



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
Nations

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

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY

EIGHTEENTH SESSION

Rome, Italy, 13-16 March 2007

REVIEW OF FAO PROGRAMMES IN FORESTRY: ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 17TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY

Recommendations	Actions taken
General	
Requested FAO to inform UNFF5 about the outcome of the 3 rd Ministerial Meeting on Forests and the 17 th Session of COFO.	FAO and the UNFF secretariat collaborated to issue the Ministerial Statement as an official document of UNFF5. The COFO 17 report was also made available to delegates, and relevant outcomes were also communicated through FAO interventions at the session. (See Annex 1 for the glossary of abbreviations.)
Regional Forestry Commissions in Action	
Requested FAO to increase the allocation of resources to Regional Forestry Commissions and Regional Offices.	The proportion of the FAO Forestry budget allocated to decentralized offices was significantly increased in the 2006-07 budget.
Requested the Regional Forestry Commissions to address the following key issues in their future work: forest fire management, regional forest policy dialogue, forestry contribution to poverty alleviation & Millennium Development Goals (MDG), valuation of environmental services, invasive species, forests and water,	These issues were addressed by the Regional Forestry Commissions in 2006. In Latin America, a regional workshop on fire management was held in connection with COFLAC; the role of the Regional Forestry Commissions in regional policy dialogue was discussed in all regions; regional workshops on forestry and poverty alleviation were held in Africa and Asia-Pacific; valuation of

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illegal logging and importance of forests on the political agenda.	environmental services was discussed in Asia-Pacific; regional networks on invasive species were active in Africa and in Asia-Pacific and FAO is also supporting the establishment of one in Latin America; regional workshops on forest law compliance were held in Central America, South America, Africa and Asia. In the Near East, the Commission commissioned studies on forests and water and on forest protection.
Recommended that regional networks on forest fire management, invasive species, wildlife management and bushmeat, forestry education, and illegal logging could help facilitate regional dialogue and action.	FAO has continued to support regional networks in Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean. As suggested by COFO, these networks are becoming increasingly active in all the fields identified. In addition to those mentioned above, examples include increased focus by AFWC on wildlife and bushmeat issues, and a regional project on forestry education in the Latin American and Caribbean region.
Requested Regional Forestry Commissions to continue to facilitate country implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action.	Regional Forestry Commissions are generally increasing their level of activity and support for national efforts to achieve SFM. Specific references to IPF/IFF proposals may not always be visible but this may be a reflection that many of them are already being institutionalized by countries.
Requested Regional Forestry Commissions to build synergies with other organizations, including other sectors.	Several Regional Forestry Commissions are actively reaching out to other partners. In Africa, the AFWC is collaborating with the African Academy of Sciences. In Asia, the APFC is collaborating with the Asia Forest Partnership and ASEAN. In Europe, the EFC is working with UNECE and MCPFE to develop synergies in planning a joint European Forestry Week in 2008. In Latin America, COFLAC has joined with the Puenbo II initiative with respect to forest policies, and has initiated partnerships with bilateral agencies and international organizations (for example, GFMC, CCAD, ACTO, Mercosur) on issues such as wildland fires and forest assessments. In the Near East, close collaboration was established with AOAD and with the Arab Forest and Range Institute, respectively in the fields of watershed management and rangeland conservation.
Requested Regional Forestry Commissions continue to provide the framework for regional forest sector outlook studies.	NEFC was the main venue for reviewing and developing follow-up action on the Forest Sector Outlook Study for West and Central Asia. APFC is actively participating in the new Asia-Pacific Forest Sector Outlook Study.

