

REPORT

**Tegucigalpa,
Honduras,
25 - 29 September,
2017**

Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission

Thirtieth Session



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

PREVIOUS SESSIONS OF THE COMMISSION

1 st Session	Río de Janeiro, Brazil	23 May 1949
2 nd Session	Lima, Peru	14 November 1949
3 rd Session	Santiago, Chile	11 December 1950
4 th Session	Buenos Aires, Argentina	16-23 June 1952
5 th Session	Caracas, Venezuela	4-15 October 1955
6 th Session	Antigua, Guatemala	4-15 November 1958
7 th Session	Mexico City, Mexico	3-6 August 1960
8 th Session	Santiago, Chile	13-19 November 1962
9 th Session	Curitiba, Brazil	5-12 November 1964
10 th Session	Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago	4-9 December 1967
11 th Session	Quito, Ecuador	11-21 November 1970
12 th Session	Havana, Cuba	2-7 February 1976
13 th Session	Pátzcuaro, Michoacán, Mexico	18-22 February 1980
14 th Session	Lima, Peru	15-18 November 1982
15 th Session	San José, Costa Rica	6-10 October 1986
16 th Session	Kingston, Jamaica	18-22 April 1988
17 th Session	Ciudad Guayana, Venezuela	18-22 February 1991
18 th Session	Maldonado, Uruguay	6-10 December 1993
19 th Session	Ciudad de Panama, Panama	17-21 June 1996
20 th Session	Havana, Cuba	10-14 September 1998
21 st Session	Santa Fe de Bogota, Colombia	4-8 September 2000
22 nd Session	Buenos Aires, Argentina	7-11 October 2002
23 rd Session	San José, Costa Rica	18-22 October 2004
24 th Session	Santo Domingo, Dominican Rep.	26-30 June 2006
25 th Session	Quito, Ecuador	29 September-3 October 2008
26 th Session	Guatemala City, Guatemala	24-28 May 2010
27 th Session	Asunción, Paraguay	5-9 March 2012
28 th Session	Georgetown, Guyana	9-13 September 2013
29 th Session	Lima, Peru	9-13 November 2015

REPORT

of the

THIRTIETH SESSION

of the

LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

Tegucigalpa, Honduras
25-29 September 2017

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
2017

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SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUESTS

1. Delegates argued that the contribution by the forest sector to countries' gross domestic product is higher than reported; and for that reason stressed that there should be due recognition of all the goods (wood and non-wood forest products) and ecosystem services provided by forests to society, including the generation of rural employment. The Commission recommended FAO to develop a methodology for measuring that contribution. (Para. 18)
2. Delegates stressed the importance of sharing experiences related to forests and food security and requested FAO to ensure the wide dissemination of the document on sustainable forestry activities for food security and nutrition to decision makers, to help raise their awareness of that issue. In addition, they requested FAO to develop a project on success stories relating to the contribution of forests and sustainable forest management to food security. (Para. 31)
3. Delegates considered, in the light of the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the 2017-2030 United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests, the need to revise and harmonize the technical definitions related to sustainable forest management (SFM), in particular those for forests, forest degradation and restoration, so as to facilitate the preparation of national reports. The Commission requested FAO to revise the definitions used in the FRA referring to the notions in question, and to facilitate the provision of support to strengthening national capacities in that regard. (Para. 34)
4. The Commission recognized the importance of the cooperation with FAO in attainment of the targets of SDG 15, and requested the assistance of FAO in efforts to improve the capacity to monitor the indicators of the 2030 Agenda, with the aim of informing the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, highlighting the contribution of forests to the achievement of sustainable development. (Para. 44)
5. Delegates requested that the new strategic document for FAO's work on forests should highlight the role of member States in its implementation, with a focus on the medium term up to 2030 and a clear vision up to 2050. The strategy would also incorporate the three dimensions of sustainable development (social, environmental and economic) and include funding modalities for its implementation. (Para. 50)
6. Delegates requested FAO to strengthen its role as the implementing agency for the Green Climate Fund, as a financial support mechanism enabling countries to meet their commitments under the Convention on Climate Change. (Para. 51)
7. Delegates recognized the contribution of forests to attainment of the goals of the 2030 Agenda in eliminating poverty, ensuring food security and nutrition, sustainable livelihoods and promoting decent work. In addition, they requested FAO to strengthen cross-sectoral dialogue to demonstrate the role played by forests in achieving the SDGs. (Para. 55)
8. The Commission recognized that to achieve a good governance of forests, political will is required to enhance intersectoral coordination and complementarity between different sectors. Therefore, it requested FAO to promote the exchange of experiences between countries in that area. (Para. 61)
9. The Commission requested FAO, in preparing its country programmes, to include the topic of conflict resolution arising around the forest sector, in particular those generated in the establishment of forest plantations and the interaction of environmental and forest sectors. It recognized the importance of communication, dissemination and exchange of experiences as awareness-raising mechanisms on this matter. (Para. 62)
10. The Commission requested FAO to support the promotion of good practices and policies in the area of forest concessions and value chains, including wood and non-wood forest products,

and to encourage the exchange of experiences and lessons learned in the countries of the region. (Para. 67)

11. Delegates noted the importance of the Forest and Farm Facility (FFF) and requested FAO to ensure that the Facility's second phase, which is to start in 2018, would involve additional beneficiary countries. They also requested support from FAO in documenting the success stories of associations of small forest producers, and the promotion of microenterprise development. They recognized the importance of the FFF mechanism in the creation of the conditions for small-scale forest producers to become microentrepreneurs and to develop the capacity to negotiate directly with the buyers of their products. (Para. 75)

12. The Commission recognized the importance of incentives and financing mechanisms to promote sustainable forest management, which had been designed primarily for small and medium-scale owners and tenants of land suitable for forestry and for the provision of compensation for ecosystem services. The Commission requested FAO to document good practices and experiences that had been gathered in different countries on this matter and to explore new incentive mechanisms associated with the restoration of productive landscapes. (Para. 84)

13. Recognizing the importance of secondary forests in the region, the Commission requested FAO to provide technical support for their proper management, sustainable use of wood and non-wood products coming from these forest and also for activities to restore degraded areas in this forest type. (Para. 85)

14. The Commission recommend COFO to facilitate dialogue among countries, including the productive and environmental sectors, to achieve the overarching goal of zero net deforestation. (Para. 89)

15. The Commission recommend COFO to promote the use of the FAO voluntary guidelines for forest concessions, in the context of the 2030 Agenda. The Commission also proposed to align this guidelines to the 2017-2030 United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests, the Tarapoto Process and other international instruments related to the subject (Para. 90)

16. The Commission recommended COFO to highlight the contribution of forests and its ecosystem services to the 2030 Agenda. (Para. 91)

17. The Commission recognized the relevance of forest governance, and recommended COFO to establish spaces for dialogue for tribal and indigenous people and ethnical communities on issues of their interest, to be addressed on negotiation forums. (Para. 92)

18. The Commission recommended COFO to continue promoting and strengthening legal and sustainable trade of wood and non-wood forest products. (Para. 93)

19. The Commission recommended COFO to recognize that increasing in frequency and intensity of forest fires is a fact in the present reality and it is necessary to influence socially for its prevention. (Para. 94)

20. The Commission recommended the Regional Conference to highlight that the forest sector is subject to multiple international agendas and demands from other sectors that are unclear, contradictory and make it difficult to implement sustainable forest management. (Para. 95)

21. The Commission recognized the importance of FAO as an implementing agency of the Green Climate Fund and the importance of the Regional Conference as a forum for cross-sectoral dialogue for its implementation. The Commission recommended the Regional Conference to

provide spaces for cross-sectoral coordination, in particular between forest, agriculture and environmental sectors. (Para. 96)

22. The Commission recommended the Regional Conference to highlight that success in meeting the global challenge of zero net deforestation requires efforts and collaboration by all productive and environmental sectors, in addition to commitment by the countries. (Para. 97)

23. The Commission recommended the Regional Conference to disseminate report of the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition entitled “Sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition”, to highlight the contribution of forests to food security and nutrition. (Para. 98)

24. The Commission recommended the Regional Conference to encourage the inclusion of trees in family farms as a means of generating income, conserving soils, protecting water resources and enhancing resilience to climate change in rural areas. (Para. 99)

25. The Commission recommended the Regional Conference to consider harmonized phytosanitary regulations related the trade of timber and forest products (Para. 100).

26. The Commission recommended the following actions to the work of FAO in the forest sector: (Para. 101)

- Create space for dialogue and strategic partnerships, with a view to developing guidelines leading to the attainment of global zero net deforestation.
- Continue providing forums for the exchange of experience in forest inventories, including social and economic aspects, the state of forests, carbon and biodiversity, in addition to ensuring that such inventories serve as tools for appropriate forest management in the field.
- Develop concepts and methodologies for conducting forest inventories in the Caribbean.
- Support the development of forestry systems for improving livelihoods, considering gender aspects and the participation of young people.
- Develop methodologies for evaluating and monitoring the impact of invasive species.
- Support the association of small scale forest producers to ensure the conservation of forests and the maintenance of the welfare of forests dependent populations.
- Develop additional work on value chains as part of sustainable forest concessions.
- Differentiate land use change from illegal deforestation, as part of the development of agreements to national policies of countries.

