

Quebec City,
Canada,
8-9 May
2012

REPORT

North American Forest Commission

Twenty-sixth Session



Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
Nations

PREVIOUS SESSIONS OF THE COMMISSION

First session	Mexico, D.F., Mexico	24-29 July 1961
Second session	Ottawa, Canada	17-22 July 1963
Third session	Washington, D.C., USA	18-22 October 1965
Fourth session	Mexico, D.F., Mexico	2-7 October 1967
Fifth session	Ottawa, Canada	15-20 September 1969
Sixth session	Washington, D.C., USA	27-31 March 1972
Seventh session	Mexico, D.F., Mexico	4-8 February 1974
Eighth session	Ottawa, Canada	23-27 February 1976
Ninth session	San Juan, Puerto Rico, USA	13-17 February 1978
Tenth session	Pátzcuaro, Mich., Mexico	18-22 February 1980
Eleventh session	Victoria, B.C., Canada	16-19 February 1982
Twelfth session	El Paso, Texas, USA	21-24 February 1984
Thirteenth session	Chetumal, Quintana Roo, Mexico	3-7 February 1986
Fourteenth session	Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada	14-17 October 1987
Fifteenth session	San Diego, California, USA	6-9 February 1990
Sixteenth session	Cancun, Mexico	10-14 February 1992
Seventeenth session	Jasper (Alberta), Canada	26-30 September 1994
Eighteenth session	Asheville (North Carolina), USA	18-22 November 1996
Nineteenth session	Villahermosa, Mexico	16-20 November 1998
Twentieth session	St. Andrews, New Brunswick, Canada	12-16 June 2000
Twenty-first session	Kailua-Kona, Hawai, USA	22-26 October 2002
Twenty-second session	Veracruz, Mexico	25-28 October 2004
Twenty-third session	Vancouver, Canada	23-24 October 2006
Twenty-fourth session	San Juan, Puerto Rico, USA	9-13 June 2008
Twenty-fifth session	Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico	3-7 May 2010

REPORT

of the

TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION

of the

NORTH AMERICAN FOREST COMMISSION

**Quebec City, Quebec,
Canada
8 – 9 May 2012**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS	Page i
	Paragraphs
INTRODUCTION.....	1-9
ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA	10
HEADS OF FORESTRY DIALOGUE - KEY FORESTRY ISSUES IN THE REGION	
a) Mexico	11-13
b) United States of America	14-16
c) Canada.....	17-21
STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN FOREST FIRE – FAO.....	22-26
REPORT OF THE BUREAU OF ALTERNATES	27-28
REPORT OF THE NAFC WORKING GROUPS	29-59
LONG-TERM STRATEGY FOR THE GLOBAL FOREST RESOURCES ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME (FRA).....	60-66
REGIONAL ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE COMMISSION FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY (COFO) AND PRIORITIES FOR FAO’S WORK IN FORESTRY.....	67-79
OTHER BUSINESS.....	80-83
ELECTION OF OFFICERS	84-88
DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING.....	89-92
ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND CLOSURE OF THE SESSION.....	93
ANNEXES	Pages
A Agenda.....	11
B List of Participants.....	13
C List of Documents	19

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS**FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE
COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY**

The Commission:

- Noted the need for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of recommendations made by previous sessions of the different forestry governing bodies in FAO and suggested that due attention be paid to this in the meeting agenda.
- Urged the secretariat to ensure that COFO is organized in such a way that attracts and justifies the attendance by heads of forestry from around the world; and recommended that new and exciting topics be introduced at COFO in order to create a balance between recurring and innovative agenda items.
- Requested COFO to evaluate forests' role in ensuring long-term food security; and the opportunities available to agriculture and forestry through forest landscape restoration.
- Requested COFO to assess the possible contribution of non-timber forest products, payment for environmental services, biofuels and innovative uses of wood to a green economy.
- Recommended COFO to consider how best to respond to the outcomes of the Rio +20 Summit for forests and forestry.
- Stressed the need for COFO to address the need to expand the economic opportunities from forests, including through the diversification of wood and non-timber forest products and markets, as well as payments for ecosystem services.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS**FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

The Commission:

- Requested FAO to continue focusing on fire management.
- Recommended that FAO play a role in highlighting the positive interaction between agriculture and forestry and the potential for the forest sector to play a prominent role in the development of bioproducts and biomaterial for a green economy.
- Stressed the importance of bringing attention and awareness to forests and recommended that FAO should not overlook forests in its current focus on food security and livelihoods.
- Urged FAO to utilize cross-sectoral collaboration, landscape level approaches and strengthen forest governance to respond to multiple challenges in forestry.

