

REPORT

**Georgetown,
Guyana,
9 – 13 September,
2013**

Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission

Twenty-eighth Session



**Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas para la
Alimentación y
la Agricultura**

PREVIOUS SESSIONS OF THE COMMISSION

1 st Session	Río de Janeiro, Brasil	23 May 1949
2 nd Session	Lima, Peru	14 November 1949
3 rd Session	Santiago, Chile	11 December 1950
4 th Session	Buenos Aires, Argentina	16-23 June 1952
5 th Session	Caracas, Venezuela	4-15 October 1955
6 th Session	Antigua, Guatemala	4-15 November 1958
7 th Session	Mexico City, Mexico	3-6 August 1960
8 th Session	Santiago, Chile	13-19 November 1962
9 th Session	Curitiba, Brazil	5-12 November 1964
10 th Session	Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago	4-9 December 1967
11 th Session	Quito, Ecuador	11-21 November 1970
12 th Session	Havana, Cuba	2-7 February 1976
13 th Session	Pátzcuaro, Michoacán, Mexico	18-22 February 1980
14 th Session	Lima, Peru	15-18 November 1982
15 th Session	San José, Costa Rica	6-10 October 1986
16 th Session	Kingston, Jamaica	18-22 April 1988
17 th Session	Ciudad Guayana, Venezuela	18-22 February 1991
18 th Session	Maldonado, Uruguay	6-10 December 1993
19 th Session	Ciudad de Panama, Panama	17-21 June 1996
20 th Session	Havana, Cuba	10-14 September 1998
21 st Session	Santa Fe de Bogota, Colombia	4-8 September 2000
22 nd Session	Buenos Aires, Argentina	7-11 October 2002
23 rd Session	San José, Costa Rica	18-22 October 2004
24 th Session	Santo Domingo, Dominican Rep.	26-30 June 2006
25 th Session	Quito, Ecuador	29 September-3 October 2008
26 th Session	Guatemala City, Guatemala	24-28 May 2010
27 th Session	Asunción, Paraguay	5-9 March 2012

REPORT

of the

TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION

of the

LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

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SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUESTS

1. The increasing use of forest biomass to generate energy was also stressed. The Commission requested FAO's support in facilitating cooperation among countries to share knowledge on forestry techniques for plantations and agroforestry systems focusing on energy production, and the establishment of a legal framework for such plantations. (Para. 11)
2. In relation to the regional figures and data presented, it was pointed out that regional figures hide the differences among subregions and countries. There are countries where national trends differ from the regional ones. The Commission, therefore, requested FAO's support in improving the generation of data and information related to forests. (Para. 14)
3. Countries offered to increase South-South Cooperation, and recommended FAO to facilitate cooperation mechanisms among countries. Some members of the Commission stated their availability to cooperate on forest protection, the development of wildfire programmes, and forest monitoring and management. (Para. 20)
4. Delegates requested FAO's support in order to have more information and capacity building to respond to the new requirements for wood exportation to Europe, considering the fact that FAO has a technical cooperation project within FLEGT. (Para. 23)
5. The Commission recommended to the Regional Conference to stress among its member countries the contribution of forests to reduce poverty and food insecurity, to improve and protect livelihoods, and to guarantee sustainable productive agro-silvopastoral systems. In this context, the Commission reinforced the importance of forest ecosystem services for the development of agricultural and livestock activities. (Para. 29)
6. Delegates took note of the results of the Forestry Department's Strategic Evaluation, recognizing the forest sector as a strategic element for sustainable development, and recommended that FAO should continue working closely with countries and Regional Forestry Commissions. (Para. 34)
7. The Secretariat reported on progress in the identification of sustainable development goals (SDGs) and their indicators related to forests. Noting that the process is being coordinated by the UNFF Secretariat, delegates recommended FAO to play a major role in identifying the SDGs and convey the suggestion of its member countries to the process. (Para. 38)
8. The Commission recognized that the issues related to tenure and governance presented by the Secretariat show FAO's interest in highlighting the importance of the social aspects affecting or conditioning sustainable forest management. It requested FAO to provide support on this issue. In this connection it referred to the importance of making progress on implementing the EU FAO FLEGT Programme. (Para. 43)
9. The Commission recommended that FAO should develop guidelines on legal aspects of tenure, valuation of ecosystem services, land-use planning and responsible management of land for forest, agricultural and livestock use. (Para. 44)
10. The delegates requested FAO to provide ongoing advice and also facilitate the sharing of experience in these working areas. Other issues to be addressed are the tenure of forest resources, rights of possession, the declaration of protected areas, community negotiation processes, and the co-administration and co-management of public natural resources with the participation of the beneficiaries. (Para. 45)

11. The Commission recommended the establishment of a database of exemplary cases of sustainable forest management as a tool for collaboration and promulgation of successful results of such programmes, which should also include community forestry. (Para. 50)
12. The Commission requested FAO to distribute the sustainable forest management toolbox as widely as possible when it is ready, so that it can be widely used. (Para. 51)
13. Delegates expressed appreciation for FAO's initiative in drawing up voluntary guidelines, which should be adopted according to the situation of each country. They also requested support in applying these guidelines in national wildfire prevention and control programmes. (Para. 55)
14. The Commission recommended that the traditional use of fire in agricultural practices should be taken into account and said that it is therefore important in these specific cases to support capacity building for the appropriate use of fire. (Para. 56)
15. The Commission recommended that FAO should promote South-South Cooperation on fire prevention and control, in terms both of training and exchange of equipment. In this connection, international agreements facilitating such exchanges should be promoted. (Para. 57)
16. Delegates recommended FAO to ensure that the plan of action receives wide distribution and to support countries in the implementation of this plan, taking into account the specific features of the various countries and national strategies, including the mobilization of financial resources. (Para. 61)
17. The Commission requested FAO's support in collecting information on successful experiences and making use of existing platforms to share experience on forest monitoring. (Para. 66)
18. FAO was requested to continue with building up technical and institutional capacities for the valuation of the ecosystem services of forests and trees outside forests, and their importance for food security. (Para. 70)
19. The Commission recommended that COFO should promote the revision and strengthening of public forest policies, so that forest management can be better integrated with national development processes seeking to achieve food security and social well-being. It is important to promote integration of the management of indigenous and planted forests with such production systems as agricultural, livestock, aquaculture and fishery activities at landscape level. It is also recommended that applied research should be carried out in collaboration with specialized bodies in order to provide guidance for this process. (Para. 75)
20. The Commission recommended that COFO should promote appropriate governance of forest resources, including land and forest tenure, and support the development of mechanisms for the valuation and recognition of environmental services for the benefit of those holding the forests. In this connection, apart from supporting the development of carbon payment systems, it is recommended that comprehensive recognition of the above-mentioned environmental services and awareness-raising on this matter should be promoted. All this should be done while fostering both the appropriate incorporation of the forest resources into national accounting systems and also the social and environmental recognition of natural and planted forests. (Para. 76)
21. The Commission recommended that the Regional Conference should consider that food security depends on a strengthened forest sector, considering that forests, trees and forest genetic resources play an important role in the achievement of a strong, resilient agricultural and livestock practices. In this context, the loss of forest resources through the expansion of the