INTRODUCTION

1. The Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) held its thirtieth session from 25 to 29 September 2017 in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, at the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of Honduras. The session was attended by delegates of 18 Member States and observers from 5 organizations, including United Nations agencies and international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The Agenda for the session is provided in Appendix A, the List of Participants in Appendix B, the List of Documents submitted to the Commission in Appendix C, and the 2018-2019 Workplans of the Subregional Groups of the Commission, including recommendations to the Committee on Forestry (COFO), the Regional Conference and for the FAO Programme of Work, in Appendix D.

2. The Session was opened in the presence of His Excellency Mr Jorge Ramón Hernández Alcerro, Secretary of State, General Coordinator of the Government of Honduras; Her Excellency Ms María Dolores Agüero, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Honduras; His Excellency Mr Carlos Pineda Fasquelle, Deputy Minister of the Secretary of Energy, Natural Resources, Environment and Mines (MiAmbiente) of Honduras; Mr Misael León Carvajal, Executive Director of the Institute of Forest Conservation of Honduras; Ms Fabiola Muñoz Dodero, current chair of the Commission; Mr Hiroto Mitsugi, FAO Assistant Director-General Forestry Department and Ms Maria Julia Cárdenas, FAO Representative in Honduras.

3. Mr Hiroto Mitsugi extended thanks on behalf of the Director General of FAO, Mr José Graziano da Silva, to the Government of Honduras, represented by His Excellency Mr Carlos Pineda Fasquelle, and Mr Misael León Carvajal, for the support in preparing the session. He expressed his solidarity with the countries of the Caribbean and Mexico with regard to the natural disasters that they had suffered in recent weeks. He referred to Goal 15 of the 2030 Agenda, which encourages countries to “*Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss*”.

4. H. E. Jorge Ramón Hernández Alcerro said that it was an honour for him to open the thirtieth session of the LACFC, which had as its aim to provide a technical and political forum for the discussion and analysis of forest-related issues in the region and the contribution of forests to food security. He emphasized the importance of the topic for the country and for attainment of the goals of the 2030 Agenda. He reported that the Government of Honduras had set, as a national priority, the implementation of its Master Plan for Water, Forests and Soil, recently launched by President Juan Orlando Hernández Alvarado, and its National Policy and Programme for Forests, Protected Areas and Wildlife, which directly linked the forest sector with the country's priorities.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (ITEM 1)

5. The agenda was adopted without amendment.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS (ITEM 2)

6. The chair of LACFC expressed her solidarity with the subregion of the Caribbean and Mexico on the occasion of the natural disasters that had recently struck the subregion. She expressed appreciation to FAO for its work on highlighting the positioning of the forest sector at the FAO Conference, in particular in the areas of agriculture and aquaculture. She thanked the delegates and Secretariat of LACFC for their two years of work, and her vice-chairs for their support during her term of office.

7. In accordance with the provisions of articles II-1 and II-5 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission elected a chair, three vice-chairs and a rapporteur. The following members of the Commission were elected unanimously:

Chair: Misael Leon Carvajal (Honduras), Mesoamerican Subregional Group

Vice-Chairs: Fitzgerald Providence (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines), Caribbean Subregional Group
Aarón Cavieres (Chile), Southern Cone Subregional Group
Raimundo Deusdará Filho (Brazil), Amazon Subregional Group

Rapporteur: Edwin Oliva (Guatemala)

8. Mr Jorge Meza and Ms Hivy Ortiz, Senior Forestry Officer and Forestry Officer of the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean respectively, served as Secretaries.

9. Speaking as incoming Chair of LACFC, Mr Carvajal expressed acknowledgement to Ms Fabiola Muñoz for her leadership as Chair during the period 2016-2017 and extended an official welcome to all delegates. He stressed the importance of following up on the issue of the contribution made by forests in various sectors.

STATE OF THE FOREST SECTOR IN THE REGION (ITEM 3)

10. The LACFC Secretariat prepared and presented document FO:LACFC/2017/2 entitled "The state of the forest sector in the region".

11. In the presentation, the Secretariat reported on the state of forests in Latin America and the Caribbean, noting that forests cover a total area of 935.5 million hectares, representing 46.4 percent of the total area of the region. That was equivalent to 23.4 percent of the total area of forests in the world. In all, 83 percent of the forested area was located in the countries constituting the Amazon subregion, while only 1 percent was found in the Caribbean. Mesoamerica made up 9 percent and the Southern Cone 7 percent of the total forested area in the region. Five countries in the region accounted for 80 percent of the total area of forest, while Brazil had more than half of the forested area of Latin America and the Caribbean (53 percent). Some 46 percent of the forested area of the region was categorized as primary forest and 2 percent as planted forest; the remaining 52 percent was naturally regenerated forest. That could be compared to the global averages, where some 32 percent was primary forest, 7 percent was planted forest and the remaining 61 percent naturally regenerated forest. Accordingly, the Latin America and Caribbean region had more primary forest and less planted forest than the global average.

12. The Secretariat also indicated that the region continued to lose forest area, but the rate of loss was slowing, from 4.45 million hectares per year over the period 1990–2010 to 2.18 million per year between 2010 and 2015. That represented a decline in net loss from 0.44 percent per year in the period 2000–2010 to 0.23 percent per year in the period 2010–2015. In all, 32.8 percent of the total area of forest lay within protected areas. The countries of the Amazon subregion

accounted for nearly 36 percent of the area of forests in protected areas, while in the Caribbean and Mesoamerica that proportion was around 20 percent. The countries of the Southern Cone reported that 12.2 percent of their forests lay within protected areas. It was estimated that, as reported by 28 countries, some 147 million hectares of forest in the Latin America and the Caribbean region were under management plans.

13. The Secretariat reported that it was not always possible to quantify the contribution made by forests in the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), owing to the lack of data and the difficulty posed by the compilation of comparable socioeconomic and environmental information at the regional level. Regarding SDG 1, "Ending poverty in all its forms everywhere", the FAO report on the State of the World's Forests (SOFO, 2014) estimated the official contribution of the forest sector to the regional economy at USD 49 billion at 2011 values, out of a worldwide contribution of USD 606 billion. The estimated income for ecosystem services (USD 164 million), informal wood products (USD 8.976 billion) and non-wood forest products (USD 3.638 billion) represented 26 percent of the gross value added of the forest sector to the regional economy (USD 49 billion).

14. It was reported that forests contributed to the implementation of SDG 6, "Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all". In 1990 in Latin America and the Caribbean, there were 74.48 million hectares of forests performing the primary function of soil and water conservation.

15. Forests contribute directly to SDG 7, "Ensure access to affordable energy, secure, sustainable and for all", given that the timber which generated wood energy came from sustainably managed forests and that an important contribution of forests to food security consisted in the provision of fuelwood for cooking and the sterilization of water. It was estimated that some 2.4 billion people, about 40 percent of the population of the less developed countries, used fuelwood for cooking.

16. With regard to SDG 13, "Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts", it was noted that forests were associated with climate change in several ways: (i) the sustainable forest management and agroforestry systems are important elements of agricultural production, and in specific situations could facilitate the adaptation and mitigation of climate change, reducing vulnerability of livelihoods; (ii) when sustainably managed, forests produced renewable energy offering an environmentally friendly alternative to fossil fuels; (iii) forests currently account for nearly one sixth of global carbon emissions, caused by human activities; (iv) some forests and forest species were reacting significantly to climate change, affecting their productivity and the quality of forest products and services; and, (v) forests had the potential to absorb approximately one tenth of the global carbon emissions projected for the first half of the current century, in their biomass, soil and products.

17. The Commission considered that public policies must focus on both the biophysical aspects of forests and the socioeconomics aspects of their users, in particular where indigenous communities were concerned, with a view to promoting a comprehensive approach to land management. In addition, the Commission indicated that it is important to move forward with management systems that generated comprehensive benefits for different sectors and stakeholders (such as civil society, academia, the private sector and indigenous populations).

18. Delegates argued that the contribution by the forest sector to countries' gross domestic product is higher than reported; and for that reason stressed that there should be due recognition of all the goods (wood and non-wood forest products) and ecosystem services provided by forests to society, including the generation of rural employment. The Commission recommended FAO to develop a methodology for measuring that contribution.

19. Given the role of forests in mitigation and adaptation to climate change, the delegate of Mexico suggested considering the forest sector as a strategic sector and as an object of national

security, thus ensuring the conservation of forests, an increase in forest cover, its restoration and a reduction in its degradation. The delegate of Mexico further stressed that regional efforts and collaboration between countries would strengthen forest institutions in the region.

