as well as in using them as tools for the development and implementation of REDD-plus strategies.
 - Assist countries in assessing and monitoring the trends in forest governance.
- (ii) ***Strengthening information exchange and cooperation in forest-related climate change***
 - Provide technical and policy-relevant information on forests and climate change.
 - Encourage regional cooperation on forests and climate change, in collaboration with the regional forestry commissions and other partners.

(iii) ***Supporting forest and climate change-related monitoring***

- Strengthen country capacity for multi-purpose forest monitoring and assessment.
- Harmonize guidelines for multi-purpose monitoring and assessment.
- Collect data and generate information at the biome, regional and global levels on the status of forest area and trends in forest degradation and deforestation through a global remote sensing survey.
- Recognizing FAO's participation in the UN-REDD programme and other climate-related initiatives, assist in building capacity in areas in which FAO has comparative advantage.

(iv) ***Implementing best practices in forest management to facilitate mitigation and adaptation***

- Strengthen country capacity to adapt existing guidelines to national conditions.
- Reinforce country capacity to apply best practice and experience in sustainable forest management in climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Strengthen networks for sharing best practices for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

(v) ***Overcoming the constraints linked to the extension of carbon sinks and the root causes of deforestation and forest degradation***

- Assist countries, based on their requests, in clarifying land use planning issues and land and forest tenure arrangements.
- Help mainstream REDD-plus and related climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies into national budgeting and financing processes.
- Assess and develop opportunities to integrate REDD-plus with other payments for ecosystem services.
- Develop methods and tools to assist in involving local communities, and ensuring equitable distribution of benefits from mitigation actions to relevant stakeholders.
- Involve the forest products industry and other sectors and policy areas in discussions related to forestry mitigation and adaptation.

35. The Committee invited regional forestry commissions to promote the exchange of experience among member countries in order to consider the level of capacity and specific needs related to climate change adaptation and forest ecosystem resilience and to report to COFO about their work.

DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF FAO BODIES OF INTEREST TO THE COMMITTEE (Item 7)

36. The Committee requested the Near East Forestry and Range Commission to review the activities of relevant bodies engaged in forest and range activities in the region, with the view to promoting coordination and collaboration and report its findings to the next session of COFO.

37. The Committee endorsed changes in its rules of procedure as outlined in Annex 1.

38. The Committee requested the secretariat to prepare, in consultation with the Steering Committee, a draft Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) for the period 2012-2015 for consideration at its 21st Session in 2012.

39. The Committee recalled the discussions of the 22nd Session of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) and called for closer cooperation in order to enhance a more cross-sectoral approach in all relevant areas, including agro-forestry, soil and water.

40. The Committee recommended that FAO maintain the Panel of Experts on Forest Genetic Resources and ensure effective and efficient coordination of work with the newly established Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources. The roles of each body could be examined during a future session of the Committee.

PROGRAMME PRIORITIES FOR FAO IN FORESTRY (Item 8)

41. The Committee acknowledged that the priority-setting process for 2012-13 would be one of transition under the new results-based framework. The Committee recommended that future documentation on priorities more clearly identify the proposed areas of emphasis and de-emphasis, taking into account emerging issues, implementation performance reports against Organizational Results indicators, major evaluations, cost considerations and work being undertaken in partnership. Operational result indicators should focus on the performance of the Organization and should include baseline information.

42. The Committee recognized that complementary information regarding priorities was being identified at the regional, sub-regional and national levels.

43. The Committee underlined the importance of providing guidance to FAO on priorities and areas of emphasis, in particular in view of limited resources.

44. The Committee recommended the following areas of emphasis for each Organizational Result of Strategic Objective E for 2012-2013, taking into account FAO's areas of strength:

(i) Under E01 – policy and practice affecting forests and forestry be based on timely and reliable information.

- Improve the Global Forest Resources Assessments programme, assist countries to strengthen their ability to provide robust estimates for key parameters and facilitate access by countries to standardized products and tools for remote sensing of forests.
- Support countries in preparing National Forest Monitoring and Assessments and developing related appropriate methodologies.

(ii) Under E02 – Policy and practice affecting forests and forestry are reinforced by international cooperation and debate.