agricultural frontier and the use of inappropriate farm and livestock practices hampers national capacities to achieve food security. (Para. 77))

22. The Commission recommended that the Regional Conference should promote the national-level institutional efforts needed to develop intersectoral development policies and agendas, which should encompass forest-environmental, agricultural and livestock issues in a holistic approach to landscape management, in order to promote food security and economic development and reduce rural poverty. (Para. 78)

23. The Commission recommended that the Regional Conference, working at the international level, should foster action to strengthen intergovernmental organizations carrying out technical cooperation in the forest sector, to promote sustainable forest management for the benefit of food security and poverty reduction. It is specifically requested that FAO be strengthened so that it can continue to work on forest issues with the countries of the Region, in the context of the Organization's new strategic objectives. (Para. 79)

INTRODUCTION

1. The Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), held its 28th Session from 9 to 13 September 2013 in Georgetown, Guyana, at the kind invitation of the Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana. The Session was attended by delegates from 21 member countries and representatives of seven organizations, including United Nations agencies and international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, attending as observers. The Agenda is provided in *Appendix A*, the List of Participants in *Appendix B*, the List of Documents submitted to the Commission in *Appendix C*, and the Workplans of the Subregional Groups of the Commission for the period 2014-2015 in *Appendix D*.

2. In the presence of His Excellency Mr Donald Ramotar, President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, the inaugural session was presided by Ms Lucía Gómez Vaquerano, Divisional Head of the General Directorate of Forestry, Watersheds and Irrigation of the Republic of El Salvador and serving Chair of LACFC. Mr Joslyn McKenzie, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment of Guyana, addressed the participants. Mr Eduardo Rojas-Briales, Assistant Director-General of the FAO Forestry Department, then welcomed the participants on behalf of the Director-General of FAO, Mr José Graziano da Silva. Following this, the Honorable Mr Robert M. Persaud, Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment of Guyana, addressed the participants.

3. Mr Rojas-Briales thanked the Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana for its generous offer to host the Session and for the excellent organization of the event. He mentioned that the fact that the Session is being held in Georgetown is also a sign of recognition for Guyana's international leadership in the debate on forests in recent years. The former President of Guyana, His Excellency Dr H. Bharrat Jagdeo, has worked tirelessly to promote REDD+, pointing out the potential contradiction in recognizing environmental services without focusing on controlling deforestation and without recognizing those countries and zones whose inhabitants have shown foresight in preserving forest resources over the course of time. He also called the attention towards the leadership of LACFC on gender balance among the delegates. He noted that with a view to increasing FAO's effectiveness, the Conference of June this year approved the new Strategic Framework of the Organization for the period 2014-2017. FAO's forest programme was evaluated in 2012 and the main conclusions were discussed at the most recent session of COFO. Its main conclusions were the need to give the forest sector an appropriate place in FAO's new Strategic Framework, prioritize the monitoring of subregional processes by Regional Offices and overcome the fragmented nature of global forest governance by recovering FAO's central role.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Item 1)

4. The Agenda was adopted without amendments.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Item 2)

5. In accordance with Articles II-1 and II-5 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission elected a Chair, three Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur. The following members of the Commission were elected unanimously:

Chair: James Singh (Guyana), and Vice-Chair of the Caribbean Subregional Group

Vice-Chairs: Aída Baldini Urrutia (Chile), Southern Cone Subregional Group
José Trinidad Suazo (Honduras), Mesoamerican Subregional Group

Filipe Abbott Lopes (Brazil), Amazon Subregional Group

Rapporteur: Aída Baldini Urrutia (Chile)

6. Mr Jorge Meza, Senior Forestry Officer at the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, acted as Secretary.

STATE OF THE FOREST SECTOR IN THE REGION: OUTLOOK FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE AMERICAS 2013 (CHAPTER ON FORESTS) (Item 3)

7. The LACFC Secretariat presented Note FO:LACFC/2013/2 entitled “State of the forest sector in the Region”.

8. The Secretariat reported that increasing numbers of countries in the Region are implementing programmes to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+). A financial contribution of approximately USD 22 million has been made to five beneficiary countries in the framework of the UN-REDD Programme. A further nine countries have joined the initiative. Despite the importance of forests, forest cover is being lost or degraded, partly as a result of social and economic dynamics outside the sector. The progressive integration of the Region into the global goods and services market is reducing opportunities for forest conservation and sustainable management partially because of the limited control capacity of the States, but also because of the effects of a complex set of economic and social factors. It is estimated that 3.95 million hectares of forests (or 0.4 percent) are lost annually, 3 million hectares of which are indigenous forests.

9. The following perspectives for the Region were identified: valuation and payment for ecosystem services to the local inhabitants; increase the contribution of forestry activities to national economies and consolidation as an important source of income in family economy; and increase the recognition of the importance of forests for the mitigation of climate change and for the enhancement socio-economical national development.

10. Delegates made reference to the importance of having incentive mechanisms for the protection of natural forests, such as the payment for ecosystems services, in order to enhance the value of forests and avoid land use changes, and incentives for the establishment of forest plantations to reduce the pressure on natural forests. The importance of working in an intersectoral manner in order to guarantee complementary public policies to allow sound forest management, and to bringing the dialogue on forests to the highest policy-making level was also mentioned.

11. The increasing use of forest biomass to generate energy was also stressed. The Commission requested FAO’s support in facilitating cooperation among countries to share knowledge on forestry techniques for plantations and agroforestry systems focusing on energy production, and on the establishment of a legal framework for such plantations.