20. Countries acknowledged that, while significant efforts had been made to avoid deforestation and forest degradation, forests are increasingly being degraded by the effect of fires, pests, diseases and unsustainable extractive activities. The forest agenda should therefore also focus on those issues in a holistic manner.

21. The delegate of Ecuador stressed that it is important to focus forestry policy on the “integrated management of forests and lands”, with due consideration to indigenous peoples and forest users in following that approach.

FAO'S REPORT ON FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUESTS OF THE 29TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION (ITEM 4)

22. The LACFC Secretariat prepared and presented document FO:LACFC/2017/3, entitled "FAO's report on follow-up activities to the recommendations and requests of the twenty-ninth session of the Commission", reporting in particular on actions taken in response to the recommendations and requests put forward at that session.

23. The delegate of Costa Rica introduced the report on the work of the countries of the Mesoamerica subgroup and shared lessons learned from the work carried out in the subregion in the areas of i) forest health and forest fires; ii) forest inventories and monitoring, validation of information and the elaboration of regional database; iii) forest governance; iv) illegal logging and collaborative and efficient mechanisms for its control (Voluntary Partnership Agreements under the European Union Initiative on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade – EU-FLEGT); and v) productive landscapes.

PRIORITY THEMES FOR THE 35th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE (BAHAMAS, 2018) (ITEM 5)

24. The LACFC Secretariat prepared and presented document FO:LACFC/2017/4, entitled "Priority themes for the 35th session of the Regional Conference (Bahamas, 2018)".

25. Secretariat reported on the outcome of the thirty-fourth session of the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Mexico City from 29 February to 3 March 2016. The session had enjoyed the participation of 32 member States and had been attended by 25 ministers, 13 deputy ministers and senior officials as heads of delegation. Participants had considered the following issues, seen as policy challenges of relevance to the region:

- (a) food and nutrition security: from the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals;
- (b) transformation of the rural sector: rural territorial development, family farming, social and economic inclusion and innovation;
- (c) sustainable use of natural resources, risk management and climate change adaptation in the new framework of the Sustainable Development Goals.

26. The Secretariat requested comments from the Commission on the contribution made by forests to the policy issues identified by the Regional Conference as priorities for the work of FAO in the region, relating primarily to food security, rural territorial development and climate change, as inputs for the 35th Session of the Regional Conference.

27. Delegates noted the importance of presenting the 2017-2030 United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests during the Regional Conference, with a view to promoting its incorporation in the FAO's regional agenda and to linking it to efforts to achieve the SDGs, in particular SDG 15.

28. The forest sector must face the challenge of being an integral element of the process of transformation of the regional rural environment, by promoting intersectoral agreements that had an impact on rural management and on the design and implementation of public policies. Costa Rica drew attention to the importance of involving young people (men and women) in the design of such policies, given that they would be the future decision makers and managers of natural resources. For that reason efforts should be made to ensure their inclusion in rural productive systems.

GLOBAL ITEMS OF RELEVANCE FOR THE REGION (ITEM 6)

Committee on World Food Security (CFS). XI Report of the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE): "Sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition" (item 6.1)

29. The Secretariat prepared and presented document FO:LACFC/2017/5, entitled "Committee on World Food Security (CFS). XI Report of the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE): 'Sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition'".

30. Secretariat reported that the FAO International Conference on Forests for Food Security and Nutrition, held in Rome in 2013, had contributed to increasing awareness and recognition of the contribution of forests to food security. The main outcomes of the Conference and the recommendations put forward by the Committee on Forestry (COFO) at its twenty-second session, in 2014, had highlighted the importance of developing capacity and of mainstreaming cross-sectoral forestry and food security policies and programmes. The CFS had requested the HLPE to conduct a study on sustainable forestry activities for food security and nutrition. The report had been officially launched in June 2017, and would be a contribution to the CFS session to be held in October 2017.

31. Delegates stressed the importance of sharing experiences related to forests and food security and requested FAO to ensure the wide dissemination of the document on sustainable forestry activities for food security and nutrition to decision makers, to help raise their awareness of that issue. In addition, they requested FAO to develop a project on success stories relating to the contribution of forests and sustainable forest management to food security.

FRA 2020 and efforts for streamlining international forest reporting (item 6.2)

32. The Secretariat prepared and presented document FO:LACFC/2017/6, entitled "FRA 2020 and efforts for streamlining international forest reporting".

33. The Secretariat reported that FAO had carried out exercises to monitor the state of the world's forests at intervals of between five to ten years since 1946. The most recent global forest resources assessments (FRA) had been conducted every five years in order to ensure a coherent approach to describing the world's forests and how they were changing. The scope of the FRA had evolved over time, shifting from timber-focused inventories to more holistic assessments that sought to meet the growing needs for information. At the same time, the number of requests for information submitted to countries by various international bodies had increased significantly, entailing a much heavier reporting burden. In 2011, six international organizations and processes had worked together to develop a questionnaire on forest resources, with the aim of enhancing the efficiency

of the collection, analysis and submission of data on forests¹. The Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire had been used for the first time for FRA 2015 and covered 104 countries, representing some 88 percent of the world's forests. The data collected through the questionnaire had been used on numerous occasions by various users, thus making it possible to reduce reporting burden.

34. Delegates considered, in the light of the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the 2017-2030 United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests, the need to revise and harmonize the technical definitions related to sustainable forest management (SFM), in particular those for forests, forest degradation and restoration, so as to facilitate the preparation of national reports. The Commission requested FAO to revise the definitions used in the FRA referring to the notions in question, and to facilitate the provision of support to strengthening national capacities in that regard.

35. Delegates recognized the efforts made by FAO, through the collaborative questionnaire, to streamline the process of preparing international reports on forest resources. They pointed out that the burden had indeed been reduced and the process of preparing reports, including on the state of forests, had been streamlined. Nevertheless, they drew attention to the need for continued work on the simplification and expansion of the reporting options relating to land tenure, so that those options could be applied in countries with different systems.

36. The delegate of Mexico encouraged delegates to continue working on the forest resources assessment, based on the harmonized methodology of the FRA, and invited the Commission's delegates and national correspondents to the launch event of reporting process of FRA 2020, to be held in that country in March 2018.

37. The delegate of Saint Lucia highlighted the importance of South-South Cooperation for capacity-building in the use of best practices in the preparation of national reports and knowledge-sharing, so that countries with more experience could provide assistance to the Caribbean countries. Particular consideration should be given to the importance of national capacity-building in the use of tools to measure biomass and soil carbon and to fill information gaps in the subregion.

Global processes (UNFCCC COP22, CBD COP13, UNFF 12) including the 2017-2030 United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests and the 2017–2020 Quadrennial Work Programme (4PoW) (item 6.3)

38. The Secretariat prepared and presented document FO:LACFC/2017/7 entitled "Global processes (UNFCCC COP 22, CBD COP 13, UNFF 12) including the 2017-2030 United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests and the Quadrennial Work Programme (4PoW)".

39. The Secretariat reported that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development had become the main driving force behind the global development agenda for the coming years and would continue to have a predominant role in that process. The Secretariat also noted that the Paris Agreement on climate change had wide-ranging implications for forests, since 175 countries had committed themselves to taking action on sustainable forest management through their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Decisions on the conservation of biological diversity, taken during the meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), held in December 2016 in Cancún, Mexico, also had implications for forestry, since forests hosted some 80 percent of the world's terrestrial biodiversity. In accordance with resolution E/2015/33 of the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) had developed the 2017-2030 United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests, together with

¹ FAO, the Commission for the Forests of Central Africa (COMIFAC), the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) of the FAO Forestry Department, Forest Europe, the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the Montreal Process and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).

the first quadrennial work programme for the period 2017–2020. The plan had been endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in May 2017 and was closely linked to the Sustainable Development Goals.

40. The Commission was informed that, at the fourteenth Board meeting of the Green Climate Fund, held in 2016, FAO had been recommended as an accredited grant-implementing entity for medium-sized projects (from USD 50 million to USD 250 million), and as a delivery partner for the Fund's Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme. FAO had the capacity to assist countries in the identification and mobilization of financial resources to support cooperation with national forest sectors on issues linking forests and climate change.