Recommendations	Actions taken
Requested the relevant Regional Forestry Commissions to increase support to low forest cover countries and the Tehran Process.	NEFC initiated broad consultation in the Near East region to address legal and institutional frameworks, as well as the funding issue for the LFCC Secretariat and modalities of implementation of the Bamako Resolution. Similar discussions are planned for the LFCC countries in the Africa Region.
Requested FAO to support the re-activation of <i>Silva Mediterranea</i> .	FAO organized a meeting of <i>Silva Mediterranea</i> in Morocco in November 2005. A task force was created to review options for strengthening the body. A meeting on Mediterranean conifers is planned.
Needs and Opportunities for International Cooperation in Forest Fire Preparedness	
Requested FAO, in collaboration with countries and international partners, to develop a strategy to enhance international cooperation on wildland fire.	Significant strides have been made in developing an international fire strategy through a broad consultative process. This will be further discussed at the 4 th International Wildland Fire Conference in Sevilla in May 2007.
Requested FAO to provide support for countries to develop national fire management systems and to build capacity.	FAO continues to assist countries to develop their fire management capacity, primarily through TCP projects. A training course for Latin American forest fire managers was organized in 2005 in Belize. The next one, for the Asia Pacific region, is under preparation.
Requested FAO to enhance its role in fire management, through advocacy, promoting awareness, underscoring the role of fire as a management tool in forestry and agriculture, providing technical support for fuel management, effective local level training, and fire management information.	FAO has allocated increased resources to fire management as a priority programme within the context of overall forestry programmes. FAO, with collaborating partners undertook a multi-stakeholder process to prepare voluntary guidelines for fire management. Attempts are being made to fill all of the roles requested by COFO.
Requested FAO to include fire management in dialogue with development assistance agencies, including the World Bank and regional development banks.	As part of the global strategy for improved cooperation in fire management, FAO is actively seeking support from the major financial institutions to assist countries with the implementation of improved fire management.
Requested FAO to inform UNFF of the importance attached to forest fire management by the 4 th Ministerial Meeting and the 17 th Session of COFO.	The outcomes of both meetings were drawn to the attention of UNFF5.

Recommendations	Actions taken
The Role of Forests in Contributing to the Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals	
Requested FAO to strengthen technical support to countries to integrate forestry in poverty reduction strategies.	FAO has been actively promoting this concept through regional workshops and through the Norway and Netherlands Partnership Programmes. FAO has supported 10 African countries in better linking their national forest programmes with national poverty reduction strategies. FAO is reviewing the PSRPs in all Central American countries, with a view to better integrating forestry in collaboration with CCAD.
Requested FAO to strengthen technical assistance to countries to improve governance, institutions and community based forest management.	The expansion of technical assistance in this area is a high priority of the Forestry Department regular programme, the NFP Facility, and the Netherlands and Norway Partnership Programmes.
Requested FAO and other CPF members to improve information and raise awareness about the contributions of forests to development goals.	Awareness and advocacy activities are ongoing, including through several projects that provide funding for this work.
Requested FAO to assist countries to capture the economic values of environmental services.	There are few examples where the change from theory to practice has been effectively made.
Requested FAO to assist country efforts to improve inter-sectoral cooperation.	FAO has actively promoted inter-sectoral policy planning through regional workshops in Africa and Central America, with participants from different Government sectors. Inter-sectoral cooperation has also been supported through the Netherlands and Norway partnership programmes, for example in Central America, Bhutan, Kenya and Mozambique.
Requested FAO to provide forest input to the Millennium Review Summit	Input provided. The Summit outcome on forests benefited from the outcome of the third Ministerial Meeting on Forests.
Shaping an Action Programme for FAO in Forestry	
Requested FAO to continue global and regional forest sector outlook studies at five-year intervals.	This is being implemented. A new outlook study for Asia-Pacific is now under way.
Bioenergy including fuel-wood is a priority.	This topic is providing a theme for the 4th Ministerial Meeting on Forests. FAO established a new PAIA and an IDWG on bioenergy.
Requested FAO to continue to lead the CPF.	FAO has chaired several CPF meetings since the last session of COFO and continues to provide high-level support for the process.