INTRODUCTION

1. The Twenty-sixth Session of the North American Forest Commission (NAFC) was held in Quebec City, Quebec, Canada, from 8 to 9 May 2012, at the invitation of the Government of Canada. The session was attended by participants from the three member countries of the Commission. The chairpersons and vice-chairpersons of the Regional Forestry Commissions for Asia Pacific, Europe and Near East, as well as the secretaries of the Africa and Latin America and Caribbean Commissions also attended the session as observers.

2. The agenda of the session is attached as *Annex A*, the list of participants as *Annex B*, and the list of documents submitted for consideration by the Commission as *Annex C*.

3. Mr Tom Rosser, Chairperson of the Commission, welcomed participants on behalf of the Government of Canada.

4. Mr Eduardo Rojas-Briales, Assistant Director-General, FAO Forestry Department, welcomed participants on behalf of the FAO Director-General, José Graziano da Silva. He thanked the Government of Canada for the work done to organize and host the session. Mr Rojas-Briales introduced the chairpersons and secretaries of the Regional Forestry Commissions, noting that sharing experiences within and among regions was a useful way for each country to benefit from efforts made in partner countries.

5. He expressed his appreciation for the work done by the NAFC member countries during the 2011 International Year of Forests, in the informal FAO North American Regional Conference and by Mexico in the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean.

6. He announced the forthcoming session of COFO in late September in Rome and invited participants to attend.

7. Mr Rojas-Briales also made reference to Rio+20, stating that forests were key to solving the most relevant issues to face the Summit and humankind in general.

8. Finally, he thanked Jim Farrell and Tom Rosser, the Canadian Chairpersons who had served NAFC during the past two years, for their commitment and applauded the collegial atmosphere prevailing among the three heads of the forestry institutions in the region.

9. He expressed his appreciation to Michael Martin (recently retired), who had served with outstanding commitment as secretary of NAFC for many years. Peter Csoka, Senior Forestry Officer, was introduced and acknowledged as acting in the interim as secretary of the NAFC.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Item 1)

10. The Agenda (*Annex A*) was adopted.

HEADS OF FORESTRY DIALOGUE - KEY FORESTRY ISSUES IN THE REGION (Item 2)

Mexico

11. Mr Juan Manuel Torres Rojo summarized achievements of Mexico in the forest sector since the creation of the National Forest Commission (CONAFOR) in 2001, fostered not only by an improved legal framework, but also by strengthened institutional capacity and increased budgets. These have supported the implementation of the ProÁrbol incentives programme and

efforts to converge public policies and programmes in the rural sector to increase their efficiency.

12. During his presentation, Mr Torres Rojo identified key challenges for the country and CONAFOR in the coming years and presented Mexico's approach to address them. These challenges include the need to further enhance institutional capacity, align and integrate forest policies and programme, and strengthen inter-sectoral coordination for promoting sustainable forest management, conservation and restoration. This also included a broader goal of rural development to diversify forest goods and services, alleviate poverty and increase economic, social and environmental benefits.

13. Mr Torres Rojo highlighted that while Mexico has some relevant institutional experience and capacities to undertake the transformational changes required to address its challenges, additional activities need to be undertaken. Improved coordination with relevant stakeholders at various levels and improved mechanisms for participation of local communities and forest land owners will also be key.

United States of America

14. Mr Tom Tidwell began addressing the Commission by describing the current forest challenges in the United States. The challenges include: drought, wildfire, invasive species, insects and diseases, climate change, the expansion of the urban environment and the loss of habitat for wildlife. In response, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) is focusing on increasing the resiliency of forests through active management, ecological restoration and through partnerships with the public, who are increasingly recognizing the ecosystem benefits of forests in providing clean water and clean air. Part of the USFS restoration work will help contribute to fulfilling the Bonn Challenge, as the USFS is committed to restoring 1.5 million hectares per year until 2020.

15. Fire management continues to be a key issue for the US. The USFS is engaged with actors at different levels on developing a national wildland fire management strategy. The main objectives of the strategy are to restore ecosystems on a landscape scale, focusing on fire adapted ecosystems, and creating fire-adapted human communities that represent the growing wildland/urban interface in the US. Key elements of the strategy are reducing hazardous fuels and biomass and continuing to invest in suppression.

16. Mr Tidwell concluded by stating that there is significant opportunity to elevate the importance of forests by working together to promote the importance of forested landscapes and to address the challenges facing all three countries.