41. UNFF reported that, on 27 April 2017, the United Nations General Assembly had adopted resolution 71/285, on the 2017-2030 United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests, pursuant to which regional bodies provided *"a crucial bridge between international policies and national actions and are important partners in efforts to implement the strategic plan and achieve its global forest goals and targets"*. The plan also stipulated that *"the Forum works with regional and subregional bodies and processes to identify ways to contribute to the global forest goals and targets, including by encouraging them to exchange information, enhance cooperation, raise awareness, strengthen stakeholder engagement and build capacity to scale up best practices within and across regions"*. The Commission was informed that COFO had invited UNFF to consider the potential offered by the FAO Regional Forestry Commissions for enhancing regional/sub-regional involvement. The UNFF Secretariat intends to consult regional and sub-regional partners regarding COFO's invitation. After the consultation, their views will be made available through the pertinent documentation of the Forum's 13th Session, which will take place from 7 to 11 May 2018 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

42. The delegate of Ecuador recalled that, during its meetings in Paris and Marrakech, the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, initial dialogues were established to include indigenous peoples in the processes of discussing and negotiating international agreements and treaties. In that connection the delegates drew attention to the importance of facilitating their participation in such discussions.

43. The delegate of Mexico stressed the importance of the forest sector in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as well as of the strengthening of international financial mechanisms and multilateral initiatives. He manifested the need to demonstrate the contribution made by the forest sector to sustainable development. In this regard, he commented on the progress made by the country in the REDD+ mechanism, which had been approved at the plenary session of the Intersectoral Commission on Climate Change of its National REDD+ Strategy. Mexico is currently in the process of beginning negotiations with the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) for payment of results next year.

44. The Commission recognized the importance of the cooperation with FAO in attainment of the targets of SDG 15 and requested the assistance of FAO in efforts to improve the capacity to monitor the indicators of the 2030 Agenda, with the aim of informing the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, highlighting the contribution of forests to the achievement of sustainable development.

A new strategic document for FAO in forestry (item 6.4)

45. The Secretariat prepared and presented document FO:LACFC/2017/8, entitled "A new strategic document for FAO in forestry".

46. The Secretariat reported that, at its twenty-third session in July 2016, the FAO Committee on Forestry had discussed the outcome of the fourteenth World Forestry Congress, in particular the possible application of the 2050 Vision for forests and forestry. The Vision looked forward to

a world in which forests were fundamental for food security and improved livelihoods, protected biodiversity, and helped in adapting to climate change and mitigating its negative effects, and where integrated approaches to land use helped to improve policies and practices and to capitalize on the benefits arising from integrating forests with agriculture². The Committee on Forestry had indicated that the FAO Council also welcomed the 2050 Vision³ and recommended that FAO should “*actively support strengthening the contributions of its work on forests to the Organization’s Strategic Objectives, including alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), by means of inter alia technical support and promoting best practices and dialogue*”⁴.

47. This 2050 Vision and other international agreements related to forests would provide the basis for the preparation of a new strategic document for the work of FAO in forests, which should contain the following information:

- role of forests in the broader agenda of sustainable development
- overview of challenges and developments
- core functions of FAO in forestry
- specific objectives for forestry
- implementation and monitoring framework.

48. Delegates emphasized the importance of generating updated information at the country level, which, in addition to technical aspects of forest management should include socioeconomic and ecosystem considerations. It is vital that other sectors acknowledge and demonstrate the value of goods and services from forests, and recognize traditional knowledge and the role that indigenous peoples play in the management of forest ecosystems.

49. The Commission supported a holistic approach in which the contribution of the forest sector is promoted in the domains of agriculture, livestock, aquaculture and fisheries.

50. Delegates requested that the new strategic document for FAO’s work on forests should highlight the role of member States in its implementation, with a focus on the medium term up to 2030 and a clear vision up to 2050. The strategy would also incorporate the three dimensions of sustainable development (social, environmental and economic) and include funding modalities for its implementation.

51. Delegates requested FAO to strengthen its role as the implementing agency for the Green Climate Fund, as a financial support mechanism enabling countries to meet their commitments under the Convention on Climate Change.

² http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/wfc2015/Documents/Durban_Declaration_FINAL.pdf.

³ CL 153/REP, para. 30 (a).

⁴ Ibid., para. 30 (c).

IN-SESSION SEMINAR (ITEM 7)

Forests in the SDG (indicators of sustainable forest management) (item 7.1)

52. The Secretariat prepared the document FO:LACFC/2017/9, entitled “Forests in the SDG (indicators of sustainable forest management)”.

53. The document informed that, in September 2015, member States of the United Nations had adopted a new global framework for sustainable development: “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. That framework was universal, inclusive and comprehensive and set out perspectives and responsibilities that reflected the priorities and needs of all countries. The 2030 Agenda included 17 SDGs and 169 targets, to be attained by 2030. The different goals and targets were closely interlinked, with the aim of achieving a balance between the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainability. SDG 15, which was concerned with terrestrial ecosystems, gave direct prominence to forests with two indicators associated with forest cover and sustainable management. Goal 15, in conjunction with SDGs 6, 7, 11 and 12, would be relevant for the focus of the High-level Political Forum in 2018: “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies”. The Forum, which met annually, was the global mechanism for the review and follow-up of the implementation of 2030 Agenda.

54. Delegates of Jamaica and Paraguay shared their national experiences with the SDGs and the forest sector. Both presentations emphasized that national development plans had been updated in response to the challenges posed by the 2030 Agenda. Mexico encouraged countries to promote new public policy actions aimed at attaining the SDGs.

55. Delegates recognized the contribution of forests to attainment of the goals of the 2030 Agenda in eliminating poverty, ensuring food security and nutrition, sustainable livelihoods and promoting decent work. In addition, they requested FAO to strengthen cross-sectoral dialogue to demonstrate the role played by forests in achieving the SDGs.

Governance strengthening of forest resources (intersectoral coordination, gender equity and ethnic and cultural relevance) (item 7.2)

56. The LACFC Secretariat prepared the document FO:LACFC/2017/10, entitled “Governance strengthening of forest resources (intersectoral coordination, gender equity and ethnic and cultural relevance)”.

57. The document recorded that, over the previous two decades, growing attention had been given to the concept of governance and, in particular, that of good governance, and the importance of forest management by local communities. Different interpretations were given to the term “governance”, but there was a consensus that it constituted the basis for improving relations between local and national stakeholders, ensuring legality, and promoting gender equality and equity and, ultimately, sustainable forest development. The document reported that certain countries in the region were moving towards improved forest governance, with initiatives that encouraged legal use of timber, recognition of customary rights in indigenous areas, improvement of the institutional framework, implementation of forest tracking and monitoring systems, and opportunities for dialogue and consultation, among other measures.

58. The delegate of Brazil presented the current structure of forest governance in the country, emphasizing transparency and social participation as the main values in its design. In addition, he mentioned the national registry of public forests and the process of forest concessions as main achievements.

59. The Commission stressed the importance of using institutional mechanisms that facilitated governance, recalling that inflexibility, delays and higher costs of the implementation of forest

management are likely to promote illegal practices. In addition to the use of timber, governance systems should also cover other ecosystem goods and services, and recognized that goods and services from forests generated benefits for society.

60. The delegate of Ecuador encouraged the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to develop a regional strategy for the prevention and control of the illegal trade in forest products and by-products, biodiversity and wildlife.

61. The Commission recognized that to achieve a good governance of forests, political will is required to enhance intersectoral coordination and complementarity between different sectors. Therefore, it requested FAO to promote the exchange of experiences between countries in that area.

62. The Commission requested FAO, in preparing its country programmes, to include the topic of conflict resolution arising around the forest sector, in particular those generated in the establishment of forest plantations and the interaction of environmental and forest sectors. It recognized the importance of communication, dissemination and exchange of experiences as awareness-raising mechanisms on this matter.

Forest concessions for sustainable forest management (the traceability of sustainable production) (item 7.3)

63. The Secretariat prepared the document FO:LACFC/2017/11, entitled “Forest concessions for sustainable forest management (traceability of sustainable production)”.

64. The document noted that the importance of forests to sustainable development was well reflected in the SDGs and the Paris Agreement on climate change. To ensure that forests provided social, economic and environmental benefits, it was essential to strengthen sustainable forest management based on the best available practices. As tools to enhance good practices in forest management, concessions could offer an effective means of carrying out the SDGs, along with the NDCs under the Paris Agreement. If they were appropriately designed, implemented and monitored, forest concessions could effectively enable the implementation of good practices with reduced impact in tropical forests, reducing the harm to the remaining forest, rendering the harvesting activities more efficient and increasing the potential for forest regrowth. Furthermore, the creation of skilled jobs and increased income from the management of forests for the production of timber or other products could lower the opportunity costs of forest land, which would in turn reduce the risk of deforestation. The voluntary guidelines for the development of concessions, which were currently being prepared with the cooperation of FAO, considered four dimensions in dealing with concessions: improved governance, economic viability, social inclusion and environmental integrity.

65. The delegate of Brazil highlighted the country's achievements in this matter and noted, within the main challenges, the increase of areas under concession and the participation in international trade in forest goods and services.

66. The delegate of Ecuador manifested the importance of setting up a technical support group for the implementation of the “*Voluntary guidelines for the sustainable management of public production natural forests in tropical countries through forest concessions in the context of the 2030 Agenda*” and proposed that activities in that area should be aligned with the 2017-2030 United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests, the Tarapoto Process and other international instruments related to the subject.

