

***REPORT***

Kailua-Kona,  
Hawaii,  
United  
States of  
America  
22-26  
October  
2002

# **North American Forest Commission**

**Twenty-first session**



**Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations**

## PREVIOUS SESSIONS OF THE COMMISSION

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

**FO:NAFC/2002/REP**

**REPORT**

**of the**

**TWENTY-FIRST SESSION**

**of the**

**NORTH AMERICAN FOREST COMMISSION**

**Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, United States of America  
22-26 October 2002**

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
Rome, 2002**







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## SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

### REVIEW OF WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES (Item 7)

1. The **Atmospheric Change and Forests Working Group** has met twice since the previous meeting of the Commission, once in Canada and once in Mexico. The emphasis during the two-year period has been on exchange of information among research scientists in the NAFC member countries. A proposal has been prepared for a study on ozone and allied pollutants in North America. The Commission recommended that the Bureau of Alternates assist the Working Group in broadening its membership to reflect expertise on a full range of issues in the region. The Commission also commended the Working Group for elevating its level of activity. (para. 35)

2. The Commission recommended that the Working Group consider linkages with other organizations that address genetic resources, for example the Natural Protected Areas Commission in Mexico. The Commission also recommended that the Working Group take into account appropriate activities under the programme of work on forest biological diversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity. (para. 39)

3. The **Forest Insects and Diseases Working Group** held two annual meetings in Canada and the US, released a new publication and formed three sub-committees, one on quarantine pest research, one on exotic pests and one on biosystematics. The ongoing emphasis on invasive species was endorsed by the Commission. The Commission recommended that publications be distributed on CD-ROM in addition to hard copy format. The Working Group presented a resolution to cooperate on a comprehensive plan for early detection of invasive insects and diseases and to seek to coordinate respective national approaches on sampling procedures, methodology, data analysis and evaluation. The Commission underscored the importance of collaboration with the Atmospheric Change and Forests Working Group and the Forest Inventory, Monitoring and Assessment Working Group. (para. 40)

4. The Commission requested the formation of an *ad hoc* group to address the issue of invasive plants, to scope aspects requiring attention, and to report to the Bureau of Alternates with its recommendations. (para. 41)

5. The Commission recognized the need for the Group to focus its activities and charged the Bureau of Alternates with providing direction on focus and priority setting with the Group. The Commission recommended that the Group consider ways to quantify values of non-timber forest products. (para. 45)

6. The Commission mandated the Bureau of Alternates to review the priorities of the Silviculture Working Group, in particular to consider expanding the scope to include temperate forests as well as options for addressing forest plantations with due consideration of the technical paper on *Forest Plantations in North America*. (para. 47)

### TECHNICAL PAPERS (Item 8)

7. The Commission established a **Watershed Management Working Group** and recommended that an organizational meeting be held. It was suggested that the Group synthesize existing information and approaches to watershed management, identify best practices and consider hosting a workshop during the International Year of Fresh Water. The Bureau of Alternates was charged with facilitating the establishment of the Working Group. FAO offered to host a future meeting of the Working Group at FAO Headquarters in view of the priority given to Forests and Water in its new Medium-Term Plan. (para. 52)

8. The Commission recommended that the Forest Inventory, Monitoring and Assessment Working Group include within its mandate ongoing developments under C&I processes and ensure that Montreal Process C&I are considered in addressing regional monitoring and assessment. The Commission noted the importance of the relationship between local and national level indicators. (para. 54)

9. The Commission agreed that all three member countries would benefit from a regional reporting capacity on common issues (e.g. forest health, environment, sustainable development, CO2 capture, water quality) that are monitored and reported on under different international processes. (para. 55)

10. The Commission requested the Bureau of Alternates to provide guidance on the development of a framework for its member countries, using C&I, forest inventories and monitoring, for reporting on international commitments related to forests. (para. 56)

11. The Commission recommended that all three technical papers be submitted to the World Forestry Congress as voluntary papers. (para. 57)

**REGIONAL ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE COMMISSION FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY (COFO) (Item 9)**

12. The Commission recommended that the following matters be brought to the attention of the Committee on Forestry at its 16th session:

- a) that FAO continue to strengthen its program on forests and water, with a special emphasis on the value of water as an environmental service from forests;
- b) that FAO continue its work on harmonization of forest-related definitions with participation of relevant partners;
- c) that FAO strengthen its capability to assess forest plantation resources (including harmonized definitions); to analyze the social, economic and environmental costs and benefits of forest plantations; and to provide technical assistance to countries on the contribution of forest plantations to sustainable forest management and carbon sequestration;
- d) that FAO establish linkages with the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) to address the increasing importance of stronger programs in new areas such as eco-tourism and recreation, recognizing changing demographic and public values;
- e) that FAO continue to introduce innovative approaches in conducting the Committee on Forestry (COFO);
- f) that FAO continue to strengthen its support to forest fire management and the related forest policy issues;
- g) that FAO continue its leadership role in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) and to work with other CPF members to improve effectiveness of international collaboration on forests in support of the UNFF;
- h) that FAO continue its work to support sustainable mountain development following the International Year of the Mountain;
- i) that FAO continue to link science and policy issues in its work with countries, particularly through its partnership programmes for hosting visiting scientists and researchers. (para. 58).

## INTRODUCTION

1. The twenty-first session of the North American Forest Commission (NAFC) was held in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, United States of America, at the kind invitation of the Government of the United States of America, from 22 to 26 October 2002. The session was attended by twenty-eight participants from the three member countries of the Commission, as well as observers representing the public and private sectors in the State of Hawaii. The agenda of the session is attached as *Annex A*, the list of participants as *Annex B* and the list of documents submitted for consideration by the Commission as *Annex C*.

2. Mr Dale Bosworth, Chairperson of the Commission, welcomed participants to the session. He noted the importance of the Commission in addressing forest issues of common interest to its membership, with special reference to the contributions that Working Groups have made to forest management in North America.

3. Dr M. Hosny El-Lakany, Assistant Director-General, FAO Forestry Department, also welcomed participants on behalf of Dr. Jacques Diouf, Director-General of FAO. He thanked the Government of the United States of America, in particular the United States Department of Agriculture's Forest Service and the State of Hawaii for hosting the session. He stressed the important role played by regional forest commissions in helping FAO identify issues and determine appropriate courses of action. He invited the participants to the sixteenth session of the Committee on Forestry to be held in Rome in March 2003.

4. The Commission welcomed presentations on forestry and wildlife issues in Hawaii by representatives of local organizations and noted the ecological amplitude of the island and the diversified nature of ecosystems and species.

### ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Item 1)

5. The Commission approved the Provisional Agenda.

6. The following were appointed to the Drafting Committee:

- Jocelyne Caloz (Canada)
- Laura Lara (Mexico)
- Catherine Karr (United States of America)

Douglas Kneeland (Secretary of the Commission, FAO) assisted the Committee.

### STATE OF FORESTRY IN THE REGION (Item 3)

#### (a) Canada

7. Canada's report provided an overview of the importance of forests to Canadian society, culture, environment and economy. Major new programmes and initiatives undertaken in the previous two years were highlighted as was the progress made through the partnerships and alliances facilitating sustainable forest management in Canada.

8. Significant progress is being made in Canada in science and technology related to forests as well as in setting priorities for future years. A review of the indicators using the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers framework of Criteria and Indicators was undertaken to improve relevancy and efficiency in reporting and assessing progress on sustainable forest management. Certification of Canada's forests has increased due, in part, to the decision of the Forest Products Association of Canada to require its members to submit their practices to the scrutiny of third-party audits.

9. Important developments are also taking place in providing clear national directions on priority issues through the 5th National Forest Strategy for 2003-2008 as well as in the First Nation Forestry Program, the Canadian Model Forest Program, the Canada Wood Export Program and the Value-added Research Initiative for Wood Products. Furthermore, Canada has embarked on a new initiative, *Forest 2020*, a dialogue with Canadians to better conserve forest ecosystems while ensuring the forest sector's economic prosperity and the well-being of resource communities. Canada is looking at plantation forestry as a possible approach to diminishing the pressure on natural forests and enhancing carbon sequestration.

10. An update on a major initiative called *Government-On-Line*, introduced at the previous session, was provided. A wealth of information about Canada's forests, including recent publications on research and forest biodiversity developments, is available on the internet through the Canadian Forest Service web site in the Natural Resources Canada portal, a key component of this government-wide initiative.

#### **(b) Mexico**

11. Important changes have taken place in the federal government following the presidential election in 2000. The new administration has given forests and water a high priority in the country as a national security issue.

12. The National Forest Commission (CONAFOR) was created with operational responsibility for the sustainable management of Mexico's forest resources. The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) remains responsible for policy and strategic matters related to forests. The new forest administration has established priorities related to environmental matters and to efficient and transparent processes for its operations. In this regard, ISO 9001-2000 standards are being implemented to improve the efficiency of government services. In addition, a number of federal services are being decentralized to state governments in the forest sector.