Canada

17. Mr Tom Rosser presented on the need to support innovation in the forest sector through transformative technologies and approaches. In Canada, this innovation is occurring in four niche areas in particular that seek to extract the greatest value possible from the resource. These areas include:

- Forest science—such as enhanced inventory systems;
- Bioproducts—such as the first commercial plant in the world for the production of nanocrystalline cellulose;
- Bioenergy—such as biomethanol and co-generation of energy;
- Next-generation wood products—such as torrefied pellets or cross-laminated timber (CLT).

18. The role of the Canadian Forest Service is to foster that innovation and to encourage the development and commercialization of new technologies. Another role of the Government

is to diversify markets, particularly those that lie outside of traditional markets. Mr Rosser said that the promotion of wood frame construction in countries such as China holds vast market potential.

19. Mr Rosser concluded by citing future avenues for collaboration: linking forest-science to market needs; defining sustainability criteria for bioenergy and bioproducts, and; harmonizing standards development.

20. The Commission acknowledged the role of research as a potential area of collaboration as well as harmonizing building codes and standards, and cooperation in promoting wood as a building material.

21. Mr Rojas-Briales noted the many similar elements in the dialogue as a solid basis for continued collaboration and invited the Commission to consider initiating a global platform in support of green building.

STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN FOREST FIRE - FAO (Item 3)

FAO

22. Mr Eduardo Rojas-Briales introduced document FO:NAFC/2012/3 reviewing relevant recommendations of the 20th session of the Committee on Forestry and related follow-up actions, and highlighted key international events as well as milestones of the Organization's work in the area of fire. Mr. Rojas-Briales recalled the findings of the global assessment of mega-fires and stressed the importance of community-based fire management. In conclusion, he noted the need for including fire management in the broader sustainable land-use and landscape policies and invited the Commission to consider the development of a Multi-Donor Trust Fund thereby creating resources to adequately respond to countries requests in fire management assistance.

Canada

23. Canada expressed its appreciation for the Multi-Donor Trust Fund proposal and informed that it would take time to review the documents before the next COFO meeting in September. Developing a strong business case that positions the Fund as a way to save resources and synergies with other initiatives (e.g. REDD+) as well as involve other organizations (e.g. World Bank) will be key.

United States of America

24. Mr Tidwell appreciated the focus on fire management. He questioned how regional efforts could feed into and inform FAO's work on fire at a global scale and how they would ensure there was no duplication of efforts. He recognized the importance of the FAO voluntary guidelines on fire management. In regards to the proposed Multi-Donor Trust Fund, Mr Tidwell enquired about the proposed annual budget for the programme, the workplan, the outcomes that would be produced, and how FAO was engaging other major international organizations, such as the World Bank.

Mexico

25. Mr Torres-Rojo expressed his concerns about the potential financing options and activities to be carried out under this programme. He stressed that the programme should avoid creating perverse incentives, such as discouraging engagement of countries and agencies in fire protection activities and financing. He suggested that this programme should be focused

on activities like capacity building, exchanging information on availability of resources (both human and material), sharing technical and scientific knowledge, experiences and lessons learned for integrating fire management into land management policies, and strengthening cooperation among countries at a regional level.

26. Mr Rojas-Briales noted that, in addition to the potential offered by the Trust Fund, the work on forest fires could also be supported through important in-kind contributions and initiatives taken to enhance collaboration with possible major international partners, including the World Bank

REPORT OF THE BUREAU OF ALTERNATES (Item 4)

27. As Chair of the Bureau of Alternates (BoA), Mr Peter Besseau introduced the issue by acknowledging the full participation and support of the BoA members over the past two years. The USA was represented by Mr Val Mezainis and Mexico by Mr Jose Carlos Fernandez Ugalde.

28. Over the reporting period, the majority of BoA activities were in the following areas:

- Following-up on recommendations from the 25th Session of the NAFC in Guadalajara;
- Continuing efforts to formalize the structure, mandates, reporting and activities of the NAFC working groups;
- Monitoring and supporting the activities of working groups;
- Developing a summary retrospective document on NAFC and its working groups, as well as working group profiles which were tabled at the NAFC's 26th Session.

REPORT OF THE NAFC WORKING GROUPS (Item 5)

Forest Genetic Resources

29. The Working Group's presentation can be found on the NAFC website.

30. The Commissioners expressed appreciation for the group's consistent good work and highlighted some of their previous work on forest ecology and with monarch butterflies. They also acknowledged that the success of this group has depended upon a strong leadership, consistent commitment from each member and specific and doable work tasks.

31. Mr Rosser asked why there was an emphasis on climate change moving forward.

32. The Working Group responded that it was to ensure the survival of plant populations that would not be able to adapt. The work will emphasize testing seeds in new site locations (assisted migration) and making predictions for 2030.