67. The Commission requested FAO to support the promotion of good practices and policies in the area of forest concessions and value chains, including wood and non-wood forest products, and to encourage the exchange of experiences and lessons learned in the countries of the region.

Forest protection: (i) integral fire management; (ii) forest health; (iii) preventive approach to avoiding illegal logging (item 7.4)

68. The LACFC Secretariat prepared the document FO:LACFC/2017/12, entitled “Forest protection: (i) integral fire management; (ii) forest health; (iii) preventive approach to avoiding illegal logging”.

69. The document indicated that the major threats to forests in Latin America and the Caribbean were forest fires, pests and diseases; illegal forest products trade and logging. The protection of forests against these threats, besides measures to combat and control their onset, required the implementation of approaches, policies and preventive strategies, such as integrated fire management, the management of forest health and combating illegal logging.

70. Delegates of Chile, Honduras and Mexico recounted their experiences on actions taken in relation to forest health and fire management and described the arrangements deployed to deal with those emergencies. Those experiences demonstrated the importance of prevention policies, which proved to be more economic than response and restoration measures.

71. Experience in integrated fire management strategies had been gathered in the region and could be shared. Prominent examples included the Fire Management Strategy of the countries of the Central American Commission on Environment and Development and the national experience of Ecuador.

Association of small forest producers and microenterprise development (item 7.5)

72. The Secretariat prepared the document FO:LACFC/2017/13, entitled: “Association of small forest producers and microenterprise development”.

73. The document noted that some 90 percent of the world’s 570 million farms were owned by the families that worked them. Most were small properties. Many of those smallholder families suffered from food insecurity and had limited access to markets and corporate services. Although their resources were constrained, they cultivated their land and produced food for a substantial proportion of the world’s population. Strong producer organizations, supported by beneficial legal, economic and social policies and frameworks, could provide a wide variety of services to small producers, ranging from access to and management of natural resources, information, technology, market access and financing, to participation in policymaking. Those producer organizations could be key players in strategic development processes, working to promote food security and rural development.

74. The delegate of Guatemala shared the case study of San Francisco Petén, highlighting the achievements and challenges of the work developed with small forest producers to strengthen the forest-industry-market linkages.

75. Delegates noted the importance of the Forest and Farm Facility (FFF) and requested FAO to ensure that the Facility’s second phase, which is to start in 2018, would involve additional beneficiary countries. They also requested support from FAO in documenting the success stories of associations of small forest producers, and the promotion of microenterprise development. They recognized the importance of the FFF mechanism in the creation of the conditions for small-scale forest producers to become microentrepreneurs and to develop the capacity to negotiate directly with the buyers of their products.

76. The Commission reiterated the benefits to facilitate initiatives to promote the marketing of goods produced by small-scale producers and communities using sustainable forest management practices.

Monitoring of deforestation and forest degradation (item 7.6)

77. The Secretariat presented the document FO:LACFC/2017/14, entitled “Monitoring deforestation and forest degradation”.

78. The document showed that, in recent years, there had been a growing need for information on forests, owing to various factors demonstrating the importance of those complex ecosystems for millions of people.⁵ In the past, the forest information required had only been concerned with little more than the areas of forest and their growing stock. At the current time, other key aspects for sustainable forest management would also be incorporated, including the preparation of national policies and plans highlighting the role of forests in the conservation of biodiversity and the provision of other ecosystem services; social and economic aspects, such as their contribution to livelihoods and poverty alleviation; governance; and other general issues of land use. The document referred to the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on National Forest Monitoring.⁶ In addition to disseminating knowledge and in coordination with other partners, FAO had been supporting initiatives such as the Virtual Centre of Excellence in Forest Monitoring⁷ and the Global Forest Observation Initiative (GFOI),⁸ and promoting national and regional training workshops and exchanges of experience.

79. The delegates of Ecuador and Panama presented their national experiences, challenges and opportunities for monitoring deforestation and forest degradation.

80. The delegate of Mexico offered to support countries in sharing lessons learned from the National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR) on this matter, through its Virtual Centre of Excellence on Forest Monitoring in the areas extension technologies, production and forest health, besides safeguards under the REDD+. The delegate from Chile offered support for countries in preparing methodologies for the monitoring of forest degradation.

Mechanisms and economic incentives for: (i) mitigation of climate change effects, (ii) protection of biodiversity (wildlife) and conservation of ecosystem services, and (iii) restoration of forests and landscapes (item 7.7)

81. The Secretariat presented document FO:LACFC/2017/15, entitled “Mechanisms and economic incentives for: (i) mitigation of climate change effects, (ii) protection of biodiversity (wildlife) and conservation of ecosystem services, and (iii) restoration of forests and landscapes”.

82. The document noted that there were 20 active funds in the region that financially supported efforts to tackle climate change. The largest contributions came from the Clean Technology Fund (CTF), a multilateral fund that approved almost all of its funding under the soft loan system. The second largest provider of climate-related financing in the region was the Amazon Fund, funded from multilateral sources whose scope was limited to Brazil. In relation to biodiversity the document noted that, at the third International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Addis Ababa in July 2015, a proposal had been put forward to mobilize funds for sustainable agriculture, including forestry, fisheries and pastoralism. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda also promoted the mobilization of financial resources for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems, including sustainable forest management. With regard to the restoration of landscapes, it was estimated that some USD 360 billion was needed to meet the Bonn Challenge and USD 830 billion to meet the goals of the New York Declaration on Forests.

⁵ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). 2017. Voluntary Guidelines on National Forest Monitoring. In press. Rome, Italy. Available at <http://www.unhcr.org/53198b489.pdf>.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ <http://www.monitoreoforestal.gob.mx/>.

⁸ <http://www.gfoi.org/>.

The mobilization of those financial resources remained one of the main constraints on the effective and large-scale implementation of projects and programmes.

83. The delegates of Cuba, Guatemala and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines described their experiences with economic incentives and mechanisms to mitigate the effects of climate change, the protection of biodiversity and forest restoration and landscapes.

84. The Commission recognized the importance of incentives and financing mechanisms to promote sustainable forest management, which had been designed primarily for small and medium-scale owners and tenants of land suitable for forestry and for the provision of compensation for ecosystem services. The Commission requested FAO to document good practices and experiences that had been gathered in different countries on this matter and to explore new incentive mechanisms associated with the restoration of productive landscapes.

85. Recognizing the importance of secondary forests in the region, the Commission requested FAO to provide technical support for their proper management, sustainable use of wood and non-wood products coming from these forest and also for activities to restore degraded areas in this forest type.

ACTIVITIES OF THE SUBREGIONAL GROUPS OF THE COMMISSION (ITEM 8)

Formulation of workplans of the subregional groups of the Commission for the period 2018-2019 (item 8.1)

86. The Commission's subregional groups had prepared their work programmes for the period 2018–2019. The proposed work programmes are in Appendix D of the final report.

87. The main topics identified by delegates as priority for the work programmes included the following:

- Conflicts between international agreements and conventions that affect the efficient management of forests.
- Role of forests in food security and nutrition and livelihoods.
- Responsible consumption of forest, livestock and agricultural products produced in a sustainable manner.
- Environmental services in integrated production systems.
- Forest protection: integrated fire management, forest health and invasive species
- Restoration of productive landscapes and forest degradation.
- Forest resources assessment (inventories and monitoring).
- Participation and governance.

Formulation of regional priorities for the FAO forestry programme to be considered by the Committee on Forestry (COFO) and the 35th FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (item 8.2)

88. The Secretariat presented document FO:LACFC/2017/16, entitled “Formulation of regional priorities for the FAO forest programme to be considered by the Committee on Forestry (COFO) and the 35th FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean”.

89. The Commission recommend COFO to facilitate dialogue among countries, including the productive and environmental sectors, to achieve the overarching goal of zero net deforestation.

90. The Commission recommend COFO to promote the use of the FAO voluntary guidelines for forest concessions in the context of the 2030 Agenda. The Commission also proposed to align

this guidelines to the 2017-2030 United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests, the Tarapoto Process and other international instruments related to the subject

91. The Commission recommended COFO to highlight the contribution of forests and its ecosystem services to the 2030 Agenda.

92. The Commission recognized the relevance of forest governance, and recommended COFO to establish spaces for dialogue for tribal and indigenous people and ethnical communities on issues of their interest, to be addressed on negotiation forums.

93. The Commission recommended COFO to continue promoting and strengthening legal and sustainable trade of wood and non-wood forest products.

94. The Commission recommended COFO to recognize that increasing in frequency and intensity of forest fires is a fact in the present reality and it is necessary to influence socially for its prevention.

95. The Commission recommended the Regional Conference to highlight that the forest sector is subject to multiple international agendas and demands from other sectors that are unclear, contradictory and make it difficult to implement sustainable forest management.