13. For the first time, Mexico has formulated a long-term programme to promote sustainable forest management. The forestry programme focuses on planning through 2025, including periodic revisions that would respond to the needs of the sector.

14. Significant developments have taken place under PRODEPLAN, a program addressing the development of commercial forest plantations; PRODEFOR, the Forest Development Program; and the National Reforestation Program. Mexico has initiated its National Forest Inventory, targeted for completion by 2005.

15. Mexico experienced a high rate of deforestation during the 1990s, especially in tropical forests. Forest fires and threats to forests from insects and diseases also continue to be a serious problem. At the same time, institutional capacity to detect and combat wildfires in forests has been increased and continues to improve.

#### **(c) United States of America**

16. The United States report summarized significant shifts in the use of public lands and in the public values affecting management of natural resources. In addition, it focused on current challenges facing public forestlands in the United States: fire-related problems, forest health, and collaborative approaches.

17. In the United States, use of forests has shifted as the population has become more urban and industrialized. In addition to providing timber and water, forested lands are increasingly valued for recreation, the protection of biodiversity, and a range of cultural, economic and environmental services. US forests are experiencing habitat fragmentation and reduction of old-growth forest habitats; degradation of riparian and wetland habitats; loss of rare ecosystem types; and adverse effects from air pollution.

18. The country faces serious problems related to the health and conditions of many forests. Fire management has emerged as the most urgent challenge facing the United States forest sector. Catastrophic fires are increasing in areas where successful prevention and control of forest fires has resulted in an increase in fuels. There has been a steady rise in the number of acres burned in the last few decades, and analyses show a dramatic increase in lands at risk from wildland fires. In response, Congress has appropriated more than US\$2 billion to the National Fire Plan, in order to: prevent and suppress catastrophic fires; reduce dense forest materials; restore fire-adapted forests; and provide assistance to communities at risk. A 10-year implementation plan, in collaboration with public and private partners, will focus on improving landscape management, restoring ecosystems, and protecting communities.

19. While responding to public concerns and implementing collaborative efforts have been important goals for the Forest Service, federal land managers have been hampered by existing legal and administrative processes. The President's *Healthy Forests Initiative* aims to streamline these processes so that federal agencies can move more quickly and efficiently in managing fuels and restoring forest health.

#### **REPORT OF THE BUREAU OF ALTERNATES (Item 4)**

20. The Bureau of Alternates met four times since the last session to monitor the work of the NAFC Working Groups and to handle the ongoing business of the Commission between official sessions.

21. The Bureau established guidelines for recognizing outstanding contributions to the NAFC. At the twenty-first session, Victor Sosa Cedillo (Mexico), Les Whitmore (USA), the late Basilio Bermejo (Mexico) and Yves Dubé (FAO) were recognized.

22. The Bureau commissioned two scoping meetings to address emerging issues in the region: invasive plant species and watershed management.

23. The Bureau continued to improve the sharing of information among Working Groups and the timeliness of NAFC communications, especially through improvements to the web site. It also encouraged continued diversification of Working Group memberships and collaboration with other Commissions and relevant groups, as well as linkages with the larger policy and management community in North America.

#### **FAO FORESTRY ACTIVITIES OF INTEREST TO THE REGION (Item 5)**

24. FAO reported on the status of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF). The CPF has been expanded to include 13 organizations that do forestry-related work.

25. The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), held in Johannesburg in August-September 2002, called on the global community to strengthen commitments to fight hunger and reduce poverty. The role of forests was recognized as a critical component of a global strategy in this regard. WSSD recognized the need for implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel and Forum on Forests and the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

26. The Commission underscored the importance of cross-sectoral linkages for the forest sector and the need to create synergies with organizations such as the Commission on Environmental Cooperation (established under the North American Free Trade Agreement) and discussed approaches to ensure follow-up.