12. The countries of the Region are making major efforts to ensure legality in the formalities for forest use. The need to simplify authorization of logging and transport of wood was highlighted.

13. Delegates recalled the importance of tree planting in urban and periurban zones due to the high urbanization in the Region, mentioning that this could improve the quality of life of inhabitants living in these zones. Facing high levels of urban population, the need to enhance efforts on communication and dissemination on the importance of forests and multiple benefits for society was highlighted.

14. In relation to the regional figures and data presented, it was pointed out that regional figures hide the differences among subregions and countries. There are countries where national trends differ from the regional ones. The Commission, therefore, requested FAO's support in improving the generation of data and information related to forests.

INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT (Item 4)

FAO's report on follow-up to the recommendations and requests of the 27th Session of the Commission (Item 4.1)

15. The Secretariat presented document FO:LACFC/2013/3 entitled "FAO's report on follow-up activities to the recommendations and requests of the 27th Session of the Commission".

16. The Commission was informed on the follow-up to the 27th Session of the Commission, in particular actions arising from the recommendations and requests made at the meeting.

17. The Secretariat reported on the Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) and the support provided by FAO to countries to increase national capacities for the Assessment of the State of Forest Genetic Resources, and FAO's support to strengthening forest fire management. Actions carried out by FAO to promote forest management in the context of climate change, sustainable forest management and the new Forest and Farm Facility (FFF) to strengthen family farming were also reported. Information was also provided on actions to promote forestry activities, for food security and poverty alleviation.

18. The delegates considered that the increase in wildfires in the Region could be an indicator of climate change. Staff training in safe fire control practices and wildfire control needs to be improved. Early warning systems should be established with the involvement and shared responsibility of the private sector.

19. Delegates stressed the importance of involving local communities on planning and forest management, allowing efforts to integrate forests and agricultural practices.

20. Countries offered to increase South-South Cooperation, and recommended FAO to facilitate cooperation mechanisms among countries. Some members of the Commission stated their availability to cooperate on forest protection, the development of wildfire programmes, and forest monitoring and management.

Reports of the Vice-Chairs of the Subregional Groups of the Commission on activities carried out during the period 2012–2013 (Item 4.2)

21. The Vice-Chairs of the Mesoamerican, Southern Cone, Caribbean and Amazon Subregional Groups gave a brief overview of activities carried out during period 2012–2013.

22. The Commission was informed that the countries of the Region worked mainly in areas related to community forestry, forest monitoring, development of policies and national forestry plans, climate change, invasive species, information systems and forest governance.

23. Delegates requested FAO's support in order to have more information and capacity building to respond to the new requirements for wood exportation to Europe, considering the fact that FAO has a technical cooperation project within FLEGT.

24. Delegates reiterated the importance of the role of forests in food and nutritional security, poverty eradication and sustainable natural resource management.

GLOBAL ISSUES OF RELEVANCE TO THE REGION (Item 5)

The new strategic framework for FAO (Item 5.1)

25. The Secretariat presented document FO:LACFC/2013/4 entitled “The new strategic framework for FAO”.

26. The Secretariat reported that the new FAO Strategic Framework 2010-2019 was approved by the member countries at the 38th Session of the FAO Conference in June 2013. Under this new framework, the Organization’s five Strategic Objectives are:

- 1) Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition.
- 2) Increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner.
- 3) Reduce rural poverty.
- 4) Enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems at local, national and international levels.
- 5) Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises.

27. The Secretariat requested comments from the Commission regarding the regional forestry strategy, in view of this new FAO’s strategic framework.

28. The Commission expressed its support to the new Strategic Framework of FAO that promotes an intersectoral working approach, highlighting the role of forests in the five Strategic Objectives of FAO.

29. The Commission recommended to the Regional Conference to stress among its member countries the contribution of forests to reduce poverty and food insecurity, to improve and protect livelihoods, and to guarantee sustainable productive agro-silvopastoral systems. In this context, the Commission reinforced the importance of forest ecosystem services for the development of agricultural and livestock activities.

30. The Commission also expressed the need to ensure communication programmes for better understanding the differences between rotation timeframes and production processes, so that livestock and forest activities can be compatible.

Strategic evaluation of FAO’s role and work in forestry: Management Response (Item 5.2)

31. The Secretariat presented document FO:LACFC/2013/5 entitled “Strategic evaluation of FAO’s role and work in forestry: management response”.

32. The Secretariat reported that a Strategic Evaluation of FAO’s Role and Work in Forestry was carried out, which provided nine (9) specific recommendations grouped in three general recommendations, calling on FAO to: (i) focus on priorities and its comparative advantages of intersectoral expertise and accumulated knowledge, to develop an holistic approach on forests and trees which contributes to each of the three global objectives of the Organization; (ii) take a more proactive approach corresponding to its role and place in the global forestry regime and, (iii) strengthen modalities for sharing knowledge and link in a better way the normative and operational work through all levels of the Organization and partners.

33. The Secretariat requested comments from the Commission on these recommendations, particularly on FAO’s contribution to the Region and the Region’s contribution to the international level, and also the coordination of LACFC with its working groups and of LACFC with the Commissions of other regions, in order to generate a common approach to the work on forests to be carried out by FAO.

34. Delegates took note of the results of the Forestry Department's Strategic Evaluation, recognizing the forest sector as a strategic element for sustainable development, and recommended that FAO should continue working closely with countries and Regional Forestry Commissions.

35. The response of the Forestry Department to the evaluation carried out by FAO was supported, and the countries and Chairs of Forestry Commissions were urged to implement the actions recommended in the Evaluation, highlighting the role of the forest sector and its contribution to guaranteeing the sustainability of other sectors.

United Nations Forum on Forests. Main general conclusions and results of the dialogue of Amazon countries (ACTO) (Item 5.3)

36. The Secretariat presented document FO:LACFC/2013/5.1 entitled "The United Nations development agenda beyond 2015: sustainable development goal".