96. The Commission recognized the importance of FAO as an implementing agency of the Green Climate Fund and the importance of the Regional Conference as a forum for cross-sectoral dialogue for its implementation. The Commission recommended the Regional Conference to provide spaces for cross-sectoral coordination, in particular between forest, agriculture and environmental sectors.

97. The Commission recommended the Regional Conference to highlight that success in meeting the global challenge of zero net deforestation requires efforts and collaboration by all productive and environmental sectors, in addition to commitment by the countries.

98. The Commission recommended the Regional Conference to disseminate report of the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition entitled “Sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition”, to highlight the contribution of forests to food security and nutrition.

99. The Commission recommended the Regional Conference to encourage the inclusion of trees in family farms as a means of generating income, conserving soils, protecting water resources and enhancing resilience to climate change in rural areas.

100. The Commission recommended the Regional Conference to consider harmonized phytosanitary regulations related the trade of timber and forest products.

101. The Commission recommended the following actions to the work of FAO in the forest sector:

- Create space for dialogue and strategic partnerships, with a view to developing guidelines leading to the attainment of global zero net deforestation.
- Continue providing forums for the exchange of experience in forest inventories, including social and economic aspects, the state of forests, carbon and biodiversity, in addition to ensuring that such inventories serve as tools for appropriate forest management in the field.
- Develop concepts and methodologies for conducting forest inventories in the Caribbean.
- Support the development of forestry systems for improving livelihoods, considering gender aspects and the participation of young people.
- Develop methodologies for evaluating and monitoring the impact of invasive species.

- Support the association of small scale forest producers to ensure the conservation of forests and the maintenance of the welfare of forests dependent populations.
- Develop additional work on value chains as part of sustainable forest concessions.
- Differentiate land use change from illegal deforestation, as part of the development of agreements to national policies of countries.

INFORMATION ON REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL FORESTRY MEETINGS (Item 9)

102. The Commission received the following information:

- The delegate of Mexico announced the “Expo Forestal 2018” to be organized by the Mexican National Forest Commission (CONAFOR) in October 2018, and the launching event of the reporting process of FAO Global Forest Resource Assessment 2020 (FRA 2020), to be held in March 2018, in Toluca.
- The delegate of Brazil informed that the country will be hosting the Congress of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) in September 2019.
- The delegate from Guatemala informed on the meeting of the Ibero-American Model Forest Network, to be held in 2018 in this country.
- The delegate of Honduras announced the political and technical workshop on legality guidelines for forest products from countries of the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD), to be held in the last week of October 2017 in this country. Informed also that, in parallel to this event, Peru, Ecuador and Colombia will be sharing their experiences on the issue of legality and traceability of forest products.
- Attention was also drawn to the fifty third session of the International Tropical Timber Council and the associated sessions of its committees, to be held from 27 November to 2 December 2017 in Lima.

OTHER BUSINESS (Item 10)

103. The secretariat reported on the following:

- The work of FAO on agro-environmental policies in the region and on the development of indicators to monitor these policies, in line with the 2030 Agenda. Delegates were invited to participate in the forums organized to contribute to this process.
- Training course on integrated management of productive systems "Cultivating Good Water Program, advancing towards the sustainable development of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean", available and open for registration in the online platform of FAO's Training Unit on Public Policies (NCP, by its Spanish acronym) until March 2018.
- Forum on ecosystem services provided by pollinators, scheduled to take place in October 2017 through the FAO's Training Unit on Public Policies (NCP, by its Spanish acronym).

DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION OF THE COMMISSION (Item 11)

104. The Secretariat explained the procedure for selecting the venue for the next meeting of the Commission. The delegate of Brazil reported that the Brazilian delegation would consult its Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Government about the possibility of hosting the next session of LACFC. The delegate of Ecuador expressed the country's interest in hosting the next session of LACFC and offered to discuss the matter with the Ecuadorian Government.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND CLOSING OF THE SESSION (Item 12)

105. After reviewing the draft report as introduced by the rapporteur and making appropriate adjustments, the Commission adopted it by consensus.

106. The meeting was closed by Ms Maria Julia Cárdenas on behalf of FAO and by Mr Misael León Carvajal on behalf of the Institute of Forest Conservation of the Republic of Honduras.

APPENDIX A**AGENDA****Items**

1. Opening of the Session and adoption of the Agenda.
2. Election of Officers.
3. The state of the Forest Sector in the Region.
4. FAO's report on follow-up activities to the recommendations and requests of the 29th Session of the Commission.
5. Priority themes for the 35th Session of the Regional Conference (Bahamas, 2018).
6. Global items of relevance for the Region:
 - 6.1 Committee on World Food Security (CFS). XI Report of the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE): "Sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition".
 - 6.2 FRA 2020 and efforts for streamlining international forest reporting.
 - 6.3 Global processes (UNFCCC COP22, CBD COP13, UNFF 12) including the Strategic Plan for the International Arrangement on Forests and the 2017 – 2020 Quadrennial Work Programme (4PoW).
 - 6.4 A new strategic document for FAO in forestry.
7. In-session Seminar:
 - 7.1 Forests in the SDG (Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management).
 - 7.2 Governance strengthening of forest resources (intersectoral coordination, gender equity and ethnic and cultural relevance).
 - 7.3 Forest concessions for sustainable forest management (traceability of sustainable production).
 - 7.4 Forest protection:
 - Integral Fire Management.
 - Forest health.
 - Preventive approach to avoiding illegal logging.
 - 7.5 Association of small forest producers and microenterprise development.
 - 7.6 Monitoring deforestation and forest degradation.
 - 7.7 Mechanisms and economic incentives for:
 - Mitigation of climate change effects.
 - Protection of biodiversity (wildlife) and conservation of ecosystem services.
 - Restoration of forests and landscapes.
8. Activities of the Subregional Groups of the Commission:
 - 8.1 Formulation of Workplans of the Subregional Groups of the Commission for the period of 2018 – 2019.
 - 8.2 Formulation of regional priorities for the FAO forestry programme to be considered by the Committee on Forestry (COFO) and the 35th FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean.
9. Information on regional and subregional forestry meetings.
10. Other business.
11. Date and place of the next Session of the Commission.
12. Adoption of the report.
13. Closure of the Session.

APPENDIX B**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

Chair:	Misael Leon (Honduras)
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Rapporteur:	Edwin Oliva (Guatemala)
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**SAINT VINCENT AND THE
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APPENDIX C

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Agenda Item	Code	Title
1	FO:LACFC/2017/1	Provisional Agenda
3	FO:LACFC/2017/2	The state of the Forest Sector in the Region
4	FO:LACFC/2017/3	FAO's report on follow-up activities to the recommendations and requests of the 29 th Session of the Commission
5	FO:LACFC/2017/4	Priority themes for the 35th Session of the Regional Conference (Bahamas, 2018)
6.1	FO:LACFC/2017/5	Committee on World Food Security (CFS). High-level Panel of Experts study on sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition
6.2	FO:LACFC/2017/6	FRA 2020 and efforts for streamlining international forest reporting
6.3	FO:LACFC/2017/7	Global processes (UNFCCC COP22, CBD COP13, UNFF12) including the Strategic Plan for the International Arrangement on Forests and the 2017 – 2020 Quadrennial Work Programme (4PoW)
6.4	FO:LACFC/2017/8	A new strategic document for FAO in forestry
7.1	FO:LACFC/2017/9	Forests in the SDG (Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management)
7.2	FO:LACFC/2017/10	Governance strengthening of forest resources (intersectoral coordination, gender equity and ethnic and cultural relevance)
7.3	FO:LACFC/2017/11	Forest concessions for sustainable forest management (traceability of sustainable production)
7.4	FO:LACFC/2017/12	Forest protection: i) Integral Fire Management, ii) Forest health, iii) preventive approach to avoiding illegal logging.
7.5	FO:LACFC/2017/13	Association of small forest producers and microenterprise development
7.6	FO:LACFC/2017/14	Monitoring deforestation and forest degradation
7.7	FO:LACFC/2017/15	Mechanisms and economic incentives for: i) Mitigation of climate change effects, ii) Protection of biodiversity (wildlife) and conservation of ecosystem services, and iii) Restoration of forests and landscapes
8.2	FO:LACFC/2017/16	Inputs to FAO governance

APPENDIX D

WORKPLANS OF THE SUBREGIONAL GROUPS OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE PERIOD 2018-2019

SOUTHERN CONE AND AMAZON SUBREGIONAL GROUPS

Programme of work for the biennium		
<i>Issue</i>	<i>Anticipated outcome</i>	<i>Lead country</i>
Zero net deforestation	Guidance to countries to achieve this overarching goal.	All
Forest-related associations and small and medium-sized enterprises	Document analysing the institutions and community involvement arrangements facilitating the organization of small and medium-sized enterprises.	Countries working with the Forest and Farm Facility (FFF).
Forest inventories and monitoring	Strengthened capacities in national institutions for data collection and analysis and information sharing.	Brazil and Chile are leading the process. Interest of the two subgroups.
Fire management and prevention	Community outreach to reduce and prevent fires.	Chile is leading.