Atmospheric Change and Forests

33. The Working Group's presentation can be found on the NAFC website.

34. Mr Tom Tidwell highlighted how climate change will become a part of every working group so it is essential that the groups collaborate to ensure that efforts are not duplicated. He commented on the importance of considering results from climate change other than a change in temperature and rainfall, such as increased nitrogen in the atmosphere. He expressed his satisfaction upon seeing that the working group was considering the broader approach to the climate change issue.

35. Mr Rojas-Briales welcomed the inclusion of extreme weather effects such as drought, wind and flooding as important elements in the study of atmospheric change and forests.

Watershed Management

36. Mr Peter Besseau reported on the Watershed Management Working Group on behalf of its current Chair, Dr. Fred Beall, who conveyed in a written statement that while the working group had not functioned well to date, they would welcome the opportunity to revamp the mandate and mission for approval by the NAFC Commissioners.

37. Mr Tidwell agreed with Mr Besseau and added that the working group might benefit from a fresh start with members that are able to bridge language differences successfully, share similar visions and also have the time to commit to the working group.

38. The Commission was unanimous in their belief that watershed management remains an important theme for all three countries; however given the challenges cited, concluded that the working group in its current form should be disbanded.

39. The Commission further requested the BoA to work with the proponents to reconsider the approach to this thematic, in order to develop a proposal for a new working group with a mandate and specific goals prior to the COFO meeting in September 2012.

40. Consideration should be given to:

- a more thorough analysis of the reasons for the Working Group not being able to achieve a critical mass;
- analysis of membership and considerations of including additional experts/organizations; and
- determining the specific niche that the proposed work would address.

41. Mr Rojas-Briales suggested that, in developing a new mandate, contacts could be established to relevant activities at FAO to increase cooperation and synergies.

Silviculture

42. The Working Group's presentation can be found on the NAFC website.

43. The Commission appreciated the consistent results of the Working Group over the years and applauded the level of discipline members have realized in order to focus activities on tangible and effective subjects areas, such as mahogany research.

44. Jorge Meza (COFLAC) highlighted the importance of sharing information regionally.

45. The Commission recognized that the Working Group had had difficulty gaining traction, but with new membership and leadership they have had an increased level of activity over the past year.

Forest, Inventory, Monitoring and Assessment

46. The Working Group's presentation can be found on the NAFC website.

47. The Commissioners were pleased with the working group's important yet challenging work.

48. FAO noted that the North American revisions regarding criteria for reporting on primary functions of forests for the FRA 2015 programme had been accepted and would be formalized.

Fire Management

49. The Working Group's presentation can be found on the NAFC website.

50. Juan Manuel Torres remarked that Mexico's capability in responding to incidents of fire and fire management had greatly improved over the last decade and recognized the contributions both Canada and the USA have made in this effort.

51. The Commission observed that 50 years after the establishment of this working group the issue of fire remains relevant.

52. The Commission acknowledged the need to expand science and technology in order to continue to address fire management in North America as well as globally. The success of the North American model is one that demonstrates the success that collaborative efforts can bring.

53. Letters of Intent were signed between the United States Forest Service and Mexico's National Forest Commission (CONAFOR) as well as between the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC) and CONAFOR in an effort to strengthen the cooperation in the area of forest fire management.

Forest Insects, Diseases and Invasive Plants

54. The Working Group's presentation can be found on the NAFC website.

55. The Commission congratulated the group on its fine work and reaffirmed the need for continued collaboration in this area.

56. In the context of a changing climate, the Commission recognized that the issue of pests and invasive species were all the more important. The example of the emerald ash borer serves as a cautionary tale.

57. The Commission recommended increased collaboration among all three countries to enhance knowledge sharing and prediction scenarios.

58. The Commission recognized Mr Ben Moodie from Canada who retired after serving 20 years on the working group.

59. In conclusion, the Commission handed-out several awards of recognition to the following NAFC members (past and present): Mr Jose Cibrián Tovar and Mr Carlos González Vicente from Mexico who served as Commissioner and Alternate of Mexico in past sessions of NAFC, as well as Ms Margee Haines for her work as representative of USA Forest Service. Mark Gillis from Canada was acknowledged for his many years of service as a member and Chair of the Inventory, Monitoring and Assessment Working Group. Michael Martin from FAO was also acknowledged for his long and outstanding career as a permanent representative and secretary of the NAFC. Two working groups were awarded certificates of merit for 50 years of service to the NAFC. They were the Insects, Diseases and Invasive Plants Working Group and the Fire Management Working Group.