37. The Secretariat informed that during the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20, it was agreed to draw up action-oriented sustainable development goals (SDGs) and an open working group was set up to submit a proposal on SDGs to the 68th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations in 2014. The issue of forests will be discussed in February 2014, and the Interagency Task Force on Forests, coordinated by the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) Secretariat and with input from the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, is preparing a background paper on forests that seeks to highlight the role of forest in sustainable development. Two possible approaches have been suggested for this document: (i) a specific SDG regarding forests, which would highlight the contribution of forests to the three dimensions of sustainable development; or (ii) a SDG related to natural resources, in which the subject of forests would be addressed in a holistic manner with aspects related to energy, biodiversity, water and renewable resources. The Secretariat invited Commission members to join in this dialogue.

38. The Secretariat reported on progress in the identification of sustainable development goals (SDGs) and their indicators related to forests. Noting that the process is being coordinated by the UNFF Secretariat, delegates recommended FAO to play a major role in identifying the SDGs and convey the suggestion of its member countries to the process.

Preparations for the XIV World Forestry Congress (Item 5.4)

39. The Secretariat presented document FO:LACFC/2013/6 entitled "Preparations for the XIV World Forestry Congress".

40. The Secretariat informed on the organization of the XIV World Forestry Congress, to be held in the city of Durban, South Africa, from 7 to 11 September, 2015. It also informed on FAO's traditional role as advisor, providing technical and administrative assistance for the organization of the Congress. The Secretariat asked for the Commission's suggestions on specific issues of interest to be addressed by the Congress and asked for collaboration in distributing information, identifying relevant networks, institutions and actors that could be important contact points for the organizers, and also identifying people who could present keynote addresses. It also asked the Commission to issue a broad call for the submission of papers and reports on research carried out in the Region.

41. The delegate of Brazil offered the National Forest Service of this country as a point for contact and collaboration for working towards the Forestry Congress. The Secretariat asked the delegates to submit reflections and ideas on the main topics to be addressed in the Congress, utilizing the Secretariat as a communication channel.

IN-SESSION SEMINARS (Item 6)

Voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests (Item 6.1)

42. The Secretariat presented document FO:LACFC/2013/7 entitled “Voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests”.

43. The Commission recognized that the issues related with tenure and governance presented by the Secretariat showed FAO’s interest in highlighting the importance of the social aspects affecting or conditioning sustainable forest management. It requested FAO to provide support on this issue. In this context it referred to the importance of making progress on implementing the EU FAO FLEGT Programme.

44. The Commission recommended that FAO should develop guidelines on legal aspects of tenure, valuation of ecosystem services, land-use planning and responsible management of land for forest, agricultural and livestock use.

45. The delegates requested FAO to provide ongoing advice and also facilitate the sharing of experience in these working areas. Other issues to be addressed are the tenure of forest resources, rights of possession, the declaration of protected areas, community negotiation processes, and the co-administration and co-management of public natural resources with the participation of the beneficiaries.

46. The delegate of Brazil suggested that in section six of Note FO:LACFC/2013/7 reference should be added to “the perspective of the human right to food and land” and that in the last line the words “also indigenous communities with a gender focus” should be added.

Sustainable forest management (SFM) toolbox (Item 6.2)

47. The Secretariat presented document FO:LACFC/2013/8 entitled “Sustainable forest management (SFM) toolbox”.

48. The delegate of Guatemala presented the outlook for SFM in Guatemala and the importance or orientation/approach that the “SFM toolbox” should have in order to strengthen SFM work in the countries.

49. The delegates thanked FAO for designing and developing the toolbox for sustainable forest management in order to provide a scientific basis for the promotion and improvement of sustainable forest management. Delegates offered their support to the development of the toolbox, suggesting the establishment of a mechanism to facilitate their contributions.

50. The Commission recommended the establishment of a database of exemplary cases of sustainable forest management as a tool for collaboration and the promulgation of successful results of such programmes, which should also include community forestry.

51. The Commission requested FAO to distribute the sustainable forest management toolbox as widely as possible when it is ready, so that it can be widely used.

52. The delegate of Brazil reiterated his country’s willingness to cooperate in organizing a regional workshop on forest concessions, regarding previous dialogues with FAO.

Shaping the FAO Fire Management Umbrella Programme, managing wildfire-related risks at the landscape level and improving interagency coordination (Item 6.3)

53. The LACFC Secretariat presented document FO:LACFC/2013/9 entitled “Shaping the FAO Fire Management Umbrella Programme, managing wildfire-related risks at the landscape level and improving interagency coordination”.

54. The delegate of Chile presented the experience of monitoring and wildfire control in the country.

55. Delegates expressed appreciation for FAO’s initiative in drawing up voluntary guidelines, which should be adopted according to the situation of each country. They also requested support in applying these guidelines in national wildfire prevention and control programmes.

56. The Commission recommended that the traditional use of fire in agricultural practices should be taken into account and said that it is therefore important in these specific cases to support capacity building for the appropriate use of fire.

57. The Commission recommended that FAO should promote South-South Cooperation on fire prevention and control, in terms both of training and exchange of equipment. In this connection, international agreements facilitating such exchanges should be promoted.

58. The delegate of Brazil recommended that paragraph 5 of Note FO:LACFC/2013/9 should be revised in view of the fact that the REDD+ mechanism focuses mainly on payment for the ecosystem service of reducing emissions caused by deforestation and forest degradation.

The state and conservation of the world’s forest genetic resources (Item 6.4)

59. The Secretariat presented document FO:LACFC/2013/10 entitled “The state of the world’s forest genetic resources”.

60. The delegates of Mexico and Peru presented documents on the process of elaboration of country reports on the state and conservation of genetic resources and advice FAO on the approach to be adopted its efforts to promote the conservation of forest genetic resources at the global level.

61. Delegates recommended FAO to ensure that the plan of action receives wide distribution; and to support countries in the implementation of this plan, taking into account the specific features of the various countries and national strategies, including the mobilization of financial resources.

62. The Commission proposed that the delegates should continue the analysis of the management and state of forest genetic resources and their adaptation to varying environmental conditions.

Voluntary guidelines on national forest monitoring (Item 6.5)

63. The Secretariat presented document FO:LACFC/2013/11 entitled “Voluntary guidelines on national forest monitoring”.

64. Several countries reported on progress in carrying out forest inventories in natural and planted forests and their experience regarding satellite monitoring of these resources. They made reference to the need to carry out inventories, not just focusing on the estimation of stock, biomass and carbon pools, but also on evaluating ecosystem services and other forest goods.