LACFC recommendations for the attention of COFO (issues to be considered for inclusion in the Agenda)			
<i>Priority issues</i>	<i>Expected outcome (information, discussion, decision)</i>	<i>Possible follow up activities for COFO and FAO</i>	<i>Reference to other RFC recommendation</i>
The challenge of net deforestation is an overarching goal. For that reason there should be national and regional reviews to contribute to meeting the global challenge.	Guidance to countries to achieve this overarching goal.	Forums for dialogue and strategic partnerships for the participatory development of the guidelines.	
Opportunities to improve inputs to regional conferences which are also considering ecosystem services.	Creating forums and promoting the issues of the forest sector.		
COFO recommends FAO should facilitate technical assistance for the implementation of the voluntary guidelines for the sustainable management of public production natural forests in tropical countries through forest concessions in the context of Agenda 2030. It proposes that those activities should be aligned with the UNFF Strategic Plan for Forests and the experience of countries in the region, including social and economic data related to timber and non-timber products and to carbon, associated with value chains.	Activities contributing to implementation of the guidelines. These should include all types of forests.	Synergy between the two aforementioned guides.	
To strengthen governance of forest resources COFO is	Spaces for the participation of these		

LACFC recommendations for the attention of COFO (issues to be considered for inclusion in the Agenda)			
<i>Priority issues</i>	<i>Expected outcome (information, discussion, decision)</i>	<i>Possible follow up activities for COFO and FAO</i>	<i>Reference to other RFC recommendation</i>
requested to create areas for dialogue to facilitate the participation of indigenous peoples and traditional communities in negotiating forums.	groups in COFO. (FAO strategy for facilitating the participation of these groups).		
COFO recognizes that associations of small-scale forest producers are critical to ensuring the maintenance of forests and the welfare of populations.	Analysis of the institutional structures and processes that facilitate long-term community involvement in the forest sector, including value chains.	FAO to prepare the guidelines. Virtual platforms for sharing.	
COFO recognizes the importance of monitoring forests to demonstrate their contribution to fulfilment of Agenda 2030.	Strengthening exchange processes and implementation of the forest monitoring guidelines for policy decision-making and the management of forests.	FAO to continue providing forums for the exchange of experiences on forest inventories, including social and economic aspects, the general condition of forests, carbon, biodiversity. Broad vision of monitoring for management in the field (territorial management).	
COFO recognizes that the occurrence of wildfires is a reality of the current age and that they are becoming more frequent and more intense, necessitating a strategy for fire management and prevention, and not only for fire-fighting.	Community outreach to reduce and prevent fires that have broken out.	Exchange of experience in the area of prevention, covering social aspects, communication, education.	
COFO to foster mechanisms to facilitate trade in timber and non-timber forest products managed in a sustainable manner.	To raise the profile of forest products and ecosystem services in a responsible trading mechanism associated with SDG 12.		
To request the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to ensure that the substantive content of discussions on forests conducted by each of the secretariats (climate change, food security, biodiversity) is discussed and	The Collaborative Partnership on Forests to be the vehicle for raising forest issues in international forums and the means of	FAO to lead the discussions within the framework of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.	

LACFC recommendations for the attention of COFO (issues to be considered for inclusion in the Agenda)			
<i>Priority issues</i>	<i>Expected outcome (information, discussion, decision)</i>	<i>Possible follow up activities for COFO and FAO</i>	<i>Reference to other RFC recommendation</i>
disseminated by its deliberative bodies.	informing COFO member countries about forest-related international agreements.		

LACFC recommendations for the attention of the Regional Conference		
<i>Priority issues</i>	<i>Expected outcome (information, discussion, decision)</i>	<i>Possible follow up activities for FAO</i>
Cross-sectoral coordination in tackling the challenge of net deforestation. Countries' development goals (Agenda 2030) associated with agricultural/livestock production systems involving land-use change.	Discussions at the forum to focus on means of meeting the global commitment to zero deforestation and Agenda 2030.	Regional document exploring the issues surrounding efforts to achieve this goal.
GANDESAN document to be disseminated within the framework of the regional forestry commission, demonstrating the role played by forests in the SAN.	Role of forests in SAN to be highlighted.	Results of GANDESAN to be widely disseminated.
Evidence to be provided that the forest sector is subject to multiple agendas and demands from other sectors that are contradictory and unclear, making them difficult to implement.	Coherent agenda which has been found acceptable by the various sectors.	Document to be prepared on the issue of governance in the forest domain and the relationship of the various international instruments, to achieve coherence in the guidelines and ensure that it can be effectively implemented.

LACFC recommendations for the FAO Programme of Work in Forestry (related to the agenda of the current session)				
<i>Area/ action for FAO programme of work</i>	<i>Priority (high, medium, low, de-emphasis)</i>	<i>Type (new, continued)</i>	<i>Level of action (sub-regional, regional, global)</i>	<i>Strategic Objective (1-5)</i>
To request the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to ensure that the substantive content of discussions on forests conducted by each of the secretariats (climate change, food security, biodiversity) is discussed and disseminated by its deliberative bodies.	High	New	Global	2, 5
To demonstrate the area of conflict between the different sectors (environment, forests, agriculture) where implementation of the decisions is concerned.	High	Continuing	National decisions of global impact	2
Providing opportunities for participation of the forest sector together with other sectors and building alliances between them.	High	New	Regional	2

MESOAMERICAN SUBREGIONAL GROUP

Programme of work for the biennium		
<i>Issue</i>	<i>Anticipated outcome</i>	<i>Lead country</i>
Forest protection (fire management and forest health management)	National strategies developed for forest health and well-being. National strategies and plans of action developed for fire management. At least one regional training event in forest health and well-being to be organized.	Subregion
Forest inventory and monitoring	Development of national forest inventories and formation of national forest monitoring units to continue. Regional training events on forest inventories and monitoring to continue, and progress of national monitoring systems to be assessed (following the FAO voluntary guidelines on monitoring) Links to be forged between the regional forest resources database and the CONAFOR virtual centre of excellence, and arrangements made to use data from the database in the preparation of the report, at the regional level, for the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA). Fulfilment of the PERFOR benchmarks for the five-year period 2014-2018 to be assessed.	Mexico leading with an impact on the subregion
Forest governance	Development and strengthening of systems for the traceability of legal timber production to continue. Regional workshop to be held for the exchange of experience in the issue of traceability. Fulfilment of the PERFOR benchmarks to be assessed.	Subregion
Restoration of forest landscapes	Development of national strategies for the restoration of productive and forest landscapes to continue. Promotion and strengthening of economic and financial mechanisms for forest landscape restoration and other activities. Training programme to be developed on various issues related to the restoration of forest landscapes. Regional platform for knowledge management in aspects of forest landscape restoration to be established.	Subregion

LACFC recommendations for the attention of COFO (issues to be considered for inclusion in the Agenda)			
<i>Priority issues</i>	<i>Expected outcome (information, discussion, decision)</i>	<i>Possible follow up activities for COFO and FAO</i>	<i>Reference to other RFC recommendation</i>
FAO should strengthen its role as the implementing agency of Green Climate Fund resources and should continue to support the development of proposals by the countries in the region.	Approval of at least seven proposals submitted to the Green Climate Fund.	Raising of funds to prepare proposals for the Green Climate Fund.	
Improving cross-sectoral coordination, in particular between the ministries of agriculture and the environment.	Cross-sectoral agreements reached on land use.	Mobilization of financial and technical resources for the development of national strategies for the restoration of productive landscape.	

LACFC recommendations for the attention of the Regional Conference		
<i>Priority issues</i>	<i>Expected outcome (information, discussion, decision)</i>	<i>Possible follow up activities for FAO</i>
Cross-sectoral coordination between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of the Environment.	Agreements reached.	Forums for cross-sectoral dialogue.