27. The 15th Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) was held in Rome in March 2001, and the 16th Session is planned for March 2003. Representatives of the six regional forest commissions will play a key role in COFO, and all member countries were encouraged to actively participate.
28. Following the previous session of the Commission, FAO released the results of the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2000. Of particular interest to NAFC, this report confirmed that deforestation continues to be a serious problem in Mexico, but not in the other two countries in the region. As a follow-up to this assessment, a global expert meeting was convened in Finland and a number of recommendations were made to improve future assessments. FAO has initiated a new program to strengthen the capability of developing countries in the area of forest assessments.
29. A National Forest Programme Facility (NFP Facility) has been launched by FAO and several partners to provide a coordinated approach to share knowledge and build institutional capacity for sustainable forest management.
30. All three NAFC countries have been active in the observance of the International Year of Mountains 2002 led by FAO, with a focus on raising awareness and promoting action to address the special issues of mountain people and mountain ecosystems.
31. FAO provided an overview of actions taken to implement the recommendations of the 20th Session of the Commission. The Forestry Department budget has been increased sufficiently to allow the recruitment of six additional professional staff in 2002-2003. Programmes in watershed management and urban forestry have been strengthened. A new programme entity for Forests and Water will be added to the FAO programme structure starting in 2004, providing additional support for this emerging priority.
32. The Commission encouraged FAO to continue its support to the development of forestry education, to address reduced enrolment in forestry schools and gaps in information transfer to forestry students in developing countries.

#### **WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS 2003** (Item 6)

33. The XII World Forestry Congress will be held in Québec City, Canada, from 21 to 28 September 2003. Canada provided an overview of the planning for the Congress including the themes, the purpose, and the program. Participants were encouraged to submit voluntary papers to the Congress, to note that the deadline for submission had been extended to 15 November 2002 and to personally attend the Congress. The Commission strongly endorsed participation in the Congress and encouraged Working Group members to contribute voluntary papers and to solicit support from colleagues.

#### **REVIEW OF WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES** (Item 7)

34. The Commission has seven Working Groups that carry out activities in areas agreed to be high priority for collaboration among the member countries in the region. Representatives of each Working Group reported to the Commission on progress.
35. The **Atmospheric Change and Forests Working Group** has met twice since the previous meeting of the Commission, once in Canada and once in Mexico. The emphasis during the two-year period has been on exchange of information among research scientists in the NAFC member countries. A proposal has been prepared for a study on ozone and allied pollutants in North America. The Commission recommended that the Bureau of Alternates assist the Working Group in broadening its membership to reflect expertise on a full range of issues in the region. The Commission also commended the Working Group for elevating its level of activity.

36. The **Fire Management Working Group** was very active. A high level of fire activity in the region has led to significant collaboration among the countries on forest fire activity, policy initiatives, addressing emerging issues, and research. The Group is working with fire managers in Australia on planning the Third International Wildland Fire Conference to be held in Sydney, Australia, in October 2003, and a possible World Summit on Forest Fires.

37. The Commission commended the Working Group for its innovative approaches to capacity building and procurement of funds that would further advance fire management practices in North America. The Commission also noted the importance of addressing linkages between forest fires and themes such as biodiversity, insects and diseases, soil and climate change. The Commission thanked the Working Group for its initiatives in this regard. This Working Group was seen as a particularly strong group focused on a key forest issue and, as such, offers an excellent opportunity for collaboration with other FAO Commissions.

38. The **Forest Genetic Resources Working Group** was very active, having organized symposia, short courses and study tours, in addition to preparing several publications. The Working Group is planning to publish a Spanish-language textbook on management of forest genetic issues.

39. The Commission recommended that the Working Group consider linkages with other organizations that address genetic resources, for example the Natural Protected Areas Commission in Mexico. The Commission also recommended that the Working Group take into account appropriate activities under the programme of work on forest biological diversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

40. The **Forest Insects and Diseases Working Group** held two annual meetings in Canada and the US, released a new publication and formed three sub-committees, one on quarantine pest research, one on exotic pests and one on biosystematics. The ongoing emphasis on invasive species was endorsed by the Commission. The Commission recommended that publications be distributed on CD-ROM in addition to hard copy format. The Working Group presented a resolution to cooperate on a comprehensive plan for early detection of invasive insects and diseases and to seek to coordinate respective national approaches on sampling procedures, methodology, data analysis and evaluation. The Commission underscored the importance of collaboration with the Atmospheric Change and Forests Working Group and the Forest Inventory, Monitoring and Assessment Working Group.

41. The Commission requested the formation of an *ad hoc* group to address the issue of invasive plants, to scope aspects requiring attention, and to report to the Bureau of Alternates with its recommendations.

42. The **Forest Inventory, Monitoring and Assessment Working Group**, established at the last session of the Commission, has already held two meetings, one in Canada and the other in the US. Reports on the state of national forest inventories in North America were produced and included as an appendix to the meeting minutes. Working Group members were involved in the development of an inventory and monitoring system for the Mexican States of Jalisco and Colima. Future plans include development of an eco-regional database for North America.