65. They also recognized the importance of the information in inventories for monitoring the application of public policies concerning forest management and also of policies for other sectors affecting forests.

66. The Commission requested FAO's support in collecting information on successful experiences and making use of existing platforms to share experience on forest monitoring.

Forests and food security. Follow-up to the conclusions of the International Conference (Item 6.6)

67. The Secretariat presented document FO:LACFC/2013/12 entitled "Forests for food security and nutrition. Follow-up to the conclusions of the International Conference".

68. The delegate of Chile gave a presentation on the study on poverty reduction efforts and planted forests carried out in the country.

69. Delegates stressed the importance of forests in promoting food security and urged FAO to continue its work on the recognition and valuation of forest products. They mentioned the importance of ensuring that the extraction of such products does not degrade the forest resource.

70. FAO was requested to continue with building up technical and institutional capacities for the valuation of the ecosystem services of forests and trees outside forests, and their importance for food security.

71. The delegate of Brazil proposed that an additional point be added at the end of paragraph 27 of Note FO:LACFC/2013/12 as follows: "connected with indigenous and other forest peoples in order to increase their participation in the formulation of public policies".

ACTIVITIES OF THE SUBREGIONAL GROUPS OF THE COMMISSION (Item 7)

Formulation of work plans of the Subregional Groups of the Commission for the period 2014–2015 (Item 7.1)

72. The Subregional Groups of the Commission developed their work plans for the period 2014–2015. The proposals are included in *Appendix D*.

73. The countries agreed to work in Subregional Groups, mainly on the following issues:

- Monitoring, prevention and control of forest fires, pests and diseases with joint actions.
- Sustainable forest management, community forestry and its complementarity with agricultural and livestock production.
- National forest inventories and monitoring of changes in forest cover.
- Governance and administrative modernization, and development of information systems.
- Forest goods and services in national accounts.
- Identification of incentives for agroforestry and forest systems.
- Improvement in food and nutritional security through the goods and services obtained from forests.
- Control of invasive species in forests.
- Control of the effect of climate change on forests.

Formulation of regional priorities for consideration by the Committee on Forestry (COFO) and the 33rd FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (Item 7.2)

74. The Secretariat presented document FO:LACFC/2013/13 entitled “Contribution to FAO governance: input to the Committee on Forestry and the Regional Conferences”.

75. The Commission recommended that COFO should promote the revision and strengthening of public forest policies, so that forest management can be better integrated with national development processes seeking to achieve food security and social well-being. It is important to promote integration of the management of indigenous and planted forests with such production systems as agricultural, livestock, aquaculture and fishery activities at landscape level. It is also recommended that applied research should be carried out in collaboration with specialized bodies in order to provide guidance for this process.

76. The Commission recommended that COFO should promote appropriate governance of forest resources, including land and forest tenure, and support the development of mechanisms for the valuation and recognition of environmental services for the benefit of those holding the forests. In this connection, apart from supporting the development of carbon payment systems, it is recommended that comprehensive recognition of the above-mentioned environmental services and awareness-raising on this matter should be promoted. All this should be done while fostering both the appropriate incorporation of the forest resources into national accounting systems and also the social and environmental recognition of natural and planted forests.

77. The Commission recommended that the Regional Conference should consider that food security depends on a strengthened forest sector, considering that forests, trees and forest genetic resources play an important role in the achievement of a strong, resilient agricultural and livestock practices. In this context, the loss of forest resources through the expansion of the agricultural frontier and the use of inappropriate farm and livestock practices hampers national capacities to achieve food security.

78. The Commission recommended that the Regional Conference should promote the national-level institutional efforts needed to develop intersectoral development policies and agendas, which should encompass forest-environmental, agricultural and livestock issues in a holistic approach to landscape management, in order to promote food security and economic development and reduce rural poverty.

79. The Commission recommended that the Regional Conference, working at the international level, should foster action to strengthen intergovernmental organizations carrying out technical cooperation in the forest sector, to promote sustainable forest management for the benefit of food security and poverty reduction. It is specifically requested that FAO be strengthened so that it can continue to work on forest issues with the countries of the Region, in the context of the Organization’s new strategic objectives.

NEXT CHAIR OF COFO (Item 8)

80. Dr Felician Bakamasa Kilahama, Chair of the Committee on Forestry (COFO), thanked the Government of Guyana and FAO for the invitation to take part in the 28th Session of the Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission. He expressed his appreciation for the interesting presentations and discussions during the plenary session. He also said that in general terms the situation of the forest sector and the challenges for the management of forests and trees in this region are similar to those in other regions. He urged LACFC to work collectively as a member of COFO and to continue making recommendations to FAO, but also to other international negotiation processes connected with forests and trees outside forests.

81. The Commission was informed that according to geographical rotation, the next Chair of COFO should be a person from the Latin American and Caribbean region. In this connection, it examined the tasks of the COFO Chair and considered the importance of having a person of wide experience in the Region's forest sphere, and one who should also have an excellent political profile, so that he or she can promote the visibility of the forest sector within FAO and in member countries.

82. The Commission proposed that Dr Bharrat Jagdeo, former President of Guyana, should be nominated as Chair of COFO at the forthcoming session. The Secretariat said that it would consult Dr Jagdeo in order to confirm his willingness to accept this nomination and would inform Commission members of his response.

83. The Chair of the LACFC reported that Dr. Jagdeo had confirmed his willingness to accept the nomination and expressed his gratitude to the Commission.

INFORMATION ON REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL FORESTRY MEETINGS (Item 9)

84. The Secretariat reported on preparations for the next IUCN World Parks Congress, to be held in Australia in 2014, for which FAO is the lead agency regarding the subject of "Protected areas, supporting human life". It also reported on the electronic forum on agro-environmental policies, to be launched in October of this year, and invited the delegates to take part.