LACFC recommendations for the FAO Programme of Work in Forestry (related to the agenda of the current session)				
<i>Area/ action for FAO programme of work</i>	<i>Priority (high, medium, low, de-emphasis)</i>	<i>Type (new, continued)</i>	<i>Level of action (sub-regional, regional, global)</i>	<i>Strategic Objective (1-5)</i>
Forest protection (fire management and forest health management)	High	Continuing	Regional	2, 5
Forest governance	High	Continuing	Subregional	2
Forest inventories and monitoring associated with SDGs and field activities	High	Continuing	Regional	2
Landscape restoration	High	Continuing	Subregional	2

CARIBBEAN SUBREGIONAL GROUP

Programme of work for the biennium		
<i>Issue</i>	<i>Anticipated outcome</i>	<i>Lead country</i>
Prepare the Caribbean Sub-Region to adapt Forest Management practises to Climate Change make better use of REDD+ mechanisms, GCF and GEF).	<p>A Caribbean Strategy to enable the Caribbean countries to benefit from Climate Change related funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each Country will compile past forest inventories. • Each country will contact the National Focal points of GEF and GCF to define priorities for forest related project funding. • Implement a forest cover mapping workshop. • Compile a list of permanent sample plots in all forest types. • Develop an appropriate or utilize existing data sharing platform. 	Individual countries
Capacity building for improve forest management.	<p>Each country will conduct a capacity needs assessment, identifying:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The medium term requirement for professional and technical staff. • In service training needs for staff currently on board. <p>A Regional strategy to address forestry related training needs in the Caribbean taking into consideration available training opportunities (IITF and Forestry Schools in Trinidad and Guyana).</p> <p>Explore opportunities for south-south cooperation.</p>	Individual countries
Develop an effective tree outside forest programme specific to urban areas.	<p>Improved management of trees in cities, suburban and around homes.</p> <p>Share best practices in urban tree management.</p> <p>Improve stakeholder communication and interventions in management of urban trees.</p> <p>Participation in the Urban Forestry Conferences.</p>	Individual countries In collaboration with University of the West Indies

LACFC recommendations for the attention of COFO (issues to be considered for inclusion in the Agenda)			
<i>Priority issues</i>	<i>Expected outcome (information, discussion, decision)</i>	<i>Possible follow up activities for COFO and FAO</i>	<i>Reference to other RFC recommendation</i>
Integrate adaptation and mitigation for CC into SFM to improve resilience.	<p>Climate change consideration included in SFM planning.</p> <p>Methodologies for damage assessments developed and disseminated.</p>	<p>Documentation of case studies of good examples for the incorporation of CC strategies into forest sector planning (mitigation and adaption).</p> <p>FAO to advocate for a regional mechanism for GCF projects.</p>	
Develop methodologies for participatory forest planning - combine site specific resource assessment (forest inventories) and participatory planning.	<p>Template for local/site forest planning.</p>	<p>FAO assistance required for the development of the methodology.</p>	

LACFC recommendations for the attention of COFO (issues to be considered for inclusion in the Agenda)			
<i>Priority issues</i>	<i>Expected outcome (information, discussion, decision)</i>	<i>Possible follow up activities for COFO and FAO</i>	<i>Reference to other RFC recommendation</i>
Support valuation of forest based ecosystems services.	Standard methodology developed for Forest Resource Valuation.	Development of practical guidelines to support the valuation of Forest services.	
Development of guidelines for best practices to improve efficiency in the production of forest products.	Recommendations for the preparation of the training materials.	Training material to improve efficiency of large scale and artisanal timber production.	

LACFC recommendations for the attention of the Regional Conference		
<i>Priority issues</i>	<i>Expected outcome (information, discussion, decision)</i>	<i>Possible follow up activities for FAO</i>
The Caribbean Subgroup recommends to promote the inclusion of trees in family farming systems to facilitate income generation, soil conservation and safe guarding of water resources; and mitigation of extreme climate conditions in rural and urban areas.	Increased: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food security • Safe water supplies • Soil conservation • Climate amelioration • Income opportunities 	Revive support for agroforestry in the Region.
The Caribbean Subgroup recommends to prioritize forest and the forestry sector in National Development Plans.	Increased prominence and visibility of forest/ry in National Development Plans.	
The Caribbean Sub-group recommends to harmonise the phyto-sanitary regulations regarding the trade of timber and forest products from the Caribbean.	Harmonised regulation for timber trade in the Caribbean (intra- Caribbean Trade).	Support Ministries of Agriculture to harmonise timber trade legislation.

LACFC recommendations for the FAO Programme of Work in Forestry (related to the agenda of the current session)				
<i>Area/ action for FAO programme of work</i>	<i>Priority (high, medium, low, de-emphasis)</i>	<i>Type (new, continued)</i>	<i>Level of action (sub-regional, regional, global)</i>	<i>Strategic Objective (1-5)</i>
Support the development of forest based livelihoods (inclusive of non-timber products through community based initiatives with considerations for Gender and youth).	High	Continued	Sub-regional	2, 3
Support monitoring and evaluation of alien invasive species.	High	Continued	Sub-regional	5
Design a concept for national forest inventories for the Caribbean.	High	Continued	Sub-Regional	2, 5

LACFC recommendations for the FAO Programme of Work in Forestry (related to the agenda of the current session)				
<i>Area/ action for FAO programme of work</i>	<i>Priority (high, medium, low, de-emphasis)</i>	<i>Type (new, continued)</i>	<i>Level of action (sub-regional, regional, global)</i>	<i>Strategic Objective (1-5)</i>
Develop a concept for private public partnerships for public and/or private forests (extractive and non-extractive use).	High	Continued	Sub-Regional	3

CONSOLIDATED WORKPLAN

LACFC recommendations for the attention of COFO (issues to be considered for inclusion in the Agenda)			
<i>Priority issues</i>	<i>Expected outcome (information, discussion, decision)</i>	<i>Possible follow up activities for COFO and FAO</i>	<i>Reference to other RFC recommendation</i>
Fire management	Discussion/decision		
Urban forestry (special attention to the role of youth)	Discussion/decision		
Mainstreaming biodiversity	Discussion/decision		
Forests and the SDGs - input to the 2018 review Highlight the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda	Discussion/decision		
MAR - Global Core Set of forest related indicators - FRA and related capacity building	Discussion/decision		
Forests for food security	Discussion/decision		
FAO voluntary guidelines for forest concessions in the context of the 2030 Agenda	Information/discussion/decision	Promote the use and prepare a document on good practices associated to forestry concessions. Endorsement and possible extension to other domains.	
Dialogue on achieving the overarching goal of zero deforestation	Discussion	Preparation of a discussion paper to be presented in different FAO fora including COFO.	
Dialogue for indigenous people and traditional communities on issues of their interest, to be addressed on negotiation forums	Discussion/decision	Possible creation of a more permanent Indigenous and tribal groups platform.	
Legal and sustainable trade of wood and non-wood forest products	Discussion/decision	Strengthen FAO's work on this area.	

LACFC recommendations for the attention of the Regional Conference		
<i>Priority issues</i>	<i>Expected outcome (information, discussion, decision)</i>	<i>Possible follow up activities for FAO</i>
Highlight that the forest sector is subject to multiple international agendas and demands from other sectors that are unclear, contradictory and make it difficult to implement sustainable forest management.	Discussion during the conference	LACFC President and Secretariat prepare the presentation
In light of the recognition of FAO as an implementing agency of the Green Climate Fund and the importance of the Regional Conference as a forum for cross-sectoral dialogue for its implementation, provide spaces for cross-sectoral coordination, in particular between forest, agriculture and environment sectors.	Intersectorial dialogue	LACFC President and Secretariat prepare the presentation
Highlight that success in meeting the global challenge of zero net deforestation requires efforts and collaboration by all productive and environmental sectors, in addition to commitment by the countries.	Intersectorial dialogue	LACFC President and Secretariat prepare the presentation
Disseminate the extract 4 from the report of the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition: Sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition, to highlight the contribution of forests to food security and nutrition.	Information	Distribution of the document
Encourage the inclusion of trees in family farms as a means of generating income, conserving soils, protecting water resources and enhancing resilience to climate change in rural areas.	Information	Regional initiative 2 to include trees in territorial development
Consider harmonized phytosanitary regulations related the trade of timber and forest products.	Information	Consultation in preparation

LACFC recommendations for the FAO Programme of Work in Forestry (related to the agenda of the current session)				
<i>Area/ action for FAO programme of work</i>	<i>Priority (high, medium, low, de-emphasis)</i>	<i>Type (new, continued)</i>	<i>Level of action (sub-regional, regional, global)</i>	<i>Strategic Objective (1-5)</i>
Create space for dialogue and strategic partnerships, with a view to developing guidelines leading to the attainment of global zero net deforestation.		New	Regional	2, 5
Continue providing forums for the exchange of experience in forest inventories, including social and economic aspects, the state of forests, carbon and biodiversity, in addition to ensuring that such inventories serve as tools for appropriate forest management in the field.		Continued	Regional	2
Develop concepts and methodologies for conducting forest inventories in the Caribbean.		New	Subregional	2
Support the development of forestry systems for improving livelihoods, considering gender aspects and the participation of young people.		Continued	Regional, Subregional	2, 3
Develop methodologies for evaluating and monitoring the impact of invasive species.		New	Regional, Subregional	2
Support the association of small scale forest producers to ensure the conservation of forests and the maintenance of the welfare of forests dependent populations.		Continued	Regional, Subregional	2, 3
Develop additional work on value chains as part of sustainable forest concessions.		Continued	Regional	4
Differentiate land use change from illegal deforestation, as part of the development of agreements to national policies of countries.		Continued	Regional	2, 5