LONG-TERM STRATEGY FOR THE GLOBAL FOREST RESOURCES ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME (FRA) (Item 6)

60. Mr Kenneth MacDicken introduced document FO:NAFC/2012/6, making a presentation on the development process of the Long-Term Strategy for the Forest Resources Assessment (2015-2030), which will be presented to the Committee on Forestry (COFO) in September 2012.

61. He recalled that the original objective of FRA was to support sustainable forest management by informing policy development processes and influencing investments in the forest sector. He noted that the combination of three factors (increase of the human population (1.2 billion), of the annual cereal demand (500 million tons) and of the annual wood demand (130 million m³) would lead to the conversion of 67 million ha of forest land into agricultural lands.

62. The strategy recommended that user relevance be increased, data quality improved, long term priorities defined, analytical outputs tailored to user needs, access to the FRA website improved and that future FRAs build upon the remote sensing survey work currently undertaken by FAO.

63. Mr MacDicken emphasized that there exists a delicate balance between the quantity of information requested from FRA versus ensuring data quality and credibility. He also reported out on FAO's collaborative work through the CPF to streamline forest reporting between major international conventions and organizations.

64. Finally, Mr MacDicken invited the Commission to consider a proposal to develop a generic voluntary guide that would complement IPCC Good Practice Guidance, REDD and biodiversity monitoring efforts.

65. Mr Tom Rosser thanked FAO for the presentation and supported the statement that FRA is about more than just data. However, with an increase in the number of variables on which FAO bases its data, we should be mindful in the future that FRA must remain as consistent and reliable as possible. He urged FAO to be cautious in expanding the list of variables too much and to continue to produce a very useful resource document that can effectively track changes over time.

66. Mr Tidwell highlighted that FRA goes far beyond data collection and actually influences thinking and decision making. He pointed out that data needs to be reliable to influence investments in forests and the forest sector. The remote sensing exercise is useful but at some point it should be corroborated with data measurements field data. He recommended that if data were unreliable, focus should be put on how to make them reliable, versus automatically dropping the variable. He also mentioned that some prioritization should take place on the type of data that will be needed within five or ten years.

REGIONAL ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE COMMISSION FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY (COFO) AND PRIORITIES FOR FAO'S WORK IN FORESTRY (Item 7)

67. Mr Peter Csoka briefed the Commission on progress in the preparation of the Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) of COFO for the period 2012-2015.

68. Mr Anders Lönnblad, Chairperson of COFO, introduced the COFO Steering Committee's initiative to provide a coordinated framework and template for regional forestry commissions in order to set the agenda of COFO.

69. Mr Rosser observed that FAO could play a role in highlighting the positive interaction between agriculture and forestry and the potential for the forest sector to play a prominent role in the development of bioproducts and biomaterial for a green economy.
70. Mr Tidwell concurred with Canada and emphasized that food security and sustainable forestry are not mutually exclusive; both are essential and it is important to recognize the place of forests along with agriculture. He emphasized the idea that sometimes it is more profitable to keep lands in forests instead of converting them to agriculture and that sometimes the inverse is true. However, he stressed that without maintaining sustainable natural resources, there won't be sustainable food security and there may be loss of long-term agricultural productivity.
71. Mr Torres Rojo emphasized that there are people living in forests so there is a need to define a strategy where sustainable forestry is linked to rural development. Sustainable forestry should be defined within a broader framework, including wider concepts such as forest governance. Many issues in forestry, such as fire management, involve many different actors at different levels so there needs to be a strategy to build in governance into these structures at different levels.
72. Mr Rosser highlighted the green economy and its importance at Rio+20. In addition, he recognized the need to continue focusing on fire management.
73. Mr Besseau also asked about the recommendations submitted to COFO and FAO through committees, conferences and surveys. He questioned how the information is used in guiding FAO's decision making process in regards to its work and priorities. He recommended that a process of reporting back be a recurring feature of the COFO agenda.
74. The Commission noted the need for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of recommendations made by previous sessions of the different forestry governing bodies in FAO and suggested that due attention be paid to this in the meeting agendas.
75. Mr Besseau also emphasized the need to ensure that COFO is organized in such a way to attract and justify the attendance by heads of forestry from around the world. He urged for new and exciting topics to be introduced at COFO in order to create a balance between recurring and innovative agenda items.
76. Mr. Torres Rojo stressed the importance of bringing attention and awareness to forests and highlighted that FAO should not overlook forests in its current focus on food security.
77. The representatives of each regional Commission reported on their recommendations for the upcoming COFO.
78. In addition, they emphasized the critical need to effectively communicate the importance of forests role in ensuring long-term food security and livelihoods, and in particular the need to emphasize all the values and services forests provide.