85. The Commission was informed on the following:

- The 2nd Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry was held in Cuzco, Peru, 14-16 August, 2013. The meeting intended to allow sharing of experiences on forest management in the face of climate change and to report on progress and achievements regarding the goal established in Sydney, Australia.
- The delegate from Peru proposed that a regional meeting be held in 2014 to establish a strategic approach to updating academic forestry training, taking advantage of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the forestry career in this country. The event will be coordinated by the La Molina National Agrarian University.
- A "Forum on Payment for Environmental Services" is being organized, to be held in San José, Costa Rica, in 2014, in order to address issues of ecotourism, gender, land tenure, traditional knowledge, neutral carbon, etc.
- The 4th Mesoamerican Congress on Protected Areas will be held in 2014. This event will encompass spaces for dialogue on issues connected with protection, research, cooperation and climate change etc.
- The 8th Central America Forest Congress will be held in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, 25-28 September 2013. The congress will highlight the importance of forests in providing environmental services and will discuss issues connected with FLEGT and REDD.
- The 4th Argentinean and Latin American Forestry Congress will be held in Puerto Iguazú, Argentina, 23-28 September, 2013 with the collaboration of the Argentinean Forestry Association, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, and the Secretariat for the Environment and Sustainable Development.

- Three expert workshops will be held in Central America in the framework of the Regional Strategic Program for Forest Ecosystems Management (PERFOR) to examine the lines of work of this programme and analyze activities under the five-year operational plan 2013-2017. The meetings will be held in Honduras and Costa Rica.
- The 10th National Forestry Congress of Guatemala will be held 12-14 November, 2013.
- The Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) Programme regional workshop for Latin America will be held on 2, 3 and 4 October, 2013 in Mexico, with the aim of building capacities and helping to improve the quality and consistency of data and information in the drafting of national reports.

OTHER BUSINESS (Item 10)

86. The Secretariat reported on progress in the formulation of the “Support to Implementation of the Amazonia Vision” project, which was agreed by the authorities responsible for protected areas in the eight countries that share the Amazon Region. It also reported on the preparation of a regional project coordinated by the FAO Forestry Department and the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, with the aim of identifying good practices in the management of riparian zones in Amazonia.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION OF THE COMMISSION (Item 11)

87. The Secretariat reported on the procedure for deciding on the venue of the next session of the Commission. The delegates of Ecuador and Peru offered their respective countries as the location for the next session of LACFC.

88. The Commission provisionally agreed that the next session of LACFC should be held from 5 to 9 October, 2015.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND CLOSING OF THE SESSION (Item 12)

89. The Commission adopted the report unanimously.

90. The Session was closed by Ms Lystra Fletcher Paul on behalf of FAO, and by Mr James Singh on behalf of the Republic of Guyana.

APPENDIX A**AGENDA****Item**

1. Opening of the Session and adoption of the Agenda
2. Election of Officers
3. State of the Forest Sector in the Region. Perspective for the Agriculture and Rural Development in America 2013 (Chapter on Forest)
4. Information items on activities carried out:
 - 4.1 FAO'S report on follow-up activities to the recommendations and requests of the 27th Session of the Commission
 - 4.2 Reports of the Vice-Chairs of the Subregional Groups of the Commission on activities carried out during the period 2012-2013
5. Global items of relevance for the Region:
 - 5.1 The new strategic framework for FAO.
 - 5.2 Strategic evaluation of FAO's role and work in forestry: Management Response
 - 5.3 United Nations Forum of Forests. Main general conclusions and results of the dialogue of Amazon countries (ACTO).
 - 5.4 Preparations for the XIV World Forestry Congress
6. In-session Seminars:
 - 6.1 Voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forestry
 - 6.2 Sustainable forest management (SFM) toolbox
 - 6.3 Shaping the FAO Fire Management Umbrella Programme, managing wildfire-related risks at the landscape level and improving inter-agency coordination
 - 6.4 The state and conservation of world's forest genetic resources
 - 6.5 Voluntary guidelines on national forest monitoring
 - 6.6 Forests and food security. Follow-up to the conclusions of the International Conference
7. Activities of the Subregional Groups of the Commission:
 - 7.1 Formulation of work plans of the Subregional Groups of the Commission for the period 2014-2015
 - 7.2 Formulation of regional priorities to be considered by the Committee on Forestry (COFO) and the 33rd FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean
8. Next presidency of COFO
9. Information on regional and subregional forestry meetings.
10. Other business
11. Date and place of the next Session of the Commission
12. Adoption of the report and closing of the Session

APPENDIX B**LIST OF PARTICIPANTES**

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APPENDIX C**LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

Agenda item	Code	Title
1	FO:LACFC/2013/1	Provisional Agenda
3	FO:LACFC/2013/2	State of the Forest Sector in the Region.
4.1	FO:LACFC/2013/3	FAO's report on follow-up activities to the recommendations and requests of the 27 th Session of the Commission
5.1	FO:LACFC/2013/4	The new strategic framework for FAO
5.2	FO:LACFC/2013/5	Strategic evaluation of FAO's role and work in forestry: Management Response
5.2	FO:LACFC/2013/5.1	The UN development agenda beyond 2015: Sustainable development goal
5.4	FO:LACFC/2013/6	Preparations for the XIV World Forestry Congress.
6.1	FO:LACFC/2013/7	Voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forestry
6.2	FO:LACFC/2013/8	Sustainable forest management (SFM) toolbox
6.3	FO:LACFC/2013/9	Shaping the FAO Fire Management Umbrella Programme, managing wildfire-related risks at the landscape level and improving inter-agency coordination
6.4	FO:LACFC/2013/10	The state of the world's forest genetic resources
6.5	FO:LACFC/2013/11	Voluntary guidelines on national forest monitoring.
6.6	FO:LACFC/2013/12	Forests for food security and nutrition. Follow-up to the conclusions of the International Conference
7.2	FO:LACFC/2013/13	Contribution to FAO governance: input to the Committee on Forestry and the Regional Conferences

Information documents:

FO:LACFC/2012/Inf.1	Information Note for the Participants
FO:LACFC/2012/Inf.2	Provisional Timetable
FO:LACFC/2012/Inf.3	List of Documents