43. The Commission suggested that the Group may wish to widen its membership. The Commission commended the Working Group on its efforts and offered the assistance of the Bureau of Alternates to address membership, taking into consideration the possible contribution of non-government organizations.

44. The **Forest Products Working Group** provided a brief review of the work of its sub-committees: Wood Products Standards, Fiber Supply, Non-wood Forest Products, and Certification. The Working Group has had a limited level of activity over the past two years. The Non-wood Forest Products Sub-committee has addressed a number of issues related to inventory and monitoring, supply, social implication of policy choices, and harvesting and processing methods. The Working Group has a number of plans for the future, including the reorientation of some of its work.

45. The Commission recognized the need for the Group to focus its activities and charged the Bureau of Alternates with providing direction on focus and priority setting with the Group. The Commission recommended that the Group consider ways to quantify values of non-timber forest products.

46. The **Silviculture Working Group**, which traditionally focuses on tropical silviculture, participated in a joint meeting with the Forest Genetic Resources Working Group and in the 16th Forest Biology Workshop. A *Tropical Trees Seed Manual* was produced, and several new members were added to the Group.

47. The Commission mandated the Bureau of Alternates to review the priorities of the Silviculture Working Group, in particular to consider expanding the scope to include temperate forests as well as options for addressing forest plantations with due consideration of the technical paper on *Forest Plantations in North America*.

48. FAO informed the Commission about the focal points established in the Forestry Department to liaise with each Working Group, and encouraged the Working Groups to establish contact with the FAO focal points and to undertake joint activities with FAO.

#### **TECHNICAL PAPERS (Item 8)**

49. Mexico presented a paper on *Forest Plantations in North America*. This was the first time that this subject has been addressed in a collaborative way among the three countries in the region. Forest plantations are increasing in importance in North America as they are elsewhere in the world. The proportion of the world's forest products originating from planted forests is rapidly increasing. The authors suggested that there are opportunities to further study and share information on the contribution of plantations to income diversification, future wood supply and carbon sequestration. They identified collaboration on research in nutrient and water management in intensively managed plantations as an area of common interest to the three countries.

50. The Commission commended the authors and discussed options for further collaboration within the region on plantations. The matter was referred to the Bureau of Alternates for further consideration.

51. The United States of America presented a paper on *Watershed Management* providing an overview of some of the challenges in water supply facing North America and outlining the contribution of forests in the provision of clean water. Forests account for over 70% of the fresh water runoff in North America. Case studies have indicated that the benefits from protecting watersheds greatly exceed the costs.

52. The Commission established a **Watershed Management Working Group** and recommended that an organizational meeting be held. It was suggested that the Group synthesize existing information and approaches to watershed management, identify best practices and consider hosting a workshop during the International Year of Fresh Water. The Bureau of Alternates was charged with facilitating the establishment of the Working Group. FAO offered to host a future meeting of the Working Group at FAO Headquarters in view of the priority given to Forests and Water in its new Medium-Term Plan.

53. Canada presented a paper entitled *Criteria and Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management: Multi-scaled Initiatives*. The paper outlined national and sub-national scale criteria and indicators (C&I) initiatives undertaken in the three North American countries. The paper pointed to the need for flexibility in C&I frameworks and for revisions to be undertaken periodically to reflect that sustainability is not a fixed state. Support of inventory and monitoring initiatives that increase the ability to measure indicators at various scales was suggested, particularly indicators that have not traditionally been measured in forest management, e.g. social and non-timber value indicators. Suggestions were made to capitalize on existing processes that contribute to the development and implementation of C&I.

54. The Commission recommended that the Forest Inventory, Monitoring and Assessment Working Group include within its mandate ongoing developments under C&I processes and ensure that Montreal Process C&I are considered in addressing regional monitoring and assessment. The Commission noted the importance of the relationship between local and national level indicators.

55. The Commission agreed that all three member countries would benefit from a regional reporting capacity on common issues (e.g. forest health, environment, sustainable development, CO2 capture, water quality) that are monitored and reported on under different international processes.

56. The Commission requested the Bureau of Alternates to provide guidance on the development of a framework for its member countries, using C&I, forest inventories and monitoring, for reporting on international commitments related to forests.

57. The Commission recommended that all three technical papers be submitted to the World Forestry Congress as voluntary papers.