Recommendations	Actions taken
Requested FAO to continue to provide technical assistance in forest management policies and practices, including implementation of the CDM – Kyoto.	Together with IUCN, UNFCCC, and other partners, FAO continues to actively sponsor workshops and to provide advice to members.
Requested FAO to continue to support networks to combat fire and insects and diseases.	FAO actively supports eleven regional fire networks under the UN/ISDR umbrella, as well as forest health networks in several regions.
Requested FAO and partners to develop voluntary guidelines on the prevention, suppression and recovery from forest fire.	FAO has led a broad consultative process to develop new voluntary guidelines for fire management.
Requested FAO to accord priority to forests and water, forest and climate change, forests and combating desertification, poverty alleviation and food security, participatory forestry and sustainable livelihoods.	These programmes are included in the FAO programme of work for 2006-07.
Requested FAO to support national forest programmes in collaboration with the NFP Facility.	This continues to be a high priority area for the Forestry Department. For example, FAO has collaborated with the Facility to support capacity building to develop and implement nfps.
Requested FAO to assist countries to incorporate forestry in poverty reduction strategies, to enhance law enforcement, and to strengthen capacity for national forest assessments and information.	These programmes are included in the FAO programme of work for 2006-07.
Requested FAO to assist country efforts to improve their monitoring, assessment and reporting on forests.	This continues to be a high priority area for the Forestry Department. Several national and regional projects are ongoing.
Requested FAO to continue its efforts to link the global FRA with criteria and indicators for SFM.	Plans are under way for FRA 2010 to be the first global assessment that addresses all thematic elements that are common to most criteria and indicator processes.
Requested FAO to continue working with CPF members to develop an information framework for forest reporting.	FAO maintains the CPF Reporting Portal. New collaborative approaches will be used in the context of global reporting for FRA 2010. For example, FAO, ITTO and the CBD secretariat have agreed to collaborate on country data collection and to utilize the data. CBD uses material of FAO, ITTO, UNCCD, UNFCCC and UNFF and others as reference in their reporting. In addition, FAO and MCPFE are working on joint reporting and data analysis in Europe.
Requested FAO to continue collaborating with other agencies on forest definitions and terminology.	FAO has hosted three global expert consultations on harmonizing forestry definitions and terminology in partnership with other CPF organizations. This work is ongoing, in particular with respect to new developments in the field of climate change where new concepts such as “avoided deforestation” are being discussed. FAO

Recommendations	Actions taken
	and UNFCCC are monitoring the situation and stand ready to convene another consultation, if requested by member countries.
World Forestry Congress	
Recommended that the offers from Panama and Argentina to host the next World Forestry Congress should be forwarded to the FAO Council.	The FAO Council selected Argentina to host the XIII WFC in 2009. A collaboration agreement has been signed with the Argentinean Government.
Forest Sector Contribution to Post-Tsunami Reconstruction and Rehabilitation	
Recommended that FAO increase its forest-related assistance to countries affected by the 26 December 2004 tsunami.	FAO has implemented a regional forest reconstruction and coastal management project in countries affected by the tsunami with the financial assistance of Finland. A Senior Forestry Officer was transferred from Rome to Bangkok to coordinate the project.

Programme Implementation Report 2004-05

FAO officially reported its accomplishments for the 2004-05 biennium to the FAO Council in November 2006 in the *Programme Implementation Report* which is too long to reproduce here. The report includes a comprehensive review of all FAO programmes, including forestry and interdisciplinary actions. The full report is available on the FAO internet site:

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/011/j8013e/j8013e00.htm>

Annex 1: Glossary of Abbreviations

AOAD	Arab Organization for Agricultural Development
APFC	Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CCAD	Central American Commission for Environment and Development
COFLAC	Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission
COFO	Committee on Forestry
CPF	Collaborative Partnership on Forests
EFC	European Forestry Commission
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FRA	Forest Resources Assessment
GFMC	Global Fire Monitoring Center
IDWG	Interdepartmental Working Group
IFF	Intergovernmental Forum on Forests
IPF	Intergovernmental Panel on Forests
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
IUCN	The World Conservation Union
LFCC	low forest cover countries
MCPFE	Ministerial Conference on the protection of Forests in Europe
Mercosur	Southern Common Market
NEFC	Near East Forestry Commission
nfp	national forest programme
OTCA	Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization
PAIA	Priority Area for Interdisciplinary Action
PRSP	poverty reduction strategy paper
SFM	sustainable forest management
TCP	Technical Cooperation Programme of FAO
UN/IDRC	United Nations/ International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
WFC	World Forestry Congress