APPENDIX D

**WORKPLANS OF THE SUBREGIONAL GROUPS OF THE COMMISSION
FOR THE PERIOD 2014–2015**

WORK PLAN OF THE SOUTHERN CONE SUBREGIONAL GROUP

Recommendations for the attention of COFO			
Priority issues for COFO's consideration	Anticipated outcome of the consideration (information/decision)	Possible follow-up activities for COFO and FAO*	
Communication of the role of forests and their economic, social and environmental benefits.	Positive perception of people regarding the benefits of forests.	Elaboration of an annual report, which should contain a ranking of the perception of society in each country.	
Development of mechanisms to facilitate the generation of carbon credits.	Carbon market dominated by forest credit transactions.	Monitoring of carbon credits trade in terms of quality and quantity.	
Boosting of forest policies so that they incorporate food security and social well-being, and taking account of the forest sector when considering the agricultural, fishery and livestock sectors.	Increase added value to the productive chains and development of indicators.	Development and publication of a social and economic well-being index.	
Recommendations for the attention of the FAO Programme of Work			
Issues in the FAO Programme of Work	Objectives of work on priorities	Level of action (nat./reg./global)	Strategic objectives
Consolidation of a monitoring and mutual support system for the prevention and control of forest fires.	Development and application of protocols for the sharing of knowledge human and material resources among the various countries.	N: Incorporation and organization of public and private institutions. R: Facilitation of sharing. G: Revision of protocols and their ongoing evaluation. Regular (twice-yearly) meetings for the country report.	2 – 5
Development of tools for sustainable forest management and its complement with agricultural and livestock production.	Generation of national policies and plans fostering synergies among sectors.	N: Gathering of information and coordination of sectoral policies. R: Pursuit of complementation among productive systems. G: Monitoring of the generation and implementation of the policy and plans.	2 – 3 – 4
Recommendations for the attention of the FAO Regional Conference			
Priority issues for consideration by the Regional Conference	Anticipated outcomes	Possible activities, level of action (nat./reg./global)	
Communication of the role of forests and their economic,	Society values sustainably managed forest resources.	Development and implementation of an awareness-raising campaign in line with the	

social and environmental benefits.		various public objectives. Promotion of an agreement among governments regarding promotion of the benefits of forests. Ongoing support for inclusion of the role of forests in formal education.
Strengthen of forest policies so that they incorporate food security and social well-being, integrating the forest sector with the agricultural, fishery and livestock sectors.	Incorporation of forests into the food production value chain.	Action to ensure the inclusion of food production in forests, both planted and natural. Development of mechanisms to facilitate the sharing of experience and information. Maintenance of the priority of the issue in the various international fora.

* FAO should perform a coordination and support role.

WORK PLAN OF THE AMAZON SUBREGIONAL GROUP

Recommendations for the attention of COFO			
Priority issues for COFO's consideration	Anticipated outcome of the consideration (information/decision)	Possible follow-up activities for COFO and FAO	
Food security - Development of programmes and policies allowing greater participation of the forest sector with regard to food security and poverty eradication through the promotion of agroforestry and productive forest systems and the development of productive value chains.	Increase in forest-based production. Better positioning of the forest sector in national policies.		
Forest genetic resources - Building of the capacities of countries with mechanisms contributing to the conservation of forest genetic resources in the framework of the FAO Global Plan of Action.	Clear identification of forest genetic resources for food and agriculture. Prioritization of species of importance for food and agriculture.		
Financial support - Continued support from cooperation sources for forest resource monitoring programmes.	Ensured continuity of activities concerning inventories, land registration and the dissemination of outputs.		
Recommendations to the attention of the FAO Programme of Work			
Priorities for the FAO Programme of Work	Objectives of work on priorities	Level of action (nat./reg./global)	Strategic objective (1 - 5)
Monitoring of forest resources: national forest inventories and monitoring of changes in forest cover.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuation of national forest inventories (PER, BRA) Capacity-building activities (e.g. Open Foris) Dissemination of the results of national forest inventories 	National and regional	2
Governance: legal and institutional framework, devolution of functions, and land-use planning; administrative modernization and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharing of information and experience (e.g. forest registry, computer systems to improve forest 		

development of information systems.	administration, successful cases of forest governance) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity-building • Promotion of the establishment of model forests in the subregion • Workshop on forest concessions 		
Food security: incentives for agroforestry and forestry systems (e.g. NWFPs) and promotion of the rehabilitation of degraded (forest) land with a focus on rural community development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing of experience (e.g. the Community and Family Forest Management Programme in Brazil and Peru; NWFP-based bio-trade in Peru; incentives for agroforestry and forestry systems) • Development of markets for forest species of food value • Promotion of activities to rehabilitate degraded forest land (productive rehabilitation) for forest species of importance as food 		
Development of the toolbox so that countries can make the best use of it.			
Recommendations for the attention of the FAO Regional Conference			
Priority issues for consideration by the Regional Conference	Anticipated outcome of the consideration (information/decision)	Possible follow-up activities for COFO and FAO	
Development of programmes and policies allowing greater participation of the forest sector with regard to food security and poverty eradication through the promotion of agroforestry and productive forest systems and the development of productive value chains.			
Ministers should call for implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the conservation of forest genetic resources.			

WORK PLAN OF THE MESOAMERICAN SUBREGIONAL GROUP

Recommendations for the attention of COFO			
Priority issues for COFO's consideration	Anticipated outcome of the consideration (information/decision)	Possible follow-up activities for COFO and FAO (link to Appendix 2)	
Contribution of forest goods and services to national accounts.	Recommendation that FAO should draw up guidelines and develop a toolbox to help countries to evaluate the contribution of forest goods and services to national accounts (GDP).		
Land and forest governance and tenure.	Recommendation that land- and forest-use planning should be promoted, synergies of the forest sector with other sectors and activities connected with land-use should be sought, and experience and lessons learned should be shared.		
Recommendations for the attention of the FAO Programme of Work			
Priorities for the FAO Programme of Work	Objectives of work on priorities	Level of action (nat./reg./global)	Strategic objective (1 - 5)
Contribution of forest goods and services to national accounts	Toolbox to evaluate the contribution of forests to the countries' GDP	Global, regional and national	2
Support to countries in building technical and institutional capacities in order to improve the quality of information on forest resources, promoting the carrying out of forest inventories and assessments.		Global, regional and national	2
Support to countries in efforts to improve food and nutritional security through goods and services obtained from forests.		Global, regional and national	1
Recommendations for the attention of the FAO Regional Conference			
Priority issues for consideration by the Regional Conference	Anticipated outcome of the consideration (information/ decision)	Possible follow-up activities for FAO (link to Appendix 2)	
Promotion of institutional efforts to develop intersectoral agendas encompassing agricultural, livestock, forestry and environmental issues, with a holistic approach to land-use management.	That the Conference should recommend that FAO support countries in this matter.		
Action to raise the visibility of the forest sector, giving it the importance that it deserves.	That the issue of forests should be present on the agenda and in the report of the Conference.		