**REGIONAL ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE COMMISSION FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY (COFO) (Item 9)**

58. The Commission recommended that the following matters be brought to the attention of the Committee on Forestry at its 16th session:

- a) that FAO continue to strengthen its program on forests and water, with a special emphasis on the value of water as an environmental service from forests;
- b) that FAO continue its work on harmonization of forest-related definitions with participation of relevant partners;
- c) that FAO strengthen its capability to assess forest plantation resources (including harmonized definitions); to analyze the social, economic and environmental costs and benefits of forest plantations; and to provide technical assistance to countries on the contribution of forest plantations to sustainable forest management and carbon sequestration;
- d) that FAO establish linkages with the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) to address the increasing importance of stronger programs in new areas such as eco-tourism and recreation, recognizing changing demographic and public values;
- e) that FAO continue to introduce innovative approaches in conducting the Committee on Forestry (COFO);
- f) that FAO continue to strengthen its support to forest fire management and the related forest policy issues;
- g) that FAO continue its leadership role in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) and to work with other CPF members to improve effectiveness of international collaboration on forests in support of the UNFF;
- h) that FAO continue its work to support sustainable mountain development following the International Year of the Mountain;
- i) that FAO continue to link science and policy issues in its work with countries, particularly through its partnership programmes for hosting visiting scientists and researchers.

**BUSINESS OF THE COMMISSION****(a) Election of officers** (Item 2)

59. The following officers were confirmed by the Commission to hold office during the forthcoming biennium:

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Chairperson:             | Raúl Arriaga Becerra (Mexico)            |
| First Vice-Chairperson:  | Yvan Hardy (Canada)                      |
| Second Vice-Chairperson: | Dale Bosworth (United States of America) |

60. The Commission designated Rosario Casco Montoya (Mexico) as Chairperson of the Bureau of Alternates for the forthcoming biennium. The Bureau will also include Gordon Miller (Canada), Valdis Mezainis (United States of America), and Douglas Kneeland, FAO (Secretary of the Commission).

**(b) Date and place of the next meeting** (Item 11)

61. Mexico invited the Commission to hold its next session in the year 2004, tentatively in Mérida, Yucatán. The Commission thanked Mexico for its kind invitation.

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Election of officers
3. State of forestry in the Region
  - a) Canada
  - b) Mexico
  - c) United States of America
4. Report of the Bureau of Alternates
5. FAO forestry activities of interest to the Region (presentation by FAO)
  - a) International processes
  - b) International Year of Mountains, 2002
  - c) Forest Resources Assessments
  - d) National forest programme Facility
6. World Forestry Congress, 2003 (presentation by Canada)
7. Review of working group activities (presentations by working group chairs)
  - a) Atmospheric Change
  - b) Fire Management
  - c) Forest Genetic Resources
  - d) Forest Insects and Disease
  - e) Forest Inventory, Monitoring and Assessment
  - f) Forest Products
  - g) Silviculture
8. Technical papers (presentations by countries)
  - a) Forest Plantations (Mexico)
  - b) Watershed Management (United States of America)
  - c) Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management (Canada)
9. Regional issues identified by the Commission for the attention of the Committee on Forestry (COFO)
10. Other business
11. Date and place of the next session
12. Adoption of the report

## ANNEX B

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

## MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

## CANADA

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## ANNEX C

## LIST OF DOCUMENTS

| <b>Agenda Item</b> | <b>Code</b>     | <b>Title</b>  |
|--------------------|-----------------|---|
| 1                  | FO:NAFC/2002/1  | Provisional Agenda  |
| 3a                 | FO:NAFC/2002/2  | State of forestry in Canada                               |
| 3b                 | FO:NAFC/2002/3  | State of forestry in Mexico                               |
| 3c                 | FO:NAFC/2002/4  | State of forestry in the United States of America         |
| 4                  | FO:NAFC/2002/5  | Report of the Bureau of Alternates                        |
| 5                  | FO:NAFC/2002/6  | FAO forestry activities of interest to the region         |
| 6                  | FO:NAFC/2002/8  | Review of Working Group Activities                        |
| 8a                 | FO:NAFC/2002/9  | Forest Plantations  |
| 8b                 | FO:NAFC/2002/10 | Watershed Management                                      |
| 8c                 | FO:NAFC/2002/11 | Criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management |

**Information Documents:**

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| FO:NAFC/2002/INF.1 | Information Note  |
| FO:NAFC/2002/INF.2 | Provisional Timetable   |
| FO:NAFC/2002/INF.3 | Provisional List of Documents   |
| FO:NAFC/2002/INF.4 | Status of action taken with respect to regional issues identified by the 20th Session of the Commission for the attention of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) |



**MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION**

Canada

Mexico

United States of America

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