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联合国
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Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

TWENTY-NINTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Caracas, Venezuela, 24 - 28 April 2006

REPORT OF THE TWENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

1. The Statutes of the Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission list its functions as advising FAO in the formulation of forestry policies and reviewing and coordinating their implementation at regional level; exchanging information and, through specialized subsidiary bodies, generally advising on the most suitable methods and measures for technical problems; and making appropriate recommendations on the above.
2. Membership of the Commission is open to all Member Nations and Associate Members of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations whose territories are totally or partially situated in the Latin American region, as defined by the Organization, or that are responsible for the international relations of one of the non-autonomous territories of the region. Aspiring members need to meet these conditions and should notify their interest to the Director-General of the Organization.
3. The Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission held its Twenty-third Session from 18 to 22 October 2004 in the city of San José at the kind invitation of the Government of Costa Rica. The session was attended by delegates from 25 member countries and representatives of 13 UN specialized agencies and international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations attending as observers.
4. A summary of the recommendations and requests of the Twenty-third Session of the LACFC is given in paragraphs 5 to 27.

In-session seminar: Forestry sector outlook study for Latin America and the Caribbean

5. The Secretariat drew attention to the progress that had been made in the study, which provided an indication of the possible development of the forestry sector until the year 2020, and requested guidance from the Commission on the completion of the study and on its utilization for planning, development of national forest programmes, preparation of strategies and coordination of regional actions.
6. The Commission recommended that FAO should continue to provide support to countries' efforts to improve their forestry information systems, including national forest inventories and

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contributions of the forestry sector (wood and non-wood products) to national economies, to support policy decisions in countries.

7. The Commission recommended that FAO should broaden the focus of outlook studies to include non-wood forest products, the multiple functions of forests, payment for forest-generated environmental services, small- and medium-sized enterprises, forest health and markets for wood products.

8. The Twenty-third Session of the LACFC saw an unprecedented participation of civil society representatives, which reflected the consultative process undertaken by the national forest programmes and the increasing importance given by countries to community forest management. In view of this, the Commission recommended that the issue be the subject of further discussion at the next meeting of the LACFC and at COFO¹ with the objective of identifying mechanisms to strengthen such participation.

Forestry activities of other international/intergovernmental/non-governmental organizations in the region

9. The Commission noted that there was a shortage of information on technical cooperation activities carried out by FAO and by other agencies and institutions in the region. It therefore recommended that FAO establish a working group at Headquarters, with the objective of improving information sharing among countries and international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on forestry activities in the region.

In-session seminar: National forest programmes and international dialogue on forests – strengthening regional action

10. The Commission observed that national forestry authorities received insufficient information on the progress and results of the international dialogue on forests. It therefore requested more effort from all parties and requested that FAO compile and disseminate the results of the dialogue to improve this situation.

11. The Commission noted that many countries lacked the experience or capacity to effectively develop a national consensus, involving representatives of all forest stakeholders, for the intergovernmental dialogue on forests. It therefore requested support from the National Forest Programme Facility to deal with these matters within the framework of such programmes.

Activities of the Subregional Groups of the Commission: Reports on accomplishments 2002-2004 and preparation and presentation of workplans for 2004-2006

12. The Commission requested COFO to seek new and additional resources to finance the implementation of the activities prepared by the Subregional Groups.

Presentation by the North American Forest Commission on working group modalities

13. The Commission therefore recommended that greater efforts be made to forge a closer and more permanent relationship of coordination and exchange of information between the two Commissions.

¹ Committee on Forestry

Other business

14. The Commission, aware of FAO's initiative to develop a regional code of practice for reduced impact forest harvesting in tropical moist forests of Latin America and the Caribbean, recommended that the norms be extended to all the forests of the region, given that some countries have large areas of forests that are not tropical. Moreover, the Commission underlined the need to take into account existing codes and those being formulated by other bodies and initiatives.

15. Various delegates of the Central American and Mexican Subregional Group requested that the designation of their group be changed to "Meso-America Subregional Group".

16. The Commission requested FAO to organize a meeting of the heads of forestry services of the countries of the region to be held before the UNFF² meeting in May 2005 to build consensus concerning the agenda.

REGIONAL ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE COMMISSION FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY

17. The Commission recommended that FAO should continue to provide support to countries' efforts to improve their forestry information systems, including national forest inventories and contributions of the forestry sector (wood and non-wood products) to national economies, in order to support policy decisions in countries.

18. The Commission recommended that FAO should broaden the focus of outlook studies to include non-wood forest products, the multiple functions of forests, payment for forest-generated environmental services, small- and medium-sized enterprises, forest health and markets for forest products.

19. The Twenty-third Session of the LACFC saw an unprecedented participation of civil society representatives, which reflected the consultative processes undertaken by the national forest programmes and the increasing importance given by countries to community forest management. In view of this, the Commission recommended that the issue be further discussed at the next meeting of the LACFC and of COFO, with the objective of identifying mechanisms to strengthen such participation.

20. The Commission recommended that FAO establish a working group at Headquarters, with the objective of enhancing the sharing of information between countries and international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on forestry activities in the region.

21. The Commission noted that many countries lacked the experience or capacity to effectively develop a national consensus, involving representatives of all forest stakeholders, for the intergovernmental dialogue on forests. It therefore requested support from the National Forest Programme Facility to deal with these matters within the framework of such programmes.

22. The Commission noted the importance of trade and trade agreements relating to wood and non-wood forest products in the region and recommended follow-up on this matter in order to assess the potential impact on the sector.

² United Nations Forum on Forests

23. The Commission requested COFO to seek new and additional resources to finance the implementation of the activities prepared by the Subregional Groups.
24. The Commission highlighted the close relationship between criteria and indicators, certification and trade of forest products and recommended that FAO follow-up on this matter in order to determine possible consequences.
25. Noting the high incidence of forest fires that cause serious damage in the region, the Commission agreed to draw to the attention of the Seventeenth Session of COFO the outcome of the Pan-American Conference on Wildland Fire which would be held immediately following the Twenty-third Session of the LACFC. It also noted with satisfaction that the forthcoming Ministerial Meeting on Forests at FAO Headquarters in March 2005 would address international agreement on the management and control of forest fires.
26. The Commission recommended that countries should integrate forests into their national development plans and poverty reduction strategies. The Commission recommended that COFO should underscore the role of forests in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and that the members of the LACFC should coordinate efforts to this end through the workplans of the Subregional Groups.
27. In view of the importance of forests in the region and of FAO's role in providing country support, the Commission recommended that the FAO Forestry Department should be strengthened.