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منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
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Food
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des
Nations
Unies
pour
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et
l'agriculture

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

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COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY

EIGHTEENTH SESSION

Rome, Italy, 13-16 March 2007

ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE REGIONAL FORESTRY COMMISSIONS AND THE TECHNICAL FORESTRY STATUTORY BODIES FOR THE ATTENTION OF COFO AT ITS 18TH SESSION

African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC):

- wished to bring to the attention of COFO the renewed vitality of the AFWC, as demonstrated by the growing number of inter-sessional activities and the record level of broad-based participation at its Fifteenth Session;
- requested that participation of the regional bureaux in COFO be strengthened in order to provide guidance to address priority global issues on forests;
- welcomed FAO's efforts to raise the political profile of forest issues through the Ministerial Meetings on Forests;
- emphasized the essential role of FAO in providing inputs to the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and other global dialogues, including the development of a non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests;
- called for FAO and other Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) members to continue supporting country progress towards sustainable forest management through effective national forest programmes, which serve as a basis for coordinating forestry sector inputs into the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with an emphasis on the contribution of forests and wildlife to poverty reduction and food security;
- highlighted the important role of the National Forest Programme Facility in supporting countries;

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- emphasized the need to strengthen the knowledge base for implementing sustainable forest management at policy and field levels, and called for continued FAO support for national forest assessments covering the social, economic, environmental and inter-sectoral dimensions of forestry;
- requested COFO to evaluate progress on the development of the Planted Forests Code and recommend appropriate action;
- requested COFO to evaluate progress on the development of the Fire Management Code and the Strategy to Enhance International Cooperation in Implementing the Fire Management Code, and recommend appropriate action; and
- requested that FAO work with CPF members to provide technical support to help member countries control illegal exploitation of forests and wildlife and associated trade.

Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC):

- wished to bring to the attention of COFO the vibrance of APFC, as demonstrated by the large number of important inter-sessional activities implemented in the past two years and the record level of participation at the 21st Session;
- requested that the draft Planted Forests Code and the draft Fire Management Code be presented to the Eighteenth Session of COFO, in March 2007, for the Committee's consideration and appropriate action. The Commission also wished to highlight to COFO the significant progress made by member countries in the region in formulating and implementing national codes of practice for forest harvesting, consistent with the regional code developed under the auspices of the APFC. The Commission urged COFO to consider prospects for developing a comprehensive code of practice that extends beyond the harvesting focus of most existing codes;
- requested FAO to provide additional technical support to help member countries control illegal logging and associated trade; and
- highlighted the need to raise awareness of the serious threats posed by invasive species and the need to build capacities for dealing with such threats. The Commission was pleased to inform COFO of the steadily expanding work of the Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network, which had been established under the auspices of the APFC.

European Forestry Commission (EFC):

- requested COFO to address the opportunities and challenges for wood energy;
- requested COFO to consider the voluntary draft codes on planted forest and on fire management and to decide on appropriate action. The Commission also recommended that COFO address the utility of using these voluntary forest-related codes of practice as inputs to other global processes dealing with forest issues;
- considering new climate change scenarios and the resulting increased vulnerability of forests, as well as forest-related provisions in the climate change regime, the Commission suggested that COFO discuss the forest/climate change nexus;

- requested COFO to consider how FAO and the regional forestry commissions could further contribute to other global processes;
- requested COFO to enhance FAO's role in monitoring progress towards sustainable forest management, in particular increasing the analytical content of the regional and global information; and
- asked COFO to consider ways to effectively strengthen the secretariat of the AFWC/EFC/NEFC Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions - *Silva Mediterranea*.

Near East Forestry Commission (NEFC):

- was informed of progress in developing voluntary codes, in particular the planted forests code and the fire management code. The Commission recommended that FAO consider elaborating a code of practice for arid zone forestry;
- recommended that member countries and FAO strengthen efforts to bring up regional specific issues in the international dialogue, building upon the Teheran Process on low forest cover countries. It emphasized the need to strengthen the mechanism of the NEFC bureau to articulate issues pertaining to the region and to bring them to the attention of COFO and UNFF;
- recognized deficiencies in data on forest resources in many countries of the region and stressed the need for countries to mobilize national resources for national forest inventories and to seek complementary support from FAO and donor institutions. It noted the weak technical capacities in the region and underscored the need for better sub-regional and national level forest and range resources assessment. It recommended that member countries make efforts to improve the information base on forest and range resources and that FAO support such activities upon request;
- stressed the need to rationalize the allocation of scarce resources and to enhance efficiency. Noting the crucial need for also developing self-financing mechanisms to support forestry, it underscored the importance of institutional changes appropriate to the specific conditions in each country, to enhance the participation of other stakeholders in forestry and recommended that FAO continue to support member countries in these efforts;
- stressed the need to involve local communities, the private sector and civil society organizations in forest management and recommended that FAO document and disseminate the success stories and experiences of the involvement of local communities in forest management;
- recommended that community involvement in forest resource management be strengthened through appropriate adaptation of legislation and policies;
- recommended that FAO provide the necessary technical guidance to countries to help them integrate forestry into rural development initiatives, drawing upon its initiatives in combating hunger and poverty; and
- noted the weak implementation of national and sub-regional plans of action to combat desertification and urged FAO to assist in resource mobilization for the effective implementation of programmes of action in the region.

Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC):

- recommended that FAO support the mobilization of funds to strengthen the technical capacity of countries to conduct the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2010 and to support the compilation of information;
- recommended to FAO that decisions on FRA 2010 related to the region be more decentralized, with the more active involvement of the Commission and with appropriate collaboration with other organizations of the CPF;
- expressed concern over the financing of the FAO field programme in the region. The Commission recommended that this matter be brought to the attention of COFO;
- highlighted the importance of the regional forestry commissions and recommended that they play a more active role in collaboration between UNFF and regional processes, and in helping members to support sustainable forest management actions and other aspects of global strategic forest objectives. It was agreed to bring the matter to the attention of COFO;
- underscored the importance of the National Forest Programme Facility in supporting national forest programmes with the broad participation of civil society. They requested that FAO and donors continue supporting the countries of the region through this mechanism;
- recognized that the increased involvement of civil society in the intergovernmental dialogue was more productive with the inclusion of actors affected by government policies. The Commission recommended that this matter be brought to the attention of COFO to promote intergovernmental dialogue with private sector entities, non-governmental organizations and grassroots and indigenous groups; and
- requested COFO to support the Latin American and Caribbean regional and subregional cooperation networks on wildfire management, and to facilitate and support implementation of the cooperation strategies established by the Commission.

North American Forest Commission (NAFC):

- emphasized that linkages between the regional forestry commissions and COFO are an important dimension of the work of the Commission. It was noted that at the time of this session the agenda for the 18th Session of COFO had already been developed. The NAFC member countries had sent comments to FAO regarding the COFO agenda, and they were generally satisfied that their concerns had been addressed;
- recommended that “forests and climate change” be addressed by the 19th Session of COFO in 2009. It was further suggested that each regional forestry commission might address this topic in 2008. In particular, the commissions might consider the impact of climate change on forests and the adaptation of forests to climate change in each region; and
- recommended that one way to strengthen linkages between the regional forestry commissions and COFO would be for the regional forestry commission Chairs to serve as members of the COFO bureau and to play a more active role in formal COFO sessions.

Advisory Committee on Paper and Wood Products (ACPWP, results of two sessions)

- Recommended that FAO enhance assistance to developing countries in implementing forest certification;
- urged FAO to promote inclusion of the International Council of Forest and Paper Associations (ICFPA) in international processes discussing sustainable forest management, including UNFF and the World Bank;
- recommended that FAO continue to help clarify the role that the private sector can play in combating illegal logging and to assist in finding an appropriate definition for it;
- recommended that FAO co-host with ICFPA a global seminar on energy dynamics and its impact within the paper and forest sector;
- recommended that FAO work with ICFPA to seek opportunities to document the social and economic contributions made by forest industries;
- requested FAO to assess the forest resources available for fibre supply of the wood and paper industry;
- requested FAO to contribute to the dialogue between the private sector and civil society on the contribution of the paper and forest industry to social development and poverty alleviation;
- requested FAO to analyse bottlenecks in the acceptance and implementation of forestry projects under the Clean Development Mechanism, and propose solutions;
- requested FAO to contribute to the dialogue on the public perception of the role of the paper and forest products industry for sustainable development; and
- commended FAO on the process and the production of the Planted Forests Code and requested

AFWC/EFC/NEFC Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions - *Silva Mediterranea*:

- recommended that the Secretariat be strengthened with the support of member countries.
- recommended that member countries strengthen technical and scientific work on mediterranean forest types, including through existing working groups.
- recommended that a working group be established to reflect upon the future of *Silva Mediterranea* and to consider possibilities for strengthening its framework.

Panel of Experts on Forest Genetic Resources

- recommended that FAO take stronger action to support the management of forest genetic resources to achieve sustainable forest development.
- recommended that FAO increase its knowledge base on the current status of forest genetic resources. Priority should be given to preparing a State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources, highlighting the importance of forest genetic resources in achieving Millennium Development Goals 1 and 7; linkages with the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA); and strengthening information systems including the FAO worldwide information system on forest genetic resources (REFORGEN). The integration of forest genetic resources activities

within the work of the Committee on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) would draw attention to the importance of the forest sector, and help to strengthen FAO's cross-sectoral work on biodiversity and genetic resources.

- The Panel noted that FAO was in a unique leadership position to assist countries in managing forest genetic resources, in collaboration with other institutions. The Panel strongly recommended that additional resources be sought from all identifiable sources.