Programme of Work

Issue/Activity	Main actions	Possible sources of finance	Strategic objective
Forest fire, pest and disease control.	Updating of the regional fire control strategy.	FAO	5
	Creation of a Mesoamerican network for the prevention and control of forest pests and diseases.	FAO / CCAD	5
Forest inventory and monitoring.	Strengthen/consolidation of countries' forest inventory and monitoring teams.	FAO / GIZ	2
	Implementation of forest monitoring activities.	FAO / GIZ	2
Updating of PERFOR.	Consolidation of PERFOR indicators.	FAO / GIZ / IUCN	
	Dissemination and socialization of PERFOR.	FAO / GIZ / IUCN	
	Coordination of PERFOR with other regional agendas in the framework of the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD).	FAO / GIZ / IUCN	
	Action to raise the visibility of forest services in the development and implementation of the REDD strategy.		
Governance.		FAO-FLEGT	
Community forestry (Honduras).	Systematization of experience with community forestry.	GIZ	

WORK PLAN OF THE CARIBBEAN SUBREGIONAL GROUP

Recommendations for the attention of COFO			
Priority issues for COFO's consideration	Anticipated outcome of the consideration (information/decision)	Possible follow-up activities for COFO and FAO	
Role of trees and forests in the landscape, focusing on new agroforestry practices.			
Role of applied research in the forest sector for production and conservation.			
Influence on the decision-making process in new financing initiatives.			
Recommendations for the FAO Programme of Work			
Priorities for the FAO Programme of Work	Objectives of work on priorities	Level of action (nat./reg./global)	Strategic objective (1 - 5)
Forest fire control.	Facilitation of national capacity-building.	Regional	5
Evaluation of services from forests and mechanisms to pay for environmental services.	Facilitation of national capacity-building.	Regional	2
Capacity-building in the following areas:	Facilitation of national capacity-building.	Regional	2

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest inventories and forest monitoring • Climate change • Agroforestry • Community forestry 			
Use of biomass to generate bioenergy.	Facilitation of national capacity-building.	Regional	2
Promotion of diversification and the marketing of forest products including wood and non-wood products.	Facilitation of national capacity-building.	Regional	4
Recommendations for the attention of the FAO Regional Conference			
Support to the forest sector, considering that forests and trees are important for building a strong, resilient agricultural sector and achieving food security, a reduction in rural poverty and economic development.			

Programme of work

The work of the Caribbean Subgroup will focus mainly on two issues:

- Systematization of knowledge on invasive species in Caribbean forests and control of these.
- Development of a project to build national capacities for the adaptation of forest management to climate change.

SUMMARY OF GROUP WORK

Recommendations for the attention of COFO		
Priority issues for COFO's consideration	Anticipated outcome of the consideration (information/decision)	Possible follow-up activities for COFO and FAO
Review and strengthen public policies for forests.	<p>Incorporation of forest management into national development processes intended to achieve food security and social well-being.</p> <p>Integration of the management of indigenous and planted forests into such productive systems as agricultural, livestock, aquaculture and fishery activities at landscape level.</p> <p>It is also recommended that applied research be carried out in collaboration with specialized bodies in order to provide guidance for this process.</p>	Action to raise the visibility of the contribution of forests to food security, considering their contribution to FAO's new strategic objectives.
Governance of land and forest tenure, and recognition of the environmental services of forests.	<p>Appropriate governance of forest resources, including land and forest tenure, and support development of mechanisms for the valuation and recognition of environmental services for the benefit of those holding the forests.</p> <p>In this connection, apart from supporting the development of carbon payment systems, it is recommended that comprehensive recognition of the above-mentioned environmental services and awareness-raising on this matter should be promoted.</p> <p>All this should be done while fostering the appropriate incorporation of the forest</p>	Promotion at the global, regional and subregional levels of recognition of the importance of forests, their management and their good governance for development and social well-being at the national level.

	resource into national accounting systems, and also the social and environmental recognition of natural forests.	
Recommendations for the attention of the FAO Programme of Work		
Priorities for the FAO Programme of Work	Objectives for work on priorities	
Forest governance.	Support for the revision and consolidation of legal and institutional frameworks, their updating, the development of information systems, the decentralization of functions, and land-use planning.	
Forest fire control.	Promotion of South-South cooperation in order to consolidate monitoring systems and mutual support among countries for the prevention and control of forest fires.	
Improvement in the quality of information on forest resources, promoting the carrying out of forest inventories and assessments.	Support to countries in national technical and institutional capacity-building regarding forest inventories and assessments.	
Sustainable forest management and its complement with agricultural and livestock production.	Development of guidelines for the preparation of policies that include forest issues in national development, considering also agroforestry and community forestry. Support for the development of incentives for agroforestry and forestry systems (e.g. NWFPs) and for the restoration of degraded (forest) land with a focus on rural community development.	
Diversification of forest production and evaluation of the economic contribution of forests to national economies.	Promotion of the diversification and marketing of forest products, including wood and non-wood products and the environmental services of forests, contributing to food and nutritional security, through the goods and services obtained from forests. In addition, support for evaluation of the contribution of these goods and services to national accounting systems.	
Recommendations for the attention of the FAO Regional Conference		
Issue/Priority		
Forests and food security.	Consideration that food security depends on a strengthened forest sector, considering that forests, trees and forest genetic resources play an important role in achieving a strong, resilient agricultural and livestock production practices. In this context, the loss of forest resources through the expansion of the agricultural frontier and the use of inappropriate farm and livestock practices hampers national capacities to achieve food security.	
Intersectoral policies for a comprehensive approach to land-use management.	Promotion of the national-level institutional efforts needed to develop intersectoral development policies and agendas, which should encompass forest, environmental, agricultural and livestock issues in a holistic approach to landscape management, in order to promote food security and economic development and reduce rural poverty.	
Strengthen of international cooperation over forest issues.	Support of international-level action to strengthen intergovernmental organizations carrying out technical cooperation in the forest sector, to promote sustainable forest management for the benefit of food security and poverty reduction. It is specifically requested that FAO be strengthened so that it can continue to work with the countries of the region on forest issues, in line with the Organization's new strategic objectives.	

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