Priority issues for COFO to consider	Expected outcome of the considerations (information/decision)	Possible follow-up activities for COFO and FAO
1. How non-timber forest products, payment for environmental services, biofuels, and innovative uses of wood could contribute to a green economy.	Advice for Members and FAO	Periodic review of progress
2. How the forest community will respond to the outcomes of the Rio +20 Summit for forests and forestry.	Advice for Members and FAO	Periodic review of progress
3. How to promote and expand the economic opportunities from forests, including through the diversification of wood and NTF products and markets, as well as payments for ecosystem services.	Advice for Members and FAO	Periodic review of progress
4. How forests are critical in ensuring long-term food security and livelihoods; and what opportunities are available to agriculture and forestry through forest landscape restoration.	Advice for Members and FAO	Periodic review of progress
5. How to utilize cross-sectoral collaboration, landscape level approaches and strengthen forest governance to respond to multiple challenges in forestry.	Advice for Members and FAO	Periodic review of progress

79. With respect to the long-term priorities, the Commission recalled the themes from the last NAFC meeting. The Commissioners agreed that FAO should continue to focus on the three key issues identified in Guadalajara: climate change with the focus on water, fire management, and continued improvements on FRA and capacity building for FRA.

OTHER BUSINESS (Item 8)

Building Resilient Forestry Institutions for Uncertain Global Futures

80. The Commissioners expressed strong support for the concept and charged the BOA with creating a short-term task group to advance and explore the concept of institutional resiliency across the three countries in response to socio economic, institutional and demographic changes.

81. CONAFOR will nominate an individual and provide contact information to Dr. David Cleaves of the USA who will act as the lead coordinator for the task group. A Canadian representative had already been identified.

82. The Commissioners requested a report on feasibility of the initiative from Dr. Cleaves in the near future.

83. FAO also conveyed support for the proposal and recommended that the task group contact the European Forest Institute (EFI) where a similar initiative is under way.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Item 9)

84. The following officers were elected by the Commission to hold office during the forthcoming biennium:

Chairperson:	Tom Tidwell (United States of America)
First Vice-Chairperson:	Juan Manuel Torres Rojo (Mexico)
Second Vice-Chairperson:	Tom Rosser (Canada)

85. Bureau of Alternates positions were reaffirmed as follows:

Val Mezainis (Chairperson)	United States of America
Juan Carlos Fernandez Ugalde	Mexico
Peter Besseau	Canada

86. FAO stated that with the recent retirement of Michael Martin the post of Secretary to the NAFC has yet to be filled. Options for an FAO representative will be shared with the Commission in the near future.

87. In closing, Mr Tidwell recognized everything the BOA had done over the last two years and praised Peter Besseau's leadership as chair over this period, citing that it was exceptional. As the USA assumes the leadership of NAFC, Mr Tidwell assured the other commissioners that the USA was ready to take on its responsibility as Chair.

88. The commissioners extended their thanks and sincere appreciation to the Government of Canada and, in particular, the Canadian Forest Service and its staff for their very able chairing of the NAFC these past two years and for hosting a successful 26th Session of the NAFC .

DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING (Item 10)

89. United States of America offered to host the 27th Session of the Commission. Commissioners The Commission noted with appreciation the USA's offer to host the next meeting.

90. FAO observed that October 2013 or January 2014 were the preferred months.

91. The exact dates and venue of the meeting would be further determined in consultation with the country concerned after appropriate logistical consultations.

92. The Commission charged the BOA with advising the NAFC on a precise date and location of the 27th session.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND CLOSURE OF THE SESSION (Item 11)

93. The Commission adopted the report by consensus.

*ANNEX A***AGENDA**

1. Opening of the Session and Adoption of the Agenda
2. Heads of Forestry Dialogue: discussion of key forestry issues in the region
 - Mexico
 - United States of America
 - Canada
3. Strengthening International Cooperation in Forest Fire
4. Report of the Bureau of Alternates
 - Update on mandate, charter and workplans of the Working Groups
 - Fifty Year History of NAFC- Impact and Accomplishments
5. Report of the NAFC Working Groups
6. Long-term strategy for the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA)
7. Regional Issues Identified by the Commission for the Attention of the Committee on Forestry (COFO)
8. Priorities for FAO's work in Forestry
9. Any Other Business
10. Election of Officers
11. Date and Place of the Next Meeting
12. Adoption of the Report and Closure of the Session

ANNEX B**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS****MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION****CANADA**