- Strengthen COFO and its linkages to the regional forestry commissions to increase relevance, visibility and participation by country representatives.
- Foster collaboration and coordination among members of the CPF and promote streamlining of national reporting among the various international processes.
- Work with CPF partners to increase financing from all sources for sustainable forest management and capacity building in developing countries, including increasing the effectiveness of existing forest finance and working to maximize the sustainable forest management benefits of emerging financing opportunities such as REDD.

(iii) Under E03 – Institutions governing forests are strengthened and decision-making improved, including involvement of forest stakeholders in the development of forest policies and legislation, thereby enhancing an enabling environment for investment in forestry and forest industries. Forestry is better integrated into national development plans and processes, considering interfaces between forests and other land uses.

- Support countries to develop and implement inclusive and participatory national forest programmes and financing strategies for sustainable forest management, with an emphasis on cross-sectoral integration.
- Support community forestry and other participatory approaches in forestry, addressing bottlenecks such as tenure arrangements.
- Assist public forestry institutions to enhance the services they provide, including on forestry education.
- Support countries to further develop innovative approaches to enhance forest governance.
- Support to effective national forest programmes, including capacity building and knowledge exchange.
- Host and support the National Forest Programme Facility.

(iv) Under E04 – Sustainable management of forests and trees is more broadly adopted, leading to reductions in deforestation and forest degradation and increased contributions of forests and trees to improve livelihoods and to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

- Broaden the understanding of and tools for sustainable management of forests and trees in the wider landscape, highlighting the multiple functions and demands on forests, especially in the context of climate change.
- Develop best practice guidelines on priority issues and revise and adapt existing guidelines, with a view to strengthening countries' capacity towards field implementation.
- Assist countries to participate in regional and international partnerships on sustainable forest management, landscape restoration, model forests, REDD-plus and others.

(v) Under E05 – Social and economic values and livelihood benefits of forests and trees are enhanced, and markets for forest products and services contribute to making forestry a more economically viable land-use option.

- Help countries to develop capacity for communities to access markets for sustainably managed timber and non-timber products to improve livelihoods with an emphasis on poor communities.
- Disseminate tools and methods to increase valuations of forests, their products and services.
- Strengthen the role of forests in developing and promoting sustainable development and promoting a green economy.

(vi) Under E06 – Environmental values of forests, trees outside forests and forestry are better realized; strategies for conservation of forest biodiversity and genetic resources, climate change mitigation and adaptation, rehabilitation of degraded lands, and water and wildlife management are effectively implemented.

- Assist countries to integrate climate change considerations into forest policy and management practices.
- Enhance collaboration and partnership building in watershed management, focusing on institutional and policy development and innovative economic mechanisms such as payments for environmental services.
- Support countries in combating desertification and in restoration, afforestation and rehabilitation of degraded lands.
- Support regional efforts in building strategic partnerships for the conservation, sustainable management and restoration of forests as a key contribution to sustainable rural development and adaptation to climate change.

COMMUNICATING THE ROLE OF FORESTS IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT – THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FORESTS (2011) (Item 9)

45. The Committee recommended that countries take actions to better integrate forests within their broader development strategies.

46. The Committee further recommended to countries and FAO and invited other international organizations to increase the visibility of forests and sustainable forest management in sustainable development at the global level by:

- highlighting forests' contributions to the global developmental agenda at the 9th session of the UNFF and in the preparations for the Rio+20 Summit on Environment and Development;
- integrating sustainable forest management into the developmental strategies; and
- participating actively in the International Year of Forests (2011); and
- considering the strengthening of the idea and profile of the observation of an international day of forests.

47. The Committee encouraged countries, as members of governing bodies of the CPF member organizations to elevate forest issues and concerns into the work programmes of those organizations where relevant.

48. The Committee requested FAO to increase its efforts to promote sustainable forest management by:

- clarifying further the role of forests and sustainable forest management in achieving sustainable development and in particular the Millennium Development Goals and communicating this role widely;
- developing tools to quantify and value the full range of goods and services, thereby furthering the understanding of forests' contribution to major social and economic objectives, goals and targets;
- supporting the development and updating of national forest programmes and assisting countries' in their efforts to integrate them into national strategies for sustainable development;
- helping to enhance cross-sectoral cooperation and policy and programme coordination through efficient and proactive communication; and
- building on the opportunities offered by the International Year of Forests and the Rio+20 Summit in its communication activities.

