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منظمة الأغذية
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des
Nations
Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et
l'agriculture

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

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LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

Item 3 of the Provisional Agenda

TWENTY-THIRD SESSION

San José, Costa Rica, 18 - 22 October 2004

STATE OF FORESTRY IN THE REGION: 2002-2004

Secretariat Note

1. Traditionally, the FAO-LACFC Secretariat prepares a comprehensive report on the State of Forestry in the Region for each session of the Commission. Following the biennial meeting, a longer report on this topic is prepared and circulated to all member countries in English and Spanish.
2. However, one of the major agenda items for the Commission this year will be the Latin America and Caribbean Forestry Sector Outlook Study. National reports have been prepared for 20 countries, as well as a regional report which will be discussed under Agenda Item 5. Much of the information in the outlook study would be repetitive in a separate report on the "state of forestry in the Region".
3. In addition, considerable information about forestry in the Region will be covered in Agenda Item 4, Review of FAO Regular and Field Programmes.
4. Therefore, this Secretariat Note will be very short, serving as an invitation to countries to provide the commission with brief highlights regarding any major changes in the forestry sector that may have occurred in the last two years. During the Commission meeting, countries will be invited to make short reports on any major changes in the forestry sector since the last meeting of the Commission in October 2002.
5. The *Global Forest Resources Assessment 2000* (FRA 2000) provides a comprehensive analysis of the state of forest resources in the Region, including estimates of changes in forest cover for each country between 1990 – 2000. FAO is requesting countries to submit updated information about their forest resources during 2004. The results will be published as the Global Forest

Resources Assessment 2005 (FRA 2005). Each country has designated a national focal point, and most countries have participated in global and regional workshops intended to expand and improve the quality of information in FRA 2005. FAO would like to thank the member countries for the high degree of collaboration in this important process.

6. The *FAO Forest Products Yearbook* provides information about the production, consumption and trade of a wide variety of forest products in all countries in the Region. You may request FAO to send you a hard copy of this publication after the Commission meeting,. The latest information in the Yearbook is also available on the FAO Forestry web-site in all five official FAO languages.