Tom Rosser
Assistant Deputy Minister
Canadian Forest Service
Natural Resources Canada
Tom.Rosser@NRCan-RNCan.gc.ca

Peter Besseau
Director, International Affairs
Canadian Forest Service
Natural Resources Canada
Peter.Besseau@NRCan-RNCan.gc.ca

Richard Verbisky
Senior Policy Advisor, International Affairs
Division
Canadian Forest Service
Natural Resources Canada
Patrick.Wylie@NRCan-RNCan.gc.ca

Ms Christa Mooney
Policy Advisor, International Affairs Division
Canadian Forest Service
Natural Resources Canada
Christa.Mooney@NRCan-RNCan.gc.ca

Kim Connors
NAFC Fire Management Working Group
Director
Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre –
CIFFC
Kim.connors@ciffc.ca

David Paré
Chair
NAFC Atmospheric Change and Forests
Working Group
Laurentian Forest Center
Canadian Forest Service
Natural Resources Canada
dpare@cfl.forestry.ca

Sally Aitken
NAFC Forest Genetic Resources Working
Group
University of British Columbia

Tannis Beardmore
NAFC Forest Genetic Resources Working
Group
Canadian Forest Service
Natural Resources Canada
Tannis.Beardmore@NRCan-RNCan.gc.ca

Jean Beaulieu
NAFC Forest Genetic Resources Working
Group
Canadian Forest Service
Natural Resources Canada
Jean.Beaulieu@NRCan-RNCan.gc.ca

Joe Anawati
NAFC Silviculture Working Group
Canadian Forest Service
Natural Resources Canada
Joe.Anawati@NRCan-RNCan.gc.ca

Roger Whitehead
NAFC Silviculture Working Group
Canadian Forest Service
Natural Resources Canada
Roger.Whitehead@NRCan-RNCan.gc.ca

Ms Glenda Russo
NAFC Inventory, Monitoring and Assessment
Working Group
Canadian Forest Service
Natural Resources Canada
Glenda.Whitehead@NRCan-RNCan.gc.ca

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Tom Tidwell
Chief
US Forest Service
United States Department of Agriculture
ttidwell@fs.fed.us

Ms Liz Mayhew
Latin America and Caribbean
Program Coordinator
Forest Service
United States Department of Agriculture
lmayhew@fs.fed.us

Ms Liza Paqueo
Project Development Specialist
Forest Service
United States Department of Agriculture
lpaqueo@fs.fed.us

Ms Alexandra Zamecnik
Mexico Program Coordinator
Forest Service
United States Department of Agriculture
azamecnik@fs.fed.us

Ms Jennifer Conje
Policy Advisor
Forest Service
United States Department of Agriculture
jconje@fs.fed.us

David Cleves
Climate Change Advisor
Forest Service
United States Department of Agriculture
dcleaves@fs.fed.us

Ms Mary Ann Fajvan
Chair
NAFC Silviculture Working Group
Research Forester
Forest Service
United States Department of Agriculture
mfajvan@fs.fed.us

Ms Margaret Devall
NAFC Silviculture Working Group
Research Forester
Forest Service
United States Department of Agriculture
mdevall@fs.fed.us

Tom Harbour
NAFC Fire Management Working Group
Director Fire and Aviation Management
Forest Service
United States Department of Agriculture
tharbour@fs.fed.us

Brad Smith
NAFC Inventory, Monitoring and Assessment
Working Group
Forest Inventory Assoc. National Program
Leader
Forest Service
United States Department of Agriculture
bsmith12@fs.fed.us

Bryce Richardson
NAFC Forest Genetic Resources Working
Group
Forest Service
United States Department of Agriculture
brichardson@fs.fed.us

Brad St-Clair
NAFC Forest Genetic Resources Working
Group
Forest Service
United States Department of Agriculture
bstclair@fs.fed.us

Rick Scott
NAFC Working Group Liaison
RScott8338@aol.com

Charles Scott
Program Manager
National Inventory and Monitoring
Applications Center Unit
Forest Service
United States Department of Agriculture
cscott@fs.fed.us

MEXICO

Juan Manuel Torres Rojo
Director General
Comisión Nacional Forestal (CONAFOR)
conafor@conafor.gob.mx

José Carlos Fernández Ugalde
Titular de la Unidad de Asuntos
Internacionales y Fomento Financiero
Comisión Nacional Forestal (CONAFOR)
jcfernandez@conafor.gob.mx

José Armando Alanís de la Rosa
Director de Cooperación
Unidad de Asuntos Internacionales y Fomento
Financiero
Comisión Nacional Forestal
jalanis@conafor.gob.mx