49. In order to increase synergies and cooperation, the Committee recommended that FAO support international networks on forest communication, building on regional initiatives, with a view to assisting Member Nations and FAO in developing communication strategies and advising in their implementation and to consider approaches to maintain public attention on forests;

50. The Committee also invited the CPF to increase its activities related to forest communication.

CONCLUSIONS OF THE XIII WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS AND PREPARATIONS FOR THE XIV WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS (2015)

(Item 10)

51. The Committee welcomed with appreciation the report of the XIII World Forestry Congress presented by Argentina. It was noted that the Congress provided a venue for exchange of experience among 7 000 participants, including numerous high-level delegates.

52. The Committee commended the Governments of India and South Africa for their interest in hosting the next Congress and the high quality of their applications.

53. The Committee recommended that the Council consider these submissions for decision, noting that several delegations recognized that no World Forestry Congress has yet taken place in

the African continent and further recognized the potential the first Congress on the continent could have.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION (Item 11)

54. Recalling the importance of COFO in helping to shape FAO priorities and programmes for forestry and considering that, starting in 2011, the dates of the FAO Conference will change from November to June, the Committee proposed to hold its next session in Rome in October 2012. The final date would be decided by the FAO secretariat in consultation with the COFO Steering Committee, following review of the FAO Calendar of Governing Body Sessions for the next biennium by the Conference.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT (Item 12)

55. The Committee adopted the report by consensus.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION (Item 13)

56. The Chair closed the session at 16.35 on Friday, 8 October 2010.

Rule I Officers

1. At the first session in each biennium, the Committee shall elect a Chairperson ~~man~~ a ~~first Vice-Chairman and five other Vice-Chairmen~~ from among the representatives of its Members. The Chairperson and the six Chairpersons of the FAO Regional Forestry Commissions who shall remain in office until the election of a new Chairman and Vice-Chairman and who will act as a Steering Committee during sessions. The six Chairpersons of the FAO Regional Forestry Commissions shall act as Vice-Chairpersons. The Chairperson shall remain in office until the election of a new Chairperson. The Vice-Chairpersons shall remain in office until they complete their term as Chairpersons in their respective Regional Forestry Commissions. A newly elected Chairperson of a Regional Forestry Commission shall automatically replace his/her predecessor in the Steering Committee.

1.bis When electing the Chairperson, the Committee shall give due consideration to the desirability of ensuring equitable rotation of the office among the regions.

2. The Chairperson ~~man~~, or in his absence one of the first Vice-Chairpersons ~~man~~, shall preside at meetings of the Committee and exercise such other functions as may be required to facilitate its work. In the event of the Chairperson ~~man~~ and the ~~first~~ Vice-Chairpersons ~~man~~ not being able to preside at a meeting, the Committee shall appoint ~~one of the other Vice-Chairmen or, failing these,~~ a representative of one of its Members to take the chair.

2. bis Between sessions, the Steering Committee shall facilitate consultation with Members in relation to agendas, formats and other matters, and perform other actions relevant for ensuring preparations for the sessions.

Rule II Sessions

2. Sessions of the Committee shall normally be held once in each biennium, ~~preferably early in non-Conference years,~~ with timing that enables the Programme and Finance Committees to take into consideration the report of the Committee in formulating advice to the Council. Sessions shall be convened by the Director-General in consultation with the ~~Chairperson~~ of the Committee, taking into account any proposals made by the Committee.

Rule VI Records and papers

1. At each session the Committee shall approve a report to the Council and Conference embodying its views, recommendations and decisions, including, when requested, a statement of minority views. The Committee shall make every effort based on the information provided to ensure that recommendations are precise and can be implemented. Any recommendation adopted by the Committee which affects the programme or finances of the Organization or concerning legal or constitutional matters shall be reported to the Council with the comments of the appropriate subsidiary committees of the Council.