Jesús Vargas
NAFC Forest Genetic Resources Working
Group
Programa Forestal, IRENAT
Colegio de Postgraduados
vargashj@colpos.mx

Javier López Upton
NAFC Forest Genetic Resources Working
Group
Programa Forestal, IRENAT
Colegio de Postgraduados
upton@colpos.mx

Cuauhtémoc Sáenz Romero
NAFC Forest Genetic Resources Working
Group
Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones
Agropecuarias y Forestales
Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolás de
Hidalgo
csaenz@umich.mx

Ms Cinthya Verónica Velarde Nuño
NAFC Forest Genetic Resources Working
Group
Jefe del Banco de Germoplasma
Gerencia de Reforestación
Comisión Nacional Forestal
cvelarde@conafor.gob.mx

Martín Mendoza Briseño
NAFC Silviculture Working Group
Colegio de Postgraduados
mmendoza@colpos.mx

Alejandro Velázquez Martínez
NAFC Silviculture Working Group
Silvicultura y Ecosistemas Forestales
Colegio de Postgraduados
ajvela@colpos.mx

Jose Jesús Rangel Piñón
NAFC Silviculture Working Group
Subgerente de Manejo Forestal
Gerencia de Desarrollo Forestal
Comisión Nacional Forestal
jrangel@conafor.gob.mx

Jaime Villa Castillo
Chair
NAFC Insect, disease and invasive plant
Working Group
Gerente de Sanidad
Comisión Nacional Forestal
jvilla@conafor.gob.mx

Carlos Zermeño Benitez
NAFC Inventory, Monitoring and Assessment
Working Group
Gerente del Inventario Forestal y Geomática
Comisión Nacional Forestal
czermeno@conafor.gob.mx

NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE COMMISSION

No Non-Member Countries participated in this session

**CHAIRS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY**

Anders Lönnblad
Chair, Committee on Forestry
Deputy Director-General
Ministry for Rural Affairs
Stockholm, Sweden
Anders.lonnblad@rural.ministry.se

Peter Blomback
Head Policy and Analysis Division
Skogsstyrelsen/Swedish Forest Agency
Göteborg, Sweden
Peter.blomback@skogsstyrelsen.se

Foday Bojang
Secretary
African Forestry and Wildlife Commission
Senior Forestry Officer
FAO Regional Office for Africa
Accra, Ghana
Foday.bojang@fao.org

Su Chunyu
Commissioner
Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission
Director-General
Department of International Cooperation
State Forestry Administration
Beijing, PR. China
aaronzst@163.com

Jorge Meza
Secretary
Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission
FAO Representative and Senior Forestry Officer
FAO Representation in Paraguay
San Lorenzo, Paraguay
Jorge.meza@fao.org

Ali Temerit
Commissioner
Near East Forestry Commission
Senior Forest Engineer
Dept. of Foreign Affairs, Training & Research
Ankara, Turkey
alitemerit@ogm.gov.tr

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

No Intergovernmental Organizations participated in this session

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Eduardo Rojas-Briaies
Assistant Director-General
Forestry Department
Email: Eduardo.rojas@fao.org

Peter Csoka
Senior Forestry Officer
Forestry Information and Liaison Unit
Forestry Department
Email: peter.csoka@fao.org

Kenneth MacDicken
Senior Forestry Officer
Global Forest Assessment and Reporting
Forestry Department
Email: Kenneth.MacDicken@fao.org

Ms Dominique Rozas
Liaison and Meetings Officer
Forestry Information and Liaison Unit
Forestry Department
Email: Dominique.Rozas@fao.org

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

FO:NAFC/2012/1	Provisional Agenda
FO:NAFC/2012/2	Report of the Bureau of Alternates
FO:NAFC/2012/3	Responding to Increasing and Changing Demands in Fire Management
FO:NAFC/2012/4a	Silviculture Working Group Report
FO:NAFC/2012/4b	Fire Management Working Group Report
FO:NAFC/2012/4c	Forest Insects, Diseases and Invasive Plants Working Group Report
FO:NAFC/2012/4d	Forest Genetic Resources Working Group Report
FO:NAFC/2012/6	Preparation of a Long-term Strategy for the Forest Resource Assessment Programme
FO:NAFC/2012/7	FAO Committee on Forestry Multi-Year Programme of Work for the period 2012-2015
FO:NAFC/2012/Inf.1	Provisional Timetable
FO:NAFC/2012/Inf.2	List of documents

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

Canada
Mexico
United States of America

Vertical line 1

Vertical line 2

Vertical line 3

Vertical line 4

Vertical line 5